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THE FRIENDSHIP FLYER

Volume 25 Number 6

Our mission is to promote living with love and reason

June 2017

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT	SERVICE LEADER	GREETER	TOUCH OF BEAUTY	HOSPITALITY HOST
June 4	Rev. Katy Korb	The Truth of the Matter	Nancy Shacklette	Catherine George	Marcia Berry	Irene McDonald
June 11	Rev. Tracie Barrett-Wesler	Applying Our Principles	Sue Holland	Pat and Dennis Tebbe	Betty Allison	Bill Scott
June 18	Dr. Tucker	A Fathers Letter	Allen Claxton	Donna Klamm	Rosemary Stroda	Birthday Cake: Kathy Lees
June 25	Rev. Bob MacDonald	Saved by Doubt	Megan Foster	Kitty Linton	Kitty Linton	Alex Terseck

FRIENDSHIP FLYER – JULY 2017 A letter from person – Laura Petruska



It's 5:00 in the morning in Florida. This is the morning. The sun is just lighting up the horizon and the birds are coming out of shadow. Jasmine scent floats through the air while gardenias also release their scent blending in the air to form a perfume impossible for mankind to create. Birds are starting their day by delighting in the rising sun and sleepy folded plants are relaxing in the sun's warmth. This is the hour of rejuvenation for me; this is my time. For the stresses of the day, for phone calls and E-mails and running a 95+ Fellowship with 95+ demands, opinions, and requests this is my time. This is the time for me to meditate, luxuriate and contemplate my day; to remember how grateful I am and how I am looking forward to the day ahead; to appreciate where I live and who I know. For those of you who have taken a turn at Chairman of the CLC you know whence I speak. For those of you who shy away from leadership roles, I implore you to get involved. You need never be a leader; we need workers. Can you cook? ... call the Caring Committee; can you plan events (i.e. did you ever throw a birthday for your kid – an office party?)... call Events; are you friendly with an open smile and a gift to make people feel comfortable? ... call Membership; do you have any geeky technical skills? Call technology; are you a home decorator? ... call Interior Aesthetics; a gardener? ... call Exterior Aesthetics ... haven't a clue as to where to look? ... Jessica will welcome you in hospitality! Look around, see where you are needed, what fits with your skill set and interests and level of involvement and what you want out of our Fellowship and volunteer. Are you still hesitant? Find me on Sunday and I'll hook you up with the right people. You will be welcomed! I periodically hear or see people who wait around asking to join but that doesn't always happen. Reach out, and trust that when you do you will be well received and welcomed. We are certainly the friendliest place around ... that is the one comment that seems to be ubiquitous in rating our Fellowship.

As we go into another year of being

continued at the bottom of the next column



June's Charity is Aging Matters-Serving Matters of Aging since 1965

Protecting our most valuable assets, our seniors, Aging Matters sponsors a number of programs. For example, Meals on Wheels, The Sunflower House, Seniors at Lunch Volunteer Program. Senior Transportation and Home and Community-based Services to name just a few services offered by Aging Matters. Your donations go a long way—and in many ways—serve our senior community.

Donation envelopes will be in the Order of Service on Sunday, June 11.

As we go into another year of being a united nation of American states remember that it is we the people who make a difference. Are you politically active? Can you write letters? Can you show up at meetings? Make your voice heard and make a difference. Our principles include: "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process" and "The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all." Take this with you all year.

Thank you to all our hard workers (leaders and work-a-bees) who make this Fellowship run like a top and continue to reach out to the community and world. We are a fine group and I'm proud to call myself a Unitarian Universalist.

Welcome to Friendship fellowship where you are a guest once, friend the next time and family by your third visit. Welcome.




June!

Kids enjoy it, landscapers make money from it . . . And the poet, James Russell Lowell immortalized it. A sample:

AND WHAT IS SO RARE AS A DAY IN JUNE? THEN, IF EVER, COME PERFECT DAYS; THEN HEAVEN TRIES EARTH IF IT BE IN TUNE, AND OVER IT SOFTLY HER WARM EAR LAYS; WHETHER WE LOOK, OR WHETHER WE LISTEN, WE HEAR LIFE MURMUR, OR SEE IT GLISTEN.

