

The Beacon

Newsletter
of the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Lakeland



Volume 32, No. 4

Published Monthly

October 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

- 4** **Association Sunday and Flower Communion** —Join us as we celebrate and affirm our common bonds, values and purposes with UU congregations across the nation. Our focus on this, the third annual Association Sunday, is "Growing Our Diversity." The UUA needs our enthusiasm, commitment and generous support to further the effort; after all, we are *better together*, and we *can* grow our faith. We also celebrate Flower Communion, so bring flowers to share.
- 11** **"Religion and Health": Part 1 of a series called "Congregational Health Ministry."** - Rev. Bonnie Devlin. The field of Congregational Health Ministry is emerging in congregations across the country. In light of our raging health care debates and outcomes in the weeks ahead, this is a good time to reflect on the role religion and spirituality play in the scientifically documented *actual* health life of those who belong to churches and communities of faith.
- 18** **"Lifetimes"** All throughout our interconnected web, beginnings and endings are going on all the time, with living in between. As we journey further into the autumn season we will take the time to contemplate the concept of lifetimes and how our own lifetime is deeply connected to all the beginnings and endings of the universe. Intergenerational.
- 25** **"The Healing Church": Part II of the series: "Congregational Health Ministry."** - Rev. Bonnie Devlin. The field of Congregational Health Ministry is not a new concept; it has been building off of an over-1000-year-long tradition of monasteries and churches serving as community centers of healing and wholeness. We will explore this rich history and how it may provide us today with new models for healing and wholeness within our Congregation. As part of United Nations Sunday, we can also reflect on the serious need for health care for *all* people in our world.

Next Month...

November 1 - For more than thirty years, the Guest at Your Table tradition has helped UUs build lasting connections to UU principles and support the movement for universal human rights. It is a simple and meaningful way to incorporate "faith in action" into your life. We will begin the "Guest at Your Table" kick off, and Joyce Bode will give the sermon entitled, "**Bringing Hope Where Hope is Hard to Find.**"



Town Hall Meeting

The Committee on Congregational Relations (CoCR) will host a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday October 11 immediately following an abbreviated potluck lunch. We will discuss the development of a Committee on Ministry and the very relevant issue of Right Relationship. Curious? So are we. Let's explore these topics together in the 1st in a series of Town Hall Meetings.

The purpose of holding Town Hall meetings is to provide a forum during which we take direction from you, our members. We need your input in order to advance these two important topics or, if you decide, put them aside. We need your input in order for this to occur.

Please join us as we build for the future.

Ron Nickolas
RLNUU@tampabay.rr.com



Harvest Celebration is Saturday, October 24

Fourth-Saturday gatherings are a chance for UUCL members and friends to relax and enjoy fellowship with one another and our minister, Rev. Bonnie Devlin. The UUCL Board of Trustees will host October's fourth-Saturday get together at 4 pm on Saturday, Oct. 24.

The seasonally appropriate theme is "Harvest Time." Watch your email for information on how you can participate in this community event.

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.

To publish information about the content of meetings/events, contact the Beacon Editor, Portia Westerfield, at 863-425-3968 or e-mail at portia@tampabay.rr.com

Minister's MUUsings

If you ask just about any religious organization if they want to grow, the usual answer is a resounding "YES!" "Yes, we want to grow, yes we *need* to grow, yes, oh yes!" . The funny thing is that if there is *too* much growth, people get *very* anxious. It reminds me of the saying 'be careful what you pray for'!

This past August I was up north at annual music event. Each year the organizers are asked by others to expand the 4-day event by a couple hundred more people. The organizers always respectfully decline the invitation to over-expand the event, claiming that their goal is to seek *quality over quantity*. I spoke with my friend—one of the organizers, about this, since the subject of *sustainable* growth is always on my mind. I say '**sustainable**' because I do understand the *huge* difference between 'quality' and 'quantity', particularly when it comes to church size.

As with any organization or institution, there are growth levels which are sustainable, and those that grow *too* quickly—like a rowboat with too many—capsize. If quantity overrides quality, then the very thing we *think* we seek is diminished, and we as a community suffer for it.

