

The Newsletter of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, *where diversity is treasured.*  
A member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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## L.I.F.E. HOUSE MEETINGS

Wed., September 13, 2017 at 2 pm

Wed., September 20, 2017 at 4 pm

All Faiths Community Room

Rev. CJ and L.I.F.E. Team Leaders, Bill Snider and Regina Kilmartin, will be hosting two group house meetings to discuss the call to do justice, to share our hopes and concerns for our community, and to consider how we can make Lee County healthier and more just.

Please join us for this valuable discussion.

Sign up at the Activities Table.

(see article on page 11)



# Chili Cook-Off

*5th Annual  
Sept. 3*

**AND LUNCHEON FOLLOWING SERVICE**  
**SUGGESTED DONATION \$5**  
**KIDS EAT FREE**



I've been thinking a lot about who you told me you want to be and where you want to be as a congregation. I spend time planning, strategizing, and thinking about how to guide the congregation in that direction. I am constantly reminded how grateful I am for your stewardship and that your stewardship is so important. When someone is planning a

quilt, they have to think about the whole project. How big a quilt? Who is it for? Are you going to reuse old clothing, or use only new fabric? Will you buy it or ask your friends for their leftovers? What patterns will you use? Are you going to make your own or use something already created? What colors do you want? How thick a stuffing do you want? Will the fabric on the back be the same as on the front? Will you hand-quilt it, or use a machine? Some of these questions need to be decided in advance, and some of them can be figured out along the way.

In making an offering each Sunday, we are asked to examine our heritage, our inheritance, all the dresses and aprons, that make up our beloved community and think about how to keep it a beautiful, warm, comforting, and inspirational quilt.

In the Book of Deuteronomy we read:

*We are ever bound in community:*

*We build on foundations, we did not lay.*

*We warm ourselves at fires, we did not light.*

*We sit in the shade of trees, we did not plant.*

*We drink from wells, we did not dig.*

## September Sermons "Reverence" by Rev. CJ McGregor

September 03 — *Reason & Reverence*

September 10 — *Struck by Grace*

September 17 — *Godliness & Godlessness*

September 24 — *Seek, Search, Sacred*

These words are an ever-present reminder to us of the blessedness of the time and place we find ourselves in, and at the same time a profound reminder of the responsibility we have and we become part of this beloved community because someone else, many someone else, laid the foundation, dug the wells and planted the trees. We have this place and this community so that we may have a time and place where we may "rest in the grace of the world and be free". We have this community where the beauty we love can be what we do and where we may find ways to kneel and kiss this ground. We have this place, this Congregation, this very life, on loan from those who came before us, and we hold it in trust for those who will come after us. That is the meaning of stewardship -- to hold in trust.

The big question then is what are we going to do with what we have been given? How are you going to hold on to it? The poet Mary Oliver in her poem "This Summer Day" asks this question of us in the way only a poet can do. She writes, "*Who made the world?*"

*Who made the swan, and the black bear?*

*Who made the grasshopper?*

*This grasshopper,*

*I mean the one who has flung herself out of the grass,*

*the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,*

*who is moving her jaws back and forth*

*instead of up and down*

*who is gazing around with her*

*enormous and complicated eyes.*

*Now she lifts her pale forearms*

*and thoroughly washes her face.*

*Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.*

*I don't know exactly what a prayer is.*

*I do know how to pay attention,*

*how to fall down into the grass,*

*how to kneel down in the grass,*

*how to be idle and blessed,*

*how to stroll through the fields,*

*which is what I have been doing all day.*

*Tell me what else should I have done?*

*Doesn't everything die at last and too soon?*

*Tell me what is it you plan to do*

*with your one wild and precious life?"*

There is a legendary image from Africa called the Sankofa Bird. Visually and symbolically Sankofa is expressed as a mythic bird that flies forward while looking backward with an egg (symbolizing the future) in its mouth. Sankofa teaches

(continued on page 3)

us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward.

We have entered into the spirit of Sankofa. We have chosen to set forth in a bold new direction. We embody the aspect of Sankofa that moves forward. I've been here nearly five months, watching you stretch, resist, stretch more, and embrace me in my sometimes impulsive guidance. So now what?

You still hold the egg of possibility in your mouth. Where will you take it?

Like the Sankofa bird, holding the egg in its mouth and looking back at its past as it flies forward, you too are flying forward with a fuller and deeper understanding of where you have been and have the opportunity to better understand the people and events that are our inheritance, an opportunity to examine your heritage. It begins just beyond that door.

