



CONNECTIONS

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

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And Summer Begins



A Seashore Song

by Lenore Hetrick

The little waves of water
Ripple over the thirsting sands;
The little shafts of sunlight
Sail off to distant lands.

The little clam and seashells
Are ships of the ocean blue,
The seashells are the captains
And the clam shells are the crew.

Your Board of Directors met on May 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. All members participated via Zoom. The Executive Committee of the Board previously met on May 6, 2021 via teleconference.

The resignation of Joseph Brauer as Music Director was the focus of most of the Board activities this month. His last day will be August 1, and he will continue on a limited basis until then. The Executive Committee met to plan a course of action to fill the vacancy. At that meeting we authorized Rev. CJ to start the search process, develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cover Joseph's time between June 1 and August 1, select a search committee, and develop a selection process/procedure to be approved at the May Board meeting.

At the May Board meeting the Board approved the search process and procedures

and the MOU which will be signed by the Board and Joseph. We discussed the process and potential challenges in finding someone who can serve as music director, play the piano, sing, and direct a choir. The Board greatly appreciates all that Joseph has provided to our Congregation. His support to All Faiths goes well beyond services as Music Director. We voted to hold a recognition for Joseph in August that will allow the Board and the Congregation to express their appreciation. The specifics will be announced later by email to the Congregation.

An exit interview was held with Joseph. Chris Stotler and Ed Elrod from the Board Executive Committee and Rev. CJ participated with Joseph. This process provided valuable further understanding of the position and the challenges of his position. The insights gained from the inter-

view will help us in our search process as well as guiding our support and supervision of future hires. Joseph expressed his appreciation for All Faiths giving him a chance to grow as a musician and for the support he received from the Congregation.

Other new business included approval for Rachel to start investigating the process to form a Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) chapter at All Faiths. This involves completing an application and submitting it for review to gain UUA certification. The Board will review and approve the application before its submission to UUA.

The Board conducted its monthly review of the process to re-open Sunday services. After considerable discussion of options, we agreed to further expand the partial re-opening of services. We will continue to follow CDC

guidelines. Attendance limits will increase to 40 congregants plus staff and service participants. If you are fully vaccinated, you will not be required to wear a mask. Fully vaccinated congregants will also be permitted to sing and to laugh at Rev. CJ's jokes. Committees may meet at the church and other organizations may rent the church provided they meet the same requirements. Child and Youth Programs will continue to meet via Zoom during June.

Comments or suggestions for your Board of Directors can be emailed to All Faiths or by contacting me directly at (239) 770-0795 or gcstotler@gmail.com.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2021, via Zoom at 4:00 p.m.



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

Share-the-Plate (please write organization and amount in the memo line of your check).

June 13 The Change Program (Racial Justice Team)

July 11 Operation Joy (Back to School – Part II)

August 8 Angel Wings (Homeless Team)

Special Collections

June 20 Heart for the Homeless Team is collecting personal care items for the homeless (see page 7)

The May Share-the-Plate raised \$375 for Operation Joy - Back to School (Part I)



FROM MCGREGOR BOULEVARD

by Rev. CJ McGregor



Okay, it's time. You're going to need to ease yourself out of your cozy chair, shut off facebook, bathe, brush your teeth and hair, get dressed, wear shoes, maybe not socks, and get yourself to the Sunday service. All before 10:30 am. Sweep away your pandemic self and emerge like a majestic humpback whale (not a comment on pandemic weight gain) off the beautiful northwest coast. It probably won't be that dramatic, but how long did you think you could sit in your pajamas and watch the Sunday service? The jig is up! Make your reservation with the office!

It's time to make a plan to return to congregational life.

All Faiths needs you and you need All Faiths. The linens have been pressed, the silver has been polished, and our finest wine is up from the cellar. We have set a beautiful and bountiful table for you. Accept the invitation to return to fellowship, companionship, lifegiving services and programs. Your literal sanctuary awaits your return. Step inside and allow your spirit to be calmed and embraced. Step inside and allow your voice and soul to sing and dance. Step inside and be among family. Members, friends, all who long for comfort, justice, and compassion, come home again. Come home, taciturn seekers, and return to building a world we dream about.

