

**December 12, 2018 Book of Job: Biblical Existentialism? DAN KENNEDY, Ed.D.**

The Book of Job, a part of Old Testament Biblical wisdom literature, addresses the age old philosophical and theological Problem of Evil. Why do bad things happen to good people and good things to bad people? Might it be because we live in an indifferent and impersonal universe? This program, using a Biblical critical analysis approach, will examine the origin and story of Job, and argue for an interpretation related to Existentialist philosophy.

Dr. Kennedy is retired from a career that combined psychology and education, spent mainly in university settings (University of Oregon, University of Hawaii, and Florida International University). He was a licensed psychologist for a number of years in Hawaii and Florida. After retirement Dan remained active in education for several years through adjunct faculty positions at the University of Central Florida and Nova Southeastern University. In addition to education, areas of interest include the humanities, social sciences, history and philosophy of science, and exercise physiology and sports science.

**November 28, 2018 AMERICAN ANTI-INTELLECTUALISM - JIM ROTHWEILER**

The United States and our Constitution were founded on the philosophy of Reason and the climax of the Enlightenment -- the 18th-century attempt to combine science and learning to self-governance. However, we seemed to have drifted from those lofty ideals. Embedded in our culture is a force that could be a dialectical seed of destruction: Anti-Intellectualism. It is defined as opposition or hostility toward educated people and academic, artistic, social, and scientific theories associated with them. It is believing that common sense and faith are more important than facts, reason and critical thinking. This talk will explore the historical context of Anti-Intellectualism and its implications for our future

Jim Rothweiler, with degrees in sociology and business, spent 35 years in the telecom industry conducting research to identify and analyze market needs for new services. Jim attended his first UU community in Morristown, NJ in 1981, and has been with the UU in Ormond since 2010.

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**November 14, 2018 EDGAR ALLAN POE - IRENE CURRAN**

Irene Curran, a literary lecturer, will talk about Edgar Allen Poe, the Master of the Macabre, the originator of the detective story, his life and his writings. She will discuss how his turbulent life affected his writing; several of his poems, "Alone", "Annabel Lee", and "The Raven" will be included in the talk.

Irene Curran, a retired teacher from New Jersey, gives lectures on various authors and historical figures that she finds interesting, such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Mark Twain and Agatha Christie. Irene received her B.A. degree in History from Molloy College in Rockville Centre, N.Y. in 1973 and her Masters' Degree in Reading from C.W. Post College in Brookville, N.Y. in 1978. She also earned her supervisor's certification from TCNJ, N.J. She now speaks at libraries, nursing homes and senior centers in New Jersey and Florida.

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**October 24, 2018    SPIRITUALISM: HISTORY AND PRACTICE - RON "MEL" MELVIN**

This program will provide an examination of the spiritualism movement (of which we have a local example (i.e. Cassadaga) as a religion, clairvoyant and healing practice, and as entertainment. Its origins, beliefs, traditions, rituals, and principles will be covered. Using a workshop format, lecture, discussion, audience experiences, and demonstrations will be included. Ron "Mel" Melvin, known for his practice of entertainment type magic, is also a serious student of the history and practice of mysticism.

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**October 10, 2018, 4:00—5:30    JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE EARTH PRESTON GARRISON**

Preston Garrison took an 8-year sabbatical from his career in mental health advocacy and public policy to work as a contract wildlife and travel photographer and writer. During his time in this "second career", he was involved in a variety of projects in Zimbabwe, Morocco, Ecuador, Chile, Costa Rica, and other countries, typically working with national tourism boards that were trying to develop eco-tourism strategies for their country. Preston returned to the not-for-profit mental health advocacy sector in 1998 and retired from the World Federation for Mental Health in September 2009. His love for wilderness travel and photography continues and, in November - December of 2017, he fulfilled a life-long dream by taking an expedition trip to Antarctica aboard Quark Expedition's Ocean Adventurer. He will share his adventure with us through comments and his photographs.

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**STOP BALLOT CONFUSION!**

**THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION**

League of Women Voters – Volusia County

Life Long Learning Program

Saturday, October 6, 2018, 10:00—11:30 am

Unitarian-Universalist Congregation

56 N. Halifax Dr, Ormond Beach, FL

Every 20 years a Constitutional Revision Committee (CRC) meets and proposes amendments to Florida's constitution. This year's November ballot will have thirteen Florida constitutional amendments. Although the CRC only proposed eight, most are "bundled", which means multiple changes are contained in a single amendment. The ballot also contains amendments proposed by the state legislature and by citizen petition. This vote is important, as the Florida Constitution is the highest law of the state, and other laws and regulations must be compatible with it.