So imagine with me for a little bit about what the future of this Congregation might look like. In my mind's eye I see a thriving liberal faith community, with exciting and varied programs, stable ministry and dedication to service and justice that is a vital and integral part of the Fort Myers community.

I see -- in many different possible forms and images -- hope for a building that is striking in beauty and versatile in use, with more space for programs, worship, education and especially people.

I hear music -- lots of music. I see a beloved community of people who live with each other in diversity with kindness, gentleness and encouragement.

I see dynamic ministry taking place both through the work of your minister and through the ministry that each one of you is doing. I see people of all ages being spiritually fed and intellectually challenged in their faith and beliefs -- children, youth, young adults and students, parents, mid-lifers and elders.

In other words I see us thriving. We thrive because of our ministries and your weekly stewardship.

We build on foundations, we did not lay. We warm ourselves at fires, we did not light. We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant. We drink from wells we did not dig.

Whatever future you envision, whatever future you embrace for this Congregation will depend on the foundations you prepare today.

Stewardship means to hold something in trust, something that we have been entrusted with, and to care for it. It means holding that precious egg of possibilities as you fly forward into your future. It means honoring the past and those who have gone before us; standing firmly in the present; and, most of all, embracing the future. I'm grateful.

– *Blessings, CJ*

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## BOARD NOTES *by Diane Cartwright, President*

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation Board of Governors met August 23. Barbara Gaiser filled in as secretary for the meeting. Actions approved include:

An All Faiths' FUNraiser, *Music from the Movies*, is scheduled for January 20 and will be produced by Joan Marshall and organized by Kendra Maroon, Annely Hudanick, and Joyce Schaffer.

Michael Pierre will chair the Building and Grounds Committee. The Board appreciates his volunteering his leadership.

The Building Use Policy's Procedure Section will be reworded to provide clear instructions in regard to clean up, fees, and key access to those seeking to use the building and grounds for meetings or events.

A Social Action and Outreach Committee will be created. The charter for this committee will be submitted once the group begins meetings. The general purpose of this group will be to foster existing social action projects and to encourage individual members and groups in the congregation to be involved in social action and outreach. No changes will be made to existing social action and outreach projects. This new committee will serve to coordinate and offer support to our action and outreach projects.

Richard Keelan will chair the Social Action and Outreach Committee. The Board appreciates his volunteering his leadership.

A new sign overlay with the new All Faiths' logo will be installed. A generous donor has volunteered to pay for this project.

*(continued on page 9)*

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## Mission Statement

*"All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is a welcoming, caring community seeking diversity, practicing openness, and encouraging personal and spiritual growth..."*

*"We are working toward a just, free, peaceful and compassionate world...."*

## Ongoing Events at All Faiths

*Happy September  
Birthday to you!*



September 5 Joseph Whitehill  
September 11 Werner Stocker  
September 13 Hank Shapiro  
September 14 Edith (Edi) Griffiths  
September 16 Ainsleigh Babcock  
September 20 Roy Kennix  
September 23 Jo-Ann Reece  
September 25 Dottie Mayol  
September 28 Carly Jeffery  
September 30 Harold Philpot

### *And Coming Up...*

October 4 Michael Pierre  
October 7 Ellie Boyd  
October 8 Karen Grabia



Join us on Sunday, September 3 for our *5th Annual Chili Cook-Off*. Sample up to eight different chili recipes and vote on your favorite. All Faiths will supply all the fixin's: salad, cornbread, beverages. Suggested donation \$5 - kids free.

Want to enter the competition? Sign up at the Activities Table. Entrance fee is \$10. The winner will get their \$10 back and there will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

You won't want to miss this one. The chili cooks are a very competitive bunch!

### **Book Club & Brown Bag - September 11 at 12pm**

*Meeting on the 2nd Monday of the Month*

Contacts: Diane Chernow, [dianecher@comcast.net](mailto:dianecher@comcast.net) and  
Annely Hudanick, [annelyblue@hotmail.com](mailto:annelyblue@hotmail.com)

The Topic: **Relationships**. Be prepared to give a brief talk about a book you're reading or you have read that is relevant to any kind of *discovery* - use your imagination.

