



Unitarian Universalists of Deland

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98531898667>

Zoom ID is the same each week: 985 3189 8667

Refreshments are served in the Social Hall after service.

8/4 Consultation: “a Shining Light . . . in a Dark World”

Gail Radley, MA English, Stetson, acknowledges diverse opinions are healthy, but often disagreement leads to flaming tempers and retreat, crippling our ability to interact. Is it possible to marry diverse opinions and unify action?

Baha’u’llah, Prophet/Founder of the Baha’i Faith, says it is. A Baha’i leader, Gail has written 21 children’s books, including award-winning *The Golden Days*, which was filmed as *The First of May* in DeLand, with Joe DiMaggio, Julie Harris and Charles Reilly.

8/11 Vegan Diet: Health Benefits

Drs. Jenneffer and Hari Pulapaka claim the preservation of health begins in our kitchens with our family and friends. Deeply passionate about sustainable healthcare, they have embraced plant-based nutrition and culinary health education, seeking ways to prevent illness and cultivate a healthier future. Hari is both a Stetson Mathematics Professor and a chef (The Cress was ZAGAT’s #1 in greater Orlando in 2017). Jenneffer is a foot/ankle surgeon and a visionary. They co-wrote the *Heart Healthy Plant-Based Cookbook*.

8/18 Spiritual Vision as Political Laven

Dr. Paul Croce will speak about how in politics different views look wrong and even become reasons to fight. Religious perspectives suggest that different views may be part of a broader understanding of all that is beyond any one of us.

Paul, American Studies Chair, Stetson, is a prolific writer; his works include *Science and religion in the era of William James: Eclipse of Certainty, 1820-1880*.

Note: He will lead a discussion after the 12 PM showing of the *Braver Angels: Reuniting America* documentary (50 min.) after the service and coffee hour.

8/25 Mary and Jesus in the Qur’an: Signs for the Worlds

Learn from Heba Ismail about the holistic story of Mary and Jesus from the Qur’an, both chosen to be “sign[s] for the worlds” (43:61). She will focus on how Mary’s and Jesus’s humanity is relevant today: devotion through despair, kindness through vulnerability, strength through humility, while having faith in God and “loving their Neighbors as themselves.” Role models of spiritual excellence in Christianity and Islam. Heba is a physician licensed in the UAE and Egypt, she was raised in multi-cultural interfaith environments. She is a Muslim who has a passion for inter-spiritual dialog and the promotion of peace, awareness and unity.

UU DELAND GROUP MEETINGS

✓ **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 jorcrofts@gmail.com .

✓ **Board of Directors Meeting**

In-person only, 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.

✓ **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 .

✓ **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 or call/text 907/727-7655.

✓ **Men's Discussion Group**

In-person and via Zoom **every Tuesday at 7 PM** in the Social Hall. Contact **George Crofts** at jorcrofts@gmail.com .

✓ **Poetry Group**

In-person only 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.

✓ **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.

OTHER INFORMATION



✓ **UU DeLand Pledge Campaign 2025**

GET-OUT-THE-VOTE AT UUDELAND! Your Pledge Campaign Team is reminding everyone there is still time to become a member of our congregation by **August 12th**. **You too will then be able to vote in the upcoming Annual Meeting, Sunday, November 10th**. If you are new and thinking about this or have been coming for years and have not made the leap, consider doing so in the next week or so. All it takes is 1) contacting Linda Newman, Leader of our Congregational Life Team, at newmanlinda247@gmail.com, call/text 1.386.734.1117, and 2) make a monetary contribution of note at least 90 days before the meeting. 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.



LET'S SAVE DEMOCRACY!

Here are some critical dates and info related to the coming elections from your **Social Justice/Saving Democracy Team**:

Vote! Regardless of your party affiliation, there are items that need your vote!

Check out candidates and other info on the League of Women Voter's site: VOTE411.org.

Consider Updating Your Signature. Mark Lane, *Daytona Beach Journal* columnist registered to vote eons ago. To make sure his ballot would not be challenged, he re-registered. Something to consider before the coming elections!

8/4 **EVENT! Letter to the Editor Training**, Sunday, **12:30-3:30 PM**, Social Hall

Your Saving Democracy Team is sponsoring a Letter to the Editor training after service. Rowena Waters, who is a member and certified special writing teacher, will coach us to write effectively. Make your voice heard about any issue. We will provide paper and pens and addresses for local, state and national publications. Bring your laptop or tablet, if desired, as WIFI will be available. Lunch will be served with a \$2 donation. Open to the public—bring family and friends!

8/8 **Last Day to Request a Mail-In Ballot**

Contact volusiaelections.org or call 1.386.736.5930. Even if you enjoy going in person on Election Day, this is a good back up in case your plans change! Remember the laws changed, and you now must request a mail-in ballot *each year*.

8/10-17 Early Voting, 8 AM - 7 PM

Avoid the crowds and go early! Early voting is only available at a Supervisor of Elections office—not other poll sites. The closest is Volusia County, 1750 Woodland Blvd., DeLand, 32720. .

8/18 **EVENT! Braver Angels: Reuniting America** Viewing & Discussion, Sunday, **12 – 2 PM**, Social Hall

Your Saving Democracy Team and the DeLand Quakers will be showing the *Braver Angels: Reuniting America* documentary (50 min.). Discussion will be led by Dr. Paul Croce, American Studies Chair, Stetson University. Open to the public—bring family and friends!

8/20 **Primary Voting Day, 7 AM – 7 PM**

Midday times are usually less busy. It's good to check first as locations can change year to year. Early voting is only available at the Supervisor of Elections not at the other poll sites. You can find your precinct at volusiaelections.org

✓ **UU DeLand “Sound Committee” Invites you to Join**

We need to expand the number of people who can operate the sound system for services. There is no heavy lifting, and on-the-job training is available. With several experienced operators, we can rotate who is on duty each week. When on duty, the following are tasks to be performed:

1. Be at the church by 10:10 AM to turn on the speakers, receivers, and microphones.
2. Check with service leaders and speakers to determine which microphones are preferred.
3. Do a sound check.
4. Following the service: shut down the system, collect the microphones, and store all equipment.

Please contact **Mel Browning, Jim Durocher, or George Crofts** if you are interested. It's a great opportunity to become involved.

OTHER GROUP MEETINGS

✓ **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

✓ **UWomenspirit 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 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.

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

Newsletter Submissions Deadline is the 15th of the month. Please email submissions to mdykes@stetson.edu and include in the Subject line, “UU Newsletter” and the topic. Thank you!

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