

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 66 Issue 7 July 2023



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear friends,

This is my first letter as president of the UU Congregation, and I love that I'm writing you this letter on a beautiful day with great news to share.



First, however, let me speak a little from the heart. I write this letter on Juneteenth, a new federal holiday but hardly a new holiday. I remember going to Holy Cross Catholic Church in Corpus Christi, Texas, with my aunts in the 80s where the congregation always celebrated Juneteenth. I can't remember if I heard a speaker talk about it, or my aunt told me the history, but I remember thinking the holiday was important and the name was catchy. We joined the other congregants in the yard for a big plate of brisket, potato salad, and cornbread. I've been a vegetarian now for 15 years, but I can still appreciate that brisket. It was more like a family reunion than anything else, but it was special in a different way.

Later in life, I learned that the folks on my father's side of the family passed as white, starting in the late 1800s and, if it was known, did a good job of keeping it to themselves. Despite the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery in Virginia, passage of the 13th Amendment ending chattel slavery, and despite have a lot of family in the area, they apparently did not feel safe to identify as Black in Virginia. Despite laws to protect them, and a community that went back generations in the area, they were not safe in their own skin. I can only speculate about this decision and what it meant for them to pass as white, but it must have been incredibly difficult. I mention this because I don't want that history to be lost again—not only my family's history but also the history of our country that is quite often going back and forth on its promises of freedom to many people.

As a historian of this era in American history, I feel that it's important to recognize the significance of the holiday. We celebrate Independence Day on July 4th with fireworks and love of freedom, yet often ignore the fact that a very large percentage of our population was left out of Jefferson's declaration: "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal." Not only were women not counted in this declaration, but also those who were enslaved. Understanding this part of my own family history has led me into a different exploration of what freedom means, and also how tenuous this concept of freedom is in the United States. After all, my ancestors hid their Blackness after Emancipation, not before, which means that being free on paper doesn't necessarily mean actually feeling free. I can only imagine what this decision meant for them, but also what it meant for the others who felt this country wasn't safe enough for them to enjoy the promises of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

At a moment when so many people in our country are losing freedoms, whether it be through anti-trans laws, attacks on the LGTBQ+ communities, the ongoing war on women, immigrants, minorities, and even democracy itself, one thing I appreciate is when people are clear on where they stand. This is my round-about way to say I was happy to see that our congregation is now poised to adopt the 8th Principle. The support for the new principle was clear at our annual meeting and by the online tally, and the only opposition to adopting the 8th Principle came from those who felt the other principles basically said the same thing: UUs oppose oppression. That said, I'm happy that at a moment when oppressive laws are being passed and white supremacy is on the rise—and gaining support from those in very high places of power—there is little doubt about where our congregation stands.

I think it's fitting that the news of this tally came on Juneteenth weekend. I know that there is some debate about the appropriate ways to celebrate Juneteenth. With this in mind, it's hard for me to think of a better way our congregation could celebrate Juneteenth than taking a strong stance against oppression. That is why I support our congregation adopting the 8th Principle.

I want to thank our past-president Laura Keith King for her diligence in seeing this work through, and I look forward to seeing it on display in our updated video once the vote is official. I think it's clear that UUs stand against oppression, but I also think it's important to remind ourselves of this. We have a long history, filled with imperfections, but one that is most often moving towards freedom. For this reason and many more, I look forward to this year of working with y'all as I stand on the shoulders of giants who've come before me in this role.

Sincerely,

Scott

Scott Satterwhite

DIRECTORY

9888 Pensacola Blvd.
Pensacola, FL 32534
(850) 475-9077
uupensacola@gmail.com

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

Community Minister:

Rev. Maggie Lovins

Governing Board

President: Scott Satterwhite
President-Elect: Joseph Vinson
Past President: Laura Keith King
Secretary: Barbara Wright
Treasurer: Bradley Vinson
Members at Large:
Denise Gunn
Patti Underwood
Marianne DeGrado

MINISTRY TEAMS

Adult Exploration: Trista Blouin
Buildings & Grounds: Hugh Ed Turner
Communications: Erin Renfro
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

Sunday Services in July

July 2, 2023

The Importance of Female Perspective in Successful Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives

Sunday Service presented by guest speaker Magi Thomley Williams of Thomley Consulting. Guest speaker and consultant Magi Thomley Williams will share guidelines on where to begin when setting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) priorities for an organization. She will highlight the importance of including attributes traditionally associated with women, such as emotion and compassion, which can sometimes be marginalized in the business world. She also will discuss how effective CSR outcomes relate to Unitarian Universalist Principles.

The first Sunday of the month is always Manna Sunday! The collection basket will be in the lobby to drop off items. Most requested items from Manna Food Pantries include canned fruit in 100% juice, fruit cups (20 oz. or less), soups (low sodium), canned dinners (20 oz. or less), and canned tomatoes (16 oz. or less).

July 9, 2023

Strive for Justice

Sunday Service presented by Dr. Lauren Anzaldo, UUCP Member. Our UUCP mission is to Celebrate Diversity, Strive for Justice, and Inspire Love. With so many social justice issues affecting our world right now, this is an appropriate time to consider

what it means for us as UUs to Strive for Justice. Lauren will share ideas and examples of striving for justice even when justice seems elusive. This is the second service in a three-part series exploring our UUCP mission statement.

July 16, 2023

Current Challenges in Protecting Children

Sunday Service presented by Stacey Kostevicki, Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Kids' House. The Gulf Coast Kids' House provides multiple services and coordinates safety for children. With the new legislation that is beginning July 1st, the Kids' House is challenged to meet their required standards which conflicts with this legislation. She will address their challenges, how to recognize and report on child abuse while offering a vision for the future.

July 23, 2023

"Lamentations" – Tisha B'Av

Joe Vinson, Board Member of UUCP with a Masters of Arts in History, will be our speaker. "Lamentations" – Tisha B'Av, the siege of Jerusalem, and processing grief and trauma through art. This service is about the siege of Jerusalem that is described in the book of Lamentations and commemorated by the Jewish holiday Tisha b'Av.

July 30, 2023

The Spacious Mind: An Exploration of the Inner Cosmos

Guest speaker Julie Patton will present this program as a follow-up to her May 21, 2023 service, "Restoring Sacred Presence in a Disenchanted World." The first program was about the numinous mysteries uncovered by quantum physics that pertain to the soul. This program will instead focus on the self and the interior world and how sacred presence shows itself there.

The Second Hour after the service itself will be devoted to an open discussion among participants about how inner mysteries penetrate our subjective lives and how we might change ourselves in such a way that some of our looming planetary disaster is minimized.

July at UUCP

LUUnch BUUnch July 12



July, 7th month of 2023 (and time to get moving), will find UUCP's Lunch Bunch at the Kingfisher, 1500 Barrancas, between Romana and Intendencia (on the north south grid) and just after the intersection with "G" St. (on the diagonal grid, headed southwest on Barrancas). We ate there several years ago, and I'm pretty sure before Chef Brian Kaderavek, who you may notice on WSRE's 23.1 or 23.2 channels being extolled by Alejandro Ramos, host of "The Great American Recipe" on PBS. (Guess where I do most of my TV watching, freely.)

Read the website and you will learn why they (BK with Amanda) named the restaurant The Kingfisher and why a third of the menu is marine-based (but no prices suggested)... No, they don't take reservations, so it would help to know if you plan to join us by Sunday the 8th at UUCP. (See below how asking for a table of 8 barely worked out for just 7 seated.)

Our return to Tudo's on Davis on the 2nd Wednesday of June, the 14th, went nicely except that we had more dishes than table space at one point, seating seven; the return of Annabelle M., and the arrival of Mary from Dallas, sister of Jack C. (the Birthday Boy of Friday 16 June). Most left with one-two means to go, except Michael as usual. But I'm pretty sure the prices were near twice from the last time I was there. Maybe that's a reminder to not go back at all, or return once a year so the upward jump is less noticeable.

Readers' Group to Meet in July

A July Readers' Group has been scheduled for Monday, July 10th at 10 am. Login info for this ZOOM meeting will be in your email on the day before. If you've never joined one of these groups, you'll find it different from the more traditional book groups in that there are NO REQUIRED books to read or discuss. The main reading topic is. . . what are you reading now, or have read recently.

Participants report that receiving recommendations for a wide variety of books and authors is valuable--and, just as important, the opportunities for participants to get to know each other better and enjoy our time together. Contact Laurie Winterberg with questions.

Hello from Your Office Admin

Greetings, UU members and friends! If we haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Laura, and I am your church office administrator. Here are a few things I can do for you:



- Order supplies
- Add your events to the Simple Church calendar
- Print and prepare documents
- Publicize information and events via the weekly church email, *The Light*, the hallway bulletin board, and the dry erase calendar in the lobby
- Update your email address with the church (or, help you troubleshoot if you're not getting emails!)
- Automate email reminders so that you don't forget important tasks

I do some work remotely, but I am generally in the office from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM on Fridays and 10:00 AM-1:00 PM on Saturdays. You can reach me by church phone during these hours, via email at uupensacola@gmail.com, or by simply leaving a note on my desk! I am so happy to be here, and I hope to make a meaningful contribution to the UU Pensacola community.

Get to Know a Longtime Member

By Charlotte Crane

Georgianna Bryant

Georgianna Bryant's biography reads both like an A+ report card from the schoolbook halls of education and a best-selling storybook of community service downtown. Georgianna served for 24 years at Pensacola Junior College's Milton campus, most recently as Assistant Provost and Dean of Students, following 11 years teaching at Bainbridge Junior College in Georgia. Throughout her

career and retirement, she has been vigorously involved in community service organizations, predominately as president, and/or chair leader, charter member, and honoree.



