



November 15, 2019

Decorate the Sanctuary for the Holidays

This holiday season, we will once again be decorating our Sanctuary with bright and festive poinsettias. If you would like to donate a poinsettia in honor of a loved one, we are requesting a minimum donation of \$15. Please sign up on the list in the office. All donations need to be in the UUFVB office by Tuesday, Dec. 10. The plants will decorate our building through Christmas, after which they may be taken home to enjoy. Thank you for helping to brighten our holiday gatherings.

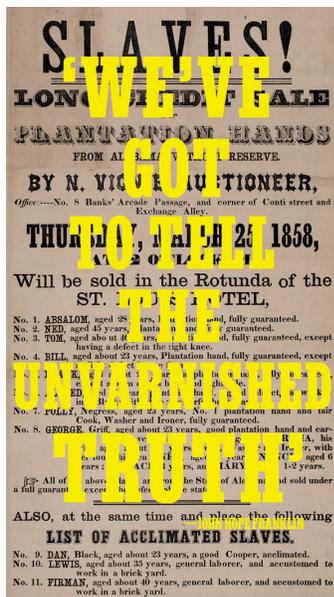
—Submitted by
the Rev. Scott Alexander

Sign Up Now for Thanksgiving Potluck

The traditional Thanksgiving Day potluck dinner will start at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 28, in Fellowship Hall.

The sign-up sheet is on the rolling rack, where you can indicate the number of persons attending and what you will provide for the dinner. Please bring a dish to serve eight persons, plus whatever you want to drink. To save on clean-up responsibilities, participants should bring their own tableware and glasses. Paper napkins and water pitchers will be provided. If you're not into cooking, it's acceptable to bring ready-made meats or dishes from a deli. The important thing is to attend and share a meal with the larger UU family.

—Submitted by Administrator
Kim McIntyre



(artwork by Deb Bishop)

1619 Project Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 16

Saturday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m. to noon, is the workshop based on the "1619 Project." That is the major initiative from *The New York Times* observing the anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. Even if you didn't sign up for the workshop, which will be in Fellowship Hall, you are welcome. The workshop will be led by our own history teacher, Andrew Sorbo. To learn more about this 400th anniversary of American slavery, go to: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html?module=inline>

—Submitted by Nancy Stiefel, Social Justice Steering Committee

Sunday Morning Forums Coming in January

Have you ever wanted to share your opinions about an important issue? If so, **Sunday Morning Forums** will be the place for you. The Forums will be a series of meetings offered by our Adult Religious Education Committee, designed to provide a space for discussions among congregants and visitors on Sunday mornings before the 10 a.m. service. Starting in January, the goal of the Forums is to provide a place where participants can safely and openly discuss their attitudes and beliefs that relate to a variety of topics. Each Forum will focus on a specific issue, such as an upcoming sermon, one of the Seven Principles, a current event, or a social justice issue such as environmental justice. The following topics have been chosen for January:

January 5: "Why Do You Come to Church?"

January 12: "Our Changing Climate: Crisis or Hoax?"

January 19: "Do Bad People Have Inherent Worth?"

January 26: "How Do We Stop Mass Killings?"

The ARE Committee will be trying a different approach to these Forums from other classes, through the use of Socratic questioning. Steve Becker, an ARE member, will moderate.

Time: 9-9:50 a.m. **Place:** Fellowship Hall **Cost:** Free **Class limit:** None
See you there!

—Submitted by Steve Becker, ARE Committee



Calendar

**Saturday, November 16, 2019**

9 am Volunteer Orientation, Sanctuary
 9:30 am Buddhist Meditation, L
 10 am CRJ Project 1619 Workshop, FH
 4:30 pm Family Night Out, FH, OB

Sunday, November 17, 2019

10 am Sunday Service
 11:30 am Intro to UU, L

Monday, November 18, 2019

11 am Drumming, Choir Rm
 2 pm ARE Class – Compassionate Life, L
 7 pm Covenant – Woody, L

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

9:30 am CG Steering Cmte, Choir Rm
 1 pm SJ Meal Prep
 3:30 pm Membership, L
 7 pm Sisters in Spirit, Choir Rm

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

10 am Yoga Experience, Lobby
 11 am Bridges Thanksgiving, FH
 2 - 4 pm Fair Trade OPEN
 2 pm Covenant – Seekers, OB
 2 pm Finance, L
 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 21, 2019

3 pm Worship Cmte, OB Rm
 4:30 pm Board, L

Friday, November 22, 2019

9:30 am Open Art Studio, L
 1 pm Ukulele Group, Choir Rm
 4 pm Coalition Racial Justice, L

Saturday, November 23, 2019

9:30 am Buddhist Meditation, L

Sunday, November 24, 2019

10 am Sunday Service
 11:30 am Book Group, L

Monday, November 25, 2019

11 am Drumming, Choir Rm
 7 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

9:30 Administration Cmte, L
 7 pm Covenant – Ladd B, L

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

2 - 4 pm Fair Trade OPEN

Thursday, November 28, 2019

OFFICE CLOSED
 3 pm Thanksgiving Pot-Luck, FH

Friday, November 29, 2019

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 30, 2019

9:30 am Buddhist Meditation, L
 9:30 am Sebastian Breakfast, Off-Site

Sunday, December 1, 2019

10 am Sunday Service
 12 Noon Newsletter Articles Due

Monday, December 2, 2019

11 am Drumming, Choir Rm
 2pm Emerson Cmte, L

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

9:30 am Facilitator Circle, CR
 1 pm Adult RE Cmte, L
 3:30pm Safety mtng, L
 6 pm 50+ Singles Potluck, FH

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

10 am Yoga Experience, Lobby
 2 - 4 pm Fair Trade OPEN
 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday Services 10 a.m.

