

# The Beacon

Newsletter  
of the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Lakeland



Volume 32, No. 7

Published Monthly

January 2010

## 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

- 3** "New Beginnings" - Join us as UUCL President Elect Theresa Lutz leads an examination of the value of recognizing New Beginnings in both our personal and congregational lives.
- 10** "New Hope For A New Year" - Rev. Bonnie Devlin. "Hope" is one of the most important words in our language. Without it, we will wither and perhaps even die. With it, we feel as though we can climb mountains and soar through the firmaments. Each New Year doesn't have to bring with it half-willed "resolutions," but cultivating the spirit of Hope is something we can live with always. As we begin this New Year, we *will* benefit greatly if we see this as a time to renew and re-dedicate ourselves to bringing more hope into our lives.
- 17** "The Songs and Stories of Bill & Eli Perras." These guest presenters will provide an educating and entertaining program containing some lesser-known facts that may have influenced the humanitarian efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 24** "How Shall We Live?" - Rev. Bonnie Devlin. On Saturday, Feb. 27, we will have our day-long congregational retreat. As this congregation begins to shape its future, we will need time to reflect on four seemingly simple, yet *very* important questions. Today's sermon will pose those questions so that we may all have some time to reflect upon them - even perhaps journal about them - as we are called to contribute to the retreat (hopefully in person, or at least in writing). So, the foundational question for today will be: "How Shall We Live?" Let's explore this important question together.
- 31** "Imbolc: Sacred Wells and the Muse of Fire." As it does each fifth Sunday, EarthFamilies will offer our service. February 2 is called "Candlemas" by some and Groundhog Day by others. Join us for a celebration of the pagan roots of this holy day, also called Imbolc or Brigid's Day.

## ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

### "Getting to know U"

Monthly Orientation Session for Guests

**Gatherings:** 4th Sunday each month thru 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 Night at the Auction” is a success!

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of many people, “A Night at the Auction” was a big success.

With a great outpouring of the time, talents and treasure of 40 volunteers, bidders and donors, we raised **\$3,342!** We will still be at a deficit from reduced and unfulfilled pledges resulting from the poor economy, but the gap will now be much smaller!

**Thanks to all who made this a great success**, with a special nod to Auctioneer Dave McGinnis, who made it a pleasant, fast-paced evening. Now, the real fun can begin as we get to enjoy our winnings. Here’s wishing everyone lots of great fun, food and fellowship!

## Learn About UU at Jan. 10 Orientation Breakfast

Is there something you’d like to know about our congregation or UU in general? If so, you won’t want to miss the **UU Orientation Breakfast, Sunday, Jan. 10 at 9 a.m.** in the Social Hall.

Members of church leadership will present a brief program that includes an introduction to our faith, a history of the Lakeland congregation, and information about the rewards and responsibilities of membership. A final question-and-answer session will allow you to explore any areas of interest or concern.

If you’re interested in attending, please mark your calendar for Sunday, Jan. 10. And so we can be sure to have enough breakfast on hand, please let us know you’re coming by contacting the Board president at:

president@uuclakeland.org

### 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 portiap@tampabay.rr.com

## Minister’s MUUsings

“Out of life comes death, and out of death, life.  
Out of the young, the old,  
And out of the old, the young.

Out of waking, sleep, and out of sleep, waking.  
The stream of creation and dissolution never stops”

*Heraclitus*

The new year of 2010 is upon us. It seems like only yesterday we welcomed in the new millennium with trepidation over our computers crashing, yet excitement to be alive during the transition into a new century. Now, we enter the decade mark, and as Heraclitus said, “The stream of creation and dissolution never stops.”

I haven’t yet seen the new movie *2012*, and I may not bother. It’s not that I’m afraid of what the movie implies, but rather I have a deeper trust in the true calendar of the Mayans, who view 2012 as a special year of rebirth. To the Hebrews, the year 2012 has long come and gone, and we’re all still here!

Calendars are a way to organize the flow of time. Most cultures have their ways of measuring the passing of time through a variety of yearly markers, most particularly through the changing of seasons and alignment of stars and planets. Again, as Heraclitus noted, this march of time is endless and *never* the same.

