



Worship

SUMMER GATHERINGS:

We will resume weekly services in October.

**September 8 at One Island Family, 11:00 a.m.
“Living our Unitarian Universalist Values” Astoria Nickerson, Facilitator**

September 22 - TBA

**As we journey along the rocky landscape of the national scene, let us remember what we at
One Island Family have chosen as our**

Statement of Inclusivity:

Whoever you are, we welcome you.

Wherever you come from, we welcome you.

Whatever you worship, we welcome you.

Whomever you love, we welcome you.

We ARE One Island Family!



News & Notes

President's Message SEPTEMBER 2019

"Religion is something that happens to us when we open our mind to truth, our conscience to justice and our heart to love" (A. Powell Davies)

I look to my UU tradition to help me stay grounded and to give me focus beyond what seems like the chaos of world events. I have recently found hope in the action of two community groups in Portland, Oregon, working together as the August Wilson Red Door Project. (Perhaps you too saw the same news feature on "PBS the News Hour" on August 19.) Reporter Cat Wise featured a theater company that is attempting to address the troubling history of racial discrimination and tensions between police and African Americans in their area. So they have engaged Black citizens and law enforcement personnel to tell their stories. They have written and performed first person monologues including one called "Hands Up" and another titled "Cop Out." Those stories were described as powerful, poignant, and painful. Reportedly they have changed minds and stirred understanding. "Now, a theater company is attempting to change the city's racial ecology through the arts -- and perhaps create a model for how communities can bridge the divide over other culturally fraught issues."

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-portlands-black-community-and-police-are-sharing-their-stories-through-theater>

I shared this story with one of our One Island Family members, Toby Armour, who created and facilitated a writing workshop project with inmates of the Monroe County Jail last winter. That too produced powerful, moving narratives by incarcerated men who agreed to have their work shared through public readings in our community.

Another event I've been hearing about nationally is the 1619 project. As reported, "the 1619 Project is a major initiative from The New York Times observing the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American Slavery." It offers essays and photo collections telling the story of the arrival of the first captive Africans in the British colonies of North America at Point Comfort, Virginia. It reminds us that the legacy of slavery began 400 years ago and asks us to recognize racism in the United States which is still part of our culture today. The creators of this project also celebrate the "contribution of black Americans and their role at the center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are". Here locally, on Sunday, August 25th there was an observance for the community at the Historic Cornish Memorial AME Zion Church, for the International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition. That included an ancestral remembrance ceremony at the Key West African Cemetery at Higgs Beach.

Norma Jean Sawyer, a former Key West activist and person of strong Christian faith, wrote a book entitled "Black America Series: Key West". She also worked with Key West African Memorial committee, the creators of the cemetery at Higgs Beach which in 2012 was recognized on the National Register of Historic Places as a nationally significant archaeological site for the graves of African slaves discovered on the county owned beach.

Living our values is what we as Unitarian Universalists strive to do, and these stories of individuals making a difference give me hope and inspiration to live my life doing things that matter. Join us for our Summer Gathering on Sunday, September 8th as we explore "Living our UU Values."

Marilyn Smith (marilynkw@bellsouth.net)

"If not you, then who? If not now, then when?"

Sixteen-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg [asks this question](#), and we're asking people of faith to respond. We UUs know that all that exists is part of an interdependent web. What we do matters. We must show up for each other now.



Are you ready to demand a just and sustainable world? A right to a future for our youth and young adults? Sign up here for the [Sept. 20th Global Climate Strike and Week of Action](#) by locating an event near you and you will be in touch with local organizers. This information will also be shared with us so that we can mobilize UUs as powerfully as possible.

The UUA, Side With Love, and UU Ministry for Earth have joined as partners with the Global Climate Strike on Sept. 20th and we're inviting you to #StrikeWithUs.

On September 20, three days before the UN Climate Summit in NYC, young people and adults will strike all across the US and the world to demand transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis. We know governments won't deliver climate action and justice on their own, so we're going on #climatestrike to show them what people power is capable of creating. The strikes are just the beginning of an escalated movement where

millions will take to the streets to demand action now, especially for those most impacted by climate change who have done the least to cause it. Climate breakdown isn't inevitable. We know the solutions we need including a just transition away from the exploitative fossil fuel economy. We're inviting you to join other UUs and faith groups and millions more -- we have the power to make them happen.

Here's what's already happening among UUs:

- Delegates at our recent General Assembly in June affirmed an [Action of Immediate Witness to Build a Green New Deal](#) and began organizing right at GA for the Global Climate Strikes.
- UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray will be marching with UUs and thousands of others in New York City, and there will be powerful events all over the US and the world. UUs and friends are already [registering here](#).
- Side with Love is hosting a **UUs & the Global Climate Strike Webinar - September 5th at 4pm EST/1pm PST**. [Register now](#). We will have updates for you, great speakers and plenty of time to answer your questions.
- This webinar follows the [CNN Climate Town Hall](#) with ten presidential candidates being broadcast on **Sept. 4th** thanks in large part to the organizing by Sunrise Movement, a partner in the [Climate Strikes](#).
- A group of UU ministers led by Rev. Peggy Clarke, Senior Minister at The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, have put together an excellent packet of [worship materials](#) for **Worship Services on or before September 15 on the Global Climate Strikes** as well as an [informational flyer](#) on the Strikes and the many ways we can participate.
- **UU Conference - Advancing Economic and Climate Justice as a Moral Issue: Building a Movement for a Green New Deal - Sept 15-17 in Washington, DC**. Come for the first day at All Souls Unitarian Church to hear from some amazing speakers from our most impacted communities and learn about actions we can take - or stay for the next day or two to get trained in advocacy and visit congressional representatives. [Learn more and register now](#).

[Join us! You can sign up for a strike in your area or get coached on how to start one.](#)

We know that each of the guiding principles of our faith and our campaigns for justice are unattainable in the face of widespread climate injustice and chaos. The current US government centers the rights of corporations over

people, other species and Earth. It sanctions state violence to protect the fossil fuel industry gains and it criminalizes water protectors, climate protesters, and indigenous peoples. It persecutes climate refugees through cruel, harsh immigration policies. It perpetuates environmental racism. We are called to engage this at every level possible. We can bring our vision, our resources and our selves into relationship with communities most impacted who are leading the way into sustainable and equitable futures.

Please [join us](#) for this crucial event on Sept. 20th. It is just the beginning of a new climate movement built on the foundation of decades of climate justice work and activism. Organizers are actively planning strategies for now through November 2020 and beyond. UUs have always been there. We are still needed now, more than ever.

Yours in solidarity and resistance,

[The UUA Organizing and Strategy Team](#)

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