



ALL FAITHS
UNITARIAN CONGREGATION

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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ALL FAITHS Hosts University of Georgia Students for Local Environmental Justice

(see article on page 6)



2ND ANNUAL LIVE/SILENT AUCTION PASTA WITH A PURPOSE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019 - 5 P.M.

(DETAILS ON PAGE 9)

ANNUAL ELECTIONS MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019 - 10:00 A.M.

BETWEEN SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND

The Board of Directors meeting was held on February 20, 2019.

We are so blessed to have the loving community of All Faiths and our fabulous warm climate. My recent trip to Ohio was a reminder of the benefits of Florida winters.

The Annual Meeting is coming up on March 24. There are several important items on the agenda. We will vote for Directors to serve on the Board, the Treasurer (one year term) and Secretary (two year term). We also will vote to approve the budget for the coming year. The board also voted to present at the Annual Meeting the issue of our congregation supporting an 8th Principle and encouraging UUA to approve this additional principle. The proposed principle is a call for action to dismantle racism. Emmie Spiller effectively presented the proposed action

to the board. It is great to see our youth showing this kind of involvement and commitment to living our faith. This issue, as well as the budget and slate of candidates, will be discussed at a pre-Annual Meeting workshop on March 3 at 10:00 a.m.

The improved lighting for our parking area and the sidewalk was installed. We needed this to enhance the safety of those attending evening functions. The board chose to pay for it with money from our capital fund. However, any special contributions to replenish the capital fund would be greatly appreciated.

Our 2019-20 pledge drive was successful in obtaining over 80 percent of the pledge goal. If you did not turn in your pledge, it will still be accepted. Your Finance Committee and the Board voted

to recommend for approval by the congregation a budget that is the same total as the goal budget used during the pledge drive. This is only a 2.3 percent increase over the budget for this past year. It should be very achievable. The congregation will vote on the budget at the annual meeting.

The year-to-date financial status of the congregation is getting better. Through ten months, our deficit (expenses exceeding revenue) is still over \$3,000. If the current year pledge commitments are met and our fundraisers are successful, we will eliminate the gap. We have a big fundraiser coming up that promises to be a lot of fun. The Italian dinner and auction is scheduled for March 9th.

At our February 3rd special congregational meeting

we voted on a change to the Bylaws to enable the Board to elect its Chairperson and Vice Chair. This action should help ensure continuity in governance of our congregation.

Don't forget, your Board of Directors is here to serve you. Bring any issues or concerns about our facilities or operations at All Faiths to me or other members of the Board of Directors. We are here to serve everyone in All Faiths' congregation.

Our next board meeting is March 20 at 3:45 p.m. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend.



Mission Statement

“All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is a welcoming, caring community, seeking diversity, practicing openness, and encouraging personal and spiritual growth.

“We are working toward a just, free, peaceful and compassionate world.”



Shelters provide a safe and nurturing environment for homeless animals until they can find a forever home. To help them in their mission, they would appreciate donations of pet food and treats, and any of the items listed below.

FIFTH SUNDAY ANIMAL SHELTER COLLECTION

For more information contact: Sharon Gray at geemal@yahoo.com or (239)565-2474.

SHELTER WISH LIST

- Cat Food (dry and canned)
- Dog Food (dry and canned)
- Cat Litter (clay and scoopable)
- Contractor grade trash bags
- Towels, large & small
- Blankets, Comforters,
- Pillow Cases, Sheets
- Clorox Wipes
- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Bleach

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



As I write this, Regina and I are juggling our schedules trying to shake out a few more hours into each day. My appreciation for Regina grows. She keeps me, and my schedule, moving all the while managing an enormous amount of her own responsibilities. One of the tenets of great leadership is giving the work back to the people. In our case that means returning some of the responsibilities of committees to committees and off Regina's desk. This is one sign of a healthy congregation; trusting others to manage the work of our community.

