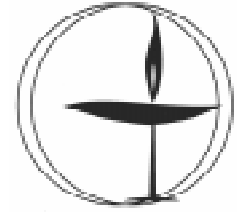


The Beacon

Newsletter
of the
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation
of Lakeland



Volume 28, No. 11

Published Monthly

May 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
3140 Troy Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803
Phone: 863-646-3715
www.uuc.lakeland.fl.uua.org
e-mail
UUCLakelandFL@aol.com

UUCL SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

- MAY 6 RE performance of "T.H.E. Club", a musical.
- 13 "The 5th Commandment" – On this Mother's Day, Dr. Robert P. Tucker will use a story to explore the meaning of the Bible's 5th Commandment.
- 20 "The Lesson of Peter" – In response to a recent Requested Sermon Topic, Dr. Tucker will hold up the example of Peter as someone who, like each of us, deeply needed and (in his case) received forgiveness.
- 27 "The Truth Will Set Us Free" – On this Memorial Day Weekend, unable to forget false claims about WMDs and Saddam Hussein's alleged guilt for 9/11, all of which got us into a war that has killed and crippled thousands of our military personnel, Dr. Tucker will honor them by reminding us of the truths for which they have sacrificed so much.

MEMBERSHIP ITEM: 2007 Membership Directories are currently in preparation and will be available at UUCL in mid-May. For questions or corrections, contact Carol Hull at jonstabri@aol.com.

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 A.M. until noon

Appointments only
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 1 P.M. until 5 P.M.

For Emergency Home: 682-2636
(Call anytime) Office: 646-3715

THE BEACON

Published Monthly by the Unitarian
Universalist Congregation of Lakeland

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NEW! “Splinters From The Board” —Read on....

At the April board meeting it was decided to replace the roof in the Social Hall, using money available in the roof fund. Heavy rains during the last few weeks have caused considerable leakage, and some wood may also have to be replaced due to mold and/or rotting. The roof over the RE Building is also in bad shape. Alysia Reppeto-Evans has received bids for replacement of all roofs, but the Board will need to figure out a way to pay for this. The repair to the RE porch and railing is already funded and will take place starting June 2.

An ad hoc Procedural Review Committee was appointed consisting of volunteers Alysia Reppeto-Evans, Theresa Lutz, Ron Nickolas, Blenda George and Robert Phillips. This Committee is responsible for eliciting signed comments from UUCL members regarding concerns they may have about the structure and operation of the congregation. The Committee will also evaluate mechanisms to ensure that all voices are heard on matters of personal concern. This Committee’s findings will be reported to the Board by the September 2007 Board meeting.

(We hope to present “Splinters....” ongoing as a monthly feature in the BEACON..)

Treasurer’s Report

As of March 31, 2007

	MARCH	YEAR-TO-DATE
Income:	\$ 10,659	\$ 82,970
Expenses:	<u>9,219</u>	<u>77,627</u>
Totals:	\$ 1,439	\$ 5,343
Restricted Funds in Reserve:		\$56,530
Operating Funds		\$14,720

As of March 31, 2007, we are 75% through the Fiscal Year and we are operating within the approved budget.

Joyce Bode, Treasurer

A Message From The President

We do live in interesting times, don’t we? At the last Board meeting, fourteen guests attended, and several voiced their heartfelt concerns and opinions about life in our congregation. The Town Meeting on May 13 will provide an excellent opportunity for YOU to speak YOUR MIND and to hear what other people have to say. After all, if the Board isn’t informed about people’s concerns, the Board cannot address problems at all.

Since May 13 is a potluck Sunday, everyone is asked to bring finger foods (sandwiches, cheese cubes, celery sticks, cookies, etc.) so that both eating and cleanup will be easy and we can begin at 12:30 and conclude by 2:00 p.m.

It’s again time to staff committees for the next church year which begins July 1. People are needed to chair and work on the following committees:

- Sanctuary
- Denominational Affairs
- Membership
- Social Concerns
- Fundraisers

In addition, the Board is critically in need of a Recording Secretary.

A church our size has as many tasks to accomplish as a congregation three times as large. So YOU are NEEDED. Please phone me at 859-6807 or email me at zphrn@verizon.net to volunteer and/or to ask questions about the various committees.

