



Where you *belong!*

# CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation  
A member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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The Board meeting was held on September 18, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Prior to each board meeting, the organizational chart that hangs on the bulletin board is reviewed by board members and updated as needed. The chart is a reflection of All Faiths' organizational and leadership structure.

The congregation is currently discussing how to come up with a satisfactory structure under the "social justice" umbrella of our social justice teams. Look for more clarity in upcoming communications.

I continue to review documents having to do with "governance" of All Faiths.

As to upgrading All Faiths' sound system, we are still on the lookout. Regina has agreed to do some additional research.

I have received word that some careful consideration needs to be given to the timing of the scheduling of programs with regard to the staffing necessary for their success. I am

grateful to Michelle Gemma and Barb McFarlane for keeping us organized in this respect. However, they do need help (see **Program Support** message at the end of this article).

The commodes in each bathroom have been replaced. This eliminated a foul odor that had been emanating from the bathrooms for some time. The board also approved the installation of a Narcan dispensary in one of the bathrooms. Narcan reverses the effects of opioid overdose. The dispensary was supplied by The Haney Foundation, and they will supply All Faiths with Narcan until their funding runs out. They are free to the public. Please take a box the next time you are here. I am especially grateful for the improvements

At the request of John Conrad, the board reviewed previously drawn up floor plans for possible future expansion of the building. This was part of a long-term planning initiative that was started when Chris Stotler was the Board Chair. Discussions will continue.

I especially want to thank John Conrad for his extensive role in the improvements to our physical plant and its infrastructure elements.

The board approved a semi-permanent display of the Evolutionary Tree of Religion Poster that has been on display in the community room.

Albie raised the issue of the congregation participating in the UUA's Congregational Study Action Issues (this is a 3-year study). Further discussion on the feasibility of participation will continue.

We recently had a scare with red ants in our parking area. This has been resolved, but not without some trauma for David Donovan and Marge DiGalbo, who were both seriously bitten.

### **Program Support**

Michelle Gemma and Barb McFarlane have been keeping us organized when we schedule programs, but they need your support. In that regard, I am asking all members to be mindful of the need for timely (plan-

ning) readiness and (volunteering) helpfulness, especially in a congregation (1823) whose average age is "elderly." Michelle and Barb have sometimes been left having to do more than we asked of them when they signed up to be our Program Support Team. Everyone needs to plan ahead and (planners) give notice and (helpers) sign up. At my Life of the Congregation Report on Sunday, October 13, I will ask for the secret number embedded in this message. Bring a post-it with your name and the number. It will be placed in my hat and drawn during my message. The point: to reward (\$20.00) those who read *Connections*.

The next Board Meeting will be held on October 16, 2024, 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.)*

**October** - St. Matthew's Women & Children's Shelter (Heart for the Homeless)

**November** - Operation Joy - Holiday Happiness

**December** - Special Collection - Employee Bonuses

**September Share the Plate raised \$401 for SWFL RESET Center!**

*Your generosity directly benefits our community!*

*We are grateful!*





Wow, here we are in October already. Yes, time does go by quickly, especially as we age and mature. As we settle into Autumn and return from our Summer breaks, I welcome you back.

September went by quickly. Carole and I were on vacation the last two weeks of August and then upon our return I came down with an awful case of COVID and was down for another two weeks. I finally returned to All Faiths on September 15. I missed you all terribly. I am glad to be back.

During my absence, I spent time thinking about All Faiths, and why we do what we do. Why do we show up consistently, what are we gaining? For me, it is the Beloved Community of diverse people and beliefs. It brings me joy not to be pigeon holed, instead to reflect the world population in my spiritual home. While absent, I found that I missed the warmth of our community and what we do when we are together.

While sick, memories of All Faiths brought me peace as I pondered our liturgies and rituals. It was in that space that I did not have to try hard, since most of the time I was in a fog. My mind would drift to our opening hymn, "Enter Rejoice and Come In," and our meditating hymn "Spirit of Life," which is actually a prayer, a calling upon, making supplication, and asking - even making pronunciation. For some it is like spell casting.

