

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship of Bay County



A Welcoming Congregation
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UUFBC E-News Edition 20, July 2021-June 2022



Greetings to all of our Members and Friends,

It has been awhile since there has been a message from the Board of Directors in this space. Happily, "Reflections" from Reverend Ruth have been gracing the front page of our newsletter for some time. Today, however, we have some important announcements and we want to be certain that everyone has this information.

First, the Board has been carefully tracking the status of the COVID pandemic since its inception. Your health and safety are an ongoing responsibility that we take very seriously. The Board reviews its COVID policy monthly at each of its meetings in light of the most recent information available to it. Recently, there has been a national movement to "unmask", due to hospitalizations and infection rates dropping. However, we are contending with the unknown influence of the BA.2 COVID variant now. Therefore, we will continue with our current masking policy while inside Fellowship Hall. We will also continue social distancing and providing maximum ventilation throughout the building. The one revision to the UUFBC COVID policy is that we have removed the requirement to stay silent during the hymns and the congregational response segments of our services. We have changed the policy and will now allow singing with masks on. Please help by cooperating with our policies as we continue to navigate our way through this challenging time. Your feedback is always welcome and will be received with consideration.

Second, on Sunday, April 10th, our "Growing in Generosity" Pledge Campaign will kick off. Pledge packets will be distributed at the Sunday service. For everyone who is unable to attend in person, your packet will be mailed to you. Then two weeks later, on April 24th, will be "Pledge Collection Sunday". Please be ready to renew your pledge no later than this date. Consider increasing your pledge if possible so we can prepare a budget that allows us to grow our programming. Stay tuned for more information... Let's achieve change together through the gift of giving.

Thank you and many blessings to all,

The UUFBC Board of Directors:

Bob Gilmore, John Shaffer, Lynne Siegfried, Bob Nixon, Janet Cross, and Matt Raver





Worship Services at our Fellowship

Our Soul Matters theme for March is **“RENEWING FAITH”**. *Our Soul Matters* theme for April is **“AWAKENING”**. Monthly themes focus on our relationship with our times, and on the central work and spiritual practices needed during this period of radical change, challenge, crisis and opportunity.

March 27th **Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian** **“Grandma Got the Vote”**

Rev Ruth is live this week! It's Women's History month and voter suppression is on the rise. Through the lens of my own grandmother's life, we'll look at the history of women's suffrage, the intersection with the struggle for Black suffrage, and our current battles with new efforts to make it harder for individuals of color to exercise their right to vote.

April 3rd **Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian** **“Ringing in our Ears”**

The words and deeds of prophetic people provide a powerful source of our Living Tradition. Let's consider some of our many prophets and what they have contributed to our faith and how they have expanded our Unitarian Universalist Living Tradition.

April 10th **Cindy Gregory** **“Publishing Then and Now”**

Over the years, publishing barely changed until the twenty-first century. With the invention of personal computers, email, and e-readers, new avenues of publishing sprang up and flourished...until recently. Now the publishing biz is more like the Wild West. Join us on the journey from then until now.

April 17th **Ken Sizemore** **“Songs of Justice, Equity, and Compassion”**

This week's service is a musical one, featuring our favorite troubadour, member Ken Sizemore. Ken will help us celebrate our 2nd UU Principle, **Justice, Equity, and Compassion in Human Relations**, through songs and narration to illustrate ways both large and small in which this principle is vitally important to our world and our own individual lives.

April 24th **Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian** **“Coulda, Shoulda, Woulda”**

When we take risks, we make mistakes, and then feel regret and sometimes remorse. Can we have a rich, full life without risks? When they ask what we did best, what shall we tell them?

Zoom: You may also join us remotely this Sunday by using the Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3hWkhEI>

Please tune in by 10:25 am so you will be connected when the service begins at 10:30 am.

Note: If you join us in person this Sunday, plan to wear a mask in Fellowship Hall and remain socially distanced. Please do not attend in person if you are not feeling well or have any COVID symptoms.



UUFBC Upcoming Events

The UU Book Club

Next month is almost here and it's time to announce our next book, *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel*, by Carl Safina. Book Club will meet on Wednesday, April 13th at 6:30 pm by Zoom and again on Sunday, April 24th at noon in person after our worship service and by Zoom. For questions, more information, and to indicate your interest, contact Chris May at chrysalis33333@gmail.com. Chris will send an email with the Zoom link to those who have indicated an interest.

