



# The Communicator

of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Lake County

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## February 2008 Programs

**3** - "The Purpose of Life". The Rev. Ralph Young, Bob's brother, visits us again. An excellent speaker, Ralph always gives a thought provoking message.

**10** - "Islam's Brilliant Era Was Our Dark Ages". Shelia T. Harty, theologian from St. Augustine, returns to enlighten us on this factual and fascinating subject. Arab-Islamic esteem for classical knowledge began in the 8th century in Baghdad where the House of Wisdom became an immense library and translation center. Arab-Islamic scholars excelled particularly in science, mathematics, and astronomy and by translating into Arabic saved knowledge which would have been lost to time and war.

**17** - "Reflections on the Holocaust" by Fred Mularsky, son of a former Rabbi in Leesburg. Each year he takes 8th grade Social Studies classes from Tavares Middle School, where he teaches, to the Holocaust Museum in Maitland.

**24** - "Finding Faith - Losing Faith". Rev. Roger Seidner looks at the lives of four scholars who found an exodus of faith a disturbing experience. Those of us who are seeking rather than standing on faith may find insight.

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

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. Reverend Seidner is consulting minister to our church.

## President's Column...

I am indeed honored and humbled to have been selected as your president and I look forward to working with the congregation for the next two years. I do believe we are all equal partners in this endeavor. To continue as a viable group and good citizen of the community we each may have the opportunity to speak-out and inform others. From personal experience I know few people in the area may be aware of our existence, much less that we meet weekly at the Woman's Club.

While I have been a member here for a little more than two years, I did visit several times in 1998 just after arriving in Lake County. I also attended on a few occasions later on, enough so that Ted Fessler had made me a nametag that was still in the box, making me feel welcome when I returned in August 2005. In reality my journey to active and professed UUing actually began more than 50 years ago in my hometown when I met Richard Weston as a fellow student at the University of Louisville. His father Dr. Robert Weston was then pastor of First Unitarian, an institution in my hometown since 1830.

Steeped in Lutheranism by my mother, a long-time Sunday school teacher at Grace church, it took the college experience to expand my horizons. I was only vaguely aware of other faiths and denominations outside of those in my constricted neighborhood. At one time we lived about 100 yards from the church and Mom and a woman who had grown up together had me appointed assistant Sunday school superintendent at age 16. I thought I was hot stuff on the stairway to heaven and had no inkling of Unitarians until meeting the Westons.

After many more bumps in the road I arrived in Lake County where I finally found this cluster of caring, competent and cheerful seekers.

We are fortunate as a congregation to have the skilled and dedicated members of the standing committees, who assured me they will continue in this role. I will certainly consult with them on many

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**Next issue deadline: Wednesday, February 20.**

**Send material to [canopus1@comcast.net](mailto:canopus1@comcast.net)**

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## Monthly Canned Goods Collection

Leesburg Food Bank provides assistance to needy people through donations provided by churches, businesses, and other organizations in our area. For several years, we have supported this worthy program. But lately, our donations have diminished to an embarrassingly low level with Steve and Debbie making 95% of our donation.

Some of us have taken to keeping food bank donations in the car trunk, so that they aren't forgotten on Sunday morning. And remember to avoid foods in cardboard or plastic bags that might attract little critters. Best are cans and bottles. This is surely a good charity; let's increase our support.

...Debbie Miller

## President's Message, continued...

matters and value their judgment and expertise.

We are also fortunate to host the District Leadership Conference right here in the Woman's Club on Saturday, Feb 2. This day-long event is expected to draw 50 or more active UU's from the central Florida area and I have high hopes it will provide a wealth of information. Frank Bishop, Pat Linfield, Marilyn Steingart and I are scheduled to attend this event.

One of our two annual projects arranged by Parade Master Frank Bishop has been accomplished with six members walking or driving in the Martin Luther King Parade in Leesburg Jan 19. The Eustis George Fest parade is Feb 23, and a chance to make a good showing on foot or by car. The route is long and hopefully we can arrange transportation for all who are interested. Contact Frank if you would like to participate.

Suggestions with solutions are always welcome and the new directory has my home phone and email and my work phone. My email at Lake Tech, where I work full time is [hermannw@lake.k12.fl.us](mailto:hermannw@lake.k12.fl.us). I prefer to keep any work messages to a KISS (keep it simple and short) and I can follow-up later from home.

I trust we can all reasonably march together and make a great 2008 for UUCLC.

...Bill Hermann

## February Birthdays:

Eileen Johns, Feb. 16

Parks Landis, Feb. 20

## Circle Dinners

Circle dinners (and lunches) are starting soon. There are still places for more to attend, so sign up right away if you'd like to get in on the fun! Your hostess will set the date and time to accommodate all her guests. She will also tell you what kind of dish to bring. Sign up on the list on the piano on Sunday, or call me at 483-7405.

...Eleanor Fessler

## Can you help save printing and postage costs?

This newsletter is available on our web site at [www.lakecountyuu.org](http://www.lakecountyuu.org). You can help us save the cost of your copy if you tell us you are able to read it on your computer. Try it today. If you like it, use the feedback button to tell us to stop printing your copy.

## UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund

Early in January I had the opportunity and pleasure to attend the workshop UU Hospitality, Inclusion,

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and Transformation in Multicultural Communities at the UU Church of St. Petersburg, facilitated by Paula Cole Jones. Not only was the day a valuable for several reasons I was reminded of a relatively new organization, Allies for Racial Equity (ARE), formed in 2005, whose mission is to be accountable to people of color in building a movement among white UUs to unlearning white privilege/supremacy and to confronting racism in all its forms.

The organization of ARE came about in direct response to a request from UUs of color in DRUUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries). ARE's vision is grounded in an anti-oppressive, multicultural UU faith, accountable to DRUUM by building a movement among white UUs to understand white privilege and unlearn racism and white supremacy. The ARE founding UUs recognized that there is a long journey to becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural faith community.

ARE members are committed to: developing an anti-racist practice, supporting DRUUMM leadership and initiatives, including diverse perspectives committed to recognizing our humanity, a cooperative journey together in mutuality and right relationship towards transformation, and wholeness, supporting other white UUs as we struggle together to effectively use our anti-racist power to help transform the institution and UU congregations, and providing resources for a sustainable road to justice built on love, faith, hope, and courage.

The work of ARE is organized in teams. The Congregations Team develops strategies for integration ARE work into congregations, specifically assisting congregations in developing effective models for building ally networks within congregations. The GA Team develops an ally support network and programming at GA. The Education Team develops strategies for assuring that white people throughout our Association have training on white privilege and skill development in what it means to be an ally. The Connections Team develops mechanisms for connecting people and organizations with our UUA who are doing anti-racism/anti-oppression work and provide requested information to support groups.

I encourage individual Florida UUs and congregations to join ARE and become involved in this vital work. At the [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) website I suggest interested UUs Google Allies for Racial Equity. There, much more information than I can write is found, including how one can become a member.

You know you can always contact me [jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org) or 813-931-9727 to talk about UU "stuff". I love to hear from you.