### **Free Inquiry Group (FIG) - September 21 at 6pm**

*Meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the Month*

**"Humanism and the progressive ideas of Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek"** Contact: Sharon Gray, [geema1@yahoo.com](mailto:geema1@yahoo.com)

FIG of SW Florida is a group of humanists, rationalists, skeptics, free thinkers, atheists, and agnostics. The first segment of each FIG meeting is a social time. Second segment, tons of insightful topics and discussions.

### **Meditation - Friday at 10:30am**

(Wednesday Meditation will resume in October)

Friday Contact: Jeanne Ezell, [jeannezell@gmail.com](mailto:jeannezell@gmail.com)

Join friends to develop your mindfulness, compassion, and sense of serenity.

### **McGregor Clinic Collection - Sunday, Sept. 17**

*Collection is on the third Sunday of every month.*

Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, [joycelschaffer@gmail.com](mailto:joycelschaffer@gmail.com)

Please donate non-perishable foods such as cereal, peanut butter and tuna, and men's and women's clothing to help HIV/AIDS patients and their families. This month the clinic would appreciate CEREAL over other non-perishable foods.

### **Solos Group Events**

Contact: Annely Hudanick, [annelyblue@hotmail.com](mailto:annelyblue@hotmail.com)

Everyone is welcome to join us for our outings and lunch w/wo a movie date. The potlucks, however, are reserved for *"single"* Solos

**Sat. Sept. 9, 1pm** - Potluck at Kendra Maroon's (518) 572-9221  
(limited seating, please RSVP)

**Sat. Sept., 23, 1pm** - Lunch w/wo a movie, PF Chang's, Gulf Coast Center



# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 10:30 am Meditation	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm ACMA Concert: Ellen Bukstel w. Bill Veach opening
<b>3</b> No Adult Ed. Forum Today  10:30 am Service  Chili Luncheon after Service	<b>4</b>  LABOR DAY (Office Closed)	<b>5</b> 12:00 pm Bereaved Parents Group  6:30 pm (CAT) Climate Action Team Mtg.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:30 am Meditation	<b>9</b> 1:00 pm Solos Potluck  7:00 pm ACMA Concert: Bob Seema w. Glen Sabatka opening
<b>10</b> 9:15 am Adult Ed. Forum  10:30 am Service	<b>11</b>  12:00 pm Book Club	<b>12</b> 10:00 am Membership Mtg.  12:00 pm Bereaved Parents Group  6:30 pm Teaching Tues. w. Rev. CJ	<b>13</b>  2:00 pm LIFE House Meeting	<b>14</b> 10:00 am Finance Mtg.	<b>15</b> 10:30 am Meditation	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm ACMA Concert: HomeGrown: Barbara Lynn, Robert Bidney & David Hintz
<b>17</b> 9:15 am Adult Ed. Forum  10:30 am Service  McGregor Clinic Collection	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Sunday Service Team Mtg.  1:00 pm Exec. Comm.  4:00 pm Animal Ministry Mtg.	<b>19</b> 12:00 pm Bereaved Parents Group  6:30 pm Teaching Tues. w. Rev. CJ	<b>20</b>  4:00 pm LIFE House Meeting  Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown	<b>21</b>  6:00 pm (FIG) Free Inquiry Group Mtg.	<b>22</b> 10:30 am Meditation  6:00 pm Open Mic Night	<b>23</b>  1:00 pm Solos Lunch w/wo a Movie  No ACMA Concert
<b>24</b> 9:15 am Adult Ed. Forum  10:30 am Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 12:00 pm Bereaved Parents Group	<b>27</b>  3:45 pm Board Mtg.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:30am Meditation  Yom Kippur begins at sundown	<b>30</b>  No ACMA Concert

## SEPTEMBER ADULT ED. FORUMS

*Sundays at 9:15 am*

You are invited to join with us in an exploration of Hinduism. This will enhance your understanding of people who practice this faith, and it will also facilitate expansion of your consciousness and spiritual horizons.

**September 3 – No Forum. Labor Day Lunch**

**September 10 – The Way of Action**

**September 17 – The Way of Wisdom**

**September 24 – Seeing God**

**October 1 – The Way of Devotion**

## Child and Youth Program Notes

**September 3:** As Unitarian Universalists, we believe life is sacred---not only human life, but all life that shares our planet. The ritual of child dedication is one way UUs show we revere life and celebrate its beginning. This session looks at traditions and rituals to welcome new life into families and faith communities.