So if life is an endless stream of new moments and events, then how could it ever be boring? I’m inclined to think that there are no boring moments, only boring people. While on the surface things may appear the same, in fact the universe is evolving with an explosion of change at every mille-second. Although some of us live in that Monday through Friday “grind,” not one second of it is really the same. The appearance of stagnation is really only an illusion.

If we remember this, then our new year will be filled with new adventures, new challenges, new struggles, new wonder and happiness. Nothing will be the same as we flow in time. Calendars don’t get to decide how old or young we really are, **only life and how we live it does.** So, let’s live it to the fullest. I wish us all a new year filled with blessings and many opportunities for growth and joy.

Peace and Love, Bonnie

### 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.

# A Message From The President

## Resolutions for a New Year

If there's one holiday tradition all Unitarian Universalists should be able to get behind, it's the New Year's resolution. What's more UU than reflecting on your current state and promising yourself that you'll do better in the days and weeks to come?

Mindful living is an essential part of the UU journey toward truth and personal meaning. And as a congregation, we have the same obligation to regularly assess ourselves and strive for improvement.

We have a lot to be proud of as 2010 dawns. In 2009, UUCI continued to serve as a center for worship, outreach, and the arts, offering music- and meaning-filled Sunday services, providing meeting space to community and affinity groups, and lending a stage to musicians through Common GroUUnds Coffee House and Friends of Joe concerts. Members and friends came together to staff our committees create several successful events, including our largest-ever Halloween Carnival, a lucrative Service Auction and a host of fundraisers spearheaded by Heather Curry and Religious Exploration.

Of course, a lot remains to be done to build the church we want to see. That's where the resolutions come in.

UUCI's leadership has resolved to present several 2010 events that explore where we are as a congregation and where we ought to go. Maybe you can make attending them one of your own New Year's resolutions:

- **Jan. 10: Orientation Breakfast**, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. This event in the Social Hall will explore UU, our congregation, and the path to membership. Open to all who want to learn more. RSVP by Jan. 6 to [president@uuclakeland.org](mailto:president@uuclakeland.org), subject line Orientation Breakfast.

- **Jan. 10: Town Hall Meeting**, 12:30 p.m. This informational session will explore Green Sanctuary, an environmental project members will vote on adopting at the Annual Meeting.

- **Jan. 24: Adult Enrichment**, 12:30 p.m. Join Rev. Bonnie for questions and answers relating to UU, spirituality and more. **Every fourth Sunday through June.**

- **Feb. 13: Annual Dinner**, 6 p.m. We'll kick off our Stewardship Campaign with a dinner offering fun, fellowship and an opportunity to pledge your time and treasure to the congregation. Watch for your invitation in the mail.

- **Feb. 27: Congregational Retreat**. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Led by Rev. Bonnie, this day-long event for all interested members and friends will include a worship service, three meals, and a series of sessions on leadership, growth and future planning. Watch your email for more information.

- **TBA: Congregational Focus Group**. Organized by the Visibility Committee, this project seeks volunteers to assess the congregation and help form its vision. Contact Visibility chair Melissa Marshall at [Melissa@net-man.net](mailto:Melissa@net-man.net) to participate.

Be sure to check the rest of *The Beacon* and the Congregational Calendar on our website for information on events at UUCI and throughout the Florida District. And thanks for ringing in the year as a part of the UU Lakeland community!

In faith,  
Rafi Ellis  
President, Board of Trustees

**Happy NUU Year!**

## JANUARY



## BIRTHDAYS

Alysia Reppeto-Evans	12
Gerald Lent	12
Jan Jennings	21
Kyle Sawyer	23

## JANUARY Anniversaries

Sue Harris & Peter Helwig	12
Keyno & Zela Hicks	23
Melissa & Jerry Marshall	25



## CIRCLE DINNER(S)

Circle Dinners are monthly gatherings at a member or friend's home where everyone contributes part of the meal. They're a great way to get to know others in the church community. The next circle dinner will be Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010. You can sign up on the bulletin board at church or email Sue Harris at [suharris@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:suharris@tampabay.rr.com).

