



**ALL FAITHS**  
UNITARIAN CONGREGATION

# CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, *where diversity is treasured.*  
A member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

## Inside

Board Notes.....	2
Sunday Service Collection Schedule.....	2
From McGregor Boulevard.....	3
<i>by Rev. CJ McGregor</i>	
Joys & Sorrows.....	3
Retraction.....	3
Ongoing Events.....	4
March Calendar.....	5
Treasurer's Report.....	6
Climate Action Team Update.....	6
Commitment Fair.....	6
Notice of Annual Meeting.....	7
Documentary on Jacques Mayol.....	7
Together on the Journey.....	8
<i>featuring Louise Close</i>	
Social Action & Outreach Update.....	8
Odyssey: Lewis Robinson.....	9
March Adult Programs.....	9
LIFE Nehemiah Action.....	9
*AF Silent & Live Auction*.....	10
Small Group Ministries Coming.....	10
Children's Program Notes.....	11
ACMA Concert Lineup for March.....	11
Roy Zimmerman Returns .....	12
March Sermons.....	12

ORDER YOUR TICKETS



## All Faiths' Silent & Live **AUCTION**

**Saturday March 10, 2018 - 5 p.m.**

*Tickets \$5 - Wine, Snacks and Fun!*

Auctioning Art, Dinners, Jewelry,  
Services, Boat Rides & More!



## Roy Zimmerman Returns - In Concert

Friday, March 16, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.

\$20 - or whatever you can pay

## Annual Elections Meeting

Sun. March 25, 2018 - 10:10 a.m.

*(pre-meeting budget & bylaws Q&A  
the previous week - March 18 at 10 a.m.)*

## LIFE Nehemiah Action

Tues. March 20, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

**at St. Columbkille Church**

*Stand up for a Children's Service Council in Lee  
County (see page ?)*

# BOARD NOTES *by Diane Cartwright, President*

The Board of Governors of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation met on Wednesday, February 21. All board members were present as were the Rev. CJ McGregor, Office Administrator Regina Kilmartin, and invited guests Lee Page and Chris Stotler.

The Annual Meeting to be held on March 25, and the Question and Answer Session held the week before, on March 18, were discussed. For the first time All Faiths will have an Annual Report reviewing the past year and including the agenda and other relevant information for the Annual Meeting.

The proposed budget of \$228,719, the proposed changes to the bylaws, and

the slate of nominees for the board elections will be published in the Annual Report and sent electronically by March 11 to members. Hard copies will be available for those who do not have access to electronic communication.

The Stewardship Report indicated a very successful return of pledges, and predicted that total pledges are likely to exceed the Stewardship Team's goal of 85 percent return. They will continue follow-up and have a final report next month.

Based on the results of the social justice survey results, where Climate Action, Racial Justice, Homelessness, and Hunger were the top four

issues, the Social Action and Outreach Committee proposed a Commitment Fair for March 4. The Committee will have tables for each of the four issues and a fifth table for community events, such as MLK parade, Pride, Earthday, etc. People will have an opportunity to learn how they can become involved in the issues of their choice.

The Board recognizes and appreciates the gifts of time and talent from Kendra Maroon and Steve Pennisi for the revitalization of the All Faiths' website. Also, we express gratitude to Kay Riegler, Kendra Maroon, Annely Hudanick, and their host of volunteers who pre-

pared food and set up for the Founders' Day celebration. The Nominating Committee, led by Carol Elrod, is also thanked for their efforts to provide an impressive slate of nominees for the board election. We recognize that All Faiths is blessed by our generous volunteers, many who perform small acts of kindness every day.

The Membership Committee reports that our membership is now 147 after receiving several new members during the last two months.

*The next meeting of the board will be March 21, Wednesday, at 3:45 p.m. All are invited to attend.*

## Mission Statement

“All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is a welcoming, caring community, seeking diversity, practicing openness, and encouraging personal and spiritual growth...”

“We are working toward a just, free, peaceful and compassionate world....”

