



# NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

*A spiritual home where religion and reason meet*

JANUARY 2017

## Kindred Spirit

*OPPORTUNITY: a set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something*

In Hinduism, there are three forms of the Divine. Brahma, the creator, is one. Vishnu, the preserver, is the second. Shiva, the destroyer, is the third. These three work together to imagine and re-imagine the world repeatedly. For something to emerge, something else must pass away.

In Christianity, there is the story of Noah who built a huge boat. The old man paraded the animals on board the ark in pairs to prepare for a great flood that soon destroyed the world. After 40 days of rain, the flood subsided and the world was rebuilt again.

From the cosmos, we are provided a revolving symbol for a pattern of creation, destruction and re-creation. For example, the moon goes from new moon to full moon to its perceived absence. And then, out of the darkness, it appears again to continue the cycle.

We are surrounded by metaphors for destruction and re-creation. It is the way of nature and of the world. So, why do we fear? Why do we panic when “one door opens and another must close?” I guess we humans are creatures who long for stability, for a feeling of permanence. I suppose we do so because we are surrounded by change. It is perhaps the most constant element in our lives. No matter how much we pray or meditate, change rarely becomes anyone’s friend. Like all things in life, however, one’s attitude will either make acceptance of change easier or more difficult.

There is much talk lately about “dreading the future.” I get it. On the one hand, talking and bemoaning change keeps us in a state of turmoil and weakness. “It’s awful that change has happened to us,” some may say. On the other hand, change presents itself as an opportunity – an occasion to birth or rebirth something.

Perhaps this month, this February filled with 28 days, we’ll focus on love’s interconnected web. May we soon perceive every challenge as an opportunity to re-make the world. For every trial that arises in the days ahead, may we become powerfully determined to make love more visible than ever before. *May it be so.*



# Believing in You Katie Romano Griffin

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## Community Means Strength by Starhawk (#36 Lifting Our Voices)

We are all longing to go home to some place  
we have never been—a place half-remembered and half-envisioned  
we can only catch glimpses of from time to time.

Community.

Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion  
without having the words catch in our throats.

Somewhere a circle of hands  
will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter,  
voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.

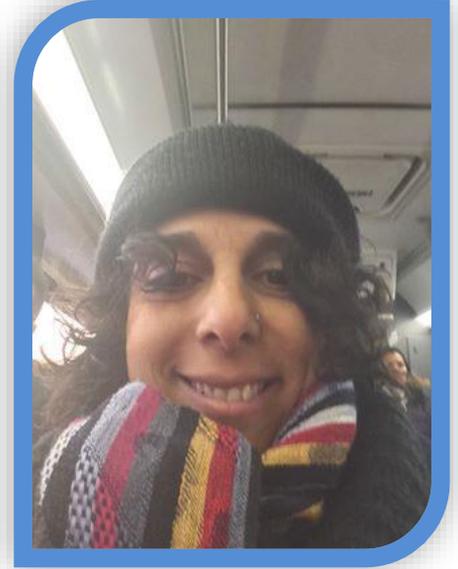
Community means strength  
that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done.

Arms to hold us when we falter.

A circle of healing.

A circle of friends.

Someplace where we can be free.



*Katie during her chilly days in  
Chicago.  
Welcome back!*

I get tears in my eyes when I think of the good work the Fellowship does within its walls as well as in the community. The ongoing commitment to living our Unitarian Universalist Principles is noteworthy. However, the Rev. Leslie Takahashi, Author, Activist and Minister of Mount Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, states, “Multiculturalism is about being transformed, not just letting people in.” I wonder what else we can do, what else we, as a community will be called to become—to transform into—in the next few years as more and more people flood through our doors seeking sanctuary. How will we embrace new members with different theological lenses, family compositions, health concerns, music tastes, worship-styles, and political and social stances?

As I pen this note to you, I am reflecting on ways in which we can go still deeper into being more than hospitable as a community. I am wondering about how we can allow love to transform us. I am puzzling through ways we can be even more like Canada’s “Tossed Salad” philosophy, valuing each ingredient and celebrating its impact on the entire dish, instead of trying to blend all ingredients into one.

