



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

of the Carolina Foothills

Virtual Services via Zoom on the first and third Sundays of each month during the pandemic



Summer at Lake Lanier

Happening in August:

August 2 – International Forgiveness Day
August 2 – UUFCF Virtual Service
August 7 – International Beer Day
August 11-19 – Perseid Meteor Shower
August 16 – UUFCF Virtual Service
August 21 – Senior Citizens Day
August 26 – National Dog Day



Sunday, August 2, 2020

Beauty Will Save the World

Some thoughts on Beauty in Vexing Times - Lyndon Harris

Join the virtual service at 10:30!
<https://zoom.us/j/93224989290>
or by phone +1 646 876 9923
This is meeting # 93224989290

Do we have an obligation to beauty? If so, what is it? Isn't that just another form of escapism to take our minds off of the crisis *du jour*? As we make our way through this challenging period, seeking to find new ways to protect ourselves from COVID-19 or the myriad other difficulties we are currently facing, to talk about beauty seems superfluous. But one thing we know (and we've addressed this in recent sermons) is that if we only focus on the negative, the challenge, the threat, sooner or later will give in to exhaustion and despair. Perpetually strung out between fight, flight or freeze, the stress chemicals released by our bodies compromise us. Being present to beauty – the beauty of a flower, the beauty of a child, the beauty of a loved one – is an antidote to despair. Camus said that "Flowers... are a proud assertion that a ray of beauty out-values all the utilities of the world." The poet and philosopher, John O'Donahue, wrote, "The human soul is hungry for beauty; we seek it everywhere – in landscape, music, art, clothes, furniture, gardening, companionship, love, religion and in ourselves... When we experience the Beautiful, there is a sense of homecoming." *Join us for a homecoming, and a conversation about the healing power of beauty.*

Better Safe than Sorry!

The “This Week” email sent July 22 solicited opinions for whether we should attempt to meet in person, perhaps in a local park, to enjoy live fellowship services. Though virtually everyone who responded missed being together, many felt uncomfortable meeting as the rate of COVID-19 infections continues to rise. The Board concluded the idea should be postponed at least until we “flatten the curve” and everyone feels comfortable, whenever that is. In the meantime, we hope to record Zoom services for on-demand viewing when members and friends are unable to participate on Sunday mornings, and we continue to seek ways of interacting with our spiritual community. Your ideas are welcome!

Thanks to All Who Donated

...to Outreach’s **Feed-A-Kid** program in July. UUFCF sent \$520 in individual contributions, more than TWICE what we sent last year!



Lyndon’s Letter

Dear Ones,

Hours turn into days, days into weeks, weeks into months. And before you know it, it’s AUGUST! How did *that* happen? It’s amazing, too, what you can learn if you pay attention – like, how much our chickens enjoy watermelon, the fact that our “outside” pet black snake named “Jack” has now been gone for two weeks, and that the tool I need is rarely in its designated place. Funny how that happens.

One of the things we have also learned is just how *unnecessary* so many of our movements have been. For example, now that we shop only about once every two weeks, why exactly did I need to go to the grocery store every other day?

In addition to these aforementioned noble truths (LOL) I’ve discovered, also I have been trying to pay attention - to glean, if possible - some of the lessons of our present time of living in COVID: “What should I do?” “How can we help?” “Who is in need? And what can we do about it?”

While I haven’t had any lightning bolt dramatic revelations yet, I have taken the time to appreciate the ancient wisdom of sages who have understood what is essential for being a good human (and ancestor): love others as you love yourself; treat others with kindness and compassion; affirm the inherent dignity of every human being, and open your eyes to see with gratitude the beauty that is all around us – even in challenging times.

On Sunday morning, August 2nd, I’ll be talking about beauty in life which, according to Dostoyevsky, is what will save us. I really hope you’ll join us. And share something that is beautiful to you.

Warmly,
Lyndon

Voting by Mail

A great little video explains the process of Absentee Voting



Polk County’s Democratic Party has posted an instructional video for guidance in submitting an absentee ballot to the Board of Elections, explaining it’s not only safer in avoiding infection to vote by mail, but less likely to experience election problems resulting from the pandemic. For those of us not living in Polk County, the procedures are identical except the ballot goes to our county Board of Elections. The video is easy to understand and walks you through the procedure, but stresses that it’s better to APPLY for the ballot sooner than later in case there are last minute questions for (or from) an overwhelmed staff. “Do Not Wait,” the video warns. The ballots will begin being mailed out September 1.

-Thanks to Monica Moffat

Watch the video at: vimeo.com/439135004

News and Announcements for our Nuusletter may be emailed to dgreeson1@gmail.com



Robin Edgar



“I have a philosophy that I raised my kids on, which is: Success is not about how much money you make or how many people know your name. It’s the ability to do what you love to do, do it well, and help people along the way.” Though most of us eventually arrive at a similar philosophy, Robin Edgar practiced it early on. In fact, her entire life has been a rich stew of things she loves to do while serving other people. Writing, acting, teaching, organizing and even publishing, Robin’s focus has been on creating ways to celebrate life...for herself and for others. She had good role models in the form of industrious parents. Robin and her sister were born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens by a mom who worked in the garment industry as a pattern maker and later as a dressmaker, and a father whose dreams of becoming a lawyer ended with the Great Depression. He instead became a waiter and eventually a *maitre d’* for upscale restaurants at race tracks. He was also active in politics, a passion that followed him long into retirement. (In fact, there’s a public plaque in Delray Beach, Florida commemorating his contributions to the community.) Robin majored in theatre at SUNY at Stonybrook and, if pursuing an acting career wasn’t enough of a challenge, she married a guitarist (!) and had three children. After living in Ohio for 15 years, they moved to Tampa where Robin appeared in the movie *Edward Scissorhands*, was the lead in the play *Reckless*, and worked in commercials, including one for *Fantastic Sam’s*. She also taught acting and mime in the schools. But her career was interrupted when an oncologist confided that her mother was terminally ill. Fulfilling a promise she had made years before—to help her die at home—they moved with her three school-aged kids to Delray Beach to become her mom’s full-time caregiver for 2½ years. After she passed in 1993, Robin divorced her husband of 25 years and went back to her acting career. She secured grants for neighborhood theater projects, formed the Exceptional Theatre Company (ETC) for special needs children, and worked with Project Leap, a method of teaching that combined mime with academics. During this time, she also met Dave Edgar, who was working as the director of the Armory Arts Center. Shortly after her father died in 1996, she was hit by a car while riding her bicycle on the sidewalk, which made acting difficult. Since she had already been writing theater reviews for a newspaper, she was able to get work writing a newspaper column for the *Sun Sentinel*, which led to other newspaper and magazine assignments. The Edgars got engaged in 1998 and in 2000 Dave became chair of the Art Department at Ohio’s Ashland University. Robin published her first book entitled, *In My Mother’s Kitchen: An Introduction to the Healing Power of Reminiscence*, based on her workbook for a life writing class that she taught at the John C. Campbell Folk School, while in Ohio. She also taught reminiscence for bereavement courses for 2 years with the local hospice. When they moved to Charlotte, NC where Dave took a job with UNC-Charlotte, she became a technical writer for Wachovia and wrote theatre reviews and a “neighborhood news” column for the Charlotte Observer. Working with Charlotte Museum of History to create an exhibit, documentary, and a book about Mecklenburg County residents who had survived the Great Depression, she also became a facilitator for the Fetzer Institute’s Love and Forgiveness campaign at the local PBS station. No one ever accused Robin of being lazy! In 2007 she and Dave built a weekend getaway cottage along Lake Lanier, a stones’ throw from Tryon, to...relax? After a couple of years, they decided Tryon might not be a bad place to live full time. Robin and Dave joined the church less than five years ago, but Robin Edgar has not relaxed for a moment! She led the Fellowship through some challenging times as Board President for two terms, and continued her mission to teach Love and Forgiveness with outreach programs in the community. Robin has written three books, but she’s still writing her own story.

Next month the Profile will feature Dave Edgar.

Prelude/Gathering Music

Welcome/Announcements

Chalice Lighting (in unison)

We light the chalice for the light of truth. We light this chalice for the warmth of love. We light this chalice for the energy of action. We light this chalice for the harmony of peace.

Opening Words/Announcements

Opening Hymn

Joys and Sorrows (in unison)

We rejoice together, and we grieve together as one. Help us to remember that every human heart holds its own joys and sorrows.

Meditation and Prayer

Offertory/Offertory Words (in unison)

To the work of this Fellowship, which is weaving a tapestry of love and action we call community, we dedicate our lives and these, our offerings.

Responsive Reading

Sermon

Extinguishing the Flame and Affirmation (in unison)

We extinguish the flame of this chalice. Let us follow the light of truth until we meet again.

Closing Hymn

Closing Words

Discussion (time permitting)

Please join us for coffee and conversation after the service.