I allowed myself to wander through our Sunday liturgy, pausing at the significance of our chalice lighting, indicating the time that we move from the ordinary to the spiritual depths of our weekly ceremony. How the opening words and readings wash over me and prepare me for the Message to share or hear. And the experience of participation as we sing and sway to the sounds and sights of our services. It was the old familiar that embraced me. I did not have the strength or desire to try to be clever; instead, I leaned into the intimacy of ritual as reflected in our Sunday services. "Spirit of Life, Come unto me." Today will be a Joyful Day...there are times when one cannot find the words and cannot conjure the melody of a new hymn. It is at that time that the familiar becomes a balm of salvation.

These hymns are meant to stir you, to bring you to a space of peace, acceptance and contemplation. The entire service is meant to uplift and prepare us for what is before us as the week proceeds. To remind us that we are not alone and that we have a Beloved Community to care for and support us and vice versa.

As we have returned from our Summer breaks, let us lean into our liturgies, listen well, learn well, share and grow always with love at the center and our guide.

Destination Joy is not far, it resides within...and you are always welcome.

Rejoice – *Albie*

## JOYS & SORROWS

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

**Linda Arthur** had cataract surgery on both eyes. We hope her sight is much improved.

**Marge DiGalbo** had surgery to remove a benign tumor on her elbow. We are grateful that she has had good results and is back with us.

**Peg Clayton Fischer** continued to have chemo for cancer. We hope that she continues to benefit from the treatments.

**Annely Hudanick** suffered heart complications during a lung biopsy. She is home now and being treated with medications.

**Alberita Johnson** suffered from COVID upon her return from vacation. We are happy to have her back with us and hope she continues to be well.

**Michael Pierre** was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. We hope that he gets good treatment and thrives.

**Ed Elrod** passed away peacefully on September 10th under hospice care. His wife Carol died in April. They were both founding members of All Faiths. They actively participated in Board leadership, worship services, and music. We extend our sympathy to their daughter Diana and son Scott.

*Joyce Ramay,*

*Care & Support Coordinator*

## Tricks or Treats in the Parking Lot!

As we do every year, we will hand out goodies in the parking lot from 6 - 8 on Halloween, Thursday, October 31.

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to help. This is a ton of fun – hundreds of people in fantastic costumes stop by for a goodie.

*We appreciate your donations of candy. Please drop them off on Sundays between now and then.*



# Happening at All Faiths

*Happy October  
Birthday to you!*



- October 4 Michael Pierre
- October 11 Susan Anthony
- October 11 Joan Velasquez
- October 11 Jeff Lazar
- October 17 Dan DeShon
- October 18 Anita Battaglia
- October 24 Joan Keller
- October 27 Donalie Benyak

*And Coming Up...*

Nov. 5 Linda Runkle

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



## Solos Monthly Lunch!

**Saturday, October 5, 2024  
1:00 p.m.**

**Masala Mantra Indian Cuisine  
4518 Del Prado Blvd, Cape Coral  
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 All Voices Choir Practice

**Meeting on Saturdays at 11:00 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).

## Women's Sacred Singing Circle

**Meeting on Sunday Afternoons from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.**

The Women's Sacred Circle will meet on Sunday afternoons for singing and chanting women empowerment songs. Contact: Toni Latino at [latinolaw@gmail.com](mailto:latinolaw@gmail.com). Not all Sundays are available - check calendar on page 5 to confirm.

## 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)

## Tuesday Discussion Group

**Meeting on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

Join the discussion. Facilitated by Frank Stephens, the group will discuss different aspects from the book, *A Course in Miracles*. All are welcome. Contact Frank Stephens at [fdinfla99@gmail.com](mailto:fdinfla99@gmail.com).

