



July 1, 2020

## Fair Trade Corner Needs Your Input

As you may know, the Fair Trade Corner has been selling merchandise from our inventory to members and friends. Orders are submitted to [uufvbtc@gmail.com](mailto:uufvbtc@gmail.com) by Tuesday at noon and order pickups are on Thursday afternoons.

But did you know why it is important to continue to sell our merchandise during the pandemic?

Well, the Fair Trade Corner is a sub-committee of the Social Justice Committee. Our mission is to promote and support small farmers and independent artisans from around the world. All of these vendors have been, and continue to be, adversely affected by the economic impact of the pandemic.

Our hope is to do our small part in making sure that these artisans and companies can survive, even thrive, during these unprecedented times. The Corner offers items that promote environmental sustainability and economic justice, especially for women.

So, now we're coming to the part where we need your input. Would you like us to continue to make our products available to you? In what ways could we improve the ordering/delivery systems? Do you have any other thoughts that could result in added sales? Please contact one of us with your comments, questions, and your suggestions: Charlene Fisher, 561-504-8567, or Diane Osiecki, 240-470-9753.

--Submitted by Charlene Fisher  
and Denise Haight

## President's Column



July 1 marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for UUFVB. Our new Board of Trustees is comprised of nine experienced members who are committed to guide our Fellowship through the troubling waters of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have formed a Short-Term Planning Task Force to plan for the next 6-12 months at UUFVB, taking into consideration the restraints, concerns, and unknowns of the coronavirus. Irwin Sadetsky, a past president, first brought this idea to the trustees. He, along with several other board members, conferred

and have identified six areas of concern that need to be addressed as we approach the months ahead without "church as usual." The six areas to be considered by the task force are as follows:

- Finances
- Spiritual needs of UUFVB members and friends
- Maintenance of buildings and grounds
- Communication
- Governance, and
- Returning to our sacred space- our brick and mortar church building.

Board members and committee heads will be soliciting your ideas and comments about how we can best meet your needs and concerns in these six critical areas.

We are fortunate that our financial position is very good. Members and Friends of our congregation have been openhearted and generous. Many new communication tools, such as Sunday Service on U-Tube, Zoom covenant group meetings, telephone calling lists, and Scott's Wednesday noon check-in, have been implemented since the mandatory quarantine.

However, we will understand that as Unitarian Universalists, we treasure our connections with one another, for those connections are our life blood. Until we can have "church as usual," let each of us reach out to those friends we treasure from UUFVB, and to other family and friends in your life, to let them know they are important.

This is the best gift we can make.

--Submitted by Kathy Cossa,  
UUFVB Board of Trustees President

## Minister's Column



Dear Members and Friends of UUFVB, Collins and I are in the Adirondacks for three weeks of vacation, and so I want to share several things about the summer plans/coverage here at UUFVB.

First, we have a wonderful line-up of summer Sunday services and preachers planned—taped on **YouTube** every Thursday at 10:30 a.m., so please feel free to join us in the Sanctuary for that taping! The service is then broadcast “live” at 10 a.m. every Sunday, so please join us via the internet! We email the broadcast link to our Sunday service to you every Friday--Saturday at the latest--and on Sunday morning. The link is always on our UUFVB website that morning. We hope to be able to resume “in person” Sunday services in September, but will be determining that later in the summer based on the public health safety situation.

The resurgence of COVID-19 has altered my summer plans. Quarantine restriction in both New York and Florida have made it difficult for me to return to Florida as planned in mid-July. I will be conducting all business and staying in touch with things back in Vero remotely during

## Reasonable Precautions

July. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the complete Sunday worship schedule for July and August including July 19, when I will preach remotely. I appreciate your understanding of the necessity for this schedule change. At the present time I still hope to return to Vero Beach in mid-August.

Second, while I am away, several of our year-round affiliate ministers are on-call for pastoral emergencies and special ministerial services. I am always available by phone in case of emergency or urgent business, and our administrator, Kim McIntyre (who is usually in the office every weekday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) will always know how and where to reach me, as will our congregational President Kathy Cossa at 703-981-7976.

With the COVID-19 crisis continuing, we must all continue to take reasonable (if unwelcomed!) precautions this summer. As I said in my sermon on “Patience” in late May, we have entered the “endurance” phase of this pandemic, one that requires a mature waiting on all our parts. May you continue to find creative and responsible ways to enjoy your life, even as together we await the return of some sense of familiar normalcy.

Stay in touch and be well.

—Rev. Scott Alexander

### UUFVB to Start Live-Streaming Sunday Services this Fall

Reverend Scott Alexander and the Board of Trustees recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic will be with us for many months to come; but this Fall we want to return to the Sanctuary for regular Sunday Services, and provide our members and friends the full Sunday worship experience. However, we recognize some may be uncomfortable joining us in the Sanctuary, and we must provide a means for all to view the Service.

Joe Hardy, Al Parmentier and Lisa DelBrocco are leaders of a team preparing to live-stream Sunday Services this Fall. This is a complex project requiring studio-grade cameras with a controller, computer, video production software and trained operators. The hardware is on order with a delivery date in late summer, and Joe is busy learning the software and production techniques we will need to deliver a quality video production that will be viewable anywhere in the world.

We are all in a learning phase, and we want you to participate by joining in the discussion of what we want and how to do it. This is an exciting project for our Fellowship, and it keeps us in the forefront by using technology to bring the UU message far outside our 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sanctuary.

--Submitted by Joe Hardy, webmaster

### UUFVB Book Group Tackles Racism

Considering what has been going on both locally and nationally, we will be having a Zoom discussion concerning racism at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 26. Anyone interested in participating, please contact terrydomino71@gmail.com no later than Friday, July 24. You will then be sent a Zoom invitation with instructions that will be very easy to follow.

A suggested read is, “White Fragility (Why it’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism)” by Robin DiAngelo. Read this book, or any book, either fact or fiction, preferably by an African American author, that concerns itself with this important topic.

--Submitted by Terry Domino

## UUFVB Board May 23 Meeting Report

At its May 21 meeting, the Board of Trustees addressed the following issues.

- Treasurer Rebecca Hornbuckle reported that Marine Bank approved UUFVB's application for the Paycheck Protection Program underwritten by the Small Business Administration, for approximately \$123,000.
- Webmaster Joe Hardy presented updated estimates and answered questions about the cost of equipment for live streaming of Sunday services. The board approved the purchase of the necessary equipment for approximately \$10,302.
- Stewardship Campaign chair Coco Burt reported that pledges totaling nearly \$340,000 have been received. She noted that 22 people on the active list of members have not made pledges for FY 2020-21.
- As a follow-up to the Annual Meeting, Cate Wenzing reported that 129 members voted their absentee ballots, well over the one-third of the membership needed for a quorum.
- Tom Tierney suggested that more details be included in the employment agreement between The Emerson Center and Kelly Stephens, as marketing director. Rebecca Hornbuckle said that she would follow up with an amended document.
- Kelly Stephens is working with Joe Hardy to make the website easier to navigate and more user-friendly.
- Irwin Sadetsky, former a UUFVB board president, suggested the need for a Strategic Planning Committee to develop plans to deal with potential effects on the Fellowship of the Covid-19 infection, and resulting downturn of the economy. He volunteered to attend the group's first meeting.
- Bridges attendance has begun to increase to about half of typical daily attendance for this time of year. Bridges Executive Director Brenda Neely is rotating staff to fulfill state requirements. Brenda will apply for grants from the ELC for new curriculum.
- Woody Sutton, Finance Committee chair, reported that UUFVB's finances continue to be sound.

--Submitted by Suzy Bromwell, secretary; Bonnie Shelton, editor

## A Thank You for Supporting the Gifford Youth Orchestra

Dear members of UUFVB,

Thank you for supporting something as beautiful as little children learning to play their violins. Thank you for supporting their beginnings from non-rhythmic squeaking, one note at a time, to their goal of playing melodic harmonies.

But, the Gifford Youth Orchestra is so much more than just a violin or piano program. It is a modern-day version of an ancient social justice ritual.

Did you know that music builds bonds between strangers? Social justice happens when strangers of different races and backgrounds listen together. Have you ever thought about what happens when strangers of different races and backgrounds play together? Are you aware of how bonds are strengthened or built between strangers of different races and backgrounds as they begin to see each other more positively? Those are not just questions, there is research to back it up!

Of course, our main goal is to teach our students to play, sing, dance and perform at the highest levels they can achieve. But underlying that goal is our passion to give them the discipline and fundamentals that will help them succeed in life without fear and without being feared. It's only right, isn't it? It's a matter of justice for them. Social justice, if you will.

The fact that you have chosen to support the Gifford Youth Orchestra's style of social justice for another year through the Sunday Fund is very much appreciated, particularly by the "at risk" child(ren) who will receive a one-year tuition from your donations. We promise to keep on delivering social justice ideals between the lines and notes of our style of music education – one song at a time!

--Submitted by Crystal Bujol

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

July 5 – *"Courage,"* Rev. Carole York

July 12 – *"Letting the Genie Out of My Lamp,"* Crystal Bujol

July 19 – *"How to Explain the Unexplainable Beauty of the World,"* 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

September 6 – **Topic to Be Determined,** Rev. Scott W. Alexander

## “The Last Black Man In San Francisco” Is June Movie— View on Your Own, Then Discuss on Zoom Meeting

“The Last Black Man in San Francisco” is about young black men coming of age in an unprotected, often toxic environment. The screenplay, based on the life experiences of Jimmie Fails, was co-created by him with Joe Talbot, his long-time friend who also directs this 2019 movie.

This film is available for streaming on Amazon Prime and on DVD in libraries, stores and on loan from Bev Doherty. After viewing the movie, you may join a Zoom discussion at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 12. To receive an invitation, please contact Bev Doherty at [UUFVB.movies@gmail.com](mailto:UUFVB.movies@gmail.com) no later than June 10. You will then be sent an email with the Zoom code and easy instructions to join the discussion.

In the film, Jimmie’s faithful artistic friend, Montgomery, movingly portrayed by Jonathon Majors, observes and records their world. Older generations of black men enter the story with searing performances by Rob Morgan as Jimmie’s unavailable father and Danny Glover as Montgomery’s grandfather who sees beyond his blindness, sharing his cramped home with Mont and Jimmie. A sort of Greek chorus of young men expose and enlarge the emotional tensions in their experience of becoming a man. The backdrop of this boys-to-men story is the neighborhood near San Francisco Bay where the Navy studied radiation and decontaminated ships that had been exposed to atomic testing.

The pace of the film is set at opening with a child’s observations followed by those of the two primary characters watching a preacher while waiting for a bus. This artful, seemingly long (2 hours) and purposefully slow-moving film may have you wondering where it’s going. But the dreamy beauty of the film is a sweet invitation to join these young black artists in the pedestrian journey that *New York Times* critic Manohla Dargis describes as “an expressionistic odyssey, both rapturous and melancholic.”

--Submitted by Beverly Doherty, 443-518-6594

## Qigong Class Is Cancelled

Leader Bonnie Howard has cancelled qigong classes until further notice. As she said, “In light of the resurgence, I must cancel class. It’s too hot and buggy outside, and too dangerous inside.” The newsletter will announce any resumption of classes.

--Submitted by Bonnie Howard

## Social Justice Committee Seeks New Chair

The Social Justice Steering Committee needs a new chairperson. Nancy Stiefel is stepping down from that position. If interested, or if you have questions, call Nancy at 260-577-5417.

--Submitted by Nancy Stiefel



## Congregational Record

### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

1590 27<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vero Beach FL 32960  
772-778-5880; [uufvb.org](http://uufvb.org)

**Board of Trustee Officers:** Kathy Cossa, president; Woody Sutton, vice president, Cate Wenzing, 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](mailto:newsletter.uufvb@gmail.com)

Deadlines the 1st & 15th each month

**Editor, Bonnie Shelton**



## July Anniversaries and Birthdays

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



### Anniversaries

Ron & Pat Schaeffer 7/07  
Marty Deering & John Brock 7/09  
Susan & Bob Barker 7/12  
Joe & Carla Calwell 7/15  
Sonia & Andrew Molnar 7/16  
Rachel & Scott Hanks 7/18

Jean Baker 7/11  
Stewart Barnes 7/11  
Marsha Landon 7/12  
Charlott Poston 7/12  
Jack Siplak 7/12  
Richard Swanson 7/12  
Carla Calwell 7/13  
Jim McIntyre 7/13

### Birthdays

Carol Drake 7/01  
Marlys Hector 7/01  
Hank Kolt 7/02  
Violante Fioravanti 7/06  
David Kimball 7/07  
John Perry 7/07  
Judy Henderson 7/08

Joan Roth 7/13  
Earle Beasley 7/14  
Steve Osiecki 7/14  
Anne Tschinkel 7/14  
Tom Tierney 7/17  
Ken Drake 7/21  
Joyce Thompson 7/26  
Jean Deschatres 7/28