

One Island Family

June 1, 2023 Weekly E-letter

Please send announcements to office@oneislandfamily.org+

View this newsletter online at <http://www.oneislandfamily.org/currenteletter.pdf>

Weekly E-Letter Deadline: Tuesday 5 p.m. Sunday Announcements Deadline: Thursday Noon

All One Island Family activities and events at the Fellowship Hall can be viewed at the following link: [calendar](#) **Like us on Facebook "One Island Family Official"**

JUNE SERVICES

As we conclude our regular season of Sunday services, please join us for these special gatherings:

JUNE 4: FLOWER CEREMONY Marilyn Smith:

Join us as we celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Flower Ceremony- an annual Unitarian Universalist ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. It began in 1923 as a creation of Rev. Dr. Norbert Čapek, of The Liberal Religious Fellowship in Prague, Czechoslovakia. We invite you to bring a flower from your yard, if possible, to add to our common vase. Some flowers will be provided.

JUNE 11: PRIDE SERVICE with QUEER KEYS Barb Goldworm and Karen Blackwell:

Our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is proud to partner with Queer Keys for this celebration! Sharing LGBTQ Stories of Being Out and Joyful in Key West and Why it's So Important Today.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SUMMER MONTHS: Please watch your newsletter emails for updates on special activities and fun times. We are encouraging all ideas for summer gatherings:

-Have a pool area you could share some Sunday?

-How about organizing a "First Sunday freebies for locals" outing to the Botanical Garden? the Aquarium? etc.

-A pop up brunch at a favorite spot? Oasis? Salute? Geiger Key? etc.

-A creative conversation about anything you want to examine? (This could be at One Island Family)

REACH OUT TO STAY IN TOUCH! Many of us travel and are in and out during the summer.

Please email Joy (jbt22ster@gmail.com) OR leave a message on the congregation's phone (305-296-4369) and one of our program planners will get back to you to help coordinate/facilitate any gatherings.

UUA NEWS: Have you recently opened the website UUA.org to see what our Unitarian Universalist Association is doing nationally? Here's a shortened version of just one story involving Rev. Erin Walter, who has been a guest speaker for One Island Family Sunday programs by Zoom. (Note from Marilyn Smith)

Trans, Nonbinary+ Lives and Democracy are at Risk: UUs Unequivocally Defend Justice

May 5, 2023

"On Tuesday, May 2nd, members of the trans and nonbinary+ community and their allies, including Unitarian Universalists, were subjected to unprovoked violence by law enforcement at the Texas Capitol. They were protesting efforts by the Texas legislature to ban gender affirming care for trans youth and simply exercising their First Amendment right to freedom of speech.

There is no going back. Love, justice, and equal rights will prevail. We must be the ones to make it so — to come together and bend Texas toward justice. ~Rev. Erin Walter, TX UU Justice Ministry

"Unitarian Universalists and other justice-seeking people of faith came to the Texas Capitol on May 2nd for a sing-in, to proclaim that oppression cannot stop joy or love," said Rev. Erin Walter, TXUUJM's executive director. "Later that day we were met by state violence, particularly against trans Texans of color. Attacks on trans Texans — whether by proposed legislation or by officers of the law — are acts of cruelty and power-mongering rooted in White Supremacy and colonialism, which uphold gender as a binary. This state violence is an attack on bodily autonomy, human rights and religious freedom.

"At TXUUJM, we dearly love and support our friend and organizing partner Adri Pérez of Texas Freedom Network and condemn the violence against them as well as the one-year ban on Sofia Sepulveda, of Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT) and Equality Texas, from the Capitol. We hear loud and clear the call of TENT and other LGBTQIA+ leaders — the call for cisgender Texans to show up now, loudly and publicly, in the fight for trans rights and collective liberation. While this session has been rife with unconscionable, unjust tactics meant to silence, dishearten, and erase our people, there is no mistaking the LGBTQIA+ community in Texas is organized and profoundly powerful. There is no going back. Love, justice, and equal rights will prevail. We must be the ones to make it so — to come together and bend Texas toward justice," said Walter.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are clear and unequivocal: LGBTQIA+ people are sacred, whole, and divine. We unapologetically welcome LGBTQIA+ people, children and families to our communities. To do otherwise means placing the health and well-being of trans and nonbinary+ youth and adults in more danger, including a well-documented increase for the risk of suicide. We know the life-saving power that loving, affirming, inclusive community is in people's lives.

We will continue to support and work with the LGBTQIA+ community — and siblings within our congregations and the wider world — to ensure their fundamental rights are protected. We will not rest until these efforts to criminalize and erase the very existence of trans and nonbinary+ people stop, including trans youth and their families. This is about saving people's lives, it is about liberty, defending people's bodily autonomy, and the essential right to express identity and live in safety.

Authoritarian actions similarly were taken by the Tennessee state legislature [in the expulsion](#) of the “Tennessee Three” because of their advocacy on behalf of gun safety reform. These are urgent threats to our communities and our democracy. As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm democratic practices among our central [Principles](#), which are at the heart of our core belief in the worth and dignity of every person. Democracy recognizes that every voice matters and every voice is needed.

As UUA President, Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, said in April, “Democracy is never guaranteed. It is always something that must be engaged, defended, and demanded by the people, for the people.” We pledge our continued commitment to defend democracy at this pivotal moment. We pledge our unwavering support for trans and nonbinary+ adults and young people and the LGBTQIA+ community. Our democracy is at risk for us all. We will not be silenced.”

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



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