## Mexican Train Dominoes

**Meeting on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the Month at 2 p.m.**

Join in on this fun and popular dominoes game. Don't know how to play? Come and we'll teach you -- it's easy. Contact Regina at [office@allfaithsuo.org](mailto:office@allfaithsuo.org) to get on email distribution list.

## ACMA Songwriters Circle

**Meeting on Sundays 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

The circle is for Acoustic Songwriters of all levels. Songs and experiences are shared in a non-judgmental, casual atmosphere. All are welcome to come and play or just listen. ACMA is secular and is all about original music. No Membership required. We support Americana/Folk, Singer/Songwriters and provide a venue for performing original music.

# OCTOBER 2023 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



**1 10am**  
Sunday Service  
Team Mtg.

**6:30pm**  
A Course in  
Miracles  
Discussion Grp.

2



**4 6pm**  
Animal Blessing  
in the Memorial  
Garden  
(see pg. 6)

**5 11am**  
Choir Practice

**1pm**  
Solos Lunch  
(Pg. 4)

**7pm**  
ACMA Concert  
(see pg. 10)

**6 9:15am**  
News Talk  
**10:30am**  
Service & CYP

**12:15pm**  
Sacred Circle

**2-5pm**  
ACMA Circle

7

**8 10am**  
Racial Equity  
Meeting

**1:30pm-Zoom**  
Climate Action  
(Rescheduled)

**6:30pm**  
A Course in  
Miracles  
Discussion Grp.

9

**10 10am**  
Finance Mtg.

**11 2pm**  
Dominoes

**12 11am**  
Choir Practice

**13 9:15am**  
News Talk  
**10:30am**  
Service & CYP

**12pm**  
Rainbow  
Connection

**2-5pm**  
ACMA Circle

14



**15 6:30pm**  
A Course in  
Miracles  
Discussion Grp.

**16 1pm**  
Board Meeting

**17 1pm**  
Homeless  
Team Mtg.

**7pm**  
Tamiami  
Tale Tellers



**19 11am**  
Choir Practice

**20 9:15am**  
News Talk  
**10:30am**  
Service & CYP

**12:15pm**  
Sacred Circle

**2-5pm**  
ACMA Circle

**21 12pm**  
Book Club

McGregor  
Clinic  
Collection



**22 10am**  
Board Retreat

**6:30pm**  
A Course in  
Miracles  
Discussion Grp.

23

24

**25 2pm**  
Dominoes

**7pm**  
*Come Back of  
the Bad Girls*  
FUNDRAISER  
(Pg. 12)

**26 11am**  
Choir Practice

**7pm**  
ACMA Concert  
(see pg. 10)

**27 9:15am**  
News Talk  
**10:30am**  
Service & CYP

**12:15pm**  
Sacred Circle

**2-5pm**  
ACMA Circle

Ice Cream Social

28

**29 6:30pm**  
A Course in  
Miracles  
Discussion Grp.

30



**31 6-8pm**  
Tricks or Treats  
in the Parking  
Lot!

**Check online:**  
[www.allfaithsuo.org](http://www.allfaithsuo.org)  
**for Calendar Updates  
& Corrections**

# OCTOBER 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES THEME: REPENTENCE & REPAIR

**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.

## October 6

High Holy Days

Speaker – Rabbi Bruce Diamond

Worship Associate – Alberita Johnson

Music by Carlos Garcia

## October 13

Title – *Out of Africa*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma

Music by Carlos Garcia

## October 20

Title – *Out and About*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Giovanni De Oto

Music by Carlos Garcia

McGregor Clinic Collection

## October 27

Title – *Do You Hear What I Hear?*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

Music by Carlos Garcia

Life of Congregation Report – Frank Geltner

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

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

**Child & Youth Program - 10:30am  
in the Robinson Room  
with Sharon Heinrich**

**The Rainbow Connection - 12:30pm  
in the Sanctuary**

Your connection to LGBTQ allies and friends.  
All are welcome.

## CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES

by Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director

Each Sunday is an adventure as the children in our community are invited to share the UU faith through songs, stories and activities. This month “Listening” is the practice that we will explore. What does listening mean? How does “listening” help us embody love in our daily lives? With an array of fun and meaningful activities, each session lifts up a different way that “listening” is important in our lives as we connect to ourselves, each other and the world.

**Opening:** We are here together with love at our center. We will think with our minds, love with our hearts and create with our hands as we listen to ourselves, each other and our world.

**October 6:** Listening to our wisdom within: Listen to our body, mind and heart. Use what you know to make good choices. Meditation, Yoga, Sidewalk art (body tracing)

**October 13:** Listen to the unlistened to: How does it feel when someone is not listening to you? How can you let someone know that you are listening? What else besides words can tell you things? Pretend play and games to practice listening.

**October 20:** Listen to nature: “The Very Quiet Cricket”, Nature Sound Bingo, a listening nature walk

**October 27:** Listen to those we disagree with: Solution sticks, “Keeping it cool” parachute game, standing on common ground activity

**Closing:** As we make our choices each day, may we make them with love at our center.

I would like to encourage our congregation to share talent, skill and knowledge with our young people. Please let me know if you would like me to schedule a short time on a Sunday morning for you to share with the young ones.

REGISTER AT: [www.allfaithsuu.org](http://www.allfaithsuu.org)

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Friday, October 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.



In honor of St. Francis of Assisi Day, All Faiths will hold a Blessing of the Animals in the Memorial Garden on Friday, October 4 at 6pm.

All are welcome. Bring your pets or a photograph of your pets to be blessed.



**Saturday, October 5, 2024, 10am**

(registration 9:30am)

**free and open to the public**  
**in-person and virtual**

## **Six Proposed Amendments to the Florida Constitution**

**Location: Lakes Library, 15290 Bass Road, Fort Myers**

This program is not sponsored/endorsed by the Lee County Library system

**The November 5, 2024 Ballot will include these proposed amendments:**

- Amendment 1. Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards**
- Amendment 2. Right to Fish and Hunt**
- Amendment 3. Adult Personal Use of Marijuana**
- Amendment 4. Limit Government Interference with Abortion**
- Amendment 5. Annual Adjustments to Homestead Exemptions**
- Amendment 6. Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement**

**Register for in-person and virtual:**

<https://SixProposedFloridaAmendments.eventbrite.com>

**A zoom link will be emailed to registrants.**



### **YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE—VOTE INFORMED**

**Election November 5, 2024**

**Register by October 7<sup>th</sup> Request VoteByMail Ballot by October 24<sup>th</sup> [www.lee.vote](http://www.lee.vote).**



**2024 Candidate Information  
Florida Ballot Initiatives  
Nonpartisan Election Information**

[www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org)

**by the League of Women Voters Education Fund**



**2024 Florida Voter Guide and Election Information  
League of Women Voters of Florida**

[www.lwvfl.org/vote2024/](http://www.lwvfl.org/vote2024/)



*The League of Women Voters of Lee County, Inc. is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

**The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose candidates and/or political parties.**

**LWVLee website: [www.lwvlee.org](http://www.lwvlee.org) call: 239-278-1032 e-mail: [lwvlee@lwvlee.org](mailto:lwvlee@lwvlee.org)**

# Social Action & Outreach

*Live Life with Purpose*

## **RAINBOW CONNECTIONS TEAM**

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

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

## **CLIMATE ACTION TEAM (CAT)**

**Meeting on 1st Tuesday of the Month at 1:30 a.m.**

**Via Zoom (Link Emailed Prior to Meeting)**

Join the regularly scheduled meeting of the Climate Action Team, where we work together to learn to live sustainably and protect our planet for ourselves and future generations. All are welcome. **Contact: Joan Marshall:** [jfmdbm@yahoo.com](mailto:jfmdbm@yahoo.com)