### All Faiths Collection Schedule 2018

#### Share-the-Plate Outreach Funds

<b>March 18</b>	Lee County Homeless Coalition
<b>April 15</b>	Operation Joy
<b>May 20</b>	Standing Up for Racial Justice Fort Myers
<b>June 17</b>	Lee County Homeless Coalition
<b>July 15</b>	And Literacy For All
<b>August 19</b>	Operation Joy
<b>September 16</b>	Standing Up for Racial Justice Fort Myers
<b>October 21</b>	Operation Joy
<b>November 18</b>	Operation Joy
<b>December 16</b>	Lee County Homeless Coalition

#### Food, Clothing, and Other Collections

**McGregor Clinic** - February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16  
**Pet Shelter** - April 29, July 29, September 30, December 30  
**Mano a Mano** - December 9

#### Second Collections

**Minister's Discretionary Fund** - March 4  
**Employee Bonuses** - December 9

*The February 18 Share-the-Plate resulted in \$156.90 to And Literacy for All*

## FROM MCGREGOR BOULEVARD

by Rev. CJ McGregor



The Parkland shootings have left us feeling even less safe than before. I visited the beach recently and stayed for what is called a “Sunset Celebration.” It’s live music that begins at sunset and a large crowd gathers to listen. I remember feeling cautious and wondering if I was safe in the crowd. I wondered if someone had planned to attack. I remember feeling quite anxious and distracted from the joy of the music. I wonder if you have these feelings? At the cinema? In a restaurant? A gathering? At school?

When madness becomes our reality we are surely affected, traumatized. We are at risk of fear, causing us to withdraw, ache with anxiety, and be led by irrationality. We can also become angry, outraged, and led to protest. The troubles in our world can tear us down. I wonder if you can identify with these feelings.

I have seen some of us lash out, confused, and heartbroken. Gun control, the assault on our safety and our children have left us in a state of defense and protection on both sides of the issue. Living in this state may be fine

in the short term, but if we stay here too long our ability to truly live and our relationships deteriorate. We need to remember that our faith calls us to understanding and not attack. We do not have to “think alike to love alike.”

No matter what feelings are coming up for you or if you are struggling with someone’s opinions, I am here if you need me. We also need to watch for others who need us. Ministry is available to us all. Use it. Together we can hold each other close in these trying times.

– Blessings, CJ

## JOYS & SORROWS

*With our apologies for any omissions, here are the joys & sorrows of our members expressed in February:*

**Donna Babbitt** lost her brother. We extend our sympathy to her.

**Ernie Fierro** was hospitalized for kidney complications and has returned home. We hope that he recovers well.

**Archie Goodwin** passed away last year. We will hold a Memorial Service for him on March 25 in the afternoon.

**Jolene Jeranson** had hip surgery in Minneapolis. We hope that she has a speedy recovery.

**Carol Papke** passed away peacefully at hospice in Minneapolis. We extend our sympathy to her family and friends.

**Linda Runkle** continues her recovery at home, after kneecap surgery. We look forward to having her back with us soon.



## RETRACTION

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Part of my message in our February newsletter has caused some confusion and friction. I wrote, “I’m asking you to choose to set aside other causes, other requests for your resources and give to this congregation, knowing that you continue to build a place that will defend, occupy, and promote the values of reason, compassion, and equity that we hold so dear. Supporting this congregation beyond belief will maintain what we have already built and create a center of community that honors love not hate, comfort not judgement, that strengthens not destroys. If you support one thing, surely it would be this congregation that heals, challenges, questions, offers companionship and compassion, a way to becoming whole. Do other places you contribute to offer you this opportunity? Are they able to become the center of your personal, spiritual, justice seeking lives? Probably not. This congregation can offer that to you and is asking to be part of your conversion to humanity.” My intent was to encourage us to ask ourselves what All Faiths means to us and maybe shift our resources allowing us to increase giving to a place that gives us so much. My intent was to encourage us to stop, take stock of our commitments, and perhaps allow All Faiths to be one of the places at the center of our giving. I see now that I far exceeded my intent. I am not asking anyone to stop supporting organizations that are meaningful to them. In fact, I believe we should develop our personal ministries and part of those ministries is financial support for the causes and places we love, believe in, and are grateful for.

I also want you to know that I am willing to listen to feedback that challenges my thinking. I’m always open to hearing your thoughts. I’m here to learn on my spiritual journey and to serve you. My door, ears, and heart are always open. I appreciate those of you who offered feedback that prompted me to clarify my message.

## Ongoing Events at All Faiths

### Happy March Birthday to you!



March 1	Eileen Moran
March 2	Robert Way
March 3	Charlotte Blitt
March 4	Frankie Jennings
March 5	Jim Goodman
March 9	Barbara Constans
March 10	Lee Page
March 12	Diane Chernow
March 16	David Hicks
March 20	Greg Monk
March 21	Pat Nuding
March 21	Valerie Meacham
March 21	Chuck McGarry
March 28	Barbara Guidotti
March 28	Sally Mason

### And Coming Up...

April 1	Carol Heilsberg
April 3	Bill Snider
April 4	Joy Ellyn Ryan
April 4	Barbara Goolsby

## ALL FAITHS' SILENT & LIVE AUCTION

Saturday, March 10, 2018

5:00 p.m.

