

**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>

## March 2023

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### *Welcoming Spring, New Faces, and a Refreshed NCUU Landscape*

As Spring 2023 approaches, we should celebrate the reinvigoration and enlightenment of NCUU. Several new members and friends have joined us and brought with them stimulating new perspectives and backgrounds.

Our Sunday Service Committee has done an outstanding job of attracting talented and engaging speakers. The new grounds committee and its energetic team of gardeners, led by Chas Anderson, have done an admirable job of beautifying our grounds, and more initiatives are on the way. The Friday Mindfulness Meditation group is more active than ever and is growing by the week. All are invited to join. And our Social Justice Committee has successfully reached out to our local community on several fronts with energetic leadership from Linda Myers. This energy will be carried forward in the upcoming fiscal year by the new chair, Art Jones.

In the coming months, we expect to pursue new ministry initiatives utilizing the generous bequest from the late Rev. Mary Louise de Wolf. I urge all who can do so to attend the NCUU Annual Meeting on April 16. New Board of Directors candidates and some new initiatives will be mailed to you on a ballot. The items will be discussed at the meeting.

Namaste,  
Don Wright

# SUNDAY SERVICE

**Sunday, Mar. 5, 2023**

**Speaker** – Dee Collier



Dee Collier is a former elementary school teacher from Ocala who loves drama and history. Those loves have led her to portray 25 famous (and infamous) women in history. There will be a board on a table that has pictures of her portraying some of them. You're welcome to take one of her papers or cards and invite her to other groups as well.

**Topic:** "Florence Nightingale"

Florence Nightingale was born into a very wealthy family at a time when nursing was considered one of the lowliest occupations. They thought she would ruin *their* reputation. But she persisted in her calling to be a nurse and was the founder of modern nursing. During the Crimean War she trained nurses, cared for the sick and wounded, earning the title "The Lady with the Lamp". Her tenacious adherence to sanitary practices saved untold lives and inspires nurses to this day. Theme: Tenacious commitment in the face of adversity

**Sunday, Mar. 12, 2023**

**Speaker** – Linda Starkweather



After a career in teaching and theater, Linda spends her retirement as an artist, activist, theater professional, carpenter and snowbird spending half the year in Dunnellon and the other half in Naples, NY. She and her partner Lynne have brought their unique perspective and philosophy to many UU congregations in both New York and Florida. They share their home with a Buddhist and a terrorist - both beloved rescue dogs from Florida.

**Topic:** “From Where We Are Right”

Maybe *truth* is a verb. . . something we experience, something we live, not something we know. Maybe that's what “responsible” means in our Unitarian 4th principle. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Learning to live truth, to experience truth, and to honor the possibility that another experience may bring another truth . . . to walk freely into the unknown every day with a sacred curiosity, a holy question, instead of a shield of knowledge. And, maybe by aspiring to live truth, we find the deep meaning of our lives.

**Sunday, Mar. 19, 2023**

**Speaker – Cathy DeWitt**



Cathy DeWitt, an award-winning songwriter, was destined to be a musician; it is literally in her blood. Music filled her living room, from her father's Dixieland trumpet and stride piano to the Rachmaninoff and Chopin pieces; her brother Peter, a prodigy pianist, played on the grand piano. A Music Director and musician for more than twenty-five years, she has shared songs and stages with David Roth, Greg Tamblyn, Garrison Keillor, Pete Seeger and more, and provided music at workshops for many authors including Alan Cohen, Wayne Dyer, and Marianne Williamson. Her radio show *Across the Prairie* has aired off and on for over twenty years, currently running on WMBT90.1 *The Wombat*.

She recently retired after nearly 30 years at Shands Hospital/UF Health Arts in Medicine program in Gainesville, Florida, where she created the renowned Music in Medicine program. From piano playing in the hospital lobby to elevator singalongs; from hallway concerts to bedside harp in the ICUs, Cathy transformed the hospital environment and the patient experience with music.

