

The Beacon

Newsletter
of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Lakeland



Volume 31, No. 5

Published Monthly

May 2009

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Adult Discussion Group
10:00 AM

Religious Exploration
(School Year Only)
Children/Youth
10:00 AM

Coffee
10:00 AM

SUNDAY SERVICE
11:00 AM

Fellowship
Noon

EarthFamilies Evensong
2:00 PM



3140 Troy Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803
Phone: 863-646-3715

www.uuclakeland.org

e-mail: contact@UUCLakeland.org

Webmaster: Glenn Welsler

The Beacon

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Editor: Portia Westerfield
portiap@tampabay.rr.com

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Contact@UUCLakeland.org

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

- 3** *"We Are The Ones To Bring Peace"* - Mindy Simmons - As we talk about, ponder and pray for world peace, do we take seriously our part in this process? How can one person make any difference in these crazy, turbulent, even fearful times? What can we as UU'do to move the ideal of world peace forward? It's the little things that add up.
- 10** *"The Motherhood of All Believers"* - Rev. Bonnie Devlin - On this Mother's Day, we will celebrate the power of birthing and co-creating which we all can partake in. By embracing our 'inner royalty' we become able to be both Queens and Kings of our world, co-creating our world, and taking responsibility for it in our stewardship of the earth. In the Free Faith Tradition, we speak of the *"Prophethood of all Believers"* which allows us all to participate in the *democracy* of belief and wisdom. By recognizing our abilities to co-create and be active 'movers and shakers' of our lives and the lives of others, we are accepting the 'Motherhood' of our beliefs and actions in the world—a very exciting prospect!
- 17** *"Those Who Serve"* Our congregation wouldn't exist without those who serve us. If you have served this congregation, please come and be recognized. If you haven't served, come express your gratitude for those who have.
- 24** *"We're Unitarian Universalists!"* Join us in a very special service planned and presented by our Religious Exploration kids. This year they have been studying lots of different faith traditions and how they are like UUism. This month they share with us some of what they think Unitarian Universalism is all about.
- 31** *"Why UU Paganism?"* In this service centered on a sermon by Reverend Forrest Church, we will explore how Earth-based faith fits into Unitarian Universalism. This "Fifth Sunday" service is offered by EarthFamilies, our chapter of the Covenant of UU Pagans.



Congregational Services Committee

Help us care for one another: if you know a member or friend who could benefit from receiving a call, card, visit or assistance, please notify the Office at 646-3715 and/or Sunshine@uuclakeland.org.

Need wheels? If you desire a ride to/from church on Sundays, phone or e-mail the Office and they'll try to procure one for you.

“Name That Newsletter” on Sunday, May 24

There have been some confusing conversations here at UUCL ever since the UU Florida District decided to change the name YRUU (for Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) to Beacon Youth. This applies to all congregations in the District. Now, when someone at UUCL talks about the “Beacon,” we don’t know which they mean: our youth group or our congregational newsletter, *The Beacon*.

That’s why, at the suggestion of a member, the Board of Trustees has decided to hold a contest to rename the congregation’s newsletter. On Sunday, May 24 during service, we will pass our offering baskets to take up your written suggestions on a new name for the newsletter

The writer of the winning newsletter suggestion will receive our love, affection, and published kudos in the premiere issue of the newly renamed newsletter

If you cannot attend services on May 24, send your suggestions to president@UUCLakeland.org and make the subject line “NameThat Newsletter.”



Words on Worship

Wow! Drumming, chanting, celtic harp, jazz and more! April was full of great worship music! We hope everyone enjoyed the diverse offerings and our thanks to those who helped make them possible.

May 17 will be a very special service recognizing those who give their time and energy to make our congregation function. Please come and be recognized for all your hard work!

The Worship Committee will be sketching out next year’s calendar soon. If there are dates you would like to see observed in our worship year please let us know as soon as possible.

As always, we rely on your input! You may contact us at worship@uuclakeland.org or join our meetings, currently the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 5:30pm. Come share in this creative and rewarding work!