June 2017

Comings, goings, and doings for FF@P

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Women's Friendship Circle: 10:30 AM Coffee House	2	3
4 Sun Svc 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House— Current Events CLC Mtg: Friendship Hall, 12:30 PM	5	6 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	7	8	9	10
11 Sun Svc 10:30 AM Ministerial Search Congregational Con- versation—After Coffee Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House— Current Events	12	13	14	15  Women's Book Club: 10:00 AM Coffee House	16	17 Memorial Service—Rev. Jack Higgins
18 Sun Svc 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House— Current Events	19	20 Daily Bread Volunteers meet Tuesday at Daily Bread 10:30 AM Choir Practice 7:00 pm	21 Short Story Workshop 7:00-8:30 pm Coffee House	22	23	24
25 Sun Svc 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House— Current Events Music On The Hill 4:00 PM	26	27	28 Short Story Workshop 7:00-8:30 pm Coffee House	29 	30 The Editor needs your July inputs by Sunday June 25 (Sooner is Better)	

**May 14, 2017—"Those Special Moments!"—
Reverend Robert P. Tucker**



On Mother's Day, our guest speaker, the Reverend Robert P. Tucker, minister emeritus of the Lakeland UU Congregation, recounted some special moments between mothers and their children, beginning with UU minister and author Robert Fulghum, who wrote that as a teenager one of the very few reasons he had any respect for his mother was that she would reach into the sink with her bare hands to pick up "that lethal gunk" and transfer it to the garbage. Once he even saw her reach into the wet garbage and fish around in it for a missing teaspoon. At thirteen, he found that to be a "kind of mad courage."

Although children are much busier today with organized activities than in the past, something that never changes is a child's natural instinct to play. Jean Harper tells the story of a trip to Paris with her four-year-old son. While shopping in an elegant department store, they were drawn to a musician playing a grand piano and sat on a nearby bench to listen. When her son stood, put his hands on her face, and said, "Dance with me," she did, and although shoppers around them chuckled and pointed, she wrote that she would not have traded that dance for anything in the universe.

For children, nothing elaborate is needed. Tucker recalled the walks that his wife used to take with their daughter Erin when she was a preschooler, pulling her in a little red wagon to the local donut shop and back. Every bounce from a crack in the sidewalk, every rock or twig along the way, every street crossing, was an adventure. Another mother, Janet Meyer, recalled her three-year-old daughter, while helping her in the kitchen one night, telling her, "Mom, if you were a kid, we'd be friends." Another mother, who had lost her hair from radiation for cancer, was comforted by her six-year-old son telling her, "Different hair, same old heart."

Cindy Ladage, a working mother, wrote about the tricky balance of finding time to play with her daughter Darla. After a busy day of work and child care, she was tucking her seven-year-old into bed when Darla exclaimed, "Mom, I forgot to give you something." Exhausted, she told Darla it could wait until morning, told her goodnight, and closed the door. A little while later, when she went to check on Darla, she found her asleep, with torn pieces of red paper in her hand. Gently removing them, Cindy pieced them together to find a heart containing a poem Darla had written:

Why I Love My Mother

Although you're busy and you work so hard

You always take time to play

I love you Mommy because

I am the biggest part of your busy day!

With tearful eyes, Cindy went to the kitchen, made two cups of hot chocolate and two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and took them to Darla's bedroom. Waking up her daughter, she told her this was because, "You are the most important part of my day."

As children grow into teenagers, these special moments can still occur. Shari Cohen writes about taking her two teenagers to a family Seder dinner. Her son wore baggy pants, orange hair and earrings and her daughter had a nose ring, a fake tattoo, and three-inch nails. She was nervous about the reaction of other family members, but the teens participated in the service, sang the holiday songs, helped their younger cousins with the readings, and even helped clear the table and pour coffee for their elders. In spite of their dress, they were carrying on family tradition, and she swelled with pride and love for them.

