



Where you *belong!*

CONNECTIONS

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

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**Lee Interfaith for Empowerment
The Nehemiah Action!
Tuesday, April 9 – 6pm**

(see page 8)

**Climate Action Team Hosts
Earth Day Movie:
"Common Ground"
Monday, April 15 – 6pm**

(see page 8)



The Board meeting was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

As our fiscal year is coming to a close and our Pledge Campaign is completed. The Board reviewed and approved the Finance Committee’s recommendations to consolidate some of our accounts as presented by Treasurer John Conrad. This will streamline the accounts and increase our interest.

All Faiths received an invitation to attend a Faith Based Assistance for Emergency in the Community program in May. The Board agreed All Faiths should participate in this program and will send interested members to the May 2, 2024 training.

The Board accepted the proposal from the Racial Equity Team that All Faiths adopt an 8th Principle. We agreed on the language as follows: “We, the members of All Faiths Unitarian Con-

gregation, covenant to build a multicultural Beloved Community, free of racism and other oppressions, by making inclusion a part of our spiritual journey.” This was presented at the Annual Meeting on March 24 and approved by the Congregation.

Dick Scudder and Rosalie Kuehn agreed to provide assistance to Fran Way with the Membership Committee. This will also provide Regina Kilmartin some much needed help with the paperwork generated for new members. Regina is also requesting help with possibly preparing the Connections monthly newsletter. The work involved is overwhelming and very time consuming. If you would be willing to assist with the newsletter, please see Regina.

All Faiths has been asked to be a hub once again for petitions - this time for Med-

icaid expansion to be placed on the ballot. The Board voted to allow the forms to be dropped off and picked up at All Faiths.

We still are awaiting the parking lot resurfacing and the installation of the side door.

This is my last Board Notes article as I end my term as your Board Chairperson. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve all of you. There are so many people who have supported, mentored, and helped me these last two years. All Faiths has survived many hurdles and moved forward strong and successful. I look forward to my new role as Past Chair and to mentoring our new Chairperson as I was supported. Thank you!

Peace and Love – Marge

The next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17, at 1:00 p.m.

BOARD RETREAT

Friday, April 12, 2024
10am - 2pm
at All Faiths

Passing the Baton!

CONGRATULATIONS

to our newly elected board members:

*David Donovan
Frank Geltner
Ken Malkin*

and newly elected to the Nominating Committee:

*Sharon Gray
Linda Runkle*

THANK YOU

to our dedicated board members coming to the end of their terms:

*Marge DiGalbo
Michelle Gemma
Linda Runkle*

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.)

April - SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team)

May - St. Mathew's House Shelter for Women & Children (Homeless Team)

June - Quality Life Center - Scholarships (Racial Equity Team)

March Share the Plate raised \$800 for Operation Joy!

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





I pondered this quote and realized that there is a deep truth within it. A truth that is disruptive because it pushes one to accept a truth that we may not be ready to embrace.

Disrupt is an interesting word, derived from medieval Latin meaning to break apart. With that definition in mind, it is not surprising that ancestral memory reminds us that the word is forceful. And of course, no one wants to feel forced to do or say anything. Yet without such a tendency to change, everything would remain the same.

For me disruption is equivalent to change. We live in a world of constant disruption, continuous change evident in all of nature, which includes ourselves. We are aware of the many changes we experience through life: we are birthed, we grow, we mature, and we die. In fact, in birthing, it is an immediate change that becomes a serious disruption, as the pangs of labor and birthing are occurring within a woman's body and a child springs forth. The child then grows, matures and there are multiple disruptions as the mind, body and soul or spirit are growing also. We do not remain in the same body for our entire lives. We have many bodily lives. The longer we live, due to aging and growth of the physical, we also mature in mind and spirit.

Changes occur naturally within the body. We understand this and accept it as a part of life; however we tend to shy away from the changes although we sing about it every Sunday... "don't be afraid of some change." Unfortunately, many people are not pleased with change, and yet it is part of life.

Perhaps we might consider digging a little deeper when it comes to change, understanding that change is simply an altering of things as they currently are to something different. Right now, we are in the midst of change as the disruption of winter turns to spring. This signals our time of change here at All Faiths.

We are moving into a season of disruption. Our annual meeting has occurred, our Board of Directors has a few new members, while others are coming off, we have instituted a few changes to include a rewrite of the proposed 8th Principle to make it more eloquently stated and subsequently accepted it as a congregation. Our pledge drive was successful and we continue to change daily. Nothing remains the same.

So instead of lamenting change, let us embrace the disruption and consider it as part of our now. The next time you find

yourself lamenting change and causing a disruption because of it, that may not bring you or anyone else happiness.

Lean into the quote, and let no one disrupt your NOW happiness.

May it be so - Albie

JOYS & SORROWS

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

Doug Cartwright had carpal tunnel surgery on his hand. We hope that the surgery is successful in removing the pain.

Peg Clayton Fischer is receiving radiation for a lung tumor. That will be followed by immunotherapy or chemo for a tumor on her spinal cord. We hope the treatments are effective and hold her in our healing thoughts.

Sharon Gray's son is undergoing radiation and chemo treatments. We hope that they are effective, and we hold him in our healing thoughts.

Emmie Spiller received acceptance letters for admission to FGCU, LSU and Nova Southeastern University. We hope that she receives well deserved scholarships to facilitate her higher education.

A memorial service and brick laying will be held on March 30th at 2 p.m. for **Bob Way**. Bob and his wife Fran were founding member of All Faiths and Bob was a frequent soloist at our Sunday services. We send our sympathy to Fran and their family.

A memorial service and brick laying will be held on April 3rd at 2 p.m. for **Dick Nogaj**. Dick and his wife Florence were very active members of All Faiths before they moved away a few years ago, but still feel a strong connection with our congregation.

Remember to reach out to those who are not able to join us on Sundays. Visit, send cards, make phone calls. Offer rides to those who can no longer drive.

Joyce Ramay,

Care & Support Coordinator

Happening at All Faiths

*Happy April
Birthday
to you!*



- April 1 Carol Heilsberg
- April 3 Bill Snider
- April 14 Jack Kennedy
- April 19 Diane Cartwright
- April 20 Joy Reinhart
- April 20 Sharon Heinrich
- April 24 Ann Batal
- April 24 "Weezie" Close
- April 27 Kathleen Weber

And Coming Up...

- May 7 Ed Kleinow
- May 13 Annely Hudanick



April Potluck

Thursday, April 28 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, April 6, 2024
1:00 p.m.
"Beans"

Cuban-Columbian Restaurant
2200 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 Group

Strictly Social Dinner Group - All Are Welcome!
Saturday, April 27, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.

Dinner & Conversation at **Mastello Ristorante and Steakhouse,**
2890 Summerlin Lakes Dr., #101, Fort Myers 33907

Please text, call or email John Fischer to RSVP at 267-992-6566
or silverfischstudios@gmail.com with your name, contact informa-
tion and the number in your party. The restaurant needs exact num-
bers and reservations. Please tell the Host or Hostess you are from
ALL FAITHS when you arrive.

The Rainbow Connection

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

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

Racial Equity Team Meeting

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

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

All Voices Choir Practice

Meeting Every Saturday at 11 a.m.

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

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

April 2024 Calendar

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



	<p>1</p> <p>April Fool's Day!</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10am Sunday Service Team Mtg.</p> <p>1:30pm Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>2pm Richard "Dick" Nogaj Celebration of Life</p> <p>6:30pm Fort Myers Camera Club <i>(Last meeting until fall)</i></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11am Choir Practice</p> <p>1pm Solos Lunch</p> <p>7pm ACMA Concert <i>(see pg. 9)</i></p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:15am News Talk</p> <p>10:30am Service & CYP</p> <p>12pm Rainbow Connection</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Total Eclipse of the Sun!</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10am Racial Equity Meeting</p> <p>6-8pm NEHEMIAH ACTION</p> <p>Eid al Fitr</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am Finance Mtg.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 - 2:00 Board of Directors Retreat</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11am Choir Practice</p> <p>7pm ACMA Concert <i>(see pg. 9)</i></p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:15am News Talk</p> <p>10:30am Service & CYP</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6-8 Climate Action Team Movie "Common Ground"</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10am Minister's Support Team Mtg.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am Ten O'clock Scholar</p> <p>1pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1pm Homeless Team Mtg.</p> <p>7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11am Choir Practice</p> <p>10:00 - 2:00 Worship Associate Retreat</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:15am News Talk</p> <p>10:30am Service & CYP</p> <p>McGregor Clinic Collection</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>EARTH DAY!</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10am Racial Equity Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10am Ten O'clock Scholar</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5pm APRIL Potluck Dinner & Fun Stuff</p>	<p>26</p> <p>2pm Dominoes</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11am Choir Practice</p> <p>5pm The Epicureous Dinner Group <i>(see pg. 4)</i></p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:15am News Talk</p> <p>10:30am Service & CYP</p> <p>Ice Cream Social</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>See the calendar online: http://www.allfaithsuo.org Updates & Corrections will be on the website in red print.</p>			

APRIL 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES THEME: INTERDEPENDENCE

In-House & Live on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.
Recorded services can be viewed at www.allfaithsuu.org
or on our YouTube channel.

April 7

Title: Celebrating Eid al Fitr

Speaker – Imam Mohamed al Darsani

Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay

Music by Carlos Garcia

April 14

Title: Harmony

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma

Music by Carlos Garcia & Choir

April 21

Title: Honoring Earth Mother

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Bob Moore

Music by Carlos Garcia & Kat Epple

McGregor Clinic Collection

April 28

Title: Feel the Fire (Beltane)

Speaker – Alberita Johnson

Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin

Music by Carlos Garcia & Choir

Life of Congregation Report

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

News Talk - 9:15am in the Sanctuary

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

Child & Youth Program

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

The Rainbow Connection

Meeting every 2nd Sunday at Noon

Contact: Frank Stephens - fdinfla99@gmail.com

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

APRIL CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM NOTES

This year's theme, "The Gifts of Our Faith" explores ten beloved UU values and explores their potential to shape us and, in turn, shape the world. In April we will focus on the gifts of interdependence. We'll think about interdependence, and explore the many ways that we are connected to each other, all living things, our earth and the universe. Our songs for the month include "The More We Get Together" with Sign Language, "One Light, One Sun," "Big Beautiful Planet," "The Earth is Our Mother." "Peace is the World Smiling" We will work together on group projects, play games, and make crafts as we care for each other and our world.

Opening: We are here together. We think with our minds. We love with our hearts. We create with our hands. We take care of each other and the Earth.

April 7: We are all connected. "The Grumpy Gecko" Web of life memory cards, Make a web

April 14: We live in a Community. "The Journey of the Birds," Group project - Create a community, Origami birds

April 21: We care for the web of Creation. U-Tube about Earth Day, "The Lorax," Earth Day project, Earth Day scavenger hunt

April 28: The Web of Creation Cares for Us. "Why the Sky is so Far Away," Gifts of Earth Jenga, Leaf prints

Closing: "As we make choices each day, may we remember to make them with love and caring in mind."

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

Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

**for Richard "Dick" Nogaj
Wednesday, April 3 at 2:00 p.m.**



Florence Nogaj and family invite you to join them as they celebrate the life of and honor the passing of Richard Nogaj.

Service and brick laying at All Faiths, Wednesday, April 3 at 2:00 p.m.

RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Frank Geltner, Co-Chair

The Racial Equity Team is pleased that the congregation has adopted our version of the 8th Principle:

“We, the members of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, covenant to build a multicultural Beloved Community, free of racism and other oppressions, by making inclusion a part of our spiritual journey.”

We are nearing the end of reading Layla F Saad’s *me and white supremacy* in anticipation of deciding on a congregational outreach strategy for the future. Those who have attended the Racial Equity Team gatherings on a regular basis are Lewis Robinson, Joyce Ramay, Ken Malkin, Becky Ross, JoAnn Reece, Melissa Schramme, Carole Latino, John Conrad, Nicole Racine, and Frank Geltner. The committee would like to see a few more members of the congregation engaged, but understands that all members set their own priorities. The committee continues to meet twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10 a.m. We are currently considering featuring a movie, with appropriate theme, to undergird our mission.

April Potluck Thursday, April 25 - 5pm

Join us for fellowship & fun!

Susan Meissner will teach us new games.

Bring a dish to share - see you there!



Ice Cream Social

After Service
Sunday, April 28, 2024
Sponsored by Lewis Robinson

♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane

March provided several opportunities for the congregation to learn about or support those without housing.

Over 350 T-shirts were collected the first two Sundays of March. The team sorted them by size and on 3-21-24 Susan Meissner delivered them to Matt Wallace with the county’s Homeless Outreach Team -- he was overwhelmed. When asked what other items would be helpful, he said bug spray with DEET. (I see an insect repellent collection in the near future!)

Terryln Baah-Acheamfour, with the Salvation Army’s day program, spoke at our March 24th Sunday service about the services and changes to that program. People who have been chronically without housing are receiving help to stabilize their lives.

On March 27, a few of us toured the soon-to-be-opened Women’s and Children’s shelter that St. Mathew’s House is developing in Fort Myers.

And, the bike collection continues! Brian Bigelow delivered six bikes this month to the bike rehab program at North Shore Alliance Church in No. Fort Myers.

The congregation has generously supported this team’s mission through financial support of Share the Plate and periodic collections of useful items for those living on the street. If this issue speaks to you in any small way, our team of three to four people would love to see you at a monthly meeting. New people bring new perspectives, ask new questions, and bring new energy. You’re needed!!

We meet on the third Thursday most months at 1 p.m.

Happy Earth Day -
Happy Spring!



CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



The annual celebration of EARTH DAY on April 22nd makes April a time of heightened awareness of the beauty, magnificence and importance of our natural environment. Your Climate Action Team exists because of the ever-increasing existential threat to that precious environment from climate change. Much of CAT's effort goes into finding and promoting solutions to that threat.

In honor of EARTH DAY we are holding a special film screening for the congregation on Monday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. of the recent documentary "Common Ground." We hope you will join us for this special celebratory event as we explore ways to protect and renew the earth that sustains us. Here is the Rotten Tomatoes review of the film:

"Common Ground is the highly anticipated sequel to the juggernaut success documentary, Kiss the Ground, which touched over 1 billion people globally and inspired the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to put \$20 billion toward soil health. By fusing journalistic exposé with deeply personal stories from those on the front lines of the food movement, Common Ground unveils a dark web of money, power, and politics behind our broken food system. The film reveals how unjust practices forged our current farm system in which farmers of all colors are literally dying to feed us. The film profiles a hopeful and uplifting movement of white, black, and indigenous farmers who are using alternative "regenerative" models of agriculture that could balance the climate, save our health, and stabilize America's economy -- before it's too late.

*"The ultimate test of
man's conscience may be
his willingness to
sacrifice something today
for future generations
whose words of thanks
will not be heard."*

— Gaylord Nelson (founder of Earth Day)

LIFE: NEHEMIAH ACTION

April 9, 2024 - 6 pm – 8 pm

Unity of Fort Myers,

11120 Ranchette Road, Fort Myers

On April 9th, LIFE will hold its annual Nehemiah Action. At each year's Action, an influential person (e.g., a government official) is asked to implement a change in policy or pass legislation that will improve the lives of Lee County residents. Per the network members' vote at LIFE's Fall Rally, this year's "ask" will focus on improving the community's mental health situation.



LIFE's Mental Health Action Team interviewed local mental health professionals and persons who have had interactions, either for themselves or for family members, with the mental health system. Both mental health providers and system users said that law enforcement routinely handcuffs persons who are being admitted to a facility using the Baker Act even if the person being committed is cooperative and poses no danger. That action creates more trauma for a person who is already in stress.

Thus, LIFE will ask law enforcement leaders to amend their department's policy to end the practice of handcuffing persons being committed using the Baker Act if they do not pose a threat to others or themselves and are being cooperative. By attending the Nehemiah Action, you help demonstrate that many people are concerned about this practice.

The goal is to have several hundred people at the Action. Therefore, each attendee is asked to bring three additional attendees to the Nehemiah Action.

If you have questions or would like to carpool, you can talk to a team leader:

Barb McFarlane (651)808-8271

Michelle Gemma (781)913-5122

Marsha Bates (740) 278-2357

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

Cash Assets – February 2024

First Horizon Checking	\$ 33,101
First Horizon Op. Reserve	25,317
Live Oak Op. Res. CD	22,002
Raymond James Legacy	4,500
Pay Pal	35
First Horizon Capital Checking	4,300
First Horizon Capital Reserve	3,203
Live Oak Capital Reserve	37,202
Live Oak Capital Savings	20,626
Live Oak Legacy CD	20,782

Total	\$171,069
Prior Month	<u>175,417</u>
Net Gain	(-\$ 4,348)

January 2024 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 24,366
Operating Expense	<u>30,545</u>
Net Loss	(-\$ 6,180)

- Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:
- The annual premiums for the Wind, Liability and Flood Insurance were paid in February totaling \$12,607.39; this caused the monthly expenses to exceed the monthly income. Budget control was good in February.
- Our Pledge Goal for 2023-2024 (April to March) was \$203,509 and as of 3/15/2024 \$176,526 (86.7%) has been received.
- Several new accounts were created at Live Oak to generate increased interest income. The 1 Year CD rate is 5.0%. And the Savings rate is currently at 4.0%
- The monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,250.00 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. A contract has been issued to repave the parking lot and we now expect that this work will be completed by March 2024. In addition, we have contracted for new front doors and a new side door which we expect to have installed in March. There were no Capital expenses in February.
- In February, \$1,801.00 was collected for the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

by Joyce Ramay, Chair, Finance Committee

We are grateful to all of our members and friends who contributed generously in the past fiscal year. Because of your support, we have been able to continue to provide uplifting Sunday services and programs. We have been able to maintain and improve our beautiful facilities.

We are blessed to have a wonderful staff consisting of our inspiring Minister Alberita Johson, our dedicated Administrator Regina Kilmartin, our talented Music Director Carlos Garcia, our creative Child and Youth Program Director Sharon Heinrich, and our friendly Sexton Joe Gayton. Many volunteers have come forward with their time and talents to enhance all that we do at All Faiths.

As we begin the new fiscal year, we appreciate the successful pledge campaign conducted by our Stewardship Team and the generous pledges made by everyone.

We look forward to another successful year – one in which we support each other in our Beloved Community at All Faiths, and reach out to make a positive difference in our world.

Our ACMA singer, Bill Metts, wrote a great song – *Is the World Better Because You Were Born?* My answer to all of you is – **YES!**

ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

Saturday, March 2 - 7:00pm

Roy Book Binder in Concert
Bill Metts opening



Sunday, April 6 - 7:00pm

Ruth Wyand in Concert
Carol Stanley opening

Saturday, April 13 - 7:00pm

Sofia Talvik in Concert
Kim Mayfield opening

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

THE RAINBOW CONNECTION!

by Frank Stephens, Chair

Naples Pridefest 2024 is on June 8th and All Faiths will attend. Mark your calendar and keep it in mind. Cape Coral was a big success because our congregation came together to make it such. Let's keep the momentum going! Please communicate any thoughts and suggestions to me: fdinfla99@gmail.com.

We continue our efforts to renew All Faiths status as a Welcoming Congregation. One requirement is to "Celebrate, reflect, observe the Welcoming Days of Observance included on the Welcoming Congregations Calendar throughout the year." (from the UUA's Welcoming Congregation renewal website). Albie is recognizing these Welcoming Days of Observance during Sunday services and two are coming up:

"Friday, April 23 is the National Day of Silence. Established in 1996 by GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, the Day of Silence raises awareness about the effects of harassment and bullying toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning

(LGBTQ+) students." (from Google). This Day of Observance will be recognized during our April 14th service.

"The International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) is on May 17 and aims to coordinate international events that raise awareness of LGBT rights violations and stimulate interest in LGBT rights work worldwide. By 2016 the commemorations had taken place in over 130 countries." (from Wikipedia). This Day of Observance will be recognized during our May 19th service.

The recognitions may consist of "Stories for All Ages, Chalice Lighting/Extinguishing, song, art form, etc. that honors the occasion." (from the UUA's Welcoming Congregation renewal website). Please send me any ideas and suggestions; personal anecdotes would be especially helpful: fdinfla99@gmail.com. I will compile and share them with Albie.

Thank you for your time.

UUA OFFERS SPACE IN HEADQUARTERS BUILDING FOR TEMPORARY EMERGENCY HOUSING

March 4, 2024

On March 1, 2024, the United Way announced a coordinated effort with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), the Black Refugee & Immigrant Community Coalition, and the Greater Boston YMCA among other community-based organizations, to provide temporary emergency housing and support to approximately 25 families with children who have an urgent and immediate need for shelter in Boston.

UUA Executive Vice President Carey McDonald said of the decision to join in this emergency effort, "In our faith tradition, Unitarian Universalists commit to uphold the inherent worthiness and dignity of every person, to embrace interconnectedness, and to strive for justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Those values are fundamental to our religious practice, and they call us to take action in the face of oppression, injustice and suffering.

All children deserve a safe place to sleep. As a religious community headquartered in Boston, we consider it an act of faithful witness to use our facilities to do our part to support families in need, including migrant families who are simply seeking safety for their loved ones. We hope other building owners will take seriously whether their space can also be used in this way."

This work is carried out through the United Way's SafetyNet Shelter Grant program, which is available to families who have been determined eligible for the state's Emergency Assistance (EA) family shelter program but could not be immediately placed in an EA shelter due to a lack of availability.

Read More and Take Action

UU World takes a deeper dive into the background of how this decision came about.

The UUA's New England Region is helping coordinate donations to the families staying at the headquarters building and elsewhere in the region.

All Faiths: 2024 Pride Cape Coral Sponsors! Great fun! Thanks to all who helped!



APRIL 8, 2024... A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN!



On Monday April 8, 2024 a total solar eclipse will cross North America. The eclipse will be seen across portions of Mexico, the central and eastern United States, and southeastern Canada. The path of totality will first enter the United States in Texas, then advance northeast across the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys and reach New York State during the mid-afternoon.

A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun at just the right time and orientation, with the Moon casting a shadow on a portion of the Earth's surface. Sometimes, the Moon only blocks part of the visible face of the Sun, which results in a partial solar eclipse. On more rare occasions, the Moon entirely blocks the face of the Sun and results in a total solar eclipse. Places in the path of totality, including most of Western and North Central NY, will experience several minutes of darkened sky similar to the twilight seen before sunrise or after sunset. If we have clear skies on the day of the eclipse, an incredible view of the Sun's corona will be seen during the few minutes of totality. The Sun's corona is normally not visible, except during a total solar eclipse. The corona is wispy, white streamers of plasma (charged gas) that radiate out from the surface of the sun.



All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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Phone: (239) 226-0900 – Email: office@allfaithsuum.org – Website: www.allfaithsuum.org

Executive Board: T/B/D, Chair; T/B/D, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer;
Diane Chernow, Secretary; Marge DiGalbo, Past Chair.



Directors: David Donovan, Frank Geltner, Rosalie Kuehn, Ken Malkin, Barb McFarlane, Lewis Robinson, Dick Scudder.

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

Lay Minister: Alberita (Albie) Johnson

Communications

Newsletter

Regina Kilmartin

Proofreaders

Weezie Close/Joyce Ramay

Social Media & Website

Regina Kilmartin,

Becky Ross

Adult Education Forums

Sunday Service Team

Joyce Ramay

Hospitality

Frank Geltner/Nicole Racine

Program Support

Michelle Gemma/Barb McFarlane

Member Services

Fran Way

Greeters

Marsha Bates

Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

Finance

Joyce Ramay

Stewardship Committee

Marsha Bates

Nominating Committee

Sharon Gray

Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

Livestreaming

Regina Kilmartin/Sharon Gray

Brad Davidson

Building and Grounds

Bob DiGalbo/Judy Alberda

Social Action & Outreach

Climate Action Team

Joan Marshall/Carol Heilsberg

Heart for the Homeless

Barb McFarlane

Racial Equity Team

Frank Geltner/Nicole Racine

L.I.F.E.

Marsha Bates, Michelle Gemma,

Barb McFarlane

Mano a Mano

Charlotte Blitt

Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annelly Hudanick

Animal Ministry

Sharon Gray

Rainbow Connection

Frank Stephens

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson



Deadline for the **May** Issue of *Connections*
is **April 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