



Where you *belong!*

# CONNECTIONS

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

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**Saturday, March 2, 2024**  
**3 P.M. Kick Off!**

**Visit [pridecapecoral.com](http://pridecapecoral.com)**  
**for full schedule.**

## All Faiths will Host Coastal Ecology Students from Arthur Morgan School March 8 - 11, 2024

All Faiths will host a group of 9 kids from the Arthur Morgan School in North Carolina. The school's mission is to provide a safe and loving environment where students in grades 7, 8, and 9 learn to question and evaluate, think creatively and work independently and cooperatively, while sharing in a community that honors simplicity, respect, responsibility and thoughtful consideration. We will welcome them with a potluck dinner on Saturday, March 9 - *save the date!*



### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

**Election of Board Members & Nominating Committee**  
**Revision of Bylaws, Presentation of 2024-2025 Budget**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**

(Budget Q&A Session Sunday, March 17, 2023, 9:30 a.m.)

*The Board meeting was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024.*

We've been very busy again here at All Faiths. Approximately 53 groups of church families and friends had their pictures taken for our new directory. We are in the process of preparing for what will be the final version of the directory. The pictures you ordered are starting to arrive.

Diane and Doug Cartwright's presentation of The Vagina Monologues was highly successful with All Faiths receiving over \$1500. We thank Diane, Doug, the fabulous cast and all who participated in this event.

Our 23rd Founders' Day honored the Rev. Doctor Wayne Robinson and the other original founding members. We enjoyed a boxed lunch, good company and conversation after a lovely service.

Unfortunately, our February potluck was canceled as we only had 5 people sign up. We are planning on a March 28th potluck with the theme of Global Spirit. Watch for a sign-up sheet and please join us with your favorite global dish. We will be providing activities at these dinners.

Thank you to our wonderful Stewardship Team, John Conrad and Regina Kilmarlin for all their efforts. At present we are at 89.4% of our goal with pledges still coming in.

On March 2 & 3 we will be the major sponsors of Cape Coral PRIDE. There are sign-up sheets in the Community Room, so please sign up to represent All Faiths at the events. The Rainbow Connection is working hard to organize for us. We still need people to view the UUA's Five Practices of Welcome Renewal UUA.org.

We will be hosting middle school students and their chaperones from the Arthur Morgan School the weekend of March 9-11. They will be in SWFL studying environmental issues. We will be having a BBQ for them on March 9th. Please sign up to provide a side dish for the dinner and join us to meet the students.

Hopefully our new doors and parking lot resurfacing will be completed by the end of March. We still have lots of raffle tickets for Carol Elrod's award winning quilt "Women of Islam" for sale. They are available after services and on our website. A committee is being formed to organize a sale of her remaining quilts. We are planning for a possible online sale. Watch for more details to come.

A question and answer session regarding the 2024-2025

budget will be held on Sunday March 17 at 9:30. The Annual Meeting will be on March 24. when we will vote on the new budget, changes to our Bylaws, the new Board members and the new Nominating Committee members. Please join us and have your questions answered and your vote counted.

*Peace and Love*

*Marge*

*The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, at 1:00 p.m.*



## 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 & Special Collections

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

**February** - Minister's Discretionary Fund Special Collection

**March** - Operation Joy

**February Share the Plate raised \$1,801 for the Minister's Discretionary Fund!**

*Your generosity directly benefits our community!  
We are grateful!*





## Women's History Month at All Faiths Unitarian Congregation Herstories...

Women's History Month is a celebration of the contributions of women to history, culture, and society. It is celebrated in March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, and in October in Canada.

In the United States it was 1978 when the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women in California organized a Women's History Week, and the following year President Jimmy Carter proclaimed the week of March 8, 1979 as the first National Women's history week, and in 1980 it expanded to a month and finally in 1987, Congress passed a resolution establishing March as Women's History Month.

