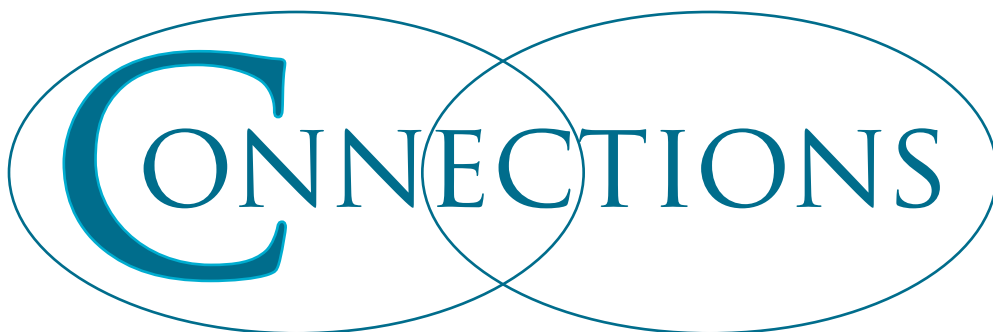




Where you *belong!*



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

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<i>by Alberita Johnson, CL Minister</i>	
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Hurricane Season Begins



Tips on Page 10

Celebrating Pride Month with Tropical Storm!

Poetry & Concert Fundraiser

Sunday, June 30, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. - Tickets: \$15
(add \$5 to be automatically included in 50/50 raffle)
Includes hot and cold hors d' oeuvres

Happy Father's Day

Sunday, June 16, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.
Reflections on Fatherhood, by John Conrad
Alberita Johnson, Worship Associate

The Board of Directors met on May 15, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

When this is published, your Board of Directors will be in the midst of a process of preparing for the renewal of the contract for our Commissioned Lay Minister. At our recent meeting we heard from Joyce Ramay on the contract renewal process. Your Board of Directors are the people you have asked to manage the affairs of our congregation. As members of All Faiths, we are bound by covenant, each to each and each to all, by what theologian Rebecca Parker calls “freely chosen and life-sustaining interdependence.” The central question for us is not, “What do we believe?” but more, “What do we believe in? To what larger love, to what people, principles, values, and dreams shall we be committed? By creating shared expectations around the behaviors we want to cultivate, we come closer to creating the beloved

community. A covenant is also a positive expression of healthy behavior, so that leaders have more clarity in identifying and responding to the needs of their fellow congregants, i.e., What We Promise One Another as Unitarian Universalists?

If you look at our organizational chart, you will be amazed at the amount of activity this congregation, committed as it is to social justice, is engaged in from week to week. I am reminded of Margaret Mead’s famous aphorism, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” What people say, what people do, and what they say they will do are entirely different things. All Faiths works to do the things its members set out to do.

Your congregation is always in need of volunteers. Those who can help. Those who can lead. Those who can follow. If you have yet to find your-

self among those who have given of their time and energy to moving our congregation forward, please let one of our board members know.

Several recent events were successful fundraisers for All Faiths – the Plant sale and the Quilt sale. Thanks to Judy Alberda. Thanks to Diane and Doug Cartwright.

Judy Alberda is stepping down from the garden crew, which is part of our Building and Grounds Committee. We thank her for years of making our garden look so pretty. Giovanni DeOto has joined the garden team. The Garden Team would gladly accept additional help. Thanks Judy.

John Conrad, who was central to the negotiations, tells us the paving contract has been signed. Work should be done over the summer.

Fran Way continues to serve as the leader of our Membership Committee with Dottie Mayol as her co-chair. We are hoping one of you will step for-

ward to volunteer to join Dottie as Co-Chair and let Fran retire from years of solid commitment to the Membership Committee.

Thanks to the many members who bring cookies, cakes and brownies to share on Sundays.

