



Connection

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

A welcoming, caring congregation encouraging spiritual growth, seeking meaning and pursuing justice.

Issue No. 2047

Venice, FL

October 2020

Sundays at UUCOV

Sunday Services

October 4, 2020: Video Online Service: A Legacy of Heresy



Rev. Dr. Dan Lambert. UUs have a proud history of being heretics, and lots of our forebearers paid a steep price for speaking against orthodoxy. *Rev. Dan is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County.*

October 11, 2020: Video Online Service: Crazy Horse 2020

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. *Native Peoples' Day.* Back in olden times, Euro-Americans celebrated Columbus Day. When we realized (very recently) how much devastation our presence had caused Native Americans, this day became "Indigenous Peoples' Day." This Sunday, we'll honor one particular native, Crazy Horse.



October 18, 2020: Video Online Service: Channing's Religion



Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. William Ellery Channing, one of the pillars of our Unitarian tradition, faced many, many tough issues in his day and seemed to change throughout his life while remaining steadfast in his core values. Perhaps we could learn something from him.

October 25, 2020: Video Online Service: A Thin Veil

Rev. Khleber Van Zandt. In this time of Samhain, All Souls, and Halloween, as the veil between the living and the dead seems less palpable, we can find ourselves reminiscing about those who've gone on before and pondering that ultimate boundary we will all cross one day.



Special Offering

October 11, 2020: Open Door/Family Promise

Family Promise of South Sarasota County's Open-Door Program offers families with children facing homelessness a chance to get back on their feet. They do this by helping with rent payment if the family falls behind, or by helping pay 1st, last, and security deposit on a rental home, or by paying for 1-3 days of emergency shelter in a motel while housing is being secured. These and similar contributions can make

sustainable independence a reality for families with children in the South Sarasota County area. Please make checks payable to UUCOV with 'Family Promise' in the memo line.



Minister's Corner

How to Contact Us

Friends Encourage Friends to Vote

Amidst all the gloom and doom I've been reading about the upcoming election process, one news item stood out: some precincts here on the West Coast of Florida may need to close for lack of poll workers. It seems the threat of Covid-19 is keeping people from wanting to be cooped up indoors all day on Election Day with a steady stream of strangers. And who could blame them?



Linda and I read this. Then we looked at each other. And then we went online and signed up to work the polls.

Two weeks later, we have yet to be assigned a location or even to be told when to attend our training session. Of course, all the training in the world may not prepare us for the shenanigans likely in this dangerous and important election.

I hear that many of you are already volunteering in a variety of ways to register new voters, to persuade likely voters to vote for your candidate, to persuade people to vote in the first place, and to get people to the polls. I applaud everything you are doing – a hearty thank you to anyone so involved! It is a strange situation we find ourselves in, with the usual door-to-door canvassing being difficult-to-non-existent this pandemic year. Lots of new techniques, using computerized calling, texting, and social media, have replaced the old ways. And as new techniques arise, potential voters find more and more ways to sidestep the efforts of the campaigns to get their messages out.

Admittedly, I have lost touch with the latest advances. The last campaign I was able to volunteer full-time on was Geraldine Ferraro's vice-presidential run. And the techniques we used that time were, sadly, to no avail.

One present-day technique I read about that is new to me is called 'polling place vote tripling.' Campaign workers stand at the exit to the polls and ask those who have just voted if they would please text three of their friends and remind them to vote. This has been shown in studies to increase a candidate's total by 8% - a huge increase over all the old tried-and-true techniques.

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Phone: 941-485-2105
Email:

As I read this, it occurred to me that you don't have to stand at the polls all day to be able to mimic this technique.

All you have to do, in the days before the election or on the day itself, is approach your friends and ask if they've voted, if they plan to vote and how they'll do so, and if they need any help accomplishing that feat. If each of us did our own version of this, turnout could soar and thus send the sort of message this country needs desperately to hear.

So instead of giving in to that feeling of powerlessness, call your friends and encourage them to vote.

