



# Worship

## OIF WORSHIP SERVICES JANUARY 2022

January 2- **"Rev Faerie" Elaine Sliver- "The Interdependent Web Through Song"** Join us to hear Elaine Silver's unique musical presentation with an inspirational spiritual message. Our congregation will meet in person in Key West (with masks and social distancing). We will also offer a Zoom link, and our guest presenter will be live streaming to us by Zoom.

January 9- **Grant Couch- "What is Zen?"**

We welcome the return of Grant Couch, who is a retired financial executive and long time student of many spiritual paths. He is a Zen sensei and he is a board member of Zen Peacemakers which is dedicated to sharing the Dharma of Buddhism in the West. Bearing Witness Retreats, social action and meditation are the core of his practice. (Grant will be with us in person and we also will provide our usual Zoom link for members and friends not able to attend in person.)

January 16- To be announced\*- Who is ready to "Take a Turn for ONE ISLAND FAMILY"?

January 23- **Geoff Kaufman- "America, It's You: Seeking Truth"**

Although Geoff is best known to a lot of people for his 35 years of singing and organizing maritime music at Mystic Seaport Museum in CT, he has always maintained an active touring schedule featuring music from such formative influences as singers and songwriters from the "folk scare" of the 60s (Tom Paxton, Joan Baez, Steve Gillette...), songs collected in the Catskill Mountains where he grew up and his time as a Sloopsinger with the Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater* and Pete Seeger. Since his retirement from Mystic in June of '19, Geoff has turned greater attention to music that speaks to issues of social justice, the climate crisis and our need to find common ground. (Geoff will be with us in person for this service.)

January 30- **Jim Smith- "Short Bucket List"** There's a poster of a short bucket-list. There are only two items on the list. #1 was "Live by the Ocean". #2 was "Have no Regrets". Most of us have achieved the first item, but the second item is a more difficult challenge. Regret is wishing you had made a different decision in the past because consequences of that decision turned out to be unfavorable. Let's discuss. (Jim will be with us in person for this service.)



# News & Notes

## President's Note

As we enter the New Year, 2022, I feel gratitude for all the dedicated members and friends of One Island Family who have given their time, their wisdom, and their friendship to carry us through the last year. We have worked hard to reinvent our programs through the pandemic, to strengthen our connection to each other while we could not physically be together, and to stay committed to the mission of fostering a vibrant Unitarian Universalist congregation.

We now begin the work of planning for the year ahead. As your outgoing board president, I would like to share my impressions of where we are now. We are fortunate and unique to have our own building without the burden of a mortgage, thanks to our earliest founders and their financial generosity. We met our budget goals for income in 2021 from pledge contributions, rental income from our tenant, the annual distribution of the CFFK fund and special gifts. By volunteering time with other congregations, our members have shared community service with the MCC Cooking With Love program, the League of Women Voters, Unity of the Keys peace celebration, the Adopt a Highway DOT program, and others. Showing up for events that support UU values is what we do- with pride!

I do have some concerns for us and maybe you share some of these. Membership is one area where we need growth in the year to come. We have a core group of members whom we've depended on to plan Sunday worship services, maintain our aging building, produce our newsletter content, and care for our members in time of need. We want help! If you are a member of One Island Family, we ask you to consider what talents you have and where you can contribute. We need "do-ers"- individuals with ideas ready to get involved now! You will be hearing from the nominating committee in the coming weeks. At least two positions will be open on our OIF board- President, and Vice President! Whoever serves as president, according to our by-laws, creates an agenda and facilitates a board meeting once a month. We have a council of past presidents ready to assist!

We need working committees, so that matters related to Building Needs, Membership, Music, Program Planning, Social Justice, or UUA Organizational Affairs can focus on issues as they arise and bring recommendations to the board. We have abundant materials for religious education programs to offer adult programs or children's religious education. Because our DRE moved in September we need to rebuild our youth religious ed. Also, as you know if you have attended our Sunday services since November 21, we are working hard to offer hybrid services for in-person and zoom participation. Having an audio support team could assist our music director with the many roles she is now carrying to make it all possible! What's your area of interest? Do you have experience through your career or in another UU congregation? Are you curious, ready to learn and eager to contribute to our success? We need you!!

