

# The Beacon

Newsletter  
of the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Lakeland



Volume 31, No. 6

Published Monthly

June 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



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## The Beacon

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## SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

- 7** *"Social Concerns Sunday"* - The Rev. Robert E. Willoughby will speak on "The Cutting Edge." Social change can only come about when people are willing to be on the cutting edge. His new book, *The Future of Christianity in a Post-Christian Era: Essays on the Decline of Religion, New Dimensions of Spirituality, and Religion in a Global Community*, will be available for purchase. Peter Helwig will present the "Tommie Award."
- 14** *"From Disneyland to the Promised Land"* - Rev. Bonnie Devlin - Our annual UUCL Board Retreat is coming this month! For those of you not on the Board, we will also be holding a Leadership Retreat for our entire Congregation in the Fall, so keep your eyes to the Beacon for more details. As regards the visions and plans for the immediate future of our congregation, the Board Retreat is a very important event. I've always wanted to hold retreats at Disney World, because I believe that accessing our 'inner-child' helps create better 'right relations' between people. However, I also realize that when it comes to cultivating true leadership, especially with our great Board—that reality is not just a short, fun trip to 'Fantasyland' but rather an often long, arduous journey to the 'Promised Land. Let's support them in their work!
- 21** *"UUs and 19th Century Social Movements"* - Cynthia Patterson, PhD. When you say the word "pacifism" most people will want to add "Quaker" as the adjective that modifies the noun — "Quaker pacifism". However in the 19th century, both Unitarians and Universalists also supported ongoing peace movements, including the numerous international "Peace Congresses". While much of the history of 19th century social movements has focused on the efforts of male actors, this sermon will explore both the textual and visual manifestations of peace efforts driven by, and designed for, women and children.
- 28** *"Pride Sunday"* - UUCL is a Welcoming Congregation! We celebrate the diversity of our choices about who we love and how we gender-identify with the same enthusiasm we celebrate the diversity of our spiritual paths. Come be proud of who you are, and find out why it's important to celebrate Pride Sunday.

### 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.

## Words on Worship

Wow, May was full of wonderful music and worship! But don't worry, we have lots of exciting things coming over the summer too. Visiting ministers, Rev Bonnie, lay services and more are all in store in the upcoming months. On June 28th we will be celebrating Gay Pride. If you would like to be involved with this service, please contact service facilitator Theresa Lutz, [tericay@juno.com](mailto:tericay@juno.com) or 863-605-3815.

On Saturday, June 13 the Worship Committee will meet with Rev Bonnie for a special work session from 3-5 pm. The topic will be creating a healthy working relationship between Minister and Worship Committee. We hope all Worship Committee members can attend and we welcome everyone who is interested.

Afterwards, you can join us for a special fund-raising dinner. You've asked for more social activities, here's a chance to just show up, pay, and party! Look for more information elsewhere in this Beacon.

It has been a wonderful privilege co-chairing this committee with Joyce. As I turn this responsibility over to the very capable Tracie Welser, I give you my thanks for allowing me to serve this way.

Theresa & Joyce  
Worship CoChairs

## Committee Carnival

On Sunday, May 17th we held our first Committee Carnival. Thanks to a wonderful spread of food by Jean Lord (Service beyond the call of duty! Again!), everyone snacked, visited and volunteered. If you missed it, we'll do it again in Fall. ***But you can still volunteer for any committee, any time!*** Just ask any member of the Board of Trustees for more information.

We especially need volunteers for Hospitality **every** Sunday, the sign-up for this is posted in the hall. If each of us takes a week or two a year, no one has to do it all the time.

If you signed up to help with this or one of our other seemingly unending tasks, THANKS!!! We can't do it without YOU! Your help is greatly appreciated.

THANKS! THANKS! THANKS!

## Minister's MUUsings

***"We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."***

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

I know these profound words from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., since for years I have turned to his writings for inspiration and yes, for hope. I share these words this month because they were on the cover of the Service Bulletin for a recent service called "**Standing on the Side of Hope**", which I attended in Sarasota. It was sponsored by the Gulfcoast Affirming Interfaith Network.

