



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County

1532 Forest Nelson Boulevard, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952

941.627.4303 — www.uufcc.org — www.facebook.com/uufcc

COMMUNIQUE

Can you say kuh-myoo-nuh-kay?

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

promotes

SEVEN PRINCIPLES

as strong values & moral guides:

1st Principle

The inherent worth and
dignity of every person;

2nd Principle

Justice, equity and compassion
in human relations;

3rd Principle

Acceptance of one another and
encouragement to spiritual
growth in our congregations;

4th Principle

A free and responsible search
for truth and meaning;

5th Principle

The right of conscience and the
use of the democratic process
within our congregations
and in society at large;

6th Principle

The goal of world community
with peace, liberty,
and justice for all;

7th Principle

Respect for the interdependent
web of all existence
of which we are a part.

SUNDAY SERVICES

are at 10:30 a.m.

Services are hybrid:
in-person and
on YouTube.

www.youtube.com
UUFCC Port Charlotte

A Letter from the President

Dear Ones,

For numerous years, prior to the Covid pandemic, members and friends of UUFCC had a special way to celebrate **Labor Day**. On the Sunday morning preceding the holiday, instead of participating in a traditional worship service, we gathered to work on our building.

Last year we revived the tradition. On that occasion, members and friends, dressed in work clothes and carrying buckets, rags and cleaning supplies, washed every window, inside and out; cleared out and rearranged the gardening shed; pressure washed the Peace Garden; disinfected all the nursery toys; and, wiped and organized the kitchen cabinets and refrigerator. All of this was accomplished just prior to Hurricane Ian.

This year, we will celebrate Labor Day with a traditional service.

I will speak and Jackie Williamson will serve as the worship associate. This decision was made due to the extremely hot, wet weather we have been experiencing and because many of us, due to Ian,



have been laboring on the building for most of the past year.

I express my **gratitude** to our **Worship Committee**, which is chaired by **Lorrie Douglas** and **Laura Anderson**. I am so grateful for their consistently challenging and worshipful creations. August's services on climate change have motivated me and I am sure

others to seriously consider what we can do to save the planet.

**The theme for September is
"The Gift of Welcoming."**

During the first service of this series, I will share a special unanimous decision your Board of Trustees made at its August meeting. They committed to explore how we can locally **collaborate with other environmental organizations and serve as a "green model"** in our community. We will welcome a significant expansion of our efforts to truly be **a green sanctuary!**

In faith and gratitude,

Dennis Shaw, President
UUFCC Board of Trustees



ANOTHER WAY TO SLOW OR PREVENT CLIMATE CHANGE?

We can reasonably expect that the climate is going to get hotter, and with an El Nino beginning, we must wonder if there's another way to slow, or even prevent, some of the predicted consequences of this warming.

When Mt Pinatubo erupted in 1991, the dust and sulfur dioxide gas it discharged reflected enough sunlight to cool the earth 0.5C for one year. In 2022, an underwater volcano, Hunga-Tonga, released water vapor into the stratosphere causing an opposite effect, since water is a known greenhouse gas.

So, are the sulfur compounds released into the atmosphere our friends?

Maybe. International shipping has been a major source of sulfur pollution, but this is

changing as regulations have reduced the sulfur emissions of this industry. One reason for reducing these emissions is because sulfate particles are associated with tens of thousands of deaths each year. However, this improvement in our atmosphere may contribute to climate warming.

Perhaps we should also be considering "solar geoengineering"?

We could put sulfur in the stratosphere to cool the planet. A few million tonnes each year, way up there, wouldn't cause as many problems as the 100 million tonnes humans pump every year into the air down here.

Unfortunately, sulfur would also affect rainfall, so what might suit one country might not be to another's advantage.

What about the ozone layer — would that be affected?

One other consideration, if this works, might we be tempted to abandon efforts to cut fossil fuels and add more sulfur dioxide to the stratosphere? No, of course, humans would never do that — would they?

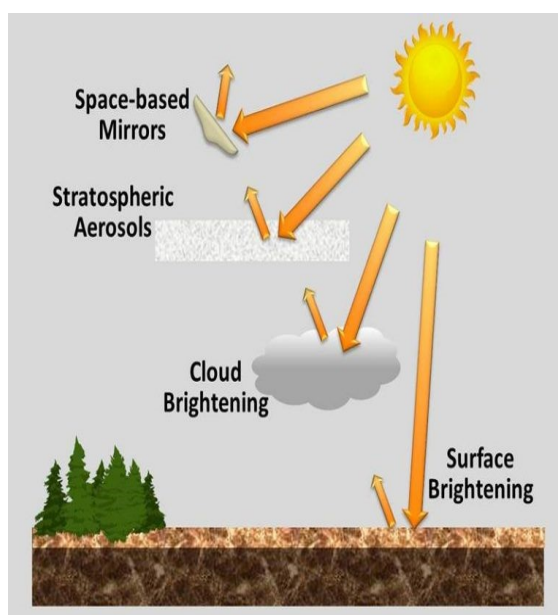
The Economist, July 22-28, 2023, has more info.



Alan Searle

Unitarian Universalists include, but are not limited to, agnostic, atheist, Buddhist, Christian, earth-centered, Hindu, Humanist, Islam, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, Taoism, believers in God, and more.

www.uua.org/beliefs/who-we-are



SOLAR GEOENGINEERING or solar radiation modification (SRM):

Type of climate engineering where sunlight (solar radiation) is reflected back to outer space to limit or offset human-caused climate change.

Other potential approaches: stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI) or marine cloud brightening (MCB).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_geoengineering

WORDS TO LIVE BY

During certain times in my life I have heard or read items which I try to live by. For me there are rules/philosophies which should be universal. Starting with the most recent was something our oldest living friend (102) Peg Stunkard, said when asked her secret to longevity. She answered, "Exercise, healthy eating, and starting each day with a positive attitude." I'm still working on a regular positive attitude.

Another saying from an unknown source is "be like a stone cast upon the waters, see in circles never ending, see much further than oneself." This was in a script from my first position in Federal employ. It reminds me to get out of my comfort zone and explore other points of view be it religion, culture, or people.

I loved being a Sociologist as my vocation and still love to discover new things.

In high school, I had an English teacher who always quoted Shakespeare prior to a written test. She would then leave the room. How can I ever forget "This above all: To thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night to day, thou canst not then be false to any man." Guilt works. I never saw or heard of anyone cheating.

Finally, I well remember from early childhood guidance on ethical living. I know now that it was written originally in ancient Egypt between 2040-1782 BCE and adopted by many cultures. If only it could be practiced universally.



Stephanie Garrett

THE GOLDEN RULE—A golden thread in the seven major religions

CHRISTIANITY

All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

King James' version; Matt. 7:12

ISLAM

None of you is a believer if he does not desire for his brother That which he desires for himself.

Sunna

BRAHMAISM (Orthodox Hinduism)

Such is the sum of duty; Do not do to others that which, to you, would do harm to yourself.

Mahabharata, 5:1517

ZOROASTRIANISM

That nature alone is good which checks itself from doing to others that which would not be good for itself.

Dadistan-i-dinik, 94,5

JUDAISM

That which you hold as detestable, do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole law; the rest is but commentary.

Talmud, Sabbath, 31a

CONFUCIANISM

How certainly is the golden maxim: Do not do to others that which we do not want them to do to us.

Analects, 15.23

TAOISM

Consider that your neighbor gains your gain and that your neighbor loses that which you lose.

T'ai8 Shang Kan Ying Pien

BUDDHISM

Injure not others in the manner would injure you.

