



Sunday Itinerary

Adult Discussion Group

10:00 am

Sunday Service

11:00 am

Coffee & Conversation

Noon

EarthFamilies Evensong

2:00 pm

In This Issue

Minister's Muusings	1
Treasurer's Report	2
Splinters from the Board	3
Presidential Ponderings	4
Sunday Services	6
Directory	7

Minister's Muusings

In a time of drastic change, one can be too preoccupied with what is ending or too obsessed with what seems to be beginning.

In either case, one loses touch with the present and with its obscure but dynamic possibilities.

What really matters is openness, readiness, attention, courage to face risk. You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going.

What you need is to recognize the possibilities and the challenges offered by the present moment, and then embrace them with courage, faith and hope.

In such events, courage is the authentic form taken by love.

- Thomas Merton

These are wise words--they speak to the daily challenges on the respective paths each of us will follow in the months to come, now that our special time together has neared its end. "Carpe diem!" so goes the saying. If we are to seize the day, how then shall we go about it? I liked Merton's suggestions of openness, readiness, attention and especially the courage to face risk.

In my past perusal of the wonderful book *A Course in Miracles*, I have come to understand that there are two major forces at play in our lives which influence just about everything we do--namely, fear and love. So often we are blinded to the possibilities inherent in the present moment because of our fear. If we choose to fear the unknown, then we will lose the capacity for expressing courage, faith and hope in our lives. If, however, we choose to love, and to "love mightily and bow to the

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Muusings

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mystery”, then we will be able to live our day with courage, faith and hope--and the rewards from living life this way are immeasurable.

The Universalist God of my understanding provides me with this sense of immense grace and unconditionally blessed love, which will strengthen me for the journey ahead. When I was first called to serve you as Consulting Minister for these past two years I had absolutely no idea how transitional and profound this experience would be, for me and hopefully for you. You have brought me to Lakeland and I have made friends here that will last my lifetime--for that I am deeply grateful. I have also been blessed to walk with you these two years as you prepare yet another chapter in the history of this Congregation, a history that has a definite future and great purpose as a Unitarian-Universalist presence in your immediate and larger community. You are also such a loving community for each other, and for those that need you—you can only succeed!

Since my home base is our Florida District, I do hope to see many of you at District events, and a possible visit some day in the future! My only wish is that you believe in yourselves as much as I do.

As we prepare to walk our separate paths, I wish you the most profound love humanly and divinely possible, and I embrace the unyielding faith that our paths will cross again, and with great joy. Until then, may the road rise to meet you. I hold you in my heart.

Love and Blessings,
Bonnie

In Memoriam: Passing of Marcelle Jones

Long-time UUCL member, Marcelle Jones died peacefully on Friday, June 25, 2010 at the age of 85, after a seven-year battle with lung cancer. She was a world traveler, a fiercely independent woman, and a dear friend to many in this congregation. Marcelle donated many of the books in the UUCL library and left us a treasure we will be able enjoy for many years to come!

Treasurer’s Report

As of the end of May, our expenses now exceed our income because of the replacement of the air handler in the Sanctuary. With one more month to go in this fiscal year, we will probably fall short of reaching the approved budget. Unexpected maintenance expenditures are the cause of the overrun.

The Board approved moving all fundraiser collections into the Capital Fund account. These funds will then be available for any capital improvements. The Board is looking at replacing the RE porch, a repair will be done to the walkway roof that is leaking, and bids are being taken for getting rid of the termites in the kitchen/office building.

Memorial gifts are always welcome and are deposited into the Endowment Fund.

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

	May	YTD	Budget 08-09
Income	\$3,206	\$63,223	\$71,800
Expenses	\$6,147	\$65,216	
Total	\$(2,941)	\$(1,993)	

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 Joyce Bode.

Splinters from the Board

The Board of Trustees met on June 16th for the final time with Rafi Ellis presiding as president. Theresa Lutz will begin her term as President and Tracie Welser will be President Elect by the next meeting.

The treasurer reported that we are 92% through the year and have received 84% of budgeted income and paid out 93% of budgeted expenses. Quite a few pledges were not paid up and she expects that we will end the year \$1,500 short as a result.

In news from the committees, the worship committee has invited Reverend Kenn Hurto to do a service in October. The religious Education (RE) classes are on a break for summer, but RE is looking into starting a chapter of Earth Scouts.

The small group ministry intro was a big hit and the program will be instituted after Rev. Marni starts in August.

Speaking of Rev. Marni, she will be with us the second and fourth weekends of each month EXCEPT for August! Due to scheduling conflicts, she will begin serving our congregation on the third and fifth Sundays in August.

Since this was the last meeting of our church year, the board reviewed the goals that had been set last year. We were very happy with the progress made by the congregation over the past year. Some of the highlights included establishing the Green Sanctuary program, upgrading the campus by getting the RE porch repaired and the social hall carpeted and painted. Campus care days were implemented to keep up the buildings and grounds also.

Many members of the congregation got involved with the various aspects of congregational life and several attended leadership trainings. We look forward to implementing adult education and inter-congregational events in the fall.

With this issue of the Beacon we thank Rafi Ellis for her terrific leadership over the past year and welcome Theresa Lutz as our new president, and look forward to another year of continued growth and development as a UU congregation. The board will be meeting at 6:00 on the third Wednesday of the month, please feel free to join us!

Florida District News

Dear Florida District UUs,

This note is to tell you that after 31 years of working in our Florida District, I will be leaving your service this summer. On August 15th I will become the Interim District Executive of the St. Lawrence District. SLD is the District that serves the congregations in up-state New York. This call is bittersweet for me. I am looking forward to working with the congregations and leaders in St. Lawrence as their Interim DE but I am also sad to be leaving my position in Florida. I will miss my connections with you. I have been honored to serve Unitarian Universalism and the Florida District congregations. I have held many position of leadership in Florida and have seen more changes than I can name. I have also enjoyed working with District Staff. You are in good hands.

I hold you in my heart and wish you continuing success in ministry, faith development and in spreading the good news of Unitarian Universalism.

Connie Goodbread
cgoodbread@uua.org
Lifespan Program Consultant
Florida District UUA

Presidential Ponderings

Happy New Year UUCL!

Sounds a little strange in July, doesn't it? However, a church in America today is a legal entity, and we have a legal and fiscal year which runs July 1 through June 30th. This is when we sum up our finances for the year, budgets start anew, and the election we had in Spring takes effect.

On July 1, Linda Walters retired as Past President, a role that will now be assumed by Rafi Ellis. I became President, and Tracie Welser takes on the task of President Elect. Peter Helwig agreed to serve again on the Board of Trustees, as has Recording Secretary Melissa Marshall.

Others taking office include Faye Moore on Endowment and Keyno Hicks on the Committee on Congregational Relations. Anne Kearton will serve as the carry-over member of Nominating, newly serving are Ron Maslyk and Jerry Marshall.

So, just like January first, this is a time of new beginnings. Can it really be only two years ago that I first began service as a trustee and Worship Chair, and even less than that since we met our beloved Rev. Bonnie? It's amazing the changes that have happened in this congregation, and how fast the time has gone!

As for the future, so much unexplored territory lays ahead of us! In August Rev. Marni Harmony will join us and on the 28th of that month we will lay out the plans for the upcoming year. I'm looking forward to learning new ways and the opportunity to deepen my commitment to my spiritual home and family. May we grow together in love and service.

And again, Happy New Year, UUCL!

Theresa Lutz, *President*

Time Change for Games Group

June 5, 6:30 pm, Social Hall

We will meet in the Social Hall on Saturday, July 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. We welcome all adults interested in an evening of board, table, or card games. It is lots of laughter and fun, and we would like to have you join us. We are trying out the new time and would like to have feedback.

Questions? Contact Jane Eskenazi at ajeskenazi@earthlink.net or 863.682.8869.

Leadership Retreat & Planning Session

August 28th the leaders of the congregation will be meeting to map out plans for the next year. We usually do this earlier in the year but we waited so we could include our new minister, Rev. Marni Harmony, in the planning.

If you are an elected officer or committee chair, please plan to attend. Anyone is welcome who is interested in congregational leadership. Watch for more information online and in the August *Beacon*. Details about time and meals will be available in mid-July.

IMPORTANT: If your committee or interest group has activities that you would like to see on the calendar, or goals that you would like to see moved forward, please contact Theresa to have them placed on the agenda for the day.

Adult Discussion Group (ADG)

*Sundays, 10 am, Social Hall,
Chairman: James Negri*

July 4 — What are the best things to teach our kids as they grow up?

July 11 — Is the gap between the haves and have-nots growing — and how do we respond to the gap?

July 18 — What is the one thing you worry about most?

July 25 — Is Social Security bound for collapse? What should we do about it?

New Arts & Crafts Group at UUCL

Come have fun doing arts and crafts! We will meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month, starting at 1 p.m. in the Social Hall — first meeting scheduled for July 17, with subsequent meetings on August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18.

We expect participants will work on their own projects, with someone teaching a technique or leading a project. Then the whole group will work on a project to benefit UUCL or some other cause. We will evolve in whatever manner we decide.

For our first meeting please bring everything you need to work on your own project and bring some “show and tell” items you have crafted previously. Questions? Call Sue Harsanyi 666-1925 or Blenda George, 709-9096.

Caring Committee

If you or someone you know is in need of support from the UUCL community, contact the UUCL Caring Committee. The Caring Committee can be reached by contacting Eileen Scheffel, cat.eileen@verizon.net.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is always looking for Greeters. If you are interested in helping out on occasion or to find out more, contact: Blenda George at blenda@tampabay.rr.com or Eileen Scheffel at cat.eileen@verizon.net

Religious Education

How can gardening with kids help to change the world? Most of us are well aware of the positive environmental effects that organic gardening has for our soil and our water supply. We know that gardening at home helps cut down on the ill effects of transportation and has tremendous health benefits. When we involve our kids in this sort of project, they learn about taking care of our earth, too. They also learn important scientific processes that, according to recent studies, have helped children score higher on tests in school.

In addition, gardening with other children and adults helps to build self-confidence and important social skills. According to a 2009 study done by the University of Colorado at Denver’s Children, Youth and Environments Center: “when third to fifth grade students who participated in a one-year gardening program filled out a survey of life skills, they showed a significant increase in self-understanding and the ability to work in groups compared to nonparticipating students.”

Youth interns in community gardens reported increases in maturity, responsibility, and interpersonal skills. In a community garden program in San Antonio, qualitative interviews of teachers, parents, a principal and 52 second and third grade students revealed that children were likely to have positive bonding experiences with their parents and other adults. These findings are consistent with research that indicates that community gardening projects “grow” community.”

Although our RE garden plot is small, it has a lot of potential to grow, just as our community does. You can be involved in any part of this multi-faceted program, from designing to planting to writing stories and creating art with our kids. Join us any Sunday this summer and, if you have any ideas to contribute, we would be happy to hear from you! The possibilities of a project like this are endless, and we look forward to exploring the bountiful harvest it may bring with each and every one of you!

In Faith-
Heather Curry

Sunday Services Schedule*11 am, Sanctuary*

4 *Patriotic Hymn Sing.* Come join us for a special holiday treat! With the very talented Adam Hargrove at piano, we will select patriotic songs and hymns to sing. Bring your best voice, and maybe a friend!

11 *Faith* — **Theresa Lutz.** Small Group Ministry Is there a God? Is there no God? Does it matter? UUCL President Theresa Lutz will share thoughts about faith and the agnostic.

18 Intergenerational Service

The Right Way to Right Speech. Each month we offer an Intergenerational service intended to be meaningful to all ages. Join us this week as we learn about what happens to Motke the fish peddler when too many helpful people give him too much advice!

25 *We invited Lakeland Mayor Gow Fields to join us and be accepted!*

As of deadline for the newsletter, several topics were still under his consideration, but we are sure this will be an opportunity for us to help better understand how to serve our community.

1 *The Simple Life.* As part of our Green Sanctuary plan we will be exploring the various ways our members have simplified their lives or made them more sustainable. **If you would like to be included as a speaker, please contact Theresa Lutz no later than July 15th.**

EarthFamilies Evensong Gatherings*Sundays, 2 pm, Sanctuary*

July 4 — Group Study. *The Druidry Handbook* by John Michael Greer. Join us for discussion of “The First Triad: Druid Symbolism”.

July 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.

July 18 — Craftwork. Experiential workshop relating to Druidry (see Lyle Hedley for details).

July 25 — Movie of the Month. *Practical Magic.* PG-13.

Based on the book by Alice Hoffman.

**Fellowship
of Freethinkers***June 12, 12:30 pm,**Lake Ashton Country Club*

A new group has formed in the Lake Wales Ridge area. The Fellowship of Freethinkers is a group for folks who identify with terms like freethinker, humanist, Unitarian/Universalist, ethical culturalist, and religious liberal. Meeting times are at 12:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month; current meeting place is Lake Ashton Country Club. Meetings consist of potluck followed by a discussion, and everyone is encouraged to bring his/her own dinnerware; drinks provided. The group is still evolving — occasionally meetings will focus on process and operational issues.

The discussion topic for July 10 will be: *Should Florida repeal its longstanding ban on giving public dollars to religious institutions?* — an issue pending in the legislature. If you are interested in attending please contact Charlene Bennett at 863.676.9231 or Margaret Swanson at 863.676.5438.