Come out of the shadows of an unprecedented time. Come in! Come in! Ours is no caravan of despair. Come, yet again, come!

- *Blessings, CJ*

A NO-EXTRA-COST IMPACT

by Chris Stotler, Board Chair

Don't forget that the Burn-the-Mortgage campaign is still on-going. We want to pay off the mortgage before the balloon payment comes due in June of 2024. We have made good progress, but an increase in donations would save us money. When we make additional payments to reduce the principal, we pay less in interest; as a result, a higher percentage of our normal monthly payment goes toward principal. If you make regular monthly donations to this campaign, consider making a lump sum donation now of the amount you would have paid incrementally; this will give your contribution an even greater impact. ***The mortgage balance as of 5/31/21 is \$77,840!***

JOYS & SORROWS

With our apologies for any omissions, here are the joys & sorrows expressed by our members in May.

Susan Anthony fell and broke a rib. We hope that she has a good recovery.

Laurie Babcock lost her dear Uncle Charles Longstaff. We extend our sympathy to her and her family.

Vicky Conran's husband Bill was waiting for a liver transplant, but he learned that he has bladder cancer. We are holding them in our thoughts and prayers.

Marge DiGalbo was hospitalized for complications from kidney stones. We are glad that she is doing better now.

Bob Nuding suffered a stroke. He has memory issues and has moved to assisted living. Pat reports that he is getting good care and that he recognizes family members.

Joyce Ramay

Care and Support Coordinator

Delegates Need for UUA General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA) this year is June 23 through June 27. GA is an exciting opportunity to learn more about our Unitarian Universalist Association and the governance of our congregations. The theme is Justice, Healing and Courage, something we can surely all benefit from this year.

Our congregation is allowed three delegates to represent us in the business matters of GA. It is something that all congregational leaders should experience. You will walk away with new knowledge, a fresh vision, and enthusiasm to bring what you've learned back to All Faiths. There is an interesting article on page 9 entitled "Why Go to General Assembly?" that may inspire you to give it a whirl.

If you would like to be a delegate, you can speak to Sharon Gray or Chris Stotler about what that entails. We still need two delegates to represent All Faiths this year. Please call the office with any questions you may have, 239-226-0900.

Happening at All Faiths

*Happy June
Birthday to you!*



June 1 Peter Rasmussen
June 6 Joyce Davison
June 8 Segundo Velasquez
June 9 Twink Markytan
June 10 Michelle Gemma
June 11 Peggy JSingh
June 13 Rebecca Peets
June 14 Ed Fulker
June 15 Joyce Ramay
June 20 Elaine Leventhal
June 23 Carol Elrod
June 24 Judy Alberda
June 25 Rosalie Kuehn
June 25 Alice Schaefer
June 27 Joseph Batal
June 28 Quillen McDaigle

And Coming Up...

July 5 Jan Guardiano
July 6 Nita Veber

Solos Group Events

Saturday, June 12, 1:00 p.m.

El Gaucho Inca Restaurant
4383 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers 33966

*Don't lose track of your Solos friends.
Check your email for details.*

Contact: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

Everyone is welcome to join the Solos
for outings and lunches.

TEN O'CLOCK SCHOLAR

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/7787257501>



Our sessions for this month will focus on primal religions. A good resource is *Understanding the World's Religions* by Huston Smith.

June 9: The invention of writing was both a blessing and a curse. Do preliterate people grasp reality in ways that may not be possible for those living in literate cultures?

June 16: All Faiths is launching its new website! Member Becky Ross will share the background that influenced the new design and features of the site, followed by a full tour.

June 23: What elements within the primal religions seem most and least compatible with Unitarian Universalism? What might religious liberals learn from a deeper encounter with primal traditions?