## 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.

## HOSPITALITY GOES GREEN

Hospitality has gone green! We are abandoning plastic throw-away cups and will use our many ceramic cups from the kitchen instead. If you don't have a ceramic cup of your own, simply select and use one from the rack. When you are through with it, wash it in the little red dishpan in the right-hand sink, rinse it and leave it on the drainboard.

Hospitality sends a special "Thanks!" to some very busy members who gave their time to help out when no one was around except Bill and me. One is Cynthia Patterson, who appeared faithfully every Sunday. Now that she co-chairs the Worship Committee, she will have to devote her time there. Thanks a million, Cynthia!

Another "Thanks!" recipient is Teresa Lutz, who has managed our other Hospitality events. She cooked and presented all the food for over 30 people from another church who visited UUCL for a seminar. Everyone complimented the delicious meal. Theresa also arranged for the food, wine and coffee for our Auction. We made quite a bit of money thanks to her.

Hospitality also thanks Judy Irwin for deep-cleaning the kitchen, and Blenda George for keeping the pantry in order.

Ron Maslyk is another great help. Besides leading the Adult Discussion Group, he leaves Service early every Sunday morning in order to help with refreshments. Sometimes, I see him running back and forth to get the food out and clean up. Maybe we should buy him some roller skates!

**Jan. 10** is the town meeting about "greening" our church. I want to remind people not to bring the usual food for pot luck. Bring finger food or anything easy to eat without plates, forks and knives.

Last but not least, my asthma and back problems make it impossible for me to do the clean up by myself. I'll greatly appreciate any help I receive. So let's all pitch in and help hospitality put on events. Better yet, why not JOIN the Hospitality Committee and make some sort of commitment? You don't have to shackle yourself(ves) to the kitchen sink - work out a time slot and duration you can tolerate for awhile. (For example, agree to clean up after coffee hour one Sunday every other month.)

Thank you!

**Jean Lord**  
Hospitality Co-Chair



## *"Splinters From The Board"*

December 16, 2009 Meeting

### Happy New Year!

At the December Board meeting the Coordinating Council reported that the annual service auction had great participation and was quite a success, raising \$3,342. Thanks to all who participated!

There is a lot of activity coming up at UUCL! After the service on January 10<sup>th</sup>, we'll be having a town hall meeting to discuss the Green Sanctuary Program. This is an initiative that involves all aspects of the church, so please join us to find out more about the program and give some input on how we go about achieving the program objectives.

On that same day, at 9:00 AM, there will be a New Member Orientation Breakfast designed to give our new friends information on what the church is about, what kind of activities are going on here, and what it means to become a member. If you are interested in finding out more, please come!

UUCL will be marching in the Martin Luther King Day Parade on January 16<sup>th</sup>. We do the parade every year and have a lot of fun, so if you can walk with us, come out and show some spirit for a different kind of holiday.

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a congregational retreat held at UUCL. Watch for further details soon. Following the retreat, as our monthly "4<sup>th</sup> Saturday" social activity there will be a drum circle and fire pit outside. Even if you can't make it for the retreat, come out in the evening just for fun.

The survey results regarding having an adult education program indicated that the most popular option was for a six-week class on religion and philosophy that would convene on Wednesday evenings. The coordinators are researching curriculums and plan to get the classes started in the spring.

## MAKING COPIES

If you need to make copies, please use the copy machine in the kitchen! We can make up to 2500 black and white copies for free, but we are charged for every color copy we make. The color copies cost \$0.128 per copy. Our last bill showed that we only make 162 copies of the 2500, and 133 color copies for a cost of \$17.02.

The copy machine in the minister's office is only to be used for emergencies, as we are charged \$0.0175 for every copy made on this machine. Last month we made 832 copies on this machine at \$0.0175, or \$14.56. These copies could have been made for free on the other copy machine. As your treasurer, I want to save as much money as we can and every little bit helps.