It was truly a service of compassion and solidarity as extended communities of faith came together to re-affirm the power of hope in our lives. The service celebrated with the beautiful Anthems "River in Judea", "All Hearts Lifted", and "There is More Love Somewhere"; highlighted by the powerful piece "Seasons of Love" from the play 'Rent'. I mention the music because so often music succeeds where words can fail, and the tears in everyone's eyes flowed from the poignancy and power of the music, making us all one in spirit and intention.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the service came when everyone was handed a small, business-sized card with special affirmations on them. It would have been nice enough just to keep the cards we were given at the beginning, but someone had a better, greater idea. Towards the end of the service we were all asked to rise as we were able and - along with beautiful music- we were asked to move around the sanctuary and keep *trading* these cards with others. The words on these cards held different affirmations like: 'I Affirm for you Hope and Guidance'; 'I Affirm for you Joy'; 'I Affirm for you courage'; 'I Affirm for you health.... beauty... wisdom...success...' and so on.

The people there did not want to stop because the exchanges were so filled with a genuine spirit of community and kindness. I thought to myself and shared with another: 'Wouldn't this be a great thing to do at our churches?' Yes, to share affirmations with each other, affirmations which help us remain whole, respected, cared for, our worth and dignity affirmed at every exchange.

Yes, we can do this every Sunday, with or without exchanging cards, but the physical and tangible piece of paper in our hands seemed to give us the courage to reach out to another, and another, and another.

My hope for all of us as we conclude our 'formal church year' is this: '**I Affirm for you Reflection and Restoration**'. I do hope you take some time in the summer months to enjoy these two gifts- to reflect and restore, and to return whole. You are all so *very* deserving of this affirmation, and *all* the others.

Peace and Blessings, Bonnie

### SCHEDULING MEETINGS

**REMINDER:** All meetings and events are to be scheduled through the UUCL Office. Contact the Office at 863-646-3715 or [Contact@UUCLakeland.org](mailto:Contact@UUCLakeland.org).

To publish information about the content of meetings/events, contact the Beacon Editor, Portia Westerfield, at 863-425-3968 or e-mail at [portiap@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:portiap@tampabay.rr.com)

# A Message From The President

Here we are at the end of our 2008-2009 fiscal year, and the end of my Presidency. It has been an honor to serve you and I am so proud of what we have accomplished this year. We started the year with so many unknowns, but we persevered, and I feel that we are well on our way to identifying who we are and where we are going. There is still much to do, but I am confident that we will continue to make progress in all areas. I have great hope and faith in and for us.

As this year winds down, please take stock of your Church life to figure where your talents and skills may be used, and offer some of your time to help with the work of the Church and in our ministries. I look forward to serving on the Board for another year, and working with our new President, Rafi Ellis.

Many blessings,  
Linda Walters

## ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

Sundays at 10:00 am in the Social Hall

Topics for June '09

**June 7** - What will be the effect on the human race if we fail to stop global warming?

**June 14** - What is the place of TV in society? What is TV's influence on society past and present? Let's hear some personal anecdotes of favorites, or strongly memorable programs.

**June 21** - What is "spiritual?" What does "spiritual" mean? Let's compare and contrast our diverse views on the subject of spirituality.

**June 28** - Is patriotism necessarily a good thing? Are there ways in which patriotism might become harmful?

## EarthFamilies Evensong Gatherings

Sundays at 2:00 P.M.

**June 7** —Join us for part I of **Group Study**. Through December, we will devote first Sundays to study and discussion of Christopher Penczak's *The Inner Temple of Witchcraft*. This book can be previewed on Google Book Search (in fact, you can read a lot of it there).

**June 14** —**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.

**June 21** — Join us for ritual observance of **Summer Solstice**. Also called Litha, this solar event signals the turning of the seasons as the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

**June 28** —**Anime in the Afternoon**, sponsored by EarthFamilies. This month's film: *Simoun* (showing of Parts 13-18, a continuation of May'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+. Fresh popcorn and beverages will be available for a donation.

JUNE



6	Steve Carman
7	Sarah Mitchel
7	Mark Wheeler
8	Lester Kline
11	Gordon Grove
24	Tristan Ray
24	Bev Sterling
30	Don Micklewright

## June Anniversaries

11	Linda/Mark Walters
16	Rachel/William Ray
23	Mary Parent/Lester Kline
24	Jane/Al Eskenazi
30	Sandra/Tim Gompf

## Leadership Training Dates

Mark these on your calendar:

**June 13 - 3-5 pm - Worship Work Session with Rev Bonnie** - All Worship Committee members should plan to attend, open to all.

**June 20 - 8am - 8pm - Board Retreat** - Contact Rafi Ellis for more information. All 2009-2010 Board Members should plan to attend. Board members only.

**July 11 (tent. 9-7) Council Workday** - Contact Theresa for more information. All Committee Chairs and other leaders of special interest groups should plan to attend. We will be doing calendar work for next year, as well as lots of other useful stuff.

**November 20-21 - Leadership Retreat with Rev Bonnie** - All UUCL leaders should save the dates and plan to attend. Watch for more information!

## "Splinters From The Board"

### May20, 2009 Board Meeting

- Notes from April 26 Town Meeting were distributed by COCR
- Rev. Bonnie Devlin's contract beginning in September will be presented at the next Board meeting for approval
- Religious Exploration employment contract beginning July 1 will be presented at the next Board meeting for approval
- Two delegates to GA will be selected at the next Board meeting
- President Linda Walters will send out information to the congregation about the two UUA Presidential candidates so that our GA delegates can be instructed how to vote
- The RE Director's current employment was extended through June 2009
- The Board agreed to move the Fund-raisers restricted funds to the Capital Fund account for this fiscal year
- Several wireless pieces of equipment are being donated to improve our internet accessibility throughout the facility
- A laptop computer and digital projector are also being donated and other audio visual items, such as a pull-down screen for the Sanctuary and web cameras, are being considered
- Board Retreat is scheduled for June 20th
- Council Workday to plan for needed committee projects for the coming fiscal year is scheduled for July 11
- A Leadership Retreat is planned for November 20 and 21 and is open to anyone interested in learning about leadership for UUCL
- Mark Wheeler was welcomed to membership

## UUCL Book Club



Book Club meets third Thursday at 6:30 in the Social Hall. Join us June 18 as we discuss Obama: from Promise to Power by David Mendell. A veteran *Chicago Tribune* journalist draws on interviews with Obama, his wife, family, friends, aides, and rivals, as well as his own extensive coverage since Obama's days in the Illinois Senate, to offer a nuanced, compelling look at a man of idealism and ambition intent on making history. Moderated by Blenda George.

## Member Spotlight: Al Eskenazi



Albert Eskenazi has been a member since the '70s. He was president of the Board of Trustees for a time and has been active in the Social Concerns Committee.

A PhD. Clinical Psychologist, he joined the Polk County Guidance Center (forerunner of Mental Health Center of Polk County) in 1957. He became their director and served in that position until the name changed to Peace River Center. Al wrote a very popular psychology column for the *Lakeland Ledger* for 13 years. In private practice, he worked with children and families until his retirement in 2006.

Al's first wife, Patti, was for many years church coordinator and pianist for the Lake Region Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, now known as UUCL. Patti died in 1991. Their two sons both attended RE at LRUF, and Steve is still a member, living with his wife in Winter Haven. Danny, his wife and two young daughters live in Chapel Hill, NC. Al is married to Jane, also a member, who has served on the Board and various committees.

Al has been a peace activist for many years and is currently a member of Polk Peace, Common Cause, People for the American Way, Southern Poverty Law Center and ACLU among others.

You may find him at home enjoying gardening, looking for painted buntings, listening to classical music (or blues), playing the harmonica, writing poetry, reading, and following Public TV and Radio. He enjoys volunteering at WUSF Radio during their membership fund drives.

## Spaghetti Dinner and GA Delegate Fundraiser

Every year we have an Annual Meeting to conduct the business of the Congregation. So, too, the Unitarian Universalist Association has an annual General Assembly of the Congregations, to which each Congregation is entitled to send delegates. In addition to business, there are learning and networking opportunities that our leadership believe are of great value to our congregation.

This year's GA will be in Salt Lake City, UT; a long, expensive trip. Joyce Bode and Linda Walters have graciously volunteered treasure, time and talents to serve as delegates. Our Board of Trustees has voted to help offset the cost of the trip for our delegates by holding a small fund-raising event.

Since there has been outcry for more social activities, we've decided to have a very informal fund-raising dinner. On Saturday, June 13th, starting at 5:30pm, with dinner at 6, we will have a Spaghetti Dinner. Please put the date on your calendar! If you'd like to help with preparations, serving or cleaning up, please contact Theresa at 863-605-3815 or tericay@juno.com. WATCH FOR FLYERS WITH MORE DETAILS!!!

## Treasurer's Report

As of the end of April, our income now exceeds our expenses; but, on May 13<sup>th</sup> we had to replace the air handler in the Sanctuary for a total cost of \$2,400. Funds were taken from the Capital Fund to pay for this needed replacement. The air handler was the original equipment installed when the sanctuary was built, so we got 20 plus years of service.

The Top Gun radio-controlled air show netted UUCL \$1,000. This was in addition to the \$800 received from Florida Jets. These funds were added to the fund-raisers account and are earmarked for the Religious Education porch replacement.

The Board approved moving all fund raiser collections into the Capital Fund account. These funds will then be available for any capital improvements.

We wish to thank the donors for memorial gifts that were received in memory of Virginia Adler. These gifts were deposited in the Endowment Fund. If you wish to make a memorial contribution honoring Virginia Adler, or any other deceased member, please make your check payable to UUCL and indicate memorial gift in the memo field of your check.

As your treasurer, I would like to thank everyone for the timely payment of your pledges, and for all other donations to keep UUCL in a positive cash flow. It surely makes it a lot easier to keep up on all financial obligations with money in the bank!

	<u>April</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget 08-09</u>
Income	\$ 5,316	\$ 60,566	\$ 71,800
Expenses	\$ 4,729	\$ 59,069	
Total	\$ 587	\$ 1,497	

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



## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

From building a Jewish sukkah in September to trying out Buddhist meditation in May, we've enjoyed a successful, adventurous year. We have explored and honored religious differences, but have found common ground in the "golden rule". Although we were studying our UU sources, our children learned how to apply our seven UU principles to their everyday lives. They learned to respect people of diverse cultures and religions different from ours, even when they disagree. We encouraged them to feel comfortable about their own beliefs and let them know we support them in whatever spiritual path they choose. We stressed our seventh principle by teaching them how people, no matter what they believe, are all truly connected in our global village. We took the seventh principle deeper when we examined the earth-based religions and their reverence for nature. And if you joined us on May 24<sup>th</sup> for their service, you may have gotten a glimpse of how they have processed their experiences and tried to define themselves and their roles as important members of our UU community.

RE classes will not be held over the summer, but we will continue to offer activities/play time for our children during service at 11 a.m. I still hope to see their happy faces on Sunday mornings! Also, if you would like to volunteer for a Sunday morning during service to "hang out" with our kids and get to know them, please let me know. I will happily hand the job over to a couple volunteers for a chance to enjoy one of our wonderful services. Thank you!

In faith and love,  
Heather Curry  
Director of Religious Exploration



*"Live together, talk together, walk together. We are all One."  
— Swami Satyananda*

## Games for Grownups

If you're up for some Saturday night fun and games, consider the "Games-for-Grownups Group. We meet once a month on the first Saturday. Our next games night will be Saturday, June 6, at 6:30 in the UUCL social hall.

Bring simple snacks and drinks to share if you can, but there's no obligation. Do bring a game or cards you'd like to learn or play.

Questions?

Call Jane Eskenazi at 682-8839 or e-mail [ajeskenazi@earthlink.net](mailto:ajeskenazi@earthlink.net).