June 30 No program

ZOOM MEETINGS

Wednesdays: Our Whole Lives (OWL) 10 a.m.
with Donalie Benyak - starting in July

Ten O'clock Scholar (on hiatus from July 7
through Aug. 31 - resumes on September 8)

Thursdays: Zoom Coffee Hour - 11:30 a.m.

Zoom Youth RE Social Gathering - 7 p.m.

Sundays: Zoom News Talk w. Guest Host - 9 a.m.




Zoom Youth Religious Education - 10:30 a.m.
(check calendar for dates)

Zoom Coffee Hour 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE

The Sunday service is streamed *live* at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, on our public Facebook page: www.facebook.com/allfaithsuc, or go to YouTube.com and search "All Faiths."

JUNE 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:30pm Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg.	2 10am Ten O'clock Scholar (Pg. 4)	3 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour 7pm Youth RE Zoom Gathering w. Chantel Rhodes	4	5
6 9:00am News Talk w. Guest Host 10:30am Service on Facebook (Youth RE) 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	7 9pm ACMA Concert (pg. 11)	8 10am Zoom Racial Equity Meeting	9 10am Ten O'clock Scholar (Pg. 4)	10 10 am Zoom Finance Mtg. 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour 7pm Youth RE Zoom Gathering w. Chantel Rhodes	11	12 1pm Solos Lunch (Pg. 4) 7pm ACMA Concert (pg. 11)
13 9:00am News Talk w. Guest Host 10:30am Service on Facebook (Youth RE) 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	14 10am Zoom Sun. Service Mtg. 12pm - Zoom Book Club 9pm ACMA Concert (pg. 11)	15 10am Membership Meeting @ All Faiths	16 10am New Website Rollout (Pg. 4) 4pm - Zoom Board Meeting	17 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour 2pm Homeless Team @ All Faiths 7pm Youth RE Zoom Gathering w. Chantel Rhodes	18	19
20 9:00am News Talk w. Guest Host 10:30am Service on Facebook (Youth RE) 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	21 7pm - Zoom Odyssey with Sharon Gray 9pm ACMA Concert (pg. 11)  Father's Day	22	23 10am Ten O'clock Scholar (Pg. 4)	24 11:30am Zoom Coffee Hour 7pm Youth RE Zoom Gathering w. Chantel Rhodes	25	26
27 9:00am News Talk w. Guest Host 10:30am Service on Facebook (No Youth RE) 11:30 Zoom Coffee w. Staff	28	29	30 No Ten O'clock Scholar Today	Summer Begins 6/20 		
Check the online calendar at: http://www.allfaithsuu.org for post-printing updates						

JUNE 2021 SUNDAY SERVICES "EMBODIMENT"

Livestreamed on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.

Recorded and available at www.allfaithsuu.org
or on our YouTube channel

In-House attendance (limited to 40 persons)
by prior reservation

June 6 – *Embodied Living*

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Lin Hart

Worship Associate – Greg Monk

June 13 – *An Embodied Faith*

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Lin Hart

Worship Associate – Susan Meissner

June 20 – *An Embodied Cause*

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Donalie Benyak & Dan Tudor

Worship Associate – Doug Cartwright

June 27 – *The Embodiment of Spiritual Practices*

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

News Talk with Guest Host - in June

9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Youth RE

10:30 a.m. on Zoom

(on hiatus July 4 - Aug. 1 - resumes on August 8)

Coffee Talk with Staff

11:30 a.m. on Zoom

CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS FOR JUNE 2021

June 6 - Alice Paul - A Quaker, feminist, suffragist and the radical women's rights organizer who transformed the Women's right-to-vote movement (because being "polite" wasn't working). Paul, along with others organized events such as the Silent Sentinels and the Woman Suffrage Procession.