In the coming weeks you will be hearing from our treasurer, to confirm your pledge payments for 2021 and to ask for your renewed pledge for 2022. Based on the pledges received, we will draft our budget for the New Year. We recognize the generosity of all our members who make financial contributions

and believe that shows your support of our vision to keep a strong UU presence in the Lower Keys. Once we have your pledge ("promises"), and receive a small payment on that pledge (by or before January 21st) you will be certified as a voting member for our annual meeting on February 6, 2022. Please mark that on your calendar- to attend that Sunday! We will need a quorum to approve the 2022 budget and elect our new board.

It has been my pleasure to serve on the One Island Family board and I send my heartfelt thanks to Dave Arnold, Amelia Hanley, Clare Hurd, Keri O'Brien, for serving this year. Also special thanks to Nancy S. Hoffman, Joy Taylor, Pete Peterson, and every person who shared in guiding our programs and activities. Now let's get busy planning our future! Happy New Year to all!

Marilyn Smith, January 2022.

### **ONE ISLAND FAMILY NEWS:**

**PROGRAM NOTE:** We still have an opening for a speaker Sunday, January 16th. How about "Taking a Turn for One Island Family"? We invite you to research a Unitarian Universalist (living or historical) whom you admire. Share 10-15 minutes highlighting what they did or how they made the world a better place.

(Respond to OIF Program Committee: Joy Brown Taylor, Amelia Hanley, Marilyn Smith.)

**SMALL GROUP MINISTRY-** One Island Family hosted small group discussions by Zoom last fall (Sept, Oct., Nov.) and would like to begin meeting in person in January. If you're interested and could meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month (January 16 at 4:00 pm) please look for the sign-up sheet after service or email Marilyn Smith.

### **UUA NEWS:**

**UU WORLD: "Democracy cannot wait." STAFF WRITER 12/17/2021**

Over 120 Unitarian Universalists participate in Poor People's Campaign Moral March

**(UU World. Washington D.C.)** During the pandemic, over 800 thousand people have died of COVID; 20 million Americans lost their jobs, and eight million more went into poverty. At the same time, billionaires made \$2 trillion. On December 13, hundreds of civil rights activists, poor and low-wage workers, and dozens of faith leaders from all over the country came to Washington to say: "no, no more."

They participated in the [Moral March to Washington D.C.](#) For the **Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the UUA**, the most critical issue on the agenda is lifting voting rights, establishing a set of protections to confront the tide of voter suppression laws sweeping the nation. **In the featured UU World video, her entire speech underscores that "democracy cannot wait."**

Frederick-Gray participated in a rally at Capitol Square, accompanied by over 120 Unitarian Universalists. She addressed the crowd while impacted leaders from 33 states offered dramatic testimonies. Hundreds more joined in a march that took over an intersection at Pennsylvania Avenue to demand Congress to "get it done in 2021."

**Over 70 activists, including Frederick-Gray and seven other Unitarian Universalists, also took part in the nonviolent moral direct action on Capitol Hill that followed the rally.** Capitol Police arrested all of them, including Rev. Frederick-Gray and five UU ministers: the Rev. Abhi Janamanchi (Cedar Lane UU Church, Bethesda, Maryland); the Rev. David Carl Olson (First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, Maryland); the Rev. Dr. Elaine Peresluha (First Parish in Portland, Maine), the Rev. Joan Javier-Duval (Unitarian Church of Montpelier, Vermont), and the Rev. Robin Tanner (Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, New Jersey). Capitol Police also arrested Paige Bacon, a lay leader of First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, Maryland, and Sarah Garner-Svec of the UU Church of Lawton, Oklahoma.

"The people who have kept this country going during a pandemic are coming to the nation's capital to insist that we can't go on without an investment in them," said Bishop William J. Barber II, who is a PPC co-chair and led the rally.

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/moral-march-2021>

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During the month of January, there are several UUA calls to action in support of Reproductive Justice and Voting Rights:

a) **January 6 Vigils for Democracy:** Inviting us to plan a candlelight vigil. <https://www.mobilize.us/democracylvigils/c/january-6-vigil-for-democracy-/event/create/>

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