## **RACIAL EQUITY TEAM**

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

The Racial Equity Team meets once a month. You are invited to join them as they work towards becoming proactive anti-racists. **Contacts: Nicole Racine** [nracine\\_1948@yahoo.com](mailto:nracine_1948@yahoo.com) and **Frank Geltner** [frank@newportnet.com](mailto:frank@newportnet.com)

## **HEART FOR THE HOMELESS TEAM**

**Meeting on 3rd Thursday of the Month at 1 p.m.**

All are welcome to attend the regularly scheduled meeting. Come learn what All Faiths is doing to help our local in-need community. **Contacts: Barb McFarlane** [mcfarlanebar@gmail.com](mailto:mcfarlanebar@gmail.com), or **Judy Alberda** [judyalberda@yahoo.com](mailto:judyalberda@yahoo.com)

## **McGREGOR CLINIC COLLECTION**

**Donations Accepted on 3rd Sunday of the Month**

Donate men's and women's clothing and non-perishable foods to Florida's number one AIDS/HIV Clinic.

**Contact: Joyce Schaffer:** [joycelschaffer@gmail.com](mailto:joycelschaffer@gmail.com)

## **ANIMAL SHELTER COLLECTION**

**Donations Accepted on 5th Sunday of the Month**

Donate dog and cat food, cleaning supplies and bedding materials to area animal shelters. **Contact: Sharon Gray:**

[geemal@yahoo.com](mailto:geemal@yahoo.com)

# RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

*by Nicole Racine, Co-Chair*

The Racial Equity Team meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. The meetings are open to all and they invite you to join them. Last month the team took an informative tour of the Quality Life Center. Julian Ramirez, the new Executive Director of the QLC, will be at the October 8 Racial Equity Team meeting to discuss further collaboration with All Faiths on future projects and programs.

## ♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

*by Barb McFarlane, Co Chair*

The team is partnering with a new organization for October's Share the Plate. St. Matthews House has opened a shelter in Fort Myers for women and children. We look forward to their short presentation at the Sunday, October 6 service.

This partnership may provide opportunities for All Faiths members to volunteer. A way to put into action our desire for justice and safe housing for all.

We plan to show the documentary *Razing Liberty Square* in the next couple months. This film, based in Miami, deals with issues of climate change affecting housing, gentrification of low income neighborhoods, and racial justice. It was shown earlier this year at the Alliance for the Arts. Watch for more details.

We are watching how the city Housing Authority carries out their plans to move 100 residents from the Royal Palm Towers apartment building. We are told that housing has been found for 25 residents. We will advocate that housing is found for everyone before the building is closed.

Our next monthly meeting is Thursday, October 17 at 1:00 p.m. Please consider stopping by -- no obligation -- just sit in and hear what we discuss. New voices are always welcome.



# Ice Cream Social

After Service

Sunday, October 27, 2024

Sponsored by Lewis Robinson

# CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



All Faiths Climate Action Team is a staunch supporter of the “Right to Clean and Healthy Waters” Constitutional Amendment (RTCW) because it can protect and restore Florida’s most important resource.

Floridians can go a long way towards qualifying a RTCW for the 2026 ballot with a committed force

of volunteers gathering petitions at polling stations on Election Day and during early voting.

This is an ambitious, proven plan. Hundreds of thousands of petitions were collected on Election Day in 1992 to qualify the gill net ban for the state ballot. Read the inspiring story of that success in this CALL-TO-ACTION column by Blair Wickstrom, Senior Editor of Florida Sportsman Magazine.

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is answering this call to action. We urge you to sign up to collect signatures at the polls. This one day of broad and intensive petition-gathering is a once-in-an-election cycle opportunity we must maximize.