Here at All Faiths we got started early, offering Rise Up and Call Her Name, a 13 week journey with the Divine Feminine and offering a very successful fundraiser, The Vagina Monologues in February. Both of these offerings are designed to remove unexplained shame and fear of female deities and the female anatomy by shining a light on the many untold herstories.

According to census data 50.4% of the U.S. population is female and yet many of herstories remain untold. This year

the theme for Women's Herstory Month is, "Women who advocate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion," last year it was "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories."

All Faiths sisters, brothers and siblings, do you have a herstory to share with us, is there a shero in your life, we invite you to share your herstory and shero's with us. Go to our Facebook Page and share and join us at our Potluck, Thursday, March 28 where you are invited to share your herstory and shero's with us. And don't forget to invite your loved ones especially the women and children.

And just in case you are wondering other ways to Celebrate Women's History Month

Here are a few ways to celebrate Women's History Month:

- Attend a Women's History Month event or program.
- Read books and articles about women's history.
- Watch documentaries and movies about women's history.
- Visit museums and historical sites that highlight women's history.
- Support women-owned businesses and organizations.
- Donate to organizations that support women and girls.

*Enjoy, Albie*



## THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL 2024-25 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN!

*by Marsha Bates, Chair*

The All Faiths pledge drive was a success and should be celebrated! Thanks to members and friends who have completed pledge cards thus far, pledges total \$179,460. We fell short of the \$200,200 pledge goal, but reached more than 85 percent of the goal which is considered to be the indicator of a successful campaign.

Thank you also to Regina Kilmartin for a beautifully designed brochure and to Regina and Annely Hudanick for the lovely sun display posted in the foyer so all could see the progress made toward the pledge goal. Every pledge, no matter how big or small, is appreciated and is essential to maintaining our blessed community.

Stewardship is comprised of three parts: Time, Talent, and Treasure. Our pledge drive and other monetary support from congregants are the Treasure part and help maintain our facility, pay our staff, and pay day-to-day expenses. But besides sharing one's Treasure, it is equally important to share one's Time and Talent. There are many committees that need additional members. When you are asked to serve on a committee... either by donating time or talent ... please say yes. Some can spare a little... others can share more. But everyone's time and talents will be appreciated.

*Your Stewardship Committee,*

*Marsha Bates, Annely Hudanick, Jack Kennedy, and Lewis Robinson*

# Happening at All Faiths

*Happy March  
Birthday  
to you!*



- March 1 Eileen Moran
- March 3 Charlotte Blitt
- March 4 Frankie Jennings
- March 5 Debby Kopp
- March 12 Diane Chernow
- March 17 Robert Battaglia
- March 20 Greg Monk
- March 23 Bob Moore

*And Coming Up...*

- April 1 Carol Heilsberg
- April 3 Bill Snider



## March Potluck

**Thursday, March at 5:00 p.m.**  
The theme is....(drum roll)...  
LOVE!  
*Sign Up on the Bulletin Board*

## Solos Monthly Lunch!

**Saturday, March 2, 2024  
1:00 p.m.**

**Cafe You**  
**1423 SE 10th St., Cape Coral, FL 33990**  
*check your email for details.*

**RSVP to: Annelly Hudanick,**  
**[annelyblue@hotmail.com](mailto:annelyblue@hotmail.com)**

Everyone is welcome to join the Solos  
for outings and lunches.

## The Epicureous Group

*Strictly Social Dinner Group - All Are Welcome!*  
**Saturday, March 23, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.**

Dinner & Conversation at **5pm, Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Sabor Da Mexico, 13121 N. Cleveland Ave., No. Ft. Myers 33903**

Please text, call or email John Fischer to RSVP at 267-992-6566 or [silverfischstudios@gmail.com](mailto:silverfischstudios@gmail.com) with your name, contact information and the number in your party. The restaurant needs exact numbers and reservations. Please tell the Host or Hostess you are from ALL FAITHS when you arrive.

