



Where you *belong!*


# CONNECTIONS

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

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In Memory



**Rev. Wayne A. Robinson**  
1937 - 2024

*Shalom. Salaam Aleikum. Amen.  
And blessed be.*

*The Board of Directors met on June 19 at 1:00 p.m.*

First, let's keep the late Dr. Reverend Wayne Robinson in our thoughts. What we are today owes much to his authentic view of the cosmos.

The Board of Directors has approved the renewal of our Minister's contract through March 31, 2026. The terms of the contract are now more favorably aligned with some of the Unitarian Universalist Association thinking on compensation, leave time, and time the Minister is required to sermonize.

I encourage every member to check the organizational chart posted in the Community Room to make sure your name is opposite an activity you are engaged in – and to see if your name is missing from it or if it is included incorrectly. It is sometimes difficult to keep track of all the activity in the Congregation.

We have recently appoint-

ed a Bylaws Review Committee to comb through the Bylaws to be sure they accurately reflect how we do business, or describe something we are doing incorrectly. The Bylaws and the Congregational Manual along with the Articles of Incorporation will be available 24/7 on the All Faiths website.

We are slowly going through the Congregational Manual. Since it was created there are many sections which have not been formally adopted – at least that is what the current version suggests. We approved the 700 Sections on Finance at our recent board meeting.

We have been engaged in search for how best to improve our sound system. Fran Way has donated \$5,000 in honor of Bob and her son, Bobby, is helping to narrow down the kind of equipment we need. We continue to inquire as to other consultants on this project.

Paving of our parking area is moving ahead. Stay tuned.

While my time at the UUA General Assembly was limited, here are a few takeaways. As delegates we were able to attend a number of sessions. Depending on how involved you are in the UUA universe, a delegate could invest quite a bit of time. Here are my highlights: There were a number of opportunities to vote as a delegate. A series of statements known as UUA AIW or Actions of Immediate Witness are about a significant action, event, or development in the world that necessitates immediate engagement and action among UU member congregations. The 2024 AIW were: Centering Love Amidst the Ongoing Impact of COVID-19 (Passed 86%), Solidarity with Palestinians (Passed 73.5%), and World on Fire: Humanitarian Aid and Climate Change (Passed 96.6%). Another discussion took place on the Responsive

Resolution: UUA GA Support for October 7 Hostages – a response to a statement from UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt Regarding the conflict between Israel and Hamas. (Passed 77%)

Of course, if you have been reading UU World over the past several years, the main topic was the Article II revision discussion. The UUA bylaws mandate a regular revision process of Article II every fifteen years. Article II has the language that is at the heart of our faith for many of us as UUs. It has the Principles and the Sources, and our purpose as an organization. The language in Article II lives in the UUA bylaws and has been revised a number of times over the course of the Unitarian Universalist Association's history. We are a living tradition, which means regularly reviewing and asking ourselves: Does the Article II core language

*(continued on page 3)*

## Mission Statement

All Faiths Unitarian Congregation is committed to Justice, Equity and Compassion.

## Vision Statement

Recognizing our role as each other's keepers, we strive to be an inclusive, loving, spiritual community working to bring harmony to the world.

## All Faiths Collection Schedule

### Monthly Share-the-Plate & Special Collections

*(Please write organization and amount in the memo line of your check.)*

**July** - Operation Joy -Back to School

**August** - Quality Life Center Scholarships (Racial Equity Team)

**September** - SWFL RESET Center (Climate Action Team)

*June Share the Plate raised \$485 for Cape Coral Pride!*

*Your generosity directly benefits our community!  
We are grateful!*





### Daydreaming and thinking of you

As we have entered the blazing hot days of summer in Southwest Florida, we begin to ever so casually look back at what comes with the summer here in Florida...hurricanes. Having experienced flooding in 2022, I am on the edge about this hurricane season as I am sure many of you are. Unfortunately being on edge is not enough to prepare for one.

Hurricane preparedness means preparing well enough so if you need to leave, you can in enough time, with a safe destination in mind, and the means to get there. It means being ready. I have a quote from Sandra Sharpe on the wall in my office that reads: "What do you pack to pursue a dream and what do you leave behind?"

Right now there is no hurricane on the horizon, so there is time to dream. Dreams take us to marvelous places where we can do and experience just about anything. Let us dream then, or better daydream about it.

