



NCUU

NATURE COAST

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist (NCUU) News



Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists

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

June 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a whirlwind! And thank you for all the support! As of this writing two weeks from officially assuming the leadership of NCUU, four weeks since the voting, let me just say it's been a whirlwind! There's a time dilation to all of this, with newsletter deadline and all till you read my comments.

Lots to learn? Wow! Learning about and planning a Memorial Service, the First Fiscal Year (for me) Board of Directors meeting, Sunday Service leader, and all along with learning the UUA General Assembly protocol and running into their announcements, newsletters, credentialing and now, connecting to their Sunday Service on the 23rd of June. I can see many reasons for growing our congregation!

A warm welcome to our newest members: Henry, Roland, Alex, Fred, Robin and Sheila. Now to find you all an active place in our very busy group! It's a pleasure to have you with us.

And on to our future planning. Ahhh, if only a magic wand! And let's not just wait for our winter-time friends and members. Write it out, describe what you might like to see it do, where and what your like for NCUU. Let's dream and work together.

Hmmm, net-working! Who do you know? And, how do you tell them about us and NCUU? Let me suggest here, an education class and a networking class about Universalism and NCUU.

Till we meet again.... Chas



SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, June 2, 2024

Speaker – UU Rev Carole Yorke



Rev. Carole has been visiting us at NCUU since about 2000, and is delighted that we continue to invite her to guest preach. Now retired in Port St. Lucie with her three Pomeranians, she has served three churches in Florida. She was ordained in Plainfield NJ 25 years ago, and continues to preach occasionally, do Memorial Services and lead Bereavement Groups at the UU Fellowship of Vero Beach.

Topic: “Norbert Capek and the Flower Ceremony”

Capek’s Flower Ceremony has made a permanent difference in our faith. It has been celebrated because of Marie Capek bringing it to the U.S. in 1939. It has been celebrated in Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist churches all over the continent and the world ever since. Capek’s ritual and his strong belief in affirming and celebrating the importance of everyone lives on today - in this very service that we celebrate.

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Speaker – Dr. Jeff Nall



Dr. Jeffrey Nall is an adjunct instructor in humanities and philosophy for the University of Central Florida. He also teaches courses in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Nall publishes "Humanities in Revolt," a Substack newsletter devoted to exploring the relevance of the humanities to everyday life. For more information or to subscribe go to JeffreyNall.substack.com

Topic: The Next Mass Murderer Will Be a Man: Why It's Time for Men (and Women) to Grapple with the Toxic Effects of Male Socialization

Every week our news media runs red with the story of another mass killing. These tragic and traumatizing events have become an ordinary part of our cultural landscape and public experience. In this talk, Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D., who teaches courses in Florida Atlantic University's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program, draws on his scholarship and teaching experience to discuss the ignored gendered component of mass killings and gun violence. Dr. Nall argues that the feminist critique of patriarchal gender gives us vital insight to understanding violence and how to create a more peaceful society. A better world begins with envisioning healthier visions of manhood and masculinity.

Sunday, June 16, 2024

Speaker – Fr. Harry Coverston



Harry is a sixth generation Floridian and fourth generation educator. He is a recovering lawyer, a retired academic and currently serves as priest at an Episcopal parish in Winter Park. He earned a law degree from the University of Florida, a masters of divinity from the Episcopal seminary in Berkeley, CA and a Ph.D. in Religion, Law and Society from Florida State University. He has led an unorthodox life that included a number of extended visits to Mexico and Central America including two-week stints as first an international cease fire observer and later as an international election monitor in El Salvador with the World Council of Churches. From that life journey, he offers some insights gained along the way today.

Topic: “Responding to the Strangers at the Gate”

Immigration is a topic of intense debate in America and around the world today. It evokes deep passions and produces policies with deadly consequences. This discussion will examine the concept of borders, immigration and the history of the same within the United States. It will focus on the recent history of immigration from Latin America and why these refugees have come informed by the experiential life history of the presenter. It will conclude with questions of how Americans have responded to immigration historically and what ethical and spiritual components might inform the responses of people of faith today.

Sunday, June 23, 2024

Speaker – Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, UUA General Assembly Sunday Morning Worship



Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, MO will lead the Sunday Service at General Assembly 2024. A lifelong Unitarian Universalist from Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Rev. Molly Housh Gordon is the minister of the UU Church of Columbia, Missouri, where she is currently suing the state of Missouri for their unconstitutional abortion ban alongside 13 other multi-faith clergy co-plaintiffs. Molly is passionate about red-state UU ministry, community organizing, and mutual aid. In addition to her ministry and organizing work, Molly is a published essayist and poet completing a Doctor of Ministry in Creative Writing and Public Theology. Alongside her wonderful spouse, she is the delighted parent of two very fierce young children and one very chill old dog.