Blessed be!

Elaine

REMINDER: All meetings and events are to be scheduled through the Office Secretary, Lee Myers, for he is the official keeper of The Calendar. Contact him at 863-646-3715 or uucsec@hotmail.com.

To publish information about the content of meetings/events, contact the Beacon Editor, Portia Westerfield at 863-425-3968 or portiap@verizon.net.

FROM THE MINISTER

The Age of Darwin?

On April 15, *New York Times* columnist David Brooks published an essay that spoke about our new *zeitgeist*. It was a refreshing change from what we so often hear from the Religious Right.

He described “a musty old museum devoted to human progress,” the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem, with its old-fashioned display cases, ancient pottery shards and oil lamps. One’s tour begins by seeing stone tools of early humans. Then, room by room, one goes through the invention of agriculture and cities until one ends with statues and reliquaries of the medieval era.

“What you’re really looking at,” he wrote, “is a philosophy of history. The museum was set up in 1938, when scholars still spoke confidently of mankind’s upward march from primitive culture to higher civilization. History is portrayed here as a great, unified story, with crucial pivot moments when humanity leapt forward—when people first buried their dead, when they moved from animistic faiths to polytheism, when they learned to cultivate reason and philosophy.”

Noting that “these days, historians hate those kinds of unifying grand narratives, and the idea that history is a march of progress,” Brooks nevertheless confessed a love for the Rockefeller Museum. “It rekindled the University of Chicago flame that lingers in every graduate’s soul and got me thinking all sorts of Big Thoughts. I also had the sensation—which I used to get during those sweeping old Western Civ courses—of seeing my own time from the outside, from the vantage point of some ancient spot. And it occurred to me that while we postmoderns say we detest all-explaining narratives, in fact a newish grand narrative has crept upon us willy-nilly and is now all around. Once the Bible shaped all conversation, then Marx, then Freud, but today Darwin is everywhere.”

“Scarcely a month goes by when *Time* or *Newsweek* doesn’t have a cover article on how our genes shape everything from our exercise habits to our moods. Science sections are filled with articles on how brain structure influences things like lust and learning. Neuroscientists debate the existence of God on the best-seller lists, while evolutionary theory reshapes psychology, dieting and literary criticism. Confident and exhilarated,

evolutionary theorists believe they have a universal framework to explain human behavior.”

Of the Creationists who reject evolution, he wrote: “They’re like the Greeks who still worshiped Athena while Plato and Aristotle practiced philosophy. The people who set the cultural tone today have coalesced around a shared understanding of humanity and its history... According to this view, human beings, like all other creatures, are machines for passing along genetic code. We are driven primarily by a desire to perpetuate ourselves and our species.” Evolution, he said, “explains why people vie for status, form groups, fall in love and cherish their young. It holds that most everything that exists does so for a purpose. If some trait, like emotion, can cause big problems, then it must also provide bigger benefits, because nature will not expend energy on things that don’t enhance the chance of survival.”

Evolution sees human beings as “jerry-built creatures, in which new, sophisticated faculties are piled on top of primitive earlier ones. Our genes were formed during the vast stretches when people were hunters and gatherers, and we are now only semi-adapted to the age of nuclear weapons and fast food. Furthermore, reason is not separate from emotion and the soul cannot be detached from the electrical and chemical pulses of the body. There isn’t even a single seat of authority in the brain. The mind emerges (somehow) from a complex light show of neural firings without a center or executive. We are tools of mental processes we are not even aware of.”

While the cosmologies of ancient societies looked up toward the transcendent, the evolutionary society is agnostically deistic. “God may exist and may have set the process in motion, but he’s not active... Individuals are predisposed not by innate sinfulness or virtue, but by the epigenetic rules encoded in their cells.”

Brooks concludes that “we’re not a postmodern society anymore. We have a grand narrative that explains behavior and gives shape to history. We have a central cosmology to embrace, argue with or unconsciously submit to.” For the sake of the world, I hope he’s right.

Dr. Robert P. Tucker

MAY FORUMS

This month, environmental impact, consumerism and the separation of church and state will all be examined in three provocative movies. Please join us! Next month, we hope to present a speaker as well as more eye-opening films.

2 No Forum

9 Movie and Discussion: **“Who Killed the Electric Car?”** This was among the fastest, most efficient production cars ever built. It ran on electricity, produced no emissions and catapulted American technology to the forefront of the automotive industry. The lucky few who drove it never wanted to give it up. So why did General Motors crush its fleet of EV1 electric vehicles in the Arizona desert? This movie chronicles the life and mysterious death of the GM EV1, examining its cultural and economic ripple effects and how they reverberated through the halls of government and big business.

16 No Forum

23 Movie and Discussion: **“Blue Vinyl”**

When director Judith Helfand’s parents install vinyl siding on their house, she sets out with filmmaking partner Daniel B. Gold to find out the truth about the toxic manufacture and corporate corruption behind a seemingly innocuous plastic product. From vinyl-sided homes in suburban Long Island, to hushed cancer outbreaks in Louisiana and Venice, Italy, this vibrant expose tracks vinyl’s shocking history with willful irony and a healthy dose of humor.

30 Movie and Discussion: **“Jesus Camp”**

A growing number of Evangelical Christians believe there is a revival under way in America that requires Christian youth to assume leadership roles in advocating the causes of their religious movement. In this fascinating, if some-what alarming, movie, children as young as six are schooled in “how to take back America for Christ.” This film was nominated for an Academy Award for best documentary feature.

CUUPS SCHEDULE FOR MAY

- 6 **Beltane** — Alysia Repetto-Evans will be leading us in a family friendly celebration of this ancient Pagan fertility festival. Join us for finger-food potluck and fellowship after.
- 13 **“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.
- 20 **Guided Meditation** (not for youth.) Watch for more details. Finger-food potluck.
- 27 Have a great holiday weekend, we’ll see you again in June!

Be A Chalice Lighter

A Chalice Lighter request arrived in the mail from the UUA Florida District recently and it reminded me that this program has not been publicized at the UUCL for a long time. This worthwhile endeavor provides a help fund for three purposes: (1) the startup of a new congregation in Florida, (2) Congregations seeking professional leadership (minister or director of education) for the first time, and (3) Congregations seeking to buy land or a building, or to build a new building.

A Chalice Lighter is a person who pledges to respond with a \$15.00 (or more) contribution whenever the call comes to light a chalice within the Florida District. A Chalice Lighter is not called more than three times in a fiscal year.

The Chalice Lighters program was set in motion in 1987. The first call was in March of 1989. During the nineties the program helped support the growth of over twenty congregations District-wide. Ministers were hired, buildings were built, and five fledgling congregations were given a push to get them started. During the 21st century, the District expects to encourage more UU growth in Florida. We at the UUCL can support that growth by becoming Chalice Lighters. Please pick up one of the brochures on the bulletin board near the brochure rack and join those of us who are already Chalice Lighters.

Ken Davis

*W*e 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.*

Y.R.U.U. Accomplishments

Since successfully hosting our first Con in February, YRUU has kept busy. In March, the youth participated in the congregation's Yard Sale by selling refreshments. Their efforts raised almost \$100, which the youth plan to donate toward repairing the Religious Education Building's railing.

That same evening, March 17, five youths participated in an all-night "lock-in" to create artwork on the Seven Principles for the Social Hall. Our thanks to Lisa Erdman, who worked with the youth on their projects. The artwork will be hung at an April 29 reception.

On April 14, Tom Evans organized a teen dance, which our YRUU youth staffed. Although attendance was not what we had hoped, we raised almost \$40.00 on concessions and cover charges, which will go toward a charity project yet to be named.

On the first weekend in May, our youth will attend a Con in Tampa. Plans for the summer are not yet finalized, but we hope to continue working toward our goal of hosting more fundraisers and Conferences.

Rafi Ellis and Ron Nickolas
YRUU Co-Advisors

MISSION STATEMENT

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF LAKELAND

- To help those seeking to develop their own theology by providing exposure to world religions, philosophy, modern Biblical scholarship and psychological theories.
- To provide support and community to those of liberal faith
- To encourage living by the Unitarian Universalist principles, including their application to interpersonal relations, community activities, and government.
- To support families in raising ethical, compassionate and happy children, using an understanding of Unitarian Universalist principles, world religions and philosophy.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The RE Department is working hard on the musical “T.H.E. Club - Try Helping the Environment” which will be performed Sunday, May 6. Hope you will be there!

