

# The Beacon

Newsletter  
of the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Lakeland



Volume 32, No. 5

Published Monthly

November 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

- 1 Bringing Hope Where Hope is Hard to Find - Joyce Bode - 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.
- 8 "Our Common Ground" - Rev. Bonnie Devlin will speak. It is said that the common ground we all share is *holy*. As we enter the larger holiday and holy day season, let's reflect on the interfaith and multicultural family we all belong to, and celebrate our similarities and differences. When we realize our interdependence and human bonds, our potential to 'co-exist' become huge. The need to respect one another and work *together* is paramount, if we are to both survive and *thrive* in this large, magnificent 'One World'.
- 15 Harvest from the Sea - Harvesting food is a popular concept this time of year, but here in Florida we are more likely to be harvesting food from the sea than we are from the land. This month's intergenerational service will explore our connection to the sea, what it gives to us and how we should give back to this beautiful and gentle ecosystem.
- 22 "Let Justice Flow" - Rev. Bonnie Devlin will speak. I believe that our UU Service Committee is one of the *most* respected and worthy organizations that exists today—*anywhere*. Let us gather to celebrate our UUSC and reinforce our annual Guest At Your Table Holiday Program, so that we can help bring needed funds to a much valued, non-missionary organization of peace, justice and compassion. In this season of Thanksgiving may we rejoice and give *true* thanks for the bounty which we have and consider how we can share it with others for a higher cause.
- 29 EarthFamilies will be hosting a group from Orlando, **Mystic Grove**, that has spoken at many Florida UU churches on the subject of paganism. Please join us.



## THANKSGIVING AT UUCL

It's NOT too early to be thinking about your plans for this universally loved holiday! Everyone is welcome to join in for our UUCL Thanksgiving pot-luck dinner at noon Thursday Nov. 26. See you there!



## ANNUAL UUCL SERVICE AUCTION - FRIDAY DECEMBER 4, 2009

Be sure to mark Friday evening December 4 on your calendar for this always-important Annual 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!



## CIRCLE DINNER(S)

Circle Dinners will not be held during the months of November and December, but will resume in January. Stay posted for details or contact [suharris@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:suharris@tampabay.rr.com).

### 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 [portia@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:portia@tampabay.rr.com)

## Minister's MUUsings

I'm sure there are days when we all feel not quite up to par, perhaps somewhat "bankrupt", and ill-equipped to face the challenges of our day and the responsibilities we have to others. I'd like to share with you a little parable I read which helps me face those days:

"A saintly man was asked by his priest to go to a nearby town and help the people there solve their many problems and improve their lives. The man was afraid of the task. 'I have so many weaknesses, such limited knowledge,' he said. 'How can I help others?' The priest smiled, patted the man on the back, and answered, 'All you need to do is bring a little **love** there.'"

The season of Thanksgiving is upon us—I'd like to think that *every* day is a day to give thanks for all the **gifts** we have in our lives. If we can cultivate the gift of **love** in our hearts and offer it gladly to those around us, what more beautiful offering can we make to our family, our friends, our neighbors and to ourselves?

In this season of thanksgiving, may we also nurture the gift of **gratitude** in our lives. It's said that "Sometimes it's easier to learn about gratitude outside under the stars". I know when I stand in my driveway and look into the night sky I am filled with both awe and immense gratitude because I can sense my place in the universe—a humble, yet important place—and I am *so* thankful for the gift of my humanity and the simple blessings from life.

I could never quite repay this gift of life and gratitude, as I'm sure many of you also feel. As a community of faith we have that rare opportunity, not often found in our 'secular' world, to cultivate our gratitude for the simple gifts of life, and how we can then share our gifts and **love** for others in need. This is our ministry of compassion and hospitality, which comes from the heart and inner spirit. Knowing that I can offer simple gifts to help others helps to magnify my joy, inner peace and especially my love—which I hope does the same for you.

In this season of thanksgiving I wish us all much love and gratitude for ourselves, for those whom we dearly love, and for all those we've *yet* to meet who will someday share in our love.

Peace and blessings to us all,  
Bonnie

## ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

"Getting to know U"—Monthly Orientation Session for Guests

**Gatherings:** 4th Sunday of each month through May, 2010

**Time:** 12:30 - 1:00 pm

**Facilitator:** Rev. Bonnie Devlin

If you are a guest and would like to know more about the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition and our UU Congregation of Lakeland, please stop by our Sanctuary during coffee hour for a brief informational and question/answer session.

# A Message From The President

## Putting the "Giving" in Thanksgiving

I often read or hear things and think, "I wish I'd thought of saying that!" I had this experience at our October UUCL Board meeting, when President-elect Theresa Lutz said the following about the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday: "People usually talk about the *thanks*, but I think we should concentrate on the *giving*."

What a simple and yet profound sentiment! Yes, we all have a lot to be grateful for, and we should never neglect giving thanks to those who have provided it to us: our families and friends, our communities, and our rich and diverse nation. But we should also remain aware of the need to give, especially in this time of economic hardship for so many of our neighbors and for our own Congregation.

Of course, many of us are suffering, too, and it can be hard to give when it feels we have little in reserve for ourselves. But the Biblical adage about bread cast upon the waters coming back to us many-fold is more than just a happy myth. People who volunteer their time, talents, and treasure report higher levels of personal contentment than those who don't; doing good, it turns out, feels good.

And despite the old saw about "giving until it hurts," most volunteers find that the more they give, the more it eases their own pain, whether material or spiritual. This is especially true when we give to people or causes that represent the essence of our values. By creating the sort of world we wish to see through our personal efforts, we reaffirm our faith in humanity and in our own ability to change the status quo through "deeds, not creeds."

So, where is all this leading? You guessed it: to another plea for members and friends to give to UUCL until it feels good - really, really good!

Our needs are many. Our RE complex is in need of an overhaul, our Sanctuary roof is at the end of its lifespan, and our goal of eventually hiring a minister is on indefinite hold due to a dearth of funds. Volunteers are needed each Sunday to make coffee and provide hospitality, to serve as ushers and greeters for Service, and to perform a host of other tasks necessary to keep our community functioning. So this holiday season, as you ponder all you have to be grateful for and how to give back, consider giving the gift of yourself to ensure that UUCL can sustain and grow as a bastion of liberal values in Polk County.

Consider it your holiday gift to yourself.

In faith,  
Rafi

## 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.

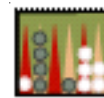
NOVEMBER



12	Kitty Sawyer
14	Joyce Bode
15	Portia Westerfield
22	Eileen Scheffel
29	Gordon Bergman

## NOVEMBER Anniversaries

21	Marion & Robert Mattie
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## GAMES FOR GROWNUPS

Games Night meets on the first Saturdays at 6:30 pm. 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](mailto:ajeskenazi@earthlink.net). See you there!

Jane Eskenazi



## CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTORY

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

# FRIENDS OF JOE CONCERT

Saturday, Nov. 14, 8:00 pm

Roy Zimmerman

America's premier political satirical songwriter, **Roy Zimmerman**, has played clubs across the country, and shared the stage with George Carlin, Bill Maher, ... KD Lang, ... and Paul Krassner. He's done several shows with The Pixies' Frank Black, swapping songs in a solo acoustic setting. His up-to-the-moment topical songs are featured on American Public Media's syndicated broadcast "Weekend America" and Sirius Radio's "West Coast Live."

## Grant Peeples

Singing his thinking-man's songs in an articulate twang and growl **Grant Peeples** is part Prine, part McMurtry and part Che Guevara. His songs are environmentally and politically charged, and yet there are poignant love songs too. All of it swinging and crashing from the wry and witty...to the dark and angry.

Joe's Cafe' opens at 7 offering a light meal or snacks and beverages. Common Grounds is a cosponsor and will be serving coffee and deserts.

