



**UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST**
Congregation of Fort Myers

The Communicator

August, 2024

Our Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Pat Linhoff on the death of her husband Ted (Theodore) Larson

We often observed his kind and loving presence as he helped Pat with her work in the library. He suffered a fall several weeks ago and was hospitalized after which he moved to hospice. He is remembered by all who knew him for his kindness.



Volunteer of the Month

August, 2024

Nancy Hutchins is our

August Volunteer of the Month.

This month's Volunteer of the Month is Nancy Hutchins. Though she and Dave are moving away back north, she is still with us in spirit, and we want to acknowledge how much she has meant to this community. On the Board, she could be counted on to understand issues in depth and to contribute well-reasoned approaches to problems. She will be particularly remembered here for her positive approach to leadership in Stewardship. Happy trails to her and also to Dave, who has also been a

Volunteer of the Month. They will both always have a home here.

Board Meeting

The Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 20 at 5:00 p.m. The link to attend is <https://zoom.us/j/98592017228>



Spotlight on the Staff:

Fifth in a Series

Rev. Sue Gabrielson

It is hard to imagine a minister with richer experience of the dazzling kaleidoscope of all things human than Sue Gabrielson. Police officer, shipboard security officer, hiker of the Appalachian Trail, advocate for same sex marriage, college administrator, teacher, head of school and, of course, Minister, Reverend Sue has done it all. (Oh yes. Wife and mother, too). What unifies this variety of employment choices is not just that they are part of the life of one person; it is that Rev. Sue herself sees them as of a piece. She says that police work provided extraordinary preparation for the ministry through its introduction to the complexities of human interactions, and when she interviewed here, she replied to a question about how her education and ministry experience connected, “Aren’t they the same thing?”

Born into an Irish Catholic family in Salem, Massachusetts, Sue grew up in a world populated by other Irish Catholics, most of whom were related to her. It was not the sort of place where you could get away with much mischief – some neighbor-relative was sure to see. But it didn’t matter; Sue was busy playing in musicals, dancing and doing gymnastics. Younger than her brother and sister, she had a cousin who was like a sister to her. She enjoyed her young years in the Catholic Church because of the many activities led by a youth priest.

The first in her family to attend college, Sue went to the University of Vermont where she majored in Sociology and Religion. She did an internship for an agency that advocated for people with AIDS and participated in the quilt project. During this work, Sue had an experience which drew her to Unitarian Universalism. A gay man, beloved by the workers in the agency, died, and the Catholic Church refused to provide him a funeral. Sue was impressed by the Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, atop a hill at the end of Church Street, because they willingly provided a memorial service for this man when the church she was raised in would not.

Out of college, Sue realized that a BA in Sociology and Religion, though engrossing and stimulating, did not offer much of a career path. She managed to find work as a police dispatcher in New Hampshire, a job which eventually led to 10 weeks of training at the Police Academy. When she went back to the department as their first female officer, she was thrust into dealing with shootings, accidents, snowmobiles crashing through the ice as well as undercover drug enforcement, which required her to wear a wire and not blow her cover no matter what even if it meant getting arrested herself. Says Sue, "Can you imagine a better preparation for the ministry?"

After several years, put off by the glass ceiling of Police World, Sue began to look around for new opportunities, but not before she plunked her badge on the Chief's desk and asked for one that said Police Officer instead of Police Man. He made the change, and that is Sue's legacy at that department.

She found an opportunity to explore the world -- as a security officer aboard the ship of a semester-at-sea program. Her duties were confined to maintaining order between ports. When they were in harbor, she was free to roam and explore coastal cities of the Bahamas, Africa and South America.

Fast forward, Sue began a family, had two daughters, worked administering a Lifelong Learning college, hiked the Appalachian Trail to help her decide if seminary was what she wanted, and traveled some more, taking her children with her. No surprise, she did opt for the ministry. After finishing a rigorous program at Andover Newton Seminary, Sue served for 15 years as the settled minister of Sanford (Maine) UU Church and its sister congregation, the UU Church of Saco and Biddeford.

On one of the trips, her daughter Grace fell in love with Costa Rica (she is working there now as a

DRE) as did her mother and sister. Sue and her daughters decided to seek new adventure in a beautiful country where the girls finished their growing up years, and Sue discovered new talents, or perhaps repurposed talents, as an educator. When she saw the little notice in Indeed, that a congregation in southwest Florida was looking for a minister, she had finished five years as the head of the Monteverdi Friends School and was now leading the effort to revive another independent school, the Cloud Forest School, that was struggling to come back after being shuttered due to the COVID crisis.

