



The Communicator

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

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February Programs

11 AM Worship Service

February 1 – Compassion in Action: “Caring (What we can learn from geese)” with Rev. Susan Berryman. The theme for this month will focus on caring. It is inspired by our We Care Committee looking at how we can put our principles into action through service and love.

We will discuss many ways to care and to share and to bring compassion into our lives and the lives of others. We will discuss methods of caring that can open our hearts, empower us and become part of our spiritual practice.

February 8 – We Care, with Pam Ward and Joanne Reilly. The Co-Chairs Pam and Joanne will discuss their personal experiences and their spiritual journeys that lead to them to be drawn to serve on the We Care Committee.

We are all in this together; we all need someone some time. We are a family.

February 15 – "Love is the Answer", with Rev. Susan Berryman. With valentines and love in the air we will open our hearts to all the ways we can use our love to heal the wounds of the world. We will be reminded of how a little love can go a long way and how the only thing that really matters, in the end is love. Come prepared to share a little bit of your love.

February 22 – "Giving Up and Growing Up". The Lenten season calls some in our mainline churches to some measure of self denial. While we may not feel compelled to follow the practice, there is a measure of spiritual maturity that enhances the participants. Rev. Roger Seidner, our consulting minister will assist us in exploring the concept.

9:45 AM Discussion Group

February 1 – Open Forum. Please bring your topics.

February 8, 15, 22 – To be announced.

February Birthdays

Ray Cormany, February 24

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Treasurer's Report...

The December 2014 income was \$9,195, of which \$6,624 were pledges, bringing the total income this fiscal year to \$28,607. However, \$1,700 if this income is earmarked for 2015 Seidner Challenge, and restricted gifts to the Ruth Gray Building Fund and the Michael Dowd Speaker's Fund.

December budgeted expenses were \$2,978, bringing the total expense for this fiscal year to \$20,384. Expenses of the Ruth Gray Bequest Fund were \$8,741, of which \$8,139 were for Rispoli & Associates, our architectural firm. They have completed the schematic design of our new church building.

Rev. Roger and Mrs. Clarice Seidner have again challenged the Congregation to match them in raising funds for ministerial development and furtherment of liberal religion. They considered their accountability and responsibility, as this Congregation will be their final place of ministerial service. They have offered a challenge gift of \$1,000, and ask us to match it. Half of the money will go to Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and half to the Unitarian Universalist Association. The funds will accumulate for six months, and will be distributed at the end of that time. They appreciate the opportunity to serve with us, and to support causes together with us.

Please mark your checks: 2015 Seidner Challenge.

... **Carl Hommel**

Highlights of the Board of Trustees meeting of Thursday, January 22

The Treasurer's report, given by Carl Hommel, related the income and expenses for December. He stated the individual Letters of Donations will be done by email and U.S. mail for those members who did not register an email with their membership.

Considerable time was spent by the Board concerning the organization and the work of the committees. Social Justice is holding the Michael Dowd lecture on January 28. The Caring Committee has had a meeting and will give details of their work to the Congregation. Publicity is in the capable hands of Gina Rossi who continues to keep our events in public notice.

The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, June Sweeten, reported their work is in progress in accordance with the rules of the By-Laws. The By-Laws are on our website for reference to this process.

Betty Emery made the report for the Building Committee stating the preliminary drawings for the new church building are nearly complete. Each phase of the drawings is being conveyed by email to Carl Skiles who then forwards them to the members of the Building Committee. The plans will be discussed at the next meeting of the committee on February 5, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be in the building at 127 N. Grove Street and is open to the Congregation.

We noted a shortage of hymnals and will purchase ten more of each type of book.

The Board members gave Christie Cleveland their approval to begin classes in Tai Chi, in February, at the Grove Street building.

... **Kit Tatum, Secretary**

Tai Chi class

Tai Chi originated in ancient China and is practiced throughout the world today as an effective exercise for health. It consists of fluid, gentle movements that are relaxed and slow in tempo. It is especially helpful for arthritis, balance and relaxation. It can be performed standing or seated in a chair.