Adults \$12 advance, \$15 at the door  
Students \$5 advance, \$7 door  
Under 12 free

[www.royzimmerman.com](http://www.royzimmerman.com)  
[www.grantpeeples.com](http://www.grantpeeples.com)  
[www.joeprine.org](http://www.joeprine.org)  
[akearton@verizon.net](mailto:akearton@verizon.net)

Contact: Anne Kearton - 863-646-1972



## "Splinters From The Board"

October 21, 2009 Meeting

Introductory letters regarding the Green Sanctuary program were sent out, but some names were inadvertently excluded from the list. If you did not get a letter but are interested, please see Heather Curry or Daniel Whitt for more information. Initial response has been very positive, with quite a few people indicating that they would like to have an active role in the program. A Town Hall meeting is being called on Nov. 15 to discuss implementation, please come out to find out more and let us know how you'd like to be involved.

The treasurer reported that pledge contributions are slightly behind, putting expenses a little over income.

The worship committee needs ushers and greeters for Sunday services and volunteers are needed to take part in the intergenerational services held on the third Sundays of the month. Please contact Tracie Welsler or Joyce Bode if you can help with any of these.

The work of the membership committee is currently being done by one person and she needs backup. If you would like to help with membership, please contact Linda Walters.

Ron Nickolas has asked to be relieved of duties as the By-laws committee chair and a new chair is needed. Please contact Rafi Ellis if you are interested in this position.

Religious Exploration reported that the ornaments for the UUSC Barakat fundraiser go on sale on Sunday, October 25. All the money raised will be given to UUSC to support their program to educate women in Afghanistan. The ornaments make great gifts for parents, grandparents, kids... and for a four dollar donation, you can't beat the price. Contact Heather Curry or Melissa Marshall if you would like to buy one or contribute to the Barakat project but can't make it on Sunday mornings.

The RE porch repair has been postponed until we can get a new estimate of supplies and labor requirements and a plan from someone with experience. Cooler weather will also help!

The board reviewed Rev. Bonnie's ministry responsibilities and a breakdown of her expected hours because she has been putting in many more hours than she is contracted to do. The allocated hour and a half for adult RE on Saturday afternoon was deleted as this program has not been implemented and a good attendance rate at that time is unlikely.

The Ministerial Leadership Task force submitted a proposal, but the board still has some concerns. Board President, Rafi Ellis, has contacted our UUA district president, Rev. Ken Hurto, and asked him to assist us in determining and securing future ministerial leadership for our congregation.

The board also reviewed the goals set for the coming year. Progress is being made on most, but it was determined that we are not ready to establish a long range planning committee when we have so many pressing needs to fill so that goal was deleted.

The "Fourth Saturdays" in November and December fall within a few days of holiday celebrations that include meals at the church, so the potluck gatherings will not be held, and will resume in January. We hope everyone continues to enjoy time together at the other ongoing activities in the meantime.

## ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

Sundays at 10:00 am in the Social Hall

### Topics for November '09

Chairman, Ron Maslyk

11/01/09

What is determinism? Is it true? Why or why not?

11/08/09

Discuss visual memories that are memorable and meaningful to you.

11/15/09

Is capitalism fatally flawed?

11/22/09

Do the 'ends' ever justify the 'means'?

11/29/09

Do the words "mind" and "soul" have any reality?

## EarthFamilies Evensong Gatherings

Sundays at 2:00 P.M.

Nov 1 —**Group Study:** Through January, we will devote first Sundays to study and discussion of Christopher Penczak's *The Inner Temple of Witchcraft*. Note: we've extended this study another month (it was scheduled to end in December).

Nov 8 —**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. Note: some CUUPS members will be away at Florida Pagan Gathering in the Ocala National Forest (November 5-8).

Nov 15 —**Craftwork:** Third Sundays are now for crafts, ritual and fellowship! This month: "**Principles of Candle magick.**" How do spells work? What techniques do you use for crafting change? What about raising energy and charging? Candles and other items will be available, free of charge (no pun intended!) Also, drop by for a little "what we learned at FPG" information.

