



December 15, 2019

Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

Once again this year, our minister and his partner/husband, Collins, are hosting a holiday open house at their home. Hours are from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21, at "The Parsonage"--101 39th Drive in Vero Beach (corner of 39th Drive and First St. SW in Vero Beach).

They will provide a wide variety of beverages for the occasion, and members and friends are encouraged to bring light holiday "finger food" items to share. Please join them at this holiday gathering.

Guest at Your Table Deadline: Jan. 9

Securing and protecting human rights here in the United States and abroad is a daunting undertaking for any of us as individuals. But, together, our financial support of the UU Service Committee makes that effort possible for many of the world's most vulnerable people.

Our congregation has a long history generously supporting the Service Committee's primary fund raiser, the **Guest at Your Table** program. Andrew Sorbo, our UUSC representative, asks that you consider a gift to UUSC, no matter how large or small, so that we can all share in advancing human rights through UUSC.

Please pick up an envelope at the Social Justice table on Sunday (and a Guest at Your Table box if you like to use one on your dinner table) for your contribution. Return the envelope with your check or cash to Andrew Sorbo by January 9, or put it in the mail to UUSC. And thank you.

--Submitted by Jack Stiefel

Sunday Fund Nominations Now Being Accepted

The process of selecting the organizations that will receive next year's Sunday service monetary collections has begun. The process begins with YOU, the members and friends of the UUFVB.

You may nominate an organization by filling out a nomination form, which you can pick up at the social justice table in Fellowship Hall, or in the Sunday Fund mailbox in the Fellowship office. The organizations you nominate should provide services consistent with UU principles and values. Even if your favorite organization is a current recipient of the Sunday collections, you must re-nominate them for consideration in 2020-21. Nominations will be accepted through January 2020.

--Submitted by Joe Calwell

Record High Covenant Groups Enrollment; Patty Walker Assumes Leadership Role

As the Covenant Groups Program enters its ninth year at UUFVB, those of us who have been deeply involved with the program are overcome with feelings of awe and gratitude. Awe for how the program has grown to 16 groups with 170 members, including a new group that will be meeting at Indian River Estates, and gratitude for all who have worked so hard to make this small group ministry possible. Special thanks go out to retiring facilitators Chet Atlas, Elizabeth Borne, Georgeann Calendine, Carla Hardy, Pete Kersey, Martha Lindberg, Bonnie Shelton, and John Montgomery for their years of service.

During our fall open enrollment period, we added 25 new members. If you are among those newly-registered for a covenant group, you should expect to hear from your facilitator soon. He or she will provide you with detailed information regarding your first meeting, and will be happy to answer any of your questions and ease your entry into the program.

Both facilitators and members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the covenant group resources available on our website www.uufvb.org. Just click on Learning and Development to access the link to the Covenant Groups page. There you will find not only resources for facilitators, but also easy access to all current and past session plans as well.

The Covenant Groups Steering Committee would like to welcome the new facilitators for 2020: Gene Lynch, Charles McNatt, Leon Sterle, Rachel Hanks, Marilee and Russ Bell, Ladd Borne, Rebecca Hornbuckle, Donna Brewer, and Mickey Moore. Strong facilitators are the heart of our program, and without them there would be no covenant groups. A special orientation for new facilitators is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 7. Patty Walker will be taking over as chair of the Steering Committee as of January 1, and I will be stepping down as both committee chair and group facilitator.

Thanks, it's been a trip, and I have enjoyed every minute.

--Submitted by Jen Sutton



Calendar

**Tuesday, December 17, 2019**

1 pm SJ Meal Prep
 1pm Sunday Fund Meeting, Garden Rm
 3:30 pm – Membership Cmte, L

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

10 am Yoga Experience, Lobby
 2 - 4 pm Fair Trade OPEN
 2 pm Covenant – Steve B, L
 4 pm Bridges Christmas Program, FH
 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19, 2019

3 pm Worship Cmte, OB
 4:00pm Board of Trustees, L

Friday, December 20, 2019

9:30 am Open Art Studio, L
 1 pm Ukulele Group, Choir Rm
 1:30 pm Covenant - Laura G, L
 2pm Lobby Lecture, Lobby
 2pm Covenant- Anne T, OB

Saturday, December 21, 2019

9:30 am Buddhist Meditation, L
 1pm Sisters in Spirit, L
 4-7 Christmas at the Parsonage