The Cultural Cooking Club

Our first Cultural Potluck was a great success with tons of tasty delights from Turkey! Thank you to everyone who came out to make it a great night. We'd love to collect the recipes from our Turkish dinner, so those of you who did the fabulous and creative cooking, please send your recipes over to Charissa. She'll compile and share them with everyone to try!



Our next destination is....[SRI LANKA!](#) So, get to Googling for yummy recipes and interesting cultural tidbits to share! We'll host our 2nd Cultural Pot Luck, featuring Sri Lanka, on APRIL 29th at 6:30pm. *Fingers crossed, no storms this time!* Everyone who will attend, please share your plans and dish with Charissa at Charissa.Thacker@yahoo.com



Earth Day

UUFBC is getting ready for Panama City's Earth Day celebration, coordinated every year by our member, Henry Lawrence. Our UU will have a table again this year. Do you have some ideas for earth-related activities to offer at our table? Would you like to help set-up or staff the table? Let us know!

Earth Day will convene at Oaks by the Bay Park in historic St. Andrews on Saturday, April 23rd, from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. For more information, check [Earth Day Bay County, Florida – Celebrate with us!](#)



Earth Day continued

Also in celebration of Earth Day, and our 7th Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.", our Fellowship planted the Three Sisters Garden this past Sunday. Thank you to Chris May and Serena Dee Latiolais for this Spring Equinox experience.



Joys and Concerns

Paul McAuliffe has been released from the hospital following surgery this past week. Doctors report that the surgery went well. Paul is resting at home now and we are wishing him a speedy recovery.

Please keep Harriet Meyers, Susie Sizemore, Diane Mouskourie and all others you know who could use some cheering in your thoughts and well wishes.

Have questions or need more 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. Reverend Ruth invites you to contact her at 205-218-1666 whenever you need a pastoral ear.

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.



Other Events of Interest

The NAACP Poll Monitor Training

The NAACP Legal Defense Fund is providing training for those who would like to become nonpartisan poll monitors for the upcoming municipal elections on April 19, 2022 and for the upcoming primary and national elections later this summer and fall. Poll monitors are currently needed for Callaway, Panama City Beach, Mexico Beach and Springfield. Training dates:

Wednesday, April 6 at 6 pm central
Tuesday, April 12 at 6 pm central
Saturday, April 16 at 12 noon central

To register for training, click on the link : <https://bit.ly/EPVol22>

Diversity Initiative

Where: Holley Center Lecture Hall, FSU-Panama City campus

When: March 30 at 6 pm

What: Film screening with award winning director, Iman Zawahry who grew up in Panama City. The film's title is "American...ish" and the description is, "This is America. where American...ish dreams come true...ish". The 90 minute film invites viewers into the home and lives of three middle-aged American Muslim women. The program is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, contact: iclark2@pc.fsu.edu.

This event is part of FSU's "Illumination, Shedding Light on Diversity" initiative, which highlights diversity, equity and inclusion through a series of guest speakers that allow the community to hear different viewpoints, engage in meaningful conversation and learn from unique experiences belonging to the minority.

Community Corner The Avicenna Free Clinic



On Friday, March 25th, the Avicenna Free Clinic celebrated its 12th year of service to Bay County. Avicenna Clinic provides health care and related services to the uninsured and under-insured residents of this area. Services are offered primarily by volunteer physicians and health care professions.

This clinic was destroyed by Hurricane Michael, but it never stopped serving those in need. It reopened in a cargo container in donated parking lot space until it could arrange for a permanent home. It found a structure in need of extensive rehab in order to serve as a medical clinic. Its service never interrupted, it now has a beautiful home at 1838 Frankford Avenue and is open each weekday. Please alert anyone you know who needs medical attention and cannot afford it, to contact the Avicenna Clinic at 850-215-8200 or walk-in and request assistance.

(Avicenna is the Muslim physicist, astronomer and physician who is considered the father of modern medicine, particularly for his discovery of the contagious nature of infectious diseases and the introduction of the use of quarantine and clinical trials).

Pray for Peace



"Slava Ukraini" (Glory to Ukraine)

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