



Unitarian Universalists of DeLand

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM

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

5/4/25 Japanese Children's Day

For over 1,000 years, Children's Day has been celebrated in Japan honoring the children's place in the family and encouraging them to grow into responsible adults. In addition to learning the history and customs of this holiday, we will celebrate the child in each of us! Please bring your childhood spirit and a picture of yourself (3-5 yrs old) to share. **Mitzi Dykes** is a Japanese Anglo American who taught English in Tokyo for 4 years. **Ella Shepherd** is a mental health therapist specializing in children's play therapy and the owner/instructor at Community Yoga and Dance in downtown DeLand.

5/11/25 Is Truth Relative?

Subjective truth: Is truth relative? Are there "alternative facts"? Is a claim only true relative to the person making it? In this discussion, we explore the meaning and the notion of relative truth. **Josh Rust** is a Professor of Philosophy at Stetson University. He received his PhD in philosophy from the Univ. of CA - Riverside. The author of two books: *John Searle and the Construction of Social Reality* and *John Searle*, he is also a coauthor of several articles in empirical philosophy on the behavior of ethicists as compared to other academics. Joshua is the secretary/treasurer for the FL Philosophical Assn.

5/18/25 Crazy Wisdom Teachers: Raven, Coyote, Sacred Clowns and Other Tricksters Kooky Zen masters ask,

"What is the sound of one hand clapping?" But those Zen dudes are not the only ones known to practice "crazy wisdom." Join **Rick de Yampert** for an exploration of how various spiritual traditions and cultures revere Tricksters, whose antics become mind- and soul-altering "shock tactics" that open a path to enlightenment. A freelance writer, sitar player, artist, and lecturer on the sacred and metaphysical, he has been following a Pagan spiritual path since the early 1990s. His book *Crows and Ravens: Mystery, Myth, and Magic of Sacred Corvids* was released in March 2024.

5/25/25 Discover the Power of Transformation: From Corp. CEO to Prison Ministry Advocate

Amam Abdurrahman Sykes, former CEO of a leading prop. mgt. co., will share his journey of becoming a leader in prison ministry. A personal and spiritual awakening led him to abandon the trappings of corporate success for a life of deeper significance and service. Hear heartfelt stories of hope and redemption from those behind bars. Intertwining his own life struggles and spiritual quests, his mission of helping others provides a powerful testament to the human potential for change and growth. Don't miss the chance to be moved and motivated by these stories of transformation and hope.

UU DELAND GROUP MEETINGS

NEW!!! Connecting Women (Note: different days and times!)

On the **1st Saturday** of the month at **10:00 AM** and the **3rd Friday** at **2:00 PM** in the Social Hall. Enjoy an informal gathering of female members and friends. Contact Linda Newman at 386/734-1117 or newmanlinda247@gmail.com.



POTENTIAL Creative Writing Circle???

Are you a creative prose writer interested in writing a short story, memoir, essay, novel or play? Looking for a group to share your writing with and get constructive feedback? If we have enough participants, Kathy Cone, professional writer and editor, will lead the circle at a date and time TBD—likely a weekday afternoon in the Social Hall. Please contact Kathy at katcosmith@gmail.com or 386/414-3500 or Mitzi Dykes at mdykes@stetson.edu or 386/801-2615.



Adult Discussion Group

On the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of the month 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.

Board of Directors Meeting

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

On the **4th Friday** of the month at **10:30 AM** in the Social Hall. Contact **Karen Wolfe** at 763/213-2403 or kwolfk99@aol.com.

Green Team

NEW TIME!!! On the **2nd Tuesday** of the month at 2 PM in the Social Hall. Join us as we **SPRING FORWARD!** We are a group of folks who enjoy environmental outreach, education and fun. For more information contact Joyce Palmer at joycepalmer68@yahoo.com or call/text 907/727-7655. Some upcoming activities:

- **Cleaning murals** on Suze Peace's chicken barn, Tuesday, May 20th, 10 a.m. Bring a brown bag lunch, and she will provide ice tea and water. Directions provided at a later date.
- **Possible birding tour** with Eli Schaperow - date, time and place TBD.
- **Right to Clean Water Amendment**, ongoing. None of us are superheroes, but together we can be! Let's help improve our drinking water, rivers, lakes and oceans by signing the petition for the 2026 primary election now by clicking on the following link: <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/>. If you have already signed it, please encourage your family and friends to do so.
- **Monthly Green Team Tip.** Bring your own reuseable bags whenever you go shopping to help stop the pollution caused by disposable plastic bags.

Men's Discussion Group

In-person **every Tuesday at 7 PM** in the Social Hall. Contact **George Crofts** at 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.

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.

Social Justice Team

In-person meetings on the **2nd Thursday** of the month at 3 PM in the Social Hall. Join us to get updates on local, state, and federal bills and proposals and find out how your voice can be heard!

- **Arts and Crafts for Protesters Event!** April 12, 12 – 2 PM, Social Hall. Bring your lunch, your voice and your hopefulness. We will provide *surprise* arts and crafts supplies. Create your own protest signs. THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN! Bring your family and friends!



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.



OTHER GROUP MEETINGS

PFLAG DeLand/Volusia, 4th 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.

- **1st Anniversary Celebration**, April 6, 5 – 7 PM, performances, food, auctions, raffles, family-friendly! For location, contact Carol Dries.

Volusia Buddhist Fellowship, Wednesdays, 7 PM, Social Hall

Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI), July 20 – 26, Radford, VA

See attached flyer for more information.

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 or call/text 1.907.727.7655 or Dawn Taggbloom at UUdawnmail@gmail.com.

The Ware Lecturer is **Imara Jones**, an award-winning journalist, thought-provoking leader and change maker. She will challenge conventional thinking and inspire bold action to transform the world. Imara won Emmy and Peabody awards and is the creator of *TransLash*. The lecture is on June 21, at 7 PM; you MUST register to attend in person or on ZOOM. If you have any questions, contact Joyce Palmer at joycepalmer68@yahoo.com or call/text 1.907.727.7655.

CONGREGATION INFORMATION

Pledge Team Announcement: Thinking about ORGANIZING YOUR AFFAIRS?

You might call it "Estate Planning," "Life Planning," "Do I Want to Leave a Legacy?" or "Yikes! I hate to think about this end-of-life stuff, but kinda know I should . . ." Jody Williams and Joyce Palmer are collecting ideas and input for ways to help us all. Ideas so far: (a) Survey to get us thinking about the basics; (b) Informal group discussion on what we've done or had to deal with; (c) Speakers on topics like: who needs a will or trust, how to decide whom to pick for health care and financial management, how to find legal & financial planning resources, comparing notes and experiences, thinking about leaving money or property to the church or other beloved causes. We'd like to hear from you. Talk to us in person or email us: Jody at jdgwms@att.net or Joyce at joycepalmer68@yahoo.com



Sunday Service Offerings/Pledges

Do you like to drop cash, a check or coins directly into the offering plate on Sundays as part of your annual pledge to support UUDeLand? While these funds are GREATLY APPRECIATED, we have no idea who you are and how to give you credit towards fulfilling your 2025 stewardship commitment. Please consider putting these monies into the little white envelopes provided in each pew and marking "Pledge" and "Your Name" on the outside. We want to acknowledge your contributions! From your Pledge Team: Joyce Palmer, George Crofts, Phoebe Crofts, Linda Newman, John Cupak, Jody Williams, and Charles Bose.



The Bridge Dinner Prep, 5th Thursday of Month. UUDeLand 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

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

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.

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

SUUSI 2025

THE SOUTHEAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SUMMER INSTITUTE

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for the
best
week of
the
summer

July 20-26
Radford, VA

at a joyful all-ages
summer camp

with the best people you'll ever meet



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