For me, helping our members and friends take and feel ownership of the congregation is essential. We are different than other faiths. Who the congregation wants to be and where the congregation wants to be is decided by its owners, the members. There is not a hierarchy managing the congregation from afar. Look around All Faiths. You'll see examples of great leadership and a healthy congregation. From our gardens to our stewardship to our work, all are driven by owners of the congregation.

My interest in leadership and efficiencies has moved me to examine how we use staff and I work with the board to reflect on ideas. Staff are here to support the owners, the members, in doing their work and to guide their work. The staff, as good leaders, are not here to do the work but to give the work back to the people. The work belongs to the membership.

As we grow, let us reflect on how and why we contribute time, treasure, and talent. Let us remind ourselves of our ownership, the stakes we have in All Faiths. None of our great work, our presence, or our impact would be evident without members doing the work. I am grateful to you all and continue to be astounded by all that this congregation has done and is doing. As we move to giving some work back to the people let us not be afraid of change.

- Blessings, CJ

JOYS & SORROWS

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

We extend our healing thoughts and prayers to:

Gerald Goen is suffering with a fractured vertebra. We extend our healing thoughts and prayers to him.

Doug Jeranson passed away in Minnesota after a long illness. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Jolene and their family.

Dan Meacham, who was diagnosed with lung cancer and will be having surgery. We hope that the surgery is successful in removing the cancer. We send him our healing thoughts and prayers.

Sharon Gray's daughter, Terry Foster, who was in a serious car accident and suffered broken ribs. We hope that she is relieved of pain and that rehab helps her.

All Faiths 18th Anniversary – On February 17th, we had the great joy of gathering together for services and lunch to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the founding of All Faiths. We are grateful for all the many people who have contributed so much love, devotion, commitment, and treasure to our family throughout the years. Now that we have “graduated” at 18, we look forward with enthusiasm to sustaining our congregation, and embracing the future as we pursue fulfillment of our mission.

CHANGES TO CALEDAR

Due to the Georgia University students visiting our congregation, and scheduled carpet cleaning, there are some changes to the calendar. Please note changes and cancellations below:

March 11 - 4:45 p.m. Choir Practice - cancelled

March 15 - 10:30 a.m. Meditation - cancelled

March 20 - 7:30 p.m. Medication - cancelled

March 22 - 10:30 a.m. Meditation - cancelled

March 22 - 4:30 p.m. Visuality Youth Group - cancelled

Meetings scheduled during the carpet cleaning can take place in the building, you will just have to use the room that does not have wet carpet.

Happening at All Faiths

Happy March Birthday to you!



March 1 Eileen Moran
March 2 Robert Way
March 3 Charlotte Blitt
March 4 Frankie Jennings
March 5 Jim Goodman
March 9 Barbara Constans
March 12 Diane Chernow
March 15 Rachel Spiller
March 14 Patrick Spiller
March 20 Greg Monk
March 21 Pat Nuding
March 21 Valarie Meacham
March 21 Chuck McGarry
March 28 Barbara Guidotti
March 28 Sally Mason

And Coming Up...

April 1 Carol Heilsberg
April 3 Bill Snider

Book Club & Brown Bag - March 11 - Noon

Meeting on the 2nd Monday of the Month

Contacts: Diane Chernow, dianecher@comcast.net and
Annely Hudanick, annelyblue@hotmail.com

Be prepared to give a brief talk about a book you're reading or you have read.

New Pathways Loss Support Group

Meeting weekly on Tuesdays at Noon

Contact: Donalie Benyak, bdbenyak@gmail.com

Grief is a difficult journey, but you do not have to travel it alone. If you have experienced a loss in your life, you are invited to join this group where you can share, listen, make friends, and find support. Open to the general public.

Worldview - Wednesday, March 6 - 1:00pm

Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the Month

Contact: Lewis Robinson, lewrob@comcast.net

Discussion: "EPIDEMIC OF LONELINESS". Go to www.allfaiths-uc.org. Click on "Worldview Article" or check your emails on Monday.