I'm not suggesting that as a community we don't seek to grow—quite the opposite! We can afford to grow a good deal and still remain within that 'sustainable' size of quality which we seek. Sometimes not being large enough for the goals and visions of a group can lead to being non-sustainable, since there simply are too many tasks, too many projects to undertake, and not enough people to do them all. A community of faith is for *all* its members, with everyone pitching in through small and large ways to reach the many hopes and visions we all share.

Our row boat is only half-full—we have *plenty* of seats for others to join us and help row and grow in meaningful ways. This part of our lives we call 'church' is a journey, not a destination, and there are many waters we will cross till the next harbor.

I am convinced that growth—on *all* levels—is indeed a reality. Our Congregation is an incredible gathering of people, with a rich history and a very bright future. In Polk County and beyond there are *hundreds*, perhaps *thousands* of people who are searching for a spiritual community, a religious home. All we have to do is open our doors and welcome some in! I won't kid you into thinking it's really that simple, but believe me, it is possible, and *very* real.

So let us consider our potential for growth—the kind of growth that deepens and enriches what already is, and which encompasses what can be, for us, and for the friends we've yet to meet.

In Peace and Love,
Bonnie



CIRCLE DINNER(S)

The Circle Dinner this month will be on Saturday night, October 17. Information about location, directions and what to bring will be forthcoming closer to that date. Sign up at church or by emailing suharris@tampabay.rr.com.

"Splinters From The Board"

September 16, 2009 Meeting

The Council of Committees reported that the Building and Grounds Chairperson needs to resign the position. Anyone interested in the position or willing to help out with taking care of our facilities, please contact Theresa Lutz!

The Ministerial Task Force had their initial meeting on Sunday. The task force consists largely of board members and they are looking for more representation from the congregation. Anyone interested in helping chart the course of our future ministry, please contact Charlene Bennett.

The letter introducing the Green Sanctuary Program was finalized and will be mailed out shortly.

Repower America will be meeting at the church on Sundays at 5 PM. More information on their organization is available in the lobby.

There have only been 8 surveys turned in so far about the Adult Education Program. Please be sure to fill one out! They are available in the lobby.

We are also looking for a "Fun Czar." This would be someone to take responsibility for making sure we have some fun amongst all the work we are doing. Interested? Contact Rafi Ellis!

The Office Assistant position will no longer be a paid position. Volunteers are needed to come in for a couple of hours on weekday mornings to get the mail, make sure everything is okay, etc. If you can help out one weekday morning each week for a couple of hours, please contact Blenda George.

We will be having a Haunted House fundraiser for Unicef again this year! It will be held on Friday, October 30th and we are planning to have a live band and sell burgers (veggie and humanely raised organic). Volunteers are needed for creating the Haunted House and helping out on the day of the event. Please contact Daniel Whitt or Heather Curry.

The Board approved a fundraiser for UUSC's Barakat Project. The children's Religious Exploration (RE) group will be making ornaments and jewelry to sell in support of a program that provides education for women in Afghanistan.

The next grounds workday will be on October 3rd. Please come out and help keep our facilities!

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.

OCTOBER



BIRTHDAYS

5	Judi Irwin
12	Lillyth Evans
12	Gwenyth Evans
20	Rafi Ellis
22	Cheyenne Rivers
23	Arland Meade
24	Charles Schrey
31	Tracie Welser

OCTOBER Anniversaries

31	Jean and Bill Lord
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Save UU World Magazines

Once you have finished reading your UU World, please remove your personal label, bring it to UUCL and leave it on the table in the foyer. We will be putting a UUCL label on them and distributing them around the county. If you know of good places to leave them, please let us know.

Eileen Scheffel and Melissa Marshall
Visibility Committee co-chairs



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.

CHOIR

Our goal is to embellish our worship experience through music. If you like to sing and want to be a part of this effort please join us. We have been using our time to explore the richness of our (mostly untapped) hymnal.

Though our aim is to make beautiful music, what we are really doing is sharing fellowship and exercising our faith through song. We work very hard and have a good time.

We have discontinued the 4th-Thurs-day-night rehearsals in order to accommodate schedules of some of our members. **Evening rehearsals** will now be on the **2nd Thursday of each month**. By the end of October we will begin to work on Holiday Season music.

