



The Communicator

of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County

April 2008 Programs

6 – "Models of God" by Sally Mc Fague. Russell Littlefield, retired Professor and Chair of the English Dept., Broome C.C., New York, will present a message based on this book. Sally Mc Fague is Professor Emeritus of Vanderbilt Divinity School.

13 – "The Medicine Wheel of Native Americans" will be presented by Susan Jaillet, who has been studying and attending Medicine Wheels since 1987, sponsored by Sun Bear. She also teaches 2 Business Education courses at Lake Technical Center, Eustis, and is Administrative Assistant.

20 – "Did We Get Passed Over in Passover?" Rev. Roger Seidner. This Sunday is the first day of Passover on the Jewish calendar. Our religious heritage is founded in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Central to this is the concept of liberation from bondage. For most of us in privileged middle America, this is a difficult concept for we have not faced bondage. Our message is centered on helping us identify and relate in the world of the 21st century.

27 – "Beltane and Pagan Holidays" Franklin Pennington promises a lively talk and discussion on this and other celebrations and rites of life.

Our monthly Pot-Luck Lunch follows this service. All are welcome.

The UU Congregation of Lake Co. Meets
Sundays at the Woman's Club of Eustis
227 N. Center Street, Eustis, Florida

Meditation Group with Steve Collins at 8:30 a.m.
Adult Forum, with Bob Young at 9:45 a.m.
Church Service begins at 11 a.m.

Note: Roger and Clarice are available to respond to calls for pastoral care in crisis situations. If you or someone you know has a need, feel free to call them at 407-905-5767

President's Column...

This month I have excerpted parts of an article entitled "What is a small congregation?" written by the Rev. Jane Dwinell, a small church consultant in Montpelier, Vermont who has earned recognition in the past five years as an expert in her field.

She notes the Unitarian Universalist Association defines a small congregation as less than 150 members, however "It's hard to pin this one down... everyone seems to have their own opinion as to what constitutes a 'small' congregation." A church such as ours would rate the designation of "family size." And then as we move closer to 50 or more active members it becomes "pastoral size" and "moves away from being a single group, to many smaller groups—formal or informal. The glue that holds all the groups together is the minister; thus, the 'Pastor-al' church."

Rev. Dwinell says this change, when it comes, can be very hard for many people and create unsettling times for everyone. She is quick to point out at least 125-150 active members are needed to support a full time minister. One solution: "The small congregations may prefer not to have a minister, but to rely on guest speakers (from in and outside the congregation) to lead worship and to rely on the church community to provide pastoral care to one another." These groups would also need a

(Continued on next page)

Robert Latimer, 89, died March 25, 2008 at the Edgewater Nursing Facility at Waterman Village, Mt. Dora. Bob with his wife, Ruth, was an active member of our congregation for 8 years.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2PM, Sunday, March 30, 2008 at The Lodge at Waterman Village. In keeping with Bob's dedication to liberal causes, please consider a memorial gift to Planned Parenthood of Greater Orlando in lieu of flowers.

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President's Message, continued...

Consulting Minister who is available for ministerial needs, she says. *Sure sounds familiar!*

And the following comment is food for thought: "However, more important than a minister for small congregation staffing is a church Coordinator (Administrator or Secretary). It helps to relieve burnout if there is a designated person 'where the buck stops.'" This person can be responsible for daily activities, bookkeeping, messages and mail etc. and generally being the congregations contact person working 5-10 hours or more per week depending on the need and paid a fair hourly salary. She concludes with another food for thought statement, "Look at your mission and vision for Unitarian Universalism in your area. Let go of the 'we're a close-knit family' and open yourselves to being 'a beacon for liberal religion' in your community!" (Emphasis added) *All direct quotes are with permission of the author.*

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The Board of Trustees has voted to pay the registration fees of \$290 each for the President and Vice President to attend the GA in Ft Lauderdale in late June. Speaking for Barbara Coats and myself we appreciate this showing of faith and we promise to return full of ideas and handouts from the 4-day conference. Many thanks. We will pay our own lodging, travel and other expenses involved.

...Bill Hermann

Thank you

Clarice and Roger Seidner were the beneficiaries of a great selection of cheeses which were placed on their car Feb. 24. They do not know who the anonymous donor is but wish to say "Thank You".

Also, Roger is deeply appreciative of the contribution the congregation made recently to Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in his honor. Thank you for remembering his ministry in this way. Incidentally, there are about 12 Unitarian Universalist seminarians currently enrolled there.

Movie Goers...

We have another beautiful, moving Iranian movie to see. Bring your handkerchief; you might need it. The date is April 2nd, a Wednesday, at 2:30 p.m. at Kathleen Cook's house at 33235 East Lake Joanna Drive, Eustis 32736. Don't get it mixed up with my house 5 doors away, 33325 E. Lake Joanna Dr. She is very close to Waycross Ave, white house, all on one floor. Phone is 383-4953 if you get mixed up.

...Ruth Gray

Northeast Cluster Meeting

As You Like It is the Shakespearean theme for The Northeast Cluster meeting on May 3 at the UU Church of Brevard County, 2185 Meadowlane Ave, W. Melbourne. Registration is \$10 and includes a light breakfast and lunch for the day-long event beginning at 9:00 am. Interested parties should contact Ruth Gray (735-0384) who plans to attend.

Interested in UU History?

There are a number of us who will be reading the book *Challenge of a Liberal Faith* by George N. Marshall, Third Edition, published by Skinner Books of the UUA (\$15). This is a book about UU history and what it means to be a UU.

I have collected enough money to buy 8 books, so we will get a 5% discount and I will refund the change to those who have ordered them. There are 5 more of us who already have the book or will be buying it through Amazon.

When the books come, we will get together and decide when we will have our first meeting. And

we'll decide how much to read for the first meeting... maybe the introduction and the first chapter? I notice UUs have a hard time making their light shine. Just about everyone who tries to light the chalice can't seem to make the light come out. After reading this book and taking this "course" together, your light will really shine! Alleluia!

...Ruth Gray

April Birthdays:

Frank Bishop, April 2
Lucy Landis, April 6
Thomas Kelley, April 17
Debbie Miller, April 19
Pat Linfield, April 25

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund

I hope many of you will be attending the District Annual Meeting later this month in Gainesville which promises to be an excellent weekend. Unfortunately the UUA Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting will be held at the same time. Please know I am sorry to miss this special yearly event but I will be there in spirit and you will be in my thoughts. Hopefully you also are planning to attend General Assembly (GA) June 25th-29th in Ft. Lauderdale. GA is in our District and hopefully we can be wonderful, welcoming hosts to the UUs who will be in attendance from many locales.

As some of you know concern about security regulations at the Ft. Lauderdale convention center has been the center of much discussion within our UU community. The BOT appreciates the various UU organizations, congregations, and individuals who have communicated concerns regarding security. In January the BOT reaffirmed the GA Planning Committee's (GAPC) conclusion that there were no alternative venues available for the large events of GA. According to Rev. Bill Sinkford, UUA President, Beth McGregor, Chair of GAPC, and Gini Courter, Moderator significant programming at GA and the Professional Days that precede GA will be focused on what it means for individuals in our society to live where many of our neighbors and their families lack government-issued identification and the erosion of civil liberties since 9/11/2001. All attendees will be provided opportunities to discuss these two issues.

It is important for Florida District UUs to bring our leadership, wisdom, and love for our faith to GA for other reasons too. Last year in Portland the first of a two year process of gathering information in a process called Open Space. Information from this process was reviewed by the BOT and was provided to GAPC to determine the process for GA 2008. This year lay and ordained congregational leaders will be invited to participate in an Appreciative Inquiry process, in which our values and hopes for our liberal faith will be discussed. We will be invited to set priorities for our Association. This information will be used by the BOT in the fall of 2008, when the BOT and district presidents will work together to determine what the Association should do, for whom and at what cost (ends).

To encourage congregational presidents' attendance at GA the Association is offering registration reimbursement of up to \$72.50, twenty-five percent of the cost of full-time early registration to the congregation's highest lay leader. In addition is hoped congregations will financially support their president's attendance.

I could write much more about the events, speakers, and programming planned for GA this year but space does not permit. Please go on to the UUA website (www.uua.org) for more information about GA, including a scheduled important public witness event and UU University, the day and a half preceding GA. Stay in touch: jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727. I look forward to hearing from you.

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- Q. What is the definition of UU diversity?
A. When there are three different colors of Toyota Prius in the parking lot.