In her Board Notes one year ago, Marge DiGalbo, our past Board Chair wrote: “The congregation is forming a Program Support Team to provide a pool of members to help with planning, setup, breakdown and cleanup for events.” Michelle Gemma and Barb McFarlane coordinate this group. They created a signup sheet and the rest is history. Thanks to the team for an outstanding event. Thanks to that team, our annual Memorial Weekend event on Sunday, May 26 .

The UUA General Assembly will be held later this month. Our delegates will be Albie Johnson, Frank Geltner and Sharon Gray.

(Cont'd on page 3)

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.)

June - Cape Coral Pride (Rainbow Connections)

July - Operation Joy -Back to School

August - Quality Life Center Scholarships (Racial Equity Team)

April Share the Plate raised \$275 for St. Matthew's House!

Your generosity directly benefits our community!

We are grateful!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY





Change is Coming Part I

We all tend to move towards change, it is inevitable. Year after year, as long as we are alive we are witness to change in our surroundings and ourselves. We observe the seasons, the sun and moon, and the effects of them, like the rising tide. We watch our children and parents grow older. And yes we notice the subtle

changes in ourselves as we mature. These changes are inevitable. And the effects of change are not always pleasant, because they touch our entire being.

Change can cause growing pains, and for many the cycle is difficult. Here are some tools one may find helpful to move through the cycles of change.

When we feel the need to change something, do not fight it. Kind of lean into it and become the rider on a motorcycle. This allows you to become one with the curve or change. And the psyche unconscious can surface into conscious propelling desire. This desire will help to unify both your inner self and your outer self to agree on the imminent change.

Next we can begin the journey of awareness, and learn what is needed to make the desired change. Personal changes must be specific and are needed, so you do not end up on a dead end street or worse an alley. Sometimes this may take some research, training or simply a deepening of the desired change. Allow yourself the freedom to imagine and dream, see yourself living in the new you (change). This can be expressed in Treasure Mapping, and Journaling. The clearer you are on the change the more effective you will be in reaching the desired goal.

Move forward towards actions and take small steps towards your desired goals. This will build confidence and motivate you to keep going. It is at this step that we find things are changing. We may start to give up something and or pick up something new, the actual change has begun.

Practice makes perfect, so lean in more. This is where we start to feel pressure, and will begin to fluctuate between moving away and moving towards. If we are not careful here you may get stuck in a zone and feel immobile. If this should happen to you, remind yourself where and why you are changing by looking at your Treasure Map more often and reviewing your journal while continuing to write.

These first four steps are only the beginning of your transformational journey and will affect your entire being. For many, these steps are managed easily for others they struggle early on. Change and innovation may be difficult for some, but necessary or we risk becoming static, boring, and uninspiring. Growth is equivalent to change, without change growth is not possible.

Every Sunday we sing Enter Rejoice and Come, the last verse continues the invitation to come while invoking fearlessness as a response to change. May we lean in to change and lean out of fear.

May it be so, *Albie*

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Judy Alberda arranged for the annual plant sale. We are grateful for the wonderful job that she does beautifying our gardens.

Charlotte Blitt is having surgery. We hope that it goes well and that she heals quickly.

Carol Elrod passed away after a long struggle. We extend our sympathy to Ed Elrod and their family. We will hold a memorial service sometime in July.

Ed Elrod was hospitalized with an infection but he is now in rehab. We hope that he has a good recovery.

Peter Serries shared his talent of playing the flute on Mother's Day. We hope to hear him play again.

Laura Snow was hospitalized with a skin infection. She has improved, and we hope that she continues to have a good recovery.

Spring Cleaners - We are grateful to all those who participated in the spring cleanup of our beautiful facilities in May.

Joyce Ramay,

Care & Support Coordinator

BOARD NOTES (Cont'd from pg. 2)

One year ago Marge DiGalbo wrote "It is essential that we find a new minister soon." And, who should come into our midst? We were so blessed to have Alberita Johnson walk through our doors. We look forward to an ever deeper relationship with our dear sweet Minister. She is the right person for the job at this moment in time. Keep her in your thoughts. Namaste!

The next Board Meeting will be held on June 19, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Happening at All Faiths

Happy June

Birthday to you!



