

ST. JOHN NUUSLETTER: January 2022

Happy January St. John Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The 2022 New Year brings us uncertainty paired with the same old same old broken record of covid. When will it end? When will normal start? Will 2022 be much of the same or a fresh start? These questions are spinning around our heads. With that said, this month will be touch and go. Please bear with us, we are all doing our best. I will send out updates as needed. As of now, we have a very exciting January planned. Let's hope those plans come to fruition.

I spent a lovely Christmas Eve with my family at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples, Florida with the Rev. Tony Fisher. Visiting other UU Congregations restores my faith in our greater community and connects me to our world. In the order of service, I was reminded "That the paradox of life is to love it all the more, even though we ultimately lose it." This quote sparked some very loving conversation between my parents, my sister's family, and me on the car ride home on Christmas Eve. "Love big and loud" might be my 2022 New Year's Resolution. What will your resolution be?

As a reminder, we meet at the **Giff Hill School Lower Campus** Sundays at 10 am. We require masks while inside and we encourage all to get vaccinated. If you need information on how and where to get vaccinated, feel free to reply to me, Erin Lieb at erin.lieb@gmail.com.

SUNDAY SERVICE - 10am - Lower Giff Hill Meeting Hall

January 2: CANCELED – NO SERVICE – Let us Pause

Due to the spike in Covid cases in the USVI, we unfortunately decided to cancel the service this week. The board is planning to meet via zoom to discuss how we are to navigate the next covid wave.

During this week take time to meditate on what you are grateful for in your life. How will you approach the New Year? Let us pause this week and think about the words of UU Rev. Amanda Poppei

Meditation for a New Year

My friends, we have arrived: we are here, in this new year.

We have crossed the boundary of time, into the next year, with all its resolutions and plans and schedules ahead of us.

Let us pause, for just this moment, before we move boldly onward.

Let us pause to hear the breathing of those around us, to feel their presence in this room; to know their presence in our lives.

Let us pause to consider the trees, their branches stripped bare, their elegant architecture on display.

Let us pause to feel the spirit of life and love that ties us to each other, that winds its way through our very bones and settles in our hearts.

Before we move forward, armed with resolutions that will shortly be forgotten in the day-to-day of living, let us notice what it is that remains every year, every day. What exists beyond schedules and months, beyond time. It welcomes us to life, not just at the start of the year, but every day. And let us answer... Amen.

January 9: Rastafari Teachings, Traditions, and Music – Haile Israel

We are honored to welcome a master guitarist, priest, and scholar. The exceptional talent that is Haile Israel literally breathes "Life" into everything he touches. Haile is the former musical director and guitarist for Ras Michael and the Sons of Negus, an unlikely chapter of life for the Chicago raised and trained jazz musician from Panama. To date he has released three self-produced albums "Reggae Church," "A Taste of Paradise," and recently "No Worry Yah Self," all of which showcases his talent as a composer, songwriter and an artist with a beautiful voice.

As an educator, each week Haile also leads a guitar program for children in the public schools in St. Thomas and St. John, VI.

January 16: Birds of a Feather – Gail Karlsson and Laurel Brannick

Our own Gail Karlsson and Ranger Laurel will join us for a presentation and discussion about birds of interest on St John, and the results of the annual Christmas bird count.

January 23: Come Sing a Song with Me — Kristen Carmichael-Bowers

Kristen Carmichael-Bowers is a bright light on St. John. She is executive director and director of choirs for Sing St. John, a non-profit whose mission is to provide universally accessible singing for all ages on St. John, fostering cultural awareness, meaningful sense of community and resilience.

Through her passion and dedication to St. John, she firmly believes that singing is a birthright, and a joyful vehicle for social change and community building. Kristen will speak on the importance of community singing and lead us in a few joyful songs.

January 30: Rev. Allen Wells

Stay tuned. I will send out an update later in the month.

STJUUF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yoga with Suki

Suki is discontinuing Yoga for now. It may be pick up later in the year.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye

Our new sound system has arrived! Personally, I cannot wait to test it out.

Three Kings Day Sound Bath

Friday, January 7, 6p

Suki would like to invite all to a Three Kings Day Sound Bath to be held on Friday January 7th at 6pm. Meet at Suki's home on King's Hill. Cost is \$20 per person. Please RSVP Suki via text 340-642-3739 or call for more info. Bring a drink and snack to share, dress comfortably. Mats, blankets, bolsters provided. The venue is an open air deck with plenty of Seabreeze.

UU World

I was excited this week to open up my mailbox and see the UU World waiting for me. The UU World is the magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association. If you would like to receive a copy, please let me, Erin Lieb know and I will pass it along to the powers that be.

We Are All in This Together

If you have information you would like to distribute, please let me, Erin Lieb, know. If you have a community event that you would like to submit for the January newsletter, pass it my way. If you have ideas for programs, outings, weekday classes/discussions, I am all ears.

JANUARY COMMUNITY EVENTS

Rhyme and Lime

Saturday, January 29, 7p

Rhyme & Lime poetry nights, every last Saturday of the month at Bajo el Sol Art Gallery in Cruz Bay, St. John! So excited to see what our poets have in store for us this month! Message us on FB or email us at rhymeandlime@gmail.com to sign up to present at our next poetry event. You can read your own poetry or someone else's - or if you don't wanna rhyme, just listen and lime! Audience can watch LIVE VIDEO streamed to our facebook page starting at 7PM. Virtual attendance also available.

REFLECTIONS

On December 12 we had a celebration of the life for founding STJUUF member, Sylvia Weaver that was led by Gabriella Brand and Suki Dickson Buchalter. Many members of Sylvia's family were on island to pay tribute to her life and legacy. Here are some photos from the service captured by Lisa Etre.