



Where you *belong!*

# CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, *where diversity is treasured.*  
A member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

## Inside

- Board Notes.....2
- Sunday Collection Schedule.....2
- Ministerial Search Update.....3
- Joys & Sorrows.....3
- Happening at All Faiths.....4
- July 2023 Calendar.....5
- August 2023 Calendar.....6
- Climate Action Team News.....7
- July Service Schedule.....8
- August Service Schedule.....8
- Heart for the Homeless Team News.....9
- Racial Equity Team News.....9
- Fran Way Legacy Award.....10
- LIFE News & Updates.....10
- July/August ACMA Concert Lineup...10
- Treasurer's Report.....11
- Animal Shelter Collection.....11
- UUA General Assembly Report.....12



## BOARD NOTES *by Michelle Gemma, Board Vice-Chair*

*The Board of Directors met on June 21, 2023 at 1:00 p.m..*

Happy Summer Solstice!

I conducted my first Board meeting as our chair, Marge DiGalbo, is home recuperating from major surgery. I had so much support and appreciate my fellow board members.

The Ministerial Search Committee is diligently working to find the right fit for our Congregation. They are conducting interviews and are confident that we'll have a minister soon.

Repairs will be happening this summer to our church. We'll be getting interior and kitchen renovations as well as a new parking lot. The updates will make our church look shiny and new!

We need people to start joining teams. We're in search of an auction team and a fundraising team. Do

you have any good ideas, please see me, Barb McFarlane, or Regina. Let's make our congregation a fun place for all and let's raise some money!

Fort Myers Fire Department will be on site Saturday, October 14 from 9 to 12 for CPR training. This is a non-certified course. Space is limited to 20, sign-up sheets will go on the event board closer to the date.

We are hoping to get a few "wish list" items soon. Regina had donated her laptop to the church but unfortunately that died last week. We will need to purchase a new one as soon as possible. The furniture in front of the church has seen better days. We are hoping to replace that as well.

The board voted to take the month of August off from our meeting schedule to accommodate vacations.

With the summer here that means rainy season so please take care. If you have any vacation plans, enjoy them. We'll look forward to hearing about it at coffee hour.

Have a safe and happy summer and keep in touch with us. Be sure to watch our livestreamed Sunday services if you are out of town.

*The next meeting will be on July 19, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at All Faiths. There will be no meeting in August.*

### NEW WISH LIST

All Faiths needs a new outdoor patio furniture set to replace our existing old and disintegrating wicker set. Envelopes will be available on the bulletin board if you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of a new set. We appreciate your contributions!

## AUGUST CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES

We welcome back our Children and Youth, Sunday August 6, as we continue our Spring/Summer exploration of the Miraculous.

**August 6** - Miracles and planning for youth Sunday service.

**August 13** - CYP Sunday service, Theme: Be Seen, Be Heard.

**August 20** - Miracles, and review of Sunday Service offering on August 13.

**August 27** - Miracles, closing of Spring/Summer Curriculum and preparing for Fall/Winter-Theme: Finding Your Voice

*For more information contact: CYP Director, Albie*

## Mission Statement

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is committed to Justice, Equity and Compassion.

## Vision Statement

Recognizing our role as each other's keepers, we strive to be an inclusive, loving, spiritual community working to bring harmony to the world.

## All Faiths Collection Schedule

### Monthly Share-the-Plate

*(Please write organization and amount in the memo line of your check.)*

**July** - Visuality (The Rainbow Connection)  
**August** - Operation Joy - (Back to School Part I)  
**September** - SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team)

### Special Collections

**July** - Animal Shelter Collection  
**August 14** - School Uniforms (for Heart for the Homeless Team)

June Share-the-Plate brought in \$310 for Quality Life Center

happy  
Fourth  
of July!

