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## Acoustic Eidolon Returns

Friday, February 15, 2019



Joe Scott and Hannah Alkire in Concert

Tickets \$20 (see details on page 7)

## Founders' Day - Celebrating 18 Years!

Sunday, February 17, 2019

\$10 Boxed Lunch - Kids Eat Free

## Pledge Drive Off to Great Start

The Stewardship Pledge Drive, which began on January 13, will wrap up on Founders' Day. Be sure to turn in your pledges by then.

After three weeks, we are at 70% of our goal!

(see details on page 3)

*The Board of Directors meeting was held on January 16, 2019.*

Welcome back snow birds! It is great to see all our friends. The more the merrier is true at All Faiths.

Returning to two services will ease our problematic parking situation. In addition, we are also parking along Poinciana Street next to the church and along the north side of Poinciana across McGregor Blvd. Park between the street and the sidewalk. Do not block the sidewalk. Also, the City has been conducting an engineering study to determine the feasibility and need for a cross walk at the corner of McGregor and Poinciana.

The board has recognized that better lighting is needed for our parking area and the sidewalk outside the church entrance to ensure the safety of those attending evening

functions. Therefore, we voted to contract with an electrician to complete lighting improvements and address other electrical issues.

As an environmental professional, I have long been aware that ecological diversity is essential for a sustainable, healthy ecosystem to survive. This concept also applies to All Faiths. Just as each organism contributes unique properties to a healthy ecosystem, each congregational member contributes in his/her unique way to the church, not just financially but also through volunteering, participating, and contributing time and talents to All Faiths' activities.

As you are aware, we are in the middle of our 2019-20 pledge drive. The Finance Committee and the board need everyone's pledges turned in quickly and no later than Founders' Day.

We established a bare bones goal budget that is about 4% higher than last year's budget and hope the pledges meet or exceed it. The final budget will be set at our next board meeting based on the level of pledge commitments. Pledges need to exceed the basic budget so we can replenish our operating reserve.

The year to date financial status of the congregation is getting better. Through nine months, our deficit (expenses exceeding revenue) is still over \$7,000, which is \$2,000 less than last month. If our current pledge commitments are exceeded (hint, hint) and our fund raisers are successful, we will narrow or eliminate the gap. If you missed our January 19th fundraiser which netted over \$1000, an auction is scheduled for March 9th. It will be a lot of fun and a great way to support All Faiths. Watch for an-

nouncements.

On February 3, we will have a special congregational meeting to vote on a change to the Bylaws. Please attend; your input to the governance of our congregation is needed.

Do you have an issue or concern about our facilities or operations at All Faiths? Bring it to the attention of the Board of Directors by contacting me or any member of the Board. We are here to serve everyone in All Faiths' congregation.

With Valentine's Day approaching, I hope you are feeling a little extra love. Share your love to help make this world a little better for everyone. Something as simple as a bigger smile to strangers can make you both feel better.

*Our next board meeting is February 20 at 3:45 pm.*

## 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 Through March 2019

### Share-the-Plate Outreach Funds - Second Sundays

**February 10** - Lee County Homeless Coalition

**March 10** - And Literacy for All

### Food, Clothing, and Other Collections

**McGregor Clinic** - February 17, March 17

**Pet Shelter** - March 31

*The January Share-the-Plate resulted in \$146 to Showing Up for Racial Justice!*



A few months ago I hired a genealogist to dig deep to trace and document my genealogy. I've known a lot about my ancestry as my family has always been curious and has done some of the research. As we've all expected, I do come from royalty!! Now if someone could just tell my husband that. It's an interesting process to learn from whence you came. Your imagination soars, stories are engrossing, and the learned realities of your forebearers evoke feelings and explanations. For example, without perpetuating a stereotype, my great grandfather was an interior designer in Montreal. Have I located the gay gene in my line? Perhaps.

As we prepare to celebrate All Faiths' eighteenth Found-

ers' Day this month, I am calling on all of us to reflect, to have conversations about our beginnings, to learn about our Unitarian and Universalist roots and history, for us to be genealogists researching who and what shaped us to become the congregation we have become.

