



A Welcoming Congregation  
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Saturday, May 21, 2022

## UUFBC E-News Edition 24, July 2021-June 2022

\*\*\*\*\***ANNUAL MEETING**\*\*\*\*\*

Tomorrow, Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> is an important day. At 10:30 am, UUFBC will begin its Annual Meeting and Worship Service. Presentations will be made and motions will be offered and voted upon. The most vital component is you! Our Fellowship needs your active participation. Please join us and take part in the planning and decision-making process for the future operation and administration of UUFBC.

The Order of Service and the Annual Meeting Agenda is a two-page attachment to this E-News. Please review it and print it if you would like a copy to bring to the service. The proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year July 2022 to June 2023 is also attached.

The first order of business that members will address during the Annual Meeting is approval (with revisions if necessary) of last year's Annual Meeting minutes. A copy is attached to this E-News.

Then the proposed Annual Budget for this coming Fiscal Year will be presented for approval. The membership will have the opportunity for questions, discussion and revisions, prior to a motion for approval. Following the primary budget discussion, a special request in the amount of \$10,000 will be presented for approval. The funds contained in this initiative will pay for improvements to the Fellowship's grounds, including the first phase of the recommended accessibility plan and other projects such as shade structures, signage and pond outflow.

The next business item is the election of Board members. This election is traditionally split between the Slate of Officers and Board Members At-Large. UUFBC members in good standing may nominate other members in good standing not already on the slate to serve instead of, or in addition to those on the slate. According to the Fellowship's Bylaws, there must be a minimum of six Board members. There is no maximum set forth. Prior to the election this year, in order to consider the nomination of Bob Gilmore as President for another term of two years, the Bylaw provision (Article VI, Section 1.d) that states, "Officers ...may not be elected to consecutive terms in the same position", must be set aside for purposes of this election only. The Slate of Officers and Board Members At-Large is attached to this email.

The last business matter is the election of Leadership Development Committee members, if any are nominated from the floor. There will be an opportunity for open discussion before the Annual Meeting comes to a conclusion. Lunch will be served following the service.

Please see all attachments to this E-News. You may attend and participate by Zoom. You can find the Zoom connection listed in the E-News on page 2 and in the E-News cover email.



## **Worship Services at our Fellowship**

*Our Soul Matters* theme for May is ***"NURTURING BEAUTY"***. 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.

## **UUFBC Annual Meeting and Worship Service**

Plan to attend and participate in the Fellowship's Annual Meeting which will be held on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 10<sup>30</sup> am, as part of the worship service.

***May 22nd***

***Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian***

***"Final Exams"***

Remember when we were young and spring warmed our bones and stirred our hormones and made us think of summer ahead, but there was a remaining set of obstacles to overcome, the exams we had to get through first? Well we have been experimenting since last August with a collaborative ministry involving the members and leaders of our fellowship and myself, your quarter-time contract minister. On this last Sunday of my one-year contract, let's examine each other - kindly, gently and honestly - and see how we've done and get a sense of where we might go next.

***May 29th***

***Unitarian Universalist Association***

***"What if I only had 30 days to Love?"***

This recorded service is made possible by the UUA "Side with Love" initiative. It features stirring music, deep-hearted reflection, and moving testimonies from a range of UU leaders.

**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 remain socially distanced. Masks are optional, but must be worn when singing or participating in the responsive readings (See UUFBC Policy below). Please do not attend in person if you are not feeling well or have any COVID symptoms.

### **Covid Policy**

The UUFBC has taken a proactive approach to the COVID 19 pandemic. The guidelines have evolved reflecting the changing nature of pandemics. We are now not requiring masking indoors. Masking is optional. We ask that you wear a mask while singing or participating in a group reading. We have a limited number of masks available at the building entrances, but prefer that you bring a mask from home. Thank you, The UUFBC Board

## **Have questions or need more information?**

Contact the Fellowship at [info@uuofbaycounty.com](mailto: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.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### UUFBC CALENDAR

May 21	Black Voters Matter Rally	4-7 pm	Daffin Park
May 22	ANNUAL MTG & Worship Svc	10:30 am	UU Fellowship Hall/Zoom
May 29	Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am	UU Fellowship Hall/Zoom
May 29	Book Club	12 noon	UU Fellowship Portico/Zoom
June 5	Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am	UU Fellowship Hall/Zoom
June 8	Book Club	6:30 pm	Zoom
June 11	UU Table at Pride Fest	1 – 7 pm	Mc Kenzie Park
June 12	Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am	UU Fellowship Hal/Zoom I
June 17	Cultural Cooking Club	6:30 pm	UU Fellowship Hall
June 19	Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am	UU Fellowship Hall/Zoom
June 26	Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am	UU Fellowship Hall/Zoom
June 26	Book Club	12 noon	UU Fellowship Portico/Zoom

### **The UU Book Club**

The Book Club will meet at the Fellowship and on Zoom on Sunday, May 29th at 12 noon after the worship service and coffee hour. This will be the final meeting to review and discuss Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel, by Carl Safina.