Meditation - Wed. at 7pm & Friday at 10:30am

Wednesday Contact: Lisa Leonhardt, kindreds@aol.com

Friday Contact: Jeanne Ezell, jeannezell@gmail.com

Join friends to develop your mindfulness, compassion, and sense of serenity.

Solos Group Events

Contact: Annely Hudanick,
annelyblue@hotmail.com

Everyone is welcome to join the solos for outings and lunch w/wo a movie date. The potlucks, however, are reserved for "single" solos.

Saturday, March 2, 1pm

Potluck at Susan Meissner's Home
Email: suemeis@aol.com

Saturday, March 16, 1pm

Lunch w/wo a movie:
Buffet City (Chinese) 5020, S. Cleveland

McGregor Clinic Collection - Sunday, March 17

Collection is on the 3rd Sunday of Every Month

Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, joycelschaffer@gmail.com

This month the clinic is in need of clothing, high protein and non-perishable foods.

All Voices Choir Practice - Mondays at 4:45pm

Contact: Joseph Brauer, jodabrauer@gmail.com



MARCH 2019 CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



<p>1 10:30am Meditation</p>							<p>2 1pm Solos Potluck (pg. 4)</p> <p>7pm ACMA Concert <i>Grant Maloy w. Bob Williams opening</i></p>
<p>3 9am Service</p> <p>10am Pre-Annual Mtg. Q&A Session</p> <p>11am Service & Children's RE</p>		<p>4 4:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>5 12pm Loss Support Gr.</p> <p>1:30pm CAT Meeting</p>	<p>6 1pm Worldview w. Lewis Robinson</p> <p>7pm Meditation</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 10:30am Meditation</p> <p>[Daylight Savings time begins Sun. 3/10. Turn your clocks back Sat. night] →</p>	<p>9 5pm Pasta with a Purpose AF Live/Silent Auction</p> <p>U. Georgia Students Arrive</p>
<p>10 9am Service 10am Adult Ed. Forum 11am Service & Children's RE (Share the Plate)</p> <p>U. Georgia Students Here</p>		<p>11 10am Sun. Srv. Mtg. 12pm Book Club</p> <p>U. Georgia Students Here</p>	<p>12 10am Membership-Mtg. 12pm Loss Support Gr.</p> <p>U. Georgia Students Here</p>	<p>13 10am Racial Justice 1pm Trans 101 w. Kasey Fraize</p> <p>U. Georgia Students Here</p>	<p>14 10:00 a.m. Finance Mtg.</p> <p>U. Georgia Students Here</p>	<p>15</p> <p>U. Georgia Students Here</p>	<p>16 1pm Solos Lunch w/wo a Movie (See pg. 4) 7pm ACMA Concert <i>Tim Ferrell w. Bill Metts opening</i></p>
<p>17 9am Service 10am Adult Ed. Forum 11am Service & Children's RE</p> <p>McGregor Clinic Collection</p>		<p>18 4:45pm Choir Practice 7pm Odyssey with Richard Keelan</p>	<p>19 12pm Loss Support Gr. 6-7:30 PFLAG Mtg.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>3:45pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>2pm Homeless Action Team Mtg.</p>	<p>22 10:30am Meditation</p>	<p>23 7pm ACMA Concert <i>Squirrel Hillbillies w. Ralph Leesburg opening</i></p>
<p>24 9am Service 10am Annual Meeting 11am Service & Children's RE</p>		<p>25 4:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>26 12pm Loss Support Gr. 7pm LIFE RALLY @FMCUCC</p>	<p>27 7pm Meditation</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 10:30am Meditation</p>	<p>30 9am-12:30 White Ally Toolkit 7pm ACMA Concert <i>Shawna Caspi w. Joe Virga opening</i></p>
<p>31 Regular Sunday Service/Programs</p>		<p>See the calendar on-line: http://www.allfaiths-uc.org Updates & Corrections will be on the website in Red Print.</p>					

ALL FAITHS Hosts University of Georgia Students for Local Environmental Justice



ALL FAITHS will host students from the University of Georgia’s Center for Leadership in March 2019. While in Fort Myers students will be working on Environmental Justice service projects. The students are part of the Impact Service Break program.