Everyone knows the system has long failed our waters, and there’s no indication that things will get better anytime soon. We need a legal tool to stop pollution at the source, stop reckless development, counter the harmful influence of special interests on environmental policy. The RTCW amendment does just that. (Learn more at FloridaRightToCleanWater.org)

Petitioning at the polls worked to remarkable success in the past. It will work again, if we make it work again. If you do only one thing for the RTCW amendment this year, make it be this.

## ALL FAITHS COMMON READ

*Date & Time to be Determined*

Our minister, Alberita, will facilitate a Common Book Read this fall. The book is entitled *"A House for Hope - The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century."* by John Buehrens and Rebecca Ann Parker. Booklist calls it *"A thoughtful meditation on religion, duty, and the common good."*

Date and time will be determined based on interest. If you are interested in participating, **please sign up on the bulletin board** so we can finalize details.

# RAINBOW CONNECTIONS NEWS

by David Donovan & Frank Stephens, Co-Chairs

Welcome back All Faiths members!! After a small break this summer, we are excited to get back at it again. We meet on the 2nd Sunday every month at 12:00pm after service. If you would like to be part of this exciting team, we would LOVE to have you.

First off, rumor has it that Fort Myers will be restarting its Pride Event this year, possibly in November. That would be exciting news. More information to come.

Rainbow Connection’s library plaque that was presented to All Faiths will soon be mounted above the alcove over the Wayne Robinson library. It will officially be known as “The Reverend Dr. Wayne A. Robinson Memorial Library, in honor of our founding pastor.

The next SWFL Harmony Chamber mixer will be graciously hosted by The Goldberg Center, home of Visuality on October 17th 5:30 to 7:30pm. If anyone is interested in attending, please let one of us know. This would be a good opportunity to get to learn more about the Board and Visuality activities.

We are almost done meeting our commitment to complete our “Welcoming Congregation” renewal for All Faiths. On Sept 23rd, Albie masterfully preached on Duality and integrated a beautiful message honoring Bisexuality Day. That leaves one more Day of Observance, Trans Day of Remembrance on Nov 17th, and one more Worship Service, National Coming Out Day on Oct 20th in order to be complete. We will also hold a service honoring World AIDS Day at All Faiths on Dec 1st We have invited our partner, the McGregor Clinic to talk about their outreach work and the status of the epidemic and stigma that still exists in our community. Paperwork to apply for official renewal recognition will be filed in December.

The Rainbow Connection is still working towards the following ideas:

1. Sponsoring a Homemade Lasagna Luncheon with salad and dessert.
2. Hosting an LGBTQ educational movie screening at All Faiths
3. Design and build a Pride Float that can be used for the Cape Coral Pride parade.

If anyone has any suggestions or would like to help, please contact one of us below:

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

David Donovan: [ddonovan722@gmail.com](mailto:ddonovan722@gmail.com)

# TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

## Cash Assets – August 2024

First Horizon Checking	\$ 31,416
Raymond James Legacy	4,430
Pay Pal	35
Live Oak Operating Reserve (CD)	22,536
First Horizon Capital Reserve	8,902
Live Oak Capital Reserve (S)	23,251
Live Oak Operating Reserve (S)	42,033
Live Oak Legacy (CD)	21,300

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$153,910</b>
Prior Month	<u>169,088</u>
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>(-\$15,178)</b>

## August 2024 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 17,595
Operating Expense	<u>15,102</u>
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>( \$ 2,493)</b>

## Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:

As we entered the new 2024-2025 fiscal year on April 1, All Faiths budgeted \$200,200 for pledge giving; to date, actual pledges have totaled \$185,160 (92.5%).

Our Pledge Goal for the months of April to August was \$83,419; and \$75,266 was received (90.2%). However, before April 1, 2024, \$24,757 was received in paid pledges towards the new year. Taking this into account, we have received a total of \$100,023 towards the current year total pledge drive goal of \$200,200 (50%).

No unusual expenses incurred in the General Fund Operating Account during August.

