

Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ormond Beach

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER—Exciting Programming and Partnership for 202

In July, I presented three sermons on racial justice which presented two basic challenges to the congregation:

- (1) to increase our awareness of the systems which perpetuate racial injustice in our society
- (2) to increase our cross-cultural competency.

I promised to develop programming that would help us rise to those challenges, and I am excited to say that with the help of Linda Kalaydjian, Reinhold Schlieper, Dan Gribbin, and Ellen Nielsen, we now have a terrific list of events to announce.

What is more, we are partnering with the African-American Cultural Society (AACS) on some of these events. This collaboration has come about because of Reinhold's outreach. He serves on the board of the AACS, and has brought us an excellent three-part series by Dr. Rob Whiting on African-American Spirituality. As a result, we are inviting all members of the AACS to attend our scheduled events and, as described below, some of these folks will be co-presenters. This is an exciting opportunity that will boost our learning and our experience of African-American culture.

A detailed schedule of events appears on the following page, but there are four types of presentations:

Racial Justice Issues Through a Feminist Lens facilitated by Linda Kalaydjian— this will include a film, a poetry reading, and a recorded play.

Classic and Contemporary African-American Films presented by Reinhold Schlieper, and Sybil Dodson-Lucas of the AACS – includes a recording of an opera by Scott Joplin, and two films with an all-African cast and crew.

Community Book Read facilitated by Ellen Nielson – *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson, a best-seller everyone is talking about.

Book Club of African American Authors facilitated by Dan Gribbin and Ima Jackson of the AACS – three excellent choices – read one or all and attend the discussions scheduled in March.

In addition, there are two additional film viewings, and I also plan to facilitate a one-day discussion on the report by the UUA's Commission on Institutional Change.

Please look over the UUCOB Racial Justice Programming schedule on the following page. Choose the events that look interesting to you and mark your calendars. All events will be presented on Zoom, and the links will go out by email, the E-news, and posted on our website near the date of presentation. **Please note that the first presentation, the film *Smoke Signals* is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, at 4:00 pm.**

I am so pleased with the creativity and thoughtfulness that Linda, Reinhold, Dan, and Ellen are bringing to us. Attend as many events as you can. With these learning opportunities, we will become better, wiser allies with our neighbors of color, thus putting a little more bend towards justice on the long arc of the universe.

In faith and love,
Rev. Kathy



UUC Racial Justice Programming-- 2020 - 2021

Racial Justice Issues Through a Feminist Lens— Linda Kalaydjian

Wednesday, 02 Dec 2020, 4 pm: ***Smoke Signals***, Film, Sherman Alexie, Screenwriter. (Reinhold will play DVD)

Wednesday, 17 Feb 2021, 4 pm: ***And Still I Rise*** by Maya Angelou, poetry reading and discussion

Wednesday, 07 April 2021, 4 pm: ***For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuff***, Play by Ntozake Shange. (Reinhold will play DVD)

Classic and Contemporary African-American Films – Reinhold Schlieper & Sybil Dodson-Lucas (AACs)

Wednesday, 06 Jan 2021, 4 pm: ***Treemonisha*** an opera by Scott Joplin DVD

Wednesday, 20 Jan 2021, 4 pm: ***God's Stepchildren*** by Oscar Micheaux Film DVD

Wednesday, 03 Feb 2021, 4 pm: ***Green Days by the River*** a Trinidad and Tobago Production (Kweli TV)

Community Book Read – Ellen Nielsen

Saturday, 06 Feb 2021, 10 am: ***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*** by Isabel Wilkerson

Book Club of African American Authors – Dan Gribbin & Ima Jackson

Wednesday, 03 March 2021, 4 pm: ***Purple Hibiscus*** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Wednesday, 17 March 2021, 4 pm: ***Between the World and Me*** by Ta'Neahsi Coates

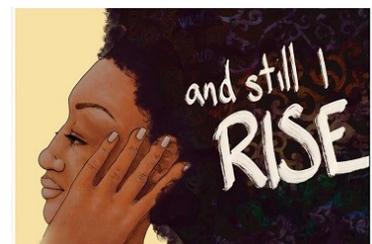
Wednesday, 31 March 2021, 4 pm: ***Their Eyes Were Watching God*** by Zora Neale Hurston

Report from the UUA Commission on Institutional Change – Rev Kathy

Saturday, 23 Jan 2021, 10 am: "Widening Our Circle of Concern" **Additional Films**

Wednesday, 16 December 2020, 4 pm: ***13th*** (Netflix) Reinhold

Friday, 19 February 2021, 6:30 pm: ***Just Mercy*** (Netflix) Rev. Kathy



OUR PRESIDENT'S PEN—Wishing You Happy Holidays

May this Christmas season be a season of joy for you! We, as Unitarian Universalists, can see the good and sense of peace that comes with spending time with those in our own household “bubble” and through the greeting cards, e-mails and phone calls where we share our happy wishes for friends and loved ones who are also spending time with fewer folks than usual. Fortunately, we understand the reasons for our more secluded lives and can therefore make adjustments more easily.



