



October 1, 2020

The Endowment Fund Is Fellowship Resource

Many of you know that our Fellowship has an Endowment Fund. It is managed by the Endowment Committee (most recently chaired by the late Eva Heifetz). Members of that committee are appointed by your Board of Trustees.

Currently, the Endowment Fund has approximately \$330,000. A large portion is invested in the UUA's Common Endowment Fund, and only the investment income is ever spent, not the principal. In recent years, that investment income portion has been used to help reduce our Fellowship mortgage.

When did the Endowment Fund start? At the Congregational Annual Meeting in April 2001, the Fellowship approved the establishment of the fund and the Endowment Committee. A special resolution spelled out the mission, the organizational rules of the committee, and how members are chosen. I was the first chair.

A mere four months after its inception, a miracle happened! The Endowment Fund received an unexpected and very generous initial donation of \$248,000 from the estate of former members Carl and Florence Arnott. What a grand start!

The Fund's principal has grown since, and all members are encouraged to consider the Endowment in their estate planning! Stay tuned for further updates.

—Submitted by Jim Brewer,
member, Endowment Committee

UUFVB to Resume Sunday Services In-Person, and by Live-Streaming, on October 18

Because we are blessed with a spacious 800+ seat Sanctuary, which allows us to observe CDC COVID-19 safety guidelines for up to 150 persons, the Board of Trustees has announced that we will resume conducting our Sunday services every Sunday in our Sanctuary, beginning on Sunday, October 18, 2020.

For all those who choose to join us for in-person worship (and we realize this will only be a portion of the congregation because of health concerns), face-masks and safe-distancing by family group must be observed. We have roped off every other pew to assure that all attendees are seated at least 10 feet apart.

There will be no gatherings in the Lobby, nor any coffee hour (neither food nor drink) for the foreseeable future. Singers on the chancel will sing the hymns and other music, but those in the pews will be asked to only safely hum along. During the ritual of stones and water, all members of the congregation will remain seated safely in the pews as the minister symbolically places the stones in the water.

The ushers will monitor the entire service to ensure that safety guidelines and practices are observed by all. The religious education program (conforming with safe distancing guidelines) will also resume, with everyone in the program masked except the very youngest children.

We fully realize that many members and friends of the congregation will not (for a variety of reasons) feel ready to return to in-person worship at our facility at this time, which is why we will also begin "live-streaming" the complete service at 10 a.m. every Sunday, beginning on October 18.

We anticipate that as we move into the future – even after the COVID-19 crisis wanes – that we will continue live-streaming our services every Sunday, to maximize the numbers of people who can participate in our services, either remotely or in-person. For the foreseeable future, our congregation will remain both a traditional "in person" Sunday-gathered congregation and a "virtual" internet congregation. Please know you are welcome to join us however you feel comfortable! Any questions about how we are proceeding can be directed to Kimberly McIntyre, our administrator, or to Rev. Alexander.

--Submitted by Rev. Scott Alexander

Kamala Harris's Memoir Is October Book Choice

In October, the book group will discuss Kamala Harris's memoir, *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey*. This book describes many legal cases and issues that Senator Harris has worked on over the years. It also tells her personal story--from growing up in Oakland, and her family's story, to how she met her husband. The book was published in 2019, well before she had any idea of being considered for the vice president nomination. What makes the book so interesting is that Harris includes many anecdotes from real people whom she met along the way. Discussion will take place via Zoom at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 25. Contact terrydomino71@gmail.com (908-770-8419) if you wish to attend. You will then receive an invite to Zoom.

--Submitted by Terry Domino

Minister's Column



Dear Members and Friends of UUFVB,
After 48 continuous years of professional ministry, and 11 wonderful years as your minister here in Vero Beach, the time has come (as I approach my 72nd birthday) for me to announce my retirement from full-time ministry. After much thought and consideration, I informed the UUFVB Board of Trustees that it is my intention to retire from my settled ministry amongst you on **July 31, 2021**, which will provide both you and me ten months to prepare for a smooth and positive ministerial transition. I hope it goes without saying that I will remain fully and actively (and enthusiastically) your minister right up until this retirement date.

As I told the Board, the UUA (our parent denomination) will help you as a congregation to facilitate the transition to a new full-time settled minister. Most likely they will begin first with a standard two-year "interim" ministry -- with a trained and credentialed UU minister -- who would probably begin immediately after I retire on July 31, 2021. This interim ministry gives the congregation ample time to form a Search Committee, reflect on its long-term needs, and find just the right minister to take you successfully into your future.

