



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>

January 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year NCUU! We begin what promises to be a challenging and uncertain 2024 with the good news of welcoming several energetic and talented new members.

In the month of January, we will celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday by participating in events in Inverness and Crystal River as we did last year. This will be followed by Black History month in February. These are very special times for UUs to enhance their awareness, empathy -and love- by becoming fully woke. I know that most UUs are already there to a greater extent than most Floridians, but it is always enriching to learn more. To that end, I encourage reading the book *The 1619 Project* (ISBN 978-0-593-23057-2), a compendium of contributions by numerous Black authors orchestrated by Nicole Hannah-Jones. Or pay a virtual visit to the Washington, DC Smithsonian *National Museum of African American History and Culture* (<https://nmaahc.si.edu>). Our region of Florida needs the illumination of enlightened Unitarian Universalists.

In the months ahead, we will begin the pursuit of a paid position for a quarter-time minister utilizing funds from the bequest to NCUU from Reverend Mary Louise DeWolf following the approval by the Board of Directors at its November 21 meeting. All who may be interested in participating in the search process are invited to step up. As we pointed out in the last newsletter, the UUA recently released its final proposal for revision of Article II of the UUA Bylaws and this will be voted on at the UUA General Assembly this coming Spring. You can access the draft at the UUA website (<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii>).

Namaste and Happy Holidays
Don Wright



SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024

Speaker – UU Rev Katie Culbert



Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Katie Culbert served the UU Church of Tampa as Director of Religious Exploration for many years and was intern minister at the UU Church of Sarasota, where she was ordained. She has crafted worship services and preached for congregations in Florida and around the country. The current focus of her ministry is pastoral care, most recently working as a Chaplain at Tampa General Hospital. Katie lives in Tampa with her two teenage sons.

Topic: “Southern Fried Transcendentalism”

"Southern Fried Transcendentalism" - One of the best-selling books of all time, *Where The Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, is a story of a young "marsh girl" who overcomes great adversity living alone in the swamps of North Carolina. Southern culture is deeply connected to self-reliance and the natural world in a way that resembles transcendentalism, a 19th century New England philosophy shaped by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and Margaret Fuller. Where is the connection between the intellectual and idealistic world view that influenced modern day Unitarian Universalism and the spirituality of the marsh girl?

Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024

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: “Antisemitism: A journey from its earliest history unto the present day”

Today's speaker will be presenting a brief history of anti-Semitism from early history to the present day, including current events in Israel, with attention to Jewish discrimination in the State of Florida. We will explore why anti-Semitism exists and what we can do to stop hatred of Jews and the Jewish way of life. This topic affects all people of good will as we journey through the topic noting what happens to one group of people can easily happen to another.

Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024

Speaker – Rev Marcia McCartney



Rev. Marcia McCartney's passion is supporting humanity in rediscovering the part each of us plays in our Divine Oneness. For over 30 years, she has been a spiritual midwife for people who desire to deepen and expand their experience of life with the Infinite Creative Spirit within. As a Unity Minister, she has encouraged the practice of Spiritual Truth taught by the great mystical traditions. She has served as senior minister of three Unity ministries in Chicago, Gainesville and Citrus County, Florida. As a recovering addict of 45 years, she has walked the path of surrender, acceptance and recovery. She became a Licensed Unity Teacher in 1992 and an Ordained Unity Minister in 1999. As an Agent of Conscious Evolution, Attitudinal Healing and Sage-ing International facilitator she created an alternative ministry based on healing play, laughter and creativity: The Planetary Play Project (www.planetaryplayproject.org). Rev McCartney currently

lives in Crystal River with fur babies Joey and Sophie.

Topic: "I See A World."

After 9-11 focus groups were formed all over the world to vision and imagine a world at peace and harmony. This message is about connecting into that energy and about being the change we wish to see in our world.

Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024

Speaker – Kimberly Belew



Kim Belew is an award-winning songwriter, a national speaker, and an activist. A survivor of sex trafficking as a child, Kim has made it her purpose to educate and give voice to help eradicate this industry. She gave a TEDx Talk about this issue in 2021. Kim is the part-time spiritual leader of New Thought Unity in Cincinnati and travels the country sharing messages of inspiration and authentic living. www.kimbelew.com

Topic: “We Are Game Changers”

In this talk, Kimberly will share the impact of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and how we can be game changers too. She will also share how living with intention and authenticity are keys to being a game changer in our own lives and also the world around us.

