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A Welcoming Congregation
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Saturday, October 3, 2020 **UUFBC E-News** **Issue 10, July 2020-June 2021**

Greetings and Well Wishes to all of our members,

We hope you are able to join us for our Sunday services on YouTube and Facebook. Reverend Tiffany Sapp will be with us again tomorrow at 10:30 am for our next live service. Reverend Sapp states, "This month, our theme is Deep Listening, and I am bringing you a talk called "Listening with Our Hearts," which is an invitation to experience listening as a spiritual practice, and to practice it in ways that will make the greatest positive difference in the world."

In keeping with our new practice of including a biographical summary of one of our members in each of our newsletters, it gives us great pleasure to include this statement about Ken Sizemore. Ken will be presenting the Sunday service, a tribute to singer/songwriter Malvina Reynolds, next week on October 11th.

"Ken says he was originally tricked into visiting the UU church in Nashville in 1980. He and Susie had moved to Music City in 1972 so that Ken could attempt to "make it" in the music business as he had fallen in love with folk music in high school and college, and had been making a living of sorts on the road as a performer since 1970. The clever ruse was to invite Ken to perform a musical church service at the church. The friends felt sure that once he and Susie visited, they would fall in love with the UUs. And it worked. They were enchanted and hooked. They've been UUs ever since, for a total of 40 years and counting!

Ken became heavily involved in the Nashville UU church right away and within 2 years was elected president of the congregation. He served on the board for two additional two-year terms over the next 20 years, and also served as treasurer for a two-year term. On two occasions he led major fundraising drives that raised over \$150,000. Ken also performed countless concerts and church services at the Nashville UU, always with his dear friend and musical partner Judith Lovin (one of the members who had lured him to the church in the first place). From 1987 until 1999, Ken and Judith visited many other UU congregations in Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, and North Carolina, performing musical church services with UU appropriate themes.

In 1999, Susie and Ken moved to Panama City and quickly found the small but vibrant UU Fellowship. They became members right away, and very quickly Ken became Treasurer of the Fellowship. He served in that capacity for a total of 18 years. In (about) 2004 Ken was elected President--an office he has held at UUFBC for 4 separate terms. With his base in Panama City, Ken has continued his beloved visits to other UU groups. Over the past 20 plus years he has performed for 25 to 30 UU churches and fellowships a year, presenting both musical church services and concerts/coffee houses throughout the south. He has also performed numerous concerts and workshops at The Mountain, the UU retreat near Highlands, NC.

Through his travels to UU groups and to The Mountain, Ken has developed warm friendships with many UU members and leaders, and believes that Unitarian Universalism is a vitally important entity in the U.S. and in the world, and that it makes a positive impact far greater than would seem possible for its size."

Thank you to Ken for his autobiographical summary.

Many blessings to all,

*The Board of Directors
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County
Lynne Siegfried
Bob Nixon
Janet Cross
Bob Gilmore
John Shaffer*



Quick Reference: If you would like assistance of any kind, call the UUFBC phone message line 850-615-4127 and/or email to info@uuofbaycounty.com. Please also submit information for the E-News or any suggestions you may have to this email address. If you wish to be removed from the UUFBC mailing list, contact us here.

Zoom Meeting: Our Fellowship is holding a Zoom Practice Meeting on October 7th at 6:00 pm. We would like to begin holding small group meetings, like Book Group, on Zoom. But we want to make sure everyone is comfortable with Zoom first.

Everyone on the UUFBC mailing list will receive an email invitation on the morning of the 7th. When it is time to join the meeting, click the link in the email and follow the instructions on your screen. You just need a computer, tablet, or phone with a camera.

UU member Charissa Thacker will be hosting the meeting and she will have her phone number in the invitation. If anyone needs help during the meeting, they should call Charissa. If you have questions or concerns prior to the October 7th meeting, email them to info@uuofbaycounty.com.

Annual Meeting: Sunday, October 18, 2020

We are holding our UUFBC Annual Meeting, postponed from this spring, on Sunday, October 18th, at 10:30 am. We are inviting our members to attend in whatever way they wish. Attendance is really important so that we may have a quorum and conduct the business we need to complete. So please join us in person and sit outdoors on the chairs / benches provided, or bring your own favorite chair. We will be socially distanced and want everyone who attends in person to wear a mask. You may also stay home and join us on Zoom. Specific instructions will accompany the slate of nominated Board members when you receive it in a few days.

In the event of inclement weather, the Annual Meeting will be postponed for one more week and held on the next Sunday, October 25th. If the Annual Meeting is held on the 25th, we will still go to Souls to the Polls following our meeting.

The program for the Annual Meeting will contain a presentation of the Fellowship's past 18 months in review, a presentation of the suggested budget for members' approval, and the Slate of Officers and At-Large Board members nominated for membership approval.

Social Justice: 2020 National Election / Voter Registration Deadline Approaches

If you know anyone who has not registered to vote, let them know that this **Monday, October 5th, at 5:00 pm** is the deadline. Voter registration is available at the Government Building Supervisor of Elections Office or Main Library on 11th Street. It will also be available for one day only, October 5th, at the Community Resource Center (CRC) on the corner of 15th Street and Florida Avenue. A registration table will be staffed by our own UU volunteers who will be there all day (outdoors in front of the building, weather permitting). Come see us...Wear a mask!



Social Justice: 2020 National Election / Poll Watchers and the Poll Patrol

If you are interested in voter protection at the polls, you can sign up to watch the polls inside or outside with several different organizations and programs. We are going to attempt to coordinate the effort among the programs through the Bay County Civic Engagement Coalition. The need for poll coverage begins with Early Voting on October 24th and runs through Election Day on November 3rd. Shift coverage from 7 am to 7 pm is the goal.

For some of the poll watching activities it is necessary to submit watchers' information to the Supervisor of Elections (name, address, birth date, cell phone). Therefore, at your earliest opportunity, contact Melinda at the Florida Voter Protection Program at 414-617-2762 or <http://bit.ly/flavoteprotection>. All poll watchers will be placed in their own counties.

Or, contact Diane Brown of the Bay County Democratic party. Her email address is db4635@aol.com. The Democrats are coordinating poll watchers and the poll patrol, known too as the Steering Wheel Brigade. Both programs will provide training. The Democrats are also recruiting observers to attend the local Canvassing Board meetings.

Social Justice: Local Candidates Forum on Tuesday, October 13th

The League of Women Voters of Bay County will hold a Candidates Forum for the offices of Bay County Commissioner, District 4, and State Representative, District 6, on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 from 6:00 until 8:00 pm CST. It will be broadcast on GCTV, Comcast Channel 6, and streamed on Facebook "League of Women Voters of Bay County". Seating at the forum will be limited to 50 people. The event will be held at Gulf Coast State College Student Union East in the 2nd floor Auditorium.

Social Justice: Souls to the Polls on Sunday, October 25th / Save your Ballot

The results of the last national presidential election, held in November 2016, showed that there were more people registered to vote who did not vote, than those who voted for either candidate. To elect a candidate who represents the people, it is necessary for the people vote.

To that end, let's all participate in Souls to the Polls on Sunday, October 25th after our worship service. Whether you watch the Sunday service on-line or want to attend outside at our Fellowship, we will form a caravan at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship parking area and head over together to the Glenwood Community Center.

Once there, you have choices on how to vote. The Glenwood Community Center is an Early Voting site, so you may go inside and vote. Or, you can place your completed ballot (that you received in the mail) in the Center's outdoor collection box. Finally, if you would prefer to stay in your car, a volunteer will collect your ballot and those of others, and take them all to deposit in the outdoor collection box.

It is important to vote in Glenwood for several reasons. The Civic Engagement Coalition (our UU is a member) fought hard to have the Supervisor of Elections open an early voting site in Glenwood. It is important to use this location so it receives a large enough volume of voters to continue as a main voting site and remain open in the future. Another reason to participate is to help publicize the voting process, the early voting sites, and generate enthusiasm for casting a vote.

Finally, enjoy a complimentary fried fish dinner at the Glenwood Community Center until 4:00 pm.

Be well. Keep safe. Wear your mask!

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