Another story, told by Frances Fowler, about a kite-flying moment with her family and the neighboring Patrick family, became a precious memory that both families talked about years later. Her brothers and the neighbor's sons had made kites and everyone, parents and children, had ended up going out to watch the kite-flying. Many years later, one of the Patrick boys, who had been a POW during WW II, brought up the story of the kites, saying that he had often thought of it during his days of captivity. Still later, upon the death of Mr. Patrick, when Frances was visiting his widow and feeling at a loss for words, Mrs. Patrick asked her, "Remember that day we flew the kites?"

On this Mother's Day, concluded Tucker, all of us should take the time to remember those special moments between mother and child.rr

Our Seventh Principle

in the landmark environmental law case, *Sierra Club v. Morton*, 405 U.S. 727 (1972), Justice Douglas argued that "inanimate objects" should have standing to sue in court:

The critical question of "standing" would be simplified and also put neatly in focus if we fashioned a federal rule that allowed environmental issues to be litigated before federal agencies or federal courts in the name of the inanimate object about to be despoiled, defaced, or invaded by roads and bulldozers and where injury is the subject of public outrage.

HOORAY FOR JUSTICE WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS!

THE CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION OF BREVARD, Inc.

Presents

MUSIC ON THE HILL (MOTH)

Moth will resume
in August



Welcome to monthly music concerts, performed by the most talented young artists in Brevard County, including: violinists, cellists, pianists, flautists, horn players, percussionists and vocalists . . . ranging from opera to Broadway to country. A fun event for all.

When: The Last Sunday of Every Month at 4:00 PM. Shows are generally 60 to 90 minutes in length.

Where: The Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 3115 Friendship Place, Rockledge, FL, 32955 . . . just off US Hwy 1, 2/10 of a mile North of Suntree Boulevard.

Cost: Free, but Donation (say . . . \$5) is requested per person.

Tickets: Pay at the door.

Dress: Casual.

The Creative Arts Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting exceptional artists throughout Brevard County who have needs for assistance.

Information: 321-254-3398 Visit Web site: www.CAFOB.org



GUESTS

We extended our Friendship Welcome to these guests . . . and we encourage them to return again and again!

Klaus Obermeit
Laura Zang
Maria Brandt
Robert Hogan
Ruth & Fred Hershenfeld
David Walker
Kara Skeberdis

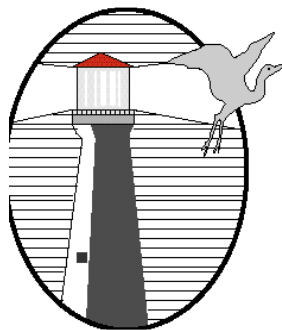
Sarasota, FL
Ann Arbor, MI

Satellite Beach, FL
Laurel, MD
Cape Canaveral, FL
Cedar Crest, NM



Happy Birthday

Jane Siren	Rosemary Stroda
Pat Knittle	Sid Sherman
Ed Breakell	Marcia Berry



THE FRIENDSHIP FLYER

is the monthly newsletter of
THE FRIENDSHIP FELLOWSHIP
AT PINEDA
A Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
District 62, Society #2923

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM
3115 Friendship Place, just off US Hwy 1

Sunday School
available for children at 10:30 AM

Editor John England — jengland@cfl.rr.com
Printing & Mailing Brad Baker

Find us on the web at www.uuspacecoast.org

CONSULTING MINISTER

The Reverend Beth Miller

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair	Laura Petruska
Vice Chair	Laura Kercelius
Treasurer	Donna Dalton
Secretary	Helen Bennett
Member	Sally Gourd
Member	Dave Dexheimer
Member	Pat Tebbe
Member	Rosemary Stroda

FOUR ATOMIC HUMANISTS

MIKE ARMENIA

SPEAKER ON MAY 21, 2017

Mike Armenia, member of FFP and retired engineer who completed thirty years in the US Naval Reserve and was a project manager for United Nuclear Corporation, talked about a safe type of nuclear energy (LFTR) that can't be used for weapons but can produce unlimited clean energy as well as consume all the accumulated weapons and nuclear waste that sits outside every major city in the USA.

