

NCUU

NATURE COAST

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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Citrus Springs, FL 34434

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Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist (NCUU) News



Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists

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

December 2020

President's Message



As we are winding down the year -- and boy what a year it has been -- let us give thanksgiving for what we have. Too many times, we dwell on the negatives of life, rather than the positives.

I am personally honored, humbled, and thankful for each and every one of you. You all have touched my life, with or without you realizing it. And for that, I say, "Thank you."

While I am writing this message to you, I am feeling nostalgic and am reminded of the old Coca-Cola song, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing." It always makes me smile, and I feel hopeful that someday, we will be able to sing together again.

Be not afraid to take a stand. Although your voice may often be the only one, it is the lonely voice that often stops the maddening mass and careless crowds.

Who are the Unitarian Universalists called to be in this moment?

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020

Speaker – Cliff Jackson



Cliff has been married to his dear wife, Cathy, for 45 years. They have two children, Lisa and Sandra, who are both married and living out of the nest. Cliff got his Organic Chemistry degree from Florida Technological University (now called University of Central Florida). He started a chemical manufacturing business in 1980 that grew rapidly. (Be careful what you wish for, lol!). For the last four years that he was in business, which seemed like 20, his company was running 24/7. He sold the business in 1996 and entered “slow time.” It was time to join UU and be of service in so many ways, time to travel with family, time to grow personally and spiritually, time to join Toastmasters, and time to share timeless moments on an

occasional Sunday morning like today.

Topic: “Cognitive Dissonance, Black Lives Matter, and Coronavirus”

Cliff experienced “cognitive dissonance” long before he had heard of the term. When he was a teen, one of his core beliefs was challenged to the core. As often happens, the challenging belief was modified to restore his sense of balance. However, over time, cracks began to form until his belief was shattered with George Floyd's death. Coronavirus and Black Lives Matter became intertwined in his new understanding of these events.

Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020
Speaker – Santosh Kamath



Raised to be generally “self-reliant,” Santosh has academic education mostly in STEM subjects, with degrees in Chemistry (Synthetic and Theoretical Organic focus) and Mathematics (Statistics minor), leading to careers in Aerospace (in technical and management areas, as well as in designing and developing radar software and firmware for the military), Appropriate Technology (Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Alternative Energy), Speculative Trading, Teaching (Math, Chemistry, Physics, Conversational German and Russian), and Higher Education Administration (Adaptive Technology and Institutional Research).

Santosh is a member of the Baha’i Faith, a global religion based on the principle of unity, having served a number of posts at local and regional (Southeastern US) levels in appointed and elected capacities for over 20 years. Alongside

his wife and soulmate, Anne (with him in spirit when they cannot serve together), he strives to be an effective servant of humanity.

Addendum: He is steadily working his way back to somewhat normal health following a double lung transplant while coping with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Topic: “Ego, Ambition, and (Higher) Aspiration”

Many of us and our fellow countrymen find ourselves on an endless treadmill, with the speed and incline increasing inexorably, sometimes slowly, and sometimes rapidly. But the treadmill never stops. We have to learn to “breathe” in this imposing and stressful environment. Often the only thing we can do is to try to maintain our sanity in survival mode.

Such a situation is unhealthful and unsustainable, largely because the forces at work are bringing our institutions to ruin and tearing apart relationships, from individuals to global treaties, bringing us closer and closer to oblivion as a species.

We will explore how to address this reality with practical tools that can be implemented immediately. Human potential is infinite. We can focus on what we can do to reverse course manageably and why we should not despair. The congregation will, itself, be remarkably equipped to do so.

Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020

Speakers – Rosemary Nilles/Scott Baldwin



Rosemary Nilles retired from a career in public education, including roles as a teacher, administrator, and consultant. She is secretary of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and a board member of the League of Women Voters of Citrus County. She also is a local group leader for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America – Citrus. She and her husband live in Inverness.



Scott Baldwin is a retired college professor and academic dean. He is currently the president of the Nature Coast Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU). He is a board member for the League of Women Voters of Citrus County and an active member of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense – Citrus County. Scott is also an enthusiastic participant in the Citrus Bridge Club (All work and no play...)

Topic: “Separation of Church and State: Why It Matters”

- We will discuss the history and meaning of separation of church and state in the United States.
- We will show examples of how keeping religion and government independent of one another impact the daily lives of Americans.
- We will describe the well-orchestrated efforts to erode individual rights in the name of “religious freedom.”
- We will share information about Americans United for Separation of Church and State and take questions.

Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020

Speaker – UU Rev Phil Schulman



Rev Schulman first visited us in September of 2018. That was just 10 months after a bicycle-truck encounter left him badly broken and nearly dead. He has been our visiting minister several times since then, and it has been extraordinary to witness his amazing recovery.

In addition to serving four UU congregations as minister, he has organized and supported peer support communities and participated in social change movements. We are glad to have him back with us.

Topic: “Healing Stories, Harmful Stories, True Stories”

Rev. Schulman will highlight aspects of our tradition to support our continuing a faith that provides reason for hope, which we use for blessings amidst turmoil, strife, injustice, and peril.

NCUU Board of Directors

President	John Comer
Vice President	Connie Hart
Clerk	Margo Wilson
Directors	Amy Haiken, Tom Hibberd, Bree Hill, Shirley Leonard, Pam Ricker, and Don Wright

NCUU Committees

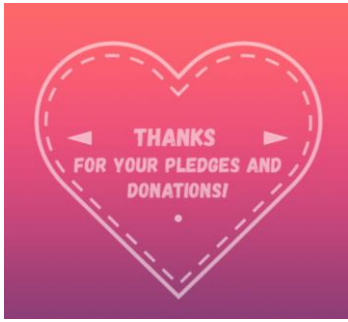
Building	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Bylaws	Amy Haiken and Gordon Hart
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Connie Hart, Abby Madeiros
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Bree Hill and Sheila Wood
Facebook	John Comer and Connie Hart
Finance	Shirley Leonard
Grounds	Bree Hill
Librarian	Tom Hibberd
Long-Range Planning	Bob Madeiros
Media and Technology	Gordon Hart and Amy Haiken
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
Property	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Religious Education	Available
Social Activities	Matthew Ciszewski and Pam Ricker
Social Justice	Don Wright
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker
Treasurer	Rob DeRemer
Website	Gordon Hart and Amy Haiken

Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, Dec. 9 (Second Monday of the month) at 10:30 a.m.

If you want to place an item on the Board agenda, please send it to the clerk, Margo Wilson (clerkatncuu@gmail.com), about a week in advance.

NCUU Pledges



[NCUU Pledges and Youtube Video](#)

Our Fellowship is still functioning and has ongoing expenses. Click the above link if you are viewing this on your email to watch the video. We will be “open and up and running” as soon as it is safe. Please find it in your generous hearts to keep your pledges and gifts up to date. Many thanks to all of you. Checks should be sent to:

[Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists](#)

[P.O. Box 94](#)

[Holder, FL 34445](#)

[Connie Hart](#)

Send Sunday Morning Announcements To:

[Contactncuu@gmail.Com](mailto:Contactncuu@gmail.com) Write “For

Announcements” in the subject line. Deadline is the Friday before Sunday Service.

Social Service Help Line

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

Council of Committees to Meet

Attention all Committee Chairs! The C of C will meet Sat., Dec. 12, at 10 a.m. via Zoom. If you are unable to be present, please send a representative from your committee. Thanks and see you there.

Buffet Table Donated to NCUU



Candace Ochsenbein has graciously donated a lovely buffet table to our congregation to be utilized as a membership information /visitor sign-in table. Thank you, Candace!

NCUU Calendar

Please send additions, deletions, updates, and edits to Gordon Hart, gchshutterbug@gmail.com, so that he may keep the calendar updated on our website, ncuu.org.

Help Make Christmas Special



Photo by [Chris Benson](#) on [Unsplash](#)

For many years, our fellowship has donated Christmas presents to the Hernando Family Resource Center for needy children. This year, we again ask our members and friends to donate to this worthy cause.

Please send your checks made out to NCUU (with a note in the memo section), "Kids' Christmas." And send to: NCUU, PO Box 94, Holder, FL 34445.

Hopefully, we'll be able to buy a 22" bike for a happy youngster. If anyone has a used bike that he/she/they no longer want, the FRC is gratefully accepting these donations, as well. Contact Pam Ricker.

Sunday Service Committee

If you would like to give feedback on any or all of our speakers, please click the link and do so at any time. The Sunday Service Committee appreciates your input.

[Speaker Feedback Form](#)

Thanks,
Pam

Joan's Portrait Completed



Artist Jackie Nash has finished the portrait of Joan Burnett. It is being framed by Gordon Hart. Pictured is Jackie with the portrait pre-framing. Thanks, Jackie, and great job!

Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember: The deadline for the next newsletter is Dec. 21, 2020. Please adhere to this deadline; otherwise, the newsletter and website won't be updated on time and your material won't appear in the issue.

Send to: ncuu.news@gmail.com.

Book Club



Here are some books that the book club would like to discuss.

Please contact John Comer at jcomer3801@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Reclaiming Our Space: How Black Feminists Are Changing the World from the Tweets to the Streets

By Feminista Jones

In *Reclaiming Our Space*, social worker and activist Feminista Jones explores how black feminists are using social media to build movements, communities, and platforms to discuss feminism. To better understand the power and innovative nature of hashtags and movements like [#BlackLivesMatter](#), [#BlackGirlMagic](#), and [#SayHerName](#), you'll want to read Jones' latest work.

Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do

By Jennifer L. Eberhardt

You may want to treat everyone with respect and dignity, and maybe you've even made efforts to promote equality, but unconscious racial bias can still influence your perception and behavior, which manifests in classrooms, streets, and prisons. In her book, *Biased*, Jennifer Eberhardt, a professor of psychology at Stanford, offers suggestions to organizations and individuals on how to address unconscious bias.

The Book of Ho'oponopono: The Hawaiian Practice of Forgiveness and Healing

By Ulrich Dupree

A simple practice to heal your past and cleanse negative memories to live a more peaceful and harmonious life • Details how to apply Ho'oponopono to deal with traumatic past events and destructive thought.

Connect With Conversation Update

Several of us had a great time playing Bingo and conversing on Nov. 18th. Thanks, Amy, for organizing this!

The third Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. will be designated as game night via Zoom. Get your thinking caps on, as December 16th will be "Trivia Pursuit" night. Join us!

December Birthdays



If your birthday is not included, and your name is not on this list, please notify the editor: ahaiken@yahoo.com. Birthdays will be celebrated for now with a card from the Caring Committee. Please take time to text, call, or email these members this month.

Margo Wilson

June Wetzel

Don Wright

Ginny Fitzgerald

Maralyn Boysen

Mike Taylor

Candace Ochsenbein

Newsletter and Website

All requests for news entries should be emailed to: ncuu.news@gmail.com. That will make it easier to keep all requests organized in one place.

Grounds Workday

Even if NCUU is closed right now, plants and weeds keep growing! If you are looking for a way to get out of the house, maintain social distancing (6 feet to whatever you are comfortable with), and get some fresh air and exercise, Sally and I would be happy for you to join us on the first Friday every month between sunup and 11 a.m. Even if it is for just an hour before the heat builds up, you are welcome!

Bree Hill

Media and Technology Committee

Please use the following request form for scheduling a Zoom meeting:

<https://forms.gle/13xthsAFNXJg2T7n9>

Gordon will put the meeting on the calendar, and either Gordon or Amy will create the Zoom session and send the link to the host's email address. If you are sending a meeting request that is fewer than seven days in advance, the form should be filled out and you should call either Gordon or Amy to alert us. The Zoom link will be included in the meeting's detail section in the regular calendar. The host can then share the Zoom link with the committee members.

Caring Committee Steps Up to the "Plate"

Many of our members are taking turns providing meals for Sheila and Mark Woods while Sheila undergoes chemotherapy. Thank you to these people who have already contributed or will contribute dishes in the future: Sally Smith-Adams, John Comer and Matthew Ciszewski, Amy Haiken, Connie Hart, Abby Madeiros, Jean McCauley, and Linda Myers. Bree Hill and Jean McCauley also have been helping Sheila with transportation. Thank you!

Also, please let me know if someone in our membership needs a call or other contact.

The Caring Committee is here to assist.

Connie Hart 386-334-7684

CONLHART@GMAIL.COM

Loving Energy by Pamela Reader

Pamela Reader, one of our newest members, is a nurse, counselor, and hypnotherapist. Pam has created a hypnotherapy session that she would like to share with all of our fellowship, especially with us all going through this stressful time with Coronavirus. It is highly recommended.

Please click on this [link](#) to her Youtube video.

Thanks, Pam!