November 17 – “Getting to the Promised Land, Values Intact,” Rev. Scott W. Alexander preaching. Scott writes, “For some months now, a significant controversy has been raging within our liberal faith tradition. Unitarian Universalism is deeply committed to the protection and empowerment of historically marginalized populations (most especially racial, sexual, and gender minorities that have long been treated unequally and unjustly in our society). However, there has emerged a deep divide about the crucial question of just HOW to best approach this ongoing social justice work. The minister’s association (the UUMA) has especially struggled with how to appropriately address these issues openly. I have been an outspoken “player” in this crisis/controversy, and want to share the outlines of this important struggle with you, because I believe the very health and future of our liberal religious tradition hangs in the balance.”

November 24 – “Gratitude,” Sermon 3 in the Year-Long Series “This I Believe,” Rev. Scott W. Alexander preaching. Scott writes, “What better Sunday to address the timeless spiritual theme of “Gratitude” than on the Sunday before the Thanksgiving holiday? This year in particular I am personally aware of the role gratitude – and not taking the blessings of your life for granted – plays in one’s spiritual well-being. Do be with us for this festive service of Thanks-giving.”

December 1 – “The Tragedy of Taking Your Life Personally,” Rev. Scott W. Alexander preaching. Scott writes, “Yes, OK, this sermon title is a bit ‘tongue-in-cheek,’ but the spiritual truth is that there is a real danger in taking much of what happens to you in your life too personally. Of course, we naturally (and always) pay close attention to the particular drama of our own lives, and seek positive outcomes over negative ones...but spiritual and emotional health requires us to maintain some distance between ourselves and the events of our lives.”

Minister's Column

On Monday night, November 25, at 7 p.m., our congregation will host the third annual, **Vero Beach Community-Wide, Interfaith Thanksgiving service.**

I hope you will be in attendance. This is a real opportunity for us as a congregation to welcome the entire Vero Beach interfaith community to our spiritual home...and share with them the open and inclusive (and welcoming) nature of Unitarian Universalism. Light refreshments will follow the service in the Lobby.

This local community Thanksgiving tradition began three years ago, in the wake of the terrible and senseless Pulse Nightclub massacre. At that time, the Vero Beach interfaith community came together to reject hate and



Interfaith Service

violence, and affirm the “strength in unity” that people of all faith traditions can find when they come together in common purpose.

Religious leaders (and choirs) from a variety of local congregations will participate, and you will not want to miss this special (and lively) interfaith service. Speakers include Rabbi Michael Birnholz (Temple Beth Shalom), Imam Derrick Peat (Muslim Friends of Florida Center), Rev. Dan Holloway (Unity Spiritual Center), and Swami Dhumaviti (Kashi Ashram). Many more faith traditions – including our own -- will be represented in readings and songs. It truly will be an interfaith event.

It is my sincerest hope that our congregation is very well represented at this service. Let us welcome our broader community warmly on Monday night, November 25.

Yours, the Rev. Scott Alexander

Learn How *The Four Agreements* Can Be Used in Your Life

What “agreements” have you made in your life about who you are and how you should live? Could it be time to take a new look at those agreements? If so, join Sisters in Spirit at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, in the Lobby for a discussion of the book, *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. Prior knowledge or reading of the book is not necessary. Our speaker, Carolyn Wehle, M.Ed., will lead us in an overview of the book and we will look at ways to incorporate the wisdom of the book into our lives. The book’s subtitle, *A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom*, hints at the powerful, yet accessible, lessons available when we take a close look at *The Four Agreements*. Carolyn is an educator, counselor and Certified Life Coach.

Each month, our sisterhood has a different speaker and topic pertaining to women’s issues or to spirituality. Women are welcome to come one month, or every month, depending upon their schedules and interest in the topic. You are welcome to bring a friend! The day and time will change each month, to accommodate various schedules. There is no charge for each event, but a suggested donation of \$3-\$5 will be collected to pay for speaker’s fees.

**-Submitted by Elizabeth Borne, your Sister in Spirit,
Please RSVP to laddborne@comcast.net**



REflections

Parents wanting to connect and share with others, please join us for the next UU Family Fellowship Evening on Saturday, Nov. 16. The event will be from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and will include a potluck and discussion. Childcare will be provided. This event is free and open to all families and adult persons.

