



1410 Airport Rd., Panama City, FL 32405

A Welcoming Congregation

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Saturday, August 1, 2020 **UUFBC E-News** **Issue 3, July 2020-June 2021**

A Message from the UUFBC Board of Directors:

Greetings and Well Wishes to all of our members and friends,

Not only do we want to stay in touch during this time of extended isolation, we want to take this opportunity to learn more about each other as members of this Fellowship. We are starting with UUFBC's Board of Directors, so that we are familiar with our representatives in advance of the Board members' nomination and election process coming up in about six weeks. Soon we will invite everyone to participate and we look forward to hearing about you.

We will be electing a President, Secretary, Treasurer and At Large members in this election. The Leadership Development Committee will present a slate of nominees during the first week of October. Members may be nominated from the floor during the meeting, if they have already agreed to serve in the position for which they are being nominated. The election will take place at our Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 18th. Please save the date! Details will follow in coming editions of the E-News. If you would like to be nominated for a position on the Board of Directors or the Leadership Development Committee, please let Jo Shaffer know. Your interest will be welcomed and appreciated. Email her at ijnshaffer@aol.com.

Introducing our first contributor, Robert "Bob" Gilmore, currently an At-Large Member of the Board of Directors.

"While most know me as Bob Gilmore; I am Robert to my family. I was born and raised in East Hartford, Connecticut. I graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Nursing. I'm married to Arlene Zacher and have two children and five grandchildren. We spend quite a bit of time with both of the children so it is not unusual for us to be away from Bay County for a couple months twice a year.

I worked as a registered nurse for about 17 years and Arlene and I owned and operated a Panama City Beach motel for another 17 years. My nursing career was mostly working with at risk elderly helping them stay at home safely. I also taught healthy living classes, yoga, weight loss, nutrition, exercise and so on. My motel years taught me to be a handyman. I also became very involved in the RMA Turtle Watch program looking after sea turtles and nests along PC Beach.

I came to be interested in the Unitarian Universalism from my early college days receiving Military Draft counseling at a UU Church in Hartford, Connecticut. Arlene and I continued being involved as activists through our adult lives and would frequently meet UU's at organizing events. We moved to Panama City Beach in 1986 and again met local UU's as an organizer for social justice. Arlene and I started attending the UUFBC in the 1990's when we were meeting in the community room at Oakland Terrace.

I have been involved in much of the UUFBC life through the years and moved from PC Beach to Panama City, largely because we wanted to be closer to our UU family and our love of the St Andrews neighborhood." Bob Gilmore

Thank you, Bob, for sharing your story. Many blessings to all,

*The Board of Directors
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County
Lynne Siegfried, Vice-President
Bob Nixon, Treasurer
Janet Cross, At-Large member
Bob Gilmore, At-Large member
John Shaffer, At-Large member*



UUFBC Information:

Quick Reference: If you are in need of assistance of any kind, call the UUFBC phone message line 850-615-4127 and/or email to info@uuofbaycounty.com.

If there is something that you would like to have published in the E-News, submit it to info@uuofbaycounty.com each week by the end of the day on Wednesday for publication the same week. Mark it clearly "For the E-News". The E-News will be published on Saturday of each week. Your thoughts are always welcome.

Sunday Service: There will be no new (live) Sunday services until the new services resume in September. Let us know what topics you are interested in, or who you would like to have make a presentation. We are in the process of creating the services that will air in the upcoming months. If you would like to help with worship services, let us know. Send us a quick email to info@uuofbaycounty.com or call us at 850-615-4127.

Save the Date: The UUFBC Annual meeting, postponed from June, will be held on **Sunday, October 18, 2020**. This meeting will most likely be a virtual one, conducted on Zoom. You may call in, or use your computer to attend with both audio and video. **If you need assistance with technical issues, please let us know soon. We will help you with your set-up.** Your participation is extremely important.

Sharing the Faith: Ruby Jo Faust wrote to let us know that she and her husband are fine, with their children, and in isolation. They are happy to be so well cared for by their children, but they hope to return to us again someday soon. We will be here when they do. In the meantime, we remember a Sunday service when Ruby Jo remarked on her regard for the poet Langston Hughes. Ruby Jo, this one's for you:

I, TOO, SING AMERICA by Langston Hughes Published in 1945.

*I, too, sing America.
I am the darker brother.*

*They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,*

*But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.*

*Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.*

*Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"*

*Then,
Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am*

And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.



Community Spotlight The League of Women Voters (LWV)

Candidates Forum August 3rd 6:00 PM
Gulf Coast State College, 5230 West HWY 98 Student Union East Conference Rm 232A (Second floor)
For additional information email: Voterservice4BayCountyLWV@gmail.com

From the WJHG Newsdesk: The August 18th Primary Election is coming up and the Bay County League of Women Voters is here to help residents meet the candidates by hosting a candidates' forum at Gulf Coast State College's Student Union east auditorium on Monday evening from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The event is free to the public, but seating is limited to 50. Masks and social distancing will be required to attend the event. It will also be live-streamed on Facebook.

The candidates for the Bay County Commission District 3, the Bay County School Superintendent, and Bay County School Board Districts 1, 2, and 4 will be present and ready to answer any questions.

On August 6th, the League will sponsor a virtual forum for candidates for positions within the judicial system. If you are interested, contact the LWV. See LWV contact information listed below.

"The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political membership organization which:

- acts after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels.
- builds citizen participation in the democratic process.
- engages communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy."

Phone: (850) 319-6422 Email: lww.baycountyfl@gmail.com Website: BAYCOUNTYLWV.ORG

*Be well. Keep safe. Stay home when you can. Wear your gear when you can't stay home.
And, as contained in some of the final words of the immortal Congressman John Lewis, "Walk with the Wind".*

Look for the next issue of the UUFBC E-News on Saturday, August 8th.

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