Khleber

CONNECT with YOUR MINISTER via ZOOM



Every Other Thursday, 5pm to 6pm.
October 1st, 15th, and 29th

Enter the ZOOM meeting at any time during the hour, either to ask specific questions or simply to check in and chat. Alternatively, you can reach him at other times by emailing minister@uucov.org.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81877591915>

Meeting ID: 818 7759 1915

No password required

From the Board

From the Board

President's Message

As I welcome the new season and become aware that another year is quickly becoming a memory, I ask where are we going as a congregation and how will we get there? This year has been like no other in our time. Being unable to gather for fellowship and spiritual communion, we have been attempting to reach out in new digital ways. In some ways this has aided our remaining connected with those of us who have gone north being able to attend Zoom gatherings, but with us all feeling a loss in the personal touch.



I am hoping that we can gradually return to a new normal in our congregational life as those who wish can attend Sunday service while others can take part safely at home with live streaming or recorded airings. Many of you have had the opportunity to advise members of the board of your needs and desires and we plan to include your ideas into future plans.

I have made an amazing change in my personal life by becoming Mrs. Pamela Palmer and becoming part of another person's life. I thank all of you who joined us in celebrating our wedding and the many more who wished us happiness and joy.

I look forward to the return of many of our northern family as we plan for a new year with resolutions for a purposeful life and fruitful happiness.

Pamela Anne Laurita Palmer
President

Treasurers Report

In August our income was \$11,455 which is all from pledges and donations.

The expenses were \$15,826. Last year in August our expenses were \$26,693 so we are doing a nice job of curtailing expenses.

We currently have \$114,307 outstanding in pledges. If payment on these pledges are made, we will have survived quite a year.

Donations for our Social Justice Organizations in August were: \$1,040 to All Faiths Food Bank/Backpack Kids, \$105 to CHAPS and \$130 to Family Promise/Open Door.

Dave Lyon
Treasurer





August 25, 2020

Ms. Linda Underwood
c/o Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice
1971 Pinebrook Road
Venice, FL 34292

Dear Linda,

On behalf of Laurel Civic, I want to thank you and all your colleagues at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice for your commitment and hard work to raise \$20,320 to be used for reserves for the Hand Up Initiative. We received the donation on August 20, 2020 and I am happy to say that this is the first gift toward the program. Your belief in what we are trying to do to help people with low incomes to improve their financial situations has been exceeded only by your commitment to inspire others to believe in it as well. Thank you!

Please know that we would not have been able to come as far as we have to interest others in this program without your commitment. Being able to inform possible funders that we had \$20,000 pledged from UUCOV was instrumental in our grant writing efforts. We will continue to let others know that this program will make a huge difference to the community.

Since Laurel Civic began 50 years ago, we have made a huge impact on empowering youth and adults in the Sarasota County community aided by people like you who believe in the work we do and chose to support our programs. Hand Up! will take this effort to a new level to help families better their circumstances. The months ahead will be exciting and challenging but I know we will all rise to the occasion. We so appreciate your support. We really are in this together.

Your commitment to the community is inspiring. Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

Michael D. Fluker
Executive Director

Congregational Lif

Is In-Person Voting Safe From Covid-19?

If you follow these guidelines:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/18/health/voting-in-person-early-covid-19-wellness/index.html>

Remember –

- Election day is on Tuesday, November 3rd, and the deadline to register to vote in Florida is October 5th!

- Floridians have the option of voting by mail, in-person early or on election day.
- Early in-person voting will be available in Sarasota County October 24th – 31st
- A vote-by-mail ballot must be returned and received no later than 7:00pm (local time) on election day in order to be counted. The deadling for 2020 is November 3rd



Virtual Office Hours

‘Virtual Office Hours’ are every Monday and Wednesday from 10:00am – 11:00am. You may enter the ZOOM meeting at any time during the hour to speak with Salli regarding questions, requests, assistance, UUCOV publications, etc. *Feel free to sign-in and say hello!*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84688135320>

Meeting ID: 846 8813 5320

No password is required



Deadlines for Our Weekly and Monthly Newsletters



Oddly enough, even though we thought the Covid-19 pandemic would decrease activity at UUCOV, quite the opposite has happened. Meetings/Events/Activities that usually go on hiatus for the summer months were all in full swing, thanks to ZOOM. Several new events and activities were created. Our ‘seasonal members’ who go north have remained active due to the availability of online services and activities, and they are scheduling online activities and programs that require an increase in office work. The volume of daily emails has tripled. The office is as busy as ever. There is an incredible amount of scheduling, calendar management, Zoom trainings and

other duties, along with the usual work. Our weekly newsletter, HAPPENINGS, and our monthly newsletter CONNECTION are more important than ever, as they are our primary form of communication throughout the congregation. There have been many new features and informative articles. Both publications have grown substantially over the last few months.

