



Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists
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Sunday Services 2014

12/28/14 UU Rev Carole Yorke: *Reclaiming Jesus*

The living tradition we share draws from many sources including Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves. Unfortunately, in America, the idea of Jesus has been hijacked by people with a series of causes that do not reflect his teachings. Jesus was pretty specific about what he had in mind for his followers: love your neighbor as yourself. This will suffice as an accurate summary of the core message of Jesus. There is no disputing the centrality of this message, nor is there any disputing how easy it is to ignore that message.



Rev Carole Yorke has been a Unitarian Universalist minister in Florida since 1998. She has served the Spirit of Life UUs, UU Church in Stuart, and First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches, but is now retired in Port St Lucie where she lives with her five beautiful Pomeranians. She is working on her hobbies of photography, target shooting and trike riding. Most recently, she has been spending time with a personal trainer getting in shape for a trip to the UK in the spring.

She addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles:](#)

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

12/21/14 NCUU Earth-Centered Small Group Ministry: *Tomorrow Can be Brighter than Today/Winter Solstice*

The Earth Centered Small Group Ministry and the NCUU Choir presented a Winter Solstice service based on the Humanist Solstice celebration of how humans conquered the fear of winter darkness through the light of reason. *Note: As the preparations for the Winter Solstice service based on the Humanist writings of Raymond Arnold proceeded, the text was adapted and music added. It is important to note that the music is not derived from Humanist sources and many, if not most, Humanists do not think that any celebration of the Winter Solstice reflects their values.*



The NCUU Earth Centered Small Group Ministry shares a path of living in harmony with and maintaining a reverence for nature. Their goals are to help each other reclaim their lost spiritual heritage and their affinity with the earth; to help each other in pursuing their spiritual and personal growth; to provide both physical and psychological support as they are able; to have fun and not take themselves too seriously; to serve the mission of NCUU congregation by providing services and earth-centered events; to contribute to the growing awareness and understanding of the spiritual interconnections of all life; and to seek and respect the common roots of earth-centered philosophies of indigenous peoples around the world.

Our Winter Solstice celebration will address the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

12/14/14 Margie Manning: *Building a New Way*

The UUA Southern Region and the Florida District have consolidated operations and are preparing to ask congregations to dissolve district governance, while we build a system of stronger congregational relationships, recognizing that we are stronger together than alone. Elders (wise leaders of any age) and Clusters are vital to the work to connect congregations. Margie shared information on how we will identify and train Elders, and how we will strengthen Clusters, so that congregations can grow and serve the faith.

[Margie Manning](#) is president of the Florida District Board of Trustees and is in her third year of service on the board. She is a member of Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater and has also been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg, where she served at various times as board president, treasurer and worship chair. Before moving to Florida in 2003, Margie was a member of Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis. Margie is a journalist and print editor at the Tampa Bay Business Journal. She is married to Mike Manning, mother of two adult daughters and "mom" to 3 cats and a dog.



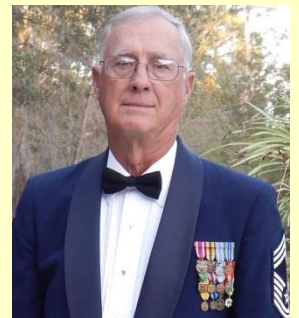
Margie Manning will address the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

12/07/14 John Stewart: *Supporting and Honoring America's Military Veterans*

This was a two part presentation. First of all, John briefly covered [Operation Welcome Home's](#) programs to remember and honor the service of military veterans from Citrus County. The second part of the presentation examined problems in our country concerning the support of America's military veterans and their families. He specifically addressed Veterans Administration areas such as health benefits, failures in the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the existing shortfalls found locally in VA's Lecanto Community Based Outpatient Clinic and Citrus County's Veterans Service Office.

[John](#) is a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant, having served 27 years on active duty. He is a member of the Air Commando Association, a Vietnam War veteran, vice chairman of the Citrus County Commissioners Veterans Advisory Board, a board member on Citrus County's Operation Welcome Home program, chaplain of VFW Post 4252 in Hernando, editor of two military veteran newspapers, and webmaster for a number of web sites. He is now retired and for the past 19 years has utilized his time to help veterans and their families. He has been married for 46 years and has two children.



11/30/14 Dr. Greg Byrd: *Salvation and Cancer*

[Dr. Gregory Byrd](#) discussed how his brush with Hodgkins lymphoma a couple of years ago lead to a sort of salvation or enlightenment. he also included two of his own poems and one by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Dr. Byrd is a native Floridian with degrees in literature and creative writing from Eckerd College, Florida State University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He has taught at [St. Petersburg College](#) since 1990. Greg's poems, which often connect with Florida settings and topics, have appeared in many national journals as well as in Albanian translation. He was a Fulbright scholar in poetry to Albania in 2011. His third book, [Salt and Iron](#), was published this past summer with Snake Nation Press and was chosen for the Times Festival of Reading. Along with his wife, Shawna, and his daughter, Carly, he is a member of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater. Two and a half years ago, at age 47, Greg noticed that he was losing weight and coughing a lot. Eventually, he asked a nurse about the lumps near his collarbone. This began his journey to diagnosis, treatment, remission and a certain type of salvation.



Carlyn Byrd, 15, has studied cello for five years both in Florida and in Albania. She provided the music for our service. She has won the director's award from the Pinellas Youth Philharmonic, and has received superior ratings in district solo and ensemble evaluations since sixth grade. She was principal cello in All County Middle School Orchestra in 2012. She currently plays cello in the Pinellas Youth Symphony and Tarpon Spring High school Orchestra. She plays baritone and trombone with the Tarpon Springs High School Outdoor Performance Ensemble which recently won the 2014 [Bands of America Grand Nationals championship](#) in Indianapolis. She is a member of the UU of Clearwater Youth Group.