## The Rainbow Connection

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

The Rainbow Connection is an inclusive group that supports the LGBTQ+ community and Allies. All are welcome.  
Contact: Frank Stephens at [fdinfla99@gmail.com](mailto:fdinfla99@gmail.com)

## Racial Equity Team Meeting

**Meeting on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month at 10 a.m.**

The Racial Equity Team will meet twice a month until further notice to accommodate a book read. The team is currently reading Layla F. Saad's "*me and white supremacy.*" All are welcome.

## All Voices Choir Practice

**Meeting Every Saturday at 11 a.m.**

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](mailto:ceegeefm@gmail.com).

## Book Club

**Meeting on the 3rd Monday of the Month at 12 p.m.**

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](mailto: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 clothing and kitchen utensils. Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, [joycelschaffer@gmail.com](mailto:joycelschaffer@gmail.com)

# MARCH 2024 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>  <b>2pm</b> Dominoes	<b>2</b> <b>11am</b> Choir Practice  <b>1pm</b> Solos Lunch (Pg. 4)  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
<b>3</b>  <b>9:15am</b> News Talk  <b>10:30am</b> Service & CYP	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>1:30pm</b> Climate Action Team Mtg.	<b>6</b>  <b>10am</b> Ten O'clock Scholar   <b>6:30pm</b> Fort Myers Camera Club	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>      <b>2pm</b> Dominoes	<b>9</b> <b>11am</b> Choir Practice   Daylight Savings Time Begins  Student Visitors
<b>10</b> <b>9:15am</b> News Talk  <b>10:30am</b> Service & CYP  <b>12pm</b> Rainbow Connection  Student Visitors	<b>11</b>  <b>10am</b> Sunday Service Team Mtg.	<b>12</b>  <b>10am</b> Racial Equity Meeting	<b>13</b>  <b>10am</b> Ten O'clock Scholar	<b>14</b>  <b>10 am</b> Finance Mtg.	<b>15</b>      <b>2pm</b> Dominoes	<b>16</b> <b>11am</b> Choir Practice  <b>12:30-3:00pm</b> Building Unavailable  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
<b>17</b> <b>9:30am</b> Annual Mtg. Q&A  <b>10:30am</b> Service & CYP  McGregor Clinic Collection	<b>18</b>  <b>12pm</b> Book Club  St. Patrick's Day	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>10am</b> Ten O'clock Scholar  <b>1pm</b> Board Mtg.  <b>6:30pm</b> Fort Myers Camera Club	<b>21</b> <b>1pm</b> Heart for the Homeless Team  <b>2pm</b> ACMA Build- ing Use & 7pm Concert	<b>22</b>      <b>2pm</b> Dominoes	<b>23</b> <b>11am</b> Choir Practice   <b>5pm</b> The Epicureous Dinner Group (Pg. 4)
<b>24</b> <b>9:30am</b> Annual Elections Meeting  <b>10:30am</b> Service & CYP	<b>25</b>  Animal Shelter Collection	<b>26</b>  <b>10am</b> Racial Equity Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>      <b>5pm</b> MARCH POTLUCK	<b>29</b>      <b>2pm</b> Dominoes	<b>30</b> <b>11am</b> Choir Practice  <b>2pm</b> Bob Way Celebration of Life  <b>7pm</b> ACMA Concert (see pg. 10)
<b>31</b> 10:30 Service No CYP  Happy Easter!	Visit our website for information on events and programs <a href="http://www.allfaithsuu.org">www.allfaithsuu.org</a>					