**September 10:** As Unitarian Universalists, we believe members of communities take care of each other. This session identifies ways we care for others in our families, at school, in the congregation, and in the wider world. We will learn about the common Unitarian Universalist ritual of sharing our joys and sorrows.

**September 17:** We will explore contexts in which we can practice sharing as sign of Unitarian Universalist faith. We will discuss ways they share with family, friends, neighbors, the congregation, and the world.

**September 24:** We will learn that religions and cultures honor a death in different ways which are shaped by different beliefs about death and what comes after it. We will learn that a Unitarian Universalist memorial ritual is created by family, friends, and a minister to show our reverence for life; our intention to remember our loved one so that something of them will live on; and our feelings about the loss of the loved one's physical presence.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*by Joyce Ramay, Finance Chair*

We are grateful to all of our members and friends who loyally make contributions to support our staff, programs and facilities.

Our Treasurer Sharon Gray is taking a well-deserved trip through America. We are having a normal financial summer, with lower donations for operating fund. Our expenses are under good control.

When we refinanced our mortgage in June, the principal of the new loan was \$190,000. We appreciate the wonderful generosity of one of our members who subsequently donated \$19,522.78 for the designated purpose of reducing our principal balance, which is now \$170,477.22.

We anticipate some upcoming expenses for painting the exterior of our building; it was last done seven years ago.

Thank you for your generosity.

CASH ASSETS	June '17	July '17
Total	\$134,124	\$120,216
Prior Month	<u>147,052</u>	<u>134,124</u>
Change	( -12,928)	( -13,908)
Income	\$ 35,081	\$ 12,633
Expenses	<u>22,548</u>	<u>19,487</u>
Gain/Loss	\$ 12,533	( -6,854)

\* June income included \$19,522.78 special donation to pay down the mortgage principal.

\*\* June expenses included two months payroll for Minister for May and June.

\*\*\* July expenses included the one-time annual UUA GIFT payment.

## CUTTING DOWN ON EMAIL?

If you feel you are receiving too many emails from the congregation, there is something you can do about it. If you choose not to receive email from the office simply call the office and have your name removed. If you choose not to receive Bulletin Board announcements and other email from Joyce Ramay simply email Joyce and ask that your name be removed. *Please know that we are working to keep you informed without overloading your inbox.*

# **A SNEAK PEEK AT TEACHING TUESDAYS STARTING IN SEPTEMBER**

A sneak peek at Teaching Tuesdays 2017. Teaching Tuesdays begin at 6:30 pm and are led by Rev. CJ McGregor and invited guests.

## **September 12, 2017 Spirit In Practice**

This session will help us as Unitarian Universalists develop regular disciplines, or practices, of the spirit—practices that help us connect with the sacred ground of our being, however we understand it.

## **September 19, 2017 Facing Death with Life**

During this session we will engage a process of personal reflection, learning, and spiritual growth focused on the topic of death and dying. Drawing on a variety of contemporary religious and secular resources, we will move from viewing death as an abstract concept to developing a personal recognition of its meaning in our lives.

## **October 3, 2017 Faith Like a River**

This session invites us to place ourselves into our history and consider its legacies and lessons for today.

## **October 24, 2017 Immigration as a Moral Issue**

Our immigration system isn't simply broken. It is also immoral. Families are separated for two to twenty years because of arbitrary ceilings. Is that moral? Spouses of U.S. citizens are barred for up to ten years from returning to the United States and are separated from their U.S. citizen children. Is that moral? When children brought to the United States by their parents become teenagers, they learn that they cannot obtain a driver's license or a Social Security number, and so cannot reach their full potential. The law continues to blame the child for the mistakes of the parents. Is that moral? Guest speaker is scheduled.

## **November 14, 2017 Beyond the Partisan Divide Part 1 (Nov. 21, 2017 Part 2)**

Unitarian Universalism is a border-crossing faith. We constantly revisit what it means to be open and welcoming to all who would find sustenance in our message and our communities. Our first Principle calls us to see the inher-

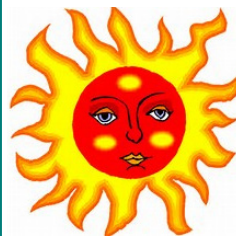
ent worth and dignity in every person. Our fourth champions a free search for truth and meaning. Still, living in our two-party political system, we sometimes struggle to embody a welcome that stretches across partisan division. Guest speaker is scheduled.