What do YOU want to happen in Religious Education next year?

Thursday, May 10, at 7 pm, the RE Committee meeting will be talking about next year. We would love to have your ideas to consider. We’re also looking for volunteers to commit to being in charge of the children for a Sunday this summer. We want to have ‘stand alone’ programs for whoever does show up on Sunday, but the children are also welcome to stay in the services. That decision can be left to the parents.

What do you think of our Principles T-shirt? Our RE students can ‘earn’ their T-shirts by reciting the Seven Principles. If you can recite the Principles, you get a \$5.00 discount on purchasing one - it will only cost \$15.00 instead of \$20.00. All profits will be spent on our students. Let’s wear our T-shirts with pride!

NOTICE!!—SPRING CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE DAY—NOTICE!!

As we’re all aware, our poor little buildings seriously need TLC. The Building Committee is looking for people to clean out closets, organize church property, make minor repairs, paint, plus attack the big job of repairing the RE Building porch and railing.

Our Spring Cleaning and Maintenance Day will be **Saturday, June 2.**

We will begin at 8:00am. Those of you who aren’t early risers, please feel free to join us at any point during the day. You’ll be very welcome.

Don’t think you have no skills to offer. While searching for building and cleaning supplies, I’ve found stuff stashed in every nook and cranny! I’m sure there are many misplaced and lost treasures within our church. Anyone with some discernment as to what might be valuable church (or somebody’s) property is encouraged to come. We also need volunteers to help Jean Lord prepare a lunch for the workers.

See you then, and thank you! Alysia

“Keep the Home Fires Burning”



May 1	Sandra Gompf
3	Elena Phillips
5	Betsy Garland
7	Dorothy Neitzke
8	Sebastian Ray
8	Ryan Trevillyan
9	Stella Darby
15	Marie Logue
16	Mike Mitchel
18	Matthew Ernst
18	Kerensa Trevillyan
20	R.Chase Razabdouski
22	Bert Henry
23	Steve Eskenazi
23	Jack Varty
28	Jennifer Trevillyan
29	Elise Richardson

Happy Anniversary

May 9	Barbara & Brad Kelley
9	Barbara & Don Wallace
27	Robert & Roberta Tucker

IMPORTANT TOWN MEETING SUNDAY MAY 13. BE THERE!

“What is the most urgent issue for us to address in the coming year?” President Elaine Lehmann asked the board at its April meeting. Board members voted to canvass the congregation for input. So, each of us is urged to identify one issue most important to him/her and to express it at this May 13 Town Meeting in the Sanctuary. Please come, share your views and hear the views of others.



May 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

IMPORTANT!

**SUNDAY MAY 13
TOWN MEETING
BE THERE!**



1

6:00 PM PEACE (SH)
6:00 PM Social Concerns
Committee (SH)
6:00 PM-8:00 PM
RE Rehearsal (SA)
7:00 PM NO Forum

2

3

4

5

All-Age-CON (Tampa)

11:00 AM
Home Schoolers (SH)

10:00 ADG (SH)
10:00 Choir Practice (SA)
11:00 The RE Department will
present the musical
"T.H.E. Club"
11:15 RE Children/Youth
Noon Snacks/Socializing on the Patio
4:00 CUUPS Beltane

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

6:00-7:30 PM
Girl Scouts (SA)
"Bridging Ceremony"

5:30 PM COCR (SH)
7:00 PM Forum (SA)
"Who Killed the Electric
Car?"