Joyce and Theresa

Minister’s MUUsings

Last week as I was driving to work, I was almost hit by a man in a huge pick-up truck who had crossed the small highway and came right at me. It was the day of the big rain and the roads were slick. I hit my brakes and began to spin, my hand on the horn. The man in the truck didn’t even stop—he was busy talking on his cell phone, while my heart was racing. This was the closest of accidents I’ve had with drivers, most all on cell phones. ~~By~~ attention dear drivers, pay attention. It is said:

“There are occasions when you can hear the mysterious language of the Earth, in water, or coming through the trees, emanating from the mosses, seeping through the undercurrents of the soil;
but you have to be willing to wait and receive”

In every moment of absorbed attention we are open to the unexpected. “Attention, attention, attention,” wrote Zen Master Ikkyu centuries ago when asked what was the *highest* wisdom. Mindfulness, awareness, remembering, attention—every spiritual tradition has a different name for this quality of being. At any moment, it is the measure of what a person *is* and what a group of people *are*.

Most of the time our attention is dispersed among a variety of different preoccupations: it is actually quite rare that we give ourselves to just one thing at a time. In our fast-paced lifestyles, kids and adults today come ‘equipped’ with cell phones constantly ringing and flapping, filled with appointments, texting, blogging, twittering, voicemail, call waiting, and so on, and so on. ~~W~~all pride ourselves on being “multi-tasked” people, however we are unfortunately spending most of our lives not being present in the *moment* we are living.

I realize that many things we do have to be multi-tasked, or else we’ll sink in the quicksand of our current societal expectations. For example, I was a waitress for years, and where I worked, *only* the multi-tasked survived—in fact, my experience as a waitress prepared me to be multi-tasked even today. There are many areas where we become multi-tasked: in the kitchen, in the car at the dinner table, in the office, and so forth. These examples all appear natural and necessary—but at what price to the overall quality of our lives? Is life about quantity or quality? Tabulations or revelations? Will we miss the “boat of life” because we were too busy over-packing?

This season will offer us many opportunities to “pay attention” to our lives and the emergence of life all around us. ~~W~~e will have many opportunities to be mindful and attentive to the small revelations in our lives, those small but transforming moments of awareness. To our beloved snowbirds and spring travelers: drive safely, and enjoy the journey. I wish us all a season filled with moments of beauty, moments of joy, moments of life ever-present.

Peace and Blessings,
Bonnie

Mother's Day

A Message From The President

I would like to share a story/event with you...

Sharon Mehdi wrote a wonderful short story for her five-year-old granddaughter, *The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering*, that has inspired women around the world. A quick summary of the story is:

A busboy who worked in a cafe whose window faced the public park noticed that two grandmotherly looking women had been standing in the park all day without moving or talking. They were dressed in their Sunday best and were just staring at the Town Hall. He asked the other patrons in the cafe what they thought the women were up to. They speculated on a variety of things. Then a five-year-old who was in the cafe spoke up and said, "One of them is my grandmother and I know what they are doing. They are standing there to save the world." All the men in the cafe hooted and howled and laughed.

On his way home, the busboy decided to ask the women what they were doing and, sure enough, their answer was, "We are saving the world." Over dinner that evening, the busboy told his parents, and he and his father hooted and howled, but his mother was totally silent. After dinner, the mother called her best friends to tell them. The next morning, the busboy looked out the cafe window and the two women were back, along with his mother, her friends and the women who had been in the cafe the day before. All were standing, in complete silence, staring at the Town Hall. Again, the men hooted and howled and said things like, "You can't save the world by standing in the park. That is what we have armies for," and, "Everyone knows you have to have banners and slogans to save the world - you can't do it by just standing in the park."

The next day, the women were joined by the women who were in the cafe the day before and many of their friends. This brought the local newspaper reporter to the scene. He wrote a derisive article about the women. The day after it appeared, hundreds of women showed up to stand in the park in silence. The mayor told the police chief to make the women leave because they were making the town look foolish. When the police chief told the women to disperse because they didn't have a permit, one of them responded, "We are just individuals standing in our public park and we're not giving speeches or having a demonstration, so why would we need a permit?" The police chief thought about this, agreed with them and left the park. At this point, 2,223 women, including the mayor's wife, the police chief's wife and one five-year-old girl, were standing in the park to save the world. The news quickly spread and soon women were standing all over the country. The story ended with women standing in every country throughout the globe, silently standing to save the world.

We are standing for the world's children and grandchildren, and for the seven generations beyond them. We dream of a world where all of our children have safe drinking water clean air to breathe and enough food to eat. A world where they have access to basic education to develop their minds and healthcare to nurture their growing bodies. A world where they have a warm, safe and loving place to call home. A world where they don't live in fear of violence-- in their home, in their neighborhood, in their school or in their world. This is the world of which we dream. This is the cause for which we stand.

Continued, at right, under "Birthdays/Anniversaries"

MAY



1	Sandra Gompf
1	Deane Reed
7	Dorothy Neitzke (100!)
8	Sebastian Ray
8	Ryan Trevillyan
14	Jerry Marshall
18	Kerensa Trevillyan
22	Bert Henry
23	Steve Eskenazi
23	Jack Varty
25	Dylan Marshall
26	Blenda George
31	Faye Moore

MAY Anniversaries

9	Barbara & Don Wallace
11	Heather & Sean Curry
24	Jan Jennings & Gordon Bergman



...I invite the women of UUCL (and the men who care about the women and the world ;-)) to stand in silence for five minutes in the patio area at 1:00 pm on Sunday, May 10th. During the silence, we will think about what we can do, individually and collectively to attain the aforementioned world. You may sit rather than stand, if needed. Afterwards, we can discuss how we can bring about this ideal world.

The information in this article was obtained from standingwomen.org.

Standing for our world,
Linda Walters

Thank YouUU!

We would like to send out a big THANK YOU to a few local musicians who have blessed us with their gifts in recent months: Dave Miller, John Cortesi and UUCL member Bryan Rivers. It is always a special treat to have live music in our Sunday services and these guys have not only given us live music, but GREAT live music. We are looking forward to their next gigs with us.

Three Timely Messages from HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Jean Lord is serving as Chair of the Hospitality Committee during the summer. Anyone interested in helping with hospitality coordinating duties is asked to contact Jean at jeanield1974@yahoo.com.

Jean and Bill have very kindly volunteered to oversee our second-Sunday potluck dinners. But they really really need one or two helpers each time to assist with this important big job. Again, please contact Jean at the above email address and VOLUNTEER.

Munchies: don't you LOVE them with your coffee on Sunday mornings? If you want them, please bring something you've bought or baked, to share. You can sign up to do this on the Hospitality calendar Jean will leave for you on the refreshment table. If no one signs up (and follows through by bringing something), there will be no munchies for ANYBODY. It's so simple – if you'd LIKE some, please BRING some. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome three new members to UUCL: Mark Wheeler, Jerry and Melissa Marshall, and the Marshalls' son, Dylan.

Barbara Wallace,
Outgoing Membership Chair

UUCL Book Club



Moderated by Aika Sumeragi
The Gilded Chain: A Tale of the King's Blades by Dave Duncan; Fiction. In this Tudoresque fantasy novel, an unruly boy is transformed into a rebellious knight who survives courtly intrigue, adventure and the horrifying secrets of immortality. Join us May 21st at 6:30 pm.

"Splinters From The Board"

April 15, 2009 Board Meeting

- A volunteer is needed to be Cluster representative;
- The Worship Committee is looking for a co-chair for next year;
- Barbara Wallace is leaving for the summer and Linda Walters will temporarily take over the Membership Chair duties;
- Don Wallace is leaving for the summer and Kyno Hicks will assume the leadership of the Adult Discussion Group;
- At this time the Hospitality Committee does not have a chair. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the foyer and it is requested that people sign up to serve for a week or two;
- Alysia Reppeto-Evans, Heather Curry, and Daniel Whitt will act as advisors to the Beacon youth group;
- The Board suggested that the Beacon Newsletter be renamed since all District YRUU groups, including ours, have adopted the name Beacon Youth. To prevent confusion, the congregation will be asked to offer suggestions for a new name for our newsletter;
- The mission statement has been selected and is now printed in the Order of Service;
- The Committee on Congregational Relations suggested that a definition on the Committee on Ministry be established and the congregation be informed on how this committee will function;
- The Board approved a policy that the "Friends of Joe" be allowed to use the facility at no charge through January 30, 2010. The Board will review this policy at the February 2010 Board meeting;
- Heather Curry and Judi Irwin are preparing to get bids for the repair of the RE porch;
- A draft contract is being prepared for Rev. Bonnie Devlin beginning in September 2009;
- Rev. Bonnie will do one service in July and one in August as a guest minister;
- The Board agreed to ask the RE committee to rewrite the job description and the employment contract for Heather Curry to be submitted at the next Board meeting;
- Information about UUA presidential candidates is available on line. Information will be available at UUCL after the May 3 service for everyone to review to be able to make a recommendation to our GA delegates on how to cast their votes;
- The Board approved an "official" UUCL facebook page and Rafi Ellis, Daniel Whitt, Portia Westerfield and Glenn Welser will coordinate the information that is posted;
- Coming soon will be a workshop for anyone who is interested to learn about electronic presentation and information;
- By consensus, the Board approved hosting a District Teacher Training Workshop on August 29 led by Connie Goodbread of the Florida District. Connie will be the guest speaker at Sunday service on August 30. Volunteers are needed to coordinate hospitality for the workshop;
- By consensus, the Board approved getting a plaque honoring Hubert Becker for acquiring the piano. A dedication of the piano will be made at a future worship service;
- Cynthia Patterson and Charlene Bennett will work on presenting an adult RE class in the fall;
- June 20th was set as the date for a Board retreat;
- Melissa and Jerry Marshall were welcomed as new members;
- Volunteer recognition and Committee Carnival will be held on May 17.

