



The Communicator

of the [Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County](http://www.uu-lakecounty.org)

Like us on Facebook! [facebook.com/UUlakeco](https://www.facebook.com/UUlakeco)



Celebration of Life Programs

March 2 – Dr. Robert P. Tucker "An Eye for an Eye?" Dr. Tucker will explore with us the biblical history and meaning of the infamous phrase "An Eye for an Eye". Was it an improvement over other beliefs prominent in those times and, to what extent is it an unacceptable approach for our times?

Dr. Tucker received his M.A. and Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Chicago. He received his B.A., magna cum laude, in Religion and Philosophy from Texas Christian University. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

His career has combined teaching and ministry. He taught Religion, Philosophy, Ethics, and Logic at Yankton College (Yankton, South Dakota) and at Florida Southern College (Lakeland, Florida). He has served congregations in Texas, Illinois, South Dakota, Nebraska, Virginia, and Florida.

From 1995 through 2008, Dr. Tucker served as the Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lakeland, Florida. Now retired, he is Minister Emeritus of that Congregation.

Dr. Tucker has been a member of both the Florida District UUA Board of Directors and the Board of the UU in the Pines. He is a Founding Board Member of the Humanist Association of West Central Florida.



March 9 – Rev. Roger Seidner "What's Your Question?" From Sunday to Sunday, ministers prepare and deliver meaningful messages that they anticipate will resonate with members of their congregation. But, they are never sure what subjects will be of most interest and value.

This Sunday, Rev. Seidner will address specific questions and subjects of concern submitted earlier in response to his invitation extended to all of us on February 23rd — what a wonderful idea and potentially stimulating opportunity.

We anticipate that meaningful response to the questions and requested topics will require more than one Sunday. If so, this will represent a milestone in evocative, thoughtful, and important dialogue.

March 16 – To be announced

March 23 – Samantha McDonald "Just Tell It Like It Is, Please!" Samantha is actively involved in the Florida Humanists Association, currently serving as Social Media Coordinator. She is a sociology major at the University of Central Florida and a member of the Secular Student Alliance there.



The UU Congregation of Lake County meets
Sundays at the Woman's Club of Eustis
227 N. Center Street, Eustis, FL
Discussion Group is at 9:45 a.m.
Celebration of Life begins at 11 a.m.

Born and raised in the Orlando area, she grew up attending a non-denominational church. In college, noticing many literary and historical inconsistencies in religious texts, she "recognized that she preferred science over superstition". ▶

► She says, "Coming out as an atheist can mean being rejected by friends and family and can become an emotional struggle." She is highly empathetic towards the increasing numbers of people across the U.S. and Europe who are becoming dissatisfied with organized religion and facing rejection by friends and family. Thus, Samantha sees secular churches as important places of socialization and community.



folks.

She is enthusiastic about sharing ideas with us based on her involvement with the UCF Secular Student Alliance – tips that may be helpful in involving students at Lake Sumter State College in our UUCLC programs.

March 30 – Rev. Roger Seidner "Community and Individuality" Our beloved consulting minister will help us focus on the contrasting merits of our own individual efforts in relation to our role in community.

While our UU tradition honors one's individual perception, we are not alone. We are called to be part of overall human endeavor. Our participation can influence others and we are, in turn, strengthened by others.

Be prepared to contemplate questions such as: "If you have no religion, where do you get your morals?" and "How do you find purpose in life if you don't believe in anything?" Samantha says her sociology studies have given her insight into widely-held misconceptions about "non-religious"

UUCLC Information & Contacts

Mail address: PO Box 1761, Eustis, FL 32727
Phone: (352) 728-1631
Email contact: lakecountyyuu@gmail.com
Website: lakecountyyuu.org

Officers	Trustees
Russ Littlefield, President	Jack Champion
Chris Higgins, Vice Pres.	Betty Emery
Carl Hommel, Treasurer	Carl Skiles
Kit Tatum, Secretary	

Lynette Auberjeunois, Pianist.

