

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Fellowship of Bay County



A Welcoming Congregation
1410 Airport Road, Panama City, FL 32405

Phone: 850.615.4127

Email: info@uuofbaycounty.com

Saturday, July 2, 2022

UUFBC E-News Edition 1, July 2022-June 2023



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

CELEBRATE OUR DEMOCRACY

Celebrate and advocate for our 5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.



Worship Services at our Fellowship

Sunday worship services at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County will begin again in August. There will be no Sunday services during the month of July. We wish you a happy month full of pleasant relaxation and time for contemplation, with a little sun, lemonade, a picnic lunch, a hammock, and all the things that make summertime a special time for you.

We hope you will join us for a Game Night at the Fellowship and a trip to Falling Waters State Park in July.

UUFBC July Activities

Game Night

Everyone is invited to have some fun at Game Night on Sunday, July 10th from 4 to 6ish. We are getting together to play some Pictionary and enjoy each other's company! Supper will be served. More details will follow in the next E-News.

Field Trip to Falling Waters State Park

We will gather at the Fellowship to carpool to Falling Waters State Park located near Chipley Florida. Those who wish to drive separately can meet us there. This will be an all-day adventure. Bring walking shoes, a bathing suit, towel, sunscreen, a hat and whatever else you may need for all the activities offered at the park. Want to go hiking, swimming, birding, fishing, or admire a 70 foot waterfall? Mark July 24th on your calendar and join us.

Upcoming Events

The UU Book Club

Our next book club meeting will be September 14th. We will discuss *Sign My Name to Freedom*, By Betty Reid Soskin. You have probably seen her in the news in the last month or so. She recently retired at age 97 as a US Park Ranger. Betty is also a UU and a longtime activist. The book is available in Audible, Kindle and book form at https://www.amazon.com/dp/sign_my_name_to_freedom For questions or more information, contact Chris May at chrysalis33333@gmail.com.

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.



Joys and Concerns

It is with sadness that we announce that our friend and former member, Mary Thieme, passed away on Sunday evening, June 26th in Valdosta Georgia.

During her professional career, Mary Thieme was an anthropologist, an archivist, and a museum curator. She was active in UU organizations in Nashville and was friends with Susie and Ken Sizemore there before moving to Panama City and joining our UU Fellowship. She was a proper and scholarly New Englander whose ancestors' portraits gazed down from her walls, but she also knew how to laugh and have fun.

When her children were small, Mary lived in Africa where her ethnomusicologist husband studied the making of African musical instruments. When she did her own field work, it was studying pottery-making in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. She worked in museums in Nashville before moving here, and she still made trips to Mexico to visit with friends and participate in projects after moving to Panama City.

Mary's younger son, Richard, died of leukemia while working in Japan as a translator. Her older son, Dr. Donald Thieme, teaches geosciences at Valdosta State University. He is married to Hannae Kanno, who teaches social work, and they have a daughter, Erica, who brought much joy to Mary's life, especially after she moved to Valdosta to be closer to them.

During the time that Mary lived in Panama City, she was an avid member of the Native Plant Society. She demonstrated her commitment by planting natives in the yard all around her home. Mary was instrumental in developing the original grounds policy for UUFBC that was followed for many years. Our Fellowship was fortunate to have her expertise as a Master Gardener. She often participated with her fellow Unitarians in social justice work as well. Mary is pictured below (2nd from the left) with members of our Fellowship during a "Souls to Polls" event.

Information regarding the Memorial Service for Mary will be announced in the E-News as soon as it is available.



We have ongoing concern for Susie Sizemore and her very serious health challenges. We think of her often and send our best wishes to her and to Ken who is so dedicated to her care. Susie is pictured in the "Souls to Polls" group above (2nd from the right).



Joys and Concerns continued

A few days ago, the Supreme Court handed down its decision to effectively overturn Roe v. Wade and its federal protection for abortion. Every state will be able to regulate abortion, with a majority of states expected to ban abortion care immediately. This is cause for anguish, despair and incredible frustration. The following prayer is one of several offered by UUA's Side with Love Initiative and has been abridged to offer here.

Body Blessing (Abridged)

by Rev. Lisa Bovee-Kemper. Originally published on WorshipWeb.

May you be blessed with wisdom, knowledge and understanding. May your intellect take you far on your journey. You have been blessed with reason and free will, it is your call every day to use these gifts.

May you be blessed with voice. May you learn the complex nature of truth-telling. The ability to speak the truth in love is something that requires honesty, empathy and care. You are challenged every day to seek the joy that comes with sharing your truth compassionately, as well as listening to others.

May your heart be full and blessed with love. May you know the agony of heartbreak, as it is intertwined with the elation of true love. Your heart is a strong and resilient organ, one that will be with you until the end of your time on earth. May you heed the wisdom of your heart and trust the truth it tells.

May you understand the blessing and gift of sexuality. Your body is sacred and belongs to you alone. May you live into the full expression of your identity as a human being, embracing your true sexual and gender identity. This gift brings with it rewards as well as great responsibility. May you always retain power over your own being, striving toward mutually fulfilling and just relationship.

May your hands be gentle and strong. May you use them to carry light into the darkness and rest to the weary. May your hands always find the place of greatest need, beginning with your own, and may the creator of all things hold you in the palm of her hand wherever you go.

May you be blessed on your journey. Blessings upon you, body, mind and spirit. May you be guided by compassion and truth, justice and love. May you find rest on the journey, always remembering where you came from, being mindful that your ancestors stand behind you, whether we are present on earth or have gone back to the Soul of the World. May you be blessed in all things and carry blessings with you wherever you go.

The war in Ukraine continues. Shelling of non-combatants continues. Our grave concern continues.

Pray for Peace



"Slava Ukraini" (Glory to Ukraine)

#