



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY
A spiritual home where religion and reason meet MARCH 2018

Kindred Spirit



Don't you hate it when you must let go of something you love? For me, I had to let go of running. That was a very difficult thing to do. I had been a runner since high school but after a knee injury, I had to break up with my lovely habit.

I was *madly* in love with running. For example, I made it my goal to run the Honolulu Marathon in my 39th year. The good thing is that I finished the marathon. I completed the 26.2 miles in five and a half hours. (Hey, I never said I was fast.) The bad thing is the photo of me crossing the finish line looked awful! My hair was plastered to my head with perspiration and I never did develop a lean body like that of most runners. I don't ever share that photo, but I do have the memory of the experience.

All these years later, however, I have found a new love. Walking meditation. In the beginning, I really hated the practice. I thought it very boring. I used to say, "Why bother walking slowly? It's like getting into a car to start it but it never leaves the driveway." I'm so glad I stuck with this new beloved activity. Walking meditation has shown me a whole new world. For example, as I walk, I look down and notice things on the ground like the placement of sticks and how they appear to make capital letters in the English alphabet. On one occasion, I saw shadows of ants as they skittered across the pavement. On another, I looked up to see an egret wobble its neck as the bird mimicked the sway of V reeds in the breeze.

There is something else about walking meditation that must be said. When one walks very slowly, carefully and attentively putting one foot in front of the other, noticing one's breath and surroundings, it forces one to become keenly aware of one's balance. It's surprisingly more challenging than one might think. It's a new skill waiting to be developed.



I cherish this new practice. I think, "Where have you been all my life, walking meditation? How is it that we have never met?"

In the days ahead, may you too, dear reader, find balance, a view filled with awe and most certainly, new love on your journey that is spiritual.



Dear Ones

If you haven't returned your pledge for the operating fund campaign, "**A Sustainable Fellowship**", please do so immediately. It's time to run the numbers. If you need a pledge form, they are available in the office.

Our annual meeting will be held after the service on **Sunday, March 25th**. This meeting is extremely important because basic operational decisions must be made. We need 40% of our membership to establish a quorum. You will be asked to elect three trustees, a new Vice President and Treasurer. We also need new Nominating Committee members. Talk to **Gudrun Matthaus, Nominating Committee Co-Chair**, if you are interested in serving in one of these roles. Watch carefully for your formal invitation which will include an agenda, the proposed budget, ballot of candidates, and proxy ballots. Paper copies of these documents will be mailed upon request.

It is also time to begin work on our new mission and vision statements. Connie Goodbread, Co-Coordinator of the UUA Southeastern Region, helped us kickstart this effort with a workshop on Saturday, February 24th.

I will be directing this summer's ANT CAMP beginning June 11th. This is the third year for this delightful program which provides opportunities for children ages 4 to 11 to explore, create, bond and grow through numerous art, nature and theatrical experiences. Lots of volunteers are needed. Talk to me about participating.

Finally, I want to express my deepest gratitude and affection to the folks who are retiring from positions of service. Frank Wilmer, thank you for serving as Vice President of our Board of Trustees. Ellen McGill, thank you for your tireless efforts in the role of Treasurer. Herb Levin, Delmar Wooden, and Alice Clattenburg, thank you for serving as Trustees. (I understand that Herb and Alice will run again.)

Marty Wilmer, you have accomplished so much as our Life Span Religious Education Coordinator. You will be missed. Joani Mountain, thank you for your successful efforts as our Membership Coordinator. Safe travels.

In faith,
Dennis Shaw, President
UUFCC Board of Trustees

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Ellen McGill

March 31 is the end of our Fiscal Year, and our 2017-18 pledge income remains nearly \$15,000 short. If you completed a pledge form last year, and you are able to fulfill your pledge, there is still time. Please contact me at 401-363-5580 or rimcgill@yahoo.com for questions or concerns.

In the meantime, the Finance Committee and Board have been working hard to create a balanced budget for FY 2018-19. It is a great help to us when members and friends choose to complete a pledge form. We depend upon this income projection to plan the budget to pay for the myriad costs of maintaining this building and property, and for allocating funds to support our minister, committees, music, and other programs that we all enjoy. Thank you for your past and continued support of our beloved community.

Many Paths...

Sundays

9:15 a.m. Conversation Among Friends
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

Coffee Hour following Worship
 Potluck Lunch on first Sunday. Please label food items as vegan (no dairy or meat), vegetarian (no meat) or meat.

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.

Yoga for Life
1st & 3rd
Saturday 9am

Yoga mats available.
 \$5 Donation

Sunday Services

Theme: What if we were a people of balance?

March 4 "Sage Advice" Facilitated by Rev. Amy Kindred with Members from the Fellowship

Some of the best wisdom comes from the mouths of those who have encountered many challenges and continue to maintain a love for life. What do they know that we don't? Delight TePaske, Peg Stunkard, Bill Wharton and Marilyn Reeve offer sage advice.

March 11 "The Promise and the Practice of our Faith" Ginger Abraham and MaryHolly Allison



BLACK LIVES of UU

What would it be like if our UU worship service centered entirely around the voices and the experiences of black Unitarian Universalists? What truths might we hear, however difficult? What might we learn? How might these black UU leaders teach us to be better allies, better siblings in faith, and even better citizens in our community? Come, listen and learn.

There will be a special collection to help the UUA keep their promise to fund Black Lives of UU (BLUU).

March 18 "Awkward Moments Holiday" Rev. Amy Kindred with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Worship Associates

Believe it or not, there really is a holiday celebrating awkward moments! We all have them but we don't know how others respond in those most uncomfortable and sometimes comical moments. Join us for a series of skits created and performed by the team of Worship Associates.

#AwkwardMomentsDay



March 25 "Blue Boat Home" Rev. Amy Kindred

This is the first day of Climate Justice month. Now more than ever, the earth needs us, our attention and our intention. We'll explore 10 facts pertaining to what's causing hardship for our climate and 10 ways to make positive change for the future.

REFlections - Religious Education at UUFCC

Marty Wilmer, Lifespan Development Coordinator

RE Classes – Plans for the rest of this school year



- March 4 – Multi-generational service; no RE
- March 11 – UU Super Heroes – Joseph Priestly, discoverer of oxygen, with Ken Brennan and Jenn Rose. *Come do some science experiments!*
- March 18 – Social Justice Sunday:
 - Discoverers (ages 4-7): Dandelion with Kimber Brouse and Nancy Weaver
 - Chalice Lighters (ages 8+): Economic Justice with Myrna Charry and Joseph Fenty
 - March 25 – UU Super Heroes – Clara Barton, who brought the idea of the Red Cross to the USA – with Mary Lou Proudfoot-Kennedy and Sharon Goding
 - April 1 – Multi-generational service; no RE; **EASTER**
 - April 8 – Multi-generational service; no RE
 - April 15 – Social Justice Sunday:
 - Discoverers (ages 4-7): Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge (about memory loss) with Kimber Brouse and Nancy Weaver
 - Chalice Lighters (ages 8+): Immigrant Justice with Ellen McGill and Joseph Fenty
 - April 22 – UU Super Heroes – Pete Seeger with Sharon Goding and ???
 - April 29 – UU Super Heroes – Norbert Capek with ???
 - May 6 – Multi-generational service; no RE
 - May 13 – UU Super Heroes – Celebrate Selves as Super Heroes
 - May 20 – Social Justice Sunday
 - Discoverers (ages 4-7): Let's Talk About Race with Kimber Brouse and Nancy Weaver
 - Chalice Lighters (ages 8+): LGBTQ Justice with Joseph Fenty and ???



Clara Barton



Serving in RE: As you can see above, we still need a few more people to teach a lesson. See Jenn Rose if you are willing to help. Open dates and UU historical figures to be taught include:

- April 22 – Pete Seeger, folk singer
- April 29 – Norbert Capek, “The Man Who Loved Beauty”
- May 20 – Social Justice Sunday topic is LGBTQ Justice.

Many Thanks go to These UUFCC Shining Stars:

- Jenn Rose, Janice Fullman, Sharon Goding, and Mary Jane Williams for working with the children in Religious Education classes in February;
- All who have supported Religious Education, for adults and children over the years. I have been blessed to work with you.

Thank you!

Youth Group

The Youth Group meets during the service on the first Sunday of the month, through the potluck, and the second Sunday, following the service. Please watch the weekly Updates for more information and changes to the schedule.

- March 4 – during the service
- March 11 – following the service

Sharon Goding, one of the leaders, is looking for another adult who would be available to help with meetings during the week in the evenings and as a substitute, when needed.

The Youth Group is working on a couple of recycling crafts. They need plastic shopping bags and used individual water/soda bottles. They are also planning to build a chickee in back of the porch.

Sharon has set up a Facebook page for the Youth Group; Search for: U.U.F.C.C. junior youth group.
Planning Ahead:

Easter (April 1): Jenn Rose will oversee the Easter Egg Hunt this year. Please check with her if you would like to help fill or hide eggs.

From Marty Wilmer, Lifespan Religious Education Coordinator



Farewell! I am conflicted about leaving my position as Lifespan Religious Education Coordinator after serving our congregation for 2 ½ years – sad to step away and excited to see the coming changes. It is time for others to move our program forward. We have about ten youth in the middle school/high school age range, and many who are younger. *Yes, we have children.* And we have wonderful people who have supported our program, and me, over the years. It will be exciting to see how the program changes in the future.

As I explained a few months ago, Frank and I will step away from the congregation, per UUA guidelines, for about six months. This will allow the new LREC to make changes without concern about hurting my feelings, etc. I will be leaving town March 19, due to a family concern, so my last day with you will be Sunday, March 18. Frank will step down as VP at the end of the month. I trust the Board to hire an excellent person to take the program forward.

It has been our honor to serve you all. We will see you in the fall.

UUFCC Birthday Recognition

Each month, in this newsletter, we will be providing the birthdays of members and friends who have elected to participate in a “Happy Birthday Shout Out”. If we missed your special day and you would like to be recognized please contact Stephanie Garrett



March Birthday Shout Outs to:

Trudy Gerhardt 3/2
Marty Wilmer 3/9
Debbie Conrad 3/14

Betty Munford 3/16
Ken Brennen 3/18
Kenneth Brink 3/18
Myrna Charry 3/31

2018 Service Auction

The 4th Annual Service Auction celebrating the Chinese New Year was a great success. We had a number of firsts. This year our new auctioneer extraordinaire, Fred Parmenter, also brought us into the world of technology by setting up a web site for us (uufcc.net) and putting every function needed under that. It allowed ordering of tickets, service offerings, and silent auction submissions to be made electronically and to enter names and amounts of purchases during the auction. This allowed those present to get a summary of items purchased and folks who bid on them electronically immediately at the end of the auction. This also helped cut down on problems later.

There is a huge list of people who volunteered to help at the auction but there are a few who were key to our success. John Lee was in charge of coordinating food to be served and getting it out on the serving lines. Christina Joy was our banquet manager and was instrumental in setting up, serving and getting the kitchen back in working order for the next day's service. And there were bartenders extraordinaire!

Fred Parmenter did an incredible job setting up the web site and being auctioneer. He had a big boost from Dorothy Parmenter getting all the right bids entered. The task of entering those bids fell to Samara Michaelson, Mary Jane Williams, Lorrie Douglas and Lynn Ritchie.

Joani Mountain and her team sold a whopping number of tickets and greeted everyone arriving. We had a wonderful array of items for the silent auction which was ably run by Tom and Cheryl Deuley and Nancy Weaver. We are grateful for all the wonderful art from Mary Wolff's collection. Another first, every item in the silent auction was sold. Yeah for you all.

We had some fabulous bakers providing dessert. Lots of people came by in the early afternoon to help us set up tables and decorate. Even more people helped with food preparation. Everyone pitched in at the end of the evening to clean and reset the space for the service the next morning. From the bottoms of our hearts – we thank you and are grateful for all the help. It couldn't be done without all the hours of help.

This massive effort allowed us to put over \$6000 into the Fellowship's budget. Everyone was so generous with their time, talent and money to make this night successful. And, we had a good time! Again, thanks to all who helped.

MaryHolly Allison and Kay Azar
Co-chairs, Service Auction Committee

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, UUFCCLifespan@gmail.com

Ginger Abraham, Newsletter Editor, newsletter@uufcc.org

Article Deadline: 20th of the month

Myrna Charry, Communications Chair, mcharry@earthlink.net

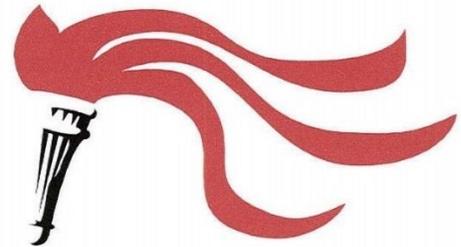
The Unitarian Universalist Endowment (UUE) of Charlotte County – Looking ahead

It is the time of year for the UUFCC Annual Report which will be distributed to the congregation prior to the Annual meeting at the end of the month. In April, there will be a gathering of the Endowment Society which serves as the Annual Meeting of the UUE.

This annual event is an opportunity for all those who have made donations to the UUE to come together to celebrate the success of the Endowment, to hear a report of activities and plans and to ask questions about the Endowment. Invitations will be sent to all donors in the coming month.

We, the Trustees of the Endowment, would like to acknowledge the most recent contributions, examples of two different ways donations can be made to honor loved ones:

Carolyn Kvam – In Honor of Robert Hansman’s 91st Birthday
In Memory of Mary Wolff



If you have any questions regarding the UUE, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

With gratitude,
MaryHolly Allison, Robert Hansman , Stephanie Garrett, Don Lierman, Delmar Wooden
UUE Trustees

UUFCC Men’s Club

George Clattenburg

The Men’s Club will meet in the Social Hall on Friday, March 2nd. at 2:30 PM. We are inviting all men to this meeting and we will attempt to limit the meeting time to no more than 90 minutes. The focus of the meeting will be a discussion of how the Men’s Club can provide fundraising projects for the benefit of the Fellowship.

The beginning of our meeting will focus on the results of the Fellowship attending the performance of Spamalot. Although the original intent of attending Spamalot was not as a fundraiser, we did raise some money for the church. We will also discuss “in process” discussions we are having with the Charlotte County Jazz Society about getting discounted tickets to their last two concerts for this season. Specifically, we are discussing purchasing discounted tickets to the March 12th concert, a Big Band Jazz Night featuring Dave Pruyn and The Jazz Legacy Big Band as well as the final concert on April 9th, a Dixieland Jazz Night, featuring Herb Bruce and the Herbicide Jazz Band.

We are also soliciting other fundraising ideas from all those who attend. We hope you will join us. We need your input.

UU Book Group

The Book Group meets at the UUFCC 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 or Mary Jane Williams maryjanewms@comcast.net

All are welcome and suggestions for future discussions are welcome. Please keep in mind that we try to keep the price down for books that need to be purchased by discussion participants. The availability of inexpensive used copies is frequently a consideration.

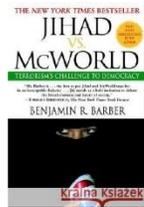
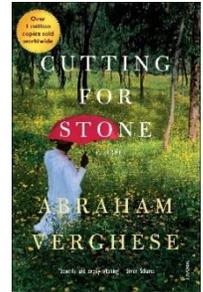
March 28th - *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese (fiction)

April 25th - *Jihad vs. McWorld: Terrorism's Challenge to Democracy* by Benjamin R. Barber (nonfiction)

Book Descriptions

March 28th *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese

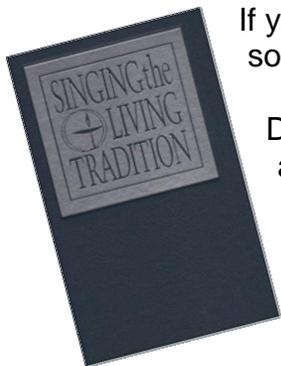
Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, *Cutting for Stone* is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles—and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined.



April 28th *Jihad vs. McWorld: Terrorism's Challenge to Democracy* by Benjamin R. Barber

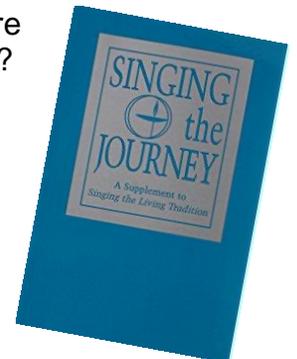
An elegant and illuminating analysis of the central conflict of our times: consumerist capitalism versus religious and tribal fundamentalism. These diametrically opposed but strangely intertwined forces are tearing apart--and bringing together--the world as we know it, undermining democracy and the nation-state on which it depends.

HYMNALS



If you receive a hymnal during a Sunday service, look around. Is there someone who didn't receive one who might want to share it with you?

Do you want to honor the memory of a loved one or friend? Place an order for a gray hymnal ("Singing the Living Tradition") or a teal hymnal ("Singing the Journey") to donate to the Fellowship and we will place a commemorative name plate on the inside to honor their memory. The gray hymnals cost \$32 and the teal hymnals cost \$18.



Please contact Chris in the office at office@uufcc.org to place your order and make sure to include the dedication you wish to place on the name plate. Thank you!

RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE, 2017-18 Myrna Charry, Chair

The Racial Justice Committee (RJC) this year accomplished many things. We read, and discussed “Waking Up White,” a book detailing a young white woman’s self-revelations about race and racism and her unknowing yet potent part in it.

We held a “Town Hall” type meeting for our congregation hoping that congregants would feel comfortable and safe enough to examine personal patterns of white racism and internalized racism (when targeted people sometimes believe the myths). That gathering drew about 30 congregants and the discussion was fruitful.

We held a congregational meeting after Rev. Amy delivered two sermons on racism. Again, we hoped that congregants would respond introspectively about racism and how it gets in the way of making meaningful connections with others. That gathering drew about 30 congregants and the discussion was rich.

In conjunction with the Blanchard House of African American History and Culture, we planned a film series on racism and showed “Crash,” “42,” “Two Towns of Jasper,” “I Am Not Your Negro.” Films were shown at the Mid County Public Library and more than 150 people attended. UU literature (including “UUA World” articles) was available. People completed a mailing list that will be used for future events. The discussion following each film demonstrated that people are interested in identifying and combating racism.

We collected “Racial Monologues” from varying sources and on March 5th a performance of “Racial Monologues” will be held at the Library. A booklet containing all monologues will be published and sold.

One of the main goals of the Racial Justice Committee this year was to connect with other faith groups and listen to other’s concerns as well as offer the UUA’s perspective (mainly offering our seven principles as a guide for connecting people.) We have begun to accomplish this aim with the film series and the Racial Monologues effort.

Finally, as per congregational approval, a new Black Lives Banner was hung (from the roof) and appears to have withstood vandalism.

ATTENTION ALL UU ARTISTS AND WOULD-BE ARTISTS

Hey Snowbirds: We know you hate to miss the Members' Art Show set for July and August, so please be sure to leave your contribution with a member of the Art Committee. That includes: Trudy Gerhardt, Debbie Conrad, Sally Milne, Marilyn Reeve. Display your painting or photography for us all to admire.

Bread and Wine

Thursday, March 29
4:30 - 4:50 pm in the sanctuary

The Greek origin for the word Eucharist, εὐχαριστία (eucharistia), means "thanksgiving." On this Thursday before Easter, friends and members of UUFCC who self-identify as liberal Christian or others who want to partake in the bread-breaking ritual from the faith of their childhood are invited to come together in a moment of remembrance.

Art on the Wall

The newest exhibit on our art wall will feature the work of five photographers from Charlotte Digital Art Photographers (CDAP). The group commonly known as the “Digiteers”, started in 2000 in order “to share new digital techniques while improving their general photography skills.” The art photographers exhibiting during the month of March are Paul Garrett, Tom Scott, Susan Sammis Goldson, Peggy Starks, and Mike Fortier.

Also featured will be multi-media artist Kathy Woods exhibiting small embellished boxes and assemblages.

A free opening reception with light refreshments will be held March 9, from 4pm to 6pm. All are welcome to attend. The Fellowship Gallery is open Monday through Thursday mornings.

*A Service of Fine
Jazz and Pizza
To celebrate the life of
Mary Louise Wolff*

1929, Des Moines, Iowa – 2018, Port Charlotte,
Florida

Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 4:00 pm

A time of meditation in the Peace Garden

There will be a pizza party in the church social hall after
the service.

Donations may be made to the Fellowship or your
favorite charity in Mary’s name.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon. ` Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26– Conversational Spanish Class 5:30 pm
 Wed., Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28– Knitting Group 10 am
 Thurs., Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29- Meditation 5 pm; Choir Practice 6:15 pm

- Mar. 2** Art on the Wall Set Up - 10 am; Men's Group - 2:30 pm
- 3** Yoga for Life 9 am
- 4** Youth Group 10:30 am; Peace Initiative Speaker Series 12:15 pm
- 6** Building Your Own Theology – Session 4 – 5:50 pm
- 7** Cakes for the Queen of Heaven Discussion Group - 2pm;
Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society – 7 pm
- 9** Art Reception – 4 pm; Karaoke Night – 5:30 pm; Café Serendipity – 7 pm
- 10** Chalice Circles – 2 pm; Patchouli Concert – 7:30 pm
- 11** Youth Group – 11:30 pm; Social Justice Committee 12 pm
- 13** NAMI Group – 6 pm
- 14** Caring & Hospitality 10 am; Facing Death with Life 1:30 pm; Worship Associates –
3:45 pm
- 15** Staff Meeting – 11 am; First ANT Camp meeting 12:30 pm
- 16** UUFCC Gaming Night – 6:30 pm
- 17** Celebration of Life: Mary Wolff – 4 pm
- 18** Mystical Experiences – 12 pm
- 19** Art Committee – 10 am
- 20** UUFCC Board Meeting – 7 pm; Sierra Club – 7 pm
- 21** Facing Death with Life – 1:30 pm
- 24** Chalice Circles – 2 pm; Meatless Meal – 5:30 pm
- 25** Annual Meeting – 12 pm
- 27** Building Your Own Theology – Session 5 – 5:30 pm
- 28** Art on the Wall Take Down 10 am; Book Group 1:30 pm, Healing Oasis – 6 pm

Save the Date

Unitarian Universalist First Annual Makers Fair - A Celebration of Arts and Crafts

Saturday, November 3, 2018 - 10am – 3pm