



## Our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's April, 2022 Newsletter

Meeting at the Whimsical World Gallery,  
116 Jones Street in Landrum, SC

► Mailing Address:  
UUFCF, P.O.Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782

### Happening This Month

**April 3 – Service at 10:30**

April 15 – Passover /Good Friday

April 17 – Easter

**April 17 – Service at 10:30**

April 18 – Tax Day

April 22 – Earth Day

April 29 – Arbor Day



*Sunday, April 3, 2022 – Lyndon Harris*

## The Spiritual Legacy of John Coltrane

Down on his luck after being fired by Miles Davis, jazz artist John Coltrane found deep within himself the courage to make a comeback, using his composition, and improvisational skills, he crafted a four-part jazz suite, *A Love Supreme*, that continues to captivate listeners today, over 50 years later. Dr. Stephon Alexander, jazz musician and professor of physics at Brown University suggests in his book, *The Jazz of Physics: The Secret Link Between Music and the Structure of the Universe*, that Coltrane's musical brilliance illustrates a creative thinker akin to Einstein.

### Collecting for Ukraine

During the service, we'll pass the basket for donations to the *UU Service Committee's Relief Fund* to benefit Ukrainian refugees fleeing from Putin's barbaric invasion, with the belief that every dollar helps.

*Sunday, April 17, 2022 — Lyndon Harris*

## A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Easter: *Expressions of Easter within Unitarian Universalism*

Do Unitarian Universalists celebrate Easter? Can you think of a religious holiday that Unitarians *don't* celebrate? Of course, we do. But what to the Unitarian is the celebration of Easter? For a community of spiritual people who are more inclined toward a horizontal, humanistic expression of spirituality (instead of a transcendent theistic expression,) what meaning does Easter hold? Join us as we explore these issues together.





## Lyndon's Letter



Dear Ones,

Happy Spring! Can you feel it? That soul-encouraging experience of longer and warmer days? The buds on the trees and the blooms on the flowers? From Nietzsche's "sense of eternal return" to the holiday of Easter, the rebirth of Spring brings a little more hope, and a little more kindness.

But this April we also consider the reality of the Russian war in Ukraine, the crisis of refugees the world over trying to find safety and normalcy, and our ongoing uneasy feelings about a lingering pandemic.

How do we live creatively in these trying times? How can we acknowledge both the beauty and the struggle? Through the arts. Artists around the world and throughout time have helped us process and find meaning in the ups and downs, the tragedies, and triumphs of life. With this in my mind, in the sermon for April 3rd, I plan to explore an artistic expression that can span the depths of human experience from both poles, and everything in between: music. Music is a language for spiritual and emotional expression. Specifically, I want to explore the message of the deeply spiritual jazz saxophonist, John Coltrane. Coltrane's jazz suite, *A Love Supreme*, has been heralded as one of the most exquisite musical works of the 20th century. Come along with us on April 3rd, as we dive into this sonic landscape and find surprising life lessons for us today.

And on April 17th, we will observe the celebration of Easter, UU-style. Come and see!

But in the meantime, let us continue to remember and seek to help the people of Ukraine as they stand their ground heroically against Russian aggression. In this newsletter, please find links for organizations we can support who are making a difference there. And if you have information about like-minded organizations, kindly let us know.

Until then, please stay safe and take care of one another.

Warm regards,

*Lyndon*

### Our Savings Investment in UUCEF

In 2021, the UUFCF Board decided to invest some of our savings with the Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF). This fund, under the oversight of the UUA Trustees, is an option for UU congregations seeking pooled money management utilizing UU-aligned criteria. Investments include entities that support and inspire social justice and change, healthy environmental stewardship and low-cost loans to minority businesses. We feel the money is being put to good use until we have a more immediate need for it. Our Treasurer, Becky Kraai, attends virtual quarterly UUCEF meetings.



Email your announcements for the Nuisletter to [dgreeson1@gmail.com](mailto:dgreeson1@gmail.com).

Also, feel free to contact any of the Board of Trustees with your questions, comments or concerns.  
President: Barbara Moffitt – 443-535-7632 • Vice-President: Christine Mariotti – 828-859-8392  
Treasurer: Becky Kraai – 207-210-2086 • Secretary: Don Greeson – 828-290-3627  
Member at Large: Annie Ewing – 864-457-7278

Eunice Kathleen Waymon, a.k.a. Nina Simone, at age 8,  
photographed at the Tryon Cemetery in Tryon, N.C.  
Credit...© The Nina Simone Charitable Trust,  
Courtesy of Dr. Crys Armbrust, Nina Simone Project Archive



## Tryon and The Times

*Referencing an article by Adam Bradley*

On March 4, the *New York Times Style Magazine* featured a lengthy story on the creative team of four artists who took on the challenge of restoring Nina Simone's childhood home. Of course, most of us know the famous singer was born in Tryon, but it's interesting to read about her early childhood environment from an outsider's perspective. Though Tryon itself is not the subject of the news article, the image of our small southern town is depicted in a background story. "The exercise of segregation was more nuanced in Tryon than it was in large metropolitan areas like Charlotte and Atlanta, but it nonetheless exerted itself as a palpable lack."

The article continues with a description of Simone's home and family and how, after her father suffered an illness leaving him incapacitated, the family moved several times to "now forgotten homes in and around Tryon." But the early years living on East Livingston Street and Simone's musical talents maturing at St. Luke C.M.E. Church (where her mother, an ordained minister, preached) also suggest a foundation for her storybook rise to fame. Her white music teacher recognized her as a prodigy and raised money to support her education, which included classes at Juilliard. (Maybe this why author Bradley uses the phrase "nuanced" segregation.)

Though Simone lived half of her seventy years abroad, her work for racial justice in America was inspired by her childhood experiences, which tells us something about our history. Among the songs she performed was one she wrote: "To Be Young, Gifted and Black." Her homeplace in Tryon is being restored with money from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's *African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund*, dedicated to identifying "nationally significant projects that express the Black experience."

To read the full article, go to <https://nyti.ms/3MTu1OK>.

## Tryon's Roseland Center: *Still serving the community after 81 years*

In 1927, six years before Eunice Waymon (Nina Simone's given name) was born, the town of Tryon accepted a gift of eight acres from the Harmon Foundation to create a community park. Mr. Harmon made his money as a real estate developer, and by the time he died in 1928, had funded 117 Harmon Fields across 34 states. After his death, most of the Foundation's funds were dedicated to "help African Americans reach their dreams in nursing, music and the arts."

But young Eunice, the ideal candidate to benefit from the Foundation's philanthropy, was not allowed into Harmon Field, because local officials decided it should be for "Whites Only." More than a decade would pass before the Black community had any kind of community center. The Roseland Center was organized in 1940.

During our March meeting, the UUFCF Board of Trustees welcomed our invited guest, Warren Carter, to speak on that subject. Warren (he insisted that we drop formalities) is the president and director of the Roseland Center, which as he explained, was originally created for the Black community as an alternative to Harmon Field. The center became especially important after the predominately Black school nearby closed in the 1960s, and has operated continuously since its founding. Harmon Field was finally integrated after the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

*(Continued)*



## Tryon's Roseland Center -- *continued*



Our board has explored and continues to consider various opportunities to support the local community through charitable donations. One of the motives in inviting Warren was to consider him as a speaker for a Sunday morning service, to share the history of the Roseland Center. But he politely declined, saying he had a regular routine and obligations on Sundays. Another motive was to explore the possibility of our fellowship making a contribution to the Center, perhaps targeting an item on their wish list. Warren was forthcoming about the Center's goals, but declined to address any specific financial need. The Center, he explained, had 501(C) (3) status, and was funded through grants and fundraising activities. When we finally asked directly if they needed new playground equipment, he again downplayed the need for funding, explaining there were fewer children who used the playground these days.

But even in modest terms, the Roseland Center's work is impressive, and it was obvious to those in attendance that it serves the community. After-school programs, staffed by volunteers, are important to local families. Summer reading programs and activities designed for teens exist, but need expanding. Basic material needs, such as parking lot maintenance and bathroom makeovers, require money. Warren explained that many of their efforts are in concert with other youth organizations, and that the building itself is often used for civic functions, including meetings of the Friendship Council, Eastside Citizens, political candidate forums, and various classes. After Warren left the meeting, the UUFCF Board was agreed that, if ever there was a community project worthy of our support, this was it. We decided to abandon the idea of donating funds for a piece of playground equipment, and instead voted to make a contribution of \$5000 to be used where most needed.

### **Transition**

Our sympathy goes to Katherine James, who lost her mother on March 20. Judith James was 85. She once owned an antique shop in Tryon, and later became an editor for *Mother Earth News* and a founding partner of *BackHome Magazine*, serving as its food editor. Mrs. James will be interred in her hometown of Newport, Rhode Island. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to [www.foreverdreamseniordogsanctuary.org](http://www.foreverdreamseniordogsanctuary.org)

An online guest register is available  
[www.mcfarlandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.mcfarlandfuneralchapel.com)

March 11, 2022  
Dear Friends,  
On behalf of Roseland Community Center, thank you so much for your kind and generous contribution. We are truly grateful! Your gift gives a huge boost to our summer program and allows us to proceed with additional upgrades to our playgrounds. We will certainly keep you apprised of our progress.  
It was a pleasure visiting with your Board recently, and thanks again for your generous support.  
Sincerely,  
Wanda Hovson  
President and COO, RCC