In this time of national despair, let us dig deep to uncover promise and optimism. Let us remember who we are, what our country is at its core. Let us reflect on building the world we dream about. After all, that is why All Faiths remains a force in the community today. Our founders built a congregation they dreamt about. Our Unitarian Universalist faith instructs us to dream and to build. Our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors worked and died for religious freedom, and so we must honor and learn from our ancestry. May we all arrive home this Founders' Day to renew our covenant with one another, the free church, our community and the world.

- Blessings, CJ

### Singers Salute the Singers Success!

Many thanks to Joan Marshall, Michael Pierre, Bob Way, Donalie Benyak, Carol Heilsberg, Greg Monk, Rebecca Peets, and David Hauenstein for putting on an excellent program; and to Kendra Maroon, Annely Hudanick, Joyce Schaffer and the volunteers for providing a wonderful dinner and theater setting.

You raised just over \$1,000! Everyone take a bow!

## JOYS & SORROWS

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

**Robert Bennett** was hospitalized with cardiac problems. After surgery to place a stent in his artery, he was back to work within two weeks. We continue to send him healing thoughts and prayers.

**Mary Corrigan and Ed Kleinow** celebrated their 4<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and shared with us that their relationship started with a hug at All Faiths. We wish them many more happy years together.

**Emmie Spiller** is promoting that All Faiths adopt the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle and will be presenting the idea to our Board of Directors. We are blessed to have such a talented and committed 13 year old with us.

**Doug and Diane Cartwright** are getting settled in after moving from their house on the Orange River to join the many other All Faiths' members who live at Shell Point.

**Terri and Jeff Lazar** celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We wish them many more years of joy and happiness together.

## PLEDGE DRIVE OFF TO GREAT START

All Faiths' Stewardship Campaign, "Sustaining the Light," is well underway! Part of the campaign is the annual pledge drive, when we ask congregants to share not only their talents and time, but also their "treasure" enable the Finance Committee to plan the expenditures that will support our worship, outreach programs, and administrative costs.

The 2019-20 proposed budget has a goal of collecting \$199,696 in pledges, which would fund the majority of next year's anticipated income. The Stewardship Committee set a goal of having 100% of the 112 potential pledge units commit to support All Faiths. As of January 29, 63% of potential pledge units have responded. Those 70 units have committed to \$140,856, which is 71% of the monetary goal. Thank you to all who have pledged!

It is an admirable achievement to reach those percentages halfway through the campaign, but we haven't reached our goals. Please submit your pledge cards by Founders' Day, February 17. If you didn't receive a pledge card or a stewardship brochure, they are available in the social hall or office.



## Happening at All Faiths

*Happy February  
Birthday to you!*



Feb 3 Midge Magstadt  
Feb 7 Kendra Maroon  
Feb 8 Sheila Donovan  
Feb 14 Jolene Jeranson  
Feb 15 Linda Arthur  
Feb 17 Carol Sommer  
Feb 18 Howard Silverman  
Feb 24 Ed Elrod  
Feb 25 Richard Keelan

### *And Coming Up...*

March 1 Eileen Moran  
March 2 Robert Way  
March 3 Charlotte Blitt  
March 4 Frankie Jennings  
March 5 Jim Goodman

### **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.

**Saturday, February 2, 1pm**  
**Potluck at Kathleen Weber's Home**  
**Email: [kaweber10@gmail.com](mailto:kaweber10@gmail.com)**

**Saturday, February 16, 1pm**  
**Lunch w/wo a movie:**  
**India's Grill**  
**4724 S. Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers**

### **Book Club & Brown Bag - February 11 - Noon**

*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.

### **New Pathways Loss Support Group**

*Meeting weekly on Tuesdays at Noon*

Contact: Fran Way, [franwayrn@aol.com](mailto:franwayrn@aol.com)

Grief is a difficult journey, but you do not have to travel it alone. If you have experienced a loss in your life, you are invited to join this group where you can share, listen, make friends, and find support. Open to the general public.