Our work as Unitarian Universalists has not stopped even though the pandemic has made us more restricted. We have supported the Jerry Doliner Food Bank and God's Bathhouse which provide personal items and food for homeless folks in our local community. We began to offer “to go” bags through God's Bathhouse for the homeless, filled with items they need. Renovating our church building has even helped provide some income for painters, paint companies, flooring providers, installers, and others during these troubled economic times.

In addition, our members have helped restore our building with hundreds of volunteer hours to organize the renovation, following through with many of its aspects, and putting us back together better than ever. Soon there will be more opportunities to do outside work when the weather is cooler. However, the recent increase in Covid-19 cases doesn't allow for us to set a firm “reopening” date. If you would like to see the choices of the new flooring, colors, etc. please e-mail me at juliehilburn26@gmail.com to arrange a tour.

We find joy in supporting our own UU community. Soul Matters groups continue meeting via Zoom as do our Life Long Learning classes. Sunday services now provide a discussion time after the worship service ends. Our minister is helping plan special events, which spread holiday cheer and good wishes to our UU members. Plans are also underway, under the guidance of the Caring Committee, to make sure that many folks are especially contacted and no one forgotten. My hope is that we, as a loving community, have a vibrant, healthy, joyous and fulfilling holiday season. Cheers!

--Julie Hilburn

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

November 29 – The Spiral of Gratefulness: A Post-Thanksgiving Service of Readings and Music

"In each of us there is a spark that can reverse the trends of violence and depression spiraling within us and in the world around us. By setting in motion the spiral of gratefulness, we begin the journey toward peace and joy." (David Steindl-Rast) Our Worship Committee members will coordinate this special service.

December 6—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Still Small Voice”

We have all heard it, the voice of authenticity and discernment from deep within that gives us courage, conviction, and clarity. It's the still small voice which tells us all will be well, even when things appear otherwise. What is the nature of this voice and how do we cultivate an ear for it?

December 13—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Quiet Anticipation”

In the Christian tradition, Advent is the act of waiting with quiet anticipation for a miraculous birth to light up the world. What are we waiting for during these long nights and short days of the winter season? What can we learn from the countercultural acts of stillness and patience as Christmas approaches?

December 20—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Reasons for the Season”

This service will be an experiment in which Rev Kathy invites you to participate. Between now and December 16th, please email her your fondest memories of Christmas, Hannukah, or Winter Holiday celebrations of the past. Your memories should be in the form of short, anonymous phrases like, “making cookies with Grandma,” or “my mother’s latkes,” or “the year the cat toppled the tree.” Rev Kathy will share these memories in a holiday litany of cheer.

December 27— Ellen Nielsen and the Congregation, “Hopes for the New Year”

As we look back at 2020, what joys and sorrows of this eventful year do we remember? As we look forward to 2021, what are our hopes for the coming year? No regular sermon this Sunday—instead, members of the congregation will have a chance to speak about their experiences this last year and their hopes for 2021.

January 3— Cliff Jackson, “Aphantasia: When the Mind’s Eye is Blind”

The world changed for Cliff when he found out he has Aphantasia— the inability to form mental images. Recent research has revealed a continuum or wide variation among individuals in their ability to visualize familiar objects or people. Cliff will share facts, findings and his own experiences related to Aphantasia. He will explain the test and bell curve so that anyone who is interested can see where they fall on that continuum. He hopes to share new meaning to the UU phrase: “We need not think alike to love alike.”

Although we will NOT be meeting in person as a congregation for these Sunday services, they will be live streamed on Zoom each appropriate Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Please join us and tune in then.

You can access the link for them on our website at <http://www.uuormond.org/>

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CAFÉ— Join in Singing, Share Your Talent, or Just Have a Good Time

Our UU members and friends are invited to participate in our UU Christmas Eve Café on Zoom! You may want to tune in to just enjoy listening or to share your talent. Send the title(s) and time(s) of your performance to Ludy Goodson songsavor@hotmail.com before **Monday, December 14**. Rev. Kathy and Ludy will co-host the Zoom service, and the link will be on our UUCOB website. We look forward to your helping celebrate Christmas Eve, including singalongs of some favorites of the Christmas season, ending with “Silent Night.” Join us at **5 p.m. on Christmas Eve!**

THE ALLIANCE— Our Christmas Project

UUCOB Alliance members met on Zoom at noon on November 17th to reconnect socially and to explore ways for the Alliance to continue its community outreach mission of service.

The holiday season is often difficult for struggling families, and the pandemic has made these problems worse. This month, the Alliance is raising funds to provide gifts for students at Osceola Elementary School in Ormond Beach, located several blocks south of UUCOB. The project will be coordinated by Gaia Davies, who will work closely with the school staff to identify the children who are most in need.

If you would like to help with selection or delivery of the gifts, please contact Gaia at gaiadavies@gmail.com. Congregation members who want to contribute money toward this Christmas project should email or text Alliance treasurer Linda Kalaydjian at lindakalaj14@gmail.com and then follow up by mailing a check made out to “UUCOB Alliance” to Linda at 784 Peninsula Drive, Ormond Beach FL 32176.

--Ellen Nielsen



Joanne Kennedy

Judy Gordon

In the Beginning

KUDOS TO OUR WEB TEAM—Seventeen Years of Service!

After over seventeen years of managing the Ormond UU website, Judy Gordon and I are retiring. A new Web Team will be taking over soon with a new design.

For a little history relating to the beginning of the site — In early 2000, there was talk about starting a website, but no one was doing anything about it. At that time, our church had a Web address but not a website.

So, about 2002, Judy asked me if I would like to help her start a Unitarian Universalist Society website for our congregation, and we began working on it. At that time, Jon Day was a local Web server host who had created an html Web program. He worked with us for several months to develop our first UU website, teaching us the html “language” as we went along. Then, to gather ideas, we looked at fourteen different UU websites around the country to see how other UUs designed and organized their sites.

At the time, UU member E.D. Mann cheered us on — he understood just how involved the project was. That site continued as our official one until 2015 when Jon, the site host, retired. We had to find a different server and wanted to stay with a local provider. We contacted Matt Hamel of Volusia Computers, who offered to work with us to develop and then host our site, based on the Concrete5 content management system.

Again, we revisited other UU websites around the US and redesigned the site with Matt’s ongoing assistance. We would meet with him early in the morning before his shop opened. Then we would go to breakfast together for a little fun. Even though the site took weeks to create, we enjoyed working together and sharing ideas. Our UUCOB website is now hosted by Darren Hatcher, who used to work for Volusia Computers.

Judy and I have both thoroughly enjoyed working together on the site for the past seventeen years. We each have different abilities, so we were able to draw on them to create and maintain the existing website. Now it is time for us to step back and let some “new blood” with new ideas take charge. We are sure the new Web Team will create a UUCOB website that will move us into the future.

We thank all of you for your support and material over the years, contributions which have made our site so useful. We are both looking forward to our “retirement” this month.

--Joanne Kennedy (with Judy Gordon)

GENEROUS GIVING— About Those End-of-the-Year Solicitations



In December, we receive those welcome Christmas cards from family and friends, but our mailboxes are also stuffed with letters from charities begging for money. The pressure is on to beat the IRS tax deduction deadline. But how can we judge the worthiness of these causes? How do we know that our contribution will actually help? Maybe a lot of it will go to pay for “administrative expenses” — maybe even to pay some Fat Cat CEO a big salary?

To find out, we can check with **Charity Navigator**, a website that ranks a charity, comparing it with other similar ones. For example, the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)**, which works for human rights and social justice in the U.S and around the world, scored a **96%** in terms of putting our contributions to work. In fact, UUSC ranks even higher in terms of putting dollars into action than Human Rights Watch (91%) or the American Red Cross (83%). Check on your charity before you donate, and while you’re at it, consider donating to UUSC. See Charity Navigator’s useful website at <https://www.charitynavigator.org/>

WELCOME BACK — Janet Hamer

Originally from a small farming community in central Illinois, Janet Hamer and her family moved to Daytona Beach in 1980. She has two adult children — a son in South Florida and a daughter in Jacksonville — as well as four wonderful and talented grandchildren. Sadly, Janet's husband died in a tragic house fire two years ago. Janet rejoined our congregation afterwards although she has been involved with UU churches since getting married in the Elgin (Illinois) UU Church over 40 years ago. Raised Baptist in a conservative community, some may speculate on how such a UU connection could happen. Janet traces it back to the seismic social shift of the late 1960's and her quest for a just and equal society.



Janet is passionate about social and economic justice. After finishing her undergraduate and graduate degrees, she worked for 35 years in community development and affordable housing in local governments in both Illinois and Florida. At the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Florida branch), she worked with low-and-moderate income communities and financial institutions. Janet retired from the Fed four years ago, but couldn't give it up, so she is now at TD Bank as the Community Development Manager working in similar communities. As a "liberal do-gooder," Janet serves on several nonprofit boards including the National Disability Institute. She is also a member of the United Way Community Impact Cabinet, board member on the Volusia/ Flagler Homeless Commission, and volunteers at the Bethune-Cookman University Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site. In her spare time, Janet loves to work in her garden.