It takes a long time for the Kitchen copier to warm up to make copies, so please be patient. To make black and white copies, be sure to press the Black button on the top right of the control panel. There is an instruction manual in the drawer of the copy machine if you need help, or you can find someone who is familiar with the workings of the machine.

Thanks, Joyce Bode, Treasurer and Corporate Secretary

## ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

Sundays at 10:00 am in the Social Hall

### Topics for January '10

- Jan 3** - New Year's Resolutions: Why do we make them and how are they kept? Is it better to try and fail than not to have tried at all?
- Jan 10** - How has your perspective on aging/growing old changed as you have aged?
- Jan 17** - Friendship and memories of special friends...what does it take to make and keep friends?
- Jan 24** - Should we spend time and resources prolonging human life well past the child-bearing and working years? What good are 'older' people to society?
- Jan 31** - "Go along to get along"...when do you and when don't you? How do you justify your decision?

### GOTTA QUESTION?

The Adult Discussion Group (ADG) will respond to your topic or question on a Sunday morning between 10:00-10:50 A.M. in the Social Hall. We welcome new members' and everyone's ideas.

Ron Maslyk, ADG Coordinator

## EarthFamilies Evensong Gatherings

Sundays at 2:00 P.M.

- January 3** —**Group Study**: Study and discussion of Christopher Penczak's *The Inner Temple of Witchcraft*. Note: Last meeting for this book.
- January 10** —**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.
- January 17** —**Craftwork**: Third Sundays are now for crafts, ritual and fellowship! This month: curious about your astrological birth chart? Bring your time/date of birth, and the place (if you can), and receive a complete chart with interpretation. Fun and insightful!
- January 24** —**Movie of the Month**. This year, we'll branch out with some feature films, starting with *The Last Mimzy*. Rated PG.
- January 31** —No 2 PM meeting. **Fifth Sundays** are rare, but when they come around, we offer a service to the main congregation at 11 AM. This month, we will offer a service entitled "Imbolc: Sacred Wells and the Muse of Fire." February 2nd is called "Candlemas" by some, and Groundhog Day by others. Join us for a celebration of the pagan roots of this holy day, also called Imbolc or Brigid's Day.



## Religious Exploration

Welcome to the New Year! As you think about new beginnings, take a walk over to the RE plot in the UUCL community garden — our seeds have sprouted! Radishes, carrots, green onions and some decorative pansies have pushed their way through the dirt and are reaching for the sun. The children had a great time building and planting the garden. Dirt is so much fun! Thank you to all of those who donated newspaper and soil to help us put it together. We don't know yet what we will do with the vegetables that we harvest, but if you have any suggestions, please let me know. The radishes should be ready any day now!

In addition to tending to our garden, we will start to explore our local "UUCL ecosystem." What plants, insects and animals live on our grounds? We plan to find out. And we'll even draw you a picture...

Much hope for the New Year,  
Heather Curry  
UUCL Director of Religious Exploration



## MLK PARADE STEPS OFF JANUARY 16

The Social Concerns Committee is preparing to participate in Lakeland's Jan. 16 parade to mark the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each year a unit from UUCL marches in the parade behind our Congregational banner. Most years, we have 30-40 participants from all age groups, including marchers as well as van riders.

This year, the parade has been moved from the morning to the afternoon, and will set off at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16. Units will begin in line up at 11 a.m. Marchers can either meet at UUCL at 10:45 a.m. to car pool to the parade site, or meet at 11:00 at the parade site, 14th Street and Kathleen Road. Laura Wampfler and Heather Curry are coordinating the effort; contact either one for more information.

### 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.

## Sound System Upgrade

We are in the process of upgrading the UUCL sound system. We have a new wireless microphone that works on a frequency that should cover every location in the Sanctuary. Rev. Bonnie Devlin helped select this new microphone based on her knowledge of microphones and which brands are the best. Thanks, Rev. Bonnie!

On Sunday, Dec. 20, we realized at the last minute that the pulpit microphone was not working. Apparently, the plug for the pulpit microphone is broken and we will need to replace the outlet. So, we will be using the wireless microphone at the pulpit temporarily. We still need a better system for the hard-of-hearing, but the cost for this will probably be in the \$500 to \$600 range and we don't have this in the budget at this time.

We are creating a schematic of the sound console and new labels for the controls, so that volunteer Sound Technicians can have an easier time of it. We are also planning on building a new rack to put ALL of the equipment in one place.

Justin Clague, grandson of early members Joe and Jeanne Clague, is helping with the rewiring, etc. He is willing to teach a comprehensive class on how to use the sound system some Sunday after church. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer Sound Technician to help us put on Sunday Service, please let Joyce Bode know. Youth participation is encouraged!

## UUCL Book Club is Jan 21



Start the New Year with a great book! The UUCL Book Club meets every third Thursday in the Social Hall at 6:30. Join us Jan. 21 as we discuss:

*The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*, by Kao Kalia Yang. Nonfiction. In search of a place to call home, thousands of Hmong families made the journey from the war-torn jungles of Laos to the overcrowded refugee camps of Thailand and onward to America. But lacking a written language of their own, the Hmong experience has been primarily recorded by others. Driven to tell her family's story after her grandmother's death, *The Latehomecomer* is Kao Kalia Yang's tribute to the remarkable woman whose spirit held them all together. It is also an eloquent, firsthand account of a people who have worked hard to make their voices heard. Moderated by Ruth Schwebke.

### 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 are 42% into this fiscal year and we have received 35% of our income and have spent 36% of our expenses. We are slightly behind in pledge income and income over expenses.

The service auction brought in over \$3,342, and this will make up for our income deficit. I want to thank everyone who participated in the auction, as it was a great success!

We are still over budget for Hospitality, so I want to thank everyone who is bringing snacks for Sunday morning refreshments. This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize, and it reduces our hospitality expenses. If you want to donate snacks, just drop them off on the counter in the Kitchen on Sunday morning.

We started the "Guest at Your Table" 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. If you have not received an envelope in which to place your donation, you will find a stack of them on the black bookcase at the back of the Sanctuary. These envelopes will be collected in early January and sent to the UUSC.

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Budget 09-10</u>
Income	\$ 3,868	\$ 21,525	\$ 62,025
Expenses	\$ 4,868	\$ 22,408	
Total		\$ (1,000)	\$ (883)

**MEMBERS, PLEASE NOTE:** A statement of payments against your pledge will be sent to you in early January for all payments through December 2009. If you do not receive your statement, please call Joyce bode at 863/701-0077.

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 GROWN-UPS

This month, our Games Night will take place on the first Saturday, Jan. 2, as usual. We start at 6:30 p.m. in the 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 863/682-8869 or email [ajeskenazi@earthlink.net](mailto:ajeskenazi@earthlink.net).

# The Larger Circle UUA - Florida District - West Central Cluster News

Exciting things are happening with UU efforts for social justice in the Florida District!

The UU Congregation of Venice has proposed a Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI), titled "Revitalizing American Democracy," that is in competition for approval at the 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis. It is one of six CSAIs that will be winnowed to five for voting by congregations from around the country in the Congregational Poll, Nov. 15-Feb. 15.

Also, the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Florida (UULMF) is growing. At the Nov. 7 Southwest Cluster meeting in Naples, Rev. Meredith Garmon of Gainesville and Rev. Allison Farnum of Ft. Myers gave outstanding presentations on homelessness and climate change. Ginger Abraham and Sue Taylor spoke on the Racial Justice Council of the Florida District. Kindra Muntz updated listeners on efforts for health insurance reform and redistricting and election reform through her work as Chair of two Special Advocacy Committees of the UULMF. To see the good work of the UU Legislative Ministry, see [www.uulmf.org](http://www.uulmf.org). To sign up for the Social Justice email list, email Rev. Meredith Garmon at [meredith\\_garmon@UULMF.org](mailto:meredith_garmon@UULMF.org). Contributions are needed to keep this important social justice ministry growing.

Remember, our Seven Principles can be translated into social justice by Seven Steps: Groundedness, Self-acceptance, Compassion, Values, Priorities, Focus and Action.

