



# CONNECTION



Join us for our Sunday 10 am service live in our Sanctuary  
Or online at [www.uucov.org](http://www.uucov.org)

## Minister's MUUsings



February arrives with a particular kind of honesty. The holidays are long past, the sparkle has settled, and we find ourselves in the middle of winter's steady work and the worst of the Season...

Click [HERE](#) to read more

## Message from Board of Trustees President



[Click here](#) for Steve Leapley's message this month

## Meeting Highlights

### Coordinating Council Meeting Jan. 6

- The date of our Annual Meeting will most likely be changed to Sunday March 29th, after the service,
- The Annual Giving campaign is taking shape. Announcements will start in February.

### Board of Trustees Meeting Jan. 15

- Classes for religions around the world are going well and are drawing outsiders
- The new Checkpoint session worked well. About half of those invited attended.

To access all meeting minutes, please visit our [website](#)

## Meet Our New Team Members!



Dean Rowe is our new AV Technician. [Click here](#) to read about him and make sure to say hi at service!

Dawn Forest is our office administrator and Ayleen's right hand. [Click here](#) to get to know her!



# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



## 2026/27 Annual UUCOV Giving Campaign

The 2026/27 Annual Giving Campaign will commence February 1st. This year, packets will be electronically mailed to all members and supporting friends. Packets will contain financial information on UUCOV and an investment card.

For those not utilizing electronic mailings, please contact the Office and a printed copy will be mailed to you.

A series of three Shareholder Meetings will be held to provide members and supporting friends the opportunity to ask questions, share their ideas and explore ideas of how UUCOV can continue to support our community. All are encouraged to attend one of the following gatherings to be held in the Sanctuary after Sunday Services on the following dates:

- Sunday, February 8th
- Sunday, February 22nd
- Sunday, March 8th

Members and supporting friends will be asked to return their investment cards by March 15th.

Visitors are always welcome to attend.

UUCOV has an important role to play in the current political and social climate. Your support allows us to fulfill our mission to be a welcoming congregation to all and to seek justice for all.

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

## UUMUAC now has Podcasts



UUMUAC, the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Council, is excited to offer a growing selection of podcasts featuring sermons from our monthly Vespers services and recordings by founding member the late Finley Campbell.

These short episodes are perfect for listening while driving, walking, or enjoying a quiet moment. Our Vespers services are already available on YouTube, and new podcast episodes can be found at <https://rss.com/podcasts/uumuac-you-me-act>.

These inspiring recordings cater to those who support liberal religion and multiracial unity but may not have time for a full service. Please share, rate, and comment to help others discover this resource. For feedback or to assist with the conversion process, contact [Bjeanwalsh@outlook.com](mailto:Bjeanwalsh@outlook.com). For more about UUMUAC, visit [UUMUAC.org](http://UUMUAC.org).

## Now Welcoming All Auction Donations!

Do you have an item or service to donate to UUCOV's auction on February 20? Janet Knudsen and Judy Heipel are collecting auction items from UUCOV members and friends. Contact Janet or Judy for a donation submission form.



## Garden Team



Do you have an item or service to donate to UUCOV's auction on February 20? Janet Knudsen and Judy Heipel are collecting auction items from UUCOV members and friends. Contact Janet or Judy for a donation submission form.

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

## Try Something New in the New Year!



Mat Making will meet on February 7 and 22 in Waters Hall from 10 to noon. Please join us for coffee and conversation while we teach you the art of transforming plastic bags into sleeping mats for the homeless. Please help keep our bin on the lanai filled with your clean, gently used plastic bags!



## Death Café Update



Saturday's Death Café welcomed 15 participants from both UUCOV and the wider community, marking one year of hosting these facilitated conversations about death and dying. Participants shared questions, experiences, and resources in a respectful, open setting.

