Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton

The Unicorn

June 1, 2024 Vol.75, Issue 18



Board Corner

As I begin the very first of my writings for UUFBR, I find myself conflicted about which direction we should be heading in.







From The Minister

A Covenantal Faith

Distinctive and foundational to American Unitarianism is the notion of covenant. It started in 1639 when some 30 English families emigrated to Dedham with land grants in hand and religious freedom on their minds.

Cont. on pq. 9

What else is inside?

<u>Upcoming Services &</u>
<u>Share the Plate</u>
<u>Recipient</u>

Featured Events for June

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Calendar & Classifieds

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June 2 - "We Still Do" with Rev. Kathy

UUFBR affirms the rights of every person to live free from discrimination and persecution based on who they are or who they love. The worship service, which starts at 10:30, will celebrate Marriage Equality and hold up the spiritual as well as ethical qualities of life which the act of marriage creates. Then at 11:30 am, Rev. Kathy will officiate vow renewals for several couples. This open and inclusive event encourages all couples, regardless of their background, to join in the celebration of love and unity before the beloved community. Family and friends are invited to join in witness. A celebratory reception will follow at noon.

June 9 - "Occupy Holy Ground" - Rev. Kathy

Felix Adler said, "The place where we meet to seek the highest is holy ground." Do we occupy holy ground at our Fellowship? What is the "highest" that we seek in our congregational life together? Rev. Kathy will explore what "holy" might mean for us in aspiration and practice.

June 16 – "The Juneteenth Celebration: What it Does and Doesn't Mean for ALL of Us" Rev. Guy Sanders, guest speaker

Recently, the United States government decided to make a national holiday out of a celebration that had been taking place within a large segment of the Black community for many decades, called Juneteenth. There are many interpretations of what the holiday is, and what it isn't. Brother Guy Sanders will explore this subject with us and discuss the meanings behind the Juneteenth celebration and what that celebration can mean to us all.

June 23 – "Litha: Celebrating Summer Solstice" presented by UUFBR Brace of CUUPS Study Group

This service will honor yet another season's change. The days have been waxing long but now the daylight hours begin to slowly wane as summer peaks, as seeds turn to stalks, and blossoms to fruit.

Note: This service will be followed by a luncheon at noon. At 1:00 pm, all are invited back into the Sanctuary and on Zoom for livestreaming of the General Assembly Sunday Worship Service

June 30 – "Staking Cognitive Liberty as a Basic Human Right" Ron Roth

Darwin's Edge: The Debate Continues!

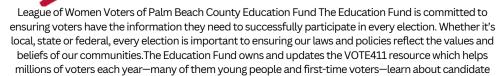
Join us this Sunday as the characters from our thought-provoking Darwin's Edge series return for an interactive play exploring the ever-evolving intersection of faith, science, and brain/computer interface.

Rev. Peter Gilman, Michael Carmody, and Sarina Rao are back, joined by new voices to further the conversation. You'll have the opportunity to step into the roles of passionate protestors, ardent supporters, and inquisitive journalists, shaping the narrative and adding your voice to the discussion.

Don't miss this unique chance to engage with the complex questions raised by AI and BCI's rapid advancement and its impact on our understanding of faith, ethics, and what it means to be human.

Share the Plate Offering





stances, look up what's on their ballot, find their polling places, and more.



Fellowship Events



GAME NIGHT FRIDAY NIGHT JUNE 7TH AT 7:00 PM

Join us in the Osias Hall for an evening filled with fun. Play interactive group and board games! Pizza and bottled water will be provided, or you can bring the beverage of your choice. Please RSVP via email to Trish Bobbing at Deliver2trish@gmail.com





Join the BRAce of CUUPS Pagan Study Group for our

Midsummer Celebration Outdoor Rite

Friday, the 21st of June at 8 PM (weather permitting)

Celebrate the seasons change! A Nature-centered night of pagan Litha traditions with Singing, S'Mores and a Sunset Labyrinth Walk lit by candlelight luminaria. Bring Your Own Beach Chair or Blanket.

Sharex Events



Contra dance

June 15th, 2024 \$10 admission \$5 Students Doors Open @ 6:30 PM Lesson/Mixer@ 7 PM Dance @ 7:30 PM located at UUFBR

2601 St. Andrews Blvd Boca Raton, FL, 33434

Rocky Mountain Conservatory Theatre: FLORIDA Summer Camp & Acting Classes

COME JOIN RMCT TO OUR:

* LITTLE MERMAID: June 3-21, 2024
LEGALLY
BLONDE

* LEGALLY BLONDE: June 24-July 12

From 9:00am to 3:30pm (plus extras)

In Central Boca Raton, FL

located at 2601 N Andrews Blvd. Boca Raton. FL 33434 www.youthactorsmct.com
Contact@RMCTonline.com
561-962-1570
To register click here
To pay click here

External Events

Juneteenth Celebration

Join Members of the Fellowship at the Boca Raton Juneteenth Celebration



Upcoming Featured Events

Join UUs For Some SUUMMER FUUN!



FREE Event

7PM - 9:30PM - Countess de Hoernle Park, 1000 Spanish River Blvd.

For more information and details click the link below

https://www.myboca.us/1456/Fourth-of-July

The Environmental Voter Project



The Environmental Voter Project identifies millions of non-voting environmentalists and turns them into consistent voters.

Join the Environmental Voter Project in writing postcards ahead of the Florida primary election.

•Sunday, July 28 12:15-2:00 (snacks provided)

•Tuesday, July 30 6:30-8:00 (snacks provided)



The Journey of a Victims' Son

Please join Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Foundation for a FREE breakfast and the inspirational story of Chris Singleton, whose mother Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton lost her life in the deadliest mass shooting at a place of worship in the United States.

Discover the incredible narrative of Chris, who, despite the heart-wrenching circumstances, chose a path of love and forgiveness. His journey resonates with audiences nationwide, serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration. Join us to learn about the transformative power of love in the face of tragedy.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024

8am - 9am Breakfast and Registration

9am - 12pm Program

To register for this event, please click <u>here</u>. We look forward to seeing you on August 22nd!

Share-The-Plate seeking suggestions and members!

In December 2006, we began sharing our Sunday Collection Plate with the wider community in a Share-The-Plate program. After starting this program, contributions to the plate doubled. Half of each collection helps to pay the bills at UUFBR, and the other half goes to the Share-the-Plate Fund. When the Fund reaches \$1000, that \$1000 is given to a nonprofit organization.

All recipients of this program are nonprofits suggested by UUFBR members; often these members are active participants with the particular organization.

As a UUFBR member, if you would like to suggest an organization to be a recipient of Share-The-Plate contributions, please click on the following link for a PDF form that can be printed, completed, and returned to any Community Service Team member or the UUFBR office – admin@uufbr.org (561) 482-2001:

Share-The-Plate Suggestion Form (PDF)

It is important to note that the ministries and work of UUFBR are primarily funded through annual pledges made by our members and pledging friends. We conduct a once-a-year pledge drive in the winter and new members pledge throughout the year.

If you're interested in joining our Share-The-Plate team, please reach out to Jennifer Ligeti (561) 239 – 1662 or NiffLig@gmail.com. We'd love to have you! Currently, Bett Willett and Susan Dubbin serve on this team with Jennifer.

Board Corner Continued



Click <u>here</u> to view Board Minutes. You must be a Member and sign in.

Board of Trustees
Rajeev Arora
Claire Smith
Co-Presidents
Patrick Larson, VP, Facilities
Judy Keiser, Secretary
Bill Jensen - Treasurer
Trustees at Large
Rajeev Arora /
Carole Stephens/ Claire Smith/
Howard Prentice/ Rick Troiano/
Lynn Smith
trustees@uufbr.org
https://groups.google.com/uufbr-board

First, a quick background for those who may not know it. I've been on the Board for the last 3 months and almost the entire time, the board has been consumed by the Article II petition. The vote on that petition happened two days ago on May 19 and hopefully, all parties got a little bit of win. But all parties also suffered a lot of pain and anguish and many continue to feel that pain. We need to heal the pain and rebuild our Beloved Community.

There are three approaches in my mind on how to move forward.

First, we should have some time to reconnect with each other – we can do that in small groups, we can do that in informal settings and we can find formal ways and workshops to rebuild trust in our fellowship.

Second, we should redouble our efforts on understanding what the fellowship wants to be as it looks ahead for the next 5 years. What do we see for ourselves? How do we want to relate to each other? How do we want to be of service to the wider community? This will allow us to see the path forward and move along that path with renewed vigor.

Lastly, we should focus on renewing our commitment to Unitarian Universalism with acts of Love, Peace, Harmony, and Service - all mentioned in our covenant. The recent initiatives of participating in Palm Beach Pride in March and the Outreach team's idea for a "Vow renewal" ceremony during Pride month are great examples. The ceremony will be held on June 2 at 11:30 AM and allows us to reaffirm our inclusive and welcoming values, providing a moment of romance and recommitment as UUFBR recognizes Pride Month.

I hope all of you will join in whichever of the ideas above resonate the most with you. And if you have others, please reach out to Claire and me by emailing copresidents@uufbr.org.

By Rajeev Arora Co-President

From the minister... Reverend Kathryn Tew Rickey

A Covenantal Faith cont.



Upon arrival, there was much to do in terms of establishing homes, farms, and livelihoods out of the wilderness. But once established, these Puritans turned first not to organizing a church but to their relationship with their neighbors. Thus, for one year the Dedham folks met in one another's homes weekly to get to know each other's minds and hearts.

The Dedham folks ensured right relationship with one another before deciding how to do church together. In tandem with other Calvinists of New England the Cambridge Platform of 1648 was forged. The document lays out the structure and governance of the free church as free from clerical hierarchy and forced doctrine. It put forth that mission and purpose are determined from the bottom up and effected through a representational democracy whereby ruling elders and deacons were elected by the congregation and the minister called from among them. Each congregation supported itself financially and addressed its own conflicts and problems. Sometimes, however, a neighboring congregation was called in to help. Does this structure of church governance that was adopted nearly 400 years ago sound familiar?

The First Church of Dedham was founded on covenant rather than creed. The Cambridge Platform was itself a form of covenant for New England churches of the time. Covenant means promise. The promise between the people of New England churches was to be in right relationship as together they explored what their Calvinist theology meant for them in a strange new land. A peaceable community was essential to that exploration and covenant was how they achieved it.

By the end of the 19th Century, Unitarians became distinct from their Calvinist beginnings. However, in 1961 when the Unitarians and Universalists merged, the covenantal model of the congregationalist church remained. The covenant, congregation to congregation, was as it is now, instituted in Article II of the UUA bylaws. Today, each UU congregation still operates on its own and most have covenants made manifest in each congregation's mission, bylaws, and relationship.

We know that congregations change over time not only because of the outside influences of society and culture but also because of generational changes and changes in turnover of the membership. Therefore, it is best practice for a congregation to review its mission, bylaws, and relational covenants at least every 10 years. At the UUA level, the bylaws call for a review every 15 years of the covenant expressed in Article II. In this Fellowship, the mission statement has not been modified since 2001. At the UUA level, Article II has not changed from its expression of the Seven Principles and Six Sources in 40 years.

As we might imagine, much has changed in our world in the last 20 years and even more so in the last 40 years. Even though it is difficult to face changes in the institutions that function as anchor points in our lives, we must ask ourselves, are the promises we make to one another still relevant in our changing world? Do our congregational covenants, the promises we make to one another reflect what and who we are in the present? This Fellowship has three forms of covenant: aspiration, mission, and purpose. Please see these as they appear in the text box below.

As you read our covenants, what are your thoughts on the continuing relevance of them in terms of how we are living out our values now and how we are in relationship with one another? Is it reasonable to expect that such guiding documents would not change over time? If that were the case at the Associational level, we would still be Calvinists.

In a free and pluralistic faith, covenant is the glue that holds our beloved community together. Covenant is our promise to walk together in all our diversity of belief, custom, culture, identity, age, stage, and walk of life. Covenant is above all about being in respectful, equitable, peaceful, and loving relationship with one another. Covenant calls for true interdependence which seeks the best possible outcome for the community as a whole. A religion based on covenant rather than creed is challenging to live into in times of conflict and as individuals because a covenantal faith sometimes calls us to forgo some of our self-interest. Yet the fruits of beloved community are sweet and, in my view, worth it. May we all seek the fruits of Beloved Community.

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF BOCA RATON COVENANTS

ASPIRATION:

Love is the doctrine of this faith.

The guest for truth, its sacrament

And service, its prayer.

To dwell together in peace.

To seek the truth in love.

To the end that all shall grow into harmony.

Thus, do we covenant with one another.

MISSION:

To provide intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth experiences for all ages and stages of life in a free and liberal religious setting.

STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING MISSION:

By preserving and promoting UU principles and purposes within the Fellowship and through outreach into the surrounding community;

By deepening our interdependent connections to the greater UUA community;

By providing quality life-spanning Religious Education;

By promoting and enhancing a nurturing, caring, inclusive and responsive community;

By using music, art and ceremony to promote joy; and to celebrate diversity, community and friendship.

PURPOSE AS STATED IN UUFBR BYLAWS:

It is the purpose of the Fellowship:

To serve the social and spiritual needs of its members,

To Provide a forum for the exploration of religious ideas and ethical values,

To offer a program of religious education for children and adults,

To speak out and act on social and moral issues, and

To further the cause of liberal religion, particularly in Boca Raton and neighboring communities.



Committees ZOOM links & descriptions

Board of Trustees

1st Thursday at 7:15 pm Rajeev Arora, Claire Smith copresidents@uufbr.org

Use this link to join on Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/93768534897?

pwd=WEFNODZBV21Bc25sQWVjUGlmRzdmdz09

Meeting ID: 937 6853 4897 Passcode: 114338

Finance Committee

Third Monday at 2:00 pm Group Contact: Patricia Rogers prl17@bellsouth.net

> Use this link to join on Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/93286318047? pwd=bU5nSGUvOEwzaVh10EJT d2xBZjRRQT09

Meeting ID: 932 8631 8047, Password: 867418

The Legacy Group

Third Sunday @ 1 pm Group contact: Judy Keiser Zoom Host: itteam@uufbr.org

Use this link to join on Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/98795244584?

pwd=d1NuVzZnM05ycDkwVWtQQnJyUm1PQT09

Meeting ID: 987 9524 4584 Passcode: 388278

IT Team

Meets as needed Group contact: Louis Merlin, louismerlin@gmail.com

Use this link to join on Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/95229659211?

pwd=SVJUdU93WXJLbEVhSWxuR0duNE9aQT09

Meeting ID: 952 2965 9211 Passcode: 023036

Staff Meeting

Tuesday at 12:00 pm Group contact: Ruth Amisial admin@uufbr.org

Office hours: T,W, F 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Sun. 9:00 AM

to 12:00 PM

<u>Use this link to join on Zoom:</u> https://zoom.us/j/97964263833?

pwd=THIEemRLdzFDUG1BU3JHTHk0TWU2dz09

Meeting ID: 979 6426 3833 Passcode: 047897 One tap mobile: +13126266799,,97964263833#

Worship Committee Meeting

Bi-weekly on Wednesday at 5:00 pm Group contact: <u>Bill Jensen</u> wmjensen44@gmail.com Zoom Host: itteam@uufbr.org

https://zoom.us/j/94556595523?

pwd=cDE3VkwvMUNSVXo2N3pra0drV25UZz09

Meeting ID: 945 5659 5523 Passcode: 540050 One tap mobile +13052241968,,94556595523# US

Endowment Committee

2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm

Group Contact: Mitch Major: mitchmajor@earthlink.net
The Endowment Fund: Sustaining the Legacy, the Continuity, and the
Future of UUFBR and our UU Principles.