## MINISTERIAL SEARCH UPDATE

by Marsha Bates, Chair

In the last month, the Search Team has expanded its search in several ways:

- We posted the position on Indeed and ZipRecruiter. Thus far, no viable candidates have applied. We rejected those from foreign countries (Kenya, Guyana), those with non-ministerial backgrounds (human resource specialists, chaplains, school counselors, etc), those with incompatible theological approaches, and one whose resume looked promising but whose language skills were sub-par.
- No new leads have been received from UUA.
- Jack Kennedy contacted three of his previous ministers who said they would direct colleagues who are looking to All Faiths. We are hopeful this will bring qualified candidates to us. If you have contacts in other congregations, please reach out to them.
- We have started exploring the possibility of tapping into UUA's Commissioned Lay Minister (CLM) program to serve the congregation while the search for an ordained minister continues. The CLMs have to complete a three-year training program that focuses on skills such as pastoral care, community outreach, sermon delivery, staff supervision, committee work, and conflict resolution.
- We have placed an ad in the Fall/Winter issue of UUA's World magazine. It is widely read by thousands of UUs ... and by UU ministers.

We, like you, are hopeful that we can find an appropriate candidate to fill All Faiths' pulpit.

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE



for Barbara Goolsby

Saturday, July 15, 2023

at 11:00 a.m. at All Faiths

## JOYS & SORROWS

*With our apologies for any omissions, here are the joys & sorrows expressed by our members in June.*

**Marge DiGalbo** had major cervical spine surgery on neck vertebrae. We hope she has good results and a speedy recovery.

**Michelle Gemma** came down with COVID on a trip to Rome. We are glad that she has recovered.

**Barbara Goolsby** passed away after a long struggle. We extend our sympathy to all her loved ones.

**Joan Marshall** had a serious bronchial infection that required a trip to the ER. We hope she recovers soon.

**Bob Way** was hospitalized with a serious case of bronchial infection. We hope that he has a good recovery.

**Rev. CJ McGregor** will be returning to visit us and give the sermon on August 27th. It will be wonderful to have him here and to learn about his year in London.

*Joyce Ramay*

Care and Support Coordinator

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



All Faiths is happy to welcome new members (from left) Ron Albanalp, Danika Fornear, Alberita Johnson, Peg Clayton-Fischer and John Fischer; our Board Chair, Marge DiGalbo and Membership Chair, Fran Way.

We also welcome Katie Velasquez Cleveland, Carley Martone and Carole Ramsay (not pictured).

## Happy July & August Birthday to you!



- July 3     Becky Ross  
July 5     Jan Guardiano  
July 6     Nita Veber  
July 7     Regina Kilmartin  
July 8     Janet Goen  
July 12    John Conrad  
July 13    Nathalie Hahn  
July 19    Joe Gayton  
July 22    Terri Lazar  
July 22    David Donovan  
July 24    Robert Bennett  
July 25    Richard Scudder  
July 27    Barb McFarlane  
July 30    Doug Cartwright  
July 31    Bob DiGalbo  
August 7   Joyce Reischuck  
August 12  Joan Marshall  
August 13  Wayne Robinson  
August 15  Jackie Wendorf  
August 19  Marsha Bates  
August 21  Marilyn Webber

### And Coming Up...

- Sept. 07   Brad Davidson  
Sept. 08   Wayne Dean



*If you are missing or see someone  
who is missing from the birthday  
roster, please let Regina know.*

## Happening at All Faiths

### The Epicureous Dinner Group

*Strictly Social Dinner Group Meeting Once a Month*  
**Please Sign Up and RSVP on Bulletin Board**

**Saturday, July 22 - 5:00 p.m.**

SAIGON PARIS BISTRO 12995 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite 118  
(Just north of Bell Tower Mall)

**Saturday, August ? - 5:00 p.m.**

GINGER BISTRO 4650 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite 8  
(Just south of Colonial in JoAnn Fabric Plaza)

### The Rainbow Connection

*Meeting on the 2nd Sunday of the Month at 12 p.m.*

The Rainbow Connection is a new addition to All Faiths' social justice teams. This group will support the LGBTQ+ community and Allies. All are welcome.

### Solos Group Events

*Meeting Every 1st Saturday at 12:30 p.m.*

**Saturday, July 1** - MASALA MANTRA, Indian Bistro, 4518 Del Prado Blvd. Cape Coral, FL

**Saturday, Aug. 5** - AZUCAR, authentic Cuban Restaurant, 3326 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral, FL  
Contact: Annely Hudanick, annelyblue@hotmail.com

### All Voices Choir Practice

*On hiatus until late August - rehearsal schedule T/B/D*

The choir welcomes new members. You do not have to be a professional singer or read sheet music to join. Go ahead, give it a try. Contact: Carlos Garcia, ceegeefm@gmail.com.

### Book Club

*On hiatus until September - resumes 9/18/23*

The book club is casual and fun. No assigned books, just show up and be prepared to talk about an interesting book you've read or are reading. Contacts: Diane Chernow, dianecher@comcast.net

### McGregor Clinic Collection

*Collection is on the 3rd Sunday of Every Month*

This month the clinic is in need of men's and women's clothing.  
Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, joycelschaffer@gmail.com

# July 2023 CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service	3	4  4th of July	5	6	7 10am Tai Chi Chih 2pm Dominoes	1 1pm Solos Lunch (see pg. 4)
9 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service 12 pm Rainbow Connection	10 No Sun. Service Mtg.	11 No Racial Equity Team Mtg.	12 1:30pm Climate Action Team Mtg. via Zoom	13	14 No Tai Chi Chih No Dominoes	8 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 8)
Interior Repairs being made to the Community Room this week.						
16 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service McGregor Clinic Collection	17 10 am Finance Mtg. (due to repairs on July 14)	18	19 1pm Board Meeting	20 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	21 10am Tai Chi Chih 2pm Dominoes	22 5pm The Epicureous Dinner Group (see pg. 4)
23 Service Schedule same as above	24	25	26	27	28 10am Tai Chi Chih 2pm Dominoes	29
30 Service Schedule same as above Animal Shelter Collection	31					

# AUGUST 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



		1 <b>1:30pm Zoom</b> Climate Action Team Mtg.	2	3	4 <b>10am</b> Tai Chi Chih  <b>2pm</b> Dominoes	5 <b>1pm</b> Solos Lunch (Pg. 4)  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
6 <b>9:15am</b> News Talk  <b>10:30am</b> Service and Child & Youth Program	7 <b>10am</b> Sunday Service Team Mtg.	8 <b>10am</b> Racial Equity Meeting	9	10 <b>10am</b> Finance Mtg.	11 <b>10am</b> Tai Chi Chih  <b>2pm</b> Dominoes	12
13 <b>9:15am</b> News Talk  <b>10:30am</b> Service and Child & Youth Program  <b>12 pm</b> Rainbow Connection	14	15	16 <b>No</b> Board Meeting	17 <b>No</b> Homeless Team Mtg.  <b>7pm</b> Tamiami Tale Tellers	18 <b>10am</b> Tai Chi Chih  <b>2pm</b> Dominoes	19
20 <b>9:15am</b> News Talk  <b>10:30am</b> Service and Child & Youth Program  McGregor Clinic Collection	21	22	23	24	25 <b>10am</b> Tai Chi Chih  <b>2pm</b> Dominoes	26 <b>5pm</b> The Epicureous Dinner Group (see pg. 4)  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
27 <b>9:15am</b> News Talk  <b>10:30am</b> Service and Child & Youth Program	28	29	30	31	<b>Check online:</b> <b><a href="http://www.allfaithsuo.org">www.allfaithsuo.org</a></b> <b>for Calendar Updates &amp; Corrections</b>	

# CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



At the Climate Action Team meeting in June, there was a surprise guest participant: the City of Fort Myers Director of Public Affairs, Liz Bello-Matthews. Liz will be the guest speaker at our next CAT meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12th when she will discuss her

work with the city government in detail. She joined us at the June meeting to begin getting acquainted. Liz has been working with the City of Fort Myers for two years. Previously, she was with the City of Miami Beach government where she was instrumental in bringing Florida East Coast communities together in addressing environmental issues, such as sea level rise, in a collaborative effort known as Resilient 350. Liz is a strong proponent of collaborative action and looks forward to connecting with CAT and our many partners.

