



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County
1532 Forrest Nelson Boulevard, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952
941.627.4303 – www.uufcc.org – www.facebook.com/uufcc

COMMUNIQUE

Can you say kuh-myoo-nuh-kay?

UUFCC—founded in 1969

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

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Why again would I wish to be part of the Fellowship presidency?

Several have inquired. The answer is because I love this Community and this religion. At this time in this place:

UUFCC has the honor and the responsibility to be an oasis.

We are an oasis of love and acceptance. We are a place where it's worth driving a distance to feel part of a Community, part of a mission, part of the solution.

UUFCC is a place to heal wounds, a place to be accepted without "doing" all the time, without saying the right words; a place to just be, be in silence with others, be in connection with others. Our Fellowship is a place to be fed again with grace and energy and love and sustenance. to step into the world again and breathe out love!

How will we move ahead?

The joy and satisfaction of working with Laura L and this dedicated Board is palpable. To join with our Community in shared goals of transparency and increased participation is exciting and a relief.

Our first Town Hall was a useful and fun process.



Contributions from all were gathered and studied in our following Board meeting. To be joined by leaders who choose to act on things within a week of the meeting is astounding and motivating. More to follow!

I look forward to sharing my excitement and satisfaction with others in the Fellowship as you step forward to engage in new ways and commitments that will propel our Community in enjoying and helping each other while fulfilling our vision.

Will we misstep and disagree?

Of course, we will. At the same time, we will move ahead in love through listening, sharing honestly and bravely, and using our covenant to restore our direction. We are also a learning community!

Is it difficult? Yes. Is it simple? Yes.

With the support and acceptance of each other, and the grace and energy that we produce, TOGETHER WE CAN DO THIS!

Lorrie Douglas, Co-President
UUFCC Board of Trustees

Spouse, Dog Mom, Social Worker, Administrator, International Business, Lover of Nicaragua



FATHER MURPHY AND THE GOATS AND THE SHEEP

I'm not Father Murphy.
Let me explain.

Back in the 1990s, I taught at a Jesuit school in Boston. I mentioned my experience to a group of Unitarian Universalists. Some folks assumed that I was a former Jesuit. For better or for worse, I never had that experience. I was raised in a family that was part Protestant and part Roman Catholic. I loved and respected both sides, but there was too much conflict about religious statements. As an adult, I chose the Unitarian Universalists.

I'm not a pastor.
Let me explain.

I help people of faith in several communities, including Unitarian Universalists in Key West, Charlotte County, and in the Tampa Bay Area. I seldom use the term "pastor" to explain my ministry. **Pastors are for sheep.** They can be found in some religious groups, although sheep are seldom seen at Unitarian Universalist gatherings. Unitarian Universalists have some cats, and trying to herd cats is beyond mortal ability. **We have some goats in our congregations.** The goats can be quirky and curious and sometimes rambunctious.



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

I'm a fundamentalist.
Let me explain.

Our Unitarian Universalist Association has a set of Bylaws. Article Two explains the purpose of our Association. The national Association is supposed to serve the member societies. Religious, educational, and humanitarian activities are mentioned in the Bylaws.

Our goal is to overcome systems of power, privilege, and oppression that have created barriers for persons with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. These are among the fundamentals for our Association.

As a fundamentalist among the Unitarian Universalists, I'll stay with the basics as explained in our current Bylaws. Feed the goats. Feed the sheep. Care for the goldfish and the cats. Same message for people on the left and people on the right. If we insist on too much control, too much conformity, and too much political correctness, the goats will tear the prayer tent apart and the pastors and other creatures will go bananas. Give a catechism to a bunch of goats and they'll eat the document for lunch. What they need is something that's nourishing and desirable. Keep it appetizing and good.



SEEING DREAMS FROM ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW

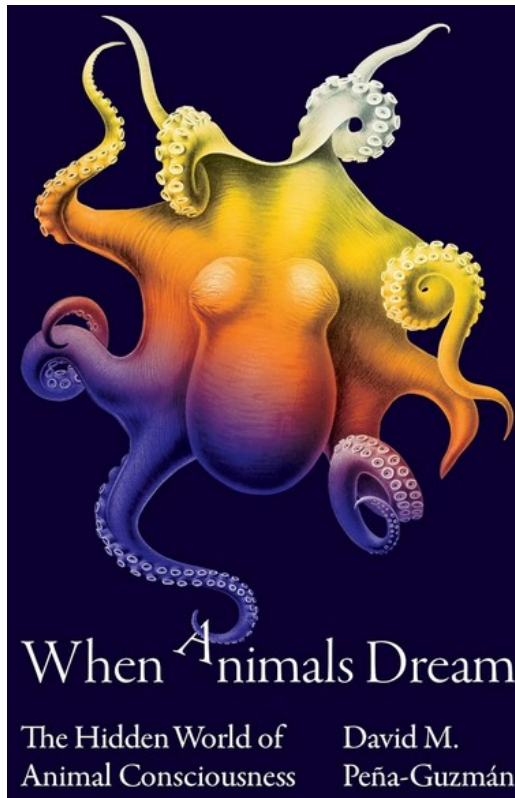
People have been intrigued by their dreams since time immemorial. Simple or complex, in color or black and white, with or without music, there has always been thought about how to understand them, how to make sense out of them, to wonder about them. Some Bible figures reportedly made remarkable interpretations of dreams. Sigmund Freud wrote extensively about dreams and their mysterious qualities, opening an entirely new way to analyze them, explain them and their roles in revealing our unconscious lives.