June 13 - Glennon Doyle - author and activist who is the founder and president of an all-women-led organization known as 'Together Rising' that supports women, children and families that are in crisis. Doyle's organization has raised over 25 million dollars to help those in need.

June 20 - Mister Rogers - the Presbyterian minister who became known as a televangelist for toddlers. Fred Rogers dedicated his life to understanding childhood. He took that knowledge to the medium of television with his groundbreaking PBS series, "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." Mister Rogers changed the face of children's television and transformed the way we think about the inner lives of young children.

June 27 - No program.

OUR WHOLE LIVES: LIFESPAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, and improves decision making. All Faiths will offer Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula for use in both secular settings and faith communities beginning in July. The program will be facilitated by Donalie Benyak.

Interactive workshops and activities engage participants, while step-by-step instructions for facilitators help ensure success.

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health and behavior. With a holistic approach, Our Whole Lives provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Chair



One of the Climate Action Team's numerous local collaborators is Cape Coral resident Joe Bonasia who, among other activities, is the liaison to the office of Senator Rick Scott for the Citizens Climate Lobby. We'd like to share with you an excerpt from an article he wrote for the website [theinvadingsea.com](https://www.theinvadingsea.com). In it he enumerates the kinds of impacts climate change will have on our state, our health, our finances, our military, our economy...in short, on our lives. You can read the entire article at this web address: <https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2021/03/02/conservative-floridians-need-to-tell-our-u-s-senators-that-they-should-support-carbon-pricing/>

Our Republican lawmakers understand the consequences of unchecked climate change, they just need the "permission" of their constituents to take action.

By Joseph Bonasia, Citizens' Climate Lobby

What are our senators waiting for?

The Center for Climate Integrity projects that due to sea-level rise Florida will spend \$76 billion by 2040 for seawalls alone. Some municipalities are already allocating money to fortify beaches, raise infrastructure, and restore storm buffers such as mangrove forests. Miami Beach, for example, has started spending \$200 million on climate resiliency projects.

Because of changes in how FEMA will calculate flood insurance, some Florida homeowners will soon see their rates increase 5,000%. "That's not a typo," *USA Today* reports. "Five thousand percent." A 2020 fiscal analysis for Florida State Senate Bill 7016 estimated that within 80 years Florida could lose more than \$300 billion in property value due to rising sea levels and flooding. Some coastal areas will simply be too expensive to protect and will be abandoned.

Our senators know these things.

The risk of mosquito-borne disease will increase because of climate change as will deaths from increased heat. Last month, 22 health organizations including the American Lung Association, the American Public Health Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics issued "A Declaration on Climate Change and Health." They asserted that the "health impacts of climate change demand immediate action." Florida's senior population is especially vulnerable as are children 5 years and younger.

Our senators know these health effects. What are our senators waiting for?

They are waiting for you.

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Judy Alberda

Have you noticed the sign at All Faiths as you pull in the driveway from McGregor? It says, "Leave a Bike for a Homeless Adult." We hope to get our neighbors to donate used bikes. The bikes will be taken to All Souls Episcopal Church's homeless outreach program or the Triage section of the Salvation Army, for repair and distribution. If you have such a bike, we will pick it up, just call the office (239-226-0900) so arrangements can be made. Please alert your friends and neighbors of this collection.

We continue to take fruit once a week to the coffee room at the Salvation Army Homeless Day Resource Center. Our next project will be a collection of personal care items, also for Triage (see below)

We have learned that compassion, respect, hope and assistance are the appropriate responses to those experiencing the loss of permanent shelter. These are our children, our grandchildren, our cousins, our neighbors, all members of our human family. Let's hold them in our hearts.

Special Collection Sunday, June 20, 2021 Personal Care Items

Please bring personal care/hygiene items to All Faiths on Sunday, June 20 for distribution to the Triage section of the Salvation Army. Needed are things like ***small or large soaps, any size shampoo, wipes, toothpaste and toothbrushes, combs, brushes, insect repellent, ChapStick, and for both men and women, low-cut socks and general personal care items.***

THANK YOU FROM THE GARDEN TEAM



Judy Alberda and her garden team thank you for purchasing plants during the plant sale in May. Because of your generous donations, \$200 was raised. The money will be used to continue maintaining the beauty of our grounds.

LIFE

Lee Interfaith for Empowerment

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

LIFE - The Victories!

For the past year, network members from the 15 congregations that comprise Lee Interfaith for Empowerment (LIFE) have focused on two social justice areas: affordable housing and criminal justice/mental health.

After working for nearly three years on affordable housing issues, LIFE finally convinced the City Council to create an affordable housing trust fund for persons making 80 % or less than the average median income in Fort Myers. The City Attorney is drafting the ordinance.

LIFE's Criminal Justice/Mental Health Action Team was formed after the Fall Rally. They interviewed local and national officials and mental health providers to determine steps the Lee

County Sheriff's Department could take to improve the outcomes of incidents involving persons who have mental health issues. At the Nehemiah Action, Sheriff Marceno agreed to two actions. (1) Crisis intervention training will be given to his deputies, dispatchers, and other call takers; he further agreed that mental health professionals will provide that training. (2) He will establish a review process to evaluate all juvenile arrests to determine whether civil citations could have been used rather than arresting the youths. Since the Nehemiah Action, the Sheriff has provided LIFE with an outline of the approaches he will use to accomplish those goals.

These victories illustrate the importance of people power. Thank you to all who attended the LIFE events ...

particularly the Nehemiah Action. (There were 1,500 views on the night of that meeting!) These victories illustrate that the processes LIFE uses to combat injustice are effective and produce positive results.

LIFE - Funding

Most of LIFE's funds come from individual network members who are encouraged to invest in social justice. The 'returns' these 'investors' realize are the social justice victories achieved by LIFE ... and the resulting changes that make Lee County a more just place for all its citizens.

Because LIFE is not reliant on government funds, the organization remains independent and can work with local government entities to seek policy and legal changes that further social justice.

LIFE suggests that if each individual network member

would invest \$200, the organization would be fully funded for the year. Several All Faiths congregants have already contributed individually ... thank you to those who have. It is understood that not everyone can give \$200; any amount is appreciated.

You can invest in LIFE by using *CashApp*: \$LIFE-Justice, or by sending a check made out to LIFE to P.O. Box 62692 Fort Myers FL 33906.

Please be aware that an investment is not mandatory! You can be a network member ... and support LIFE's activities ... even if you do not donate.

Your All Faiths' Team Leaders (Donalie Benyak, Lana Cowell, and Marsha Bates) thank the All Faiths congregants who have attended meetings, contacted officials, and given their time and talents to make our community a better place for all.





Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All of which, or none of these versions could be true. Certainly, for some, President Lincoln's authority over the rebellious states was in question. Whatever

the reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer."

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. While many lingered to learn of this new employer to employee relationship, many left before these offers were completely off the lips of their former 'masters' - attesting to the varying conditions on the plantations and the realization of freedom. Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom. North was a logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and the challenges of establishing a heretofore non-existent status for black people in America. Recounting the memories of that great day in June of 1865 and its festivities would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territories. The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

WHY GO TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

by Beth Casebolt

Virtual UUA General Assembly, June 23-27, 2021, Circle 'Round for Justice, Healing, Courage.

I attended my first General Assembly in 1998. I had only been a member of my congregation for 2 years, and had just completed my first year as the Director of Religious Education (DRE). My congregation was small - around 50 members, 20 children and youth -

and I was working about 10 hours a week. We were over an hour's drive from any other congregations and cluster meetings didn't always work for me because of that. So a member of our congregation, who was a member of the UUA Board of Trustees, suggested that my husband and I attend General Assembly as the congregation's delegates. We checked our sched-

ules, made arrangements for grandparents to keep the kids, and said yes.