To address commonly requested information, a new Death Café resource list has been created. It includes recommended books, links to UUCOV Library materials, pastoral care and planning resources, and trusted external information. The document also highlights upcoming events, including the free workshop "Death Doulas Demystified" on March 19 and the next scheduled Death Café. **[Click here to access the document.](#)**

Printed copies will be available in the Sanctuary Lanai, and additional online sharing options are being explored to reach both members and nonmembers.

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

## Bridge Game: Feb 13 1pm to 3pm

Enjoy an afternoon of cards and connection with our Friday Bridge Games, meeting weekly from 1 pm to 3 pm. Players of all experience levels are welcome. Drop in and join the fun!

## February Green Tip



According to the EPA, the average U.S. family uses over 300 gallons of water daily. Climate change-related droughts worldwide make it imperative to conserve water whenever possible. One way to do this is to choose tap water over bottled water. It takes about 1.5 gallons of water just to manufacture one plastic bottle.

## Wish List

Two very important projects are in our Wish List this month:

- Installing four protective bollards at the Sanctuary entrance for safety during gatherings.
- Connecting our irrigation system to the City of Venice's reclaimed water supply to promote sustainability and maintain a healthy campus year-round.

Contributions of any size will support these initiatives. For more information on how to help, contact Bill Dowling on the Finance Committee.

[Click here for full Wish List](#)

## Rummikub & Hugs 1st & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays- 12:30pm



Join us for Rummikub & Hugs, a casual gathering every other Thursday at 12:30 pm. Play games, enjoy good company, and share laughs. It's a drop-in group, so come whenever you can—no experience necessary.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## Hygiene Products Collection for CHAPS Feb 15 and 22

On Sunday, February 15th and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Community Outreach will collect hygiene items for CHAPS, the Port Charlotte non-profit that provides food and hygiene products for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Please help us fill the bin on the lanai with toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, soap, body wash, deodorant, combs, brushes, shampoo, conditioner, razors, shave cream, nail clippers, etc.

## Help Bring Healthcare to Our Local Homeless Population

UUCOV's special offering on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> will be donated to On the Spot Aid in Venice. On the Spot provides free medical care to the homeless via outreach on the streets and in the encampments. Please give generously. If you'd like to write a check, please make it out to UUCOV and write "On the Spot" on the memo line.



## Join us for "Save Democracy for All" March 28

### Venice Community Center

Please join us on March 28 for a conference dedicated to building democracy. Keynote speakers will discuss authoritarianism's effect on income inequality, focusing on strategies for democratic renewal, such as:

- Protecting free and fair elections
  - Advancing humane immigration policies
  - Combating hate and political violence
  - Upholding the separation of church and state
  - Safeguarding public education from censorship
- Visit our website for more information

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**UUCOV**



***Fabulous***

**FEBRUARY AUCTION**

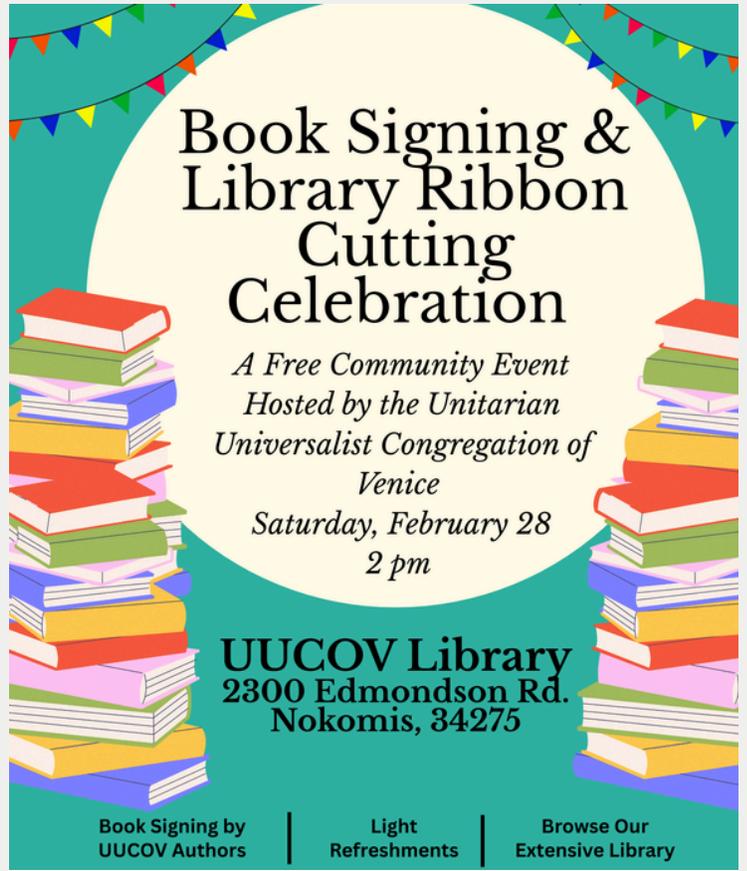
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20  
4 PM TO 7 PM**

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION  
OF VENICE  
1971 PINEBROOK RD.  
VENICE, FL 34292**

**TICKETS \$20 AT THE DOOR  
(CASH OR CHECKS PREFERRED)  
TICKETS ARE LIMITED!  
FREE PARKING**



**UUCOV.ORG**



**Book Signing &  
Library Ribbon  
Cutting  
Celebration**

*A Free Community Event  
Hosted by the Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation of  
Venice*

**Saturday, February 28  
2 pm**

**UUCOV Library  
2300 Edmondson Rd.  
Nokomis, 34275**

Book Signing by UUCOV Authors | Light Refreshments | Browse Our Extensive Library

# COMING UP IN MARCH



SAVE DEMOCRACY FOR ALL  
CONFERENCE

**Save Democracy For All**  
**March 28, 2026**  
**8 am to 3 pm**  
**Venice Community Center**  
 Visit [www.sjafs.org](http://www.sjafs.org) for more details



# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

All meetings and gatherings take place in Waters Hall, unless otherwise noted

- **Mat Makers:** Feb 7 & 21 - 10 am
- **Blue Lotus Meditation:** Every Saturday- 10:30 am (Sanctuary)
- **Freethinkers of Venice Secular AA Group:** Every Tuesday - 6:30 pm
- **Death and Grief Support Group:** Feb 4 & 18 - 1:30 pm
- **AA Meeting:** Every Thursday - 5:45 am (Sanctuary).
- **Choir Rehearsal:** Every Thursday - 4 pm (Sanctuary).
- **Around the World in 12 Religions (VOTI):** Tuesdays- 4 pm
- **Around the World in 12 Religions (UUCOV):** Wednesdays - 4 pm
- **Men's Open Group:** Feb 14 & 28 - 10:30 am
- **Book Club:** Feb 12 - 1 pm
- **Mahjong Learn & Play:** Every Tuesday - 10 am
- **Venice Area Historical Society Lecture:** Feb 17 - 7 pm (Sanctuary).
- **Rummikub & Hugs Learn/Play:** Feb 5 & 19 - 12:30 pm.
- **Bridge Brushup and Play:** Every Friday - 1 pm to 3 pm.
- **SPECIAL EVENTS:**  
 UUCOV Fabulous February Auction. Feb 20 - 4pm  
 Book Signing and Library Ribbon Cutting. Feb 28 - 2 pm



## Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice

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

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 [www.UUCOV.org](http://www.UUCOV.org)  
 [www.UUCOVBoutique.com](http://www.UUCOVBoutique.com)  
        

Services are Sunday at 10 am at our Sanctuary, or live on our [website](#) or [YouTube page](#)

**WE BELIEVE:**

- NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL
- LOVE IS LOVE
- SCIENCE IS REAL
- BLACK LIVES MATTER
- WOMEN SHOULD CONTROL THEIR OWN BODIES
- IN SEPARATION OF CHURCH & STATE
- UUCOV.ORG