



The UUCC Chronicle

February 2021

Service: Sunday, 10:00 AM

<https://uucookeville.org/2020/06/10/new-virtual-service-meeting-information/>

February 7

Climate Justice

Anita Schmid

This is the third in a series of environmental services leading up to Earth Day (April 22).

February 14

What is the Truth?

Deanna Lack

February 21

TBD

February 28

Brave Space

Deanna Lack

Reflections: 11:00 AM

Every Sunday after Service, approximately 11:00 AM

Co-facilitated by

Susan Ford and Deanna Lack

Reflections is an informal, non-judgmental, small-group discussion of the sermon topic.

Participants share thoughts and insights or just listen. All are welcome.

Board Meeting: 12:00 PM

Sunday, February 14, after Reflections, approximately 12:00 PM

Chalice Circle: 6:00 PM

<https://uucookeville.org/2020/08/01/new-chalice-circle-group/>

Facilitated by Gates Craighead

Tuesday, February 7

Tuesday, February 21

Meditation: 6:00 PM

<https://uucookeville.org/events/meditation/>

Chakras

Facilitated by Deanna Lack

Tuesday, February 14

Tuesday, February 28

Fair Trade:

<https://uucookeville.org/2020/05/22/fair-trade-table-curb-side-pickup/>

Saturdays, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Facilitated by Linda Delventhal

Email: lindadel48@gmail.com

Food Pantry:

<https://uucookeville.org/food-pantry/>

Fund Raisers:

Including Bookshop

<https://uucookeville.org/stewardship/fundraisers/>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

On January 20, 2021, Kamala Harris became the first woman, the first Black American, and the first South Asian American to have ever been sworn in as Vice President of the United States. Other black historical firsts of 2021 include the confirmation of Army Gen. Lloyd Austin as the first Black Secretary of Defense and the nominations (pending confirmation at this time) of Cecilia Rouse as the first woman of color to chair the Council of Economic Advisers, and Neera Tanden as the first South Asian American and first woman of color to become director of the Office of Management and Budget.

These individuals would no doubt acknowledge their debt to those whose past achievements helped pave their way to success. Shirley Chisholm, John Lewis, Barbara Jordan, General Colin Powell, and Barack and Michelle Obama come to mind. The following descriptions of some more obscure triumphs can be found at this web page.

<http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/10-black-history-little-known-facts/>

(Continued Page 3)



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cookeville

31 West First Street, Cookeville TN 38501

Deanna Lack, Pastor

Charles Zuller, Board President

Tales of the Orange Lord, Part 4

Once upon a time, long, long ago, in a land far, far away existed a mythical land previously renowned for peace, prosperity, and tolerance. Using fear, willful ignorance, and racism, the ruling minority had thrust the Orange Lord upon the throne. Being a useful fool, he and his family had prospered greatly and raided the realm's treasury frequently, while the power behind the throne had remade the realm. "We can cement our ruling minority permanently, using gerrymandering and other black arts," they chortled. "We have handpicked our judges carefully, for they are beholden only to us. We know their darkest secrets!"

This kingdom had the strange custom of requiring the ruler to prove himself every four years in a mighty tournament and, unfortunately, the Orange Lord lost. "Ignore the contest," declared the Orange Lord, "for you must believe only I can win." "Ignore it," agreed his followers of the cloth, "for surely he is anointed by God. He was prophesied to have at least eight years of rule." "Ignore it," agreed his minions, "for he said he won, and he cannot lie. He told us so many times." Eventually, the Orange Lord ended up sitting grumpily upon his golden throne, twiddling his thumbs. Staring menacingly about, he kept muttering to himself, "I won. I won. Everyone knows I really won!" Meanwhile, the princess and the princelings gathered up their loot, preparing to flee the realm. They waited to each other, "Who will support us now?" The queen quietly roamed the castle, bagging anything that was unsecured. "No one but I can properly appreciate such beauty," she gloated over each trinket.

Before the new ruler could ascend to the throne, a few serfs secretly plotted a takeover of the realm. "Since the Orange Lord is anointed by God," they declared, "we can do no wrong. We must take charge if others fail to understand our plight." They recklessly stormed the fortress, goaded on by the Orange Lord. Once within the castle fastness, they wondered about aimlessly. Finally, as the Orange Lord applauded from his golden throne, the rioters damaged and desecrated their surroundings before departing. "Go forth and spread the word," the Orange Lord declared. "Only I could have won!"

Eventually cooler heads restored order and the Orange Lord was deposed. "I'll be back," he declared, as he sublimed into a very large cloud of orange smoke, with a lingering odor of sulfur. His minions were left wandering the realm, seeking someone to direct them to a target for spewing their venom. Thus, hopefully, concluded the rule of the Orange Lord. However, the epilogue could not be transcribed until his minions were corralled and deprogrammed.

Regardless of what had transpired to this point, the fate of the realm still hung in the balance. To avoid a permanent schism, someone had to step forward and propose a peaceful solution.



Who would seek to understand the diverse points of view of the Orange Lord's minions? Many of them felt downtrodden, lacking their desired simple solutions to complex problems. Others were lonely and lacking in self-confidence, seemingly naive and idealistic in their world view. Finally, they required someone to nonjudgmentally allow them to vent. Much was promised to them, they believed, but they had yet to receive any benefits. Where could they aim their ire? Rage turned outwardly usually ended with violence and damage to society. Anger turned inwardly often resulted in mental problems and self-destructive behavior. Self-awareness could never be summoned easily or painlessly.

How could this angry group begin the journey back to mainstream society? What if a group existed that would offer love and understanding, while recognizing the self-worth of all creatures? Would anyone be attracted to a faith tradition that encouraged everyone to tread their own crooked paths on the way to compassion and wisdom? Could anyone be courageous before the forces of hate and "build the common good and make our own days glad"? Join with us and see!

Charles Zuller

* from "For All That Is Our Life", #128 in *Singing the Living Tradition*

Part I appeared in the April 2019 issue. https://uucookeville.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019_04-UUCC-Chronicle.pdf

Part II appeared in the September 2019 issue. https://uucookeville.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019_09-UUCC-Chronicle.pdf

Part III appeared in the November 2020 issue. https://uucookeville.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020_11-UUCC-Chronicle.pdf

(Continued from Page 1)

It was March 2, 1955, when the fifteen-year-old schoolgirl, Claudette Colvin, refused to move to the back of the bus, nine months before Rosa Parks' stand that launched the Montgomery bus boycott. Claudette had been studying Black leaders like Harriet Tubman in her segregated school, those conversations had led to discussions around the current day Jim Crow laws they were all experiencing. When the bus driver ordered Claudette to get up, she refused, "It felt like Sojourner Truth was on one side pushing me down, and Harriet Tubman was on the other side of me pushing me down. I couldn't get up."



Claudette Colvin's stand didn't stop there. Arrested and thrown in jail, she was one of four women who challenged the segregation law in court. If *Browder v. Gayle* became the court case that successfully overturned bus segregation laws in both Montgomery and Alabama, why has Claudette's story been largely forgotten? At the time, the NAACP and other Black organizations felt Rosa Parks made a better icon for the movement than a teenager. As an adult with the right look, Rosa Parks was also the secretary of the NAACP, and was both well-known and respected – people would associate her with the middle class and that would attract support for the cause. But the struggle to end segregation was often fought by young people, more than half of which were women.

Inoculation was introduced to America by a slave. Few details are known about the birth of Onesimus, but it is assumed he was born in Africa in the late seventeenth century before eventually landing in Boston. One of a thousand people of African descent living in the Massachusetts colony, Onesimus was a gift to the Puritan church minister Cotton Mather from his congregation in 1706.



Onesimus told Mather about the centuries old tradition of inoculation practiced in Africa. By extracting the material from an infected person and scratching it into the skin of an uninfected person, you could deliberately introduce smallpox to the healthy individual making them immune. Considered extremely dangerous at the time, Cotton Mather convinced Dr. Zabdiel Boylston to experiment with the procedure when a smallpox epidemic hit Boston in 1721 and over 240 people were inoculated. Opposed politically, religiously and medically in the United States and abroad, public reaction to the experiment put Mather and Boylston's lives in danger

despite records indicating that only 2% of patients requesting inoculation died compared to the 15% of people not inoculated who contracted smallpox. Onesimus' traditional African practice was used to inoculate American soldiers during the Revolutionary War and introduced the concept of inoculation to the United States.

The iconic cartoon character Betty Boop was inspired by a Black jazz singer in Harlem. Introduced by cartoonist Max Fleischer in 1930, the caricature of the jazz age flapper was the first and most famous sex symbol in animation. Betty Boop is best known for her revealing dress, curvaceous figure, and signature vocals "Boop Oop A Doop!" While there has been controversy over the years, the inspiration has been traced back to Esther Jones who was known as "Baby Esther" and performed regularly in the Cotton Club during the 1920s.



Baby Esther's trademark vocal style of using "boops" and other childlike scat sounds attracted the attention of actress Helen Kane during a performance in the late 1920s. After seeing Baby Esther, Helen Kane adopted her style and began using "boops" in her songs as well. Finding fame early on, Helen Kane often included this "baby style" into her music. When Betty Boop was introduced, Kane promptly sued Fleischer and Paramount Publix Corporation stating they were using her image and style. However video evidence came to light of Baby Esther performing in a nightclub and the courts ruled against Helen Kane stating she did not have exclusive rights to the "booping" style or image, and that the style, in fact, pre-dated her. Baby Esther's "baby style" did little to bring her mainstream fame and she died in relative obscurity but a piece of her lives on in the iconic character Betty Boop.

Born in Atlanta, Texas in 1892, Bessie Coleman grew up in a world of harsh poverty, discrimination and segregation. She moved to Chicago at 23 to seek her fortune, but found little opportunity there as well. Wild tales of flying exploits from returning WWI soldiers first inspired her to explore aviation, but she faced a double stigma in that dream being both African American and a woman.



She set her sights on France in order to reach her dreams and began studying French. In 1920, Coleman crossed the ocean with all of her savings and the financial support of Robert Abbott, one of the first African American millionaires. Over the next seven months, she learned to fly and in June of 1921, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale awarded her an international pilot's license. Wildly celebrated upon her return to the United States, reporters turned out in droves to greet her.

Coleman performed at numerous airshows over the next five years, performing heart thrilling stunts, encouraging other African Americans to pursue flying, and refusing to perform where Blacks were not admitted. When she tragically died in a plane accident in 1926, famous writer and equal rights advocate Ida B. Wells presided over her funeral. An editorial in the "Dallas Express" stated, "There is reason to believe that the general public did not completely sense the size of her contribution to the achievements of the race as such."

It wasn't until 1928 that Amelia Earhart became the first female passenger to cross the Atlantic by airplane (accompanying pilot Wilmer Stultz).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amelia_Earhart



Notes from Your Board

For UUCC, the Little Congregation that Works
(Home of the Golden Swarm)

Treasury Report

December 2020	Jan – Dec 2020
Income: \$1,998	Income: \$23,899
Expenses: \$ 665	Expenses: \$19,474

Although 2020 was challenging, we worked together and made the year successful. Now, we must save for the next 6-month rent check due May 1. All together now: FORWARD!