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, 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 August monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,530 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. In July, the driveway was resurfaced, and the final payment was paid in August. The total cost of this project was approximately \$28,278. And in September, two toilets were replaced, and funding was from Capital Reserves. The expense is not reflected in the August 31 balances.

In August, \$505 was collected for the Quality Life Center (Racial Equity Team).

# DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

by Alberita Johnson, CL Minister



Our theme for October is **Deep Listening**.

As we move into the month of October focusing on our theme of Deep Listening there are a few things we might ponder...

On our Facebook Page we will introduce, "Sunday Questions," a time for us to consider our theme. Every

week, during Sunday News Talk we can add these questions to our discussion group. These questions are part of *Soul Matters Sharing Circle* that we subscribe to, they are designed to enhance our service by seeking to impact us not only as a congregation but individually as well. Listening is a crucial part of our ability to communicate and be understood clearly.

Hopefully "Sunday Questions" will stimulate us to go deeper into our themes every month. Enjoy!

**Week One - October 6:** If I were to put my ear down to the ground of your life, what questions would I hear bubbling beneath the surface?

**Week Two-October 13:** If you could go back to a conversation and correct how you listened, what conversation would that be?

**Week Three-October 20:** How have your wounds and losses altered the way you listen?

**Week Four-October 27:** Have you ever heard the ocean or the woods or the sky speak? If so, how might their words still be relevant for you today?



## ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

**Saturday, October 5 - 7:00pm**  
Island Hopper Encore!

**Saturday, October 26 - 7:00pm**

Jon Shain in Concert  
with Chuck Williams opening

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

# MANO A MANO CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

by Joan Velasquez

Greetings to our All Faiths friends. We send our love with gratitude for your continued support of our work in Minnesota and Bolivia. With your help, Mano a Mano has reached an important milestone: we are entering our 30th year!

Along with family and friends, Segundo and I incorporated Mano a Mano in October 1994 with a two-fold mission: reduce the inexcusable amount of new medical supplies and lightly used equipment being discarded into our local waste stream every year, and use those materials to improve the health of Bolivia's marginalized citizens.

During the first year, we collected 500 pounds of supplies; we felt that was a great success. We continued on and within three years were able to fully furnish, equip and supply a 37-bed Bolivian hospital and outpatient clinic that serves the very poor.

Since then, we have shipped well over 4,000,000 pounds of donated supplies and equipment, that are distributed to hundreds of health care programs throughout Bolivia, including our own physical therapy program. Over time, we expanded our capacity to meet a multitude of additional needs.

And with the help of many, including you, we have much more to celebrate. A few examples:

Constructed 184 community health facilities and established their medical care programs. Together, they have over 1,000,000 patient visits yearly. (bottom left)

Built 11 water reservoirs that provide water for 75,000, and 28 drilled deep wells that yield clean drinking for more than 35,000. (bottom right)

Human stories of turning from illness to health, despair to hope, lie behind each of these numbers. See our website for more information: [manoamano.org](http://manoamano.org)

We send our best wishes to each of you. Thank you!



Children, US visitor, vaccination campaign - Corani Pampa

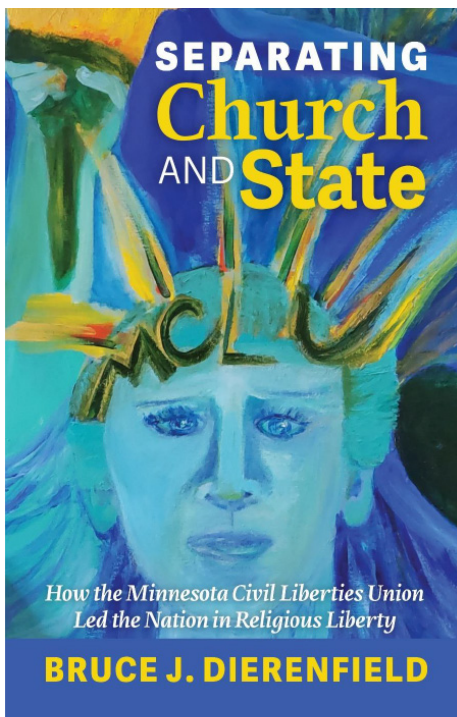


Child drinking Mamanaca well water.