7:00 PM
RE Committee (RE 1)
7:00 PM
Society for Creative
Anachronism (SH)

11:00 AM
Home Schoolers (SH)
7:00 PM RE Cast Party

1:00 PM
Genealogy Group (SH)

10:00 ADG (SH)
10:00 Choir Practice (SA)
11:00 Dr. Robert P. Tucker —
"The 5th Commandment"
11:15 RE Children/Youth
Noon POT LUCK!
12:30 Town Meeting (SA)
4:00 CUUPS "Drum and
Rhythm Circle"

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

6:15 PM
Humanist Dinner

8:00 PM
A.A. Meeting (SH)

7:00 PM NO Forum

11:00 AM
Home Schoolers (SH)

Noon
Concerned United
Birth Parents (SH)

10:00 ADG (SH)
10:00 Choir Practice (SA)
11:00 Dr. Tucker —
"The Lesson of Peter"
11:15 RE Children/Youth
Noon Snacks/Socializing on the Patio
12:15 Board Meeting
4:00 CUUPS "Guided Meditation"

20

21

22

23

24

25

28

9:00 AM
Women's Breakfast
Group (and Men)
Fred's Market

8:00 PM
A.A. Meeting (SH)

7:00 PM HAWCF (SH)
General Meeting

7:00 PM Forum (SA)
"Blue Vinyl"

11:00 AM
Home Schoolers (SH)

10:00 ADG (SH)
10:00 Choir Practice (SA)
11:00 Dr. Tucker — "The Truth
Will Set Us Free"
11:15 RE Children/Youth
Noon Snacks/Socializing on the Patio
12:30 Council Meeting

27

28

29

30

31

June 2

Beacon Deadline

8:00 PM
A.A. Meeting (SH)

7:00 PM Forum (SA)
"Jesus Camp"

8:00 am

Spring Cleaning

CONGREGATION DIRECTORY

MINISTER

Dr. Robert P. Tucker UUCLakelandFL@aol.com
Office 863-646-3715, Home 863-682-2636

Office Hours

Walk-in/Drop-by/Appointment
Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 9 AM until noon

Appointments Only
Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 1 PM until 5:00 PM

Emergency: Call anytime

Congregational Office Secretary

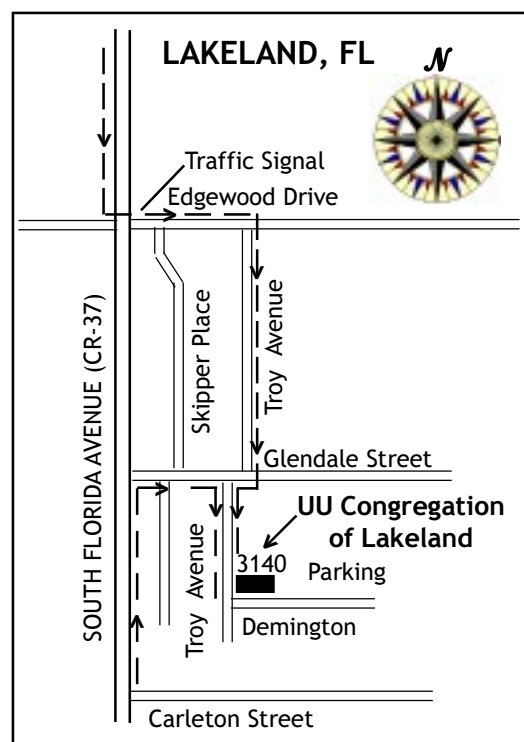
Lee Myers UUCLsec@hotmail.com 863-646-3715

Pianist/Choir Director

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Religious Education Coordinator

Diane Baum rbaum@gte.net 863-686-8820



OFFICERS

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President-Elect	Elaine Lehmann	same as above	
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Recording Secretary	Whit Weihe	wweihe@aol.com	863-868-3337
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CONGREGATION COMMITTEES

NOTE: To dial Plant City, (813). DO NOT Dial 1 – just dial area code and the number.

MINISTERIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Congregational Representative	Enid Uhrich	enidfla@aol.com	813-634-7564
Alternate	Zita Stanley		863-646-4739
Board Representative (Chair)	Shawn Hedman	shed man @flsouthern.edu	863-688-0990
Minister's Representative	Ken Davis	UUKED@aol.com	863-815-7051

The **Ministerial Relations Committee** meets with the minister quarterly to discuss questions or concerns having to do with the minister. If you have a question or concern which you cannot discuss with the minister directly, please contact and discuss the matter with your Congregational Representative, Enid Uhrich or, alternatively, any member of the Committee.

Beacon Newsletter	Portia Westerfield	portiap@verizon.net	863-425-3968
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