



# NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

*A spiritual home where religion and reason meet*

MAY/JUNE 2019



## Dear Ones

During our annual meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>, UUFCC members elected several new members to the Board of Trustees. I was re-elected as president for one more year. Don Liermann will continue as vice president and Herb Levin was elected to serve as secretary. Nancy Weaver will continue as treasurer and Gudrun Matthaus, Marion Menna and Alice Clattenburg will complete the second year of their two-year terms. You elected two new trustees, Mary Lou Kennedy and Helen Sokalski. Also at the congregational meeting we decided to continue to fly the "Black Lives Matter" banner indefinitely. This will eliminate the need to vote on the issue annually. Your new Board met for the first time on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was a very good start to UUFCC's 2019-20 fiscal and administrative year.

Our annual operating fund pledge drive, "Fifty Years and Thriving", continues. If you still haven't made a pledge, please complete the form and put it in the blue bowl next to the office door. Extra copies of the form are next to the bowl or you can request an email copy from Chris McCoy in the Fellowship's office. The bylaws require all members to make a contribution of record each year.

By now, most of the snowbirds have flown north and we, the year-rounders, are looking forward to summer programs and events. I am especially excited to direct this year's ANT ✿CAMP. Camp runs from June 10 through the 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm. Campers from ages four through eleven will experience a week of art, music, dance, drama, yoga, poetry, puppetry, and nature-based projects. The cost is \$25 for the week and scholarships are available. The campers will bring their lunches and we will provide two snacks. Of course, ANT ✿CAMP isn't just for kids. We need lots of adult volunteers to teach and serve as counselors. Registration forms for the children and volunteers are hanging on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Another highlight of the summer is the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly which will be held in Spokane, Washington from June 19<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our representatives are Ginger Abraham, Laura Anderson, and Mary Jane Williams (off site representative). Of course, we all can participate on-line.

Current members of the Nominating Committee are Debbie Conrad, Robert Moran, Mary Jane Williams, Linda Quinn and Helen Sokalski. If you are interested in becoming a UUFCC leader, these are the folks to talk to.

Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to John Lee, Christine Joy and all the folks that attended the April 14<sup>th</sup> service. You made my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday a milestone that I will always remember.

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

### May

#### May 5 - "Humor, Humility, and Joy: Letting Laughter Loose"

Dr. Frances Auld

Everyone has heard that "Laughter is the best medicine." What can laughter do for our brains, our immune system, and our outlook on life? We won't find out until we have the humility to chuckle at ourselves.

#### May 12 - "The Gospel of Inclusion"

Rev. Allison Farnum

We will revel in the good news of our Universalist ancestors and the good news we can continue to live into - the gospel of inclusion! We will also make space to honor mother forces in our lives and how to mother a more inclusive world into being. Rev. Allison Farnum is the minister at our sister congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers, where she has proudly served since 2008.

#### May 19 - "Shall We Take a Closer Look?"

The Reverend Margaret L. Beard

At the 1985 UUA General Assembly representatives from our congregations voted to affirm our Unitarian Universalist Principles. They are not a creed but a consensual statement of values and goals on which we can generally agree. Let us look at some other ways to explore them that will allow us to mine deeper meaning.

**May 26** – The speaker will be Vielka Wambold, president of the Charlotte County Democratic Hispanic Caucus of Florida. She has been active in protests at the Homestead Detention Center, the first for profit center of its kind, where thousands of immigrant children are being held.



### June

#### June 2 - "Fostering the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards"

Becky Facer of CHEC

Environmentalist Baba Dioum said "In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught." What are we teaching the youth of today to value?

#### June 9 - "From Strangers to Friends"

Samara Michaelson

Transforming ourselves from strangers, "a person whom one does not know" to friends "one with whom we have a bond of mutual affection" is a joyous and spiritual practice, yet sometimes we just don't know how, or we're shy, or \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in your own obstacle!). Let us enhance our friendships here together.

#### June 16 - What I Learned at ANT ✨CAMP

Dennis Shaw

The focus will be on the previous week's ANT CAMP (June 10 - 14). Both children and adults will share the highlights of UUFCC's fourth annual children's art and nature week. Elements of the service will include stories, poetry, art, dance, yoga, music, nature projects and maybe a puppet or two. Come and celebrate!

#### June 23 - "Initial Dispatches from 'The Power of We' "

The Reverend Margaret L. Beard

On this final Sunday of our UUA General Assembly held in Spokane, WA we will focus on "The Power of We". The closing worship service at GA will be 3 hours after most services on the east coast so live streaming of that event will not be possible. However, from the world of serving as an off-site delegate, there will be news to share about what happened and what might be possible in our shared future.

**June 30** – The speaker will be Maria Lara of the Hispanic American Council of Charlotte County. She is a local lawyer who specializes in immigration issues.

## A Note from the Membership Coordinator

Lynn Ritchie



Spring is alive and well here in Southwest Florida. The greenery becoming more lush and full, flowers in bloom, mating calls and hatchlings abound. And instead of feeling small and insignificant amid all this grandeur, I am thankful to feel that I am a thriving part of this incredible living ecosystem.

Seasonal changes are taking hold in our Fellowship too. Our snowbirds are off to other habitats, and our core community is preparing for summer's heat, humidity, and unpredictable storms. A Yard Sale, ANT Camp, ongoing preparation of worship services by our dedicated associates; the work continues... but at a bit more leisurely pace.

May all your journeys be safe and restorative and in tune with our natural world and personal biorhythms. I treasure being a part of this community, and whether I see you sooner or later; be well and have a wonderful summer.

Namaste,  
Lynn

## Immigration Justice

Betty Barriga

The UUFCC Immigration Justice Committee (IJC) has been busy! In early April, we held a fundraiser at Visani's Comedy Club and raised \$240.00. Thank you to everyone who supported our work and came to this fundraiser evening. This money, in addition to the allotted money from the Board, will pay for more "Welcome All" lawn signs, film discs (with copyright) for next season's November film series at the library, and supplies for our beginning citizenship application assistance program.

Partnering with like-minded groups in Charlotte County has become a priority of the Immigration Justice Committee. We have joined the Hispanic American Citizens of Charlotte County (HACCC) and with them are promoting and executing English as a Second Language training classes for future tutors. Two groups will soon complete the required 12-hour training classes and some volunteers are already at work with assigned learners. Certificates of completion were awarded on April 24<sup>th</sup> to all the volunteers who completed this training.

In addition, the IJC has engaged Sister Kelleher to begin training volunteers to assist documented non-citizens who want to move toward citizenship. Training will take place at the Fellowship on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The Sister is a retired attorney who spent more than 30 years in Immokalee counseling and representing immigrants and workers in that community (and on a pro bono basis). Once we have a group of trained volunteers, we will begin to work with clients and help move them toward citizenship. The summer meeting schedule for the IJC is: May 1<sup>st</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup>, no meetings in July, August 7<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup>. Meetings are from 5PM – 6 PM at the Fellowship. All are welcomed.

Finally, we wish our chair, Betty Barriga *bon voyage* as she leaves with her mother to spend three months in her beloved homeland of Ecuador.

# Ministerial Search Task Force Update

---

The Ministerial Search Task Force is still working hard on your behalf to find the best minister “out there” and bring them “in here”. We have developed an advertisement which will appear in the Spring edition of UUWorld magazine. At least 2 of our members will be attending General Assembly in late June and will be networking for viable candidates if the position has not been filled by then. As the search process continues, we will likely receive new candidates to review. We have one new one that we are reviewing now and will in all likelihood receive more applicants in the days to come. Please be assured, we take our mandate seriously and are doing our best on behalf of UUFCC.

The members of the search committee are more than willing to discuss the process with you at any time. Please feel free to contact us with any cares or concerns.

Ginger Abraham	<a href="mailto:gm54uu@gmail.com">gm54uu@gmail.com</a>	941-204-4067
Sue Burgess	<a href="mailto:suea222@yahoo.com">suea222@yahoo.com</a>	941-235-2150
Joseph Fenty	<a href="mailto:jmfenty@gmail.com">jmfenty@gmail.com</a>	941-286-7876
Linda Himes	<a href="mailto:himes.music@comcast.net">himes.music@comcast.net</a>	941-456-0163
Gudrun Matthaues	<a href="mailto:gmatthaues@gmail.com">gmatthaues@gmail.com</a>	941-286-7503
Robert Moran	<a href="mailto:robertmoran70@gmail.com">robertmoran70@gmail.com</a>	941-380-8648
Mary Jane Williams	<a href="mailto:maryjanewms@comcast.net">maryjanewms@comcast.net</a>	941-223-4739

## UUE News

---

The Unitarian Universalist Endowment Society of Charlotte County Florida (UUE) held its annual meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> at South Port Square. UUE Society members are UUFCC members and friends who have made financial contributions in honor or in memory of those who have passed or in support of Endowment objectives.

An overview of the UUE Trustees year-long turnover from the leadership of Mary Holly Allison and Robert Hansman to a new five-person trustee board was provided by Stephanie Garrett. This included financial authorization signature changes, the assignment of specific duties among the new trustees recently elected at the UUFCC annual meeting and a focus on written policies and procedures which are in the developmental stages. Handouts included the UUE Annual report and a Q & A brochure, and the form to be submitted for financial requests from the UUE. The latter is to be submitted to the UUFCC board for endorsement prior to being forwarded to the UUE for consideration.

Trustee Jack Osbourne summarized our current financial status which remains healthy given the level of our support of the Fellowship operating budget during the last fiscal year, which is not a primary purpose of Endowment funds. It was emphasized that UUE objectives are always about growth of the denomination, membership expansion and providing for religious and social influence in accordance with UU principles. UUE contributions are invested in socially responsible endeavors via the UUA Boston general endowment fund. A special thank you goes to South Port resident Laura Flachs, UUFCC member and UUE Society member, who served as our sponsor allowing us to utilize their facility.

### Contributions to the UUE during the month of April

Dennis Shaw in memory of Bill Wharton  
 Maureen Peters in memory of Annie Shea Ross  
 Tom and Cheryl Deuley for general support of the UUE

These gifts are greatly appreciated.

### UUE Trustees

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

# Auction Report

Fred Parmenter

On the auction web site, [www.uufcc.net](http://www.uufcc.net), there are a number of new reports.

You can see items that you bought or donated by clicking on the menu item **MyStuff > Results**.

You can view what items sold, how much they sold for, and who won them by clicking on the menu item **Auction > Booklet**.

The financial statement is available at **Auction > Reports**.

Also at **Auction > Reports** you can see how this year's auction compares with last year's auction, the results of which are duplicated below:

Category	2018	2019	
Tickets	108	105	
Members	76	68	(%22 new)
Guests	32	37	
Donors	40	34	(%47 new)
Winners	67	54	(%24 new)
Items sold	89	65	
Live	48	36	
Silent	41	29	
Avg bid (all items)	\$32	\$38	
Live items	\$32	\$40	
Silent items	\$33	\$31	
Best item	\$400	\$1000	
Items unsold	7	3	
Total of all bids	\$6150	\$6219	



Robert Moran 5/2  
 Sally Wilne 5/6  
 Dave Martin 5/14  
 Cathy Shea Ross 5/21  
 Mary Howard 5/26  
 Sonia Waters 5/31

# Book Group

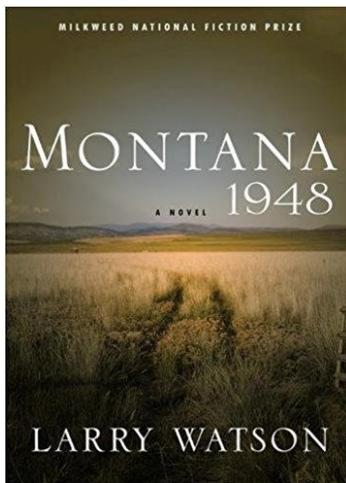
---

The Book Group meets at the UUFCC on the last Wednesday of the month October through May 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](mailto:maryjanewms@comcast.net).

All are welcome to attend 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.

If you would like to receive email notifications of future book choices and meeting reminders, please contact Mary Jane and you will be added to the group email list.

## Book selections for May and June:



**May 30**

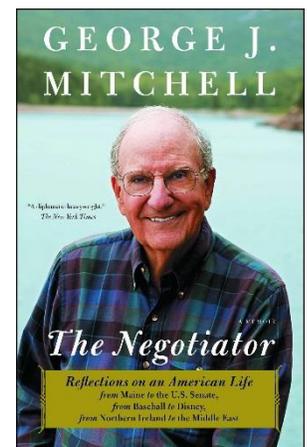
***Montana 1948* by Larry Watson (fiction)**

“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.

**June 27**

***The Negotiator* by George Mitchell (memoir)**

Told with wit, frankness, and a style all his own, Senator Mitchell’s memoir reveals many insights into the art of negotiation. Mitchell looks back at his adventures in law and politics—including instrumental work on clean air and water legislation, the Iran-Contra hearings, and healthcare reform—as well as life after the Senate, from leading the successful Northern Ireland peace process, to serving as chairman of The Walt Disney Company, to heading investigations into the use of steroids in baseball and unethical activity surrounding the Olympic Games. Through it all, Senator Mitchell’s incredible stories—some hilarious, others tragic, all revealing—offer invaluable insights into critical moments in the last half-century of business, law, and politics, both domestic and international.



## Art on the Wall

The Portrait Studio Group are exhibiting a selection of their portraits during the months of April and May at the Unitarian Universalist Gallery. The art pieces, many done during a 3-hour studio at the Visual Art Center in Punta Gorda, vary stylistically and are rendered in a variety of mediums. Also on exhibit are natural and creative pine needle baskets and painted gourds crafted by Sandy O'Grady.



## In the Community

The Blanchard House Museum of African American History and Culture of Charlotte County, 406 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in Punta Gorda, will hold its annual Emancipation Day Program on Saturday, May 18, 10-1:00.

The Emancipation Proclamation will be read. Our children will present the skit "Dreaming of Freedom" and recite freedom poems. The winners of the "Once Upon A Time" book writing contest, sponsored by St. Mark Desserts, will be announced. Refreshments will be served.



Please join us and the children in celebrating Emancipation Day. Information: 941-575-7518.

### Conscious Dance – Continued by Popular Demand



It's not too late to join the fun – two more sessions have been added. Come on and dance your heart out on May 7 and May 21 at 4:30 pm.

# WEEKLY EVENTS

**Mondays – May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24 – Conversational Spanish 5 pm**  
**Thursdays – May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27 – Meditation 5 pm,**  
**Choir Practice 6:15 pm (*May only*)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>May 1</b> Worship Committee 4 pm<br/>Immigration Justice Com. 5 pm<br/>Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7 pm</p> <p><b>4</b> Yoga for Life 9 am</p> <p><b>7</b> Conscious Dance 4:30 pm<br/>UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm</p> <p><b>8</b> Caring &amp; Hospitality 10 am</p> <p><b>10</b> Café Serendipity 7 pm</p> <p><b>11</b> Chalice Circles 2 pm</p> <p><b>12</b> Social Justice Committee 12 pm</p> <p><b>14</b> NAMI Group 7 pm</p> <p><b>17</b> UUFCC Gaming Night 6:30 pm</p> <p><b>18</b> Yoga for Life 9 am</p> <p><b>19</b> Art Committee 12 pm<br/>Mystical Experiences 12 pm</p> <p><b>21</b> Conscious Dance 4:30 pm<br/>Sierra Club 7 pm</p> <p><b>25</b> Chalice Circles 2 pm<br/>Meatless Meal 5:30 pm</p> <p><b>29</b> Book Group 1 pm</p> <p><b>30</b> Art on the Wall Takedown 10 am</p> <p><b>31</b> Art on the wall Hanging 10 am</p> | <p><b>June 1</b> Yoga for Life 9 am</p> <p><b>5</b> Worship Committee 4 pm<br/>Immigration Justice Com. 5 pm<br/>Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7 pm</p> <p><b>8</b> Chalice Circles 2 pm</p> <p><b>9</b> Artist Reception 12 pm<br/>Social Justice Committee 12 pm</p> <p><b>11</b> NAMI Group 7 pm</p> <p><b>12</b> Caring &amp; Hospitality 10 am</p> <p><b>14</b> Café Serendipity 7 pm</p> <p><b>15</b> Yoga for Life 9 am<br/>Port Charlotte High Backpack Stuffing Party 12 pm</p> <p><b>16</b> Art Committee 12 pm<br/>Mystical Experiences 12 pm</p> <p><b>18</b> UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm<br/>Sierra Club 7 pm</p> <p><b>21</b> UUFCC Gaming Night 6:30 pm</p> <p><b>22</b> Chalice Circles 2 pm<br/>Meatless Meal 5:30 pm</p> <p><b>26</b> Book Group 1 pm</p> |
|---|---|