What I learned this week in class is that this work is for all liberal religious denominations to ponder. We are in a unique position to make a difference in today’s hurting world, to minister to masses that would otherwise be left out of supportive spaces like ours and then to allow love to call us all on to something greater-still.



## Dear Ones,

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I am writing this letter on Inauguration Day. I have turned off all media and am consciously working on being present in the peace of my home. I refuse to share this day with fear! I will remain centered and mindful through lessons and meditative practices that I have learned from Rev. Amy Kindred, Katie Romano Griffin, and Jim Boyle.

I will also spend this day working on UUFCC's stewardship campaign, the annual harvesting of our monetary pledges to keep the Fellowship operating. It is a good day for this task! It is a way to express my gratitude for **our** inclusive, liberal religious community which is grounded in reason, compassion, social justice, and service.

The Fellowship's bylaws require "a yearly financial pledge of record" from members. Friends are also strongly encouraged to pledge. This year's campaign theme is "**FUELING THE FLAME FOR THE FUTURE**".

A flame within a chalice, the primary symbol shared by Unitarian Universalists, was created for the Unitarian Service Committee during WW II by Austrian artist, Hans Deutsch. It was made into an "official looking" seal for papers and badges for agents moving Jewish refugees across dangerous borders. It is a symbol that stands for sacrifice, service, freedom, and love.

At UUFCC, we begin each service, numerous meetings, and gatherings with the lighting of a chalice. For me, the exterior of the chalice reflects our ancestors and the living tradition which draws from numerous sources; the world's religions, words and deeds of prophetic women and men, humanist teachings, the interdependent web, science, the arts, experience, and the transforming power of love.

I see within the bowl of the chalice our beloved community, UUFCC. Within this bowl approximately 150 members and friends engage in worship, religious education, social action, environmental stewardship, caring, nurturing, healing, and play. For so many of us, UUFCC is vital for well-being.

The flame of our chalice is fueled by lamp oil which symbolizes the investments of our time, talents and treasure. In these challenging times, the flame of our faith will burn brightly.

The pledge campaign will run from Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a brief "kick off" event between the service and the potluck. Following lunch, there will be a half hour seminar on our finances and the projected budget. PLEASE plan to attend.

Pledge packets, containing the proposed budget, a UUA giving guide, and a pledge card with a return envelope, will be distributed before the February 5<sup>th</sup> service and after the seminar. Packets not picked up on the 5<sup>th</sup> will be mailed on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Pledges can be returned by mail or during services. It is important that we finish this campaign during February. We need to know how much money we can count on prior to voting on the 2017-18 budget. That vote will occur at the annual congregational meeting which will be held on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> following the service.

Dear Ones, let's get this necessary task finished. There is so much more to do.

In faith,  
Dennis Shaw, President  
Board of Trustees UUFCC

# Many Paths...

## Saturdays January through March

**4:30 pm** – Worship Service with a Message, Music and Meditation

## 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

**Thursday nights, 5 - 6:15 pm**

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

<i>Saturdays</i>	<i>Sundays</i>
<p><b>Feb. 4 &amp; 5 – Elements Ingathering</b></p> <p>In the late 1970's, a group of Unitarian Universalist women created a ceremony to celebrate water during one of their gatherings. The water ceremony is an important part of UU congregations around the world. Friends and members of UUFCC have broadened their appreciation of water, however, and now include other elements from the earth. This evening, bring a small container of water, a shell, a rock or a stick from a place you cherish and participate in this beautiful ritual.</p>	<p><b>Rev. Amy Kindred</b></p>
<p><b>Feb. 11 – Katie Romano Griffin</b></p>	<p><b>Feb. 12 – Joani Mountain</b></p> <p><b>Standing on the Side of Love</b></p> <p>We are excited to share that <i>Thirty Days of Love</i> is back in 2017. It is observed from Monday, January 16 through Tuesday, February 14, 2017, culminating on the 8th Annual National Standing on the Side of Love Day! <i>Thirty Days of Love 2017: Fortifying the Movement</i> will lift up the ways Unitarian Universalists and many of our partner organizations are building and organizing by taking bold, courageous action for intersectional racial justice.</p>
<p><b>Feb.18 – Perspectives in Islam</b></p> <p><b>Dave Martin</b></p> <p>Where do Muslim perspectives come from? Should Islam invoke fear, praise, or non-concern? Do you have the knowledge to deal with those who are or who discuss Muslims? Join us to explore a religion which is in the minority in America, but the majority in the middle East.</p>	<p><b>Feb. 19 - Rilke's Book of Hours</b></p> <p><b>Rev. Amy Kindred</b></p> <p>Highly regarded as a master of verse, Rainer Maria Rilke (1875 - 1926) was influenced by countless artists and was widely published. There was one book, however, that remained rather unknown by the general public for many years. It was Rilke's <i>Des Studen Buch</i> or <i>Book of Hours</i>. Created to sustain the weary soul in times of travail, these love letters are powerfully moving.</p>
<p><b>Saturday, Feb. 25 - Contemplating Rumi</b></p> <p><b>Katie Romano Griffin</b></p> <p>Rumi is famous for his poetry on life and love. In this service we will explore Rumi through a contemplative prayer experience.</p>	<p><b>Feb. 26 - Way of Generosity - Rev. Amy Kindred</b></p> <p>Life offers us countless opportunities to change old habits that no longer serve a healthy psyche. For example, to view life through a lens of scarcity is to limit the opportunity to receive abundance. Simone de Beauvoir wrote, "<i>That's what I consider true generosity: You give your all, and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.</i>"</p>

# REFlections - Religious Education for Children at UUFCC

Marty Wilmer, Lifespan Development Coordinator

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In February, we will continue exploring our Moral Tales curriculum. Children, be sure to bring your “My Acts of Goodness” notebooks with you each week. New children are always welcome to join us.

- February 5– Multi-generational service
- February 12 – *Respect*
- February 19 – *Generosity*: Make cards for Caring and Hospitality to use, led by Debbie Conrad
- February 26 – *Golden Rule*

Families, be sure to join us on Saturday, February 11, from 6-8ish for a Family Potluck and Valentine Party. We will be making Valentines for the congregation, and our own UUFCC President is planning a puppet activity. Bring a dish to share.



## Lifespan Development



We will have our first Summer Day Camp planning meeting on Saturday, February 4 at 11:30 AM, following the New Member Breakfast. We invite all those who are interested in planning or leading a session to help us plan our second annual ANT Camp (Art, Nature, Theater Camp); this year, the Nature segment will focus on science. We will be looking for additional help due to Rev. Amy's Sabbatical.

We are always looking for people to serve in our Religious Education program. We have Team Leaders who act like our Worship Associates, handling all the regular details. “Guides” are other volunteers who serve one Sunday, or two. Their role for our current curriculum is to read a story and lead an activity, which are selected by me. It’s easy and rewarding! Please let me know if you might be willing to help out for one Sunday. Email: [UUFCCLifespan@gmail.com](mailto:UUFCCLifespan@gmail.com)

Be sure to check the calendar for more activities and opportunities to participate.

## Many Thanks go to These UUFCC Shining Stars:

- Sally Milne, Chris & Chrissy McCoy, and Carolyn Kellar, who each read a story and led the related activity in Religious Education (RE) in January.
- Ken Brennan, who jumped in at the last minute to share his adventures in the Galapagos with the children, when our regularly scheduled volunteer was not available.
- Jenn Rose, Phil Brown, and Hannah Fenty, who served as a Team Leaders in January.
- Annie and Mollie Tooker, for helping to hand out the hymnals one Sunday in January.





## Membership Connections

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Two people joined the Fellowship in December. Please welcome Dorothy and Fred Parmenter. Dorothy sings in the choir and Fred is leading a class on the Constitution.

**A New to UU Breakfast has been scheduled for Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the Fellowship.**

Our website, [uufcc.org](http://uufcc.org), has a lot of information, but there is nothing like meeting other people at a **New to UU Breakfast** to learn more about what this fellowship has to offer. It's a relaxed setting to meet other new people, current members and friends, and our minister, Reverend Amy. And the food is always good!

If you are interested in attending the breakfast as a newcomer or a welcoming member or friend, please contact me at [joanimountain@gmail.com](mailto:joanimountain@gmail.com).

### Nametags/Updates

If your nametag has seen too many potlucks, or if you are not receiving the weekly updates or monthly newsletter, please complete a blue sheet at the Welcome Desk and let me know what you need.

Joani Mountain  
Membership Coordinator  
[joanimountain@gmail.com](mailto:joanimountain@gmail.com)

## UU Endowment of Charlotte County

It is with gratitude and appreciation that the Trustees acknowledge the January donations to the Unitarian Universalist Endowment of Charlotte County (yes, first time donors will be matched!!):

Sue and Que Burgess  
Cassandra Wooden  
Delmar Wooden  
Frank and Marty Wilmer

**In memory of Phyllis Foster**  
MaryHolly Allison and Ben Crosby  
Stephanie Garrett  
Robert Hansman

We must also acknowledge the years of dedicated service of Robert Taylor, who has been a Trustee of the Endowment for six years. He plans to move to Colorado and will no longer serve. We will recognize him with gratitude at the 2/13/17 event of the UUE Society. All donors are invited and should have received an invitation.

As stated in the UUE Bylaws, current Trustees will nominate candidates to serve as a new Trustee. Names will be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting. Members will vote for one Trustee.

Yours faithfully,  
MaryHolly Allison  
Robert Hansman,  
Robert Taylor



# New Policies

The UUFCC Board of Trustees have adopted the following new policies:



## ***Pertaining to the UUFCC office:***

The Office Administrator maintains email accounts specifically tied to the Weekly Updates, monthly Newsletter and everyday operations. Communication within committees should be maintained by the committees.

Committees will be responsible for printing their own copies. The office copier is used for approved inserts and Orders of Service only.

## ***Pertaining to building maintenance / cleaning:***

Cleaning supplies for building maintenance will be earth-friendly.

## Ubuntu Harmony Singing

**Saturday, February 11 – 2:30 pm**

Are you someone who loves to sing? Would you like to find a friendly, welcoming group of people to share your love of music? Have you wanted to sing but felt like your voice isn't quite good enough to sing in a group? All are welcome to come to Ubuntu singing. We'll sing music from around the world and from many traditions and styles. No experience is necessary. You don't need to have a "good singing voice", just a desire to sing. The word, "Ubuntu" means "I am who I am because of my friendship with you". Ubuntu is an international network of groups who sing for the joy it brings.

Come to UUFCC on Saturday, February 11 at 2:30 pm to experience the joy!



## Peace Initiative Speaker Series

The Social Justice Committee is sponsoring its seventh annual Peace Initiative Speakers Series.

The second in the series, on Sunday, Feb. 5, will feature political scientist Miles Williams, who will speak on "Ideology or Humanitarianism: A History of America's Refugee Policy." A former Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia, Dr. Williams has taught comparative politics, international relations, immigration and refugee politics, and human rights classes at various universities in the U.S., Colombia, Mexico, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

All are invited to attend.

The hour, including questions and answers will commence in the sanctuary at approximately 12:15 pm after the pot luck meal.

# UUFCC BOOK GROUP SCHEDULE

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The Book Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. except for the November and December discussions, which are combined and held on a date to be determined. For further information contact either Joani Mountain [joanimountain@gmail.com](mailto:joanimountain@gmail.com) or Mary Jane Williams [maryjanewms@comcast.net](mailto:maryjanewms@comcast.net)

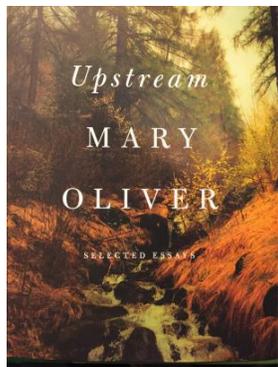
**The Books for February through May of 2017 are as follows:**

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> - *Upstream* by Mary Oliver (collected essays)**

**March 30<sup>th</sup> - *West of the Jordan* by Laila Halaby (fiction from Beacon Press)**

**April 27<sup>th</sup> - *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett (fiction)**

**May 25<sup>th</sup> - *The Third Reconstruction* by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II (nonfiction and a Unitarian Universalist "Common Read")**



**Wednesday February 22 at 1:30 p.m. *Upstream* by Mary Oliver**

A collection of essays in which revered poet Mary Oliver reflects on her willingness, as a young child and as an adult, to lose herself within the beauty and mysteries of both the natural world and the world of literature. Emphasizing the significance of her childhood "friend" Walt Whitman, through whose work she first understood that a poem is a temple, "a place to enter, and in which to feel," and who encouraged her to vanish into the world of her writing, Oliver meditates on the forces that allowed her to create a life for herself out of work and love. As she writes, "I could not be a poet without the natural world. Someone else could. But not me. For me the door to the woods is the door to the temple."

## Racial Monologues

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Our Racial Justice Sub-Committee (of the Social Justice Committee) is planning a performance of individually written Racial Monologues, personal stories about how race has impacted a person's life. These stories can be in any form (poetry, prose, etc.) and no longer than three double spaced typewritten pages.

We are reaching out to other churches and organizations so that the monologues will reflect the diversity and breadth of our community. Public reading will be at the Fellowship in Mid-March.



Join this creative activity about a delicate subject that impacts all our lives. Submit Monologues anonymously: 1) snail mail: UUFCC, 1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd. Port Charlotte 33952; 2) electronically: [r.m.uufcc@gmail.com](mailto:r.m.uufcc@gmail.com) or 3) by hand - deposit them in sealed box in the Social Hall.

Submission deadline: Feb. 15, 2017. Information: Kay Azar: 574-360-9186; [kayazar1@gmail.com](mailto:kayazar1@gmail.com); Myrna Charry: 941-764- 5859; [myrnabcharry@gmail.com](mailto:myrnabcharry@gmail.com).

# WEEKLY EVENTS

Tues., Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 – Bridge Group 2:00 pm

Wed., Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 – Choir Practice 6:00 pm

Thurs., Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 – Meditation 5:15 pm

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Feb. 2</b> Building Your Own Theology 6 pm                         | <b>Feb. 12</b> SJC Annual Speaker Series             |
| <b>3</b> Artist Reception 4 pm                                        | <b>14</b> History Sleuths 9:30 am<br>NAMI Group 6 pm |
| <b>4</b> New to UU Breakfast 9 am<br>ANT Camp Meeting 11:30 am        | <b>16</b> Building Your Own Theology 6 pm            |
| <b>5</b> Stewardship Forum 12 pm                                      | <b>18</b> UUFCC Persons of Color Meeting 2 pm        |
| <b>7</b> History Sleuths 9:30 am<br>NAMI Group 6 pm                   | <b>19</b> Mystical Experiences 12 pm                 |
| <b>8</b> Caring and Hospitality 10 am<br>Worship Committee 3:30 pm    | <b>20</b> Art Committee 10 am                        |
| <b>9</b> Building Your Own Theology 6 pm                              | <b>21</b> UUFCC Board 7 pm<br>Sierra Club 7 pm       |
| <b>10</b> Karaoke Night 5:30 pm<br>Café Serendipity 7 pm              | <b>22</b> Book Group 1:30 pm<br>Healing Oasis 6 pm   |
| <b>11</b> Ubuntu 2:30 pm<br>Family Potluck/Valentine's Day Party 6 pm | <b>25</b> Meatless Meals                             |
|                                                                       | <b>28</b> History Sleuths 9:30 am                    |

## 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](http://www.uufcc.org), [www.facebook.com/uufcc](http://www.facebook.com/uufcc)

**Rev. Amy Kindred**, [minister@uufcc.org](mailto:minister@uufcc.org) 941.916.0957

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

**Katie Romano Griffin**, [katiejromano@gmail.com](mailto:katiejromano@gmail.com)

Intern minister's hours: Most Mondays. It's best to call the office for an appointment.

**Chris McCoy**, Office Administrator, [office@uufcc.org](mailto:office@uufcc.org)

**Dennis Shaw**, Board President, [President@uufcc.org](mailto:President@uufcc.org)

**Joani Mountain**, Membership Coordinator, [joanimountain@gmail.com](mailto:joanimountain@gmail.com)

**Marty Wilmer**, Lifespan Development Coordinator, [UUFCCLifespan@gmail.com](mailto:UUFCCLifespan@gmail.com)

**Ginger Abraham**, Newsletter Editor, [newsletter@uufcc.org](mailto:newsletter@uufcc.org) **Article Deadline:** 20th of the month

**Myrna Charry**, Communications Chair, [mcharry@earthlink.net](mailto:mcharry@earthlink.net)