Don't miss out on the fun!



### Book Club & Brown Bag - March 12 at 12pm

Meeting on the 2nd Monday of the Month

Contacts: Diane Chernow, [dianecher@comcast.net](mailto:dianecher@comcast.net) and  
Annely Hudanick, [annelyblue@hotmail.com](mailto:annelyblue@hotmail.com)

Be prepared to give a brief talk about a book you're reading or you have read that is relevant to any kind of *discovery* - use your imagination.

### Free Inquiry Group (FIG) - March 15 - 6pm

**Guest Speaker Mary Tracy Sigman: What about Buddhism?**  
(rescheduled from January)

Contact: Sharon Gray, [geema1@yahoo.com](mailto:geema1@yahoo.com)

FIG of SW Florida is a group of humanists, rationalists, skeptics, free thinkers, atheists, and agnostics. The first segment of each FIG meeting is a social time. Second segment, tons of insightful topics and discussions.

### Meditation - Wed. at 7pm & Friday at 10:30am

Wednesday Contact: Lisa Leonhardt, [kindreds@aol.com](mailto:kindreds@aol.com)

Friday Contact: Jeanne Ezell, [jeannezell@gmail.com](mailto:jeannezell@gmail.com)

Join friends to develop your mindfulness, compassion, and sense of serenity.

### McGregor Clinic Collection - Sunday, March 18

Collection is on the third Sunday of every month.

Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, [joycelschaffer@gmail.com](mailto:joycelschaffer@gmail.com)

Please donate non-perishable foods such as cereal, peanut butter, tuna, as well as men's and women's clothing to help HIV/AIDS patients and their families. This month the clinic would appreciate CEREAL over other non-perishable foods.

### All Voices Choir Practice- Mondays at 4:45pm

Except the 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Contact: Joseph Brauer, [jodabrauer@gmail.com](mailto:jodabrauer@gmail.com)

### Solos Group Events

Contact: Annely Hudanick, [annelyblue@hotmail.com](mailto:annelyblue@hotmail.com)

Everyone is welcome to join the solos for outings and lunch w/wo a movie date. The potlucks, however, are reserved for "single" solos.

**Sat. March 03, 1pm** - Potluck at Kathleen Weber's House, 239-243-8541

**Sat. March 17, 1pm** - Lunch w/wo a movie, *Origami*,  
8911 Daniels Parkway, Fort Myers

# MARCH 2018 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



				<b>1</b> 10:30am Climate Action Team Movie, Discussion & Potluck at UUCFM	<b>2</b> 10:30am Meditation  6:30pm Visuality Potluck	<b>3</b> 1pm Solos Potluck @ Kathleen Weber's  7pm ACMA Concert <i>HomeGrown</i> Ken Crosby/Glenn Sabatka
<b>4</b> 9am & 11am Service 10:10 am Adult Ed. Forum  Social Action & Outreach Com- mittment Fair on the Deck	<b>5</b> Minister's Discretionary Fund Collection  4:45pm Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 12pm <i>Pathways</i> Loss Support  1:30pm CAT Meeting  6:30-7:30pm Yoga (Visuality)	<b>7</b>  7pm Meditation	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:30am Meditation  7pm ACMA Concert <i>Woody Russell</i> Trio - Ralph Leeseburg <i>opening</i>	<b>10</b>  5pm All Faiths Fundraiser: Silent & Live Auction \$5 Wine & Snacks
<b>11</b> 9am & 11am Service 10:10 am Adult Ed. Forum	<b>12</b> 10am Sun. Service Team Mtg.  12pm Book Club  4:45pm Choir Practice  Carpet Cleaning	<b>13</b> 12pm <i>Pathways</i> Loss Support	<b>14</b>  7pm Meditation	<b>15</b> 10 am Finance Comm. Meeting  12pm Exec. Comm. Meeting  6:30 pm FIG Meeting	<b>16</b> 10:30am Meditation  7:30 p.m. Roy Zimmerman In Concert <i>"ReZist"</i>	<b>17</b> 1pm Solos Lunch  St. Patrick's Day  7pm ACMA Concert <i>Pat Donahue,</i> <i>Mike McMillan</i> <i>opening</i>
<b>18</b> 9am & 11am Service (Share the Plate)  10:10am Budget/Bylaws Q&A  McGregor Clinic Collection	<b>19</b> 4:45pm Choir Practice  7pm <i>Lewis Robinson</i> <i>Odyssey</i>	<b>20</b> 12pm <i>Pathways</i> Loss Support  6:30 pm Nehemiah Action St. Columbkille  6-7:30 PFLAG Mtg.	<b>21</b> 3:45pm Board Meeting  7pm Meditation	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:30am Meditation	<b>24</b>  7pm ACMA Concert <i>Joe Jencks,</i> <i>Robert Bidney</i> <i>opening</i>
<b>25</b> 9am & 11am Service  10:10am Annual Meeting  1pm Archie Goodwin Memorial Service	<b>26</b> 4:45pm Choir Practice  6pm Social Action & Outreach	<b>27</b> 12pm <i>Pathways</i> Loss Support  6:30-7:30pm Yoga (Visuality)	<b>28</b>  7pm Meditation	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:30am Meditation  Passover begins at sundown	<b>31</b>  7pm ACMA Concert <i>The Rough &amp;</i> <i>Tumble,</i> <i>TerryLynn</i> <i>Melody opening</i>