Daytime Choir rehearsals are held weekly. We will meet on the following dates in October:

Sat. 10/3 - (9 am to 11 am)

Thurs. 10/8 - (7 pm to 9 pm)

Sats. 10/17, 24 and 31 - (9 am to 11 am)

Ron Nickolas - rlnuu@tampabay.rr.com

HOSPITALITY

Thanks to Blenda George for all her hard work cleaning and organizing the kitchen. Thanks also to Cynthia Patterson, Theresa Lutz and Linda Walters for helping whenever they aren't busy with their numerous other jobs.

Please remember: **There is no one designated to make coffee**; so if you see the pot empty, you'll find the coffee in the freezer door or in the pantry. Filters are on the kitchen table. You do the rest. And we still need help on Sundays even if it's only 10 or 15 minutes - this helps me a lot.

Please also remember: the kitchen fridge is for CUUPs functions and general church use, such as juice and snacks for RE. It's NOT for extended personal use, only short term such as pre-potluck or other party events. I'll provide a permanent marker (stickers don't stick) for you to identify anything in the fridge that's yours. Otherwise, I have no way of knowing which food to keep, and I don't want to toss it by mistake. Thanks for understanding.

Jean Lord, Co-Chair of Hospitality

A Message From The President

Reaping the Harvest

October has always been my favorite month. To me, the tenth month of the year represents a time of bounty - and not just because my two sisters and I all get birthday gifts within a week of one another. As it has been for millions throughout the millennia, October to me has always signaled a time to reap the harvest that has been sown throughout the year.

For us at UU Lakeland, this month heralds the return of many of our winter residents, those beloved snowbirds who add so much to our community. Their arrival is itself a harvest of sorts, but only a tantalizing hint of rewards to come. Through the perceptions of our half-time members, we can see ourselves with fresh eyes, taking note of where we've fallen into ruts or taken things for granted. Through the energy they provide, we ourselves can be renewed.

We also find new energy through our children's enthusiasm for October. Having settled into the school year, our kids are now gearing up for a season of exciting surprises: the scary sweetness of Halloween, of course, closely followed by preparations for the coming holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Watching our youngsters take in the season reminds us to appreciate both the blessings we've been given and the generosity those blessings demand of us - a bountiful gift to be sure.

For UUs throughout the world, October is an especially important month: a time to celebrate what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. On Sunday, Oct. 4, Association Sunday gives us a chance to reflect on the meaning and purpose of our denomination and our own role in making it thrive. And Oct. 31 is the official "birthday" of UUism - the date, in 1959, when Unitarians and Universalists met in Syracuse, N.Y., and voted to merge into a single denomination. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of that momentous event, the New York State Council of UUs is holding a weekend conference - again in Syracuse - to explore where the UU movement has been and where it goes from here.

You may have your own special meaning for October - a birthday, anniversary, or special memory that reminds you of what you truly value. Whatever the month means to you, remember to enjoy October. We know that winter will come and then the time for planting will return again. But for now, we can take some time to reap the harvest of our personal and collective efforts and revel in the bounty we have been given.

Rafi Ellis



BUDDHISM AT UUCL



The UUCL Buddhist Group is still meeting every other Monday at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our dates for October will be the 12th and the 26th. Each time we meet, we take a break from the everyday hustle and bustle by enjoying a 20 minute meditation. Afterwards, we discuss Buddhist-related texts and concepts which help us to learn more about Buddhism and each other. Please join us.

Namaste,
Heather Curry

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

Sundays at 10:00 am in the Social Hall

Topics for October '09

- October 4 - What is the "Peak Oil" theory? Is it the truth? How will it impact our lives?
- October 11 - The possible 'collapse of civilization' is being presented by people known as "survivalists." What is known about these people and is anyone in the UUCL Congregation a part of it?
- October 18 - How can we reduce our consumption in an industrial society?
- October 25 - Is it possible to establish ethical standards as control to big business? If so, how would this be accomplished?

Chairman, Ron Maslyk



EarthFamilies Evensong Gatherings

Sundays at 2:00 P.M.

