



# Unitarian Universalists of Deland

## SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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### 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

#### **9/1 Finding Home: Connection and Sanctuary as an Act of Resistance**

**Kathleen Moore's** talk is inspired by *Sanctuary: A Meditation on Home, Homelessness, and Belonging* by Zenju Earthlyn Manuel. Seeking and understanding sanctuary becomes more critical during this time of global upheaval. Using our own experiences of "not feeling at home," we will envision what we will need to create as life shifts and changes. Kathleen retired as a licensed clinical social worker and Integrative Health Coach before the pandemic and believes that we all continue to feel the effects of that time. She specializes in issues of transitions, resilience and self-care.

#### **9/8 PFLAG: Supporting LGBTQ+ Community, Family & Allies**

Learn about PFLAG, the nation's largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them. Founded in 1973 by a mother and her gay son, PFLAG's network of supporters are helping create an equitable and inclusive world where every LGBTQ+ person can feel safe, celebrated, empowered, and loved. Our own beloved **Jim Dries** and **Carol Swarbrick Dries**, who founded the DeLand Chapter, will present. Jim was a Peace Corps volunteer teacher and a novelist. Carol is an actor/singer. They wrote *Better Late than Never: A Love Story*.

#### **9/15 Final Wishes for a Sustainable Future**

**Heather Grove**, Exec. Dir. of Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery, will explore how natural burial can be a healing choice for the land and loved ones. Florida's 1st certified conservation cemetery is restoring the native landscape and reuniting people with the Earth. Moreover, they are cultivating a death-positive community passionate about reducing our environmental impact. Heather has degrees in Geography and Environmental Studies from Stetson Univ. She finds a meaningful place working with grieving patrons amidst the comfort and peace of Prairie Creek Preserve.

#### **9/22 Consultation: "a Shining Light . . . in a Dark World"**

Diverse opinions are healthy and useful, but too often disagreement leads to flaming tempers and retreat to distant camps, crippling our ability to act. Is it possibility to marry diverse opinions and unified action? With character growth and some simple principles, Baha'u'llah, Prophet/Founder of the Baha'i Faith, says it is. **Gail Radley** received her MA in English at Stetson Univ., where she taught English and creative writing. She is the author of 21 books for children.

#### **9/29 Historical Lessons on Respiratory Disease Control**

**Dr. Rachel Core's** talk, based on her recent book, examines how an urban employment system led to declining tuberculosis in late twentieth-century China. She will touch on how epidemics were viewed in the past, and the social factors that increase vulnerability to epidemics (COVID!) in the present day. Rachel is a comparative-historical sociologist, whose work has been supported by a Fulbright Fellowship. Associate Professor and Chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Stetson Univ., she also chairs the International Learning Committee.

## 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**

The Green Team is taking a hiatus and will reconvene on **October 15, 2024, at 9:30 AM** in the Social Hall. We wish all a relaxing, refreshing summer! Contact **Joyce Palmer, Co-Facilitator** at [joycepalmer68@yahoo.com](mailto:joycepalmer68@yahoo.com) or call/text 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).

## OTHER INFORMATION

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### ✓ **UU DeLand Pledge Campaign 2025**

GET-OUT-THE-VOTE AT UUDELAND! Your Pledge Campaign Team is reminding everyone we would love for you to become a member of our congregation. If you are new and thinking about this or have been coming for years and have not made the leap, consider doing so now. All it takes is 1) contacting Linda Newman, Leader of our Congregational Life Team, at [newmanlinda247@gmail.com](mailto:newmanlinda247@gmail.com), call/text 386/734-1117, and 2) making a monetary contribution. And, as is often said, "there is no amount too small or too big"!

### ✓ **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).

## LET'S GROW DEMOCRACY!

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Here are some critical dates and info related to elections from your **Social Justice/Growing Democracy Team**.