Beginning with the Periodic Table of Elements, Armenia pointed out that of the 118 elements that make up our universe only 90 exist naturally on Earth. The other 28 exist in stars and should not now exist on Earth except that humans have created them in laboratories. The most famous of these re-creations is plutonium, which was manufactured for the Manhattan Project that led to the atomic bombs used in WWII. Another laboratory-made element, technetium, continues to be produced today for use in medicine, primarily for curing cancers.

The discovery of these two radioactive elements leads us to four atomic humanists who have continued working toward the peaceful use of nuclear energy. First is Dr. Alvin Weinberg, head of the Oak Ridge National Lab Manhattan Project, who went on to become the co-inventor of the Solid Fueled Uranium Pressurized Water Reactors used to produce materials for the two bombs that ended WWII. Like Einstein, Oppenheimer, and Bohr, he migrated to the US from Germany when the Nazis began politicizing academia in 1933. Weinberg invented several reactor types in the race to split the atom, including the Liquid Fluoride Thorium Reactor (LFTR), which he defended as being safer than the PWR. This contrary opinion led to his being fired, but he was not silenced. An ardent environmentalist, he predicted global warming back in the 1960s.

Thirty years later, atomic humanist # 2, Kirk Sorensen, an aerospace engineer working at NASA on energy sources for interplanetary exploration and colonization, looked at solar

energy but quickly discounted it for solving big energy needs. Then he discovered an out-of-print textbook on Fluid Fueled Reactors, which led him to Oak Ridge where these reactors had been built some 30 years earlier. Sorensen quit his Chief Nuclear Engineer job and set up his own company to build a LFTR. He had rediscovered a world-saving machine that used thorium—a super abundant, super safe, and super cheap fuel, to produce nuclear energy, but the US military-industrial complex did not want to upset the status quo. The technology was buried once again, except for a small group of Chinese students who discovered it on Sorensen's wiki site.

This leads us to atomic humanist # 3, Dr. Steven Chu, who served as US Secretary of Energy under the Obama administration from 2009-2013. A professor of physics and molecular and cellular biology at UC, Berkeley, and winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1997, he directed billions of taxpayer dollars into alternative energy research, including millions into a company called Solyndra. The company failed, however, for China had already cornered the world market on solar energy, and the press told only half the truth about solar. Chu resigned as Energy Secretary in 2013, but before resigning, he promised US assistance to build LFTR in China, a pledge some regard as traitorous, but Armenia sees it as a humanist move to help mankind.

Atomic humanist # 4 is Dr. James Hansen, another ex-NASA employee who headed up the Goddard Institute for Space Studies for 35 years. He has become an outspoken opponent of the fossil fuel industry and although he has solar panels on his own home, he has come out against relying on solar and wind power to solve our energy needs and has endorsed LFTR as the ONLY solution we have to solving climate-driven global chaos, sea rise, and biosphere collapse.

All four of these scientists have been outspoken proponents of nuclear power as the best force to eliminate global poverty and inequality while halting climate change. This form of nuclear power is nothing like what we have today. It cannot melt down or blow up and can

(Continued on following page)

MIKE ARMENIA, CONTINUED

not be used to produce weapons, but it can provide global energy needs cheaply and effectively.

