



June 1, 2020

Social Justice

Seeks New Chair

The Social Justice Steering Committee needs a new chairperson. Nancy Stiefel is stepping down from that position, but will remain as secretary of the committee if the new chair requests it. The chair's job description includes these tasks:

- Prepare and distribute an agenda prior to meetings
- Conduct committee meetings
- Check mailbox regularly
- Represent the committee to the congregation as required.

If interested, or if you have questions, call Nancy (currently in Indiana at 260-577-5417).

--Submitted by Nancy Stiefel

Online Auction Netted \$685

On May 2 final bids were received for expiring gift certificates from the postponed March Annual Auction. Only nine bids came in, for a sum of \$246. The remaining \$439 worth of gift certificates went to Cynthia and Jim Marlow, who bid face value on all unsold items and gave the certificates to Rev. Scott Alexander for distribution to needy individuals. Our thanks to the Marlows for their generous gesture.

--Submitted by Spike Vrusho,
Fund Raising Chair

Sunday Fund Recipients Are Announced

Following are the organizations chosen to receive our Fellowship's "Sunday Fund" contributions in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

- Every Dream Has A Price
- Pioneering Change
- Gifford Youth Orchestra
- IRC Volunteer Ambulance Squad
- Gifford Community Cultural Center and Resources

Since this community outreach project has been funded solely by the loose cash in the Sunday offering, we will likely experience a significant shortfall in funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Therefore, we urge you to continue your support of the Sunday Fund by getting contributions to the office, either by mail or in person, in order to sustain our strong commitment to the financial health of these worthy organizations. Please designate "Sunday Fund" on your check.

--Submitted by Stacey Morrison

No Credit Cards on Website for Sunday Funds

Several parishioners have inquired about making a donation to the Sunday Fund via the UUFVB website (i.e. Paypal). The Sunday Funds were intentionally excluded as donation options on Paypal due to the fees associated with each credit card transaction.

Keep in mind that UUFVB is merely a pass-thru entity for the Sunday Funds – meaning all monies received are given to the charity. If you would like to make a credit card donation to a particular Sunday Fund, we suggest that you visit the charity website and donate directly.

--Submitted by Elizabeth Borne,
UUFVB Accountant

Donate to Provide Transitional Meals

We deliver meals on the Fourth Tuesday to clients of Camp Haven, Samaritan Center and Veterans House. A second veteran's house has been completed, and a female veteran is living there. We received such good feedback on the April meal from Marotta's Italian Restaurant that we ordered the May meal from them as well. If you would like to make a donation to the Transitional Meal Program, please send a donation of no more than \$10 to the Fellowship Office, and please mark the memo line Transitional Meal. Please email Rachel Hanks, rmhanks424@gmail.com or Janice Schroeder, nelliemaes-mom@yahoo.com with any questions or suggestions. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

--Submitted by Rachel Hanks

Minister's Column



There are many discouraging aspects of this Covid-19 pandemic, but the one that really gets under my skin is the fact that this national health crisis has opened **“just one more front”** in the American culture wars...and has allowed **“just one more divisive tear”** across the American soul. I am speaking about the dangerous tension that is now worsening between:

1) Those Americans who are deeply concerned about the science of this virus and who are committed to have everyone rigorously continue societally-sanctioned safety precautions to prevent its spread (**“to be a responsible and sane citizen everyone must always wear a mask”**) and...

2) Those Americans who have tired of the adjustment demands of medical threat, and are fiercely focused on “re-opening” the economy and society regardless of the risks articulated by the infectious disease experts (**“I’m not wearing a mask if I don’t want to, it’s a matter of individual liberty”**).

To make matters even worse, once again Americans seem to be largely dividing along self-described “conservative” and “liberal” lines...with each side expressing open anger, disgust and dismissal towards the other. It almost seems that, with every last societal issue that comes along, Americans are somehow doomed to quickly fall into a “liberal/conservative” split, and do angry (and self-righteous) battle with one another...as if there is absolutely no middle ground.

Book Club Zoom Meeting

The book club will be enjoying a zoom discussion of two novels at 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 28. The books are “The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek” by Kim Michele Richardson, and “The Giver of Stars” by JoJo Moyes. Anyone interested in this discussion please contact terrydomino71@gmail.com no later than Friday, June 26. You will then be sent a zoom invitation with instructions on how to connect.

--Submitted by Terry Domino

Find a Middle Way

What I believe we need here is **NOT** two polar opposite (and entrenched) camps doing battle with one another... but rather thoughtful and nuanced conversations (and broad consensus decision-making) about how to find a thoughtful middle way through this pandemic.

Let me speak personally for a moment. When it comes to this emerging divide between those urging strict and mandatory socially-sanctioned precautions for the foreseeable future, and those demanding an unrestrained “open” society now, I find myself in the moderate middle. I find a substantial part of myself agreeing with those who are demanding that (to protect the most vulnerable and truly defeat this virus) we move very slowly here with great medical and social caution...**AND** an equally substantial part of myself supporting those who believe that (for the overall health of our social order) we need to take some risks and get the economy and culture moving again just as quickly as possible.

Again, I am persuaded that what America needs is LESS people angrily howling at one another from the extremes, and MORE people engaging in nuanced conversations about how to, together, find the safe and reasonable middle ground.

As we have learned over recent years from our dysfunctional national politics on a wide range of issues -- goodwill, negotiation and compromise between people holding divergent and opposing perspectives is an elusive and difficult journey. But I pray that as a people, we Americans can rise to this occasion, and find a safe and reasonable middle way through this dangerous medical and economic crisis. This will require genuine maturity -- and flexibility -- from both “liberals” and “conservatives.” Anything less will only further damage the soul of our nation.

--Rev. Scott Alexander

Movie Discussion by Zoom

“The Last Black Man in San Francisco” is about young black men coming of age in an unprotected, often toxic environment. The film is available for streaming on Amazon Prime and on DVD in libraries, stores and on loan from Bev Doherty.

You are invited to join a zoom **discussion of this movie at 7 p.m. Friday, June 12**. Contact Bev Doherty at UUFVB.movies@gmail.com no later than June 10 to receive an email with the zoom instructions.

--Submitted by Beverly Doherty
443-518-6594

Summer Topic and Speaker Schedule 10 a.m. Sundays on YouTube Until Further Notice

June 7 – *“The Holy Intimacy of Strangers,”* Rev. Sarah York
June 14 – *“The Re-Enchantment of the World,”* Rev. Scott W. Alexander
June 21 – *“Let Yourself Be,”* Rev. Chuck McNatt
June 28 -- *“UUS General Assembly Virtual Worship Service “—from the UUA Virtual General Assembly*
July 5 — *“Courage,”* Rev. Carole York
July 12 – *“Letting the Genie Out of my Lamp,”* Crystal Bujol
July 19 – *“Being Progressive in a Re-gressive Age,”* Rev. Scott W. Alexander
July 26 – *“Love Thy Neighbor Within Thyself,”* Rev. D. John Brown
August 2 – *“Prayers that Stick to the Ribs,”* Rev. Marni Harmony
August 9 – *“Blessed Be the Ties that Liberate,”* Rev. Sarah York
August 16 – **Topic to be Determined,** Rev. Scott W. Alexander
August 23 – *“A Conversation With God,”* Pete Kersey
August 30 – *“Politics in Religion,”* Rev. Chuck McNatt

Welcome Qigongers!

On June 17, Qigong class resumes in the oak grove under the trees, just west of the Fellowship, where we can also park. Kristy has offered to open the west door for use of the facilities. If rain is anticipated, we can hold class inside the Lobby, with masks suggested and spacing 6 feet apart. Mats will only be needed if it rains.

Please bring a sturdy chair and your smile !

Looking forward to joining together, apart, in the fresh air!

--Submitted by Bonnie Howard,
bonnigrrl@gmail.com



REflections — Talk to Children about the Virus

Here at the UU Fellowship we miss all our members and friends very much. What was once Sunday gatherings with warm hugs and friendly chats has now been replaced with a new “virtual” office team. Our administrator Kim is the expert Zoom scheduler, Rev. Scott is uploading daily blogs and hosting Zoom conferences, the Borne Family has been turning our Worship services into live streams and Joe Hardy and I have been working behind the scenes to update the church website. The way we interact has changed, forcing us to think out of the box to stay connected.

The situation with the coronavirus has been a difficult time for us, especially for our younger family members and grandchildren, who cannot quite grasp this invisible enemy of a “virus.” I encourage you to spend some time with the children in your life and talk with them about the coronavirus. Below is part of an article by Deborah Farmer Kris that helps us as parents and grandparents talk to children about the coronavirus.

“First, I shared age-appropriate facts. Because my kids are young, I kept it simple. “You know what it’s like to have a cold or the flu — how sometimes you get a cough or have a fever? This is kind of like that. Most people who catch this sickness stay home, rest and get all better. And we have wonderful doctors and nurses who can help people when they need it.

“Second, I reassured them that they are safe, which is the most important message my kids can hear from me. I know that they take their emotional cues from my tone. You don’t need to worry, I tell them. Right now, lots of amazing grown-ups are working hard to keep people healthy. Luckily, we already know a lot about how to keep healthy!”

“Third, I emphasized simple things *our* family can do to be germ busters — for all types of germs that are out there! Kids and adults alike are more distressed when we feel helpless and passive, and more comfortable when we are taking action. The hygiene routines that slow the spread of the COVID-19 are the same habits that help keep us healthy all year round.”

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

Good News from Bridges, Despite Virus Outbreak —Summer Camp Donations Are Needed

The Bridges Committee and staff are delighted to share the following good news.

1. While many child care centers had to close because of low enrollment due to the unprecedented effects of the corona virus, Bridges remained open, offering an important safety net for parents who continued working.

2. Staff and children have remained virus free by following all CDC guidelines as well as directives from Florida's Division of Children and Families (DCF), and Early Learning Coalition (ELC) that licenses childcare center operations.

3. A few children who had been enrolled in the after-school program at Bridges continued at the center once the public schools closed. Laptops were brought from home to do on-line learning to complete requirements for the school year.



4. Every child at Bridges received two nutritious meals and a snack every day through the Child Care Food Program (CCFP).

5. Even with attendance down, Bridges retained teachers because of the quick response by Rebecca Hornbuckle, UUFVB treasurer, to apply for the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

6. Bridges celebrated 30 VPK (prekindergarten) graduates with a drive-through graduation ceremony. Director Brenda Neely and the Bridges staff could not let the hard work of these children go unrecognized. It was a creative cap to an unanticipated, unique finish to the school year.

Along with the good news, **the Bridges Committee has a request.** The financial stress to families from temporary loss of jobs due to business closures has been significant. The Bridges staff is planning a modified summer camp program (no field trips) to provide a safe, fun place for school-aged children for nine weeks so parents can return to work as places of employment reopen. Your help to defer the cost of summer camp could make all the difference for families already under financial stress. One week of camp is \$115.

If you are able to support a camp experience with a donation in any amount please make checks payable to UUFVB with "Jessica Thompson Summer Scholarship Fund" written on the memo line. Thank you for your consideration and continued support for Bridges.

--Submitted by **Ginger Heller, Bridges Committee**

June Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries

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|------------------------|------|
| Tom & Janet Alfred | 6/05 |
| Milly & George Michos | 6/07 |
| Joyce & David Thompson | 6/07 |

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|-------------------------|------|
| Deming & Romer Holleran | 6/10 |
| Peggy & Bill Ames | 6/11 |
| Clarice & Rick Helfand | 6/11 |

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| Brian Toohy & Vio Fioravanti | 6/14 |
| Vin & Phyllis Hall | 6/14 |
| Dick & Denise Haight | 6/15 |

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| Teresa & Bruce Farnum | 6/20 |
| Jack & Kristen Jolly | 6/20 |
| Bob & Barbara Lipton | 6/26 |

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| Lin & Alan McNab | 6/26 |
| Kim & Sue Lorimier | 6/28 |
| Paul & Carol Amaru | 6/29 |

Birthdays

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| Bob Webber | 6/01 |
| Gail French | 6/02 |
| Patty Walker | 6/06 |
| Gary Parker | 6/08 |
| Jack Jolly | 6/11 |

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|-----------------|------|
| Morey Birenbaum | 6/12 |
| Amy Hrynyk | 6/12 |
| Laura Driver | 6/16 |
| Jack Stiefel | 6/16 |
| Joe Calwell | 6/17 |

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| Liam McLaughlin | 6/17 |
| Carla Gridley | 6/19 |
| Sue Westwater | 6/20 |
| Bruce Berendsohn | 6/21 |
| William Daly | 6/23 |

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| Ken Heller | 6/23 |
| Carole Roberts | 6/23 |
| Jennifer Hadel | 6/24 |
| Lee Page | 6/24 |
| Spike Vrusho | 6/26 |

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|-----------------|------|
| Nancy Spalding | 6/27 |
| Piper Haagenson | 6/28 |
| Leslie Bilotta | 6/28 |
| Rosalie Shanks | 6/29 |

UUFVB Board of Trustees—March 19 Meeting

At its **March 19 meeting**, the Board of Trustees addressed the following issues.

- Treasurer Rebecca Hornbuckle reported that the Fellowship's finances are in very good shape. She indicated that the internal review of UUFVB's financial records performed by Rod Baker and Ken Heller is complete.
- The Board confirmed its responsibility for oversight of Emerson Center contracts and deposits, and voted to limit the number of contracted events, with 150 attendees, to 18 annually.
- Rev. Scott Alexander reported that, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the search for a new Music Director has been suspended. Elizabeth Borne will assist with music selection for Sunday services.
- The minister noted that meetings of 10 or fewer attendees may be held in the Lobby or Library, with proper social distancing.
- Stewardship Campaign Chair Coco Burt reported that pledges totaling nearly \$330,000 have been received. Terry Domino has volunteered to make follow-up calls to the members who have not sent pledges.
- The Board voted to suspend Sunday Fund contributions until regular church services resume.
- Finance Committee Chair Woody Sutton said that approximately \$50,000 remains from the Pree bequest. He also reported that the mortgage balance is approximately \$225,000.
- Because of the virus, Bridges attendance is down to about 59 children a day, from full enrollment of 113. Bridges Executive Director Brenda Neely is rotating staff to fulfill state requirements.

—Submitted by Suzy Bromwell, Secretary; Bonnie Shelton, editor

At its **April 7 electronic meeting**, the Board of Directors addressed the following issues.

The Board approved a recommendation by Treasurer Rebecca Hornbuckle to apply for an SBA loan for UUFVB from the Paycheck Protection Program. The loan request will be submitted to Marine Bank and Trust for the amount of \$103,665. The funds are intended to cover payroll for 8 weeks, utility costs for 3 months, and mortgage interest for 3 months. Rebecca explained that because UUFVB will be using the funds for approved expenses, most or possibly all of the loan will be forgiven. If there is a portion of the money that does not fall under approved expenses, UUFVB will be required to pay it back with a very low interest rate.

—Submitted by Suzy Bromwell, Secretary; Bonnie Shelton, editor

Balance is June Covenant Topic

Balance of work, play, or family is the siren song of so many as they juggle complicated lives that demand prescribed work and family responsibilities.

How would you define balance in your life? Do you have it, or do you seek it? Is balance a destination or a journey? Is being "off balance" a path to balance, as a signpost or waypoint?

Many covenant groups will be having zoom meetings to discuss this topic. Contact your group's facilitator for instructions on joining such a meeting.

—Submitted by Bonnie Shelton



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; 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

UUFVB Board April 16 Meeting

At its **April 16** meeting, the UUFVB Board of Trustees addressed the following issues:

- Approved the appointment of Thomas Hamilton to the Endowment Fund Committee.
- Treasurer Rebecca Hornbuckle heard from Marine Bank about UUFVB's application for the Paycheck Protection Program underwritten by the Small Business Administration. After a review of our application, the bank officer stated UUFVB is eligible for \$123,000 (\$20,000 more than the original request). Rebecca is hopeful that the loan will be approved, since UUFVB is definitely in the queue.
- Rev. Alexander reported very positive feedback from weekly pre-recorded YouTube sermons, with between 350 and 400 households tuning in each Sunday.
- UUFVB Webmaster Joe Hardy estimates the cost for equipment for live streaming of Sunday sermons to be between \$4,500 and \$5,000.
- Affiliate Minister Carole Yorke and volunteers have been making safety and wellness calls to vulnerable members.
- Stewardship Campaign Chair Coco Burt reported that pledges totaling nearly \$336,000 have been received.
- Patty Walker has assumed the position of Emerson Center Executive Director; Kelly Stephens has agreed to serve as EC Marketing Director.
- Because of the Covid 19 outbreak, Bridges attendance is down to about 44 children daily, about a third of typical attendance for this time of year. Bridges Ex. Dir. Brenda Neely is rotating staff to fulfill state requirements.

--Submitted by **Suzy Bromwell, Secretary; Bonnie Shelton, editor**

President's Column



Our annual meeting this year was held via Zoom, and we had almost 60 households tune in. We have had 130 ballots turned in. The

membership role is now at 303; therefore 42% of members have voted. Almost unanimously the slate of officers was approved, as well as the budget, support for the Climate Change Proclamation, and election of the Nominating Committee. Thank you to everyone who participated in our democratic process.

This next year may be challenging for those of us who prefer actual human contact to virtual, so please reach out to our board if you would like us to stay in touch.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your president these past two years, and I look forward to continuing to serve on the Board of Trustees as your secretary. Suzy Bromwell has performed so well in that position I don't think anyone can come close to her perfection, but I will do my best. Thank you, Suzy, for your service! I also look forward to having Kathy Cossa as our president, and know that she will do an excellent job in herding us cats!

--Submitted by **Cate Wenzing, outgoing board president**

Music Notes

A big "Thank You" to Elizabeth Borne for planning all music for our services during the quarantine. Thank you also to Jason Hobratschk for his accompaniment. Meanwhile, the search for a music director continues. With the help of Zoom and teleconferencing, the search committee has been able to interview several candidates, and two additional prospects are scheduled. The future of music and choir will progress as live streamed services evolve. Stay tuned.

--Submitted by **Sue Nalepa**

Fair Trade Open for Pick-Up Orders

Do you know that The Fair Trade Corner has always been a UUFVB Social Justice Initiative, as it promotes and supports small farmers and independent artisans from Equal Exchange? We can continue this support during the COVID 19 pandemic, when so many people are in severe financial straits. But we can't do it without you.

That is why the Corner recently opened for limited, online orders. Contact us before Tuesday noon and pick up your order in the UUFVB office during business hours the following Thursday after 11:30 a.m. It's that simple. Send us an email or call with your order. We'll confirm that your item(s) are in stock, and your total cost. Bring a check with you for payment and leave it in a collection box on the volunteer's desk.

The email for orders is uufvbftc@gmail.com. Please include your name, the items and quantity you'd like to buy, and who will pick up the order (if not you), plus your phone number. Checks only! Leave a check made out to UUFVB with FTC in the memo line. Your cancelled check is your receipt. The list of items available has been emailed to you. Let us know if you need another copy. We'll work with you to fulfill your order and are happy to discuss special orders and requests.

Questions or you don't have email? Contact:

Diane Osiecki (240.470.9753)

Charlene Fisher (561.504.8567)

--Submitted by **Denise Haight**