Udana-Varga, 5:18

Five things you can't recover in life:

- 1) A stone after it's thrown;
- 2) A word after it's said;
- 3) An occasion after it's missed;
- 4) Time after it's gone;
- 5) Trust after it's lost.

— Source unknown

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion characterized by a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Unitarian Universalists assert no creed, but instead are unified by their shared search for spiritual growth, guided by a dynamic, living tradition.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UnitarianUniversalism

UU SOURCES OF OUR LIVING TRADITION

UU congregations “live out [their seven] Principles within a ‘living tradition’ of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture and personal experience. These are the six sources our congregations affirm and promote:

- “Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- “Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- “Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- “Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- “Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- “Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.”

<https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/sources>

I HAVE ARRIVED: I AM HOME – Ryan Smith

As I talk with people at UUFCC, I hear a lot of discouragement with the way things are in the world. The effects of climate change are more and more apparent, more and more politicians seem to have tyrannical aspirations, and many people out in the community seem more interested in their smart phones than other human beings and the others seem angry or dissatisfied. People feel like they are alone in a foreign land that has little in common with the society they thought they lived in. When I feel that way, I remind myself of the words of Ram Dass and Thich Nhat Hanh.

Ram Dass (formerly known as Richard Alpert of Harvard) would tour the country to bring the wisdom he found in India to America. He would go to places with beautiful beaches and mountains and just be in awe and at peace. Then, on one occasion, he was invited to conservative Indiana. Some people love Indiana; everyone is different. No judgment. Having lived in Ohio, I know, all too well, the months of unending overcast and flat brown and grey landscape that is ubiquitous there half the



Ryan Smith
UUFCC Pianist

year. Well, he wasn’t a fan, but unloaded his personal items and decorated the hotel room to make it more like home when he had a realization. Paraphrased:

If I can’t be at home in the universe, then where?

Perhaps another way of saying this is:

Can home ever be someplace other than where I’m at?

Thich Nhat Hanh, a master in Thien Buddhism, developed a new form of **engaged Buddhism**, born out of the crucible of his experiences in Vietnam, during the war. He instructed people to **always be at home in the present moment** and that peace cannot be achieved if the seed of peace has not been fostered within. He prescribes the affirmation:

**“I have arrived.
I am home. I am solid.
I am free.
In the ultimate I dwell.”**



Ram Dass

An angry person cannot bring about peace, nor can a person that isn’t present.

So, here we are, in Florida, our home. Rising seas, book bans, pandemics. Yet it is our home. I promise you, these are fertile conditions for awakening and societal change. If you want to show up to be part of that change, you first have to arrive. You have to be present, at home, here, and now.



Thich Nhat Hanh

RECYCLE AWARENESS WEEK September 18th to 24th

Instead of throwing things away, separate recyclable materials like paper, green and brown bottles and jars, hard plastic bottles, juice and milk cartons and get them recycled.

Make the world a better place.

Recycling Began A Long Time Ago

In 1031 in Japan during the Heian Period, private estate owners built paper mills, and they reused waste paper to save materials and maximize output.

In 1690 in Philadelphia, America's first paper mill used old fabrics, clothes, cotton, and linen to make recycled paper.

In 1776 during the American Revolutionary War, the statue of King George III in NYC was demolished, melted, and converted into bullets to aid the war effort, producing approximately 42,088 bullets.

In 1813 in Batley, West of Yorkshire, Benjamin Law invented the shoddy process, which creates recycled wool from old clothes and rags. Law organized the collection of rags, ground all rags, and re-spun it into a yarn. This industry expanded quickly, and by 1860, Batley had produced over 7,000 tonnes of recycled wool.

In 1897, New York City established its first materials recovery facility. This enabled the materials to be sorted and separated on the spot, allowing recyclable materials to be recovered.

<https://nationaltoday.com/recycle-awareness-week/>



Food Waste — The Big Picture



World Food Program
<https://www.wfp.org>

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS OF FOOD LOSS AND WASTE September 29th

Food loss & waste contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

GOAL: Raise awareness & promote global efforts & collective action to meet Sustainable Development Goal to Halve per capita food waste at the retail and consumer level by 2030, and reduce food losses along the food production and supply chains.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Awareness_of_Food_Loss_and_Waste

1. Eat a healthy more sustainable diet.
2. Buy only what you need.
3. Eat ugly fruit/veggies—same taste! Use mature fruit—in smoothies, juices, and desserts.
4. Store food wisely: old in front, new in back. Use airtight containers.
5. Understand labels. “Best before” v. “use by.” Use healthy ingredients.
6. Start with smaller portions at home; share large dishes if dining out.
7. Love leftovers. Freeze for later or use in another meal.
8. Use food waste as compost.
9. Respect food, production & farmers.
10. Buy/support local & fight pollution: truck delivery distances are shorter.
11. Keep fish afloat. Eat and buy fish caught or farmed sustainably: buy eco-labelled or certified fish.
12. Use less water. Fix leaks. Turn off water while brushing teeth!
13. Keep soils and water clean. No potentially hazardous household waste in a regular rubbish bin.
14. Eat more pulses and veggies.
15. Sharing is caring. Donate food that would otherwise be wasted.

<https://www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/en/c/1309609/>

ARTISTIC REALIZATION ONLY EXISTS IN A PHOTO?

Ever notice a powerful picture on Facebook? Ponder the backstory? Use Snipping Tool and Google Images to find its source?

The sculpture **REALIZATION** is by Florida native **Augusta Savage** (02/29/1892–03-27-1962). She says her minister father tried to whip the art out of her. But they moved to West Palm Beach and a teacher “encouraged her.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augusta_Savage.

“I was a Leap Year baby, and ... I have been leaping ever since.” NPR, *infra*. She completed four years at NY Cooper Union School of Art and “earned a reputation as a portrait sculptor,” doing busts of W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, etc. Savage was “one of the first artists who consistently dealt with black physiognomy.” <https://americanart.si.edu/artist/augusta-savage-4269>.

She established the Savage Studio of Arts and Crafts and became an influential teacher in Harlem. Savage was the first African American member of the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors. She was the first director of the Harlem Community Art Center.

She got a scholarship to the Fontainebleau School of Arts in Paris, but the American selection committee found out she was black so they rescinded, fearing objections from Southern white women, reasoning the white women “would feel uncomfortable sharing accommodations on the ship, a studio, living spaces.” NY Historical Art Society Curator Wendy N.E. Ikemoto explains: “The way [they]

expressed [it was] they were concerned about Savage. It would be uncomfortable for her.” NPR, *infra*. She went to Paris anyway for three years

studying, working, exhibiting, and winning awards.

The 1939 NY World's Fair commissioned her to create a sculpture symbolizing African American musical contributions. Savage's largest work (16' high) and last major commission was inspired by and named **LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING**. The World's Fair changed its to **THE HARP**. Five million saw it, then:

**“It was destroyed—
smashed by clean-up bulldozers
— at the end of the fair.”**

<https://www.npr.org/2019/07/15/740459875/sculptor-augusta-savage-said-her-legacy-was-the-work-of-her-students>.

As for **REALIZATION**, “It was commissioned in 1938 by the Work Projects Administration of the New Deal. I couldn't locate any information about the current ownership or whereabouts of the statue, or even if it still exists.” Carolyn Gage, *infra*.

“Sadly, many of Savage's sculptures have not survived, because she lacked resources during her lifetime to cast them more permanently in metal, and also because she destroyed much of her work.”

<https://carolyngage.weebly.com/blog/realization-by-augusta-savage>. Likewise, Savage “explored her interest in writing children's stories, murder mysteries, and vignettes and none were published” either. American Art, *supra*.

— Herb Levin



REALIZATION and Savage (1938)



THE HARP at NY World's Fair (1939)

The UUFCC Book Group

The UUFCC Book Group's first meeting will discuss ***Circe* by Madeline Miller**:

**Wednesday, October 25th
1:30 pm at the Fellowship**

The *New York Times* calls the book a "bold and subversive retelling of the goddess's story," this #1 *New York Times* bestseller is "both epic and intimate in its scope, recasting the most infamous female figure from the *Odyssey* as a hero in her own right."

Amazon.com described the book as follows. In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born.

But Circe is a strange child – not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power – the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves.

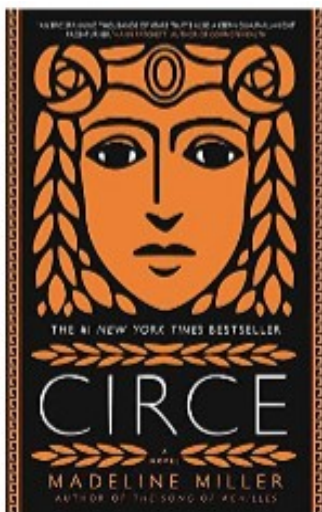
"Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts and

crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology, including the Minotaur, Daedalus and his doomed son Icarus, the murderous Medea, and, of course, wily Odysseus.

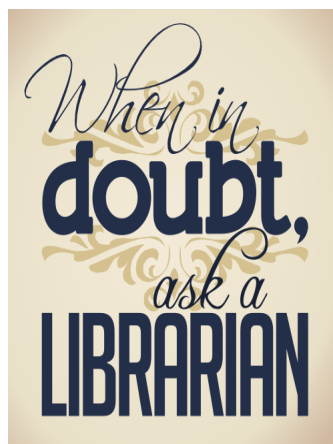
"With unforgettably vivid characters, mesmerizing language, and page-turning suspense, *Circe* is a triumph of storytelling, an intoxicating epic of family rivalry, palace intrigue, love and loss, as well as a celebration of indomitable female strength in a man's world."

Published in 2019, *Circe* was named one of the

Best Books of the Year by NPR, the *Washington Post*, *People*, *Time*, Amazon, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Bustle*, *Newsweek*, *The A.V. Club*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Refinery 29*, *Buzzfeed*, *Paste*, *Audible*, *Kirkus*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Thrillist*, *NYPL*, *Self*, *Real Simple*, *Goodreads*, *Boston Globe*, *Electric Literature*, *BookPage*, the *Guardian*, *Book Riot*, *Seattle Times*, and *Business Insider*.



Mary Jane Williams
Chair, UUFCC Book Group
UUFCC Office Admin.



An Elevator Speech

Unitarian Universalists
gather in community
to support
one another's individual
spiritual journeys,
trusting that openness
to one another's experiences
will enhance
their own understanding
of their own links
with the divine,
with history, and
with one another.

—UU Rev. Jonalu Johnston,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
<http://archive.uuworld.org/2003/06/affirmations.html>

The UUFCC Book Group Schedule Fall 2023 thru Spring 2024

10-25-23	<i>Circe</i>	Madeline Miller	F
11-29-23	<i>Under a White Sky -- The Nature of the Future</i>	Elizabeth Kolbert	NF
12-27-23	<i>The Matzah Ball</i>	Jean Meltzer	F
01-31-24	<i>Book Woman of Troublesome Creek</i>	Kim Michele	F
02-28-24	<i>A Little Devil in America</i> <i>Notes in Praise of Black Performance</i>	Hanif Abdurraqib	NF
03-27-24	<i>The Road Back</i> (sequel to <i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i> but no need to read first)	Erich Maria Remarque	F
04-24-24	<i>The Great Alone</i>	Kristin Hannah	F
05-29-24	<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks</i>	Rebecca Skloot	NF

ON 10-20-2023, THE **WALLENBERG MEDAL** WILL BE AWARDED TO COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS CO-FOUNDER **LUCAS BENITEZ**

Article excerpts from <https://ciw-online.org/blog/2023/07/ciw-co-founder-lucas-benitez-to-be-awarded-prestigious-wallenberg-medal-from-the-university-of-michigan/> with permission.

The Wallenberg Medal is awarded annually to leaders across the globe who **“stand up for the helpless, to defend the integrity of the powerless, and to speak out on behalf of the voiceless.”** Recipients include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, John Lewis and Elie Wiesel.

Lucas Benitez will be awarded “for his lifelong dedication to the human rights of farmworkers, and his historic achievements in helping liberate thousands of farmworkers from modern-day slavery.”

At 17, he “came to the US as a farmworker ... and has been on the frontline of the fight for human rights since 1993, when he helped bring farmworkers together in ... Immokalee, Florida, behind demands for a more modern, more humane agricultural industry. Rallying to the call for ‘**Dignity, Dialogue, and a Fair Wage,**’ farmworkers from **Mexico, Guatemala, and Haiti** ... organized work stoppages, hunger strikes, and multi-day marches stretching hundreds of miles to press their demands.

“Early protests .. drew connections between ... market power at the top of the food industry and ... purchasing power by retail food giants to drive prices — and therefore wages and working



**Ted Zawistowski, UUFCC SJC Chair;
Lucas Benitez, CIW Co-Founder & Wallenberg Medal Awardee;
and, Alex Pritchard (new to UUFCC & SJC; from Austin)**

[Picture provided by Betty Barriga.]

conditions — down at the farm level. With Benitez’s leader-ship, that new analysis gave rise to:

Campaign for Fair Food in 2001

leading Immokalee farmworkers to break out of their isolation and make **common cause with consumers from New York to California** for ... Fair Food based on respect for fundamental human rights, not exploitation ... — with a national campaign of consumer education and mobilization.

“After a decade ... CIW launched the ... **Fair Food Program in 2011** in the Florida tomato industry.... [Benitez] helped expand [it] **across the US and ... Chile and South Africa** in the 12 years since.... Benitez inspired workers across the globe to take up the ...

Worker-driven Social Responsibility model and adapt it — [now] **active in five continents** — ... the new paradigm for human rights protection in global supply chains, with recognition and support from human rights experts and law enforcement agencies....“

Recognize the achievement.

Donate.

Support the cause.

— Ted Zawistowski, Chair
Social Justice Committee
of UUFCC

CAPAS — UUSC's Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers MOVING DAY — SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023!

Moving Day went well and without a hitch thanks to the coordinating efforts of the host family, Patricia Lane and Kathy Guilmette, and our UUFCC community. The Immigration Justice Committee thanks all our UUFCC members and friends that made this transition possible.

Our guest family, Sorangel and her children (Luciano and Zhoemy), will remain in their schools and keep their health providers. They will be in the same area that they know and have become familiar with: the supermarket, library, parks, schools and friendships will still be accessible.

Special thanks to the UU Congregation of Venice and Schoolhouse Link of Sarasota who came through with some needed donations for our CAPAS family.

Building Bridges Not Walls!

— Immigration Justice Committee
of UUFCC



Kathy Guilmette, Linda Richardson, Sorangel & Trudy Gerhardt



[Photos by Betty Barriga.]



