



Worship

APRIL SERVICES:

2 Dr. Arnold Kerzner: "The Meaning of Friendship"

Dr. Arnie will examine this topic from a psychiatric perspective. He will also consider "Unconditional Friendship," namely a form of friendship that has the quality of 'loving freely.'

9 Rev. Doug Slagle: "Through the Hard Night"

In a world with a wide diversity of people and religious faiths - or no faith - it can be difficult to celebrate Easter Sunday. "New life" and "Springtime" topics are fine, but they are not always compelling. Please join Rev. Doug for an Easter Sunday message that will explore universal feelings of hope and joy in spite of challenges, pain, and death.

16 Jeanne Gregory: "Our Annual Poetry Service"

Our own J. M. Varela leads us "Inside the Head of a Conch Woman" in celebration of National Poetry Month.

23 Therese Willette: "Celebration of Earth Day"

Join us for a Four Directions Meditation Circle with Spiritual Drumming.

30 TBD: Support a local Not-for-Profit Sunday!



News & Notes

Note from the President

Dear Fellow One Island Family Members,

I am writing this as my first official note as our congregation's president. I first want to say Thank You to Marilyn Smith for her steady leadership as our past president. She and our board got us through the rough times of the pandemic, through zoom services, and transitioned back into in-person services. It was a mighty effort and I know we all appreciate it. When Marilyn and Jim begin their move to Islamorada, I hope we will still see them here occasionally. We will miss them.

As I start to get my own feet under me as President, I am working with our Board to wrap up planning for the rest of this year's planning (through June) and begin our longer term planning. We have the opportunity, post-pandemic (endemic is different, right?), to decide where we want to focus our efforts and envision our future. Continuing to have thought provoking, enlightening programming is of course, core to our mission as One Island Family. Do we want to focus on any particular themes? Do we want to take on any particular social justice issues? Do we want to partner with any other local groups on new initiatives? Do we want to have any action projects of our own? Do we have the necessary size or budget for our ideas? How would we achieve that?

The board is having a retreat on April 22 where we are going to think about some of these questions and come up with our answers, and update our mission, vision and values statements. We will present our thoughts to the congregation for further feedback after the retreat. Please feel free to pass on any thoughts to a board member before the retreat.

I am very excited to be serving as your president and I sincerely invite you to please talk to me or email or text me if there is anything you would like to discuss with me.

I can be reached at 720-234-3416 or kblackwell07@yahoo.com

Blessed Be, Namaste, Karen

Adopt-A-Highway. We have scheduled our community service highway cleanup for **Sunday, April 23**. We'll meet at 2:00 PM at Baby's Coffee, 3180 US Highway 1, MM 15. We start at 2pm in order to finish before Baby's Coffee closes. Our cleanup area is from MM14 to 16. Please sign up on the signup sheet in the break area at OIF.

We all need to watch the safety video before going out for the cleanup. The video is on the Florida Dept of Transportation web site: <http://www.fdot.gov/maintenance/aahinfo.shtm>.

If you need transportation, please let me know. Dave Arnold, 757-285-1609, Dave.Arnold@netzero.com.



Marilyn Smith being honored for her years of service as President and Board Member of One Island Family. Other Board members are from left: Claire Hurd, Barb Goldworm, Joy Taylor, Karen Blackwell (Current President), Marilyn Smith and Amelia Hanley.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS- We would like to introduce you to the newest members of One Island Family who signed the membership book on February 5, 2023. Let's extend our warmest welcome to Bernie and Therese Willette.

Bernie Willette was born in Massachusetts, and grew up with six brothers and one sister in a Catholic family. He lived in Oregon for about 40 years. But it was in Vermont in 2005 that Bernie met and married his beautiful wife Therese. About ten years ago they moved to the Keys. Bernie is a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker, who enjoys hiking, fishing and outdoor activities. As the carpenter who crafted the rustic cabin and dock on set for the horror movie "The Presence" in August, 2010, he met Academy Award winning actress Mira Sorvino and Muse Watson on that set. (Welcome to One Island Family, Bernie!!)

Therese Willette is a life-long spiritual seeker of universal truth and mindful compassionate practice. She was born into a large French Catholic family in Houston and educated in Catholic

schools. Family life was centered around the Houston Ship Channel, its petroleum and railroad industries, as well as the Texas Medical Center which was founded to provide research and care to petroleum refinery workers. She worked 38 years as a medical transcriptionist for charity university teaching hospitals both in Houston and Portland, Oregon. For three years she studied Judaism at two different synagogues, one in Houston and the other in Portland where she volunteered as a memory care assistant at Robison Jewish Home for the Aged. She is also a Certified Professional Astrologer and served as Vice President of Marketing and Education Seminar Planning for the International Society of Astrological Research. In 1996, she was hired for three weeks as a private-duty spiritual healer and flown to London, St. Charles Hospital, to participate as a member of a hospice team of cancer care. In 1998, she began a ten-year course of study with the Magi Society, a Chinese astrological practice that originated in a Medieval Shaolin Temple in Hunan province. For two years, she sat ZaZen with a Zen Buddhist Priestess for spiritual consciousness training. Transcendental Meditation (TM) attunement occurred in 1996 along with the study and practice of Ayurvedic cooking. In 2003 she began a long course of spiritual health training using the ancient tools of TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine), QiGong, TaiChi, ChiKung, and Taoist Healing Arts with an emphasis in Spiritual Nutrition, becoming a “raw fooder.” It was in 2004 that she met her partner, Bernie, at a political activist meeting. In 2013, she returned to her native Houston to research her familial ancestry and create a large digital photographic archival database. Current local activities include preserving and archiving a 1500 -page collection of Magee family documents and working as a volunteer for FindAGrave company. Two months ago, she completed the photographic project for the Big Coppitt Cemetery and continues to do work at the Key West and Big Pine Cemeteries. (We're so glad to welcome you, Therese!)

RALLY FOR OUR RIGHTS!

Saturday, March 25
Bayview Park • 12pm



Protect Trans Kids
Teach History
Drag is Art
Say LGBTQIA+
Abortion is
Healthcare
Allow Books

The State of Florida is attacking our
LGBTQIA+ community from all angles.

RESIST!

**Let's show Tallahassee that KEY WEST is a community of
resilience, equality, and solidarity!**

Hear Speakers • Participate in direct action
Write your representatives • Meet your neighbors

Questions? email info@queerkeys.org

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



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