NCUU Board of Directors

President	Don Wright
Vice-President	Holly Alexander
Clerk	Open
Directors	Ned Davis, Rob Deremer, Carole Goodwin, Art Jones, Lowell Smith, 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	Art Jones
Media and Technology	Gordon Hart
Membership	Jeanne Wright, Connie Hart
Religious Education	Open
Social Activities	Bonnie Anderson
Social Justice	Art Jones
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker

Board of Directors

Our board meeting is Tuesday, January 9th at 4:00 p.m. If you want to place an item on the board agenda, please send it to the clerk, (clerkatncuu@gmail.com), about a week in advance.

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.



Announcements

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



NCUU Hikes - January

Schedule Change for January: Instead of hiking during the second week of the month, let's hike on the 7-Mile Loop Trail at Crystal River Preserve State Park. The park will have a 1st Day Hike on Monday, 1 January. There are several distances, 1, 3, or 7 miles, and those hikes will start a little after 8 am. Hikers do not have to go with one of those groups. The event actually lasts until 11 am, so we can start at 10 and hike out-and-back, probably 2.5 - 3 miles total. Well-behaved dogs on a leash are welcome.

Directions: From US Hwy 19, just north of the town of Crystal River, go west on State Park St, until the pavement ends (do not turn left on Sailboat Ave.). Continue straight ahead on the dirt road a few hundred feet until you reach a small parking area, or you can park along the dirt road. Come celebrate the New Year outdoors!



January 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.

Lonnee Zingg
Jeanne Wright
Sheila Woods

Gordy Hart
Amy Haiken



Social Activities Committee

Social Activities for 2023-2024

Month	Activity
February	Mermaid Aquarium Encounter
March	Ocala Civic Theater to see CLUE
April	Picnic at the Rainbow Springs Park

Dates will be set in the future.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Anderson, Social Activities Chair



Share the Plate – January

UNICEF's mission is to relentlessly pursue a more equitable world for every child. They work in more than 190 countries to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential from early childhood through adolescence. The current major issue is the risk of famine in the Gaza strip. More than 335,000 children under the age of 5 are at high risk of severe malnutrition and preventable death.



Membership Committee

Please sign up, if you are able, for providing rides to members for services and activities on the "I Can Help" clipboards in the foyer. Thank you!

Membership is planning a new Member Ceremony for Sunday, Jan. 21st. A member orientation will be held in February for new members and those who would like to know more about UU, its history and background and how our local congregation functions. Stay tuned for more information.

Connie Hart and Jeanne Wright,
Co-Chairs, Membership



Memorial Garden Renovation



Martin Luther King Events

Inverness:

SUNDAY, Jan 14th. 4-6.

Gospel Festival

Redemption Point Assembly of God. 4201 S Pleasant Grove Road, Inverness, FL

MONDAY, Jan 15th. 9 AM

MLK Walk. Start 9 AM. To Liberty Park. (3 blocks). 45 min program

Find Wanda & other UUsers to walk together w our new banner. Wear your UU shirts if you want. I 😊

Stage events. 11-2 pm... talent, take, dance. Vendors & food trucks, register to vote etc.

Crystal River: 10 AM to 2 PM

We will have a table with brochures. They may have a program, but it has not been determined yet.

Find Don Wright & join him at the table.

We have the new banner, but would like to locate the old banner. If you know its location, let us know.



Wildlife Club

The next Wildlife Club meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists (NCUU) fellowship hall at 7633 N. Florida Ave. (RT-41), Citrus Springs, FL 34434

Our presenter will be Terri Jones, owner of the P.E.R.C.H. Sanctuary (Parrot Educational Resource Center and Habitat). She will speak on rescuing parrots and wild birds.

The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for many free wildlife handouts and information and light refreshments. There will be a door prize, raffles, and a 50/50 drawing held to benefit the NCUU. The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Wildlife Club meetings are always free and all are welcome.

For more information contact: Brenda L. Roberts - President and Founder of the Wildlife Club at 352-746-2384 or blr768@tampabay.rr.com

Wildhart Photography

The photographs on the walls of the sanctuary can be purchased with 50% of 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

Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That the Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is January 23, 2023. Late items will be included in the next newsletter.

All request entries should be sent to the email address: 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.