### Kindra Muntz

Chair, Spec. Advocacy Comm. for Health Care Reform

Chair, Spec. Advocacy Comm. for Redistricting & Election Reform  
UULMF [www.uulmf.org](http://www.uulmf.org)

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The annual **District Assembly** will be held in Miami from April 9-11, 2010. **UUA Moderator Gini Courter** is our guest presenter on the theme of "What Next for Unitarian Universalism?" You are invited to submit a no more than 50-word summary of a presentation you might like to offer at the DA's workshops. Topics broadly relevant to Unitarian Universalists, of course, are welcome. Most welcome are those that give congregational leaders practical tools for strengthening our ministries. Apply by Jan. 5, 2010, directly to the District Executive: [khurto@uaa.org](mailto:khurto@uaa.org).

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**February 6, 2010** The Florida District of the UUA presents "**Faith Development Any Size**" at the Manatee UU Fellowship in Bradenton.

"When children come to our congregation, they and their parents need to feel welcomed into the community. What are the simple things we can do to make sure this happens? What are the next steps we can take to make sure everyone finds something that feeds them? How can we become a worshipping and learning community? How can we make this happen so that long time members and newcomers alike feel honored and valued?" For more information, visit <http://uuofbradenton.org/php/religiousedu.php> or call 941/746-0067.

**January 14-17th, 2010** - The UUs of Clearwater will host "**Reconciliation with the Earth, Each Other and the Stranger,**" a conference sponsored by the U.S. Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom and The World Congress of Faiths.

You are invited to join in exploring the challenge and complexity of reconciliation in this world of diverse religious beliefs and interfaith encounters.

Guest speakers include **Dr. Hal French**, Preston Emeritus Professor, University of South Carolina, author of *Zen and the Art of Anything*; **Dr. Paul Rasor**, Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and Director of the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College (Norfolk, Va.) and author of *Faith Without Certainty: Liberal Theology In The 21st Century*; and **Dr. William Schulz**, former UU President, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C., and author of *In Our Own Best Interest: How Defining Human Rights Benefits All of Us* and *Tainted Legacy: 9/11 and the Ruin of Human Rights*.

Workshop Leaders include **Rev Jopie Boeke**, **Rev. Eric Cherry**, **Rev. Peter T. Richardson** and others. For registration and conference details, visit <http://uuclearwater.org/IARF-Registration-Form.php> or contact Joe Myers at 727/391-5798 or [hjmyers@alum.mit.edu](mailto:hjmyers@alum.mit.edu).



Unitarian Universalist  
Association of Congregations

## Florida District Calendar

### January

14-17 - Int'l Association for Religious Freedom Conf., Clearwater - details above

14-16 - OWL Teacher Training, Ft. Myers

23 - Fla District President's Roundtable, Orlando-First

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)

## Preparing for our Corporate New Year

Our new year as a non-profit corporation begins not in January, but on July 1. At that time, we begin a new fiscal year and current elected officers yield to new ones. However, the process to make us ready takes place each winter. It will formally kick off with the **Annual Dinner on Feb. 13, 2010**, where we will renew our vision for the future of our spiritual home.

In the weeks surrounding the dinner, we will ask each member to establish new commitments of time, talent and treasure to the congregation. You might hear this called the **Pledge Drive** or **Stewardship Campaign**. The purpose is to allow the Finance Committee and Board to create a budget and organizational plans for the ongoing work of our UUCL community.

Then, the **Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on March 28, 2010**. This is when we conduct our legal business for the year: electing officers, approving a budget, amending bylaws, and making any other decisions that require a vote of the legal members of the congregation.

Achieving the future we envision will require that we all come to our task with open hearts and willing hands. We hope you will set aside time for our work by putting these dates on your calendar. **If you are not a member yet, perhaps now is the time to commit yourself to sharing our mission.** For more information about how you can make a commitment to our work, please contact President Rafi Ellis (President@UUCLakeland.org) or Council Chair Theresa Lutz (tericay@juno.com).



## Friends of Joe New Year's Special 4 FOJ concerts \$35, a \$51 value

**Fri. Jan 8 -**

Kevin Connolly/Scott and Michelle Dalziel \$12

**Sat. Jan 30 -**

Eric Taylor/Billy Needs a Beard \$12

**Sat. Feb 20 -**

Roy BookBinder/James Hawkins \$15

**Sat. Mar 20 -**

Mindy Simmons/Jeremy Procopio/Benedict Heaps \$12

Purchase pass at the door on January 8, or contact Anne Kearton at 863 646 1972.

## Friends of Joe concert - Friday January 8

On **Friday, Jan. 8 at 8 p.m.** in the UUCL Sanctuary, Friends of Joe will present **Kevin Connolly** with **Scott and Michelle Dalziel** opening.

Writing and performing descriptive songs that capture something about regular life in America for almost twenty years, **Kevin Connolly** has carved out his own way and earned a reputation as a passionate performer. Early influences like John Prine, Tom Waits and Bob Dylan remain inspirations and guiding forces. Songs reflect his grounding in an array of roots music styles... earthy, rhythmic collections of dark-tinged musings, rich ballads.

"Kevin's music has been a welcome staple of WMNF's programming for years and years. The man can tell stories and write melodies that get under your skin." — Cameron Dilley/ DJ **WMNF Tampa**.

**Scott and Michelle Dalziel** are a breath of fresh air with their super tight duo sound, great guitar playing and soulful drumming and singing. Their versatility moves from acoustic Rock or Folk genres into R&B, Jazz, roots, and Blues with just enough mystery to make their music unique and appealing.



**Joe's Cafe** opens at 7 with Anne's Clam Chowder and Scotty's locally grown organic salad; snacks, beverages; Common Grounds Coffee and Dessert Table.

**Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door; students \$5 and \$7; under 12 free.**

Information: Anne Kearton - 863 646 1972.  
[www.joeprine.org](http://www.joeprine.org)



## Friends of Joe concert - Saturday January 30

On **Saturday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m.** in the UUCL Sanctuary, Friends of Joe will present **Eric Taylor** with **Billy Needs a Beard** opening.

**Eric Taylor** has been one of the finest, most revered southern songsmiths for more than three decades. He has his own voice and his own vision, he takes you places and puts you inside people's minds. His lyrics are spare and right to the point creating songs of marvelous integrity in timeless storytelling. This is a man who takes the art of songwriting - and the art of performance - seriously. . Eric Taylor doesn't just make you feel the sun and taste the dust of Texas, his songs play in your head like poignant soundtracks with vivid real-life images.

**Billy Needs a Beard** is a motley collection of friends who, for the past five years, have been playing and writing music together. Their backgrounds are different, and their tastes are eclectic, but their goal is the same: to find a way to blend the music they make with the sensibilities of getting older in the modern world. Combining harmonies with acoustic instrumentation, and presenting a mix of originals and covers.

## FARMWORKERS MARCH AGAINST SLAVERY IN LAKELAND

On Sunday, Dec. 6, more than 500 farm workers and their allies marched from Southgate Plaza to downtown Lakeland to protest low wages and exploitive working conditions in Florida's tomato fields. Among the workers' supporters were members of several UU congregations, including UUCL; some UUCL members participated fully in the five-hour march and in the speaker and musical program that followed at Lake Mirror.

UUCL also provided logistical support, including backup parking at our campus and assistance in negotiations with the Lakeland Police Department and the owners of the Southgate property regarding permits and access.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers, an organization created and governed by farm workers, coordinated the day's events.

The protest was directed at Publix, which persists in buying tomatoes from growers whose crew leaders were convicted of holding farm workers in slavery, including restraint with chains and coercion with weapons, in 2007. Publix has also refused to meet with Coalition representatives to discuss participation in the "penny more per pound" program, whereby other major purchasers of tomatoes have agreed to pay a penny more per pound for the purpose of increasing the wages paid to the workers.

The Coalition plans to continue its campaign until Publix joins other bulk tomato purchasers in the fair food program.

