



1410 Airport Rd., Panama City, FL 32405
A Welcoming Congregation
Phone: 850.615.4127
Email: info@uufbaycounty.com

Saturday, September 11, 2021 **UUFBC E-News** Edition 6, July 2021-June 2022



Greetings to all,

On this, the 20th anniversary of 9/11, we solemnly reflect on the event which changed the course of history and devastated so many lives in its wake. We think about the value of our citizenship, our allegiance to this country and the luxury of having its protection and privileges. We also respect its historic relevance and the effect it has had around the globe.

Several things have struck me during the last few days of media coverage. I was surprised to learn that more than 1/3 of the stars on the CIA's memorial wall were placed there to commemorate agents who died during the years since 9/11, while attempting to gain sufficient intelligence to prevent another such attack. While the whole story is one for another time, when I was young my parents had close friends who invited us to spend a week or so at their lake house each summer. This couple had four children, two older than I and two who were younger. We would swim, have fun, watch 4th of July fireworks and eat lots of ice cream. We would go to the nearby amusement park and ride the Ferris wheel. It was the epitome of the midwestern American good time.

But years went by, we all got older and went our separate ways. I stayed generally aware of this family's evolution. John and I even went back one summer to visit the now much older couple who were my parents' friends. I was aware that one of the younger kids, grown now, had graduated from college, was fluent in Farci and worked for the federal government. Then out of the blue, I heard she had died suddenly overseas. It took me awhile, but I now have put pieces together and realize that one of those stars on the wall is for her...and her ultimate sacrifice. I think about those summer days, I picture her as a child, and I can guess how she developed a love for her country that gave her strength and courage and the desire to do what she could to preserve it.

Today, I am thinking of her and all those who meet their best selves in the celebration and defense of our country. While I constantly pray for peace, I know peace is hard won. It requires all of us to seek our best selves and make our own contributions to our community and to our country. As UU's we commit to our 6th Principle, "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all." Let us fully re-commit to our 6th Principle today, in memory of all those who perished and all those who responded.

Yours in service,

Jo and John Shaffer



UUFBC Contact Information: Contact the Fellowship at info@uuofbaycounty.com or call us at 850-615-4127 for more information about our services or events, 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 Sunday worship service. Also let us know if you have an article, a poem, or a picture that you would like to submit for publication in this newsletter.

Reverend Ruth Van Lillian's Contact Information:

Reverend Ruth invites you to contact her whenever she can be of assistance. You may contact her by email: uurevruth@gmail.com, or by calling her at 205-218-1666. You may also make an appointment to visit with her in- person (masked) when she is here next.

Sunday Worship Services: Our virtual worship service begins at 10:30 AM. We invite you to join us on Zoom by clicking the link provided here. Please join in by 10:25 AM, so you don't miss the beginning of the service. Please Note: We are no longer streaming Sunday services live on Facebook. However, the services will be posted on Facebook after they conclude.

We are continuing to offer our services live on Zoom. The Zoom link is the same each week: <https://bit.ly/3hWkhEI> You may wish to make a note of it. There are many ways to access the Sunday worship services. This is a list of locations where the service link is available:

1. On our website (uuofbaycounty.com), click on any Sunday service listed and you will be taken to that service's page with the Zoom link.
2. The link is listed as an Event on Facebook. Click on "Events" and you will find the link.
3. Check the E-News for the link.
4. Check the weekly emails from UUFBC.
5. The link is posted each Sunday on Facebook around 10 AM.

"Coffee Talk" will take place immediately following the service on Zoom, so stay connected to enjoy another half hour of fellowship.

Upcoming Sunday Services:

September 2021 Monthly UUA "Soul Matters" Theme Embracing Possibility

"Welcome to this place of possibility! Here may our sight become vision to see the unseen, to glimpse the good that is yet to be." Marianne Hachten Cotter

September 12th Christina Cantrell St. Andrew Bay Watch

Christina is the Program Director for St. Andrew Bay Watch, a local environmental group that works to monitor and protect the health of our bay and its shorelines. She will share the state of the bay and recent trends in its health. She will also tell us about some of their current grant projects.

September 19th Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian (Pre-recorded sermon)
September 26th Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian Preaching in-person at UUFBC



Social Justice: “Side with Love” UU Action Center Launch

Join in the launch of the new UU Action Center on Sunday, September 12th at 1:00 PM CST. When we come together, our power to transform the world grows.

In the midst of devastating climate change, the appalling stripping away of voting and reproductive rights, the criminalization of migration - it can feel as though we are powerless to stop it. But nothing could be further from the truth.

This Sunday with our Action Center Launch, we will come together as communities and as a faith and claim our collective power. We will learn from leaders of critical campaigns, and begin to mobilize within our own congregations and communities to make life-saving change.

Featuring the following UU activists:

A promotional graphic for the "Side with Love" UU Action Center launch. The graphic has a yellow and white background with a grid pattern. On the left, it says "SIDE WITH LOVE" with a heart icon, "Action Center", "Join the National Launch", and "Sunday, Sept. 12, 2pm ET, 1pm CT, 11am PT, Zoom". On the right, it features three speakers with their names and titles: Rev. Tamara Lebak (Founder, Restorative Justice Institute of Oklahoma), Aquene Freechild (Co-Director, Democracy Is For People Campaign, Public Citizen), and Cherri Foytlin (Founder, L'eau Est La Vie (Water is Life) Camp). Each speaker's name and title are next to a small portrait photo of them.

They will be sharing their wisdom **and** calls to communal action. As we organize and activate our campaigns for **Climate Justice, Decriminalization, LGBTQ+ & Gender Justice, and Democracy & Voting Rights**, we need you to bring your faith in that liberated world, and your commitment to moving us towards it.

[I hope you'll join us.](#) (Ctrl + click to follow link).

In faith, justice, and power,
Reverend Ranwa Hammamy
Congregational Justice Organizer



Companion's Corner: Our 7th Unitarian Universalist Principle is, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part". We are happy to share photos of our companions whose presence we can all appreciate and enjoy.

Bob Gilmore and Arlene Zacher's Companion



Magnolia

From Bob: This is Magnolia, an African grey parrot. She is just over 30 years old. She loves to talk, has a hearty laugh, sings happy birthday, and used to enjoy imitating ringing like the office phone to see me running into the office to answer it. She travels well and joins us on our road trips.

Stay safe and be well.

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