



Worship

Our Sunday on site services are suspended for at least the next few weeks.

**Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 11 a.m. our next One Island Family zoom gathering:
Grant Couch - "The Nexus of Climate Crisis and COVID-19"**

From his perspective as a Sensei with the Zen Peacemakers International, and a climate activist with Citizens Climate Lobby, Grant Couch offers his observations about the current worldwide pandemic and its implications for future action on the climate crisis. The Zen Peacemakers' three tenets include: Not Knowing, Bearing Witness and Taking Action. What can we learn, as "we experience indeed a worldwide plunge into Not Knowing"? (quote from ZPI *Barbara Salaam Angyo Wegmüller, Roshi*)

PROGRAM NOTE: Our in-person Sunday services are suspended until we can safely return to large gatherings. So we are planning programs in May that will be available by zoom from home to home. Each week we will update you by our email newsletter what will be happening and send a separate email link with the zoom meeting access information. We are using that system, recommended by the creators of Zoom meeting, to invite all our members and friends but to prevent hacking. We appreciate your participation and support!

Suggestions for May programs are needed. Contact Joy Taylor, Nancy S. Hoffman, Claire Hurd, Keri O'Brien or Marilyn Smith.



News & Notes

President's Message MAY 2020 Marilyn Smith

"Creativity"

As we watch world events and wait for the isolation and restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic to be lifted, how are you making use of creativity during this unprecedented time? Have you created a space to "work from home?" Have you created a new role for yourself as parent/teacher for young people doing on-line learning from your kitchen table? Have you creatively mastered the zoom meeting website? (And perhaps used your new ability to attend One Island Family Sunday services or to see family and friends in faraway places?)

We've learned about musicians creating new songs to share with people around the world. We have found posts on Facebook showing messages created with chalk on sidewalks and artwork hung in windows to offer hope or thanks. Families locked down together for this quarantine are inventing games to play together. Photographers are sharing their images of flowers and landscapes and sunsets. Theaters have created new ways to invite our viewing of their films and performances from our homes.

Some would say that creativity is a spiritual practice. "But what makes creativity a spiritual practice? . . . I believe it begins with breaking out of the limits that our world forces onto us. Limits about ourselves and who we are, limits about what is possible in the world, limits about who we believe we can be and what we believe we can achieve. And to break out of those limits, you have to allow yourself to think differently. . . to unleash the power of your imagination." (Murielle Marie)

Creativity is appearing in acts of kindness, such as the community tributes to front line medical personnel in New York hospitals and the selfless service of volunteers serving in food banks. Solving the medical and socio-economic problems of our world in the months ahead will take resolve, cooperation, and creativity.

Prayer

"Spirit of Life and Love, we realize that our particular vulnerability in this time is new for all of us, though vulnerability has always been the norm for too many of us. Our hands may not touch, so may our hearts vibrate with the clarity of reason and the vitality of compassion, sensing our interdependence now and in all times." Rev. Dr. Rita Capezzi

ON LINE EVENTS:

Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 7 PM , Toby Armour's play "SUSAN B." will be featured on the THEATER OF NEW CITY's Facebook page's new virtual live reading called "TNC On the Air". (The first public reading of this original script by Toby Armour was in February, 2019 by members of One Island Family!)

According to a TNC facebook post: **Susan B. and the Tennessee Waltz- 2020** is Susan B. Anthony's 200th birthday and the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The play celebrates her life and the lives of those who struggled with her in the long battle for women's suffrage. Susan B., Nellie Bly and the fight for women.

KEY WEST OUTREACH:

Our neighbors at MCC Key West are maintaining their Cooking With Love program for 200+ senior and lower income households in Key West. By the COVID-19 guidelines, they are no longer cooking and assembling the meals at the MCC kitchen on Petronia St. every Saturday morning. But they are coordinating the pickup of prepared meals from local restaurants (El Siboney, Ana's Cuban Café, Sister Noodle House, Azur and others) for delivery by CWL volunteers wearing masks, gloves and following the CDC guidelines. **One Island Family recently donated \$100 from our Change for Change collection to Metropolitan Community Church for CWL.**

One Island Family's CARING CONNECTIONS

During this time of social distancing and isolation, one of our goals is to improve our outreach and connection to our members. Here's some news we have received by email:

MARION WAGNER and GAIL FOLARON reported that they have safely made their return trip to their northern home in Indianapolis, IN. Marion wrote, "Hope you are doing well. Staying in place is sometimes difficult wherever we are. Gail and I got money from the stimulus, and we think we should donate it. We are concerned about the folks in Key West . . . "

(NOTE: Marion and Gail are sending their stimulus check to One Island Family to be used for people or programs where it will be needed. THANK YOU for this kind and generous offer!!)

RON SELGE Let us know that he and Jorge were traveling in Spain when the country went into lock down because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Last we heard they were awaiting the opening of borders so they could fly home. Ron's daughter Charlotte came to his house in Big Pine Key from Emory University in Georgia when classes were suspended. Ron reached out to One Island Family to assist her with getting mail delivery.

JUDE McCLELLAND Sent a photo by text from Buffalo, NY of herself and Jim wearing cloth facemasks, which made it impossible to identify them on "first guess". She emailed the news that as Key West closed down, they decided to leave on March 25 in a whirlwind of packing and "getting out of Dodge". They missed us on that last Sunday when we expected to meet at Ft. Zach. She also shared this:

"Soooo, we have been home for 2 weeks now and all is well. It's a bit chilly, but there are daffodils and snow drops in bloom and a mother deer who appears to be very pregnant and resting in our yard. Our food co-op has lots of fresh produce and we want for nothing. Doing lots of cooking and catch-up projects, watching old movies, reading, walking, riding our bikes. And watching our Governor, Andrew Cuomo, really stepping up in this crisis, and taking charge doing an amazing job of staying calm and focused and inspiring us all!! There will be so much work to do once this is all over. I'm hoping that this global crisis will inspire EVERYONE to take stock of what's really important in life and realize that we truly are 'all in this together.' . . Say hi to everyone for me. . not sure I want to do Zoom, , but, my heart is with you all! . . . My favorite part of the Keys is my One Island Family!!! Love to all! . . . miss you tons!!!"

DEBBY and BILL PALMISANO- (We welcome Debby and Bill as our newest OIF members- they signed our membership book after our last in-person Sunday service!!) Debby reports that they have not started their trip back to Cincinnati, OH. They are safe and comfortable in their Keys home. Debby is getting out in her kayak to watch the sunrise, sometimes seeing CAPT Victoria Impallomeni. She is also painting, stenciling, and gardening. Her book group and yoga class from her UU congregation at the Gatherings are meeting by zoom.

JOHN PATTILLO- Let us know that he and his wife have gone to their northern home. His email says they "are not able to be in Key West except in spirit. Let me know if there is anything we can do to support the community."

BOB RICHARDSON- Is now comfortably recovering at home from some health setbacks that put him in the hospital. Unfortunately we were unaware that he and his wife Annie Dillard had not been able to return to Cape Cod as they normally do in the Spring. But from the kindness of a woman who provides care in their home, we are now in touch with Bob. How good it was to see him connecting with us during our last zoom service!

PAT COLLINS- Has been slowed down by some recent health challenges too. We're glad to report that she's getting her energy back and with Judy Lawrence's watchful care, we expect Pat to make a full recovery.

If you have news or concerns for any of our members or friends during this "Safer at Home" quarantine, please contact me, Marilyn Smith, or Joy Taylor. **We are seeking additional volunteers for our Caring Committee!**

One Island Family
801 Georgia St. Key West, FL 33040
oneislandfamily.org e-mail: office@oneislandfamily.org

Monthly Calendar: <http://www.oneislandfamily.org/calendar>