June 5	Vanessa Gilyard
June 6	Joyce Davison
June 7	Ron Abplanalp
June 8	Segundo Velasquez
June 10	Michelle Gemma
June 11	John Fischer
June 15	Joyce Ramay
June 15	Tina Noel
June 24	Judy Alberda
June 24	Nonnie Ramsey
June 25	Alice Schaefer
June 25	Rosalie Kuehn
June 27	Joseph Batal

And Coming Up...

July 3	Becky Ross
July 5	Jan Guardiano

June Potluck

Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Come for food and fun!

Bring a dish to share – Play fun games!

Sign Up on the Bulletin Board

Solos Monthly Lunch!

Saturday, June 1, 2024

1:00 p.m.

"Bahama Breeze"

14701 Tami MLK Blvd.

check your email for details.

RSVP to: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

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

The Epicureous Dinner Group on Hiatus

The Epicureous Dinner Group will be on hiatus for the summer. The organizer, John Fischer, will regroup in September to determine best days and times to resume.

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. Not all Sundays are available - check calender on page 5 to confirm.

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.

Racial Equity Team Meeting

Meeting on the 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.

Contact: Nicole Racine nracine_1948@yahoo.com and Frank Geltner frank@newportnet.com

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.

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

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

JUNE 2024 CALENDAR

Saturday

						1 10am-12pm Newcomer Orientation (see pg. 4) 1pm Solos Lunch (see pg. 4) 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 8)
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
2 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service 12pm Racial Equity Film & Discussion 2-5pm ACMA Circle	3	4 10am Sun. Service Mtg. 1:30pm Climate Action Team Mtg. via Zoom	5	6	7 2pm Dominoes	8 11am Choir Practice NAPLES PRIDE DAY 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 8)
9 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service 12 pm Rainbow Connection 2-5pm ACMA Circle	10	11 10am Racial Equity Meeting at All Faiths 6:30pm A Course in Miracles (see pg. 11)	12	13 10am Finance Mtg. 5pm Potluck & Game Night	14 12pm Soundboard Training 2pm Dominoes	15 11pm Choir Practice
16 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service McGregor Clinic Collection 12:15pm Sacred Circle 2-5pm ACMA Circle	17 12pm Book Club Father's Day	18 10am Care & Support 6:30pm A Course in Miracles (see pg. 11)	19 1pm Board Meeting	20 1pm Homeless Team 7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	21 2pm Dominoes	22 11am Choir Practice 7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 8)
23 Service same as above	24	25	26 11am Veil Dancing with Dottie Mayol	27	28 2pm Dominoes	29 11am Choir Practice
30 Service same as above Ice Cream Social 6pm Tropical Storm Concert	Animal Shelter Collection	31 6:30pm A Course in Miracles (see pg. 11)				

JUNE 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

THEME: RENEWAL

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

Recorded services can be viewed at www.allfaithsuu.org
or on our YouTube channel.

June 2

Title – *Periods. Poverty. Power.*

Guest Speaker – Dr. Genelle Grant

Worship Associate – Alberita Johnson

Music by Carlos Garcia

June 9

Title – *It's a New Season, It's a New Day*

Speakers – 3 Reflections by Members

Worship Associate – Alberita Johnson

Music by Carlos Garcia

June 16

Title – *Reflections on Fatherhood*

Speaker – John Conrad

Worship Associate – Alberita Johnson

Music by Carlos Garcia

McGregor Clinic Collection

June 23

Title – *A Century of Flowers*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Nicole Racine

Music by Carlos Garcia

June 30

Title – *A Celebration of the Senses*

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Annely Hudanick

Music by Carlos Garcia

Life of Congregation Report – Frank Geltner

Pet Shelter Collection

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM ON SUMMER HIATUS

Our Child and Youth Program with Sharon Heinrich will be on hiatus for June and July. The program will resume on August 18. Visit our website to register your children and learn more about it: www.allfaithsuu.org.

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.