Roger Benton Seidner, Consulting minister. Reverend Seidner is available to respond to calls for pastoral care in crisis situations. If you or someone you know has a need, feel free to call him. Phone: (407) 905-5767

The *Communicator* is published each month, from September through June.
 Editor: Ted Fessler Phone: (352) 735 -7405

Social Justice Events

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers and its allies will host a march Friday March 14th and Saturday March 15th. The march will happen in Lakeland, FL, the location of Publix's headquarters. The CIW has been campaigning for Publix to sign onto the Fair Food program for over four years. Stay tuned for more Sunday updates and announcements about how to support and participate!

The Historic State Theatre in Eustis will host the Vagina Monologues! Shows will be on Saturday March 15th at 7:00pm and Sunday March 16th at 2:00pm.

Pete Seeger Tribute

The Eustis community will pay tribute to Pete Seeger on April 11 at the Bay Street Theater. A Lake Sentinel column Sherry Boas wrote after Seeger's death spurred this idea.

Coincidentally, we had Diane Popieski speak to us about "Hearts and Hands," a ministry that provides food and hope to hundreds of families in Eustis and greater Lake County. I've been assured full cooperation with "Hearts and Hands ministries", the theater, Olivia's Coffeehouse and Bistro, Mayor Linda Bob, and Sherry Boas, plus numerous UUCLC members. Our objective is to keep alive Seeger's music, his philosophy, and his work ethic for Social justice.

Seeger (who died on January 27th, 2014 at 94 years of age) was an icon in the folk music genre for several decades. He wrote "We Shall Overcome" and stood with the civil rights marchers. He opposed the Vietnam

War with "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" He drew attention to our environmental responsibility with "This Is Your Land." He struck a spiritual chord with "Turn, Turn, Turn, " and of course, he wrote together with Lee Hays, "If I Had A Hammer" calling for justice, freedom, and love for all.

All ticket sale proceeds will go to Hearts and Hands in honor of Pete Seeger. You can help! We still need volunteers to solicit sponsors and sell tickets. For even more publicity, we're also planning an entry in the Georgefest Parade and a table at First Friday in downtown Eustis. Hopefully this project, a tangible way to help others, will merit wide support.

Social justice committee members include Alicia Sparks, Chair; Chris Higgins, Bill Hermann, Bob and Christie Cleveland, Kit Tatum, Ginny Morgan and me.

...Frank Bishop

President's Message...

At its January 30th meeting, the Board of Trustees agreed to propose a Congregational Covenant to the congregation. To explain what we are proposing, I went back to a 2011 sermon by the Reverend Douglas Taylor of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton, NY. In this sermon, he introduced the inclusion of a covenant in their Sunday Service. The one he proposed is still used there. What you find below, I adapted from Rev. Taylor's sermon. It pretty much sums up what I want to say about a Congregational Covenant.

A covenant is a solemn promise or a number of such promises that we make to one another. It governs our behavior toward one another and toward others. As Rev. Taylor says

... We need to get clear and specific about our congregational covenant and our mission because otherwise, how do you know what you have signed up to stand for? As Paul Rasor wrote ..., ("Identity, Covenant, and Commitment" by Paul Rasor in A People so Bold) "Covenant helps clarify our religious identity if we take it seriously enough to specify its terms."

I propose that we print in the bulletin and recite in unison a Congregational Covenant. One covenant that is frequently used in UU Communities is the one written by the UU pastor and poet, James Vila Blake in 1894. It goes like this

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law.
This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

Let's work with the Blake Covenant for now. If we find we need to tinker with it or consider a different one, then that is what we will do. But for now let's make this our solemn pledge starting with the first March service when our own pastor, Rev Seidner will be here.

I am going to let my pastor at Binghamton, Rev Taylor, have the last word here:

Each individual shall remain free to responsibly interpret the truths and meanings they find. This covenant should in no way impinge on your beliefs or your theology. It will, however, impinge on your practice here, on how you are with others. Covenant does carry obligations by which we each need to abide. At minimum, any covenant worth its salt will call you to treat others in the covenant with respect. And that is not a small thing. It means listening to someone when they disagree with you and seeking to resolve conflict productively. It means being in relationship with people not because you like them but because you are keeping the covenant with them.

