

NCUU

NATURE COAST

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

7633 N. Florida Ave. (Hwy 41)

Citrus Springs, FL 34434

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Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist (NCUU) News



Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists

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

October 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

1. *Interfaith collaboration* -- Several of our members visited other churches in our region during the month of August and established varying levels of dialogue with them. In early September, Margo Wilson connected with leaders from local Baha'i and Unity Citrus County congregations. We followed up on those connections and have made plans to host a Kitchen Table Forum in late November, focused on identifying potential interfaith and multicongregation social justice pursuits. On Sept. 1, the Rev. Luz Lecour of Unity Citrus County phoned me and invited me to give a brief introduction of Unitarian Universalism and offer a "message of oneness" at Unity's "World Day of Prayer" on the evening of Sept. 8, and I accepted.

At the event, I briefly explained that Unitarian Universalism is a creedless faith with the mission of providing a liberal and welcoming spiritual community, promoting love and social justice. I pointed out that we place a high value on reason, diversity, and compassion and that, while we respect the messages of love found in all religions, the UU faith is underpinned not by dogma or scripture but by our seven principles. This seemed to resonate with many of the attendees. Other contributors, in addition to Unity and NCUU, represented Baha'i, Hindu and Native American perspectives. Six other NCUU members also attended and were warmly welcomed.

2. *Bequests from the Robert L. Campbell and Mary Louise DeWolf Revocable Living Trust* -- As most of our congregation is aware, the will left by the Rev. Mary Louise DeWolf specified that 10% of the remainder of her trust be given to NCUU to support and grow our ministry. This bequest was very generous and represents a significant endowment, but with the explicit stipulation that it be applied to support and enhance the ministry.

Over the coming months, we must decide how best to utilize this in ways that further the NCUU goals, while also meeting the expectations of Mary Louise. The second item in the bequest states that an additional 10% of the trust should also be used by the UUA to start a new UU congregation in Florida but if, in the event that this is not feasible, the NCUU Board of Directors should advise UUA on an acceptable ministerial application of the funds. The Board

of Directors discussed this bequest at our Sept. 12, 2022, meeting, which was attended (via Zoom) by Jay Pacitti and Brock Leach from UUA. As many of you know, Brock Leach has spoken to us many times and knows us well. Because UUA does not currently engage in starting new churches, the purpose for this gift, as outlined in the third amendment of the trust, is impractical and/or impossible to fulfill. The Board has determined a designation that is as near as possible to the original purpose.

The Board voted, without dissent, that the money be designated to the fund the Unitarian Universalist Association is now creating to support new communities and innovative ministries in Florida. We discussed the idea of NCUU being part of a multicongregation collaborative ministry and Brock Leach offered to assist us in pulling such a consortium together. This initiative, if it materializes, would be administered by UUA, not NCUU.

3. *Social justice* -- Linda Myers, as chair of the Social Justice Committee, is leading multipronged UUA-sponsored "UU the Vote" campaigns aimed at getting out the vote in November. Please join her campaigns if you can.
4. *Eighth UU Principle* -- The UUA has proposed adding an 8th Principle to the existing 7. The wording proposed by the UUA reads as follows: *"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."* John Ivens is leading the NCUU debate on this initiative prior to voting as a congregation on its acceptance. A Kitchen Table Forum is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22, to facilitate an open discussion. For those attending in person, it has been proposed that discussions be followed by a potluck supper. The next newsletter will confirm the plans.
5. *Oneness* -- As Unitarian Universalists, we seek to illuminate awareness of the universal interdependence and oneness of all life and phenomena. In the words spoken in 1855 by Chief Seattle of the Suquamish Native American people: "All things are connected." Last year, the Dalai Lama said that "the world's seven billion people need a sense of oneness." Let us all be guided by such a vision.

Namaste,

Don

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022

Speaker —Rebecca Dominguez-Karimi



Rebecca Dominguez-Karimi is an oral historian, writer, podcaster, and public speaker. She holds a doctoral degree in comparative studies from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, and worked as an adjunct professor of English at Nova Southeastern University and Broward College in Fort Lauderdale. Her podcast, “The Tortilla Diaries,” highlights interviews from the Mexican American community of Texas and is taken from her “Treasures From Aztlan Oral History Project,” which she founded in 2006. It should be noted that her narrators all grew up during the Jim Crow era, a time when people of Mexican heritage suffered from segregation, discrimination, and racist practices, and she documents their stories of trauma.

Topic: “Stories of Hispanic Immigrants: Journeys of Hope”

Dr. Dominguez-Karimi will share video presentations of several immigrants (men and women) from different Hispanic countries. Narrators come from different socio-economic backgrounds, different age groups, and different political/economic situations. She will provide brief biographies of each narrator, followed by a video of them telling their story. We’ll hear them in their own words as they share their heartwarming stories of hardship, tragedy and hope.

Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022

Speaker – The Rev. Al Hopkins

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022

Speaker –Jeff Nall



Jeffrey Nall teaches philosophy and humanities courses for Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. Nall also teaches courses in Florida Atlantic University's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department. He recently began a Substack newsletter and podcast devoted to exploring the insights of the humanities in everyday life. For more information, go to JeffreyNall.substack.com

Topic: "Rev. King's Other Dream: Ending Economic Injustice"

Most people know the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his leading role in combating racism. But too few know he spent the last year of his life organizing a poor people's march on Washington, D.C., that he hoped would rival the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his famed "I Have a Dream" speech. In this talk, Jeffrey Nall explores King's frequently marginalized assessment of poverty and economic inequality in the context of today's widening gap between rich and poor. King believed racism was just one part of three interlocking injustices that included militarism and the extreme materialism of the prevailing economic system. Nall makes the case for recognizing the merit in King's contention that remedying economic injustice means promoting a "revolution of values" and committing ourselves to social transformation, rather than reform.

Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022

Speaker —Jeffrey Nall



Jeffrey Nall teaches philosophy and humanities courses for Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. Nall also teaches courses in Florida Atlantic University's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department. He recently began a Substack newsletter and podcast devoted to exploring the insights of the humanities into everyday life. For more information, go to JeffreyNall.substack.com

Topic: "The Fight for Economic Justice: From FDR to Coretta Scott King and the New Poor People's Campaign"

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated before the planned 1968 Poor People's encampment and march on Washington, D.C. Coretta Scott King continued the organizing effort following his death and delivered a too-little-known address challenging America to recognize the violence in its acts of omission and policy choices that harmed the poor. In this talk, Jeffrey Nall builds on his prior presentation to explore the efforts of Franklin D. Roosevelt, MLK, and Coretta Scott King to confront economic exploitation. He also discusses the emergence of a New Poor People's Campaign, which took to the streets of Washington D.C. in the summer of 2022. Nall contends a failure to confront the class dimensions of social inequality imperils our democratic institutions and fuels neofascist populism. To preserve human dignity and democracy, we must join efforts to support workers' rights and combat economic exploitation.

Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022

Speaker – Rebecca Dominguez-Karimi



Rebecca Dominguez-Karimi is an oral historian, writer, podcaster, and public speaker. She holds a doctoral degree in comparative studies from Florida Atlantic University and specializes in Mexican American history, gender studies, and restorative justice. Her work centers on marginalized communities. She is the founder of “Voces de Hispanos Oral History Collection,” a collection of audio interviews with more than 40 Hispanic people that permanently is housed at the Jacksonville Historical Society. She recently created partnerships with Amelia Island Museum of History, Clay County Archives, and the St. Augustine Historical Society to increase the scope of the original study. It is the first project of its kind for the Hispanic community of Northeast Florida.

Topic: “Indigenismo, Traditions and Dia de los Muertos”

What does Dia de Muertos mean for those of Mexican heritage? What’s the relevance of its concept on the continuity of life and on the importance of ancestors and remembrance? Learn about the ancient indigenous roots of Dia de Muertos, about its familiar and not-so-familiar traditions, and about the art and literary traditions surrounding this day of celebration. This presentation includes a PowerPoint and video presentation, along with poetry readings.