Dr. Byrd addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

The message of liberal religion is at its heart a message of acceptance. You do not have to earn your blessings, they are freely given. You do not have to pay for gifts of the spirit, they appear as grace. You do not have to be perfect to be lovable. Accept these gifts in gratitude.

Rev Carole Yorke has been a Unitarian Universalist minister in Florida since 1998, having served Spirit of Life UUs, UU Church in Stuart, and First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches. She is now retired in Port St Lucie where she lives with her 5 Pomeranians. She is currently spending time with a personal trainer to try to get herself in shape for a trip to the UK next May.



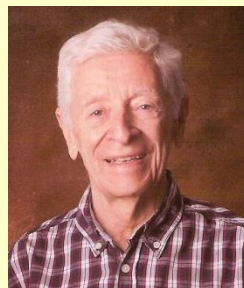
Rev Yorke addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person

11/16/14 Gene Klein: *Talking about the Holocaust*

Gene Klein shared with us his memories of his “year in Hell”. He was in Nazi concentration camps from the spring of 1944 until liberation by the Russian army in the spring of 1945, surviving against all odds with hope and resilience to get home.

Gene has been a Unitarian Universalist since 1969. In the spring of 1944, at the tender age of 16, he was sent to Auschwitz with his family. After several weeks he was sent to a slave labor camp. He is an international speaker about the Holocaust experience and shared his story with us at NCUU. His daughter, Dr. Jill Klein, is the author of a newly released Holocaust memoir, *We Got the Water*, tracing Gene’s family’s path through Auschwitz.



Gene Klein addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person

2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

11/09/14 Dr. Jeffrey Nall: *Ethical Considerations of Fast-food Workers' "Fight for \$15"*



In this talk [Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D.](#) explained that much of what we assume about fast food workers is wrong. Beyond assessing the often mistaken factual claims about workers, Nall discussed the key ethical questions surrounding the debate. He shared a variety of arguments that explained why workers in a variety of low-pay sectors including fast-food, retail, and adjunct teaching are entitled to higher wages. Moreover, Nall explained how consumers of all political stripes contribute to the dominant “common sense” that routinely justifies the exploitation of workers in the retail and food service industries.

[Click here for "Fight for \\$15" Florida Facebook Page](#)

Jeffrey Nall holds a master's of liberal studies from Rollins College and a Ph.D. from Florida Atlantic University. He is an adjunct professor at Indian River State College where he teaches philosophy, ethics, and critical thinking. Nall is the author of *Feminism and the Mastery of Women and Childbirth* (2014). He can be contacted through his website www.jeffreynall.com.

11/02/14 Roger Cooper: *Christian Humanism*

Unitarian Universalism promises to be a “big tent” containing room for persons from many different religious traditions. In this presentation Roger Cooper outlined his journey from a liberal Lutheran tradition to Unitarian/Universalism. Roger defined those traditional Christian narrative elements that he can no longer conscientiously believe in and those parts that he retains as his personal religious faith. He identified those theologians who influenced his thinking and beliefs and showed how critical thinking made it impossible for him to remain a member of a Lutheran church.

Roger Cooper was baptized and confirmed in a liberal Lutheran congregation that was founded by German immigrants. He graduated from Hamma Divinity School in 1958. He returned to the seminary from which he

graduated to teach pastoral counseling and religious education. He earned a Doctor of Psychology degree from Wright State University in 1985 as a Clinical Psychologist. He retired in 1995 and moved to The Villages in 2003.

10/26/14 NCUU Earth Centered Small Group Ministry: *Day of the Dead*

Our service explored the history of the *Day of the Dead* and the ways various cultures celebrate the lives of those who have passed on. There was an “Offrenda” or altar where articles were placed in memory of a loved one who has passed away and an opportunity to speak the name of the deceased friend or relative.



[Click here](#) for a list of suggested items that can be used to enhance the Day of the Dead altar to honor the life of special loved ones.

This service was presented by the members of the NCUU Earth Centered Small Group Ministry and related to the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
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7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

10/19/14 UU Rev. David Etherington: *Prophetic Voices for Peace in 21st Century Palestine & Israel*

From the land where the world's first prophetic works are memorialized in the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament Gospels, where is the contemporary call for justice? With the recent escalation of violence and an impasse in the recent round of peace talks between Palestine and Israel, there must be another voice for peace and justice.



Reverend David, an ordained UU minister, has been with us previously on several occasions. Earlier this year, David returned to Palestine for a four month period on an assignment with the World Council of Churches where he provided a ministry of protective presence and peace advocacy. Presently David's ministry has him serving as a chaplain for Haven Hospice in Gainesville.

UU Rev David addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles:](#)

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

10/12/14 Joe Wetzel:

A Serious Examination of the Judeo-Christian Heritage



The term “Judeo-Christian Heritage” is relatively new, but it is in common use today; one sees it in print and hears it used regularly. We examined when it first became popular and the various meanings it has to different factions who use it, what they hope to communicate or accomplish by using it, and what effects it might have on those who do not feel they are a part of it. Are these effects desirable and in keeping with our national history, our world-view, and our values?

A proud Air Force veteran, Joe went to college on the GI Bill. He had a double major: French and Spanish, minor in philosophy. He did his graduate work at the University of Kansas on a three-year fellowship to study Linguistics. He was in academia for about 15 years, teaching mainly French Literature. Joe left the university and moved to the business world in mid-life. A life-long student, with very eclectic tastes, he continues to study history, philosophy, religion and languages—now reasonably fluent in five. Joe has been a UU for over half a century.