An excellent front-page article and photo gallery from the Lakeland Ledger can be found at <http://www.theledger.com/article/20091206/NEWS/912065059/1410?Title=Hundreds-of-Farm-Workers-Protest-Working-Conditions>

### SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT!

**Day:** Saturday, February 27, 2010

**Time:** From approx. 9:30 to about 4:30pm

**Location:** On the UUCL campus

**Facilitator:** Rev. Dr. Bonnie Devlin

On Saturday, Feb. 27, we will hold a day-long congregational retreat. This retreat is not just for our 'leadership,' but will honor the 'prophethood of *all* believers' - in other words, all members and friends are encouraged to attend!

As this congregation begins to shape its future, we will need time to reflect on many issues related to UUCL's Identity, Purpose, Mission, and Growth. We want this retreat to have real spaces in our learning and sharing. We want you to be energized and uplifted.

The retreat will include continental breakfast, lunch, and a pot luck dinner, and child care will be provided. (A registration donation of \$5 is requested to cover meals and paid child workers.) Watch your email and our website for more information in the weeks to come.

To get a 'head-start' on the retreat, be sure to come on Jan. 24 for Rev. Bonnie's sermon on 'How Shall We Live?' This will get your juices and ideas flowing!



## Common GroUUnds

Next Sunday, January 3, we are hosting another Transcode Collective Show @ 7pm. They will have two touring bands performing with them and we can expect another large crowd. As usual I am looking for dedicated people to assist me and make this a powerful kick start concert for the New Year. The attendance potential is great and it gives us a chance to pass out flyers for the highly anticipated show in February with the return of our riot folk artist Evan Greer. I am looking for some bakers, baristas and people to help set up/tear down.

E-mail [danielthewhitt@aol.com](mailto:danielthewhitt@aol.com)

## Central Florida Peace Conference

**From Jan. 29-31, 2010**, The Heart of Florida Peace Alliance is sponsoring the Central Florida Peace Conference, titled "**Peace: Dreams, Myths, and Social Change,**" with UU minister **Jeremy Taylor**. A community organizer and peace builder for over 40 years, Dr Taylor is convinced that ignoring the unconscious - which manifests itself in our symbols, myths and dreams - dooms any "plan of salvation" for personal or social change to failure. Dr Taylor, who blends the values of spirituality with an active social conscience and a Jungian perspective, will conduct a dream workshop and offer concrete inspiration for working on non-violent alternatives to conflict in our homes, communities, states, nation and our world while we work toward the establishment of a US Department of Peace." For more information, contact Shirley Curtis-Ference at [scurtisference@gmail.com](mailto:scurtisference@gmail.com).

## Who Do You Love?

In every organization, there are those whose actions and attitude make life better for everyone around them. We have many of these angels here at UU Lakeland, and now is your chance to honor one of them!

The Special Service Award is bestowed on a UUCL member who has gone "above and beyond" in offering exemplary service to our congregation that reflects UUCL's mission and values.

If you know someone who fills the bill, nominate them for this award by contacting a member of the Special Service Award committee: Rafi Ellis, Peter Helwig, or Linda Walters, or emailing your nominations to: [president@uclakeland.org](mailto:president@uclakeland.org)

# CONGREGATION DIRECTORY

## MINISTER

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

## OFFICERS

**President** Rafi Ellis  
[President@uuclakeland.org](mailto: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

**Religious Exploration Director** Heather Curry  
[RE@uuclakeland.org](mailto:RE@uuclakeland.org)



[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** Open

**Caring** Eileen Scheffel  
[Sunshine@uuclakeland.org](mailto:Sunshine@uuclakeland.org)

**Common Grounds Coffee House** Daniel Whitt

**Hospitality** Jean Lord/Don Wallace

**Membership** Linda Walters

**Visibility** Melissa Marshall/Eileen Scheffel

*Beacon* Newsletter Portia Westerfield

*Beacon* Distribution Gerald Lent

**Webmaster** Glenn Welser  
[Adminstrator@uuclakeland.org](mailto: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/Cynthia Patterson  
[Worship@uuclakeland.org](mailto:Worship@uuclakeland.org)

**Facilities Use** Open



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

