

EXPLORATIONS: LIFE LONG LEARNING

PETE SEEGER: THE VOICE OF THE FOLK

A Presentation and Discussion led by

Dan Gribbin, singer/songwriter & ret. Prof. of English

Wednesday, December 2, 2009. 7-8 pm.

Unitarian Universalist Society of the Daytona Beach Area
56 N. Halifax Dr.
Ormond Beach, FL 32176

In this, Woodstock's 40th Anniversary year, there might be a tendency to look back at the 1960s folk revival as a media event staged by concert promoters and record producers. But the lingering impact of the folk revival—its contribution to the civil rights movement, environmental awareness, and the growth of the human spirit—suggests that this cultural phenomenon that so inspired young people who grew up under the cloud of the Cold War, the Bomb, and McCarthyism deserves a deeper look. At the hub of any discussion of American folk music is a Harvard dropout and self-taught 5-string banjo player by the name of Pete Seeger. He acted as the conduit for two major streams of folk music that emerged in the 30s and 40s: Leadbelly came north to act as a kind of musical repository that Pete Seeger was able to tap into. And Woody Guthrie became Pete's model for folk music as incitement to social action. Shrugging off the efforts of Joseph McCarthy and the Birchites to derail his career, Pete Seeger toured the country in the 1950s performing at schools and colleges, passing the hat and spreading the gospel of community action and the dignity of common folk. He inspired an explosion of interest and participation in the music of America, the Voice of the Folk.

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This program is part of the ongoing "Explorations: Life Long Learning" series presented by the Unitarian Universalist Society. To register for the program by e-mail, contact Lani Van Petten at <lamimvp@hotmail.com>. To register by phone, call Jan Ternent at 386-788-7880.

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