Ryan Richardson & Dennis Shaw



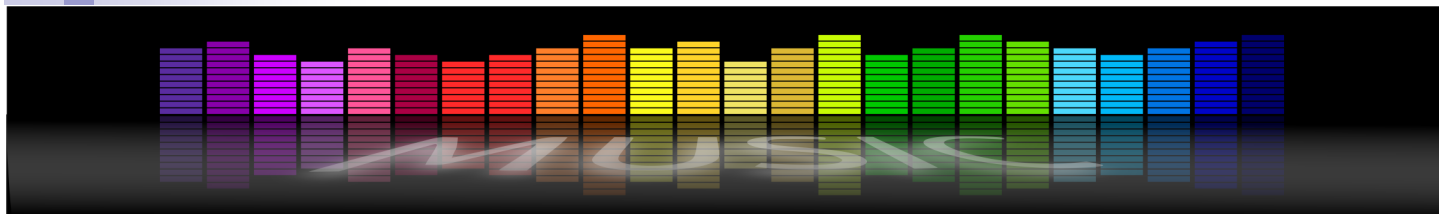
John Lee



Sandy Telander & Mike Krzyzkowski



Sean Alan Lane & John Lee



New Zealand Choir Sings “Te Iwi E” in Boston 12-02-2013

A powerful **SONG OF WELCOME** echoes the New Zealand women's karanga, the ceremonial call of welcome by women of the host group. The lamenting calls of the karanga clear a spiritual pathway between the visitors (manuhiri) and the local people (tangata whenua).

Hosts and visitors are drawn together through a shared memory of loved ones who have been lost from the land, by both war and migration. While showing grief, singers also express pride in the achievements of those who went away to the war, and later, those who have found a new way of life in the cities. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C4%1ori_music.



Two Maori women exchange a *hongi*, a greeting by pressing noses together. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hongi>

Welcome a pressed nose greeting?

Listen. Watch. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGlPS4pMBRM>

— Herb Levin

(Leader) Te iwi e !!

Te iwi e e karanga
e te iwi e

Our tribe is calling
to the people

Kua eke mai nei

Kua eke mai nei
ki runga te marae e

who have just arrived
on our meeting ground

Mauria mai ra

Mauria mai ra e nga mate
o te motu e

Bring with you memories of the dead
of this land

Me nga tini roimata

Me nga tini roimata
e maringi whanui e

and so many tears
spilling forth nation-wide.

Titiro e nga iwi

Titiro e nga iwi

e nga mahi o te motu
E hora atu nei e

Look at our people
working across the land
spread out far and wide

R? ana te whenua

R? ana te whenua,
whatiwhati te moana

Shaking is the ground,
quivering is the sea.

Aue te aroha

Aue te aroha te mamae i ahau e.

Oh, the love and the pain within me.

(ending 2nd time)

R? ana te whenua
whatiwhati, hei!

The ground is shaking
and quivering, yeah!

https://folksong.org.nz/e_te_iwi_e/index.html

HARRISBURG HOLOCAUST MONUMENT

Seen on a summer road trip — Maureen Peters

The Harrisburg Holocaust Monument sits in a park by the Susquehanna River in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a remembrance of the six million Jews killed by Nazis during World War II. Local survivors were instrumental in its creative planning and financial support.

A plaque says it best. “This memorial to the Holocaust, once a dream for survivors who settled in this community, became a reality in 1994 and was rededicated in 2007.

“The monument represents a spiritual reminder of the darkest chapter of history, when Hitler perpetrated a systematic state persecution and murder of six million Jewish women, men and children and of five million other victims deemed undesirable. It describes the toll of unleashed discrimination and the resilience of the human spirit in moments of extreme crisis.”

The sculpture is 15’ by 4’. “The central focus of the memorial is the pillar, forged in **steel** and representative of the strength and continuity of the Jewish people. **Barbed wire**, symbolic of the many atrocities committed against the Jewish people, twists up the pillar. The **pillar** rises to the sky beyond the barbed wire, indicating that the Jewish people have moved beyond the persecutions and continue to survive. The floor of the monument is crafted from **Jerusalem stone** and is illustrative of the strong link between the State of Israel and the Jewish people.”

It includes a “Star of David” configuration. The steel outer abstraction of coiled barbed wire represents the barbed wire around the death



Photo by Jonathan Panzer

camps as well as the misery and death. Its black granite base of six progressively smaller “Stars of David” represents the six million murdered Jewish people.

Sloping polished granite walls are etched with the story of the Holocaust. Along the top of the granite coping surround are letters bearing the names of the most infamous death camps and the Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing unit).

The sculpture sets low in its basin so when seen from afar only the sculpture appears. Nearer, full impact is realized.

“An educational component, including names of death camps and the words ‘remember’ translated in 14 languages, is found in wording written by Holocaust survivors and etched on the marble wall surrounding the monument.”

“The memorial is not a gravestone but a means to educate about hatred and bigotry, so people never again commit such atrocities.

“It is our hope that it will be a beacon against hate, an honor to those no one cared for, and a reminder to future generations, ‘NEVER AGAIN.’”

The local Jewish community now holds its annual **Yom Hashoah** (an international Holocaust remembrance day in April or May each year) observance there.

Hope can be felt in the core reaching above the stranglehold of the Nazi “snake.”

<https://www.jewishharrisburg.org/community-directory/harrisburg-holocaust-monument>

AN UN-INTENTIONAL VEGAN

When someone retires from the military, they have 90 days to get a final full medical exam, with appropriate advice. In my case, they found:

I had a problem with my cholesterol.

I was advised to watch the problem by getting involved in a large **medical study** that the **U.S. Air Force** was conducting. I agreed to join the effort.

For the next three years, I had blood drawn every three months and then a week later met with a doctor to go over the results.

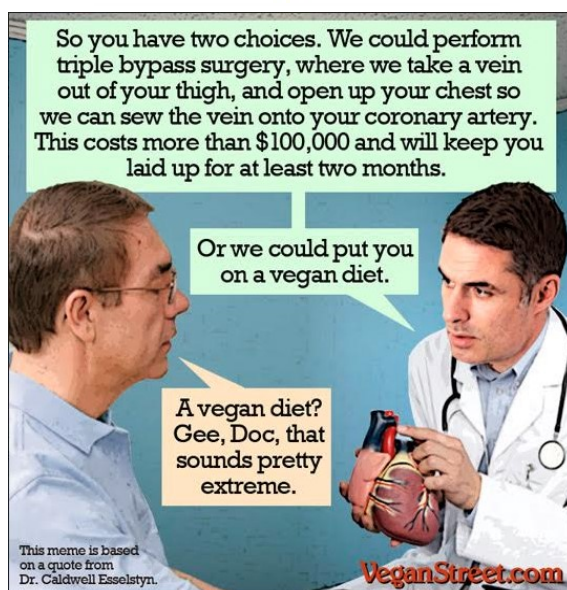
EVERY MEETING they took something away from my diet.

First it was just butter. Next it was cut back on cheese. After that, it was eggs, and then all cow-derived dairy. As to meat, when they got to it, they suggested that I cut down to zero on bacon. That was followed by never eat any meat serving larger than my wallet.

Over time, slowly but inevitably, came the really bad news.



VEGAN



No meat of any kind, particularly beef or chicken.

No dairy of any sort including ice cream or yogurts.

Cut down on cooking and salad oils, as much as possible.

What was I left with, as this three year demise of my once loved diet progressed to nearly nothing, besides forcing it on the family, and the appearance that I could never eat out again?

As it happened, I learned to eat a lot of salad and introduced myself to a much broader array of available cuisine where vegan offerings are built into their menus.

I continue on this route and fully believe that, along with some good genes, I am still up to a full life. And I don't mind telling those who ask how I stay so healthy that it is surely owed to becoming vegan.