## 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.

## The Smart Church, #30

This June Unitarian Universalism will celebrate its 48th birthday. Our roots both Universalism and Unitarianism are much older but Unitarian Universalism, as a denomination, is only 48. Happy birthday to UUs.

We are experiencing some growing pains. We all feel them. We need to make some changes. We need to set limits, build bridges and reclaim language. We need to try to live out the promise of Unitarian Universalism.

Be all that we can be. We must struggle with values discernment. What are the values that we hold most dear in the core of our beings? What are the values that we share as a covenantal, not creedal, faith community?

What are the values that we must uphold and fight for in the larger community? We find that we must be able to articulate our faith in a multitude of situations. Along with all of our denominational maturation we also find ourselves at a turning point in the history of the world.

Sue Phillips asks the question, "What are we uniquely qualified for?" What do our members need from Unitarian Universalism? What do congregations need? What does the larger community need? What does our country need? What does the world need? What is Unitarian Universalism uniquely qualified to do, to be?

How is Unitarian Universalism unique? Unitarian Universalism strives to build communities where faith and tolerance coexist in harmony. *Is this the way of the world?* While I think we could find individuals all over this planet in all kinds of faith communities who think that this coexistence in harmony is of the utmost importance - I don't think it has been the way of the world. Tolerance moving into acceptance and love. Human beings moving in time to the music of the spheres. Making beautiful harmony. Each voice in the choir a unique tone bringing to the chorus a quality, a pitch, a sound all its own and together being so much richer and so much more than each voice is alone.

Lennon/McCartney - *All you need is love...* Yes, yes all we need is love - Love of self... Love of other... Love of all.... We are standing on the side of love. I know love is more powerful than hate. Sara Dan Jones - *When I breathe out, I'll breath out love...* This is not a new message. It is the burning truth at the heart of all the world's great religions. Love of self, love of other, love of all (God/Creation). But we have a unique discipline and perspective. Inclusive, wholeness, interdependence, responsible - Unitarian Universalism.

What are we afraid of?

By Connie Goodbread  
District Lifespan Program Consultant



## Federal Trial Begins for Unitarian Universalist Humanitarian Aid Worker

Monday, June 1, marked the beginning of the federal trial of Walter Staton, a Unitarian Universalist (UU) who provides humanitarian aid to border crossers as a volunteer with No More Deaths, an official ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson. Staton is being charged with knowingly littering after putting out jugs of water intended for migrants crossing remote areas of the Sonoran desert last December on Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

Dehydration is often a factor in deaths that occur along the border. Approximately 20 bodies of migrants have been recovered from Buenos Aires since 2002, with many more deaths occurring just outside the refuge's boundary. No More Deaths volunteers distribute water jugs throughout the refuge in order to prevent deaths by dehydration, and they routinely pick up any trash they find. When Staton received his citation for littering, the group of volunteers he was with was carrying out empty water jugs and other trash.

"I am moved by my faith as a Unitarian Universalist to be engaged in this work along the border. It's an important social justice issue to be in solidarity with the courageous people who leave so much behind to try and build a more dignified life for themselves and their families," Staton said.

Following the issue of a press release about the trial from No More Deaths, Rev. Meg A. Riley, Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA's) Advocacy and Witness Programs, issued this statement:

"The humanitarian aid work of No More Deaths was begun as a religious response to the suffering of border crossers. The life-saving work of No More Deaths actualizes our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. I stand by Walt Stanton and the No More Deaths community and I pray that the jury will ultimately find that humanitarian aid is a ministry, not a crime."

The trial is expected to last most of the week.

No More Deaths will continue with providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in the desert around Arivaca and at border aid stations in Agua Prieta, Naco and Nogales. The group is also continuing its work documenting human rights abuses of migrants in U.S. custody, and is actively working with lawmakers in Washington, DC, to create a set of custody standards that will protect detainees held by the Department of Homeland Security.

**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](http://www.uua.org) - FLD - [www.floridadistrict.org](http://www.floridadistrict.org) - WCC - [www.westcentralcluster.org](http://www.westcentralcluster.org)

# CONGREGATION DIRECTORY

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

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