When I agreed to attend, I wasn't exactly certain why I was being encouraged to go to Rochester that June. I had grown up in the Presbyterian church and had been a delegate to the their local, state and national gatherings. So I understood the governance side of things. How exactly

would this help me in my job I wondered? But I went. Was I surprised. I was not prepared for the list of workshops on so many different topics. How to choose! So many provided me with opportunities to learn about new ideas I could use in my work. I met so many other religious educators who shared so much with me. And the exhibit hall - wow, so

(continued on page 12)

EXPLORING A CUUPS CHAPTER AT ALL FAITHS

by Rachel Spiller



Are you following an earth-based path or religion? Does your weekly routine need a bit more communion with Dame Nature? Let's explore opening a Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) chapter right here at All Faiths!

CUUPS is a covenanting group within your faith home that has meetings, rituals, education classes and celebrations for the sabbats (pagan holidays and solar cycles). You do not have to be a member of a UU church or even a pagan to join CUUPS. Many people attend CUUPS events because they feel following nature's calendar and communing with the earth is good for their mental and physical wellbeing, and some are simply curious how pagan rituals work!

All Faiths has never had a CUUPS group before, and our Board of Directors recently approved outreach within the congregation and gathering information to apply to open our own chapter of CUUPS right here on campus. Establishing such a group follows specific guidelines from CUUPS national and the UUA, including ten initial members, three of whom also need to be a member of CUUPS national, which is inexpensive and requires little. I am a member already. CUUPS leadership falls under the "grove of oaks" philosophy, where no member is more important than another, but usually has two co-chairs, a treasurer and secretary to keep paperwork and structure in order. I know a few of you are ready to get started now!

If you are curious about the "big umbrella" of paganism or the different belief paths within, keep watch for a Zoom Q&A session with some practicing pagan community members. If you are already on that path or curious to explore paganism and opening a CUUPS chapter here, please reach out to me at RLSpiller@gmail.com.

2021 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIPS FROM FEMA



Hurricane season officially begins on Monday, June 1. There are several things you can do to prepare.

Check your insurance coverage. Homeowner's and renter's insurance policies may not cover wind and water damage caused by hurricanes. Keep in mind one inch of water in your home can cause up to \$25,000 in damages. Without flood insurance most residents have to pay out of pocket or take out loans to repair and replace damaged items. Federal assistance is not always available and is not enough to get you back to your pre-disaster condition.

Contact your insurance agent to purchase a policy, in the amount of coverage you can afford, from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Coverage is available up to \$250,000 for your home and up to \$100,000 for your home's contents. For non-residential properties, you can secure coverage up to \$500,000 for the building and \$500,000 for the building contents.

Remember, there is usually a 30-day waiting period from the date of purchase until your flood insurance policy goes into effect. For those with a flood insurance policy, FEMA is extending the grace period for policy renewals from 30-days to 120 days for policies that have an expiration date between February 13, 2020, and June 15, 2020, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Visit www.floodsmart.gov to find other resources to help you prepare for the Hurricane Season.

Make a plan. Decide where you and your family will go if you need to evacuate. Decide on a meeting place if you and your family get separated. Designate an out of town contact so you can let your family know where you are and that you are safe. Make sure everyone in your family knows and understands the plan. Practice your plan.

Make a kit. Your kit should contain at minimum a gallon of water per day for each member of the family for a week, non-perishable food, a manual can opener, extra clothes, gloves, heavy shoes, cash, and extra medication and eyeglasses. Put in a hand cranked or battery powered radio and a flashlight. Don't forget extra batteries. Don't forget food, water, and medication for your pets. For more preparedness tips go to www.ready.gov/

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Balance Sheet: Cash Assets – April 2021

Iberiabank Checking	\$27,987
Iberiabank Op. Reserve	25,028
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	20,735
Raymond James Legacy	37,025
Pay Pal	35
Iberiabank Capital Fund	6,437
Total	\$117,248
Prior Month	109,534
Net Gain	\$ 7,714

April 2021 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 27,187
Operating Expense	18,178
Net Gain	\$ 9,008

Revenue/Operating Income increased in April, compared to March. We are starting off the new fiscal year in good financial position; our Balance Sheet Assets are higher at the end of April than they were one year ago. These are critical and difficult times for all of us; your generosity is appreciated!

The outstanding mortgage principal at the end of April was \$82,082.93. This is significant progress because on April 1, 2019 the mortgage principal balance was \$151,234.48! During April, \$3,550.00 of additional principal payments were made to reduce the mortgage balance. Special thanks to all congregants who assist in this important effort!

In April we submitted a loan forgiveness application to Iberiabank for the the Small Business Administration PPP loan we received last yhear. We anticipate that the loan will be forgiven and treated as a grant by the SBA.

In April, \$245.00 was collected for One Tree (Climate Action Team).



FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

JUNE'S ODYSSEY SHARON GRAY

Monday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m.

(Check your email for the Zoom link.)



Sharon Gray is a long-time member of All Faiths, and a dedicated congregant. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Sharon became All Faiths' longest reigning Treasurer. She coordinates our Animal Shelter collections and has served on many committees. Join us to learn more about Sharon. Hosted by Rev. CJ with Q&A to follow.

ACMA JUNE CONCERTS



The ACMA Facebook page is updated every Saturday with YouTube or music links from our scheduled artist for that date. Also check out new concerts outdoors at the Alliance for the Arts.

June 7 at 9 P.M.

Weekly Benefit for Harry Chapin Food Bank
featuring Bill Veach

June 12 at 7 P.M.

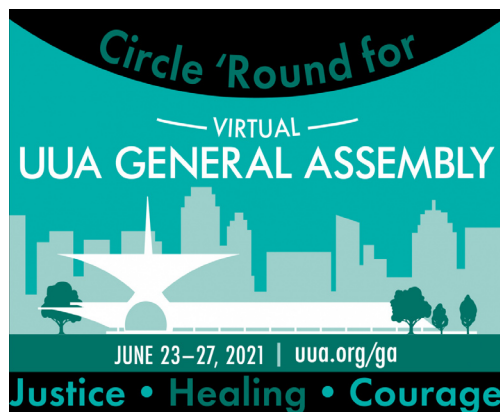
Facebook Live Concert with Tim McGeary

June 14 at 9 P.M.

Weekly Benefit for Harry Chapin Food Bank
featuring 20 Strings

June 21 at 9 P.M.

Weekly Benefit for Harry Chapin Food Bank
featuring David Hintz



many things UU! But the best part was worship. Singing with 3000 UUs. Hearing ministers preach who I had read about and studied their books. It was an amazing experience.

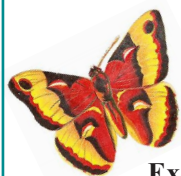
I have missed only one General Assembly since then. Over the years I have attended as a congregational delegate, a religious educator, a district staff person, a regional staff person, and then a UUA staff member. I've given workshops, participated in panels, met with colleagues, planned in-gathering ac-

tivities, and staffed booths in the exhibit hall. Most recently I've been part of the streaming team who wrangles the technology behind the scenes so that those who attend virtually are able to participate.

When I'm asked, "Should I go to General Assembly?", my answer is a resounding yes. Everyone should attend at least once for the experience. Whether in person or virtually, the benefits are many.

General Assembly 2021 will be fully virtual and registration is open. Please join us June 23-27, 2021 online. I'll be one of the many staff and volunteers making sure you are able to take part. We hope to "see" you there! Full details can be found at the UUA GA webpage.

About the Author - Beth Casebolt is the Operations Manager and Communications Consultant for the Central East Region. Prior to regionalization she served as the District Administrator for the Ohio-Meadville District, a position she held since November 2007. She is very interested in social media and website design.



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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Deadline for the **July/August** Issue of *Connections* is **June 18**

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



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