



# 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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## BOARD NOTES *by Lee Page, President*

*The Board of Directors meeting was held on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 3:45 p.m.*

Happy Summer to all, whether you've chosen to remain in the sunshine state, or have traveled north or abroad, I truly hope you enjoy these warm summer days. In that vein, I would like to thank all the participants in the Summer Solstice celebration we hosted on June 20. Special thanks to Janet Falk for bringing snacks.

At the board meeting this month we continued the work of furthering the needs and concerns of the congregation. As a follow-up to last month's request for vetted, preferred vendors that provide labor such as set up and take down for fundraising and other events, a couple of company names were suggested that are affordable and suitable for most needs. These company names and

contact information will be forwarded to committee heads and outside organizations who wish to rent our facilities.

Another issue discussed last month was asking the city to provide a crosswalk, so that those parking on the other side of McGregor could safely cross McGregor with the busy Sunday-morning traffic. A formal request will be sent to the city. There will be continued follow-up on this.

There was also a request to expand our website to provide a Members Only section that will house more than just our directory. It will also give access to the bylaws, procedures, and other informative links deemed not necessarily appropriate for visitors. The communications team has been asked to look into it.

The fair distribution of share-the-plate collections was discussed, as well. The intent is

to ensure that collections are targeted to the organizations the congregation wishes to support. A process for voting on individual organizations will be put together before our next congregational retreat in March of 2019.

Another one bites the dust on our wish list. Our new kitchen floor has been installed. It looks great and should provide many years of use for us.

Some initial calculations were reviewed demonstrating the potential growth rates of the congregation and what that means as far as facilities and programs. At first glance, it appears that we will be able to manage our current growth for the next few years without the need to move to a larger building. However, it would be wise to begin to think about a Capital Fund drive to prepare for that day. Meanwhile, a local architect has offered to review our

current building and property layout and provide feedback on what could be done to utilize our current space optimally.

Lastly, we are excited about the implementation of new web-based software that will allow us to manage the congregational records more easily and efficiently.

Let's make the most of our summers. Enjoy your time up north or wherever you may be. Your spiritual home is alive, well, and thriving.

*The next board meeting will be held on July 18, 2018, at 3:45 p.m. Members are welcome to attend.*



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### All Faiths Collection Schedule 2018

## 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...."

#### Share-the-Plate Outreach Funds

<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** - June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16  
**Pet Shelter** - July 29, September 30, December 30  
**Mano a Mano** - December 9

#### Second Collections

**Employee Bonuses** - December 9

***The June 17 Share-the-Plate resulted in \$58.60 to the Lee County Homeless Coalition.***



## FROM MCGREGOR BOULEVARD

by Rev. CJ McGregor



The perversion of law, religious texts, and morality have likely weighed on all of us recently. The optics of people being rounded up, children in cages and inhumane practices labeled as interpretation of law simply wouldn't look good when it came time to vote in November. If it were not for the upcoming elections nothing would have changed.

I was able to read Doug Cartwright's July 1 sermon.

In it he wondered what immigrants now thought of America and if it remained the opportunity for a new life for them. I've always struggled with the American dream; the ideal that every US citizen should have an equal opportunity to achieve success and prosperity through hard work, determination, and initiative. It's a farce. If you are white, male, heterosexual, able bodied, and have resources, the American dream is yours. There have been a few exceptions, but not nearly enough.

Laws have been designed to protect minorities, women, LGBTQ folks, the poor, disabled and others. These laws are useless as discrimination remains legal. Laws are technical solutions. Adaptive

change is what's needed: a change of heart, beliefs, and values. These days we feel our nation's spirit couldn't possibly nose-dive any further, yet it does.

We all have shadow selves: The part of the unconscious mind composed of repressed ideas, instincts, impulses, weaknesses, desires, perversions and embarrassing fears. This archetype is often described as the darker side of the psyche, representing the parts of ourselves that we keep hidden in the shadows. The shadow self in our nation's psyche presently prevails.