## **December 5, 2017 Haunting Church Part 1 (December 19 Part 2)**

We claim to have resigned the theologies and religious affiliations of the past. Yet they still haunt us. How can we make peace with these ghosts?

## **CLIMATE ACTION TEAM UPDATE**

*by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair*



Things have been heating up this August as your Climate Action Team focuses in on the Green Sanctuary explorations being led by Karen Grabia and Lee Page. Much of our August meeting was devoted to a review of the results from the survey of the congregation conducted earlier this year to identify our current environmental practices. We discussed the next steps in the process of evaluating what is involved in qualifying as a Green Sanctuary. The Green Sanctuary committee will be working with the heads of other congregational committees to gather this information.

The CAT sponsored two events in August connected to the release of the new Al Gore film, "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power". On August 2nd, we joined the STARS Complex Community Committee Forum in hosting an MTV-Live Party for the STARS Complex Youth Groups that included both the live broadcast of the Al Gore appearance on an MTV show and a presentation by Brittany Jacobs, the FGCU student who assisted in last summer's All Faiths Adult Education Workshops. Brittany was trained by Al Gore as a climate reality presenter. On August 15th, a group of about 20 of us attended the Al Gore film showing at the Bell Tower Regal Cinemas.

The CAT is coordinating with other environmental groups in the area and will be announcing future joint activities that will help us build a strong climate change movement in our community. We hope our Green Sanctuary efforts will inspire our congregation to get actively involved and become a part of this essential endeavor to learn to live sustainably on our planet.

# TOGETHER ON THE JOURNEY

by Fran Way, Member Services

*Each month the newsletter will profile an All Faiths' veteran and/or new member. This month we feature Richard Keelan.*



## Richard Keelan

### Member Since June 2017

In June, the All Faiths officially welcomed Richard Keelan, husband of Rev CJ McGregor, as a member of our congregation. Richard and CJ met when both were employed by the Association for Retarded Citizens in New York City in 1991. During their 26 years together they adopted and have raised two special-

needs sons, both earned graduate degrees, and both became active in UU congregations.

Richard was born and raised in Dedham, Massachusetts, part of a large Irish Catholic family of nine children. His prosperous grandparents owned several general stores in the Boston area. Richard's father had joined the family's business, but cancer and expensive health complications forced him to sell out. The family then struggled financially, with all working, Richard as a stock boy and later in an amusement park. Following high school, he enrolled in the College of the Holy Cross, where he studied urban and social studies.

After six years with ARC, Richard and CJ returned to Massachusetts, where Richard completed his master's studies. He took a position with the University of Mass. Medical School that was beginning a federally-funded pilot program for special needs children. The program provided wrap-around services for children with serious mental and emotional needs. It was so successful that it was expanded statewide in Massachusetts and became a model for other states.

While living in Westchester, Mass., Richard and CJ adopted first Tony and, two years later, Robert, both special-needs children. Tony now lives in a group home for special needs adults in the Miami area, and Robert remains at home with Richard and CJ. After adopting the children, they bought a home in Fitchburg in north-central Massachusetts. Richard describes Fitchburg as a small urban community that was a good place to raise sons with special education needs. Their son Tony, adopted from a Seventh Day Adventist family, as he transitioned slowly to his new parents, frequently asked, "When am I going to church?" Richard's sister suggested

that a Unitarian congregation would welcome a gay couple with special needs.

After checking out nearby UU congregations, Richard and CJ joined First Unitarian Church of Westchester, a large congregation with a "great history." They became active in congregational life and CJ accepted the position as Religious Education Director. Richard says that CJ was drawn to ministry and, with Richard's support, studied at the Andover/Newton seminary, served his ministerial internship at the Littleton, Mass. UU church, and was ordained and served the UU congregation in Brookfield, Mass.

When they moved to West Palm Beach where CJ served for four years as developmental minister, Richard worked with developmentally disabled adults. Now settled in Fort Myers, Richard has accepted a position with the new Golisano Children's Hospital. There he will head a proactive child safety team.

Richard looks forward to involvement with the All Faiths community and will be a greeter during the month of September. He says, "I have been very involved in church life" in his previous congregations and has served in many capacities and on many committees. He is especially drawn to the "give and take, connection and exploration" of small-group ministry. When asked about his early impressions of All Faiths, he quickly pointed out "the warmth of community, the palpable energy, and the high-level involvement of so many."