Topic: “Weaving Our Lives”

We are all tangled up together in a great web of life that is woven with beauty and hardship, love and loss, thriving and struggle. How do we tend well to the weaving so that all of us are held in care? Rev. Molly Housh Gordon will be joined by Violet Vonder Haar, Jamila Bachelder, Rev. Leon Dunkely, Rev. Eric Kaminetsky, Rev. Joan Javier-Duvall, Rev. Jordinn Nelson Long, Rev. Aaron Wisman, Rev. Sadie Lansdale, and Rev. Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan. Join us virtually for the largest annual gathering of UUs in worship. Sunday Worship will be live-streamed, Sunday, June 23, 2024.

Sunday, June 30, 2024

Speaker – Amira Sims



Amira Sims is a mother of four, college professor, spoken word artist and lifelong learner. Starting at the ripe age of 8 she began keeping a journal. Ever since she can remember she always wanted to be a teacher. Her childhood nickname was school. Even before graduating with her Master's degree in Psychology, she guest lectured at Valdosta State University. In 2003 she began teaching an array of psychology courses at the collegiate level. Many years later, in her 2019 TEDx Ocala talk she shared that one of the reasons she consistently began to speak her poetry was all thanks to one of her undergraduate college professors

who encouraged her to “keep writing, start sharing.”

Topic: “GRIT: It's like oil for your engine”

Grit is a topic that is very relevant for religious, secular, and spiritual beings. The esteemed Dr. Angela Duckworth defines grit as passion and perseverance for long term goals. Today's speaker will talk about grit in this capacity and as an important tool on life's journey. In the talk she will share a few poems as well as a quick questionnaire that helps audience members assess their own level of grit.

NCUU Board of Directors

President	Chas Anderson
Vice-President	Holly Alexander
Secretary	Kimberly Brost
Directors	Ned Davis, Carole Goodwin, John Ivens, Art Jones, Lowell Smith
Treasurer	Jean McCauley

NCUU Committees

Building	Lowell Smith
Bylaws	Open
Caring Committee	Joy Brunswick
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 Exploration	Open
Social Activities	Bonnie Anderson
Social Justice	Art Jones, Carole Goodwin
Sunday Service	Pam Ricker

Board of Directors

Our board meeting is Tuesday, June 10th 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.



Grounds Committee

Spring is here! Chas invites you to come rake, weed, mulch, prune, plant and help beautiful the church grounds. First Fridays of the month, starting March 1st, 10 AM - 12 noon.



Membership Committee

Membership has a program called "I Can Help" to offer rides too those congregants in need of transportation to doctor's appointments, etc. Volunteers can sign up for various Citrus or Marion County neighborhoods.

Jeanne Wright and Connie Hart, Co-chairs,
Membership



June 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.

Dave Koveleski

Bree Hill

Bonnie Anderson



Social Activities Committee Report

The Social Activities Committee is growing! Welcome our two new members Kimberly Brost and Fred Carkin. Because we now have five members we will be rotating at the serving counter. The kitchen can get crowded. Please place your dirty dishes in the containers on the cart. One is for dishes and the soapy one is for silverware. Thank you!

Recently, I held two Social Activities Committee meetings to go over the survey and to plan for our 2024-2025 year. A calendar will be up on the ANNOUNCEMENTS Bulletin Board for each month plus the information will be in the newsletter and announcements.

We have had a fun and busy 2023-2024 year! Just wait, we will be busier! With all the new events we have planned you will find a sign-up sheet. This is always important when planning a meal, show, or a trip that you are signing up to attend. For the next three months we will still provide Sunday refreshments and a Coffee House the last Friday of each month. We are adding to the Coffee House a Potluck Dinner from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sign up and it is free to everyone. August the Fellowship is closed. So, watch out September!!



Newsletter Deadline

Please Remember That the Deadline For The Next Newsletter Is June 23, 2024. 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.



June Share the Plate

June Share the Plate donations will go to CASA, the Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association. Their mission is to help victims of domestic violence by providing shelter, safety, intervention, and education, and to educate the community for social change. You may also donate food and other items in the box just inside the front door. However, they have a specific list because they do not have space to store other items. Food items include bottled water, white sugar, canned fruit, honey, tea bags, Spaghettios, and Gatorade. Non-food items include hair brushes, kitchen trash bags, and gallon Ziplock bags.



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



Social Justice, Equal Justice Subgroup

When the former NCUU social justice chair moved, leaving the committee' chair vacant, Art Jones accepted appointment to that position. As I understand, Art was interested in focusing on environmental and especially water issues. It was decided to create two subgroups, with Art, the committee chair, heading the environmental part, while I agreed to take responsibility for coordinating NCUU support for other activities aimed at promoting equal justice.

I have found from talking informally with NCUU members and friends and from my own experience that NCUU people are already involved in a number of diverse social justice pursuits and that some choose to concentrate their energies on particular issues. With this in mind I believe the Social Justice Committee can best serve by (1) providing information on and encouraging support for justice related issues and activities both on the larger community and the UUA level (e.g. UU The Vote, Uplift, etc.), (2) facilitating networking and information sharing among those individuals interested in particular issues, and (3) coordinating participation by NCUU as a whole in activities, such as MLK Jr. Day and LGBTQIA Pride, and others, as we have in the past. This can be done through use of the bulletin board, the monthly newsletter, and when appropriate, emails or Sunday announcements. I don't think monthly meetings are necessary, but I do think "get togethers" on a less frequent schedule would be desirable.

- Carole Goodman



New Members

Fred Carkin



I moved from New Hampshire to Florida in 1976. In New Hampshire I was General Manager for Indian Head Association for 4 years. Then moved to Florida with my partner, where we bought a place of our own. Unfortunately, 2 years later, my partner passed away suddenly from a drug overdose.

My Florida career was in the restaurant business. I worked at Jones' Restaurant as head cook and kitchen manager. From there I went to Chicken King on County Road 486 and was kitchen manager there for 25 years until I retired.

Also, from 1979 to 1989 I was the president of the Hernando Democratic Party. Other than that, I just keep myself busy...



Roland Fortin and Henry Roy



Roland Fortin (left), Henry Roy (right)

Roland Fortin

I was born on a cold February morning in Laconic, New Hampshire in 1945. I attended Dominican College in New York. In 1965 I entered the Augustinian Religious Order, where I spent 8 years as a religious brother teaching K through 12 students. I left the religious Order in 1973 and worked in child care and in retail men's clothing.

I then moved from New York to New Hampshire for a time to be near my sickly parents.

1988 is when I moved to Florida. In 1990 I opened H&R Dental Lab where I made dentures, and I retired in 2017.

As an ordained minister of the Universal Life Church since 1995, I am able to witness weddings in all 50 states.



Henry Roy

I was born in Spring Valley, NY n 1947. I worked as a dental lab tech, and met my husband in 1974. We moved to New Hampshire in 1978. There I worked as a leader of a Dental lab denture dept until 1988. When we, moved to Florida, we opened our own dental lab in Citrus Co. I retired in 2016 after triple bypass surgery.

In January of this year I had some medical issues and decided I needed some help, so I checked out a few churches and wasn't greeted by anybody, no hellos or good byes. Then I saw the ad in the local paper for Unitarian Universalists, and thought I would give them a try. I felt welcomed the moment I stepped in the door! I was greeted by Chas and Jean, and they introduced me to everyone. ,It was then that at last I found a place where I was welcomed and felt I belonged. I am proud to say I am a member of UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS.



Alex Forteau



Alex is a Citrus County native who after graduating high school joined the USAF as a Chaplain Assistant. After serving their country, I came back to raise their family. Alex believes in serving others before self, don't sweat the petty thing or pet the sweaty things, and live life to the fullest. Thank you NCUU for the opportunity in becoming a member serve something greater than me.





Robin Brumfield

My partner, Derek, and I moved to Pine Ridge in January 2020 after being snowbirds in Dunnellon for 2 winters while I was taking a sabbatical from my job as a Professor and Extension Specialist in Agricultural Economics at Rutgers University. We have three quarter horses and love the trails in Pine Ridge. I have one adult daughter, Suzanne, who lives in NJ with her husband, Max where they both grew up. I was born and grew up in the country outside of Richmond, Kentucky and went to a country Southern Baptist church. I stayed Baptist through college, graduate school, and my job as an Assistant Professor of Horticulture at Penn State. The Baptists became too conservative for me, so I joined the First Unitarian Church of Plainfield, NJ when I was expecting my daughter. When we moved to Florida in 2020, I zoomed to my church in PA and then decided to Zoom here. I enjoyed the sermons, but it was hard to hear the music and other things and I was not getting to know the people. Thank you for the beautiful music box sailboat, and the warmth extended by so many of you confirm to me that I have found my church home.

I developed my love of horses as a child when we visited my grandfather. I started taking vocational agriculture (horticulture) in high school, the first year that girls were allowed to be members of FFA and had a wonderful teacher/mentor who inspired my love of greenhouse production. I went to college at Eastern Kentucky University in my hometown and majored in agriculture and minored in business and mathematics. I went to graduate school at North Carolina State University where I received a master's and PhD in horticulture with a minor in Business and Economics. After a year back home in Kentucky, I got a job as an assistant professor in Floriculture at Penn State. My husband finished his PhD and took a job in New Jersey where I became a Professor and Extension Specialist in Agricultural Economics at Rutgers University. From 2011 until I retired last year, my passion was empowering women farmers in New Jersey, Türkiye, Guyana, Guatemala, and Nicaragua by helping them develop business plans. We moved here in January of 2020, and I was teaching online until Rutgers said I had to move back or retire, so I retired in 2023. I am still working on learning to garden in Florida.