While it is wonderful to see the congregation remain active and it is *very important* to stay connected, engaged and supportive of each other in these unusual times, it does present some challenges...

Too many articles are coming in way beyond the set deadlines – and, as our newsletters are entered into pre-set templates, (so they can generate via automated mass emails), they must be entered in a specific order and by a specific date.

The deadlines are as follows:

HAPPENINGS - (Weekly Newsletter) – Every Thursday morning by 9:00am. If it is a holiday (short) week, the deadline is Wednesday at 9:00am.

CONNECTION - (Monthly Newsletter) – The 20th of each month by the noon.

Pluses of COVID-19

In a speech given in June of 1966, Robert Kennedy said living in interesting times held danger and uncertainty but also offered opportunities for creative energy. COVID-19 definitely qualifies for all of us as one of those times. In an effort to try to focus energy on capturing some of the positives, we’re hoping UUCOV members and friends will share via Connection what some of them have been for you. Whether serious, funny, eccentric, or maybe even a little bit weird, please send them in to Salli at office@uucov.org.

From **Bill Dowling** - During these interesting time with the COVID-19 I have come to appreciate YouTube, which I now use daily. There is literally nothing that one cannot find on YouTube. It is amazing how much information is shared by so many people about every kind of stuff hanging from fantastic to weird.

I now know about the “ten most dangerous bridges in the world,” and how I can be in two places at the same time

"according to Quantum Physics". I have increased my knowledge and understanding about myriad subjects, such as history, computer programs and science, but my favorite use has been developing my art skills via the many instructive videos.

News from the Caring Team

These are stormy times - in myriad ways - for all of us.

Over the summer, a handful of committed UUCOV members have been meeting and training to be part of a **Pastoral Care Program**. A pastoral visitor will "walk with you" as a representative of our congregation, ready to listen to and support you with your concerns.



Feel free to email ; someone from the Pastoral Care Program will contact you.



UUCOV Fellowship Groups are still going strong, despite this time of lengthy isolation. Many of our groups are meeting via Zoom, and even though our congregants are spread out over various parts of the country, they can participate in lively virtual discussions. This contact is more important now than ever. If you are not presently in a UUCOV Fellowship group, you are urged to contact Wendy Voigt at wendywv1126@gmail.com.

Celebrate, Celebrate, Celebrate!



Happy
100th
Birthday!



On October 28th our member, **Elaine Carlson** turns 100! While we cannot come together in person to share in this very special occasion we can certainly let her know we love, care and think about her! Please join in an old-fashioned "Card Shower" to mark the day. Yes, let's go out and get paper greeting cards and make her day!

Please send traditional mail to Elaine at 7000 Aston Gardens Dr. Apt 30, Venice, FL 34292. Elaine also does email and electronic cards can be sent to

From the UUCOV Coordinating Council

Click here for the minutes of the September 1st meeting -

<https://www.uucov.org/images/phocadownload/September%201%202020%20Coordinating%20Council%20minutes.pdf>

Jack Head

Board VP and Chair of Coordinating Council

From the Legacy Friends



With our UUCOV services confined to viewing recordings, John Spitzer finds he is grateful for the technology that allows him to call up our past Sunday services. By going to the UUCOV website and clicking on Past Sermons, he can draw upon those past presentations of UUCOV's mission and values.

But what about the future? How can we project our mission and values into the lives of our community during the decades to come? It is the purpose of the Legacy Friends to do just that – support UUCOV's mission and values far into the future. We provide that support by

making contributions to the UUCOV Endowment Fund and the UUCOV Futures Fund. For more information, email John at or call him at 319-331-5914.

Pathways

Are you interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism or in learning more about UUCOV? We will be having a two-session Zoom group meeting for those who are considering Membership or who are curious and want to hear more. The minister, the Membership Team and a Board representative will be participating.

These zoom meetings will be held on Mondays November 9th and 16th from 2pm until 4pm.

We ask that you register for the sessions so that we can send you materials to review and the meeting invitation.

Join us, meet other newcomers and learn something!

