



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

MAY/JUNE 2016



Kindred Spirit

*"The heart is like a garden. It can grow compassion, fear, resentment or love.
What seeds will you plant?" – Buddha*

I meditate. When I prepare to go to the dentist, I meditate lots. No offense to dentists, I'm not very comfortable with having someone stick things in my mouth. It's just so nervy.

Once when I was seated in a waiting room at a dentist's office, I was so blissed out I initially failed to notice that a receptionist was irritated. When it was my turn, she quipped, "You there. Get over here. Right now." As I was walked to her desk, she said, "I don't have all day." I sat down in a seat across from her. In a rough manner, she asked me the usual questions but she barked each time she opened her mouth. "I need your address...did you hear me? What's your name...spell it? Where do you work...give me the phone number?" Remaining calm, I watched her closely as she wrote my answers on a sheet of paper. She was a tense ball of rubber bands, ready to explode and ping in all directions. The lines on her dark forehead were numerous, there were deep bluish circles under her eyes and her hair appeared to be in complete disarray.

After completing three forms, she got up to get something from another area behind a wall. A woman in the waiting room crept up behind my chair and whispered, "That receptionist is being mean to you. You shouldn't let her talk to you like that." The receptionist came back into the room and the woman behind me quickly went back to her seat. (I guess she didn't want the angry person to bark at her too.)

As the receptionist shuffled more papers, I asked, "How is your day going?" She stopped, put her hands over her face and her elbows on the desk. She took a deep breath for a few seconds of blessed peace and quiet. Suddenly, she slammed her hands on the desk and said, "Go back to your seat...I'll call you when it's time for you to see the dentist. Go, now, get back to your seat." I did what I was told and sat down in the first seat near the door. The woman in the waiting room scooted over and whispered, "Why didn't you tell her to stop being mean to you?" I smiled and said, "She is the one having a bad day. I'm doing very well, thank you."

I never found out why the receptionist suffered. It's still a mystery. And, I can't say all my encounters with people who act like bullies go so well. But that day was a pivotal point in time for me. I had two profound realizations. The actions of others, much of the time, have nothing to do with me and I don't have to let the negativity of another person grow in my garden of calm self-restraint.

I hope your garden grows rows and rows of love and compassion. And may you reap the benefits of deflecting moments of negativity.



Dear Ones



Your newly elected Board of Trustees met for the first time on Tuesday evening April 12th. Members include me (president), Frank Wilmer (vice president), Cheryl Lee (secretary), Sue Burgess (treasurer), and trustees, Delight Te Paske, Diane Allen Harkins, Herb Levin, Delmar Wooden, and Ellen McGill. Robert Taylor is graciously serving as a non-voting assistant treasurer. Rev. Amy Kindred also attends in a non-voting capacity. The group decided to meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 PM at the Fellowship.

One of the first tasks we tackled was assigning board liaisons to our numerous committees. A great deal of the work of our Fellowship occurs in committees. It is our intent that the communication channels between committee chairs and board members are clear and open. Liaisons are charged with supporting committees and helping them to address challenges and determine when and how to present an issue for board consideration. I encourage liaisons and committee chairs to communicate frequently. Here is the list:

- Worship and Music - Dennis Shaw
- Social Justice - Ellen McGill and Herb Levin
- Life Span RE - Frank Wilmer
- Art on the Wall - Cheryl Lee
- Building Maintenance - Delmar Wooden
- Grounds - Dennis Shaw
- Caring and Hospitality - Diane Allen Harkins
- Patient Advocates - Herb Levin
- Membership - Frank Wilmer
- Communications - Diane Allen Harkins
- Finance - Sue Burgess
- Stewardship - Diane Allen Harkins
- Bylaws - Diane Allen Harkins and Delight Te Paske

Another highlight from the April 12th meeting is the board unanimously voted to pay Waste Management \$112 per month to remove our recycling each week. The Climate Action Committee under the chairmanship of Jack Harkins, will set up procedures and teach us how to recycle correctly. If you want to help with this chore, contact Jack.

Finally, the reestablish Bylaws Committee is up and running under the chair of Diane Allen Harkins and Delight Te Paske. Members include Joani Mountain, Alice Clattenburg, and Mary Lou Proudfoot Kennedy.

In faith,
 Dennis Shaw
 President of the UUFCC Board of Trustees

Sundays

9:15 a.m. Conversation Among Friends
 10:30 a.m. – Worship Service
 Coffee Hour following Worship
 Potluck Lunch on first Sunday

Meditation and Buddhist Discussion Group

Thursdays 5-6:15 pm

Each evening we begin with a discussion and end with meditation. All are welcome to attend.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">May</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Theme: Make of Your Life a Poem</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">June</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Theme: A Heart that Grows</p>
<p>May 1 – “On Poetry”</p> <p>Come hear members and friends share poetry they have written.</p>	<p>June 5 - “To Be or Not to Be Whole”</p> <p>What does it mean to “be whole-heartedly you”? American society has a set of acceptable behaviors. Is it time to revisit what it means to be of worth?</p>
<p>May 8 – “Symbolism of Flowers”</p> <p><i>“There are always flowers for those who want to see them” – Henri Matisse</i></p> <p>The common wildflower known as “Everlasting” represents <i>always remembered</i>. What other floral sentiments were understood in the 1800’s?</p>	<p>June 12 – “C.A.R.E Compassion for Our Sons and Daughters” Sharon Luske</p> <p>Bad things happen to good people. When they do, who is there to help? Charlotte County Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies provides much needed assistance in times of suffering and upheaval. This morning, we make room in our hearts to develop better understanding of this valuable organization.</p>
<p>May 15 – “On Chants and Mantras”</p> <p>Ritual chants and mantras are helpful in many traditions. What about within our Unitarian Universalist system of making meaning? Let’s explore.</p>	<p>June 19 - “Letters to and by Fathers”</p> <p>What better way to experience new thought than to witness readings performed by folks within the congregation? Herb Levin has organized a powerful collection of letters.</p>
<p>May 22 - “The Currency of Human Contact” James Abraham</p> <p><i>“Stories are the creative conversion of life itself into a more powerful, clearer, more meaningful experience. They are the currency of human contact.” - Robert McKee</i></p> <p>This morning, former journalist and local writers’ advocate, James Abraham reveals how stories can break down barriers that keep us from forming relationships of honor and good regard.</p>	<p>June 26 - Livestream Worship Service from General Assembly</p> <p>Relax with a cup of coffee and watch a live-stream worship service. Look for friends and members in the audience at the Unitarian Universalist annual gathering for General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio.</p>
<p>May 29 - “Poetry and an Ocean of Sound”</p> <p>Poems and soothing sounds from William Ward’s crystal bowls. Submit a poem that changed your life or enriches your life still. Send a copy to Joani Mountain at joanimountain@gmail.com by May 11 and read it during the Sunday service.</p>	

News from Marty Wilmer

Lifespan Development Coordinator



A Note of Thanks to Steve Pollard and Valerie Page

We are sorry to see Steve Pollard and Valerie Page leave RE. They began the program at UUFCC in 2009 and built a wonderful curriculum based on the values and beliefs of our denomination. Steve and Valerie came prepared to teach and provide hands-on activities most Sundays throughout the year. Frequently, there were no children to enjoy the lessons the first few years. More recently, many children have learned and played in the classroom with Steve and Valerie. We will sorely miss their dedication and devotion to the children of our fellowship, and we wish them well as they transition to other activities within the fellowship. Steve and Valerie, thank you, so much, for all you have done for our children.

REFlections – Religious Education News

A huge thank you goes to Sue Burgess for the donation of two handmade dolls for our child care. They are adorable!

During April, children who attended RE celebrated Earth Day in a variety of ways, including painting bird houses, which came out beautiful. They also learned about our 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

While Steve and Valerie will be leaving, regretfully, as our RE Teachers, our religious education program will continue. Children will attend the service the first Sunday of each month. We will provide learning experiences for all of our children on the other Sundays. We have a growing group of children attending our fellowship, and we look forward to learning together. In the fall, we are planning to have two classes, with ages around 10-14 in a new group. Look for more information this summer.

Happy Birthday to Rachel Rose, whose birthday is May 8!



Beyond the Classroom

ANT (Art, Nature, Theater) CAMP News – June 13 – 17, 2016

Registration is now open. Applications are available in the Fellowship Hall on the RE Bulletin Board, on our Website under the ANT CAMP link, or from Marty Wilmer. Scholarships are available. Please invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives to join us. More information is available on the website and on the camp bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Have you been wishing there was a summer camp for adults? Here's your chance to attend for free! We could use several volunteers to be Camp Buddies during the week, for ½ day shifts. Buddies would help with drop off, pick up, lunch, holding hands, and assisting children with crafts. We hope you will feel free to participate in any of the activities during your time as a camp buddy! See the Camp Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall to sign up or contact Marty Wilmer for more information.

“Being a UU” Class – Adult Education

Twelve adults joined Rev. Amy for four Saturday morning classes lasting three hours each. Through discussions, group and individual activities, and readings, each participant developed their first draft of what it means to them to be a UU. Many said they were sad when the sessions ended. Thank you to all who participated.

If this sounds interesting to you, stay tuned. The classes will be offered again. In the meantime, this summer we will offer an opportunity to view and discuss the DVD series, “Belief,” from the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). It’s a wonderful look at many of the varied ideas around the world and the ways people live what they believe, from atheists to theists, and beyond.

Meatless Monday Cookbook



UUFCC Climate Action Team’s Meatless Meal attendees and Reverend Amy Kindred are proposing that we publish a vegetarian cookbook as a small fundraiser for the congregation.

We invite all UUFCC members and friends to contribute vegetarian or plant-based recipes for inclusion in our upcoming “Meatless Monday” cookbook.

We understand that not everyone eats vegetarian, and some do not have favorite vegetarian recipes, but if not, we hope to introduce you to some of the favorite recipes that have been shared at our meatless meal potlucks over the past 18 months. If you have a favorite, would you please include it in the UUFCC Cookbook?

It has become apparent that less meat in our diet is better for our health. Our Unitarian Universalist faith asks each of us to “respect the interdependent Web of which we are all a part”, and to do all that we are able, to care for our beautiful planet. In this regard we wish to share our idea that plant based eating is not only easy and fun, but can be delicious too.

Please feel free to contribute as many recipes as you would like. We may have to edit the number we include in the book from each person, after we see how many contributions we receive.

Please indicate if your recipe is vegetarian, or if it’s plant-based which would include no eggs or dairy. You may also choose to tell us whether it is a **main dish, appetizer, baked good, salad, dessert etc.** Is it *fat-free*, *heart-healthy* or gluten free? Is it an old family favorite?

You may include a brief introductory statement if the recipe is special in some way and you care to share. The rules for contribution are simple. We ask only that there be no meat or meat broth in your recipe.

You may find recipe collection forms in the Social Hall at the Fellowship and a box in which to deposit your recipes. If you don’t find a form, feel free to hand write on one side of any 8.5 X 11 inch sheet. You may instead choose to email your recipe directly to: uufccvegcookbook@gmail.com.

The deadline for contributions is May 31, 2016.

Please address any questions to the above listed email, or to Jharkinsuu40@gmail.com.

Climate Action Team Report

Jack Harkins

During this winter, we have been having our monthly meatless meals on the 4th Fridays of the month, so as not to conflict with the Saturday Second Service. I think we'll start meeting on the last Saturday of the month beginning in May. Please check out the weekly updates for the exact date and time!



In other news the Board has decided to enlist the help of Waste Management (WM) for our local recycling here at UUFCC. The yellow covered recycle container is at the side of the building, so we'll still need to use an inside container for our use.

The climate action team is still examining the best method of collection, so stay tuned for an announcement of our plan. We'll also have reminders about what you can and cannot recycle. For a quick reminder take a peek at this WM link:

<http://www.wm.com/documents/pdfs/recycle-often-recycle-right.pdf>

Thanks for your patience, and any suggestions are welcome!

Our Citizens Climate Lobby meetings continue monthly at the Fellowship. If you like writing letters to your congressman or the newspaper, we could use your help. Meetings are scheduled for May 19th and June 16th at 6:30pm. With five of the regular CCL'ers going north for the summer, we'll continue our meetings via conference call, but most likely Jack will be calling from the Social Hall.



Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles enrich our community with conversation and attentiveness that can be difficult to find in the busy life of a fellowship. Group members listen to each other, but don't attempt to solve each others' problems. They are not therapy or support groups. The members and facilitators support each other.

An Advance Reflection is provided prior to each meeting. Some topics are spiritual in nature (joy, trust, faith, and prayer); others reflect universally human themes (love, loss, forgiveness, and humor). Members respond to the topic questions by sharing personal experiences. The focus is on deep listening, reflection, and an interchange among group members.

Chalice Circles have 8 -12 members and are led by a lay leader. Groups meet twice a month in the sanctuary; each session lasts two hours. Two exploratory sessions are planned for Saturdays, April 16th and 30th at 2:00 p.m.

Please contact Joseph Fenty at 941-286 7876 or send an email to jmfenty@gmail.com.

The UU Endowment of Charlotte County

Message from the Trustees



Many members and friends at UUFCC are not well acquainted with the UUE of Charlotte County - the Endowment - how it is invested, what can and cannot be spent, how to contribute and who makes decisions about spending dividends and using funds.

You may find the following information about the UU Endowment useful:

1. The UUE is a separate entity from UUFCC (the Fellowship). It has its own bylaws and it is managed by three trustees who are members of the Fellowship.
2. The UUE is closely affiliated and supports UUFCC in a variety of ways: including the annual Operations Budget, Growth Initiatives, Memorial Services (when needed) and other requests that promote the advancement of Unitarian Universalism. A most recent donation was to support our new children's summer program ANT(see description elsewhere).
3. The UUE investment purpose is to grow the UU Endowment at a rate that would maintain the purchasing power of the donations in perpetuity while generating additional income/growth to provide funding for various purposes.
4. The UUE local fund is held in a separate bank account locally and is invested as part of the UU Common Fund in Boston. Much good information is available at their website: uucef.org - including the rationale for socially responsible investing and average returns on investments.
5. The donations to the UUE are given in perpetuity-so the principle is to be maintained. Thus, the Trustees must be cautious about how much to spend, in a given year, not more than the average earnings plus inflation. If the market is down, it is possible that contributions to the Fellowship could be reduced.
6. Donations to the UUE are always appreciated and may be given in memory or honor of a loved one, simply by writing a check to the UUE of Charlotte County and placing it in the collection basket on Sunday. Of course, it can be mailed to the office as well and should be so labeled.

Our community has had many recent losses that are acknowledged below, including a founding member of the Fellowship, Charlotte Wharton, and a founding member of the Endowment, Harold Rapp. Our sympathies go out to all of these families. The following donations for the month of April are accepted with gratitude!

In Memory of Charlotte Wharton

MaryHolly Allison, Richard Dick,
Carolyn Kvam & Robert Hansman,
Dave & Florence Martin

In Memory of Harold Wild

Martha Wild

In Memory of Lillian Nebbeling

Lorraine Wood

In Support of ANT Camp

Robert Hansman In Honor of Charlotte Wharton

In Memory of Harold Rapp

Richard Dick, Dave & Florence Martin

With faith & gratitude,

MaryHolly Allison, Robert Hansman & Robert Taylor
The UUE Trustees

Art on the Wall



The Art on the Wall Committee is proud to announce its May 1-June 15 art exhibition. Judy Lee, artist extraordinaire, will exhibit paintings on the walls and Georgia Donnelly will exhibit pottery in the glass cases.

Judy Lee's beautiful paintings have won awards in several venues and hang in numerous private collections. She works in oils, acrylics, and produces unusual and lovely mixed media canvases. As a book illustrator, Lee's art recently adorned "It's OK, Scooter," a children's book.

Georgia Donnelly studied pottery in New England and southern France. Specializing in classical forms, her hand-thrown work is graceful as well as functional. In addition, she loves to experiment with surface decoration.



Everyone is invited to attend a free opening reception on Friday, May 6, from 4 to 6 pm, at the Fellowship Gallery.

UUFCC Member/Friend Art Exhibit Coming in June!!

Artists – one and all – you are invited to enter 2-D and 3-D art to our UUFCC summer art exhibit, mid-June through August. We want to share your talent with our congregation! The Art Committee is seeking paintings, drawings, photography, and fiber arts for the art wall and ceramics, jewelry, woodwork, cloth dolls, gift cards, and other 3-D art objects for the glass cases.

Please see Trudy Gerhardt or Sue Taylor to enter your artwork. Each piece needs to be labeled with artist's name, title, medium, and price (or NFS). Deadline for submission is June 15.

CONTACT US - OFFICE HOURS Monday through Thursday 8 am – 2 pm

1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33952 941.627.4303

www.uufcc.org, www.facebook.com/uufcc

Rev. Amy Kindred, minister@uufcc.org 941.916.0957

Minister's hours: Tues. morning and Thurs, afternoon. It's best to call for an appointment.

Chris McCoy, Office Administrator, office@uufcc.org

Dennis Shaw, Board President, President@uufcc.org

Joani Mountain, Membership Coordinator, joanimountain@gmail.com

Marty Wilmer, Lifespan Development Coordinator, marty.wilmer@gmail.com

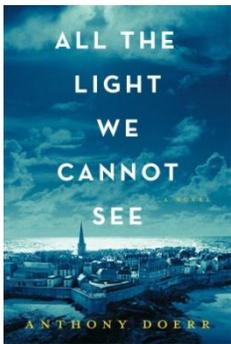
Ginger Abraham, Newsletter Editor, newsletter@uufcc.org **Article Deadline:** 20th of the month

Myrna Charry, Communications Chair, mcharry@earthlink.net

Come, Come, Whoever You Are – to our Book Group!

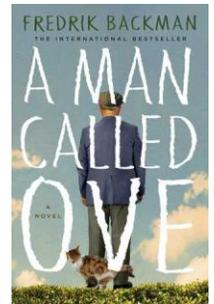
Our Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of each month to discuss the “Book of the Month” chosen by the members. All are invited to participate regularly **or** whenever the “Book of the Month” seems particularly appealing to them.

We had a lively discussion of the biography and subject of **Gertrude Bell: Queen of the Desert** at our April meeting. We discussed the writing and presentation of the author (Georgina Howell) and many facets of the amazing Gertrude Bell. Explorer, linguist, archeologist, historian and de facto diplomat in the Middle East in the first quarter of the 20th Century, she was an example of how a strong woman could overcome extreme gender bias to become extraordinarily influential.



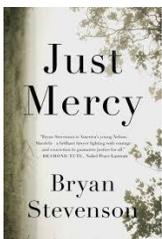
The book for our May 25th meeting is **All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr. This Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction for 2015 is set primarily in France during World War I and involves the eventually overlapping stories of a blind French girl and a German soldier who is responsible for detecting subversive radio broadcasts. Almost all would agree that it is a great read. Many have called it a masterpiece.

We will discuss a quirky debut novel at our June Meeting—**A Man Called Ove** by Fredrik Backman. Ove is a neighborhood curmudgeon. The plot involves the development of his unexpected friendship with his next door neighbors. This will be a change of pace for us—an acclaimed contemporary light and humorous novel.



Contact for May meeting: Mary Wolff or Pat Thomas-Beard
Contact for June meeting: Mary Howard

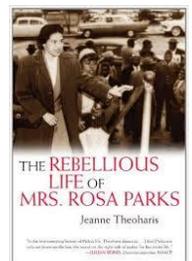
More Goodreads



Skinner House Books and Beacon Press announce Justice and Spirit: The Unitarian Universalist Book Club on Goodreads. All those interested in spirituality, religion, and social justice, whether Unitarian Universalist or not, can discuss books that seek to answer one (or all) of the following: How do we, as individuals and communities, search for truth and meaning, strive for justice and action, navigate our spiritual journeys, and live out our values? The book club will host a discussion about a new book every month with thoughtful questions, additional resources, and other treats to come! The first book being discussed is the 2015-2016 UUA Common Read, *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson.

And here's a sneak preview: The January selection will be *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks* by Jeanne Theoharis, so order your copy now! Both books are available on order from Beacon Press and Skinner House Books.

If you have questions about Goodreads, please contact Pierce Alquist at palquist@uua.org and she'll be happy to help you



WEEKLY EVENTS

Tues. May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28 – Bridge Group 2 pm
 Wed. May 4, 11, 18 (Mon. May 23, June 1, 8, 15 (Mon. June 20) – Choir Practice 6 pm
 Thurs. May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Meditation 5:15 pm

- | | |
|--|--|
| May 3 NAMI Group 6 pm | May 25 Book Group 1:30 pm
Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 2 pm
Healing Oasis 6 pm |
| 4 Gulf Coast Acoustical Guitar Society 7 pm | |
| 6 Lee/Donnelly Art Reception 4 pm | 28 Chalice Circles 2 pm |
| 8 Social Justice 12 pm | June 7 NAMI Group 6 pm |
| 10 NAMI Group 6 pm | 8 Caring & Hospitality 10 am
Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 2 pm |
| 11 Caring & Hospitality 10 am
Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 2 pm
Worship Associates 3:30 pm | 9 Discussion on Class 4:30 pm |
| 13 Karaoke Night 5:30 pm
Café Serendipity 7 pm | 10 Karaoke Night 5:30 pm
Café Serendipity 7 pm |
| 14 Chalice Circles 2 pm | 11 Chalice Circles 2 pm |
| 15 Mystical Experiences 12 pm
Studio Teachers of Port Charlotte
Music Recital 2 pm | 12 Social Justice 12 pm |
| 16 Racial Justice 6:30 pm | 13-17 ANT Camp 9 am |
| 17 Local UU Ministers Gathering 10:30 am
Sierra Club 7 pm | 14 NAMI Group 6 pm |
| 19 Discussion on Class 4:30 pm | 15 Worship Associates 3:30 pm |
| 20 Peer Writing 1:30 pm | 18 Peer Writing 1:30 pm
19 Mystical Experiences 12 pm |
| 21 ANT Camp Meeting 9 am
Celebration of Life – Charlotte Wharton 1 pm | 21 Sierra Club |
| 22 Membership Book Signing (during service) | 22 Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 2 pm
Healing Oasis 6 pm |
| | 25 Chalice Circles 2 pm |
| | 29 Book Group 1:30 pm |