Currently, she is the leader of a healing arts pilot program for North Florida Cancer Specialists at their Gainesville location. Overseeing four artists who bring music and visual arts to the patients. She is a sought-after guest speaker/musician at churches from coast to coast, and has sung professionally throughout Florida, New York, California, London, and Hawaii. Find out more at [www.cathydewitt.com](http://www.cathydewitt.com)

**Topic:** “Embracing the Healing Power of Music”

This is a story that illustrates how saying yes to something that you are afraid to do can lead to a life of joy and fulfillment. It's based on my 30-year career playing music in the hospital for UF Health/Shands Arts in Medicine in Gainesville, and includes information and anecdotal stories about the healing powers of music, in many situations, not just the hospital.

**Sunday, Mar. 26, 2023**

**Speaker** – Judi Siegal



Judi is a native of Connecticut and frequent speaker to the UU's. She is a graduate of Adelphi University and is a retired Jewish educator. Many remember her column on Judaism which ran for several years in the Citrus County Chronicle and the Marion Citizen. She is active in her community and enjoys reading and visiting historical places. She has three grandchildren who are the joy of her life.

**Topic:** "Beyond Matzah: Implications for freedom in our own times"

The story of Passover transcends from the Exodus over 3,000 years ago down through the ages to our own times. We will explore how this historical event shaped Jewish history and how this history influenced the world even as we grapple with slavery in our own times. We will explore the topic through a spiritual and historical lens and hopefully glean new insights into the meaning of Passover and the Exodus.

# 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

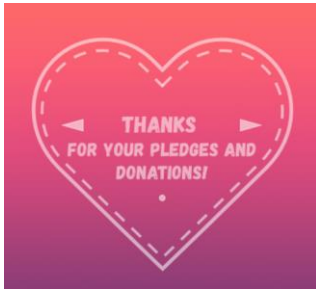
## NCUU Committees

Building	Lowell Smith
Bylaws	Open
Caring Committee	Jeanne Wright
Denominational Affairs	Bree Hill
Finance	Shirley Leonard
Grounds	Chas Anderson
Long-Range Planning	Open
Media and Technology	Gordon Hart
Membership	Holly Alexander
Religious Education	John Ivens
Social Activities	Open
Social Justice	Art Jones
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker

### Board of Directors

Our board meeting is Monday, Mar. 13 (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.

## 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

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## Financial Committee Opening

The finance committee currently has one vacancy. Open to anyone interested in learning and helping with the church budget and financial planning. If interested, contact Shirley Leonard at [reportersr@hotmail.com](mailto:reportersr@hotmail.com) or (781) 264-5098.

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## March Birthdays



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.

Monique Sondheim

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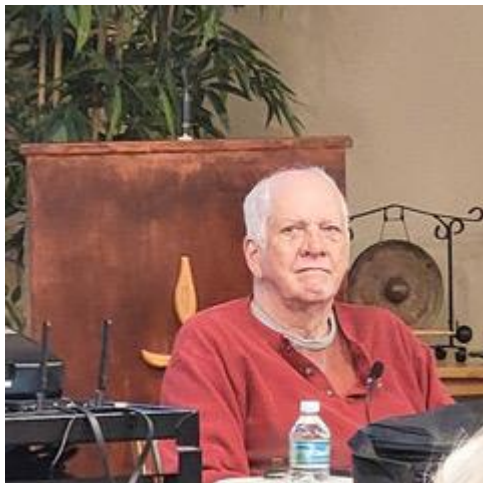
## March NCUU Hike

We hope you will join us at 10am on Wednesday, 8 March, to hike the Hog Pond Trail just south of Homosassa. Go south on US 19 and turn right onto a gravel road 0.9 mile after the traffic light at W Yulee Dr. (4990 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa, FL) You will see a brown sign that says Withlacoochee State Forest - Homosassa Wildlife Management Area. Continue about 0.1 mile to a parking lot. No bathrooms or water are available. The trail is about 3.2 miles through beautiful scenery, around several small quarries used when US 19 was being built, that are now filled with water. Well-behaved dogs are welcome.

-Holly Alexander

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## Social Justice Forum



Don Wright was our Speaker for the Social Justice Forum held at NCUU on January 28th. The talk drew a standing room only attendance and was very well received.

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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).

## Announcements

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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### 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

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### Newsletter Deadline

**Please Remember That the Deadline** For The Next Newsletter Is Mar. 23, 2022. Late items will be included in the next newsletter.

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

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