

One Island Family April 7, 2021 Weekly E-letter

Please send announcements to office@oneislandfamily.org

View this newsletter online at <http://www.oneislandfamily.org/currenteletter.pdf>

Weekly E-Letter Deadline: Tuesday 5 p.m. Sunday Announcements Deadline: Thursday Noon

All One Island Family activities and events at the Fellowship Hall can be viewed at the following link: [calendar](#)

Like us on Facebook "One Island Family Official"

**ONE ISLAND FAMILY SERVICES BY ZOOM APRIL 2021:
LOOK FOR YOUR OIF zoom invitation each Friday for our Sunday Zoom services.**

Sunday, April 11 - Rev. Steve Torrence "Cooking With Love"

Sunday, April 18 - Dr. Arnie Kerzner "It's Hard to Be Human"

Sunday, April 25 - Geoff Kaufman "Pete Seeger celebration"

A recording of last Sunday's service 4.4.21 with guest minister
Rev. Bob Murphy "Flower Communion at Passover and Easter" is available at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/5QEGvsAN77yU9ecSEVCduSQhTT83qmoRP8wTnTUNFJ5TOGyBLpjFSpwQifdTmfON.WiQLGUSYM0GM5kAI>

Thanks to Rev. Murphy for sharing with One Island Family this special Easter Sunday message, to Astoria Nickerson for offering the history of the UU Flower Communion, and to Nancy 3. Hoffman for beautiful music and images of spring flowers.

From the "Doxology for Flower Communion" by Lisa Doege

*In colors bright and essence sweet,
Like flowers we bloom when we meet.
O, Source of Life, our song we raise,
This beauty fills our hearts with praise*

Caring Connections: Tom Clements sent this remarkable story in response to Rev. Murphy's message: A true story ...

"Over 80 years ago, in Greece sixty thousand Jews lived peacefully in Thessaloniki. It was a valued and vibrant community. Most of these Jews worked in the port. To the point that port of Thessaloniki was even closed on Saturday or Shabbat, the Jewish day when religion forbids working. Great emeritus rabbis also lived and studied there. Everyone hung out and liked each other. But on September 2, 1939, with the outbreak of World War II, this peaceful community would one day feel the terror of the Nazis.

On April 6, 1941 Hitler invaded Greece in order to secure his southern front before launching the famous Operation Barbarossa and his great offensive against Russia. Of the 60,000 Jews in Thessaloniki, around 50,000 were exterminated at the Birkenau concentration camp. The massacre of the Jews of Greece was brief but intense. Very few escaped. Among the survivors there was a family known as Bourla.

And after the war, in 1961, a son was born into this miraculous family in the camps. His parents called him Israel - Abraham. He grew up and studied veterinary medicine in Greece. A brilliant student, Abraham got his doctorate in reproductive biotechnology at the veterinary school of Aristotle University in Salonika. At the age of 34, he decided to move to the United States. He changed his first name Abraham to Albert and met a Jewish woman named Miriam who then became his wife. Together they had two children.

In the United States, Albert was integrated into the medical industry. He progressed very quickly and joined a pharmaceutical company where he became "Head manager". From there, the road was short for little Abraham (Albert) to rise through the ranks to become Chief Operation Officer before obtaining his appointment as CEO of the company in 2019.

Throughout 2020 Albert decided to direct all the efforts of the company to try to find a vaccine against a new virus which had just struck the world. He expended great financial and technological efforts to achieve his goal. A year later his work paid off and the WHO (World Health Organization) and US government authorized his company to produce the long-awaited vaccine ...

Today this vaccine will be distributed in several countries including Germany, which counted thousands of deaths due to the pandemic.

Ironically, this vaccine which will save the lives of millions of people around the world including many Germans was led by a Jew from Thessaloniki, son of Holocaust survivors, most of his people were exterminated by Nazi Germany. And that is why Israel became the first country to receive the vaccine. In memory of his grandparents and his parents who gave birth to Israel-Abraham Bourla known today as Albert Bourla: CEO of Pfizer !"

UU JUSTICE FLORIDA April Newsletter is available here:

<https://uujusticefl.salsalabs.org/april2021newsletter>

Nancy 3. to give UU talk -

On Sunday, April 11th at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Nancy 3. Hoffman will be giving a talk entitled "The Umbrella Cover Museum: Celebrating the Mundane" for the UU of Cambria, California via Zoom. It will incorporate a lot of photos of her museum of umbrella sleeves, the exhibits, and the people that have visited. There will be accordion music as well. It's another chance to see how a UU Zoom is run elsewhere. Anyone is invited to join via the link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85977454953>

Meeting ID: 859 7745 4953

Pledge Payments. With COVID restrictions we're all finding alternate ways of doing things. Changing habits is sometimes difficult. In-person services meant we could drop a check or envelope in the collection basket during the service. Now there's no in-person service and no collection basket. So what do we do? Well some members are mailing checks to: One Island Family, 801 Georgia St, KW FL 33040. I receive the checks and deposit them in our checking account. We have continuing expenses and the balance in the checking account covers our expenses. There's no immediate problem but we do want to continue covering our reduced monthly expenses. I understand some of our members' work has been impaired by the pandemic causing financial difficulties. But if possible please continue your regular monthly pledge payments by mailing a check or call me to arrange an alternative. Dave 757-285-1609