Use this link to join on Zoom:

https://zoom.us/i/92039364170?

pwd=RzRMdiVWOGITMEJiVDU2V0JFTFJQdz09

Meeting ID: 920 3936 4170[1] Passcode: 361129 One tap mobile: +19292056099,,92039364170# US (New York)

Landscape Committee

First Tuesday at 7:00 pm Group contact: Celia Hirsch 561-870-3577

Use this link to join on Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/95

432721616?pwd=dWNySFF5bTdoN3JSYi9JT1hBTEs0Zz09

Meeting ID: 954 3272 1616 Passcode: 575795

Membership Committee

Third Tuesday at 7:30 pm Group contact: Sharon Drew

Use this link to join on Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/93534994263?

pwd=WEwwVE0wMHQzZVg2bC9TeU5NMGdwdz09

Meeting ID: 935 3499 4263 Passcode: 232167

Religious Education Council (RE Council)

RE Council is taking a hiatus until further notice
RECouncil@uufbr.org
This group organizes activities for families with children and
promotes religious education for all ages.

Transition Team Meeting

Monthly on second Tuesday at 7:00 pm

Use this link to join on Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/92253771301?

pwd=MmxtdUdkOGJVK3UyaGFrNWJtcnkvZz09

Meeting ID: 922 5377 1301 Passcode: 939260



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Everyone is welcome!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						The Forum 10am, Zoom Program Planning Team Organizing Meeting 1pm, Zoom Movie Discussion Group 3pm, Zoom
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Admin in Office 9 -12pm Worship Service 10:30 am (Zoom also) Teen Tech Support 11:30am	Office closed Cleaning service 8am Pagan Study Group 7pm, Zoom	Admin in office 10 -3pm Staff Meeting 12pm, Zoom Landscape Committee Meeting 7pm, Zoom	Admin in office 10 - 3pm Ground Maint. 9:30am Worship Committee 5pm, Zoom Midweek Meditation 8pm, Zoom		Admin in Office 10 -3pm Friday Night Happy Hour 5pm, Zoom Game Night 7pm	The Forum 10am, Zoom Movie Discussion Group 3pm, Zoom
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Admin in Office 9 -12 pm Worship Service 10:30 am (Zoom also)	Office closed Cleaning service 8am Men's group in person 10am Death Cafe 7:30pm, Zoom	Admin in office 10-3pm Staff Meeting 12pm, Zoom Transition Team 7pm, Zoom	Admin in office 10 -3pm Ground Maint: 9:30am Midweek Meditation 8pm, Zoom	Nonviolent Communication Practice Circle 12:30pm, Zoom Endowment Committee 7pm, Zoom	Admin in Office 10 -3pm Friday Night Happy Hour 5pm, Zoom	The Forum 10am, Zoom Movie Discussion Group 3pm, Zoom
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Admin in Office 9 -12 pm Worship Service 10:30am (Zoom also) The Legacy Group 1pm, Zoom	Office closed Cleaning service 8am Finance Committee Meeting 2pm, Zoom Pagan Study Group 7pm in person	Admin in office 10-3pm Staff Meeting 12pm, Zoom Membership Committee Meeting 7:30pm, Zoom	Admin in office 10 -3pm Ground Maint. 9:30am Worship Committee 5pm, Zoom Midweek Meditation 8pm, Zoom		Admin in Office 10 -3pm Friday Night Happy Hour 5pm, Zoom Midsummer Celebration- Pagan Study Group 8pm in person	The Forum 10am, Zoom Movie Discussion Group 3pm, Zoom
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Admin in Office 9 -12 pm Worship Service 10:30am (Zoom also)	Office closed Cleaning service 8am	Admin in office 10-3pm Staff Meeting 12pm, Zoom Healing Justice 7:30pm, Zoom	Admin in office 10-3pm Ground Maint. 9:30am Midweek Meditation 8pm, Zoom	Leadership develop.6:45pm, Zoom Board of Trustees meeting 7:15pm	Admin in Office 10 -3pm Friday Night Happy Hour 5pm, Zoom	The Forum 10am, Zoom Movie Discussion Group 3pm, Zoom
30						
Admin in Office 9 -12 pm Worship Service 10:30am (Zoom also)						