



# Unitarian Universalists of DeLand

## NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1UUCoWV/>

### SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

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Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98531898667>  
Refreshments are served in the Social Hall after service.

Zoom ID is the same each week: 985 3189 8667

#### 11/3 Bridging Divides: DeLand's Black Heritage Trail

**Maggie Ardito** will take us on a compelling exploration of the DeLand Black Heritage Trail! This presentation unveils the project's motivation, purpose, progress, community impact, plans, and potential. Discover inspiring stories behind key landmarks, the powerful partnerships that fuel the initiative, and opportunities to help increase awareness, understanding, connectivity, and community engagement. Maggie is President of St Johns River-to-Sea Loop Alliance and serves on the executive board of the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor National Scenic Byway. She believes trails, cycling, walking, and all forms of sustainable and equitable active transportation, recreation and social interaction holds a key to solving many social, health, and economic problems.

#### 11/10 Gratitude

Remember anger and frustration, but dwell on gratitude. The ancients understood the benefits of gratitude as seen from the quote, "Take full account of what excellencies you possess, and in gratitude remember how you would hanker after them if you had them not." **George Crofts** spent his formative years in Osceola County in the 1950's. He earned his undergraduate degree from FSU, and graduate degree from Tulane. George taught at Michigan State for 3 years, but the bulk of his career was on the Virginia Tech faculty. We are thankful he returned to Florida in 2012.

#### 11/17 Neanderthal Culture & Spirituality

**Dr. Heidi Brown** will speak on Neanderthals, highlighting females and spirituality. There will be a brief discussion of archaeology and physical anthropology to contextualize this extinct hominin species. Some goals of anthropologists are to reconnect our living cultures with those of our ancestors, understand how they lived, learn how ancient civilizations came to be and the mechanisms of their downfall. **Dr. Brown** is a professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Stetson with degrees in History, Anthropology and Sociology. Her interests are culture, deviance, inequality, gender and sexuality.

#### 11/24 The Ground of Your Being

Life-long Unitarian Universalists ask, "What do you take seriously at the ground of your being?" Each of us should ask and, if possible, answer this personal spiritual question. **George Stevenson** is best described as an avid seeker of knowledge and an educator, retired from Gulf Coast State College, Adm. of Aquatics Dept. He holds degrees in Philosophy and Psychology and describes himself as a scientific existentialist. He has been a Unitarian Universalist for over 70 years.

## UU DELAND GROUP MEETINGS

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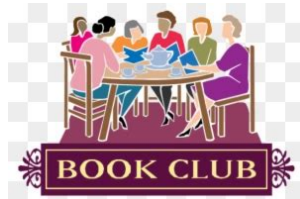
✓ **Adult Discussion Group**

In-person on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9:15 AM** in the Social Hall or out on the deck – weather permitting. There is a different pre-determined topic for each meeting. Contact **George Crofts** at [jorjcrofts@gmail.com](mailto:jorjcrofts@gmail.com) .

✓ **Board of Directors Meeting**

In-person on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 9 AM** in the Social Hall. UU DeLand members may attend.

Contact President **Mel Browning** at [melbrowning@cfl.rr.com](mailto:melbrowning@cfl.rr.com).



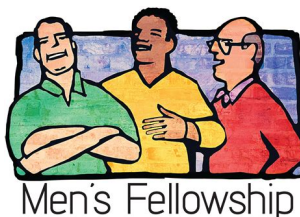
✓ **Book Discussion Group**

In-person on the **4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at 10:30 AM** in the Social Hall. Contact **Karen Wolfe** at 763/213-2403 or [kwolfk99@aol.com](mailto:kwolfk99@aol.com).



✓ **Green Team—NOTE NEW DATE AND TIME!!!**

The Green Team will be meeting on Tuesday, November 12th, at 9:30 a.m. in the church social hall. We will be considering environmental outreach activities for the coming months. All are welcome. If you have any questions or comments, contact Joyce Palmer, Co-Facilitator, at [joycepalmer68@yahoo.com](mailto:joycepalmer68@yahoo.com) or call/text 1.907.727.7655.



✓ **Men's Discussion Group**

In-person **every Tuesday at 7 PM** in the Social Hall. Contact **George Crofts** at [jorjcrofts@gmail.com](mailto:jorjcrofts@gmail.com) .

✓ **Poetry Group**

In-person on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM** at a member's home. Share a potluck lunch followed by poems read by each participant. Any poem. Contact **Karen Wolfe** at 763/213-2403 or [kwolfk99@aol.com](mailto:kwolfk99@aol.com).

✓ **Program Committee meetings**

In-person on the **1st Thursday of the month at 1 PM** in the Social Hall. Planning of future church services. Contact **Jade Hoke-Smith** at [sewdamnhappy@gmail.com](mailto:sewdamnhappy@gmail.com).



- ✓ **Poll Watchers Needed!!!** Contact the Volusia County Supervisor of Elections at 386-736-5930 or [elections@volusia.org](mailto:elections@volusia.org)
- ✓ **Vote!** Check out candidates and other info on the League of Women Voter's site: [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). Posted in the Social Hall, you will find candidates and amendment recommendations from both political parties.
- ✓ **Make sure you are registered correctly.** Contact **Lisa Lewis, Volusia County Supervisor of Elections** at 386-736-5930 or [elections@volusia.org](mailto:elections@volusia.org) to confirm that your registration has not been purged.
- ✓ **Letters to the Editor**

It's not too late to write yours. Here are the contacts for local news outlets:

**Daytona News Journal.** [letters@news-jrnl.com](mailto:letters@news-jrnl.com); [mark.harper@news-jrnl.com](mailto:mark.harper@news-jrnl.com)

**West Volusia Beacon.** [info@beacononlinenews.com](mailto:info@beacononlinenews.com)

- ✓ **"Right to Clean and Healthy Waters" Petition Gatherers Needed on Election Day!**

An urgent message from Jim Durocher: Florida can expedite qualifying this amendment for the 2026 ballot by having volunteer petition gatherers at polling stations during Early Voting and on Election Day. This is an ambitious, proven plan. Here is a link to [RTCW's CALL-TO-ACTION letter](#), which provides directions on how to sign up.

- ✓ **11/5 VOTE!!!**

- ✓ **11/6 After-Election Centering with Volusia Buddhists, 7 PM, UU Social Hall**

Our own Jennifer Morris invites us to wind down, regroup and center after election night—many of us will need it! Sensei Morris Sullivan will be giving a Dharma talk. You do not need to be a Buddhist to attend.



- ✓ **11/9 Night of Healing with Ella Shepherd, Saturday, 4-6 PM, Social Hall**

Join us to cultivate connection and calm. This event is divided into two parts. The first part is dedicated to connecting with each other through activities structured by a facilitator. The second part is to create calm. You are invited to wear something comfortable that allows for easy movement. If you have a yoga mat, beach towel, blanket, and a couple of pillows, you are encouraged to bring them to support deeply resting in different physical postures. Adaptations and injury conscious offerings will be provided.

- ✓ **11/10 Truth Seekers: Black History Class, 2 – 4 PM, Social Hall**

Rowena Waters and Yale Devereau co-teach this class for middle school through college students, keeping Black History alive.

✓ **The Bridge Dinner Prep, 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of Month**

Every month that has a 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday, UUDeLand provides dinner for our homeless community at The Bridge. **Karen Wolfe** plans the meal and coordinates with several members to divide up the preparation. We drop the food off by 4:30. If you are interested in participating, contact **Karen** at 763/213-2403 or [kwolfk99@aol.com](mailto:kwolfk99@aol.com)

✓ **Food Donations for the Neighborhood Center**

On the **1st Sunday of each month**, please bring non-perishable food items (including for dogs and cats) and place in the designated basket in the Sanctuary foyer. Contact **Mara Whitridge** at [marwit@bellsouth.net](mailto:marwit@bellsouth.net).

## OTHER GROUP MEETINGS

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✓ **PFLAG DeLand/Volusia, Nov. 19 (usually the LAST Thursday of the month), 5:30 – 7 PM, Social Hall**

PFLAG's mission is to create a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them. Its vision is to create an equitable, inclusive world where every LGBTQ+ person is safe, celebrated, empowered and loved. The meetings are confidential and largely for support purposes. Contact **Jim Dries** at **818/522-5468**.

✓ **Volusia Buddhist Fellowship, Wednesdays, 7 PM, Social Hall**

✓ **UUDeLand PLEDGE CAMPAIGN 2025**

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Though our official campaign winds down the end of October, the Pledge Team wants to remind everyone you can still make a pledge (your promise) to support UUDeLand by a paper pledge card or online at our congregational website, [uudelwnd.org](http://uudelwnd.org), by clicking on the "Support Us" tab. We thank all for your generosity in committing to support our faith home during the coming year. As they say, "it takes a village"! If you have any questions about pledging, please contact Joyce Palmer, Pledge Coordinator, at [joycepalmer68@yahoo.com](mailto:joycepalmer68@yahoo.com) or call/text 1.907.727.7655. Linda Newman, Team Member, is also available at [newmanlinda247@gmail.com](mailto:newmanlinda247@gmail.com) or call/text 1.386.734.1117.

## CONGREGATION INFORMATION

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✓ **Childcare Team Needed!**

We hired Brooklyn Kelly (they/them) to be our primary childcare provider, and *they* are doing a wonderful job. Because we do not have a Religious Education Chair, and our policies require at least one other adult in the nursery, we need volunteers. Ideally, we could have a team of 6 - 8, so we can rotate. Contact Ella Shepherd at 386/717-1344 or [ellaconova09@gmail.com](mailto:ellaconova09@gmail.com) to learn more or volunteer.

✓ **UU DeLand's By-Laws and Policies and Procedures:** <https://www.uudelnd.org/member-resources>

✓ **Newsletter Submissions Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.** Please email submissions to [mdykes@stetson.edu](mailto:mdykes@stetson.edu) and include in the Subject line, "UU Newsletter" and the topic. Thank you!

✓ **Unsubscribe.** To be removed from this email list, please reply to this email and include in the Subject Line, "Remove from newsletter mailing list."

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