**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.

- ✓ **8/28**      **Our Democracy is in Crisis—We Need to Act Now! UUA Social Justice, ZOOM Event, 7:30 EDT,**  
Our democracy is in peril. We need to mobilize our UU congregations to act. The UUSJ Democracy Action Team is convening in an ongoing discussion series about how we can contribute to a pro-democracy movement capable of thwarting the autocratic movement emerging in the U.S. Click here to register: [Democracy Leaders \(salsalabs.org\)](http://DemocracyLeaders(salsalabs.org))
- ✓ **9/12**      **Postcard Writing in Support of Amendment 4 (Abortion Rights to be added to the state constitution), @ Ormond UU, 11:30.** Call Patti Rausch at 386/775-5982 if you want to carpool. Vivian 704/796-0539.
- ✓ **9/15**      **A Force More Powerful Documentary Viewing and Discussion, 12 – 2, UU Sanctuary**

*A Force More Powerful* is a PBS documentary (1 hr. 17 min.) about the nonviolent resistance movements of Mahatma Gandhi in India, Martin Luther King's Civil Rights, and Anti-Apartheid boycotts in South Africa. It was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Historical Program. Discussion to follow. Hosted by UUDeLand and DeLand Quakers. If you cannot join us, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4dDVeAU3u4&t=667s>



- ✓ **9/29**      **Signs/Slogans/Social Media Party, 12:30 – 2, UU Social Hall, Open to Public**  
Let's make our voices heard where most people are getting their news: social media, e.g. Facebook, Instagram, etc. Join your Social Justice team who will help you create your own signs and slogans to post online or email. Bring your laptops or smart phones, family and friends. We will provide writing implements and refreshments.
- ✓ **10/16**      **Project 2025 Documentary Viewing and Discussion, 4:30 – 6:30 PM, DeLand Library**  
Learn about Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation's plan for the future of America. We will view a documentary followed by discussion lead by Stetson Prof. Paul Croce. Hosted by UUDeLand and DeLand Quakers.
- ✓ **Letters to the Editor**  
It's not too late to write yours. Here are the contacts for some of our Central FL 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)  
**Orlando Sentinel:** Education and Health Editor, [lpostal@orlandosentinel.com](mailto:lpostal@orlandosentinel.com);  
Politics, [slemongello@orlandosentinel.com](mailto:slemongello@orlandosentinel.com)  
**Orlando Weekly:** [news@orlandoweekly.com](mailto:news@orlandoweekly.com)  
**Hometown News Volusia:** [newsdy@hometownnewsmediagroup.com](mailto:newsdy@hometownnewsmediagroup.com)  
**The Orlando Times:** [calvincollinsjr@aol.com](mailto:calvincollinsjr@aol.com)  
**Caribbean American Passport:** [guenet@ggrmarketingpr.com](mailto:guenet@ggrmarketingpr.com)  
**Westside Gazette:** [wgazette@thewestsidegazette.com](mailto:wgazette@thewestsidegazette.com)

## OTHER GROUP MEETINGS

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- ✓ **PFLAG DeLand/Volusia, LAST Thursday of the month, 5:30 – 7 PM**  
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**

## CONGREGATION INFORMATION

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- ✓ **UWomensSpirit Fall 2024 event**  
All women are invited! The theme is **Fire & Feather, Stone & Bone**. UWomenspirit is a semi-annual retreat where women gather to explore and celebrate the Feminine Divine. Weekday tracks, weekend workshops and daily worship services will guide our way as we explore our connection through ancient and transcendent spiritual practices. Please visit our website, [www.uuwomenspirit.org](http://www.uuwomenspirit.org) and our flyer is [here](#).
- ✓ **The Mountain Retreat**  
It's a great time to plan a personal retreat at The Mountain in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Visit [www.themountainrlc.org](http://www.themountainrlc.org).
- ✓ **UU DeLand's By-Laws and Policies and Procedures:** <https://www.uudeland.org/member-resources>

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**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."