



# The Flaming Chalice

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue  
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 Minister: Rev. Fred Howard  
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Tom Aiello – President	Carol Stiles - Vice-President /Program Chair
Rosie Asbury –Treasurer	Susan Bailey - Director of R.E.
Kimberly Tanner – Director of Membership	Jim Ingram –Director of Building & Grounds –
Tom Phillips – Secretary	Carol Stiles – Newsletter Ed.

Please contact us by e-mail at [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

### What's going on... **August 2016**

Sun	Aug. 7	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Dr. Patricia Marks, “Belva Lockwood: A Vision of Courage”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
M	Aug. 8	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	Aug. 14	11:00 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Luana Goodwin and Dennis Bogyo, “Taoist Tai Chi”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Aug. 21	10:45	Religious Education for children <b>Service -- Dr. Elvan Aktas, “Interfaith Dialogue in Our Community.”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Fri	Aug. 26	6:30 PM	Games Night!
Sun	Aug. 28	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Dr. Cristobal Serran-Pagan "Thomas Merton and Thich Nhat Hanh on Engaged Spirituality."</b> Meet & Greet after the service

### August, 2016...

Area schools and colleges are opening soon! We welcome long-time friends of the church, Dr. Patricia Marks, Luana Goodwin and Dennis Bogyo back in August, and Dr. Cristobal Serran-Pagan speaks again at the end of the month. We also welcome new speaker, Dr. Elvan Aktas! Enjoy the last few days of summer and join us when you can.

#### Mission Statement

*The Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta* is committed to building a community of acceptance and love, where all people may strive for intellectual, moral, and spiritual enlightenment. We offer a place to celebrate life's passages and to join in social action on behalf of local and global communities.

## Sunday Services

### **Sunday, Aug. 7 – Dr. Patricia Marks, “Belva Lockwood: A Vision of Courage”**

What does it take to overcome prejudice against social class and gender? Belva Lockwood, the first woman attorney to practice before the Supreme Court and the first woman to complete presidential races in 1884 and 1888, is one of those who paved the way by disrupting the *status quo*. As a farmer’s daughter, widow, and woman, Lockwood faced endless criticism, especially from satirical magazines, where jokes abounded about “petticoat rule” and where she was depicted as an inept “Mother Hubbard.” Lockwood persisted in her campaign despite overwhelming odds, becoming a model for those who stand for equal rights.

Dr. Patricia Marks, retired English Professor and Episcopal Deacon, has published widely on 19<sup>th</sup> century satirical periodicals. Her article “Belva Lockwood and the Mother Hubbard Dress: Social, Moral, and Political Overtones in the Popular Press” will appear in the Fall Issue of *Journal of American Culture*.

**Bridging Ceremony – today’s service will include a UU Bridging Ceremony.** A Bridging Ceremony is a time to recognize and congratulate young people who have graduated from high school and to wish them well as they move on to the next stages of their life’s journey. Our graduates this year are: Patrick Richardson, Emmilee Bailey, and Teagan Dunn. We wish them all well!

### **Sunday, Aug. 14 – Luana Goodwin and Dennis Bogyo, “Taoist Tai Chi”**

Dennis and Luana, certified volunteer instructors, will tell us about the Taoist Tai Chi Society, which meets at the UU Church of Valdosta. The society was “founded to preserve and promote the Taoist tradition of the dual cultivation of body and mind.” More info: <http://www.taoist.org/>

Dr. Dennis Bogyo is Professor Emeritus, VSU Department of Biology. Luana Goodwin is an artist and sculptor, who created the piece that now serves as our chalice. Welcome Dennis and Luana back to visit with us!

### **Sunday, Aug. 21 – Dr. Elvan Aktas, “Interfaith Dialogue in Our Community.”**

Dr. Aktas will speak about his efforts to promote interfaith dialogue among various religious groups in the southeast.