In recent times, researchers and scientists have studied dreams to learn more about us humans and also about various animals.

It is possible now to observe and record brain wave patterns when we are awake and when we are asleep.

Once I watched four little kittens, three males and a female, play. The boys were roughhousing each other and the girl wanted to join in the fun. The boys rejected her. Disappointed, she stood aside and watched for a bit. Then she jumped as if roughhousing with an imaginary playmate. At least it looked that way to me. Pet owners have often seen how their animals dream when asleep. Their feet move, they make sounds, tails may wag. But we are not able to know what they are dreaming but only guess. Today, much more is known.

Rats, for example, have been placed in mazes to search for tidbits of food. Neurological patterns indicate how they search, make decisions, succeed in finding the treats. Repeated tests show the regular patterns rats use to reach their goals or what they do when a glass barrier is placed in their

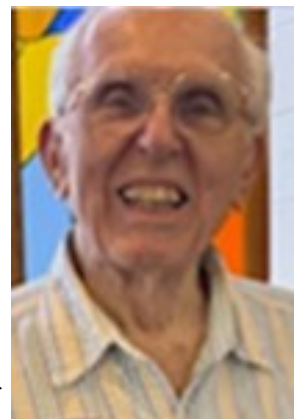


path to their surprise. When they are asleep, the patterns shown when they are dreaming are about how they have learned to run the maze. The patterns are identical to those when awake. Asleep, their minds imagine running the maze. Rats have imagination. When they imagine hitting the barrier, they think of ways to get around it or to find the other way through the maze. Rats can reason when awake or asleep. When rats see from a safe position their fellow rats receiving electric shocks, they get upset. When they dream about the rats being shocked, they have nightmares. Rats show empathy awake and asleep.

Other creatures have been tested the same way with similar results. Octopuses, for example, elephants, fish, spiders. That creatures are dumb, insensitive, function only by instinct, are human myths. Their neural systems may be very different and that they live in their environment with other perspectives does not make them into “things,” objects to be treated with disregard. We are learning how closely we are related to them. And, in turn, we are learning about our own complexities.

For a more complete introduction to this remarkable field of study, see:
When Animals Dream
 (2022)
 by David Peña-Guzmán.

Theodore L. Zawistowski →



**Caring for one another is a core spiritual practice for Unitarian Universalists.
Pastoral care is the term we use for the way
we offer support and compassion to each other in community.**

FROM OUR PASTORAL CARE SPECIALIST

Warm, Warmer, Warmest or just plain Hot!
After years of being warned about serious climate change we are now living with it. All across this country, Canada, and Europe, people are experiencing heat that is both uncomfortable and dangerous. Pastoral care deals not only with spiritual matters, but the whole person, body, mind and spirit.

So, I know you have heard it before but I ask that everyone adhere to the warnings:

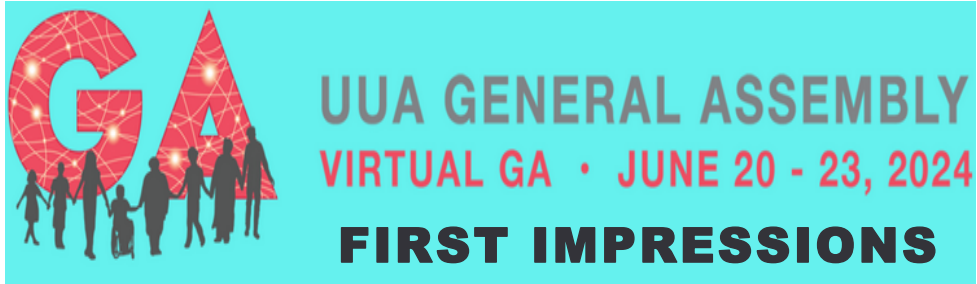
Drink plenty of water;
Dress for the heat;
Stay indoors during the hottest part of the day; and,
Check on neighbors who live alone or are especially vulnerable.



Whether you are traveling over the summer, are enjoying your northern residence or remaining in Florida, enjoy your summer. Stay in touch through the UUFCC website and online Sunday services.

Enjoy the earth gently
For if the earth is spoiled
It cannot be repaired
Enjoy the earth gently
— Yoruba prayer

Rev. Ann Barker
Pastoral Care Specialist
941-235-0269
revannbarker@gmail.com



Patty Oyer

I wondered why I had volunteered to be a delegate to the UUA General Assembly, being little involved with church life at the UUFCC, not so much purposely, but mostly due to being a snowbird and in Florida for only a few short months each year. And one more thing:

I have never belonged to a UU congregation before UUFCC.

But I did recognize that this was a momentous year for UUs. I would take this assignment seriously.

Article II was up for change with a new expression of shared values centered around love, and accountability was on the table.

I began to prepare myself for this assignment two months in advance by registering, reading, familiarizing myself with the important and serious matters to be discussed, and educating myself to make informed decisions on behalf of UUFCC and Unitarian Universalism.

General Assembly 2024 began officially on Thursday, June 20th. The moderators, Rev. Meg Riley and Charles Du Mond, reminded us that staying connected is hard in a pluralistic community. The world needs the best from our UU communities when we live with daily anxiety from fears of fires, floods, and fascism. But we are here because we cherish our faith and our communities. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, 10th President of the UUA, acknowledged the hard work of so many volunteers.

UUA President, Dr. Betancourt, encouraged us to celebrate, connect, and live out the best of our values together.

At this point in time, I was beginning to feel even more connected and eager to live up to the values of our Fellowship and all other UUs.

Something that became immediately clear during the proceedings was that:

Every attempt was made to have an open and democratic process when deciding the issues.

We, the delegates, were given ample opportunity to discuss, read, reread, watch the proceeding and rewatch them, and to ask questions. In addition, there were Cohort Groups we were encouraged to join to dive more deeply into topics of discussion. Another UU characteristic was evident:

How much UUs strive to choose just the right words.

In doing so, they love to discuss a point at length for the best clarification and are not reluctant to disagree. I was so impressed with the nearly impeccable organization of GA 2024 given that it was all virtual for the first time. I had a question and sent it via chat message during a meeting and it was answered quickly online.

I am buoyed by the love and respect for the community that was evident during the Assembly.

People on the pro and con response lines were reminded of how they were to respond respectfully to someone else's ideas. Only twice in the entire time did someone have to "shorten" a delegate's response.

GA 2024 ended on Saturday afternoon, June 23rd. As for me, I've had an impactful experience being a part of the General Assembly and watching how UU values were diligently put into practice during the easy discussions and throughout the more contentious ones. Who knows? Maybe there is a chance for me, at my advanced age, to become more engaged with our beloved community.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024



Joe Oyer

IMPRESSIONS FROM A JOHNNY-COME-LATELY

The 2024 four day session of the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly has come to a close. I became involved as a delegate in this process at the last minute, with a dear friend on his death bed, an already crowded medical appointment calendar, through a portal that seemed a bit clunky, worrying I may come down with another case of Covid given direct exposure on Father's Day, and given all that, me with not a great attitude.

My wife, Patricia Oyer, had volunteered to be a delegate months ago and had been preparing over that time.

Me? Not at all!

Patty is the one who did all the heavy lifting and carried me through this process.

Thursday was pretty much a bust regarding my participation due to registration snafus but I did discuss issues with Patty and then she voted her conscience. By Friday I had figured out how to donate through the Business Delegate portal which had been transferred to me. The regular delegate portal would have been an easier way for me to sign in. I can understand why but I also felt strongly that the significant increase in the last minute registration fee was punitive given my circumstances. I donated as close to the initial registration amount as the Delegate Portal gift boxes would allow. My conscience is clear.

So let the meetings, discussions and votes begin (for me). It is now Friday. As a newbie, I was what I was at many high school dances, a bleacher rat. I did, however, listen and discuss issues with Patty.

The process by which issues were presented, discussed and then voted upon was carefully crafted and strictly adhered to.

This process had been refined prior to the GA at another meeting which Patty attended, while I listened from a nearby recliner. It turned out that the time spent on process paid off nicely during the sessions. Well done, folks! The sessions ran smoothly while giving speakers enough time to present their opinions.

Those few speakers who were out of covenant were warned and then their video feed was shut down if they did not heed the monitor's caution.

Ken Burns pulled that bit, out of his usual apolitical lane, off nicely at Brandeis. (See his graduation speech, 2024. It was powerful.)

These UU discussions are not the place for going political.

It was a good lesson for me.

I was very impressed with the process, the production, and the seemingly vast array of talented, committed volunteers and ministers who organized and participated in this event. Delegates who spoke pro or in concern about the various issues on the table were mostly considerate and thoughtful.

I came away from the meetings with a deep appreciation for their commitment and with some hope for the process of mending the broken world in which we find ourselves.

