

## ONE ISLAND FAMILY

801 GEORGIA ST.

KEY WEST, FL 33040

WWW.ONEISLANDFAMILY.ORG

E-MAIL:OFFICE@ONEISLANDFAMILY.ORG



# NOVEMBER 2023

## WORSHIP

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY 10/29 AT 11AM LIVE AS

BAIRES SERRANO LEADS US IN AN EXAMINATION OF "LGBTQ HISTORY MONTH"

NOVEMBER SERVICES AT ONE ISLAND FAMILY: JOIN US (LIVE OR ON ZOOM) SUNDAYS AT 11AM

**5 Doug Slagle:** "Leonardo da Vinci, the Renaissance, and the Truth about INDIVIDUALISM."

**12 Rev. Bob Murphy:** "ACCOUNTABILITY: Simple question: To who or what, if anything, are Unitarian Universalists accountable? "(zoom)

**19 SOCIAL SUNDAY:** We will rejoice and give thanks to be together again! Please bring your stories and a finger food to share. Our new admin, Helen Rebane, will be with us that morning--so come meet her 🌻

**26 THANKSGIVING:** A look at and celebration of this very American holiday!

We are excited to welcome back Rev. Doug Slagle and Rev. Bob Murphy--both friends and supporters of our Congregation whom we welcome warmly--and our favorite Nancy 3 Hoffman, Music Director!

If you have any programming ideas or wishes, please reach out and share them with any of our Program Planners: Barb Goldworm, Amelia Hanley, Nancy 3 Hoffman and Joy Taylor; or via email to [office@oneislandfamily.org](mailto:office@oneislandfamily.org)

## NEWS AND NOTES

### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear One Island Family,

The horrific attack on Israeli civilians by Hamas and the resulting war have been weighing very heavily on my heart and mind. I felt called to take a stand based on our principles. With the help and support of the Board, here is our Open Letter regarding the Violence in Israel and Gaza.

## **OPEN LETTER RE: VIOLENCE IN ISRAEL AND GAZA**

We, the Board of One Island Family Southernmost Unitarian Universalist Congregation, find it morally necessary to publicly denounce the brutal and inhumane attack on Israel carried out by Hamas on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We extend our deep sympathy to the victims, hostages and their friends and families. Our Unitarian Universalist principles of inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion; and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; call us to speak out against injustices and atrocities in the world and extend our compassion to those who are targeted.

We believe it is important to note that Hamas, the once elected ruling group in Gaza is designated as a terrorist group by the US State Department, and others. We do not believe that Hamas represents the actions or wishes of all Palestinian people. Hamas calls for the total annihilation of Israel and calls for violence as the means to liberate Palestine. Hamas bears responsibility for the lives lost in the terror attack on Israel and we also believe that Hamas has a responsibility to protect the lives of the hostages they took during the attack and urge them to return all hostages unharmed.

We support Israel's right to defend itself and to maintain a safe and sovereign country. We, however, believe that violence will not ultimately bring peace, and urge Israel to do all in its considerable power to protect civilian lives in Gaza as they seek to eliminate the threat of violence from Hamas in Gaza. We extend our compassion to the Palestinian people living in Gaza who not only suffer due to the lack of a homeland, and the Israeli and Egyptian blockade, but are now also victims in this war.

Since the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack, many Palestinian people, including children and other non-combatants, have been killed by Israeli airstrikes. Israel has ordered Gazans in various parts of the territory to evacuate their homes, land, businesses, and to flee. However, while Gaza is being bombed, there is no safe destination available to the Palestinians. Many refuse to leave their homes because they are uncertain if they will be allowed by the Israelis to return.

We urge Israel and Egypt to allow substantial humanitarian aid into Gaza and provide safe space for the Palestinian evacuees. We implore the Israeli military to exercise restraint in its response to the Hamas attack. Long-term peace and security for the region can only be achieved through good-faith negotiations between parties who recognize each other's right to exist. We fear the killing of civilians and the creation of conditions that are incompatible with the inherent worth and dignity of all human life will only create more suffering and more insecurity.