The League of Women Voters (a non-partisan organization), is working to clear the fog. This presentation will discuss each of the proposed Florida Constitutional Amendments and explain, for each amendment, what happens if it passes and what happens if it does not. Also, information will be provided about who supports each amendment and who opposes it.

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### **September 26 \_\_\_ Ashley Lear \_\_ Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings**

This program reports on a new book by Dr, Ashley Lear, *The Remarkable Kinship of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Ellen Glasgow*, which examines the deep connections between two pioneers of American literature who broke the mold for women writers of their time. Pulitzer Prize–winning novelists Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Ellen Glasgow had divergent careers in different locations—Rawlings in backcountry Florida and Glasgow in urban Virginia—yet their correspondence on life and writing reveals one of the great literary friendships of the South. Rawlings felt such admiration for Glasgow that she spent the last year of her life compiling materials for Glasgow’s biography, a work she never completed. The author draws on the documents Rawlings collected about Glasgow, Rawlings’s personal notes, and letters between the two writers to describe the experiences that brought them together.

Dr. Ashely Lear is an associate professor of humanities at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Dr. Lear has a B.A. in English and Psychology from the College of William and Mary, an M.A. from Wake Forest University in English, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Houston. Prior to accepting a position with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, she completed a year as a Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication at Georgia Tech. Dr. Lear's research interests include digital pedagogy, literature of the American South, science fiction, and women's literature.

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**LLL Programs resume in September**

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## **THE IMPACT OF STIGMA ON MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL ILLNESS**

**Preston Garrison**

Life Long Learning Program

Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 4:00—5:30

Unitarian-Universalist Congregation

56 N. Halifax Dr, Ormond Beach, FL

People with mental disorders and problems say that the social stigma attached to mental ill health and the discrimination they experience, often reinforced by media depictions and language can make recovery more difficult. This presentation will explore the history, course of development, impact, and current trends in the stigmatization of people experiencing and living with one of the world's most common and complicated areas of global health.

Preston Garrison retired in September 2009 as the Secretary-General and Chief Executive Officer of the World Federation for Mental Health, the oldest and largest international citizen's advocacy and educational organization working in the field of mental health. Preston served as the chief executive officer for the National Mental Health Association (US) (now Mental Health America) from 1984 through 1991. Prior to appointment to that position, he served as chief staff officer for NMHA affiliates in Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida, which focused on the development of effective grassroots mental health public policy advocacy, public awareness, and consumer involvement.

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## **Poetry is Personal**

**Jim Cunningham, Rodney Rogers, Joan Thate**

Life Long Learning Program

Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 4:00—5:30

Unitarian-Universalist Congregation

56 N. Halifax Dr, Ormond Beach, FL

This program presents a panel of poetry aficionados, who will discuss their individual, personal experience with poetry. Each will explain why poetry is important in their life and will share with us some poems, which are meaningful to them.

Jim Cunningham has taught poetry and other areas of the humanities for forty-four years. In addition, Jim has served as Chair of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and more recently as Associate Vice President, Academics and Director of the Study Abroad Programs at Embry-Riddle.

Rodney Rogers has had a thoroughly unconventional forty-six year academic career, teaching literature, computer science, and aeronautical science at universities including Clemson, the Citadel, the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and Embry-Riddle

Aeronautical University. He holds the PhD degree in English and American Literature from the University of Virginia and in Computer Science from the University of Central Florida.

Joan Thate is the President of the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation Board of Trustees. She has spent a long career teaching high school student and then teachers. She has during her 47-year career taught American and English literature, creative and expository writing, speech, drama, American and European history, sociology, psychology, economics, advanced placement English and American History, and lunch duty. She also spent her summers taking additional courses a variety of subjects.

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## **Are Unions Still Necessary to Maintain a Middle Class?**

**Andrew Spar**

Life Long Learning Program

**Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 4:00—5:30**

Unitarian-Universalist Congregation

56 N. Halifax Dr, Ormond Beach, FL

Andrew Spar will lead a discussion about how important unions are to the viability of the American Middle Class. Labor unions have brought us the 40-hour work week, child labor laws, retirement security, equity in the work place, and much more. In the past couple of decades, we have seen efforts to undermine unions and American workers. Good paying union jobs in America have disappeared either through automation or by jobs moving overseas. As jobs disappeared, union membership declined, as did the middle class. Today, employees are less likely to have job security, pensions, health insurance and annual salary increases that keep up with the cost of inflation.