Christie Cleveland will be offering a 6-week complimentary class at the church office on **Thursdays 9:30-10:30 am February 12-March 19**. She has taught tai chi for 8 years at a YMCA and a senior center. Please sign up for the class on the table after church.

President's Message ... A Special film for UUs



The movie "Selma" did not have promising origins. After a few false starts, it finally got made with a black woman director who had directed mostly indies (independent films). The actor who plays MLK was told twice that he was the wrong man to play the iconic figure. For one thing, he was English and would have a hard time convincingly sounding like King. But despite all the obstacles, the movie was completed, and thank god it was. It is a powerful and inspiring film about the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama which began with an attempted crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, named after a grand dragon of the KKK. The film is especially meaningful for UUs. Martin Luther King is a UU hero, and two of the people who were martyred as a result of the second attempted bridge crossing were UUs – Ralph Reed and Viola Liuzzo. They were both white.

They had responded to King's call for all those who loved freedom to join him in a second attempted crossing. The first had resulted in "Bloody Sunday" when the marchers encountered troopers blocking the the other end of the span. The filmed scene is not for the faint-hearted. The brutality of the attack with clubs, horses and tear gas unleashed on these people who carried no weapons and were pledged to non-violence is convincing and personal. It left President Johnson tearing his thinning hair out as he realizes that King was forcing his hand on guaranteeing voting rights.

As a direct consequence of their decisions to join King, James Reeb and Viola Liuzzo lost their lives.

Reeb was a Unitarian Universalist minister from Boston who had dedicated himself to fighting poverty and racism. His conscience had led him away from the famous All Souls Church in Washington where he was assistant minister to Boston where he chose to live among the the poor and an increasing population of blacks. His job was primarily to help blacks trying to find housing and equality.

King's plea for people of conscience across the country to join him in a second attempt to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge spoke to him. Because he had a family of four children and a wife he hesitated. Also, he was in the middle of some crucial work following an apartment fire that had killed two blacks in Boston. Nevertheless, King was calling out and he felt he had to respond. He flew with other clergy to Alabama and, in the film, he is seen near the front as King led the second march across the now famous bridge. After the second march, some who had come to be with King left, but Reeb was persuaded to stay

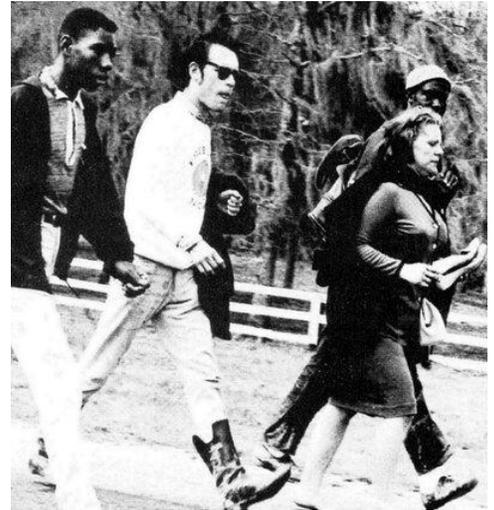


by a UU pastor friend of his, “a simple twist of fate” as the Dylan song says. As Reeb and two other UU clergy left “Eddie’s Place” in the dark, they were attacked by four white men and, in the film, he is seen being brutally beaten to death. He was beaten as were his companions, but the real story of his death is somewhat more dramatic. A detailed account of Reeb’s life and role in the Selma to Montgomery march can be found with this link

https://www.uua.org/documents/reebjames/good_mans_death.pdf

His name is on the Civil Rights Memorial erected by the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