## MARCH 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES THEME: TRANSFORMATION

**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.

### March 3

**Title – *Who's in Your Mirror***

**Speaker – Alberita Johnson**

Worship Associate – Doug Cartwright

Music by Carlos Garcia

### March 10

**Title – *Turn the Pages Slowly***

**Speaker – Alberita Johnson**

Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay

Music by Carlos Garcia & All Voices Choir

### March 17

**Title – *The Promise of Spring***

**Speaker – Alberita Johnson**

Worship Associate – Diane Cartwright

Music by Carlos Garcia & Kat Epple

*McGregor Clinic Collection*

9:30 a.m. – Congregational Information Meeting

### March 24

**Title – *Life Navigation***

**Guest Speaker – Terryn Streets, Salvation Army**

Worship Associate – Alberita Johnson

Music by Carlos Garcia

### March 31

**Title – *Rise Up***

**Speaker – Alberita Johnson**

Worship Associate – Susan Meissner

Music by Carlos Garcia and All Voices Choir

Pet Shelter Collection

Life of Congregation Report

## CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. with Sharon Heinrich  
(check calendar for dates)

## JOYS & SORROWS

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

**Marsha Bates and Chris Stotler** have bought a new home in Colorado and will be moving there. We appreciate all they have done for All Faiths through the years. We will miss them, but hope they enjoy being close to family.

**Marge and Bob DiGalbo** celebrated their 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They have both been sharing their love through action here at All Faiths. We wish them many more happy years together.

**Sharon Gray's son, Rick**, had surgery for a brain tumor. He will now be receiving chemo and radiation treatments. Please keep him in your healing thoughts and prayers.

**Nicole Racine's mother** passed away at the age of 103. Nicole was with her for her final days in Haiti. We extend our sympathy to Nicole and her family.

**Joyce Ramay** adopted an 8 year old Labrador and named him Frankie in honor of Francis of Assisi. Seniors are encouraged to adopt senior dogs!

**Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson** was honored as our founding visionary at our Founders' Day celebration on February 18<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful for his many years of leadership at All Faiths.

*Joyce Ramay,*

*Care & Support Coordinator*

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

**News Talk - 9:15am in the Sanctuary**

News Talk is a facilitated group that will offer a time and space for you to discuss the weekly headlines.

**The Rainbow Connection**

Meeting every 2nd Sunday at Noon

Contact: Frank Stephens - [fdinfla99@gmail.com](mailto:fdinfla99@gmail.com)

A space for the LGBTQ community & allies to gather in fellowship, plan activities and offer support.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING  
Election of Board Members, Treasurer , and  
Nominating Committee Members; Approval of  
2024-2025 Budget and  
Proposed Bylaws Changes**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 at 9:30 A.M.  
Between Services in the Sanctuary**

Members of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting, which will be held in the sanctuary prior to Sunday service on March 24. Items on the agenda are:

- Election of Board and Nominating Committee Members
- Highlights of Minutes from Last Year's Meeting
- Approval of the Budget for 2024-2025
- Approval of Proposed Bylaws Changes

Members may register and obtain ballots at a table outside the front door, preferably prior to the start of the meeting. Absentee ballots may be obtained on the first two Sundays in March at the All Faiths office or by emailing [office@allfaithsuu.org](mailto:office@allfaithsuu.org). Signed absentee ballots must be returned to All Faiths prior to the meeting and will be counted in the quorum.

**Please mark your calendar and plan to participate.**

**NOTES: An Annual Report, including reports from various congregational leaders, the Budget, and Nominees for the Board will be distributed electronically before March 17. Hard copies will be available for congregants not having an email address.**

**A Q&A Forum will be held at 9:30 a.m. prior to service on March 17, 2024.**

**Voting will be at 9:30 a.m. prior to service on March 24, 2024.**

/s/ **Diane Chernow**  
Secretary, Board of Directors

**POTENTIAL MOTION FROM THE FLOOR  
Adoption of the 8th Principle**

"We, the Congregants of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, covenant to affirm and promote: Journeying towards spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

This will be discussed at the Q&A Forum on March 17, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

**MARCH CHILD & YOUTH  
PROGRAM NOTES**

This year's theme, "The Gifts of Our Faith" explores ten beloved UU values and explores their potential to shape us and, in turn, shape the world. We'll think about transformation, how things change.

**Transformation:** We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically.

**Opening this month:** We are here together. We think with our minds. We love with our hearts. We create with our hands. We explore together.

**March 3:** Nature's transformation- Caterpillar to butterfly "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" Butterfly activities

**March 10:** Change our focus. Learn about Ramadan Fasting to help change focus from physical to spiritual. Learn about calligraphy.