Additional Income

Part of the total income for 2020 comes from use of our building by other groups (\$560), the Kroger Community Rewards Program (\$174), the Fair-Trade Project (\$322), the Amazon Smile Program (\$127), and a used book resale drive (\$90). Eighteen families currently support the Kroger Community Rewards Program and twenty-eight customers support the Amazon Smile program. If you have any questions about these programs, please talk to any Board member or consult our webpage (<https://uucookeville.org/stewardship/fundraisers/>). Thanks to everyone participating in these programs!

Congregation

By Deanna Lack

At harbor we don't think about the tradewind; in the evening,

The ship our cradle, sleepy blue waters gently tossing silver moonlight

ripple to ripple. My lullaby is wooden creak, sea bird, gentle clang, soft lap.

In the morning, hope rises, misty, swirling from the surface,

And I remember, harbor and moonmist are but dreamy interludes

Between knowing what I must do – Upward

The sails, then, find the North Star; harbors are not what ships are for.



From Your Pastor

A Mystical, Psychological, Pagan, Buddhist, Integrative Journey

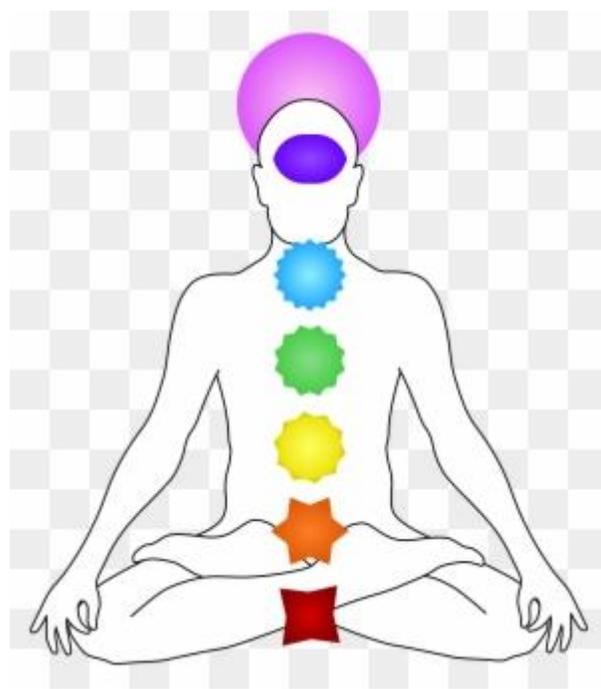
In December our Tuesday meditation group requested that we cover the chakras again. This time I thought I would take a little different approach than we did last time. It's not hard to find meditations on the chakras, they're a dime a dozen in new agey circles. But I'd done some interesting reading and I wanted to expand on some of the usual ideas.

Chakras are the energy centers of the body. They are traditionally conceptualized as rainbow-colored wheels of light beginning with red at the base of the spine and progressing up the midline of the body to the crown chakra, which is usually depicted as purple. The root chakra (red) governs security and a connection to the earth, sacral (orange) our sexual and ambitious drives, solar plexus (yellow) our creativity, heart (green) all the things we associate with the heart, throat (aqua blue) our expression of ourselves and ability to manifest it, third eye/brow (indigo) our insight and intuition, and crown (purple or violet) our connection to the divine or our higher self or however you feel that that expresses itself.

Is this too woo-woo for you? It is for some people, and lest you be turned off by the airy-fairy aspects of it, give our meditations a try anyway. We do stray into the airy fairy at times, but in this series, we are integrating a study of the body's energy centers with many different ideas, from Jung's archetypes to Maslow's hierarchy of needs to the pagan Wheel of the Year. As an example, this past week we wrapped up the consideration of the root chakra with a discussion on Byron Katie's process that helps us turn our thoughts around, and a white light protection meditation.

Our progression through the body from the ground up corresponds with the Wheel of the Year, so from Yule to Imbolc (Feb 2) we did the root chakra, and now from Imbolc to Ostara (spring equinox) we will think about the generative properties of the sacral chakra. It's a great time to think about what you want to make manifest in your life this year, now that we've burned away the old in our burning bowl ceremony. In this way we'll work our way through the wheel of the year, considering a different energy center in between each of the pagan festivals.

Meditation is on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, with Chalice Circle on the first and third, both at 6:00. We'd love to have you join us.



HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2021
By Susie Zuller, Board Secretary

The format allows you to see who has what UUCC position and what that person is doing for UUCC and the community. If you wish to volunteer for any of these projects, please definitely contact someone. Ensure that your spirit of activism is used for the greater good.

Charles (president)

Charles reported he is still attending the Southern Region Presidents' Gatherings. For community outreach, Charles wrote two January newsletter articles. With Susie, he answered the UUCC telephone response line.

Empty (president-elect)

The president-elect position for the 2020-2021 Board year is still open. According to UUCC by-laws, the principal function of the president-elect is to assume the duties of the president in the absence of the president and assume the duties of president following the end of the current president's term. If you think you may be interested in being the Board president for the 2021-2022 year, please contact any current or former Board member. Because Board meetings are being held via Zoom immediately after services and some Board votes are taken via email, you do not need to reside anywhere in or near Cookeville. What a fabulous volunteer opportunity for our members and friends who have moved!

Jenifer (treasurer)

Via email, Jenifer reported UUCC is still operating in the black. Committed pledges for 2021 are \$19,960. The Tornado Relief fund is in a deficit of \$99.42. December's average Sunday Zoom attendance was 27. In hopeful anticipation of having movies at UUCC once again, Jenifer paid for the video licensing. With Charles (past treasurer), Jenifer will complete the IRS form 1099 miscellaneous for Deanna. Jenifer also attended the first session of the Southern Region's on-line training and commented, "[It] opened my eyes to how much our small congregation has done... I was quite proud."

Susie (secretary)

Susie reported that she is still working on the "Funeral Wishes" form to be appended to the UUCC website. For community outreach, she worked with Charles on fielding telephone and email questions regarding UUCC and community assistance. She also wrote two articles for the January newsletter.

Cassandra (member-at-large)

Cassandra reported she attended the first session of the Southern Region on-line training, finished the UUCC brochure, and worked on the website. With Deanna, she also added books to Bookshop Affiliate (<https://bookshop.org/shop/uucookeville>).

Janie (member-at-large and lead on Circle of Care)

Janie reported that as UUCC's pianist, she is continuing to work on recording hymns for services. Tracie, Gates, and Ric are working with Janie to combine piano accompaniment with their singing. Janie volunteered to send letters to Cookeville City Council members about having some type of remembrance for victims of Covid-19.

Norma (member-at-large)

Norma reported she attended the first session of the Southern Region on-line training.

Deanna (minister)

De reported she attended the first session of the Southern Region on-line training, and she is further working on her personal website and Mint to be Tennessee where De performs weddings. De will also submit her book needs to the Board in February. With Cassandra, De will work on a web page for visitor resources. Since the last Board meeting, De gave two sermons. Her other congregation activities included meditation, working on the book exchange, and meeting Cassandra about the website. She also worked on social media, submitted a poem for the January newsletter, worked on her CLM assignments, recorded a sermon that was played on the radio on December 24, and met with the UUCC Committee on Ministry,

Gates (chair of the Worship Committee)

Via email, Gates reported that she had nothing new. Beginning in February, the Worship Committee chair will be vacant.

Gates (chair of the Committee on Ministry)

Via email, Gates reported she had nothing new.

New Policy

After discussion, Cassandra moved, "that UUCC adopt a policy of receiving a 10% portion from members profiting from UUCC." Norma seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. What this policy might look like is, for example, if a member sells for-profit items within the UUCC space (which would be only with Board approval), then a minimum of 10% of the profits will go to UUCC.

Next Board Meeting

Sunday, February 14, at approximately 11:45 a.m., via Zoom immediately following Reflections. Members and friends of UUCC are welcomed and encouraged to attend Board meetings.