In my dream, my bags are packed for at least 1-2 weeks away. My belongings always include the basics, water, non-perishable food, a first-aid kit, flashlights, batteries and a full tank of gas, mobile phone and charger, and just in case I need to go to a shelter, I do my homework regarding shelters because some provide access to nurses, medical staff or other equipment, but they need to know you're coming. If I am taking prescription medication I plan to have enough to last for several days, or even two weeks because even if I decide to stay, if power is out for an extended period and pharmacies aren't open, I may have a big problem. If I plan to stay home then I check my BBQ grill, clean it and make sure it works. I also check to see if I need propane or charcoal. And I pull out my cooler for ice, purchase candles, a lighter and matches.

I do not have a generator, but if I did I would make sure it works and that I have plenty of fuel for it. Nor do I have a pet, but if I did I would be sure to have enough pet food.

Next, I dream about my home, my property and belongings that will remain. Causing me to bring my home and/or rental and content insurance information with me.

At this point I think I am ready to stay, or go, except I now need to check when the hurricane is due to arrive, so I have enough time to move patio furniture, potted plants and get out, before floods, or overwhelming traffic. And if I should leave, remember to notify family, friends and neighbors that I am leaving so they will not look for me after the weather event.

From AARP Disaster planning: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has an Emergency Preparedness for

Older Adults: list of information created specifically for older Americans. They recommend:

A minimum three-day supply of medications, along with a cooler and ice packs if your medications require refrigeration. Also, if needed, medical supplies such as syringes.

Contact lens solution, glasses and/or hearing aids and extra batteries for people who need them.

Information about your medical devices, including oxygen, walkers and wheelchairs. The information should include model numbers and the vendor of the products.

Documents in a waterproof bag to include a personal care plan; contact information for family members; a medication list including the dosage, exact name, pharmacy information and the prescribing doctor for each medication; a list of food or medical allergies; copies of photo IDs and medical insurance cards; and durable power of attorney and/or medical power of attorney documents.

Cash to be used if automatic teller and credit card machines are not working.

The CDC also recommends people include additional supplies to address the spread of the coronavirus, flu and other viruses. They include masks for everyone 2 and older, soap, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.

Stay Safe, Beloved - Albie

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## BOARD NOTES *by Frank Geltner, Board Chair*

*(continued from page 2)*

reflect who we are now and who we want to be? If this vote were to fail, the bylaws provide that such a discussion cannot take place for another two years. This ballot passed as well (80.2%). All ballots required a 66% (2/3) vote. See separate discussion of the new Article II.

We recently had occasion to contact the City of Fort Myers because of a complaint received from a neighbor. We explained to the neighbor that we would be contacting the City, but the Stormwater Manager basically told us that the City of Fort Myers does not engage in disputes between neighbors. All Faiths would like to be a good neighbor and will do what it needs to do if it can. We have a live camera recording different portions of our property 24/7. As far as we have been able to determine by visiting recordings of precipitation, the amount of water necessary to cause any excessive water to flow from our property in the direction of our neighbor is not yet determinable.

Namaste!

*The next Board Meeting will be held on July 17, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.*



# Happening at All Faiths

## Happy July

### Birthday to you!



- July 3        Becky Ross
- July 5        Jan Guardiano
- July 7        Regina Kilmartin
- July 12       John Conrad
- July 13       Nathalie Hahn
- July 19       Joe Gayton
- July 22       Terri Lazar
- July 22       David Donovan
- July 24       Robert Bennett
- July 25       Richard Scudder
- July 27       Barb McFarlane
- July 30       Doug Cartwright
- July 31       Bob DiGalbo

### And in August...

- August 7        Joyce Reischuck
- August 12       Joan Marshall
- August 12       Carole Latino
- August 15       Jackie Wendorf
- August 19       Marsha Bates

## Solos Monthly Lunch!

**Saturday, July 6, 2024**

**1:00 p.m.**

**"Cafe YOU"**

1423 SE 10th St, Cape Coral, FL  
*check your email for details.*

**RSVP to:** Annely Hudanick,  
[annelyblue@hotmail.com](mailto:annelyblue@hotmail.com)

Everyone is welcome to join the Solos  
for outings and lunches.

## The Epicureous Dinner Group on Hiatus

The Epicureous Dinner Group will be on hiatus for the summer. The organizer, John Fischer, will regroup in September to determine best days and times to resume.

## Women's Sacred Singing Circle

**Meeting on Sunday Afternoons from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.**

The Women's Sacred Circle will meet on Sunday afternoons for singing and chanting women empowerment songs.