Rev. Taylor's sermon is at <http://uubinghamton.org/2011/09/covenant/>. A recent UU World article on Covenant is found at <http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/285904.shtml>

...Russ

Food Lovers...

Circle Dinners are going on this month! If you signed up, your host will contact you. If you wish to participate this time, please contact Julie Champion right away: juliemilamchampion@gmail.com or phone (352) 217-2422.

Separate Tables Luncheon is Tuesday, March 18th, 12:30 p.m., at Betty's Greenhouse Grill, 3725 W. Old Hwy. 441, Mount Dora. Everyone is invited; bring guests. Details: (352) 217-2422. Restaurant phone: (352) 735-2800.

Potluck Sunday is March 29th. Thank you for supporting this social event with such tasty goodies. Please participate even if you cannot manage a "pot" at this time. Guests are especially welcome to partake with us! Invite them!

Reflections on Hardship, Oppression, Social Justice and Spiritual Fulfillment

KIEV — Ukrainian riot police advanced on Tuesday onto a central Kiev square occupied by protesters, after at least 14 people died in the worst day of violence since demonstrations erupted against President Viktor Yanukovich 12 weeks ago.... This was also Ukraine's bloodiest day since it gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

The riot police moved in hours after Moscow gave Ukraine \$2 billion in aid which it had been holding back to demand decisive action to crush the protests... Nationwide protests against Yanukovich erupted in November after he bowed to Russian pressure and pulled out of a planned far-reaching trade agreement with the European Union, deciding instead to accept a Kremlin bailout for the heavily indebted economy. ...MSN News 2/18/14



Kiev February 2014

I am a first generation American. My father fled the Ukraine as a young man in 1944, as the Russians marched into the town of his birth, knowing that if he stayed, he would be imprisoned or executed because he had been conscripted to work as a chauffeur for the German Army that had previously occupied the area. He was not able to return to the Ukraine until thirty-five years later, long after both his parents had died.

Because he was a Displaced Person, my father was permitted to immigrate to the US in 1949 through the actions of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), an international relief agency.

As a child, I saw photos of my father's home and family and began a correspondence with Natalya, a cousin who was my age. After my father died in 1992, I took over his practice of sending packages with clothing and goods to the family in Ukraine. Letters and packages were registered to help to ensure safe delivery, but sometimes goods and letters were intercepted and failed to reach my Ukrainian family.

This past October, my husband John and I flew to Lviv, Ukraine and lived with my cousin Natalya and the family for 23 days. We spent a weekend in Kiev – a grand city with its government buildings, university, opera house, cathedrals, parks, funicular, and markets. Today it looks like a war zone.

I heard stories of Russian oppression and assassination of Ukrainian dissidents, terrible inflation, revaluation of currency. Bribery and corruption are part of the economic fabric of the country. During the reign of ►

► the Soviet Union, churches were transformed into warehouses. My cousin's daughter was baptized in a secret ceremony at home. Ornate churches, cathedrals and monasteries have been rehabilitated and it appears that many Ukrainians are devoutly religious, perhaps in reaction to the time when religion was forbidden by the Soviet Union.

I am grateful for the opportunity to travel, to see the house in which my father was born and to develop a better understanding of my heritage. I have always recognized how difficult it was for my parents to come to a new country, not speaking the language, with no family or friends here.

I feel that it's just through chance circumstances that I was born here and Natalya was born in the Ukraine. It makes me think about the Buddhist teachings on precious human birth. In Buddhism, humans have a very special status: only a human can attain enlightenment; humans have a unique capacity for moral choices with long term significance.

Besides being born as a human, there are more and less favorable conditions for personal/spiritual growth. I find that I enjoy many 'favorable conditions' and it follows that I would be remiss if I did not try to develop a 'good' life and be of assistance to others. I look to UU to help me with that. UUCLC's mission speaks to this directly:

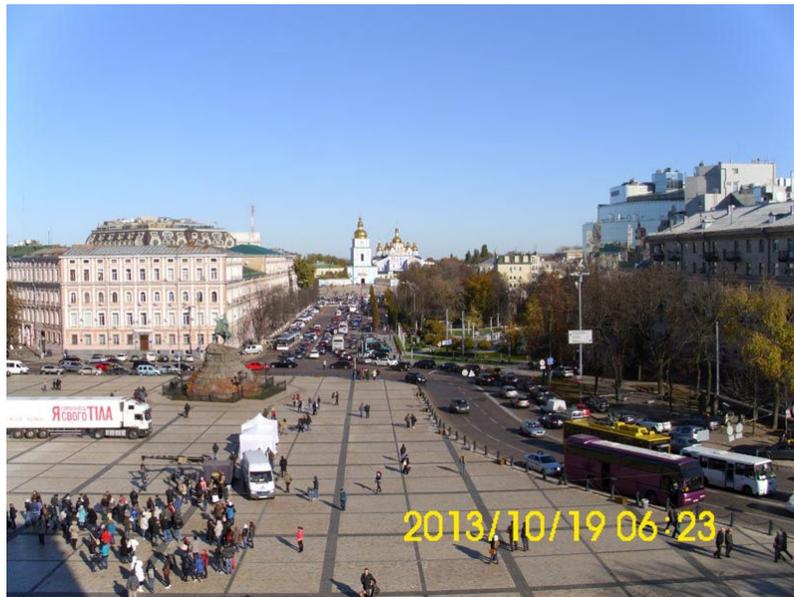
UUCLC is an inclusive non-creedal fellowship that works for a just community and fosters a lifelong search for personal spiritual fulfillment.

I also value various community programs. Because of my parents' experience, I have particular empathy for those struggling to learn English in the US. The Lake County Library System Adult Literacy Program provides me the opportunity to tutor English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL). I can recommend it to others: the "Literacy Program...provides a framework for instruction dedicated to improving adult literacy, technology and job skills throughout Lake County."

So whatever we do, we UUs should seek to support one another on the life journey. Perhaps you will take inspiration from one of my favorite Buddhist chants. It pushes me when I am lazy and self indulgent.

Let me respectfully remind you, life and death are of supreme importance.
Time swiftly passes by, and opportunity is lost.
Each of us should strive to awaken,
Awaken! Take heed... do not squander your life.

...Chris Higgins



Higgins photo

Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting January 30, 2014

Treasurer: We are registered with the Florida Department of State, the tax forms 1049 and 1099-Misc have been sent to the IRS and individuals. We had a 15K+ balance in the Checking Account.

UUA Certificate of Honor: This was received for fulfilling our Fair Share to the UUA.

(continued)

Social Justice: Motion made and passed to give Share the Plate proceeds from December and subsequent months to Hearts and Hands Charity until the Board of Trustees decides to contribute to a different charity.

Certification: : Kit Tatum reported the Certification process with the UUA has been completed and confirmation has been received from the UUA.

Weekly Attendance: Will be kept by Chris Higgins or her surrogate in the event she cannot attend on Sunday.

Building Committee: Carl Skiles reported slow progress on the Ecological Survey due to rain. He also reported the extension on the contract to buy the land had been approved by the seller.

Design Committee: Will host continental breakfast on February 23 and discuss design features with the congregation. Also, an "Idea Box" will be present during the COL on Sunday.

Nominating Committee: The names were proposed and agreed upon by the BOT.

Pledge Committee: The names were proposed and agreed to by the BOT.

Congregational Concerns: Adopt a covenant and form a Liturgical Committee. Russ Littlefield stated, in his opinion, the Core Themes for Unitarian Universalists are Worship and Social Justice.

Committee Structure: This will be discussed at the next meeting of the BOT.

Kit Tatum, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

In the month of January the total income was \$4,354, including \$3,540 in Pledges, for a yearly total to-date of \$23,957. Total expenses were \$2,371, for a total of \$13,622, which is 33% of our budgeted total.

The Seidner Challenge was successful, as Roger and Clarice's gift was matched. One thousand dollars was sent to the Colgate Rochester Crosier Divinity School, and a like amount to the UUA, to be divided between the General Fund and the Join-the Move program.

March Birthdays

Jack Champion, March 7
Tasana Collins, March 7
Eleanor Fessler, March 12
Ted Fessler, March 22
Patti Stiner, March 27
Joyce Gray, March 30