**March 17:** Change of growth and renewal - Spring Equinox - Seeds, plants growing, gardening,

**March 24:** Change through learning - Learn about Holi, a Hindu celebration and the meaning of the colors. Bubbles and balloons

**March 31:** No CYP

**Closing this month:** "As we make choices each day, may we remember to make them with love and fairness in mind and to not be afraid of some change"

If you have any questions, ideas, or something to share, please contact me.

*Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director*

# CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



Lots of exciting happenings for your Climate Action Team this month. For those of you who have signed up to participate, March Mondays will bring you the revised, updated and expanded “Being a Good Neighbor” course of study now being offered throughout

the state of Florida. This online workshop will be led by Miccosukee tribal leader, the Reverend Houston Cypress and friends. Those of you who participated in the prototype course we offered last year know how powerful and eye-opening this experience is and this year’s course promises to be even more impactful and action-oriented. Numerous CAT participants will be joining the course this year and we promise to report back to you at its conclusion.

All of our congregation will have an opportunity to participate in welcoming a group of young middle-school students from the Arthur Morgan School in North Carolina who will be staying as guests of All Faiths on their coastal ecology trip here in southwest Florida.

They will arrive on Saturday, March 9th and stay until Monday, the 11th. Naturally, much of their time will be spent out of doors learning about the ecosystems and marine life that make Southwest Florida such a paradise. However, the Board of Directors is planning a barbecue in their honor here at All Faiths. More about that as plans for their visit are formulated..

We encourage you to join us at our Climate Action Team meetings which take place on Zoom at 1:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Regina sends out the link to the entire congregation each month, but only a few All Faiths members actually show up. You’ll find the meetings thought-provoking and you’ll meet some of the leaders of other environmental groups in our area. We are all part of the problem of climate change. Come help be part of the solution.



**Ice Cream Social**  
After Service  
Sunday, March 31, 2024  
Sponsored by Lewis Robinson

# THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

by Frank Stephens, Chair

Hi! My name is **Frank Stephens**, the fella who sits in the front row during Sunday services. I am flattered and grateful to accept Alberita’s request to facilitate the *Rainbow Connection*. We meet every second Sunday after service and social time; all are welcome and encouraged to attend. You may contact me at [fdinfla99@gmail.com](mailto:fdinfla99@gmail.com), as well as speak to me in person. As a new member of the congregation, it has been wonderful getting to know some of you and I look forward to becoming acquainted with more of you.

All Faiths has been recognized by the UUA as a *Welcoming Congregation*, but this status must be renewed each year. Our committee has decided to focus on this process. Details may be found at this link: [www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/five-practices-welcome-renewal](http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/five-practices-welcome-renewal). If you would like to participate in this project, please contact me.

Julie Simmons and Patty Hart have made a generous donation to Cape Coral Pride. As such, All Faiths is a sponsor and will have a table at the celebration. This will assist us in fulfilling the third practice of the Welcome Renewal Program, Welcoming Days of Observance.

Any input will be appreciated and needed so please do not hesitate to communicate with me in person or by email. It is my intention to facilitate the wishes of the congregation so I am looking for your guidance, expectations, and opinions whether you attend the meetings or not.

Thank you for your time and this opportunity, Frank.

## Animal Shelter Collection Sunday, March 31, 2024



Shelters provide a safe and nurturing environment for abandoned animals until they can find a forever home.

**Hurricane Ian and other natural disasters displaced many helpless animals.** To help shelters in their mission, they would appreciate donations of canned and dry pet food, treats, cleaning supplies, or pet store gift cards.