### **Worldview - Wed., February 6 - 1:00pm**

*Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the Month*

Contact: Lewis Robinson, [lewrob@comcast.net](mailto:lewrob@comcast.net)

Discussion: "MEDICARE FOR ALL". Go to [www.allfaiths-uc.org](http://www.allfaiths-uc.org). Click on "Worldview Article" or check your emails on Monday.

### **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.

### **Free Inquiry Group (FIG) - February 11 - 6pm**

*FIG has a new location and schedule (see page 10)*

For meeting information contact:

<http://www.freeinquirygroup.com>, or email [johnbord@yahoo.com](mailto:johnbord@yahoo.com)

### **McGregor Clinic Collection - Sunday, February 17**

*Collection is on the 3rd Sunday of Every Month*

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

This month the clinic is in need of warm clothing, high protein and non-perishable foods.

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

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



# FEBRUARY 2019 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



<b>3</b> <b>9am</b> Service  <b>10am</b> <b>Congregational Mtg.</b>  <b>11am</b> Service & Children's RE	<b>4</b>   <b>4:45pm</b> Choir Practice	<b>5</b>  <b>12pm</b> Loss Support Gr.  <b>1:30pm</b> CAT Meeting	<b>6</b>  <b>1pm</b> Worldview w. Lewis Robinson  <b>7pm</b> Meditation	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b> <b>9:30am</b> Newcomers Orientation (Saturday)  <b>10:30am</b> Meditation	<b>2</b>  <b>1pm</b> Solos Potluck (pg. 4) <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert <i>Escaping Pavement</i> w. Ricky Baker & Jason Peters
<b>10</b> <b>9am</b> Service <b>10am</b> Adult Ed. Forum <b>11am</b> Service & Children's RE (Share the Plate)	<b>11</b> <b>10am</b> Sun. Srv. Mtg.  <b>12pm</b> Book Club  <b>4:45pm</b> Choir Practice	<b>12</b>  <b>12pm</b> Loss Support Gr.	<b>13</b>  <b>7pm</b> Meditation	<b>14</b>  <b>10:30am</b> Meditation  <b>12-2pm</b> Youth Led Computer Class	<b>15</b> <b>10:30am</b> Meditation   <b>7pm</b> Acoustic Eidolon in Concert	<b>16</b> <b>1pm</b> Solos Lunch w/wo a Movie (See pg. 4)  ACMA Concert is on Sunday
<b>17</b> <b>9am</b> Service (No Adult Ed.) <b>11am</b> Service & Children's RE New Member Recognition Founders' Day Luncheon McGregor Clinic Collection	<b>18</b> President's Day Office Closed  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert Gurf Morlix w. David Hintz opening	<b>19</b> <b>10am</b> Social Action & Outreach Mtg. <b>12pm</b> Loss Support Gr. <b>2pm</b> Finance Mtg. <b>6-7:30</b> PFLAG Mtg.	<b>20</b> <b>10 am</b> Racial Justice Meeting  <b>3:45pm</b> Board Meeting  <b>7pm</b> Meditation	<b>21</b> <b>12-2pm</b> Youth Led Computer Class  <b>2pm</b> Homeless Action Team Mtg.	<b>22</b> <b>10:30am</b> Meditation  <b>4:30pm</b> Visuality Youth Group	<b>23</b>  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert Verlon Thompson w. Mike McMillan opening
<b>24</b>  <b>9am</b> Service  <b>10am</b> Adult Ed. Forum  <b>11am</b> Service & Children's RE	<b>25</b>  <b>4:45pm</b> Choir Practice	<b>26</b>  <b>12pm</b> Loss Support Gr.  <b>5pm</b> Justice Jubilee for LIFE Network Members	<b>27</b>  <b>7pm</b> Meditation	<b>28</b>		

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 preparing to make 2019 a year of growth and accomplishment as we continue to reach out to both our congregation and to the larger community in our efforts to protect and defend the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part.

Our January 5th retreat generated a commitment to continue the efforts already underway, such as becoming a Green Sanctuary and our work in the Dunbar community to help establish a volunteer Resilience Youth Corp through an on-going training program for 8th to 12th grade students. It also inspired exciting new ideas about how we can best create awareness of and engagement in the urgent need to protect our fragile Florida environment from the impacts of both over-development and climate change. If you would like to learn more about our activities and plans please add your name to our mailing list. Each month we send out a summary of our monthly meeting along with information about important environmental activities and programs taking place locally.