Tom Deuley
UUFCC Tech Guru & Photog
Artist
Retired, U.S. Navy



September is National CHOLESTEROL EDUCATION MONTH

Time to be sure you know your cholesterol levels.
Time to take steps to prevent or reduce high cholesterol.



High Holy Day

"YOM TERUAH" is its Biblical name and translates to "the day of shouting (or blasting)."

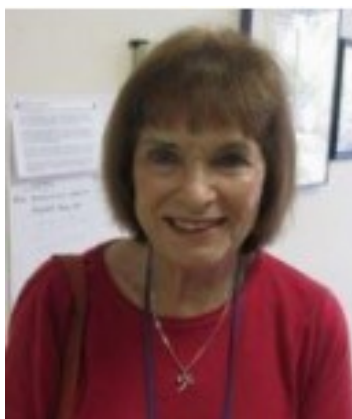
Time to reflect, pray and hear the sound of the SHOFAR HORN.

**Begins evening of Friday, September 15th,
Ends evening of Sunday, September 17th**

When I was growing up, my family always belonged to a synagogue. It was always assumed that we would attend high holiday services.

Rosh Hashana is the beginning of the days of repentance. It meant a large dinner and an evening walk to the synagogue. In our (orthodox) synagogue, the men and the women sat separately: the men downstairs, and the women in the balcony. We were dressed in our finest holiday clothes.

Between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, you are supposed to apologize to anyone you may have offended the previous year.



It was also a custom to go to the water, throwing bread symbolizing throwing away your sins. Later, David and I did that from our boat.

Yom Kippur is the holiest day. We fasted for an entire day if able. Elderly and infirm were not expected to fast. Breaking the fast signifies a new year and a new beginning.

Although I am a UU, I will always be a Jewish woman honoring the high holidays.

— Florence Martin

The Holiest Day

The Day of Atonement

**Evening of Sunday, September 24th
through Monday, September 25th**



RUMI DAY — the 30th of September every year

Commemorating the life and writings of the poet Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi

THE GUEST HOUSE

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice.
meet them at the door laughing and
invite them in.

Be grateful for whatever comes.
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

Rumi



Born 09/30/1207

Died 12/17/1273

Nobleman, theologian, lawyer,
scholar, & 13th Century poet.

In 1244, he met Shams,
a wandering holy man.

For months, the two mystics
lived in close quarters, and
Rumi ignored his pupils and family.
In 1246, Shams was forced to flee.

Rumi was devastated, so his oldest
son returned Shams from Syria.
But the family could not support
Rumi's relationship with Shams.

In 1247, Shams vanished.

Rumi plunged into despair and
wrote two epic volumes of poetry.

The first is dedicated to his tutor
Shams and took 15 years to finish.

**Rumi has become the
"best selling poet" in the U.S.**

<https://nationaltoday.com/rumi-day/>;
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi>

Poetry selection suggested and provided by Maureen Peters —
and so perfect for this month's 'welcome' theme.



HINDU PITRU PAKSHA aka SHRAADH KARMA Honoring the Departed — September 29th

Honor the Departed?

Per Hindu scriptures, everyone has spiritual “debt” from the moment they’re born. Throughout life, they must find a way to repay it. One debt is the “ancestral loan,” or **Pitru Runa**. Pitru Paksha is when payment is made towards the ancestral loan debt. <https://www.joincake.com/blog/pitru-paksha/>.

What does Pitru Paksha mean?

In Sanskrit, PITRU means ancestors, PAKSHA means fortnight.

<https://www.siddhayoga.org/pitru-paksha/about>.

What does Pitru Paksha celebrate?

It is a time to honor departed family, friends, neighbors, teachers, mentors, and beloved animals, and recognize their profound significance as role models and sources of learning.

What is its significance?

It is time to realize life is not limited to the body. Our connection with loved ones transcends the physical, the soul eternal, the body peripheral. The emotional connection between living and dead continues.

<https://pujayagna.com/blogs/hindu-festivals/pitru-paksha>.

What is the legend?

The souls of three preceding generations of one’s ancestors live in PITRILOKA, between heaven and earth. YAMA, god of death, rules, taking the soul of the dying to Pitriloka. Prayers are offered to bring MOKSHA (emancipation, enlightenment, liberation, release). This mitigates suffering in heaven before SAMSAARA (wandering the world) or rebirth.

When Karna died, his soul went to heaven. But he was plagued with hunger and any food he touched became gold. He asked Indra (King of the god-like deities) why. Indra said Karna donated gold his entire life, but never food to his ancestors in shraddha. Now the ancestors were in limbo, cursing Karna. To make amends, he was allowed to return to the earth for **15 days** to donate food and water in memory of the ancestors.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pitru_Paksha.

How is it celebrated?

Give gratitude to departed ancestors. Mediate. Recite prayers. Offer Dakshina (money for Gura). On behalf of ancestors, feed needy, give money to educate the needy. Reflect on departed ancestors’ great virtues and qualities.

<https://pujayagna.com/blogs/hindu-festivals/pitru-paksha>.

Ceremonies and rituals?

Offer PINDA PRADAAMA, rice balls with mustard (pinda) and water. Perform a tarpana ritual where sesame seeds and water are offered by chanting mantras along with the name of the ancestors.

<https://pujayagna.com/blogs/hindu-festivals/pitru-paksha>.

Do:

1. Feed animals. Cows & dogs are holy & moral & make ancestors feel content. Thru animals, food reaches ancestors who shower blessings.
2. Be kind, polite and chivalrous.
3. Get priest’s guidance before performing a shraddha.
4. Practice celibacy if performing rituals.
5. Add black sesame, flowers, milk and Kush to water to satisfy ancestors quickly.

<https://english.jagran.com/lifestyle/pitru-paksha-2022-some-dos-and-donts-to-follow-during-this-auspicious-period-of-shradh-10048886>

Don’t:

1. No new projects, marriages, or lengthy travels.
2. No eating non-vegetarian food.
3. No alcohol, tobacco, onion, and garlic.
4. No wearing/buying new clothes.

English.jagran, *supra*.

Pitru Paksha Greetings?

On this day, we offer food and charity on behalf of our departed ancestors. We hope they find peace and happiness wherever they are. They live in our hearts forever. Warmest wishes on Pitru Paksha.

Have you paid your spiritual ancestral debt?

Our UUFCC Worship Associates theme for this month is “welcome.” And our UUFCC is a “welcoming community.” First impressions are made as we welcome each other, make introductions, and repeat the other’s name.

A *Harvard Business Review* article, *infra*, notes:

“Names represent identities and heritage and may be rooted in social and cultural beliefs.”

MISPRONUNCIATION is not okay.

And getting it right should not be presented as too hard to do. Try. Be an ally. Be gracious. Above all, do NOT act like you’re doing them a favor by trying. Empower them. Support them.

MISSPELLING names is also not okay.

It can be frustrating for “Traci” to always be written to or about as “Tracy.” If someone can’t take the time to spell a name correctly, the name bearer’s feelings can go beyond frustration to disrespect and resentment.

DIACRITICS (accent marks, cedillas, etc.) are NOT optional.

They are part of the accurate spelling of a person’s name. Omission suits the writer and disrespects the name bearer’s true name and identity.

“AMERICANIZING” a name is not okay.

Anglicizing names disrespects cultural heritage and traditions, thereby disrespecting the person.

Hello
my name is

MINE!

**If it’s hard to spell or say,
ask me how, and then try, please.
And “I’m not good with names” or your
nickname for me may not be ok with me.**

From 10-20 years of age, home was in El Paso, Texas, an 85% Hispanic border town. Names like Jesús — no, not Gee-Zuss, but rather Hey-Zeus — were common. And saying it right made a difference. One was their name, the other was not.

