

July 2020 Programs

Our theme for the month of July is Challenge. Boy, how appropriate! This is certainly a time of challenge for every one of us. Let us be warriors in this time of challenge. This, from [The Teachings of Don Juan](#) by Carlos Castañeda: *"Only as a spiritual warrior can one withstand the path of knowledge. A warrior cannot complain or regret anything. His life is an endless challenge and challenges cannot possibly be good or bad. Challenges are simply challenges. The basic difference between an ordinary man and a warrior is that a warrior takes everything as a challenge, while an ordinary man takes everything as a blessing or a curse."*

July 5: Rev. Dr. Randy Partain, "Building the Bridge"

As Unitarian Universalists, we are committed to fostering multicultural community. In a time of complicated grief, it is more important than ever that we rise to the challenge of developing our multicultural competence. When we see the need for societal change, what is our role in creating that change? Who do we expect to be bridges for us? And how can we be strong bridges to our deepest selves, so that we build the world that we envision? We are capable of responsibly forging new paths of multicultural understanding. Let us greet that challenge with hope and confidence together.

Randy Partain is Contract Minister at Tapestry Unitarian Universalist Church in Spring. During this formational year for the congregation, Randy has facilitated the process of establishing the community's mission, vision, and congregational covenant. He also works as a Spiritual Director, primarily serving clients who are non-religious or spiritually independent.

July 12: Rev. Bob Tucker, "We Live by Stories, We Live in Them"

The simple American story of a people overcoming hardships, taming the wilderness and being a beacon of liberty for the world seems a bit jaded these days. Before us is the challenge of finding an American story that encompasses the past, yet everything that has been exploding around us as well.

Bob served the First Congregational Church in Houston after nearly thirty years as the Senior Minister. He was also the Executive Director for the Foundation for Contemporary Theology for many years. He and Maggie have visited us regularly for several years.

July 19: Susan Baker, "Writing as a Spiritual Practice"

As a spiritual practice, writing can take many forms. We'll explore several ways of writing from which we can personally benefit in our daily lives.

Susan P. Baker is a retired Galveston County District Judge. She is the author of 10 published books and currently has three novels in progress. Her family joined the UU Fellowship of Galveston County when they moved to Galveston in the 1950s. Susan was about 4 years old. At that time, the Fellowship met at the YWCA, where we were later kicked out because we weren't "Christian" enough.

July 26: Rev. Jenifer Wagley, "The Sacred Collapse"

When I think about "Challenge" I think about collapse and the spiritual practices we need in order to face the collapse of the systems around us. How do we learn to both face reality and to love fiercely? Join us for a time of exploring reality and the tools necessary to thrive in the midst.

Jenifer Wagley currently serves as the Executive Director of Children First for Oregon (CFFO). CFFO is a statewide child abuse prevention and child advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring every Oregon child has what they need to be safe and to reach their fullest potential.