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**North American  
Unitarian Association**  
*naunitarians.org*

**The NAUA Compass  
Newsletter**

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**March 2026  
Announcements &  
Events**

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**North American Unitarian Association** is a member service organization dedicated to supporting and promoting the practice of liberal religion by embracing freedom, reason, and tolerance—rooted in our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of every person and all peoples.

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## Why Giving to NAUA Matters

For many of us, NAUA is not just *another* organization — it is our primary spiritual home. In just a few short years, NAUA has become a place of belonging for Unitarians, Progressive Christians and other religious liberals who felt displaced, unheard, or abandoned elsewhere. With an annual budget of only about \$50,000, NAUA has:

- built a professional online presence
- offered monthly worship services and workshops
- sustained more than ten ongoing discussion CIRCLES
- published regular newsletters and journals
- maintained a repository of all our past services and presentations, which can be viewed on demand, and
- fostered an international community spanning more than fifteen countries

All of this has been accomplished largely through volunteer labor and the generosity of members who believe deeply in the future of liberal religion.

What makes NAUA unique is not only what it already offers, but what it *could* become. Members consistently express a desire for:

- expanded programming
- greater support for congregations
- lay leader training
- ministerial resources
- academic speakers
- worship materials, and
- deeper connections among liberal religious communities

NAUA has historically and intentionally kept membership free — for both individual and organizational members— and limited paid staffing to a single part-time role. That restraint reflects our values — but it also means our growth, reach, and long-term stability depend entirely on voluntary contributions from those who find meaning, community, and hope here.

Giving to NAUA is an investment in a living, growing expression of liberal religion — one rooted in freedom, reason, and tolerance, and committed to carrying those values forward at a time when they are urgently needed. Even a small recurring gift can make a meaningful difference. If every member contributed just a few dollars each month (say \$10 or the cost of two servings of your favorite beverage or a basic streaming service), NAUA would be nearly fully funded for the 2026 fiscal year! If NAUA has mattered to you — as a spiritual home, a place of connection, or a vision worth preserving — now is the moment to help sustain and strengthen it.

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**Greetings, Lincoln!**

A lot of exciting things are happening at NAUA!

Your **NAUA Principles Task Force** has met several times and is in the process of creating a member survey to learn which values and ethical foundations are important to YOU as a religious liberal. This is the first step in formulating a proposed set of principles / value statements that membership can vote on at the fall NAUA Summit.

**A committee has also been formed to plan this year's Summit and Annual Business Meeting.** The committee is hoping to add survey questions about Summit topics, timing and format to the upcoming NAUA principles survey. Thank you to those who have already submitted workshop topic suggestions and more. (Note: We are still seeking additional committee members. Please email [Summit@naunitarians.org](mailto:Summit@naunitarians.org) if you would like to help with planning this year's Summit!)

The CIRCLES Committee, chaired by Board Trustee Jan Anderson, recently kicked off **TWO separate Spirituality CIRCLES**, which will each last a minimum of eight months and explore a different spiritual topic each time!

**Suggestions for new NAUA programs, or changes to existing programs, are always welcome.** Please email your suggestions to [info@naunitarians.org](mailto:info@naunitarians.org) or speak directly to one of [NAUA's board members](#).

Following the official confirmation of our 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, NAUA has been awarded a **free Google Workspace account**. This upgrade allows us to maintain a centralized document repository, collaborate more effectively in a shared virtual workspace, and use an expanded set of professional **@naunitarians.org** email addresses for both internal coordination and external communications.

As part of this transition, **Lincoln Baxter, NAUA Tech Chair**, is in the process of replacing our existing Google Groups distribution lists with new lists using **@naunitarians.org** addresses. Over time, we will ask everyone to migrate to these new email addresses, and we'll be announcing each one as it becomes available.

In addition, our nonprofit status makes NAUA eligible for a limited amount of **free Google advertising**, helping us reach more individuals / congregations and expand our liberal religious community!



## NAUA Conversation / Discussion CIRCLE

Wednesday, March 4th,  
4:00 PM PT / 7:00 PM ET

**Open to All**

**No Registration Required**



The **NAUA Conversation/Discussion CIRCLE** is a monthly space for connection and community building. This CIRCLE is designed for NAUA members and friends to gather, share ideas, spark meaningful conversations, and deepen our connections.