Sunday, December 22, 2019

10 am Sunday Service
 11:30 Book Group, L

Monday, December 23, 2019

11 am Drumming, Choir Rm

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON
 5pm Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25, 2019

OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, December 26, 2019

OFFICE CLOSED
 2 pm Covenant - Jim M, OB
 7 pm Covenant –Ladd B, L

Friday, December 27, 2019

9:30 am Open Art Studio, L
 1 pm Ukulele Group
 4 pm Coalition Racial Justice, L
 7 pm Live! from Vero
 Emerson Center Event,

Saturday, December 28, 2019

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

Sunday, December 29, 2019

10 am Sunday Service
 3 pm GYO Holiday Spirit Event, Sanctuary

Monday, December 30, 2019

11 am Drumming, Choir Rm

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

OFFICE CLOSED
 Newsletter articles due by Noon

Thursday, January 2, 2020

Covenant – Jen S, L

Friday, January 3, 2020

9:30 Open Art Studio, L
 1pm Ukulele Group, Choir Rm

Saturday, January 4, 2020

9:30 Buddhist Meditation, L
 10am 1619 Project, FH

Sunday, January 5, 2020

9am Sunday Morning Forum, FH
 10am Sunday Service
 11am UU New Years Brunch

Sunday Services 10 a.m.

December 22—“Ring in the Season of Joy!”--A festive Intergenerational Service you will not want to miss!

On this Sunday before Christmas, our ministers, staff, choir, soloists, youth and special guests will participate in a holiday service of story and song. Do be with us for this special holiday tradition.

December 24— “Intergenerational Christmas Eve Candlelight Service,” 5 p.m. Tuesday evening. As is our annual tradition here at UUFVB, we will come together (in the gathering holiday darkness) in the Sanctuary at 5 p.m. for our special service of story and song. Our ministers, program staff, choir, youth, and special guests will participate in this annual holiday tradition. Do bring any holiday guests you have to this special, heart-warming service.

December 29--“Jacob Marley’s Ghost,” the Rev. Chuck McNatt, UUFVB Affiliate Minister,’ pulpit guest. Rev. McNatt will reflect – via Charles Dicken’s classic tale *A Christmas Carol* – about the power of the stories of our lives that we tell ourselves. Perhaps each of us is about more than the stories we tell (and scripts we write) about ourselves.

January 5--NEW YEAR’S BRUNCH AND SERVICE--“Can We Really Reinvent Ourselves?” Rev. Scott W. Alexander preaching. On this first Sunday of the New Year, we will have an ingathering brunch immediately following the worship service. There will be a \$10 donation per person for the brunch, children eat free. Rev. Alexander writes of his sermon, “Every New Year, many Americans earnestly “resolve” to change things about themselves as they move into the future. But what do behavioral psychologists and other scientists say about the likelihood of any of us significantly changing our ways? Is it really possible, or desirable, to attempt to reinvent yourself? Do join us for the conversation.”

Minister's Column



By now, most of you have heard that late in the afternoon on Friday, December 6, I was knocked off my bike and slightly injured by a seriously “impaired” driver. Witnesses said she was weaving erratically all over the road before she swerved into the bike lane/shoulder and grazed me from behind, knocking me into the roadway. She fled the scene of the accident only to drive into a ditch two blocks away. The police chased her through back yards, hand-cuffed and arrested her, and charged her with several crimes. She has subsequently admitted to taking several prescription drugs that day, including a “sleeping pill.” I was examined on the scene by very helpful EMS and fire personnel, who determined that, despite various scrapes and sore spots, I did not require a trip to the hospital. I was interviewed by the sheriff’s deputy, then put myself back on my undamaged bike and rode the rest of the way home -- wary and nervous of traffic to be sure!

This whole experience has caused me to realize several important things:

- (1) I was very lucky! Life – as they say – is often “a game of inches.” If that impaired driver had driven her car just a little further into my lane, I surely would have ended up in the ditch, seriously injured by the front of her car. I feel very blessed that this accident was not far more serious for me!
- (2) I serve a wonderful congregation of kind and con-

Encounter with Impaired Driver

cerned people. Your many cards and expressions of concern have meant a great deal to me...thank you all.

- (3) Drug and alcohol abuse is a terribly serious (and growing) problem in America that we must increasingly address with real societal resources. This past year alone, nationwide there were over 70,000 deaths caused by drug overdoses, 88,000 deaths directly tied to alcohol abuse, and 10,500 traffic deaths attributed to alcohol abuse. That brings the death toll to nearly 170,000 people from these causes...the third leading cause of death in our nation behind heart disease and cancer.