Since his retirement, Armenia has been going into the back doors of Congress to help legislators write laws to get LFTR built in this country, and from a humanitarian point of view he hopes that the Chinese are successful in their efforts. As for what we can do to help, we can speak up on issues and encourage the younger generation to pursue STEM careers, we can encourage young people to learn Chinese, and we can elect more scientists to the US Congress. A handout provided further suggestions: (1) Debunk renewables, (2) Read about nuclear radiation, (3) Read the LFTR story, and (4) for engineers--Study the LFTR design being built in China. ...rr

FFP BOOK REVIEW

BEYOND THE CALL

UNIVERSE BOOKS

MARSHALL FRANK

Based on true events, this powerful novel traces the life of a wide-eyed rookie police officer who is assigned to trainers from the "old school" where use-of-force was a common practice. Following a long, arduous inner-city chase, a squad of officers finally catch the violator where they lose control of their senses and collectively beat the teenage boy to death.

The young rookie remains horribly conflicted throughout the story, until he finally comes to terms with what he must do, at great peril. The story brings out a romantic element between the rookie and an Internal Affairs investigator. The victim in this case is white.

In 1979, a man in Miami was similarly chased down by rogue cops, beaten to death, and then the police officers were later charged. I was in lead investigator on that case, which led to acquittals, and then, the deadly Miami riots of 1980.



MARCIA BERRY, THE NEW PRO-TEM EDITOR OF OUR FRIENDSHIP FLYER

Due to John England's extended illness, Marcia is holding the Editorial chair. Nancy Shacklette and Kathy Lees are helping out with various editorial chores as well.

Ruth Rodgers continues exercising her considerable reportorial skills reviewing our Sunday speakers words (Look for her RR at the bottom of each review.) She is also doing double duty, as John has done some of the reviewing in the past.

Other contributors to this issue include CLC president Laura Petruska, Bobbie Keith, with the articles about Aging. Ruth sent us information about her short story class and Marshall Frank contributed a review of one of his books. Jackie Higgins supplied the information for Rev Jack Higgins' memorial obituary, and Loretta Winston, Allen Claxton, and Harriet Claxton gave us the information for Jim Winston's memorial. Thank you all.

IN MEMORIUM

JAMES (BUD) WINSTON

James (Bud) Winston was born on a farm in Port Allegany, Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife, Loretta, three sons, David, James Junior, and Jerry, 8 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. His daughter, Sandra Kay, predeceased him. He worked for 36 years at the Pennsylvania Railroad as a train dispatcher. He enjoyed photography, woodworking, and playing golf. He died at the age of 85 on May 6, 2017.

FFP NEEDS YOU!

We are not simply go-to-church-on-Sunday members. We need other UUs who share our principles to give us strength, to give us a hand. Our Friendship, our Fellowship does that for us. *You* do that for us.



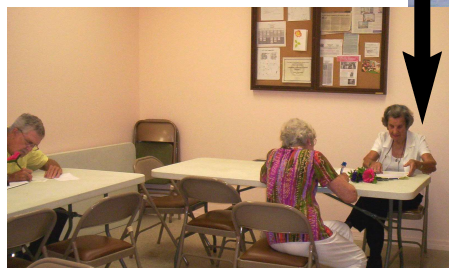
And right now, your UU family needs your help in a very tangible way.

What if, some Sunday, the cupboard was bare? There was only one cookie, and then there were none?

What happens if there are no worker

bees in the kitchen, making coffee, providing refreshments, and -- very importantly -- putting dishes into the dishwasher? What happens if nobody steps up to the plate to make our friendly Sunday Service and our happy hour take place? What happens to our warm and friendly Friendship?

So please volunteer to help



out with coffee hour. Help clean up the kitchen. You can do it; you're special; you're an FFP UU!

Thank you to our UU Models: Jan Siren (one cookie); Betty Allison, Sally Gourd, & Avenell and Jim Taulbee (kitchen); Jane Siren, Kitty Linton, Sue Holland, Barabara Kurtz, & UU Guest (coffee drinkers); Kathy George and two solitary guests. (coffee room)

INPUTS TO THE FRIENDSHIP FLYER JULY 2017 EDITION ARE DUE TO THE EDITOR BY SUNDAY, JUNE 25

*Father's Day is coming up, so give Dear Dad his Due.
If he had not become your Dad
There would not be a You!*

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY - JUNE 15, 2017 - Wear Purple to Show Support

Elder Abuse is a global issue which affects the health and human rights of millions of older persons around the world and which deserves the attention of the international community.