ALL FAITHS is the perfect partner as its Climate Action Team and Social Action and Outreach Committee have been working in the community and advocating for environmental justice for years.

The group will be working on environmental projects in our area. See the schedule provided. You are welcome to join in. We are providing a potluck meal on Tuesday, March 12 and Thursday, March 14. Please arrive with a dish and join our community meal.

The mission of the IMPACT program is to engage University of Georgia students in an affordable, week-long, substance-free, experiential service learning project that encourages an understanding of pressing social issues in a significant way. It is the goal of the organization to address community needs through direct and indirect service as well as provide students the knowledge of social issues in our own country. By providing new perspectives and hearing the stories of others, participants gain invaluable experiences that bring us together.

IMPACT SERVICE BREAK SCHEDULE

3/9	Evening arrival Orientation	Grocery shopping Cook dinner Group reflection
3/10	Beach Day with the South Florida UGA Alumni Chapter from 9 am- 5 pm	Return to All Faiths Cook dinner Group Reflection
3/11	Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve from 8 am-4pm (invasive species removal)	Return to All Faiths Cook dinner Group Reflection
3/12	Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve from 8-12pm (invasive species removal) Galt Preserve from 1-4pm (invasive species removal)	Return to All Faiths 6pm Potluck Group Reflection
3/13	Prairie Pines Preserve from 8-12pm (invasive species removal) Powell Creek Preserve from 1-4pm (invasive species removal)	Return to All Faiths Cook dinner Group Reflection at Snell Park
3/14	Matanzas Pass Preserve 8am-4pm (invasive species removal)	Return to All Faiths 6pm Potluck Group Reflection
3/15	Imperial River Preserve 8am-12pm (trash pickup) Beach cleanup at Snell Park 2pm-4pm	Return to All Faiths Cook Dinner River District Music Walk 7-9pm Final Group Reflection
3/16	Pack vans and clean living area Depart at 7am	Thank you so much!!!!

by Judy Alberda, Co-Chair



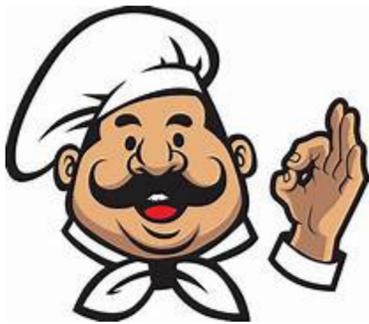
PASTA WITH A PURPOSE

AN ITALIAN DINNER & AUCTION FOR ALL FAITHS

Saturday, March 9

5:30pm ~ Dinner Served
6pm ~ Silent Auction Begins
6:30pm ~ Live Auction Begins

\$10 per person
Ticket Includes:
Lasagna or Vegetable Lasagna
Salad ~ Garlic Bread ~ Dessert
Wine or Beer ~ Ice Tea



Auctions items are needed for All Faiths' 2nd Annual Auction & Dinner, which will be held on Saturday, March 9. There will be a silent and live auction with returning auctioneers, Regina Kilmartin and Howard Silverman.

Do you have a timeshare? How about a giving a boat ride, or host a themed dinner at your home? Antiques, jewelry, paintings, theater tickets, concert tickets, or similar items are needed. Do you live in a community where you can take the winning bidder to dinner at your restaurant?

If you have a question about whether an item will be appropriate, you can call Kendra Maroon at 518-572-9221 or email Kendra.maroon@gmail.com

Deadline for donations is March 5! So hurry up and gets your items in. (Donation forms were emailed to you, or you can pick them up on the bulletin board).