“I enjoyed my 35-year career in higher education, especially when former students returned to see me years later after they had begun their careers,” says Georgianna. “When I taught sociology to freshman and sophomore-level students, I loved presenting ideas which challenged their current thought patterns and made them think about social justice issues such as capital punishment, welfare vs. tax breaks for the rich, ethnic and racial prejudice, gender identity, etc.”

While serving as Dean of Students, “I was glad to help students navigate some of the hurdles of being a college student, such as qualifying for financial aid, improving their transcripts, and exploring different career paths.” She also served on many college committees and chaired the college’s award program for several years.

Georgianna considers her most important community service contribution to be involvement with the Milton Rotary Club. She was a charter member in 2005 and its president for 2015-16. The club “did numerous service projects for the community, such as providing seven elementary schools’ third-grade students with their own dictionaries—for many, the first book they owned.” Among other group memberships: Phi Delta Kappa educational fraternity, as president, and the Santa Rosa Leadership program, as chair.

Georgianna was born in Chicago in 1943, the only child of her parents, who moved the family to St. Petersburg when she was 4 years old, primarily based on advice of her father’s doctor that Florida would be better for his health. A builder and carpenter, he was 63 when she was born and died when she was 15. She graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 1961. Georgianna received a tuition scholarship for her first year of junior college from a civic group, and, “I purchased my books with babysitting monies I had saved.”

Georgianna received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in sociology from Florida State University in 1974 and 1975, and her doctorate in higher education, specializing in Student Personnel Administration, from FSU in 1981. Achieving that degree, she believes, was her biggest personal accomplishment. Her mother, her only close living relative at the time, “thought the only book worth reading was the Bible.”

Her religious journey, believes Georgianna, is similar to that of many of the other UUs—and perhaps more exciting. As a young child, she attended the Presbyterian Church due to the influence

of her maternal grandmother. When she was in 4th and 5th grades, her mother began to follow the Jehovah Witness faith and required her to follow its practices as well; of strongest memory: the prohibition of pledging allegiance to the U.S. flag. Then as a teenager, she wanted to attend the neighborhood Methodist Church attended by many of her friends, and her father allowed her to do so. But at age 19, she married her first husband, John, who was unaffiliated in a faith, prompting her, says Georgianna, to encounter many facts causing her to doubt the Christian faith and define herself as agnostic.

Her marriage also resulted in a slower pace towards her doctorate. "I spent the next nine years working while John completed junior college, his bachelor's degree, his master's degree, and subsequently his doctorate." When they divorced, she was in her second year of college, and she then strove whole-heartedly, fulltime in summers and taking school-year classes while also teaching in a junior college. Comments Georgianna: "They say the 'p' in Ph.D. stands for perseverance, which is probably true."

Her religious journey also advanced about this time. While teaching at Bainbridge College, she was told by colleagues that she sounded like a Unitarian. "Not knowing what a Unitarian was," says Georgianna, "in July 1979, I decided to attend the Tallahassee Unitarian Universalist Church and found my religious home (and my second husband!)." She joined that church and became very active, including senior youth advising, financial planning, social issues, and ministerial selection.

Prompting the move to Tallahassee was another career move, the beginning of her doctorate degree studies. Her new husband, Tom Bryant, who was an environmental health specialist, had worked in Jacksonville for Florida, then moved to Tallahassee. For Georgianna, the next years were chockfull, as she commuted daily to teach at Bainbridge Junior College while attending graduate school at FSU.

In 1986, she and Tom moved to Milton for her new job with PSC, and they joined PUUF (early UUCP). Tom, 23 years older than Georgianna, died in 1998 after suffering from Alzheimer's disease and spending a short time in a nursing home. When Tom was terminal, Georgianna adopted her daughter Kim, who was then 13 years old. "Losing Tom, I was only in my 50s, and I wanted to make a difference in a young girl's life," says Georgianna. "I felt adopting her was a personal accomplishment for both me and her." Kim has since graduated from UWF with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Georgianna retired from PJC in 2010, opening her calendar to make up for lost travel opportunities. She took a Caribbean cruise, visited Philadelphia on a Road's Scholar trip, and toured historical Williamsburg and Bryce and Zion National Parks. Her friend Barbara Goggins was her travel companion for several trips, including a 15-day cruise to Hawaii. "Seeing nature's beauty up close and personal and learning histories of different areas is very rewarding," says Georgianna. In 2021, she moved to Azalea Trace in Pensacola.

In Georgianna's 30-plus years as a UUCP member, she has been eager to serve the church, participating as a board member, secretary and vice president, as chair of the Finance Team for eight years, as coordinator of at least 15 very profitable yard sales, and currently as chair of the church's Charitable Trust. Her spiritual view? "I define myself as a humanist, believing that we as humans are responsible for our actions including being responsible for the future and our earth's future." And thus be it so.



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The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
9888 Pensacola Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32534

TO:



Deadline for the August *Light*:
Friday, July 21

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