The United Nations General Assembly, in its Resolution 66/127, designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness day. It's the only day in the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted on some of our elders.

Governor Scott issued a proclamation to recognize June 15 as Florida's Elder Abuse Awareness Day to serve as a call to action for all Floridians to work together to prevent elder abuse. The 8th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Community Information Fair will be held: Friday, June 16, 2017, 10 AM to 1:00 PM at the Melbourne Auditorium on 625 Hibiscus Blvd. in Melbourne

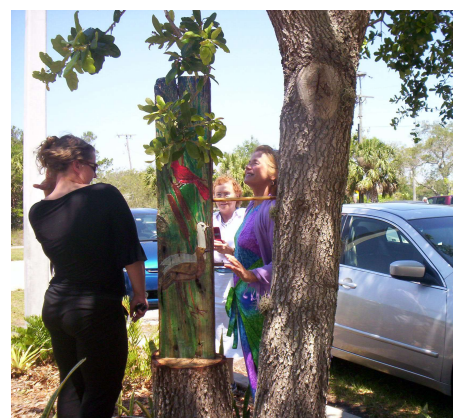
Free Breakfast and Lunch will be served.

On site exhibitors include: Memory Screenings and Caregiver Information, Local Law Enforcement and Public Safety Providers, Community Service Resources and Providers, Local Pharmacies with simple solutions of medicine management, Meal providers to help sustain independence, and Transportation and Solutions.

Bobbie Keith

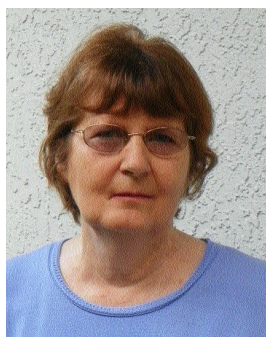
Donation of Outdoor Sculpture by the Ellis Family

This gift of an outdoor sculpture was placed in our garden during the last week in May. The bas relief birds were painted by Harriet Claxton, (Far central figure in the photo) and the sculpture was put in place by Laura Petruska and Donna Dalton.



SHORT STORY WORKSHOP WITH RUTH RODGERS

Have you ever tried your hand at writing a short story? Would you like to know more about the process? If so, I will be conducting a workshop this summer that will take you step by step from initial creative idea to planning, writing, and revising a short story. The class will focus on character development, conflict creation and resolution, and building a plot line, beginning with establishing the current state of affairs, introducing some precipitating incident that requires your main character to react, and then following that character through an arc of cascading events that lead to rising tension, climax, and resolution. It will also cover such elements as setting, point of view, dialogue, and sensory details.



The class will run on consecutive Wednesday evenings in the coffee house for five weeks during the longest days of summer, from June 21st to July 19th. Classes will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be over by 8:30 at the latest, so that everyone can get home before dark.

Because this will be a workshop class and each person will write and share a short story with the other participants, the class will be limited to the first eight people who sign up. If there is more interest, a second class can be scheduled. Please see me if you would like to put your name on the list.

Thanks.

Note: Ruth Rodgers has B.A. and M.S. degrees from Florida State University in English Education, and she was an English teacher for over 30 years, most of those years at Brevard Community College (now Eastern Florida State College), where she taught Creative Writing among other subjects. Her poetry and short fiction have been published in a number of literary magazines and anthologies. She is the author of two published novels, Reparation and Patchwork, and her third novel, Tug of War, will be out this summer. A fourth novel is in progress.

REV. DR. JOHN HIGGINS

Reverend Dr. John Michael Higgins died May 1, 2017. He was born in Yonkers, NY on December 26, 1929. He graduated from California's Los Angeles' State University with a B.A. in History and with a Masters Degree in Education. His Doctoral degree in Education was granted by the University of Toronto in Canada. He served as Academic Dean at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania and as Academic Dean at Riverina College of Advanced Education in New South Wales, Australia. He was Dean of Education at La Roche, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Vice President of Medaille College in Buffalo, NY; and on the faculty of the University at Miami; and at the University of South Florida in Tampa.