See the calendar on-line: <http://www.allfaiths-uc.org>  
Updates & Corrections will be on the website in Red Print.

# CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



Your Climate Action Team is happy to report that on February 14th we submitted our application for an EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model Grant. All Faiths will be notified sometime in March if our grant has made the first cut and is under further consideration. Our application,

made as part of our Green Sanctuary effort, was put together in under six weeks. It includes the participation and support of our city government, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Gulf Coast University, the Lee Health System, and numerous organizations in the Dunbar community, including our partner, the Dr. Ann Murray Knight STARS Complex Community Forum, the Quality Life Center, the National Pan-Hellenic Council of SW Florida, the Lee County Black History Society, and the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Notification of a successful grant award decision will be made on July 31st and the grant period begins Sept. 1st, 2018 and runs to Sept 1st, 2020.

Special thanks to CAT members Ensign Cowell, Gary Robbins, Holley Rauen and Linda Bigelow for their contributions to the March 1st "Catching the Sun" film event at UUCFM. Our goal in holding such events is not only to educate the public on environmental issues, but to foster collaboration among local environmental groups. There were several co-sponsors for this screening and discussion including the Pachamama Alliance of SW Florida, the Calusa Sierra Club, the Calusa Nature Center, the League of Women Voters of Lee County, UUCFM Social Justice Committee, Audubon SWFL and the Happehatchee Center. We plan to schedule more such collaborative events in the future.

Our next CAT meeting will be on Tuesday, March 6th at 1:30 p.m. We will be making plans for future activities, including discussions of how to best celebrate Earth Day and ways to get involved in summer programs for children. Our meetings are open to all interested parties. Come share your ideas with us.

## COMMITMENT FAIR

Sponsored by the Social Action & Outreach Committee

**Sunday, March 4, 2018**

(before and after each service - on the deck)

Are you passionate about climate change, racial justice, homelessness, and hunger in our community? *You can do something about it.*

**Stop by the deck on Sunday, March 4.**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

by Sharon Gray, Treasurer

## CASH ASSETS AS OF 01-31-17 (After Payroll Deducted)

100 · Iberiabank General Fund	4,861
102 · Iberiabank Operating Reserve	43,526
103 · Raymond James Legacy Acct	31,915
105 · Pay Pal	679
107 · 2017 Capital Fund Acct.	<u>4,537</u>
Total	\$85,045

### January 2017 P&L

Income	13,149
Expense	<u>16,223</u>
Net Loss	(\$ 3,073)

There is only one month until our new budget will be in effect. We've had a few more members & friends who are taking advantage of lowering their taxable income for 2018. This is how; if you are approaching the year in which you turn 70½, or are even older, you can choose to have your donations to All Faiths Unitarian Congregation sent as a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if it is sent directly from your "broker" who is holding their IRA or 401(k)/403(b). This donation is considered a "Qualified Charitable Distribution" (QCD). These QCD's reduce your taxable income by the amount you donate, providing they are sent from your brokerage directly to All Faiths in your name. This could be very beneficial to your future tax filings.

We will be presenting the proposed budget for a Q&A session March 18th between services. The Finance Committee, the Board, our minister and I have developed a proposed preliminary new budget for 2018-2019 (which will begin April 1st, 2018). This budget does contain a 7% increase in anticipated donations and expenses. The Annual meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2018, when we hope a vote of congregational approval will be given.

Additionally, the bylaws committee has finished the proposed bylaws. A bylaws Q&A session is also being held March 18th, a week before the Annual meeting. We hope to have a vote of congregational approval during the Annual meeting March 25th.

