

## ONE ISLAND FAMILY

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## WEEKLY E-LETTER, JUNE 6, 2025

We welcome our **UUA AFFILIATE MINISTERS** on a regular basis:

**Rev. Bob Murphy and Rev. Doug Slagle**

### LAST SUNDAY'S SERVICE, READING OF OBITUARY FOR AN OLD FRIEND:



Kitty Clements offered some words of wisdom last Sunday. If you look over her shoulder, Reverend Bob Murphy enjoyed it as well! You can read the entirety below.

## **OBITUARY ALLEGEDLY PRINTED IN THE LONDON TIMES: RIP OLD FRIEND**

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death:

- by his parents Truth and Trust;
- by his wife, Discreti9n;
- by his daughter, Responsibility;
- by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers:

- I Know My Rights;
- I Want It Now;
- Someone Else is to Blame;
- Pay Me for Doing Nothing.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

## **HEY Y'ALL, IT'S PRIDE, BY KIMBERLEY DEBUS, ONE ISLAND FAMILY'S MINISTERIAL INTERN AUGUST 2014- JULY 2015:**

### **Hey Y'all it's Pride!**

### **And we're gonna get a little louder this year**

A few years ago, the now Rev. Phoenix Bell-Shelton Biggs said something that shifted how I understand myself.

It was a quiet moment in the middle of a service at SUUSI (the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute) - it was a service of transitions: child dedications, bridging, and for the first time, a recognition of those whose pronouns and/or names had changed or who wanted to come out to their SUUSI community. We also included a more general blessing for those who identified as queer. As we made time for those who wanted to participate to come up on stage, those of us offering blessings put glitter on each other's foreheads and said words of blessings. Phoenix blessed me, saying "thank you for being a queer elder."

Outwardly, I accepted graciously and turned to the beloveds who made their way for their blessings.

Inwardly I screamed "ELDER? How am I this old? How am I an elder!?!?"



Later, I went to a private Facebook group for GenX professionals and noted my shock. And my fellow queer GenXers reminded me that because as a leading edge Xer, I was one of those who did indeed lose many of my friends in the early days of the AIDS crisis and was on the front lines for so many of those fights in the 80s and 90s... that because we lost so many of the generation just before us, we de facto became the elders.

I finally leaned into that this past January, when in a class for my doctorate on music for social transformation, I presented on the music of the AIDS crisis, leading with “I am a queer elder, and as a queer elder, it is my duty to tell the story and keep the memory alive.”

Later, in March, I expanded the story a little to include the history of Pride, and presented this expanded story along with a dedication of a very large progress pride flag that now hangs on the front of the Washington Ethical Society building on 16th Street NW, a couple of miles away from the White House.

Progress Pride flag hung outside Washington Ethical Society. Me for scale.

Now I tell you all this to say that because the sight of that flag and someone like me scares the guy a couple of guys down the road from it, you are seeing fewer of them this year. You're seeing fewer companies take advantage of queer dollars this year. You're seeing fewer parades and events this year. And you're probably going to see a flood of actions meant to hurt queer people (some symbolic, like removing Harvey Milk's name from a military vessel, some actually harmful, probably around legal status or health care).

So your congregations are VERY LIKELY to step up their pride programming. More flags. More services. More celebrations. More readings and stories about queer folk. More dance parties.

It's Newton's law, made fabulous.



And if it makes you uncomfortable, turn inward and ask why. Why might a reaction like this bother you? Does it take you out of your comfort zone? Does it draw too much attention? Attention to what? Does it challenge your ideas of who we are? Does it challenge your sense of belonging?

Now consider the person who breathes a sigh of relief when there is a place for them, that we aren't cowed by hate or fear.

It's a pretty good sign that if you have their back, they might have yours.

Happy Pride.

*Kimberley Debus*

Published in [\*Hold My Chalice\*](#)

## EMAIL CHANGE:

Please note, that we are phasing out our [uufkw@yahoo.com](mailto:uufkw@yahoo.com) email.

Emails to contact our office are either [office@oneislandfamily.org](mailto:office@oneislandfamily.org) or [oneislandfamily@gmail.com](mailto:oneislandfamily@gmail.com).

## OUR CLASS SCHEDULE (USE OF FACILITY) IS CURRENTLY:

Jan Bergh	Mindfulness Meditation Sangha	TUE	5.30 PM
Carl Ferrette	Yoga	MON, THU	6.00 PM
Mike Mulligan	Mindful Movement	TUE, THU	10 AM
Marjorie Paul-Shook	Gentle Pilates	WED, SAT	10 AM

## OUR LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ADOPTED 11/10/24

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE LAND THAT ONE ISLAND FAMILY NOW STANDS ON AND THE WATERS SURROUNDING KEY WEST, WERE THE TRADITIONAL HOMES UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE MASCOGO, SEMINOLE, TEQUESTA, CALUSA AND TAINO PEOPLES. WE COMMIT TO SHARING THE HERITAGE OF OUR UNIQUE FLORIDA KEYS ENVIRONMENT, AND TO PROMOTING ITS PRESERVATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**



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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