The state’s attorney’s office has contacted me (as the victim in this traffic crime) and will be meeting with me next week to ask “*what it is I want*” out of this incident. I will tell Mr. O’Brian that, first, I want this driver to be channeled into a rigorous, mandatory drug rehabilitation program – first of all, to save her life, and, second, to ensure that she does no further harm to anyone else by getting behind the wheel ever again impaired by drugs.

Second, I will tell him that I have no real interest in her being punished (or forced to give me some sort of financial restitution for the trauma of it all). I want this person to singularly focus on getting free of drugs and alcohol, and becoming a safe and responsible member of our society.

Thank you again for all your support and concern... you are the best!

Yours in faith, Scott

Opportunity to Ride at MLK Parade

Great news! We will be able to use Dick Atkinson’s boat again this year for the Martin Luther King, Jr., parade on January 20, 2020. What has become known as “The Ark of Justice” will seat 12 persons. Two seats have already been spoken for, so if you would like to attend the parade, but are unable to walk the distance (1.25 miles), please let me know as soon as possible. My email address is: doc8roh@yahoo.com.

We hope to see many more of our members and friends at the event. It’s a great way to demonstrate our shared UU values. More tee shirts have arrived, courtesy of Dave Jansen, and we will be selling them at the social justice table every Sunday in January. If you have any questions contact me at the email address above.

--Submitted by Dick Haight



The Ark of Justice used for the MLK parade.



REflections — Active Season

We are pleased to announce that we collected a record-breaking \$351 in our Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign. Thank you to all who helped and played a part in this fun event for our UU children.

November was a high-attendance month for elementary- and nursery-aged children. In our classes we are working through the World Religion Series, focusing on Indigenous populations, particularly the beliefs and customs of Native Americans. We have made our own teepees and Native American feather head-dress.

The Native American teepee dwelling was not just a moveable structure, but also a symbol of how the Native Americans respected Mother Earth and how everything in our world and life is connected. Even though the Native Americans lived so differently than we do, we realize that our UU values are what connects us to others who may appear different than ourselves.

On Sunday, December 22, we are participating in a holiday intergenerational service. We are soliciting 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.

As our weather starts to cool, we are planning a small-scale camping trip! Sometime in late January or early February we will reserve a campsite or two at Sebastian Inlet State Park on a Friday evening. Plan to join us for hot dogs and s'mores around the campfire! Then Saturday morning we will go exploring. Sign up to be a part of this adventurous trip with Ms. Kelly. Also, mark your calendars for Feb. 22 and March 28 for the next UU Family Fellowship Potluck dinners

To find out more about the Youth & Family Ministry, please contact Kelly Stephens by e-mail at youth@uufvb.org.

—Submitted by Kelly Stephens
Youth & Family Ministry

Happy Holidays from the President

Happy holidays to all. It's been a great year for UUFVB. We've increased our membership from 276 at the beginning of the year to 298 currently. We've gone from a budget in the red to a budget in the black, thanks to our wonderful staff and volunteers putting in so many hours at Bridges and Emerson Center.

We've raised \$121,000 towards reducing our mortgage loan, and we've contributed to the good of society through our Sunday Fund campaigns that benefit so many people in need on the treasure coast. I am so proud and grateful to be a member of this wonderful congregation that gives back. May we continue to be blessed and bless others in the New Year.

--Submitted by Cate Wenzing,
Board of Trustees President

January Anniversaries and Birthdays

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



Anniversaries		Tess Couture	1/15
Jonnie Mae & Percy Perry	1/04	Suzy Bromwell	1/16
Birthdays		John Wheeler	1/16
Betsy Huebner	1/01	Georgeann Calendine	1/17
Izzy McLaughlin	1/02	Sally Wilson	1/18
Lynda Badenhop	1/03	Marty Deering	1/19
Kim McIntyre	1/03	Marion Vrusho	1/19
Heather Raduenz	1/04	Patricia Warner	1/19
Al Parmentier	1/07	Phyllis Hall	1/21
Will McLaughlin	1/08	Lisa Chatterjie	1/24
Janice Schroeder	1/08	Linda Osborn	1/24
Deborah West	1/08	Jen Sutton	1/25
Bubs Baird	1/09	Limary Lorenzo	1/26
Ada Swenson	1/09	Barbara Lipton	1/28
Gavin Tierney	1/09	Virginia Bress	1/29
Terry Caplenor	1/13	Winter Nall	1/29
Tommy Malvar	1/13	Phyllis Klaben	1/31
Kristina Pernfors	1/14	Don Pollie	1/31
Justin Tindall	1/14	Nancy Stiefel	1/31