Contact: Toni Latino at [latinolaw@gmail.com](mailto:latinolaw@gmail.com) . Not all Sundays are available - check calender on page 5 to confirm.

## The Rainbow Connection

**Meeting on the 2nd Sunday of the Month at 12 p.m.**

The Rainbow Connection is an inclusive group that supports the LGBTQ+ community and Allies. All are welcome.

Contact: Frank Stephens at [fdinfla99@gmail.com](mailto:fdinfla99@gmail.com).

## Racial Equity Team Meeting

**Meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 10 a.m.**

The Racial Equity Team meets once a month. You are invited to join them as they work towards becoming proactive anti-racists.

Contact: Nicole Racine [nracine\\_1948@yahoo.com](mailto:nracine_1948@yahoo.com) and Frank Geltner [frank@newportnet.com](mailto:frank@newportnet.com)

## All Voices Choir Practice

**On Hiatus through July and August**

The choir welcomes new members. You do not have to be a professional singer or read sheet music to join. Go ahead, give it a try. Contact: Carlos Garcia, [ceegeefm@gmail.com](mailto:ceegeefm@gmail.com).

## Book Club

**Meeting on the 3rd Monday of the Month at 12 p.m.**

The book club is casual and fun. No assigned books, just show up and be prepared to talk about an interesting book you've read or are reading. Contacts: Diane Chernow, [dianecher@comcast.net](mailto:dianecher@comcast.net)

## McGregor Clinic Collection

**Collection is on the 3rd Sunday of Every Month**

This month the clinic is in need of men's clothing and kitchen utensils. Coordinator: Joyce Schaffer, [joycelschaffer@gmail.com](mailto:joycelschaffer@gmail.com)

# July 2024 Calendar

Sunday

Monday

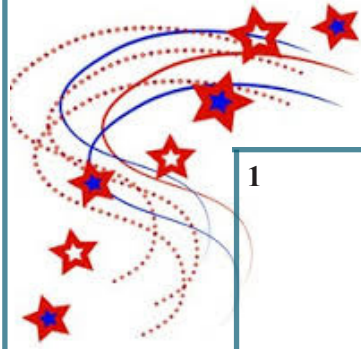
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday


Friday

Saturday



## Happy 4th of July!



	1	2 10am Sunday Service Team Mtg.  1:30pm-Zoom Climate Action Team Mtg.  6:30pm A Course in Miracles Group	3	4   Office Closed	5	6   1pm Solos Lunch
7 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service  2-5pm ACMA Circle	8	9  6:30pm A Course in Miracles (see pg. 11)	10	11 10am Finance Mtg.  6pm JULY POTLUCK DINNER & Game Night	12	13  2pm COOKED Special Film Event (page 12)
14 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service  12 pm Rainbow Connection  2-5pm ACMA Circle	15  12pm Book Club (no book club in August)	16 10am Minister's Support Mtg.  6:30pm A Course in Miracles (see pg. 11)	17  1pm Board Meeting	18  1pm Homeless Team Mtg.  7pm Tamiami Tale Tellers	19	20  7pm ACMA Concert (see pg. 9)
21 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service McGregor Clinic Collection 12:15pm Sacred Circle 2-5pm ACMA Circle	22	23  6:30pm A Course in Miracles (see pg. 11)	24	25	26	27
28 9:15am News Talk 10:30am Service  Ice Cream Social	29	30  6:30pm A Course in Miracles (see pg. 11)	31	<b>*NOTICE*</b> There will be no August Newsletter. Check your email for weekly calendar and events.		

**JULY 2024**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**  
**THEME: SUMMER FUN**

**In-House & Live on Facebook at 10:30 a.m.**  
Recorded services can be viewed at [www.allfaithsuu.org](http://www.allfaithsuu.org)  
or on our YouTube channel.

**July 7**

**Title – 4<sup>th</sup> of July: Time and Rejoicing**

Speaker – Alberita Johnson  
Worship Associate – Joyce Ramay  
Music by Carlos Garcia

**July 14**

**Title – UUA GA Experience**

Speakers – Alberita Johnson and  
Reflections by Members  
Worship Associate – Michelle Gemma  
Music by Carlos Garcia

**July 21**

**Title – Refugees and Us/US**

Speaker – Alberita Johnson  
Worship Associate – Regina Kilmartin  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
*McGregor Clinic Collection*

**July 28**

**Title – Story, Song and Spirit**

Speaker – Alberita Johnson  
Worship Associate – Giovanni DeOto  
Music by Carlos Garcia  
*Life of Congregation Report – Frank Geltner*

**SUNDAY PROGRAMS**

**News Talk - 9:15am in the Sanctuary**  
News Talk is a facilitated group that offers a time and  
space for you to discuss the weekly headlines.

**The Rainbow Connection**  
**Meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at Noon**  
**Contact Frank Stephens – [fdinfla99@gmail.com](mailto:fdinfla99@gmail.com)**

A space for the LGBTQ community and allies to  
gather in fellowship, plan activities and offer support.

**JOYS & SORROWS**

*With our apologies for any omissions, here are the joys &  
sorrows expressed by our members in June.*

**Greg Alberda**, Judy's husband, had back surgery.  
He is receiving therapy at home. We hope that he has a  
good recovery.

**Ann Batal** had back surgery. We hope that she has a  
good recovery.

**Charlotte Blitt** had a post-surgery infection  
and was hospitalized for six days for IV antibiotic  
treatment. She is home now. We hope she has a full  
recovery.

**Doug and Diane Cartwright** returned home from  
their cruise with respiratory infections, and Diane  
also had an ear infection. We hope they have a speedy  
recovery.

**Ed Elrod** has been hospitalized with shingles in  
his eye and foot infection. We hope that receives good  
treatment and recovers soon.

**Pam Pfalzer** had shoulder surgery and is receiving  
rehab. We hope she regains good arm mobility soon.

**Nicole Racine** had lower back surgery. We hope  
that she has a good recovery.

**Rev. Wayne Robinson**, founding minister of  
All Faiths, died on May 29<sup>th</sup> at home. We extend  
our sympathy to his wife, Joyce Schaffer. Memorial  
service will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

*Joyce Ramay,*  
*Care & Support Coordinator*

**CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM  
ON SUMMER HIATUS**

Our Child and Youth Program with Sharon Heinrich  
will be on hiatus for June and July. The program will  
resume on August 18. Visit our website to register your  
children and learn more about it: [www.allfaithsuu.org](http://www.allfaithsuu.org).

# REMEMBERING REV. DR. WAYNE A. ROBINSON

by Joyce Ramay

Our beloved founding minister, Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Robinson, passed away at his home on May 29, 2024. He and his wife, Joyce Schaffer, had traveled to Texas on the preceding weekend to celebrate his grandchild's graduation. We are happy that he was able to live his life fully right up to the final days.

Wayne led an interesting and meaningful life. He was raised in Oklahoma in the Pentecostal Holiness faith. In his early years, he became an ordained Pentecostal Holiness minister, and for a period of time worked for Rev. Oral Roberts, a nationally famous Pentecostal televangelist and faith healer. On his spiritual journey, he moved on to become a Methodist minister. He obtained his Doctorate in Ministry from

Southern Methodist University. As his perspective broadened, he embraced Unitarian Universalism and became a fully credentialed UU minister in 1989. He served congregations in Oklahoma, Minnesota, Michigan and Florida.

While he was minister at the UU Church of Fort Myers, disputes over various matters led to his resignation in 2000. He went to serve as interim minister for a UU congregation in Michigan. While he was there, Lou Pizzini invited people who had supported Wayne to come together on February 19, 2001, to consider the possibility of forming a new congregation. 98 people agreed to move forward and Rev. Robinson answered the call to create All Faiths Unitarian Congregation.

He served All Faiths until his retirement in 2013, but remained connected with us.

Wayne possessed a profound intellect, combined with a strong commitment to social justice. He was generous in sharing his time and talents in advocating for the improved welfare of marginalized people. He was in the forefront of movements against discrimination based upon race or religion. He believed strongly in peace and led us in opposing war. He practiced the message of St. Francis of Assisi to be an Instrument of Peace.

His sermons were inspirational – raising our spirits to new heights, and calling us to make this a better world. One of his sermons, *We Are Each Other's Keep-*

*ers*, moved one of our members so much that he donated \$10,000 to hold an art competition to have an art piece on that theme – leading to the creation of the sculpture at the front of our sanctuary.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held at All Faiths on Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 1 p.m. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Joyce Schaffer, his sisters, his children, his grandchildren, and all those who loved him.

We were truly blessed to have the opportunity to be led by Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson. Wayne's spirit lives on in our hearts and has merged with his "Great Mystery before which we all stand."

Love never dies!!!

## "239 DRUMLINE" HONORS REV. ROBINSON

Darlene Mitchell was proud to announce that Darlene & Friends Inc. launched the "239 Drumline" on Saturday June 22, 2024. A summer youth enrichment program for students 7-17.

It was a unanimous decision to name this project in loving memory of our friends for over three decades:

***Brittney Beeks, Youth Pastor/Percussionist***  
***The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson***

Thank you so much for your love and support over the years, along with All Faiths Unitarian Congregation.

## Rev. Wayne A. Robinson Celebration of Life

August 10, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.



You are invited to join us as we celebrate  
the life and honor the passing of our

Founding Minister,

The Rev. Wayne A. Robinson.

Ceremony will be followed by a reception in the  
Community Room.



# ♥ FOR THE HOMELESS NEWS

by Barb McFarlane

This team met with Jacque Williams from *Refugee Resettlement Services* to learn what families, who are here under the international designation of refugee, need as they arrive in Lee County. We will discuss further how our congregation could assist with their needs of furniture, kitchen/bathroom goods, diapers, clothing, personal care products, school items. Many of their needs overlap with collections already taken through the Heart for Homeless team, Operation Joy, McGregor Clinic. More discussions will occur.

Brian Bigelow picked up four bikes that were brought to All Faiths for donation and delivered to North Shore Alliance Church in North Fort Myers.

A team member has donated money to pay for a new sign for the bike rack. We hope the new sign will stay on our property.

Speakers from Saint Mathew's House will present at the October 6th service. October Share the Plate will go to Saint Mathew's House new Women's and Children's Shelter.

This team will not meet in July and August.

Enjoy your summer.

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## LEE INTERFAITH FOR EMPOWERMENT NEWS & UPDATES

by Robert Bennett, Team Leader

Good news was achieved on Monday, June 17th at the Fort Myers City Council Meeting. The council members approved the use of Affordable Housing Trust Fund funds to help build 230 new affordable units in place of the aging and storm-damaged Horizons complex.

We owe a big thanks to Carolyn Stanley and Dotty Morrison who spoke at the meeting, Patricia Zimmerman who sent letters to the councilpeople prior to the meeting explaining our support, and the 30 LIFE members from at least nine congregations who attended to support affordable housing and to demonstrate our People Power at the meeting.

***LIFE for Justice! Justice for Life!***

*"A democracy cannot thrive where power remains unchecked and justice is reserved for a select few. Ignoring these cries and failing to respond to this movement is simply not an option — for peace cannot exist where justice is not served." — John Lewis*



## RAINBOW CONNECTIONS NEWS

by David Donovan & Frank Stephens, Co-Chairs

Happy Summer All Faiths, from your Rainbow Connection team. Naples Pride was held on Saturday June 8th and was a huge success for the community in general and All Faith's in particular, especially since two couples we met came to our Sunday service the next day! Thank you to everyone who made them feel welcome and to all who attended the event and represented us at our table. You obviously did a wonderful job.

The Rainbow Connection is closing out Gay Pride month with an Evening of Poetry and Song, featuring TROPICAL STORM, a gay men's A cappella group, on Sunday June 30th at All Faith's from 6 to 8 pm. Poems will be presented by members of the Congregation as well as others. Proceeds will help fund our support of next year's Cape Coral Pride.

This month's Mixer for SWFL Harmony Chamber of Commerce was held on May 16th where three new businesses were welcomed: Blinking Owl Book Store, Posh Nail Day Spa and The Drink and Think House. All Faith's was represented and used this event to get our name out into the community and connect with like-minded friends. The next Harmony event will be at Ras-cal's Fort Myers on June 20th.

Rainbow Connection members also attended the one-year anniversary of VISUALITY at their site in downtown Fort Myers. VISUALITY's mission is to enhance and sustain the health and wellbeing of the LGBTQ community with programs, events and activities that create community. Our hope is that we can attract new members and partner with them in a meaningful way in the future. We will soon have their literature in our lobby as well as our literature in theirs. They will also be hosting a White Party on June 28th at Cruisers Cape Coral as a fundraiser. All Faith's will be represented.

The Rainbow Connection is also developing fund raising ideas so that we can again be a sponsor for Cape Coral Pride and other possible community actions in the future. Look for a potential survey in the future for your input. Any ideas can be submitted directly to us.

Frank Stephens: [fdinfla99@gmail.com](mailto:fdinfla99@gmail.com)

David Donovan: [ddonovan722@gmail.com](mailto:ddonovan722@gmail.com)



# TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Conrad, Treasurer

## Cash Assets – May 2024

First Horizon Checking	\$ 37,127
Raymond James Legacy	4,503
Pay Pal	35
Live Oak Operating Reserve (CD)	22,264
First Horizon Capital Reserve	8,453
Live Oak Capital Reserve (S)	35,469
Live Oak Operating Reserve (S)	41,620
Live Oak Legacy (CD)	21,039

<b>Total</b>	\$170,509
Prior Month	<u>186,922</u>
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>(-\$ 16413)</b>

## May 2024 Profit & Loss

Operating Income	\$ 13,812
Operating Expense	<u>17,070</u>
<b>Net Gain/Loss</b>	<b>(-\$ 3,558)</b>

### Revenue/Operating Income and Expenses:

As we entered the new 2024-2025 fiscal year on April 1, All Faiths budgeted \$200,200 for pledge giving; to date, actual pledges have totaled \$185,160 (92.5%).

Our Pledge Goal for the months of April to May was \$33,370; and \$31,276 was received (93.7%). However, before April 1, 2024, \$24,757 was received in paid pledges towards the new year. Taking this into account, we have received a total of \$56,033 towards the current year pledge drive (28.0%).

No unusual expenses were incurred in during May.

The Board approved the consolidation of several accounts to streamline accounting and to further increase interest income. These changes were made before the end of March 2024 and are reflected in the figures listed above. May's Interest Income was \$448.

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 fiscal year, several new accounts were created at Live Oak to generate increased interest income. The 1 Year CD rate is 5.0%. And the Savings rate is currently at 4.0%.

The May monthly transfer/deposit of \$1,530 to the Live Oak Capital Reserve account was made. The replacement of the side door and purchase of a new audio/visual projector were paid in May. Finally, a contract to replace the driveway was executed in May and a \$11,129 down payment was made.

In May, \$275 was collected for St. Matthew's House (Homeless Team).

# RACIAL EQUITY TEAM NEWS

by Frank Geltner, Co-Chair

The Racial Equity Team (RET) was pleased with the attendance at its special Sunday program on June 2. We will be asking the Quality Life Center, the charity designated by the RET to receive its "Share The Plate" donations, to send a representative to a Sunday Service in the near future to share some thoughts about its programs. The RET continues to explore options for future outreach after spending the past year discussing Layla F. Saad's "me and white supremacy." The team will now take a break until its next meeting on Tuesday, August 13 at 10 a.m.



## Ice Cream Social

After Service

Sunday, July 28, 2024

Sponsored by Lewis Robinson



## ACMA LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE!

**Saturday, July 20 - 7:00pm**

Tim McGeary in Concert

JD Lashley Opens

**Sunday, August 3 - 7:00pm**

Bear and Robert in Concert!

Andy Getch Opens

**Saturday, August 17 - 7:00pm**

Bob Dylan Tribute Show!

***This is a Fundraiser for All Faiths***

**The Listening Room at All Faiths**

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida

General public \$18/Member discount \$12

Donations at the Door

# CLIMATE ACTION TEAM NEWS

by Joan Marshall, Co-Chair



Your Climate Action Team is joining forces with the Racial Equity, Heart for the Homeless and Rainbow Connection social justice teams to sponsor a special event featuring the screening and discussion of the film "COOKED...Survival by Zip Code" (see page 12).

We are hoping to engage community members, especially those living in disadvantaged areas, to join us. Here's how Interfaith Power and Light describes the importance of this film:

"This summer is predicted to be the hottest on record according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with temperatures 30 to 50 percent above normal in much of the United States. Extreme heat harms human health, especially the elderly and outdoor workers, with 2300 deaths nationwide in 2023, a number that is increasing annually.

Cooked: Survival by Zip Code delves into the story of the worst heat disaster in U.S. history in 1995 in Chicago, when 739 residents—mostly elderly and black—died over the course of one week. The film links the deadly heat wave's devastation back to the manmade disaster of structural racism, shining a light on the issues of poverty, race, class, and education that underlie how natural disasters take lives."

Please help us identify community organizations and leaders to invite to this event. Contact Joan Marshall at [jfmbm@yahoo.com](mailto:jfmbm@yahoo.com). And mark your calendar's for Saturday, July 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to share in this important outreach effort.



## Fellowship Meal

**JULY 11, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

Join us for fun and fellowship.

Bring a dish to share.

Play games & get to know each other!

# ARTICLE II PASSES AT GA

by Frank Geltner, Board Chair & GA Delegate

## Revised Article II

### Section C-2.1. Purposes

The Unitarian Universalist Association will devote its resources to and use its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. The Unitarian Universalist Association will actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating Love.

### Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love. Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

#### Shared Unitarian Universalist Values

**Interdependence** -- We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it. We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

**Pluralism** -- We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

**Justice** -- We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.

**Transformation** -- We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

**Generosity** -- We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

**Equity** -- We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

# BITTERSWEET MILESTONES

by Regina Kilmartin



On July 23, I will celebrate my 15th Anniversary as All Faiths' administrator. It's one of the longest relationships I've ever had. Not only are my duties interesting, challenging, and always evolving, but I am surrounded by people who care. People who care about fairness and equity; people who care about the marginalized and suffering we live among; people who care about the earth and our environment; people who care about each other and love each other simply because we are all on the same path, the path Rev. Wayne Robinson made possible for us to follow.

Wayne was always very good to me. He was my minister, my friend, and a confidant. He always had my best interest at heart. I worked for him for four and a half years before he retired. He included me in all things professional and personal. He made me feel like I was part of the family. I will always treasure knowing him and learning from him.

I will also turn 65 in July. It feels like a milestone, but not the celebratory kind. I was honestly shocked when I learned that I had severe arthritis in my lower back. When the doctor gave me the prognosis, I immediately thought, What? Wait! That can't be, I'm only – and there it was – I wasn't

only anymore, I was 64 years old and eligible this month for Medicare. I guess when you work for a compassionate employer, and you are surrounded by role models more advanced in age than you, the time really does fly by.

In 15 years, I have seen many changes. I am on my fourth minister, and I cannot even tell you how many governing boards. I have witnessed literally thousands of people walk through our doors. Some stay for a little while, some stay forever. The *forevers* stay until their last breath, and then we lovingly honor them with a brick in our Memorial Garden, where they will remain an important and indelible part of our history and existence. The Memorial Garden is sacred to me, a place where I can visit and fondly remember the people who touched and changed my life.

With the world coming unhinged in so many ways, there is one thing I know for certain. All Faiths is a true sanctuary that we must promote and preserve. We play a crucial role in broadening perspectives, promoting inclusivity, and advocating for progressive causes that benefit society as a whole. I am reminded on a daily basis that humanity, kindness and love still do exist in the world, you just have to know where to find it. It's right here, at 2756 McGregor Boulevard.

With love and gratitude ~ Regina

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## McGREGOR CLINIC CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!

by Tom Hammond, Chief Executive Officer

This year we acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the McGregor Clinic providing service to Fort Myers and surrounding communities. Our mission is to improve the health and well-being of the community in a safe space with a dedication to excellence in HIV care and prevention. Our vision is to have a healthy, stigma free, and thriving community.

The McGregor Clinic provides an integrated and holistic approach for the people we serve. Our commitment to the community is never-ending as we find new and innovative ways to bring HIV treatments and prevention strategies that are proven to work.

We provide HIV primary care, preventative care, wellness screenings, and on-site laboratory services to over 985 people living with HIV. In addition, we provide support services such as case management services, assist patients with health insurance, dental assistance and transportation to and from medical appointments, we have a food pantry and, clothes closet program that provides gently used clothing and personal hygiene products. In 2023 our food pantry

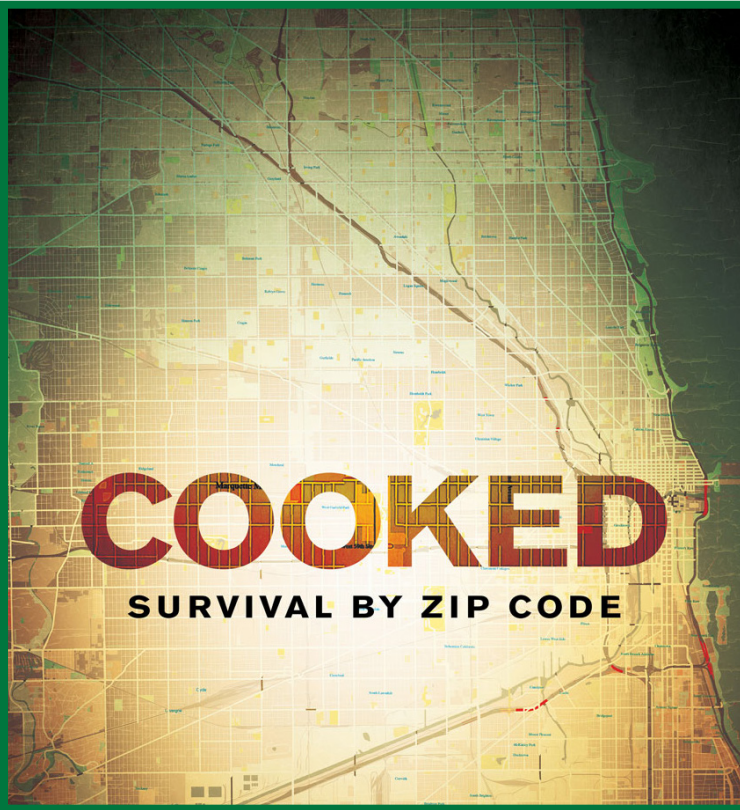
program distributed 41,000 lb. of food. The monthly average number of people accessing our food pantry was 135. This is a 26.17 % increase from the previous year. In the first quarter of 2024 we had an average of 42 people per month access Carol's Closet which is our free clothing program.

Our HIV Prevention program is always on the move delivering community educational events, condom distribution, Narcan, HIV Testing on-site or in our Mobile HIV Testing Unit at community events, festivals and night clubs. In 2023 the outreach team distributed 131,152 condoms.

New and exciting programs include the expansion of our HIV testing program which now include free STD/STI testing. This full panel of tests now include gonorrhea, and rapid tests for syphilis, chlamydia, hepatitis C and HIV. We now offer PrEP which is short for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, a medication that when taken consistently is effective at preventing you from contracting HIV through sexual contact, if you are exposed.

Visit [www.mcgregorclinic.org](http://www.mcgregorclinic.org) for more information.





## SPECIAL JUSTICE TEAM EVENT

**WHAT:** All Faiths social justice teams (Racial Equity, Heart for the Homeless, Climate Action Team and The Rainbow Connection) invite you to join us for a film screening and discussion about the impact of heat on our urban community. Come share your thoughts, concerns and suggestions about ways to deal with this ever increasing problem.

This special community event will include a Door Prize Lottery and Refreshments.

**WHEN:** Saturday, July 13, 2024 - 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** All Faiths Unitarian Congregation  
2756 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL 33901

### All Faiths Unitarian Congregation

2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Phone: (239) 226-0900 – Email: [office@allfaithsuo.org](mailto:office@allfaithsuo.org) – Website: [www.allfaithsuo.org](http://www.allfaithsuo.org)

**Executive Board:** Frank Geltner, Chair; Dick Scudder, Vice Chair; John Conrad, Treasurer; Diane Chernow, Secretary; Marge DiGalbo, Past Chair.

**Directors:** David Donovan, Rosalie Kuehn, Ken Malkin, Barb McFarlane, Lewis Robinson.

**Staff:** Regina Kilmartin, Administrator; Sharon Heinrich, CYP Director; Carlos Garcia, Music Director; Joe Gayton, Sexton.

**Commissioned Lay Minister: Alberita (Albie) Johnson**

#### Communications

*Newsletter*

Regina Kilmartin

*Proofreaders*

Weezie Close/Joyce Ramay

*Social Media & Website*

Regina Kilmartin/Becky Ross

#### Adult Education Forums

##### Sunday Service Team

Joyce Ramay

#### Hospitality

Frank Geltner/Nicole Racine

#### Program Support

Michelle Gemma/Barb McFarlane

#### Member Services

Rosalie Kuehn/Fran Way

##### Greeters

Dick Scudder

##### Care and Support

Joyce Ramay

##### Finance

Joyce Ramay

#### Stewardship Committee

Marsha Bates

#### Nominating Committee

Sharon Gray

#### Sound Technician

Ed Elrod

#### Livestreaming

Regina Kilmartin/Sharon Gray

Brad Davidson

#### Building and Grounds

Brian Bigelow/Judy Alberda

#### Social Action & Outreach

*Climate Action Team*

Joan Marshall/Carol Heilsberg

*Heart for the Homeless*

Barb McFarlane

#### Racial Equity Team

Nicole Racine/Frank Geltner

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

Robert Bennett,

Michelle Gemma

Barb McFarlane

*Mano a Mano*

Charlotte Blitt

#### Operation Joy & Solos Group

Annely Hudanick

*Animal Ministry*

Sharon Gray

*Rainbow Connection*

Frank Stephens

**Founding Minister:** The Rev. Dr. Wayne Robinson



Deadline for the **September** Issue of *Connections* is **August 16**

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



OFFICE HOURS: 9am to 4pm, Monday–Thurs;  
9am to 12pm, Friday & Sunday.  
Congregational Administrator: Regina Kilmartin