As always, your time, talents and treasures are greatly appreciated.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING  
Election of Board Members, Officers, and  
approval of 2018-2019 Budget and  
Proposed Bylaws Changes**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018 at 10:10 A.M.  
Between Services in the Sanctuary**

Members of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting, which will be held in the sanctuary between Sunday services on March 25. Items on the agenda are:

- Highlights of Minutes from Last Year's Meeting
- Approval of the Budget for 2018-2019
- Approval of Proposed Bylaws Changes

Members may register and obtain ballots at a table outside the front door, preferably prior to the start of the meeting. Absentee ballots may be obtained on the first two Sundays in March at the All Faiths office or by emailing [office@allfaiths-uc.org](mailto:office@allfaiths-uc.org). Signed absentee ballots must be returned to All Faiths prior to the meeting and will be counted in the quorum.

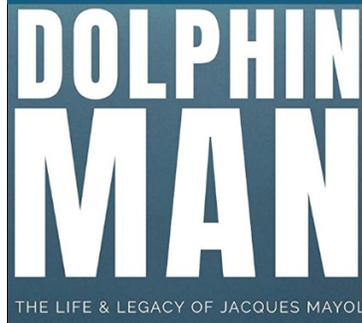
**Please mark your calendar and plan to participate.**

**NOTES: An Annual Report, including reports from various congregational leaders, the Budget, and Nominees for the Board will be distributed electronically March 11. Hard copies will be available for congregants not having an E-mail address.**

**Discussion on all items will be held between services March 18, 2018.**

**Voting will be between services March 25, 2018.**

/s/ Ed Elrod  
Secretary, Board of Directors



by Dottie Mayol

*Dolphin Man*, a documentary of Jacques Mayol's life, will have its USA premiere on March 16, 2018, in South Beach, Miami Beach, Florida. The producer from Greece and I will attend.

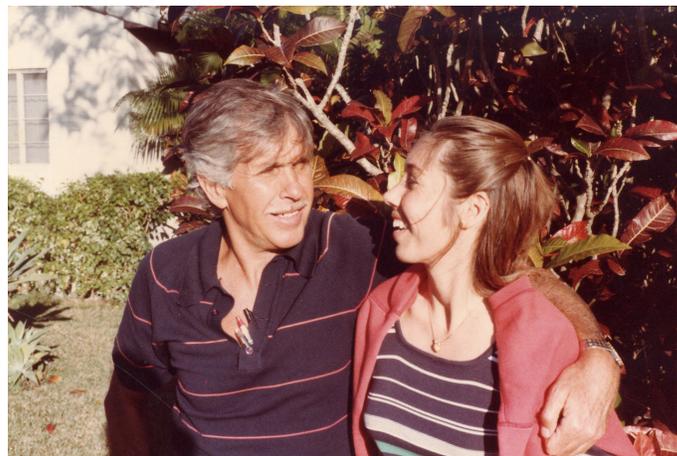
*Dolphin Man* is a co-production of Anemon, BaliBari, and Story-line Entertainment. Because it has already been shown in Japan and Europe, I have had some nice feedback. I was interviewed in my home in mid-2015 and they did not cut me out of the film!

So far I have only seen the trailer, but I can say that it will cover free-diving and free-divers of today. My father, Jacques Mayol, during part of his life, set many records in the "new" field of apnea diving. He collaborated with scientists and doctors to discover the bodily changes that occur at various depths on breathhold dives. His deepest dive, which was sanctioned and filmed, was to -105 meters (approx. 315 ft). This film will immerse the viewer into the seas of the Mediterranean, India, Japan, Bahamas, and other exotic locales.

This is a biographical movie, unlike *The Big Blue* from 1988, which was fictional and very loosely based on the record dives of two living men: Jacques Mayol and Enzo Maiorca. Neither man was happy with the way they were portrayed in that film.

With *Dolphin Man* it would be nice to know that Jacques Mayol's legacy is secured.

*Note: Free-diving, also called breathhold diving, has become an extreme sport in which some participants have lost their lives. Don't try it without proper training!*



*Jacques Mayol and daughter Dottie*

# TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

by Fran Way, Member Services

Each month the newsletter will profile an All Faiths' veteran and/or new member. This month we feature Louise Close.



## Louise "Weezie" Close Member Since November 2017

Louise, or as she prefers to be called, "Weezie," began attending All Faiths last fall after exploring other UU congregations in the area. She found that our smaller size and warmth were to her liking. "You can't sit by yourself at All Faiths!"

Born and raised in Washington, DC, Weezie is the oldest of four children. She describes her attorney father as very religious Episcopalian, who sent all of his children to a private day school outside the Washington cathedral where they attended daily chapel. Following graduation, Weezie enrolled at Wheelock, a small college in Boston, where she earned a B.S. in early childhood education. She taught preschool and kindergarten for five years before returning to Wheelock to work as an admissions officer. She later was appointed director of graduate admissions.

Weezie met her husband, Joel Matthews, on an Appalachian Club-sponsored nature trip to Quaker Bog in New Hampshire. Joel, who graduated from Clemson University, made his career with Hewlett Packard as a product manager for medical devices. The couple married in 1984 and settled in Sudbury, Massachusetts, where they raised three children.

Weezie did not establish a formal religious affiliation after high school, but when she was pregnant with her first child, she joined Trinity Episcopal Church. Her mother died just before son, Tucker, was born. As a new mother suffering the recent loss of her own mother, Weezie was horrified when the Episcopal priest said he could not baptize the baby because he could not find the name "Tucker" in the Bible. Weezie never returned to that church.

Weezie's religious search reached a crisis point when her daughter became seriously ill. Curious about the beliefs of the local UU church, she found the congregation there to be warm and supportive and the UU principles in line with her own beliefs.

The family's health crisis passed, but Weezie said, "My church has become a part of my life." She has also become active with the National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI). The NAMI education programs and support for families is incredible and life changing, she said, adding that the organization works to dispel the myth that mental illness is something shameful. She is grateful for that.

Following Joel's major heart attack, the couple decided to move to a more temperate climate, so they purchased a home on Fort Myers Beach. His sister and husband bought a home across the street. However, Joel was not ready to let go of Massachusetts. An avid fisherman, he managed to find a slip for one of their two boats on Cape Cod where they now also have a home. Two of their children still live in Massachusetts, one lives in New York, and they all "love coming back to both homes!"

When asked about goals for her membership at All Faiths, Weezie expresses regret that her location on Fort Myers Beach makes weekly Sunday trips to services difficult during high season. Whenever she can, however, she would like to help with gardening and sing in the choir. She recently told Rev. CJ that there were no UU listings in the Fort Myers Beach newspaper, so she fixed that. There is now a section in the newspaper for "Unitarian Universalist," and All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is listed!

## THE SOCIAL ACTION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE Commitment Fair and Survey Results!

by Richard Keelan

The Outreach Survey results from January 7 and January 14 are in, and the congregation has spoken:

<b>Climate Action</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Racial Justice</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Homelessness</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Hunger</b>	<b>35</b>
Education	25
LIFE	23
Green Sanctuary	22
Elderly Housing	14
Animal Ministry	10

The committee is having a Commitment Fair on Sunday, March 4, 2018, to recruit members for five Social Action Teams. These Teams will include Climate Action, Racial Justice, Homelessness, and Hunger, as well as a Community Event team, which would ensure the congregation has a presence at community events such as PrideFest, MLK Parade, Earth Day etc. A member of the committee will be a liaison to consult with each team.

This an exciting time at All Faiths! Let's make a difference!

# MARCH ADULT PROGRAMS

INCLUDING SUNDAY FORUMS

<b>March 4</b> 10:10AM	Sun.	<b>Adult Ed. Forum</b> Short Stories Series: "The Rich Boy" by F. Scott Fitzgerald AF Sanctuary
<b>March 11</b> 10:10AM	Sun.	<b>Adult Ed. Forum</b> Short Stories Series: "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment" by Nathaniel Hawthorne AF Sanctuary
<b>March 18</b> 10:10AM	Sun.	<b>Adult Ed. Forum</b> Annual Meeting Q&A Session: The proposed budget & bylaws changes will be presented prior to the May 25th annual meeting for Q&A AF Sanctuary
<b>March 25</b> 10:10AM	Sun.	<b>Annual Elections Meeting</b> No Adult Ed. Forum
<b>April 1</b> 10:10am	Sun.	<b>Adult Ed. Forum</b> "The Man that Corrupted Hadleyburg" by Mark Twain AF Sanctuary

# LIFE NEHEMIAH ACTION

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 - 6:30 P.M.

St. Columbkille, 12171 Iona Rd., Fort Myers

## Issue Updates

### Civil Citations

Over 200 children in Lee County were unnecessarily arrested in the last year. Too many of our children are branded with an arrest record for minor crimes such as loitering and trespassing. These non-violent misdemeanors qualify for something called a civil citation, which is a program to ensure children make amends for their mistakes without the stigma of a police criminal record.

Too often children with records are denied jobs, the ability to serve in our armed forces, and the ability to get college scholarships.

To address the problem we have Police Chief Diggs and Police Chief Newlan who have agreed to attend the Nehemiah Action on March 20th. We will applaud Chief Newlan for the successful civil citation program in Cape Coral and ask for some changes to improve it so all children get access. In Fort Myers, no civil citations are being issued so we will ask Chief Diggs to immediately implement a program.

### Children and Families

Lee County is a difficult place to be a child. We are significantly worse than the state average when it comes to the number of licensed childcare facilities, the high-school graduation rate, the rate of children hospitalized between ages 1-5, infant mortality, access to mental healthcare, and suicide and murder of teenagers.

As the population of children grows an additional 1,200 each year we need a response to the difficulties faced by Lee County children. Of the top 10 most populated counties in FL, 8 either have a children's service council or are currently developing one. Lee and Polk Counties are the only two who have not created such an entity.

A children's service council will allow a focused effort and an independent funding source to address the crisis. In St. Lucie County the CSC reduced infant mortality by 40%. In Broward County 600 teenagers were employed through the CSC's partnership with local companies. In Miami-Dade 94,293 students who would otherwise not have gotten healthcare were seen through public school health clinics. In Palm Beach the kindergarten readiness of their children has now surpassed 90% thanks to the CSC.

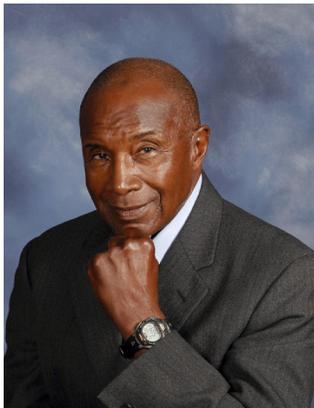
By standing up and demanding a Children's Services Council at the Nehemiah Action on March 20, Lee County can declare that our children matter and are worth fighting for.

## MARCH ODYSSEY

### Dr. Lewis Robinson

Monday, March 19, 2018

7:00 p.m.



This month Rev. CJ has scheduled an Odyssey with All Faiths' member *Lewis Robinson*. Each month Rev. CJ will host an evening program where he will "interview" the member. It will be a mix of interview, storytelling, and an intimate look at the life and story of our members.

## ALL FAITHS

# Silent & Live AUCTION

Saturday, March 10 at 5 p.m.

\$5 per person  
includes wine & light hors d'oeuvres



Gifts  
Trips  
Art  
Dinners  
Antiques  
Theatre Tickets  
and so much more!

Something for  
EVERYONE!

A Fundraiser for All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

**Auction Items Range from Artwork and Jewelry  
to Scenic Boat Rides and Dinners**

**Get your tickets for the Auction....March 10 at 5pm.**

All Faiths Auction is in high gear as items continue to come in for your bidding pleasure. Renowned local artists have donated their creative pieces; members have given gorgeous, one of a kind jewelry; cooks are donating dinners; cocktail party for 12 with music by Joseph; bakers are giving a cake a month for a year; antiques, vintage items and so much more!

Tickets only \$5.... includes beer and wine plus hors d'oeuvres and desserts by Kendra Maroon, Annely Hudanick and Joy Schaffer.

**Tickets available Sunday  
before and after both services!**

**CJ is challenging you to gather your friends and family and reserve a table of 6!**

## INTRODUCING SMALL GROUP MINISTRY AT ALL FAITHS

In March 2018 All Faiths will roll out a Small Group Ministry (SGM) program titled *Reflections*. We need volunteers to help coordinate the small group ministries. Please contact Rev. CJ if you are interested.

### What is SGM?

Small groups of 5-6 people that meet monthly in someone's home or at our building. Each group has a facilitator that will lead the group. It's an opportunity to go deeper with messages coming from our pulpit.

### What happens at SGM meetings?

Group meetings are guided by session plans that are simple and include opening words, lighting the chalice, topic discussion, reflection, and closing words.

### Where do the topics come from?

Rev. CJ picks a monthly topic related to one of his sermons for the month.

### How do I get involved?

During February we provided an insert in the order of service asking you to provide information that will help us schedule three groups that you can choose from. We are looking for people who might act as facilitators/hosts. The program begins in March 2018.

### What does SGM offer?

SGM offers a sense of community, connection to larger meaning, deeper feeling, a connection to the sacred, a place to belong, a place to hear and be heard, a place to talk about what matters most, and a place to seek meaning about life.





**Children's R.E. is held in the Robinson Room during the 9 & 11 a.m. service on the 2nd & 4th Sundays, and 11 a.m. on all other Sundays**

**March 4** - Our faith not only allows but also supports us to question, to seek answers, and to reevaluate our answers by posing new questions. To explore our fourth Unitarian Universalist Principle, a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, this session draws particularly on our fifth Source, humanist teachings that counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science. We demonstrate that the search for truth and meaning is an ongoing quest. The children learn about Clyde Tombaugh, the Unitarian Universalist man who discovered Pluto, and the decision in 2006 to change Pluto's status from planet to dwarf planet.

**March 11** - In this session, participants are introduced to the fifth Unitarian Universalist Principle, the right of conscience and the use of democratic process. We introduce Maria Cook (1779-1835), an early Universalist preacher, who responded to a trumped-up vagrancy charge by practicing passive resistance and, when jailed, preached Universalism to those who shared her incarceration. In Maria Cook, participants find a model of someone who held fast to the teachings of her conscience in the face of authority and found peaceful, dignified ways to express her views even when those around her tried to shut her down.

**March 18** - This session demonstrates how children can affirm and promote our fifth Unitarian Universalist Principle, the right of conscience and the use of democratic process. Participants will learn about our Association's leadership role in contemporary justice issues and the impact Unitarian Universalist children and adults had when they sent thousands of handmade valentines to California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to promote marriage equality.

**March 25** - In this session, participants explore the sixth Unitarian Universalist Principle, the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. They hear about Adin Ballou, a Universalist Christian pacifist who helped establish the Hope-dale Community, where members worked to create a new way of living based on the teachings of Jesus.

## **AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION**

### **March 2018 Concert Line-Up**

Concerts Start at 7pm  
\$15 General Public/\$10 ACMA Members

**Thursday - March 1 - 4:45 p.m.**  
Annie Wenz, Robert Bidney, David Hintz  
at Lovers Key State Park

**Saturday - March 3**  
HomeGrown: Ken Crosby/Glenn Sabatka  
Tom Petty Tribute

**Friday - March 9**  
Woody Russell Trio  
w. Ralph Leeseburg opening

**Saturday - March 10 - 2 p.m.**  
Mike McMillan, Millie Van Horn, Melissa Welke  
at South County Regional Library in Estero

**Saturday - March 17**  
Pat Donahue  
w. Mike McMillan opening

**Saturday - March 24**  
Joe Jencks  
w. Robert Bidney

**Saturday - March 31**  
The Rough and Tumble  
w Terry Lynn Melody opening

## **MARCH CLEANING CREW VOLUNTEERS**

Before March 04 Ed Kleinow & Joyce Ramay  
Before March 11 Doug Deininger  
Before March 18 Sharon Gray & Bill Snider  
Before March 25 Can You Fill This Spot?

**Thank you all for doing such a great job all year.  
Your donation of time is greatly appreciated.  
We need a few more volunteers.  
If you can help, please call the office 239-226-0900**

**ReZist - March 16, 2018 - 7:30pm**



**ReZist** is 90 minutes of **Roy Zimmerman's** original songs, a funny and forceful affirmation of Peace and Social Justice. "Sometimes I think satire is the most hopeful and heartfelt form of expression," says Roy, "because in calling out the world's absurdities and laughing in their face, I'm affirming the real possibility for change."

Roy's songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime, and his videos have garnered tens of millions of views. He's been profiled on NPR's "All Things Considered," and he's a featured blogger for the *Huffington Post*.

**March Sermons**  
**"Humility"**

- March 04 – **Embodiment**, by Rev. CJ McGregor  
*Music by Tropical Storm & Joseph Brauer*
- March 11 – Guest speaker, Gerri Ware, with Larry Aguilar  
*Music by Bonnie Childress on Flute*
- March 18 – **Power**, by Rev. CJ McGregor  
*Music by Joseph Brauer*
- March 25 – **Innocence and Experience**, by Rev. CJ McGregor  
*Music by Rebecca Peets & Joseph Brauer*

**All Faiths Unitarian Congregation**

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Charlotte Blitt

*Operation Joy*

Annely Hudanick

*Animal Ministry*

(seeking leader)

**Minister: Rev. CJ McGregor - Cell: 508-736-3361**

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

Deadline for the **April** Issue of *Connections*  
**March 18**

(Brief announcements may be accepted later, and will be included *if* space and time permit.)



OFFICE HOURS: 9am to 4pm, Monday thru Thurs;  
9am to 12:00pm, Friday and Sunday.  
Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin