

# Groveland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

## March 2024 Newsletter

### Sunday Services

**March 3, 10:00 a.m. Hybrid (In-person at Mano a Mano, or on Zoom from home)**

**Topic:** Post-pandemic future of our small congregations: innovative approaches, continuing issues, and UUA's partnership role

**Presenter:** Rev. Phillip Lund

**Moderator:** Leticia Smith

The COVID pandemic exacerbated some issues and brought new ones still being faced by small UU congregations. Some of these congregations have developed creative strategies they have found effective in the areas of communication, member participation, technology, security, finances and other issues. The UUA has been a partner of these small congregations with its staff and resources. Rev. Lund will expand on these continuing issues and strategies that small congregations have found effective and discuss available resources for small congregations like ours.

Rev. Lund has twenty years of experience serving congregations in the areas of faith formation and spiritual growth. He is a congregational life consultant working for the MidAmerica Region of the UUA. In 2013 Rev. Lund was named the Fahs Fellow for Innovation in Technology by the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

Rev. Lund currently lives in Saint Paul with his wife Julie and their son Henry David.

**March 10, 10:00 a.m. Hybrid (In-person at Mano a Mano, or on Zoom from home)**

**Topic:** Advocacy and Organizing by Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM)

**Presenters:** Greg King and Sara Adams

**Moderator:** Lois Hamilton

Our presenters will acquaint us with the work of the Minnesota Interfaith Coalition in the areas of advocacy, organizing, and support for immigrants and their families. They will also discuss how ICOM does its work to resist detention and deportation of our newest neighbors, and to make sure Minnesota is a welcoming place for them.

Greg King joined the board of ICOM around the time it became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2019 and has served as president of the board since 2021. The son of a Filipina immigrant, Greg got involved in immigrant rights advocacy after the 2016 election, co-founding Filipinx for Immigrant Rights and Racial Justice Minnesota (FIRM) and became involved with ICOM through his congregation St. Joan of Arc Catholic Community. Greg was born in Minneapolis and lives there today with his wife and three daughters.

Sara Adams is the Asylees, Immigrants and Detainees (AID) Coordinator for ICOM. AID is the ICOM accompaniment program that provides financial and emotional support to

immigrants who struggle to obtain even basic resources. Sara is a long-time resident of south Minneapolis and has two sons.

**March 17, 10:00 a.m. Online (TED Talk - Zoom from home only)**

**Topic:** Atheism 2.0. What aspects of religion should atheists (respectfully) adopt?

**Presenter:** Alain de Botton

**Moderator:** Larry Herbison

Alain de Botton suggests a “religion for atheists” – call it Atheism 2.0 – that incorporates religious format and traditions to satisfy our human need for connection, ritual and transcendence.

Alain de Botton has written seven non-fiction books, the most well-known of which are *How Proust Can Change Your Life* and *Consolations of Philosophy*. He has also made a number of TV documentaries and recently helped found The School of Life ([www.theschooloflife.com](http://www.theschooloflife.com)) and an architectural organization ([www.living-schooloflife.com](http://www.living-schooloflife.com)). In 2009, Alain did a TED Global talk in Oxford, saying “It changed my life, bringing me into contact with so many valuable and interesting people.”

**March 24, 10:00 a.m. Hybrid (In-person at Mano a Mano, or on Zoom from home)**

**Group Discussion**

**Topic:** Dealing with guilt about my role as a contributor to environmental degradation, climate change, decline of non-human species, and related life issues.

**Facilitator:** Alan Lando

On one Sunday of each month, our service is a group discussion on a chosen topic. This time, our moderator will lead a discussion about the strategies that we as individuals or members of some concerned group have done or may be able to do to deal, even in a small way, with issues threatening life on this planet. Everyone is encouraged to think about how the topic relates to their lives and those they care about prior to the service.

**March 31, No Service Today - Easter**

**Looking Ahead...**

**April 7, 10:00 a.m. Hybrid (In-person at Mano a Mano, or on Zoom from home)**

**Topic:** Photography as an Art Form for Personal Enrichment and Community Outreach

**Presenter:** Beth Dow

**Moderator:** Lois Hamilton

Many of us are admirers of photographic art, as well as photographers ourselves. Our presenter will help us look at ways we can use our cameras to enrich our lives and maybe even the lives of those we care about.

Beth Dow is an artist and educator based in Minneapolis. Her research examines ways we shape and experience our environment, with a special interest in how we use photography to enhance that experience.

Beth received a BA in studio art from St. Olaf College and an MFA in photography from the University of Minnesota. Her work has been exhibited internationally, and was recently featured in "Perception Error," a two-gallery solo museum exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Reviews of her work have appeared in the New Yorker, Wall Street Journal, Village Voice, Boston Globe and Minneapolis Star Tribune.

### **Groveland Book Group - March 20, 6:30 on Zoom**

The Groveland book discussion group meets monthly on the third Wednesday evening, year-round. We meet on Zoom and tell each other about the books we are currently reading. Find the Zoom link at [grovelanduu.org](http://grovelanduu.org).

### **Message from Our Treasurer**

Please consider donating to Groveland Fellowship. We always need help with rent and presentations. Please send your check to Groveland UU Fellowship, P.O. Box 40011, Saint Paul, MN. Thank you.

### **Obituary**

#### **Michael Dorer**

(Husband of Rose Dorer, a long time Groveland Fellowship member).



Michael James Dorer died on February 6. He was 76 years old. Michael was born in Minneapolis, MN. He is survived by his wife Rose, children Jacob, Benjamin and Margaret; grandchildren Sylvia, Elliott, Simon and Casper; and his faithful black lab Whisper.

Michael had a degree in education, a Montessori certification, received his Master's from St. Mary's in Winona, and his doctorate from Argosy University, Twin Cities. He and his family lived in St. Paul's St.

Anthony Park neighborhood for more than 30 years.

Michael spent his career as a Montessori educator of both children and adults. He trained countless Montessori teachers and consulted numerous school and Montessori programs throughout the world. He served as president of the American Montessori Society, was a senior consultant with the Montessori Foundation and published several Montessori textbooks.

He was a devoted husband and grandfather and a passionate educator. He will be missed by family, friends and educators worldwide.

(Photo above, February 19, 2017 Michael Dorer speaking to GUUF. Topic: The Power of Storytelling. Photo credit: Ceile Hartleib)