



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

NOVEMBER 2019



Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan

Friends,

We are off to a great start as I begin my ministry with you. I can't express how much Tess & I appreciate the warm welcome we have received. This time of transition and change can bring some anxiety, but I have only heard positive feedback and openness from many of you.

As I explore the community and meet people at restaurants and stores and social gatherings in the Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda areas, I get a lot of "I've never heard of that church," or "How do you pronounce that?" or "What does UU mean?"

There are so many ways we can get our message out to Charlotte County. We should not be "the best kept secret" among faith communities anymore. We just turned 50! Let's be bold and proudly share our message.

While I have a lot of experience in marketing and branding, I would like some help creating a plan. The Board has authorized me to create a Marketing Task Force with the charge to examine our marketing efforts. That means determining our target demographics, evaluating our current messages to those groups, evaluating our current "branding" materials (e.g., our logo, printed materials, website, social media presence, advertising, etc.), and making recommendations to the Board for planning for the future from a marketing perspective.

I NEED YOUR HELP! If you have any experience in marketing, branding, graphic design, social media influencing, analytics, etc., I'd love to hear from you and have you serve on this Task Force.

Please email me at minister@uufcc.org and let me know of your interest. I hope to keep this group to 6-8 people.

As Unitarian Universalists, we know that our faith and our social justice work impacts a lot of people and groups. Charlotte County needs to know more about us.

Thanks for all that you do, for the warm welcome, and for trusting me with this position.

Remember to be a blessing to everyone you meet!

Rev. Dan



Dear Ones

Dan Lambert became UUFCC's 14th minister on October 1st. I am still celebrating! In the three weeks Dan has been with us, I have had numerous opportunities, in varied settings, to interact or witness him interacting with others. I am consistently impressed and grateful.

At the October 15th Board meeting, Dan shared ideas on the importance of creating new mission and vision statements and a consistent logo. He also suggested that we create a forum where the various committee chairs can sit down together for sharing and mutual support. We will begin work on these immediately.

On behalf of the entire UUFCC Community, I wish to express our deep gratitude to our summer musician, Marianne Koerner. Marianne consistently inspired us with her vocal and keyboard gems. I was especially impressed with how often her selections perfectly reflected the service themes. Marianne, BRAVO and thank you!

While on the subject of music, on Wednesday, November 6th at 4:30, Samara Michaelson will once again have us dancing! Then the UUFCC choir will begin rehearsals under the brilliant direction of Jim Boyle on Thursday, November 7th at 6 pm in the Sanctuary. Both of these activities really feed my soul. Join us!

Did you know that George and Alice Clattenburg host a "Game Night" at UUFCC at 6:30 on the third Friday of each month? I've been to the last two parties and have decided I'll be a regular. It's fun, kids are welcome, you get to eat lots of junk food and you don't have to take notes. Come and see if you can beat the reigning dominoes champ, me. 😊

Looking forward to the return of the snow birds. You are really missed.

In faith and gratitude,
Dennis Shaw, President
UUFCC Board of Trustees



Mark Ellefson	11/5
Nancy Weaver	11/6
Linda Quinn & Frank Wilmer	11/8
Kay Azar	11/17
Mary Jane Williams	11/22
Ted Zawistowski	11/27
Lore Frighetti	11/28



A Note from the Membership Coordinator

Lynn Ritchie

Rev Dan Lambert is here! He has brought an infusion of ideas about how our Fellowship might be the best version of itself. He has also been articulating a strategy for bringing that vision out into the larger community. Membership and growth are on the agenda! I am grateful for his enthusiasm and leadership.

His sermons will review the rich historical roots of this liberal religious tradition, as well as our Principles and Sources. We will be challenged to consider what it means to be a part of a living (and changing) tradition. These talks might be particularly interesting to those who may know little about Unitarian Universalism or are reaffirming their connection to this congregation.

Allow me to introduce you to all the opportunities for involvement that happen here at the Fellowship if you're a newcomer. If you're ready for membership, I can help make that happen too.

Namaste,
Lynn

With GratiUUde

Herb Levin, UUFCC Board Secretary

Everyone who attends UUFCC does so willingly, and with many and varied motivations. This is my thank you, to all who make UUFCC what it is, and selfishly, much to my personal benefit.

Principally it is the sense of satisfaction I derive from working to make our home, our community, and all of us, better than we were when we first walked in. Numerous and varied avenues exist for all of us to achieve these same sentiments. Of course, I have my favorites, as we all do. I won't waste this space patting myself on my back, however, but rather to express my profound gratitude to those who share the UUFCC space with me, and make my time here so personally gratifying.

Not much goes on here due to individual efforts. That's why we have so many committees. It is, I think, an expression of the nature of UUs. We enjoy doing, and doing together. We work with and for each other, and also for people we hardly know or don't know at all. But all that we do is an expression of our desire to grow, and to help others grow, in multiple fashions. This is what I, and hopefully you, find fulfilling about our UUFCC experience. Each of us gives what we can, in time, talents, and treasure. Yes, you recently heard it on a Sunday morning, and many times before, I would guess, for it is the most concise fashion to say what we are, and why we tick.

The above sentiments are not new for me, nor for many others. But recently I have been reminded in many ways what a wonderful a group of people constitute UUFCC. To each and every one of you, my gratitude for being with me in UUFCC.



Endowment News

The UUE of Charlotte County was established in 1991 to ensure financial support for the furtherance of UU initiatives as determined by its Board of Trustees upon written request. Contributions to the UUE from UUFCC members and friends are invested in socially responsible portfolios through the UUA Boston. Contributions are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the following individuals who made contributions in memory of a UUFCC founding member, Evelyn Rapp:

Mary Holly Allison and Ben Crosby

Stephanie Garrett

Mary Howard



UUE Trustees:

Ken Brennen, Stephanie Garrett, Mary Howard, Jack Osbourn, Delmar Wooden

DINE AROUND!



Build fellowship friendships by getting to know each other better!

Starting after Thanksgiving, there will be a sign-up sheet on the Social Hall Bulletin Board for UUFCC's annual **Dine Around**!

Participating couples attend three different dinners with different people each time. Each participating couple hosts one dinner and attends two others. Hosts coordinate the date, determine the menu, provide the entree (in consideration of guest food allergies/restrictions), and let guests know what to bring (e.g., salad, appetizer, dessert).

Not able to host? Not a "couple"? You can still participate! A single is paired with another single to form a couple and attend one dinner. A non-hosting couple may attend a dinner.

While groups of six are formed, hosts are encouraged to invite extra guests if room permits ... like the new minister and his wife, the Board Chair, Board members, Committee members. What a great way to thank them for all they do *and* to get to know them better!

Have an enjoyable evening, meet new people and let's all get to know each other better!

Watch for the **Dine Around**! sign-up sheet or see MaryLou Kennedy.

Immigration Justice Committee

The Immigration Justice Committee (IJC) is in the process of launching a program to move permanent residents (green card holders) to citizenship. The IJC has partnered with the Hispanic American Citizens Council of Charlotte County (HACCC) and (with the help of Maria Lara, president of the HACCC and legal expert), has begun to custom tailor the various client and volunteer forms, flow and organizational charts that the United States Citizen and Immigration Services department (USCIS) requires for certification. Nine volunteers have already been trained to assist green card applicants and will attend additional training on Thurs. Nov. 7, 5-6:30 PM at the UUFCC to review forms and guidelines. It is hoped that this program will be operational by December. (The UUFCC Board has leased space to the HACCC, the 501(c)(3) organization who is overseeing this project.)

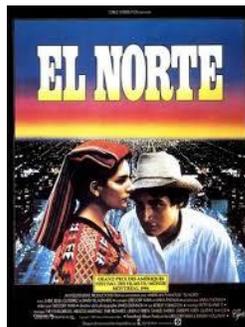
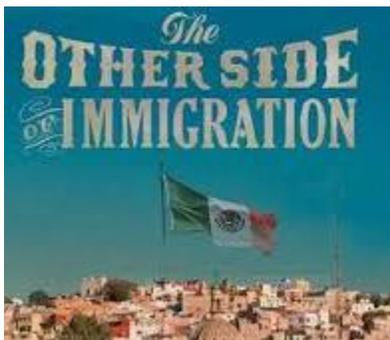
In addition, the IJC has partnered with the HACCC and the Public Library to offer Literacy Training to people who speak English as their second language. Trained volunteers have been paired with applicants and have already spent many hours meeting and mentoring these clients.

The effort to boost English language skills and prepare green card holders for citizenship are two projects that speak directly to the IJC's mission. Similarly, the annual film series, that begins Mon., Nov. 4th, fulfills another Committee goal: reaching the public in order to discuss the current immigration crisis.

All four films will begin at 5:30 PM and will be shown at the Mid-County Regional Library, Forrest Nelson Blvd. and Tamiami Trail. A moderated discussion will follow.

- On Monday, November 4, "The Other Side of Immigration" discusses the reasons people emigrate and the impact this has on their families.
- On Monday November 16, "The Distant Barking of Dogs" describes a Ukrainian boy who loses innocence beneath the pressures of war.
- On Monday November 24, "El Norte" pictures the Guatemalan army's attack on workers and their families and the harrowing escape of teen siblings.
- On December 2, "Llevates Mis Amores" brilliantly portrays the courageous and compassionate Mexican women who prepare and feed migrants on a moving train.

The public is invited to view and discuss these free and exciting films.
Information:immigrationjusticeuu@gmail.com



Who Are UU? Class (New title and time and format)

Sunday, November 10, at noon UUFCC will host a new class called "Who Are UU?" This will be roughly an hour and will cover topics such as the history and theology of Unitarian Universalism, our social justice mandate, the history and governance of UUFCC, how to get involved, and how to become a member of UUFCC.

While anyone is welcome, the class is especially intended for people who are fairly new to UUFCC or those who are curious about who we are. Even long-time members will benefit from participating. The class will last about an hour and will meet in the sanctuary at noon. To sign up, talk with Lynn Ritchie at the welcome table, or sign up on the sheet at the table.

Community Outreach

The Women of UUFCC will be providing lunch for women of our local Muslim community on Thursday, November 14th at noon. Out of respect for their religious tradition and beliefs, the event must be restricted to women only and the food that we provide will need to be vegetarian or vegan. For further information and to sign up please see Betty Barriga or Nancy Weaver.

Racial Justice

The Racial Justice Committee is again planning to have our Monologues this year as part of Black History Month celebration. We hope to expand our base of stories to the community. As many people have difficulty committing stories to paper, we are going to try having folks who will collect oral stories and put them in writing. If you are willing to be a part of this story collection effort, please contact Kay Azar or Samara Michaelson at rmstories2020@gmail.com. Think of this as our own Story Corps for UUFCC. JOIN IN THE FUN!

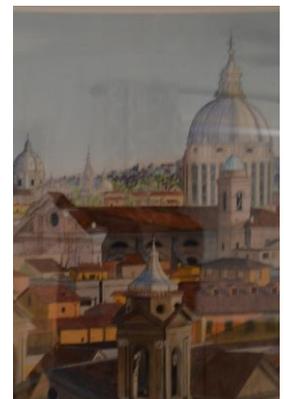
Art on the Wall

Two local artists will be featured during the months of November and December in our art gallery: Nancy Thomas who teaches privately, and Skip Mattie who teaches at the Cultural Center. Both have promised to add work of some of their students in the exhibit.

Thomas holds both a BA and an MA degree from Temple University as well as Rhode Island University. She has exhibited in and won numerous awards throughout New England. Her work includes paintings as well as pottery and fused glass.

Mattie, a lifelong self-taught artist has been teaching art for many years. He's also known locally as the set designer and builder for many productions of the Charlotte Players. A world traveler his paintings include award-winning works done in China, India and many European countries.

A reception where to meet the artists and view their works is slated for Friday, November 8, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.



Book Group

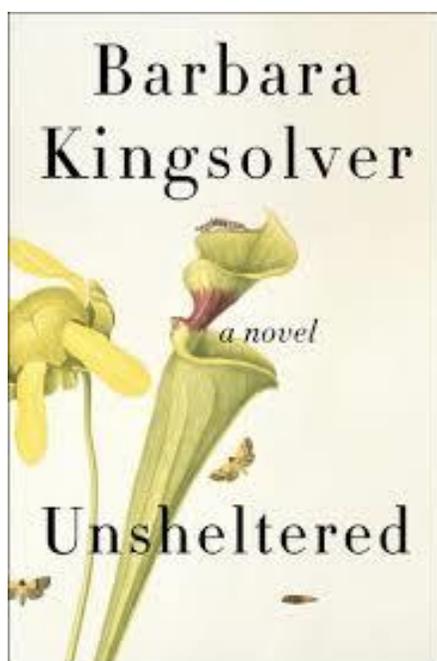
Mary Jane Williams

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

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 chosen for November 27th, 1:30 p.m.



Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver

In her insightful and politically charged 2018 novel, Barbara Kingsolver finds deep resonances between the Victorian era's attitudes towards science, and our own. *Unsheltered* begins on the eve of the 2016 presidential election, when Willa, a freelance journalist whose family has fallen on hard times, discovers that the house they've moved into has a "nonexistent foundation." Hoping to enlist restoration help from a historical society, Willa traces the origins of the house to Thatcher Greenwood, a science teacher who lived there in the 1870s, and his neighbor, a real-life woman biologist named Mary Treat, whose research supported Charles Darwin's theory of the origin of species. Just as Darwin's theory challenged the Victorian belief in the Judeo-Christian creation myth, so too, in Willa's era, does global warming challenge prevailing myths about the future of civilization. Kingsolver, whose 1998 novel *The Poisonwood Bible* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, carries off this cleverly structured dual narrative with aplomb and with a certain degree of rage at charismatic politicians, both past and present, whose disregard for science puts humanity in peril. —Sarah Harrison Smith, Amazon Book Review

For those of you who like to plan or read ahead, here are the books chosen for the upcoming months:

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|-------------------|--|
| January 29 | <i>Daring Democracy</i> (a UU congregational read) by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen |
| Feb. 26 | <i>White Fragility</i> by Robin Diangelo |
| March 25 | <i>A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and The Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> by Mary Ann Glendon |
| April 29 | <i>The Sandcastle Girls</i> by Chris Bohjalian |
| May 27 | To Be Announced |

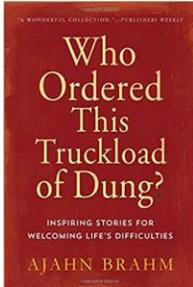
Library Update

Mary Jane Williams

One of the shelves in the library has been relocated to the area in the front left corner where the committee info and mail boxes are located. It is the shelving unit that contains new books, periodicals and our UU authors. Sorry for the inconvenience.

A few of our new books are highlighted below. If you have any trouble locating a book or using the online catalog (accessible from the UUFCC web page), please contact Mary Jane Williams.

Who Ordered this Truckload of Dung? by Ajahn Brahm. UUFCC call no. 294.344 B45 (currently on the new book shelf)

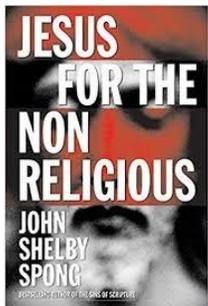
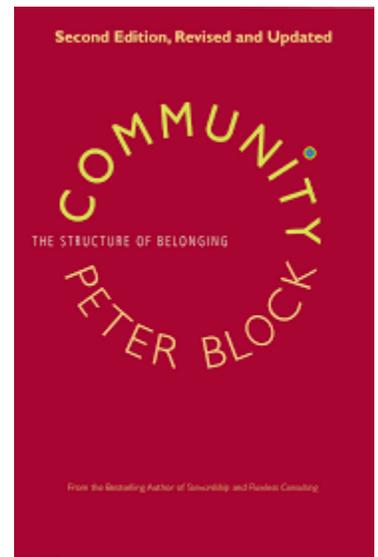


The 108 pieces in the international bestseller *Who Ordered This Truckload of Dung?* offer thoughtful commentary on everything from love and commitment to fear and pain. Drawing from his own life experience, as well as traditional Buddhist folk tales, author Ajahn Brahm uses over thirty years of spiritual growth as a monk to spin delightful tales that can be enjoyed in silence or read aloud to friends and family. This book contains both encouraging, uplifting stories and thoughtful teachings in Ajahn Brahm's characteristic joyful style. Ajahn Brahm helps us navigate all of life's difficulties and beautiful moments.

Community: The Structure of Belonging by Peter Block. UUFCC call no. 307 (currently on the new book shelf)

As a response to the increasing violence in our culture, the widening ideological divides, and the growing gap in economic well-being, there is greater awareness that a deeper sense of community is desperately needed. But even as we acknowledge the need to build community, the dominant on-the-ground practices about how to engage people, civically and organizationally, remain essentially unchanged. We still believe community is built with better messaging, more persuasion, and social events for people to get to know each other better. All of which is naïve.

In this new edition, Block draws on a decade of putting these ideas into practice to emphasize what has worked and extract those thoughts that were nice but had no durability. He explores how technology, instead of bringing us together, has driven us into more isolation. New examples show that community building can be a more powerful way to address social problems than more traditional policies and programs. And encouragingly, Block insists this is really simple, once we decide it is essential. He offers a way of thinking that creates an opening for authentic communities to exist and details what each of us can do to make that happen.



Jesus for the Non-Religious by John Shelby Spong. UUFCC call no. 232 S76 (currently on the new book shelf)

John Shelby Spong was the Episcopal Bishop of Newark, New Jersey for twenty-four years before his retirement in 2000. He is one of the leading spokespersons for liberal Christianity and has been featured on 60 Minutes, Good Morning America, FOX News Live, and Extra. This book is based on the William Belden Noble lectures Spong delivered at Harvard.

Jazzy Fundraiser



The Fellowship will again be holding a mutually beneficial fundraising concert in conjunction with the Charlotte County Jazz Society (CCJS). The date is Monday evening, December 9th at the Charlotte County Cultural Center in Port Charlotte beginning at 7:00 PM. Normally the CCJS sells single show tickets for \$20.00 each, but they have agreed to again sell us tickets at \$10.00 each. We in turn will be selling the tickets for \$15.00 each. You save \$5 and the Fellowship benefits!

We will begin hosting an information/signup table in the Social Hall immediately after Sunday services on November 10th, continuing each Sunday thru December 1st. If you have any questions concerning this fundraising concert, please call George Clattenburg at 941-564-8390.

Each year CCJS hosts monthly jazz concerts from October thru April (7 concerts) and annual membership is only \$50.00 per person (less than \$7.15/concert!).

Prior to our initial fundraiser held in 2017, we had 5 members of the Fellowship who had yearly memberships in the CCJS. Today we have 15 Fellowship members who hold annual memberships and believe this is a valuable experience. Come check it out – maybe you will be next!

Presentation: Kenya's Orphaned Elephants



On November 23 at 7:00 pm, following the Meatless Meal, UUFCC member Kathryn Ferry will do a slide presentation on her trip to Africa where she experienced how orphaned elephants are rescued, rehabilitated, and released back into the wild. It highlights the work of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust organization, specifically their "Orphans' Project", just one of their many conservation efforts.

Conscious Dance

Wednesdays 4:30-5:30 at the UU
Nov 6 & 20, Dec 4 & 18, Jan 8 & 22, and on thru May

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-\$10 love donation to the UU suggested

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays – Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Conversational Spanish 5 pm

Thursdays – Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 - Meditation 5 pm, Choir Practice 6:15 pm

- Nov. 1** Art on the Wall Takedown 10 am
- 2** Yoga 9 am
Art Set-up 10:30 am
- 6** Conscious Dance 4:30 pm (see p. 10)
Immigration Justice 5 pm
Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7 pm
- 7** Citizenship Workshop 5 pm
- 8** Art Reception 4 pm
Café Serendipity 7 pm
- 9** Chalice Circles 2 pm
- 12** NAMI Group 7 pm
- 13** Caring and Hospitality 10 am
- 14** Lunch with Muslim Women (see p.7)
- 15** UUFCC Game Night 6:30 pm
- 16** Yoga 9 am
- 17** Art Committee 12 pm
Mystical Experiences 12 pm
- 19** UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
Sierra Club 7 pm
- 20** Conscious Dance 4:30 pm (see p. 10)
Immigration Justice 5 pm
- 23** Chalice Circles 2 pm
Meatless Meal 5:30 pm
Kenya's Orphaned Elephants (see p.10)
- 27** Book Group 1:30 pm
Healing Oasis 6 pm

Save the dates!

Saturday, February 8th, 2020
UUFCC Annual Banquet and Service
Auction

It's never too early to plan ahead. Make sure to plan on celebrating with everyone on February 8th when we will have our Banquet and Service Auction. The theme this year will be Bella Notte - Lady and the Tramp.

Saturday, March 7, 2020
Racial Monologues

This is a presentation sponsored by the Racial Justice Committee sharing personal stories about race in a reader's theater format. The stories are shared and published anonymously. If you have a story you would like to submit, please email it to rmstories2020@gmail.com. Stay tuned for more information in future newsletters.

Saturday, March 14th, 2020
UUFCC Rummage Sale

Got too much stuff!? We're having another rummage sale on Saturday, March 14, 2020, so put aside the "stuff" you no longer need or want so we can have a successful sale! We will need volunteers, so please contact Alice Clattenburg or Debbie Conrad for further details! Thank you!