Sharon Gray will deliver the items to shelters in need.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

## Cash Assets – January 2024

First Horizon Checking	\$ 38,952
First Horizon Op. Reserve	25,307
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	21,920
Raymond James Legacy	4,499
Pay Pal	135
First Horizon Capital Checking	4,300
First Horizon Capital Reserve	3,202
Live Oak Capital Reserve	35,838
Live Oak Capital Savings	20,562
Live Oak Legacy CD	20,702

<b>Total</b>	\$175,417
Prior Month	<u>170,233</u>
<b>Net Gain</b>	<b>\$ 5,184</b>

## January 2024 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 21,600
Operating Expense	<u>16,757</u>
<b>Net Gain</b>	<b>\$ 4,843</b>

- Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:
- No unusual expenses were incurred. Budget control was good in January.
- Our Pledge Goal for 2023-2024 (April to March) was \$183,268 and as of 2/20/2024 \$172,300.20 (94%) has been received. Thank you for your generosity!
- 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. A contract has been issued to repave the parking lot and we now expect that this work will be completed by March 2024. In addition, we have contracted for new front doors and a new side door which we expect to have installed in March. There were no Capital expenses in January.
- In January, \$715.00 was collected for Quality Life Center (Racial Equity Team).

# QUILT AUCTION/SALE

by Doug Cartwright



Diane and Doug Cartwright have taken pictures and put together a catalogue of the twelve quilts that the Elrods have entrusted to All Faiths for sale, 10% of the proceeds to go to All Faiths.

They envision that sometime after the quilt raffle for "The Women of Islam," they can have either a sale or a silent auction to offer the quilts/wall hangings. The Cartwrights tentatively priced them at beginning bids ranging from \$50 to \$150, but would expect them to sell for more in a silent auction or a sale of some kind as they range in size and intricacy of work.

As far as the details, it is up to the Board to decide when and where and the particulars of the sale, but Ed and Carol have expressed to me that they are comfortable with whatever is decided. Diane and Doug will list the unsold quilts on eBay at no cost to either party; but eBay takes about 15% in listing fees, taxes, and shipping costs so it would be better for all concerned to sell them through All Faiths. The catalogue will be made available on Sundays to look over, if you wish.

## ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!



**Saturday, March 2 - 7:00pm**  
Roy Book Binder in Concert  
Bill Metts opening

**Sunday, March 16 - 7:00pm**  
Shawna Caspi in Concert  
JD Lashley opening

**Thursday, March 21 - 7:30pm**  
Jim Lauderdale - Tickets \$30

**Saturday, March 30 - 7:00pm**  
Kala Farnham in Concert  
Silvia Medina opening

**The Listening Room at All Faiths**  
2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida  
General public \$18/Member discount \$12  
Donations at the Door

## RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Frank Geltner, Co-Chair

The Racial Equity Team continues to read Layla F Saad's *me and white supremacy* in anticipation of deciding on a congregational outreach strategy for the future. In January, approximately 10 members/friends participated in the Martin Luther King activities, including the Unity Breakfast, the March, and the Information Table at the Celebration in Centennial Park. Those who have attended the Racial Equity Team gatherings on a regular basis are Lewis Robinson, Joyce Ramay, Ken Malkin, Becky Ross, JoAnn Reece, Melissa Schramme, Carole Latino, John Conrad, Nicole Racine, and Frank Geltner. The committee would like to see a few more members of the congregation engaged, but understands that all members set their own priorities. The committee currently meets twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

## LEE INTERFAITH FOR EMPOWERMENT UPDATES

by Marsha Bates, Team Leader

LIFE has two important events in March and April. All network members are invited to the Tuesday, March 12th Springtime Rally which will be held at Gateway Trinity Lutheran Church, 11381 Gateway Blvd, Ft. Myers. Sign-in for this network-wide meeting starts at 6 pm; the Rally will be called to order at 6:30 pm.

The meeting has three purposes:

To elect Rev. Rickey Anderson as co-chair of LIFE's Board of Directors;

To hear the Mental Health Action Team's research results and to approve the specific action that will be asked at the Nehemiah Action; and

To prepare for the Nehemiah Action.

If you are interested in carpooling to the Rally, let Marsha Bates (740-278-2357), Barb McFarlane (651-808-8271) or Michelle Gemma (781-913-5122) know.

On April 9th, LIFE will hold its Nehemiah Action, a gathering of several hundred people where an influential person (such as a government official) is asked to implement an action that will improve the lives of Lee County residents. This year's "ask" will focus on improving the mental health situation for the community. Network members are asked to bring three additional attendees to the Nehemiah Action.

## ♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane

Watch for three events in March.

The 1st two Sundays, we are collecting clean used t-shirts. See the article below for more information.

Terrlyn Streets will speak on Sunday March 24th. As the director of the Salvation Army's day program, she will explain the new direction and services available to unhoused individuals at the day program.

St. Mathews House will be the team's recipient of Share the Plate for our next fiscal year. We hope to be able to tour their planned site for a women and children's shelter later in March.

The need for affordable housing, housing with services, shelters, and dignified outreach remains high in Fort Myers.

Please bring your ideas on how we can support those without housing to our March 21st team meeting!



## T-SHIRT DRIVE IN MARCH

by Susan Meissner

The Heart for the Homeless Team will be conducting a "T-Shirt Drive" on the first two Sundays in March, March 3 and March 10.

We are asking All Faiths Members & Friends to donate any good used T-shirts that a homeless person could wear.

Kindly clean out your closets & dresser drawers and give us any T-Shirt that you no longer want and can donate to this project.

For the first two Sundays in March, please bring your T-Shirt donations to All Faiths and place them in the "green" collection bin marked "T-Shirt Drive".

These T-Shirts will then be sorted by size and delivered on/about April 1st to Matt Wallace at the Lee County Coalition for the Homeless for his Staff to distribute.

Thank you in advance for your help with this project!



March 24, 2024 - 6pm  
 SunCoast Arena, 13351 FSW Pkwy, Ft. Myers, FL 33919

All persons who are one year old or older require a ticket.

No Cameras Allowed

Run time to be determined

Run times are subject to change.

Nationally renowned author, teacher, LGBTQ advocate, and husband to a former presidential candidate, brings a needed message of liberation and hope to Floridians, and others, besieged by social initiatives that dismiss, harm and silence them.

Presented by Visuality Florida and St. John the Apostle Metropolitan Community Church



# Florida Unitarian Universalist Women's Retreat

April 5 – 7, 2024

DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center  
 Parrish, Florida

Ancient Feminine Voices

Featuring **Shelley Graff** leading **Singing in Sacred Circle**

Two nights, six meals, semi-private rooms \$238. Joyful community, singing, outdoor activities, learning & sharing groups, and more!

For registration and information, email [Retreat@fluuwm.org](mailto:Retreat@fluuwm.org)  
 Join our Facebook group! **Florida UU Women's Retreat**

**Register by December 15 for early reservation discount of \$15.**



Scan to access registration.

# CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



## All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Phone: (239) 226-0900 – Email: [office@allfaithsuu.org](mailto:office@allfaithsuu.org) – Website: [www.allfaithsuu.org](http://www.allfaithsuu.org)

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

**Directors:** Rosalie Kuehn, Barb McFarlane, Lewis Robinson, Linda Runkle, Richard "Dick" Scudder.

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

**Lay Minister:** Alberita (Albie) Johnson

### Communications

*Newsletter*

Regina Kilmartin

*Proofreaders*

Weezie Close/Joyce Ramay

*Social Media & Website*

Regina Kilmartin,

Becky Ross

**Adult Education Forums**

**Sunday Service Team**

Joyce Ramay

**Hospitality**

Frank Geltner/Nicole Racine

**Program Support**

Michelle Gemma/Barb McFarlane

### Member Services

Fran Way

*Greeters*

Marsha Bates

*Care and Support*

Joyce Ramay

**Finance**

Joyce Ramay

**Stewardship Committee**

Marsha Bates

**Nominating Committee**

Sharon Gray

### 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*

Frank Geltner/Nicole Racine

*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*

Frank Stephens

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



Deadline for the **April** Issue of *Connections* is **March 19**

(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