



Worship

Our Sunday services are suspended for at least the next few weeks. As we plan updates we will be posting them on our website: oneislandfamily.org "News"

If you have passed One Island Family since March 22, you may have seen this notice posted on our front door. We made the decision to stop all group activities at 801 Georgia Street, in keeping with our local government declarations and health advisories.

Our thanks to those OIF members and guest speakers who have been planning the April services that we've had to cancel. Thanks to Barb Goldworm, Karen Blackwell and Joy Taylor for their work on a Seder intergenerational service and Seder dinner; to Pat Collins for an Easter service; to Jeanne Gregory and the Key West Poetry Guild for a celebration of National Poetry Month, and for Keri O'Brien's invitation to Daashia Cochran for a crystal bowl ceremony.

Our UU values call us be good citizens of the world, so we are now exploring ways to stay connected without being in direct personal contact. We will be asking you to share your knowledge of technology and your online sources for worship experiences. We want to hear what you are watching, reading or listening to for inspiration as we all try to stay informed and make sense of the unfolding world events. We plan to use our weekly and monthly newsletters to keep you informed. Your continued support and participation will be needed. Stay tuned!



News & Notes

President's Message APRIL 2020 Marilyn Smith

"Interdependent World"

So where do we begin? The events of recent weeks have been unlike anything experienced in our lifetime. Keeping up with the news of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has been exhausting and at times overwhelming. Our One Island Family Sunday services for the month of April have been set aside and we are beginning to explore ways of keeping our connection with each other from the safety of our own homes. We all have many sources for seeking information, as needed, and we will share with you later in this newsletter some that we've found helpful. What are you doing to stay safe, keep your health, and feed your spirit?

I've been thinking of our UU 7th Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part". We've all watched the expanding worldwide coverage of the outbreak of this virus and each nation's response. But locally I also see how many of our One Island Family members have been personally touched by these events. We've heard from one member of our congregation that her family in Colorado has been in quarantine because of a father's exposure to a work partner who tested positive. Our hearts go out to another OIF member who has immediate family living in China. Another has an elderly parent in a far-away assisted living center where no visitors are currently allowed. One has a brother in Orlando awaiting elective surgery for a heart problem. Everything is "on hold, pending. . ." A member with a compromised immune system is sharing her research on how to avoid contamination from groceries and essential supplies delivered to her door.

We hold concern for our members whose sources of income had been a delicate balance of two or more jobs that now have been abruptly stopped. We know of one who was at risk of losing health insurance due to unemployment. Our seasonal visitors have had to revise plans for their annual return to their Northern homes. Some are returning to Indiana, others to Ohio, one to Maine and another crossing an international border to Canada. Now they are wondering when to start their journeys and what they will encounter..

So when I hear TV commentators reminding us "We're all in this together" I get it. But what do we hold on to, what gives us hope and the resolve to wake up each morning to begin again? We look to each other. Help each other through this. We use our connection as a spiritual community to inform, comfort and inspire each other. For me, stories of kindness, creativity and innovation give me hope. Each time we reach out or bring a smile to someone, we are making a difference. Let's continue to share and care and to find new ways to do that from a distance. We're all interconnected, right??

"Courage and Confidence . . . Together"

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those
who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number
So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the
homeless, the sick, the weary

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, *breathe*.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

-Brother Richard

This poem is shared with us from Sr. Michelle, FCJ in Edmonton, Canada "may it buoy us up in these difficult days." Saint Philomena School, 324 Cory's Lane, Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871

COMMUNITY RESOURCES CONCERNING COVID-19

AS YOU WANT OR NEED INFORMATION, THESE SOURCES MAY BE HELPFUL:

1) FOR HEALTH RELATED QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

For up-to-date information on the status of Monroe County and COVID-19,

<http://www.monroecountyem.com/1169/COVID-19-Coronavirus>

The Florida Department of Health has put up a 24/7 information hotline: 1-866-779-6121.
<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>

Key West City hotline -- 305-809-1101-- is staffed 24/7 to better answer your questions.

Local publications including the Key West Citizen newspaper or the KONK LIFE email blasts offer daily updates.

Our elected representatives offer newsletter and email links with information on health and small business recovery assistance such as:

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, Florida's 26th congressional district, <https://mucarsel-powell.house.gov>

2) **FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**

The Community Foundation of the Florida Keys (CFFK) has announced that its **Florida Keys Emergency Relief Fund** will accept and strategically disburse funding to address COVID-19 emergency response and relief efforts in Monroe County.

For more information, contact the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys at (305) 292-1502 or visit www.CFFK.org/HELP.

United Way of the Florida Keys offers a **Florida Keys Community Resource Guide** for health and human services related to COVID-19.

<https://www.keysunitedway.org/communityresourceguide>

3) **FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MESSAGES:**

Unitarian Universalist Association: www.uua.org- explore this website!

<https://www.facebook.com/revsusanfrederickgray/>

<https://www.uua.org/hashtags/covid19>

Online services:

We're looking into how other congregations are doing online Sunday services. Explore these and let us know your impressions:

Website for River of Grass UU Congregation, Rev. Amy Carol Webb

www.riverofgrassuu.org

Website for UUCongregation of Miami: www.uumiami.org

Website for the UU Church of Lexington: www.uucl.org

Website for the Gathering at Northern Hills UU (www.gnhuu.org)

Explore Rev Doug Slagle's messages

[Facebook.com/ MCCKey West](https://www.facebook.com/MCCKeyWest/) ("What are your anchors" Rev. Steve Torrence on March 22, 2020.)

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