Andrew Spar is President of the Volusia United Educators and Secretary/Treasurer of the Florida AFL-CIO. Andrew graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in Music Education, and he has taught in Volusia County Schools for 23 years.

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## **SOUL and BEAUTY of ISLAMIC SPAIN**

**Dr. Martha Sanders Brandt**

Life Long Learning Program

Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 4:00—5:30

Unitarian-Universalist Congregation

56 N. Halifax Dr, Ormond Beach, FL

Martha Brandt has been engaged in a decade-long study of Islamic art in museums and cultural sites around the world. This program, using a presentation-discussion format, will focus on La Mezquita in Cordoba and La Alhambra in Granada, Spain. These renowned monuments of the Andalusia region offer beautiful art and engaging histories relating to more than eight centuries of Islamic influence in Spain.

Dr. Brandt, a retired college professor of French, comes from a life filled with art, music, literature, spiritual quest, and worldwide travel. Her experiences with these fascinating sites in Spain have been among the highlights

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**Life Long Learning programs** Most programs will be scheduled for the second and/or fourth Wednesdays, 4:00—5:30 of each month. Content will be varied, including philosophy, history, spirituality, archaeology, and education. Most programs include time for audience questions and comments.

**LIFE LONG LEARNING**  
**THE EPICUREAN RIDDLE**  
**TED MASHBURN, D.PHIL**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018, 10:00—11:30**  
**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION**  
**56 N. HALIFAX DRIVE**  
**ORMOND BEACH, FLORIDA**

Dr. Ted Mashburn, Professor and Department Chair of Humanities at the University of Mobile, will “take on” the Epicurean Riddle which is a major challenge to concepts of God. Professor Mashburn is well equipped for this task with an academic and professional background combining religion/spirituality (e.g. Baptist pastor positions) and philosophy/theology (e.g. Master of Theology degree, University of Edinburgh and Doctorate of Philosophy, Oxford University). This thought provoking program, using a lecture-discussion format, will provide time for audience participation.

For more information: Dan Kennedy 386-672-  
2556 jodan16@juno.com

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**Reading Franz Kafka in the 21th Century**

**Dr. Kyra von Brokoph**

Life Long Learning Program  
Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 4:00—5:30  
Unitarian-Universalist Congregation  
56 N. Halifax Dr, Ormond Beach, FL

Franz Kafka (1883-1924) lived in Prague, Czechoslovakia, part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. During his short life he wrote four novels, one play and many short stories. Only a small number of his stories were published during his lifetime. His substantial literary remains were published posthumously by his friend Max Brod. No other writer of the German language has had such a profound and extensive impact worldwide as Kafka, so much so that the twentieth century was named the century of Kafka. His work has been appropriated by philosophical and religious thinkers as well as psychologists. His novel *The Trial* has been transferred to the screen several times, in several countries. But most importantly his writing style and peculiar sensibility has become inescapable for writers who followed him. The term Kafkaesque has slipped into the vocabulary of literary critiques and journalists as easily as Catch 22.

Recommended reading for this lecture are some of his short stories collected in the volume *The Metamorphosis*.

Dr. Kyra von Brokoph taught at St. Lawrence University from 1973 until 2010 where she held an endowed chair in German literature and culture. She is the author of seven books and innumerable articles on German literature. As an internationally acclaimed scholar on Austrian literature, she lectured worldwide at conferences and universities. Her research and writing enabled her to live on two continents and spend extensive time in Vienna. Dr. Brokoph studied English and American Literature at the university in Munich, Germany, Theater at Boston University and received a Ph.D. in German literature and Philosophy from the University of California.

## **Ambiguous Intelligence vs Artificial Intelligence**

**Dr. Keith Garfield**

Life Long Learning Program  
Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 4:00—5:30  
Unitarian-Universalist Congregation  
56 N. Halifax Dr, Ormond Beach, FL

This program provides a discussion of the differences in how humans and computers attempt to make decisions in the real world, and the impacts on Artificial Intelligence (AI). The talk will give a practical overview of the kinds of tasks that you can expect current AI systems to do well, and identify the things that they cannot do well. This distinction is becoming more important as more of the objects in our daily life become computerized, active, and “smart.” The goal is to provide an expectation of the limits of AI now and in the near future, while describing why those limits exist.