This is why we are Unitarian Universalists. We understand the shadow self and live in a way to counteract it. It is easy to feel hopeless at

the moment. But don't discount our faith and our willingness to hold on and create change. Don't discount our ability to glean goodness, good stories, and hope from a fractured world.

In his final speech, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "...as a people, I know we will get to the Promised Land." I hold these words close because they give me hope, the courage to keep on keeping on, the comfort of knowing better times are ahead. Perhaps these are the words we need to hold on to right now. Our faith, our humanity, requires this of us.

Hope and resistance. There is more love, more peace, somewhere. I'm going to keep on until I find it.

- Blessings, CJ

## JOYS & SORROWS

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

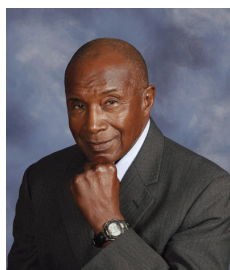
**Regina Kilmartin** shared the good news that her father's World War II artifacts are now part of the permanent collection at the Saratoga, New York, World War II Museum. We appreciate his brave service from 1941 to 1945.

**Rev. CJ McGregor** has been our minister and beloved member of our All Faiths family for over a year. He will be on his summer study leave. We hope he enjoys his stay at Oxford, and we look forward to his return in August.

**Rachel Spiller** suffered the loss of one of her dearest friends, Matt Johnson. We extend our deepest sympathy to her.

## WORLDVIEW with Dr. Lewis Robinson

**Wednesdays at 1 pm Starting in September**



Beginning September 5, 2018, a weekly adult program will begin. Every Wednesday at 1:00 pm Lewis Robinson will facilitate a discussion group engaging local, national, and global social and political issues.

The issues that will be discussed will be advertised in the *What's Happening* weekly eblast. Lewis has much to teach us and will increase our awareness and understanding of the issues we care about as Unitarian Universalists.

## Ongoing Events at All Faiths

### *Happy July Birthday to you!*



July 5	Jan Guardiano
July 7	Regina Kilmartin
July 10	Jean Hany
July 13	Nathalie Hahn
July 19	Joe Gayton
July 19	Vivian Sawaya
July 22	Terri Lazar
July 22	David Donovan
July 24	Robert Bennett
July 29	Mary Corrigan
July 30	Doug Cartwright
July 31	Dawna Lieber
July 31	Bob DiGalbo

### *Happy August Birthday to you!*

August 7	Joyce Reischuck
August 8	Kay Riegler
August 12	Joan Marshall
August 13	Wayne Robinson
August 16	Glenn Camp
August 17	Patricia (Pat) Fish
August 24	Nancy Lou Bright

### **Solos Group Events**

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

**Sat. July 7, 1pm** - Potluck at  
Nathalie Hahn's, 239-415-2987

**Sat. July 21, 1pm** - Lunch w/wo  
a movie, Pizza 2000, 7101 Cypress  
Lake Dr., Ste 61, Ft. Myers 33907

**Check your emails for August Events**

### **Book Club & Brown Bag - July 9 at 12pm and August 13 at 12 pm**

*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.

### **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.

### **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) - July 19 at 6pm and August 16 at 6pm**

**July:** Center For Inquiry speaker, Bertha Vasquez, from  
Teachers' Institute of Evolutionary Science: How Richard  
Dawkins and one science teacher are making a difference.

**August:** The Deception Game by Stanislav Milov

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

The first segment of each FIG meeting is a social time. Second  
segment, tons of insightful topics and discussions.

### **McGregor Clinic Collection - Sunday, July 15 and August 19**

*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 new men's underwear.