--Dorothy Dobbins

LIFE-LONG LEARNING—Program for December

Our Life Long Learning programs are varied and involve topics related to philosophy, history and the arts as well as science and education. Each session includes time for audience questions and comments. Although our LLL programs usually take place in our church building, because of the coronavirus, they will be presented virtually. The link to the program will be available through our UUCOB website <http://www.uuormond.org/> and you can join us there through Zoom, usually twice a month on **Wednesdays, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.**

Dan Kennedy, “Carl Jung: A Study in Contrasts: Psychologist or Mystic?” — Wednesday, December 9th



Carl Jung was one of the major figures in the early development of both theoretical and applied psychology. Whether he was as much a mystic as a psychologist has always been a question. We will examine that issue as well as early developments in psychology, Jung's career and his life in general. While he is no longer a significant influence in mainstream psychology, he continues to be of interest to many people.

Dr. Dan Kennedy is retired from a career that combined psychology and education, spent mainly in university settings (Univ of Oregon, Univ of Hawaii, & Florida International Univ). In retirement, he has been involved in study of a variety of areas and in various adult education activities.

--Tom Hilburn

Note from the Membership Committee—The outdoor tables presently on our UU patio are badly rusted and in need of replacement. If anyone would like to “gift” patio furniture to our UU please contact Rebecca Caschette recaschette@gmail.com.

Calendar for December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom	2 Worship mtg.: 11 am-Noon via Zoom Racial Justice: "Smoke Signals" 4 - 5:30 pm via Zoom	3 Spiritual Growth: 4:30 – 6 pm via Zoom Board of Trustees mtg: 5:30- 7 pm via Zoom	4 Potluck dinner: Cancelled	5 Music rehearsal: 10-11 am
6 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am both via Zoom N. Anon: 7-8 pm	7 Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm via Zoom Yoga: 5-7 pm	8 Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom	9 Life Long Learning: "Carl Jung" 4:00- 5:30 pm via Zoom	10 Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm via Zoom Democratic Club: 6:30-7:30 pm via Zoom	11	12 Music rehearsal: 10-11 am
13 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am both via Zoom N. Anon: 7-8 pm	14 Finance Mtg.: 10:30am - noon via Zoom Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm via Zoom Yoga: 5-7 pm	15 Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom	16 Racial Justice: "13 th " 4 - 5:30 pm via Zoom	17 Membership Mtg: 2:30-4 pm Zoom Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm via Zoom	18	19 Music rehearsal: 10-11 am IONS: 1- 4 pm
20 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am both via Zoom N. Anon: 7-8 pm Jotter articles due	21 Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: via Zoom Yoga: 5-7 pm	22 Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom	23 Group room reservation: 2 -4 pm	24 Christmas Eve Café 5 – 7 pm via Zoom	25 Christmas Day 	26 Music rehearsal: 10-11 am
27 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am both via Zoom N Anon: 7- 8 pm	28 Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: via Zoom Yoga: : 5-7 pm	29 Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom	30	31 New Year's Eve 		

Upcoming Worship Services

Theme for December: Stillness

Date:	Topic:	Presenter:	Service Leader:
November 29--	"The Spiral of Gratefulness"	--Worship Committee	--Ludy Goodson
December 6--	"Still Small Voice"	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Denise Carter
December 13--	"Quiet Anticipation"	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Denise Carter
December 20--	"Reasons for the Season"	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Denise Carter
December 27--	"Hopes for the New Year"	--Congregation members	--Ellen Nielsen
January 3--	"Aphantasia: When the Mind's Eye is Blind"	--Cliff Jackson	--Patty Alsobrook

Although we will not be meeting together in our church building for these services, you can still join us for them. They will be live streamed on Zoom at 10:30 a.m. on each appropriate Sunday.

We appreciate our musicians and technical folks who are helping to facilitate these Zoom sessions! You can access the Zoom link for the services on our website at <http://www.uuormond.org/>

December Birthdays

Judy Gordon -6th

Nancy Greenleaf-6th

Evan Rivers -15th

Don Kennedy -26th

Kathryn Neel -28th



The Jotter

December 2020

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

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Julie Hilburn, President: juliehilburn26@gmail.com

RE teachers: Debra Hanson/Mary Wentzel

Cathy Jackson: Office Administrator:

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Website: <http://www.uuormond.org>

Carolyn West: *Jotter* westwind273@bellsouth.net

Betty Green: *E-News* bngreen@fastmail.us

Children's RE via Zoom

Discussion Group via Zoom

Worship Services via Zoom

(See our website above for links)

Church administrator Cathy Jackson will be working from home; you can e-mail her or leave a message at 677-6172.