Each of us, individually, must determine how we can best do our part to help counteract the effects of global warming on our environment both now and in the future. We know that our greatest impact comes when we join forces with others and work together to create the world we want for both ourselves and for future generations. Those alive today are the first humans to directly feel the impacts of climate change and the last humans who can do something about it. Scientists have been warning us for decades. They are now telling us that we must act immediately. The window of opportunity is closing. Please join with us as we try to do all we can to genuinely make a difference.

Our next meeting is at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5th, 2019 at All Faiths. It is open to anyone who wants to participate.

*"What you do makes a difference,  
and you have to decide what kind of  
difference you want to make."*

- Jane Goodall

## FRAN WAY GRANTED NATIONAL LEGACY AWARD



Fran's response when she was informed that the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) was establishing its first legacy award in her name was, "But I'm not dead, yet!" Assured that they wanted her alive to accept the first award, Fran flew to San Antonio in October where she was honored by over 700 NPWH Annual Conference attendees.

Fran's relationship with women's health began in 1960 and spanned 32 years with Planned Parenthood and 27 years with NPWH. In 1972 she established one of the country's first nurse practitioner education programs. Specializing in women's health, her program was the first to be supported by Title 10 federal funds.

In 1980 Fran was a founder and board member of WHNP. She served as president from 1988-1992. After her 1992 retirement from Planned Parenthood she continued to work with NPWH as a consultant and director of its accreditation program. The accreditation program closed in 2007 when all of the early certificate education programs had closed or had been assimilated into master's degree nursing education.

During her tenure with NPWH Fran represented the organization on a variety of task forces of nursing organizations struggling for consensus on role definition accreditation, certification and licensure of advanced practice registered nurses. A major issue for women's health NPs was pressure to compress the nurse practitioner role and eliminate the women's health specialty.

In her remarks at the Conference, Gay Johnson, CEO of NPWH said a major reason for naming their first annual legacy award for Fran was, "If it weren't for Fran digging in her heels and standing up for women's health NPs, there would be no WHNP specialty. For guiding the growth and success of NPWH, along with her extraordinary vision, passionate advocacy and outstanding commitment to the WHNP role, I am deeply honored to present her with the first Fran Way Legacy Award."

Congratulations, Fran!



## ACOUSTIC EIDOLON RETURNS

Friday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m. - \$20  
Tickets available in advance from Ed Elrod  
or Regina, or at the door.



Join *Joe Scott* and *Hannah Alkire*, as they celebrate the release of their new film, "A Tree Finds Its Voice," which is about their matched cello & guitar made from the same tree. Joe and Hannah have had 12 recordings, over 200 national and international tours, and have performed in Fort Myers 20 times, including six at All Faiths. Their music is an intricate and compelling dance of melodies, vocals, a blend of covers and originals, and a spicy mix of Rock, Celtic, Flamenco and Americana influences.

For more info, call Ed Elrod, (239) 437-8550, or click on <https://www.acousticeidolon.com/>



### SOUND SYSTEM 101

*Sunday, February 17 - 10 a.m.*

*by Ed Elrod, Sound Technician*

We really need additional people trained in running the sound system, especially for helping out in the second service and when Ed Elrod is in Indiana. You don't need a degree in electronics; just come to the sound orientation between services on February 17. Ed will give you a basic course in running the sound system, which is not as hard as it looks.

## UUA CHALICE LIGHTER CALL FOR UU CHURCH IN THE PINES

UU Church in the Pines, Weeki Wachee, Florida is celebrating its 30th anniversary by becoming more firmly planted. Plans include even more community outreach than currently possible by adding evening and weekday programs in the new central location. Members are already working with an inter-faith homeless feeding program, participating in the local domestic violence advocacy task force, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, and taking music into care facilities and schools. A church home will help the congregation become a more integral part of the community by supporting an identity as a stable faith community and serving as a hub for justice-linked services and programs.

