

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship of Bay County



1410 Airport Rd., Panama City, FL 32405
A Welcoming Congregation

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Saturday, February 20, 2021 **UUFBC E-News** Edition 20, July 2020-June 2021

Greetings and good wishes to all of our members,

Serena Dee Latiolais has been a member of our Fellowship for many years and was recently elected to a position on the UUFBC Leadership Development Committee. Serena Dee shares her life story with us now.

Nee Deloris Gordon, Serena Dee says she has “Had a rich, diverse, and excitingly entertaining life!” Born into illiteracy and abject poverty, the 7th of 9 children, child of share croppers, she learned early the value of an education. Losing her mother at age 7 and orphaned by age 9, she then learned the value of practicality. Being adopted at age 11 brought more challenges and lessons to be learned. The first 21 years were challenging but things took an upward swing after the age of 21. Serena Dee earned a B.A and M.Ed. in elementary education, the first in her family to achieve this status, in order to make a difference in children’s lives.

She married and was granted the role of motherhood to her late husband’s 3 youngest children. Moving frequently due to job changes and living on two different sailboats brought delight and wonder at Mother Nature’s designs. Serena said, “We sailed up and down the Gulf Coast almost every weekend and on every available holiday.” Altogether, the couple and their four children (by now they had adopted a toddler) lived for seven years on the boats. But sailboat living came to an abrupt halt when her husband’s heart needed repair or transplant.

They moved from Tampa to the Panama City area, where Serena Dee took a job in the public school system, cared for her ailing husband, and earned an Ed.S in Education Leadership. Here in the Bay area, she first encountered the people of the local Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, an experience that would help shape her next vocation, interfaith ministry. Over the next few years Serena Dee completed several ordinations in paganism, FOI, Native American Spirituality, and Reiki attunement mastery. She has various certifications in spiritual counseling, especially grief counseling. Following her late husband’s death, Serena Dee took up that very ministry, hoping to continue to make a difference in people’s lives. As a UU member, Serena Dee served as Vice President on the UUFBC Board and as a member of the Faith Development (Worship) Committee. Later she was instrumental in helping to start the Interfaith Harmony Council, a group of likeminded individuals who are seeking a voice in the spiritual community for alternative and comparative religions.

Serena Dee has had the pleasure of two lifetime loves, her late husband and her current wife. Upon retirement, she and her wife Jeri have had the joy of visiting many places in the world. “We have been to the islands, to Belgium, France and Canada. These have all been experiences of a lifetime. We are not finished traveling yet.” In the words of Abraham-Hicks, Serena Dee believes that, in life, ‘Joy is the key’ and she certainly has been enjoying the travels and the events in her life.

Thank you to Serena Dee for sharing her history, achievements, and joys with us.



Sunday Worship Services: Our virtual Worship Service begins at 10:30 AM. We invite you to join us on Zoom by clicking the link below. Please join in by 10:25 AM, so you don't miss the beginning. We will also stream the service LIVE on Facebook and have it posted to our YouTube channel shortly after the service is over. In whatever way you choose to join us, thank you for being with us!

Click on this Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3hWkhEI> **Remember, please join a little early.**

"Coffee Talk" will take place immediately following the service on Zoom, so stay connected to enjoy another half hour of fellowship. If you're watching on Facebook, you're welcome to join us for Coffee Talk by clicking the link above after the service has ended.

February 2021 Monthly Theme "Beloved Community"

The practice of bending the arc of the universe toward justice.

The practice of recognizing inherent worth.

The practice of dismantling the structures that divide us.

The practice of transforming opponents into friends.

February 21st Candis Harbison "Nature's RX: Experience the Healing Qualities of Nature"

The pandemic has forced us to take stock of our lives, and many people are turning to Nature to regain a sense of belonging and wonder.

February 28th Bob Gilmore "Poetry Sunday"

We are celebrating the power of poetry to inspire, reflect, make us cry, laugh and feel deeply. Members of our Fellowship will read selections they find meaningful and would like to share with the rest of us.

March 2021 Monthly Theme "Commitment"

The practice of being loyal to something larger than yourself.

The practice of loving even when it is hard.

The practice of making, breaking and re-making our promises.

March 7th Reverend Tiffany Sapp "Committing to Having Better Arguments"

While it's natural to want to avoid conflict, strong relationships are often built upon the ability to argue well. This Sunday let's learn about what makes an argument a good one.



Announcements:

Need Information?

Contact the Fellowship at info@uuofbaycounty.com or call us at 850-615-4127 for more information about our services or with any question you may have. Please let us know if you have a joy or a concern that the Service Leader may share during our worship service. Also let us know if you have something you would like to submit for the E-News.

Pledges and Donations: Please remember that during this pandemic many expenses continue for our Fellowship, even though we meet virtually. We continue to care for our Fellowship and meet our responsibilities by maintaining quality Sunday services, paying for insurance, utilities, and the upkeep of our grounds and buildings. We are dependent upon the understanding and generosity of our members and friends as our sole source of income. Your offerings and pledges sustain this sacred place so important to us. It is our place of community, of hope, and represents our dream for a better world.

Please mail donations to:
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County (UUFBC)
1410 Airport Road
Panama City, FL 32405

Joys and Concerns:

We send our greetings to Harriet Myers, long-time member, who has been having some health issues. Let's keep Harriet in our thoughts and offer her our best wishes for a full recovery very soon.

Social Justice: Voter Registration

We have had the opportunity to take a breath, reflect on the 2020 election cycle and celebrate a little. Now, as we ready ourselves to continue voter registration efforts, we need to answer the question, "Where Are We Now?" with voting rights restoration for felons. Sponsored in part by the League of Women Voters, a panel including Cecille Scoon representing the Florida League, Howard Simon representing Florida ACLU, and Neil Volz of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition will offer a presentation and discussion. Many Unitarians have worked on this issue in the past and it is time to recommit and double our efforts to move the opportunity for restoration forward.

EVENT DETAILS: Voting Rights Restoration: Where Are We Now?
Thursday, February 25th
6:00 p.m.

REGISTER AT: bit.ly/votingrightsupdate



Social Justice: African American Inventors Program TODAY

With another special event sponsored by the NAACP, the celebration of Black History Month continues with a program on the history of African American inventors and their inventions. Matthew Shack will be hosting this great program and you won't want to miss it. Please join in on **Saturday, February 20th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm (central time).**

The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85867245228>. The call-in number is 301.715.8592. The meeting ID is 858 6724 5228.

Social Justice: LBGTQ Center Yard Sale

There will be a Yard Sale at the LGBTQ Center, 1608 Baker Court, on Saturday, March 6th from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. The Center would appreciate donations which may be brought to the LGBTQ Center on the morning of March 6th or you can make arrangements for your donations to be picked up by contacting Arlene Garner, arlenegarner1@aol.com. Email Bob Gilmore, gilzach@yahoo.com, or Arlene Zacher, zacherarlene@gmail.com, with any questions you may have about this event.

In closing, remember to join us next week for Poetry Sunday (2/28) as we celebrate our friend, Nonnie Augustine, her poetry and more.

CHINESE NOODLE SOUP

By Nonnie Augustine

Is: soozly, soggly, 'shrooms
And shrimp, chickens
And eggs-dropped,
skinny brown smooths,
snappyish peas
and humbles tumbling
in hot happy broth.

Flinging drops of savory gold
to get me through
this droopy night.
I spoon with slurps,
and sip with slips
my fine big bowl
of CoCo's Chinese noodle soup!

Please wear your mask, stay safe and be well.

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