Another Unitarian Universalist whose name is on that memorial is Viola Liuzzo (pronounced lee oo’ zo). She was a mother of five from Detroit who also responded to King’s call. In the film, she does not have a speaking role, but she is seen at home with her husband horrified by the violent TV images of “Bloody Sunday.” She is also one of the faces in the crowd during the second attempt to cross the bridge. The film credits identify her as having been murdered by KKK members as she tried to drive a civil rights worker home. There is much more to the story, including the effects of her death on her husband and children as well as the involvement of the FBI in her death. You can get that from a number of sources including this NPR broadcast



<http://www.npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/2013/08/12/209595935/killed-for-taking-part-in-everybody-s-fight>

A book has been written about her called “From Selma to Sorrow: The Life and Death of Viola Liuzzo” and a fine movie account was produced called “Home of the Brave.” A streaming video of the film is available through Amazon Instant Video. Find that at

http://www.amazon.com/Home-Brave-Stockard-Channing/dp/B00CMV7MVU/ref=sr_1_2?s=instant-video&ie=UTF8&qid=1421700680&sr=1-2&keywords=home+of+the+brave

I hope you will take some time to read about both Reeb and Liuzzo. They paid a price for their commitment to civil rights and it was not without effect on their families, particularly Liuzzo’s. If you listen to the radio broadcast or read the book or see the film about her, you will see some of those consequences. As Rev Seidner told us on Sunday, Martin Luther King was very, very human. So were these two UU martyrs. Some would question their decisions to go to Selma knowing the danger. Reeb had four children; Liuzzo had five, but they went anyway. Especially in the case of Liuzzo, the children suffered enormously as a consequence of her action. Listen to the interview; if at all possible, see the film. Here is a link to the trailer <http://vimeo.com/15775304>.

Peace to all of you. Russ

Donations for Enhancement of the New UUCLC Building

As you all know from past articles in The Communicator, we are within a few months of starting construction of our new UUCLC building. It is a very exciting time. It is also time for us all to think seriously about the financial donations which we want to make to the new building. Ruth Gray’s wonderful bequest will build a very solid and functional building for us, but furnishing it and adding touches of beauty will be up to the rest of us. For features of the building, the time for making donation decisions is now, before the actual construction begins.

Through the first part of 2015, the Finance Subcommittee for the building will be working with individuals who wish to make memorial or tribute gifts, either for a specific item or for the general building beautification fund. We have lists of possible sponsorship items to help provide ideas for memorial or tribute gifts. If you have a particular interest, please get in touch with us. A committee member will be glad to meet with you

and talk about possibilities. Please be assured that any such discussion will be completely confidential, and without any commitment.

In the fourth quarter of 2015, as the building gets closer to completion, we will start some broad campaigns to raise money for such things as chairs for the sanctuary, or bricks for the memorial garden. We will let you know more about these possibilities later in the year.

The committee is very pleased to report that we have already had some UUCLC people come forward with donations toward features and furnishings of the new building. A couple of memorial gifts are already in planning. We would love to hear from more people about gifts which they would like to make.

The members of the Finance Subcommittee are Karen Woolhouse, Frank Bishop, and Bernie Greenberg. We look forward to speaking with you.

Karen Woolhouse

A Brief Report on the Progress of the New Building

The Building and Design committee was sent a preliminary set of architectural drawings for the floor plan and elevation by the architect in mid-January. A copy of those plans was sent out by email to all the Building and Design committee members. Joe Rispoli, our architect, will be sending us another set of drawing by January 30th which will be 50% complete. The set will include Construction Documents of Architectural Drawings and MEP drawings (mechanical, engineering and plumbing). The plans will be discussed at the next scheduled Building Committee meeting which will be held at the office on February 5th at 1pm.

There has been a topographical survey and a tree survey taken on the property. Those surveys are going to Don Griffey, our site engineer who is working on our site plan.

We are making very good progress in the efforts to have our own building. The members of the Building and Design committee as well as the congregation as a whole have had a voice in the design of the floor plan. It is an amalgam of our very best ideas. We can be very proud of our efforts! On behalf of myself and Carl Skiles, thank you to all.

Betty Emery, Design Committee Chairperson