

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

**February, 2021**

## **President's Message**



### **A Prayer for Inauguration Day 2021**

By Susan Frederick-Gray

Today, we recognize the significance of this Inauguration Day for our country -- this is a threshold moment worthy of special attention and prayer.

We mark this day in the midst of one of the most precarious times in our country's history. We are in a moment of transition, following a deeply corrupt and cruel administration that fostered dangerous disinformation in an attempt to hold on to power and attack the very foundations of our democracy.

And so, on this Inauguration Day, we celebrate the voice of the people in choosing our elected leaders. We celebrate the voters and all those who have worked so hard this past year to defend democracy by organizing for free and fair elections.

We celebrate ways that voting was more accessible -- through mail-in voting, early voting in person, ballot drop boxes, simplified registration, and multilingual ballots. As accessibility increased, people responded by casting ballots in historic numbers.

We offer gratitude for our democracy, even as we acknowledge its imperfections. The 2020 presidential election was the largest, most transparent election in this country's history. Even in the face of intense voter suppression efforts, there was an unprecedented turnout, reflecting the will of the people to make their voices heard. Far from being fraudulent, this was the most accessible, free and fair election in history.

Today, we recommit to the work of strengthening our democracy. In this pivotal moment, we must push back against disinformation that casts doubt on our electoral process, especially when it is weaponized to disenfranchise Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities. For all who believe in democracy, we must remain committed to organizing to protect the right of every citizen to vote and to ensure the accessibility, transparency, and security of our elections.

And today, we pray for President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris and the administration they will build. There is so much repair and recovery needed, from slowing the spread of COVID, to combatting racist oppression, to supporting working people and combating poverty, to protecting immigrants and asylum seekers, to achieving LGBTQ+ equity, and creating climate justice. Let us pray that their leadership be rooted in integrity, courage, boldness and a deep love for the people.

Today, and in the days to come, our prayers are with the President and Vice President and all our elected leaders as we cross this threshold into a new administration. May we, the people, continue to organize to ensure they center the needs of the communities that elected them as we all work to create a more perfect union.

# SUNDAY SERVICE

**Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021**

Speaker – Otis Brown



Otis was born and raised in Wilson, N.C. He attended North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C., and upon graduation from college, moved to New Jersey and worked before being drafted into the military during the Vietnam era. He served four years in the Air Force and then returned to New Jersey, where he lived and worked in the accounting field until 2006, when his family relocated to Florida.

**Topic:** “The 60s Civic Rights Movement”

I will share my experience of growing up and living in the South during the time of segregation and the movement to integrate the South. I will also share the experience of being arrested as a college student during a protest.

**Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021**

Speaker – Nathan Sharp



Nathan is a Citrus County native and graduated from Florida Atlantic University in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in communication. As a longtime marketing professional in the hospitality industry, he has lived in Seattle, Nevada, and most recently, in Nassau, The Bahamas. He returned to Citrus County in April 2020 with his husband, Eddie, for the next chapter of his long, strange journey. Nathan currently serves as the president of the Democratic Equality Caucus of Citrus County and actively volunteers with the Citrus County Democratic Executive Committee.

**Topic:** "My Love Story -- Finding Love and Acceptance in Rural America"

Our personal journeys lead us to interesting and unexpected places, including back to our hometowns. Growing up in Citrus County in the '80s and '90s and then returning in 2020 is a unique journey and encompasses four decades of personal growth and reflection amidst a backdrop of political and societal change. The LGBTQ+ civil rights movement has made significant progress during that time period, and my journey has been forever altered by that progress. I'm delighted to share my experiences and how growing up in rural central Florida shaped my story.

**Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021**

Speaker – Henry DeGeneste



Henry DeGeneste is the president of his own security consulting organization. His firm, HDG Consulting, Inc., provides advice and assistance to clients on a broad range of domestic and international issues involving operational risk, crisis management, criminal justice management, and public policy administration. With over 40 years' experience in senior leadership roles, he is currently focused on providing strategic advice to corporations and institutions of higher education to manage risk and develop emergency and security programs.

Henry is a published author and guest lecturer at many colleges and universities, nationally and internationally, on crisis and risk management, emergency preparedness, international terrorism, transportation policing, aviation, rail and seaport security, law enforcement management, and ethics.

**Topic:** "Police and Black Lives Matter"

**Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021**

Speaker – Lizzie Robinson Jenkins



Lizzie Robinson Jenkins is a Rosewood descendant. Her aunt, Mahulda Gussie Brown Carrier, was the schoolteacher for the town and lived to tell her recollection of the horrific events that transpired there. Ms. Jenkins has spent more than 25 years researching and preserving the History of Rosewood.

**Topic: “The Real Rosewood”**

The Rosewood Massacre was an attack on the predominantly African American town in Levy County of Rosewood, Fla., in 1923 by large groups of white aggressors. The town was entirely destroyed in the violence, and the residents were driven out permanently. The story was mostly forgotten until the 1980s, when it was revived and brought to public attention.

# 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

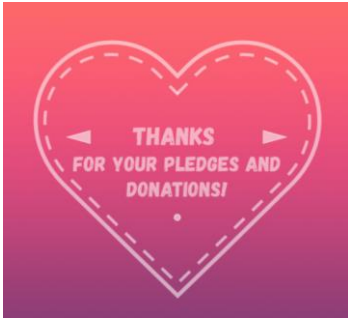
Building	Matthew Ciszewski and John Comer
Bylaws	Amy Haiken and Gordon Hart
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Connie Hart, Abby Madeiros
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Bree Hill and Sheila Wood
Facebook	John Comer and Connie Hart
Finance	Shirley Leonard
Grounds	Bree Hill
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	Open
Website	Gordon Hart, Amy Haiken

## Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, Feb. 8 (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](mailto:clerkatncuu@gmail.com)), about a week in advance.

## Announcements and News

### 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 Universalist Fellowship  
P.O. Box 94  
Holder, FL 34445

Connie Hart

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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.

### Rosewood Prep

On Sunday, Feb 28, Lizzie Robinson Jenkins will be speaking to us about “The Real Rosewood.” Her talk assumes the audience knows the basics about the nearby Rosewood tragedy in 1923. That is why we are suggesting you view the movie before her talk. Recently, there have been remembrances for tragic attacks on black communities. The movie, *Rosewood*, filmed in 1997, is based on true historic events but is a fictional adaptation, not a documentary. The movie is available for purchase for single viewing on Netflix and YouTube. There are also numerous web sites detailing the story of Rosewood. Lizzie is a descendant of a resident of Rosewood and is promoting the memory of the rampage. She is raising money for a museum and there will be an address or link if you want to contribute.

Here is the link to purchase (\$2.99) and watch the movie on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTdMxcJqr-I>

Sunday Service Committee

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### Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That The Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is Feb. 21, 2021. **Please Adhere To This Deadline, Otherwise The Newsletter And Website Won't Be Updated On Time, or your material won't appear in the issue.** Send To: [ncuu.news@gmail.com](mailto:ncuu.news@gmail.com).



**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.

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### **Connect with Conversation**

Each Wednesday from 7-8 p.m., members can  
join each other for conversation via a recurring  
Zoom link.

Sometimes we have a topic, sometimes we play  
a game. We catch up on local events and  
concerns and learn about each other. It's a  
great way to get acquainted. You don't have to  
dress up or clean the house, either. We look  
forward to "seeing" you.

If you need assistance getting on Zoom, contact  
Amy or Gordon.

Connie

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### **Newsletter and Website**

All request entries should now be sent to the  
email address [ncuu.news@gmail.com](mailto:ncuu.news@gmail.com). That will  
make it easier to keep all requests organized in  
one place.

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### **NCUU Calendar**

Please send additions, deletions, updates and  
edits to Gordon Hart,  
[gchshutterbug@gmail.com](mailto:gchshutterbug@gmail.com), so that he may keep  
the calendar updated on our website, [ncuu.org](http://ncuu.org).

### **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 Ricker

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### **Caring Committee**

The Caring Committee is working with the  
Membership Committee to make calls and keep  
in touch with you. Since we still can't meet in  
person, you may be receiving a personal call  
from a different member of our Fellowship once  
a month, just to touch base and say, "Hi."  
Thank you to the Caring Committee and  
Membership Committee for organizing this!

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### **February Birthdays**

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

If your birthday is not included,  
and your name is not on this  
list, please notify the editor:

[ahaiken@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

Holly Alexander	Lowell Smith
John Rushong	Jean McCauley
A. Rob Deremer	Peg Gotz
Hailey Ochsenbein	

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## 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

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## 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.

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## MLK March and NCUU Members



NCUU Members march at the MLK, Jr. Unity Parade in Inverness on Jan. 18.

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## 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 the coronavirus. The session is highly recommended.

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

Thanks, Pam!

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## NCUU Members on the Move



From left, Bob Madeiros, Abby Madeiros, Anna Walker, Hailey Ochsenbein, and Wanda Brown.



Front row, Connie Hart and Jan Hitchcock;  
Back row, Bob Madeiros and Joe Wetzel.



From left, Joe Wetzel, Candace Ochsenbein, John Ivens, and Holly Alexander.

Work off those Valentine's chocolates when NCUU hikers take an expedition to Dames Cave and Peace Cave at 10 a.m. Mon., Feb. 15.

Hikers will meet at W. Lone Court, Sugarmill Woods, FL 34461. (When I typed: 10701 S. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, FL 34461 into Mapquest, it took me to the site.) This address will take you to a parking lot, across Highway 491 from the trail.

Wanda Brown, who is organizing the monthly hikes, said unless there are objections, Monday probably will be the day of future hikes.

The first hike was Dec. 31, when about 14 intrepid humans and at least one dog ventured on the approximately two-mile Johnson Pond Trail in the Withlacoochee State Forest, not far from the fellowship hall.

Wanda said the walk “was very nice on a pleasant, warm day.” Some of the group chose to see a large sinkhole just off the trail.

Nine people and three dogs set out on the second hike on Jan. 11 at the Ecowalk Trail in the Crystal River Preserve State Park. Wanda said those hikers “enjoyed each other’s company,” as well as the trail.

She said the idea for the hikes arose in the Membership Committee, “which is always trying for ways to attract folks and retain them.”

She said hiking is a “way to have closer, COVID-safe contact/interaction with each other. We all miss relationships forced away from us by the coronavirus.”

Being outside is relatively safe and hikers can stay six feet from each other and wear masks if they choose.

Wanda said she has been involved in wellness/prevention nursing for the past 50 years, and “I like the opportunity to push healthy living whenever I can.”