NCUU Board of Directors

President	Don Wright
Vice-President	Connie Hart
Clerk	Margo Wilson
Directors	Rob Deremer, Carole Goodman, John Ivens, Shirley Leonard, Lowell Smith, and Mike Taylor

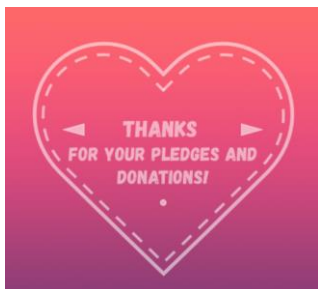
NCUU Committees

Building	Matthew Ciszewski, John Comer, and Lowell Smith
Bylaws	Open
Calendar	Gordon Hart
Caring Committee	Jeanne Wright and Dolores Harding
Choir Director	Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs	Bree Hill
Facebook	Jean McCauley, John Comer, and Connie Hart
Finance	Shirley Leonard
Grounds	Bree Hill
Librarian	Tom Hibberd
Long-Range Planning	John Comer
Media and Technology	Gordon Hart
Membership	Holly Alexander
Music	Sally Smith-Adams
Newsletter	Amy Haiken
Nominating Committee	Abby Madeiros, Jeanne Wright
Photographer	Gordon Hart
Piano	Connie Hart, Sally Smith-Adams, Sheila Woods
Property	Matthew Ciszewski, John Comer, and Lowell Smith
Religious Education	John Ivens
Social Activities	Matthew Ciszewski and Pam Ricker
Social Justice	Linda Myers
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker
Treasurer	Jean McCauley
Website	Gordon Hart, Amy Haiken

Board of Directors

Our board meeting is Monday, Oct. 10 (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 are open. 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

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.

October 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.

Pam Ricker
Sally Smith Adams
Claude Clavette

Council of Committees to Meet

The NCUU Council of Committees (Committee Chairs and Leaders) will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. via ZOOM. Connie will send out a link.

October Share the Plate

The YMCA of the Suncoast will receive October donations from NCUU's Share the Plate. The donations will be directed toward a new program of youth mentoring sponsored by the Y and by the City of Crystal River. Studies show that young people who have mentors in their lives are less likely to engage in risky behaviors and more likely to pursue postsecondary education or hold leadership positions.

Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That the Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is **Sept. 23, 2022**. Please Adhere To This Deadline; otherwise, your material won't be included in the newsletter.

All request entries should be sent to the email address: ncuu.news@gmail.com. That will make it easier to keep all requests organized in one place. Please send the proofread text and photo attachments. In addition, please keep your text to a maximum of two short paragraphs. If it is longer, we will edit to shorten the announcement.

Amy

Grounds Work Day

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

Request for an Assistant Treasurer

The Finance Committee is looking for a parishioner with accounting experience to serve as assistant treasurer. Knowledge of QuickBooks helpful. Contact Chairwoman Shirley Leonard, (781) 264-5098, or email reportersr@hotmail.com if interested.

Announcements

Send Sunday Morning Announcements To: Contactncuu@Gmail.com Write "For Announcements" in the subject line. Deadline is the Friday before Sunday service.

Social Justice Committee

Participate in Hispanic Heritage Month at NCUU Oct. 2. Rebecca Karimi, a scholar and storyteller, will reveal the heartaches and successes of our Mexican American compatriots. The Sunday service is at 10:30 a.m.

She will also be at the Appleton Museum in Ocala, in person, on Saturday, Oct. 8.

-- Linda Myers

Wildhart Photography

The photographs on the walls of the sanctuary can be purchased with 50% off the purchase price going to NCUU.

Talk to Gordon Hart if interested.

Please check out <http://www.wildhartphotography.com> for more of Gordon's photographs.

The same deal will be honored if someone from the congregation wants to order a photo from the website.

Kitchen Table Forum on the 8th Principle – Saturday, 4 p.m., Oct 22, NCUU Sanctuary

In 2023, UUA General Assembly will consider a proposal to add the “Eighth Principle” to our existing seven principles. This principle reads as follows:

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Along with the deliberations of the UUA General Assembly next year, each UUA congregation has been invited to consider local adoption of the 8th Principle. Our Social Justice Committee has planned a Kitchen Table Forum for this purpose, and we urge each and everyone in the NCUU congregation to share his or her views and be heard. This forum is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22, at 4 p.m. in the NCUU sanctuary. A ZOOM link will be emailed to those unable to attend in person. John Ivens will be leading this forum, using a “common ground” format. This format has been useful at providing a safe space to express concerns and to build consensus within a close-knit community. We will then share food and fellowship at a potluck at the conclusion of the forum about 6 p.m. Ballots will be distributed to NCUU members by mail a week or so after the Kitchen Table Forum. These ballots should be returned by Nov. 12.

John Ivens

