



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

FEBRUARY 2019

Dear Ones



It is official. UUFCC is 50 years old and thriving! Our celebrations included a service honoring our ancestors on January 6th and an amazing dinner and dance party the following Saturday evening. Thanks to all of you who made this a celebration to remember.

The Finance, Stewardship and Nominating Committees are busy preparing for our annual business meeting which will be held after the service on Sunday, March 31st. During February you will receive a packet of information regarding our annual Operating Campaign, "50 Years and Thriving!". Pledge cards will be enclosed.

Your board continues to tackle significant building maintenance issues. The latest project is replacing the sanctuary fixtures with dimmable LEDs. The cost of this project is less than we spent during the last year on electrical repairs. It is a smart move!

I have been informed by the Ministerial Search Task Force that they are beginning interviews. When the Task Force decides on a candidate, they will present him or her to the Board for approval. Once accepted, the candidate and Fellowship's Board of Trustees enter into a one-or-two-year contract. After two years, the congregation may call the "contracted minister" and he/she will be our "settled" minister. Again, this was the process we used to find and employ Rev. Amy Kindred.

UUFCC has a very strong Board of Trustees and most of us are willing to serve for another year. This should provide continuity until our new minister gets settled.

I was appointed to the presidency by Board request in November 2015, completing the second year of MaryHolly Allison's second term. In 2016, I was elected for a two-year term ending in 2018. Last year I was elected to a one-year term based on my length of service (29 months). At its January meeting, the Board unanimously determined that based on our bylaws, I can be elected for one more year and I will run. Don Liermann (Vice President), Nancy Weaver (Treasurer) and Trustees Alice Clattenburg, Jennifer Rose, Gudrun Matthaus, Herb Levin and Marion Menna have one more year in their terms. Joseph Fenty is completing his first two-year term and may run again.

We will also need to elect two members to the Nominating Committee and delegates to General Assembly.

Finally, if you are able, please park at the library or on our northside yard on Sunday mornings. It's the peak of season and it is going to be a very busy winter.

In faith and gratitude,

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

Meditation and Buddhist Discussion Group

Thursday nights, 5 - 6:00 pm

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

Sunday Services

Feb. 3 - Shut Up and Dribble

Athletes have always enjoyed a privileged place in society. But what happens when they turn their public platform into a fulcrum for social change? Suddenly they're reviled and shunned, rebuked and scorned, and many find themselves without a livelihood. When Laura Ingraham suggested that LeBron James "shut up and dribble," she echoed a sentiment long held by too large a portion of society, that athletes should be seen and not heard.

James M. Abraham



Feb. 10 - The Life and Thoughts of Ida B. Wells-Barnett

Rev. Larry Green

Ida B. Wells-Barnett was a journalist and civil rights leader. This pioneering anti-lynching crusader gives us lessons of courage, creativity and compassion for our own lives and times.

Feb. 17 - The Little Town that Unity Built

Martha Bireda

The years after Emancipation and Reconstruction were very difficult ones for newly freed African Americans. After Reconstruction Black Codes were enacted to economically, politically, and socially control African Americans. Punta Gorda began as a frontier town including 15 men, 8 whites and 7 blacks. Unlike other surrounding towns, i.e., Fort Myers and Arcadia, etc., these men were able to work together to create a thriving community for both blacks and whites.



Feb. 24 - TBA

UU Guest Minister – The Rev. Gilbert Friend-Jones

A Note from the Membership Coordinator

Lynn Ritchie

UUFCC is continuing the journey forward set in motion by our Fellowship's founders 50 years ago. Our president honored our "ancestors" at January's first Sunday service, and our Board invited us to celebrate our anniversary with a catered meal and dance party. And what a CELEBRATION it was! Thank you to all those who participated and especially those who made it happen, with a special shout out to our resident DJ Katy (Brown) and her partner DJ Lee who got us up on our happy feet and kept us dancing!



Our guest speaker on January 13, Sister Maureen Kelleher, packed our Sunday morning seats to overflow. Her powerful message in support of immigrants and refugees was a direct call for us to act on our first principle, defending the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

I have rescheduled the next Who are UU Breakfast? on Saturday, February 23. These breakfasts offer a small group venue to meet Fellowship members and learn about the many groups, activities, and committees that happen within our community. I invite not just newcomers, but also those of you who wish to reconnect with the Fellowship, to join in and participate. ALL are welcome, but I will need your RSVP to plan for some yummy food. Watch for reminders in the weekly updates.

Together, we continue our UU tradition.

Namaste,
Lynn Ritchie

Ministerial Search Task Force Update

Good news from the Ministerial Search Task Force! We have had several ministers show interest in the position. We are now in the process of setting up video conference interviews, contacting references and listening to podcasts or watching videos of these ministers in the pulpit. Although we can't divulge specific information about the possible candidates, please contact any members if you have questions.

Ministerial Search Task Force Members

Ginger Abraham gm54uu@gmail.com 941-204-4067
 Sue Burgess suea222@yahoo.com 941-235-2150
 Joseph Fenty jmfenty@gmail.com 941-286-7876
 Linda Himes himes.music@comcast.net 941-456-0163
 Gudrun Matthaus gmatthaus@gmail.com 941-286-7503
 Robert Moran robertmoran70@gmail.com 941-380-8648
 Mary Jane Williams maryjanewms@comcast.net 941-223-4739

UU Endowment Purpose

During the current fiscal year, the Unitarian Universalist Endowment Charlotte County (UUE) has provided financial support for the celebration of life of eight of our beloved members. This is one of the purposes of the UUE as stated in our by-laws.

Contributions from UUFCC members, friends, family and community at large are invested in a trust fund managed by the UUA in Boston and insure the continuation of this support to honor and memorialize members of our spiritual family. Contributors become members of the UUE Society which meets annually in April.

Thank you for the following donation:

In memory of the Rev. George Brooks, Minister Emeritus UUFCC - Myrna Charry

UUE Trustees:

Kenneth Brennen, Stephanie Garrett, Mary Howard, Jack Osbourne, Delmar Wooden

Racial Justice Committee

The Racial Justice Committee will again hold two events this winter. To celebrate Black History Month, there will be a film series held at the Mid-County Library each Monday evening in February. Put those dates in your calendar. The theme will be Let's Talk About Race. The films to be shown are:



February 4 – “Hidden Figures”
 February 11 – “Brother Outsider:
 The Bayard Rustin Story”
 February 18 – “The Rosa Parks Story”
 February 26 – “Whose Streets?”



Racial Monologues will also be featured following the film series. This year they will be performed on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at the Fellowship. To be successful, we need your participation and that of others outside our community; talk with friends and neighbors about their experiences, take down stories of those not willing to write but more comfortable dictating them. There is an Information and Brainstorming Sheet on the Fellowship website. If you recall, submissions and performances of the monologues are **completely anonymous**. There are opportunities to write your story of experiences with race, to help with editing and in production/performance. **Submission Deadline is February 17, 2019 to r.m.uufcc@gmail.com**. For more information see Kay Azar or Samara Michaelson.

Immigration Justice

Sister Maureen Kelleher, immigration lawyer and defender of immigrants' rights, issued a "call to action" on Sunday, January 13, 10:30 AM, to more than 140 people assembled at our Fellowship. She documented the injustices particularly heaped on people from Latin America who desperately leave their homes in search of better lives.

Representatives from the local Indivisible organization, the Hispanic American Citizens Council, the Hispanic Caucus of the Democratic Party, the Spanish American Council and Temple Beth-El, Punta Gorda, were all present at this historic talk.

After receiving a standing ovation, the sister participated in a meeting called by the Immigration Justice Committee (IJC) of the UUFCC. Two activities were planned:

1. Letter and Postcard writing to elected representatives was planned for Wednesday, January 30th, 5:30-6:30 PM.
2. Intensive Immigration Certification training with Sister Maureen Kelleher will begin February 4th, 1-3 PM.



Immigration Justice Group – Photograph by Jeffrey Petit-Frere

All activities to be held at the UUFCC, 1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd. in Port Charlotte.

The IJC meets on the first and the third Wednesday of each month at 5 pm at the Fellowship. All are welcome.

For more information, b007boop@aol.com

Social Justice Committee Announces Speaker Series

The Peace Initiative Speaker Series, sponsored by the Social Justice Committee, continues after its kick-off on January 6. Dedicated to broadening our horizons and enhancing our understanding of different aspects of our society, this annual three-speaker series occurs right after the potlucks of January, February and March. The upcoming speakers in the series are:

Feb. 3 - Christian Ghering, an acknowledged expert on human trafficking.

March 3 - Sabrina Salovitz, a major participant in the anti-gun demonstrations of last year.

Social Justice hopes you will reserve time after the potlucks on these dates to hear the speakers. Their presentations are free and open to the public.



Celebration Dinner and Service Auction

- **When:** Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County
- **What:** The 6th annual service auction benefitting the Fellowship and celebrating our community. The tapas style dinner will be followed by the auction - fun and entertaining for all!
- Note: there will be vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options available.
- Tickets will be \$10.00 and include dinner and a drink.
- Tickets now available after the service and on-line at uufcc.net.
- An email has been sent to all members describing how to access the 2019 auction website. Check your email for this.
- There will be both a silent and live auction.



Need some ideas? How about this, "Imagine, if you will, yourself sitting on an expansive lawn being served wine and cheese while you watch me wash your car." Be creative. Are you able to babysit? Paint a fence? Make a dinner, your home or theirs? You have many talents, show them off by offering them at the auction. What do you do or make best? Offer a yule log for Christmas or kuchen. What can you offer? The sky's the limit. You can use the auction website (uufcc.net) to sign up.

Volunteers are always needed. There are lots of opportunities to help, especially for food prep and set-up. See the sign-up sheet on the wall in the entry way or contact Kay Azar (574-360-9186) or (kayazar1@gmail.com). There will also be a link on the fellowship website.

A Mutually Beneficial Fundraiser



The Fellowship has again agreed to hold a mutually beneficial fundraiser that will benefit both the Fellowship and the Charlotte County Jazz Society (CCJS). We held a similar fundraiser with the Society last year that resulted in the CCJS increasing their annual membership by six people and raising about \$150.00 for the Fellowship.

CCJS normally sell tickets for individual concerts at \$20.00 each. This year, CCJS is allotting us up to 40 tickets for their March concert that we will purchase for \$10.00 each. Since we sell tickets for \$15.00 each, our ticket sales will yield \$5.00 per ticket sold for the Fellowship. The real benefit for CCJS is that we will be exposing members of the Fellowship (and perhaps friends of Fellowship members) to the quality of music and the economies of having a yearly membership in CCJS.

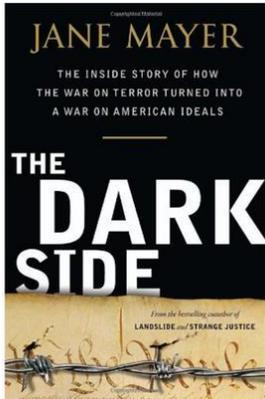
The CCJS sponsors seven monthly concerts at the Charlotte County Cultural Center beginning in October and ending in April. Each concert presents a different group of musicians, all of whom have established long careers for themselves in the field of jazz themed music. Annual membership in the CCJS is only \$50.00/person which is **less than \$7.50 per concert**. In addition to the seven monthly concerts, membership also provides for FREE admission to monthly jam sessions by local musicians that are usually held at a local golf club on a Sunday afternoon prior to the monthly concert.

The Fellowship will be selling tickets to the CCJS's March 11th concert for \$15.00 each in late February and more information will be forthcoming at that time. Please consider joining the 14 members of the Fellowship who are currently members of the CCJS and enjoy an evening of memorable music by established musicians.

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.



The book selection for the February 27 meeting is *The Dark Side* by Jane Mayer (nonfiction). This is a dramatic, riveting, and definitive narrative account of how the United States made self-destructive decisions in the pursuit of terrorists around the world—decisions that not only violated the Constitution, but also hampered the pursuit of Al Qaeda. In spellbinding detail, Jane Mayer relates the impact of these decisions by which key players, namely Vice President Dick Cheney and his powerful, secretive adviser David Addington, exploited September 11 to further a long-held agenda to enhance presidential powers to a degree never known in U.S. history, and obliterate Constitutional protections that define the very essence of the American experiment.

Conscious Dance

Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 at UUFCC
Feb. 5 & 19, March 5 & 19, April 2 & 16

Have **fun** and dance your heart out! Conscious Dance is a mindful movement practice where you listen to your inner voice and move from the wisdom of your body, accompanied by dynamic and varied music. There are no steps to learn



and no right or wrong movements; simply the chance to move freely. Samara will provide guidance to assist everyone to find their groove. Join us as we create a safe, sacred and play-filled space to connect with your emotions and spirit. This class will guide you to fully engage both your physical and emotional self as you get looser, stronger and smarter as you **dance, dance, dance**.

Samara Michaelson has been teaching dance and yoga for over 30 years. She is a compassionate, inspiring and innovative teacher. From kids to Seniors, Samara loves to share her love of movement on the dance floor, on the streets... really just everywhere. Contact: samaramich@gmail.com or 304.520.1501 call or text

Thrive MOVE Express

\$5 love donation to the UU suggested

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays – Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Conversational Spanish 5 pm
Thursdays –Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 - Meditation 5 pm, Choir Practice 6:00

- Feb. 2** Yoga for Life 9 am
 Happiness is an Inside Job 10 am
 Ministerial Search Task Force 10 am
- 3** Peace Initiative Speaker 12 pm (see p. 5)
- 5** Conscious Dance 4:30 pm (see p. 7)
- 9** Ministerial Search Task Force 10 am
 Service Auction Set Up 12 pm
 Chalice Circles 2 pm
 UUFCC Service Auction 5 pm
- 12** NAMI Group 7 pm
- 13** Caring and Hospitality 10 am
- 15** UUFCC Gaming Night
- 16** Yoga for Life 9 am
- 17** Art Committee 12 pm
- 19** Conscious Dance 4:30 pm (see p. 7)
 UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
 Sierra Club 7 pm
- 20** Worship Committee 4 pm
 Immigration Justice 5 pm
- 23** Who Are UU? Breakfast 9 am
 Ministerial Search Task Force 10 am
 Racial Monologue Auditions 12 pm
 Chalice Circles 2 pm
 Meatless Meal 5:30 pm
- 24** Q & A with Rev. Hurto 12 pm
- 27** Art on the Wall Takedown 10 am
 Book Group 1:30 pm
 Healing Oasis 6 pm



Peg Stunkard	2/1
Stephanie Garrett	2/2
Jim Kellar	2/3
Helen Sokalski	2/5
Sarah Raines	2/9
Que Burgess	2/14
Joan Osbourne	2/21
Herb Levin	2/21
Mona Azar Johnson	2/23

If you would like to be included on the monthly birthday shout out listing, contact Stephanie Garrett at garwalsr@gmail.com