Individual and congregational contributions to this Chalice Lighter call will be a gift to support growth at UU Church in the Pines as well as the overall growth of Unitarian Universalism across the Southern Region.

### How to contribute:

Online donations may be made via PayPal here: [www.UUPinesFL.org/Give](http://www.UUPinesFL.org/Give) (look for the "Donate" button towards the bottom of the web page; you do not need to have a PayPal account to use this method) or use PayPal to "Send Money" to [UUCHPines@gmail.com](mailto:UUCHPines@gmail.com).

Donations by check, payable to "UU Church in the Pines" with a memo "Chalice Lighters," may be mailed to UU Church in the Pines, Attn: Chalice Lighter, PO Box 1062, Brooksville, FL 34605.



*June 19-23, Spokane, WA*  
*The Power of We*

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry on the work into their own congregations and communities. Join us as we work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith.

# TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

by Fran Way and Marsha Bates, Member Services

Each month the newsletter will profile an All Faiths veteran and/or new member. This month we feature Marilyn Webber.



## Marilyn Webber Member Since September 2018

Marilyn Webber is a long-time resident of Florida and currently lives at Shell Point. She first visited All Faiths as a guest of Howard Silverman. She returned many times and became a member in October. A Quaker for many years, Marilyn finds the two religions similar in many ways. She says that Quakers believe that “God is in everyone” a concept she finds compatible with our UU principles.

Born in Detroit in the middle of the Depression, Marilyn describes an unusual childhood. When pregnant with Marilyn, her mother claims she walked “half of the way” from California to Detroit when she could no longer bear sitting in the car. Marilyn’s father had owned a silver mine in California but had it “stolen” from him. The family went suddenly from rich to poor. Alcoholism was prevalent in her father’s family. Her parents divorced soon after their relocation to Detroit and her mother was forced to go to work. Marilyn spent much of her early childhood being shuttled back and forth between her two grandparents. She says she was very much wanted by both grandparents who competed to have her. She thrived on that attention and the company of many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Marilyn graduated high school in Detroit and attended Michigan State College for two years before settling on a career. She earned a diploma in nursing, married and had three children. She was divorced when the children were 10, 12 and 14. She describes it as a difficult and turbulent time for her and the children. It was during this time that she joined a Quaker Society.

While the children were growing up she practiced hospital and then home health nursing. At age 60 she retired for a short time but after trying other jobs, she returned to nursing. She became acquainted with a long time friend’s sister who invited her to join a traveling nurses’ agency. One assignment took her to Florida and she decided to stay.

After settling in Fort Myers, Marilyn met Al, her hus-

band of 17 years, who passed away two years ago. Marilyn remarked that, after several failed marriages, “he was a keeper!” They joined the Friends Society that meets at the River Caloosa Nature Center and were married there. They later moved to Shell Point when Al began to develop balance problems and later dementia associated with Parkinson’s disease.

Marilyn enjoys painting, swimming, gardening and participating in the Shell Point choir. She is sad that lack of transportation limits her attendance at All Faiths week-day activities. She very much enjoys Sunday services and is pleased that she has found in All Faiths a compatible religious community.

## YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

### ALL FAITHS NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION

*Hosted by Rev. C.J. McGregor  
and the Membership Committee*

**Saturday, February 2, 2019**

**9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**2756 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers**

How much do you know about our All Faiths congregation? How much do you know about Unitarian Universalism? Did you know that UU congregations are self-governing, and that authority and responsibility are vested in the membership of the congregation?

At All Faiths we want our members and friends to understand what we believe in, what we strive for, and what we celebrate. We encourage every member to participate actively in their faith community.

If you are considering becoming a member, if you are a relatively new member, or if you're just curious, we invite you to come on Saturday, February 2 at 9:30 a.m. for snacks and an informative workshop that will bring you up to speed on our faith community. Visitors are welcome, too!



