



The December, 2017, monthly newsletter of the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists

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President's Message

December is a month of beautiful, nostalgic music. How lucky we are that Christmas comes at the end of the month so that we can enjoy Christmas carols and Christmas songs all month long.

Music is a big part of our fellowship. I've known people to visit our church just to hear the music. We have our wonderful Sally Smith-Adams, who plays the piano for us each week; her playing is superb.

Back in 2010, Muriel Chess was desperate to find someone to play the piano for our choir. When Sally and Roger Adams appeared as new members, Sally told Muriel that she could play. Imagine that! When Muriel heard her play, it just about blew her mind.

Substituting for Sally when she is at a gig or out of town, are Connie Hart and Sheila Woods who both play beautifully, and we have Gordon Hart who plays the guitar and sings for us at different times. On Nov. 17, Gordon played his guitar and sang, "Mr. Bojangles" which was a beautiful rendition of the song written and made famous by Jerry Jeff Walker.

Sheila Woods considers playing the piano a "joyful hobby". She says, "Learning to play the piano is an intensive work of love; it's art imbedded with lots of patience, thought and true grit". Growing up, Sheila played for her grandma, and she often played and sang with her sister, while the family joined in around the piano during the holidays. What a joyful memory she has about Christmas with her family.

Connie Hart grew up loving music, starting piano lessons at age 8. She taught elementary music for 28 years. She worked with Gordon as a vocalist and keyboardist, traveling extensively in the US and Canada in resorts and hotels. After their son Kevin was born, Connie returned to teaching elementary music, playing for UU Churches. She now accompanies for the Dunnellon Community Chorale, for Cantatas at the First Methodist Church in Dunnellon and of course, assists with music at the NCUU since she and Gordon joined the church in 2013.

Gordon Hart began playing the trumpet in elementary school at the age of 8. He began his musical career as a guitarist/vocalist in the 1960s in the

Washington, DC area. He moved to northern California in the mid 70s and toured the US and Canada with 4 and 6 piece bands until the late 70s when he and Connie settled in Ft. Lauderdale and performed for many years in venues in South Florida. He is also an accomplished poet and photographer.

Sally Smith-Adams and her husband Roger came to us in 2010. Sally has been a full-time career musician, but took a short sabbatical while her two children were very young. She was a fixture in the clubs, hotels and restaurants of the mid-Hudson Valley region of New York.

Sally played in the Catskill Mountains where so many famous singers, comedians, and novelty acts performed. She eventually became the piano conductor/leader of the Show Band at the world famous Grossingers' Resort. When she and Roger married, they lived in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, St. John and St. Croix where she became part of the music scene as well, playing in jazz festivals and concerts. In 2009, they moved to Homosassa, and in 2010, they joined our fellowship after which Sally agreed to direct our choir and be our full-time pianist.

We have two other very famous entertainers, Maralyn Boyson, and Kathryn Taubert.

After graduating from the Texas Christian University where she majored in dance, Maralyn moved to NYC to study with the American Theater Wing which sponsors the Tony Awards. One thing led to another, and Maralyn made it to Broadway and worked with Bette Midler in "Fiddler on the Roof", and also appeared in "Bye, Bye Birdie" with Bobby Rydell. She appeared off Broadway in "Annie" and "Kismet" and had parts in the TV shows, Magnum PI, Hawaiian Heat, and Seventh Ave. Maralyn retired and moved to Florida and eventually found the NCUU in 1999.

Kathryn hasn't yet sung for us, but has agreed to showcase her talent in our fund raiser concert on February 23 and 25 along with Sally, Connie, Gordon, and possibly Maralyn. Be sure to hold that date. I heard Kathryn sing when I played two of her CDs at home, and I was amazed at her sultry voice and enchanting style.

Kathryn played in resort hotels and dinner club venues reminiscent of 40s and early 50s music. She performed in Manhattan and Connecticut jazz clubs. In

2007, her CD, "Where Can I Go Without You?" was nominated for an international jazz award and garnered a recording contract with D & M Records. She is an accomplished lyricist writing lyrics to Grammy nominated composer and conductor David Benoit 's song, "Some Other Sunset".

On Christmas Eve, we will have our annual Candlelight Service at 7PM. Our choir will sing, and we will have a solo by Jean McCauley; it will be a beautiful and moving service. Please be sure to attend.

On New Year's Eve, we will have our annual "Banishing Ceremony" outside in the Memorial Garden at the pit at 6PM. We'll have lots of fun banishing our bad karma, and taking in good cheer.

Have a very Merry Christmas everyone, and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!

Pam

SUNDAY SERVICES

December 3, 2017

Presenter: Rev. Brock Leach, a UU Minister.

Topic: Liberal Religion and Empowerment: But the heart of liberalism is empowerment— individually and collectively. What would it mean to exercise that power to create our future?

December 10, 2017

Presenter: Bob Benner, a father, farmer, educator writer, artist, traveler, entrepreneur.

Topic: Getting to Know You: Questions posed to open links of communication.

December 17, 2017

Presenter: Dr. Tom Hibberd, a member of NCUU and a clinical psychologist in private practice in Inverness.

Topic: Pagan Traditions of Christmas. We explore what are the pagan elements of the Christmas holiday and their meaning.

December 24, 2017

Presented by NCUU members

Christmas Eve Service: combines our traditional Christmas Candlelight Service with our Sunday Service;

there will be **only ONE Service** on Dec. 24th – there will be **no morning service**.

Topic: Christmas is for Everyone: The service speaks to how Unitarian Universalists view Christmas. We include UU readings, pagan readings, Christian readings and Christian music.

December 31, 2017

Presenter: Rev. Kalen Fristad, a Methodist minister.

Topic: Our Universalist Roots and Branches: Universalism as it relates to John Murray and Thomas Potter, the American colonies, and from then to the present

Sally Smith-Adams

SUNDAY SERVICE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

“Hanging of the Greens”

The Sunday Service Committee invites all who are interested to join our annual "Hanging of the Greens" celebration on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 10:30AM when we will decorate our sanctuary. There will be goodies, hot mulled cider, and (maybe) some homemade mead.

December Birthdays

If your birthday is in December, and your name is not on this list, please notify the editor: erickson872@att.net; 847-682-7527. Birthdays will be celebrated at our Potluck Dinner on December 21st.

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| 12/08 | June Wetzel |
| 12/13 | Don Wright |
| 12/14 | Maralyn Boyson |
| 12/28 | Ginny Fitzgerald |



Religious Education

A faith development class is being offered in January. The class is called "Life Fulfillment" and will be facilitated by Peter Freeman on January 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 10:00 AM until noon.

Peter says that the course will help you find what you need to bring into your life to feel more fulfilled. You will find out how to bring what you need into your life, and learn new ways of being whilst you are doing these things.

A sign-up sheet will be available starting on Sunday, December 3.

Joan Burnett

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Joys and Concerns insert inside the Order of Service has not been used lately. It was decided that if you have a Joy or Concern that you want read aloud, but haven't the time to write it down before the service starts, take an insert home, write down what you wish to write, and return it to the Service Leader the following week. That way you may be sure your Joy or your Concern will be read to the congregation.

Christmas Eve Service



Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. It was decided by the Sunday Service Committee and approved by the congregation that we will not have a morning service on

December 24, but rather, we will combine the Sunday service with our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7PM. We will have a sign-up sheet for those who do not drive at night so that a neighboring member of our congregation may drive you to church and take you home.

Grounds & Gardens Day

The **First Friday** of every month is **Grounds & Gardens Day** at NCUU.

Do you like to work outside in the yard and garden? Whether weeding, trimming, planting, raking, the NCUU Yard and Garden Crew *always* needs help. Please come Friday morning, **Dec. 1st**.

Gordie Dinmore and Bree Hill are usually there by sun -up. (*The rest of us usually are not.*) We're normally done by 10:30 - 11:00.

Sally Smith-Adams

SAVE THE DATE!

Details will follow, but save February 21 or February 25 for an NCUU fundraiser, "All That Jazz", an enjoyable time featuring cabaret style music.

Linda Meyer

Ladies' Luncheon

The NCUU November Ladies Luncheon will be Tuesday, December 26, (last Tuesday of the month).

Sign-up sheet, directions, and menu sheet are in the foyer. If you have any questions, contact Peg Gotz (527-4113) or Julie Macdonald (465-5646)

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Membership Committee

Membership News

SEASONS GREETINGS! Our greeters are the first persons to make contact with members and visitors each Sunday at the door. If you'd like to be a greeter, please contact Holly Alexander, and she'll arrange it.

Our revamped website, ncuu.org, will be up and running hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter. Be sure to check it out and go "The Scenic Route". Also, if you are a member, you can see the Directory under Members. Many thanks to Amy Haiken and Gordon Hart for their hours of time and technical expertise.

The Membership Committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month, December 27th, at 10:00 A.M.

Connie Hart

Caring Committee

Please inform the Caring Committee if an NCUU member is ill or in need of some cheer. Carol will keep in touch with ailing congregants, as well as our snowbirds.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this very fulfilling job, please contact Carol Dinmore at 352-419-5515

Where There's a Will, There's a Way

We hope to create a durable presence for Unitarian Universalism, in Citrus, Marion, and other nearby counties, that will extend over decades, beyond our lifetimes. Accordingly, please consider including the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists in your will. This will help to ensure a lasting legacy, for future generations as well as for ours.

The Finance Committee

Earth Center Small Group Ministry



The Earth Centered Group will hold its annual "Banishing Ceremony" on New Year's Eve, (Sunday, Dec. 31) at 6PM in the Memorial Garden at the pit.

We will banish our bad Karma, and take in good cheer. Don't miss this fun event.

The Earth Center Small Group Ministry is a lay-led small group that deepens and expands the ministry of our NCUU Congregation. We focus to build and deepen community relationships.

The members of our group have made a commitment to one another and to the spiritual, physical and emotional well-being of our group's participants.

Please also join us on Wednesday, December 20th, at 3 PM (Third Wednesday of the month).

Joan Burnett

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 3rd, 2:30-3:30 at the church. Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings.

Religious Education Assistance Needed

We love to have children come to NCUU with their parents. If you would like to help out with the children present once a month for 20 minutes during the service, please contact Connie Hart; conlhart@gmail.com. Many thanks.

Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, Dec. 11th, at 2 PM. If you want to place an item on the Board agenda, please send it to the clerk, Holly Alexander about a week in advance. (Second Monday of the month)

Social Service Help Line

Wellcare a health insurance company, has set up a help line for social services. If you need assistance, call 1-866-775-2192

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARADE

Please hold the morning of Monday, Jan 15, the MLK Jr parade in Crystal River. We hope to have the convertible, again, for non-walkers.

If you would rather join a group parading in another area, please do so.

Linda Meyer

Wireless amplifying headphones are now available at the rear of the sanctuary. See Gordon Hart or Gordie Dinmore for assistance on Sundays.

Send Sunday Morning Announcements to:

ncuuannouncements@gmail.com

Deadline is the Friday before Sunday service.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please remember that the deadline for November's Newsletter is **December 27.**

Send to: erickson872@att.net

NCUU Board of Directors

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 DirectorsIrene LeMon
 Tom Hibberd, Gordon Dinmore, Nancy Pettus,
 Rob Deremer, and Ellen Saunders



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!