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## A HISTORY OF MATT STARK'S WORK IN PRINT

by Terri Stark



Friends of the Bill of Rights Foundation

[orders@itascabooks.com](mailto:orders@itascabooks.com)

\$20

A history of the work in church-state separation of our late member *Matt Stark* of Minnesota is newly published and making its way into the world!

A donated copy of the book will be available in the All Faiths library and books can be ordered via the distributor, Itasca Books of Minneapolis by emailing [orders@itascabooks.com](mailto:orders@itascabooks.com).

"Dr. Bruce Dierenfield's new book is a pleasure to read, a real page-turner. He has marshalled an incredible body of historical data into a truly compelling account of the MCLU's work under the late Dr. Matthew Stark, its former president and executive director. Stark was like an army general, totally dedicated to winning. He would map out his strategy, gather intelligence about the enemy from newspaper clippings and surveys sent to schools, and send his troops to do battle in the law courts and in the courts of public opinion. His opponents are given a voice in the book and in every case Matt Stark's response devastated their arguments. Because of him, the MCLU won many important victories for the Bill of Rights. I wish I had known all this history when I was president of the MCLU, so I could have done more to keep Matt Stark's vision alive. The rights we enjoy now seem like part of the fabric of our lives, taken for granted, but each right was hard-won with the incredible work of Matt Stark and the MCLU. As one government official noted, the MCLU helped move Minnesota 'well ahead of the world' on prodding government to preserve religious liberty." – James H. Manahan, J.D., Past President, ACLU of Minnesota

Cover art by Terry Stark

# *Storytelling Comeback of the Bad Girls!*

## **a Fundraising Event for All Faiths hosted by the Tamiami Tale Tellers**

The Tamiami Tale Tellers will delight the audience with performances of seven whimsical tales including “Martina” who has multiple suitors seeking her hand in marriage, “Mosquitoes,” a tall tale about behemoth insects in Fort Myers, and “In the News,” a fractured personal story told by much loved teller Mary Lou Williams.

**Emcee: Alberita Johnson**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 - 7:00 P.M. - TICKETS \$20 - AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS  
OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 239-226-0900**

## **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:** Frank Geltner, Chair; Dick Scudder, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer; Diane Chernow, Secretary; Marge DiGalbo, Past Chair, Ex-Officio, Non-Voting.

**Directors:** David Donovan, Rosalie Kuehn, Ken Malkin, Barb McFarlane, Lewis Robinson.

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

**Commissioned 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**

Dottie Mayol/Carole Latino

*Greeters*

Dick Scudder

*Care and Support*

Joyce Ramay

### **Finance**

Joyce Ramay

### **Stewardship Committee**

t/b/d

### **Nominating Committee**

Sharon Gray

### **Sound Technician**

Brad Davidson

### **Livestreaming**

Regina Kilmartin/Sharon Gray

Brad Davidson

### **Building and Grounds**

Brian Bigelow

### **Social Action & Outreach**

*Climate Action Team*

Joan Marshall/Carol Heilsberg

*Heart for the Homeless*

Barb McFarlane

### *Racial Equity Team*

Nicole Racine/Frank Geltner

*L.I.F.E.*

Robert Bennett,

Michelle Gemma

Barb McFarlane

*Mano a Mano*

Charlotte Blitt

### *Operation Joy & Solos Group*

Annely Hudanick

*Animal Ministry*

Sharon Gray

*Rainbow Connection*

Frank Stephens

David Donovan

**Founding Minister:** The Late Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Robinson



Deadline for the **November** Issue of *Connections* is **October 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