I know that UUs can craft thoughtful arguments about many issues. That being said, the Old Testament commandment, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," is an important life principal for me.

Getting out into the wider community and walking the talk with love at the center, as noted again and again at the General Assembly, is a core principal of UUs.

MY CAT MOXIE

In 2005, I brought Moxie home as a rescue kitten. I was told that her human had died, and the kitty's name was Bonnie.

Then the fun began. I took Bonnie to the veterinarian for a checkup. So I'm in the room with Bonnie and a young girl comes in to take a blood sample. She says, "What a pretty kitty!" After a minute of attempting to take blood, she says, "I see I need some help."

So another assistant comes in, and after a few minutes, she looks at me and asks me to wait in the waiting room as they need to wrap Bonnie in a towel. At this point, I see the vet going into the room where my new sweet, little kitty is being attended to. After about five minutes and a lot of growling that could be heard clearly in the waiting room, they ask me to come into the room. The vet says they were unable to take any blood, "but she looks very healthy." Other vets were tried, and all with the same results: "No Blood Work." Bonnie had her first blood work done at 18 years, and it was discovered that she had the beginnings of renal failure. That was in March 2024.

Moxie has bitten and scratched many people, including my dear friend Carol who watched her while we were in Mexico.



I changed her name from Bonnie to Moxie after I had her for about six months because she had a lot of attitude.



Carol had to go to Urgent Care. Carol was so brave: she kept taking care of Moxie while we were in Mexico.

There are lots of stories and many people scratched over the years. And although Moxie always trusted me, I have been scratched and bitten many times too. My job was to care for this half-feral cat. She lived her whole life in survival mode and was very independent. However, she would cuddle with me—on her terms.

I was her human.

Moxie was a very wise cat. I used her for a psychologist. I could tell her my problems and she would look at me as if to say, "You have the answer. Don't take it personally. Your self importance is the root of almost every problem you encounter." I could tell Moxie anything and she would never repeat it. That is a gift from Moxie that I cherish.

Thank you, Moxie.

Over the last three months Moxie lost 35% of her body weight with kidney failure. So, as her caregiver for 19 years, I gave her over and she passed on into the afterlife today. I was holding her and soothing her as her heart came to a stop.

All I will have are some ashes and lots of memories of a wild and at times very loving cat named Moxie.

I loved that wild cat.

Tonight is my first night without The Mox.

— Robert Moran

Non-forced Faith; Wuwei (Taoism) for Unitarian Universalists

The Christian tradition, of which UUism grew out of, often sees faith as being built on a solid foundation built on rock. This comes from the allegory in the Book of Matthew about the structure built on sand and the one built on rock. A lot of really unyielding and rigid imagery that comes from this: the firm foundation, The Rock (Christ), and the Mighty Fortress. Many, but not all, Christians and churches are indeed rigid and unyielding, resisting social change and choosing to close their churches, rather than bend to generational change. This simply won't do for UUism, the Living Tradition, the free faith. (To me, faith is not the same as belief. Belief is more like a fervent wish that your understanding of how the universe is *is* how it really is. Faith is more like a trusting that however it really is will work out fine. So, I consider UUism faith.) So, what exactly does our faith formation process look like? Perhaps, we could borrow some ideas from Taoism.

I can't really explain Taoism within the constraints of a newsletter, if even possible under any circumstances. This quote may express it best:

**"The great Tao flows everywhere,
to the left and to the right.
All things depend upon it to exist,
and it does not abandon them.
To its accomplishments it lays no claim.
It loves and nourishes all things,
but does not lord it over them."**

— Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching (34)

One may find the monarchical imagery of Christianity is also not compatible with Taoism. No lording over anything is needed.

Wuwei is one concept in Taoism that could be valuable to UUs. "Wu" means non, not, no; and, "Wei" means effort, action, forcing. I find "non-forcing" is the best way of translating it for a Western audience, but the Chinese term has a much vaster range of meaning. In Taoism, the Tao is often imagined as water, so Wuwei can be seen



as going with the flow. Our Fellowship is by the Gulf and the risk of riptides and drowning is something many know well. People who fight the riptide current will exhaust themselves and drown. People who move perpendicularly to the flow will come right out of it. Don't try to force your will against the flow. Instead, employ skillful action, without forcing.

This is how judo works. No effort is used until the aggressor strikes and is in a state of imbalance and the slightest nudge is applied and they fall.

**"The highest virtue is not virtuous.
Therefore it has virtue.
The lowest virtue holds on to virtue.
Therefore it has no virtue.
The highest virtue [doesn't force]."**

— Tao Te Ching (38)

We have all encountered someone who tries too hard (all of us are sometimes that someone), not only in trying too hard to be virtuous. In music, the same song can be played competently, once in a forced or contrived way and once in a natural and heartfelt way. When forced, it will be hollow and uninspired. So, as a musician, at least some Wuwei is essential to being a musician that continues to interest an audience.

