

The Congregational Record

OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF VERO BEACH



January 1, 2020

1619 Project Discussion Continues on Four Saturdays

The Coalition for Racial Justice welcomes all members and friends of the Fellowship to join us for our continuing discussions on the New York Times' "1619 Project." This is a major initiative observing the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. The project aims to reframe the country's history, understanding 1619 as our true founding, and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are.

The sessions will be from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Fellowship Hall on these Saturday mornings: January 4, February 1, March 7, and April 4. Even if you could not attend our first session on November 16, you are welcome. A sign-up sheet and a packet of readings are available at the social justice table in Fellowship Hall, and attendees are encouraged to bring a friend from outside the Fellowship.

--Submitted by Nancy Stiefel

Sunday Fund Nominations Are Due by January 23

The process of selecting the organizations to receive "Sunday Fund" contributions for 2020-21 has begun. All Sunday offerings not specifically earmarked for UUFVB are contributed to charitable organizations through this outreach program.

If you wish to nominate an organization, you may do so by simply filling out a nomination form available at the social justice table in Fellowship Hall, or in the Sunday Fund mailbox. The organization you nominate should provide services consistent with UU principles and values. And remember, even if your favorite organization is a current recipient, you must re-nominate them for consideration in 2020-21. The nominating period is open until January 23.

--Submitted by Stacey Morrison

Fourth Friday Auction of Unwanted Gifts

Put January 24 on your calendar for one of the best potlucks ever attended, according to Elizabeth Borne. Along with the usual food and drink items to share, bring your unwanted Christmas (or anytime) gifts to be auctioned for re-gifting.

The fun starts at 6 p.m. with munch & mingle, to be followed by a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. The auction will begin after dinner and dessert. Auctioneer extraordinaire Joe Calwell will entertain and encourage bids for your donated items. All proceeds are for our Fellowship. Be sure to bring your own plates and eating utensils, which you will take home with you, because we will not wash dishes in the UU kitchen.

Sign up on the rolling rack or call Spike Vrusho, fundraising chair, 772-567-8185, to participate.

--Submitted by Spike Vrusho

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?"

No registration is required, just show up.

African Civilizations Series Shown at UUFVB

Mark your calendars for six consecutive Monday nights beginning at 7 p.m. on January 27. The Social Justice Steering Committee and the Coalition for Racial Justice will present the six-episode series from PBS: Africa's Great Civilizations, narrated by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Andrew Sorbo will facilitate the discussion following each episode, which will be shown in the Lobby.

Dr. Gates explores the history of Africa, from the birth of humankind to the dawn of the 20th Century. This is a breathtaking and personal journey through 200,000 years of history, from the origins of art, writing, and civilization itself on the African continent through the millennia. You need not attend all of the sessions to appreciate the fascinating history of this lesser known continent.

Henry
Louis
Gates
Jr.



--Submitted by Nancy Stiefel



Calendar

**Thursday, January 2, 2020**

6pm Covenant – Jen S, L

Friday, January 3, 2020

9am Open Art Studio, L
1pm Ukulele Grp, Choir Rm

Saturday, January 4, 2020

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

Sunday, January 5, 2020

9am Sunday Forum, FH
10am Sunday Service
11am UU New Year's Brunch, FH

Monday, January 6, 2020

11am Drumming

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

1pm ALRE meeting, L
4:30 Covenant Group Orientation, FH
6pm Singles Potluck, FH

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

10am Yoga, Lobby
10 Facilities, L
12noon Minister's Lunch
4pm Social Justice, L
4pm covenant – Brian S, OB
6:30 Choir rehearsal

Thursday, January 9, 2020

1pm Covenant – Kathy C, L
2pm Covenant – Jim M, OB
5:30-7pm Artist Reception, Lobby

Friday, January 10, 2020

9:30 Open Art Studio, L
10am Bridges Cmte, OB
11am Pastoral Care, Garden Rm
1pm Ukulele group, CR
2pm Covenant – Anne t, OB
7pm Friday Night Movie, Lobby

Saturday, January 11, 2020

9:30 Buddhist meditation, L
10am Memorial Gathering for Rev Eliz
Frasier

Sunday, January 12, 2020

9am Sunday Morning Forum, FH
10am New member welcome
11:30 Music Cmte, Choir rm

Monday, January 13, 2020

11am Drumming, Choir rm
12pm Endowment Fund cmte, L

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

10am Covenant – Gene L, CR
1pm Covenant – Suzy B, OB
2pm Covenant – Ellen D, L
3:30 Security meeting, Garden Rm
7pm Humanities

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

10am Yoga
12 Noon Newsletter Articles Due
3:30 Finance, L
5:30 Bridges VPK Literacy night, FH
6:30 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 16, 2020

3p, Worship cmte, OB
4:30 Board, L

Note: Please clear meeting dates
With administrator prior to publi-
cizing your event.

Sunday Services 10 a.m.

January 5--NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH SUNDAY, "Can You Really Reinvent Yourself?" Rev. Scott W. Alexander preaching. This is Sermon 4 in the year-long series, "This I Believe." Scott writes: "The New Year transition is a time that many people use to re-examine their lives and make fresh resolutions about the ways in which they wish to live. This year, I have been reflecting on this intentional 'self-improvement' practice, and wonder if people really are capable of consciously and purposefully "reinventing" themselves along new pathways of human being. Start the new year off right by joining us for worship...and plan on staying with us for our annual **new year's Sunday brunch**, immediately following the service."

January 12—"Land, Sea and Air: The Climate Is Changing," Pete Kersey, guest speaker. Pete says: "It is my intent to bring you up-to-speed on some of the lesser known effects of the climate change we are seeing around the globe. Everything is being affected, and in accordance with the Unitarian Universalist 7th Principle, we UU's need to pay attention and let our governmental leaders know what we think about this matter. I will also be asking the UUFVB Board of Trustees to adopt a petition directed to local governments, as voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting, to start now or speed up the process of converting their fleets of vehicles to natural gas or electric."

January 19 – Martin Luther King Sunday, "Is America Ready for Reparations?" Rev. Scott W. Alexander preaching. Scott writes: "For many years, I was not personally persuaded that government-initiated financial "reparations" to current-day African Americans -- in partial restitution for the economic injustice done to generations of our African American population over the last 400 years since the first slaves arrived on American shores -- was either appropriate or feasible. But recently I have (for the first time) seriously reflected on the complexities of the issue, and I am now persuaded that not only are reparations financially possible, they are morally necessary. This sermon will be the springboard for an op-ed piece I hope to get published nationally. There will be an opportunity for further congregational dialogue following the service, back in the Sanctuary at 11:30 a.m."

Greeting Cards Are In Fair Trade Corner

Did you know that we sell all manner of greeting cards in the Fair Trade Corner? Birthday cards. Thank-you cards. Sympathy cards. Get well cards. You name it, we've probably got it. The stock is ever changing, so if you haven't perused our selection lately, please stop in and take a look.

We purchase our cards from a company called Good Paper. The cards are more than just ink on paper. The mission of the company is to restore the human spirit and to restore the humanity and beauty within each of us that often gets tossed aside.

The card makers are either women who have escaped sex trafficking in the Philippines, or young adults orphaned by dis-



ease in Rwanda. Your purchase of one or more of our cards brings joy and hope to the artists. Can a card change a life? More than we ever imagined.

Please visit us in the Corner, either on Sunday mornings, on Wednesday afternoons between 2-4 p.m., or before/after Emerson Center events.

--Submitted by Denise Haight

Save the Dates

Yard Sale: February 22

AnUUal AUUction: March 21

Black History Month Is Theme of Art Exhibit

Art at the Emerson will present a new exhibit beginning January 3. The exhibit will be celebrating Black History Month. The exhibit will feature Gary Leonard Moore, Jemal Hayes, Henrimae Bell, Monika King and Viola Frierson. The artists' reception will be from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 9. Entertainment will be provided by Gary Leonard Moore, and you don't want to miss his music.

--Submitted by Dawn Orre



Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine Is January Book Selection

Apparently, no one has ever told Eleanor that life should be better than fine. She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she is thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully-scheduled life. Her weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka and phone calls with her overbearing mother. Everything changes, however, when Eleanor meets Raymond, the unhygienic I-T guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly man who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three of them become the kind of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living.

Discussion of this book, by Gail Honeyman, will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 27, in the Library. Day care is available by contacting Kelly Stephens (youth@uufvb.org). --Submitted by Terry Domino



This month, our UU kids will be exploring their personal goals to work on this year. We will also continue to learn about world religions, focusing on Sikhism, Juche, and Spiritism faiths.

We are planning a small-scale camping trip in late January or early February. If you would like to be a part of this trip, or want information on the Youth & Family Ministry program, please contact me.

--Submitted by Kelly Stephens
Email: youth@uufvb.org.

Share Your Recipes for Transitional Meals

We are looking forward to working with all of you as we continue to provide monthly meals to those in our community who are making the transition from homelessness to a new start. We have changed up the recipes for 2020, and are asking you to please share with us your healthy seasonal recipes that can be modified to feed 60 people.

Please join us in preparing the meal on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship kitchen—Jan. 28 is this month's date. The sign-up sheet will be available on the rolling cart beginning Sunday, January 5. Please leave your donations in the kitchen by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28. Please contact either Rachel Hanks, rmhanks424@gmail.com or Janice Schroeder, nelliemaes-mom@yahoo.com for information.

--Submitted by Rachael Hanks

Claiming Identity in our Diverse World

An interactive workshop considering the nature of identity will be offered from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15, in Fellowship Hall. It will be led by the Rev. Dr. Lee Barker and Rev. Crystal Bujol.

As we prepare to live together in racially-inclusive communities, we are well served by understanding how individual identity can both inhibit progress (most often, unwittingly) and propel us forward. Participants will consider the nature of identity, explore the meaning of their own racial identity, and identify that next thing we can do to move ahead on this spirit-filled journey of hope.

Register for the workshop either by signing up on the rolling racks in the UUFVB hallway outside Fellowship Hall, or by calling the UUFVB office at 772-778-5880.

Rev. Barker is visiting UUFVB for the weekend of February 15-16, and will address this topic when he is guest preacher on that Sunday. A life-long Unitarian Universalist, Rev. Barker was elected to the to the presidency of Meadville Lombard Theological School (Unitarian Universalist) in 2003, and served in that position until his retirement in 2019. In recognition of his contribution to Unitarian Universalism, he was made president emeritus by the school's board of trustees. Prior to his presidency, Dr. Barker served for 25 years in the UU parish ministry.

Rev. Crystal Bujol is a pastor and counselor, and is a much-beloved member of UUFVB. She is best known in our community for her exceptional leadership as founder and executive director of the Gifford Youth Orchestra.

--Submitted by Rev. Scott Alexander

Women's Lunch at Italian Grill

UU Ladies Who Lunch will be dining at 12 p.m. on Thursday, January 9, at Italian Grill, located at 2180 58th Ave. All female members and friends are invited.

Sign up on the reservation list on the rolling racks. People who sign up for the lunch and fail to cancel, after receiving a reminder email, will be expected to give \$5 to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

--Submitted by Marion Vrusho

Guest at Your Table. Thursday, Jan. 9, is the deadline for receipt of Guest at Your Table donations. Envelopes and boxes are at the social justice table on Sunday. Return to Andrew Sorbo, or put them in the mail to UUSC.

Over \$7,000 in Gift Cards for Migrant Families

The Project Niños Committee wishes to express its deepest gratitude for the congregation's generous donations, which amounted to over \$ 5,000. In addition, this year we received a contribution from the Oceanside Rotary Club in the amount of \$2,130. With a combined total of over \$7,000, we were able to purchase gift cards ranging from \$!50 up to \$ 375, depending on the size of the family. All recipients were migrant workers whose children attend one of three daycare centers operated by the Redlands Christian Migrant Association.

Linda Osborn and Joan Roth were at the Children's House in Sebastian on December 17 when the gift cards were distributed. Joan says, "It was a delight to see the many happy faces when the envelopes were opened. Most of those there took the time to thank us for the congregation's kindness and generosity. Members of the committee are Joan Roth, Linda Osborn, Barb Zitz and Sue Doss.

--Submitted by Joan Roth

A Bird of the Air Is January 10 Movie

For UU Covenant groups whose January topic is "*listening*," *A Bird of the Air* may be the perfect conversation-starter. The movie is based on Joe Coomer's novel, *The Loop*, and centers on a man without attachment, intimacy or family. Thirty-year-old Lyman (Jackson Hurst), is a lovable loner who works the night shift, lives in a trailer, and seldom talks, not even with Margie (Linda Emond), the waitress at the all-night diner. Margie provides the film's narrative as we see Lyman beginning to change following the unlikely intrusion of a parrot that finds its way into his trailer. Lyman's solitude is also threatened by an outgoing college librarian, Fiona (Rachel Nichols), who uses her librarian skills to help Lyman track down the parrot's owner and to coax Lyman out of his shell.

There is no charge for Friday Night at the Movies. Just come to the Lobby at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 10. There will be free popcorn and friendly discussion afterward. Come and enjoy! --Submitted by Beverly Doherty, 443-518-6594



Congregational Record

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

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newsletter.uufvb@gmail.com

Deadlines the 1st & 15th each month

Editor, Bonnie Shelton