Sue's life of learning, leadership and bold responses to opportunity is only part of the story.

Who is Sue Gabrielson? Behind the events that would appear on a resume is the living model of the search for truth and meaning. In harmony with our new values-centered paradigm, Sue's extraordinary talents as a problem solver and a human rights leader are all in service of love. She was the Faith Director of the campaign for same sex marriage in New England and discovered that legislative success was bound to opening hearts and minds, connecting people and strengthening relationships. She spent a month working with Archbishop Tutu in South Africa and walked through squatters' camps with him. Her comment

about ministry, education, and police work, “Aren’t they the same thing?” shows that behind a life of great complexity is the unifying power of the values to which we aspire.

Note from Marge

This concludes the series on our remarkable staff. I have loved interviewing this fascinating group of people. Images linger: Sarah heading from the northeast to the far west for adventure after the frightening events of 9/11, Jon strumming his banjo and singing with the Dalton Family Singers through the festivals of New England, Mickey encountering the spirits of members past as he walks our grounds, Liza bravely making her way as a young immigrant, Ulises designing for himself an open, loving vision of life by reading books, and Reverend Sue arrested in an undercover sting. Oh yes – read the above article.

We are blessed!



Creating a Culture of Generosity (www.bit.ly/UUCFMgiving)

Author Vernon Howard writes about “a cooling breeze flowing through an open window on a hot day.” He must have been thinking about using our new Breeze giving options on a summer day in Fort Myers! Not only can you exercise your generosity on an open computer Window, but you can also experience our cool Breeze on your smart phone. Any time. Anywhere. From any device.

You, your generosity, and our Congregation are now at your fingertips, literally! Try our new ways to live-out your stewardship with Breeze:

- At our giving page – open your browser window to www.bit.ly/UUCFMgiving from your desktop, laptop, or smartphone.

- “Text to Give” – From your texting app on your smart phone or tablet, to the phone number 239-388-3232, text your donation, examples:

“\$10”, will send \$10 to our general operating fund

“\$25 Sharing”, will send \$25 to this month’s sharing partner

“20 MDF”, will send \$20 to the Minister’s Discretionary Fund.

(If you make a mistake, just text “Refund” and the previous donation will be reversed.)

At the UUCFM.org website – Click on the blue donate button.

And of course, mailing a check to UUCFM is always appreciated!

So, during the Sunday Offering, if you don’t have the correct amount in your wallet that you would like to give, pull-out your smart phone, Text to Give your donation to phone number 239-388-3232, or point your camera to the QR Code on the Sanctuary screen (or in the Order of Worship) which will take you to our giving page and follow the easy clicks there. Consider your generosity unbounded! Any time. Anywhere. From any device.

Note that we have a new Text to Give option for “MDF”, the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. You may have noticed that we have an active Minister now and her ministry here is in need of additional discretionary funds. Please contribute to the MDF and enable Rev. Sue to continue doing the good work of the Congregation.

Something to try on those hot summer days! It’s a cool Breeze!

UUCFM Finance Committee





August Sharing Partners

We have two Community Sharing Partners in August. Our CSP on August 4th will be **The Gulf Coast Humane Society**. During the remainder of August, the CSP will be **RESET**.

Gulf Coast Humane Society

The Gulf Coast Humane Society is a not-for-profit, no-kill, animal welfare organization established as the first non-profit animal welfare organization in Southwest Florida in 1947. They rely solely on

donations, grants, bequests and fundraising events to further their mission of caring for the neglected and abandoned pets of Southwest Florida.

Their mission is to provide humane care for surrendered animals by offering refuge, providing medical care, and facilitating an adoptive home. Each year they take in more than 3,000 animals to find a forever home through adoption. Additionally, their spay/neuter clinic performs nearly 9,000 surgeries per year to help with our community's overpopulation problem.

To help animals already in homes, they have over 15,000 patient visits to their wellness clinic and operate a robust pet food pantry, both efforts to keep families together.

RESET

“RESET” started on Martin Luther King Day, 2018, when five founding members met to determine how we might promote local involvement in reducing our industrialized society's buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, because of its negative impacts on Earth's ecology.

RESET, as a name, has always been an acronym; originally standing for Regenerative, Ecological, Social and Economic Transformation (in SWFL).