Because of our UUA professional ministerial standards, I will play no role in this transition -- so all questions, concerns and comments about the process should be directed to the Board of Trustees...who will

It's Time for My Retirement

surely be in regular communication with the congregation as the planning for this important transition unfolds.

Despite of the uncertainties and complications that continue in this protracted time of Covid, I am retiring at a good and healthy moment in the life of the congregation. Thanks to the generosity of many, we have just retired our substantial building mortgage, and are stable financially and programmatically. Having steady growth over recent years, we are an active and healthy congregation of more than 400 members, friends, and children. I am confident that UUFVB has a good and strong future ahead -- with our beautiful and spacious (and now debt-free!) building, extensive programming, social justice service and outreach, and warm sense of fellowship and caring.

You and I will have ample opportunity -- over the coming months, before my departure next summer -- to reflect upon and celebrate our many successes and joys as a congregation. For now, as I continue to serve as your minister, I just want to sincerely thank all of you for your many and abundant kindnesses and considerations. Collins and I plan on keeping a home here in Vero Beach, so we are not suddenly disappearing from this community we have come to love. You are a wonderful and generous congregation to serve, and I will always hold you close and dear to my heart. Yours,

Rev. Scott W. Alexander

UUFVB Board of Trustees August 17 Meeting

At its August 17 meeting, the UUFVB Board of Trustees addressed the following issues.

- Bridges reported it has 82 students enrolled. When dropping off their children, parents must wear masks, and the children's temperatures are taken.
- Approval was given to install a UV light in the air handler (at a cost of \$2,400) to help control germs.
- The Board acknowledged, with appreciation, a \$100,000 gift from Bob and Patty Schmidt, and asked the Finance Committee to determine how to use the funds.*
- In-person Sunday services will resume October 18 if everything goes well.

- The Ministries Committee was judged to be redundant, and dissolved as a sanctioned committee.
- The Pastoral Care Committee will be revamped and begin meeting on Zoom.
- Chuck Campbell and Rebecca Brack were approved as new members of the Bridges Committee.
- The purchase of a third camera for taping Sunday services was approved.

*In a subsequent meeting, the Finance Committee determined to allocate the Schmidt's entire gift towards paying off the building mortgage, which was done.

--Submitted by Cate Wenzing, secretary;
Bonnie Shelton, editor

Upcoming Sunday Services: 10 a.m.

October 4 – “Is There Such a Thing as Evil?” Rev. Scott W. Alexander preaching. Scott writes, “The theological question of human evil has long vexed Unitarian Universalists. Historically, we have been steadfastly optimistic about human nature and potential – far more so than more conservative traditions which talk about original sin and human depravity. In these challenging times, maybe Unitarian Universalists need to re-examine how we understand human wrong-doing and malfeasance.”

October 11 – “Servant Leadership as Spiritual Practice,” pulpit guest Steve Becker with pulpit host Wally Friesen.

October 18 – Pulpit guest Rev. Sarah York, UUFVB affiliate minister.

October 25 – “May Your Pillow Catch Fire,” —A Sermon on Empathy. Rev. Scott W. Alexander preaching. Scott writes, “Empathy (and the lack of it) has arisen as an issue in this year’s presidential campaign. In addition, recently there was a rather startling thought-piece in the *New York Times* entitled “The Trouble with Empathy.” All this talk about empathy has caused me to reflect further on this human quality, which I believe is spiritually essential for us as Unitarian Universalists.

November 1 – “Sermon Before the Election,” Rev. Scott W. Alexander preaching. Scott writes, “Without doubt, the election this week is the most consequential, and potentially harrowing, of our lifetimes. Our country is so terribly divided politically, and so very much is at stake. This is especially so because it is not at all clear – because of a variety of pernicious factors -- that we will have a fair election with clear results. I want us to reflect together on this dangerous time in American life, and how we, as Unitarian Universalists, must respond.”

Trunk or Treat Halloween Festival

Bridges Early Learning Center will be having its “Trunk or Treat” celebration at 3 p.m. on Friday, October 30, in the Bridges parking lot. If you would like to be creative and decorate your car, please contact Bridges at bridgeselc@bellsouth.net or 772-778-5981. Don't forget to bring your individually-wrapped candies.

--Submitted by Brenda Neely, Director



2021 Season Announced for Art at the Emerson Center Gallery

Throughout the year, UUFVB has been a venue for Art at the Emerson Center Gallery. This gallery displays artwork from local photographers and artists. The artists have a chance to showcase their creations and also sell their artwork. Dawn Orre, director of the Art at the Emerson Center Gallery, has announced the 2021 season. You may view the upcoming exhibits and artists on our newly-remodeled website at artattheemerson.com. If you would like to get involved, act now, as space is limited. Please see the “Call to Artists” tab on the website for more details about submission and general exhibit guidelines. You may also contact Dawn Orre by phone, 772-538-2338, or email dawnorre@gmail.com.

--Submitted by Kelly Stephens

Mortgage Retired

The UUFVB mortgage with SunTrust Bank was officially retired as of September 2020. This accomplishment is a credit to the enormous generosity of our members. Thank you to everyone who has supported UUFVB to secure the financial future of our beloved community.--Submitted by Rebecca

Hornbuckle, treasurer



REflections

Welcome back UU parents and friends! We are so thrilled to be opening our doors again on Sunday, October 18, for in-person classes. Our new COVID-19 policy requires all individuals to practice social distancing and to wear face masks. For our school-aged children, face masks will be required when in our classroom. When we are outside playing games, face masks will not be required. Non school-aged children will NOT be required to wear face masks. Our staff will be wearing face masks.

The youth ministry is finishing the 2020 religious education season with a new *Empathy Series* that focuses on our individual thoughts and actions. How our actions affect others as they relate to our UU Principles. Each lesson is packed full with fun arts and crafts and life-long lessons for your youngsters. For our returning UU parents, Erika Knox and Kelly Stephens will continue to offer your children fun and safe care during Sunday mornings. If you are not ready yet to come back to group gatherings, but would like to follow along with us virtually, we would be delighted to send you an electronic copy of the week’s lesson plan.

UU parent Kim Williams and Kelly Stephens plan to offer the UU OWL (Our Whole Lives) Sex Education curriculum to our UU teens and to the local Vero Beach Community early in 2021. If you would like to get involved, or would like to know more about the Youth & Family Ministry, please contact Kelly Stephens, Director of Youth & Family Ministry, at 772-778-5880 or email at youth@uufvb.org.

--Submitted by Kelly Stephens

A Memo to UUFVB Seasonal Members and Friends

Greetings from the sunny Treasure Coast! This has been a typical late-summer for us here, with abundant rain and humid weather...and mercifully not much tropical storm activity!

A number of you have reached out and asked my opinion as to whether or not it is "safe and reasonable" to return to Vero Beach this autumn. My answer is a reasonably-confident "Yes."

Here is my perspective – and reasoning behind it. Our COVID-19 numbers in Vero Beach have come down considerably since summer (confirmed cases are steadily dropping county wide, as are deaths and hospitalizations). Despite some potentially unwise actions by our governor (most specifically loosening bar and restaurant restrictions), I believe that if one is careful here (common-sense precautions like wearing a mask out in public, maintaining safe distances, practicing good hygiene, and patronizing only stores and outdoor eating establishments with a firm mask policy), it is just about as safe here as anywhere in the U.S.

Of our approximately 400 members and friends (folks who are generally being careful and following the science and safety guidelines), only one person has tested positive for this illness over the last seven months, and he was a gentleman in his 90's in an assisted living facility who (blessedly) recovered quickly.

When I go to the grocery store or other "big box" stores around town, I (and other members I consulted) now observe almost everyone being masked and careful on personal distancing. It is my belief that if one maintains common-sense safety practices here (like those you are no doubt observing wherever you are now), there is no reason to be particularly fearful of contracting this virus in Vero. Of course, no environment (nor American community) is completely "risk-free," but Vero Beach feels reasonably safe to me at this time.

If you want to discuss any of this further with me, please don't hesitate to write me at minister@uufvb.org, or call my cell 772-359-0602. We do hope to see you over coming months, be well and keep safe no matter where you are!

--Rev. Scott Alexander

Food Truck at UUFVB on Wednesdays

UUFVB & The Emerson Center are partnering to be a host location every Wednesday for the Dignity Food Truck, as part of our Social Justice outreach. Starting at 11 a.m. Wednesday, October 7 (with no specific closing time), The Dignity Food Truck will be parked at the UUFVB. You order from the window or by Google App ("I Am The Source" from your App Store). Your Dignity Food Truck purchase supports homeless culinary students. All monies derived will be used to support programs and services at The Source. Find out more about the Dignity Food Truck at <https://www.iamthesource.org/>

--Submitted by Kelly Stephens



Congregational Record

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

1590 27th Ave., Vero Beach FL 32960
772-778-5880; 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, Music Director; Kristy O'Neal, Sexton; Brenda Neeley, Bridges Director.

newsletter.uufvb@gmail.com

Deadlines the 1st & 15th each month

Editor, Bonnie Shelton

October Anniversaries and Birthdays

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



Anniversaries			
		Richard Fisher	10/12
Harry & Susan Schmitke	10/01	Roy Swenson	10/12
Will & Amy McLaughlin	10/03	Kim Lorimier	10/13
Sandy & Jack Siplak	10/04	Judy Miller	10/14
Sue & Larry Nalepa	10/15	Ellen Lagerquist	10/15
Ladd & Elizabeth Borne	10/17	Rod Baker	10/19
Frank & Karolyne Lucero	10/27	Carol Scofield	10/21
Robert & Carol Scofield	10/27	Marcia Baker	10/22
Ada & Roy Swenson	10/30	Susan O'Brien	10/22
		Mary Woodward	10/22
		John Brown III	10/25
Birthdays			
Marian Wenzel	10/03	Bill Conway	10/27
Gwen Forbes-Wolfe	10/04	Ron Cossa	10/27
Michael O'Malley	10/05	Andrew Brack	10/30
Lisa Fitz-Coy	10/06	Rose Gallo	10/30
Jim Daly	10/10	Lisa Angell	10/31
Robert Scofield	10/10		

President's Column

One of the greatest benefits of our affiliation with UUFVB is the sense of connection we have to people of like mind and like heart. How wonderful to walk into a coffee hour following a Sunday Service, fill your cup with coffee or tea, grab a goodie from the center table, and look around to so many familiar faces.



Those were the “good ole days” were they not? Now we live in the “Age of Covid,” and most of us continue to quarantine, wear masks when we go out, and social distance. We do this for our own healthy well-being as well as for our fellow man. Despite these barriers, our sense of connection need not be broken. We are still here for one another as Fellowship members in the fullest sense of the word.

How do we find contact information for UUFVB members and friends? We are fortunate to have a UUFVB Church Directory with current names and contact information for all members and friends. If you do not have a current directory, please contact Kim McIntyre at the office to obtain one. If you have been out of touch with a new acquaintance or friend, connect with them via email, telephone, or snail mail. You will put a smile on their face for sure.

While few of us feel comfortable meeting “in person” now, most of our connections continue by telephone or by a prearranged meeting using a computer app called, “Zoom.” If you would like to sit in on any virtual committee meeting, whether it be in an area of interest to you or if you would just like to catch up with changes or progress, you are welcome to join in. Again, call Kim at the office for the way to access any given meeting. All our covenant groups are meeting via Zoom at least

Stay in Touch

once a month.

I understand there are some among us who are not comfortable using Zoom. *Please give it another chance, to help yourself feel connected and to help others feel the same way.* Alternatively, if a fellow covenant group member does not attend your monthly meeting, reach out to them to see how they are doing. Covenant groups are powerful tools for connecting.

Don't miss our weekly Sunday service that you can access by clicking on the youtube link included in the email sent to you the Friday before the service (and repeated at 9 a.m. Sunday, an hour before the service). There may not be cookies and cake following each Sunday service, but there is a virtual coffee hour following each service at 11 a.m. Please join us. Also, please be aware that each Monday at 2 p.m., Scott holds a Zoom check-in and chat open to everyone. Don't forget that our *Congregational Record*, published monthly, contains updates on everything going on in our Fellowship.

Pick up your phone and call a UUFVB member or friend to say hello. If you need help with groceries, transportation, or daily toil, please call the office to see what we can do to help you. If you would like to volunteer to answer the phone at the office, call to get a time and date to do so. Everyone there wears masks and observes social distancing. If you are challenged in computer skills and want to learn how to join in a Zoom meeting, call the office. There are no *stupid questions!*

Connections are about the give and take of life. It takes courage to take the first step. However, isn't that how we learned to walk? Just look how far we have come since our first step to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach!

--Submitted by Kathy Cossa, Board President

Transitional Meals Continue with Generous Contributions

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the friends and members of the Fellowship for the outpouring of donations to the Transitional Meal program. The Fellowship received \$822.50 in donations in September alone! We would also like to give an extra THANK YOU to the IREland Covenant Group of Indian River Estates that donated \$265.00 for the September Transitional Meal.

We have spoken with our contacts at Camp Haven, Samaritan Center and Veterans House this week, and they have shared how much they appreciate our continued commitment of providing monthly meals, especially during these difficult times. If you would like to contribute, please send your donation to the Fellowship office, and mark the memo line Transitional Meal. If you have any questions or suggestions, email either Rachel

Hanks, rmhanks424@gmail.com or Janice Schroeder, nelliemaesmom@yahoo.com. We would love to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support, we couldn't do it without you!

--Submitted by Rachel Hanks