



**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>

**January, 2020**

## President's Message

This month I like to relate one of my favorite stories from Thich Nhat Hanh. I will be quoting from his book "*The Sun My Heart*." The title is "*Thanh Thuy's Apple Juice*."

Today three children, two girls and a little boy came to the village to play with Thanh Thuy. The four of them ran off to play on the hillside behind our house, and were gone for about an hour. When they returned, they asked for something to drink. I took the last bottle of homemade apple juice, and gave them each a full glass, serving Thuy last. It had some pulp in it. When she noticed the particles, she pouted and refused to drink it. So the four children went back to their games on the hillside, and Thuy had not drunk anything. Half an hour later, while I was meditating in my room, I heard her calling. Thuy wanted to get herself a glass of cold water, but even on her tiptoes she couldn't reach the faucet. I reminded her of the glass of juice on the table and asked her to drink that first. Turning to look at it, she saw that the pulp had settled and the juice looked clear and delicious. She went to the table and took the glass with both hands. After drinking half of it, she put it down and asked "Is this a different glass, Uncle Monk?"

"No," I answered, "It the same one as before. It sat quietly for a bit, and now it's clear and delicious." Thuy looked at the glass again. "It really is good. Was it meditating like you, Uncle Monk?" I laughed and patted her head, "Let's say that I imitate the apple juice when I sit; that is close to the truth."

In times of stress I think of this simple story and it calms me. I hope everybody has a nice holiday.

Thanks for all you do,  
Rob

# SUNDAY SERVICE

**1/05/20 Speaker:** Rev. Marni Harmony

**Background:** Ordained in 1974, Marni served churches in State College, PA and Brookfield, WI before being called to Orlando, FL, where she served for 20 years. She then enjoyed two wonderful Interim ministries in Marietta, GA and Tarpon Springs, FL. She has been a UU member since age of 7. Marni received her B.A. from Tufts University; a Th.M. from Boston University School of Theology; an M.S.W. from the University of Wisconsin and a D.Min. from Columbia Seminary. She has served as a hospital chaplain, a college chaplain, and a psychotherapist as well as being a VISTA volunteer. Though formally “retired,” she currently serves as a Regional Transition Coach for the Southern Region and is active with the UU Retired Ministers and Partners Association.

She makes her home in Orlando with her spouse, Nancy, and their animal companion dogs: Finn and Wilson. She eats lots of vegetables, plays the Irish whistle, and takes chocolate seriously.

**Topic:** “Classy Thoughts”

**Summary:** In a world where economic conditions vary so widely and determine so much, classicism is a given. Can we acknowledge its existence within Unitarian Universalism? How might that challenge us?

**1/12/19 Speaker:** Peter Freeman

**Background:** Peter is a Welsh aeronautical engineering graduate of Imperial College London (The MIT of Britain). When the British Aircraft Industry went belly up, he joined Procter and Gamble in England. 45 years ago P&G sent Peter to America for a 1 year assignment, and then made him an offer he couldn't refuse to stay in the USA. He worked for P&G as an engineering manager, managing the people who designed the machines that made Pampers and Luvs baby diapers.

25 years ago, after retirement from P&G, Peter became a certified life coach, and then for many years in addition to running a coaching practice, he taught classes on "Life Fulfillment".

Last year Peter finally became an American citizen.

**Topic:** “ The Pursuit of Happiness”

**Summary:** Peter will share some facts about happiness, and ideas about how to use these facts to make your own pursuit of happiness more effective. He will also talk about how happiness is best pursued by the demographic called "The Oldest Old", that is, those of us who are 85 or older.

**1/19/20 Speaker:** Bing Futch

**Background :** Using an Appalachian mountain dulcimer, Native American flute, ukulele, and a board full of stomp-boxes, Bing Futch celebrates traditional and modern Americana music with passion, humor and boundless energy. Known for his musical shape-shifting, Bing switches the channels on style and tone with every new song, from his roots-rock and blues originals to *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Disney* covers.

As a nationally touring solo performer, he's headlined at such events as **The Walnut Valley Festival, The Florida Folk Festival, Old Songs Festival, Indiana Fiddlers Gathering, The Big Muddy** and **Common Ground On the Hill**.

**Topic:** "What's Old Becomes New Again"

**Summary:** They say that there is "nothing new under the sun, " but our own perspectives can filter the past through a brand new lens and bring understanding and illumination. Musician/producer Bing Futch takes a handful of old tunes, traditional and original, and sheds light on how things can look different with time and reflection.

**1/26/20 Speaker:** Barry Pendry

**Background:** Barry was born and raised in rural North Carolina. He holds a Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology and a Ph.D. in Social & Educational Change Theory. He served 4 years in the U.S. Marine Corps with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He worked in hospital administration at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida for 38 years and retired in 2012. Barry and his wife Cathi have lived in Floral City, Florida for over 20 years. They divide their time between Floral City and St. Petersburg and are friends of the UU fellowship in Citrus. Barry is a life member of The Theosophical Society and his current spiritual practice is primarily directed at the study and integration of esoteric Christianity and Zen.

**Topic:** "Oh Liberating Rose" Mary Magdalene "The Apostle to the Apostles"

**Summary:** Mary Magdalene has a liberating message for Unitarian Universalists. Some say she functions as the Yin of Christianity balancing the born again from sin approach offered by Orthodox Christianity, to a more Zen like approach of clear mind, clear heart. She is mentioned 12 times in the New Testament making her the second most mentioned woman after the Virgin Mary. Like Jesus, her story continues to evolve and has currency for modern women and their quest for spiritual freedom and authority. This talk is dedicated to my wife Cathi and all the UU women who are co-teachers of the way through their incarnation of the feminine nature of the divine. Come, meet Mary of Magdala "The Apostle to the Apostles".

## NCUU Board of Directors

President	Rob DeRemer
Vice-President	Connie Hart
Clerk	Jean McCauley (as of February)
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, January 13<sup>th</sup> (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, Holly Alexander, about a week in advance.

## Announcements and News

### January Potluck

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 12:15pm (after the service) is Souper Sunday! Yum!

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### Kitchen Table Forum

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 2:00-4:00 PM  
Topic: "One Rake at a Time": How Individuals Help Clean Up Our Springs  
Forum Leader: Art Jones

The presentation will describe how volunteers work to clean invasive weeds and toxic algae out of fresh-water springs in Florida. After removal, the organics and muck are recycled to gardens and farmlands. After an area is cleaned, eel grass can be planted on the bottom of the water way to restore it back to a natural and original Habitat.

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### "Share the Plate" to be Initiated by NCUU

In January NCUU will begin to contribute to local charities through "Share the Plate". 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.

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### January 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.

Jeanne Wright    Sheila Woods  
Sue Gill         Gordon Hart  
Dan Eisaman     Amy Haiken  
Bob Madeiros

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### Prepping for Future Sunday Speaker

Our Feb 22 speaker, Teretta Thomas, will refer to Michelle Obama's book *Becoming*.

If you haven't already read it, please read this book in advance.

- Linda

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### Martin Luther King Parade

We need someone to coordinate our participating in the MLK Jr day parade In Crystal River on Jan 20. Sandy and Monique did it last year. See them for tips. "

- Linda

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## 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?

Amy Haiken has graciously agreed to add Community Connections to the website and to update events. You may email her at [ahaiken@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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

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## Newsletter Deadline

Please remember that the deadline for the next Newsletter is **January 24 2020**. **Please adhere to this deadline, otherwise the newsletter and website won't be updated on-time.** Send to: [ahaiken@yahoo.com](mailto:ahaiken@yahoo.com) and put 'For Newsletter' in the subject line.

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### Send Sunday Morning Announcements to:

[ContactNCUU@gmail.com](mailto:ContactNCUU@gmail.com) with For Announcements in the subject line. Deadline is the Friday before Sunday service.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## 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

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### 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

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### 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!

## Wildlife Club Meeting

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years!

Reminder the Wildlife Club's next meeting is January 28, 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.

Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park Ranger Andrea Junkunc and Terri Jones will be doing a presentation all about VULTURES! This should be a very informative presentation about this often misunderstood and maligned bird and its vital role in the environment.

Thank you all for your support in 2019 and looking forward to another great year for the Wildlife Club in 2020.

For more Wildlife Club information contact:

Brenda L. Roberts, Wildlife Club President  
blr768@tampabay.rr.com  
(352)746-2384

Thanks to All - Brenda







**Margo Wilson**

Margo Wilson of Dunnellon (Rainbow Springs) was married in a Unitarian-Universalist church in Madison, Wis., but that was one of her last brushes with an organized spiritual practice until visiting NCUU over the summer of 2019 and feeling a connection with like-minded fellow travelers. Formerly a journalist and then a college professor, Margo spent the past several years caring for a friend from Florida who died in the summer. Margo previously was widowed by her husband of 42 years. Now, Margo is on a journey to find whether it's good deeds; kind thoughts; creative, political, social or spiritual practices, or sharing of chocolate cake that gives life meaning.

**John Ivens**

My wife and I moved to Crystal River from Iowa last July. We are both retired teachers who, for now, have playing hockey on our bucket lists. I was raised a Methodist. I chose Illinois Wesleyan University to become a Methodist minister. However, I lost my religion in three semesters, and now have only a method to my madness to show for my religious upbringing. Nonetheless, I feel at home with the inclusiveness of the UU Fellowship and look forward to a shared search for truth with you folks.