RESET has conducted many activities, always aimed at getting at the “root causes” of issues related to SWFL, including work in regenerative agriculture, “Earth Moments” (inspirational postings on our website), Seed and Plant Festivals, a series of relevant “RESET Zoom Conversations,” and cooperative work with other environmental organizations.

RESET also developed a program, with grants from the UU Service Committee and UU Justice Florida, and with the help of our indigenous neighbors called “Being a Good Neighbor,” exploring the history of the Miccosukee and Seminole Indians, and their relationship with Mother Earth. RESET has also actively supported statewide initiatives, including “The Rights of Nature” and “The Right to Clean Water.”

One of the things that has always stood out in relationships with other environmental groups is RESET’s emphasis on “Eco-Spirituality;” that is,

the recognition of the spiritual connection between human beings and Earth's ecology.

In recognition of the imperative to focus on spiritual ecology, the acronym has evolved to embody the vision for the organization and the work ahead. It now is RESET:

Restoring Earth as our Sacred Ecological Trust.

With this new vision in place, RESET recognizes that mankind is an integral part of Nature (not apart from Nature) and will continue to inspire individual and collaborative local and regional actions for a thriving ecological transformation.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

UU and You

The Membership Committee will be offering this two-session introductory course later this month on what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, what UUCFM has to offer, and how you might find a way forward with us on your own spiritual journey. Stay tuned for details.

To view UUCFM's August calendar of events, please see the attachment to this email.



News From The Future

Wishing to keep the Congregation informed and involved with the process, the Futures and Strategic Visioning Teams are offering a Town Meeting to which you are invited, both to ask questions about what progress is being made and to offer fresh ideas.

□ **August 11 - 2:00 p.m. Zoom. Future and Vision Meeting.** All are welcome to join and share as we discuss the future of our Congregation. We look forward to hearing your thoughts, hopes, and concerns. Zoom link, <https://zoom.us/j/98213342089>

- The teams are working on a Property Mission Statement, as advised by Sacred Spaces.

- <https://www.uua.org/about> At this link you will find a UUA video which is a wonderful introduction to what being a UU is about.

- One project that is being explored by a committee of Quakers and UUCFM members is the establishment of a Friends School on campus.

- September 12 will be our big Community Day, to which representatives of community organizations will be invited.

Social Hour

There will be no Coffee/Social Hour after Sunday Service on August 4th.

Upcoming Worship:

- **August 4** - *Blessing of the Animals, CUUPS Service Leader. Lesley Peterson, Worship Associate.*

- **August 11** - *Just Keep Swimming- lessons in Perseverance and the Simplicity of Keeping On.* Rev. Sue Gabrielson, Service Leader. Andrea Joy, Worship Associate.
- **August 18** - *Wild, Willing and Wise (based on the book by the same name and an introduction to a group for the fall).* Rev. Sue Gabrielson, Service Leader. Andrea Joy and Jennifer Grant, Worship Associates.

UUCFM ---Home of World Premiers

Our choir (small but mighty) presented two World Premiers during recent services. First was Forgiveness by Marge Gonzalez, to the tune of Skye Boat Song and then Jon Dalton's original setting of Emily Dickenson's poem, A Little Dog that Wags its Tail. These two works were preceded by Eclipse, words by Marge, and musical arrangement by Jon, based on the melody of an old hymn.



Embracing Transgender, Nonbinary, Intersex and Gender Diverse People is a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values

The 2024 GA overwhelmingly adopted this Business Resolution (92%-8%). It is in effect now.

Here's a link to a press release that summarizes the content of this Resolution:
<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/board-adds-trans-business-resolution>

This is not just a statement of support. This resolution sets our affirmation of T/NB/I & GD people as one of the UUA's "core commitments." The resolution emphasizes the challenges and threats that transgender, nonbinary, and intersex individuals are facing, including "hundreds of new oppressive laws and policies across dozens of states and countries [that] are now targeting reproductive justice and transgender people across their lifespans. The resolution highlights the additional risks to transgender youth, whose ability to access gender affirming medical care is under threat in the United States and beyond." —UUA Press Release



The resolution states that "we collectively declare that our covenant inescapably binds us to affirmation and protection of our transgender and intersex members and kindred, in faith and in practice."

We are asked to bring this "affirmation and protection" into practice in general and in several specific ways, including:

- Condemning all anti-transgender legislation, demanding the repeal of anti-transgender laws, and working to block additional such bills;
- Partnering with local and state organizations **led by transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people** to advocate for their needs and interests;
- Supporting organizations that help people relocate or access health care including across state lines, such as the [Pink Haven Coalition](#);
- Participating in [UPLIFT Ministries programs](#);

- Amplifying campaigns for bodily autonomy, such as Side With Love's [UPLIFT Action](#) campaign;
- Participating in the [Welcoming Congregation](#) renewal program;
- Affirming this commitment locally through votes and investment of the congregation.



Our congregation has already begun to be engaged in some of these practices. Some of those are our commitment to the Transforming Hearts series of classes, and our participation in the Welcoming Congregation renewal program. Mary Cline has said that she will participate in the facilitation. We have done some work toward blocking some anti-Transgender legislation. We may be able to do far more if we work together. We have suggestions for both direct and indirect ways to do this work.

Liberal denominations are at increased risk. One aspect of this resolution is that, by identifying this stance and these practices as "a fundamental expression of our religious values," we should be making more overt that these beliefs and practices come under the protection of the Establishment Clause, and that when we engage in them, we are protected by freedom of religion. I believe it enhances the sturdiness of the umbrella of protection extended over undertakings like OWL and our Freedom to Read Library.

There is a lot to parse out and to understand in this resolution. One way that we might wish to discuss it could be through informational or Q&A sessions, such as an online "Town Hall." If you have other suggestions, we want to hear them, so please be in touch

Contact Cat (equalrightscommittee@uucm.org) for updates and information.





Roots of Herbalism In Person

Fort Myers

ROOTS OF HERBALISM

In this immersive course, students are introduced to 20 foundational herbs and core concepts of herbalism. It is an excellent course for those wishing to gain a comprehensive introduction to herbalism, and empowers students with the knowledge, tools, and experience to continue their journey to natural, radiant wellbeing.

Date: August 17-18, 2024

Time: 10 AM – 6 PM, Saturday & Sunday

Tuition: \$297 / Early Bird Price: \$277
through July 17, 2024
* 12 CEU's available



"It was amazing,
especially for people
who have never
studied or worked
with plants before!"

—Roots of Herbalism Graduate



Education • Resources • Community

Foundational Herbalist Class

Hobart Hall & Screened Room

August 17-18

Please contact Beatrice for more information

beatrice@cronehouse.com

813-553-1703

UUCFM Social Justice Activities & Committees

Social JUUstice Book Group: Contact Cat
(equalrightscommittee@UUCFM.org) for information
and for links.

Poetry Group: Writing through Oppression: Alternate
Tuesday afternoons (2:30-4:30) and Saturday
evenings (6:30-8:30). Contact Cat
(equalrightscommittee@UUCFM.org) for information
and for links.

Social Justice Action Team: Please join us on the last
Sunday of the month, via Zoom, at 5:00 p.m.

Freedom to Read Library: Our UUCFM library team
intends to protect the availability of books about
diverse populations, even as those books are being
banned. We are now seeking volunteers to staff the
library after services.

Letters-to-the-Editor Workshops: Next date and time to be determined. We need volunteers to write to papers across Florida and beyond, as we see the oppression of many groups being intensified every day.

Post-carding: Online (TBD) and occasionally in Hobart Hall. Send postcards (or letters/emails) about your support for or opposition to causes and/or oppressive conditions to your representatives or to those who are running against them. Ask us for help or volunteer to staff a table. (Please be aware that there are some political actions or statements that we, as a faith community, cannot say or advocate. Most of the causes must be addressed as letters from an individual, not sent in the name of our Congregation.)

Combating Fascism Group: For more information contact Cat, equalrightscommittee@UUCFM.org

Equal Rights/ Welcoming Congregation Committee: Help us become an ever more welcoming and inclusive congregation. Our work is urgent now, since Queer, Trans, and Gender Non-Conforming people are under attack by multiple groups, and as we speak

out about the content of some of the dangerous strategies being employed against us and against other oppressed groups. Help us support a universe that will arc toward Justice. Contact Cat (equalrightscommittee@UUCFM.org) for information and for links.

Men's Group

Men's Group will continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month through the summer. Please join us at Cross Creek Golf Club at 11:30. Our next meeting will take place on August 20th. All are welcome! Good menu; low prices; great companionship. Please contact Dave Katz for more information, dkatz762@gmail.com

Weekly Music Rehearsals

Music rehearsals take place every Wednesday night in Classroom 7. 5:30 p.m. for Instrumentalists and 6:00 p.m. for Singers. All are welcome. Contact Jon at music@uucfm.org. for more information.

Monday Book Group

Please join us at 1:00 p.m. on Mondays via Zoom. Contact [Mary Studer](#) for the Zoom link.

Monday Book Group

Monday Meditation Group

Please join us for Meditation Sessions on Monday evenings, on Zoom, at 6:30 p.m. For more information please contact Mary Studer, mstuder929@gmail.com.

The Buddhist Group

Rissho Kosse-Kai

Rissho Kosse-Kai of Fort Myers has been at UUCFM for over 10 years. We are a lay-led group that meets every Sunday from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in Room 3.

We open our service with recitation from the Lotus Sutra and then have either a study session or group sharing of lives and listening with compassion. We often close with a short meditation. Some Sundays we have a Zoom service and on others just an in person gathering.

For information on the specific activity for a given Sunday, please check our website at [Rissho Kosei-Kai of Fort Myers](#). Everyone is always welcome and we appreciate being part of this congregation. For more information please contact Mary Tracy Sigman at marytracysigman115@gmail.com.

Rev. Wayne Robinson

Rev. Wayne Robinson, founding Minister of All Faiths, died on May 29th at this home. A Memorial Service for Dr. Rev. Wayne Robinson will be held on Saturday, August 10th at 1:00 p.m. at All Faiths Unitarian Congregation, [2756 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33901](#).



ACTION ALERT: DESANTIS CUT ALL ARTS FUNDING

What will this mean for you?
Higher ticket prices
Fewer shows
Venues will close, jobs will be lost

What can you do?
Call Or Write Your Rep Today
Let Them Know It's Not Ok

DeSantis Cuts All Arts Funding for Florida

Action Alert: Contact your state representative and senator. Here's how.

Florida spends a paltry 0.03% of its annual budget each year supporting the arts. But not this year. Gov. Ron DeSantis cut all money for arts organizations in an early bid to bring former President Trump's Project 2025 to the Sunshine State early.

The cuts, in Southwest Florida, will likely mean youth orchestras and music education for kids

will be taken away. Environmental groups won't be able to advocate for clean water, land or

wildlife protection. Student education, internships and research will be severely impacted at the

J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

If you haven't heard about these devastating cuts yet, here is a [Florida Phoenix article](#) summing them up.

This mean-spirited act by the governor affects mostly children's education, environmental

protections and the culture that makes an area great. But you can help. Call, email, write to your state rep or senator. And forward this email to all your friends. Tell

them they've crossed the line, and for no reason.
(DeSantis gave no reason.)

Put pressure on the legislators who were elected to represent us, not a demagogue. You can write a letter or give them a call to tell them what you think. And, do it today.

[Find your senator's contact information here.](#) (The button to send them an email is on the left side beneath their picture.)

[Find your local Florida representative here.](#) The phone numbers for our Southwest Florida representatives in Lee, Collier, Charlotte and Sarasota Counties are below.

Adam Botana (parts of Lee & Collier Co.) 239-949-6279

James Buchanan (part of Sarasota Co.) 941-429-4560

Tiffany Esposito (part of Lee Co.) 239-445-2357

Mike Giallombardo (part of Lee Co.) 239-772-1291

Michael Grant (parts of Charlotte & Sarasota Co.) 941-613-0914

Fiona McFarland (part of Sarasota Co.) 941-361-2465

Lauren Melo (part of Collier Co.) 239-417-6270

Jenna Persons-Mulicka (part of Lee Co.) 239-338-2328

Spencer Roach (parts of Lee & Collier Co.) 239-656-7790

Bob Rommel (part of Collier Co.) 239-417-6200



August is Transgender History Month!

One of the heroes of Transgender history, Marsha P. (PayIt No Mind) Johnson, was born on August 24.

Marsha P. "established one of the country's first safe spaces for transgender and homeless youth, [Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries \(STAR\)](#). She tirelessly advocated on behalf of sex workers, prisoners, and people with HIV/AIDS.

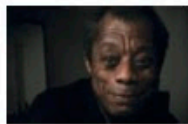
"It's also said Johnson threw "the shot glass heard around the world," which signified the beginning of the Stonewall riots in 1969. But Johnson remembers it differently. [In an interview](#) with *Out*, Johnson said the riots had started before she even arrived: "I was uptown, and I didn't get downtown until about two o'clock. When I got downtown, the place was already on fire, and there was a raid already. The riots had already started."

"Johnson died in 1992. Her body was recovered in the Hudson River, and her death was ruled a suicide. Authorities later reclassified the cause, ruling it drowning from undetermined causes. The case remains open, according to [The New York Times](#). Her mysterious death is a reminder of the ongoing violence black and transgender people face in this country." — *Marie Clare*



James Baldwin's 100th Birthday is August 2!

"We can disagree and still love each other unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression." — James Baldwin



100 years! 🎈 Wow! Wow! 🎈

"There is never a time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now."
— James Baldwin.

Celebrate **The Great James Baldwin Centennial** with our own

UUCFM Freedom to Read Library! James Baldwin wrote stories, essays, and novels. He wrote English Literature texts and a wonderful children's book. And *Giovanni's Room*, still one of the most highly regarded Queer-themed novels. He is probably best known for his books and essays dealing with civil rights.

But, wait, there's more!

More August Awareness Days!

August 9: **Day of the World's Indigenous People**

Most of the world's population is not white; a common estimate is that only 16% of humanity is "white" or of European descent. How many of the global non-white majority are Indigenous depends on how one defines Indigeneity.

August 19: **World Humanitarian Day**

Two of the 2024 UU Actions of Immediate Witness address humanitarian crises, one created through war and one through climate change. We are UU's, and so we know that we are interdependent. We share the world with others, and many of those others, especially children, are suffering because of choices made by others. Through AIW's, **we hope to share our world with Love, Compassion, and Justice.**

August 18: **19th Amendment Ratified**



50 years separated the enfranchisement of Black men and the ratification of the 19th Amendment 104 years ago. There were many similarities in the efforts of these two groups.



Many of us remember stories our grandmothers told us of their work to secure the vote. Many of our grandmothers placed enormous value on their hard-earned right. They paid close attention to their ballots, read about issues and candidates, listened to speeches, and volunteered at the polls.

The Black men who voted in 1870 were not given their enfranchisement as an unearned gift. And 100 years later, their grandchildren were still fighting to preserve that right, just as more privileged others were fighting to take it away. Some of us still remember our acquaintances who never came home from Mississippi. How can anyone of us hold this right lightly?

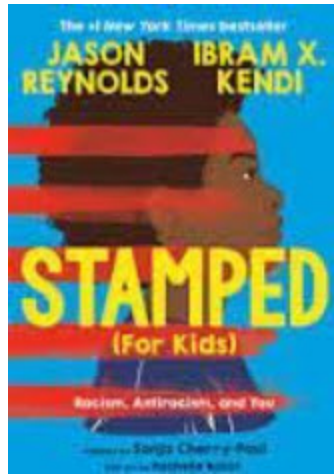
August 28: **Anniversary of the March on Washington**

Some of us were those students who believed we would end Jim Crow forever. It's back. As we link our arms again, and sing again the songs that UU kids sang in 1968, we know that the battle is still here, that there is so much more to do, and that every vote still matters.



For more information contact Cat (equalrightscommittee@uucfm.org).





Check it out!

Stamped (for kids), Racism, Antiracism and You

The original of this book, **Stamped**, by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi was a New York Times bestseller. This adaptation by Sonja Cherry-Paul was on the Southwest Florida list of banned books, which together, we contributed to our library last fall. The fact that it was banned indicates that the ideas – actually facts—in it are contrary to an agenda that wants to be sure that white kids are shielded from historic truths which might upset them. Although sometimes truth does hurt, ignorance can end up hurting a lot more.

This book is an easy read for children in the upper grades of elementary school and in middle school. It

explains what words like segregationist, assimilationist and antiracist mean, with the optimistic message that people can change. Throughout the book the motif of the rope is used to clarify and to show that the same thing can be used for good and bad purposes. The rope may bind things together, but it may also be used as a noose. Finally, it is a fitting image for a tug-of-way between vying factions and historic personages.

The book recounts events from 1415 to 2020. Some of the information will be news to adults as well as children. Have you heard of Gomes Eanes de Zurara? He was the first to connect skin color and slavery.

UUCFM

13411 Shire Lane

This lively book will be available in the library to check out just as soon as this reviewer returns it.

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