- October 4 —**Group Study:** Through December, we will devote first Sundays to study and discussion of Christopher Penczak's *The Inner Temple of Witchcraft*.
- October 11 —**Drum Circle:** 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.
- October 18 —**Craftwork:** Third Sundays are now for crafts, ritual and fellowship! This month: Discussion: What's your tradition? Bring a snack to share.
- October 25 —**Anime in the Afternoon, sponsored by EarthFamilies.** This month's film: *Speed Grapher* episodes 7-12. **Fresh popcorn, candy and beverages will be available for a donation.**

In the broader community, don't miss the UUCL Halloween festival "Haunted Earth," the Wiccan Religious Cooperative of Florida's "Witches' Ball" (October 24) and Lakeland's own "Autumnmeet" (October 21-25). In November, be sure to attend Florida Pagan Gathering at Ocala National Forest (November 5-8) and on November 29, UUCL will host Mystic Grove as they lead the Sunday service.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

We are all one. So, let's point our *moral compass* in the direction of *unconditional love* and make sure that we include everyone in on our plans for *justice and compassion!* And that sums up our September in RE. Phew! That's pretty deep for an energetic group of little ones, isn't it? But you know what? They get it. I have seen more compassion in their actions and heard more love in their words than I have seen from most grown-ups. Our little UUs are on their way to becoming the spiritual elders of our church. I kid you not. Being a spiritual elder has nothing to do with age.

In the meantime, however, all of you very fine grown-up UUs can nudge them along their faithful path. You can be their role model. Check out the RE bulletin board just outside the sanctuary. There is a pretty rainbow web hanging there. Write something down that you've done to make the world a better place and post it on the web. I will be reading new postings to the kids each week so that they know how we grown-up UUs live out our faith. And, each week, they, too, will report what good deeds they have done and they will hang a bead onto the web in their classroom. By the end of the year they will have created the most beautiful web of interdependence UUCL has seen! Please be sure to stop by and admire it.

Other important October happenings: UUSC/Barakat fundraiser. UNICEF Halloween Event. We need your help! Please see me or Melissa Marshall, RE committee chair, for more details about these "web-enhancing" projects.

In Faith,
Heather Curry
Director of Religious Exploration



COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONS

The COCR meets regularly on the 1st 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.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE SEMINAR

This important event will take place at UUCL, on Wednesday, October 14, starting at 7:00 pm.

EVERY ADULT SHOULD HAVE AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE. DO **YOU** ?

An Advance Directive is a document which tells medical personnel what treatment you do and do not want if you are ever disabled, by sudden illness or trauma, and unable to speak your wishes to medical personnel. The Advance Directive contains two writings - your Living Will, which specifies your preferences, and your Designation of Surrogate document, which authorizes a relative or trusted friend to speak for you.

If you have not yet prepared a Directive, you can protect yourself by attending the Advance Directive Seminar at UUCL. We will talk about these documents and how to prepare them. Leading the discussion will be Donna Klamm, President of the Hemlock Society of Florida, and Portia Westerfield, Vice President of that organization.

This is a free event - we look forward to seeing UUCL people, as well as the general public, on October 14.

Portia Westerfield

UUCL Book Club

Book Club meets the third Thursday of the month, at 6:30 in the Social Hall. This October 15, join us as we discuss The King of Elfland's Daughter by Lord Dunsany, ed. Neil Gaiman. (Fiction.)

This is Lord Dunsany's best-known novel, written in 1924. wherein the men of Erl desire to be "ruled by a magic lord," and the lord's heir, Alveric, ventures into Elfland to win the king's daughter, Lirazel.

Arthur C. Clarke has called Dunsany "one of the greatest writers of this century," and about Lord Dunsany, William Butler Yeats said the following: "When we come to examine these astonishments that seemed so alien we find that he has but transfigured with beauty the commons sights of the world."



Tracie Welser

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 the Caring Committee at 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.

Treasurer's Report

We have completed two months of the new fiscal year. We are 17% into this fiscal year and we have received 14% of our income and have spent 13% of our expenses. It is too early in the year to make any predictions, but I hope that income will increase in the months to come. The Worship Committee has spent about half of the budget so far, but spending should decrease as the year progresses. Hospitality has spent about half of its budget because of stocking up on coffee and tea. We will be looking for more donations of snacks for Sunday morning refreshments. It is hoped that the Religious Exploration porch repair will be completed this month.

October 4th will be Association Sunday and we will have a special collection for the Unitarian Universalist Association. This is the once a year opportunity to support our faith. Please give generously.

If you missed our collection for Lifelink in honor of Philip Gompf, you can still go on line and make a donation at <http://www.lifelinkfound.org/legacy.cfm>, or you can mail a check to:

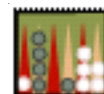
LifeLink Legacy Fund
409 Bayshore Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33606

This fund provides hope to those in need of surgical, medical and transplant therapy.

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget 09-10</u>
Income	\$ 4,086	\$ 8,863	\$ 62,025
Expenses	\$ 4,028	\$ 8,323	
Total	\$ 58	\$ 360	

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



GAMES FOR GROWNUPS

This month Games Night will be on the second Saturday, October 10, at 6:30. 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 682-8869 or email ajeskenazi@earthlink.net. See you there!

Jane Eskenazi

UUSC Report

We will be beginning "The Guest at Your Table" campaign in November.

For more than thirty years, the Guest at Your Table tradition has helped UUs build lasting connections to UU principles and support the movement for universal human rights. It is a simple and meaningful way to incorporate "faith in action" into your life.

Guest at Your Table is for everyone! It includes a meaningful worship experience, religious education, and at-home learning for people of all age groups.

Getting to Know Your Guests

During Guest at Your Table, you keep a Guest-at-Your-Table box — with photographs of special guests from around the world — in a prominent place in your home, like the dining room table.



Keep a colorful Guest at Your Table box in a prominent place in your home, like the dining room table. Photo courtesy of Paul W. Locke

Over the next several weeks, get to know your special guests by reading aloud to your family and friends real-life stories from *Stories of Hope*. *Stories of Hope* is the focal point of the Guest at Your Table experience, connecting UUs to other real people whose lives have been transformed by their struggles for human rights. (Stories are written at all reading levels.)

You will also learn about UUSC's **social-justice mission**, which puts our shared principles into action.

Sharing with Your Guests

During Guest at Your Table, you or your family may also make daily contributions to your Guest at Your Table box, as if sharing with your special guests. When human-rights supporters share their blessings with UUSC during Guest at Your table they ensure that UUSC's vital work to advance social justice continues, year after year.

You and your family members can also earn **UUSC membership** by giving at the membership level during Guest at Your Table campaign.

UUSC annual membership rates are:

- \$40 Individual (1 adult)
- \$75 Dual (2 adults)
- \$20 Senior (65 and over)
- \$10 Youth/Student

Gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y.

Joyce Bode
UUSC Representative



Florida District Calendar

October 2009

- Oct 4 - UUA Association Sunday
- Oct 10 - Fifth Annual West Central Cluster Picnic, Odessa, FL
- Oct 10 - Universal Music Day Concert, Clearwater
- Oct 18 - UU Fellowship of Marion County - 25th Year Anniversary Celebration, Summerfield
- Oct 23-25 - CON of the Dead - Beacon Youth CON, Orlando, University

For more information go to:

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark the evening of **Friday December 4, 2009** on your calendar for the **Annual UUCL Service Auction**. We will start at 6pm with a Silent Auction of new, or like new, items, along with Desserts, Wine and Coffee.

At 7pm we will strike the gavel on the Service Auction. For those new to the congregation, the object is to raise funds by sharing our varied gifts. Use of boats and vacation homes, dinners and parties, and personal services like typing, painting or yard work have all been among the generous donations offered in the past. So save the date, put on your thinking caps and watch for more information!

Thanksgiving at UUCL: It's not too early to be thinking about your plans! Everyone is welcome for a UUCL Thanksgiving potluck dinner at noon Thursday Nov. 26th.



FRIENDS OF JOE CONCERT

Saturday, October 10, 8:00 pm

The Friends of Joe concert will be held at UUCL on October 10th. Featured will be Jeff Talmadge, who has been compared to artists from Townes Van Zandt to Richard Shindell, to Eric Taylor, but he's a passionate musician with a singing and guitar style quite his own.

Adults \$10 advance, \$12 at the door

Students \$5 advance, \$7 door

Under 12 free

www.jefftalmadge.com

www.joeprine.org

akearton@verizon.net

Anne Kearton - 863-646-1972

HUMANISTS



OF WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

"HAWCF" is back at UUCL, for monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month except for June through August. Join us in the Social Hall Tuesday October 20 at 7:00-9:00 pm. The program will be the first act of "Letting Go of God — Breaking Up is Hard to Do." And don't forget our monthly Humanist Dinners at the SuperBuffet in Grove Park Shopping Plaza — next one will be Monday, October 12, 6:15 pm. Looking forward to seeing you!

Portia Westerfield

Breast Cancer Walk

It's that time of year again! The Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk is upon us (Saturday, October 17th at Lake Hollingsworth) and I have formed a team for UUCL. I am not able to walk this year (I have other "fundraising" engagements already planned) but I am happy to coordinate this event for those who do want to walk- it's a great way to get to know other UUCL members and friends- not to mention it's for a great cause- one that affects us all in some way.

So, if you want to walk, let me know. If you can make a donation, please do so on the UUCL Breast Cancer Walk team page (see below). Invite others to donate and walk with you!

In Faith and Love-
Heather Curry

Go to: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=19832&pg=entry

On the left side of the menu bar under HOME, choose Start or Join a Team. Find Team Company: with a dropdown box beside it and choose Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lakeland and click on Search for a Team.

Or ask Heather to send you the link.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KEYNO HICKS

I first visited Lake Region Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in 1971. It is now UUCL (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lakeland.) I remained a "friend" for four years before Signing the (membership) Book in 1975. I served on the Board of Directors in the late '70s and early 1990s and was President during 1979-'80.

My other responsibilities included three years as Program Chair, five years as paid part-time Religious Education Coordinator, and first facilitator of the Adult Discussion Group when it started in 2001. I'd obtained a master's degree in adult education from Webster University, which helped a lot in this type of work at UU.

I grew up in the Assembly of God Church. College, and especially an anthropology course, changed my religious orientation to a more liberal view. I attended Auburn University in Alabama where I first met Unitarians while working with them organizing for the first Earth Day. I was deeply impressed by their enthusiasm for all religions.

After college I worked as an environmental advisor for the Florida Dept. of Transportation. But I really longed to be my own boss, so I became a massage therapist which I've continued doing for 34 years.

A Hindu saying particularly influenced me when I became a UU: "There are many paths to God and/or goodness" My family sometimes calls on me to say a blessing before eating, and I sing from a UU hymn, "...Source of All, to Thee we raise, these our words of grateful praise."

Keyno Hicks

CONGREGATION DIRECTORY

MINISTER

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

OFFICERS

President	Rafi Ellis President@uuclakeland.org
President-Elect	Theresa Lutz
Past-President	Linda Walters
Treasurer	Joyce Bode
Corporate Secretary	Joyce Bode
Recording Secretary	Melissa Marshall
Trustees:	
Charlene Bennett	Eileen Scheffel
Peter Helwig	Cynthia Patterson

STAFF

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Religious Exploration Director	Heather Curry RE@uuclakeland.org



www.the.mountaincenters.org

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COMMITTEES

Adult Discussion Group	Keyno Hicks
Archivist	Joyce Bode
Building and Grounds	Open
Bylaws Review	Ron Nickolas
Congregational Relations	Ron Nickolas/ Barbara Wallace
Congregational Services	Linda Walters
Caring	Eileen Scheffel Sunshine@uuclakeland.org
Common Grounds Coffee House	Daniel Whitt
Hospitality	Jean Lord/Don Wallace
Membership	Linda Walters
Visibility	Melissa Marshall/Eileen Scheffel
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<i>Beacon</i> Distribution	Gerald Lent
Webmaster	Glenn Welser Adminstrator@uuclakeland.org
CUUPS Contact	Tracie Welser
Endowment Fund	Bruce Dubendorff
Finance	Theresa Lutz
Librarian	Faye Moore
Religious Exploration	Melissa Marshall
Adult RE	Charlene Bennett/ Cynthia Patterson
Beacon Youth (was YRUU)	Heather Curry/ Alysia Repetto-Evans/Daniel Whitt
Social Concerns	Peter Helwig/Laura Wampfler
UU Service (UUSC)	Joyce Bode
Worship	Joyce Bode/Tracie Welser Worship@uuclakeland.org
Facilities Use	Gerald Lent



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