



January 15, 2020

New Social Justice Documentary Film Series at Emerson

The Emerson Center Committee is pleased to announce the new Emerson Center Film Series of primarily documentary films on a variety of social justice topics. In its first year of operation, seven films will be screened, one per month during March, April, May, August, September, October, and November. Dates and topics are listed below. The film titles will be publicized closer to the screening.

March 24 – Voter Rights and Voter Suppression

April 21 – 2nd Amendment – Arming of Teachers Controversy

May 19 – Mental Health - Depression

August 25 – Women’s Suffrage and Women’s Rights

September 22 – Effects of Climate Change

October 20 – Threats to Democracy

November 17 – Worker’s Rights and Unions

For most of the films, a panel discussion or speaker will follow the screening. If you are particularly interested in one of these topics, please contact the committee to share your expertise. You might participate on a panel, suggest panel or speaker participants, or lead the discussion after a film. Contact Nancy Stiefel (772-562-0515) or Patty Walker (772- 480-4883) to assist.

The film series is free (with donations gratefully accepted) and open to the public. Please mark your calendar to attend these matinee films and bring your friends and neighbors.

--Submitted by Nancy Stiefel
for the Emerson Center Committee

Feb. 9 Brunch, Stewardship Kick-Off

As last year, we will be celebrating our annual gala/gourmet/complimentary “Fellowship Brunch” (catered by **Too Jays** Restaurant – featuring eggs, French toast, bacon, bagels, pastries, fresh fruit, juice and coffee – and background music by Ron Lombardo. This fun event is in conjunction with the launch of the 2020-2021 stewardship campaign on Sunday, February 9, being run this year by Sue Burt. Please get this date and time down in your calendar now...we so hope you can be with us for this festive meal event.

--Submitted by Rev. Scott Alexander

Engaging Our World with Compassion and Care

There has never been a time – in either the life of our nation or our world – when our compassion and care as Unitarian Universalists have been needed more. The seven guiding principles of our faith call upon us to engage life and persons around us with respect, love, wisdom and justice – and these difficult human times in which we find ourselves challenge us (as a progressive faith community) both spiritually and emotionally.

Now is the time for us as Unitarian Universalists (both individually and collectively) to speak up and stand up in defense of all we believe about human dignity, value and worth...and resist the many forces that seek to divide, distract and diminish the human family from its full potential. We must work -- with others of good will – for a just, humane and sustainable future for all.

It is this expansive (and heart-felt) focus – and nothing less – that must guide everything we do here at 1590 27th Avenue. When we gather on Sunday morning for worship and fellowship...share our lives with others in a covenant group or adult enrichment class...visit someone who is sick or shut-in...volunteer on a committee or in the office...march in the MLK day parade, or lend our hands to a community service or social justice project – it must be with the care and compassion with which our faith tradition has stood for more than 500 years.

Each year at this time, we ask all the members and friends of this congregation to make a financial pledge of support for the upcoming budget year (which runs from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021). Everything we do – both within the walls of our wonderful facility here at the corner of 27th Avenue and 16th Street, and out in the wider community and world – is made possible by the yearly generosity and commitment of our members and friends. We ask that you read the materials you will receive at the Feb. 9 brunch or in the mail, which explain in detail the financial needs of our growing congregation, and then make a pledge of support for the coming year based on your ability and means.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,
Sue Burt, Chair, Stewardship Campaign
Cate Wenzing, Chair, Board of Trustees
Rev. Scott W. Alexander, Senior Minister



Calendar

**Thursday, January 16, 2020**

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

Friday, January 17, 2020

9:30 Open Art Studio, L
1pm Ukulele grp, CR
1:30 Covenant- Laura G, L
2pm Covenant – Anne T, OB
2-4pm Lobby Lecture
6pm Circle Dinners, off-site

Saturday, January 18, 2020

9-2 ARE, FH
9:30 Buddhist meditation, L
3:30pm New member reception, Lobby

Sunday, January 19, 2020

9am Sunday Morning Forum, FH
10am Sunday Service
11:30 Intro to UU, L
11:30 Sermon Conversation

Monday, January 20, 2020

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

2pm Covenant – Anna, OB

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

10am Qigong/Yoga, Lobby
11am Ministries Cncl, L
11am Nominating Cmte, Garden Rm
1:30 Ukulele Band, OB
2-4 Fair Trade Open
2pm Covenant – Steve B, L
4pm Covenant – Brian S, OB
6pm Rental CF Church, FH

Thursday, January 23, 2020

1pm Covenant – Kathy C, L
2pm Covenant – Jim M, OB
7pm Covenant – Ladd B, L

Friday, January 24, 2020

9:30 Open Art Studio, L
1pm Ukulele Grp, Choir Rm
2pm Covenant – Anne T, OB
4pm Coalition For Racial Justice, L
6pm Potluck Dinner, FH

Saturday, January 25, 2020

8am Rental – Audubon Event
9:30 Buddhist Meditation, L
4:30 UU Family Potluck, off-site

Sunday, January 26, 2020

9am Sunday Morning Forum, FH
10am Sunday Service
11:30 Book Group, L
11:30 Sunday Fund Mtng, Garden Rm

Monday, January 27, 2020

11am Drumming, Choir Rm
3pm World Religions Class, Lobby

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

9:30 Admin Cmte, Garden Rm
1pm SJ Meal Prep
2pm Covenant – Ellen D, L
7pm Sisters in Spirit, Lobby

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

10am Qigong/Yoga, Lobby
1:30 Ukulele Band, OB
2-4 Fair Trade Open
6pm VIP Pre-show , FH
7pm Live ! from Vero

Friday, January 31, 2020

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

Sunday Services 10 a.m.

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.”

January 26 – “Human Nature,” Sermon 5 in the Year-Long Series *“This I Believe,”* Rev. Scott W. Alexander preaching. Scott writes, “Over the course of this year-long sermon series, I am exploring central theological/intellectual concepts that give shape to our Unitarian Universalist faith. What we conclude -- both theoretically and practically -- about *“Human Nature”* will fundamentally shape how we grapple with most of the daunting challenges that face humanity in the 21st Century. This question -- about what is (and what is not) possible for the human species -- is not necessarily an easy or reassuring one. But as people of faith, we must explore it honestly, and then make crucial decisions based on what we know to be true.”

February 2 – “Is It Ever Right to Seek Vengeance?” Rev. Scott W. Alexander preaching. Scott writes, “Recent violent events in the Middle East – with one side or the other swearing to exact “vengeance” – has gotten me thinking about the spiritual, moral, and emotional dimensions of seeking vengeance, or retribution for perceived injustices. As I reflected on this thorny human issue, I realized that it has both personal and global ramifications and costs. Let’s explore these together.”

Minister's Column

If you were at UUFVB on Jan. 12, you helped us welcome the 51 (!) new members who have joined our Fellowship in the last 12 months -- since January 1 of 2019...which brings our total membership to the "milestone" number of 300 adults. This is the largest group of new members this congregation has ever welcomed in one year since our founding in March of 1982, when 24 steadfast souls (including current members Marion Wenzel, Jack and Nancy Stiefel and Betty Vogt) signed the membership book.



Many people who witnessed Sunday's robust welcoming ceremony commented on how well we are doing right now as a congregation...and indeed so many things point to our overall health and vitality as a religious community. Sunday attendance has never been stronger...and our **Congregational Record** newsletter is full of social, educational, enrichment, service and social justice opportunities that invite participation. Our **Emerson Center** is providing our wider community with a wide variety quality programing.



Our **Bridges Early Learning Center**, which is at 100% enrollment capacity, and has a stellar educational reputation in the wider community, is providing

excellent pre-school education for some 110 children, many of whom are from relatively low-income families. Simply put, we are a growing and vibrant organization here in Vero Beach!

In these challenging times when many faith communities are struggling, many things contribute to a congregation's success. In our situation, I would identify the following strengths:

We have a large, beautiful, and welcoming campus (with ample parking on a busy corner that is easy to find), which makes newcomers feel at home.



Our Positive People Culture

Our Sunday morning experience (which includes inspiring worship, wonderful music, quality Sunday school and an inviting social hour thanks to our excellent and hard-working staff) makes visitors want to return.

Our diverse social, educational, service and social justice programming (there is always something good going on at 1590 27th Avenue) provide everyone who comes in our doors with ample opportunities to get involved, make friends and be appreciated for what they bring to the congregation.

We have hundreds of eager and willing volunteers here who step up to ensure that all the work that goes into keeping a congregation active and growing get accomplished with competence and care.

But honestly, I believe most important of all to our success in Vero Beach is the quality, care and depth of all the one-on-one relationships that routinely happen here. In my experience, a congregation will never succeed (and attract new people and retain members) unless it is comprised of warm, caring, inclusive and generous people. I often say to those who come through our doors "church shopping," that congregations are like people – they each have a distinct personality.

As the minister of this congregation, I am pleased to say that the "personality" of this congregation is sincerely warm, welcoming, generous and inclusive. Simply put, you are a nice group of people! No beautiful stained-glass windows...no minister...no choir...no pipe organ...no multi-million-dollar endowment fund can attract and keep new members – only a warm and welcoming congregation can do that.

So, to secure our institutional future, let us maintain (and strengthen) our warm and positive "people culture." It is by far our most valuable congregational possession.

Yours in faith, Scott



MLK Parade on Monday, January 20

During the Monday, January 20, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Parade, we will be meeting and greeting a host of Gifford residents as we distribute MLK church fans as well as refrigerator magnets. The magnet colors of maroon, white, and gray are the school colors of the former Gifford High School Tigers. The slogan, "The March Continues," speaks volumes regarding the work being done by our Social Justice Committee and our Coalition for Racial Justice. Please spend the morning of January 20 in support of our collective commitment to racial harmony in Indian River County. Meet us at the Gifford Youth Activity Center (riders by 9 a.m. and walkers by 9:20 a.m.). You just might find yourself forever changed. I will be at the social justice table on Sunday, January 19, with specific information as well as T-shirts. I can also be reached at doc8roh@yahoo.com or 262-370-9643.



--Submitted by Dick Haight

Series About Africa Starts February 3

The PBS Series: Africa's Great Civilizations will be presented on six consecutive Monday nights beginning at 7 p.m. on **February 3**. This is a change from the date previously announced.

Andrew Sorbo will facilitate the discussion following each episode, which will be shown in the Lobby. You need not attend all of the sessions to appreciate the fascinating history of this lesser-known continent. The series is narrated by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



--Submitted by Nancy Stiefel

Sunday Fund Update

The final day for nominations for 2020-21 Sunday Fund recipients is **Thursday, January 23**. The Town Hall meeting to present all the nominees will take place at **11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2**, in the Sanctuary. All interested congregants are encouraged to attend.

--Submitted by Stacey Morrison



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



February Anniversaries and Birthdays

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



Anniversaries			
John & Amalia Lueder	2/09	Gale Parmentier	2/11
Ken & Carol Drake	2/14	Dawn Orre	2/15
Judi & John Perry	2/14	Bob Lipton	2/17
Fred & Suzi Shriner	2/16	Betty Vogt	2/20
Amy & Rose Gallo	2/17	Laura Greendale	2/21
Mickey Moore & Jack Quinn	2/20	Elizabeth Borne	2/22
		Pat Schaeffer	2/22
		Steve Becker	2/23
		Jim Landon	2/23
		Mardi Dabbs	2/24
		Scott Hanks	2/24
		Collins Mikesell	2/24
		Paul Amaru	2/25
		Angela Love	2/27
		Dean Neiman	2/28
		John Tschinkel	2/28
Birthdays			
Helen Rosebery	2/02		
Kaydian Wehrle	2/02		
Bruce Farnum	2/04		
Alan McNab	2/04		
John Brock	2/06		
Anne Mazlish	2/06		
Bob Morgan	2/11		

Share Your Recipes for Transitional Meals

Please share your healthy seasonal recipes that can be modified to feed 60 people who are in transitional housing.

Join us in preparing the meal at 1 p.m. on January 28, in the Fellowship kitchen. The meals are prepared on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

The sign-up sheet is on the rolling cart for both volunteering your time, and providing ingredients for the meal. Leave your donations in the kitchen by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28. Contact either Rachel Hanks, rmhanks424@gmail.com or Janice Schroeder, nelliemaesmom@yahoo.com for more information.

--Submitted by Rachel Hanks

Book Discussion on January 27

The book for discussion this month is *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*, by Gail Honeyman. Readers will meet in the Library at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 27. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Copies of the book may be obtained from the LRE table during coffee hour. We will be sharing 10 copies of the book, thus please return the book as soon as you have completed it - either to the LRE table on Sunday, after service, or anytime to the book club mailbox in the UUFVB office. It is imperative that all books be returned no later than Sunday, January 27, as they are due at the public library soon thereafter.

--Submitted by Terry Domino

Fair Trade Purchases Help Vision Impaired

Untreated vision impairment, according to the World Health Organization, is something that 1.3 billion people live with world-wide. At SERRV International, one of our vendors for over a decade, many of the handcrafts require an in-



credible amount of precision and detail. For many of the artisans, being able to see clearly is the difference between earning an income and not having a job.

SERRV launched a program called Eyeglasses for Artisans, and a total of 3,800 eyeglasses and 1,983 eye exams have been provided to artisans in 10 countries. Using funds from donations as well as product sales, artisan partners are able to provide glasses free of cost to artisans in marginalized communities. It is gratifying to realize that some of the dollars you have spent in our Fair Trade Corner are being used in conjunction with this worthwhile outreach.

--Submitted by Denise Haight

Sisters in Spirit—"Release and Invite"

Come to the January gathering of Sisters in Spirit to discover and share in three rituals designed to **release** what no longer serves and to **invite** something new to be woven into the fabric of our best, most authentic selves. Ginger Heller will lead this month's program at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, in the Lobby.

There is no charge for the event, but a suggested donation of \$3-\$5 will be collected to pay for speaker's fees. Please RSVP to Elizabeth Borne at laddborne@comcast.net so we can get a count of attendees.

--Submitted by Elizabeth Borne

World Religions Class Begins Monday, Jan. 27

A six-session class examining six different religions will begin on Monday, Jan. 27. Classes will meet from 3-5 p.m. in the Lobby from Jan. 27 through March 2. Sign up in the Lobby on Sunday, Jan. 19. For more information contact Pete Kersey, petenoel@comcast.net.

Save the Dates

January 24, 6 p.m., Fourth Friday potluck & auction of unwanted Christmas Gifts.

February 22, 8 a.m.- 1 p.m., annual rummage sale.

March 21, 5 p.m., AnUUal AUuction, includes wine & food.

--Submitted by Spike Vrusho

Sunday Morning Forums

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

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

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

No registration is required.

--Submitted by Steve Becker