We are serving to learn and learning to serve. The congregation can give one another a high five, having contributed 35 towels, 24 sheet sets, 22 flat sheets, 22 pillow slips, some blankets, throws, rugs and curtains that were distributed to three agencies . Grateful to receive them are Angel Wings, Fort Myers Rescue Mission and the Center of Hope and Rapid Rehousing under the umbrella of the Salvation Army. A family of six moved into a Rapid Rehousing residence and didn't have enough towels so ours were distributed immediately.

Five of our members served in various capacities on Feb. 2nd at the 19th Annual Homeless Service Day as the City of Palms Stadium . We walked beside, chatted and assisted several people as they selected free items they could use in daily life. Political contact was made with Cecil Pendergrass, County Commissioner, regarding locating a space where homeless people can camp in the city, legally.

We participate in the monthly meetings of the Lee County Homeless Coalition to keep a pulse on the ongoing activities, services and resources of which we are a part. We currently are spending our budgeted funds to purchase infant supplies for the four newborn babies at the Center of Hope. That's fun shopping! We're also providing feminine hygiene products for college women who are homeless and living in their cars at FGCU. Richard Keelan alerted us to that need.

A saying I noted recently seems appropriate: *"To rise we must lift others up."* Robert Ingersoll



MARCH ODYSSEY RICHARD KEELAN

Monday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

This month's Odyssey will feature our Minister's husband, Richard Keelan. Each month Rev. CJ hosts an evening program where he interviews a congregant. This month he just might learn something new about Richard. Please be sure to join us.

TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

by Fran Way and Marsha Bates, Member Services

Each month the newsletter will profile an All Faiths veteran and/or new member. This month we feature Wayne Dean.

Wayne Dean

Member Since October 2018



Wayne Dean was welcomed into membership at All Faiths in October after relocating to Fort Myers from Naples where he attended the UU congregation. He had stopped attending for several years, but shortly after the death of his son, he connected with All Faiths. Wayne describes himself as a “cynicized” idealist developing a growing tolerance. He says “All Faiths is

like a forgiving family that lets individuals wear comfortable shoes that do not match.” “Belonging to All Faiths is a most comfortable fit, with the congregation’s intellectual and human warmth and especially with the Rev. CJ being a truly remarkable intellectual and humorist.”

The oldest of three children, Wayne was told that his father’s ancestors came to this country in 1623 and settled in New Caanan, Connecticut. His mother, a member of the DAR, was born in St. Petersburg where her family had settled after traveling by covered wagon from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He describes his mother, grandmother and aunt as outgoing activists. His grandmother was a bold young woman who was noted for driving her new Buick touring car the length of the Tamiami Trail on opening day. Among other notable achievements, as a teenager she won a five-mile swimming contest across Boca Ciega Bay,

Wayne was born a year and a day after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. When his father was drafted, his mother took over his salesman job in Miami and South Florida. After the war, the family moved frequently. Wayne stated that he attended 13 different schools in 12 years. He graduated from high school in Napoleon Illinois. Wayne was raised an Episcopalian and, as a devout teenager, seriously considered studying for the episcopal ministry.

After high school Wayne joined the U.S. Army and served from 1961-1964. While at the High Altitude Missile Air Defense School at Fort Bliss, Texas, he studied the

ground guidance systems of the Nike Hercules air defense system. Upon graduation he became an instructor at the school. Nike Hercules missiles were deployed in south Florida during the 1962 Cuban Missile crisis and stood ready to launch nuclear warheads against Soviet aircraft and ground targets in Cuba. Wayne commented, “Even then I thought it was a bad idea!”

After three years of military service Wayne married and moved to Chicago. He attended Jr. college there, then transferred to Southern Illinois University. He says that he became a raging atheist in college. Following graduation he taught Jr. high students in a small backwater town near Hannibal, Missouri. Wayne says he brought home \$392 a month. Always an activist, Wayne was elected president of the local teachers union and advocated for a teacher’s strike.

Seeing a precarious future with the school system, Wayne applied for law school early on. After all, lawyers were earning a princely \$35 per hour! He was accepted to UMKC School of Law the day after the school board refused to renew his contract. During law school he worked full-time and carried a full course load. He graduated in 1974 and moved to the Orlando area where he practiced law for 16 years.

