



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

APRIL 2018

Kindred Spirit



Birds have wild parties in the morning. I just know it.

With my first cup of tea cradled in my hands, I sat on the lanai in the darkness just before dawn one day last week. I listened to the messy chatter of birds at the Audubon Society protected lake near my house. Just when I thought I could discern the call of one bird, another belted a different chord. Talk about the languages of Babel! I don't know if they knew they weren't making sense to one another, if they cared, or if it was just me projecting judgement on what I was hearing. Nevertheless, as the old saying goes, the birds "sang" the sun up. The mass of diverse winged creatures soon flew away.

Later that afternoon, I was at a local consignment shop. Walking from one aisle to another, I noticed two petite older women looking down at a phone. It was in the hands of a tall younger woman who was moving her finger on the screen, saying, "You need to go to settings. Then, move here. Click on this and you are good to go." The young woman handed

the phone to one of the two women, the lady with white hair that was cut in a stylish bob.

"Thank you. That was so helpful," the older woman said. She put the phone in her purse and grabbed the young woman, who immediately stiffened, and exclaimed, "You have been so helpful. I spent 11 years in a wheel chair. Every day is a gift and now I hug people. I just have to hug you."

As the two older women left the store, I overheard the young woman say to the clerk behind the counter, "I feel like I have to go home and take a shower. Doesn't that woman know you don't hug strangers. You just don't hug strangers."

On my way to the car, I pondered the words the young woman repeated, and I asked myself, "Wow, when have I hugged someone, a total stranger, forgetting to ask if it was OK? While the older woman, the hugger, appeared to come from a place of kindness and joy, she put her personal desires ahead of those of another."

Human communication patterns are so complex. As a species, I guess we are not much different than the birds. We too relate to one another in disjointed ways.

May we be open to rethinking how we might learn to speak another's language of respect.
May we be open to the emergence of new perspectives.
May it be so.

Dear Ones



Happy New Year!

(UUFCC's fiscal year begins April 1st)

Our annual meeting was held after the service on Sunday, March 25th. At this meeting the 2018-19 operating budget was accepted and new leaders were elected.

I will continue as the President of the Board of Trustees for one more year.

Joseph Fenty, the Board's Secretary, also has one more year in his term. Don Liermann was elected Vice President and Nancy Weaver is our new Treasurer. Our newly elected trustees include Marion Menna, Alice Clattenburg, Herb Levin (for a second two-year term) and Gudrun Matthaus. Jennifer Rose will complete her first term next year.

Three new members were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. They are Debbie Conrad, Robert Moran, and Mary Jane Williams. They join incumbents Judy Fincher and Helen Sokalski.

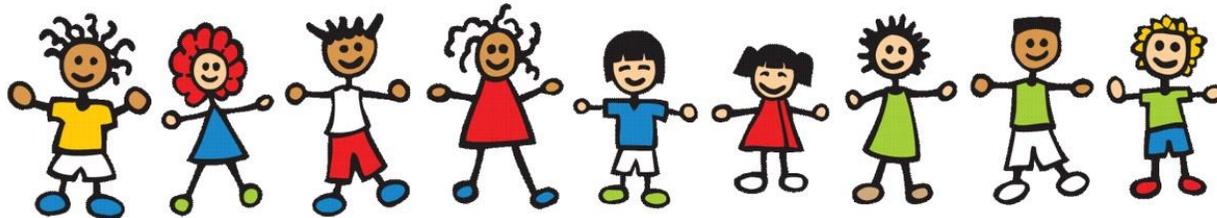
Three delegates to the UUA General Assembly were also elected. They are Sharon Whitehill, Mary Jane Williams, and Lynn Ritchie.

I express my deepest gratitude and affection to the folks who have retired from positions of leadership. 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 UUFCC's Treasurer. Delmar Wooden, thank you for serving as a trustee for the past two years.

Additionally, I welcome Jennifer Rose into her new role as Children's Religious Education Team Coordinator. Jennifer will need our support as she recruits folks to serve as RE teachers for our young children.

Lynn Richie has agreed to serve as our new Membership Coordinator. She will also need our volunteer support.

Finally, I want to remind you that I will be directing this summer's ANT CAMP beginning June 11th. This is the third year for this delightful program for 4 through 11-year-olds. The focus is on art, nature and theatrical experiences. Lots of volunteers are needed. Talk to me about participating.



In faith,
Dennis Shaw, President
UUFCC Board of Trustees

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 emergence?



April 1 "Flower Communion" - The Rev. Amy Kindred
 Bring a flower and take a different one home! Unique to Unitarian Universalism, this is an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the United States by Rev. Maya Capek, Norbert's widow.

April 8 "Appraising the UUA" – Ginger Abraham

What is the Commission on Appraisal (CoA) and how does it serve the UUA? One of our members, Ginger Abraham, serves on the CoA and will share a brief history and how they need our help right now.

April 15 "Living in the Presence of Mystery" - The Rev. Larry Green

What courage is called for in facing life without absolute certainty? A part of our human struggle is to live with self-confidence, hope and love in the presence of the ultimate mystery of our lives and our times.

April 22 "Science and Spirituality" - The Rev. Amy Kindred

Dr. Nick Bostrom writes, "Human beings are a marvel of evolved complexity. Although great strides have been made in the biological sciences, most of this complexity still remains to be unraveled." What is the significance of science and its ability to offer limited answers and how does spirituality remain relevant?

April 29 "What is the Emotional Price of a Plugged in Life?" - The Rev. Amy Kindred

Recent studies reveal technology offers a mixed bag of both blessing and bother. How do we enrich our human relationships, provide harmony in the family and maintain good health when a cell phone or computer offers countless distractions?





Religious Education

This month in RE, we say goodbye to Marty Wilmer. She will definitely be missed! She brought our program deeper into our UU principles by creating a beautiful space to learn, converse, and play with one another. Many thanks go out to her and to everyone who shared their time and stories with our children. Also, I would like to thank the individuals that have helped with donations of every sort. Now we have great storage available to organize our supplies.

It is with great honor and appreciation that I will be leading our RE program for one year. I will not be alone. Several members and friends have volunteered to work together as a team to continue to create a “Spiritual Home” designed to evolve with our youth, our teens, and their families.

For April we have planned an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday the 1st. It will take place after the service and potluck. There is no RE scheduled for this day but if there are children who would like to color eggs they will have the opportunity to do so. Childcare will be available. Also, this month, we will share stories about Pete Seeger and Norbert Capek. Our youth group continues to meet twice a month with Sharon Goding and Elizabeth Clark unless notified otherwise.



Happy April and thank you. I look forward to serving our children.

Kindly,
Jennifer Rose
Children’s Religious Education Team Coordinator.

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

April Birthday Shout Outs to:

Joanne Schmalder 4/1
Lorrie Douglas 4/8
Joan Bollinger 4/13
Dennis Shaw 4/14
Miles Williams 4/17
Jim Boyle 4/22
Roberta (Bobbie) Cole 4/25
Alice Clattenberg 4/27



A Note from The Membership Coordinator



UUFCC finds itself in the recurring process of transition as spring blooms all around us. We welcome a new season, new fiscal year, new leaders, staff, and connections. Our dynamic Fellowship is revising our mission statement and reaffirming our goals. And as has been our tradition, we will continue to welcome new friends, families, and members. I am delighted to be assuming the role of membership coordinator.

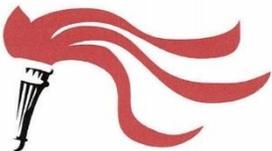
Opportunities to become involved abound in this place. Activities, committees, religious education, social justice work, and creative expression through music and the arts, these can all be found here. It should not be too difficult for you to find a place where you can share your talents and gifts and feel as if you belong.

My heartfelt thanks to Joani Mountain who preceded me in this position and personally welcomed me into this congregation. I could ask for no better role model or mentor. I wish you well as you proceed along your life journey.

Look for me most Sunday mornings, socializing near the Welcome Desk. I am open to your questions and concerns, and will be relying on your support. To this end I have set up a specific email to maintain contact: uufcc.connection@gmail.com.

I'm beginning to plan a New to UU Breakfast on May 19th. Let me know if you are interested in attending.

In gratitude,
Lynn Ritchie



The Unitarian Universalist Endowment (UUE) of Charlotte County – A Legacy Giving Thank You

On Monday April 9th, the UUE Trustees will be hosting a special reception for members of the UU Endowment Society. Endowment Society members are those who have made financial contributions to the UUE Trust in memory of deceased UUFCC members, family and friends, and in honor of loved ones still living. Society members also include those who contribute simply because of their belief in the Endowment as an effective vehicle to promote UUism and our Fellowship.

This reception is a thank you for the generosity that has made the Trust Fund a financial success. The reception, which will be held at South Port Square, will include UUFCC Board members and provides an opportunity for donors to meet, mingle and hear about our investments, initiatives, and future plans. Invitees are requested to RSVP to Stephanie Garrett by April 4th.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has initiated a "Wake Now Our Vision Program" which will allow a 10% match up to \$10,000 from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock to a designated UU congregation(s) in your will or trust. Think of it as a living legacy...no need to die just yet for us to benefit. A brochure has been posted on the social bulletin board, can be copied and returned. The UUA contact is Laura Randall, (617) 948-6511, email Lrandall@uua.org.

Mary Wolff and Delight TePaske, long term members of this Fellowship and close friends, passed within a few weeks of each other. They will be greatly missed.

Thank you for donations to the UUE received from:

Bob and Sue Taylor - "in honor of good friends who have passed away in 2017"
Nancy Weaver - in honor of William Geuder

With gratitude,
Endowment Trustees
Mary Holly Allison, Stephanie Garrett, Don Lierman, Robert Hansman, Delmar Wooden

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Hispanic American Citizens' Council and the UUFCC Immigration Justice Committee, are co-sponsoring a panel discussion regarding current immigration policies and their impact on SW Florida. The gathering will be held in our Sanctuary on Tues. April 10 at 6:30 PM.

Joining the UUA and UUSC National "Love Resist" campaign, the purpose of this event is to offer factual information regarding current immigration issues, and, in particular, to examine the impending changes in DACA (Dreamers Act) and TPS (Temporary Protective Status). Changes in these programs will impact not only immigrants but also local businesses such as health care, agriculture, education and construction whose workforce is comprise to a large extent on immigrant workers.

We affirm that American society is founded on the core values of welcoming immigrants. People who have moved here to better their lives are woven into the fabric of our county – they are heavily represented in the service, construction and agriculture industries of SW Florida. Threatened by impending deportations that will divide and wreak havoc on families, new immigration policies also will cause many businesses to lose valuable workers and consequently revenue. The panel will include speakers from local churches and organizations and the business and the legal world. The public is invited to join this free event.

Information: Betty Barriga: b0007boop@aol.com

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

Lynn Ritchie, Membership Coordinator, uufcc.connection@gmail.com.

Ginger Abraham, Newsletter Editor, newsletter@uufcc.org

Article Deadline: 20th of the month

Myrna Charry, Communications Chair, mcharry@earthlink.net

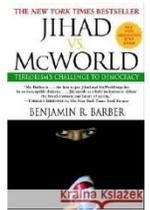
UU Book Group

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 Mary Jane Williams maryjanewms@comcast.net

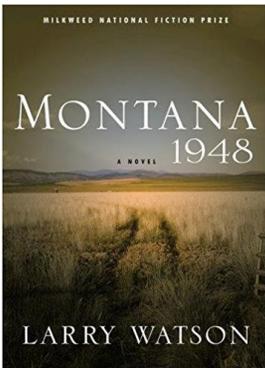
All are welcome and suggestions for future discussions are welcome. Please keep in mind that we try to keep the price down for books that need to be purchased by discussion participants. The availability of inexpensive used copies is frequently a consideration.

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.



May 30 *Montana 1948* by Larry Watson (fiction)



“From the summer of my twelfth year I carry a series of images more vivid and lasting than any others of my boyhood and indelible beyond all attempts the years make to erase or fade them.” So begins David Hayden’s story of what happened in Montana in 1948. The events of that cataclysmic summer permanently alter twelve-year-old David’s understanding of his family: his father, a small-town sheriff; his remarkably strong mother; David’s uncle Frank, a war hero and respected doctor; and the Haydens’ Sioux housekeeper, Marie Little Soldier, whose revelations turn the family’s life upside down as she relates how Frank has been molesting his female Indian patients. As their story unravels around David, he learns that truth is not what one believes it to be, that power is abused, and that sometimes one has to choose between family loyalty and justice.

Library News

Thanks to the many members and friends of UUFCC who have donated many books over the past few months. A special thank you to Debbie Conrad, Mary Holly Allison, Nyna and Aubrey Sykes, Rev. Amy, George Clattenburg, Mary Lou Proudfoot Kennedy and Ken Brennen who donated new books from the recent book sale at UUFCC. The following five books are presently on the new book shelf and available for checkout.

Ocean of Stories: Hindu Wisdom for Every Age call no. **294.543**

Harmony: A Treasury of Chinese Wisdom for Children and Parents call no. **299.51**

Ayat Jamilah: Beautiful Signs; A treasury of Islamic wisdom for children and parents call no. **297.18**

Kindness: A Treasury of Buddhist Wisdom for Children and Parents call no. **294.38 C75**

A Documentary History of Unitarian Universalism Volume Two, from 1900 to the present call no. **289.13 M47 v.2**

To check out a book from the library, please remove the title card from the pocket in the back of the book and write your name on the card and the date that you are taking the book. Place it in the blue card box on the far-left shelves. There is no specific time limit on checked out materials but if someone requests it you may be contacted to return it. Returns, materials for re-shelving and donations should all be placed on a bottom shelf. That way they will be processed quickly and available to everyone in a timely manner.

If you have any trouble locating materials in the library please contact Mary Jane Williams maryjanewms@comcast.net or Debbie Conrad debbieconrad4@gmail.com for help.

April Exhibit UUFCC Gallery

During the month of April there will be an exhibition of work by artist Judy Cowan Lee and photographer Earl J. Lang at the Fellowship.

Lee is an accomplished artist, illustrator and children's art teacher. Among her new work she has used acrylics to reflect on her experiences traveling with Mr. Lang to Argentina and Ireland.

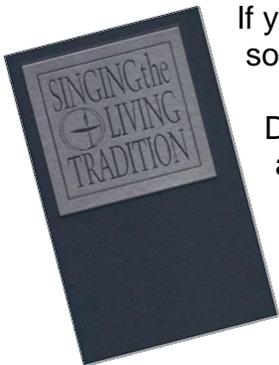
Lang's photographs are also images of their adventures. He has honed his skills with the camera over the last 60 years. He enjoys sharing the beauty of our local natural scenes as well as his travels.



Also exhibiting will be John Christian, potter and mixed media artist from Englewood. His pottery uses handmade glazes of his own formulations, and his work is influenced by the natural world. Decorative tole painted objects by Alice Clattenburg will also be exhibited.

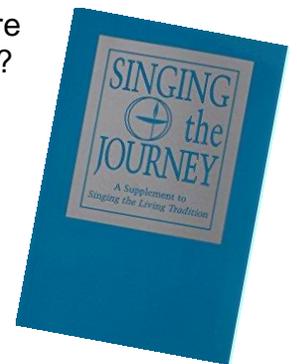
The public is invited to meet these diverse artists at an opening reception Friday, April 6th from 4pm to 6pm.

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!

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon., April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30– Conversational Spanish Class 5:30 pm

Wed., Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25– Knitting Group 10 am

Thurs., April 5, 12, 19, 26- Meditation 5 pm; Choir Practice 6:15 pm

Fri., April 6, 13, 20, 27 and Sat., April 7, 14, 21, 28 – Beloved Conversations

- April 4** Worship Committee 12:30 pm Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7. pm
- 5** Immigration Justice Committee Meeting 5 pm
- 6** Art Reception 4 pm
- 7** Yoga for Life 9 am
- 10** NAMI Group 6 pm Immigration Justice Panel 6:30 pm (see p. 6)
- 11** Caring and Hospitality Committee 10 am
- 13** Karaoke Night 5:30 pm Café Serendipity 7 pm
- 14** Chalice Circles 2 pm
- 15** Mystical Experiences 12 pm Racial Justice Committee 12 pm
- 16** Art Committee 10 am
- 17** UUFCC Board Meeting 7 pm Sierra Club 7 pm
- 20** UUFCC Gaming Night 6:30 pm
- 21** Yoga for Life 9 am Celebration of Life: Mary Wolff and Delight TePaske 5 pm
- 25** Book Group 1:30 pm Healing Oasis 6 pm
- 26** Staff Meeting 11 am
- 27** UUFCC Yard Sale 8 am
- 28** Chalice Circles 2 pm McCoy Baby Shower 2 pm Meatless Meal 5:30 pm
- 30** Art Take Down 10 am