



**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County**  
1532 Forest Nelson Boulevard, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952  
941.627.4303 – [www.uufcc.org](http://www.uufcc.org) – [www.facebook.com/uufcc](http://www.facebook.com/uufcc)

# COMMUNIQUE

**Can you say kuh-myoo-nuh-kay?**

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

promotes

## SEVEN PRINCIPLES

as strong values & moral guides:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Principle

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Principle

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Principle

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

### 4<sup>th</sup> Principle

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

### 5<sup>th</sup> Principle

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

### 6<sup>th</sup> Principle

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

### 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.youtube.com)  
UUFCC Port Charlotte

## Letter from the President

Dear Ones,

We are heading into UUFCC's busy season.

**Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 24th following the morning's service.**

Prior to this meeting, there are numerous tasks to complete.

**First, there will be several vacancies on the Board of Trustees.**

The Nominating Committee is currently seeking candidates to run for these openings. If approached to serve or if you wish to volunteer to be a candidate, **contact a member of the Nominating Committee.** They include Stephanie Garrett, Mary Jane Williams, Dorothy Parmenter, Patrick Eaton and Nancy Weaver. According to our Bylaws, **candidates must have at least a year of membership and have made a financial contribution within this past fiscal year.**



**Second, we also have to create an Annual Report for the past year.**

Each committee is expected to prepare a summary for this important document. Carefully read the "Weekly Updates" for instructions and deadlines.

**Third, in addition to electing new leaders, we will vote to accept next year's budget, and updated Mission and Vision Statements.**

You will receive a draft copy of these important guiding statements and copies will also be available at the Fellowship.

**Finally, please commit to attending the Annual Meeting.**

We must have a quorum of members to conduct our business.

As always, I am so grateful for your support and service.

In faith and love,  
Dennis Shaw, President  
UUFCC Board of Trustees



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH ARRIVES IN FLORIDA

"How We Doin' Dr. King?" was one of the songs that Lyn and I sang for the Martin Luther King weekend in January. The song was written by Tim Burnaman. We sang at the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater. Hundreds of people, from different communities were present for the celebration. Rev. Amy Kindred is the minister.

Keep asking the question asked in the song:

### "How We Doin' Dr. King?"

Black History Month is a time for reflection, rededication, and renewal. In June, the Unitarian Universalist Association will have its national convention. There will be discussions about rewriting the Association's bylaws and there will be declarations about this and that. Keep asking:

**"What do Unitarian Universalists want to do in the here and now?  
What's doable in the year 2024?"**

Here's a point to consider: Martin Luther King's birthday and the Presidential Inauguration Day for the United States will be celebrated on the same day in the year 2025. Imagine what the world will look like less than twelve months from now. Will democracy survive? Will the world be moving towards peace or will today's conflicts in the Middle East, Ukraine, and in other places still be in progress? What can congregations do that will be useful in the near future?

Stay with Dr. King's vision.  
Two activities are suggested.



Rev.  
Robert (Bob) Murphy  
Unitarian Universalist  
Community Minister  
Florida



First: Unitarian Universalists can join others and **work for voting rights**. Congregations can support voter registration, voter education, get-out-the-vote activities, and poll watching. Florida and the other Southern states have a long history of voter suppression. Martin Luther King understood the problem and he brought people together in defense of democracy. He was a Baptist preacher who did a lot of good among the Unitarian Universalists.

Second: Unitarian Universalists can **support humanitarian work**. We can prepare for emergencies and we can respond in appropriate ways. Some emergencies will occur close to home. Heat waves and hurricanes are part of our Florida experience. Some problems will be in distant places. I've been asked repeatedly, "What should Americans do in response to the fighting in the Middle East?" The answer is simple. Support humanitarian work.

Feed the hungry, shelter the people who are homeless, care for refugee families, and assist with healing. Organized religion has been doing this good work since Biblical times. Church bylaws can be rewritten, and rewritten, with more revisions to follow, but, at the end of this year, what will matter most will be the actions that happen on Election Day and at other critical moments. Congregations can be helpful.

Stay with Dr. King's vision  
in this new year!



**“It’s not the destination, it’s the journey.”**

**— Ralph Waldo Emerson**

For those who might be interested in driving cross-country, this is our (almost) entirely uneventful report of our drive from FL to WA.

**ROAD TRIP REPORT**

When	December 10 <sup>th</sup> through 17 <sup>th</sup>
Starting Point	Punta Gorda FL
Destination	Port Orchard, Washington State
Vehicle	2004 Subaru Forester
Distance	3,464 miles
Average Speed	61 mph
Average MPG	29
Gas Fills	9: Lowest \$2.47 in TN. Highest \$4.40 in WA.
Oil	<1 quart
Ratio of Vehicles Passed by Subaru	50:1
Duration	7 days, 3 hours
Pressure Sores	0
Sore Backs	2
States Visited	12: FL, GA, TN (then GA, TN again), KY, IL, MO, KS, CO, WY, UT, ID, OR, WA
Presidential Museums Visited	2: Carter and Eisenhower
Sets of Relatives Visited	2
Extra Miles to Visit Museums & Relatives	200
Extra Miles Lost Due to Being Lost	<40
Warmest	85 °F in Florida
Coldest	24 °F in Prosser, Utah, overnight
Worst Weather	I-70 in Kansas: Snow, ice, fog, and wind
Worst Road Surface	I-24 and I-70 in Kansas
Highest Elevation	7,800' on I-80 in Wyoming
Hotel Stays	6
Proudest & Most Essential Accomplishment	Reviving the Cruise Control in Kentucky



**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](http://www.uua.org/beliefs/who-we-are)

Would we do it again? Ask us in about five years. It’s not the lifestyle of choice. I’m glad I wasn’t a trucker. Audiobooks helped.

It’s interesting where your mind wanders when your body is stuck, hence, the above stats ...

P.S. The “check engine” light remained reassuringly on the entire trip.



## DON'T LET OTHER PARENTS TELL YOU WHAT YOUR CHILD CAN READ



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice ([uucov.org](http://uucov.org)) and The Social Justice Alliance of the Florida Suncoast ([sjafs.org](http://sjafs.org)) are co-hosting an exciting major event:

### THE RIGHT TO READ FESTIVAL: ALL BOOKS FOR ALL PEOPLE

This day-long FREE event on February 24, 2024, is designed to push back against book banning, underscore our rights and freedoms under the First Amendment, preserve our intellectual freedoms, and celebrate books and authors.

The ALL-DAY festival will feature regional and national speakers, children's activities and programs, free banned book giveaways, musical performances, storytellers and:

### A PURPLE BANNED BOOK BUS from SHELF INDULGENCE USED BOOK CAFE

Numerous food trucks and refreshments will be available along with various vendors, community organization booths, numerous regional authors, storytellers, musicians, singalongs for kids, art projects, and active games.

COPPERFISH BOOKS (Punta Gorda) will be the festival bookseller.

Presenters include:

- ROB SANDERS, award-winning LGBTQIA+ children's book author (Tampa);
- JAMES ABRAHAM, Port Charlotte publisher and author;
- MARTHA BIREDA, Punta Gorda writer and history reenactor;
- CARRIE SEIDMAN, journalist, Sarasota Herald-Tribune;
- ZANDER MORICZ, social justice organizer from SEE (Social Equity Through Education) Alliance, Sarasota;
- TOM EDWARDS, Sarasota County School Board member;
- KENT OLIVER (from Nashville) of the Freedom to Read Foundation/American Library Association;
- MICHAEL SCANLAN, Blue Lotus Buddhist Meditation Center; and,
- DAVID STOKES, children's performer & naturalist (from Wisconsin).

**More FLYER, p.5**

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice & The Social Justice Alliance of the Florida Suncoast

PRESENT

FREE

# THE RIGHT TO READ FESTIVAL: ALL BOOKS FOR ALL PEOPLE

**Saturday**  
**Feb. 24, 2024**  
**10am-4pm**

Held on the grounds of  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Venice  
**1971 Pinebrook Road**  
(Corner of Edmondson &  
Pinebrook Rds.)

**Fun for all ages!**  
ENTERTAINMENT ~ FOOD  
VENDORS ~ CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES  
AND MORE!

Many more details at our  
website: [SJAFS.org](http://SJAFS.org)

## SPEAKERS

- James Abraham
- Martha Bireda
- Tom Edwards
- Zander Moricz
- Kent Oliver
- Rob Sanders
- Carrie Seidman

### SPONSORED BY:



- Unitarian Universalist Association
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County
- Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota
- Venice Interfaith Community Association

# THE RIGHT TO READ FESTIVAL: ALL BOOKS FOR ALL PEOPLE

**10am—4pm, Saturday, 24 February 2024**

**I received the following request and pass it on to you!**  
— contributed by Theodore Zawistowski, SJC Interim Chair

## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS!

1. Review carefully the List of Volunteers Needed→
2. Select the area where you would like to help, and email me with your choice.
3. Please be sure to include your phone number.

The event begins at 10:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm.

If you are only able to serve a 2-hour shift or a 4-hour shift, please let me know.

Also, if you know anyone else who might be interested in volunteering, please encourage them to contact me.

As we get closer to the event, I will contact you with more specific information.

Thank you for volunteering to help at the February 24<sup>th</sup> Right to Read Festival. We are confident that this important event will be a success because people like you have indicated a willingness to help.

Thank you again for your assistance and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Rich Cannarelli  
Coordinator of Volunteer Services  
Richard Cannarelli <[richnser@yahoo.com](mailto:richnser@yahoo.com)>

## LIST OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**PARKING LOT ATTENDANTS:** At least 8 people are needed to direct cars to the parking area.

**CHAIR SET UP:** About 10 people are needed to assist in setting up chairs under the big tent on the day before the event.

**CHAIR TAKE DOWN:** About 10 people are needed to take down the chairs in the tent.

**TRASH PICK UP (ugh!):** Not as bad as it sounds but there will be several trash bins placed throughout the event space and people are needed to remove bags, etc.

**POSTER DISTRIBUTION:** As many people as possible are needed to approach retailers in their areas and ask if they would be willing to display a small poster in their window or bulletin board.

**SELL MERCHANDISE:** About 4 people are needed to assist with T-shirts and other memorabilia to be sold at the event.

**SELL WATER BOTTLES:** Same as above.

**BOOK DONATION TABLE:** Four people are needed to assist with the plan to donate a limited number of free banned books.

**MONITOR THE VENDING AREA:** Food trucks will be at the event, and volunteers are needed to monitor the area and give directions to the vendors if necessary.



# EQUALITY FLORIDA ANNUAL PRIDE KICK OFF AT THE CAPITOL



On January 16th and 17th, I attended the beginning of the State Legislative Sessions with Denny Fuller (a member of UUCOV). Equality Florida was very organized with providing training on the morning of the 16th for close to 300 volunteers. The volunteers then broke into groups with an experienced team leader.

Our group was 12 members. Within our group, we chose roles: team leader, greeter, scribe, story teller, bill expert and closer. I chose to be one of the story tellers. I told stories about families I encountered that have been persecuted with recent anti LGBTQ+ laws.

We focused on four bills; two we support and two we oppose.

### THE TWO BILLS WE OPPOSE:

1. **Trans Erasure Bill** proposed by Rep. Dean Black (R), preventing the ability to change gender identification on documentation. This bill would also increase the cost of gender affirming care.
2. **Don't Say Gay/Trans at Work Bill** would eliminate individuals claiming their true identity at work. Also, sensitivity training cannot be required.

### THE TWO BILLS WE SUPPORT:

1. **Health Care Reform Act:** parental rights for care, personal freedom / abortion 3rd trimester.
2. **Freedom to Learn Act:** repealing stop woke protecting LGBTQ+ students by reducing mandatory coming out to their families.



**Florida Capitol Tallahassee**

**Equality Florida is Florida's statewide civil rights organization dedicated to securing full equality for Florida's LGBTQ+ community.**



**Patrick Eaton UUFCC Member and Founding Member & President of PFLAG Port Charlotte Chapter (Meetings are at UUFCC)**

### THE MAIN THREE GOALS FROM EQUALITY FLORIDA WERE:

- (1) Kill as many bills as possible.
- (2) Limit harm.
- (3) Set the stage for legislation.

On January 16th, we met with four Representatives' aids since the Representatives were unavailable. We were received well by three out of four.

On January 17th, we were able to sit in on the presentation, the citizen comment and voting on a bill concerning the **blocking of the pride flag being allowed at government buildings (schools)**. Many spoke against the bill stating that it is a positive symbol for many marginalized students and adults. The bill was passed blocking the flying of pride flags.

My group then met with Rep. Black who sponsored the Trans Erasure Bill. He allowed us to speak, but he was not listening. A young Trans male spoke very articulately about his life and journey. The Rep. doesn't acknowledge the existence of a Trans individual. Very upsetting meeting. We faced the Dragon but didn't sway him one bit.

We are not giving up. Equality Florida will have people there for the entire eight weeks. I will return next year. I made some wonderful contacts there: a couple that are just beginning their PFLAG chapter.

Moving forward with love

Patrick Eaton, President PFLAG Port Charlotte Chapter

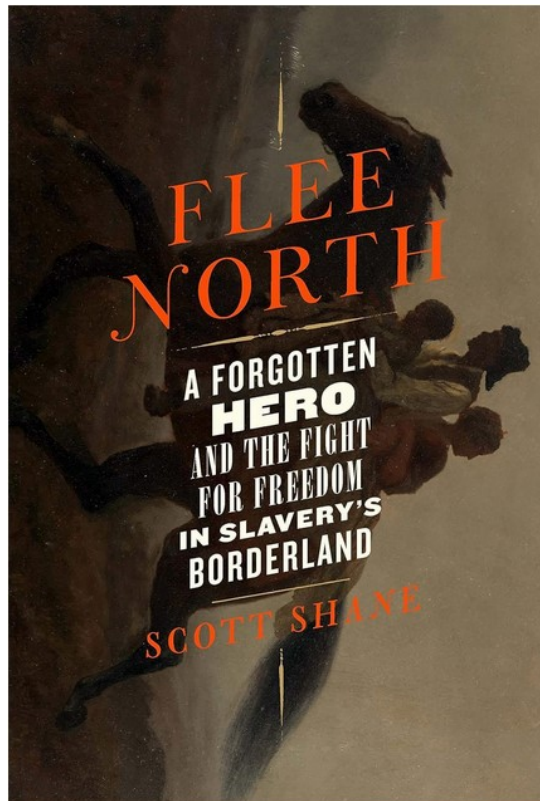
# WALK, MARCH, RUN TO THE STATION ON MY WAY TO FREEDOM

— Stephanie Garrett

February was declared Black History Month in 1976 by President Gerald R. Ford. It was designated a Federal Holiday in recognition of African American accomplishments and achievements in every aspect of American life. Survival was an accomplishment in spite of being designated  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a person with the majority to work the earth and serve others. The first person to die on behalf of freedom from British shackles was a free Black man, Crispus Attucks, on Boston Commons in 1770. President Ford also wanted to recognize the achievements of Black Americans in every aspect of American life from agriculture to space flight.

Escaping from bondage would be the primary focus of many blacks beginning in 1619. But where are you, where can you go, and how do you get there? The majority escaped from the South with the assistance of white abolitionists, sympathizers and free people of color located in urban areas. However, there were many routes to freedom. The routes were part of what was coined the **underground railroad**, orchestrated and led by people called conductors. The underground railroads ran west from Ohio to Indiana and Iowa, north to Pennsylvania and New England or Detroit to Canada. South led into Mexico. Slavery was illegal in what was then Mexico. That government refused to sign the **Fugitive Slave Act of 1850** requiring the

return of runaway slaves. Florida, during that time, was in Spanish possession and also offered an escape. The Seminoles, native to the Florida area, also provided sanctuary to the runaways.



We always hear the term Underground Railroad, but few, including me, knew it's origin. The book "Flee North: A Forgotten Hero And The Fight for Freedom in Slavery's Borderland" by Scott Shane, introduced me and others to the name Thomas Smallwood. Smallwood, born in slavery in 1801 near the District of Columbia, earned money to free himself. Self educated, he became a shoemaker by day and by night organized daring escapes from slavery. He was assisted by Charles Torrey, a white New England abolitionist and newspaper publisher. The purpose of the newspaper was to abolish slavery. In 1840

Torrey formed the Liberty Party to expedite freedom for all. The term Underground Railroad was first used in the August 10, 1842 issue in one of numerous articles written by Smallwood.

It is estimated that over 100,000 slaves escaped through the underground network starting in the 18 century, and ending with the Emancipation Proclamation issued in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln.



## 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>

## NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTEBUDS

*for Kay*

I seek whatever is spicy or sour  
and relish the salty, the sharp,  
like the units of chemical heat in a pepper,

which so pain my sensitive cousin  
that she even perceives what’s not there  
in her guiltless Pad Thai.

I request five on the Scoville scale  
ordering chiles rellenos or curry,  
more red pepper flakes on my pizza.

Ah, give me the bite of a pungent solyanka,  
give me more pickled ginger to go with my sushi  
and blend with the wasabi’s burn!

Give me umami to make me sit up,  
raw garlic to augment the flavor of pesto  
and to ready my tongue for Merlot.

Our cousinly biases usually crisscross  
like tattersall plaids, but in our gustation  
we’re parallel lines destined never to meet.

*by Sharon Whitehill*



# REV. BOB MURPHY'S BEACH PARTY REDUX Service on Sunday, January 28, 2024

Robert Moran blew a conch shell call to begin services (per Hawaiian protocol). Sharon Whitehill wrote her own lyrics to the tune of *Kokomo*. Ryan Smith played a wonderful rendition of *Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay*. All were nudged to get involved with **UU THE VOTE!** [uuthevote.org](http://uuthevote.org). Heard Harry Belafonte, still an active activist in his later years, said: "Each and every one of you has the power, the will and the capacity to make a difference in the world in which you live in." All even sang and danced in the aisles!



Janet Morrill



Rev. Bob Murphy and Lorrie Douglas



Rev. Bob & MaryLou Kennedy



Ryan Richardson and Ryan Smith



Carolyn Kellar



Herb Levin and Ron Taylor



Dennis Shaw  
**More BEACH, p.11**

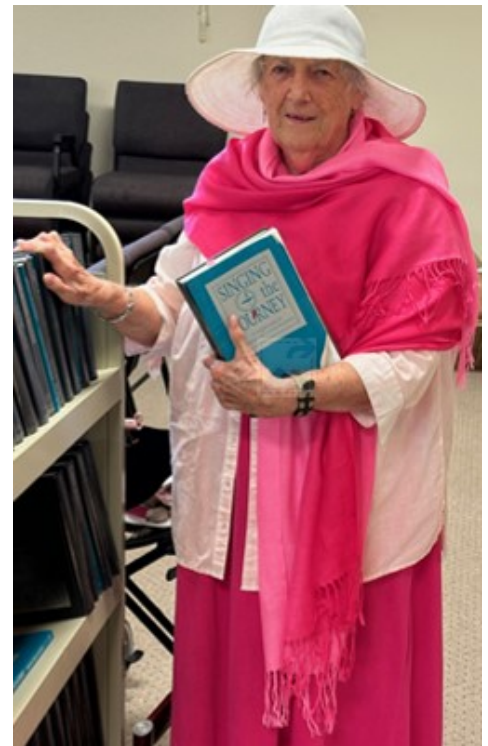
BEACH from p.10



Bill Stanwood



Beach Décor Galore!



Sally Milne



Sue Burgess



Ted Zawistowski



Betty Powell



Laura Anderson

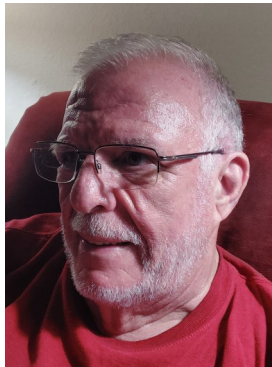


You go into an ice cream store and state the obvious: “I’d like an ice cream.” The clerk looks at you, waiting. Because in order to fulfill your desire, he needs to know what kind of ice cream you’d like.

Well, we all want justice. What kind of justice? That depends. And so I offer up some very popular “flavors” that may be of interest to you.

1. **DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE** is concerned with the apportionment of privileges, duties, and goods in consonance with the merits of the individual and in the best interest of society. It refers to the perceived fairness of an allocation or, more broadly, to how people judge what they receive. It was probably the first type of justice to gain the attention of organizational justice scholars and continues to receive wide attention.
2. **RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE** is the response to criminal behavior that focuses on the punishment of lawbreakers and the compensation of victims. In general, the severity of the punishment is proportionate to the seriousness of the crime.
3. **CORRECTIVE JUSTICE** concerns the fairness of the response to a wrong or injury to a person or group. Common responses include making a person who has wronged or injured another suffer some form of punishment, give back something that was stolen, or pay for damages.
4. **PROCEDURAL JUSTICE** concerns the fairness and the transparency of the processes by which decisions are made, and may be contrasted with distributive justice (fairness in the distribution of rights or resources), and retributive justice (fairness in the punishment of wrongs). Hearing all parties before a decision is made is one step which would be considered

## JUSTICE



Herb Levin

appropriate to be taken in order that a process may then be characterized as procedurally fair. Some theories of procedural justice hold that fair procedure leads to equitable outcomes, even if the requirements of distributive or restorative justice are not met. It has been suggested that this is the outcome of the higher quality interpersonal interactions often found in the procedural justice process, which has shown to be stronger in affecting the perception of fairness during conflict resolution.

There then arises the question of equity. Not to be confused with equality. And both to be distinguished from justice.

**EQUALITY** requires that every person or community receive the exact same resources and opportunities.

**EQUITY**, however, acknowledges that everyone doesn’t start from the same place in life. People and communities have been differentially impacted by a variety of circumstances, structures and historical contexts that have intentionally advantaged some, while unjustly and intentionally disadvantaging others. As a result, those who have been disadvantaged require a differential allocation of resources and opportunities.

The source for this last is bigcitieshealth.org. The justice definitions are Wikipedia.

While I could find no song titles re justice, themes abound, the most popular being:

“Imagine” by John Lennon;  
 “If I Had a Hammer” by Pete Seegar;  
 “Blowin’ In The Wind” by Bob Dylan; and,  
 “A Change Is Gonna Come” by Sam Cooke.

No luck with equity in the music realm.

**UUFCC Art Committee  
ART ON THE WALL**



On display at UUFCC through Feb 23rd.

**2D STUDIO GROUP**

of the Punta Gorda Visual Art Center.

JOANN COLLINS, a UUFCC member, has some lovely work on display.

KAY AZAR, another UUFCC member, has some of her work in our cases.

UUFCC MEMBERS & FRIENDS: Get your paints, pencils, cameras and more — Our next exhibit at the end of February will be a **MEMBER EXHIBIT!**



Artist Lynne Pallarino



Artist Janet Lottman



Artist Christine Zimmer



Artist Lionel Lewis



Artist and UUFCC Member Joanne Collins

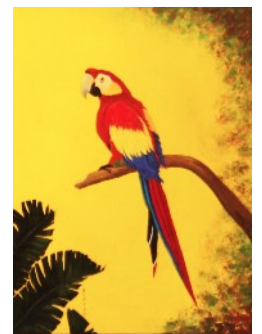
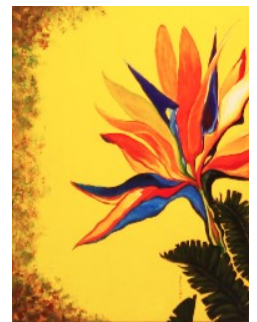
**More ART, p.14**

ART from p.13



More ART, p.13

ART from p.14



## TEAM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR CONGREGATIONS

In the 1970s, aviation industry accidents with great loss of life were happening due to completely avoidable human error. In almost every case, investigators heard a team member on the “black box” cockpit voice recorder calling out what needed to be done and being ignored.

The National Traffic Safety Board (NTSB) looked into Crew Resource Management (CRM) after United Flight 173 in 1978 ran out of fuel and crashed, while the captain maintained a holding pattern to troubleshoot a landing gear indicator (one of several crashes related to a burnt out lightbulb). The first officer called out both that the landing gear was down and locked, and that they were desperately low on fuel, but was ignored.

That crash wasn't long after the 1977 Tenerife disaster. Two 747s collided, killing 583 people. That pilot was demeaning to his first officer who called out that they didn't have clearance to take off, and was disregarded. They spooled up their engines and slammed into another 747.

Congregation leaders who aren't fully situationally aware and fail to consider the perceptions of all involved won't likely cause a huge loss of life or a billion dollars vaporized in a fireball, but there still may be unnecessary hurt, loss, and damage.

**As pretty much everyone reading this is involved in at least one committee, what lessons can we take from CRM?**

**BE SITUATIONALLY AWARE:** Pilots are trained to state the problem as they see it and then ask other team members if they see it that way too.

**The first step in any emergency isn't to act: it is to state the problem, see if people agree, and then and only then act.**

Congregation leaders often have a fix for a problem that might not have been a problem or was the wrong problem. That can cascade into



**Ryan Smith**

other problems and resentments. The Flight 173 pilot thought the landing gear indicator was the problem, which caused the problem of no fuel and a catastrophic crash. First, agree on the problem.

### **AVOID POWER DYNAMICS:**

Regardless of experience, rank, age, position, pilots must give each team member equal standing to offer suggestions, identify the existence or nature of a problem, and be heard and given consideration. Even cabin attendants serving coffee and handing

out pillows must be heard. (Pilots may have no insight about lavatory smoke or engine flames.) In the Tenerife disaster, the copilot knew they hadn't been given clearance, but the pilot was so demeaning, rude, and dismissive, the copilot found it easier to keep quiet and hope for the best. No matter how another's suggestion seems to you, listen without judgment; then if it can't be implemented, fine. “I'm the one in charge” and “this has already been decided” keeps people from contributing.

**Even if 99 suggestions are useless, one could be the one that saves your life.**

**COMMUNICATE:** Pilots must read back air traffic control instructions. Most of the time, instruction and read back are identical. But a read back that catches a misunderstanding could save lives.

**Use congregational read back: “So, what you're saying is....”**

Misunderstandings, usually small but sometimes catastrophic, happen all the time everywhere. Consequences may seem vastly less significant, but, for me, your feelings and suggestions matter. My area of influence is basically confined to music, but, if you have ideas, I want to hear them. I may not be able to implement them, but knowing what is on people's minds helps me keep things fresh and relevant. You may not consider me part of your crew or team, but I think of you as being on mine.



# The UUFCC Book Group

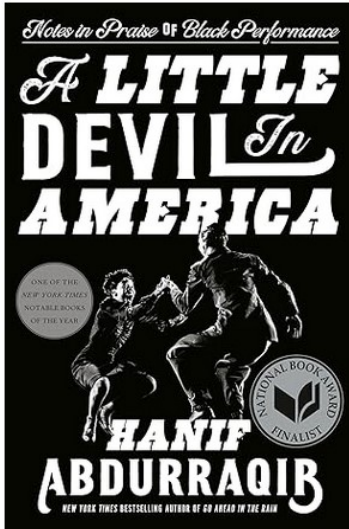
will discuss

## ***A Little Devil in America*** ***Notes in Praise of Black Performance*** by **Hanif Abdurraqib**

**1:30 pm, Wednesday, February 28th, at the Fellowship**  
**Any and all are always invited and welcome anytime.**

Per Amazon.com:

- National Book Award Finalist;
- ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: *Chicago Tribune, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Dallas Morning News, Publishers Weekly.*
- Winner, Andrew Carnegie Medal and Gordon Burn Prize.
- Finalist for National Book Critics Circle Award and Pen/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award.
- ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: *The New York Times Book Review, Time, The Boston Globe, NPR, Rolling Stone, Esquire, BuzzFeed, Thrillist, She Reads, BookRiot, BookPage, Electric Lit, The Rumpus, LitHub, Library Journal, Booklist.*



- “Sweeping, genre-bending masterpiece” (*Minneapolis Star Tribune*), exploring Black art, music, and culture in all their glory and complexity—from Soul Train, Aretha Franklin, and James Brown to The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, Whitney Houston, and Beyoncé.
- “Gorgeous essays that reveal the resilience, heart-break, and joy within Black performance.”—Brit Bennett, #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Vanishing Half*.

MacArthur “Genius Grant” Fellow and bestselling author Hanif Abdurraqib’s profound and lasting reflection on:

**How Black performance is inextricably woven into the fabric of American culture.**



**Mary Jane Williams**  
**UUFCC Office Admin. and**  
**UUFCC Book Group Chair**

**HANIF ABDURRAQIB’S INSPIRATION FOR THE BOOK:**

***“I was a devil in other countries, and I was a little devil in America, too.”***

**— Spoken by Josephine Baker at the 1963 March on Washington**

**Book is dedicated to Baker.**

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

## OUR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

— Ted Zawistowski, SJC Interim Chair

The inspiring spirit of Martin Luther King Jr. soared high into the rain-filled sky above Punta Gorda on Monday, January 15th, lifting up the hearts of a long line of paraders gathered to honor his memory and the causes he sacrificed his life for. We UUs took our places in the mile-long walk from the downtown Event Center to the Cooper Street Recreational Center where distinguished speakers stood waiting for us to arrive. Carrying our UUFCC banner were Nancy Weaver and Randy Gerber.

**INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE.**

REVEREND, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



**Ted Zawistowski with our UUFCC banner: Justice for All.**



Jing Cheng and Ted Zawistowski Unexpectedly marching with us was Cheng Jing, a woman from China visiting my neighbors across the hall in my condo building.

When she heard about the parade, she asked if she could join in.

“Sure, everyone is welcome.”

Wrapped in a plastic raincoat, she carried the banner of our UUFCC Social Justice Committee.



**More KING, p.19**

**KING from p.18**



**Randy Gerber carried our UUFCC banner!**



**Nancy Weaver!**

We UUFCC paraders were not a single, self-centered bloc.

Marvin Covey drove a convertible (top up) with Helen Sokalski and some others inside.

More UUs were scattered among members of the Charlotte County Democrats, the Democratic Women's Club, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, groups we have supported for years. Among them were Betty Munford, Ruth Volpe and others.



**Betty Barriga with the banner for the UUFCC Immigration Justice Committee!**

**More KING, p.20**

**KING from p.19**

Rain or shine, on foot or in vehicles, we paid our gesture of respect. Folks at curbsides, on porches, and in restaurant windows cheered us on. The spirits of all of us were sky high.



**Cheng Jing with UUFCC Social Justice Committee banner; and, Betty Barriga with UUFCC Immigration Justice Committee**



**Cheng Jing with the banner of the UUFCC Social Justice Committee**

**Wording on white placard: "TO KEEP OUR MULTI-RACIAL DEMOCRACY, VOTE!"**

## FEBRUARY THOUGHTS

February is the shortest month of the year on both the Julian and Gregorian calendars. It is the only month to have fewer than 30 days, usually 28, with a 29th day added every fourth year called a leap year. The name February comes from the word **FEBRUA, AN ANCIENT MONTH LONG PAGAN FESTIVAL** to cleanse, atone and look to the future. There were animal sacrifices, with a bloodied rag gently slapping a young woman's rear to encourage fertility.

There are many recognition days during the month of February. Being from the state of Pennsylvania, **PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL** comes immediately to mind. Phil, a favorite groundhog of east coast meteorologists, is summoned from his hole in Gobbler's Knob PA. every February 2nd. If he sees his shadow, there will be an early spring; if not, there will be six more weeks of winter. This has been a tradition at the same place since 1886 with much media coverage even today.

During ancient times, there occurred the **ROMAN FESTIVAL OF LUPERCALIA** in mid February. It celebrated the coming of spring including fertility rites. It is said that men and women were paired by lottery. Oh those pagans. The Christians had a serious issue with this festival and in the 5th century Pope Gelasius said enough and it was forbidden. It is thought that he replaced it with a day honoring Valentine.

**VALENTINE'S DAY**, named by early Christians in honor of a healer and martyr (who may or may not be the same person), was a day of feasting.

Valentine, or St. Valentine the Healer, gave sight to the blind daughter of his jailer. Valentine the martyr would not deny his religion. St. Valentine was the patron saint of lovers, beekeepers and epileptics. Valentine's messages came around in the 16th century and commerce took over 100 years later. Cupid was the Roman god of love.

Then there is **PRESIDENTS' DAY**, first proclaimed in 1862 in recognition of the first President, George Washington, via proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln. The birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln remained separate holidays in February until 1971. The Uniform Holiday Act under President Nixon combined the birthdays of Washington and Lincoln into one federal holiday.

February is also **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**, initiated in 1915 by African American Carter G. Woodson on the 50th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. It became a national month of recognition through a proclamation by President Gerald Ford in 1976. In his words:

**"To seize the opportunity to honor the often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."**

Final Words:

**"Somebody once said we never know when enough is enough until it becomes too much."**

— *Billie Holiday*,  
African American Jazz singer



**Stephanie Garrett**

### LUPERCALIA OBSERVATIONS:

Luperci goat sacrifices;  
Vestals cake offerings;  
A fertility rite in which a goatskin-clad Luperci strikes women who wish to conceive.  
[wikipedia.org/wiki/lupercalia](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/lupercalia)



Lupercalia oil painting circa 1635

**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](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UnitarianUniversalism)

# COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

on the

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Per UUFCC Bylaws VII.A.3., the Nominating Committee is the group that recommends at the UUFCC Annual Meeting a slate of one or more candidates that are as widely representative of the Fellowship as possible for the following positions:

- Expiring Board positions;
- Nominating Committee positions;
- Committee on Shared Ministry positions; and,
- General Assembly delegates and alternates.

Per UUFCC Bylaws VII.A.4., the Nominating Committee also recommends candidates for other positions as needed.

Whenever possible, the Nominating Committee tries to nominate at least two persons for each position. Nominations from the floor shall be entertained. Election will be by written ballot.

Per Bylaws VII.A.2, “All Fellowship members are eligible to be on the Nominating Committee.”

Per Bylaws V.A.1-4, Fellowship members in good standing require all four of the following:

1. Agree with UU Principles, Mission, Vision and Covenant;
2. Be 16 years of age or older;
3. Sign the Membership Book in the presence of two of the following: Minister, Board member designated by Board, or Membership Committee representative; and,
4. Make a yearly contribution of record.



The Nominating Committee is looking for a few good people to run for Board positions or Nominating Committee positions at the March 2024 Annual Meeting when elections take place.

Members in good standing for one year or more can self nominate to any member of the Nominating Committee.

Those interested in being considered for positions should submit their names to the Nominating Committee by February 15th.

See notice in the Weekly Update.

Please contact any member of the Nominating Committee to let them know that you are interested.

Nominating Committee members to contact are:

Patrick Eaton  
Stephanie Garrett  
Dorothy Parmenter  
Nancy Weaver  
Mary Jane Williams

[nominating@uufcc.org](mailto:nominating@uufcc.org)

# GO VEGAN



COMPASSION



NONVIOLENCE



FOR THE ANIMALS



FOR THE PLANET



FOR THE PEOPLE

## ROASTED NUT MIX

This one is simple but always well received!



**Kay Azar**

### INGREDIENTS

1-1/2 lbs.	Mixed nuts (suggestions are pecans, almonds, pistachios, cashews, peanuts, walnuts)
2 TBS	Melted butter or vegan butter substitute
2 TBS	Dark brown sugar
1 TBS	Kosher salt
½ tsp or more	Cayenne pepper
2 TBS	Fresh rosemary , chopped

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Roast nuts in a 350°F oven for 10 minutes.
2. Mix butter, sugar, salt and cayenne.
3. Toss with nuts and a little rosemary.
4. Roast another 10 minutes.
5. Stir in remaining rosemary.
6. Cool before serving.



**LOOK  
AT THIS**



**UUFCC  
GENEROSITY!**

**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**

**SECOND  
HELPING**

Your OCTOBER 2023 Donations Totaled  
**\$1,012.00** which was given to:



To alleviate and prevent  
hunger and homelessness.  
[www.cchomelesscoalition.org](http://www.cchomelesscoalition.org)

**Wow!**

**PEACE GARDEN  
ENGRAVED PAVERS**

Honor beloved UUFCC  
members and friends  
AND help UUFCC.

\$75 buys one paver of which  
\$45 gets donated to UUFCC

Use **ORDER FORM**  
in **WEEKLY UPDATE**



**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.
- **DONATE MONEY!**



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

In Memory



Of...

**ENDOWMENT**

Honor beloved Fellowship members  
and friends AND help UUFCC.

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

Make contribution to:  
**UUFCC Endowment Fund**  
and on check memo line write  
"In Memory of [beloved's name]"





**SECOND SUNDAY  
SECOND HELPING  
FEBRUARY RECIPIENT**



Charlotte County Branch 5093-B

**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 judgment 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 considerate, respectful, and genuinely caring way.*

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

February  
Theme

**EQUITY & JUSTICE**

**02-04-24 FROM ROLE TO SOUL, AGING & UUFCC**

Speaker: Dennis Shaw  
Worship Associate: Jackie Williamson  
(Potluck will be held after service.)

**02-11-24 NAACP**

(Second Sunday Second Helpings are for worthy organizations in our community to intentionally support their good work.)  
Speaker: Connie Payne, President, NAACP 5093-B  
Worship Associate: Bill Stanwood

**02-18-24 TOPIC PENDING AT TIME OF PUBLICATION**

Speaker: Rev. Ann Barker  
Worship Associate: Ryan Richardson

**02-25-24 TOPIC PENDING AT TIME OF PUBLICATION**

Speaker: Rev. Byrd Tetzlaff  
Worship Associate: Kay Azar

**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:

If you have an emergent/urgent need to be announced after that, please call the worship associate directly. See info in Weekly Update.

[bookoflife@uufcc.org](mailto:bookoflife@uufcc.org)

by 6:00 p.m. Saturday



Your  
Worship  
Associate  
Committee



02/01 Peg Stunkard  
 02/02 Stephanie Garrett  
 02/03 Jim Kellar  
 02/05 Helen Sokalski  
 02/14 Que Burgess  
 02/21 Joan Osborne  
 02/23 Mona Azar-Johns  
 02/26 Herb Levin

For a Birthday Shoutout, contact Stephanie Garrett  
[editorialboard@uufcc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:social-uufcc@googlegroups.com)

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

## FEBRUARY 2024 EVENTS

02/01 Thu	07:00 pm	AA
02/03 Sat	10:00 am	Worship Associates
02/04 Sun	09:00 am	Conversation Among Friends
	11:45 am	Congregational Meeting
	Noon	PFLAG-PC Steering Cmte Meeting
02/05 Mon	12:30 pm	Williams/Whitehill Chalice Circle
	04:00 pm	Azar Chalice Circle
02/06 Tue	08:00 am	Men's Coffee Group
02/07 Wed	11:00 am	Membership Committee
	Noon	Brown Bag Luncheon
	01:00 pm	Policies & Procedures Manual
	04:00 pm	Immigration Justice Committee
	06:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
02/08 Thu	08:45 am	Port Charlotte Garden Club
	04:00 pm	Buddhist Meditation
	07:00 pm	AA
02/09 Fr	01:00 pm	Communications Committee
02/11 Sun	09:00 am	Conversations Among Friends
	11:45 am	Social Justice Committee
02/12 Mon	10:30 am	Program Council
	01:30 pm	Shaw Chalice Circle
02/13 Tue	08:00 am	Men's Coffee Group
02/14 Wed	10:00 am	Caring Committee
	01:00 pm	Open Art Studio
	06:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
02/15 Thu	02:00 pm	Board Meeting
	07:00 pm	AA
02/18 Sun		BIRTHDAY CAKE SUNDAY
		NEW MEMBER SUNDAY
	09:00 am	Conversations Among Friends
02/19 Mon	10:00 am	Art Committee (Zoom)
	12:30 pm	Williams/Whitehill Chalice Circle
	04:00 pm	Azar Chalice Circle
	06:00 pm	PFLAG-PC Support Meeting
02/20 Tue	08:00 am	Men's Coffee
	07:00 pm	Sierra Club
02/21 Wed	Noon	Policies & Procedures Manual
	04:00 pm	Immigration Justice Committee
	06:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
02/22 Thu	04:30 pm	Buddhist Meditation
	06:00 pm	NAACP General Meeting
	07:00 pm	AA
02/24 Sat	10:00 am	Right to Read Festival
02/25 Sun	09:00 am	Conversation Among Friends
	03:00 pm	Secular Community
02/26 Mon	01:30 pm	Shaw Chalice Circle
02/27 Tue	08:00 am	Men's Coffee Group
02/28 Wed	01:00 pm	Open Art Studio
	01:30 pm	Book Group
	04:00 pm	ARAY
	06:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
02/29 Thu	07:00 pm	AA



**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

COMM **UU** NIQUÉ 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.

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

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

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

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### UUFCC

## COMM **UU** NIQUÉ

Can you say kuh-myoo-nuh-kay?

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Stephanie Garrett

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MaryLou Kennedy

300-word limit articles due

1-wk before last day of month:

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