Over time Wayne became increasingly uncomfortable with the profession, except for his love of jury trials. He became seriously ill while rehabilitating a spec house with “harmless” mold issues. Wayne says, “After all, wasn’t penicillin made from mold, and moldy cheese delicious?” Not one of seven doctors was able to identify the cause of his continuing nosebleeds, migraines, brain fog, lumps and severe fatigue. He says he could hardly walk the two blocks from his parking space to his office. For several years the cause of his illness seemed mysterious. It continued to be debilitating even though he no longer was exposed to mold. His seventh physician recognized depression and prescribed Prozac which improved his productivity.

Wayne began to learn that his problem was more likely a result of trichothecenes of black mold exposure. During research he learned that trichothecenes were the most toxic substance found in nature. The connection between mold exposure and serious illness was not yet widely recognized. Gradually the concept of sick buildings and the effects of mold on health became more widely known. To some extent, trichthecenes could become airborne and inhaled while simply walking through a contaminated room.

(continued on page 9)

Exposure would feel like a quick-onset sinus infection but then progress toward even more serious issues.

Wayne says that there has been much indoor air quality progress since 2016 when many States passed laws requiring the installation of fresh air systems in new homes, condos and apartment buildings. Scientific research supported installing fresh-air ventilation systems. The payoff has been reduced lung cancer, reduced allergy and asthma triggers; heart attacks and radon gamma radiation that affects the brain.

Scientists have recently connected high levels of gamma radiation from inhalation of fossil fuel combustion-origin particles called PM2.5 with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Critical of Florida's law that requires testing for radon with no follow up after a simple and stunningly unreliable two day test, Wayne says we are close to showing that installing simple, affordable clean air systems has many health benefits.

Wayne's current business workload leaves him little time to participate in many All Faiths activities. He lost his only son just four months ago and feels this loss influences his need to be a part of All Faiths. He attends services as often as he can. We welcome Wayne to All Faiths!

EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING WITH ALL FAITHS' CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



Your Climate Action Team is dedicated to offering ways for our congregation to become actively engaged in the essential transition we must all make to the creation of a sustainable and environmentally-conscious way of life. Toward that end, we will be offering informational articles each Sunday to assist you in understanding the challenges at hand and to offer ideas for how you can help make a difference. Be sure to also check out the Climate Action Team bulletin board in the social hall for notices about activities and events you may want to be a part of.

On the second Sunday of each month we will offer an opportunity for you to engage in an outreach to the leaders and decision-makers whose support and engagement we need in order to accomplish significant progress in addressing the challenges we face. Sometimes this will be as simple as signing your name to a letter from our congregation. Other times we will hold a letter-writing party for our members to send personal letters regarding timely issues.

We urge you to make every effort to learn more about what we must each do personally to live sustainably and, if you are not already, to become an active participant in the growing grassroots climate change movement that is sweeping the world, including here in the United States and even in the state of Florida. There are numerous local organizations actively engaged in this movement right here in Lee County. We are building mutually supportive collaborative networks of these groups to create greater impact for all of our efforts. If you are an active member of one of these groups already, such as the Sierra Club, the Citizens Climate Lobby, the Audubon Society, the League of Women Voters, the Pachamama Alliance, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Yes on Conservation 20-20, Florida Food and Water Watch, or any one of numerous others, please send an email to Joan Marshall (jfmdbm@yahoo.com) to let us know about your involvement in that group or simply to inform us about the work they are doing. If we all bond together we can accomplish amazing things. Please help make that happen.

LIFE RALLY

Tuesday, March 26, 2019 - 7pm
Ft. Myers Congregational UCC
8210 College Parkway

Justice ministry network members will learn what was discovered in the research phase that public officials will be asked at the Nehemiah Action

NEHEMIAH ACTION

Tuesday, April 9 - 7pm
Location T/B/A

Network members bring three people to the Action. 1,200 people will gather together to hold our public officials accountable.

LIFE CELEBRATION

Tuesday, May 28 - 7pm
Mount Hermon Ministries
2856 Douglas Ave., Fort Myers 33916

Network members will come together to share our story, celebrate our victories, and wrap up our investment drive. Hors d'oeuvres and potluck to follow.

MARCH 2019 MESSAGES

Two Services: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

March Theme: Liberation

March 03 – Place of Liberation

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Bill Metts

Worship Associates – Carol Elrod and

Regina Kilmartin

March 10 – Living in Liberation

Guest Speaker: Kasey Fraize,**

Transgender FGCU Student

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associate – Rev. CJ McGregor

Share the Plate with And Literacy for All

March 17 – Accountable Relationships

Guest Speaker: Rachel Bass, Showing

Up for Racial Justice

Music by Joseph & The All Voices Choir

Worship Associate – Emmie Spiller

McGregor Clinic Collection

March 24 – When, Where and Why?

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer & Joan Marshall

Worship Associates – Doug Cartwright

and Susan Meissner

Annual Meeting Day - 10 a.m.

March 31 – Threat to Liberation

by Rev. CJ McGregor

Music by Joseph Brauer

Worship Associates – Diane Cartwright

and Greg Monk

Pet Shelter Collection

TRANS 101

Wednesday, March 13 - 1 p.m.

**Kasey Fraize will offer a program, *Trans 101*. This program will help us understand transgenderism and the do's and don'ts of welcoming trans folks to our congregation and all areas of life.

MARCH ADULT ED. FORUMS

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

March 03 – Pre-Annual Meeting Q&A Session

The Finance Committee will be available to answer any questions on the proposed budget being presented at our annual meeting.

March 10 – Great World Religions: What Christians Believe

Discussion led by Joyce Ramay

March 17 – Sharing Favorite Poetry

Led by Doug Cartwright

March 24 – No Forum

Annual Meeting between services

March 31 – Great World Religions: Church & Sacraments

Discussion led by Joyce Ramay

April 07 – Mano a Mano – Uplift Work in Bolivian Highlands - Discussion led by Joan and Segundo Velasquez

MARCH CHILDREN'S RE

Sundays During the 11 a.m. Service

March 3 - One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade. — Chinese proverb. This session explores connections to ancestors as well as the beloved community that extends beyond our current lifetimes.

March 10 - In this session, we recognize that families come in many shapes, sizes and colors. The central story in this session illustrates how these bonds can form a family as tight as one with related bloodlines.

March 17 - Many cultures consider the sharing of a meal to be an important step that transforms strangers into friends and sometimes into family. In this session, the universal significance of sharing a meal is explored.

March 23 - This session talks about being hospitable and being welcoming interchangeably. We will explore what it means to be a Welcoming Congregation.

March 30 - Children explored how we make a faith home. This session continues to focus on being a welcoming community.

SURJ HOSTS WHITE ALLY EVENT

Saturday, March 30 - 9:00 - 12:30 pm

The Collier NAACP and Showing Up for Racial Justice of SWFL will host the White Ally Toolkit event. The White Ally Toolkit focuses specifically on helping white folks have more effective encounters with white friends, co-workers and family who are skeptical that racism is a problem.

Find details on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/307556770119371/?ti=icl> or SURJ at surjswfl@surjswfl.com

AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

March 2019 Concert Line-Up

Concerts Start at 7pm

\$15 General Public/\$10 ACMA Members

www.AmericanACMA.org



Saturday - March 2

Grant Maloy
w. Bob Williams opening

Saturday - March 16

Tim Ferrell
w. Bill Metts opening

Sunday, March 23

Squirrel Hillbillies
w. Ralph Leesburg opening

Saturday, March 30

Shawna Caspi
w. Joe Virga opening

Shell Point Radio

Ed Elrod has a story on David Hauenstein's *Listening to the Words* - Program 336. Be sure to tune in and enjoy stories from several All Faiths' members and the Shell Point community.



Visit *Listening to the Words* Program at shellpoint.net/listening. You just may get hooked!

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Sharon Gray, Treasurer

The following is the accounting of our finances through January 31, 2019. February's details were not yet finalized.

January 2019

INCOME	\$ 19,953
EXPENSES	17,637
NET GAIN	\$ 2,316

JAN. CASH ASSETS (after payroll deducted)

General Operating Funds	\$ 7,714
Operating Reserves	49,599
Legacy Account	36,293
Paypal	434
Capital Fund 2017	<u>5,695</u>
Total cash assets	\$96,735

Fiscal Year 2018 to Date (10 Months)

INCOME	\$179,045
EXPENSES	\$182,080
NET LOSS	(\$ 3,035)

The Finance Committee and Board have approved the proposed 2019/20 fiscal budget. The increase from last year is less than 3%. The proposed budget is based on the pledges you have submitted. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on March 24, 2019, at 10 a.m. There will be a Q&A session for anyone with questions on Sunday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m. between services.

If you are over 70 ½ with an IRA, you can donate a portion, or all, of the required minimum distribution for 2019 by contacting your broker or institution. Tell your broker, you want to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA. The broker can send it directly to All Faiths, or send you a check made out to All Faiths, and you can get it to us. The amount given as a QCD will NOT count toward your taxable income on last year's return providing you follow the instructions.

Many thanks to the Stewardship Team for all their hard work on our 2019-20 campaign "Sustaining the Light".

Every one of us is a steward of All Faiths. How will you take care of our loving community?

As always, your time, talent, treasure, and stewardship are greatly appreciated.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
Election of Board and Nominating Committee
Members; approval of 2019-2020 Budget and
Endorsement of UUA 8th Principle**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019 at 10:00 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 between Sunday services on March 25. Items on the agenda are:

- Highlights of Minutes from Last Year's Meeting
- Approval of the Budget for 2019-2020
- Endorsement of the 8th Principle

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@allfaiths-uc.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 March 18. Hard copies will be available for congregants not having an E-mail address.

Discussion on all items will be held between services at a Q&A Session on March 3, 2019.

Voting will be between services March 24, 2018.

/s/ Ed Elrod
Secretary, Board of Directors

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Phone: (239) 226-0900 Fax: (239) 278-5743

Email: office@allfaiths-uc.org Website: www.allfaiths-uc.org

Board of Directors: Chris Stotler, Chair; Jeanne Ezell, Vice-Chair; Sharon Gray, Treasurer; Ed Elrod, Secretary; Diane Cartwright, Past Chair;

Directors: Doug Cartwright, Barbara Gaiser, Annely Hudanick, Lisa Leonhardt, Eileen Moran.

Staff: Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Joseph Brauer, Music Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton; Robert Bennett, Hospitality



Communications

Regina Kilmartin
Newsletter

Regina Kilmartin
Proofreaders
Carol Elrod,
Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin,
Kendra Maroon, Sharon Gray

Adult Education Forums

Sunday Service Team

Joyce Ramay

Member Services

Greeters
Fran Way

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Howard Silverman & Janet Falk

Nominating Committee

Carol Elrod

Minister: Rev. CJ McGregor - Cell: 508-736-3361

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

Sunday Services

Joyce Ramay

Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

Building and Grounds

Michael Pierre

Social Action & Outreach

t/b/d

Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall

Heart for the Homeless

Judy Alberda & Barbara Gaiser

Racial Justice Team

Rachel Spiller

Hunger Team

Diane Hand & Jane Broadstone

L.I.F.E.

Bill Snider, Regina Kilmartin,

McGregor Clinic

Joyce Schaffer

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy

Annely Hudanick

Deadline for the **April** Issue of *Connections* is **March 21**

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



OFFICE HOURS: 9am to 4pm, Monday thru Thurs;
9am to 12pm, Friday and Sunday.

Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin