



The Communicator

[Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County](http://www.uuclakeco.org)

Like us on Facebook! [facebook.com/UUlakeco](https://www.facebook.com/UUlakeco)



UUCLC Information & Contacts

Address: 1235 Mt. Homer Rd., Eustis, FL
Mail address: PO Box 1761, Eustis, FL 32727
Office Phone: (352) 805-8451
Email contact: lakecountyuu@gmail.com
Website: www.lakecountyuu.net

Officers

Russ Littlefield, President
Janeane Reagan, Vice President
Wendy Pacek, Secretary
Christina Wilkins, Treasurer
Chris Higgins, Asst. Treasurer

Trustees

Lois Sanford
Pete Conde
Ted Fessler

The Communicator is published monthly.
Editor: Christy Millat Phone: 248-921-0541
Email: UUCLCCommunicator@yahoo.com
Submit articles for the September Communicator by Thursday, August 27.

Welcome to another edition of the UUCLC Communicator. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the UUCLC building is currently closed and all in-person programs are cancelled. However, **WE ARE STILL HERE!** We have Sunday services planned, committees are still meeting, and some groups and circles are meeting via Zoom. Check your weekly email blast for links to all of our Zoom activities. If you aren't receiving the weekly eblast, request to be added to the list at office@lakecountyuu.net.

August 2: Rev. Janet Onnie from Tri-County UU "...for the Longest Time"

August 9: Sara Villarreal Bishop "Visiting Rev. Sara"

August 16: David Williamson "The Establishment of Religion: A How To Guide"

August 23: David Crump "Beauty and Spirit"

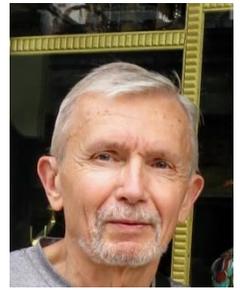
August 30: Imam Sykes



Presidents Message

A Proud UUA Publishing History

One Sunday, in the Eustis Woman's Club, where UUCLC held its discussion group and services for many years, Ruth Gray, who was fighting cancer and had on some crazy headdress to cover her chemo-hair, shouted out, "Don't forget, Beacon Press published The Pentagon Papers." I can't remember what prompted her to do that and I can't remember whether it was during a service or a discussion group. It could have been either - she was irrepresible - but it has never left my mind.



I hadn't known about that. It was quite a story of bravery - I mean the Beacon Press publishing the Pentagon papers. It resulted in considerable harassment of the UUA President and others by the FBI. It was a moment of greatness for the Beacon Press and the UUA.

The Beacon Press is the publishing arm of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It is a small press dedicated to publishing books consistent with our principles. Currently, Beacon Press is having another notable moment. It is the publisher of *White Fragility*, a book that has remained on the New York Times best seller list for over 52 weeks and has sold 750,000 copies and counting. It has become a must read book during this time of racial adjustment.

Our Lifespan and Social Justice Committees' Racial Justice Initiatives

This leads me to our Lifespan Committee. In September, Lifespan will initiate a study group called *Moving Toward Anti-racism*. The first of the several books it will be studying will be the very book mentioned above, *White Fragility*. The course will be held on the first and third Fridays of each month. This effort is just one of many intended to deepen UUCLC's commitment to racial justice.

Another of our active committees, the Social Justice and Environment Committee (SJE), has been engaged for two years in seeking racial justice in our community. For one thing, they were active in opposing the Lake County Board of County Commissioners' decision to approve the placing of a confederate General's statue into Lake County Museum of History. As you may know, the outcome of these efforts by SJE and many others throughout the community was largely positive. The Lake County Commissioners reversed their decision and have written Governor DeSantis asking that the state of Florida find another place for the Confederate General.

In a related action, Lake County has placed a monument commemorating the injustices done to the Groveland Four in a prominent location outside the old courthouse - the location where three of the four young men were beaten and tortured. At the request of the Commissioners, the four were pardoned by Governor DeSantis. Activists have been working since then to get a statement of full exoneration from the Governor.

In addition to its work opposing the Confederate statue, SJE has been involved in other significant efforts to promote antiracism. On July 19th, SJE launched its Social Justice Lecture Series with Mae Hazelton who gave an impassioned talk examining how much racial attitudes have changed in Lake County over the last 30 years. (Sadly, not as much as we might hope.) Over fifty people looked in. Many asked questions. The next lecture will feature Jeannie Economos of the Farm Workers Association. Many of you will remember Jeannie as she has given a couple of inspiring talks at

UUCLC worship services. The Farm Workers' Association is one of the local organizations that SJE and UUCLC supports. The lecture will be on August 2nd at 7:00.

Finally, SJE has been working with Terri McConnell on another racial understanding project developed by the Pacific Educational Group (PEG). Terri is a retired professor who led the Eden Prairie, MN, school district's effort to improve student performance by heightening racial understanding using the PEG program. The techniques used in this program can be applied to other kinds of groups. Several members of our SJE committee and other folks are now engaged in getting training from PEG. Terri and those taking the course are exploring ways to use what they learn in our community.

Other Committee Activities

The WRaP Committee has been especially challenged during this time of coronavirus. As they have supplied us with speakers and music, they have had to master some of the intricacies of Zoom. WRaP is the only standing committee that meets every week. On Tuesdays, they critique last Sunday's service and plan the next week's. In addition, they meet with the technical team via Zoom every Saturday, sometimes with the speaker, to rehearse.

The Financial Committee is involved in the intricate and time consuming task of updating our financial software. With our new software we will not only be able to record financial transactions, but will have an efficient and accurate way of updating information about and communicating with our members and friends.

The Care committee has had as its mission during this time of pandemic doing a check-in with the members of the congregation. You may have gotten a call or two or maybe you are one of the folks doing the calling. Meanwhile birthday and other cards continue to go out.

HUZZAHS and KUDOS to our committees and to all of you who are learning how to function virtually during this pandemic. It is these committees and the support you give them that make Unitarian Universalism a living faith.

Stay smart and stay safe. Let's come out on the other side of this with UUCLC stronger than ever.
Russ



ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL MEETING PART II, PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT BUDGET – AUGUST 2ND FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY SERVICE

Because of the coronavirus, we have had to do some unusual things. Ordinarily, our Annual Meeting takes place during the first Sunday in April. At that meeting, we elect Board of Trustee members as needed and the financial committee goes over the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Because we closed our building in March, we had to elect BOT members electronically and the budget was delayed. The BOT is now ready to present the proposed budget to the congregation at what will be the second part of our Annual Meeting. This will take place on September 6th, following the service. Those attending the service will be able to stay on their Zoom connection to attend and comment.



AIW Address 400 Years of White Supremacist Colonialism from the UUA

by Barbara Hill

This is a brief version of the Resolution adopted by the delegates to the 2020 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association:

WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the first Mayflower voyage, transporting Pilgrims from England to the North American Atlantic Coast;

WHEREAS, the Pilgrims' invasion of the Wampanoag people led to the enslavement of Indigenous peoples on the East Coast and the removal of and genocide against Indigenous peoples across the continent;

WHEREAS, many Unitarian Universalist congregations uncritically trace their origins to the Pilgrims' "Free Church" tradition – a mythos that sanctifies white supremacy and depends upon erasure of Indigenous peoples;

...

WHEREAS, the Plymouth Plantation (a for-profit corporation with stockholders in London) established the corporate pattern of using police to extract resources from Indigenous peoples, a pattern repeated at Standing Rock nation and other Indigenous nations that resist pipeline projects and other extractive industries;

WHEREAS, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, whose ancestors' lands were invaded by the Pilgrims in 1620, and who have inhabited and stewarded parts of present-day Massachusetts for more than 12,000 years, came under attack from the Trump administration in March of this year and were notified that their reservation lands were being terminated; and

WHEREAS, the administration continues in this and other attacks on Indigenous peoples' lands, sacred sites, and sovereignty – even as a federal district judge has temporarily blocked the taking of the Mashpee Wampanoag's lands,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT we, the delegates of the 2020 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, call upon the Unitarian Universalist Association and its member congregations to:

- Continue to gather in solidarity with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Standing Rock nation, and all Indigenous peoples struggling to preserve their lands, waters, peoples, sacred sites, and sovereignty;
 - Continue to push for release of Indigenous Water Protectors from prisons, end public policies that criminalize resistance to extractive colonialism, and adopt a vision of prison abolition;
 - Work nationally, statewide, and locally on public policy that is decolonizing – such as establishing indigenous Peoples Day, including Indigenous peoples' histories in public education curricula, and eliminating racist monuments, flags, and mascots;
 - Work to stop and reverse ecological harm in genuine collaboration with and taking leadership from communities most consistently and harshly impacted by extractive exploitation of land, water, air, and all beings;
 - Research, identify, and acknowledge the Indigenous peoples historically and/or currently connected with the land occupied by congregations, and find ways to act in solidarity with or even partner with those Indigenous peoples; and
 - Examine practices relative to Indigenous peoples, particularly the narratives regarding UU origins and US holidays including Thanksgiving.
1. Unitarian Universalist history often miscredits the “covenant communities” of the Pilgrims with bringing democracy and the “Free Church” to the North American continent – and with planting these values within UU tradition. This telling of UU history denies Indigenous histories, cultures, spiritual traditions, and rights.
 2. The colonial project initiated by the Pilgrims and perpetuated in our time demands more lands, waters, and resources, such that the conquest includes the whole continent, Hawaii, and other parts of the world.
 3. This violently patriarchal model also leads to domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and other forms of personal violence.
 4. “All living beings” includes the descendants of white settler-colonialism, whose ancestors arrived on this land traumatized by generations of empire-building in their European homelands.
 5. The corporate and state retaliation against the Water Protector movement at Standing Rock nation, Cheyenne River nation, and elsewhere is the present-day manifestation of the Plymouth plantation model, with at least five Indigenous Water Protectors becoming political prisoners of the U.S. government – and numerous states adopting legislation to criminalize resistance to extractive industries.
 6. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) declared this unjust move a “devastating blow to not only the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, but to all of Indian Country,” and statements of solidarity came from many entities, including the Unitarian Universalist Association.
 7. NCAI insists that we must remain “**vigilant and stand united.**”

07/19/20

LAKE CARES AND OPEN DOOR STILL IN NEED OF DONATIONS

Our first donation drop off for Lake Cares and Open Door was met with great appreciation by the two organizations. SJE committee was very pleased with the turnout and the generosity of the UUCLC congregation. We will have another drop off hour at the church on **Thursday, August 6, from noon to 1:00.** Open Door still needs deodorant and personal insect repellent but they also need coffee. As you know Lake Care needs non-perishable food and you may consider food for pets. Personal items such as soap and toothpaste are welcome also. Thank you for your participation, Jane Lovejoy.



UUCLC Sponsors Solar Co-op Is Up and Running

The Lake County Solar Co-op, co-sponsored by UUCLC, is now active. It's a great way to learn about going solar and to join forces with others of like mind to get discounted pricing with quality materials and service.

You can become a member anytime between now and October 30. Membership is free and there is no obligation to purchase anything.

Be aware, though, that should you choose to install solar through this process, it will be first come, first served, and this year's 26% tax credit will be reduced to 22% on January 1. *Note: the tax credit goes away entirely the following year.*

Tuesday's virtual information session was 'illuminating', and there will be several more over the next few weeks. Learn more at www.solarunitedneighbors.org/lake. Info session schedule is listed under the *Events* tab. Membership not required to attend.

If you are thinking at all about going solar, please consider joining. And SPREAD THE WORD! Contact UUCLC member Barbara Marrow at marrow.barbara@gmail.com for additional information.



Photo courtesy solarunitedneighbors.org



BUILDING DEMOCRACY ONE VOTE AT A TIME

PART II

By Barbara Hill

In mid-June, when I wrote Part I of Building Democracy One Vote at a Time, our country was struggling to survive the impact of the novel coronavirus on our daily lives and the health and well-being of our fellow Americans. At this critical time, clear regulations and guidance are sorely needed from the experts. Unfortunately, we are on a path to further devastation because leadership is inadequate. All studies indicate wearing a mask can contain the virus in social situations. However, a portion of our population is scorning the advice of medical experts, and the powers that be are demanding public schools reopen, disparaging the CDC guidelines and asking for more lenient and less expensive protocols.

Our votes have never been more important than they are this year. We have totally lost our balance of power among the three branches of government; including, the Executive branch, the Judicial branch and the Legislative branch. Each of these branches represents a foot on a three-legged stool. For our system of government to work, each leg or branch working in tandem with the others branches represents a balance of power. Unfortunately, two of the branches have ceded their responsibilities to the Executive branch causing the footstool to lean towards the Executive branch, skewing the entire balance of power.