Joe addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles:](#)

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

10/05/14 NCUU Players: *The Adventures of Adam and Eve*



The NCUU Players presented a short play, in the format of a medieval “morality play” on the subject of Adam and Eve and the “Fall of Man.”

The play was written by Tom Hibberd, with stage directions provided by Jo Darling.

The play provided comedic entertainment, as well as stimulating thought, about the nature of good and evil, God and Satan, as presented in the Christian tradition.

Tom Hibberd is a member of our congregation who has presented in the past about his conceptions of reality, free will, and religious experience, and about the significance of ancient Greek religion. Jo Darling is familiar to us all as having written and directed many dramatic productions for our congregation, mainly derived from pagan religious traditions.

09/28/14 Jon Brainard/Sierra Club: *Seven Wonders of the Suwannee St. Johns Sierra Club*

The PowerPoint presentation dealt with seven issues of environmental concern to this area of north central Florida. These concerns included climate change, habitat loss, natural gas use, the need for solar and renewable energy and issues with our water and springs. This presentation was intended to get the listener to take action on a personal level and also to help make democracy work for the average citizen.



Jon was born in upstate New York in rural farm country, but moved to Florida when he was seven. He taught public school in Florida for 37 years, mostly in Orange County. He has three adult children. When he retired he moved to Dunnellon to enjoy nature and the scenic Rainbow River. Since then he has become active in the Rainbow River Conservation Club, Sierra Club and volunteering at Rainbow Springs State Park.

Jon addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

- 2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations**
- 5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large**
- 7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part**

09/21/14 Rosey Moreno-Jones: *Foster Home Needs in Citrus County*



Today's presentation addressed the tremendous need for more foster homes in Citrus County and all of Circuit 5 (Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Lake and Hernando counties).

Rosey Moreno-Jones is the Foster Parent Recruiter for Circuit 5 (Marion, Citrus, Sumter, Lake & Hernando Counties). She is responsible for finding qualified families and guiding them through the training and

licensing process into foster parenting. She is a former foster parent and an adoptive parent and with her husband Bob, are the proud grandparents of two granddaughters. Bob and Rosey reside on a five acre horse farm in SE Ocala where they live with their four dogs, four horses and two barn cats. They use their horses and dogs, all retired show horses and show dogs, to provide joy to foster children in the surrounding areas by giving riding, grooming and care lessons and letting the animals work their magic of trust with the children.

Rosey Moreno-Jones addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
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3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

09/14/14 Judi Siegal: *Jewish Women: Their Role in History, Religion and Contribution to Society*

Today we explored the role of Jewish women from the matriarchs to leadership in Judaism in the 21st century. Special emphasis was placed on the liberal branches of Judaism that ordain rabbis as well as the movers and shakers for suffrage and social justice.

Judi Siegal is a native of Connecticut. She received her professional training at Adelphi University and Central Connecticut State University where she pursued a major in education. She has taught public school and was a Jewish educator for 30 years. Always active in Jewish circles, she has assumed leadership positions in several organizations, most notably as president of the 2000-member Hartford Chapter of Hadassah. Since her arrival in Florida, she has been a newspaper columnist. Her popular column on Judaism, Judi's Journal, appears bi-monthly in the South Marion Citizen and the Citrus County Chronicle. Most recently, she is the former president of Congregation Beth Israel of Ocala, a liberal Jewish

congregation she has helped to form. Judi and her husband, Phil, live in Ocala. They have two children and three adorable grandchildren.

Judi Siegal addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all



09/07/14 UU Rev. Jack Higgins: *The Question of God* **Rescheduled**

While the question of God may be answered fully, there is new scientific evidence that makes the question even more puzzling. A look at the issues and congregational response is urged.

John Higgins is a graduate of Meadville/Lombard School of Theology, one of only two UU ministerial training institutions. He was ordained at the UU Church of Amherst in Williamsville, NY. He has served at two UU churches in suburbs of Buffalo, NY and moved to Florida where he served at Friendship Fellowship of Pineda in Rockledge, Florida where he retired and became Minister Emeritus. Before entering UU ministry he served all stages of education from a one room schoolhouse in Tasmania to first Dean of Teacher Education in Australia. He has lived and taught in six different countries and six different states. He is married to the former Jacqueline Portland. Together they have two children, Michael, a pilot for Federal Express and Dr. Cynthia Higgins, a 4H agent in Columbia County, Florida.

UU Rev Jack Higgins will address the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

- #4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

08/31/14 Annual NCUU Poetry Reading

Members and friends of the congregation read original and other inspiring poems. An “Open Mic” poetry reading was held after coffee and refreshments in lieu of our traditional discussion/talk back. Many came with their favorite poems to share with others.

Today’s presentation addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

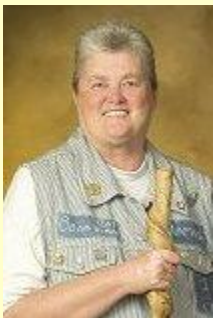
1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

08/24/14 Mama Jo LeCount: *Homelessness*

Homelessness can happen to anyone. Circumstances can change anyone’s life. When homeless people were children they had the same dreams you and I had when we grew up; maybe you wanted to be a famous athlete, a movie star, a teacher, a policeman. Their dream was NOT to grow up and be homeless. After becoming homeless it is not easy to survive on the streets. You are out there on a wing and a pray each day that you will have a safe place to sleep and food to eat. Homeless people are God’s children just like you and me.

Mama Jo LeCount addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations



Mama Jo has been involved in outreach social work for

15 years for the homeless people in Kansas City and surrounding areas in Missouri and Kansas.



Rev Mark Spivey

08/14/17

The Truth about the Nature of Love
Rescheduled



08/10/14 Dan Gribbin: *Attitudes Toward Retirement: Avoiding "The Lee Shore"*

In a short chapter in *Moby-Dick* entitled "The Lee Shore," Melville writes: "all deep earnest thinking is but the intrepid effort of the soul to keep the open independence of her sea, while the wildest winds of heaven and earth conspire to cast her on the treacherous, slavish shore." He continues: "better it is to perish in that howling infinite, than be ingloriously dashed upon the lee, even if that were safety!" With emphasis on each of the first four principles which we Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote, Dan Gribbin was able to home in on keys to spiritual growth in retirement, with emphasis on the value of social interaction and a commitment to sharing our wisdom with others. Examples were drawn from personal experience and from works by two prominent 20th-century American authors, Bernard Malamud and Philip Roth.



[Dan Gribbin](#) addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

A graduate of Tulane University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dan Gribbin has taught American Literature at Ferrum College and at the University of Central Florida. He has also taught courses in Film Studies, Creative Writing, Contemporary Literature, and African-American Literature. Born in Toledo, Ohio, he moved to Florida at age twelve, and happily returned to the state from Virginia more than a dozen years ago. Living in Daytona Beach Shores, he

photographs the shore birds of Florida's east coast. He and his wife Martha are members of the Unitarian Universalist Society of the Daytona Beach Area, where both contribute music to Sunday services. They have two children and, in 2012, were blessed by the birth of two grandsons.

08/03/14 UU Rev Sara Zimmerman: *Today Is International Forgiveness Day: What if I Can't?*

Many religions, philosophers, psychologists and poets teach forgiveness as a necessity for becoming a better, more loving and healthy person. But what if I can't forgive some of my own past behavior, or another person's? It isn't easy! Rev Zimmerman will share what she has learned about the process of learning to forgive; even the seemingly unforgiveable.

[UU Rev Sara Zimmerman](#) addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

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6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Rev Zimmerman loves life and deeply appreciates all that it has given to her. Now that she is retired again - first from university teaching in 1998, and in September 2013 from her second career as a parish minister – she has more time to ponder the great questions, such as "what does it mean to forgive?" Her doctorate is in Ministry, granted at the Meadville Theological School, 2009.

Retirement has also given Rev Zimmerman time to complete an adult religious education curriculum that she began three years ago when the UU Funding Program gave the UU Church of Tampa and her, as the minister, a small grant to support the work. The curriculum, available now, is entitled, "Spirituality, Science and Healing" and includes six sermons on video, two by UU ministers and four by laity, and a concise Instructional Guide. Both the videos and the Guide are included in a DVD. Rev Zimmerman will bring a poster and samples of the Guide and DVD when she speaks on August 3.



07/27/14 Robert Ridgard *The Evolution of Humanism*

Humanist organizations can be traced back about 70 years, yet evidence of humanistic behavior can be seen in other Great apes.

Robert "Luigi" Ridgard and his wife Rita have been UU members for more than ten years. Robert has served on the Board of Trustees of his fellowship, UUFMC. He has also served his congregation as a Service Leader, and a Presenter at UUFMC Forums and Sunday Services. He and Rita are Active Members of The UUFMC Humanist Club and the Spinozas' Lens Science Club. Robert and Rita are also members of the Florida Humanists Association, the American Humanists Association, and the North Central Florida Humanists. Robert has now been Endorsed by the Humanist Society of the American Humanists Association as a Humanist Celebrant. This means he assumes all the responsibilities and is to be afforded the recognition, respect and legal rights enjoyed by clergy of traditional faiths.

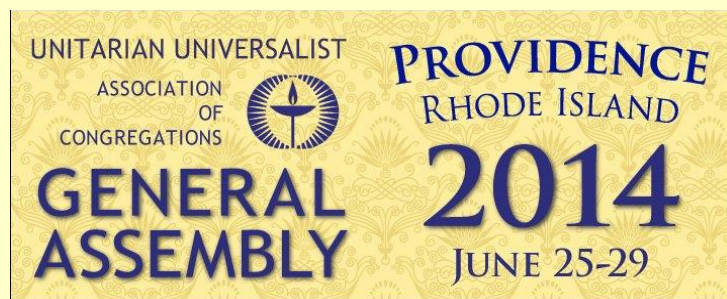
07/20/14 Joan Burnett and E.D. Reid *Love Reaches Out*

Joan and E.D. gave an account on the [U.U. General Assembly](#) they attended in Providence, Rhode Island. Convinced the NCUU has great potential to involve more people and have a greater impact on our community, they brought a message of commitment, hope, and love for our fellow man. Hopefully, our active and non-active members, friends and affiliates, will now be able to share common beliefs and values we have with each other as Unitarian Universalists.

Joan was born, raised, and educated in the public schools in Brooklyn New York. After graduation from the State University of New York in Oswego, she taught in elementary schools in Mineola New York and later in Manchester Connecticut. Taking summer and evening courses, she earned her Master's degree from the University of Connecticut. Joan and her husband, Verne, retired in 1985 and came to live in Citrus County. They joined NCUU in 2001. Joan has served the fellowship as a board member,

chairman of the membership committee, chairman of the Denominational Affairs committee, and as a member of several other committees. She has also served the Florida District as a member of the District Board of Directors. Aside from church work, Joan enjoys golf, travel, and volunteering with the Beverly Hills Woman's Club.

Edythe Osborne Reid (known to us as "E.D.") was born in Brooklyn, New York on May 3, 1954. She moved from New York City to Southern California where she sold Real Estate and raised a family for 30 years. Currently, she lives in Homosassa and has been a member of NCUU for 1.5 years. She helps out wherever she can by serving as a Greeter, Service Leader, Co-Monthly Potluck Hostess, and Newsletter Editor.



07/13/14 UU Rev. Carole Yorke *Sometimes Life Just Hurts*

I am coming to realize that agreeing with the pain of life is a matter of agreeing with life itself. Yes, participating fully in life does mean that I will experience both happiness and sadness, both joy and sorrow, both pleasure and pain. Agreement doesn't mean I have to like it. It does mean I will feel the pain without reservation. How in the world can we accept this?

Rev Carole Yorke has been a Unitarian Universalist minister in Florida since 1998, having served Spirit of Life UUs, UU Church in Stuart, and First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches. She is now retired in Port St Lucie where she lives with her 5 Pomeranians. She is working on her hobbies of photography, target shooting and most recently trike riding. She is delighted to return to NCUU for another rambunctious sermon!



07/06/14 Jean McCauley: *One Seed at a Time; Protecting the Future of Food*

Together with the air we breathe and the water we drink, crop diversity is one of the most fundamentally important resources for human life on earth. The varieties of wheat, corn and rice we grow today may not thrive in a future threatened by climate change. Jean McCauley read a presentation by Cary Fowler which took us inside a vast global seed bank, buried within a frozen mountain in Norway that stores a diverse group of food-crop for whatever tomorrow may bring. This talk was presented at an official TED conference.

Cary Fowler, a self-described Tennessee farm boy, is an American agriculturalist and the former executive director of the [Global Crop Diversity Trust](#), currently serving as a Senior Advisor to the trust. This vault is the fulfillment of a long fight against shortsighted governments, big business and potential disaster. Inside the seed vault, Fowler and his team work on preserving wheat, rice and hundreds of other crops that have nurtured humanity since our ancestors began tending crops -- and ensuring that the world's food supply has the diversity needed to stand against the omnipresent threats of disease, climate change and famine.

Jean McCauley is a member of NCUU who discovered this presentation on the PBS TED radio hour.



06/29/14 Sally Smith Adams/NCUU Choir: Annual Sing a Song of Freedom Celebration

This was our annual NCUU 4th of July freedom celebration with our Citrus Springs - renowned NCUU Choir conducted by our esteemed leader and pianist extraordinaire, Sally Smith Adams.

06/22/14 Russ R. Harding: *US Constitution Amendment I*

This presentation addressed the freedoms in Amendment I and how they relate to our UU principles: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Russ. R. Harding is a retired history instructor who has taught for more than 25 years in several states. He has a B.A. from Arizona State University, M.A. from Louisiana Tech and has done postgraduate work at the University of Utah and Louisiana State University. He is a military historian and Vietnam War combat veteran.

06/15/14 UU Rev. Suzanne Nazian: *Asking the Impossible*

What's been awry with Unitarian Universalism is that it has asked so little of its adherents. In this, my last sermon before leaving the ministry behind, I'll talk about my own search for the answer.

Rev. Nazian holds a Master's of Divinity from Meadville/Lombard Theological School. She was ordained to the UU ministry in 1996, after serving 9 years as a religious educator. She has served churches in Pt. Charlotte, Venice, St. Petersburg and Lakeland. She is currently writing a book on the Women's Congress of 1893. She is retired and living in South Carolina and Florida.

06/01/14 Tom Hibberd: *Greek Religion*

Tom Hibberd, a member of NCUU, shared with us key aspects of the ancient Greek religion and how it relates to us today as Unitarian Universalists.

Thomas Hibberd was born in 1947 in Palo Alto, California, and is still alive today! After high school he went to Reed College in Portland, Oregon with the avowed purpose of, "finding out what is real." He researched and wrote an ethnography of American Zen Buddhists, for his Bachelor's thesis. Inspired by the works of Carl Jung, he studied clinical psychology at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. He has been practicing as a psychologist since 1980.

05/25/14 Santosh Kamath: *One Hundred Thousand Times – In Pursuit of the Utopia*
Religion and science are the two wings upon which man's intelligence can soar into the heights, with which the human soul can progress. It is possible to imagine what seems at present to be impossible. True faith is not blind. Rather, it is the result of experience and a willingness to suspend judgment.

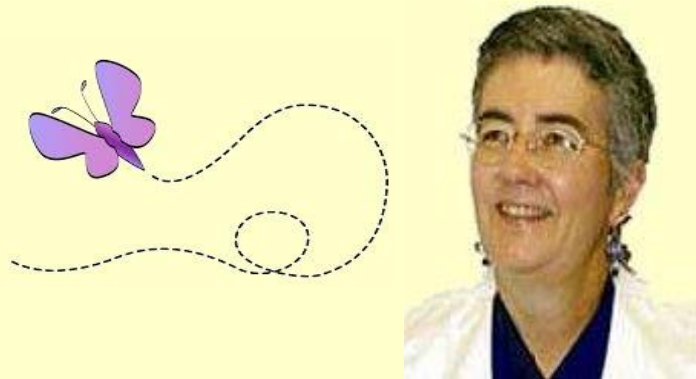
Santosh is an eclectic who is learning how to channel an insatiable curiosity into the parallel and inseparable pursuits of personal spiritual growth and the advancement of society. Professionally he has been an organic chemist, aerospace engineer, mathematician/statistician, mathematics and chemistry instructor, academic advisor, and data mining specialist. He is currently developing a personal stock market trading system that he will then teach others to empower them with greater autonomy in their search for truth and for meaning. He has also served

and continues to serve in a variety of administrative and other capacities as a member of the Bahá Faith, of which he has been an adherent since early 1995.

05/18/14 UU Rev Carole Yorke: *Transformation*

Do you come to church feeling confident and comfortable and assured? If you come in feeling that you've got your life pretty much under control, talk about welcoming may seem "normal." However, what if you enter the church with a broken heart and a troubled spirit; what if when the message of the church suggests that we will welcome you just as you are, and you want to say that you do not want to be that way anymore?

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05/11/14 A Mother's Day Celebration!

Our Sunday service celebrated Mother's Day with flowers and special music to honor the women in our lives who helped rear and guide us through our childhood and young adulthood. Selected members spoke to the topic, "I Remember Mama." Presented by the Social Activities Committee of NCUU



05/04/14 Gaia & Kurtland Davies: *Go Outside and Run the Stink Off You!*

When you were little, did your mother ever tell you to "Go outside and run the stink off ya'?" Ours did. And we did exactly that! We practically lived outside every moment we could. The natural world provided us with so many good things: entertainment, relaxation, music, friendship, imagination, courage, humor and even a little healthy fear now and then. Now we live in the closed off boxes of houses, work and vehicles. What's changed? Can we go back to the way it was? Kurtland and Gaia Davies tell stories about how being with and paying attention to nature can transform lives: *The Ugly Tree*. *Stalking Snakes for a New Name*. *Father Mockingbird Fills an Empty Heart*.

Between them, Kurtland and Gaia Davies have four Master's Degrees in Psychology and Counseling and a PhD in Eco-psychology. But everything they really need to know, they can find in nature. The Davies had long careers in counseling, therapy, education and healthcare public relations, and spent the last 25 years giving presentations and workshop topics as varied as *Healing your Inner Child*, *Dreamwork*, *Reconnecting with Nature*, *We all have Many Names*, *We are not Broken*, *Eco-Psychology* and *Alternative Energy*. Kurtland is a natural born story teller and especially loves "children's books" that have important lessons for adults! Kurtland and Gaia are ardent supporters of U.U. principles and practices, especially in the areas of *Social Justice*, *Searching for our own Truth* and *Green Sanctuary*. They have been members of the UU in Ormond Beach for 13 years and are now snowbirds with their second church in Vancouver, WA.

04/27/14 NCUU Annual Meeting

04/20/14 NCUU Earth-Centered Small Group Ministry: *Easter Service*

The NCUU Earth Centered Small Group Ministry shares a path of living in harmony with and maintaining a reverence for nature. Their goals are to help each other reclaim their lost spiritual heritage and their affinity with the earth; to help each other in pursuing their spiritual and personal growth; to provide both physical and psychological support as they are able; to have fun and not take themselves too seriously; to serve the mission of NCUU congregation by providing services and earth-centered

events; to contribute to the growing awareness and understanding of the spiritual interconnections of all life; and to seek and respect the common roots of earth-centered philosophies of indigenous peoples around the world.

04/13/14 UU Rev Carole Yorke: *Celebrating Easter in the Spirit of Our Left Wing Ancestors*

Although they never thought to put it this way, our spiritual ancestors (who were clearly within the Christian fold, albeit on the extreme left wing), our spiritual ancestors were constantly asking themselves and their culture, "What would Jesus do?" From our very beginning, Unitarian Universalists have been "followers of Jesus" in the sense that we have always been comfortable with and inspired by his vision for a social order of justice, peace, forgiveness, generosity, equality, dignity, and compassion for all humanity. This is why both Unitarians and Universalists have always been active in social justice, community service, and compassionate public policy.

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What
Would
Jesus
Do?



04/06/14 Robert Ridgard: *When Humanism is Important to UU*

A look at the relationships between Humanism and Unitarian Universalism, and their importance.

Robert "Luigi" Ridgard and his wife Rita have been UU members for more than ten years. Robert has served on the board of trustees of his fellowship, UUFMC .He has also served his congregation as a service leader, and a presenter at UUFMC forums and Sunday services. He and Rita are active members of the UUFMC Humanist Club and the Spinozas' Lens Science Club. Robert and Rita are also members of the Humanists of Florida Association and the American Humanists Association. Robert has now been endorsed by the Humanist Society of the American Humanists

Association as a Humanist Celebrant. This means he assumes all the responsibilities and is to be afforded the recognition, respect and legal rights enjoyed by clergy of traditional faiths.

03/30/14 Our annual Animal Blessing Ceremony included special words of appreciation for our beloved pets, either present or in memory.

Unfortunately, [Katie Stender, DVM](#), a veterinarian based out of Northeastern Florida who was originally scheduled to speak was not able to attend.

In addition to her important role as a hospice veterinarian, Dr. Stender is a speaker and author who deeply loves her career path and finds great privilege and honor in being able to connect with families and help their beloved pets. She is a graduate of the University of Florida for both her undergraduate studies and her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. After graduating she worked in a traditional veterinary clinic setting and started working with [Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice and In-Home Euthanasia](#) on the weekends. It quickly became clear what her calling was and she started doing in-home end of life care full time in the Jacksonville and surrounding areas. Dr. Stender's personal interests include spending time with her family and friends, her beautiful black labrador and her three cats. She loves to travel, snowboard, ride bikes, cook, and do projects around the house. Lap of Love has been featured on numerous local, national, and professional media outlets including ABC, Fox, University of Florida Alumni Magazine, DVM Newsmagazine, The New York Times, The Washington Herald, and many more. Dr. Stender proudly represents Lap of Love and a wonderful group of veterinarians that seek out the highest standards of care for families and their pets.

03/23/14 [Annie Bumgarner](#): *Taming Our Amygdala*

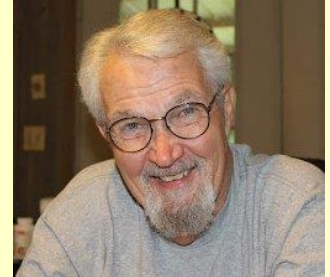
Is it possible to tame our amygdala? This presentation addressed how we can become aware of our own personal responses to stress and transform this energy to remain heart-centered and grounded.

Annie is the life enrichment consultant at Cedar Creek ALF, Crystal River. She is a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and has led numerous workshops. She is in the process of learning NVC, Non-violent Communication to help teach a language of love and compassion. She successfully completed the Leadership Program in Spiritual Education and Enrichment at Unity Village, Kansas City, Kansas, addressing the significance of our spiritual journey. Currently she is the Licensed Unity Teacher at Unity of Citrus, Lecanto. In addition she is an owner of an import company with her husband. She thrives on learning and believes

that wellness and spiritual growth is a lifelong process of choices and renewal that creates quality of living.

03/16/14 **UU Rev Doak Mansfield**: *A Heart Transplant Recipient's Perspective on Unitarian Universalism*

After a dozen years dealing with an inherited debilitating heart disease Rev Doak received a heart transplant on June 21, 2010. After eighteen months of difficult recovery he was able to resume an intentional life in UU ministry with a precious O Negative second hand heart. He shared a bit of that journey and some ideas on the faith he has worked with and in for over forty years.



A native of Fayetteville, (Middle) Tennessee. Doak was ordained a UU minister in 1976. He has served churches in Virginia, Ohio, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Florida. Presently he is Interim Minister of the UU Church of Tampa. He has authored three books, is a poet, and portrait artist. He sees himself as a pilgrim and seeker noting the wonderings he encounters in his wanderings and the meanings discern that serve love, community, and justice. He is married to Peggy Owens-Mansfield and has two sons (Macon GA and Cincinnati, OH) and five grand-ones.

03/09/14 Rene Zenaida: *Inspiring Change: What Can We Do*

The 2014 theme for International Women's Day is "Inspiring Change." Unitarian Universalism has traditionally been at the forefront of the struggle for women's rights. Challenges once thought surpassed are resurfacing with a vengeance in the US, all amid a crucial time in the global status of women and their lives. What can we do?



Renée Zenaida has a professional background in editing/writing and is currently a technical editor and writer at an environmental consulting firm in Gainesville, Florida. About six years ago, Renée visited a Unitarian Universalist fellowship for the first time at the insistence of friends and "in the hopes" that one visit would satisfy the friends. She's been a regular ever since! Renée has been speaking regularly in her home congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, and in congregations around Florida for about six years. She focuses on the Unitarian Universalist approach to life and is always grateful to visit NCUU to celebrate Sunday morning with friends old and new.

03/02/14 [Hazzan Mordecai Kamlot](#): *Judaism in 2014: It's Evolution-Not Revolution*

This sermon addressed how the evolutionary nature of Jewish law has enabled Judaism to survive into the twenty-first century. Because of our sages' understanding of the adaptive nature of Jewish law, the timeless truths from Mt. Sinai and beyond are continually taught and transmitted to new generations. The Torah (the Five Books of Moses) is still very much a living document, even after 3300 years.

Hazzan Mordecai Kamlot, was born in Manhattan and raised in Stony Brook, New York. After receiving his B.A. from Queens College of the City University of New York, he attended the cantorial school of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Hazzan Mordecai was invested and commissioned as a member of the Cantors Assembly, the Conservative movement's professional association of cantors and the largest cantorial organization in the world. He served as cantor of Congregation Ezrath Israel: The Actors Temple in midtown Manhattan for eleven years. In the last two and a half years of his tenure, he also served as Spiritual Leader of the congregation. During this period, he started a major outreach and marketing program in the immediate midtown west neighborhood. This resulted in a doubling of the synagogue membership and a tripling of the Saturday morning attendance in a space of eighteen months. After leaving Ezrath Israel, he started his own real estate company specializing in commercial investment properties. During this time, for a period of eight years, he was the cantor for the High Holidays and occasional other Shabbat and Festival services at Temple Beth El of Lancaster, PA. Hazzan Mordecai became the Cantor/Spiritual Leader of [Congregation Beth Sholom](#) in August, 2008.

02/23/14 UU Rev Carole Yorke

The Church of Risk and Hope



Our faith, Unitarian Universalism, does not attempt to come up with answers that fit everyone; that's what it means to be creedless. Rather, you and I are encouraged to be responsibly searching for whatever meaning and truths can answer our needs. And we do that, not alone, not stopping with the individual, but we do it in community.

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working on her beloved hobby of photography and has taken up target shooting. She is delighted to return to NCUU once again.

02/16/14 Dr. Harry S. Coverston

It's Greek to Me - the Greek Roots of Christian Tradition
Dr. Coverston presented a discussion of the role of the Greek understandings in the rise of the Christian tradition.



[Dr. Harry Coverston](#) is a fifth generation Floridian and a fourth generation educator. He grew up in nearby Sumter County and spent two years teaching middle school in Inverness in the mid-1970s. He is a lawyer, an Episcopal priest and now teaches religious studies, humanities and the philosophy of law at the University of Central Florida. He has spent a good part of his adult life in Latin America and brings his observations of the developing world to bear on his discussions.

02/09/14 UU Rev Intern Rachel Christensen: *On Belonging*

What does it mean to belong? Why is this important? And what is important about why we “do church”? This sermon addressed perhaps all of the Unitarian Universalist principals, or none of them. UU Rev. Intern Rachel Christensen spoke to the broader question of “Why Church?”

Rachel Christensen is the Intern Minister at the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater. She is a third year student at Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. Rachel is reinventing her life after having been a professional engineer for 30 years. She argued with herself for a long time, sure that becoming a minister was a crazy idea: Too old, too late, too long, too much, too hard, too far . But ultimately, resistance was futile. She returns to Nature Coast UU this week to preach about Belonging. She will remain at the Clearwater church as an intern through May.

UU Rev Intern Rachel Christensen

On Belonging



02/02/14 NCUU Players: *Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

This service, presented by the NCUU players, was a compilation of words written by Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She was an outspoken American social activist, abolitionist, and leading figure of the early women's rights movement of the 19th century. She was the first to speak of many modern-day ideas.



01/26/14 UU Rev Brock Leach: *Having it All*

"Having it All." We tend to think of human rights and the rights of nature as opposing forces, but there's a strong case to be made that both are strengthened when pursued in tandem. Increasingly, UUSC's work is focused on rights to the resources required for sustainable living on a hotter and more crowded planet; the right to clean, safe, affordable water; the right to healthy and ethically sourced food; the right to economically and environmentally sustainable livelihoods. Today we learned about models of living that respect human rights as well as the rights of nature and advance them both.

Rev. Brock Leach is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and vice president of mission, strategy and innovation at the [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee \(UUSC\)](#). UUSC's mission is to advance human rights around the world by becoming effective allies with those who are the most

marginalized. Brock's ministry is centered on strengthening the agency's impact and launching the UU College of Social Justice, a program designed to build the capacity of Unitarian Universalists to catalyze justice. Prior to seminary, Brock spent 24 years with PepsiCo, having served as president and CEO of its Frito-Lay North America and Tropicana divisions and as Chief Innovation Officer for the corporation where he had responsibility for corporate new product platforms and the corporation's global health and wellness initiative. He received his Bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Colorado, Boulder, his MBA in finance and marketing from the University of Chicago, and his Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago.

01/19/14

Susan Seguin: *Growing Toward Wholeness*



We all long to be whole - to be totally present, to respond out of personal genuineness, to break out of our inner limitations. We begin by believing that wholeness is possible, by having faith in our ability to change and grow. When we accept ourselves as beautiful, capable human beings, we bring into the open all the things that hurt, all we are afraid of and see these things as parts of ourselves that no longer need dominate us. We learn to support the wholeness of others, to appreciate differences. We find our special concerns for social action, cultivate a non-competitive spirit and live in ways that bring our world back to wholeness.

Susan Seguin is a product of the Midwest. She has lived in Illinois, Ohio and Michigan and attended Beloit College in Wisconsin. Before moving to Florida ten years ago, she was an editor at a small daily newspaper in northern New York. She lived at the end of a winding dirt road in a woods, where she and her husband heated with wood, washed with well water and watch TV powered by the sun. They themselves are now powered by the sun as they live in a retirement community in Homosassa. Some of you will remember that Susan spoke to us last May, sharing her experience as a Quaker.

01/12/14

UU Rev John "Jack" Higgins: *What are Agnostics?*

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| <input type="checkbox"/> G* | Atheist |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> G? | Agnostic |

Agnostics are not Atheists. Agnostic indicates one who doesn't know. In religion that means one who doesn't know the truth about claims of divinity or supernatural happenings. There are many varying opinions as to the degree of agnosticism and it was the intention of this presentation to discuss them with us.

Dr. Higgins has ministered to congregations in the Buffalo area of New York and two small congregations in Central Florida. He recently retired from Friendship Fellowship at Pineda. He holds a BA and MA from Los Angeles State College, a doctorate in Education from the University of Toronto and a Master of Divinity (M.Div) from Meadville/Lombard School of Theology (one of only two UU institutions training ministers). Prior to entering ministry he was in the field of education, having taught everything from a one room schoolhouse in Tasmania to graduate course in education at the University of Miami. He has taught or been a school/university administrator in six different countries and six different states. Until last May, he taught World Religions part time for twelve years at Brevard Community College. He is married to the former Jacqueline Portland and together they have two children.

01/05/14 Kathy Fleissner: *Celebrating Kwanzaa*

The presentation today honored African-American heritage through the celebration of Kwanzaa. Although Kwanzaa focuses on African-American heritage, the seven principles and symbols of Kwanzaa have relevance for Unitarian Universalists and people of all backgrounds. The presentation included a brief history of Kwanzaa, an explanation of the seven symbols and principles and the lighting of the Kwanzaa candles.

Kathy has been a Unitarian Universalist and a member of NCUU since 2010 when she moved to Florida from Pennsylvania. She currently serves on the NCUU Board of Directors and the Sunday Service Committee. Kathy was born in Baltimore and grew up in Frederick Maryland. She received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin- Madison, and Master's degrees and a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to moving to Florida she served for 14 years on the Sociology faculty at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Kathy and her partner, Betty, live in Pine Ridge with two German Shepherds, a couple of cats, and three parrots. Although Kathy and Betty will be moving to Connecticut sometime in the near future, Kathy says that NCUU will always hold a very special place in her heart.



**NCUU
KWANZAA
CELEBRATION**

