



Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

VOLUME 62 ISSUE 2

February 2019

Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola



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Coffee and Conversation 9-10am, Sunday Service 10-11am

Feb. 3 "SOUPer Sunday!"

February 3 is Super Bowl Sunday, and SOUPer Sunday as well! The Finance Team and CRE kids have a special service planned to honor our Boy Scouts and kick off our annual budget drive, followed by a potluck lunch featuring several kinds of soup with all the fixings. As a celebration of this day, we ask the congregation to bring canned goods to the service to be donated to Manna Food Pantry. See more info in upcoming Announcements and Weekly Emails.

Feb. 10 "Moments of High Resolve: Remembering Howard Thurman" Rev. Alice Syltie

What is the universal essence at the heart and core of the human experience, that unites us, undeniably, as brothers and sisters in the one human family? That is the question to which Howard Thurman dedicated his life and his career. In honor of African American History Month we will honor the legacy of Howard Thurman, author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader.

Feb. 17 "Art and Activism" Rev. Alice Syltie

As we continue to recognize African American History Month, we will look at how talented artists, like Harry Belafonte, drew upon their personal gifts and resources to further the cause of equality and justice in the social and political realm of our country.

Feb. 24 "Begin with Hope" Harold W. Beu, UU Minister, Retired:

In 1 Corinthians 13:13 Paul says, "So faith, hope, and love abide; but the greatest of these is love." Now, certainly I think we can acknowledge the value of all of these three attributes, especially love. However, without hope, it matters not if a person has love. We begin with hope because that is how we survive and even flourish in a world that often makes little sense to us. I will talk about this partly because it seems that we have been living in stressful times as of late and I believe that now we need to find our way to a more hopeful life.

Mar. 3 "Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) Remembrance Projects in Escambia County, FL," with Brunie Emmanuel.

Remembrance Projects in Escambia County, FL have listed 6 lynchings that occurred in our county between 1877-1950. The EJI Remembrance Projects Committee for Escambia Co. has completed the first step in a 3-step Remembrance Projects process. We completed Soil Collection at all 6 of the sites, and held a ceremony at the time of collecting soil from the site of the 2 public lynchings in Plaza Ferdinand that occurred in 1908 (Leander Shaw) and 1909 (David Alexander). We are now working on the second project, installing a Historic Marker in Plaza Ferdinand; a high school essay contest is also a part of that step. The third Remembrance Project is to bring and install the replica of the Escambia County Monument that hangs in the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, AL. More information at website: www.eji.org.

From Our Minister, Rev. Alice Sylie

Some years ago, I had the privilege of traveling and studying with an interfaith group of eight clergy. Over four years we visited a number of different religious sites and institutions across the United States, culminating in a trip to Egypt and Israel. We knew attendance in mainline denominations was decreasing and we were interested in what types of faith organizations were growing or attracting new members. One trip was to Portland and Seattle to study the Emergent Church movement. I met, talked, and worshiped with intelligent, creative young adults who were exploring new and relevant ways to engage spirituality and practice social justice in their communities. Most of them claimed to have lost faith in the church of their parents, but not in the message of love that Jesus taught.



What I found in each of the groups we visited were people who wanted to be part of a spiritual community of meaning and purpose, that encouraged and supported them in being the person they wanted to be; the person who could live out their most deeply held values in the world.

Regardless of our particular theological perspectives, I believe Unitarian Universalists come to church to be part of a community that helps them deepen self understanding and make meaning of their lives.

When the world seems as unpredictable as now, a place of meaning and purpose might be more important than ever.

As I look ahead to the season of giving at UUCP, I like to imagine that all of you trust that when you contribute to the life of this church, you are contributing to something greater than yourself, something that will live beyond you. You are making possible a future that will carry with it your values and principles. You are ensuring that people will continue to know a spiritual home that is life giving, life affirming, non-judgmental, and hopeful. A place for people to find their footing, and be grounded in a system of values that opens them to the beauty of individual difference, to the source of love that does not degrade. A place that lifts people above a frantic, fearful, divided culture that pits one against another in a battle for individual fulfillment, at the expense of the greater good for all. May it be so.

In Love and Hope, *Rev. Alice*

MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-UUCP MEMBERS:

If you would like to memorialize member of our UUCP congregational nameplate that will be den. The nameplates will be 2" weather resistant material. In be the deceased's first and last year. The cost is \$50 per person there is no deadline for purchasing a memorial, consider doing so by the **first week in February** so that they can be on display shortly after Valentine's Day. Just complete a short information form (which will be available on the information table outside the Library). The image above is of a mosaic created by the Ad Hoc Memorial Team as a heading for the display. Team members are: Kate Wolverton, Laurie Winterberg, Marcy Moreland and Lisa Hudson.



a loved one who was not a tion, consider purchasing a displayed in the Memorial Gar x 6" and made of a durable, cluded on the name plate will name, their birth year and death to be memorialized. Although

FROM THE BOARD...Are we living our dreams?

Recently, I was in conversation with a planning group and we were “sharing” current events in our lives. One person shared about her extensive travels on a cruise and her overseas excursions. During this conversation she was residing in a condo on the beach. Another member exclaimed, “You are living your dream!” As the conversation progressed each person shared about their employment, or their anticipated run for office, or their involvement with the care of an aging parent. As the sharing continued the “traveler” commented on another “living their dream” as well. It hit me...clearly in the face. Aren’t we all living our dream and if we aren’t, “Why not?”



At times it is difficult to identify that we are living our dreams, but perhaps it takes a wake-up call to realize we have choices in how we live our lives. Even during painful experiences, the shaping of our situation can be shifted and our internal dialogue can be enhanced.

What are the dreams at UUCP and are we living them? The Board continues to oversee the ongoing pulse of the congregation and work toward achieving our dreams.

At the January Board meeting, we approved a proposal to improve the safety of our building and congregation. Fortunately, we have alert and aware members that are focused on the changing culture of the time. Therefore, concern about increased personal safety has surfaced that needs to be addressed directly. There will be changes to the building, which include adding improved locks to the doors, as well as adding windows to the Children’s RE rooms. An active Shooter Safety plan is being created to add to the safety of the children as well as the adults while at church.

The Board approved a plan to replace the shed with a more suitable construction that will provide more storage. This will allow our facility to improve our ability to meet the fire safety codes.

In February, the “Fairy Godmother” Dream Budget will be presented to the congregation. With the increased presence of the children in worship, offering challenging, meaningful services and reaching out to the community Our Dreams are Coming True. Thanks for being part of the DREAM!

Nancy Hagman, UUCP President

NEWS FROM UUCP CHARITABLE TRUST

The UUCP Charitable Trust, while a separate entity from the church, receives and administers financial assets for the support of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola. While assisting the church periodically with its emergency financial needs, the long-term goal of the Trust is to substantially increase the amount in the Trust’s Endowment Fund to provide significant annual interest income to the church through wise investments.

We would like to thank the following donors who have financially supported the Trust since November of 2018: **Dolly Berthelot, Georgianna Bryant, Barbara Goggins, Marianne Kelly, Patti Shaw, and Bill Shaw.** Totaling \$2400, these gifts reflect donations given in memory of our members and friends and generous donations to support the Trust.



However, it is never too late for you to make a tax-deductible donation or a tax-free donation for those 70.5 years and older. Contact any of the Trust’s members with your questions: Chair: Marcy Moreland; Secretary: Georgianna Bryant; Treasurer: Gerry Donnelly; Trustee: Bob Gerold; and Trustee: Erin Renfroe.

WHAT'S UUP @ UUCP?

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Here at UUCP, Imbolc Celebration at 6:30pm, see page 6 for more info.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Don't forget this Service for All Ages, Boy Scout Sunday and Potluck ! See page 1.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Board meeting at 5:30pm.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Lunar New Year with CRE at Linh Thien Monastery; all are welcome! Saturday, February 9 at 10am, see page 6 for more info or contact Emma Mulvaney at emmamulvaney@gmail.com or 850-776-4709 if you plan to come or need more information.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

LUUNCH BUUNCH at the Fishing Hole at 1pm, see page 6 for info

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14 *Happy Valentine's Day!*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 - Celebration of Life for Tom Brown at 1pm at UUCP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17 BUDGET DRIVE ENDS TODAY

SUNDAY SWEETS - Time to buy some delicious delicacies to eat during Coffee Hour or to take home! Proceeds go to the General Fund. Be sure to thank our dedicated cake-bakers!



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28 Film Screening and Discussion: "Traces of the Trade" - 6pm at UUCP

"Traces of the Trade" follows a family as they explore their personal connections to the Atlantic Slave Trade. They travel from New England to Ghana to Cuba and back home, discussing the journey with their church and its implications for a nation still dealing with the open wound of slavery. This film is co-sponsored by the UUCP Social Justice Committee and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. Film starts at 6pm with a discussion following.

IN MARCH, WATCH FOR A SECOND HOUR BOOK DISCUSSION WITH THOM BOTSFORD:

The Future Will Be Stranger Than Anyone Thought--The bestselling author of *Sapiens* and *Homo Deus*, Yuval Noah Harari, has done more than any serious writer lately to publicize the challenges posed by biotechnology and artificial intelligence. His latest book was written after prominent readers like Bill Gates asked what humanity could do to save our values. "The technological revolutions of the twenty-first century should really be understood in cosmic terms," Harari writes. "After four billion years of organic life evolving by natural selection, science is ushering in the era of inorganic life shaped by intelligent design. In the process, *Homo sapiens* itself will likely disappear....Within a century or two, the combination of biotechnology and AI (artificial intelligence) might result in physical and mental traits that completely break free of the hominid mold. Some believe that consciousness might even be severed from any organic structure and could surf cyberspace free of all biological and physical restraints. On the other hand, we might witness the complete decoupling of intelligence from consciousness, and the development of AI might result in a world dominated by super-intelligent but completely nonconscious entities." Are our institutions capable of managing such a change for the better? Or are they part of the problem?



Imbolc, or Candlemas, marks the point on the Wheel of the Year midway between the Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. At UUCP, we will have an **Imbolc Celebration Ritual on February 1, 2019, from 6:30-7:45 pm. This Celebration Ritual is offered to everyone who wishes to attend with all genders included.** We won't have a meal, but will share a Ritual Gathering.

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

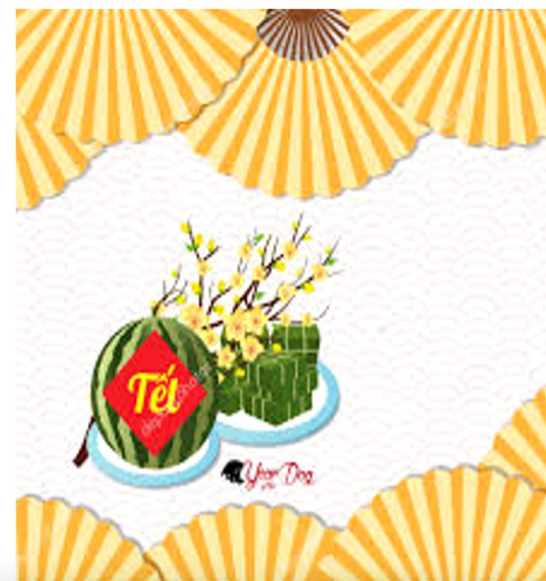
LINH THIEN MONASTERY

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 10 AM

[902 Lookout Drive, Pensacola 32505](#)

Join the UUCP children's program as we celebrate the Lunar New Year at the new Buddhist Center in Pensacola. Our visit will consist of a tour followed by a vegetarian potluck lunch. The Lunar New Year is one of the biggest festivals in many parts of Asia and elsewhere around the world where historically Asian cultures have spread. So, wear party clothes and bring a dish, and a song or poem, to share during lunch! RSVP to Emma Mulvaney at emmamulvaney@gmail.com or 850-776-4709 .



LET'S GET
Together

LUUNCH BUUNCH AT THE FISHING HOLE WED., FEB. 13 AT 1PM

For February's 2nd Wed., 13/2/19, we'll turn to the "west", to the Fishing Hole at 15 Brent Lane (1/2 block east of Palafox/29, south side of Brent, phone 912-6664), in front of the shopping center that houses a Goodwill store, a discount grocery, a Dollar Store ... you get the idea. For those who haven't joined us in the past (at least twice), the dining area and menu are a notch or two out of sync with the neighborhood - but of course, the western edge of PCC campus (K-12 schools) lies just north across Brent. Please let me know your intent to attend - FH does not have a large dining area. (Hugh T. 478-2373 by Monday 11 Feb. or huturn@juno.com).

Well, the member turnout for 5 Sisters on Wed., 9/1/19 was, I think, everyone plus one that was expected (Liz Irby's first time in 10 years?). 5S turned out to be as noisy as ever, 3-4 years ago, the brick walls as sound absorbent as ever. With tables and chairs, all metal as well, with tops non-absorbent so that the condensation from the prefilled glasses (very good, before I came in, maybe before HM and Jack - with minimum slope - condensation pooled for potential drip into the lap on the low side, or at least a wet napkin dike). ... The ordering went well enough (by Wade), but I erred in thinking that the red beans and rice protein with pulled pork would be heavy on the former and light on the carne; it was just the reverse and neither had much flavor; I should have gone for the four veggies for the same price. And MK's toasted sandwich with CRISP bacon included neither crisp toast or bacon, a disappointment. The menu disappointment was that the marine dishes started at \$17, 40% over the veggie plate and most other entrees. And finally, the "pineapple" coleslaw was barely worth specifying; maybe some juice, but no fruit.



Inspire Love: MLK Parade



“The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process”

“Justice, equity and compassion in human relations”



“We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.”



“The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all”





STRIVE FOR JUSTICE



Good News for the Citizens of Escambia County!

The rate at which Juveniles are sent into the adult criminal justice system in Escambia County dropped by 60% last year!

We have two systems in the Justice department for dealing with persons who have broken a law. The Juvenile Justice system is designed to educate and rehabilitate youths of less than 18 years. This acknowledges that they are still in formative stages of development and are more likely to respond positively to rehabilitation. The adult criminal justice system is devoted to locking the person up and punishing them.

In the state of Florida it is in the hands of the chief prosecuting attorney, the State's Attorney (sometimes called the District Attorney) without input from a judge or a defending attorney, to place any person below the age of 18 into the juvenile system or the adult system. For years the idea of punishment rather than rehabilitation has been the bias of most of Florida's State's Attorneys.

In the last several years evidence has shown that the youth who goes into the adult system is much more likely to commit further offences. So, in many places in Florida the trend statewide has gradually turned to keeping our youths in the Juvenile system. This is a good thing. However, as the trend was evolving, Escambia was trending in the opposite direction, sending more and more kids into the adult system.

Many of you are aware that a coalition led by Paula Montgomery and the League of Women Voters conducted a 4-year campaign including public programs and the passage of resolutions by the Pensacola City Council and the Escambia County Commission in favor of letting a judge decide rather than the Prosecuting attorney. The resolutions were forwarded to our elected legislators. This caught the attention of our State's Attorney who revised his system and the rates have fallen by 60%.

Now the coalition has taken on the task of revising the state's laws in regard to the handling of juvenile offenders.

Statements of Conscience (Social Justice Statements)



The UUA since its inception, the Unitarians, and Universalists before they came together to form the UUA, have always stood for social justice. As part of who we are, we take stands on issues that are consistent with our core values. At General Assembly we propose issues to be addressed, and over a period of years these statements are further refined to finally become statements of conscience. Once they are adopted these statements are used when we are forming coalitions with other organizations, filing amicus briefs in court cases or writing letters to various officials. They are clear statements of where we stand on various important subjects. The statements help us to speak with one voice across the denomination.

Past topics include immigration justice, equal treatment and non-harassment for LGBTQ citizens, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, climate change, and reproductive health. To learn more about these statements please go to the UUA Web site and surf around under the title of [Social Justice](#). You will see not only what statements we have adopted but some examples of how they are used in support of our values in the larger world.

This year at General Assembly we are positioned to adopt a statement of conscience advocating for an amendment to the US constitution stating that *"Corporations are not citizens with unalienable rights and money is not equivalent to free speech."* This amendment would rob corporations of their disproportionate voice in forming our laws to their benefit and electing officials who are indebted to them. **That is part of the Move to Amend resolution that this congregation approved several years ago.**

Paula Montgomery, Co-chair of the Social Justice Team



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Deadline for submissions for
MARCH LIGHT:
SATURDAY, FEB. 16



Celebrate Diversity · Strive for Justice · Inspire Love

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