## FEBRUARY 2019 MESSAGES

**Two Services: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

***February Theme: Ancestry***

**Feb. 3 – Guest Speaker: Rev. Beth Miller**

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associates: Regina Kilmartin

& Diane Cartwright

**Feb. 10 – *Courage of Conviction,*  
by Rev. CJ McGregor**

Music by Joseph Brauer & The All Voices Choir

Worship Associates: Doug Cartwright & Greg Monk

*Share the Plate with Lee County Homeless Coalition*

**Feb. 17 – *Whose Are We?* by Rev. CJ McGregor**

Music by Joseph Brauer and Tova Volchek

Worship Associates: Carol Elrod & Joyce Ramay

McGregor Clinic Collection

***Founders' Day Luncheon***

**Feb. 24 – *Hoof, Wings, Paws and Fins,*  
by Annely Hudanick**

Music by Joseph Brauer & Rebecca Peets

Worship Associates: Regina Kilmartin

& Susan Meissner

## FEBRUARY ADULT ED. FORUMS

**Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

Adult Ed. Forums include three main components:

**So You Think You Hate Poetry?:** Doug Cartwright will be back by popular demand, leading discussions of famous short stories.

**Great World Religions – Christianity** – This is the next in our series and will consist of twelve DVD presentations with discussions led by Joyce Ramay.

**Social Action and Outreach** - Each of our All Faiths teams will present a forum focusing on their efforts to bring about meaningful change in the lives of others.

**Feb. 3 – No Forum** – Congregational Meeting on Bylaws Amendments

**Feb. 10 – *Christianity: Second Century & Self Definition*** – Led by Joyce Ramay

**Feb. 17 – No Forum** – Founders' Day Luncheon

**Feb. 24 – *Christianity: The Christian Story*** – Led by Joyce Ramay

## FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S RE

**Sundays During the 11 a.m. Service**

**February 3** - In Walden, Thoreau sets out a life of deliberate living that includes learning. He chose nature as an instructor. This session introduces children to the idea of learning from nature as they observe nature and transfer the knowledge they gain to their own family homes and their shared faith home.

**February 10** - This session's quote shares a passage in Hebrew scripture that provides instructions from God as to how followers should keep their faith. Not only are the people commanded to love God, but they are also commanded to ensure faith-keeping across future generations by teaching their children, by talking about their faith when at home, and by posting God's commandments "upon the doorposts."

**February 17** - Today's session is about choosing and establishing homes. Establishing a home with a mother-in-law or a friend might seem unusual. However, love and loyalty can be unpredictable. Millions of children in our country are living in homes that reflect a picture different from the mother/father/biological children nuclear family. Whatever their own family makeup, all the children in the group live in a world with increasingly diverse family structures. Affirming that families can be nurturing and strong with any structure is crucial to raising respectful and empathetic children and adults.

**February 24** - This session explores how people co-create our community homes together. The central story is an African folktale of how Hare created the first village. Instead of the word "village," this session uses "community." In the story, Hyena builds a home that is lovely, but isolated. Hare builds a home that welcomes a community of friends to make their homes nearby. Hyena throws a party to show that he can afford to provide the best of everything for his guests. Hare throws a party that involves everyone in the community providing for one another.

## ALL FAITHS' JUSTICE JUBILEE FOR NETWORK MEMBERS AND LIFE UPDATES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.*

All Faiths' Justice Ministry Network members are invited to a Justice Jubilee hosted by Regina Kilmartin, Bill Snider and Rev. CJ McGregor on Tuesday, February 26 at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the Jubilee is to help us prepare for the LIFE Rally (March 25) and finalize who will be attending the Rally and the Nehemiah Action. (April 9). Light refreshments will be served.

Below is a message and updates from LIFE staff, Chelsea Baker, on the research, what it has found about affordable housing, and how you can help

February brings with it some new understanding of the problems in Lee County...

- One out of every five families in Lee County is paying over half their income on housing.
- It would take a person 82 hours of work a week at a minimum wage job to afford the average rent for a one bedroom apartment.
- Meanwhile, 40% of housing units are sitting empty.

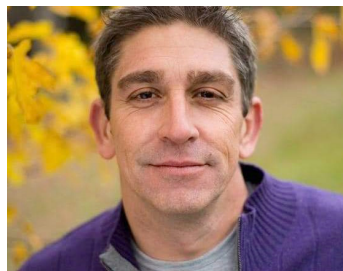
To those wanting to help move from an understanding of community problems towards definitive solutions, please consider attending one of the following research opportunities.

Property Appraiser  
Friday, February 1st  
9:00 AM-11:00 AM  
Mount Hermon Ministries (off Douglas)

Affordable Housing Committee Meeting  
Monday, February 11th  
6:00 PM  
Mount Hermon Ministries

As we move forward and prepare for the Nehemiah Action on April 9th, please do not hesitate to reach out for assistance in building and strengthening the justice ministry at your [congregation].

***LIFE for Justice - Justice for life!***



## RICHARD BLANCO CHOSEN AS UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY WARE LECTURER

Selected by President Obama as the fifth inaugural poet in U.S. history, Richard Blanco is the youngest and the first Latino, immigrant, and gay person to serve in such a role. Born in Madrid to Cuban exile parents and raised in Miami, the negotiation of cultural identity characterizes his three collections of poetry: *City of a Hundred Fires*, which received the Agnes Starrett Poetry Prize from the University of Pittsburgh Press; *Directions to The Beach of the Dead*, recipient of the Beyond Margins Award from the PEN American Center; and *Looking for The Gulf Motel*, recipient of the Paterson Poetry Prize and the Thom Gunn Award. He has also authored the memoirs *For All of Us, One Today: An Inaugural Poet's Journey* and *The Prince of Los Cocuyos: A Miami Childhood*, winner of a Lambda Literary Award. His inaugural poem "One Today" was published as a children's book, in collaboration with renowned illustrator Dav Pilkey. His latest book, *Boundaries*, a collaboration with photographer Jacob Hessler, challenges the physical and psychological dividing lines that shadow the United States. A new book of poems, *How to Love a Country*, is forthcoming from Beacon Press in April 2019. Blanco has written occasional poems for the re-opening of the U.S. Embassy in Cuba, *Freedom to Marry*, the Tech Awards of Silicon Valley, and the Boston Strong benefit concert following the Boston Marathon bombings. He is a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and has received numerous honorary doctorates. He has taught at Georgetown University, American University, and Wesleyan University. He serves as the first Education Ambassador for The Academy of American Poets.

The 2019 Ware Lecture is Friday, June 21 at 7:30 p.m. PDT at the Spokane Convention Center. General Assembly registration is required to attend the lecture in Spokane. The Ware Lecture will be streamed live on [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga).



# AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

## February 2019 Concert Line-Up

Concerts Start at 7pm

\$15 General Public/\$10 ACMA Members

[www.AmericanACMA.org](http://www.AmericanACMA.org)



### Saturday - February 2

Escaping Pavement

w. Ricky Baker & Jason Peters opening

### Saturday - February 9

Heather Pierson Trio

w. Bruce Gallant opening

### Sunday, February 17

Gurf Morlix

w. David Hintz opening

### Saturday, February 23

Verlon Thompson

w. Mike McMillan opening

## THE FREE INQUIRY GROUP HAS NEW SCHEDULE & LOCATION



FIG will meet at Riverside Community Center, 3061 E Riverside Dr, Ft. Myers, FL 33916. *NOTE: This location does not allow alcohol.*

The meetings will change to the 2nd Tuesday of the month, with the next meeting on February 11, 2019. Social half-hour @ 6:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

Guest speaker, Bill Schoolman, from The Final Exit Network will discuss the moral and ethical dimensions of the right to end life on one's own terms. What could be a greater human right and civil liberty than the ability to control one's own body and life when suffering from a horrific illness with no chance of recovery or quality of life? Bill will also talk about the importance of having a living will and medical power of attorney.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

by Sharon Gray, Treasurer

The following is the accounting of our finances through December 31, 2018. January's details were not yet finalized.

### December 2018

INCOME \$ 20,180

EXPENSES 17,793

NET GAIN \$ 2,387

### DEC. CASH ASSETS (after payroll deducted)

General Operating Funds \$ 5,547

Operating Reserves 49,595

Legacy Account 36,275

Paypal 434

Capital Fund 2017 5,695

**Total cash assets \$94,573**

### Fiscal Year 2018 to Date (9 Months)

INCOME \$157,697

EXPENSES \$164,443

NET LOSS (\$ 6,746)

The Finance Committee and Board will be finalizing the 2019/20 goal budget based on the pledges we have received. Hopefully, you have already submitted your pledge for the upcoming fiscal year which begins April 1, 2019. The Annual Meeting on March 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. will have the congregation vote on the budget. Please try to attend.

Founders' Day, February 17, marks the end of the official pledge drive, but don't let that stop you from submitting your pledge cards after that. If you've lost your pledge card, you can get one from the office 239-226-0900, or you can email your pledge to [office@allfaiths-uc.org](mailto:office@allfaiths-uc.org).

If you are over 70 ½ with an IRA, you can donate a portion or all of your required minimum distribution (RMD) for 2019 by contacting your broker or institution. Let them know you want to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA and the amount. Ask them to send a check directly to All Faiths with your name on it, or send you a check made out to All Faiths. That amount given as a QCD will NOT count as taxable income, providing you follow the instructions.

We are all stewards of All Faiths. How will you take care of our loving community?

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



# Join us for our 2nd Annual Live and Silent Auction

A great way to have fun raising money for your congregation! Last year was a huge success. Let's make this one even better - save the date!



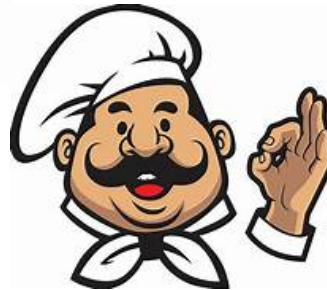
## PASTA WITH A PURPOSE

AN ITALIAN DINNER & AUCTION FOR ALL FAITHS

**Saturday, March 9**

5:30pm ~ Dinner Served  
6pm ~ Silent Auction Begins  
6:30pm ~ Live Auction Begins

**\$10** per person  
Ticket Includes:  
Lasagna or Vegetable Lasagna  
Salad ~ Garlic Bread ~ Dessert  
Wine or Beer ~ Ice Tea



### All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Phone: (239) 226-0900 Fax: (239) 278-5743

Email: [office@allfaiths-uc.org](mailto:office@allfaiths-uc.org) Website: [www.allfaiths-uc.org](http://www.allfaiths-uc.org)

**Board of Directors:** Chris Stotler, Chair; Jeanne Ezell, Vice-Chair; Sharon Gray, Treasurer;  
Ed Elrod, Secretary; Diane Cartwright, Past Chair;

**Directors:** Doug Cartwright, Barbara Gaiser, Annely Hudanick, Lisa Leonhardt, Eileen Moran.

**Staff:** Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Joseph Brauer, Music Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton; Robert Bennett, Hospitality

#### Communications

Regina Kilmartin

*Newsletter*

Regina Kilmartin

*Proofreaders*

Carol Elrod,

Joyce Ramay

*Social Media & Website*

Regina Kilmartin,

Kendra Maroon, Sharon Gray

**Adult Education Forums**

**Sunday Service Team**

Joyce Ramay

#### Member Services

*Greeters*

Fran Way

*Care and Support*

Joyce Ramay

**Finance**

Joyce Ramay

**Stewardship Committee**

Howard Silverman & Janet Falk

**Nominating Committee**

Carol Elrod

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

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

#### Sunday Services

Joyce Ramay

**Sound Technician**

Ed Elrod

**Building and Grounds**

Michael Pierre

**Social Action & Outreach**

t/b/d

*Climate Action Team*

Joan Marshall

*Heart for the Homeless*

Judy Alberda & Barbara Gaiser

*Racial Justice Team*

Rachel Spiller

*Hunger Team*

Diane Hand & Jane Broadstone

*L.I.F.E.*

Bill Snider, Regina Kilmartin,

*McGregor Clinic*

Joyce Schaffer

*Mano a Mano*

Charlotte Blitt

*Operation Joy*

Annely Hudanick

Deadline for the **February** Issue of *Connections*  
**March 21**

(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 12pm, Friday and Sunday.

Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin