

Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ormond Beach

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER— “Post-Election Blues”

Since I delivered the above-titled sermon on November 13, I have received feedback that it was too political and imbalanced toward liberalism and the Democratic candidate for POTUS, Hillary Clinton, and that it was hurtful to some who are Republicans and to some who voted for Donald Trump.

Recently, I listened to my sermon and realized why, if you were not a Democrat or Clinton supporter, you might have stopped listening after the first five minutes. If I had a do-over, I would have started my sermon differently. At the time, I felt strongly that I should not dance around the elephant in the room, which was partisan politics. I was and am worried about the split, 50/50, of political and social values that are poles apart between Republicans and Democrats. I am worried about what this portends if we don't stay in conversation with each other on Capitol Hill and in our personal lives.

One thing I did not intend to do was hurt anyone's feelings. I am truly sorry if I did. I ask you to listen to “Post-Election Blues” again through to the end and if you remain hurt and have not talked to me about it, I encourage you to do so. It is vitally important that we keep the dialogue open and endeavor to understand each other's viewpoints.

We are a community of people with different beliefs about God or Not-God. We are a community of people with differing political views. We are a community of people with differing heroes. And, we are a community of people who gather not around the same God, politics, or ideology but around a covenant, a promise to each other to be in right relationship and to uphold a set of spiritual values as reflected in our Seven Principles. To be in right relationship with each other does not mean we will never make mistakes. In fact, knowing that we will requires us to stay at the table, keep the dialogue open, and be ready to apologize when called for. We are a diverse community of people and that is what makes us strong. Let's keep it that way.

Yours in faith,
--Rev. Kathy

Reading *The New Jim Crow* . . .



In January, Rev. Kathy will present a sermon series on the experience of African-American people in today's United States. The book *The New Jim Crow: Colorblindness in the Age of Mass Incarceration*, by Michelle Alexander, will be the subject of the sermon on January 8, 2017. Alexander's study of the criminal justice system provides an excellent background for the complex, intersecting issues of structural racism in our society today.

Rev. Kathy invites all who are interested to read *The New Jim Crow* not only to give deeper understanding to her sermon series, but also to participate in a series of facilitated discussions on the book. The discussions will take place from 10:00 a.m. to noon at UU on three Saturdays, January 14, 21, and 28.

Alexander's book is available through many media outlets including Amazon, Kindle, Audible, and Google Books. Let Rev. Kathy know if you have questions or problems attaining the book.

SMALL-GROUP MINISTRY--Soul Matters

In January, I will be organizing a small group ministry program called “Soul Matters” for interested members and friends who want to come together in groups of five to ten people to contemplate a monthly theme. Soul Matters is not intended to replace existing Connect Groups. Rather, Soul Matters will be a new iteration of small-group ministry that will provide an opportunity for new and existing members of the congregation to engage a spiritual practice which goes a little deeper than that of Sunday mornings.

Soul Matters groups are not intended to be affinity or discussion groups. Being in a Soul Matters group is a quiet, contemplative way of exploring our spiritual paths together. Soul Matters Small-Group Ministry was put together by the Rev. Scott Tayler, Director of Congregational Life at the Unitarian Universalist Association. Rev. Tayler bases Soul Matters on Quaker teacher, Parker Palmer’s book “A Hidden Wholeness.” I worked with Rev. Tayler and Soul Matters groups when I interned at First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY, and when Rev. Tayler was the co-lead minister there. Soul Matters is a very organized, professionally-run resource for small group ministry. Hundreds of UU congregations across the country subscribe to it.

In February, I will present a program called Starting Point which will introduce Soul Matters to those who sign up in January. When you sign up, I will give you an introductory packet. In the meantime, if you have questions, feel free to email me or catch me at UU. I am excited about launching Soul Matters. I think many of you are going to find the deeper connections we yearn for in living out our faith tradition.

--Rev. Kathy



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE— A New Beginning

We have come to the beginning of the next calendar year of our lifespan. Although we see that designation as a fact, the year’s beginning is totally arbitrary when understood in the convoluted history of calendar making. Yet every year, we almost universally see the new year as a significant milestone. We look back and take stock. We look forward and resolve to do better. When the Romans named the month of January after their two-faced god of beginnings and transitions, they must have known that taking stock is inevitable when looking both ways while on the brink of something new. Neither is easy if you work at examining the past and future plans seriously. Looking back involves facing our own failures to ourselves and others, while looking forward means admitting that we know we can do better, but only if we’re willing to expend the considerable effort it takes to push ourselves out of well-worn ruts.

It’s important to remember, as we work at such evaluations, to recognize and honor what we have done that has been good, that has made a positive difference. Most of us are quicker to judge our failures than we are to allow ourselves to feel good about our successes. Maybe this is one of those failures we can work on.

I’m hoping that what each of us does in the way of personal evaluation, we can also do as a community. I hope we can wrestle with honest answers to all three types of appraisals — what we have done well, what we can do better, and how we are going to make the better happen. The arbitrary new year is a good time to stop and look, but, in truth, we need to make this practice an always attitude.

Happy New Year!

--Joan Thate

SECOND HARVEST—Our January 15th Share-the-Plate Partner

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida is a private, nonprofit organization that collects, stores, and distributes donated food to more than 500 partner agencies in six Central Florida counties. Second Harvest fights hunger by providing access to food and other grocery products to meet the need, bringing visibility to the invisible problem of hunger and poverty.

Second Harvest collects food donated from a variety of sources such as grocery stores and restaurants, farmers, packers and shippers of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as from the USDA Commodity program. It operates distribution centers in six Central Florida counties that send the food to programs such as soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and programs which provide better nutrition and food security for children. Because of economies of scale, Second Harvest can turn every dollar which is donated into up to \$9.00 worth of food. Please be generous on January 15th when we share our offering with Second Harvest.

--Ellen Nielsen

THE ALLIANCE – A Truly Merry Christmas

A few Sundays ago, Reverend Shoopman said that Christmas should be all about tending to the needy and the poor. I'm happy to say that we have accomplished that goal well in our small and caring congregation here in Ormond Beach! This month, for Christmas, we "adopted" sixteen teenagers living in group homes in DeLand—kids who were removed from their own homes due to abuse or inadequate parenting.

Here is what we have accomplished for this project: Our crafts table was a whopping success— in fact, we sold out most of our products. Our new item, the "crumb catcher" was a big hit, and we sold almost thirty of them. Pot holders, holiday tea, moisturizers' and purse organizers are gone, as well. Our decorative wine bottle lighthouses were also a success. Handmade hats and scarves were in demand too. In the weeks leading up to our holiday fair, the crafts group had fun working together, a true bonding experience, while we toiled like Santa's elves at the North Pole!

We decorated the UU Christmas tree with new pairs of colorful socks which will go to the homeless shelter supported by the Domestic Abuse Council. Families live there to escape the domestic violence in their homes.

Our other activities also helped raise funds for our Christmas teens. Our cookie sale did great; we made over \$300 this year while having many leftovers to give to the teens in the group home. We prepared two large Christmas bags filled with our cookies that were lovingly made by the Alliance members. And thank you for being generous with your jewelry donations! People had fun Christmas shopping as they looked through our gems, contributed by Alliance members. Thus, we raised a few hundred dollars at the jewelry table, too.

We have reached our monetary goal to pay for the teenagers' gifts. Each year I am always worried that we will not raise enough money, and each year we succeed with room to spare due to our wonderful and generous congregation. We delivered the Christmas gifts on Wednesday December 21st. The teens received duffle bags, MP3 players, iTunes cards, name-brand sneakers and five pairs of socks each, fishing poles and tackle boxes for the boys and makeup and toiletries for the girls, movie passes, and gift certificates to Chili's.

I can't thank enough the crafters, the bakers, and the people who purchased our crafts and cookies, as well as the generous Share-the-Plate donations. Together we have created a truly a Merry Christmas!