The Rainbow Connection

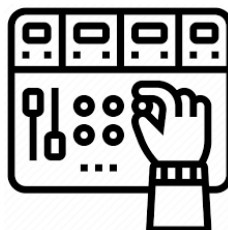
Meeting every 2nd Sunday at Noon

Contact Frank Stephens – fdinfla99@gmail.com

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

AUDIO SOUNDBOARD TRAINING

Friday, June 14 at 12 P.M.



We have relied on Ed Elrod for many years to keep our sound equipment in tip-top shape and our microphones in good working order for our Sunday services. We are grateful to Ed for his many years of dedicated service.

Now we need others to step up to the plate. **Yes - step up - please!** We need several people to be available to run the soundboard on Sundays. **It is not difficult!** If you can hear and turn a dial, you are qualified to help.

Regina Kilmartin will hold a soundboard training session on Friday, June 14, at noon. We would love to see some new faces contribute their time and talent to this important element of our Sunday services.

Please sign up on the bulletin board.

June Potluck

Thursday, June 13, 2024 - 5pm

Enjoy food, fellowship and fun.

Get to know each other better.

Play games and eat cheap!

All are welcome at All Faiths' table.



RAINBOW CONNECTIONS CELEBRATES PRIDE

by David Donovan and Frank Stephens, Co-Chairs

June is PRIDE MONTH. All Faiths will be attending Naples Pride on June 8th at Cambier Park. Anyone interested in helping, please sign up on the bulletin board.

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation was officially recognized as a new member of the SWFL Harmony Chamber (Gay Chamber of Commerce) at their April mixer on April 19th. The Chamber hosts monthly events at member locations to connect like-minded people and support gay/gay friendly businesses in SWFL. More information can be found at their web site: swflharmonychamber.wildapricot.org. This will help us attract new members to All Faiths.

As many of you may know, All Faiths attained UUA recognition for becoming a Welcoming Congregation a few years ago. The Welcoming Congregation Program is a volunteer program for congregations that want to take intentional steps to be more welcoming and inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The Rainbow Connection is working on our renewal for this program. The 5 steps are:

- 1) BECOME A WELCOMING CONGREGATION
– **COMPLETED** We just need renewal.

- 2) WELCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES –
SCHEDULED

We need to add at least 2 services into the liturgical schedule.

Services added are:

LGBTQ Pride Month – Service to be held on June 30th

National Coming Out Day – Service to be held on October 20th

- 3) WELCOMING DAYS OF OBSERVANCE –
SCHEDULED

We must honor AT LEAST 6 Days of Observance during the year. Methods could include a prayer or story, Chalice Lighting, or a Song or Art Form.

Days of Observances recognized at All Faith's for 2024 are:

- 1) **Day of Silence (LGBT Youth) on April 14th**
– **Completed**
- 2) **Lesbian Visibility Day on April 25th** –
Completed
- 3) **International Day against Homophobia,**

Transphobia & Biphobia on May 19th.

- 4) **Pride Month (including Pulse remembrance, Stonewall) on June 30th.**
- 5) **National Coming out Day on October 13th.**
- 6) **World AIDS Day on December 1st**

- 4) WELCOMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION –
COMPLETED

A presentation made available to the congregation that informs, educates, and raises AWARENESS about LGBTQ issues and needs.

Several members viewed the UU webinar regarding Pride Preparation prior to our participation for the Cape Coral Pride event. If at least 10% of the congregation has seen, or will watch this webinar, this will satisfy the requirement.

- 5) SUPPORT A WELCOMING PROJECT –
COMPLETED

Make a “sizeable/generous donation” of gifts or resources to a local/national organization, campaign/project that lifts up the dignity of the LGBTQ community.

We believe that our participation in Cape Coral Pride and the sizeable donation made in the name of All Faiths fills this requirement.

More information on the Welcoming Congregation Program can be found at: www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program

The Rainbow Connection group is also working on fundraising ideas to support Cape Coral Pride next year. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Frank or David. We have also found out that Fort Myers will be doing a Pride event this fall as well. More info on that to come at a later date.

Happy Pride !!



Lee Interfaith for Empowerment

by Robert Bennett

Lee Interfaith For Empowerment (LIFE) held its annual Celebration assembly on May 21. Thirteen congregations were represented at the event. A dozen All Faiths congregants attended. That night All Faiths attendees donated or pledged to donate \$1,450 to support LIFE's social justice activities.

Like All Faiths, LIFE is committed to social justice actions. LIFE's member congregations work together to create a more loving and just community for all. In the face of adversity, LIFE's mantra is to "Keep on keeping on." Therefore, its volunteer task forces are continuing to work to ensure fairer treatment for those experiencing a mental health crisis and to encourage those in power to implement more just affordable housing policies. LIFE for justice! Justice for LIFE!

JUNETEENTH (JUNE 19TH)

*Commemorates the ending of slavery
in the United States*

From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Today, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today.

For events around the county marking the 145th anniversary of Juneteenth, visit www.juneteenth.com. For local events, visit the NAACP Lee County Branch at www.naacpleecounty.org; and the Lee County Black History Society at www.leecountyblackhistory.com.

There are now 36 states in the country that recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday.

Only when we are sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane

Share the Plate in May went to a new organization our team supports, St Matthew's House Shelter for Women and Children. This shelter will open in July as the only Fort Myers shelter serving women and children. Thank you for your generosity.

The insect repellant collection was held on May 26. These items were given to Matt Wallace, Homeless Outreach Coordinator, with Lee County Southwest Florida for distribution to people living outside.

June 4th our team will tour the Salvation Army's Day Resource center at 1:00 p.m. Feel free to join us if you'd like to learn how they serve people without housing.

On June 17 at 1:30 p.m., we are meeting with Jaqueline Williams from Luthern Social Service Refugee Resettlement Program. We hope to learn who is being resettled in SWFL and what they need. Feel free to join us at All Faiths to learn more.

Despite twice losing the sign asking people to leave bikes, bikes continue to show up in our rack from neighbors and congregants. A member has donated money to have another sign made. Another example of All Faiths members generosity.

Animal Shelter Collection Sunday, June 30, 2024



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

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.

**BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR PETS IN
YOUR HURRICANE PLANNING**

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – April 2024

First Horizon Checking	\$ 44,079
Raymond James Legacy	4,501
Pay Pal	35
Live Oak Operating Reserve (CD)	22,175
First Horizon Capital Reserve	8,764
Live Oak Capital Reserve (S)	44,935
Live Oak Operating Reserve (S)	41,481
Live Oak Legacy (CD)	20,952

Total	\$186,922
Prior Month	<u>175,451</u>
Net Gain	\$ 11,472

April 2024 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 25,525
Operating Expense	<u>16,727</u>
Net Gain	\$ 8,798

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 \$184,860 (92.3%).

Our Pledge Goal for the month of April was \$16,687; and \$20,973 was received (125.7%). Thanks go out to those who contributed early in the year towards their pledge!

No unusual expenses were incurred in the General Fund Operating Account.

The Board approved the consolidation of several accounts to streamline accounting and to further increase interest income. These changes were made before the end of March 2024 and are reflected in the figures listed above. April's Interest Income was \$445.

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 April monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,530 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. In April, the final payment for the new front doors was made. The replacement of the side door and purchase of a new audio/visual projector was completed in April, but these expenses are not yet reflected in the financials. The Board approved a contract for repaving the parking lot.

In April, \$325 was collected for SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team).

ALL FAITHS NEWCOMERS ORIENTATION

*Hosted by Alberita Johnson and the
Membership Committee*

Saturday, June 1, from 10am to 12pm

2756 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers

How much do you know about our All Faiths congregation? How much do you know about Unitarian Universalism? Did you know that UU congregations are self-governing, and that authority and responsibility are vested in the membership of the congregation?

At All Faiths we want our members and friends to understand what we believe in, what we strive for, and what we celebrate. We encourage every member to participate actively in their faith community.

