



# Unitarian Universalists of DeLand

## JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Address: 116 S. Clara Ave., DeLand, FL 32720  
Phone: 386/232-8433  
Email: [firstuofwestvolusiadeland@gmail.com](mailto:firstuofwestvolusiadeland@gmail.com)

Website: [www.uudeland.org](http://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

#### 1/5 What Kind of Kindness?

The Dalai Lama says, “My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness.” Albert Schweitzer agrees, “As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate.” These are beautiful sentiments, but what can we hope to accomplish with such simple, random acts? Enjoy our beloved Secretary **Cheryl Kellogg**, who will read **Rev. Alex Gehrman’s** sermon. **Alex** is a native of Germany and a life-long UU who has two M.Div. degrees. Having served numerous UU churches, he co-ministers with his wife at the UU Church of the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel, CA.

#### 1/12 A Heart with Wings Can Fly: Sufi Path & Dances for Universal Peace

**Jemila Felisko** will explore Sufism: polishing our hearts, Sufi poet Rumi, whirling dervishes, mantras and Dances of Universal Peace. With her husband **Mike’s** guitar and voice leading us, we’ll embrace sacred wisdom from different world religions through music. **Jemila** has been leading Dances of Universal Peace for over 20 years. She was initiated on the Sufi path in 2001 and trained to be a Sufi Cherag (minister). Ruhaniat Sufi International is a universal Sufism, believing there is merit in all religions. Her husband **Mike**, besides being a classic rock and blues guitarist, plays for the dances.

#### 1/19 Root to Crown: Unveiling the Power of Chakras

**Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown** will delve into the world of chakras—energy centers believed to influence physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. We’ll explore the origins from ancient Indian traditions and the significance of the seven chakras, from Root to Crown and ways to harmonize these for holistic wellness. **Rajni** is a Prof. and JBD Distinguished Chair of Social Justice Education at Stetson. She founded the Institute for Catalyzing Equity, Justice, and Social Change. An award-winning author, she is also an equity coach, community organizer, dancing poet, and accomplished artist.

#### 1/26 Music and the Message

Learn from our talented Music Coordinator **Paul Garfinkel** about the connections of music and spirituality, and how music impacts the brains of listeners and music makers. He will discuss his vision of music programming going forward at UU DeLand, both inside and outside of Sunday morning services, and a bit about his own musical background and experience. **Paul** is a retired clinical research administrator and research ethicist for the Nemours Children’s Health System. He earned his BS in Government and Economics, Otterbein Univ., Ohio and his MS in Health Science from the Univ. of N. FL. He has played guitar and saxophone for 60 years and is an award-winning songwriter and recording artist.

# UU DELAND GROUP MEETINGS

---

## ✓ **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 talent. Contact Paul Garfinkle 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 Rolls Out Activities for Winter and Spring**

**New date and time!!! Sunday, 1/5, 12 PM** in-person in the Social Hall. This past month the Green Team hosted their annual Winter Solstice Bonfire and Bean-o-fit. Plans are to continue maintaining our adopted trail, visit Rodman Dam, tour Deland's Black Heritage Trail, take a boat trip down the St. Johns River, host another MUU-vie Night, conduct an Earth Day Sunday Service, secure an environmental speaker regarding the Rural Boundary Charter Amendment and other ongoing activities, such as encouraging "arm chair advocacy" with members and interfaith partners along with keeping the church grounds clean. **We will reconvene to discuss our outreach on Sunday, January 5th, at 12 noon in the Social Hall. Note the changed meeting time, which we hope will appeal to those who may not be available on weekdays.** All are welcome. For further information, contact Co-Facilitators, Teresa Lake, [tereann2@yahoo.com](mailto:tereann2@yahoo.com), or call/text, 1.772.708.1970, 1 (772) 708-1970, or Joyce Palmer, [joycepalmer68@yaahoo.com](mailto:joycepalmer68@yaahoo.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).



## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

---



2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION HAS STARTED!

This year will be face-to-face in Baltimore, MD as well as online during the city's PRIDE and Juneteenth celebrations. There are several \$100 discounts: first-time in-person attendees, financial assistance, and inclusive populations (BIPOC, LGBTQ+ & disabled). Our congregation normally sends two voting candidates. If you are a member and interested in representing UUDeLand, please contact Joyce Palmer, Team Leader, Denominational Affairs, at [joycepalmer68@yahoo.com](mailto:joycepalmer68@yahoo.com) or call/text 1.907.727.7655. For more information, click on the following link:

[https://9xd5n8cab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fJMvGT1-XT1JbsAbK50uVzjN9fZUYQ39ViyJ9JE3C5YsbfWu6H93ozRqZmsEcoXDa2hU1daN9dmrJnwBgARUvdPRH2ABGXPJ5dCik2RCs-rW-jdbYsmSUxOCa1qUOJg5W8sEaOGtML-K3Rt8XuU3gw==&c=t7TKvUdF94R9FTUoKnX-u9ozCwbyVohuezxYcKvIcl3\\_Qt-BPONXuw==&ch=0vERAGnA-KZWpdBPtc2QmCQpdLh4WN9Ltp4g1BV-Xbvvg5AvzJxuYA==](https://9xd5n8cab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fJMvGT1-XT1JbsAbK50uVzjN9fZUYQ39ViyJ9JE3C5YsbfWu6H93ozRqZmsEcoXDa2hU1daN9dmrJnwBgARUvdPRH2ABGXPJ5dCik2RCs-rW-jdbYsmSUxOCa1qUOJg5W8sEaOGtML-K3Rt8XuU3gw==&c=t7TKvUdF94R9FTUoKnX-u9ozCwbyVohuezxYcKvIcl3_Qt-BPONXuw==&ch=0vERAGnA-KZWpdBPtc2QmCQpdLh4WN9Ltp4g1BV-Xbvvg5AvzJxuYA==)

## CONGREGATION INFORMATION

---

✓ **AUCTION FUNDRAISER! Mark your calendars: Saturday, March 29, 7 – 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, legal consultation, 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>



✓ **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. 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.”