Find Your Calling on May 17 "Committee Carnival"

Showcases Volunteer Opportunities

Plan to stay after services on Sunday May 17 for UUCL's Committee Carnival, an event showcasing the many volunteer opportunities available at our congregation.

Food, games and fun will lure you into the Social Hall, where members of each Congregational Committee will explain the work they do. No matter what your talents, you can have fun and demonstrate your commitment to our congregation by finding a job that fits!

Speaking of committees, the following committees or subcommittees are seeking members or chairs:

Hospitality: The Congregational Services sub-committee that brings you Sunday Coffee, monthly Pot Luck Lunches and a host of other opportunities for eating needs a co-chair to work with Jean Lord and her volunteers. If interested, visit the Congregational Services table on May 17 or contact Jean at jeannield1974@yahoo.com.

Membership: Help us make new members and keep the old by joining or chairing this subcommittee, also part of Congregational Services. Stop by the Congregational Services table on May 17 or contact Rafi Ellis at rafiwrite@tampabay.rr.com.

Worship: Co-chair this committee along with Tracie Welser, and help shape the Sunday morning experience here at UUCL. Visit the Worship table on May 17 or contact Tracie Welser.

District/Cluster: A representative is needed to represent UUCL at events throughout Florida, and to communicate UUA and Florida District news to our congregation. Most of this work is done via email, although three or four events a year are also included. If this sounds like work you'd enjoy, email Rafi Ellis at rafiwrite@tampabay.rr.com.

In other council news, thanks to Keyno Hicks for agreeing to run the Adult Discussion Group, and to Linda Walters for agreeing to be interim Membership liaison while we seek a chair. And an extra special thanks to Barbara and Don Wallace, who returned to Michigan on April 30, for all their hard work on hospitality, membership, finance, and Adult Discussion Group over the past several months.

In faith,
Rafi Ellis, Council Chair



UUCL Community Garden Update

You may have noticed some changes to the view at the rear of the parking area! Our thanks to Peter Helwig for tilling the soil for planting. In the next few weeks, the soil will be cleared, amended, and planted. If you would like to help out and be added to our email group, please contact Tracie Welser, Aika Sumeragi or Alysia Reppeto-Evans.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITYVOLUNTEER FOR VISTE

Listen up: strong backs are needed, to load big boxes of groceries and household necessities into cars for delivery to homebound seniors with health problems and modest incomes.

VISTE (Volunteers In Service to the Elderly) has served seniors in Polk County for as long as I can remember and I arrived in 1985. VISTE provides services and supplies to elders who, but for VISTE, might be in nursing homes. VISTE helps these marginally challenged people live at home as long as possible.

I'm one of their volunteer commodities drivers. Once a month, I drive to their facility to collect seven big boxes jam-packed with canned goods, packaged foods, frozen meat, cartons of juice, bread/rolls/muffins, paper towels, cleaning supplies, etc. donated by Publix and other markets. I deliver to seven elderly ladies whom I've enjoyed getting to know over the last six years.

Problem: Most female volunteers just aren't strong enough to heft heavy boxes into our cars. There used to be retired male volunteers expertly loading and arranging "cargo" to ensure easy unloading. But eventually these gentlemen got older and one-by-one abandoned this worthy effort. Now we drivers must scrounge for help. We're often lucky, but how long can we count on that?

VISTE delivers commodities Monday through Friday on the third full week of each month. Their facility is open for loading from 8:00 am until 12 noon. Reasonably strong UUCL guys wanting to volunteer should consider one or two mornings a month at VISTE. UUCL already donates food, let's offer manpower too. Contact me at portiap@tampabay.rr.com and I'll connect you with a VISTE person who will explain the details. Thank you!

Portia Westerfield



To All Committee Chairs

Will groups which meet regularly on a particular day please let the UUCL Office Secretary know if/when your plans change and you decide NOT to meet on that day. It will be announced on the Office Calendar, the website Calendar of events and in the Sunday Bulletin (for instance, "Sunday Dec. 25...no CUUPs.")

If you forget to notify us of such cancellation, your regularly scheduled meeting will automatically appear on its usual day in our Calendars. And folks might show up expecting your excellent program, and be disappointed.

COFFEE HOUSE NEWS

'Twas the Night O'Transcode Collective

On May 23rd, Polk County's very own "Transcode Collective" will delight you with harmonious vibrations via drums, bass and electrical guitars with an occasional brass wind instrument. The minute you enter Common GroUUnds, you'll experience the monitors throwing vibrations from the ground right through the very walls of our Complex. The pulsing will interact with the cartilage of your outer ear until, beat by beat, it burrows deep into the core of the primary auditory cortex in your temporal lobe. To experience this fantastic auditory simulation, get to Common GroUUnds by 6:30 pm (18:30 military time).

Transcode Collective is a collaboration of several local bands much like the well-known HolyTrinity. Olive Juice, Poor Saddam, Panda Horse and John Crayon will be manifesting on our stage to provide one helluva show So, do NOT miss this special evening at Common GroUUnds. Such individuality and expertise should be (but isn't!) unlawful.

Daniel Whitt

for Common GroUUnds Coffee House.



ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

Sundays at 10:00 am in the Social Hall

Topics for May '09

May 3 - Decriminalizing Drug Abuse: Why, what good would it be? Should we end the prohibition against marijuana just as we ended the prohibition against alcohol?

May 10 - Is it human nature to be good? Is it human nature to be bad?

May 17 - Discuss the Protestant ethic. Did/does it serve the U.S. well, or has it become something that disrupts natural harmony?

May 24 - How might the Adult Discussion Group connect in different ways to the larger congregation? (e.g., tie discussion topics to sermon themes.)

May 31 - Can science play a role in religion? Does religion have a place in science?

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONS

The COCR meets regularly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm in the Social Hall; any other/additional meetings, such as the extra one in January, are always posted on the Committee bulletin board. All UUCL members are welcome to attend all meetings.

Everyone is reminded of the Issues and Ideas Box where you can submit comments/ideas and questions. This box is opened at committee meetings and all entries are answered.

Treasurer's Report

Our financial position is stable, we do have money in our checking account, and we are current on all bills. If pledges continue to be paid on a timely basis, we should finish the year with no deficit.

The 2009-2010 budget was approved by the Congregation with a \$3,500 shortfall in pledges. This budget includes having a minister two Sundays a month, and includes money for more professional musicians. We have not included fundraisers in the Operating Budget, but we hope to pick up more pledges so we will be free to use the fundraiser money as needed for special projects. Proceeds from the two model airplane fundraisers are expected to be used to replace the porch on the RE building.

The Special Collection in April was for the UU Ministry for the Earth and we raised \$69.

If you have not yet become a member of the UU Service Committee, please do so by going to UUSC.org and filling out a membership application. There is still time to renew for this year.

Money for the Endowment Fund has come from donations and memorial gifts. Several gifts have been received in memory of Hubert Becker, and we wish to thank the donors. If you wish to make a contribution to the Endowment Fund in memory of Hubert, please make your check out to UUCL and put his name in the memo line.

	March	Year-to-Date	Budget 08-09
Income	\$ 3,930	\$ 55,250	\$ 71,800
Expenses	\$ 4,097	\$ 54,340	
Total	\$ (167)	\$ 910	

Financial reports are posted on the bulletin board in the kitchen. If you ever want any information on any financial matters, please feel free to contact me.

Joyce Bode, Treasurer



FRIENDS OF JOE CONCERT AT UUCL

Saturday May 9 at 8:00 pm, Friends of Joe will present Kevin So concert and new CD release. The opening act will be The Parson Brown Band. Afterwards, visit Joe's Cafe in the Social Hall for beverages, a light meal or snacks.

Tickets: Adult - \$10 advance, \$12 Door

Student - \$5 and \$7 - Under 12 free

Anne Kearton for Friends of Joe - 863 646 1972

GAMES FOR GROWNUPS

Join us! We play games the group decides to play that evening ...cards, board games, table games and anything else that meets our fancy. Bring a game or two that you would enjoy playing. Some folks bring simple snacks or beverages to share but that's up to you. We meet in the Social Hall at 6:30 every 1st Saturday.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

It's May, which means we are wrapping up another wonderful year in RE. We will spend some time on Buddhism this month, but we will finish with our own celebration of Unitarian Universalism. In addition, the children will be putting on their own intergenerational worship service for the congregation- it will surely be a delight! I expect that they will exhibit to us just how much they have learned and benefited by being included in congregational worship once a month. I found this wonderful poem in a frame at my mother-in-law's house, and would like to share it with you:

Children Learn What They Live

By Dorothy Law Nolte

If children live with criticism,
They learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility,
They learn to fight.

If children live with ridicule,
They learn to be shy.

If children live with shame,
They learn to feel guilty.

If children live with tolerance,
They learn to be patient.

If children live with praise,
They learn to appreciate.

If children live with fairness,
They learn justice.

If children live with security,
They learn to have faith.

If children live with approval,
They learn to like themselves.

If children live with acceptance and friendship,
They learn to find love in the world.

I hope we can all remember these words as we spend time with our children and show them what it is to be a UU- we are their only examples!

In Faith, Peace and Love,
Heather Curry
Director of Religious Exploration



BEACON YOUTH

Beginning May 6, every Wednesday will be youth night at UUCL. Youth nights will be youth led, semi-structured events to involve the youth in social-action projects and provide a safe environment for religious exploration. We will meet in the Sanctuary from 6:00-8:00 pm. Youth ages 12-19.

Daniel Whitt

EarthFamilies Evensong Gatherings

Every Sunday at 2:00 P.M.

May 3 - Celebrate May Day! Also called Beltane, this holy day celebrates life and the union of divine female and male principles. Join us for an outdoor maypole raising and dance. (Note: this weekend is also Florida Pagan Gathering in Ocala; several UU members are planning to attend. Contact Theresa or Tracie for more information.)

May 10 - Drum Circle in the main sanctuary Join this family-friendly activity and explore the meditative value of rhythm! We have plenty of instruments to share; chanters and dancers always welcome! Come early (noon) and join UUCL's monthly potluck.

May 17 - Anime in the Afternoon, sponsored by EarthFamilies. This month's film: *Simoun* (showing of Parts 7-12, a continuation of April's selection). In the peaceful theocracy of Simulacrum, everyone is born female. At age 17, each maiden undergoes a special ceremony where she chooses her sex. However, only pairs of maiden priestesses can synchronize with the ancient flying ships known as "Simoun," needed to defend Simulacrum. This film is suggested for viewers aged 16+. Bring a drink to share. Fresh popcorn will be available for a donation.

May 24 - Planning session and EarthFamilies Choir practice.

May 31 - EarthFamilies Sunday. Join us at 11:00 A.M. as we offer the morning service to our host congregation. No afternoon meeting.

SAVE THE DATE !



Tuesday evening, May 12, the Humanist Association of West Central Florida (HA WCF) will host guest speaker Ronald Aronson, Distinguished Professor of the History of Ideas, at Wayne State University, Michigan. The meeting will start in the UUCL Sanctuary at 7:00 pm and is open to the public. Dr Aronson's newest book, *Living Without God, New Directions for Atheists, Agnostics, Secularists and the Undecided* (Counterpoint 2008, \$25.00) offers a positive, socially conscious worldview for today's rapidly-growing secular community. Other contemporary authors have attacked traditional religion, leaving us in an empty "what now?" limbo; *Living Without God* concentrates on upbeat, challenging concepts to fill that gap.

Portia Westerfield, HAWCF President



CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTORY

Deletions, new entries, and changes to existing telephone numbers, e-mail or residence addresses should be e-mailed to Contact@uuclakeland.org. Members and friends unable to e-mail are asked to submit information to (863) 646-3715. Thank you.

The Smart Church, #29

Faith Development

The evolution of Religious Education to Faith Development is happening at all levels of Unitarian Universalism. The issue that comes up in our congregations is the discomfort around the word faith. We have intellectualized education. It is a technical word -void of emotion - something we do for others. We provide an education for those who need it. We have become comfortable with "religious" because of the word "education" - I always ask, "Why are we comfortable with the word religious and uncomfortable with the word faith?" Is it because we think that religious education is teaching about every faith other than our own? Do we think there is nothing to teach about our own faith? If we do not teach Unitarian Universalism who does?

Look these words up in the dictionary and think how you might apply their true meaning to Unitarian Universalism. When I apply these two words to Unitarian Universalism I find them useful in helping me to define our spiritual discipline. I find myself going deeper into the faith and I am moved. Each of us has faith in something; people, science, tomorrow, The President, Democracy, our seven principles, God - something.

To be in the place where we are struggling with words is not bad. It is necessary To deeply understand and appreciate this struggle with words is important. It is genuine and part of what each individual goes through in the process of faith development. But we also need to be sure that we do not get in the way of the struggle just because it makes us uncomfortable. Stopping the struggle is not good for the individual, congregation or our faith. It is not helpful. The struggle is important and valuable.

Religious Education has come to mean children being in some kind of separate program from adults on Sunday morning because they need to be educated. We added Lifespan to Religious Education in an attempt to help folks understand that it is for everyone. But that didn't work. What we need is a different term all together and so we come to Faith Development. Faith Development is the term that people who study human development have chosen for this particular aspect of what makes us human. Faith Development happens right along with mental/cognitive and bodily/kinesthetic development. It is the human trinity -another word that folks will be uncomfortable with -but our intellectual, physical and spiritual development...

continued next column...



... is what makes us uniquely human and the deeper we can embrace these three aspects of our being the more fully human we become.

Faith Development is a lifelong process. It is never ending. We cannot stay in the comfortable place that we have found -we must move on and become. We are always becoming. We are never finished. There is always more to do. There is always change and hopefully I will be more tomorrow than I am today.

Few of us are lucky enough to be born Unitarian Universalists. Many of us come into Unitarian Universalism and think it is the end instead of the beginning. Those of us who are comers inners say things like, "When I found this congregation it was like coming home." That is wonderful but it is only the beginning. Now that we are safe in the home faith that we have always longed for we must work from this strong foundation to become all that we can be. We cannot merely rest in the calm of this safe harbor, making of it a walled sanctuary. We must open ourselves up to change, enter into the tumult and ride the waves of life, gathering others who need the life saving message of Unitarian Universalism. We must be fearless, bold and courageous.

We must become and become again.

Faith Development is all we do

By Connie Goodbread

District Lifespan Program Consultant

Nostalgia Photos Wanted for General Assembly Montages, Slide Shows

UU University's Multigenerational MinistryTrack is seeking photos, videos or other multimedia of UU communities engaging in multigenerational worship/events. They will compile these mementos into montages and slideshows for display at General Assembly in June. Especially appreciated would be images of UUs across all four generations, to paint the truly multigenerational picture; but any photos(jpgs preferred) or videos showing two or more generations will be welcome. Please send everything to Victoria Mitchell at vict.mitchell@gmail.com. Include location, community and specific event (worship, social justice activity). If videos don't fit in an attachment, contact Victoria to consider an alternative method. Questions? Again, email Victoria.

From Robin Barraza, DRE

First Parish in Milton

UUA General Assembly - June 24-28, 2009 Salt Lake City Utah - <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>

For more information go to:

UUA - www.uua.org - FLD - www.floridadistrict.org - WCC - www.westcentralcluster.org

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Rev. Dr. E. Bonnie Devlin
Part-Time Consulting Minister

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President@uuclakeland.org

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Congregational Office Secretary Gerald Lent
Contact@uuclakeland.org

Religious Exploration Director Heather Curry
RE@uuclakeland.org



www.the.mountaincenters.org

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center, Inc.
3872 Dillard Road • P.O. Box 1299
Highlands, NC 28741
Phone: 828-526-5838 • Fax: 781-846-1295
e-mail info@mountaincenters.org

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Sunshine@uuclakeland.org

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Webmaster Glenn Welser
Adminstrator@uuclakeland.org

CUUPS Contact Tracie Welser

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Worship@uuclakeland.org

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