Nov 22 —**Anime in the Afternoon, sponsored by EarthFamilies. This month's film: *Speed Grapher* episodes 13-18. Fresh popcorn, candy and beverages will be available for a donation.**

Nov 29 —Fifth Sunday. No afternoon meeting. Join the main congregation's service at 11:00 A.M., led by Mystic Grove.



## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

In October, our children concentrated on making peace and creating magic. They worked hard making chalice ornaments for the UUSC/Barakat project and they helped us put on a great show for the UNICEF Halloween festival. These are the ways they learn how the little things they do make a big difference in our world!

In November, we'll continue to teach them how UU's make the world a better place. First, we'll have them take a look at themselves and at each other in order to reinforce their self confidence and let them know that they are all awesome. Then, we'll turn our focus to more "green" matters as we begin to explore other living things in our web. Keep an eye out for up-coming projects that you can participate in with them. Also, be sure not to miss our next intergenerational worship service, "Harvest from the Sea" - yet another way to spend time in community with our children and youth.

You may or may not realize how important UUCL is in the lives of our children. Either way, I encourage you to sit down and have some juice and cookies and a little conversation with them. It will surely brighten your day, and theirs. Thank you for supporting our Religious Exploration program- it surely is one of the best ways to a brighter future.

In Faith,  
Heather Curry  
UUCL 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.

## Words on Worship

Would you like to help out with an Intergenerational Service, or any service? Perhaps you are willing to participate in a small way, like reading a brief inspirational passage from our hymnal, providing ideas or materials for a Story for All Ages, bringing flowers for the chancel, or handing out copies of the order of service. It could be that you've been burning to give a service message on a topic you're passionate about, or even perform some music. Let us know, and tell us what you'd like to see!

Worship Committee meets on 2nd Saturdays in the Social Hall at 4:00 pm. We welcome input, ideas, and most of all, participation, from a variety of faith backgrounds. Help us keep our services diverse and enlightening.

In faith,  
Tracie Welser - Joyce Bode, co-chairs



## UUCL Book Club

Meets third Thursdays at 6:30 in the Social Hall

November 19: Join us as we discuss The King of Elfland's Daughter by Lord Dunsany, ed. Neil Gaiman (rescheduled from October meeting). Fiction. 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." 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 common 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](mailto: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 one-fourth of the new fiscal year. We are 25% into this fiscal year and we have received 22% of our income and have spent 22% of our expenses. We fell short of budget in September, and are only slightly behind in income for the first quarter. 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 will decrease as the year progresses and we have fewer "paid" speakers.

Please consider bringing snacks for Sunday morning refreshments as this is a wonderful opportunity to socialize and it reduces our hospitality expenses. At this time we are over budget for hospitality expenses. The Religious Exploration porch repair has been postponed for lack of volunteers.

We will be starting Guest at Your Table this month for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Our congregation has been an honor member of UUSC for many years and we hope to achieve that goal again this year by having you become a member of UUSC. Information will be in the Beacon about how you can join, and the message on Sunday, November 1, will tell you why you should join.

	<u>September</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget 09-10</u>
Income	\$ 4,941	\$ 13,624	\$ 62,025
Expenses	\$ 5,392	\$ 13,716	
Total	(\$ 451)	(\$ 92)	

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



## UMANISTS

### OF WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

Monday November 9, pizza dinner in the Sanctuary while we watch Part II of Julia Sweeney's "Letting Go of God - Breaking Up is Hard to Do." Tuesday November 17 in the Social Hall 7:00-9:00 — Dr. Wesley M. Johnson speaking on "Understanding the Religion-Science Interface." December 15 (save the date) annual Winter Solstice Dinner, venue to be announced.

