

NCUU

NATURE COAST

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

7633 N. Florida Ave (Hwy 41)

Citrus Springs, FL 34434

352-465-4225

Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist (NCUU) News



Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists

Website: <http://www.ncuu.org>

February, 2020

President's Message

This month I would like to talk about patience. I will be quoting from Pema Chodron's book, 'Comfortable with Uncertainty' for some of this message. "The power of patience is that it is the antidote to anger, a way to learn to love and care for whatever we meet on the path. By patience we do not mean enduring, grin and bear it. In any situation, instead of reacting suddenly, we could chew it, smell it, look at it and open ourselves to seeing what's there. The opposite of patience is aggression, the desire to jump and move, to push against our lives, to try to fill up space. The journey of patience involves relaxing, opening to what's happening, experiencing a sense of wonder."

"One of the ways to practice patience is to practice give and take meditation. When we want to make a sudden move. When we start to speed through life; when we feel we must have resolution; when someone yells we feel insulted, we want to yell back and get even. We want to put out our poison. Instead, we can connect with basic human restlessness, basic human aggression, by practicing 'tonglen' (give and take) for all beings. Then we can send out a sense of space, which further shows things down. Sitting, standing there, we can allow the space for the usual habitual things not to happen. Our words and actions might be quite different because we allowed ourselves time to touch and taste and see the situation first."

Thanks for all you do,
Rob

2/2/20 Speaker: Amy Haiken

Background: Amy Haiken, a senior software engineer, has recently retired from the corporate world. She just started a web development company called: Diamond Gait Web Design. Amy is the developer of the NCUU website, and also handles the monthly newsletters. Amy has been a member of NCUU for two years, along with her husband Mike Taylor, another NCUU member. They both have 2 dogs, 2 horses and 7 chickens on their 20 acre property close to Goethe Forest.

Topic: *“Untold Stories: African American Achievements”*

Summary: After watching the movie ‘Hidden Figures’, Amy wanted to uncover many of the other achievements that African Americans have done. Through some research, she would like to share the stories of several African Americans that made American lives so much better. Amy hopes that people will appreciate their contributions.

2/8/20 Speaker: Rev. Brock Leach

Background: Brock is a Unitarian Universalist minister and an affiliated community minister of the UU Church of Sarasota. He currently works for the Unitarian Universalist Association as Executive Consultant for Emerging Ministries, helping develop and lead denominational efforts to support religious innovators. He is also on the board of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), the denomination’s international human rights agency where he was formerly on staff.

At home in Sarasota, Brock serves on the boards of Children First, Sarasota County’s Head Start agency, the Education Foundation of Sarasota County, and the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition. He chairs the Professional Advisory Group for Pastoral Care at Tampa General Hospital, is an advisor and board member for several social enterprises and an executive mentor for the Global Good Fund’s fellowship program for social entrepreneurs.

Topic: *“A Horizontal God”*

Summary: People around the world overwhelmingly profess to believe in God. Of course, their specific conceptualizations are almost limitless, but most imagine an animating force alive in the world with purpose. While many of us find good reasons to argue about whether various depictions of the Divine have validity, maybe the more important question for humanity is how we understand that animating force to actually work in the world. Unitarian Universalists have answered the latter question in some unique and profoundly important ways. What does that mean for us?

2/16/20 Speaker: Lucille Tompkins Davis

Background: Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Ms. Davis worked as a Speech Language Pathologist and Educational advocate for the District of Columbia Public Schools and the Prince George's County Maryland Public Schools. After forty years in public education, she is now happily, retired in Florida with her husband Larry Davis and am currently enjoying a life filled with joy, gratitude and fairly good health.

Topic: "Unsung African-American Heroine of Woman Suffrage "

Summary: Frances Ellen Watkins Harper is an unsung Unitarian heroine of the Woman Suffrage movement. Her significant contributions were, unfortunately, muted by racism. In addition, she was the quintessential example of a renaissance woman. She was an abolitionist, suffragist, poet, writer, teacher, public speaker and for a short period a farmer's wife. Harper spoke out about the willingness of White suffrage leaders to accept the 19th amendment even if it did not enfranchise Black women. This is possibly the reason she was rendered nearly invisible in the suffrage narrative.

2/23/20 Speaker: Dan Gribben

Background: Dan Gribbin retired from college teaching after 37 years to enjoy the outdoors in Florida and to play folk music. He spent the bulk of his teaching career as Prof. of English at Ferrum College in Virginia, but he has also taught African-American Literature and American Literature at the University of Central Florida. He and his wife Martha live in Daytona Beach Shores and are members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ormond Beach, where he serves as Co-chair of the Worship Committee. He has also been known to photograph shore birds.

Topic: "*Ingenuity and Touching Humanity: Lessons from America's Slave Narratives*"

Summary: The phrase "man's inhumanity to man" doesn't begin to describe the way Africans were treated when they were brought to America as slaves. Little wonder that so many risked their lives and the lives of their families in order to escape the South for freedom in Massachusetts, New York, or Canada. The story of their courage, their ingenious escape mechanisms, and the kindness of people who helped them on their way is the subject of this talk.

NCUU Board of Directors

President	Rob DeRemer
Vice-President	Connie Hart
Clerk	Jean McCauley
Directors	Tom Hibberd, Bree Hill, Shirley Leonard, Linda Myers, Pam Ricker and Sheila Woods

NCUU Committees

Audio/Visual	Gordon Hart
Building	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Connie Hart, Abby Madeiros
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Available
Facebook	John Comer and Connie Hart
Finance	Available
Grounds	Bree Hill
Librarian	Tom Hibberd
Long Range Planning	Bob Madeiros
Membership	Holly Alexander
Music	Sally Smith-Adams
Newsletter	Amy Haiken
Nominating Committee	Judy Capone, Jeanne Wright and Peter Freeman
Photographer	Gordon Hart
Piano	Connie Hart, Sally Smith-Adams, Sheila Woods
Publicity	Available
Property	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Religious Education	Available
Social Activities	Available
Social Justice	Don Wright
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker
Treasurer	John Comer
Website	Gordon Hart, Amy Haiken

Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, February 10th (Second Monday of the month) at 10:30 AM.

If you want to place an item on the Board agenda, please send it to the acting clerk, Jean McCauley, about a week in advance.

Announcements and News

February Potluck

The potluck is Friday, Feb 21 at 6pm.
5:30 for wine and fellowship.
Theme is "comfort food".

February Birthdays



If Your Birthday Is In January, And
Your Name Is Not On This List,
Please Notify The Editor:

Ahaiken@Yahoo.Com. Birthdays Will Be Celebrated
The First Sunday Of Each Month Acknowledging All
Birthdays.

Citrus County African American Read-In



Every year in February, Citrus County's
community comes together for the African
American Read-In, promoting history, literacy,
and African American contributions to
literature.

Join us on Sunday, February 23, 2020 from
2:30 - 4:30 pm at the Learning and Conference
Center on the College of Central Florida's
Citrus Campus.

Charlotte Langlely	A. Rob Deremer
Holly Alexander	Peg Gotz
John Rushong	Jean McCauley
Hailey Ochsenbein	

Martin Luther King Parade

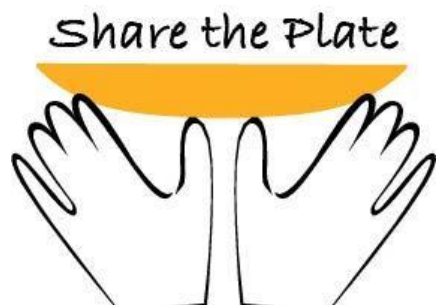


Many NCUUs Participated In The Mlk Jr Day Parade
In Crystal River On Jan 20. Thanks So Much Wanda
For Coordinating Another Successful Mlk Jr March.

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.

"Share the Plate" to be Initiated by NCUU



On the second Sunday of each month we will take a second offering that will be donated to a different local charity every month. Charities will be selected by the Social Justice Committee. "Share the Plate" is practiced by many UU fellowships, suggested and sanctioned by the UUA, and will promote more visibility in our community.

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.

Bree Hill and others 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

Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That The Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is **February 22 2020**. **Please Adhere To This Deadline, Otherwise The Newsletter And Website Won't Be Updated On-Time.** Send To: Ahaiken@Yahoo.Com And Put 'For Newsletter' In The Subject Line.

Send Sunday Morning Announcements To:

Contactncuu@Gmail.Com With For Announcements In The Subject Line. Deadline Is The Friday Before Sunday Service.

Please Join Us On A Committee. Help Needed!

NCUU Needs Your **Help And Assistance**, Especially If You Don't Presently Serve On Any Committees. ***Every Little Bit Helps, So...***

Please Talk To A Bod Member Of Committee Chairperson About Your Interests In Joining In The Work Of Our Congregation.

Community Connections

Community Connections will now be available on the NCUU.org website!

As a Member, do you have events that you are involved in to share with others who visit our website?

Please email Amy at ahaiken@yahoo.com with your event or notice. Be sure to include the **day, date, time and location**.

These notices can include volunteering, performing, receiving awards and joining or watching sporting events. Please avoid adding events that are during our Sunday services or promote a political candidate. She will add the events to the website once a week.

If you would like to inform others of things you are involved in that others may like to join or attend, please let Amy know two weeks before the event or activity if possible. Keep in mind that all visitors to the website will be able to see these activities and events.

Let's Connect!

Connie Hart, Vice President

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

Sunday Service Leaders Needed

We have some terrific services planned for the Winter and Spring, but need Service Leaders. See Jeannie or Pam if you would like to know what is planned, and where the need is.

--- Sunday Service Committee

Wildlife Club Meeting

Reminder The Wildlife Club's Next Meeting Is February 25, 2020, 7:00pm, At The Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists (NCUU) Fellowship Hall At 7633 N. Florida Ave (Hwy-41), Citrus Springs, Fl 34434, One Mile North Of Rt-491 In Holder.

Presentation From Grumbles Antiques And Garden Shop About Plants And Flowers That Attract And Support Hummingbirds And Butterflies – Our Annual Plant Sale – Purchase Beautiful Plants And Flowers To Attract These Beautiful And Beneficial Wildlife To Your Back Yard.

Door Prize - 50/50 Drawing -Free Wildlife Handouts And Refreshments.

For More Wildlife Club Information Contact:

Brenda L. Roberts, Wildlife Club President
Blr768@Tampabay.Rr.Com
(352)746-2384

Thanks To All - Brenda

Social Activities Committee

The Social Activities Committee is in need of volunteers to help plan potlucks and other fun events, bring goodies for after services and take turns cleaning up the kitchen after coffee and discussion. Please make sure you thank Matthew C and Pam R as well as several others for their services. Contact Pam or Matthew if you can help in any way even 1 Sunday a month. Thank you!

New Members



Blaine and Cindy Paynter

We are originally from Cape May County, NJ a beautiful seashore resort community between the Atlantic Ocean and Delaware Bay. In July of 2015 we moved to Citrus County and now live full time in Pine Ridge. Blaine retired as a lieutenant from the police force in 2006. Upon retirement he started a small business, Paynter Painting, doing interior/exterior house painting in NJ for 10 years until bringing the business here to FL. Both Blaine and Cindy are now working as a husband-wife team painting homes together. Blaine likes biking, playing drums, music, kayaking, home projects and reading. Cindy spent 15 years working for a doctor processing insurance claims before becoming office manager. Prior to that she worked 5 years for a visiting nurse agency. Cindy enjoys reading, cross-stitch, walking, biking, kayaking, music and playing the ukulele.

We have 4 children, and 6 grandchildren from 1½ years to 9 years old. We are looking forward to becoming NCUU members.



Larry Johnson

(pictured with wife, Charlotte)

I was born and raised in Illinois but moved around a lot as life progressed. After finishing college I eventually went to work as an airline pilot which lasted for 32 years.

I have lived on both ends of the country and on retirement I wanted a boat in my backyard so I moved to Florida.

During childhood I attended Sunday school and church in a Presbyterian church. Later in life church was not in the picture. The longer I live the more I am saddened by the hate and exclusivity I see and experiencing the service at NCUU is like breaking out above the clouds into the sunshine on a rainy day. I look forward to a long association.

I spend most of my time analyzing and trading stocks, playing the piano, some bicycling or walking and enjoying the company of my wife, Charlotte, of nearly 50 years.

We have a son and daughter, one in Arizona and the son in Connecticut. Both with their own families but only one grandchild.

Special Announcement - UUA

Hello! My name is Davis Senseman and I am honored to be supporting the important work of UU the Vote by providing legal counsel regarding how congregations can engage in bold, effective electoral work fully within your rights and IRS status as 501c3 religious organizations.

I'm collaborating with the #UUTheVote team to provide comprehensive guidance around the issue throughout the campaign.

Here are four key questions that we've already heard from several congregational leaders:

Question 1: Can we openly preach, teach, or act about being opposed to war, or supporting the Green New Deal? Have these become partisan issues?

Response: YES YOU CAN. Unless you are persuading people to vote for/against a specific candidate, you are absolutely allowed to take a definitive stance on issues, including issues regarding actions of the current administration. Opposition to war, combating climate change, resisting oppression in all forms—these are foundational UU beliefs. They can and should be at the center of sermons and congregational work.

Question 2: Can we partner with an organization if they are not a 501(c)3?

Response: YES YOU CAN. Congregations can partner with c(4) organizations or unions to carry out charitable, nonpartisan activities consistent with the church's 501(c)3 status and mission. For UU congregations, that includes activities advocating for foundational UU beliefs.

Question 3: Can Individuals from the congregation (especially the minister) publicly endorse candidates?

Response: YES THEY CAN. So long as the individual is not speaking at an official church function, in an official church publication, or otherwise using the church's assets, and does not claim to speak as a representative of the church, they are free to endorse and speak publicly on behalf of any candidate.

Question 4: Can we ever host partisan activities in the congregation?

Response: YES YOU CAN, as long as the event is consistent with pre-existing space use policies (i.e. - you don't charge for space use and aren't charging the folks holding the partisan event, or you only allow groups invited by a member to use the building). Furthermore, your policies can include a requirement that any group using the space hold similar values to UU principles to avoid having to host groups whose partisan activities are contrary to UU beliefs.

The UU the Vote team is here for your questions and looks forward to helping all UU congregations engage in prophetic, nonpartisan work in support of our values in 2020. Join us at our January 12 launch!

Best,

Davis Senseman, Esq.