Our gathering take place on the first Wednesday of each month, from 4:00 - 5:30pm Pacific Time / 7:00pm Eastern Time. Everyone is welcome. **The topic for the March Conversation/Discussion CIRCLE will be: Exploring our religious, spiritual, or ethical identity. How and why does this identity relate to / support association with NAUA? What is your "elevator speech"?**

Join in creating a vibrant, supportive space for dialogue and reflection. The zoom link is: <https://tinyurl.com/naua-circle>

For questions or to register for reminders, email us at [circles@naunitarians.org](mailto:circles@naunitarians.org). We hope to see you there!

[Download iCalendar entry for this event](#)  
[Add event to Google Calendar](#)

**IARF Four-Part Course:  
"Human  
Consciousness"  
Next Session March 7th**

In this four-part series, we are exploring various aspects of human consciousness as seen through two distinct lenses: the religious and philosophical traditions of humanity, and the recent scientific studies.



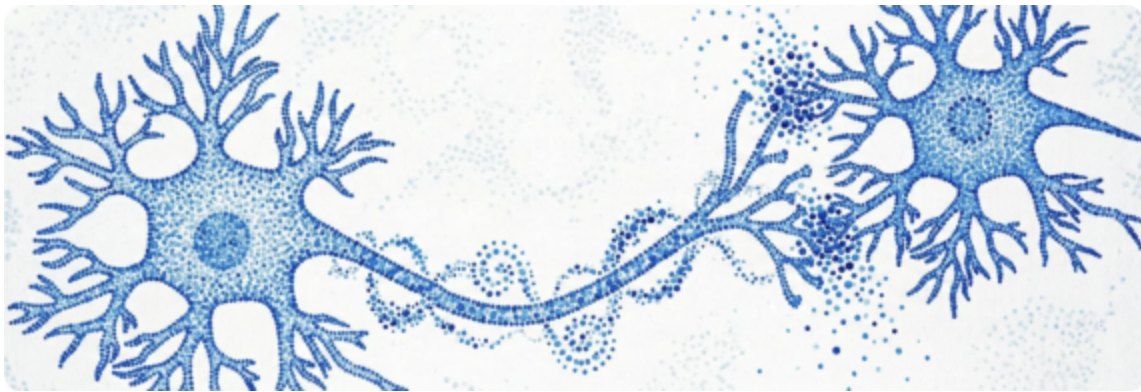
We seek to understand how science confirms or contradicts religious or philosophical conceptions, think about how the disagreements might be resolved, and also identify religious or philosophical issues that have been neglected by science, which might lead to fruitful growth on both sides.

- Session 1: February 7 (completed, [recording available](#))
- Session 2: March 7
- Session 3: April 4
- Session 4: May 2

Register with [IARF.net](http://IARF.net) and then register for the course at <https://iarf.net/network/courses/30/>. The time is always **8:30 AM ET**. The course has a discussion board for announcements, asking questions and general conversation related to the subject. Don't worry if you missed the first session; simply review the [recording](#) from that session and join for the remainder of the series.



Your Instructor: **Mark Reimers** is an Associate Professor in the Neuroscience Program and the Department of Bioengineering at Michigan State University. His lab, the Reimers Lab for Computational and Systems Neuroscience, develops and applies statistical methods to analyze high-dimensional data from neuroscience experiments. Mark is also an NAUA Board Trustee and Chair of the NAUA Academy.



**NAUA Forum Circle**  
 Sunday, March 8th  
 Sunday, March 22nd  
 1:00 PM PT / 4:00 PM ET

**By Reservation Only**

To register for the Forum Circle and obtain the meeting link, email [circles@naunitarians.org](mailto:circles@naunitarians.org).



Every other week the group reads about and discusses a different topic of interest. **The topic for March 8th is "Who are our humanist heroes?"**

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**March NAUA Academy Session:  
"A Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago"**  
with Penny Ridderbusch  
Tuesday, March 10th  
4:30 PM PT / 7:30 PM ET

The Camino de Santiago is one of the most ancient and well-worn pilgrimage routes in the Western world. For over a thousand years, people have walked these trails—from all across Europe and beyond—toward the cathedral in Santiago, said to be the resting place of the apostle James.

In today's hectic world that is constantly bombarding us with chaos, the Camino is a chance to hit pause. Hit pause on social media. Hit pause on politics. Hit pause on life's demands.

In this session, **Penny Ridderbusch** will talk about the history of the Camino de Santiago, her experience of walking the Camino, and what pilgrimage can mean for Unitarians.

The Zoom link is: <https://tinyurl.com/nauaacademy>.

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REGISTER NOW



**About Our Speaker:** Penny Ridderbusch is a graduate of the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington. She has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations, including church boards, mutual aid organizations, and political action organizations.

At the age of 7, Penny rejected traditional conservative Christianity. As she became an adult, she began to crave a spiritual connection with a power greater than herself. After many years of searching, she discovered “the god of her understanding” through a 12-step program and eventually found her way to Unitarian Universalism. She considers herself a panentheist, believing that god exists within and without everyone and everything. Her favorite place to connect with god is anywhere.

Penny lives in Port Townsend, Washington, and is an active member of the new Salish Sea Fellowship.



## **NAUA Board of Trustees Meeting** **March 11th, 11 AM PT**

If you are interested in joining or observing a board meeting, please read [the board meeting participation policy](#) on our website

before emailing our board secretary for the Zoom link:  
secretary@naunitarians.org.

Note: Past board meeting minutes can be found on our website.

**Monthly Worship  
Service: "Pirates of the  
YouTube"**

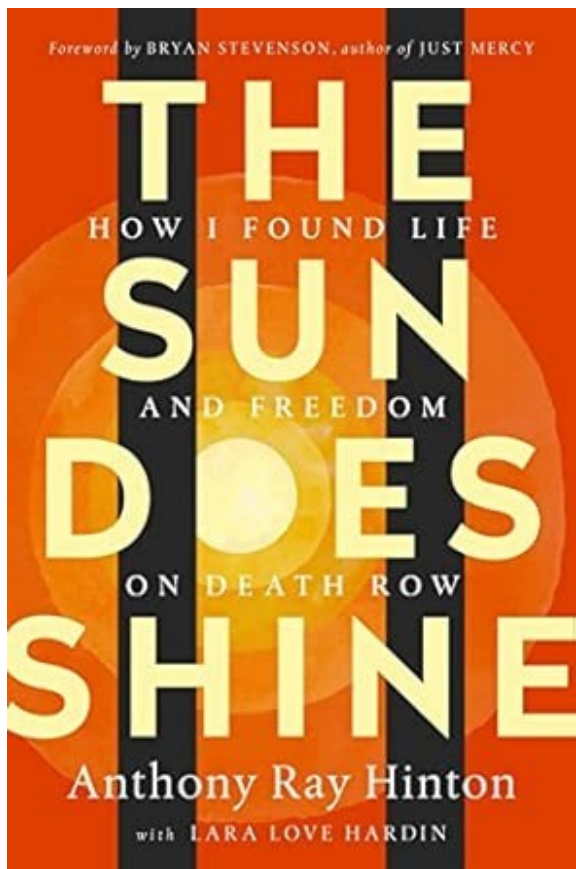
**Saturday, March 21st  
10:00-11:30 AM PT**

It seemed like a good idea during the Covid pandemic...start our own YouTube channel! The naysayers were few and kept their Indiana Jones impressions to themselves (*"I've got a bad feeling about this"*). Join Revs. Jerry and Lynn of the UU Congregation of Flint, Michigan, and learn how "going YouTube" turned them and the whole congregation into a crew of counterculture messengers on the vast, internet ocean. In this era of censorship within UUism, their message was scandalous pirate talk!



Zoom access at <https://tinyurl.com/NAUAService>

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## NAUA Book Club: "The Sun Does Shine"

March 26th, 4:30 PM PT

The NAUA Book Club meets on the last Thursday of each month starting at 7:30 PM (EDT) / 4:30 PM (PDT). All are welcome. The book choice for March 26th is "The Sun Does Shine," selected by book club member Karen Anway.

"The Sun Does Shine" is a memoir by Anthony Ray Hinton, detailing his wrongful conviction and nearly thirty years spent on death row for a crime he didn't commit. The book explores themes of hope, justice, and the power of faith during his harrowing experience.

If you are interested in attending, please email Ed Hudak at [bookclub@naunitarians.org](mailto:bookclub@naunitarians.org).

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