In 2005, our South Korean foreign exchange student’s mom initially gave us a name for herself that was not her Korean name, saying, “American mouths can’t pronounce foreign names.” What? The last I knew, our mouths are exactly the same. This cannot be the image or message we send.

NO HARM, NO FOUL, YOU SAY? NO WAY.

Even if no harm is meant or one feels they have permission to mispronounce or misspell a name, it is NOT okay.

Studies show mispronouncing names makes children feel ashamed and isolated. <https://insightglobal.com/blog/getting-names-right-at-work/>.

**Mistakes like these lean towards
exclusion rather than inclusion.**

When we get it wrong, we send the wrong message. Getting it right is about dignity, respect, and inclusion for others.

Let’s get it right.

**Let’s ensure all
feel welcome.**

— MaryLou Kennedy

See *Harvard Business Review* article at <https://hbr.org/2022/01/why-getting-someones-name-right-matters>.



WE ARE ONE PEOPLE

— Stephanie Garrett

I recently was introduced to a book which highlighted again for me the variety of people who not only make up this country, but have always been present worldwide: the truly ignored “others.” They represent all races, religions, levels of ability and sexual orientations.

“A Queer History of the United States”
by Michael Bronski was the first book in Beacon Press’s ReVisioning American History series.

The author who taught LGBTQ+ studies at Dartmouth College presents a political and social discussion of queer life going back at least 300 years. It notes the famous such as Walt Whitman, Emily

Dickerson, Martha “Calamity” Jane Canary Burke, Countee Cullen, Ethel Waters, Bayard Rustin, and Lilly Tomlin, to name a few. Yes, some eventually married persons of the opposite sex but did not hide attractions to their same sex. Most were on the “Down Low” for self-protection and the need to fit in.

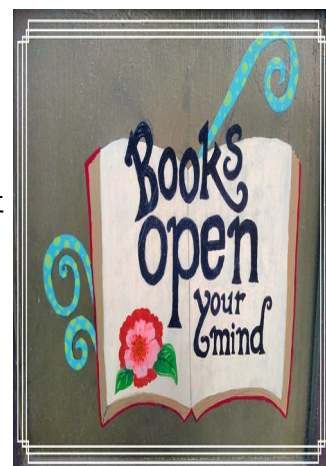
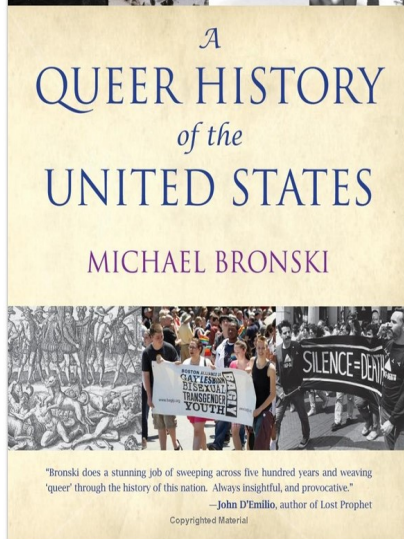
Figures from classical Greek and Roman mythology, including the writings of Plato in “Symposium” and Plutarch in “Lives,” attempted to analyze why some people were sexually attracted to those of their same sex. Their works sought to show the naturalness of same sex desire.

By the Italian Renaissance, cases were made for the centuries old tradition of same sex behaviors but it was branded a serious crime by the Roman Catholic Church, the definer of not only religious but social norms.

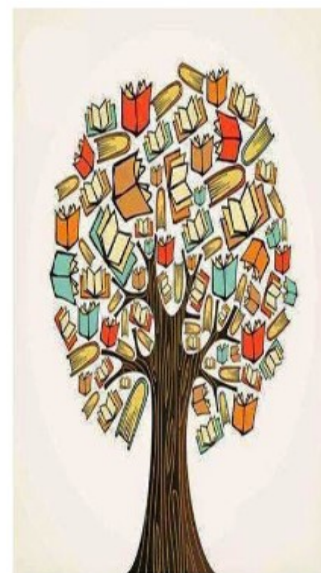
Karl Maria Kertbeny, a Hungarian journalist, memoirist and human rights campaigner, in 1869, invented the word “homosexual” as a person defined by his or her same sex sexual desires and actions. In the late 19th century in Europe and Great Britain, “sapphism” was used occasionally to describe women who love women. It referred to the Ancient Greek poet Sappho, who lived on the Isle of the Lesbos, hence the word

Lesbian, coined by sexologist Havelock Ellis in 1897. The word “queer” originally meant “odd” or “quaint” and became bad or worthless.

The recognition of the existence of individuals having varying sexual orientations, after centuries of denial and condemnation, has become front and center in American politics as has the rights of racial minorities, women and people with disabilities. They are among us and are a part of who we claim to be as Americans. They also are “We The People.” Great read that clarifies and documents the sexual identifications among and within.



**What
I'm reading
now**



**Reading can
seriously damage
your ignorance**

“A WALK TO RESPECT” INVITATION

This is an event that the Racial Justice Group of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota is hosting.

As members of the partner organization in the **Social Justice Alliance of Florida’s Suncoast**, we have been asked to do all we can to help publicize this incredible event and get the word out.

You are invited to attend a powerful staged reading of **Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: “A Walk To Respect,”** about overcoming division.

Date: September 30, 2023

Time: 6:30 p.m.

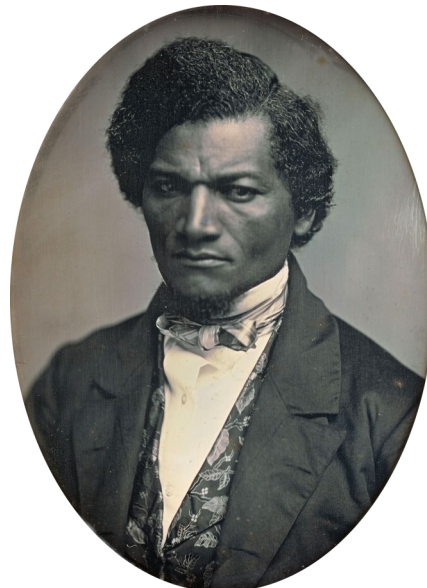
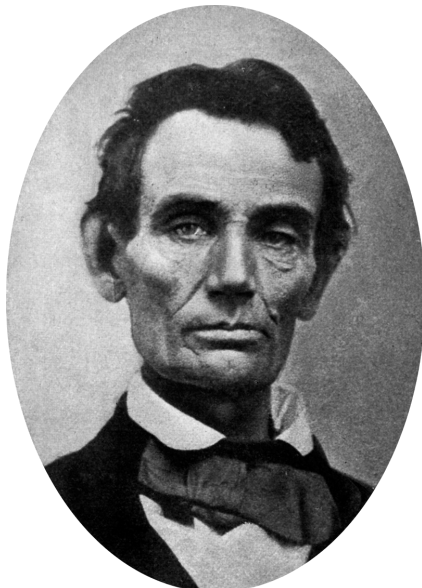
Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

What: A screening that will be followed by a live panel discussion with the playwright and members of the production team.

Cost: Free! Through the generosity of The Patterson Foundation, this event is offered free.

