



# Unitarian Universalists of Deland

## FEBRUARY 2025 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

#### **2/2 Why Black History?**

**Rowena Waters, M. Ed.** will share her insights from her story, study of Black History, and intention in creating healthy narratives for moving our worldview of anti-racist work in America in a positive direction, not only for ourselves, but most importantly, for our children. Raised overseas (including Africa) of Palestinian and American heritages, Rowena has taught for 35+ years and teaches Black History for children at UU Deland. Her voice is unique and compelling.

#### **2/9 The Facts About Medical Aid in Dying**

**Tony Ray** will speak about medical care and interventions your health care team can do to ensure your comfort during the active dying phase. Also learn about related legislation in FL. Tony founded Florida End-of-Life Options. Having experienced the death of several family members, who would have chosen a medical aid-in-dying option (if one were available to relieve their suffering), he is motivated to get an aid-in-dying law passed in Florida.

#### **2/16 Jim Crow & the Back of the Bus**

**Yale Devereau** will talk about his experience as an Afro-American, the Jim Crow era of Afro-American history and riding in the back of the bus. Yale was reared in Charleston, SC in the 1950's and 60's. He has a BS degree in Applied Mathematics from California State University at Los Angeles and later researched Afro-American history. He retired in Phoenix, AZ and has recently moved to Sanford.

#### **2/23 Forks in the Road**

Renowned singer/songwriter **Tom Neilson** will talk about ethics and making choices. Tom discusses forks he took and their consequences; how those choices framed his understanding of the world and his relationships. Known for his satirical stabs at hypocrisy and injustice, he was nominated for the UN Nelson Mandela Award for Lifetime Achievement in Peace and Justice in 2015. Tom is an award-winner of the JPF Int'l CD of the Year, International Music Award Song of the Year, Arab American Women Assn., and S. FL Folk Festival. Talented singer **Lynn Waldron** will accompany him.

#### **Special Event! Tom Neilson Concert, Sat. Feb. 22, 3 PM, Sanctuary**

Singer/songwriter Tom Neilson, renowned for his satirical stabs at hypocrisy and injustice, was nominated for the UN Nelson Mandela Award for Lifetime Achievement in Peace and Justice in 2015. Tom weaves stories about his world travels with songs about peace and politics. UU DeLand and the DeLand Quakers are co-sponsoring this concert. Tom packed the house last year at UUDelLand. Rave reviews have brought him back. Admission is \$15-25.

# UU DELAND GROUP MEETINGS

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## ✓ **NEW!!! UU DeLand SONG CIRCLE!!!**

In-person on the **3rd Thursday** of each month from **7-9 PM**. Members and friends are welcome to bring their voices and instruments or just come and listen to our own group's talent. Contact Paul Garfinkel at 904/323-5655 or [paulgarf53@gmail.com](mailto:paulgarf53@gmail.com).



## ✓ **Adult Discussion Group**

In-person on the **2nd and 4th 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 **3rd 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 **4th 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**

In-person the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM in the Social Hall. Join our Green Team and enjoy the outdoors while helping our planet! All are welcome. Trail maintenance, environmental movies, on-site tours to Rodman Dam and DeLand's Black Heritage Trail are just a few activities coming up. For more information contact Co-Facilitators: Joyce Palmer, [joycepalmer68@yahoo.com](mailto:joycepalmer68@yahoo.com) or call/text 1.907.727.7655 or Teresa Lake, [tereann2@yahoo.com](mailto:tereann2@yahoo.com) or call/text 1.772.708.1970.



## ✓ **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 **2nd 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**

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).

✓ **Social Justice Committee**

In-person meetings on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday** of the month at 3 PM in the Social Hall.

**2/9, Truth Seekers: Black History Class, 2 – 4 PM, Social Hall.** Rowena Waters teaches this class for middle school through college students, keeping Black History alive. The congregation and extended community is invited to attend.



**Banned Books Drive**

The Deland Quakers collect and give away books that may be banned or difficult for students to obtain in FL schools and libraries. Please support this ongoing effort by sending them books by African Descendant Authors, LGBTQ+ Authors, History of African Descendants, Indigenous peoples, and LGBTQ+ persons. Contact: [DelandQuakers@gmail.com](mailto:DelandQuakers@gmail.com).

**The Bridge Dinner Prep, 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of Month.** UUDelLand provides dinner for our homeless community at The Bridge. **Karen Wolfe** plans the meals 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, NOTE CHANGE to 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, 6 – 7:30 PM (location undisclosed)**

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 **Carol Dries** at 818/522-5469.

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

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

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✓ **2025 General Assembly Registration, June 18 – 22, Baltimore**

Register early for UUA's General Assembly in Baltimore, save money and have a choice of hotels. Our congregation will be sending two delegates, so if you are a member and interested in attending in person or on ZOOM, make your wishes known to our Board of Directors. For more information click on this link: [General Assembly Registration | General Assembly | UUA.org](#). Please contact Joyce Palmer, Team Leader, Denominational Affairs, at [joycepalmer68@yahoo.com](mailto:joycepalmer68@yahoo.com) or call/text 1.907.727.7655.



✓ **2025 FL UU Women's Retreat—Generate JOY!** April 11 – 13, DaySpring Conf. Center, Parrish, FL

UU women are invited for a weekend of learning to generate the joy we need to flourish in these times. Shelley Graff will present Singing in a Sacred Circle and an amazing group of UU women will offer creative, enriching, and joyful programs. Register now to reserve your space. Complete and mail the registration form and check to the address on the bottom of the form. A small deposit by January 31 will hold your spot with the balance due February 28; also full payment with registration is appreciated. Check out DaySpring here: <https://dayspringfla.org/>. Questions? Email [Retreat@FLUUwm.org](mailto:Retreat@FLUUwm.org).



✓ **California Wildfire Disaster Relief Needed!**

Consider donating to the UU congregations and their approved non-profit agencies in California. This is a wonderful way to practice UU Principles 1, 2, and 7! UUA's Disaster Relief Fund: <https://www.uua.org/giving/disaster-relief-page>

## CONGREGATION INFORMATION

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✓ **AUCTION FUNDRAISER! Mark your calendars: Saturday, March 29, 5:30 – 9 PM!**

We will be hosting an auction to raise funds for our building, programs, and community outreach. This event is for our congregation only (members, friends, and attendees). You do NOT have to be present to donate. There will be a live auction in the Sanctuary and a silent auction in the Social Hall. Some suggestions for donations are “services/events” such as a dinner for 6, lessons, boat ride, hotel stay, and/or “items” such as gift basket, artwork, bicycle, décor, furniture. If you are donating more than one service/item, please complete a separate form for each. Here is a link to the sign-up form: <https://forms.gle/Cry7ijP1iLC5buJw8>



✓ **Biblical Literacy Part I for UUs. Wednesdays, Feb. 12 – March 19, 8-9:30 PM via Zoom**

This is a unique opportunity to explore the Bible through a UU lens. First UU of Dallas is offering these online/Zoom sessions for all congregations. This 11-week course comes in two parts: Winter and Fall. \$25 per person or \$100 per congregation (unlimited participants). To register, email Rev. Lora Brandis at [LBrandis@dallasuu.org](mailto:LBrandis@dallasuu.org) or [faithforward@uu.org](mailto:faithforward@uu.org). Registration **deadline: Monday, Feb. 10.** <https://dallasuu.dallasuu.org/biblical-literacy-for-uus/>

✓ **UU DeLand's By-Laws and Policies and Procedures:** <https://www.uudeland.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.

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