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

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

# July 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  <b>10:30am</b> Service <b>9:30 am</b> No Adult Ed. Forum	<b>2</b>  	<b>3</b>  <b>12pm</b> Loss Support Gr.	<b>4</b>   <b>4TH OF JULY</b>  Office Closed	<b>5</b>  	<b>6</b> <b>10:30am</b> Meditation  <b>2pm</b> Racial Justice Team Mtg.	<b>7</b>  <b>1pm</b> Solos Potluck @ Nathalie Hahn's
<b>8</b>  <b>10:30am</b> Service <b>9:30 am</b> Adult Ed. Forum	<b>9</b>  <b>12pm</b> Book Club	<b>10</b>  <b>12pm</b> Loss Support Gr.  <b>1:30pm</b> Climate Action Team	<b>11</b>  <b>6pm</b> Choir Practice  <b>7pm</b> Meditation	<b>12</b>  <b>10am</b> Finance Comm. Meeting  <b>12pm</b> Exec. Comm. Meeting	<b>13</b> <b>10:30am</b> Meditation  <b>6:30-10:30pm</b> Visuality Event (Check their website)	<b>14</b> <b>2 pm</b> City Council Ward 4 Debate  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert <i>Fl. Food Initia- tive Benefit</i>
<b>15</b>  <b>10:30am</b> Service (Share the Plate) <b>9:30 am</b> Adult Ed. Forum  McGregor Clinic Collection	<b>16</b>  	<b>17</b>  <b>12pm</b> Loss Support Gr.  <b>6-7:30</b> PFLAG Mtg.	<b>18</b>  <b>3:45pm</b> Board Meeting  <b>6pm</b> Choir Practice  <b>7pm</b> Meditation	<b>19</b>  <b>2pm</b> Homeless Action Team Mtg.  <b>6:30 pm</b> FIG Meeting	<b>20</b> <b>10:30am</b> Meditation	<b>21</b>  <b>1pm</b> Solos Lunch w/wo a Movie  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert <i>HomeGrown</i>
<b>22</b>  <b>10:30am</b> Service & Children's RE <b>9:30 am</b> Adult Ed. Forum	<b>23</b>  	<b>24</b>  <b>12pm</b> Loss Support Gr.	<b>25</b>  <b>6pm</b> Choir Practice  <b>7pm</b> Meditation	<b>26</b>  	<b>27</b> <b>10:30am</b> Meditation  <b>4:30pm</b> Visuality Youth Group	<b>28</b>  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert <i>Mean Mary w. Millie Van Oroz opening</i>
<b>29</b>  <b>10:30am</b> Service <b>9:30 am</b> Adult Ed. Forum  Animal Shelter Collection	<b>30</b>  <b>6pm</b> Social Action & Outreach	<b>31</b>  <b>12pm</b> Loss Support Gr.	<b>Happy Independence Day!</b>			

Check the online calendar at: <http://www.allfaiths-uc.org>  
for post-printing updates

# AUGUST 2018 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  7pm Meditation	2	3 10:30am Meditation  2pm Racial Justice Team Mtg.	4 1pm Solos Potluck t/b/a  7pm ACMA Concert Sally Barris
			8  7pm Meditation	9 10am Finance Comm. Meeting  12pm Exec. Comm. Meeting	10 10:30am Meditation	11  2 pm Ward 4 Debate  7pm ACMA Benefit Show for All Faiths
5 10:30am Service 9:30 am Adult Ed. Forum	6  4:45pm Choir Practice	7 12pm Loss Support Gr.  130pm Climate Action Team Mtg .	15 3:45pm Board Meeting  7pm Meditation	16 2pm Homeless Action Team Mtg.  6:30 pm FIG Meeting	17 10:30am Meditation	18  1pm Solos Lunch w/wo a Movie
12 10:30am Service & Children's RE 9:30 am Adult Ed. Forum	13 10pm Sun. Services Team Mtg .  12pm Book Club  4:45pm Choir Practice	14 12pm Loss Support Gr.	22  7pm Meditation	23	24 10:30am Meditation  4:30pm Visuality Youth Group	25  7pm ACMA Concert Dana Cooper
19 10:30am Service (Share the Plate) 9:30 am Adult Ed. Forum  McGregor Clinic Collection	20  4:45pm Choir Practice	21 12pm Loss Support Gr.  6-7:30 PFLAG Mtg.	29  7pm Meditation	30	31 10:30am Meditation	
26 10:30am Service 9:30 am Adult Ed. Forum	27 4:45pm Choir Practice  6pm Social Action & Outreach	28 12pm Loss Support Gr.				

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## CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



Your Climate Action Team is currently focusing on two important environmental issues here in Lee County....land conservation and pollution from single-use plastics. At the Adult Education Forum on Sunday, July 15th we'll be hosting a guest speaker, Jason Boeckman, a coordinator for the Lee County Conservation

20/20 Program, who will answer our questions about the current status and future plans for the program.

Also on July 15th, our Green Sanctuary team will introduce our new All Faiths' reusable water bottles. Single-use plastic water bottles are polluting our waterways and oceans in staggering numbers. We encourage everyone to step up to the challenge of carrying your own water bottle with you and to developing new ways to practice self-sufficiency in order to halt the proliferation of single-use plastics. Let's get into the habit of bringing our own shopping bags when we shop and our own water bottles and utensils when we're away from home.

Regarding 20/20, this land conservation program came into being as a result of a 1996 non-binding referendum passed by the majority of Lee County voters to fund the purchase of environmentally sensitive land through an ad valorem property tax. This special tax was continued on an annual basis by the Board of County Commissioners and was held in a trust fund for 20/20 purposes. However, with the impact of the Great Recession in 2008, the Board decided those taxes were needed to help cover other county expenditures and they were absorbed into the General Fund. So the Conservation 20/20 fund is now totally dependent upon the allocations of the Board when it falls below its minimum required level of funding.

In a second referendum in 2016, which did not include any funding provisions, the Conservation 20/20 program garnered an overwhelming 83% approval from Lee County voters. Yet there is great concern that the current level of proposed general funding for 20/20 will prove inadequate and raises questions about the future acquisition of conservation land in an era of booming development.

Come hear more about this program on July 15th and add your name to a letter of support for 20/20 from the All Faiths Congregation to each of the Commissioners.

The Climate Action Team is reaching out to other environmental organizations in our area to join in an effort to reduce or even ban the use of plastic straws in Fort Myers. Fort Myers Beach has already instituted such a ban as has the city of Seattle. Check out this website <http://www.ecowatch.com/beat-plastic-pollution-2573622594.html> for more information about this growing

movement of individuals, municipalities, counties and major corporations who are pledging to eliminate single-use plastics.

We urge each of you to learn more about how you can become part of the solution to problems caused by our modern industrialized way of life. Be a part of the ever-expanding movement to learn to live sustainably on this precious planet we call home. Come join us at our next CAT meeting at 1:30 p.m. on July 10th.

## ALL FAITHS' HUNGER TEAM

Off to a Good Start

by Kendra Maroon



Members of All Faiths' Hunger Team visit the Harry Chapin Food Bank. (From the left) **Kendra Maroon, Emmie Spiller, Rachel Spiller, Diane Chernow, Jeannine Martin, Jane Broadstone, Diane Hand, and Jose Vilas.**

All Faiths' newly formed Hunger Team is being co-chaired by *Diane Hand* and *Jane Broadstone*. The team had a tour of the Harry Chapin Food Bank of SWFL. It was very informative and all team members in attendance really got to see what went into distributing food to resources over several counties.

We learned about the elderly and youth populations in our county and how so many people have to choose between buying food or paying their rent, electricity, and medications.

Several ideas were thrown around as to what the team could do to educate the congregation at All Faiths about hunger in our county. The Hunger Team also voted to develop Harry Chapin's Super Star fundraising and education program.