If you are considering becoming a member, if you are a relatively new member, or if you're just curious, we invite you to come on Saturday, June 1 at 10 a.m. for snacks and an informative workshop that will bring you up to speed on our faith community. Visitors are welcome, too!



ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

Saturday, June 1 - 7:00pm

Passerine
Frad Ball Opens

Sunday, June 8 - 7:00pm

Adam Ezra Group in Concert!
Bruce Gallant Opens

Saturday, June 22 - 7:00pm

Matthew Sabatella in Concert!
Houseboat Jim Visone Opens

The Listening Room at All Faiths

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

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



The Climate Action Team has been engaged in numerous outreach activities this spring which hold great promise for future community involvement in our efforts to address the impact of climate change on our environment and our lives. Key among these activities has been an organizing campaign led by CAT participant, Hilary Stecklein-Kobrin, to create a coalition of environmental groups to work cooperatively in support of each other's efforts. Hilary identified twenty-two people in eleven organizations who are interested in participating in a collaboration. Her efforts revealed to her how deep the environmental concerns are here and she thinks this project will help people get a better sense of belonging together. The Conservancy in Naples is supportive of our efforts to build a coalition and on May 23rd hosted a gathering at their impressive facility which included a boat ride and tour of the facilities and culminated in a luncheon meeting and discussion. The Conservancy is particularly interested in education and they have lots of volunteers looking for ways to make a difference. At our meeting we discussed creating a sustainability group within the volunteer organization that would provide a structure for the members of our various groups to coordinate our efforts.

At our May meeting we also learned about an educational program called Carbon Crew from Josephine DiVichenzi, one of its founders. She explained to us that Carbon Crew utilizes a book and film by Australian filmmaker, Damon Garneau, entitled "2040" that is the story of the author's transition from an unconcerned, carefree young man to a passionate advocate for taking action in our everyday lives to address climate change. The book and film explore positive things we can do to make a difference. United Nations research efforts revealed that two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions are influenced by our everyday choices at the household level. The program is premised on the belief that thoughtful citizens can change the world. Your Climate Action Team will be looking for ways we can engage with the Carbon Crew program here at All Faiths.

Our next Climate Action Team meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4th. Look for an email from Regina with the Zoom link for the meeting and join us for a stimulating and positive exploration of how we and others are meeting the challenge of climate change and making a difference for ourselves and future generations.

2024 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS TIPS FROM FEMA



Hurricane season officially begins on Saturday, June 1. Be ready for hurricane season. Take action TODAY to be better prepared for when the worst happens. Understand your risk from hurricanes, and begin pre-season preparations now.

Make sure you have multiple ways of receiving forecasts and alerts, and know what to do before, during, and after a storm.

Check your insurance coverage. Homeowner's and renter's insurance policies may not cover wind and water damage caused by hurricanes. Keep in mind one inch of water in your home can cause up to \$25,000 in damages. Without flood insurance most residents have to pay out of pocket or take out loans to repair and replace damaged items. Federal assistance is not always available and is not enough to get you back to your pre-disaster condition.

Contact your insurance agent to purchase a policy, in the amount of coverage you can afford, from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Coverage is available up to \$250,000 for your home and up to \$100,000 for your home's contents. For non-residential properties, you can secure coverage up to \$500,000 for the building and \$500,000 for the building contents.

Remember, there is usually a 30-day waiting period from the date of purchase until your flood insurance policy goes into effect. Visit www.floodsmart.gov to find other resources to help you prepare for the Hurricane Season.

Make a plan. Decide where you and your family will go if you need to evacuate. Decide on a meeting place if you and your family get separated. Designate an out of town contact so you can let your family know where you are and that you are safe. Make sure everyone in your family knows and understands the plan. Practice your plan.

Make a kit. Your kit should contain at minimum a gallon of water per day for each member of the family for a week, non-perishable food, a manual can opener, extra clothes, gloves, heavy shoes, cash, and extra medication and eyeglasses. Put in a hand cranked or battery powered radio and a flashlight. Don't forget extra batteries. Don't forget food, water, and medication for your pets. For more preparedness tips go to www.ready.gov.

RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Frank Geltner, Co-Chair

For over a year ...

... with Layla F. Saad “me and white supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor”...

... as a guide, every member of the Racial Equity Team has been on a journey to build the racial stamina required to challenge the racist status quo.

Many congregants must be wondering about what we have learned that is so important? Well we have learned many things: the depth of our internalized white privilege! The damage caused by white supremacy! How hard it is for us to face white privilege. The difference between being racist and anti-racist.

We’ve learned the need to become proactive anti-racists, not just passive non-racists, as Lewis puts it so well. Joyce Ramay ponders about several issues: the concepts of saviorism and misdirected inclusiveness, which must be addressed - the often subconscious belief in white supremacy that leads to domination via mission work, conversion, assimilation, acculturation, and the “melting pot” syndrome. “These often involve what we call good intentions” Joyce stresses, yet they are still aspects of supremacy.

Carole Latino, says that she had the shock of her life when she started the work. “I’ve had black friends most of my life, how could I be racist? No way!” Carole thought she knew it all until she joined the Racial Equity Team. “Layla F. Saad, really opened my eyes to so many things I was not aware of. For the first time in my life I have become aware of my white privilege, of antiracism work- a work that is a lifetime commitment.

Nicole appreciated how every team member did as the author suggested, come to every page and every chapter with a beginner’s mind. Every team member dug deep and reflected on their past experiences.”

Frank noted that many of his life experiences were reflected in the readings, especially the concepts of tokenism, allyship, culture appropriation, color blindness, racial stereotyping, white exceptionalism, white superiority, white silence, and tone policing. He thinks that members of the congregation would benefit greatly from this book.

We will be announcing our capstone activity in the coming months.

NEW EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP STARTS JUNE 11

Facilitated by Frank Stephens

A Course in Miracles discussion group will meet weekly on Tuesdays evenings, 6:30-8pm, beginning June 11th.

Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the peace of God.” (ACIM, Preface)

My name is Frank Stephens and I am a member here at All Faiths, I serve the community as the Co-Chair of the Rainbow Connection Team. I found the Course and read those words over three decades ago. The most incredible part of the experience was the feeling that the ideas in the book had always been in my mind; something or someone had pulled the ideas from inside me and placed them on the pages in words for my validation. The Course has been stimulating my curious mind and expansive heart ever since.

But...what do these ideas and words mean? Well, I am not sure, but it sounds like a good start to a discussion. Well, we are in luck! I have been given permission to conduct A Course in Miracles discussion group here at All Faiths and you’re invited! We will meet weekly on Tuesdays evenings, 6:30-8:00pm, beginning June 11. Please come and strengthen us all with your curious minds and expansive hearts.

VEIL DANCING WITH DOTTIE MAYOL

Wednesday, June 26 at 11:00 P.M.



Please join in on this free, one-time class led by Dottie Mayol, member of All Faiths.

This class focuses on arms and upper body movement using veils!

A dance “veil” is a lightweight, flowing material that is around 89 inches long by 44 inches wide. Smaller suitable scarfs and music will be provided. Open to all curious women. The more, the merrier! Please sign up on the bulletin board.



CELEBRATING PRIDE 2024

POETRY & CONCERT FUNDRAISER

Sunday, June 30, 2024 – 6:00pm – at All Faiths

Partial Proceeds Benefit All Faiths

TICKETS: \$15 – add another \$5 to automatically be included in a 50/50 raffle!
Includes beverages and hot and cold hors d' oeuvres

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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Executive Board: Frank Geltner, Chair; Dick Scudder, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer;
Diane Chernow, Secretary; Marge DiGalbo, Past Chair.

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

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Charlotte Blitt

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Annely Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Sharon Gray

Rainbow Connection

Frank Stephens

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson



Deadline for the **June** Issue of *Connections*
is **July 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