For June the Club will tackle Michael Lister's book More: Do More of What Matters Most and Discover the Life of Your Dreams. The Book Club will meet at 6:30 pm on June 8<sup>th</sup> on Zoom and again on June 29<sup>th</sup> after the service at the Fellowship.

For questions, more information, and to indicate your interest, contact Chris May at [chrysalis33333@gmail.com](mailto:chrysalis33333@gmail.com). Chris will send an email with the Zoom link to those who have indicated an interest.

### **The Cultural Cooking Club**

The second cultural potluck was a big success! The third cultural potluck dinner, featuring dishes from Spain, has now been scheduled and will be held on Friday evening, June 17<sup>th</sup>. The dinner will feature dishes from Spain. Contact Charissa at [Charissa.Thacker@yahoo.com](mailto:Charissa.Thacker@yahoo.com) to let her know that you will be attending and what dish you plan to bring.

## Celebrate Our Community

### **VOTE RALLY**

The NAACP, The Center, Black Voters Matter and the LEAD Coalition are among the sponsors of the "Stay Woke and Rally the Vote" event being held tonight, Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Rally will be held at Daffin Park, 320 Kraft Avenue from 4:00 to 7:00 pm and will include music, voter registration and voter education activities. Let's start getting together and working together toward a great voter turnout this fall.

### **PRIDE FEST**

Mark your calendars! Pride Fest will take place at Mc Kenzie Park in downtown Panama City on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. The event will begin at 1:00 pm and continue through 7:00 pm. UUFBC will have a table at the event and members are encouraged to help staff the table. Volunteers are also needed to help set-up and clean-up. Please meet Bob Gilmore there any time after 11:30 am.



## Work on the UUFBC grounds



Ron Houser, an exotic plant expert for Bay County Conservancy, donated his time on Wednesday morning to help UU member Candis Harbison attack a few more of the Popcorn Trees on our property. Ron sprayed about 100 trees, so watch for them to turn brown and start dying soon. Candis's sprayer didn't work, so she pulled a dozen trees with the weed wrench. Little by little, perhaps we can return our grounds to native habitat. Thanks to Ron and Candis for their work!



Thanks also to Charissa Thacker, Chris May and Candis for their efforts on Work Day, last Saturday. As you can see, the three of them did an amazing job.

Thanks to all the UU volunteers throughout the year who help to keep the Fellowship's property so well-maintained, inside and out.



## Joys and Concerns

### **Roe v. Wade**

The Supreme Court's draft decision on Roe v. Wade continues to cause serious concern. But it is a joy to know that UU Fellowship members and friends take action and are a part of the public opposition.



As always, thanks to Charissa Thacker for being there too and taking these photos.

### **Gun Violence and Racism**

On a second note of concern, at the beginning of this week records indicated that there have been 202 mass shootings already across the nation this year and 4 in the past 48 hours. Gun violence is increasing and there is good reason for grave concern. There is an ongoing concerted network of domestic terrorism, often based on racism, raging in our country. Let's do all we can to stand strong against it. One way to do so is to identify opportunities to educate ourselves about and celebrate the Black cultural experience. See below.

### **Sign-Up for the Kinsey Exhibit**

At the beginning of this month, the nationally recognized "Treasures from the Kinsey African-American Art and History Collection" opened in an exhibit at Florida State University, Panama City. It is a great joy to have a collection of this type and magnitude exhibited here. Our Fellowship may have the opportunity for a special viewing on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> after our worship service, if we have enough interest. The Holley Center, where the exhibit is housed, will be opening just for us. So we need to be certain that we have a group who will be going. We can all have lunch together following our tour. If you would like to participate, let Charissa Thacker know ASAP at [Charissa.Thacker@yahoo.com](mailto:Charissa.Thacker@yahoo.com)

***Pray for Peace***



***"Slava Ukraini"*** (Glory to Ukraine)

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