As UUs, I encourage everyone to continuously re-imagine how we do what we do. Take note when saying "we've always done it that way" or "it has already been decided."

**Are we building rigid foundations
for our mausoleum, or
are we sailing on the sunny winds
of love and inspiration?
What are the unintentional anchors
and what winds of inspiration
are calling us forward?**

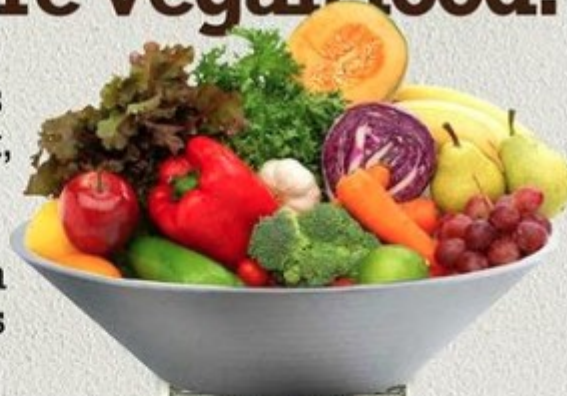
Loosen up. Follow the inspiration. One may find there has always been a little Wuwei in Unitarian Universalism, the Living Tradition.



Ryan Smith

The World Bank wants us all to eat more vegan food.

The World Bank is urging the world's wealthy nations to stop subsidizing the meat, dairy and egg industries and use that money to subsidize lower emission foods like fruits, vegetables and other plants in order to protect the world from climate change.



Source: Yahoo! News

VeganStreet.com



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

The World Bank is encouraging wealthier nations to move their subsidizations of animal agribusiness to plant-based foods for the benefit of our environment. “The report reads, “High-income countries should decrease consumer demand for emissions-intensive, animal-source foods by fully pricing environmental and health externalities, repurposing subsidies, and promoting sustainable food options.”

Vegan Street Newsletter, June 2024 edition
 Builders of vegan community and culture
john@veganstreet.com
<http://veganstreet.com>



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>

Dennis Speaks of His Father

The time arrives: our usual preface first,
Then ritual words and music interspersed.
At last comes Dennis, trim in shirt of blue
To speak of lessons taught him, as he grew,
By a father, Christian to the bone.
Below, as he received them, one by one:

Arriving when you’re due despite the storm
Will mean more than a stove to keep you warm,
But playing with a stole-clip when you’re bored
Will raise more havoc than a wrathful Lord.
Being dubbed a heretic so young
Made our speaker Unitarian,
While shame for cruelly teasing Kenny Sparks
Removed all hurtful words in his remarks.

What showed a father true to his beliefs
Was care for others more than his own griefs:
He lived in the integrity he brought,
And raised a son with every grace he taught.

— Sharon Whitehill



Dennis Shaw



Now thinking and dreaming in
iambic pentameter!

UU ENDOWMENT OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY In Memory of Rosemary Hagen

Rosemary Hagen, a long time member of UUFCC, UUCOV and our UU Endowment Society, transitioned shortly before her 100th birthday, on her own terms.

Rosie, as she was called, was a whirlwind of activity. She and her husband Paul (past UUFCC VP) moved to Englewood in 1989. A native of Minnesota and a retired English and drama teacher, Rosie was a founder of The Gulf Coast Humanist Association, serving 10 years as president.

As a new UUFCC member, I was thought by the minister to be a good match with Rosie: I did summer theater and Rosie had begun a Readers Theater at the Fellowship. The "Theater" performed topical Sunday sermons formatted as a 1930s radio program. They were humorous but making a point, just like Rosie who wrote the scripts.

Rosie worked with both of her congregations toward improving

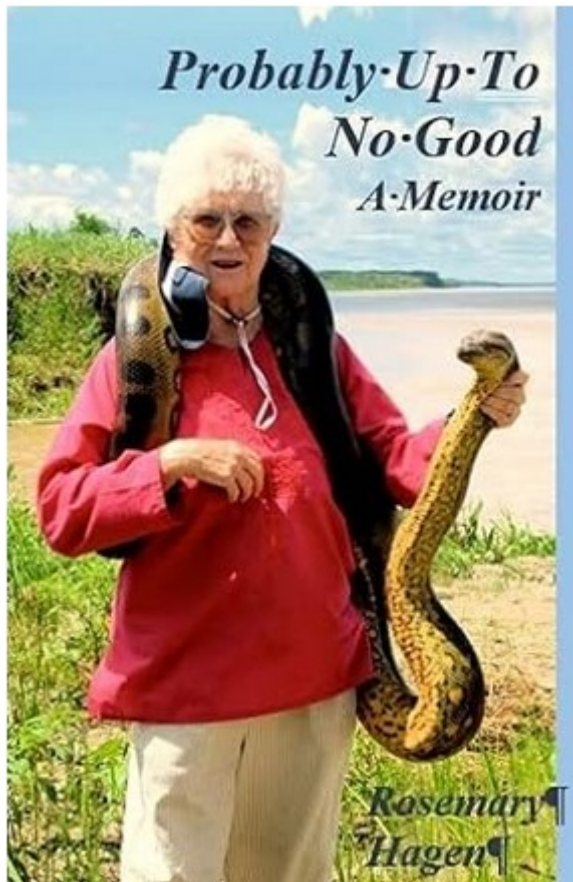
conditions for the Immokalee Workers helping to initiate a Congressional investigation by Senators Bernie Saunders and Teddy Kennedy.