Janet Lemoine and Nancy Wilson
Welcome and Membership Team,



Meet Our Congregants

This is a new column to introduce both new and not so new members, friends and visitors to each other. During this pandemic when we can't be together it just seemed like a good idea to introduce each other to each other.



Sarah Spiers and Paige Colwell - Hi everyone! We just bought a house in South Venice in July which is so exciting. My wife, Paige, who is a Battalion Chief in the fire department north of Atlanta, still has a year and a half before she can retire. I was a teacher in Atlanta but am thinking of changing careers and have come down early to try to figure out what I want to do; I will hopefully be working for some kind of non-profit. The plan, in the meantime, is for Paige to regularly come down and visit and vice versa for me.

We love anything to do with the water on or below it and we are crazy about scuba diving! Paige is a very experienced scuba instructor, both for public safety and private individuals, and I am currently working on getting my dive master certification. When she retires, we may start a diving instruction business which would be fun. We also love kayaking, cycling, traveling and I am a keen gardener. In Atlanta, we have a big vegetable, fruit, and herb garden with chickens and bees. I'm going to be learning a whole new style of gardening down here!

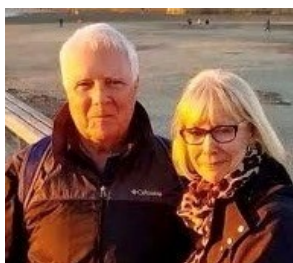
We knew that if there was a UU Church in Venice, we would find a friendly and accepting group of people with a passion for social justice. We were correct! Although I have only been here a short time and participated as a visitor, I have felt so welcomed by everyone, both in person and online. We look forward to the time when we can attend services, get to know you better, and become more involved in the community.

Phil Haxel - I was born and raised in Chicago, IL and couldn't wait to get out of there. So, after graduating High School at the age of seventeen, I waited until my eighteenth birthday and joined the Air Force. After basic training in San Antonio, TX, I spent a year in Biloxi, Mississippi, attending electronics school. I volunteered for permanent TDY (temporary duty) and consequently changed bases many times. My last TDY was four months in Japan (loved it) and sent to California for discharge. Not wanting to go back to Chicago, I decided that California looked like a good place to live.



I attended California State University Sacramento and received my Bachelor and Masters degree in Sociology. With my summa cum laude degrees in hand, I went to work for the State as a data analyst until I retired. I married a woman with three small children. Divorced her eight years later. California is a beautiful State with mountains, valleys and seashores, but very expensive. So, I decided to spend my retirement in Florida. Friends in California asked: "Aren't you afraid of the hurricanes?" to which, I replied: Earthquakes give no notice, hurricanes give about three days' notice. Plenty of time for me to flee.

When I discovered UUCOV, I immediately felt at home, but I wanted to become more involved. I was given the honor to moderate ARE, Socrates Cafe, and Platos Circle on an alternate basis with other moderators. Alas, in-person discussion groups are put on hold until we conquer the Coronavirus. So, let's Zoom!



Tom and Paula Hartley - Although we have lived in three countries (England, Bahamas and the USA) and also in California and Washington State, Paula and I now consider Venice to be our permanent home. We moved to Venice partly because it was more or less equidistant between our son and grandchildren in California and our son who live in Paris, France and other son and granddaughter who live in Carmarthen, Wales.

Our plan was to travel extensively to visit our spread-out family but unfortunately Covid-19 has put a spanner in the works – at least for now. We both retired in 2013, Paula from a career in education and Tom from a varied career in the Financial sector. We now spend our time

walking our dog Seamus, gardening, riding bikes and doing yoga (Paula) and playing golf (Tom). We are both catching up on our backlog of books that we now have the time to read.

In the two years we have lived in Venice we have been searching for a spiritual community which aligns with our own outlook and we consider ourselves very fortunate to have found UUCOV and to connect with so many accepting and friendly people.

Tom and Paula joined UUCOV in March 2020 and Tom serves on the UUCOV Finance Committee.

The UUCOV donation wheelbarrow now has four wheels! 'No-Contact Donations!'



October 27th 11:00am – 1:00pm (only)

**Food
&
Hygiene
Pantry**

On the last Tuesday of each month, between 11:00 am and 1:00pm, Salli will be in front of Waters Hall so that members who so wish, can bring items intended for CHAPS, (Charlotte HIV/AIDS People Support). Please place your donations in your trunk, remain in your vehicle when you arrive - and 'pop' the trunk open when you arrive - she will be happy to unload it for you!

Personal hygiene and home cleaning supplies are badly needed. Non-perishable food donations will also be gladly accepted. The need is greater than ever due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Checks will be gladly accepted and should be made out to UUCOV with 'CHAPS' in the memo line. Contact Salli at with any questions.

Lifespan Education

Message from the Director

"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it." - Marianne Williamson

Greetings,

I read Braver/Wiser every week. This week (9/16/20) it speaks about being part of a community. In short, it explains that in a community we find what needs are present and insert ourself to fill that need. This spoke to me specifically because I remember my mom as my Girl Scout leader telling us that we should always leave a place cleaner than we found it. Now when we take Emmy and Cici to the park we usually find litter and put it in the trash can.

Being part of a community is an important part of being human. It's why we find like minded people to become friends with. It's part of searching for meaning in this world. Being a part of a community is essential to most people in whatever way it manifests. If you're reading this UUCOV is a part of your community and I encourage you to identify need and help fill it. If you are looking for a need, please let me know. I will help you become more involved in our beloved community.

Please call, text or email me. I would love to hear from you!

Kathy Avery

Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Ph: 941-270-6187



Youth Religious Education

Currently there is a short service for the kids on Sundays at 10:00 am through ZOOM. Families will meet through Zoom to create community. We will check in, have a quick service (chalice lighting, time for all ages, song and closing). This is a time for us to come together and strengthen our bonds.

If you are interested in attending, have a topic you'd like to share or know a kid who would like to join, please contact me.

*****EXCITING NEWS*****

This summer, our 3 oldest youth (Maggie Fangboner, Kenzie Mickish and Tamina Mickish) took on the 'Coming of Age' program. Even with the pandemic, I (Stephanie Zoernack) thought it was vitally important these youth experience the program, so I adapted the curriculum for zoom use online. Along with Olga Hebert, I led the youth through the following topics.

- Community building: creating a trusting and bonded group
- Unitarian Universalist values: identifying what UUs, including you, value most
- Community service: putting our values into action by serving others
- Social action: learning about social change and making it happen
- Spirituality: learning practices, from prayer to martial arts, that balance us and put us in touch with the miracle of life
- Theology: clarifying our ideas about humanity and the divine
- UU beliefs: looking at religious claims and "what we set our heart to" in daily life
- UU history: interacting with the past to gain inspiration for the future
- Leadership: developing skills to run meetings, handle conflicts, and speak in front of crowds
- Worship: designing and leading worship services for the group and the congregation
- Spiritual growth: creating meaningful opportunities for growing in maturity and faith



We had weekly mentor meetings (shout out to our volunteer mentors – Bonnie Hurley, Kathy Avery, and Stephanie Zoernack!) The mentoring relationship gave the youth the opportunity to form a close relationship with an adult member of UUCOV. We discussed beliefs, played games, and talked about life. We also read sections of The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide and discussed related ideas.

Program goals included making UU relevant to your life, understanding your own beliefs and knowing how to explain them, experiencing multiple ways to connect with what is spiritual, learning to live your beliefs and values every day, and having a real sense of accomplishment and a growing sense of maturity at the completion of the program. I think the youth accomplished these goals, and I am so proud of them for all the work they have done in exploring religion and their own beliefs. I could see each of their personalities in their credo deliveries, and am amazed every day at their growth, maturity, and wisdom. Congratulations to our youth for all they have achieved!

Adult Exploration

ARE Moderator Meeting

Oct 13th and 27th, 2020 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97023905366?pwd=c1N1QnUxaG1VRHg3RVlYQlQzaGUyUT09>

Meeting ID: 970 2390 5366

Password: ARE

Afternoons to Ascertain

October 22nd at 2:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93279697315?pwd=SGlLaEQyQXRJeW43Z25qL04xK0lRQT09>

Meeting ID: 932 7969 7315

Password: learn



Interest Groups

Virtual Plato's Circle

October 7th, 1:30pm - 3:00pm

A gathering where people of different backgrounds discuss important ideas and issues. Each 90-minute session begins with a topic that forms the basis for thoughtful discussion reflecting participants' unique experiences and perspectives.

The gathering provides an opportunity to have an intelligent and stimulating conversation in an atmosphere of support and respect. All are welcome! Contact: Phil Haxel –



The topic for October is **"Views on the Afterlife."** *Is a belief in afterlife necessary for ethical living? What purpose does a belief in an afterlife serve? What is your view?* To help the conversation Dick Smith has produced a ten minute audio on UUCOV members' views of the afterlife from our radio interview footage.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86551017426>

Meeting ID: 865 5101 7426

No password required.

Virtual Socrates Café

October 21st, 1:30pm – 3:00pm

A gathering where people of different backgrounds discuss important ideas and issues. Each 90-minute session begins with a topic that forms the basis for thoughtful discussion reflecting participants' unique experiences and perspectives. The gathering provides an opportunity to have an intelligent and stimulating conversation in an atmosphere of support and respect. All are welcome! Contact Phil Haxel -



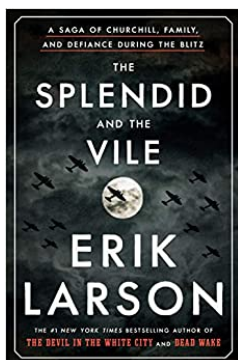
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97047078103?pwd=NnlEMGhVSUVESkxoZUxIMENGeGNKdz09>

Meeting ID: 477 531 7382

Password: socrates

ZOOM Online UUCOV Book Club



Thursday, October 8th, 1:00 pm

In October, our selection is *The Splendid and the Vile, A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz* by Erik Larson. *"An intimate chronicle of Winston Churchill and London during the Blitz—an inspiring portrait of courage and leadership in a time of unprecedented crisis."*

All are welcome. For more information speak to Barbara Smith at 941-786-8559 or . Book Club meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85216887362>

Meeting ID: 852 1688 7362

No password required

Mat-making for the Homeless

Saturdays October 3rd & 17th, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Mat-making is meeting via ZOOM on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10:00am – 12:00pm. If you'd like to join us for a friendly chat, contact Janet Knudsen at or 781-424-0660 to request the ZOOM link.



Social Justice

Community Outreach

Interested in Helping with Homework at LCA?

Laurel Civic is trying different socially-distant approaches to providing homework assistance for a limited number of students this Fall. They would like to schedule a



get-together to explain the different ways that volunteers can be involved, and their new safety protocols. This information session will be helpful to those who have participated in this program before and to anyone considering participation. They will provide the session in person or via Zoom, depending on the comfort level of participants. If you're interested in taking part or have any questions, call or email Janet Knudsen at 781-424-0660 or janet@knudsen3.com.

Justice Action

Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (SURE) Is Still Zooming Along!

www.suresarasota.org

SURE Teams from 23 churches are still working together to improve the quality of life in Sarasota County. UUCOV is not an official member, but some of us at UUCOV are actively involved.



In response to the recent Black Lives Matter demonstrations, a solidarity rally and call to action was held in July which included a testimony from a SURE volunteer whose life was changed by his ability to receive a Civil Citation, instead of an arrest record. Our Civil Citation Team is still working with the County Criminal Justice System to require officers to use the Citation whenever a young perpetrator is eligible. Further work is being done to allow Citation eligibility to adult first-time-offenders, as well.

The Restorative Justice Strategies Team has kept in touch with county school personnel who have promised three more pilot schools this year, working to cut down on out-of-school suspensions. However, approximately 2,500 children are still suspended annually. Work on this issue now continues into its twelfth year. Sarasota County has recently hired a new School Superintendent, and our Team will be meeting with him as soon as possible.

The Affordable Housing Team hasn't given up in their work to get the city and county to work together on a fund to create affordable rentals for Sarasota's work force. Promises from the commissioners have not yet been kept. Still, the Team is persistent. If there is someone else in our church with expertise in this area, or helpful contacts, this Team would welcome you aboard, for SURE!

Pat Wellington

Headline News



All people interested in social justice and headline news are invited to participate.

Friday, October 23, 4:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82411953556>

Meeting ID: 824 1195 3556

No password required

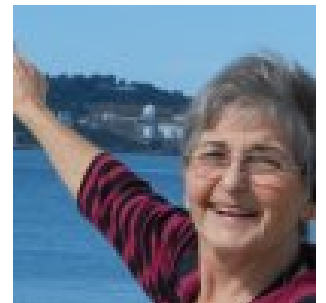
Stepping Down

Dear UUCOV members and friends,

After much consideration, I must step down as Chair of Justice Action at UUCOV. In recent months I have become increasingly involved in political campaigns, and have had difficulty keeping my nonpartisan work for Justice Action at UUCOV separate from my partisan work to elect people at all levels who I believe will work for the common good.

The mission of the Justice Action Committee drafted in 2019 by our small committee is "to empower the voice of Unitarian Universalist values in the public arena." If someone decides to carry that effort forward, perhaps they can bring more UUCOV members together to support solutions to systemic problems in our society.

I thank many people for their support of Justice Action over the years: if I fail to mention your name, please forgive me. Thanks to many UUCOVers for your major work to help pass the



paper ballot amendment in Sarasota County in 2006, which led to use of paper ballots throughout Florida; pass Amendment 4 statewide in 2018 to restore the voting rights of ex-felons, and pass the Single Member Districts amendment in Sarasota County in 2018 to change the way we elect County Commissioners. Thanks for all the petitions you have signed for local, state and national causes. Thanks for coming with me to City Council and County Commission meetings when needed, and to the meeting at UUCOV Feb. 4, 2017 with UUs from six congregations all over southwest Florida on the Move to Amend effort to establish that only human beings, not corporations, have constitutional rights, and money is not free speech. Thanks to all who attended the VICA series on Racism, and meetings of SURE, Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity, the interfaith organization committed to bringing justice, fairness, equity, and peace to Sarasota County. Thanks to Barb Griffin and Pat Wellington for chairing Social Justice early on, and to Pat for co-chairing Common Good in earlier times and leading efforts for fair wages for Immokalee workers, to Linda Engle for chairing meetings of our Common Good Committee in summers when I was up north, to Francie Storey who has typed many Excel lists of signers for causes from various meetings; to Francie, Linda, Billie Chambers, Sylvia Hancock, Peggy Drogosch, Brad Hardin, Leie Carmody, and Barbara Buehring for attending meetings, and especially to Marty King who did such a great job as Social Justice Team Leader before Eileen Leapley and Barbara Buehring. Marty set the high standards for all Team Leaders to motivate us and cheerfully pester all five Social Justice committee leaders to send reports to the Coordinating Council each month.

Because I will continue to send political posts to people during this critical election season, I will invite you to unsubscribe from my email lists to “Concerned voters” or “UUCOV members and friends” or “Single Member District supporters” if you don’t want to receive them. Please keep sending Letters to the Editor about issues of concern, and posts on Facebook or comments on posts of others. Please join the public Social Justice Facebook group started at UUCOV called In Touch-Justice Action, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/InTouchJusticeAction> . To be sure, that is getting a bit political as well. Feel free to call, text or email me anytime with questions or thoughts you may have about elections, candidates, or anything else.

I am still around, I still love UUCOV and all of you, and will try to attend the Sunday UUCOVfee hours and gradually catch up on sermons I may have missed. We are so lucky to have Khleber back with us, our skilled and dedicated minister who is doing a fantastic job adapting to the new realities of COVID-19 after missing so much of what was to be his long-awaited and well-earned five month sabbatical.

Good wishes to all for health and safety in these challenging times.

Kindra Muntz,
Chair, Justice Action

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Comments, questions, concerns, musings - all welcome. 325 word maximum. Send yours to .

REMINDER!

Sunday, November 1st, 2020



Publication Deadlines

Connection: Articles and announcements for the *Connection* are due on the 20th of each month for the next month's edition. Please email your submissions to .

UUCOV Happenings: Events submissions are due at Thursday 9:00am for inclusion in *UUCOV Happenings*. Please email your submissions to .

UUCOV Mission and Covenant

A welcoming, caring congregation encouraging spiritual growth, seeking meaning and pursuing justice.

In a climate of joy, goodwill and trust this congregation covenants

- to treat one another with kindness and respect,
- to listen with openness and acceptance,
- to support and protect the environment of which we are all a part,
- to solve problems responsibly as we grow and change,
- to encourage learning and nurture the growth of diverse human spirits, and
- to dedicate time, talent and resources in an effort to make a difference in local and world communities.

In the spirit of our free religious heritage, we promise these to one another.

UU Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

UU Sources

The Living Tradition we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

If you do not wish to receive the *Connection*, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe.