She has a business background in both marketing and communications and worked at Samsung before entering public service. Fort Myers recently received a grant for keeping our waterways clean. However, she wants to talk to the community about more than our waters. She knows the audience is out there, if she can find ways to talk to them. She emphasized that it's okay when people disagree. Her information is very data driven and can help overcome misconceptions. She also talked about cooperation between city and county governments as we address major environmental issues such as clean water. Lee County recently received a grant of 1.1 billion dollars to address resiliency issues. She encourages us to be outspoken about securing funds to help consumers strengthen homes and become more impact-resistant. She is eager to work with us on important environmental issues.

Your Climate Action Team has long been focused on the importance of building alliances. We welcome this opportunity to strengthen our relationship with local government and to find ways to engage in collective action.

We invite all of you to join us at our July meeting to learn more about how we can work with the City of Fort Myers to help our community grow in climate resilience and justice.



## Ice Cream Social

After Service

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Sponsored by Regina Kilmartin

- and -

Sunday, August 27

Sponsored by Terri & Jeff Lazar



*Tai Chi Chih got off to a great start! The first session was well attended and enjoyed by all.*

*If you would like to improve your leg strength, flexibility range of motion and reflexes, come join the class on Fridays at 10 a.m. with Accredited Instructor Linda Finlan (left). Next class is July 7, no class on July 14 due to interior repairs in the community room.*



**JULY 2022**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**  
**"WE ARE EACH OTHER'S KEEPERS"**

**In House & Live on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.**

Recorded services can be viewed at [www.allfaithsuu.org](http://www.allfaithsuu.org)  
or on our YouTube channel.

**July 2 – Independence Day**  
*With Hope for Liberty and Justice for All*  
**Speaker - Alberita Johnson**

Worship Associate Regina Kilmartin  
Music by Carlos Garcia

**July 9 – Disabilities Pride Day**  
*Embodying Pride*

**Guest Speaker - Alison Carville**  
Worship Associate Greg Monk  
Music by Carlos Garcia

**July 16 – Minority Mental Health Awareness**  
*Hopeless to Healing: Increasing Access  
while Decreasing Stigma*

**Guest Speaker - Chantel Rhodes**  
Worship Associate Michelle Gemma  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
**McGregor Clinic Collection**

**July 23 – Widows Day**  
*Widowhood: Life After Death*

**Speaker - Joyce Ramay**  
Worship Associate Doug Cartwright  
Music by Carlos Garcia

**July 30 – Pets Day**  
*The Love that We Give Our Pets Comes Back  
to Us Many Times Over*

**Speaker - Doug Cartwright**  
Worship Associate Diane Cartwright  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
**Pet Shelter Collection**

**AUGUST 2022**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**  
**"RELATIONSHIPS"**

**In House & Live on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.**

Recorded services can be viewed at [www.allfaithsuu.org](http://www.allfaithsuu.org)  
or on our YouTube channel.

**August 6 – Friendship Day... and Facebook  
Video Killed the Radio Star**  
**Speaker - Regina Kilmartin**

Worship Associate Michelle Gemma  
Music by Carlos Garcia

**Child & Youth Program Resumes  
with Albie Johnson**

**August 13 – International Youth Day**  
*Be Seen, Be Heard*

**Speaker - Emmie Spiller**  
Worship Associate Albie Johnson  
CYP Participants  
Music by Carlos Garcia

**August 20 – Suicide Awareness**  
*Suicide – Choosing Death or Life*  
**Speaker - Dottie Mayol**

Worship Associate Greg Monk  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
**McGregor Clinic Collection**

**August 27 – Increasing Hatred**  
*The State of Hate*

*What Can We Do About It?*  
**Speaker - Past Minister, Rev. CJ McGregor**  
Music by Carlos Garcia and  
Nancy Frasca-Cabazares  
Worship Associate Joyce Ramay

**SUNDAY PROGRAMS**

**News Talk**  
Sundays at 9:15 in the Sanctuary

**Child & Youth Program**  
on hiatus through the end of July.  
CYP resumes Sunday, August 6, 2023 - (See Pg. 2)



## ♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Susan Meissner, Team Member

The Homeless Team meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm at All Faiths. Anyone interested in helping a dynamic group of all Faiths members is welcome to attend/join our group. FMI: contact Barb McFarlane or Judy Alberda.

Our Team has a number of projects in progress – new ideas are always appreciated!

1. A sleeping bag collection for the 2023-2024 winter season is underway to assist Matt Wallace and the Lee County Coalition for the Homeless. We search area thrift shops and the facebook marketplace looking for clean, usable bags. As of 6-2-23, we have collected 13 sleeping bags, 3 of which are suitable for taller/larger people. Last year, All Faiths donated 30 sleeping bags, we hope to acquire as many as we can find again this year.

2. Various Team members researched Fort Myers area homeless shelters to identify a facility that we could offer assistance to. We identified the Fort Myers Rescue Mission on MLK Blvd. This is an 85 bed (men only) shelter in need of anything we can donate. Our Team collected all manner of clothing, bed & bath linens, kitchen ware, household misc. and books. These items were donated via 3 deliveries.

3. In the fall, we are planning a sock & toiletry drive at All Faiths. We are hopeful that our members will donate these items to help us fill this ever growing need.

4. We have a “Hats for Homeless Women” project in progress. Women who are sleeping “rough” in the colder months will benefit from a warm, hand-knitted hat. Each hat will be placed in a gallon zip bag. Additional items will be added to the bag, and the bags will be distributed by the Lee County Coalition for the homeless. We currently have 30 hats and have begun to collect items such as: hand sanitizer, playing cards, socks, toothpaste, deodorant & wash cloths. Just a note to say “Thank You” to everyone who donated yarn !!!

5. Bicycles... continue to be collected and delivered to All Souls for refurbishment and distribution to homeless individuals. If you have a bike in any condition, or can obtain a bike, please donate it to the All Faiths Bike Rack in front of our building. If you need help transporting a bike to All Faiths, please contact Barb McFarlane.

6. Lastly, Judy Alberda is in contact with the All Souls Housing Ministry Leader who would like to give a “message” at All Faiths in the Fall. Details to follow as they become available.

## A WORD FROM OUR RACIAL EQUITY TEAM

by Albie Johnson and Frank Geltner

Greetings All Faiths Members and Friends. We want to thank Lewis Robinson for leading the team and providing thought-provoking readings to light our path toward meaningful and strategic action. This summer, while the Racial Equity Team is in transition, we will continue to meet as usual on the second Tuesday of each month.

### Our Summer Theme: Collaborative Cooperation

Developing and implementing a “racial” anything is hard work. We invite you to join us as we explore the 7 Principles of Kwanzaa, important pillars to African, and more specifically, Africans of the diaspora, that are most dominant in the Americas.

Kwanzaa is an annual holiday affirming African family and social values that is celebrated primarily in the United States from December 26 to January 1. Both the name and the celebration were devised in 1966. Kwanzaa was created during a time of social uprisings against racism, and was to re-establish community and to enlighten African Americans of their African culture. Kwanzaa is based on seven principles that are reaffirmed during the celebration and are practiced all year long.

Collaborative cooperation is key to diversity, liberty and justice for us all. Let us, as a Beloved Community, do the hard work of racial justice. We begin with Outreaching by Inreaching. First, understanding this kind of work cannot be rushed, instead it must be persistent and consistent.

Question to ponder: Who, or what taught you racism?

We welcome you to talk about it at our next meeting.

We look forward to meeting with our current members and welcome any new bodies and voices to join us.

All committee leaders please try to attend.

With Liberty and Justice for All!

*The Racial Equity Team will take July off and resume regularly scheduled meetings on Tuesday, August 8 at 10 a.m.*



*by Marsha Bates, Team Leader*

All Faiths is so proud of our own Fran Way. For the sixth year, nominations for the **Fran Way Legacy Award** for Women's Health Nurse Practitioners are being accepted through July 23, 2023. Visit <https://npwh.org/page/awards> for more information about Fran and the nominating process, but below is an excerpt from the NPWH website:

**The Award**

Because of Fran Way's role as a founder of NPWH, along with her extraordinary vision, passionate advocacy, and outstanding commitment to the WHNP role, NPWH has created the Fran Way Legacy Award. Each year, NPWH bestows this award to a WHNP who has demonstrated commitment to women's health through practice, education, and advocacy.

**Criteria for Selection**

- Certified WHNP
- An individual who has exhibited extraordinary vision by sustaining the WHNP role and providing a specific contribution to expand the scope of practice
- An individual who has demonstrated passionate advocacy for the WHNP role through leadership at the local, state, national, or individual level
- Active member of NPWH

**Past Recipients of the Fran Way Legacy Award**

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2018: Fran Way    | 2021: Susan Rawlins |
| 2019: Mary Rubin  | 2022: Jacki Witt    |
| 2020: Judith Berg |                     |



*Fran, in 2018 with the first award honoring her legacy.*

All Faiths' LIFE 2023-24 activities (Fall 2023 through Spring 2024) will begin with your Team Leads participating in Team Leader Training in August. All Faiths' house parties will be scheduled for late September/early October. Input from those gatherings and house parties held by other LIFE congregations will be used to identify commonly held social justice concerns.

LIFE's Fall gathering, formerly called the Annual Assembly, has been re-named the Community Problems Assembly. At that October 24, 2023 assembly, input from all congregations' network members will determine what issue(s) LIFE will focus on for the 2023-24 cycle.

In May, the Board had re-formed the Affordable Housing Action Team into a more informal ad hoc housing committee. Since then, it has become apparent that the City is not forthcoming about how the Affordable Housing Trust funds are being used. Therefore, LIFE's Board recommends that the AHAT be re-constituted with a focus of pushing the City to build brick and mortar affordable housing for low-income families rather than using the funds only for workforce housing. Although housing will continue to be a focus, an additional issue identified through the house party and Community Problems Assembly process can also be pursued.

Information about All Faiths' House Parties (dates, time) will be forthcoming.

**ACMA LIVE MUSIC!**

See full calendar at [www.americanacma.org](http://www.americanacma.org).

**Saturday, July 8 - 7:00pm**  
Mia Borders with Casey Page Culbreth opening

**Saturday, August 5 - 7:00pm**  
Deidre McCalla with Robert Bidney opening

**Saturday, August 26 - 7:00pm**  
Grant Malloy Smith with Pete Bensen opening

**The Listening Room at All Faiths**  
2756 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers, Florida 33901

General public \$18/Member discount \$12  
Donations at the Door

## TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

### Balance Sheet: Cash Assets – May 2023

First Horizon Checking	\$ 25,328
First Horizon Op. Reserve	25,181
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	21,281
Raymond James Legacy	4,566
Pay Pal	35
First Horizon Capital Checking	19,109
First Horizon Capital Reserve	4,070
Live Oak Capital Reserve	25,035
Live Oak Capital Savings	20,028
Live Oak Legacy Fund CD	20,035
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$164,667</b>
Prior Month	<u>155,815</u>
<b>Net Gain</b>	<b>\$ 8,852</b>

### May 2023 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 19,580
Operating Expense	<u>11,164</u>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>\$ 8,416</b>

- Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:
- Our Pledge Goal from April to May was \$33,919.00; and \$24,117.04 was received (71.1%). However, some congregants pledge was received at the end of the last fiscal year (during the pledge drive); that amounted to \$22,600.00. Factoring in those funds, we have received a total of \$46,717.04 towards the Pledge Goal. Thank you for your generosity!
- Since Hurricane Ian, with available funds from the UUA and our insurance carrier, the roof and gutters have been replaced. Interior renovations have been recently authorized for ceiling repairs and new kitchen countertops and we anticipate the work will be done in June/July 2023.
- Several new accounts were created at Live Oak to generate increased interest income. The 1 Year CD rate is 5.0%. And the Savings rate is currently at 4.0%.
- The monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,250.00 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. No Capital Reserve expenses were incurred. However, a contract has been issued to repave the parking lot and we are waiting for the work to be scheduled.
- In May, \$250.00 was collected for All Souls Episcopal Church (Heart for the Homeless Team)

**We NEED you.**  
**Can you HELP?**



**Sunday, July 30, 2023**

Shelters provide a safe and nurturing environment for these animals until they can find a forever home. Hurricane Ian displaced many helpless animals. To help shelters in their mission, they would appreciate donations of pet food and treats, and any of the items listed below.

**Cat Food (Dry and Canned)**  
**Dog Food (Dry and Canned)**  
**Cat Litter (Clay & Scoopable)**  
**Contractor Grade Trash Bags**  
**Towels, large & small**  
**Blankets, Comforters**  
**Pillow Cases, Sheets**  
**Clorox Wipes**  
**Tissues**  
**Paper Towels**  
**Bleach**

**Gift cards from Petsmart, PetCo  
or Pet Supermarket  
(or other local pet stores)**

**Sharon Gray will deliver the  
donations to shelters in need.**

# UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

*by Chris Stotler, All Faiths Delegate*

Sharon Gray, Marsha Bates, and Chris Stotler served as All Faiths' on-site delegates at UUA's 2023 General Assembly; Albie Johnson attended on-line. GA is always an exciting, spiritually invigorating, tiring, and sometimes frustrating experience. This year was no different.

The music during worship services and breaks was outstanding and there were many inspiring speakers. We witnessed the wide-ranging depth and quality of UU talent. As in other years, there were many informative, thought-provoking workshops available to delegates; however, the frequent business sessions dominated our time and precluded our participation in many of the workshops. Fortunately, many of the workshops were recorded and we have the option of watching them on-line.

The two biggest business actions were the election of President for the next six years and the Article II amendment/approval process. Before her election, now-President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt was impressive when articulating her positions on issues and her ambitions for the future of the UUA. We were happy she was elected President by such a large majority (95%+).

Part of GA 2023's Article II process was to determine whether the Article II language proposed by the Study Commission would be ac-

cepted as is or whether it should be amended. Before GA, delegates were allowed to submit proposed amendments. Of the 80 that the delegates submitted, 15 were selected to be discussed and voted on at the assembly. It is unclear how the Board determined which of the 80 submitted amendments would be presented to the GA at large.

Marsha and Chris each had submitted an amendment ... both would have kept the 7 Principles as they are currently written and added the 8th Principle and one also included the Sources in the revised version of Article II. Neither of their amendments were included in the 15 presented to the delegates for their vote. UUA's Article II Study Commission stated that they are opposed to lists (such as the Principles and Sources) because lists always leave something out. They feel their proposed paragraphs explain the Principles and Sources more fully.

The remaining 13 amendments discussed and voted on at GA addressed small (but sometimes important) word changes such as adding "peace."

UUA's Article II Study Commission members had worked on the Article II revision for two years, spending countless hours meeting with select congregations, holding workshops, and hashing out the revised language that is being proposed. They are

understandably committed to the adoption of their proposed language. Although they spoke in support of a few amendments, they spoke in opposition to most of them. At times, they were aggressively defensive which was disappointing. We had anticipated having conversations with the Commission members and thought they would listen and be more willing to compromise.

Another controversial resolution discussed and voted on involved a proposal by some young adults that would require complete divestiture of all stocks or mutual funds that included fossil fuel companies or companies supporting the fossil fuel industries that are currently held in UUA's Endowment Fund. Included in this resolution was a requirement that all funds generated by selling these positions (~\$14 million) would be used for paying reparations to a wide range of groups. Chris was one of the few delegates who spoke before the assembly summarizing (in 90 seconds) his opposition to the idea of using the proceeds from the sale to pay reparations. Chris emphasized that both divestiture and paying reparations are important actions that UUA should undertake. However, not re-investing the proceeds into the endowment fund would be financially irresponsible; it would violate the Board's fiduciary responsibility to

invest endowment funds for long-term preservation of principle and growth. Additionally, many UUA congregations have given their endowment funds to UUA to invest which maximizes their return on their investment. Many of those congregations rely on the interest they earn to pay for their on-going programs and to defray their operating expenses. After it was discussed the proposed amendment failed to pass, the youth staged a demonstration during the session.

Delegates selected three Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs):

- Stop Cop City – to advocate that the huge law enforcement training center that is planned for Atlanta, GA should not be built.
- Protect the Dreamers with a pathway to permanent residence status
- Organizing for health equity for all

All Faiths, like many congregations, have been in an "information vacuum" about the Article II process. Absent a minister, we don't have anyone who is involved in UUA "politics" or closely follows UUA current events through connections with Headquarters or with the Southern Region. Many delegates said they had learned about Article II through sermons their ministers had preached throughout the year.



Old friends meet again! (From left) Rev. Wayne Robinson, Mohamed al Darsani, Peggy JSingh and Joyce Ramay reunite after our Sunday, June 25 service where Imam al Darsani was guest speaker.



Still flying high, our All Faiths' banner at GA with Sharon Gray, Marsha Bates and Chris Stotler



## All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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**Executive Board:** Marge DiGalbo, Chair; Michelle Gemma, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer; Diane Chernow, Secretary; Chris Stotler, Past Chair.

**Directors:** Rosalie Kuehn, Barb McFarlane, Greg Monk, Lewis Robinson, Linda Runkle.

**Staff:** Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Alberita Johnson, CYP Director; Carlos Garcia, Music Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton.

**Minister Emeritus:** The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson



### Communications

*Newsletter*

Regina Kilmartin

*Proofreaders*

Weezie Close

Joyce Ramay

*Social Media & Website*

Regina Kilmartin,  
Sharon Gray, Becky Ross

**Adult Education Forums**

**Sunday Service Team**

Joyce Ramay

### Member Services

Fran Way

*Greeters*

Marsha Bates

*Care and Support*

Joyce Ramay

**Finance**

Joyce Ramay

**Stewardship Committee**

Marsha Bates

**Nominating Committee**

Dottie Mayol

### Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

**Livestreaming**

Regina Kilmartin/Sharon Gray

Brad Davidson

**Building and Grounds**

Bob DiGalbo

Judy Alberda

**Social Action & Outreach**

*Climate Action Team*

Joan Marshall/Carol Heilsberg

*Heart for the Homeless*

Barb McFarlane

*Racial Equity Team*

Albie Johnson & Frank Geltner

*L.I.F.E.*

Marsha Bates,

Michelle Gemma,

Barb McFarlane

*Mano a Mano*

Charlotte Blitt

*Operation Joy & Solos Group*

Annely Hudanick

*Animal Ministry*

Sharon Gray

*Rainbow Connection*

Greg Monk

**Minister: In Search**



Deadline for the **September** Issue of *Connections* is **August 18**

(Brief announcements may be accepted later, and will be included *if* space and time permit.)



OFFICE HOURS: 9am to 4pm, Monday–Thurs;  
9am to 12pm, Friday & Sunday.  
Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin