



Your Guide to Black History Month at UUFG

Dear UUFG Members and Friends,

During this month when African American History is celebrated is the time for all Americans to learn about our sometimes painful history and to commit to building a racially just future. We live in perilous and frightening times, but the time is now to join our hearts and minds together to reverse the downward spiral in which we find ourselves. We, a team of committed UUFG members, have been working together to plan services for Black History Month in our collective hope that we as a Congregation, City and Nation might find our way to a brighter future. Our goal is to learn from the past without sugar-coating its hard truths. We know that it is not possible to engage honestly with America's history without feeling deep sadness, regret, guilt, and shame. We will allow time after each service to acknowledge these difficult feelings with proper reverence that we might honor this dark and painful past. It is our hope that we as a people can move forward and illuminate a better path, a path towards a world guided by our highest ideals. Knowing our past is a necessary part of the journey.

During this month and beyond, we will seek to answer the question, "How might our Unitarian Universalist Principles guide us in our sincere efforts to be the change that we hope to see in the world?"

Following each Sunday service, there will be an opportunity to participate in a facilitated circle conversation to share your thoughts and feelings. Suggested articles, books, and movies will be on display on a table in the rear of the sanctuary. Links to access these will be listed in your order of service. If you need a hard copy of the articles, there will be a sign-up sheet on the table to avoid over-printing. Group viewing of selected movies with Rev Cathy will be offered if there is interest.

We hope you will join us and invite your friends, co-workers, and neighbors.

Faithfully,

Rev. Cathy, Zoharah Simmons, Lauren Samuels, Gene Mills, Liz Stewart, and Phil Hildreth

UUG Black History Month

Sunday, February 3: A History of Race & Racism 1619-1876

This week we will focus on the stories of enslaved people and the inhumane conditions they were forced to endure. We will also share stories of courage, resilience, and hope.

Sunday, February 10: Truth and Reconciliation: The Power of Restorative Justice by Commissioner Robert Hutchinson

Alachua County Commissioner Hutchinson will share the history of Truth and Reconciliation and how it is being developed in Gainesville.

Sunday, February 17: A History Race & Racism in America 1876 to Now

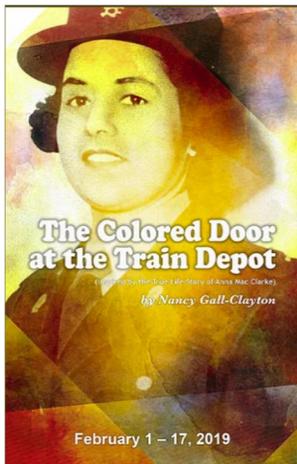
This week we will look at the Reconstruction Era, followed by Jim Crow, and the Civil Rights Movement. How were lives affected in Florida?

Friday, February 22, 6:30 pm: Roundtable discussions on the "School to Prison" Pipeline

This unique UUG/ Community Wide event focuses on the themes found in PIPELINE ó A play depicting challenges of the School to Prison Pipeline at Actors' Warehouse. Participate in roundtable activities and discussions facilitated by members of the Actors' Warehouse and UUG's Social Justice Council.

Sunday, Feb 24: A Way Forward Guided by Our UU Principles

This week we will honor African Americans who have changed the world. We will celebrate those African Americans who have enriched America through their art, literature, music, and courageous leadership. We will also explore the way in which racism impacts People of Color today. What will it take to put an end to the illusion of race? What does our commitment to the UU Principles require of us?



Performances at The Actors' Warehouse

Recently, The Actors' Warehouse in Gainesville won a Florida Humanities Council grant in part because of UUG's sponsorship and support from the Fellowship's Social Justice Council. In addition to helping to provide for materials that will be used in the February 22 discussion at UUG, this grant has helped fund two different plays, *The Colored Door at the Train Depot* and *Pipeline*. See www.actorswarehouse.org for ticket and performance information.

February 1-17: *The Colored Door at the Train Depot*

This play is based on the life of the first African American to command whites in the Women's Army

Auxiliary Corps during World War II. Born in 1919 in rural Kentucky and raised by a grandmother who could neither read nor write, Anna Mac Clarke won several battles for racial justice in the military and seemed to be defying all the odds ó until death took her at age 24.

March 12-31: *Pipeline*

This play explores a mother's struggle to save her son from the School to Prison Pipeline. *Several actors from the play will participate in the February 22 discussions at the Fellowship.*