Elvan Aktas was born in Ankara, Turkey in 1972. He graduated from Bilkent University in 1995 with a B.S. degree in Business Administration, and from the University of Florida with a Ph.D. In 2007, he joined the faculty of Langdale College of Business Administration at Valdosta State University, where he was recently was promoted to full professor. He has been teaching corporate and investment finance classes at undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Aktas has been conducting research in Derivative Securities, US Treasury Securities, Financial Institutions, and International Financial Markets. He is married to Sevil Aktas and he has two sons, ages 15 and 17.

Elvan Aktas is also an advisor to several non-profit cultural organizations throughout the Southeast, for whom he volunteers in cultural and interfaith dialogue activities to promote mutual understanding, harmony and tolerance in our diverse community.

**Share the Plate Sunday:** *Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Our contributions this month will go to Hopes and Dreams Riding Facility, Inc., near Quitman, GA, which offers therapeutic services for veterans and their families, through horseback riding, camping, fishing, and other activities. The mission statement includes “to restore peace to their lives and heal the battle wounds that can't be seen.” Hopes and Dreams has recently begun a building fund to increase capacity to serve veterans.* <http://www.hopesanddreamsridingfacility.com>

### **Sunday, Aug. 28 – Dr. Cristobal Serran-Pagan "Thomas Merton and Thich Nhat Hanh on Engaged Spirituality."**

In this talk, Dr. Serran-Pagan will address the spirituality of action practiced by Merton and Nhat Hanh in their respective faith communities. One was a Catholic monk, the other was a Buddhist monk. Yet both called each other spiritual brothers.

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Keep in your thoughts...*

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health concerns.

*Congratulations to...*

- ❖ Joshua Gomez, who has recently completed his Bachelor's degree at Valdosta State University.

## Social Action Activities

### Break Bread Together

We deliver meals with the Break Bread Together program on the 2nd Monday (and 5th when there is one) of each month. Let David Rodgers know if you are interested in helping with this service. Several volunteers make it possible to adjust to changing personal schedules. Please let David know if you are available to deliver meals. It is helpful to have two people on the route.

## UU Church of Valdosta

### Board of Directors Meeting News

July 10, 2016

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed bridging ceremony for graduates
- Possible table staffing at "The Happening" at VSU
- Discussed Parents' Meeting (to be scheduled early fall) to plan children's activities.
- Next Meeting: Sunday, Aug. 7, 9:30 a.m.

## Games Night

Friday, August 26, 6:30 p.m. – until ?

All are welcome! Bring a snack to share and your choice of beverages. (Please keep in mind that several of our members are gluten-free.)

If you have a game suitable for several to many players and people of all ages, bring it along.

Contact: Susan Bailey.

## South Georgia Pride Events

### Mark your calendar now!

In September, South Georgia Pride will host a Thursday evening workshop, expanding Pride weekend to four days! The workshop is titled, "What is Transgender?" scheduled for Thursday, September 15 at 6 PM - 7:30 PM, at VLPR – Valdosta Lowndes Parks and Rec Building, 1901 N Forrest St, Valdosta, GA. Presenters will be Gabrielle Claiborne and Rev. Linda Herzer.

The Interfaith Pride Service will be held at the UU Church on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Linda Herzer and Gabrielle Claiborne as our guest speakers. Gabrielle serves on the Board of Atlanta Pride and was recently honored as Atlanta's Best Trans Activist. Rev. Linda Herzer is author of a book coming this fall from Pilgrim Press, *The Bible and the Transgender Experience: How Scripture Supports Gender Non-Conformity*.

More information will follow in the September newsletter, but plan to participate in both of these events!



## Religious Education

**For Children:** The RE program for children under 15 years of age meets at 10:45 AM concurrent with the Sunday morning service. Older young people will remain with the adult service. Two adults are needed each Sunday to help with RE. Sign up on the volunteer list at the church or through Carol Stiles and the Worship Team.

Rev. Fred Howard is our part-time minister. He is on sabbatical this summer, but you may contact him by email (preferable) at fredhoward3622@gmail.com should you need to reach him. He is available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

# President's Corner – August 2016

Dr. Tom Aiello

August is, for many of us, a month of starting over. School starts again or, perhaps more importantly, football starts again. With the kind of summer that we've seen unfold on television this summer, one filled with violence and controversy and terrorism and race debates, we might think that starting over is exactly what is necessary.

But it isn't. We live in a world that has always had violence and controversy and terrorism and race debates. Take, for example, the summer of 1927. A frustrated member of the Bath Township, Michigan school board was bitter and angry about losing a local election. In response, in May, he detonated a bomb at the local elementary school, killing thirty-eight children, six adults, and injuring dozens of others. At the same time that the massacre was playing out in Michigan, Queens housewife Ruth Snyder was on trial for murdering her husband with the aid of her lover. The case was a national cause celeb because it gave opponents of women's rights a platform to denounce their equality. Ultimately, because of those debates, Snyder became the first woman executed at Sing Sing in the twentieth century, the governor refusing clemency because women had to suffer equal punishment for their crimes.

Also during Snyder's trial, a black man, John Carter of Little Rock, Arkansas, was lynched, hung from a telephone pole after being accused of raping a white woman. The lynching came less than a week after a local black janitor had been arrested for killing a young white girl and barely avoided the lynch rope after being secreted away to another county's jail. After Carter's lynching, thousands of white residents of Little Rock rioted, burning Carter's body and attacking black neighborhoods. But that wasn't the only race riot that month. Another was led by the Ku Klux Klan at a Memorial Day parade in New York City. (Among the Klansmen arrested for attacking police at that event was Donald Trump's father, who was either a member of the group or a sympathizer with the cause.)

All of these events received national attention, all met with horror and outrage. All of them occurred within the span of a month in 1927. If we take nothing else away from these stories, we should understand that violence and controversy and terrorism and race debates are nothing new. They aren't going to stop. There is no magical page to turn to make them go away. And so as we enter a month of change, let us not create false expectations of the world around us. Let us instead

better respond with compassion and context and mindfulness that though we cannot make violence and controversy and terrorism and race debates disappear with the turn of a page, our responses to them can help make the kind of incremental progress that improves the lives of others and reminds us that, despite the problems surrounding us, new school terms and new football seasons are luxuries that much of the world will not see this year.

**From: Rosie Asbury, Treasurer**

<b>Treasurer's Report for June 2016</b>			
<b><u>Fund Balances at June 30, 2016</u></b>			
General Fund		\$10,915.10	
Restoration Fund		\$4,288.31	
<b>Total (Cash in Bank Account)</b>		<b>\$15,203.41</b>	
<b><u>Outstanding Debt</u></b>			
Mortgage		<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b><u>Operating Receipts and Disbursements</u></b>			
		<u>June</u>	<u>YTD (July-pres)</u>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>			
Plate		\$11.87	\$2,252.36
Pledge		\$885.00	\$19,544.08
Rent		\$100.00	\$1,100.00
Donations (printing/website)		\$0.00	\$430.00
Share the Plate (Farm Workers Health)		\$213.00	\$1,487.40
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$1,209.87</b>	<b>\$24,813.84</b>
<b><u>Disbursements</u></b>			
Minister Expense			\$8,127.78
Building Insurance		\$0.00	\$1,623.00
Speakers' Fees & Expenses		\$225.26	\$5,009.37
Repairs & Maintenance		\$350.00	\$664.50
Newsletter		\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations(Migrant Farmworkers)		\$213.00	\$1,774.71
Pest Contr & Termite Bond		\$305.00	\$690.00
Postage		\$0.00	\$19.60
Supplies		\$0.00	\$516.52
RE Program		\$39.20	\$39.20
Membership Program		\$0.00	\$0.00
UUA Dues			\$1,920.00
UU Conference Attendance			\$670.00
Utilities		\$224.43	\$3,524.32
Advertising			\$700.00
Others			\$516.59
<b>Total disbursements</b>		<b>\$1,356.89</b>	<b>\$25,795.59</b>
<b>Net Receipt (Disbursements)</b>		<b>-\$147.02</b>	<b>-\$981.75</b>

# Share-the-Plate news!

## (Crayons galore!)

We collected nearly 450 packages of 24-count crayons for the Kids Are People, Too, back-to-school fair! Thanks to everyone who brought in contributions and donated to Share-the-Plate, and to Kimberly and Doug Tanner and Carol Stiles for facilitating the collection and delivery!