Rosie was a world traveler through Elder Hostel, and a graduate of the Ringling Clown School in Sarasota. She was outspoken and not known to be intimidated. Her sense of humor and her speaking voice were memorable.

A UUFCC member when our UU Endowment was initiated, Rosie was a long-time endowment contributor to ensure funding for UU activities.

Contributors receive a personal note from the UUE Trustees. All Endowment donors are publicly recognized at the end of the calendar year. A donation to our Endowment, noting our honoree, would bring a smile to Rosie's memory. Donation instructions are on page 15.

Stephanie Garrett and UUE Trustee members Maryholly Allison, Kenneth Brennen, Mary Howard, and Delmar Wooden



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](http://archive.uuworld.org/2003/06/affirmations.html)

CAPAS FAMILY UPDATE

(Community Accompaniment Program with Asylum Seekers)

— IJC Chair Betty Barriga

Our CAPAS family is doing fairly well. The children are still attending school for the summer. Sorangel is still actively seeking a job. She was hoping to get a job as a nursing assistant but nursing home hours (6am to 2pm or 2pm to 10pm) are really not suitable — she would have to pay for babysitting every day which would make working unprofitable for her. In the meantime, she is doing some house cleaning, cosmetics, and food delivery.

We are currently helping her connect with career counseling and employment resources in the community.

This final stage of becoming completely independent is really tough for us and for Sorangel.



<https://www.uusc.org/initiatives/asylum-is-a-human-right-uuscs-congregational-accompaniment-project-for-asylum-seekers-capas/>

Advancing human rights through grassroots collaborations.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization **advancing human rights** together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates.

The organization's work is rooted in the seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism.

UUSC was founded to assist refugees escaping Nazi persecution.

Today, UUSC's CAPAS continues that proud history by helping congregations walk in solidarity with asylum seekers.

“How Worker-Driven Social Responsibility is Ushering in a New Day of Human Rights in the Global Economy”

— excerpted by Theodore Zawistowski from June 11, 2024 CIW article with permission of CIW (See full article at ciw-online.org)



Two inter-linked phenomena primarily define the modern global economy:

1. Concentration of enormous market power to a few corporations, and,
2. Increasing reliance on fragmented and opaque supply chains.

Combined with the modern corporation’s incentive to maximize profit with minimal constraints, they frequently lead to a race to the bottom for human rights protections, especially in agriculture and other low-wage industries.

Workers, however, forged a scalable solution:

WORKER-DRIVEN SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (WSR)

—A model for workers to define/enforce their own rights; modernizing worker human rights by flipping market incentives and conditioning profits on respect for worker human rights.

But they didn’t stop there.

Focus on local agricultural industry expanded analysis of the broader food industry leading to 2001 CAMPAIGN FOR FAIR FOOD.

Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) secured legally binding agreements with buyers like Taco Bell, Burger King, Trader Joe’s, etc., to:

1. Buy first from growers that abide by a human rights-based and worker-written Code of Conduct, and,
2. Shift purchases away from growers who don’t respect farmworkers’ human rights.

On Fair Food Program (FFP) farms, workers are protected from forced labor and other abuses through several interlacing mechanisms designed to monitor and enforce FFP standards:

- Worker-to-worker education on their rights under the FFP Code of Conduct,
- 24/7 complaint investigation and resolution process for workers to report violations free

from the fear of retaliation,

- Regular and substantial farm audits, and,
- Swift, market-enforced consequences for violations of workers’ human rights.

“If [growers] lose their status as an FFP farm, then they’re looking at millions of dollars in potential losses.” —Farmworker & long-time CIW staff member Gerardo Reyes Chavez

FFP success is also measured in how swiftly it delivers justice to workers who report a problem. **A full 65% of complaints registered within the FFP are resolved within 2 weeks, and 82% are resolved within one month.**

According to one farmworker, **“Now, we have better wages and better treatment for everyone.”**

With over a decade of proven success, FFP is widely lauded, from the United Nations, The White House, and The US Department of Agriculture to the front page of *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

Fields in Immokalee, once dubbed ‘ground zero’ for modern slavery, are now known as the ‘best work environment in U.S. agriculture.’

Yet unethical farm bosses on non-participating farms operate with little or no fear of being held accountable thanks to lack of federal and state resources for effective labor law enforcement and the continued resistance of corporations to implement WSR in their supply chains.

CIW is pressuring more corporate buyers to sign on, and partnering with governments and other worker organizations to expand the FFP into more farms across the US and the rest of the world.

Workers everywhere deserve safety, dignity, and a fair wage. WSR empowers them to become the frontline monitors of their own rights, and to usher in a new day of real, measurable human rights enforcement in the global economy.

JULY—CELEBRATION & RECREATION

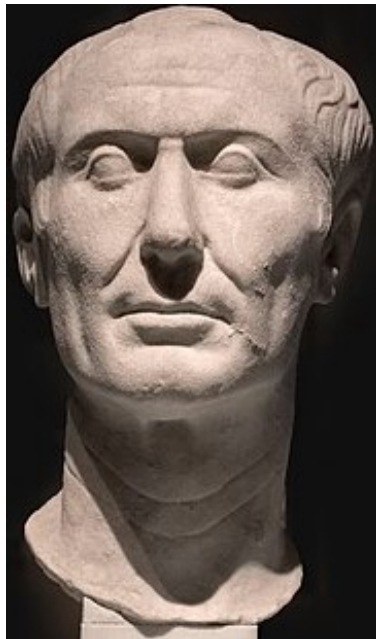
July is one of two months named for real people. Named after Julius Caesar in 44 BC, July is the month of his birth, “capturing the essence of summer,” so say the Romans. (August is the other month and is named after Caesar Augustus, first Roman Emperor and great nephew of Julius.)

The most celebrated federal holiday in the US is July 4th, in recognition of independence from Britain in 1776. It asserted that the 13 colonies established by the British would become their own nation. The population within the colonies was about 2.5 million, comprised of free whites, indentured servants, and free and enslaved Africans.

Perhaps the most important line in the Declaration of Independence is:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.. --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

Who could vote would remain an issue for the next 131 years.



JULIUS CAESAR
Tusculum portrait.
Possibly the only surviving sculpture of Caesar made during his lifetime.

Only as an African American adult female did the reality of July 4th, the Declaration of Independence, and the US Constitution bring realization that **my race and sex were excluded.** Abigail Adams dropped a reminder but it went unheeded.

I was introduced to the book, *Jefferson’s Pillow; The Founding Fathers and the Dilemma of Black Patriotism* (2002), by Roger Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of Labor under LBJ and African American Civil Rights leader, available through the UUA bookstore. I am still working on the hypocrisy evident even today.

Past US Presidents John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe died on July 4th. Justice or coincidence? **Women and people of color are now the majority voters.**

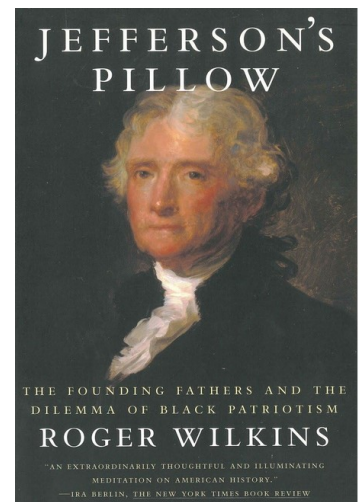
Other July factoids? July contains:

- National Cell Phone Courtesy Month
- Anti Boredom Month
- Unlucky for Weddings Month
- National Nude Day (14th)

The first patriot killed was a free man of color, Chrispus Attucks. The first White House celebration of the Fourth of July was in 1804. Cape May County, NJ abolished slavery on July 4th in 1804. July 4th was declared a federal holiday in 1938.



Stephanie Garrett



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

GO VEGAN



COMPASSION



NONVIOLENCE



FOR THE ANIMALS



FOR THE PLANET



FOR THE PEOPLE

MEDITERRANEAN BEAN SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- 15-oz can red kidney beans
- 15 oz can chickpeas, rinsed and drained
or 3 cups each of cooked beans
- 1 small diced red onion (about 1-c, 2 tbs)
- 1 or 2 finely chopped celery stalks
- 1 med. cucumber, peeled, seeded and diced
- 3/4 c fresh chopped parsley
- 1 Tbs fresh chopped dill or mint
- 1/4 c extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 c or more fresh lemon juice
- 2 cloves garlic, pressed and minced
(I always add more.)
- 1/2 tsp salt or more
- Small pinch red pepper flakes

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine beans, onion, celery, parsley, cucumber, and dill.
2. In a separate bowl, combine remaining ingredients for dressing.
3. Cover and let marinate in fridge for a couple of hours.

Yields six 1-cup servings.

Leftovers keep well.

Serve and enjoy!

— Arlene Waters



**LOOK
AT THIS**



**UUFCC
GENEROSITY!**

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SECOND HELPING

You donated **\$653.00** for 03/2024 Recipient

Providing greenspace for wildlife, native plants & trees to survive

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**

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]"

UUSC CAPAS

Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers and **UUFCC** are assisting a Venezuelan family seeking asylum.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Donate clothes, filing fees, food, money, gas cards ...
- Translate for the family.
- Plan a recreational outing.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**SECOND SUNDAY
SECOND HELPING
JULY 2024 RECIPIENT**



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.*

SUNDAY SERVICES

**JULY
THEME**

PLAYING IN COMMUNITY

07-07-24 THE GIFT OF PLAY

Speaker: Rev. Ann Barker
Worship Associate: Ryan Richardson

POTLUCK will be after 07-07-24 services.

**07-14-24 CHARLOTTE HARBOR ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
10941 Burnt Store RD, Punta Gorda 33955**

**941-575-5435 or- <https://www.checflorida.org/>
Environmental education, recreation & research;
Conservation lands management services.**

Second Sunday Second Helpings are for worthy organizations
in our community to intentionally support their good work.

Speaker: Ashley Cook
Worship Associate: Sharon Whitehill

07-21-24 LIBERATION AND BEYOND

Speaker: Rev. Bob Murphy
Worship Associate: Ryan Richardson

07-28-24 REVELATIONS FROM THE JEFFERSON BIBLE

Speaker: Ken Brennen
Worship Associate: Dennis Shaw

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

by 6:00 p.m. Saturday



Your
Worship
Associate
Committee



- 07/06 Cheryl Deuley
- 07/07 Delmar Wooden
- 07/11 Lorrie Budlong
- 07/14 Carolyn Kellar
- 07/16 Jack Osborne
- 07/21 Sharon Whitehill

For Birthday Shoutouts, contact Caring Committee:

office@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>

JULY 2024 EVENTS

- 07/01 Mon 01:30 pm Shaw Chalice Circle
04:00 pm Azar Chalice Circle
- 07/02 Tue 08:00 am Men's Coffee Group
- 07/03 Wed 11:00 am Welcome Team
Noon Brown Bag Social Lunch
04:00 pm Immigration Justice Committee
05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 07/04 Thu **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation
07:00 pm AA
- 07/05 Fri 04:00 pm **ART RECEPTION**
- 07/06 Sat Worship Associates
- 07/07 Sun 11:45 am PFLAG Steering Committee
- 07/08 Mon 10:30 am Program Council
- 07/09 Tue 08:00 am Men's Coffee
- 07/10 Wed 10:00 am Caring Committee
05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 07/11 Thu 04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation
07:00 pm AA
- 07/12 Fri 01:00 pm Communications Committee
- 07/14 Sun 11:45 am Social Justice Committee
- 07/15 Mon 10:00 am Art Committee
12:30 pm Mike K. Chalice Circle
01:30 pm Shaw Chalice Circle
04:00 pm Azar Chalice Circle
06:00 pm PFLAG Support Group
- 07/16 Tue 08:00 am Men's Coffee
- 07/17 Wed 04:00 pm Immigration Justice Committee
05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
06:00 pm NAACP Executive Board
- 07/18 Thu 04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation
07:00 pm AA
- 07/21 Sun **BIRTHDAY CAKE SUNDAY**
- 07/23 Tue 08:00 am Men's Coffee
- 07/24 Wed 05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 07/25 Thu 04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation
07:00 pm AA
- 07/27 Sat 10:00 am **UUFCC BOARD MEETING**
- 07/28 Sun 03:00 pm Secular Community
- 07/29 Mon 01:30 pm Shaw Chalice Circle
- 07/30 Tue 08:00 am Men's Coffee
- 07/31 Wed 01:30 pm Book Group
05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

MISSION: UUFCC is a liberal religious community committed to justice, a place where spirituality, diversity, reason, compassion, service, and fellowship meet. *(Adopted at 03-24-24 Annual Meeting.)*



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: Using our Covenant as a guide, we will provide expanded opportunities for ministries, programs and fellowship that inspire and support our life journeys. We will affirm: Love is the spirit of this Fellowship, and service is its law. This is our aspiration: To dwell together in peace, To seek truth in love, And to help one another. In the larger community, we will continue to be a strong, relevant voice serving justice and equality. *(Adopted 03-24-24.)*

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: 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.

Cherish our Beloved Community.

UUFCC CONTACTS

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president@uufcc.org

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UUFCC

COMM **UU NIQUÉ**

Can you say kuh-myoo-nuh-kay?

EDITORIAL BOARD

Stephanie Garrett

MaryLou Proudfoot Kennedy

Herb Levin

300-word limit articles due

1-wk before last day of month:

editorialboard@uufcc.org

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