

# The Beacon

Newsletter  
of the  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Congregation  
of Lakeland



Volume 28, No. 10

Published Monthly

April 2007

## Adult Discussion Group

10:00 AM

## Choir Practice

10:00 AM

## Coffee on the Patio

10:00 AM

## SUNDAY SERVICES

11:00 AM

## Religious Education

(School Year Only)

Children-Youth

11:15 AM

## Fellowship on the Patio

12:00 PM

## CUUPS Evensong

4:00-6:00 PM

## UUCL

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## UUCL SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

### APRIL

- 1 **"Spreading Our Good News"** – On this day of our Congregation's Annual (Business) Meeting, Dr. Robert P. Tucker will remind us that it is all about spreading the Good News about our U.U. heritage to a world that needs what U.U.ism has to offer.
- 8 **"Immortality"** – Easter is about becoming immortal. Dr. Tucker's message will affirm that we all are, but not in the ways some past imaginations have conjured up.
- 15 **"We Must Not Be Silent!"** – On this Holocaust Remembrance Day, Dr. Tucker will help us understand why we must not be silent in the face of abuse and atrocity.
- 22 **"Respecting the Web of Existence"** – A concern for all things environmental is made incumbent upon us by our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle, as Dr. Tucker will explain.
- 29 **"Believing in Others"** – Without the support, encouragement, and guidance of others who believe in us at crucial moments in our lives, none of us would amount to much. Dr. Tucker will illustrate this with examples of famous people.

### SUNSHINE 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 or Carolyn Hallett at 688-0922.

### DR. TUCKER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Walk-ins/Drop-bys/Appointments

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00 A.M. until noon

Appointments only

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M.

For Emergency – Call anytime

Home: 682-2636

Office: 646-3715

### THE BEACON

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## ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

- April 1** "Socrates Cafe". Pick up a cup of coffee on the way in, and bring an idea for discussion.  
The assembled group will vote for one to be discussed.
- April 8** "The words liberal and conservative may be the most abused words in America today." So states Dale Braiman in an article in the Ledger on March 12, 2007. What can we do about this?  
General group discussion.
- April 15** "Universal Single Payer Health Care".  
Discussion leaders: Carl Reed and Dr. Ed Lamm.
- April 22** "Our UU Seven Principles: More Than Just Platitudes".  
Discussion leader: Alysia Reppeto-Evans
- April 29** "What are the duties and obligations of American citizenship?"  
General group discussion.

## Treasurer's Report

|                             | FEBRUARY  | YEAR TO DATE |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Income                      | \$ 7,632  | \$72,362     |
| Expenses                    | \$ 8,844  | \$68,408     |
| Totals                      | \$ -1,212 | \$ 3,954     |
| Restricted Funds in Reserve |           | \$52,512     |
| Operating Funds             |           | \$14,933     |

As of February 28, 2007, we are 67% through the Fiscal Year and we are operating within the approved budget.

Joyce Bode, Treasurer

## Compassion and Choices of Polk County

Compassion & Choices (formerly the Hemlock Society) will meet in the UU Social Hall on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. This is an open meeting to answer your written questions, and we welcome guests.

Our speakers are Julian Rush, from Denver, and Helen Beum, from Portland, Oregon. Together they head up C&C's Volunteer Client Support program which will begin a training class the next day. Call Mary Grove at 680-1234 with questions and transportation needs.

## A Message From The President

**ELECTION DAY IN OUR DEMOCRACY:** How we revere the word 'democracy'! In fact, we pride ourselves on being a democratically governed congregation. However, we have chosen, through our original charter (bylaws) to be a republic - a form of democracy in which the electorate elects those who will actually make decisions for the group, and the electorate may change the bylaws under which its representatives operate.

April 1, 2007, is UUCL's election day. It is our opportunity to listen to each other and vote on agenda items as outlined in the packet you just received by mail. Please, BRING IT and SHOW UP in the sanctuary about 12:20 p.m. after a light lunch, on April 1.

We are presented with a Challenge Budget which will stretch us financially and reward us with a broader RE program for all our new young people as well as more committee support from our office secretary. This budget reflects a few cuts made possible by the use of e-mail and our website; it also involves increases in utility costs. And it finally gives Robert and Paula a cost-of-living adjustment. Did I mention stretching us financially? By this I mean that we need to reassess our pledging and come up with more dollars than have been pledged thus far. Please, examine your hearts and do what feels good rather than what feels adequate or minimal. \$10 more per person per month will let us achieve our budget. Since a few people just can't give more, those who can do so are asked to give more generously to take up the slack.

See you next week, and blessed be!

Elaine Lehmann, President

## SANDWICHES NEEDED

Our April 1, 2007, coffee time will need to provide a more substantial fare than usual. You are asked to bring sandwiches as well as other regular items so that everyone can eat lightly before the Annual Meeting.

Many thanks.

## FROM THE MINISTER

### *Never Forget! Never Again!*

In a *Non Sequitur* cartoon by Wiley, a cute little girl is shown sitting on a park bench beside an old man. He's reading a paper through little round wire-rimmed glasses. His old fashioned hat matches his suspenders in color, as his bulbous nose complements his scraggly mustache. Leather shoes, pants, and a white dress shirt with sleeves rolled up complete his attire.

After looking this stranger over, the little girl says to him: "I've gotta tell ya, Mister, that's an awfully boring tattoo on your arm. It's just a bunch of numbers."

"Well," he says, "I was about your age when I got it, and I kept it as a reminder."

The child asks, "Oh, a reminder of happier days?"

"No," says the old man, "Of a time when the world went mad."

Then he tells her: "Imagine yourself in a land where your countrymen followed the voices of political extremists who didn't like your religion. Imagine having everything taken from you, your entire family sent to a concentration camp as slave laborers, then systematically murdered in this place. They even take your name and replace it with a number tattooed on your arm. It was called *The Holocaust*, when millions of people perished just because of their faith."

The little girl pulls her feet up onto the bench and hugs her knees, very saddened by his words. She ponders them. Then she asks the old man: "So you kept it to remind yourself about the dangers of political extremism?"

"No, my Dear" he gently explains, "To remind you."

Over 60 years have passed since more than six million Jews, almost 2 million non-Jewish Poles, over 200,000 Gypsies, over 200,000 disabled

persons, over 80,000 Freemasons, some 100,000 Communists, between 10 and 25 thousand homosexual men, between 2.5 and 5 thousand Jehovah's Witnesses, and many others were murdered, massacred, raped, burned, starved and humiliated while others in their own countries looked the other way! [Source: Wikipedia, "Holocaust"] The hatred that motivated their tormentors has not disappeared. It still exists, in many groups and in millions of individuals around the globe. It is often taught to small children in their schools and religious gatherings. It is fomented by adults, frequently in the name of their chosen deity.

It has wisely been said that those who refuse to study history are doomed to repeat it. Yet many refuse to admit that the Holocaust ever existed and others rabidly seek to carry out their religion's version of holy war against all those of other faiths and of no faith. Hatred, prejudice, and fascism never die. They always mutate into new forms and remain as deadly as ever.

April 15 is Holocaust Remembrance Day.

In this age when so many walk around in public with disgusting or meaningless piercings and tattoos, it is sobering to remember that there are those among us still who, through no choice of their own, wear extremely meaningful markings on their skin, placed there decades ago by some of the most evil people this earth has ever seen. Those tattoos are not disgusting, but honorable; not meaningless, but fraught with meaning. In order that such atrocities happen *never again*, we must *never forget!* Please, don't let April 15 pass without pausing to remember.

[With thanks to Gay Finkelman for reminding me of Wiley's cartoon.]

Dr. Robert P. Tucker

### **Note:**

*The photos on the following pages were taken at the annual picnic. The picnic was just one of the many fund raising activities this year.*

*If you take photos of one our many activities and would like to share them with Beacon readers, contact the editor, Portia Westerfield.*

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know that for over six months Orrinna has been coming to the church twice a week to haul our garbage cans to the curb and then return later to restore them to their designated place? This work is a considerable benefit to the congregation, so please thank Orrinna when you see her.

## FINANCE MATTERS

Our yard sale was a big hit thanks to Blenda George and the many volunteers who helped. It is amazing what can be done when enough people volunteer their time to make it happen. Thank you to everyone who donated and/or bought items, and especially to those who sorted, priced, cashiered, packed up and cleaned. Whew!

We will have the very important task of voting on our Budget for the next fiscal year, at the annual meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope you will help to make this a reality by increasing your pledge. With all of us working, caring and supporting UUCL, together we can continue to make it a Beloved Community to be proud of.

Linda Walters

## SERVICE PROVIDERS

Almost everyone's really good at something. Some of our constituents have expressed a desire to know who in our congregation offers services. Others want to publicize their services, reasonably priced, to the rest of the congregation. Service categories might include garden work, sewing / alterations, house-painting, chauffeuring, piano-tuning, chimney-sweeping, you name it.

If you provide a service of any kind and would like to have your name and service published to UUCL members and friends, please send the following information to Lee Myers at [uucsec@hotmail.com](mailto:uucsec@hotmail.com):

Your name \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Service you offer \_\_\_\_\_  
Your phone number/s \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

## CUUPS PROGRAMS

- April 1 No CUUPS** – UUCL Annual Meeting: If you are a UUCL member it is critical that you attend this meeting so we can achieve a quorum.
- April 8 Third Annual CUUPS Passover Seder** – A non-traditional but respectful and exceptionally relevant Seder (readings, ritualistic activities and a feast) compiled and written by former UUCL and CUUPS member, Gor Rivenshield. The purpose is to gather as an intergenerational extended family to remember the importance of freedom and the continuing struggles for it. Chalice Moon will be standing in for Gor this year unless another more chosen one volunteers. We will have a pot luck meal as part of the festivities. Traditional Passover foods and wine are welcome but not required. (Non-alcoholic alternatives will also be available).
- April 15 "Drum and Rhythm Circle"** – led by Linda Walters. You don't have to drum: dance, chant, play another rhythm instrument or just soak up all the great vibes! This is a family friendly opportunity to release all that negative energy and generate a lot of the positive kind! Finger food potluck after.
- April 22 Earth Day** – Theresa Lutz will lead us in a celebration of "Mother's Day for Mother Earth". It will include celebration as well as discussion of what we can do to help "Mom"! This will include an adaptation of Theresa's Adult Discussion Group presentation "Serving the Land". Finger Food potluck after.
- April 29 Creating Our Circle: Part Four "East – With the Dawn Comes a New Beginning."** Using our readings from "Paganism" by Higgenbotham and discussions from the first three workshops, we will attempt to describe where as individuals we are in our own spiritual journeys. Our discussions will also include how we feel our group, as a Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, would best support, enrich and enhance our experiences and personal growth. Lead by Chalice Moon. Finger food potluck after.

All activities start at 4pm. For further information contact Theresa Lutz (863-605-3815 or [tericay@juno.com](mailto:tericay@juno.com))



## FUNDRAISING REPORT

The almost-final figures are in for the year. We will realize a little more money from both the Auction and the Unicorn Market, but as of now, here's what we have raised: from Picnic Games, \$134; Unicorn Market, \$669; Auction, \$6,412.85; and Rummage Sale \$1,273.70 for a **Total of \$8,489.55**. Not bad, eh?

Mary Grove has volunteered to keep the Unicorn Market running through the summer, so you all may continue donating white-elephant items, including books and the latest issues of magazines as you finish reading them.

Through the Rummage Sale, we acquired two microwave ovens and a small bookshelf ideal for paperbacks. Has anyone a slightly larger bookshelf to donate that would accommodate larger hardbacks and stacked magazines?

Right now there are no plans for next year's fundraising. I was glad to chair all the fundraising this year but that is way too much work for one person for more than one year. It's important that the fundraising committee consist of dedicated members who can commit to planning and executing all the fundraising endeavors scheduled for the year. I would be willing to coordinate, facilitate or chair such a group. But others must step forward to act as chair or co-chair of one event each. I personally would welcome new types of fundraising events, especially ones which could draw in money from outside our congregation. Any interest out there? Look for an upcoming email on this.

**A GREAT BIG THANKS** to our small, sort of rotating fundraising committee: Teddy Weihe, Portia Westerfield, Mary Grove, Alysia and Tom Evans. Also **HUGE THANKS** to folks who managed large parts of the Auction as well as helping to plan it: Barbara and Don Wallace, Linda Walters, Sharon Becker. **SPECIAL THANKS** to Teddy Weihe for committing herself to every event and being a consistent support for me. Finally, thanks to everybody (nearly all the able congregation) who took on the numerous large and small jobs for each event, especially those who signed on in advance and then followed through. It's a big relief to know upfront that you'll have enough people to do the job. It's great when everybody realizes that fundraising is the duty of the entire congregation even though it may be a small group or individual who does the planning. It takes commitment and contributions from the entire congregation to make it succeed. So here's to **BIGGER AND BETTER YEARS AHEAD WITH EVERYONE INVOLVED!**

Blenda George

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Do you have a Unitarian Universalist shirt to wear? Part of growing a congregation should be for each person to be proud of their denomination and talk about it with whomever they are in contact. The RE Committee is designing a T-shirt with "What Lights Your Chalice?" on the front and our Seven Principles on the back. Our older youth can earn this T-shirt by reciting the Seven Principles. We plan to have enough of these shirts so anyone in the congregation can purchase one for \$20.00. (Only \$15.00 for those who can also state the Principles!) Look for these T-shirts in mid-April.

Everyone in RE is beginning to work on the musical, "T.H.E. Club – Try Helping the Environment" which will be performed on Sunday, May 6. This is an ambitious undertaking, but should also be a fun learning experience. If your children are not yet involved, bring them to Sunday School and we will find parts for them.

It was GREAT to hear The Mountain Quartet early in March. Instead of accepting the donation from the Program Committee, they gave the check back to our congregation for us to use to help send children to MountainCamp. Rebecca and Laura Baum looked forward to attending MountainCamp every summer for eleven years, then were involved in running the program as counselors. Rachel and Sara Dubendorff have been going to camp for six years. The Hedman family has attended Family Camp for the last two years. MountainCamp IS a wonderful, transforming experience that I wish every child would be able to experience. There is information about our camp on our bulletin board in the hallway, on their website at [www.mountaincenters.org](http://www.mountaincenters.org), or talk to someone who has been there. Take a look!

Diane Baum



## FORUMS

### April 4 Movie and Discussion: "This Movie is Not Yet Rated"

Kirby Dick's film is an investigative documentary at its best. When the MPAA denied his team access to the inner workings of the film ratings board, he hired a private investigator to uncover their process and their identities, in a humorous sleuth-style quest. Between raw interviews with filmmakers whose work has been unfairly rated and a bold expose' of the MPAA's ratings system, it's no wonder that this film is still not yet rated.

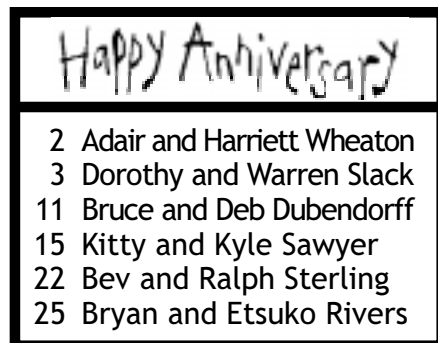
### April 11 Movie and Discussion: "Vera Drake"

Vera Drake is a devoted wife and mother in 1950s England. Unbeknownst to her family, Vera secretly helps women terminate unwanted pregnancies. When she is arrested, her entire world unravels, leading to a very dramatic, emotional conclusion.

### April 18 Movie and Discussion: "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil"

After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1990, Cuba underwent the loss of over half its oil supplies. Cuba survived what they call "The Special Period" by transitioning from large farms or plantations relying on fossil-fuel-based pesticides and fertilizers to small organic farms and urban gardens. Cuba was slowly moving from a highly industrial society to a sustainable one. Rather than focus on politics, this film depicts the Cuban people and their triumph over crises through cooperation and hope.

### April 25 No Forum



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## PROPOSED COVENANT COMPLETED

The Committee on Congregational Relations has worked out a proposed covenant based on your suggestions and voting on the social hall wall in March. The committee eliminated those items that had zero or few votes, combined all items that seemed to say the same things, and then identified the major themes that represented the largest number of votes. Those items were then worked into briefer sentences that captured the essence of the theme. For all this work, the committee was joined by board-appointed youth representative, Sarah Dubendorff.

The resultant proposal will appear in your annual meeting packet, as follows:

We the people of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lakeland, in our effort to promote the true spirit of our guiding principles, hereby commit our lives and resources with the following covenant:

1. *I will, with patience and understanding, treat all others with kindness and respect.*
2. *I will be sensitive to the needs of others, treat them with civility, and honor their confidentiality.*
3. *I will promote a harmonious spirit and a truly welcoming congregation by my personal caring and positive attitude.*
4. *I will promote democracy by speaking with candor, respecting the right to dissent, seeking consensus, and honoring the will of the majority.*
5. *I will seek to possess an open mind and a respect for views different from my own.*
6. *I will support our congregation by volunteering my time and fulfilling my commitments.*


Charlene Bennett for the Committee on Congregational Relations



# April 2007 Calendar

(SH) = Social Hall  
(CR) = Cry Room  
(SA) = Sanctuary  
(RE1) Large RE Room

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lakeland

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p>10:00 ADG (SH)<br/>11:00 "Spreading Our Good News"<br/>— Dr. Robert P. Tucker<br/>11:15 RE<br/>Noon Light Lunch followed by the<br/><b>ANNUAL MEETING</b><br/>4:00 NO CUUPS</p>              | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>8:00 PM<br/>A.A. Meeting (SH)</p>  | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>6:00 PM<br/>Girl Scouts</p>  | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Forum (SH)<br/>Movie and Discussion:<br/>"This Movie is Not Yet<br/>Rated"</p>  | <p><b>5</b></p>   | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>11:00 AM<br/>Home Schoolers (SH)</p>                               | <p><b>7</b></p>   |
| <p><b>8</b></p> <p>10:00 ADG (SH)<br/>11:00 "Immortality" — Dr. Tucker<br/>11:15 RE<br/>Noon POT LUCK!<br/>4:00 CUUPS<br/>6:30 OWL</p>  | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:15 PM<br/>Humanist Dinner<br/>Super Buffet<br/>Grove Park Mall<br/>8:00 PM<br/>A.A. Meeting (SH)</p>     | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>6:00 PM<br/>Girl Scouts</p>   | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Forum (SH)<br/>Movie and Discussion:<br/>"Vera Drake"</p>  | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>7:00 PM<br/>Society for Creative<br/>Anachronism (SH)</p> | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>11:00 AM<br/>Home Schoolers (SH)</p>                              | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>1:00 PM<br/>Genealogy Group (SH)<br/>8:00 PM YRUU Youth</p>     |
| <p><b>15</b></p> <p>10:00 ADG (SH)<br/>11:00 "We Must Not Be Silent!"<br/>— Dr. Tucker<br/>11:15 RE<br/>Noon Snacks/Socializing on the Patio<br/>12:15 Board Meeting<br/>4:00 CUUPS<br/>6:30 OWL</p>            | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:00 AM<br/>Women's Breakfast<br/>Group (and Men)<br/>Fred's Market<br/>8:00 PM<br/>A.A. Meeting (SH)</p> | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>6:00 PM<br/>Girl Scouts<br/>7:00 PM<br/>HAWCF<br/>General Meeting</p> | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Forum (SH)<br/>Movie and Discussion:<br/>"The Power of Com-<br/>munity: How Cuba<br/>Survived Peak Oil"</p>  | <p><b>19</b></p>  | <p><b>20</b><br/><i>Beacon<br/>Deadline!</i><br/>11:00 AM<br/>Home Schoolers (SH)</p> | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Noon<br/>Concerned United<br/>Birthparents (SH)</p>             |
| <p><b>22</b></p> <p>10:00 ADG (SH)<br/>11:00 "Respecting the Web of<br/>Existence" — Dr. Tucker<br/>11:15 RE<br/>Noon Snacks/Socializing on the Patio<br/>12:30 Council Meeting<br/>4:00 CUUPS</p>              | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>8:00 PM<br/>A.A. Meeting (SH)</p>   | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:00 PM<br/>Girl Scouts</p>   | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>7:00 PM — No Forum</p>   | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>4:00-5:30 PM<br/>Compassion &amp; Choices</p>             | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>11:00 AM<br/>Home Schoolers (SH)</p>                              | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:00 AM - 6:00 PM<br/>Experiential Art<br/>Workshop (SH-RE)</p> |
| <p><b>29</b></p> <p>8:30 New Member<br/>Orientation Breakfast (SH)<br/>10:00 ADG (SH)<br/>11:00 "Believing in Others" —<br/>Dr. Tucker<br/>11:15 RE<br/>Noon Snacks/Socializing on the Patio<br/>4:00 CUUPS</p> | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>8:00 PM<br/>A.A. Meeting (SH)</p>   |        | <p><b>ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP</b></p> <p>April 1 "Socrates Cafe". Pick up a cup of coffee on the way in, and bring an idea for discussion. The assembled group will vote for one to be discussed.</p> <p>April 8 "The words liberal and conservative may be the most abused words in America today." General group discussion</p> <p>April 15 "Universal Single Payer Health Care". Discussion leaders: Carl Reed and Dr. Ed Lamm.</p> <p>April 22 "Our UU Seven Principles: More Than Just Platitudes". Discussion leader: Alysia Reppeto-Evans</p> <p>April 29 "What are the duties and obligations of American citizenship?" General group discussion.</p> |   |   |   |

Florida District UUA Annual Assembly  
UU of Clearwater congregation