The back-to-school fair will be held in Douglas on July 30<sup>th</sup>, organized by the South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness.

## At the Church-in-the-Woods...

**Taoist Tai Chi** – Monday and Thursday, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. **The next beginner class is scheduled to start September 6 and will be offered as a daytime class for the first time!** The beginner class will meet Tuesday and Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. (The continuing Tai Chi class will continue to meet in the evenings, Monday and Thursday.) Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at [georgia@taoist.org](mailto:georgia@taoist.org)

## Sangha Tuesdays

6:00-7:30 PM at the church

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group meets on Tuesday evenings at the church. Everyone interested in Buddhist practice and meditation is welcome. Tea, 6:00 – 6:30; Buddhist shamata meditation, 6:30 – 7:00; Discussion of reading, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

## Oaken Circle CUUPS Chapter

Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m.

Oaken Circle, a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, meets each Wednesday evening, with an officers meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.

You can contact the group by e-mail at: [valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com](mailto:valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com) or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

## UU Valdosta Caring Committee

Dee Tait chairs this committee. If you would be able to help, when requests for help are received, please let her know. Other members include David Rodgers, Kimberly Tanner, and Carol Stiles.

## Thank You! Thank You!

**For replacing two of the dimmer switches in the church:** Michael Greene

**For lay-leading services:** Doug Tanner, Lars Leader, Dee Tait, and Cliff Adams

**For speaking at Sunday Services:** Carol Stiles, Tom Aiello, Rev. Floyd Rose, Rev. Anna Hall

**For providing music at services:** Rhett Watson

**For Meet & Greet:** Doug Tanner, Dee Tait, Mike and Tiffany Butler

**For assisting with RE and nursery:** Teagan Dunn, Mary Ellen Adams, Skyler Dunn, Lars Leader, Kimberly Tanner, Doug Tanner, Diane Holliman, Seanese Richardon

**For sweeping sidewalks:** Richard Watson, who often makes a trip early Sunday a.m. to finish this task!

**For taking out trash and recycling:** Richard and Rhett Watson, Sue Bailey, Dee Tait, Lars Leader, and others.

**For delivering Break Bread meals:** David Rodgers

**For photos for the newsletter:** Kimberly Tanner

**For coordinating the Caring Committee:** Dee Tait

## Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles

Newsletter deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month!

*If you prefer reading this newsletter on the website, e-mail the editor to remove your name from the mailing label list.*

Worship Team Chair: Carol Stiles

Website Manager: Carol Stiles

e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles or Kimberly Tanner

Facebook: Kimberly Tanner

Local Publicity: Dee Tait





(Photo by Kimberly Tanner)

**In memory of the many victims of violence over the past few weeks, both here in the U.S. and abroad.**

Rev. Anna Hall spoke at the service on July 24<sup>th</sup>, bringing the metaphor of the aftermath of “Earthquakes” as a way to think about how to deal with the tragedies around us, seemingly on a daily basis, recently. She encouraged us to consider new ways of listening as a way to go on after such tragedies – like rescuers seeking survivors of an actual earthquake: new ways of listening to those around us, moving through, and moving forward out of the tragedies that rock our world.

### **Worship Team**

Each Sunday, there will be a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary for sign up for the upcoming services. You can also send an e-mail to Carol Stiles and she will put you on the list for that task.

### **INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP**

If you are interested in becoming a member of our fellowship, we encourage you to talk with our minister, Rev. Fred Howard or Membership Director, Kimberly Tanner. We welcome your questions, and we extend an open invitation to all who want to join our liberal community of faith.

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote*

- The inherent dignity and worth of every person,
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations,
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations,
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning,
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large,
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all,
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

*Grateful for the religious pluralism, which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant promising to one another our mutual trust and support.*