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## SEPTEMBER'S FEATURED ART IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM BY TWINK

### *A note from the artist*

Over the years my work encompassed various mediums until settling on sculpture.

The alchemy of creativity ignites within me as I physically touch and work the materials, allowing them to guide me to a final result. I love using recycled materials. A journey to the salvage yard is like finding buried treasure. Each item is an inspirational jewel.

To everything there is a purpose and then the potential to becoming art.



Twink,  
a/k/a Julie Markytan



## AN INVITATION TO CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF BOB WAY

*September 30 - 5:00 pm  
LaBelle American Legion*

Shhhh.... It's still a secret! All Faiths' founder and vocalist, Bob Way, is to be celebrated in song and receive a Lifetime Achievement Award on Saturday, September 30. The event is sponsored by All Star Music and hosted by the American Legion 80 in LaBelle.

The Legion will serve a pork tenderloin dinner with mushroom sauce, orzo, summer zucchini, salad, coffee and iced tea. The cost is \$9. Guests will have access to the Legion bar for cocktails. The meal will be served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. and the program from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

The musical tribute to Bob will feature several talented local singers and a special appearance from Wisconsin by son, Bobby Way, and JJ Brooks of the Fabulous Wayouts. Dear friends and fellow All Faiths founders, Bill and Donalie Benyak, are among the speakers scheduled to honor Bob's musical accomplishments.

You are invited to join this celebration! LaBelle is a pleasant 40 minute country drive from Interstate 75 (Exit 141), East on Palm Beach Blvd. (Highway 80). The American Legion, is on Highway 80, (699 W. Hickpochee Ave) across from the Shell Station. There is parking behind the building or in the church parking lot next door.

## BOARD NOTES *continued from page 3*

A policy to reimburse travel for guest speakers is approved. Visiting guest speakers who travel more than 50 miles (100 miles roundtrip) will be reimbursed at the prevailing approved IRS rate (currently \$0.53 per mile) for up to 200 miles (400 miles roundtrip). We will not pay for meals, hotel or housing, and encourage members or staff to provide hospitality in homes.

The Board learned that we have four new members and seven have expressed a desire to join our congregation. A Newcomer Orientation Session is scheduled for October 21st and a New Member Recognition is planned for October 29th. We laud the Membership Committee for the fine work they have been doing to build and support membership.

Bill Snider reported on his recent LIFE Executive Committee meeting. A new Lead Organizer will begin on October 9, and the hope is LIFE's activities will be reenergized with a new leader. He noted that it will be important for congregations to fulfill their pledges so that the new leader's salary can be funded.

*The next Board of Governors meeting will be September 27, Wednesday, at 3:45. Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.*

## JOYS & SORROWS

*With our apologies for any omissions, here are the joys & sorrows of our members expressed in July & August*



### Jim Paske 1930-2017

Our longtime member Jim Paske passed away peacefully on Saturday morning, July 1. He was 87 years old. He had been suffering with Alzheimer's. His son Tom Paske moved here a few years ago to take care of him. Tom said that they will be sending the ashes back to their home in Wisconsin. No memorial service is planned here.

**Nancy (Fueyo) Frasca** married Janice Cabazares in a wedding ceremony performed at All Faiths by Rev. Wayne Robinson. Nancy has been a frequent guest singer at our Sunday services for many years. We congratulate them and wish them many happy years together.

**Joe Guardiano** moved to The Palms. We hope that he will receive loving care there. Jan plans to move there also if everything works out well.

**Midge Magstadt** had a diagnosis of Large B Cell Lymphoma. She will be starting on chemotherapy treatments that have a 70-80% cure rate. We hope that the treatments are effective and that she will be with us for many more years.

**Steve Mullins** had abdominal surgery. We hope that he has a steady and successful recovery.

**Lee Page** had lower back surgery to alleviate sciatica. We hope that his results are positive and that he will be pain free.

**Lewis Robinson's** grandchildren received awards: Yasmine was an award winner for performance in Language in 10th grade; and Jared was an award winner at 8th grade graduation for 100% score on Mathematics test and superior Athletics

**Rev. Wayne Robinson**, Minister Emeritus, celebrated his 80th birthday on August 13th. We hope that he has many more wonderful years together with his wife Joyce Schaffer.

**Segundo Velasquez's** mother, Ines Velasquez, age 97, passed away in Bolivia. We extend our deepest sympathy to Segundo and Joan.

**A Bereaved Parents Group** has been formed for people who have lost their children. Sharing your experiences with others can provide the support and healing that is needed when you are dealing with grief. You are not alone.



## AMERICANA COMMUNITY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

### SEPTEMBER 2017 CONCERT LINE-UP

CONCERTS START AT 7PM

(TKTS \$10 FOR ACMA MEMBERS,  
\$15 FOR GENERAL PUBLIC)

**Saturday - Sept. 2**

Ellen Bukstel w.  
Bill Veach opening

**Saturday - Sept. 9**

Bob Sima  
w. Glen Sabatka opening

**Saturday - Sept. 16**

Homegrown  
Barbara Lynn Robert Bidney  
and David Hintz

No concerts on  
Sept. 23 or Sept. 30

*"IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MUSIC"*



## CLEANING CREW VOLUNTEERS SEPTEMBER 2017

Before Sept. 03	Ed Kleinow & Joyce Ramay
Before Sept. 10	<b>Super Cleaner Coming Soon</b>
Before Sept. 17	Sharon Gray & Bill Snider
Before Sept. 24	Cloyd & Jeanne Ezell

Thank you all for doing such a great job  
all year. Your time is greatly appreciated.



## MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF ALL FAITHS

### FACEBOOK PAGE HAS MOVED

In order for the general public to find All Faiths Unitarian Congregation first when searching on Facebook, we have changed the name of our private group from All Faiths Members & Friends to Members & Friends of All Faiths.

This page is a private page for members and friends of All Faiths to post items of interest to each other without the general public having access.

The private group page is now at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/319406541543796/?fref=ts>

Not part of the private group page and want to be? Send an email to Regina at the office: [office@allfaiths-uc.org](mailto:office@allfaiths-uc.org)

## TUNE IN TO ALL FAITHERS ON THE RADIO



Two more All Faiths' members are now featured on *David Hauenstein's* "Listening to the Words" program.

People can go to:  
[www.shellpoint.net/listening](http://www.shellpoint.net/listening) and  
can click on Program 277 to hear the program  
that includes a funny Grandma-Granddaughter  
dialogue written by *Howard Silverman* that  
"puts men in their proper places."

On Program 278, hear *Dottie Mayol* in  
Denmark and Sweden in another funny piece  
trying to interest people in eating her EEL  
delicacy.



## ANIMAL MINISTRY

September 18, 2017 - 4:00 pm

This month's meeting will be facilitated by *Barbara Goolsby* and *Jane Broadstone*. There will be a viewing of the movie "Cowspiracy" with discussion to follow.

*Debra MacDonald,*  
Coordinator

Plans are being made for an outing to CROW in October. Stay tuned for more details.

## LIFE HOUSE MEETINGS SCHEDULED

*Wed. September 13, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.*

*Wed. September 20, 2017 at 4:00 pm.*  
All Faiths Community Room

Lee Interfaith for Empowerment is about to start their next cycle of justice work. The process starts with "house meetings" where we build our Justice Ministry Network (JMN) and discuss concerning issues that exist in our community. Last year we had 17 committed JMN members. We really want to exceed that number this year. The commitment is small - attend four meetings and bring 3 people to the Nehemiah Action in March.

LIFE leaders, including Bill Snider, have worked very hard and accomplished so much in this last year. We'll bring you up to date at the house meetings; you will be impressed. LIFE is also excited to have hired a new Lead Organizer who will be starting in October. Justice is happening - be a part of it.

Please call the office, 239-226-0900, or sign up at the Activities Table. See you at the meetings.

***LIFE for justice! Justice for life!***



# OPEN MIC

**NIGHT AT ALL FAITHS  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22  
6:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

Read your original essay, memoir, fiction, or poetry  
or work by your favorite writer.  
Tell a tale or sing a song.

Sign up to perform when you arrive.  
We will have two rounds if time permits.

You are welcome to come to listen;  
Performers need an appreciative audience.

Light snacks will be provided.  
Donations of food or money are welcome  
but not required.

## A MESSAGE FROM JOAN & SEGUNDO



Thanks to the many All Faiths members who sent their condolences when Segundo's mother, Inez Urey, died last week at age 97. She raised eight children, several of whom co-founded Mano a Mano.