Dr. Garfield began his career as a structural engineer with McDonnell-Douglas, designing and testing space flight hardware used on a variety of satellites. Following that, he worked on the shuttle payload integration team at the Kennedy Space Center before becoming a researcher at the Institute for Modeling and Simulation at the University of Central Florida. Now a professor at ERAU, Dr. Garfield teaches the formal mathematics and formal representations necessary to pursue software and computer engineering disciplines. He also teaches programming and software engineering processes. Dr. Garfield is actively involved with a number of research activities. He is participating in designing experiments to study how air traffic controllers and pilots interact in the airspace of the future. He is also interested in machine learning and creating artificially intelligent agents that can interact with humans in natural and intuitive ways.

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## **UUism & WHITE SUPREMACY CONCERNS**

**Wednesday, February 14 & 28, 2018, 4:00—5:30**

Unitarian-Universalist Congregation

56 N. Halifax Dr, Ormond Beach, FL

Note: This program is intended for members and friends of the UUCOB and will not be publicized to the general public.

During the past several months the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has been expressing serious concern over issues of racism and white supremacy in the UUA and in member congregations, and has encouraged congregations to explore these concerns and issues. To wit, recent UU World magazines have contained a number of papers with strong indications that racism and white supremacy are clearly present in UUism and need to be addressed in our congregations. Goals of this two-part program are:

1. Examine the concepts of race, racism, white supremacy, and white privilege.
2. To contribute to an UUCOB assessment of these UUA concerns relative to our congregation.

Part 1 Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 4:00—5:30

A panel discussion format will be used to address the above stated goals..

Panelists: Marion Ahlstedt, Ron Melvin, Rev Kathy Tew Rickey.

Moderator: Dan Kennedy

Following the panel discussion: 1. Questions and comments session. 2. All present respond to a written questionnaire, the results of which will be discussed in Part 2.

Part 2 Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 4:00—5:30

Program Leader: Joan Thate,

- A. Questionnaire results presented.
- B. Small group activity.



- C. General discussion of trends & issues resulting from the program.
- D. Summary and conclusions related to the program goals.

For more information: Dan Kennedy  
386-672-2556  
jodan16@juno.com

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## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

**DR. MASSOOD TOWHIDNEJAD**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 4:00—5:30**

**Unitarian-Universalist Congregation**

**56 N. Halifax Dr, Ormond Beach, FL**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and autonomy are becoming a major component of our day-to-day life. In this program, we will first look at how intentionally or unintentionally we are interacting with the different applications of AI; then, we briefly look at some of the different techniques and methods that are used in different AI applications. Finally, we will look at some of the myths and aspirations about what AI can do for us now or in the future. We will conclude the session with an effort to build a human robot.

Dr. Masood Towhidnejad is a Professor of Software Engineering at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Dr. Towhidnejad received his Ph.D. in Computer Engineering from the University of Central Florida in 1990. His teaching and research interests include STEM education, software engineering, software quality assurance and testing, autonomous systems, and Air Traffic Management. He has also served as a Faculty Fellow at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and a Visiting Research Associate at the Federal Aviation Administration.

## **WHY THE VISUAL ARTS DO NOT FIT THE BELL CURVE**

**DONALD**

**KENNEDY**

**Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 4:00—**

**5:30**

**Unitarian-Universalist Congregation**

**56 N. Halifax Dr, Ormond Beach, FL**

This program, using a presenter-audience interaction format, will focus on a major two faceted historical development in the visual arts. The art world has seen an essentially bi-model distribution of work representing the categories of photo-realism and

abstraction. Other issues, e.g. judging and pricing of art work or political matters, may be discussed as interest is shown.

Don Kennedy, local artist, is retired from the Volusia School System where he served in teaching, guidance, and sports coaching. B.S. and M.A. degrees were earned from Murray State College in history, fine arts, and education. Additional graduate hours have been earned from University of Hawaii, Miami Ohio University, Stetson University, and Florida State University. In the art world he has received numerous awards from juried exhibitions and has conducted workshops at various art centers and universities.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information: Dan Kennedy 386-672-2556 jodan16@juno.com