In his 60s, Jack returned to school and received a Masters of Divinity at Meadville Lombard School of Divinity at the University of Chicago. He served as a Unitarian Universalist minister in several UU churches, most recently in Melbourne at the UUCB and later here at Friendship. Additionally, he taught Comparative Religion at BCC..

Jack is survived by Jacqueline Portland Higgins, his wife of 57 years; by his daughter, Dr. Cynthia Higgins, and his son Michael Higgins; by grandchildren David and John Bell Higgins and Rebekkah Higgins and Shasonnia Higgins; and by his brother and sisters, Marion Walters, Bob Higgins, Patricia Cates, and Eileen Lower.

Jack and Jackie traveled and worked across the world with their children: Brazil; Tasmania; Sidney, Australia; Barranquilla, Colombia; Edmonton and Toronto in Canada; Uganda; Australia (again); and of course, in the United States. It was a culturally enriching life, full of travel and memories. Jack touched the lives of those he came in contact with, and he will be dearly missed. *The loss is ours as well.*

MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

REV. BOB McDONALD

MAY 28, 2017

During his days as a Methodist minister, May was a month for the church to celebrate spring growth and the family, recalled the Reverend Bob McDonald, more recently UU minister in Stuart, FL. After a few remarks about Memorial Day and its placement on the calendar between Mother's Day and Father's Day, he moved on to his topic of what it means to be made in the "image of" someone else. Children are often told that they are "the spitting image" of a family member, which made McDonald curious about where the expression came from. An explanation in Encyclopedia Britannica says the phrase is used to describe a person who looks so much like someone else that he or she could have been "spat out of his mouth." A Norwegian expression is similar except that "nose" is substituted for "mouth."

As a child, McDonald was told that he was "the spitting image" of his father, a comparison that he hated because his father was known as the "town drunk." His mother had left his father when Bob was only a year old, and he never really knew him except by reputation, so being told that he looked like him was not something he wanted to hear. He later heard that his father had been proud of what he (Bob) had become, and after his father's death, he had some regret that he had never made an attempt to get to know him.

In Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament, we are told that God said, "Let us make man in our image." Modern translations change "man" to "humans," but the use of the plural pronouns "us" and "our" is interesting, showing that the earliest writers of scripture lived in a polytheistic culture, with many gods being worshipped. The passage goes on to say that humans have been given dominion over the earth—and look where that has gotten us, said McDonald, citing the recent US possible pull-out from the Paris Climate Accord.

What does it mean to be made in the image of God? This is a question that UUs may ponder. Like spirituality, we can talk about it without defining it. McDonald often told speakers in the UU Church in Stuart that it was fine for them to talk in the UU pulpit about what they believed, just as long as they didn't tell the parishioners what they should believe. Many people hold on to established, doctrinal answers for comfort and certainty, but for UUs, the questions are what we find important.

Like St. Augustine, whose writings reflect his conflict with his own sexuality—"Lord, I want to be chaste, but not yet"—we find doubt and uncertainty a major part of our religious path. McDonald referred to a small theatre in Stuart seating about 35 people that is about to stage a production of *Waiting for Godot*, a play about two men waiting for a third who never arrives. Is the name "Godot" significant? The play raises the question, "Is life meaningless?" Are we waiting for something that will never come? He quoted from Robert Frost, "I have had a lover's quarrel with the world," and from Bertrand Russell's prologue to his autobiography about the three passions that have governed his life—love, knowledge, and pity. "Love and knowledge...led upward toward the heavens. But always pity brought me back to earth...."

All we can do, concluded McDonald, like the two men waiting for Godot, is to stand on our corner, but while we're standing there, we can do whatever we can to make our corner better....rr



Laura Petruska and UU children at story time.