# 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 The Spiller family and Judy Kay.*

## **The Spiller Family Member Since March 2018**



*The Spillers: Emmie, Rachel, Nova & Patrick*

Rachel and Patrick Spiller were born and raised in neighboring rural communities in Alabama, but did not meet until they were adults. Because Patrick's career as a health care consultant led to many changes of residence, the senior Spillers's two daughters, Emmie and Nova, have been home-schooled, and part of their education was travel.

When daughter Nova was six months old, the family began to seriously consider leaving their rural community. "I wanted to run a contest entitled 'Convince me to move to your town!'" Rachel said. There turned out to be no need for the contest as the mother of one of Rachel's college friends had moved to Ft. Myers and persuaded the Spillers to try it out. They arrived in Ft. Myers in 2013, and ultimately bought a home. Pleased with their choice, Rachel said. "Ft. Myers has many of the qualities of a small town but with more to do!"

Rachel, an only child, has fond memories of her Greek father at home, cooking lamb. Following graduation from high school, she studied law enforcement at Loyola University in New Orleans. She returned to her community and worked in law enforcement, ultimately achieving the rank of Sergeant. She describes herself as a non-theist pagan.

Patrick was raised with one sister and describes their upbringing as "straight Southern Baptist/Pentecostal." He played in the church band. As an adult, he fell away from

his traditional religious roots and now describes himself as an atheist. He earned a college degree from Mississippi State and says he still misses the football.

The Spillers are raising two very special children who are deeply involved in the family's social -justice activities. Emmie was awarded a scholarship from The American Humanist Association for her objection to the prayer requirement in the Virtual School Curriculum which was being used in public schools.

Emmie's talents extend to theatre and film arts, and she has been acting since age three. Currently, she has begun rehearsal as a female lead in "The Evil Dead." She recently won a regional film-acting competition and was to leave in June for Los Angeles. Emmie has already demonstrated her considerable skills at All Faiths when she served as our youngest-ever worship associate on Mother's Day.

Rachel has served on the board of directors for several non-profit organizations, including a UU congregation. When asked what attracted the family to All Faiths, Rachel recalls their first visit when they were greeted by Richard Keelan. "I was impressed that he valued my opinion, that I was heard. I felt the support in the air. It is an actual community. You put your talk into action. As small as All Faiths is, it is highly visible." After attending the newcomer orientation, the whole family continued to examine us carefully by attending services, with Nova and Emmie enrolled in our children's RE program. "It was actually Emmie who picked you!," Rachel said.



## **Judy Kay Member Since February 2018**

Judy Kay's geographic journey to Fort Myers has been a circuitous one. She was born in West Palm Beach, Florida but from age 5, she lived outside New York City on Long Island (Queens Borough). She loved the City. Some of her favorite memories are the many

Radio City Music Hall events she enjoyed; Judy and her family attended each time the venue changed shows. Judy graduated from a Massachusetts high school (she described it as a 'finishing school') and, at age 16, started her college career at Valparaiso University, a Lutheran college located in Indiana.

*(continued on page 9)*



For much of her adult life, Judy lived in Illinois (Rockford for 20 years; Peoria for 15 years). When her daughter started her family, Judy moved to Oregon to be near her grandchildren. She lived there for 20 years, helping her daughter raise three sons. (Judy also has one granddaughter who lives in a different state.) All Faiths is fortunate that Judy, who joined the church earlier this spring, had Facebook friends and relatives who kept posting wonderful things about Florida, enticing her to visit the west coast of the Sunshine State. For about 10 years, she had a condo which she rented to snowbirds in the winter and which she herself used for a week or so of R&R each year. By deciding to spend her retirement years in Florida, Judy has come full circle...returning to the state where she was born.

While living in Rockford and raising three children (two sons, one daughter), Judy earned a degree in Child Development. Because teaching jobs were scarce when she graduated, Judy completed a two-month real estate course and was a realtor until 1984 when a downturn in the real estate market occurred. After leaving real estate, she bought a floundering health club in Peoria, turned it into a successful enterprise, and managed it until she moved to Oregon. In Oregon, Judy re-entered the real estate business, having her last closing one week before moving to Fort Myers in August 2017!

Her journey to Unitarian Universalism was also convoluted. Judy's German father was a Christian Scientist; her Italian mother described herself as a "wayward Catholic." Judy was unchurched until she became curious about the Lutheran Church which she passed each day when walking to and from her junior high school. She started attending, and was confirmed and baptized at age 14. Her Lutheran experience influenced her choice of colleges. Over the years, Judy became disenchanted with the Christian religion. She gravitated toward Unitarian-Universalism, at first attracted by our non-Trinitarian philosophy, then feeling grateful that she had found a place where her atheist beliefs were accepted and respected.

Judy was active in her Oregon UU church, holding many committee positions and serving as president of the board for a year. She finds the warmth of the All Faiths congregation appealing and is looking for connections with similar-minded people. Already Judy has joined the team of greeters who welcome attendees each week.

Judy enjoys bridge (she competes in duplicate bridge tournaments), politics, walking on the beach, and reading. When you see Judy, ask her about her many travels to far-flung places in the world. She can tell you lots of stories!

## WE'VE GOT A LONG, LONG WAY TO GO

by Regina Kilmartin,  
Congregational Administrator



On July 23 I will celebrate my ninth year of employment at All Faiths. When I first got the job as office manager, I always felt that there was a little fate involved. I still believe that today. I have to admit that I did not know a lot about Unitarian Universalism. I was raised Roman Catholic, which didn't leave much room for exploring other religions.

I went home after my interview and Googled it. I was surprised to learn that there was a religion that believed in what I believed in. Turns out that I had been living the seven principles for most of my life. This was confirmed when I took an online quiz that tells you what religion best suits you. Sure enough, my results came back 99% Unitarian Universalist – and 1% Quaker! I was hired, and my new spiritual journey had begun.

I felt like I needed All Faiths in my life back in 2009. Today, I need All Faiths more than ever. The world seems very grim lately. I sometimes feel like I'm having an out-of-body experience when I listen to the news. I was shocked to my core after the 2016 election. I couldn't find words to express what I was feeling. I just felt numb and sick inside. That feeling has never left me. In fact, it gets worse with every passing day and new development taking place in our country. It makes me wonder how people cope who don't have an All Faiths in their life.

All Faiths gives me hope. It is the people who gather here to worship, be in community, and work for justice, that give me hope. Here, every Sunday, I find enough goodness and love to get me through the week. Everything we all need to get through the week is right here. It seems like we've got a long, long way to go, but I know now, after nine years of witness, we will never give up on the things that truly matter. At All Faiths, we will never give up on working toward a just, free, peaceful and compassionate world. For that, I am grateful.

"We must accept finite disappointment,  
but never lose infinite hope."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

## JULY SERMONS

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Hymns led by the All Voices Choir

- July 01 – ***Building a New Way***  
by Doug Cartwright  
Worship Associate, Diane Cartwright  
Music by Joseph Brauer & Bob Way
- July 08 – ***Filled with Loving Kindness***  
by Jeanne Ezell  
Worship Associate, Lee Page  
Music by Joseph Brauer
- July 15 – ***Blue Boat Home***  
by Ed Kleinow  
Worship Associate, Joyce Ramay  
Music by Joseph Brauer & Joan Marshall
- July 22 – ***There is a Balm in Gilead***  
by Lewis Robinson  
Worship Associate, Richard Keelan  
Music by Joseph Brauer & Rebecca Peets
- July 29 – ***The Oneness of Everything***  
by David Hauenstein  
Worship Associate, Regina Kilmartin  
Music by Joseph Brauer & Bill Metts

## AUGUST SERMONS

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Hymns led by the All Voices Choir

- August 05 - ***Freedom is Coming***  
by Joyce Ramay  
Worship Associate, Regina Kilmartin  
Music by Joseph Brauer & Bill Metts
- August 12 - ***Genetics and Spirituality***  
by Rev. CJ McGregor
- August 19 - ***Fish Love***  
by Rev. CJ McGregor
- August 26 - ***Seek, Seekers, Seeking***  
by Rev. CJ McGregor

## ADULT EDUCATION FORUMS

Great World Religions – Buddhism

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

*Discussions led by Joyce Ramay*

- July 01 **No Forum** – Independence Lunch
- July 08 **Buddhism:** Lecture 11 – Buddhism in China
- July 15 **Climate Action Team Forum,**  
led by Karen Grabia and Linda Bigelow
- July 22 **Buddhism:** Lecture 12 – Buddhism in Japan
- July 29 **Judaism:** Lecture 1 – What is Judaism?
- August 05 **Racial Justice Team Forum,**  
led by Rachel Spiller
- August 12 **Judaism:** Lecture 2 – The Stages of History
- August 19 **Judaism:** Lecture 3 – The Jewish Library
- August 26 **Judaism:** Lecture 4 – The Emergence of  
Rabbinic Judaism

Sept. 02 – **No Forum** – Labor Day Lunch

## CHILDREN'S R.E. NOTES

Held in the Robinson Room at 10:45

*There will be no R.E. during the month of July*

**August 5** - This session's intangible gift is "invitation." Children explore multiple ways to communicate that someone is invited. The story focuses on the Jewish custom of welcoming Elijah with a place at the Seder table and an open door at Passover.

**August 12** - People are social animals, and relating to others affirms both our and others' inherent dignity and self-worth. This session introduces the intangible gift of friendship and gives participants ways to show they appreciate their friends. The children learn that having friends and being a friend are an important part of who we are.

**August 19** - The children will learn that when we help people, we affirm our seventh Principle, the interdependent web of all existence. We are all connected — to each other, to animals and to the Earth. Helping also affirms our first Principle, that each person is important, including people we may never meet, and our second Principle, that we work for peace and justice in our world.

**August 26** - The children will explore what it means to share in our families. What do we share, and how? What do we give one another that is tangible and what do we give one another that is not?

## TREASURER'S REPORT

by Sharon Gray, Treasurer

### May P&L

Income	11,928
Expenses	<u>18,141</u>
<b>Loss</b>	<b>(\$ 6,201)</b>

### Cash Assets (after payroll deducted)

Operating Fund	\$12,008
Operating Reserve	64,550
Legacy Account	31,921
Paypal	603
Capital Account	<u>5,453</u>
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>\$114,535</b>

Thank you to Ed Kleinow and Jeff Moran for completing our annual Financial Review, and to Susan Anthony for closing out the last fiscal year's books. A final report has been submitted to the Finance Committee. The review was done following the UUA "Internal Financial Review Guidelines" to assure our systems, processes and documentation meet standards of accounting and proper financial operating procedures. With pleasure we can announce the report's findings were favorable. There will be minor policy tweaks to reflect our current procedures.

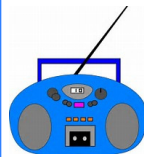
Our refinancing of the building's mortgage was noted and reflected the seven-year balloon mortgage balance as of March 31, 2018, as \$162,378. Susan Anthony and Regina, our bookkeeper and congregational administrator, will clean up the QuickBooks chart of accounts, and the new Breeze software that has been acquired will make donation tracking much easier.

Have your eyes glazed over, yet?

In addition, the Finance Committee has been reorganized. Some members have resigned after being elected to the Board, or left due to health reasons. The chairperson, Joyce Ramay, has invited two members, Bill Snider and Susan Anthony, to join the committee, and both graciously agreed.

Thank you, Doug Cartwright, Bill Benyak and Chris Stotler for your service on the Finance Committee.

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



## Shell Point Radio

Be sure to check out stories from three All Faithers on David Hauenstein's Listening to the Words:

Program 308 - The Greyhound that Raced on McGregor Boulevard, by Annely Hudanick

Program 309 - Letting Go (sermon excerpt) by Rev. CJ McGregor

Program 310 - Silent Sounds, by Joy Ellyn Ryan

Programs can be found on *David's Listening to the Words Program* at [shellpoint.net/listening](http://shellpoint.net/listening).



## AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

### July/August 2018 Concert Line-Up

Concerts Start at 7pm

\$15 General Public/\$10 ACMA Members

#### **Saturday - July 21**

Florida Music Food Initiative

#### **Saturday - July 28**

Mean Mary,  
w. Millie Van Horn opening

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#### **Saturday - August 4**

Sally Barris,  
w. Dan Philgreen opening

#### **Saturday - August 11**

Singer/Songwriter Circle Showcase

#### **Saturday - August 25**

Dana Cooper,  
w. Ross Jordan opening



# PAGAN PONDERINGS

by Lee Page, President



The Wheel of the Year continues to turn as the heat and sunshine belie the fact that the daylight hours are lessening as we leave the Summer Solstice behind. While July does not have any major Pagan sabats (holidays), there are two dates of note we should be mindful of.

First, we should remember Rebecca Nurse. She was an older pious, respected woman of the Salem community, caught up in the hysteria of the witch hunts. She was hanged on July 19th, 1692. Her story is portrayed as a major character in the play, *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller. The memory of the "Burning Times" still haunt many of us, as it should. Not to cause pain and mental illness, but in the same vein as the Holocaust, keep and focus our resolve to never again allow hysteria to take innocent lives.

There are some "witch hunts" that persist today. Not because of witchcraft as much as heritage, ethnicity, religion, beliefs, whom we love, color of our skin, birth origin, political affiliation, or what man-made border we crossed. May the Burning Times never repeat, nor the Handmaid's Tale never come.

The other day to remember this month is the 27th when the Blessing or Meadow moon, full-moon sebat will be celebrated. This truly is the time of giving thanks for the ripe strawberries, fattening tomatoes, plumping peppers, the lazy, easy days of summer, when life was not so difficult for our agrarian ancestors. Use the celebration to recognize the bounty and beauty that the Mother Goddess spreads across the Earth in this season. And perhaps it is a time to give something back, sacrifice some time to endeavors that show love back to our home planet in some way. Whether it is cleaning up litter at a park, planting a tree, writing a congressman about an environmental issue, or just praying and meditating on protecting our home.

May the blessings of the sun, the beauty of the season, bring you lots of vitamin D and happiness. So mote it be.

## All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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**Board Officers:** Lee Page, President; Chris Stotler, Vice-President; Sharon Gray, Treasurer; Ed Elrod, Secretary; Diane Cartwright, Past Chair;

**Board 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**

Regina Kilmartin

Sharon Gray

**Website**

Kendra Maroon

### Adult Ed. Forums

Sunday Service Team

### Member Services

Fran Way

**Greeters**

Fran Way

### Care & Support

Joyce Ramay

### Finance

Joyce Ramay

### Stewardship

t/b/d

### Nominating Cmmt.

Carol Elrod

### Sunday Services

Rev. CJ McGregor

Joyce Ramay

### Sound Tech.

Ed Elrod

### Building & Grounds

Michael Pierre

### Social Action

**& Outreach**

Richard Keelan

### Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall

### Homeless Action Team

Judy Alberda

Barbara Gaiser

### Hunger Action Team

Diane Hand

Jane Broadstone

### Racial Justice Team

Rachel Spiller

**L.I.F.E.**

Bill Snider

Regina Kilmartin

### McGregor Clinic

Joyce Schaffer

### Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

### Operation Joy

Annely Hudanick

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

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

Deadline for the **September Connections**

**August 20**

(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