RSVP: Registration is needed so please reserve your seat by scanning the QR code on the flyer, or by emailing eventsuucs@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there! — Theodore Zawistowski
Chair, UUFCC SJC



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

on KEN BRENNEN



ANOTHER FAMOUS UU

MARY WHITE OVINGTON (1865-1951)

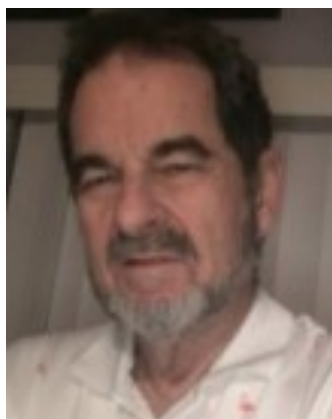
NAACP co-founder, board member, executive secretary, and chairman. An American suffragist. A journalist who wrote for journals and newspapers such as *The Masses*, *New York Evening Post*, and the *New York Call*. She was a pacifist & opposed US involvement in World War I. She wrote several books and articles, including: a study of black Manhattan, *Half a Man* (1911); *Status of the Negro in the United States* (1913); *Socialism and the Feminist Movement* (1914); an anthology for black children, *The Upward Path* (1919); biographical sketches of prominent African Americans, *Portraits in Color* (1927); an autobiography, *Reminiscences* (1932); and, a history of the NAACP, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down* (1947).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Unitarians_Universalists_and_Unitarian_Universalists

I grew up in the Roman Catholic tradition. As a youngster, I loved the rituals of the church: the heady smell of incense; the flickering glow of candles; the soaring tones of the high I even invoked God to mass sung in Latin. In my earliest days, I felt good about having a personal God keeping things organized and punishing. I even invoked God to do some favors for me, like having 'Retta be my special grade school friend. (Her father was an Episcopalian priest so God never granted my wish.)

But as I approached the "age of reason," the theology made no sense to me. I lost my belief in the concept of sin and purgatory and all the bookkeeping that went with it. I couldn't believe in the concept of Hell as a place of punishment where the bookkeeping sometimes supposedly led. Nor could I imagine a good God who would devise such an awful place for the people he created and supposedly loved.

As I reached mental maturity I even scuttled the concept of eternal existence. For someone who gets bored as easily as I do, singing alleluia forever would be equivalent to an eternity in Hell. Eventually, I gave up on Catholicism and its



Christian offspring religions.

Fast forward a decade to Minnesota where I landed a great job to support my wife and two young girls. Try to imagine my frustration when those daughters came home from school crying and told us the other kids

taunted them with the idea of landing in Hell because our family didn't go to church.

We soon fixed that problem by looking around the neighborhood. We discovered the Michael Servetus Unitarian Society whose wide open door invited us to join in a life of both spiritual and community based activities. In 1975, we joined the Unitarian Universalist church where we worshiped with like-minded friends who looked for truth and meaning in life and who never finagled with man-made theological doctrines.

One daughter and her mother are no longer alive, but I feel great satisfaction in carrying on the religious life we committed to so long ago.

I became a UUFCC member in 2015. I have served on the Board, and I now serve as a Worship Associate and on the Endowment Committee.

GO VEGAN



COMPASSION



NONVIOLENCE



FOR THE ANIMALS



FOR THE PLANET



FOR THE PEOPLE



BROCCOLI AND PASTA

Got a Gluten free vegetarian friend coming over and need a hearty, tasty dinner? Try broccoli and pasta.

You'll need:

INGREDIENTS

- 1 head broccoli, cut in bite-sized florets
- ¼ c olive oil
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- ⅓ sweet red pepper, diced
- 6 mushrooms, sliced
- 1 box Chickpea rotini, prepared per the box
- Nutritional Yeast Flakes (for vegans)
- Parmesan Cheese (for vegetarians)



Bill Kumpf & Linda Richardson

DIRECTIONS

1. Cook garlic in the oil over medium heat for 3 minutes.
2. Add the mushrooms for a minute.
3. Then add the broccoli and pepper and cook covered until your desired firmness, maximum of 10 minutes.

Serve over the pasta with Nutritional Yeast Flakes for Vegans or Parmesan Cheese for vegetarians.

This is our favorite weekday meal!



**LOOK
AT THIS**



**UUFCC
GENEROSITY!**

**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

SECOND HELPING

Your JUNE 2023 Donations Totaled
\$724.06 which was given to:

ARAY

Creating a better community for
Charlotte County LGBTQ+ Youth
www.allrainbowandalliedyouth.org/

Wow!

PEACE GARDEN ENGRAVED PAVERS

Honor beloved UUFCC
members and friends
AND help UUFCC.
Percentage of proceeds
goes to UUFCC.

ORDER FORM IN *WEEKLY UPDATE*

One ordered in August!



ENDOWMENT

Honor beloved Fellowship members
and friends AND help UUFCC.

Endowment funds assure
UUFCC's financial future and
further UU principles and practices.

July contributions totaled **\$200**
In Memory of **Michael Sokalski**
thanks to Mary Howard, Maureen
Peters and Mary Jane Williams

In Memory

Of...



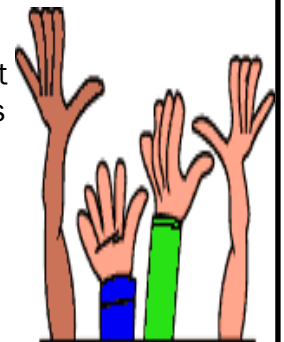
UUSC CAPAS

Congregational Accompaniment
Project for Asylum Seekers
and UUFCC are

**assisting a Venezuelan
family seeking asylum.**

YOU CAN HELP!

- Donate clothing, diapers, food, filing fees, etc.
- Provide transportation to school, appointments, etc.
- Translate for the host family.
- Plan a recreational outing.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



SECOND SUNDAY SECOND HELPING SEPTEMBER RECIPIENT



COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS

A worker-based
human rights organization.

<https://ciw-online.org/>

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

*"Covenant" is Latin for "walking together."
This Covenant is a living, dynamic document
describing how we intend to live the Principles
we value in our religious community.*

We, the members of UUFCC,
covenant to support and cherish all
our members and friends and
encourage each other to honor these
high standards of relationship.

We value a free, open, and mutually
respectful exchange of ideas. We
honor all voices and encourage
thoughtful freedom of expression.

We respect each other's views,
backgrounds, and spiritual ideas. We
listen to each other without judgement
or interruption and speak directly with
a person instead of about a person.
We will address issues and behaviors,
rather than people and personalities.

We will be considerate but
courageous in name behavior that
diminishes our community. We offer
forgiveness and understanding and
expect that from each other. In all
situations, we strive to honor
everyone's dignity and wellbeing.

We trust this Covenant will help us
work well together to make decisions,
solve problems, and express
differences of opinion in a consider-
ate, respectful, and genuinely caring
way.

September
Theme

SUNDAY SERVICES



09-03-23 CLIMATE-RELATED LABOR DAY

Speaker: Dennis Shaw

Worship Associate: Jackie Williamson

09-10-23 SECOND SUNDAY: COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS

Speaker: Marley Monacello and Nely Rodriguez

Worship Associate: Ryan Richardson

09-17-23 WHAT MAKES US A LITTLE DIFFERENT: OUR HERITAGE AT WORK

Speaker: Rev. Byrd Tetzlaff, Retired, UU Congregation
of Lake County, Eustis FL. Grew up in Wisc.
Has served congregations in IL, TN, IN & CA.

Worship Associate: Dennis Shaw

09-24-23 SOCIAL JUSTICE: NAÏVE OPTIMISM?

Speaker: Theodore Zawistowski, UUFCC SJC Chair

Worship Associate: Lorrie Douglas

THE BOOK OF LIFE

Your Book of Life entries or announcements you would like read from the pulpit Sunday mornings are important. Make sure your entry or announcement gets read on Sunday morning; send it to:

bookoflife@uufcc.org

by 6:00 p.m. Saturday



Your
Worship
Associate
Committee



09/04 Richard Burcham
 09/12 MaryHolly Allison
 09/19 Betty Barriga
 09/26 Cassandra Wooden
 09/27 Laura Anderson
 09/27 George Clattenburg
 09/20 Tom Deuley

For a Birthday Shoutout, contact Stephanie Garrett
editorialboard@uufcc.org

Weekly Events

Sundays — 09:00 am Conversation Among Friends
10:30 am Worship Services

Wednesdays – 07:00 pm Happy Hour with John Lee

Links

Use **UNIVERSAL ZOOM** for most activities
<https://zoom.us/j/93526372148>

To add to **SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS** or **BOOK OF LIFE**
 email bookoflife@uufcc.org by Saturday night

CONVERSATION AMONG FRIENDS
<https://zoom.us/j/95584243345>

CHALICE CIRCLES have their own Zoom links.

Azar Chalice Circle
<https://zoom.us/j/92886172999>

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE COMMITTEE
<https://zoom.us/j/97789863043pwd=c2tUenpGMmhjSExaUINOL3VHNik5UT09>

UUFCC Social Group Sign-Up
social-uufcc@googlegroups.com

Spanish for Beginners
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81408957224pwd=cUhGejBuOVVRckU0L1R2SkM2SXhZQT09>

SEPTEMBER 2023 ACTIVITIES

09/02 Sat	10:00 am	Worship Associates Meeting
09/03 Sun	11:45 am	PFLAG Steering Cmte Meeting
09/04 Mon	01:30 pm	Shaw Chalice Circle
	04:00 pm	Azar Chalice Circle
09/05 Tue	10:30 am	Membership Cmte Meeting
09/06 Wed	Noon	Brown Bag Social Luncheon
	04:00 pm	Immigration Justice Cmte.
	06:00 pm	Choir Circle Rehearsal
09/08 Fri	01:00 pm	Communications Committee
09/09 Sat	10:00 am	Charlotte County Democratic Club
09/10 Sun	11:45 am	Social Justice Committee
09/11 Mon	10:30 am	Program Council Meeting
09/13 Wed	10:00 am	Caring Committee
	06:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
09/14 Thu	08:45 am	Port Charlotte Garden Club
	04:30 pm	Buddhist Meditation
09/17 Sun	11:30 am	BIRTHDAY CAKE SUNDAY
	Noon	Art Committee
09/18 Mon	01:30 pm	Shaw Chalice Circle
	04:00 pm	Azar Chalice Circle
	06:00 pm	PFLAG PC Support Group Mtg
09/20 Wed	Noon	Lunch Bunch
	04:00 pm	Immigration Justice Committee
	06:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
09/21 Thu	02:00 pm	UUFCC Board Meeting
09/24 Sun	03:00 pm	Secular Community Meeting
09/27 Wed	04:00 pm	ARRAY Meeting
	06:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
09/28 Thu	04:30 pm	Buddhist Meditation
	06:00 pm	NAACP General Meeting



MISSION: UUFCC offers a caring and diverse religious community. We are guided by reason and conscience, encourage intellectual inquiry, foster individual spiritual growth, and promote social justice and environmental responsibility. *UUFCC PPM.*

PURPOSE: UUFCC is a religious community committed to diversity and social justice where spirituality, reason, compassion, service and fellowship meet. *UUFCC Bylaws Art. III (Adopted 03-27-22).*

VISION: In five years, we, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County, will be a thriving, intergenerational, racially diverse, and Welcoming Congregation. We will have an inspiring minister, committed lay leadership, enhanced facilities, uplifting music and art and vibrant activities and programs that support our mission. *UUFCC PPM.*

WELCOMING: UUFCC strives to practice non-discrimination by embodying what UUFCC hopes to see in the world—a just, loving community in which people are free to be themselves fully and without fear. *UUFCC Bylaws Art. IV (Adopted 03.27.22).* [UUFCC was founded in 1969.]

SUBMISSIONS INFO

COMMUNIQUE welcomes submissions of **300 words or less.**

Submissions may be edited for spelling, grammar, punctuation, clarity, legal ramifications, length, or general taste at the editors' discretion. Editors reserve the right to refuse to publish submissions for the same reasons. While acceptance rules are lenient, the editorial board will reject that deemed potentially libelous, racist, hateful, or a personal attack.

Anonymous submissions are not accepted.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SUGGESTIONS & IDEAS

Yes, we'd like to get to know you if we could ... (Spanky & Our Gang flashback?)

Tell us about you. What is your background? Where are you from?

Tell us about your life journey. What brought you to Florida and when?

Tell us about your career paths. Accomplishments? Interests? Hobbies?

How did you come to UUFCC? What keeps you here?

Tell us about current and past UU roles or involvement.

Something else? You decide! You tell us what you want us to know!

UUFCC directory/archives picture is used unless another is provided.

REALITY CHECK — DISCLAIMER — THE FINE PRINT

Views and opinions expressed in submissions are personal and belong solely to the author/submitter.

Views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official view, policy, Principles, Covenants, or positions of UUFCC or its newsletter editors.

Views and opinions expressed are not intended to malign any religion, ethnic group, organization, individual, or anyone or anything.

Guarantees are not made as to completeness, accuracy, usefulness, or timeliness.

SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER'S INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

Content is not intended to be negative, divisive, and/or diminishing.

Uphold one another's First Amendment right to free speech.

Encourage and value a free, open, and mutually respectful exchange.

Cherish our Beloved Community.

Take all content kindly and in the spirit in which it was intended.

UUFCC CONTACTS

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buddhistmeditation@uufcc.org

caring@uufcc.org

choir@uufcc.org

hospitalityandsocial@uufcc.org

membership@uufcc.org

office@uufcc.org

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT INITIATIVE PETITION FORM – VOLUNTEER

Amendment Information

Ballot Title: Right to Clean and Healthy Waters

Ballot Summary: This amendment creates a fundamental right to clean and healthy waters. The amendment may be used to sue State executive agencies for harm or threatened harm to Florida's waters, which include aquatic ecosystems. This amendment defines terms, identifies affected constitutional provisions in Article IV governing the executive branch, provides for civil action enforcement, allows attorney's and expert witness fees to prevailing plaintiffs, and provides equitable remedies including restoration of waters.

See separate document for the full text of the proposed constitutional amendment.

Date Approved 04/22/2022 **Serial Number** 2202



Sponsor's Information (Return all completed petition forms to the address below.)

Name: Florida Right to Clean Water.org

Address: 13300 South Cleveland Avenue Suite 56 Fort Myers, FL 33907

Voter's Information

I am a registered voter of Florida and hereby petition the Secretary of State to place the above proposed amendment to the Florida Constitution on the ballot in the general election.

Name - Last _____ **First** _____ **Middle** _____

Address _____

City _____ **Zip** _____ **County** _____

☐ Update my voter registration record to this address. (check box)

Registration No. **or** **Date of Birth** / /

Signature _____ **Date Signed** / /

Petition Circulator's Information



This Petition form is only to be collected by a volunteer or directly by the voter him or herself.

A paid petition circulator must use the DS-DE 155B version of the form. Forms for paid petition circulators can be obtained from the Division's Paid Petition Circulator website.

Visit <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/InitiativePetitions/> for more information.

Attention

- This form becomes a public record once filed with the Supervisor of Elections.
- It is a first degree misdemeanor to knowingly sign the same petition more than once. [§104.185, F.S.]
- An improperly completed form will not be validated.