For this reason, the Social Justice Committee is working closely with UU the Vote 2020, to encourage people to vote, preferably by mail or, if you are so inclined, in person. As stated in Part I, Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Utah have voted entirely by mail without any major issues or fraud for years. Twenty-one other states, as well as Florida, allow residents to opt in to vote by mail. If you would like to vote by mail, you can request a ballot from the Office of the Supervisor of Elections at (352) 343-9734, or you can go to the Supervisor's office and pick one up. Make sure you fill it out correctly by following the instructions provided. You can either mail it in or take it to an early voting polling station. Once you've sent in your ballot, you can check on line to make sure it is counted: go to www.lakevotes.com and follow the link at the top of the page "Vote By Mail." to check the status of your ballot on line. Scroll down to "Tracking a Vote-By-Mail Ballot" and follow directions to make sure your vote is counted.

Every vote counts and "UU the Vote 2020" is encouraging every UU to vote in 2020, as if our lives depend on it – and indeed it does:

Democracy is on the ballot in 2020. Winning progressive policies depends on a fundamental truth. We must fix our democracy first. Until we do, progress on any topic—from health care to climate justice will be blocked by the special interests who hold the power to thwart changes to the status quo.



UUCLC LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES

On Sunday, July 19, 2020, the UUCLC hosted the first lecture in its ***Social Justice On-Line Lecture Series***. Over 50 people tuned in to hear Mae Hazelton, a local advocate for racial justice, speak on ***The Question of Race: Has Lake County changed in the Last 30 Years?*** Her presentation was thought-provoking and very moving. She urged us to join organizations that are fighting racial injustice.

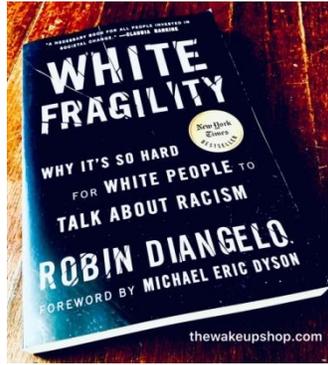
Free and open to the public, future lectures will be presented every other Sunday evening, starting at 7 p.m. Here are the next three scheduled lectures:

- August 2nd: ***Our Farm Workers: Essential or Expendable?*** Jeannie Economos, Coordinator for the Pesticide Safety & Environmental Health Project of the Farm Workers Association of Florida.
- August 16th: ***Lake County Spotlight on Poverty & Opportunity***. Alphonso Walker, Jr., Economic & Community Development Consultant.
- August 30th: ***Public Education Issues***. Kristi Burns, Lake County School Board Member.

To participate via the internet or hear the August 2nd lecture by phone, please register by clicking on this link:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcrf-yqqzlrG9wJ4J60BF0Hkj9wsntx3Bvv>

This link can also be found on our website at www.lakecountyuu.net. We will send the link to register for future lectures a week or so in advance.



Moving Toward Antiracism-New Discussion Group

Moving Toward Antiracism uses study, introspection, courage, authentic discussion, and deep listening to help participants recognize how the system of racism shapes **their** lives, how we uphold that system, how we might interpret it, and how we can become more antiracist. At the same time UUCLC will be sponsoring other social justice activities about racism.

You will need to have a copy of *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo (\$16 new). Scholarships are available for the book purchase, if needed. Contact Chris Cleveland for scholarship.

We will Zoom meet on the **first and third Fridays from 1-3 pm**. Our 2020 schedule is listed below:

Sep. 4- *White Fragility* chapters 1 & 2

Sep. 18- *White Fragility* chapters 3 & 4

Oct. 2- *White Fragility* chapters 5 & 6

Oct. 26- *White Fragility* chapters 7 & 8

Nov. 6 - *White Fragility* chapters 9 & 10

Nov. 20- *White Fragility* chapters 11 & 12

Dec. 4- Group will decide next book (possibly *How To Be An Antiracist*)

Dec. 18-

Group will make decisions about if we continue and what resources we use.

To join the group, sign up by email to: chriscleland1951@gmail.com

You will need to get the book *White Fragility*. **You should have already read the chapters before each session.** When you sign up, Chris Cleveland will send you more information.