*Portia Westerfield*

## Reverend Forrest Church Tribute

The Unitarian Church of All Souls (New York City) has posted a web page in tribute to Rev. Dr. Forrest Church; all are invited to view photos, post remembrances, and more. See [www.allsoulsnyc.org/rememberingforrest/inmemoriam.htm](http://www.allsoulsnyc.org/rememberingforrest/inmemoriam.htm). Should you wish to honor Dr. Church's life and ministry, we invite you to do so by donating to the Forrest Church Fund for the Advancement of Liberal Religion. See <http://tinyurl.com/ForrestChurch> for further information.

## UUA Organization Changes Announced

In September UUA President Rev. Peter Morales announced organization changes at the UUA. *District Services* is now called *Congregational Life* and will now be part of *Ministries and Congregational Support*. Complete details of the reorganization are available at this link: <http://www.uua.org/leaders/announcements/149716.shtml>

## 2010 Dana McLean Greeley Competition

All Unitarian Universalists are invited to submit a sermon (or address) to the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) in annual competition for the **Dana McLean Greeley Award**. The purpose of this annual award program is to encourage and to recognize Unitarian Universalists' principles, thought and action on a wide range of global issues as well as the role of the United Nations and our own Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office. While all submissions will be considered, those highlighting the work of the United Nations and the UU-UNO will be given priority consideration. For more information please see <http://uu-uno.org/dana-mclean-greeley-address-competition/dana-mclean-greeley-address.html?Itemid=164>

## T-UU-Is & N-UU-Us You Can Use as UUs

Our Unitarian Universalist Association provides a veritable free library of resources to help your congregation. From "how to's" to curricula, [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) is a treasure trove! Looking for someone else sharing your concern? Join one of the [350 e-mail lists](#). Need to find a particular person or program: just type the name in the embedded "google" search box, and you'll be given the key to knowledge! Need clip art? Help with your web page? Program ideas? Check out [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org). Or: Do you have a great program to share? You can add it to the UUA event list by sending the details to: [www.uua.org/events/submitevent/index.shtml](http://www.uua.org/events/submitevent/index.shtml). You can also promote your events and materials through the UUA Facebook page and the RSS feed. Need direct help with that? Contact: Deborah J. Weiner, Director of Electronic Communication at [dweiner@uua.org](mailto:dweiner@uua.org).

## UUA Posts Public Health Resources for Congregations

The H1N1 virus is prompting a growing number of public institutions to close or dramatically change their daily routines. Church groups feel a special responsibility to protect their members and to offer support during times of crisis, but this mission is challenged during an epidemic when public gatherings pose a potential health risk. In times like these, congregations must decide how best to minimize the risk while continuing to provide pastoral care and practical assistance to their members and communities. To read more and view UUA resources please see [www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/crisisplanning/index.shtml](http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/crisisplanning/index.shtml)

## Standing on the Side of Love Friday Conference Call Webcasts

Standing on the Side of Love campaign now offers weekly 45 min. webcast conference calls on Fridays at 1pm. EDT. We will share best practices, highlight resources, and discuss major initiatives. Calls will feature different presenters. You do not have to have web access to join the calls. To get more information and to register for the calls simply follow the link below for the day(s) you wish to attend, go to:

[www.standingonthesideoflove.org/fridaycalls](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/fridaycalls)

## Florida District Calendar

### November 2009

- 5 - Faith Development Webinar - *Foundations of Faith*
- 7 - Southwest Cluster Fall Meeting and Workshop, Naples
- 7 - Workshop for Growing Congregations, Orlando-University
- 13-15 - *Creating A Jubilee World Workshop*, Gainesville
- 20-21 - Florida District Board Meeting, Oviedo

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)

## CIW Comes to Lakeland (Again)

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is taking its anti-slavery campaign to Lakeland, and specifically to Publix. The campaign's objective is to encourage large commercial purchasers of tomatoes to pressure their suppliers - Florida tomato growers - to end exploitation of the farm workers who grow and harvest the tomatoes.

The tomato industry in Florida is notorious for its harsh and exploitive treatment of farm workers, often approaching conditions of slavery. Crude sexual harassment, rape, beatings, other forms of violence and threats of violence, and debt servitude are tactics still employed by some of the growers and their henchmen. As recently as last year, a Florida grand jury indicted six Immokalee tomato farm bosses for holding farm workers in conditions which were described by U.S. Attorney Doug Molloy as "slavery, plain and simple."

Several years ago, Lucas Benitez and Laura Germino of the CIW gave a sermon in our sanctuary, describing the growers' practices and recounting their successful liberation of several farm workers whom the grower was preventing, at gunpoint, from leaving the farm. They were gratified by the outpouring of support from our Congregation.

The current campaign consists of encouraging commercial purchasers of tomatoes to agree to pay a penny more per pound for tomatoes, contracting with their suppliers to pass each penny directly on to their farm worker employees. More importantly, as part of the campaign, the commercial purchasers require their suppliers to sign a code of conduct, guaranteeing that they will end slavery-like working conditions and treat their workers humanely.

Numerous commercial purchasers, including Yum Brands (owners of Taco Bell and other restaurants), Whole Foods, McDonalds, and Burger King, have signed agreements with the CIW, but only after years of direct action by the CIW and its allies. Our hometown supermarket giant has so far refused to participate in the project. The CIW is therefore beginning a major campaign to convince Publix to join with other businesses and take a stand against exploitation of farm workers.

The CIW's anti-slavery campaign is supported by numerous public and religious organizations and officials, from Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis to Governor Charlie Christ.

Activity in the Publix campaign has already begun in other Florida cities, and stories can be viewed at [www.ciw-online.org](http://www.ciw-online.org) Many individual UU Congregations are working with the Coalition on the Publix campaign. In particular, Rev. Allison Farnum of the Ft. Myers Congregation has led an effort to recruit UU ministers and congregations to the Publix campaign.

A slate of actions is being planned for November and December in Lakeland and throughout the state. Support from local Lakelanders in the form of public education, marching, and providing logistical support is crucial. The Social Concerns Committee will coordinate our efforts to respond to the need. Please contact Peter Helwig at 644-6003 or [pfhelwig@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:pfhelwig@tampabay.rr.com) to see how you can help.



*We ran this article last month, but left out the photo. Here it is again.  
Beacon Staff*

### 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 masters' 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	
	<a href="mailto:President@uuclakeland.org">President@uuclakeland.org</a>	
President-Elect	Theresa Lutz	
Past-President	Linda Walters	
Treasurer	Joyce Bode	
Corporate Secretary	Joyce Bode	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Marshall	
<b>Trustees:</b>		
Charlene Bennett	Eileen Scheffel	
Peter Helwig	Cynthia Patterson	

## STAFF

Religious Exploration Director	Heather Curry	
	<a href="mailto:RE@uuclakeland.org">RE@uuclakeland.org</a>	



[www.the.mountaincenters.org](http://www.the.mountaincenters.org)

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## COMMITTEES

Adult Discussion Group	Ron Maslyk
Archivist	Joyce Bode
Building and Grounds	Open
Bylaws Review	Open
Congregational Relations	Ron Nickolas/ Barbara Wallace
Congregational Services	<b>Open</b>
Caring	Eileen Scheffel <a href="mailto:Sunshine@uuclakeland.org">Sunshine@uuclakeland.org</a>
Common Grounds Coffee House	Daniel Whitt
Hospitality	Jean Lord/Don Wallace
Membership	Linda Walters
Visibility	<b>Melissa Marshall/Eileen Scheffel</b>
<i>Beacon</i> Newsletter	Portia Westerfield
<i>Beacon</i> Distribution	Gerald Lent
Webmaster	Glenn Welser <a href="mailto:Adminstrator@uuclakeland.org">Adminstrator@uuclakeland.org</a>
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 <a href="mailto:Worship@uuclakeland.org">Worship@uuclakeland.org</a>
Facilities Use	Open



We use only Fairly Traded/  
Organic Coffee from Equal  
Exchange Coop at UUCL.  
[www.equalexchange.coop](http://www.equalexchange.coop)

