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**North American
Unitarian Association**
naunitarians.org

**The NAUA Compass
Newsletter**

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Mid-March 2026 Announcements & Events

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.



**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>

[Download iCalendar entry for this event](#)
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A Hearty Thank You to Our Generous Donors

In response to our request for donations in our March 1st issue, over a dozen individuals generously contributed to the future success of NAUA. You know who you are, and we can't thank you enough! Your donations allowed us to compensate speakers for recent worship services and academy sessions.

You've also allowed us to continue to support the International Association for Religious Freedom. Several members have used their NAUA membership for free access to nearly all the available IARF workshops and recordings of past events. Check them out at IARF.net.

We also have ongoing expenses for hosting and maintaining our website and member database. Many thanks to board trustee **Lincoln Baxter**, who as tech team chair has donated hundreds of hours to redesigning and improving our soon-to-be-released new website! **John Wunderlin**, **Terry Anderson** and **Bob Simoni** have contributed many, many volunteer hours to this project as well.

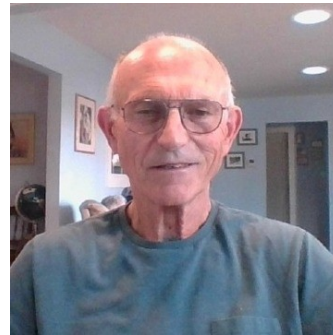
Other ongoing expenses include our Zoom accounts for hosting NAUA events, including our very popular CIRCLES. There are currently 15 meetings of CIRCLES monthly with three more offered this Spring. See below for information on the new CIRCLE offerings!

We also aim for twice-monthly distribution of our newsletter, The Compass. And we are working on reviving the quarterly Liberal Beacon, refreshing and expanding our ministerial services, and planning our fall Summit!

There are so many new and exciting upcoming programs and events to look forward to. Thanks again to our generous donors for making this all possible. Below, NAUA President Roy Dickerson shares why he has prioritized giving to NAUA and has recently decided to increase his regular donation.

A Mea Culpa from Roy Dickerson

Before the new UUA definition of liberal religion took effect, my wife and I were active members of our local UU church; we were among the top donors in the community. Our contributions also included work with the board and other volunteer work. This gave us pride and happiness in our community; those were dollars and hours well spent.



We didn't think too much about the time or the money given. It was just part of our lives; it brought us pleasure and a sense of belonging; it was being a responsible member of the church. It wasn't so much a conscious decision as it was more of an automatic habit, like putting on a comfortable pair of slippers.

When we started making an automatic donation to the NAUA, it was a nominal amount; after all, how much overhead is there when we don't have a physical location? The reality is that we do have expenses, our programs are valuable to us, we are an organization to be proud of, and we want to grow. While we are mainly virtual, we have many friends here I care about.

In thinking about this, I realized that we can and will raise our donation to the NAUA. I hope that you will consider the impact the NAUA has on your life, and be part of helping it be more successful.





Greetings, lincoln

We hope this month has brought you lots of luck and many reasons to celebrate! Your friends here at NAUA want to share in your joys as well as your sorrows. Consider joining one of the new connection CIRCLES - or the existing SatChat - so we can get to know one another better and offer support through all of life's ups and downs.

**SatChat Connection CIRCLE -
We're Welcoming New Participants**

SATURDAY

Our SatChat Connection CIRCLE is beginning a new chapter, and inviting new voices into the space. This CIRCLE is about conversation that matters, connection that feels genuine, and community that grows over time. Whether you've been craving deeper dialogue or simply want a steady place to belong, this is an open invitation.

**When: 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 1:00 pm Pacific Time/ 4:00 Eastern
Starting May 9th (We're open to adjusting time)
Registration required - to register email circles@naunitarians.org.**

New Spring CIRCLES - Join Now!



Photography as Spiritual Practice CIRCLE

This CIRCLE is for those who love expressive photography and experience the act of making photographs as meaningful in itself. Through our lenses, we can enter moments of contemplation, flow, and deep presence with the world around us.

Participants are interested in creating images that express something beyond a simple snapshot. This is not a critical or competitive group, but a supportive space to share photos, inspiration, techniques, and an appreciation for photography as an expressive - and often spiritual - practice. All levels of experience and all types of cameras are welcome.

The CIRCLE will be led by Lorraine Day, current president of the Bellingham Photography Club, and a known local artist. **Registration is required at circles@naunitarians.org**

When: 1st Monday, Monthly - first CIRCLE May 4th
Time: 4:00pm Pacific Time, 7:00pm Eastern Time

**The Discourse CIRCLE:
 Respectful & Difficult
 Listening**





NAUA Principles Survey - Open Until March 25th

Last week the NAUA Principles Task Force emailed all NAUA members and subscribers a survey invitation. If you haven't yet participated, please take the survey by clicking on the link below:

[NAUA Principles Survey](#)

Survey responses will be compiled and shared with the NAUA Board, the NAUA Principles Task Force, and in the Compass newsletter. The results will also help inform a draft set of proposed principles that will be discussed with membership and (hopefully) voted upon at our Annual Meeting / Summit. In addition, the survey will help us determine the dates, formats and topics for the Summit.

Your participation is very much appreciated, and we look forward to your input! **Please complete the survey no later than Wednesday, March 25th.**

With appreciation,

Terry Anderson
Chair, NAUA Principles Task Force

SURVEY

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



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

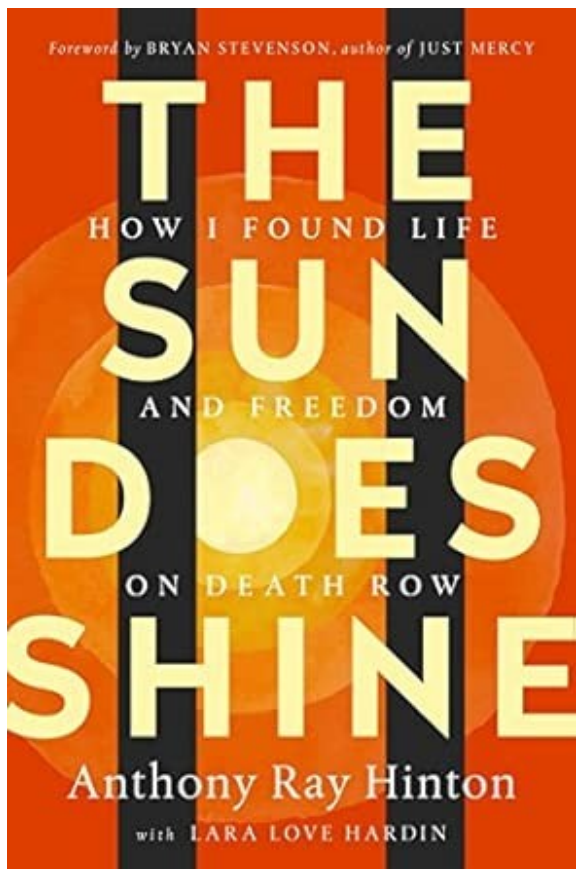
By Reservation Only

To register for the Forum Circle and obtain the meeting link, email circles@naunitarians.org.



Every other week the group reads about and discusses a different topic of interest. **The topic for March 22nd is "the moral philosophy of Michael Sandel, Bass Professor of Government at Harvard University"**

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



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.

[Download iCalendar entry for this event](#)

[Add event to Google Calendar](#)

NAUA Conversation / Discussion CIRCLE

Wednesday, April 1st,
4:00 PM PT / 7:00 PM ET

Open to All

No Registration Required



Discussion Topic: What is truth? How do we decide what is true and what is not? How much does our bias determine what we believe is true? Do we recognize our own biases?

This CIRCLE is designed for NAUA members and friends to gather, share ideas, spark meaningful conversations, and deepen connections. Our gathering takes place on the first Wednesday of each month, from 4:00 - 5:30pm Pacific Time / 7:00 - 8:30pm Eastern Time. Everyone is welcome.

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. 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 April 4th**

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.

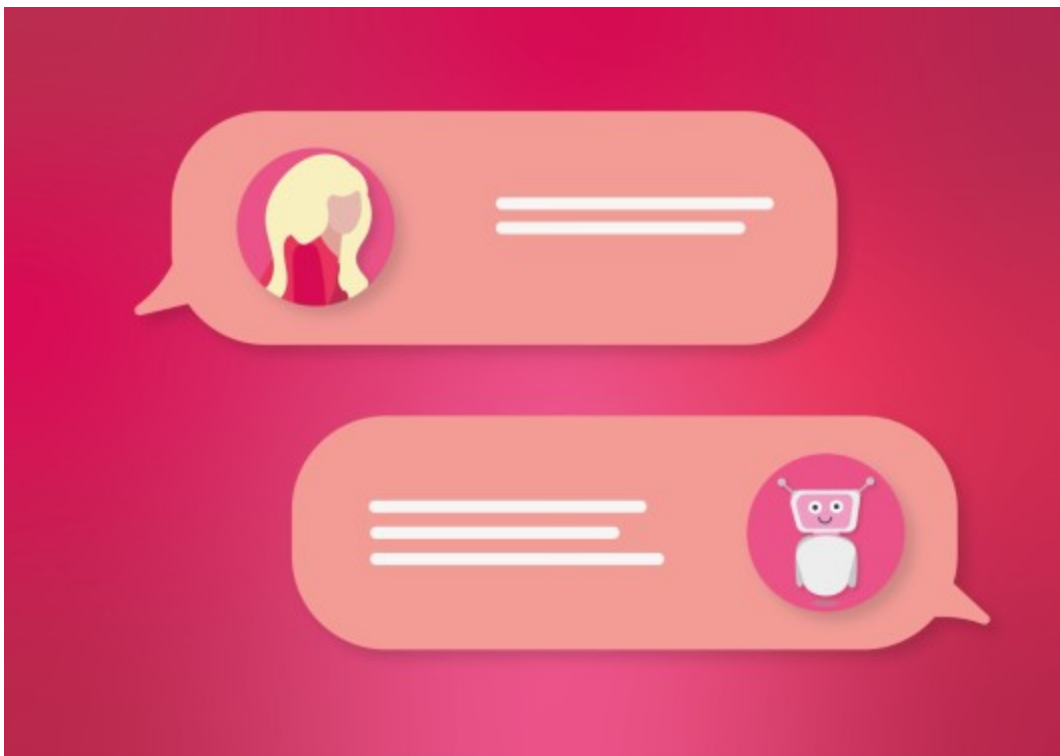
- Session 1: February 7 (completed, [recording available](#))
- Session 2: March 7 (completed, [recording available](#))
- Session 3: April 4: "Recollection and Meaning"
- Session 4: May 2: "Types of Consciousness"

Register with [IARF.net](https://iarf.net) and then register for the course at <https://iarf.net/network/courses/30/>. The course takes place on the first Saturday of the month; 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 March 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.





**April NAUA Academy Session:
"Social & Spiritual Impacts of AI Chatbots"**

Tuesday, April 14th
4:30 PM PT / 7:30 PM ET

The NAUA Academy takes place on the second Tuesday of the month from 4:30 to 6:00pm PT. Each session features an educational presentation by a guest speaker, a question and answer period and then small group discussion.

Topic for April 14th: Has the genie gotten out of the bottle? Join us to explore the social and spiritual impacts of AI chatbots.

We'll discuss the potential impacts of generative AI on our society over the next few years. What changes may we expect in how we work, in human relationships, and in our states of mind?

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

REGISTER NOW

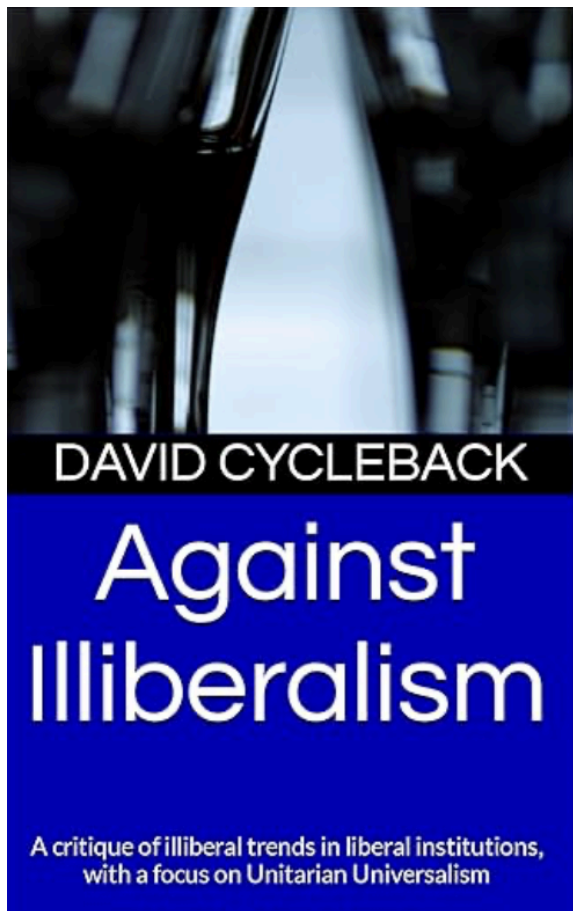


NAUA Board of Trustees Meeting

April 8th, 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](#).



**NAUA Book Club:
"Against Illiberalism"
April 23rd, 4:30 PM PT
6:30 CT / 7:30 ET**

The NAUA Book Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month starting at 7:30 PM (EDT) / 4:30 PM (PDT). All are welcome. The book choice for April 23rd is "***Against Illiberalism: A critique of illiberal trends in liberal institutions, with a focus on Unitarian Universalism,***" by David Cycleback.

You can now download the full book for free in PDF format:

[Download the book here](#)

This book examines recent illiberal trends in traditionally liberal American institutions. It focuses on Unitarian Universalism, a historically liberal church whose national leadership has adopted an extreme, authoritarian version of anti-racism as a "theological mandate," causing strife and division.

Inequalities, unfairness, and prejudices are problems in all societies throughout human history. Stereotyping, unconscious biases, and tribalism are innate in human psychology and society. There is no single or objectively correct answer to addressing disparities. There is also no single or objectively correct way to organize societies, communities, and organizations.

While the various racial justice models offer important insights into race and society, the author believes in classical liberalism, freedom of speech, and the free exchange of ideas, things that many extreme social justice movements and activists oppose. Freedom of speech and expression and the respectful exchange of ideas inherently support diversity and multiculturalism. Illiberalism, dogmatism, censorship, and authoritarianism are oppressive of all groups, minority and majority, and should be rejected wherever they appear.

As there are no simple or objective answers, this book encourages discussion. The most intolerable aspect of recent illiberal trends, and a

key reason for the author writing this book, are the attempts to suppress the open exchange of ideas.

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