--Jeanne Young



UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

January 1—Harry White and others, “Social Justice Issues for 2017”

Our congregation will participate with members of our newly revitalized Social Justice Committee, who will share their perspectives on some specific issues that deserve our attention during the new year.

Service Leader: Ellen Nielsen

January 8—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, *The Black American Experience: The New Jim Crow*”

First in a sermon series on trying to understand “how African-Americans experience our society; Rev Kathy explores three influential books on structural racism in our country. The series begins with a book by Michelle Alexander titled *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in Age of Colorblindness*. Alexander, an African American attorney, provides a clear account of the often-unseen structures of racism which exist in our judicial system. Note: Alexander’s book is a congregational read which will be discussed from 10 a.m. to noon on three Saturdays, January 14, 21, 28

Service Leader: Rita Sheeler

January 15—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “*The Black American Experience: Ta’Nehisi Coates*”

Continuing in a sermon series trying to understand how African-Americans experience our society. Coates is an award-winning writer for “The Atlantic.” He wrote the book, *Between the World and Me*, a very personal account of his attempt to explain to his young son the social liabilities inherent in having a black body.

Service Leader: Phil Elliott

January 22—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “*The Black American Experience: Bryan Stevenson on Justice & Mercy*”

The last in a sermon series trying to understand how African-Americans experience our society - Stevenson, an African American attorney tells his compelling story of saving an innocent man from the death penalty in his book, *Just Mercy*. In the process, Stevenson uncovers a conspiring political machine attempting to maintain the status quo of oppression for impoverished Black Americans.

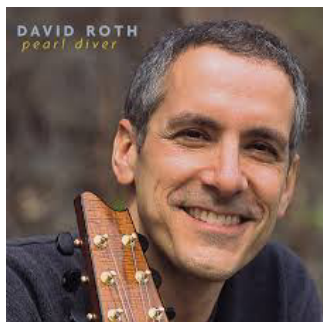
Service Leader: Linda Kalaydjian

January 29—Dan Gribbin, “*The Blues and the American Spirit*”

Gribbin traces the blues from work songs and field hollers through Leadbelly, who was a repository for these songs and who gave white America its first experience with Delta Blues, helping them to connect with the descendants of slaves. While gospel music inspired African-Americans to endure the hardships, the Blues laid the groundwork for epic social change.

Service Leader: Denise Carter

DAVID ROTH— Special Folksinger at UU on January 18th



Folksinger David Roth will be with us on Wednesday evening, January 18, at 7 p.m. for a concert at our UU sanctuary. James van Pelt, of the New Haven Folk Alliance, says: “David's pure, smooth voice, unsurpassed instrumental ability, incredible humor, and heart-piercing, intelligent lyrics brought folk music, New Age, comedy club, coffee house, and a bit of heaven all together in one unforgettable evening.”

A modest \$10 per ticket will allow as many of our UU members and others in our community as possible to attend the event. Please make it a point to obtain your ticket from Dan Gribbin (386-956-1813) or from the UU office.

OUR SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE – Helping Victims Escape Exploitation and Violence



To join the discussion on the UU Congregation of Ormond Beach Social Justice Facebook page, go to Facebook.com and enter the search term “UU Congregation of Ormond Beach Social Justice” in the search box and press “enter.” Or you can e-mail Harry at the address below and ask to join. Your participation is critical, and becoming an activist can help bring badly needed social change. You are invited to participate in discussion about the following social justice issues as they relate to our state and local areas:

Human Trafficking - The illegal trade of human beings, mainly for the purposes of forced labor and sex trafficking. Men, women, and children are being exploited for manual and sexual labor against their will. The average age of a trafficking victim is 12 years old. Arrest data is sparse because the victims are afraid to speak out. Many prostitution arrests are probably arrests of individuals forced to serve as sex slaves. Florida data for 2015 include 302 cases of sex trafficking and 68 cases of forced child or domestic labor.

Domestic Violence - Florida law defines “domestic violence” as any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death, committed by a family or household member against another family or household member. Statistics for Ormond Beach in 2016 include a total of 523 domestic violence calls, and 240 arrests. In 2016, Daytona Beach had three times that number—a total of 1585 domestic violence calls, with 1145 arrests.

--Harry R. White, leighnharry@yahoo.com

F.A.I.T.H. UPDATE –Homeless Shelter and Civil Citation Programs Gain Official Support

To gain backing for the Volusia Safe Harbor homeless facility, F.A.I.T.H. members have met with the newly elected Volusia County Commissioners and Daytona Beach City Council members — and all of them have agreed to support this important project. Ed Kelley, the new Chairman of the Volusia County Council, has also expressed his support. F.A.I.T.H. members are optimistic that 2017 will be the year for breaking ground and starting construction of a permanent shelter for homeless adults in our community.

Other social justice initiatives have gained ground as well. Newly elected Florida State Representative Patrick Henry has agreed to support a Civil Citation bill that would increase and standardize statewide the use of civil citations instead of criminal penalties for youths who commit non-violent offences. In addition, the newly constituted Committee on Mental Health and Addiction is researching mental health issues and will propose a plan for action. Dan Kennedy and Roger Patterson of our congregation will participate in this effort.

Our numbers will make a difference as we join with more than 30 other Volusia County churches in support of social justice in our community. Thus, we urge all members of our congregation to attend the F.A.I.T.H. Action Assembly at Peabody Auditorium on March 27, 6:30 p.m. Before then, we will be holding a Justice Ministry Team Assembly for members of our UU.

--Leigh Montgomery

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION--

LGBTQ individuals and allies are invited to a meeting on Sunday, January 15, 2017. We will gather at T.G. Friday's at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the re-certification through the UUA of our UU as a Welcoming Congregation.

--Rita Scheeler & Brenda Tart

LIFE LONG LEARNING— Program for January

The Life Long Learning programs for 2017 will be varied and include topics related to philosophy, history, spirituality, archaeology, and education. Each program includes time for audience questions and comments. Excepting holidays, programs are usually scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Human Nature and the Human Future

Part 1: Wednesday, January 11, 2017 – “Human Nature and the Future”

Part 2: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 – “The World We Want to Achieve”

Retired university professor Dan Kennedy will present this two-part program from a long-range, historical viewpoint, human development has contained both positive and negative aspects. Has the general pattern been mainly positive or negative? What are the prospects for the human future? This two-part program will examine these questions, and more, with help from the disciplines of biology, neuroscience, history, anthropology, and psychology. Audience participation will be encouraged.

--Dan Kennedy

OUR MARKETPLACE FUNDRAISING EVENT NEEDS YOU!

As the end of the year approaches, our Marketplace fundraiser needs more contributions of meals, events, and services donations in order to make our fundraising as successful as the past two years' events have been.

We have had some wonderful meals, events, and services donated by our members for this year's event, but we haven't heard from many of you! In order to provide additional opportunity for members to submit their fantastic ideas and events, we have extended the deadline to receive completed donation forms through Sunday, January 1st. You can find donation forms on the UUCOB website, and you also can pick up and complete the form at the December 25th and January 1st Sunday services.

Need some ideas about what kind of event, meal, or service to offer? See Preston or Susan Garrison at the Marketplace Donor table in the back of the church, or e-mail Susan at SBGarrisonSBG@aol.com

The real excitement begins when the Marketplace's Purchase tables open after the Sunday services on January 8, 15, and 22. The final day for making purchases for your favorite meals, services and/or events will be Sunday, January 22. Following the final purchase Sunday, all notices and invoices will be submitted to those making purchases no later than Sunday, February 5.

This year no live auction or congregational dinner will be associated with the Marketplace fundraising event. All information, including items available for purchase, will also be posted on the UUCOB website along with weekly progress reports as the event unfolds. Thanks to all who have supported the previous Marketplace fundraising projects, and to those who have already made contributions to the 2016-2017 Marketplace.

--Preston & Susan Garrison

UUA Spring Gatherings— April 8-10, 2017

The annual UUA regional Spring Gatherings will focus on the needs of Southern Region UU congregations, meeting at four locations on April 8-10, 2017. In our area, these events will be hosted by the UU Fellowship of Marion County in Summerfield, Florida. The regional UUA staff is working with the hosting congregations to offer workshops based on theology, justice and stewardship. Events will include a panel discussion with the UUA Presidential Candidates to be video-streamed from the Charleston location to the Marion County Fellowship. Each Spring Gathering will also include a meeting for congregational presidents.

January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 New Year's Day Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>2 (New Year's Day observed)</p>	<p>3 Mah Jongg 2or 3: 10 am -noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>4 Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm CUUPS: 7-9 pm</p>	<p>5 Caring Mtg.: 10 -11 am Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm</p>	<p>6 Tai Chi: 10-11:30 am Startup Consultation: 4 -9 pm 1st Friday Potluck: 6-8:30 pm</p>	<p>7 Startup Consultation: 9 am-2 pm Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm</p>
<p>8 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>9 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm</p>	<p>10 Writers Group: 10 am –noon Mah Jongg 2or 3: 10 am -noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>11 Worship Mtg: 11 am –noon Life Long Learning: 4-5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm</p>	<p>12 Finance Mtg: 10:30am –noon Alliance: 11:30 -2 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm</p>	<p>13 Tai Chi: 10-11:30 am</p>	<p>14 Book discussion class: 10 am-noon</p>
<p>15 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Welcoming Congregation mtg. 1-2 pm Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm</p>	<p>17 Mah Jongg 2 or 3: 10 am -noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>18 David Roth Concert: 7-9:30 pm</p>	<p>19 Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm Board of Trustees Mtg: 5:30-7 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm</p>	<p>20 Tai Chi: 10-11:30 am Exploring Metaphysics 6-7 pm Jotter articles due</p>	<p>21 Book discussion class: 10 am-noon Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm</p>
<p>22 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>23 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm</p>	<p>24 Writers Group: 10 am –noon Mah Jongg 2 or 3: 10 am –noon Women's Group: 1- 2 pm Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>25 Life Long Learning: 4-5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm</p>	<p>26 Membership Mtg: 2:30-4 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm</p>	<p>27 Tai Chi: 10-11:30 am People's Church: 6:30-8:30 pm</p>	<p>28 Book discussion class: 10 am-noon</p>
<p>29 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>30 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm</p>	<p>31 Mah Jongg 2 or3: 10 am-noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>				

Sunday Services for January

Date:	Topic:	Presenter:	Service Leader:
January 1--	"Social Justice Issues for 2017"	--Harry White	--Ellen Nielsen
January 8:	"The Black American Experience: The New Jim Crow"	--Rev. Kathy Tew Ricky	--Rita Sheeler
January 15:	"The Black American Experience: Ta'Nehisi Coates" Share- the-Plate Offering with Second Harvest Food Bank	--Rev. Kathy Tew Ricky	--Phil Elliott
January 22:	"The Black American Experience: Justice and Mercy"	--Rev. Kathy Tew Rick	--Linda Kalaydjian
January 29:	"The Blues and the American Spirit"	--Dan Gribbin	--Denise Carter

January Birthdays

Ann Hall-3rd
Susan Garrison-3rd
Phil Elliot-4th
Peter Remington-10th
Val Rellstab-11th

Dorothy Hartley-13th
Jofre Miller-17th
Ashara Watkins-27th
Kathy Tew Rickey-27th
Debbie Hanson-30th
Jack Moeller-31st



The Jotter

January 2017

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, Minister revk2rickey@gmail.com
RE teachers: Debra Hanson/Mary Wentzel: (contact UU Office)
Cathy Jackson, Office Administrator: (386) 677-6172
Office hours: M/W: 8 am to 1 pm & T/Th: 2:00 to 6:30 pm
Sunday: 9:45 am +

Joan Thate, President: jbthate@gmail.com
Carolyn West: **Jotter** Editor (386) 672-9352
Website: <http://www.uuormond.org/>
Children's' RE on Sunday 10:15 -11:45 am
Discussion Group meets Sunday at 9:15 am

Sunday Service: 10:30 am