

ONE ISLAND FAMILY

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FEBRUARY 2024

WORSHIP

FEBRUARY SERVICES AT ONE ISLAND FAMILY:

JOIN US (LIVE OR ON ZOOM) SUNDAYS AT 11AM

4 Come learn about "Project Lighthouse"

The Florida Keys Children's Shelter is more than just a place to stay. Our extensive programs—both residential and non-residential—have helped and counseled thousands of children and families in their time of need since 1985. We're dedicated to providing the best possible solutions for abused, abandoned or neglected children; and children that have run away, are truants, or are considered ungovernable by their parents.

11 Baires Serrano leads us in an examination of "National Freedom to Marry Day"

18 Rev. Doug Slagle "Love Stories for the Ages"

In the Valentine month of February, Rev. Doug Slagle will examine three well-known love stories with universal themes that can speak to the hearts of all.

25 Rev. Bob Murphy "In God We Trust"

This is our national motto and the Florida state motto. God is receiving a lot of mention in American politics and in the Middle East and in other places. Let's talk about God and the Unitarian Universalists.

IT'S OFFICIAL!

We have two wonderful 'Affiliate Ministers' for One Island Family. Both are retired UU pastors (emeritus) from other congregations. They 'visit' in person and/or virtually monthly and are delightful!

Rev. Doug Slagle had guest preached for us and found his way to FL after retirement from [The Gathering at Northern Hills](#) congregation in Cincinnati, Ohio. He lives in Ft. Lauderdale and visits in person.

Rev. Bob Murphy is retired from the UU Church of Tarpon Springs. Rev. Bob is very connected to the UUA and has helped us do some GA presentations and such. He and his wife Lyn are in a retirement community on the FL west coast and zoom regularly.

SO two Emeritus Ministers, both providing pastoral guidance to our community here in KW!! Otherwise we provide layed services and community outreach opportunities to local non-for-profits-a nice combo for our eclectic city ;-)

THIS SUNDAY, JAN 28, JOIN US ON ZOOM!

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6164793132?pwd=am5Cb3puRkFGOU8vNTAvbjRHSVZWZz09>

One Island Family UU Congregation Presents:

"Rev. Faerie" Elaine Silver

And Her Music-inspired Program:

"From Breakdown to Breakthrough"

Sunday, January 28 * 11am Service

ON ZOOM

One Island Family

801 Georgia St, Key West, FL
305.296.4369

"There's some confusion

This seeming limitation

It's just an illusion

This sense of separation

We're always changing

And growing into more

Life's a re-arranging metaphor"

From "Breakthrough"

c. Elaine Silver Music, BMI

oneislandfamily.org * elainesilver.com



NEWS AND NOTES

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Happy New Year, One Island Family! I hope the New Year is starting off on a positive note for you. It has been a very busy one for our congregation.

We began the year with a thoughtful New Year's Service, sharing about our intentions and resolutions.

Heidi Golightly and The Keys to be the Change group gave an eye-opening and illuminating presentation on human trafficking, sharing experiences from right here in Key West and helping us to understand how to look for the signs and symptoms.

A group of us spent the early hours of Martin Luther King Day, January 15th, in the kitchen of St Paul's church, cooking breakfast for the Annual Interfaith Ministerial Alliance (IMA) Scholarship breakfast. We were joined by a large group of members who attended and supported the breakfast! In total the IMA breakfast raised \$6450 for scholarships for Key West High School students.

Many of us marched together in the MLK Day Parade and some rode in a golf cart kindly provided by Nancy Hoffman and her friend Derek. We proudly carried our new and old banners and sang along with Nancy's wonderful accordion playing.

On January 21, we held our Annual Meeting where we re-elected our 2023 Board of Directors and added a new Director, Alana Robles. I appreciate all the work of our wonderful Board last year and am so glad to welcome Alana to our merry band. We approved our 2024 Budget.

Also, as a group during the January 21st service, we pledged our congregation's commitment to being a UUA LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation. Then during the Annual Meeting, we voted to update the bylaws to include improved Welcoming Language and voted to submit our application to become an official UUA Welcoming Congregation. We look forward to receiving our official status, being recognized on the UUA website, and adding the Welcoming Congregation logo.

I am looking forward to an exciting 2024 with all of you!

In Peace,

Karen Blackwell

I am also including the 2023 Year at-a-Glance that I shared during the Annual Meeting as a quick summary of last year's activities below.

2023 YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

**Goals: Maintain and Grow Vibrant Congregation
 Increase Visibility in Community**

Milestones:

Joined Key West Business Guild

Re-Joined Interfaith Ministerial Alliance

Developed alliance with Queer Keys

Formalized relationships with Rev. Bob Murphy and Rev. Doug Slagle as Affiliate Ministers for OIF

Created One-Page Brochure for OIF

Updated Principles Banner to add "One Island Family Unitarian Universalist"

Added 5 net new members to congregation

Maintained/ Improved Financial Stability

Said Goodbye and Thank you to Pete and Welcome to Helen as Office Manager

Held Full Year of Diverse, Uplifting Services with robust Music and Choir Program

Marched in Martin Luther King Jr Parade

Participated in Several Rallies re:

Reproductive Rights, Drag Prohibitions, Book Banning

Marched in Gay Pride and Held Gay Pride Service with Drag Queen Performance

Represented One Island Family at UUA General Assembly

WELCOME TO THE ONE ISLAND FAMILY BOARD:

We are delighted to welcome Alana Robles to our Board of Directors! Our new Director-at-Large joins the existent Board members who have all agreed to continue to serve the Congregation for this next year:

President: Karen Blackwell

Vice President: Joy Taylor

Secretary: Claire Hurd

Treasurer: Dave Arnold

Directors At-Large: Amelia Hanley

 Barb Goldworm

 Liz Levi

 Alana Robles

BLACK HISTORY MONTH BY REV. ROBERT (BOB) MURPHY, AFFILIATE MINISTER

Black History Month arrives in February.

"How We Doin' Dr. King?" was one of the songs that Lyn and I sang for the Martin Luther King weekend in January. The song was written by Tim Burnaham. We sang at the Unitarian Universalist church in Clearwater. Hundreds of people, from different communities, were present for the celebration. Rev. Amy Kindred is the minister.

Keep asking the question asked in the song. "How We Doin' Dr. King?" Black History Month is a time for reflection, rededication, and renewal. In June, the Unitarian Universalist Association will have its national convention. There will be discussions about rewriting the Association's bylaws and there will be declarations about this and that. Keep asking, "What do Unitarian Universalists want to do in the here and now? What's doable in the year 2024?"

Here's a point to consider: Martin Luther King's birthday and the Presidential Inauguration Day for the United States will be celebrated on the same day in the year 2025. Imagine what the world will look like less than twelve months from now. Will democracy survive? Will the world be moving towards peace or will today's conflicts in the Middle East, Ukraine, and in other places still be in progress? What can congregations do that will be useful in the near future?

Stay with Dr. King's vision. Two activities are suggested.

First: Unitarian Universalists can join with others in working for voting rights. Congregations can support voter registration, voter education, get-out-the-vote activities, and poll watching. Florida and the other Southern states have a long history of voter suppression. Martin Luther King understood the problem and he brought people together in defense of democracy. He was a Baptist preacher who did a lot of good among the Unitarian Universalists.

Second: Unitarian Universalists can support humanitarian work. We can prepare for emergencies and we can respond in appropriate ways. Some emergencies will occur close to home. Heat waves and hurricanes are part of our Florida experience. Some problems will be in distant places. I've been asked repeatedly, "What should Americans do in response to the fighting in the Middle East?" The answer is simple. Support humanitarian work.

Feed the hungry, shelter the people who are homeless, care for refugee families, and assist with healing. Organized religion has been doing this good work since Biblical times. Church bylaws can be rewritten, and rewritten, with more revisions to follow, but, at the end of this year, what will matter most will be the actions that happen on Election Day and at other critical moments. Congregations can be helpful. Stay with Dr. King's vision in this new year.

ANNUAL MEETING

Light is shining on One Island Family from above!



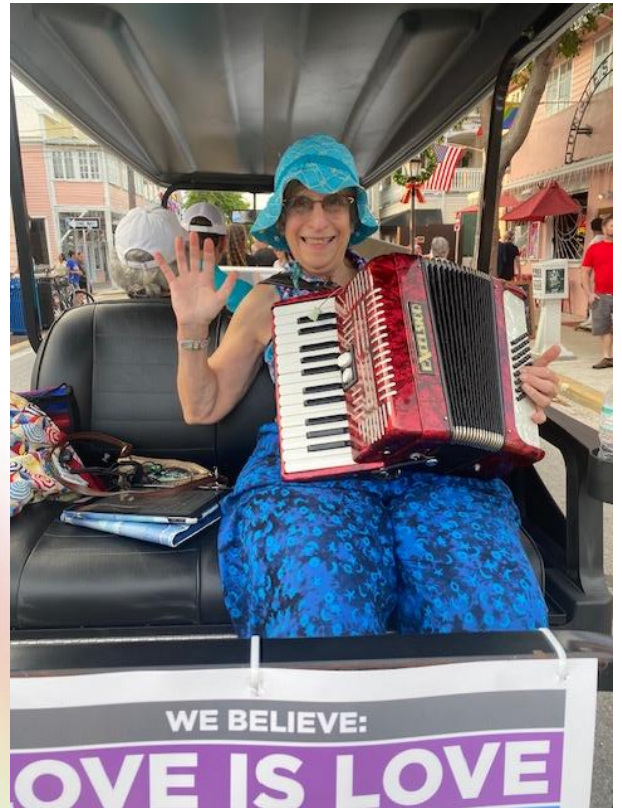


MLK PARADE

We had a great turnout to participate in the parade Monday afternoon, January 15. Members took turns carrying two of our large banners including the new UU principles banner. Also there were smaller individual placards individuals could carry and decorated the golf cart. The golf cart Nancy 3 arranged for with a neighbor allowed OIF members to participate even if they couldn't walk the complete parade route. We showed our support of the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. Thanks to all our participants.







NO CHOIR THIS WEEK

"Rev. Faerie" Elaine Silver will be conducting the service and always has wonderful congregational music that we can participate in. Choir will resume on February 4th at 10:15 as usual.

PIANO BAR WITH NANCY 3. HOFFMAN

Nancy 3. will be performing and sharing music at the Little Room Jazz Club on Sunday from 5:30 - 7:30. Located at 821 Duval Street, the Little Room has a relaxed atmosphere, drinks and light bites available.

We welcome diversity of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, culture, citizenship status, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, gender expression, family status, religious background, socioeconomic status, education, political perspective, age, and abilities.



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