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

Fair Trade Corner Needs Volunteers

Our Fair Trade Corner started out as a small table in the back corner of our sanctuary when UUFVB's home was on 43rd Avenue. Back in the day, we sold only coffee, but soon added tea and chocolate. Fast forward to our beautiful, free-standing store, housed in our beloved building on Emerson Avenue. Instead of being open for business only on Sunday mornings, as we were in the past, we are now open from 2-4 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons. In addition, we open before and after many of the Emerson Center events.

With the explosive growth that our Corner has experienced these past several years, we find ourselves needing more volunteers. Do you have a passion for fairly-traded merchandise? Do you want to get to know more of our members? Do you want to have fun? Well, if you've answered "yes" to any of these questions, we'd love to talk with you about volunteering in the Corner.

The jobs are many and varied. We always need more volunteers to staff the Corner when it's open, usually one person to deal with the financial transactions and another to help out as needed with customers. We order from many fair-trade companies, and need volunteers to place/receive/unpack orders. There are other ways to help, too, so please stop in any time and speak to one of the volunteers. We'd be happy to show you the ropes! Questions? Call me at 262-370-9543.

--Submitted by Denise Haight

Men Have Lunch at Italian Grill

UU Men Eating Out at the First ThUUrsday LUUnch BUUnch will be dining at 12 p.m. on Thursday, January 2, at Italian Grill, located at 2180 58th Ave. All male members and friends are invited. Be sure to sign up on the reservation list located on the rolling racks outside of Fellowship Hall. People who sign up for the lunch and fail to cancel, after receiving a reminder email, will be expected to donate \$5 to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

--Submitted by Spike Vrusho

Reminder: Dec. 17 Is Date for Food Donations.

The meal for transitional housing residents will be put together at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17. Please bring donated ingredients to the UU kitchen by 1 p.m. on that day.

—Submitted by Kathy Barnes

Join 50+ Singles

The 50+ Singles is a group of people over 50, ranging in age from 50's to early 90's, who dine out and plan other events. The group is open to members and any friends of UUFVB. Amy Maddalozzo is the contact for dinners, and there also is a monthly potluck in Fellowship Hall on the first Tuesday of the month. Any questions, you can call Amy Maddalozzo at 772-234-9232, or email at amymad822@bellsouth.net.

--Submitted by Amy Maddalozzo

Sunday Morning Forums

Sunday Morning Forums, 9-9:50 a.m., Fellowship Hall.

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?"

New Year's Brunch

Join us on Sunday, January 5, after service for a delicious brunch. Enjoy our vegetarian egg bake, turkey sausages, biscuits and sausage gravy, assorted muffins, fruit & yogurt parfaits, and a glass of orange juice.

Cost is \$10 per person. Kids eat FREE! Payment accepted at the door. Please sign up by Sunday, December 29. You may sign up on the rolling cart, or call the office (772-778-5880), or email youth@uufvb.org.

—Submitted by Kelly Stephens

Memoir Introduced at Emerson Meeting

Marcy Von Kohorn, a local artist and world traveler, has written a memoir about her life. Her story begins with her Grandfather Morris, who was only eight years old when he came from Russia in 1888 with his family. Please join me in meeting Marcy to talk about her book, which will be available for sale. Some of her paintings will be on display, as well. The event will take place from 2-4 p.m. on Friday, December 20, at the Emerson Center. If you have any questions, please call Ellen at 772-581-5904.

—Submitted by Ellen Rantz

Circle Dinner Jan. 17

Circle Dinners will be revived in January. These are dinners once a month in private homes at 6 p.m. on either a Friday or Saturday night. Individuals sign up on the rolling rack, some will volunteer to be hosts. Once hosts are determined, 6 to 8 guests are assigned to each gathering. Hosts provide the entrée, and call the guests to contribute accompaniments. Jan Mathrani and Carla Calwell will coordinate the program. The first dinner will be Friday, Jan. 17. Please sign up on the rolling rack. Questions? Contact Jan Mathrani, 772-584-0787, or Carla Calwell.

--Submitted by Jan Mathrani