During the past few years she devoted much of her time to volunteering with Mano a Mano. In addition to cooking for many U.S. travelers, she sorted donated school supplies into packets for distribution to students whose families couldn't afford to buy them. Having never had the opportunity to attend school, she was passionate about creating opportunities for others. Thank you for remembering her and us.

~ Segundo and Joan Velasquez



## HAPPY 90TH CAROL PAPKE!



*All Faiths' founding member, **Carol Papke**, turned 90 this year. Daughter, Maya, says she is doing well and would love to hear from All Faiths friends.*

## 8 YEARS OLD!



*Our lovely candle extinguisher, **Ainsleigh**, turns 8 on September 13. A big Happy Birthday to you, Ainsleigh!*

## 97 YEARS YOUNG!



*All Faiths sends very special birthday wishes to **Henry "Hank" Shapiro** who turns 97 years young on September 13.*



## THE APPLES DON'T FALL FAR...



*Proud grandpa, **Lewis Robinson**, shared these photos of his outstanding grandchildren. **Jared**, wearing the bronze medal that he received for finishing 3rd (out of 20) in the 100m at the Regional qualifier in New Jersey. And **Yasmine**, holding her award for top foreign language winner in her grade level. Congratulations Jared and Yasmine!*

## HAPPY 80TH REV. ROBINSON!



*A milestone for our minister emeritus, **Rev. Wayne Robinson**. Wayne celebrated his 80th birthday on August 13 with family and friends. Pictured here (from the left), sister **Mary Ann**, wife **Joyce**, **Wayne**, daughter **Laura** and son **Brett**. Happy Birthday, Wayne.*



## HONOREE OF THE MONTH



### Ellie Boyd

The All Faiths Board of Governors' honoree for the month of August was Ellie Boyd, who has lived the Unitarian Universalist values, especially respecting the interdependent web of all existence. A lover of nature and proponent of peace, Ellie loved her dogs, accumulated and labeled an enormous collection of seashells, and was an amateur astronomer.

Ellie's most public accomplishment is organizing and supporting a defense of Lee County's environment. In 2011 Ellie-Dr. Eleanor Boyd--was honored by the Responsible Growth Management Coalition, an organization that she and her late husband, Gene, co-founded in 1988. In a Fort Myers News-Press article in May 2011, Pine Island activists Phil Buchanan was quoted as saying, "Without them [Gene and Ellie Boyd] we wouldn't have any restrictions on development on Pine Island. We wouldn't have any community building standards. Pine Island owes what we are today to them."

Ellie received a certificate of appreciation in 2013 from All Faiths for being a founding member of the Responsible Growth Management Coalition and for being honored in the same year as one of WFCU Public Media's "Makers: Women Who Make Southwest Florida."

Ellie joined All Faiths in 2005 and met her companion of many years, Oren Stephens. Oren and Ellie faithfully attended the Wednesday night meditation group together. Health problems necessitated her move to Springwood Court Health Care facility, but Oren continues to bring Ellie to Sunday services when she is feeling up to it. Ellie enjoys visitors and is often visited by Rev. CJ. Rev. CJ says he's fascinated by her life stories and commitment to liberal religion. Ellie says she enjoys the people and the intellectual stimulation she gets from All Faiths.



### All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

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**Board of Governors:** Diane Cartwright, President; Bill Snider, Vice-President; Sharon Gray, Treasurer; Ed Kleinow, Past Chair;

**Governors:** Robert Bennett, Barbara Gaiser, Annely Hudanick, Lisa Leonhardt, David Slocum.

**Staff:** Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Joe Gayton, Sexton; Robert Bennett, Hospitality



#### Communications

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*Newsletter*

Regina Kilmartin

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Joyce Ramay

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Joyce Ramay

#### Sound Technician

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#### Building and Grounds

Michael Pierre

#### Social Action & Outreach

Richard Keelan

*Climate Action Team*

Joan Marshall

#### L.I.F.E.

Bill Snider & Regina Kilmartin

*McGregor Clinic*

Joyce Schaffer

*Mano a Mano*

Charlotte Blitt

*Operation Joy*

Annely Hudanick

*Animal Ministry*

Debra MacDonald

**Minister: Rev. CJ McGregor - Cell: 508-736-3361**

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson

Deadline for the **October** Issue of *Connections*  
**September 18**

(Brief announcements may be accepted later,  
and will be included if space and time permit.)



OFFICE HOURS: 9am to 4pm, Monday thru Thurs;  
9am to 12:00pm, Friday and Sunday.

Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin