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A Welcoming Congregation

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**Saturday, August 15, 2020**      **UUFBC E-News**      **Issue 5, July 2020-June 2021**

### A Message from the UUFBC Board of Directors:

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

*On Wednesday of this week, we held a Board meeting and discussed a Zoom account for the Fellowship so we can meet together more frequently; bids for the repair or replacement of the Fellowship's sign at Airport and Lisenby; and the upcoming Sunday services.*

*In addition, we made preparations for the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the meeting requirements the Fellowship has in place. To hold the Annual Meeting and conduct business, we will need 1/3 of our membership to participate. To make decisions, such as the election of Board members, we will need 2/3 of the members in attendance to vote in the affirmative. Please plan to attend. This is an important part of our congregation's life.*

*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 ([jinshaffer@aol.com](mailto:jinshaffer@aol.com)). Serving in a leadership position is also critically important to our congregation's life.*

*As a part of our series on current Board members, we have a biographical summary from John Shaffer, an At-Large Board member. "I was raised in a conservative Christian home, but was always questioning my family's chosen religious practices. Since my mother was raised as a Quaker and my father was raised by missionaries stationed in Kenya, my family's beliefs were an interesting blend, but not a typical one. In an attempt to answer nagging questions and to further my faith journey, I went to Princeton Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity degree, complete with Greek and Hebrew studies. My faith journey continued, but not as an ordained minister. Instead, I decided to incorporate a love for carpentry and construction inherited from my paternal grandfather. Melding a construction career with my conviction to help others, I and my wife, Jo, started a Colorado nonprofit corporation with a mission to do just that. What began as a dream, turned into a comprehensive program: buying dilapidated homes in distressed neighborhoods, renovating them, making them available to low income home buyers and watching neighborhoods come alive. Before we were done, we had transferred title of 300 homes to the first-time homeowners.*

*After a stint as Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity in Atlanta, Jo and I moved permanently to Panama City Florida, where I worked as AmeriCorps Director, the federal volunteer program sponsored locally by Goodwill Industries – Big Bend. The AmeriCorps program often partnered with UU volunteers to offer the Glenwood Community PRIDE program, painting and repairing 20 houses.*

*As an adult, I began attending a liberal Presbyterian Church. After a few years, my mentor, the Presbyterian minister, retired and suggested that the Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden Colorado might be a good fit. It was! Since then, I have been involved with the Unitarian Universalist faith, moving my membership from Golden to the UUFBC. At this Fellowship, I have served on the Worship Committee, the Social Justice Team, the Vision and Growth Committee, and lead the Men's Group. I am currently a member of the Board of Directors."*

*John Shaffer*

*Thank you, John, 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](mailto:info@uuofbaycounty.com). If there is something that you would like to have published in the E-News, submit it to [info@uuofbaycounty.com](mailto: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". If you wish to unsubscribe from the E-News, leave a message at [info@uuofbaycounty.com](mailto:info@uuofbaycounty.com).

**Sunday Services:** There is great news to share! Our Sunday services will be back on line on September 6<sup>th</sup> with our special guest, good friend, and recently ordained minister (ordained here at our UU last fall). We are excited to have Tiffany Sapp join us and she is eager to do so. Reverend Sapp will be with us on the first Sunday of each month through February. A big THANKS to the Worship Committee for all their work planning and designing services, fighting through the technical challenges and making arrangements to continue our worship experience during this time of exceptional circumstances.

**Sharing the Faith:** Serena Dee Latiolais has received medical treatment and is recovering at home. She wrote to say that she will take a little while longer to mend, but soon she hopes to be up, around and maybe even behind our podium on a Sunday later this fall. Serena thanks the UUs for all their well wishes!

Bob McNeal is still undergoing treatment for another few weeks and called to say he was doing all right. Keep lots of those good thoughts going in his direction.

**Transgender Presentation:** The UU Congregation of Sterling Virginia has invited our congregation to join them for an evening of fellowship and learning as a transgender community member shares their story. The speaker, Ray Eck, grew up in Newport, Rhode Island and now lives in Manassas, Virginia. He is a small business owner and graduated from George Mason University with a Master's degree in Education. Raymond volunteers with PFLAG and MediHome Hospice. For more information and to RSVP, <http://uusterling.org/transgender-advocacy-event/>

**Social Justice:** It has always been important to our Fellowship to lead in social justice. We must make our voices heard every opportunity we have, most especially at the ballot box. In this election season, for the next 80 days, you will be inundated with election-related material. This newsletter will be no exception. The Unitarian Universalist 5<sup>th</sup> Principle states that we adhere to "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." I respectfully request your help demonstrating our beliefs and fulfilling our commitments.

1. Help with the Get Out The Vote effort on August 18<sup>th</sup> (Primary Election Day) by staffing a table at a Super Site where bottled water and helpful information will be available to voters. The opportunity to register to vote in the General Election will also be offered. Volunteers must wear masks and remain socially distanced at the tables. The NAACP is coordinating this activity.
2. Work from home. Join this Zoom event at 6:00 pm and help represent the UUs on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, where many churches and community organizations will be coming together to call for volunteers and organize for the General Election.

Contact me to participate in these events on behalf of UUFBC at [ijnshaffer@aol.com](mailto:ijnshaffer@aol.com). In the words of Janice Lucas, Chair of REBUILD Bay and Director of the LEAD Coalition, "We WILL represent!" (our organization and Bay County) How well we do that will make all the difference!



**VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

**The Florida Primary Election is this coming Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**VOTE By Mail Ballots:** It is too late to mail your ballot, **but** you may drop your Vote By Mail (VBM) Ballots at any Super Site EXCEPT on Election Day (August 18<sup>th</sup>). On Election Day you must take your completed ballot to the Supervisor of Elections office BEFORE 7pm and place it in the white mailbox outside. **Or**, even if you received a VBM ballot you can still vote at the poll. After you vote at the poll, destroy your VBM ballot.

**SUPER VOTING SITES:**

Bay County voters can vote in person at any Super Voting Site regardless of where they live. **If you need more information, call the Elections Office at 784-6100. VOTE!**

**Super Sites for August Primary August 8 through August 18 7am-7pm**

Supervisor of Elections Office 830 W. 11th Street, PC  
Lyndell Conference Center 423 Lyndell Lane, PCB  
Frank Nelson Bldg. 4201 W.22nd Street, PC  
Robert's Hall 831 Florida Ave, Lynn Haven  
Palo Alto Church of Christ 3119 N. Hwy 231, PC  
Parkway Presbyterian Church 505 S. Tyndall Pkwy, PC  
Glenwood Community Center, 722 E 9<sup>th</sup> Ct, PC

**In addition to above sites, these sites will also be open August 17 & August 18**

LaQuinta Inn, 7115 Coastal Palms Blvd, PCB  
Woodstock Church, 17495 Panama City Beach Pkwy, PCB  
Sand Hills Fire Station, 13010 Hwy 77, Southport  
Youngstown Fire Station, 11771 Hwy 231, Youngstown  
Fountain Fire Station, 17822 Center Dr, Fountain  
First Baptist Church of Mexico Beach, 823 N 15th St, Mexico Beach



## Community Spotlight

## CAIR Florida

## Council on American–Islamic Relations



The Council on American–Islamic Relations (CAIR) is a Muslim civil rights and advocacy group founded in 1994. It is a national organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., with local offices nationwide. Through civil rights actions, media relations, civic engagement, and education, CAIR promotes social, legal and political activism among Muslims in America.

CAIR-Florida is proud to present its four-part online series called EXPOSED, a look at cases of civil rights infringements from the civil rights era to today. What we see today of police brutality and government surveillance is not new, but if we are unaware of the history, and especially if we are unaware of how these fear and intimidation tactics were used to imprison and silence others, then we cannot be strong in our fight against these injustices.

Join the programs Sundays at 4 p.m. Central Time, on the following dates: August 16<sup>th</sup>, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, August 30<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup>. All programs will be live streamed on the Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CAIRFlorida](http://www.facebook.com/CAIRFlorida) You can register at [bit.ly/exposedseriescairfl](http://bit.ly/exposedseriescairfl). Watch the trailer here: <https://youtu.be/TSFTNYp-Fel>

## I Just Wanna Live

BY KEEDRON BRYANT

I'm a young black man  
Doing all that I can  
To stand  
Oh but when I look around  
And I see what is being done to my kind  
Everyday  
I'm being hunted as prey  
My people don't want no trouble  
We've had enough struggle  
I just wanna live  
God protect me  
I just wanna live  
I just wanna live

Keedron Bryant is 12 years old and resides in Jacksonville Florida. His "I Just Wanna Live" poem received national attention when he posted it online recently. Keedron stated in a magazine interview, "I pray the world will see that we need change and we need it now."

*Be well. Keep safe. Stay home when you can. Wear your gear when you can't stay home.  
However you choose to get it done--VOTE!*

Look for the next issue of the UUFBC E-News on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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