

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 66 Issue 4 April 2023



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Letter

Hello Beloved Church Family,

As I write this, on March 22nd, I'm thinking back on the delicious breakfast put on last Sunday by our finance committee to commemorate the end of the pledge drive (see PS below). What a wonderfully involved and committed congregation we have! I feel very proud and privileged to be a part of it. Next Sunday, March 26th we will be hearing about the latest developments of J.U.S.T. Pensacola, a very powerful organization we are working with to create a better community for all our friends and neighbors. Our shared values mandate our participation and taking our part is so right.

In last month's letter to y'all, I reported that we were still interviewing Office Administrator candidates, and hoping someone would come "on board" soon. If you have missed church lately and not heard the announcements, I am happy to inform you that we have a wonderful new addition to our church family! Laura Herbek is our new office guru, and we are thrilled to have her with us. She is an Adjunct Professor in the English Department at UWF and her values align very closely with ours. She had been looking for supplemental work in a non-profit, and is very excited to be working with us. She is working ten hours a week in the office at church, with five hours on Friday and Saturday mornings, from 8:30 to 1:30 each day. We are so lucky to have her!

Okay, yes, there are now even more people at UUCP with similar names! Laurie Winterberg, Lauren Anzaldo, Laura Wood (Laura W.), me - (Laura K.K.), Laura Ericson, and now, Laura H.!



Last month, I reported that Kenneth Jarrell, the owner of the property adjacent to the church had said he was willing to sign a letter agreeing to mitigation of the drainage issues, and landscaping of the strip of land between our properties. We drafted a letter immediately and Daniel Cobb was able to bring it to Mr. Jarrell the same week, at which point Mr. Jarrell had already decided not to sign it

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See our website: uupensacola.org for updates and a complete list of teams and members.

Community Minister:

Rev. Maggie Lovins

Governing Board

President: Laura Keith King

President-Elect: Scott Satterwhite

Past President: Arnie Ondis

Secretary: Denise Gunn

Treasurer: Bradley Vinson

Members at Large:

Joe Vinson

Patti Underwood

Marianne DeGrado

MINISTRY TEAMS

Adult Exploration: Trista Blouin

Buildings & Grounds: Hugh Ed Turner

Communications: Erin Renfroe

Denominational Affairs: Laura Keith King

Finance: Laurie Winterberg

Fun and Fellowship: Pattie Underwood

Leadership Development: Arnie Ondis

Membership: Lauren Anzaldo

Safer Congregation: Hugh Ed Turner

Social Justice: Paula Montgomery & Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Services: Nancy Hagman

after all. On the positive side, Mr. Jarrell has followed through with the promised drainage issue mitigation, but it looks as though if we want plantings we will have to do them ourselves, and we will discuss taking Mr. Jarrell to court for damages. The board will address it at our next meeting.

On April 1 we will have our dedicated team of volunteers out fixing the fence and sprucing up our outdoor spaces. Thanks to everyone who helps! Many thanks again to all of you who attend church and participate! If you haven't been with us lately, know that we miss you and want you back. If you haven't been to a service yet, please know that we will welcome you with open arms!

In Love and Fellowship,

Laura

Laura Keith King

PS: If you haven't made your pledge yet, please do so right now! Our pledges enable the Finance Team and Treasurer build our budget for next year, and I know you all want to help.



Sunday Services in April

April 2, 2023

The Great Peacemakers Series

Once again, Barbara Wright, a dedicated member of UUCP, will provide a thoughtful service.

This is the next installment in our special series based on the book *Great Peacemakers: True Stories from Around the World* by Ken Beller and Heather Chase.

Our Peace Sunday candidates are mixed in their familiarity. Bruno Hussar believes in “Interfaith Harmony” and has created an experiment in living. A better-known individual, Desmond Tutu believes “All Belong”. Both have interesting stories, and we hope you will enjoy learning about these two peacemakers.

April 9, 2023

Flower Communion 2023

Help celebrate Easter and its origins at our annual Flower Communion Service. We request that everyone bring a favorite flower from their home, a field, or the roadside. The flowers will be placed into vases at the front of the sanctuary and, at the end of the service, we will exchange flowers with one another. This symbolic gesture brings us reverently and spiritually together as one and celebrates the emergence of spring and the rebirth and renewal that occurs within and in the world around us.

The service will be led by the Children’s Religious Education (CRE) program. An Easter egg hunt/celebration will follow after the service for all children.

April 16, 2023

“First They Came...”

Joe Vinson, member of UUCP will present a thought-provoking service considering Martin Niemöller and the need for solidarity and intersectionality in the face of creeping authoritarianism.

April 23, 2023

It Starts with U(U)

An Earth Day presentation with Daniel and Heather Cobb. Most of us are aware that taking care of our planet and its resources are important, but how often do we follow this value up with something actionable? Join us for ideas on how to walk the walk and participate in our Earth-conscious activity at our seats.

April 30, 2023

5th Sunday Share the Plate

Join us for our 5th Sunday service, in which we share the offering plate with a local organization doing good work in our community.



April at UUCP

Second Hours

April 9

11:30-12:30: Join us after the Flower Communion service for a traditional Easter Egg Hunt for the kids. If you'd like to help fill and/or hide eggs, contact Denise Gunn.

Sunday Sweets, one of UUCP's largest fund-raisers, is usually held on the second Sunday of every month. Pro tip: Get in line after the service; don't delay. These mouth-watering home-baked goodies go fast! The bakers each decide what they'd like to make for us and we're happy to report that there are, of course, lots of cake and cookies involved.

April 16

"An Overview of & Rationale for Contemporary Paganism" will be facilitated by UUCP friend Faerin Collins. Childcare provided.

Readers' Groups Announced

March through June 2023 has been scheduled

"As novels became more prominent during the 1700's, society and the media grew increasingly concerned that young people spent too much time reading books. They went so far as to call it 'reading rage,' 'reading fever,' 'reading mania,' and 'reading lust.'"

These ZOOM gatherings are generally 1 hour in length and begin at 10 am. There are no required books to buy or read. The central topic each month is what participants are reading, their recommendations and comments.

All sessions are the 2nd Monday of the month beginning in March and ending in June of 2023. The ZOOM link to join the meeting is sent out the day before the session via our Simple Church email service.

Have questions? Contact Laurie Winterberg.

LUUnch BUUnch April 12

Well, not too many folks are giving me feedback, or perhaps "aren't remembering" what they read; hopefully, this non-typical Lunch Bunch event of second Wednesday, 12 April will wake'em up and be remember-able, at 11:30 or before, NOT our usual 1 PM.

Instead of the "usual" restaurant/eatery, we will attend the Health Education Event of Wednesday, 12 April, at Baptist Towers Medical at 1717 North E. St. (big parking lot but not easy to find a spot). The subject is: Beware of Myelopathy: "Difficulty walking is not a normal part of aging," presented by Dr. Evan Lewis, neurosurgeon. These are food events - sometimes delivered hot on to the plate, or cold in a plastic box, and chicken is a staple, salads not unusual; the room is sure to be open by 11:30, but best to get there before, especially if you like to sit close to the front (as I do). Please let me know if you're likely to attend so I can tell Susan.

The ROOM is down the central hall, easily found from the central tower's main entry door, past the desk logging in patients, down about slight 60' slope to the 3rd (+/-) standard size single door (on the right) wherein you will find Susan who will greet you. If not preregistered, you can sign in and find some literature. If hot, the meal is served in that area; if cold, it will likely be stacked on a nearby table or perhaps on each of the tables facing the speaker's podium at the front of the room. I hope to check with Susan that I'm expecting 3 (from El Paso) that might not have preregistered (as I have already done), but as noted, you can sign in. And if you are late, the food may be gone, but I've never seen that happen.

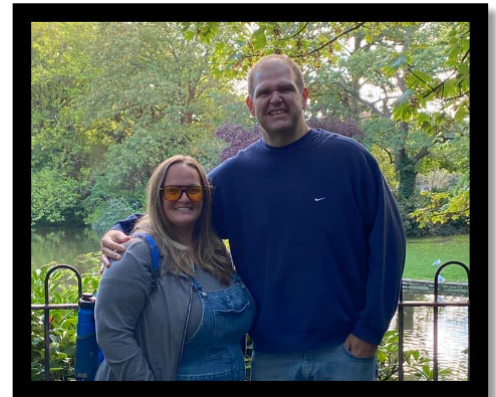
For last Wednesday, 8 March, four of us filled a booth at El Paso Mexican Grill, Mobile Highway south of the Michigan intersection. We caught up with where the other usual three LBers were (Beverly assisting Annabelle's convalescence, Jack in SE Asia), enjoyed our orders from the menu of many choices, and three of us left with supper for later. Hasta la vista.

Welcome a New Member

By Charlotte Snyder

Brett Ramsey

Brett graduated from Westview High School in 1999, then received a Bachelor's in Political Science from Rhodes College in 2003 and a Master's in Political Science from The University of Mississippi in 2005. Brett taught political science in various colleges around Tennessee for about ten years and started organizing bridge tournaments on cruise ships towards the latter part of that time. He eventually transitioned into being a full-time travel agent. He does at times miss certain aspects of teaching, especially upper-division courses where students really engage with the material, but political discourse is so vile that it became too difficult to teach. He likes that he gets to travel with his current job and enjoys being able to help people go to places they've always dreamed of visiting. He has no fears when planning any type of trip, and he has been able to help his mother and his wife visit places they've dreamed of seeing their entire lives. He feels lucky to have realized in his 30s the importance of traveling/enjoying life while young as opposed to saving your whole life to retire and start living.



Brett doesn't naturally think of himself as adventurous, but Marybeth reminds him he has taken a lot of risks in his life. He ran for political office, created a new course at a university, started two different businesses from scratch, held 5 different jobs simultaneously, was the first person in his family to leave the country, and taught himself how to do various tasks from changing a tire to fixing an air conditioner. At the end of the day, Brett likes to feel helpful, whether that's in his home, community, or the world at large.

Brett grew up regularly attending a Cumberland Presbyterian church. It was in a small town

where his grandparents still lived, and his dad had grown up in that church. It was conservative to the point where women were only allowed to teach Sunday school to children, and there was a

Brett grew up in rural West TN. His parents Linda and Steve are divorced but live fifteen minutes apart in the area where he grew up. He has a younger brother, Matt, who lives near Nashville, TN with his wife, Jennifer, and niece, Eliana. Everyone surely knows his wife, Marybeth, as she has never been called shy. They have numerous friends scattered around the world, and they greatly value those friendships.

separate Cumberland Presbyterian church for black people a mile down the road. Brett taught the adult Sunday school class when he was in high school and college, but the small church eventually had to close due to the membership dying off. The more Brett learned about Christianity, the more questions he would ask, and people didn't want to talk about it. So, over time, he quit going. When he met Marybeth, she had been attending a Nazarene church with her family her whole life, and she thought Brett would see the good people in her church and remember what love is supposed to be. While there are some good people in that church, there are also a lot who were not. All in all, though, it led to some growth for both of them, and it led Marybeth to search for a church that was openly accepting of all people

and put forth love rather than judgment. Brett went along with Marybeth on her search for a new church but wasn't sure he intended to attend. When they found the UU church. Brett didn't think anything like this existed and was pleasantly surprised at how fast they were welcomed in and now feel right at home. It's the first church Brett ever officially joined, and he is very happy with his decision.

Brett's favorite things about the UU are that they are covenant based rather than doctrine based, are truly open and accepting of all people, and how people are the same on Sundays as during the rest of the week. Brett and Marybeth joined right at the end of the pandemic, and he is looking forward to more social activities outside the church to get to know people better. He knows the church is aware, but we need to work on recruitment, and he thinks the downtown/East Hill area could prove fruitful. Overall, he thinks the church is doing very well, and he is happy to be here.

Get to Know a Long-Time Member

By Charlotte Crane

Dolly Berthelot

"Versatility" would seem the watchword in the career of Dolly Berthelot, where jobs ranged from daily newspaper writer and editor, high school teacher, college professor, art photographer,

communication consultant, author, and poet – and more. Spiritually, meanwhile, she leaped from Catholic roots to existentialist to Unitarian Universalist. She now calls herself “Mystical Humanist.”

Dolly grew up in Bogalusa, La., earning a high school diploma in 1962, and, later, a bachelor’s degree from Southeastern La. College in English and sociology. Her parents were both children of immigrants; on her mother’s side, both grandparents came from Lebanon. Her Dad’s mother was a German war bride.

As for herself: “I seem to have been born an artist and writer and philosophical type, with an urge to see the world. I was first paid for writing at age 16, as a columnist for *Bogalusa Daily News*. First post-grad work was with *Hammond Daily Star*, where by the second year I became top editor, extremely rare for a woman then.”

Later, deciding to leave Louisiana, she became a teacher at Oak Ridge (TN) High School, where she taught English, creative writing and journalism. “Particularly disturbed by racial issues, I was happy to initiate, create and teach an original black lit class that applied creative interactive techniques from humanistic psychology.” She also advised the student newspaper which “won highest international awards, including the Gallup.”

Meanwhile, other important things were happening. At SLC Dolly Adams had met Ron Berthelot. Their 1966 marriage began 45 years together, weaving careers and lifestyles together and sometimes separately with reliance on air travel. As she taught at Oak Ridge, relates Dolly, Ron was a grad student. “I was the breadwinner, until I lost that position by encouraging student press freedom. Fortunately, he quickly grabbed a job abroad teaching for U of Maryland, and I was delighted to become an international travel writer, publishing articles and photos regularly in a military family magazine for several years.” During those years, the couple sampled life styles in Turkey and Germany, and explored Europe and Ethiopia.

Back in the US, Dolly and Ron eventually earned masters and doctorates from the U of TN. Hers blended communication/journalism with adult and higher education. She also created and published *PIONEER SPIRIT 76*, the US Bicentennial Anthology of the Smoky Mountains region, an East Tennessee first. Ron, meanwhile, took a Pensacola Junior College position and Dolly commuted by air for a year, “the first of many ‘double lives’ we lived,” she reported.

Another first happy to report: “Meanwhile, I had our only child.”



Son, Destin, born in 1977, now lives in North Seattle, Washington, with his wife Taryn, where he is employed by Nordstrom. He previously worked for many years in Los Angeles in the company's tech division.

In the '80s, Dolly served on the Loyola Communication Faculty in New Orleans, but ultimately decided not to raise their young child in New Orleans. So, she and Ron happily re-chose Pensacola. They cherished the antique bayou bungalow in East Pensacola Heights that they had bought in 1977 and called home for decades.

Home again, Dolly taught journalism for a half year at Pensacola High School, served as adjunct teacher across multiple fields at PJC and UWF, and mostly provided communication consulting in various organizations here and around the U.S. Together, she and Ron formed Berthelot Consulting, providing business workshops.

Dolly's experiences, past and present, led to publication in the mid-90s of her first public book, *PERFECTLY SQUARE, a Fantasy Fable for All Ages*, which turned into a theatrical work premiered at UUCP. She improved and expanded a color version.

Another book, *SCARS TO STARS, Evolving Mystical Humanist*, published last year, is a mini-memoir using stories, essays, poems and contemplative conversation to capsule, says Dolly. "My evolution as Catholic then long adamantly unchurched to what I call Mystical Humanist UU."

Dolly joined UUCP in 1984, "when it was the shabby little PUUF on Scott St., that I adored," and where she served two years as an active president without a minister. Ron followed her to PUUF. "At one point we both chose Mystical Humanist UUs to describe ourselves."

Among Dolly's UUCP contributions were a computer-illustrated auction booklet in 2007-8, and a UUCP history book with research assisted by Barbara Goggins.

Dolly lost her longtime companion when husband Ron died in 2012 following a considerable period of health decline and increased disability. Dolly, too, has suffered medical problems, but continues writing and editing and occasional work at home for select clients.

"Story emphasis has pervaded most of my life," says Dolly. "Story is my common denominator. I have always valued, shared, and promoted the beauty and wisdom in stories, factual and fanciful."

She now lives in a fourth-floor waterfront condominium, where she also enjoys "reading like crazy," savoring visual art, and is enthralled with photography, "simply taking with my omnipresent iPhone, especially capturing clouds from my balcony."



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