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A Welcoming Congregation

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Saturday, August 22, 2020

UUFBC E-News

Issue 6, July 2020-June 2021

A Message from the UUFBC Board of Directors:

Greetings and Well Wishes to all of our members,

We have reached some of you by phone this week and some of you we hope to reach very soon. Board members are calling Fellowship members to say hello and be with you in the most direct way we can right now. Not only do we miss you, we are frankly concerned about meeting your needs as part of our faith community. We are sincere in our quest to find ways to keep our Fellowship together and provide some respite from the pandemic experience. We are making this extra effort to get in touch and it is our hope that you will take a minute to speak with us, tell us how you are and what you think. For example, if you have comments about virtual worship services or drive-in worship services, please let us know. We want to thank you for taking the time to talk when we call. Please let us know during our conversation if there is anything you need.

As a part of our series on current Board members, we have a biographical summary from Janet Cross, an At-Large Board member. "My life as I know it... :) I was born and raised in Ft. Lauderdale. We moved to Mt. Dora the day after my high school graduation. From there I went on to graduate from the University of Florida. I started my adult life in retail management, working for Beall's, Casual Corner, Robinson's (which was bought by Maison Blanche, which was bought by Gafer's) This took me to a few different cities in Florida.

Somewhere in there I got married to Fred (who was my sister's husband's best friend) and we had a daughter named Anne. I am also a stepmom to Patti Lynn, and she has a daughter Onyx who has given us 3 great grandchildren (with another on the way!) After Anne was born, I left retail and started my own business, a drycleaning pick-up and delivery service. When Fred was transferred to Panama City, I sold my business and eventually got into teaching Pre-School. I was very involved in Lynn Haven United Methodist Church for many years. I ended up losing my teaching job (at a Baptist Church) because of the Obama/rainbow sticker on my car. I was already involved with PFLAG, so I started attending the UU. It was such a welcome relief to know that there were other liberal people in Bay County!!!

At the UU I have been involved with the Faith Development/Congregational Life committee, helped with many a fundraiser, and have served on the Board for many years. Currently I am an "At-Large" member. These days you will find me working on my house, working in my yard, playing with my dog, drinking a glass of wine, or all of the above in North Carolina where we have a small cabin!"

Janet Cross

Thank you, Janet, 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. If you wish to unsubscribe from the E-News, just leave us a message.

Sunday Services: Join us in two weeks as our virtual Sunday services come back on line with our special guest, Reverend Tiffany Sapp. Reverend Sapp states, "As we enter September, we approach the monthly theme of Renewal in the only place that we can start: the brokenness from which renewal emerges. Come join me for a journey from trauma to renewal, drawing upon the promise of Unitarian Universalism's First Principle, The inherent worth and dignity of all."

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 6th, at 10:30 AM. You won't want to miss Reverend Sapp's online presentation, "Broken and Worthy".

Sharing the Faith: As you breathe deeply, meditate, or pray, please take a minute to send warm and caring thoughts and best wishes to Susie Sizemore. Susie has had ongoing medical issues which she has faced bravely each day for a very long time. Let's renew our support for Susie and use our faith to lift her up and let her know that we love her.

Social Justice: The Feminist Future

Auburn Seminary, Ultraviolet, MomsRising, NARAL, Planned Parenthood, United State of Women (USOW), and Women's March are collaborating to offer a Feminist Future webinar series every **Thursday at 4 p.m. Central time. "Healing Justice"**, scheduled for this coming **Thursday, August 27**, will offer panelists discussing the idea of healing justice, its roots in Black feminist history, and why it is a transformative force at this particular time in our national history. To register for this webinar, go to <https://womensmarch.com/feminist-future>. You may also wish to register for the next webinar to be held on Thursday, September 3rd, entitled "The Long Haul", providing tools to help maintain advocacy work over time.

Poems from the *Project 19* Initiative Launched in February 2020, **Project 19** is the single largest women-only commissioning initiative in history. As part of the project, the Academy of American Poets has partnered with the New York Philharmonic to commission nineteen new poems by award-winning poets Elizabeth Alexander, Ellen Bass, Marilyn Chin, Natalie Diaz, Rita Dove, Joy Ladin, Ada Limón, and more. On the next page, please find one of the poems by Ellen Bass.



The Sound of Their Names

By *Ellen Bass*

for the Women of the 19th Amendment

Praise their grit and gospel, their glistening
brains, their minds on fire. Neurons, numbering the stars.

Praise their bones. Their spines and skulls,
the axis, the atlas: *I will not* and *I shall*.

Their mouths, praise. Ridged palates
and smart muscular tongues, teeth, sound or pitted,
their wit and will. Their nerve,

and founded within the body. Honor
now their wombs and hearts, biceps and blood,
deep mines of the flesh where passion is tested.

Thank all twenty-six bones of their feet,
arches, heels, bunions, sweat,

marching the streets in high buttoned boots. Praise
the march. Praise justice.
Though slow and clotted.

Their hands at the press. The grease and clatter,
the smell of ink. Feel the sound
of their names in our mouths:

Susan B. Anthony
Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee
Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett

Praise their eyelids that close
and give rest
at the end of each long day.

Praise the work that goes on...



Community Spotlight: The Steering Wheel Brigade and The 19th Amendment

One hundred years ago this week, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified by Congress, granting American women the right to vote. I grew up in the Midwest a mere 30 years later, never suspecting as a child that my being female might make any difference in voting or anything else I wanted to do. It wasn't until high school that the idea of "less than" came into focus and even then, only because I was hearing about it sitting safely in history and social studies classes.

Imagine my surprise when I discovered that my grandmother, from her little town in southeastern Iowa, had been a suffragette, bobbing her hair and, with a small group of like-minded middle-aged women, marched at the state capitol to show her support for ratification of the 19th Amendment! I guess I can say that I inherited some militance and that I came naturally by my interest in defending the right to vote for all.

So let me tell you what John and I have been doing throughout the early voting period of the Primary Election and Election Day itself, these past couple weeks of August 2020. Harkening back to my youth, it still astounds me just a little that there is a need to do what we did. But there absolutely is a need to fight voter intimidation and voter suppression tactics everywhere and Bay County is certainly no exception.

John and I (keeping isolated in the car with masks and gloves at the ready) drove from polling site to polling site around Bay County checking to see who and what were there. From Panama City Beach, to Lynn Haven, to Calloway and around and around over and over to all seven sites (and then additional sites on Election Day itself) we drove, took notes and reported. It turned out there were accessibility issues, parking issues, intimidation issues and more. While we didn't expect to see much in the early days of voting in a primary election, there were things to see, unfortunately. We saw polling places that were not welcoming to all, where buildings had no handicapped ramps, or did have Sheriff's deputies standing in front of the entrance door, or had a big truck parked up too close flying a very large confederate flag. These obstacles are not ok, nor is anything presenting a barrier that prevents registered voters from casting their ballot. Not only must we vote, and celebrate the right to vote, we must continuously defend and protect our right to vote and the rights of those in our community to do the same freely and without fear.

If you would like to be a part of this social justice initiative, celebrate our right to vote and volunteer with us during the General Election, where there will likely be an even greater need to monitor our polling places, please get in touch with us at jnshaffer@aol.com.

Jo Shaffer

Be well. Keep safe. Stay home when you can. Wear your gear when you can't stay home.

Look for the next issue of the UUFBC E-News on Saturday, August 29th.

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