This year we hosted a Trick-or-Treat fundraiser for UNICEF. Our goal was to raise \$100. We had 15 kids dress up in Halloween costumes ranging from: Harry Potter, Karate Baby, warrior princess, fireman, snowman, and many other fantastic characters. Our kids collected coins instead of candy from our members and friends after the service. Thanks to the generous gift of one of our regular attending parents, our UNICEF fundraising goal of \$100 was met. Now, after our faithful office volunteers get done rolling up the bag of coins collected, we will be able to announce the final fundraising amount.

On Sunday, Dec. 22, Youth and Family Ministry will be hosting a Holiday Intergenerational Service. We are in need NOW of families, parents, and kids to sign up to be a part of this fun service. If you would like to participate, please contact our Assistant Music Director, Elizabeth Borne, by e-mail at laddborne@comcast.net.

To find out more about the Youth & Family Ministry or to get involved, please contact me at the email below.

**--Submitted by Kelly Stephens, Youth and Family Ministry
youth@uufvb.org**

Project Niños Campaign Helps Migrant Families

We are in full swing for our 2019 Project Niños campaign. For several years, our Fellowship has collected money to help needy families whose children attend Children's House in Sebastian. This is one of the three daycare centers under the auspices of RCMA (Redlands Christian Migrant Association).

Through your generosity last year, we were able to collect almost \$4,000, and were able to purchase Walmart gift cards ranging from \$50 to \$225. These gifts were distributed to 31 families. This year we hope to have enough contributions to buy gift cards for 40 families (87 children). This is an increase of over 30% in the number of children we hope to help. We will be collecting contributions through the first week in December. You'll find us at the Social Justice table during coffee hour each Sunday for the next several weeks. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help. It is greatly appreciated!

--Submitted by Joan Roth, the Project Niños Committee

Make a Tax-Free Gift

When you reach the age of 70 ½, you must take a required minimum distribution out of your IRA. This distribution is taxed at the individual's tax rate. However, if checks are sent directly from the broker to UUFVB, with the payment specified as a pledge, there is no tax due. This applies to all legitimate charities, also. So please consider how you can meet your pledge, or make a special gift, to the Fellowship and avoid paying tax on that contribution.

Submitted by Spike Vrusho,
fund raising chair

Rachel Hanks, Janice Schroeder to Lead Transitional Meal Program

We are putting the meals together on Tuesday, November 19. All donations need to be marked and in the kitchen by 1 p.m. that day.

I would like to announce that Rachel Hanks and Janice Schroeder will be coordinating the Transitional Meals Program beginning the first of the year. They have been involved for several months, and are looking forward to trying new dishes in the future. I know I leave the role of coordinator in good hands.

I'd like to give special thanks to our loyal contributors, including Jennifer Hadel, Rebecca Hornbuckle, and Stewart Barnes, who has helped in so many ways, including putting meals together and helping deliver them almost every month for the past two years.

--Submitted by Kathy Barnes

The Art at the Emerson artists' reception

was very successful. Six paintings were sold, a gallery record. The Dawn E. Miller and Friends exhibit will run thru December. Entertainment was provided by artist Edmund Cortez, along with Hector Cruz and Dawn Miller, accompanied by Paula Herger. —Submitted by Dawn Orre



Congregational Record

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

1590 27th Ave., Vero Beach FL 32960
772-778-5880; uufvb.org

Board of Trustee Officers: Cate Wenzing, president; Kathy Cossa, vice president; Suzy Bromwell, secretary; Rebecca Hornbuckle, treasurer.

Trustees: Sue Burt, Barbara Dunst, Ken Klein, Jonnie Mae Perry, Tom Tierney

Staff: Rev. Scott Alexander, Minister; Kelly Stephens, Youth and Family Ministry; Kim McIntyre, Administrator; Paula Herger, Director of Music; Elizabeth Borne, Assistant Music Director; Kristy O'Neal, Sexton; Brenda Neeley, Bridges Director.

newsletter.uufvb@gmail.com

Deadlines the 1st & 15th each month

Editor, Bonnie Shelton



December Anniversaries and Birthdays

If you are a Fellowship member and your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please let the administrator know.



Anniversaries

April & Jeff Nall	12/01	Carlos Perez	12/15
Bill & Jan Mathrani	12/05	Clarice Helfand	12/17
Terry Domino & Bill Spillane	12/07	Bonnie Pendleton	12/18
Laura Matson & Steve Becker	12/15	Garry Garvey	12/19
Jim & Kim McIntyre	12/28	Amalia Lueder	12/19

Birthdays

Brian Toohey	12/01	Maryanne Schreiber	12/21
Lynn Foote	12/03	Polly Fisher	12/22
Bonnie Boaz	12/05	Laura Matson	12/22
Cathy Katrovitz	12/05	Sarswati Pujananda	12/22
James Marlow	12/07	Phyllis Atlas	12/23
Gail Smith	12/10	John Lueder	12/23
Rebecca Hornbuckle	12/11	Andrew Molnar	12/23
Benjamin Brack	12/12	Kathy Cossa	12/24
Lisa DelBrocco	12/15	Figge Pernfors	12/24
Larry Nalepa	12/15	Travis Raduenz	12/25
		Vincent Hall	12/29