We know that every Jewish and every Palestinian person has been touched personally by these events and we offer our sympathy and support. We have also seen that Antisemitic and Islamophobic language and actions have been increasing around the world and believe that this is a dangerous trend. History shows us that unchecked bigotry and hatred can lead to unthinkable consequences. We publicly extend our support to local Jewish and Palestinian people and stand together against Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and hatred.

We grieve for all innocent Palestinian and Israeli lives lost and hope for the cessation of violence and a lasting peace in the Middle East.

In peace,

Karen Blackwell

## UUA HONOR CONGREGATION:

Your participation in One Island Family has made it possible for us to obtain the Honor Congregation status. Thank You. See the attached letter from our UUA President.

Dear Leader,

Every year, each congregation in the Unitarian Universalist Association is asked to give a financial contribution to support the wider movement and sibling congregations across our Association. This contribution supports the Annual Program Fund, which is the single largest source of income for the work of our UUA. Our support of one another strengthens the covenant among us.

Your congregation gave the **full requested amount** to the Annual Program Fund during this fiscal year 2024. **This means you are an Honor Congregation, honoring the covenant between and among our congregations.** THANK YOU!

Your giving is a concrete expression of our congregations' covenant with one another, and is a recognition that we are not alone, but are part of an Association of Congregations. This support allows the UUA to serve the diverse needs of the 1,002 member congregations across five regions. **Congregational giving through the Annual Program Fund (APF) makes the work of the UUA possible.**

Please display this Honor certificate somewhere prominent and share with your congregation my personal appreciation on behalf of all the congregations that your generosity benefits.

**Your support strengthens Unitarian Universalism** and its vital, liberating message for our time. Together we are organizing for justice, imagining new ways forward in community, and growing spiritually. Thank you for your giving to the Annual Program Fund. You make so much possible.

With gratitude and hope,



Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Ph.D.  
UUA President

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## THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Extends our appreciation to the

**One Island Family: The  
Southernmost UU Congregation**

In  
Key West, Florida  
WITH RECOGNITION AS A  
**2024**

**Honor Congregation**

For Participation in the Annual Program Fund



Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Ph.D.  
President  
Unitarian Universalist Association



Norrie Gall  
Congregational Giving Administrative Director  
Unitarian Universalist Association



**"THREE DAYS IN NOVEMBER"**

Three holidays in November have special importance.

**FIRST: Start with Election Day.**

No, it's not an official holiday for the United States government. Although nineteen states have some form of Election Day holiday. In Florida, the situation is confusing. Election Day is a state holiday for some purposes but not for others. A national holiday may be helpful for American voters.

While waiting for Congress to take action, religious organizations can celebrate democracy with appropriate activities. Congregations can help with voter education. On Election Day, volunteers can take voters to the polls.

Democracy is in danger in many places in today's world. In Hong Kong, the yellow umbrella has become a symbol of the pro-democracy movement. In Florida, some volunteers use yellow umbrellas to protect voters from the rain and the heat on Election Day. Drinking water is provided to the thirsty and people with disabilities receive assistance.

**SECOND: Think about Veterans Day.**

If you want to understand why peace is precious, look around in your community in early November. For some Americans, the conflicts in Southeast Asia, in Europe, and in other places, have never ended. For many veterans, and for their families, the suffering continues.

As a Unitarian Universalist minister in New England, I waited while a young woman enlisted in the military. Our congregation was supportive and we sent gift boxes to her military unit in Iraq. She returned two years later with physical and emotional wounds and she had problems speaking. The recovery process can be long and hard.

Congregations can talk about the need for government services, and it will be an important discussion. However, we make a mistake when we leave everything to Uncle Sam. We need to know what has happened in our community, we need to provide support in the healing process, and we need to work for peace with justice.

**THIRD: Reclaim and recycle the American Thanksgiving Day.**

Unitarian Universalists can ask, "Who or what are we celebrating at the end of November? Who's invited to the feast day? What's appropriate behavior?"

Tell the truth about Thanksgiving Day. The American Thanksgiving Day doesn't belong to one race, one religion, one geographic area, or one moment in history. It's not a day to honor colonialism and imperialism. Congress has called, repeatedly, for a national day to acknowledge blessings received during recent months.

Again, it's possible for religious organizations to provide leadership. We can develop interfaith and multicultural celebrations. We can share healthy food with our neighbors, and we can grow some of the food in our community gardens. We have a four-day weekend and much of the weekend can be devoted to community service.



## HELLO OUT THERE!

It is always a delight to hear what is going on in our members' and friends' lives while we are apart. Please send news/ updates to Joy T jbt22ster@gmail.com and we will work at staying CONNECTED while apart.

Pat Collins and Judy Lawrence have sent new contact information: they are/have moved to Punta Gorda FL!!

They can now be reached at: Brookdale Senior Living, 250 Bal Harbor Blvd. #117, Punta Gorda Isles, FL 33950. PHONE: (585) 485-2189

## MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!!

Our One Island Family Choir will be reconvening on Sunday, November 12th at 10 a.m. Anyone who has a desire to sing is welcome and invited. Our songs are chosen to enhance and enlarge upon the theme of the week. Even if you feel a little rusty, we will warm up those voices and create some beautiful music together. I hope to see old and new choir members at 801 Georgia Street.

Nancy 3. Hoffman, Music Director

## WATCH THIS RARE HALLOWEEN VIDEO!

Also from Nancy 3. Watch this RARE HALLOWEEN VIDEO! **KlezZombies** is a brand new video written and performed by members of my northern Klezmer band, The Casco Bay Tummlers. The original music was written by band member Carl Dimow - who performed with me at B'nai Zion Synagogue in 2019. It will hopefully give you a few moments of relief from the intense nature of news from around the country and the world. Click on the link below.

[https://youtu.be/r\\_KhCFkmHlo?si=gAETMbZoUVD1xftA](https://youtu.be/r_KhCFkmHlo?si=gAETMbZoUVD1xftA)

## JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW ADMINISTRATOR:

**HELEN REBANE** is our new administrator! She can be reached via email at [uufkw@yahoo.com](mailto:uufkw@yahoo.com) OR [office@oneislandfamily.com](mailto:office@oneislandfamily.com) OR leave a message on the office answering machine at (305) 296-4369.

The deadlines for submitting material for our newsletters are weekly on Thursdays; and monthly the last Thursday for inclusion the following month.

## COMMUNITY NEWS:

Happy fall everyone!

I'm excited to let everyone know of the upcoming classes at Williams Hall this November entitled *Body, Breath and Mind: How to Meditate*.

Meditating is more than just sitting and relaxing. It is about entering the present moment to live more fully. To do that, we practice being in our bodies, fully breathing into the moment, and releasing grasping thoughts that keep us attached to suffering and habitual patterns. It's a different way of relating to ourselves - of letting go and learning to relax into the moment- which is different from our usual way of operating. It's rare to just walk into a meditation session without orientation and find your way in.

Like any new skill worth learning, it takes practice and an understanding of technique.

In response to that, I will be offering "How to Meditate" sittings from 5-6 pm at Williams Hall with guided meditation and overview of body, breath and mind. You may find it deeply relaxing, offering surprising benefits, whether you are a beginner or an experienced practitioner.

I encourage you to join one or all of these introductory sessions Mondays in November at 5:00 pm. Fee is as always, on a donation basis.

Hope to see you there!

Peace,

Jan Jinkai Gary



### NEXT BOARD MEETING:

**NOVEMBER 15 AT 1 PM. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND,  
CONTACT THE CONGREGATION'S OFFICE FOR THE ZOOM LINK.**

VIEW THIS NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT [WWW.ONEISLANDFAMILY.ORG/NEWS](http://WWW.ONEISLANDFAMILY.ORG/NEWS)  
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