



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

FEBRUARY 2013

Kindred Spirit

*"Love isn't an emotion or even an intention, but a policy, a vow. It must be embodied to become real. Love exists only in action."
– Rev. Tom Owen-Towle*



When I was growing up, my siblings and I would rush to the breakfast table on Valentine's Day. Every year, each of us would find a small heart-shaped box filled with three or four chocolate-coated candies sitting in dark paper cups. In each box of candy, there would be one paper cup that would be empty if not for one lonely vitamin waiting to be consumed. Of course, we knew my mother loved us. We received sweets after all. However, her subtle understated message was clear: she wanted us to know she also cared about our health. (I've never asked if that was true or if she actually chose one chocolate for herself from each box and couldn't let the one cup remain empty!) Nevertheless, her actions revealed love.

On January 19, *Standing on the Side of Love* launched a campaign. For the next 30 days, beginning January 19 through February 14, join others in witnessing for justice. Take the pledge to

practice your faith by taking action. Go to http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/30days_calendar) to find more information.

Called to care, may we do what we can as often as we can. Blessed Be. – Rev. Amy



**Mid-Week Movie Night –
"InLaws and OutLaws"**
Wed., February 6, 6:30 - 8:30

Our minister, the Rev. Amy Kindred, hosts. We'll watch a funny, poignant documentary celebrating love between straight, gay, lesbian and transgendered individuals.



MESSAGE FROM MARYHOLLY

It is definitely "high season" in Southwest Florida, and, here at UUFCC! Many programs have started and groups are meeting -for learning, for support, for sharing and for fun. Many of our snowbirds have returned and we have visitors every week. We welcome you!

We have the good fortune to have an engaging and inspiring minister in Rev. Amy who brings us informative and heart-felt sermons and builds our understanding of Unitarian Universalism. I particularly liked last month's service "Element In-Gathering" - when she spoke of the power of "creating rituals". Then we each had an opportunity to bring a special gift or pour water and share a brief story. We have so many stories to share.

Did you know? If you miss a service, you can listen to Rev Amy's sermon (audio podcast) on our website at UUFCC.org or you may request a written copy by writing your name and date of the sermon on the pad in the rear of the sanctuary by the Book of Life.

We also had the wonderful experience of the choir performing with the amazing UU musicians, Dan Duggan and Peggy Lynn. It was so much fun for choir members to work with them and to perform as part of the service! We have more music to look forward to with the second of our Concert series and with our new Music Director/ Pianist Amy Menard, a UU and an experienced church musician. (See Dennis Shaw's announcement in this newsletter.) And we had a fabulous art exhibit and reception- with another one to look forward to this month! What an exciting place to be!

This month we will have the kick-off to our Pledge Drive led by the dynamic duo -Jack Osborne & Robert Taylor. There will be time for you to ask questions, learn more about our vision and the financial requirements to support that vision.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW.

- **On March 3** we will have another Congregational Information Meeting for folks to learn more about various topics that may support our ministry - results of the Pledge Drive and our financial status, Community Radio, UU Legislative Ministry , and questions you may have regarding congregational life.
- Our **ANNUAL MEETING** has been moved to April 7th due to the last Sunday in March falling on Easter Sunday.
- TWO exciting opportunities to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and to participate in your own spiritual growth:
April 12-14 Florida District Assembly at UU of Ft. Myers (details to come)
June 19-23 UUA General Assembly Louisville, Ky (cheap flights from PG to Lexington)

We are so pleased you choose to be part of our beloved community. The Board invites your questions and concerns and appreciates your energy and gifts!

Yours in faith,
 MaryHolly Allison
 President, UUFCC Board



You Are a Pillar of the Congregation



The 2013-2014 Pledge Drive starts this month. As noted in last month's newsletter, we have invested in growth—hired an inspirational minister; refurbished the sanctuary; and reinvigorated our programs in art, music, social justice, and spiritual development—actions vital to securing our future as a thriving congregation. And our investments are working. You can feel our renewed sense of energy and enthusiasm.

But growth has costs. Next year's operating budget will increase by 15% to about \$147,000—that's \$2,800 a week—in order to cover a full year with Rev. Amy Kindred, our new minister, plus long overdue benefits for our Office Manager. Our biggest source of income is pledges—your financial commitment to support our costs of doing business. Next year we will need \$117,000 in pledge income, a 20% increase over this year. Some of the increase will come from new members, and some will come from our most generous givers. But that alone will not be enough. Each of us will need to dig deep, to pledge until it feels good.

“So, how much is expected of me?” Historically, a handful of long time generous members have contributed the lion's share of our pledge income—levels of giving we cannot expect to continue into the future. To reach next year's goal we estimate that the rest of us—new members and old—need to raise about \$85,000, an average per pledge unit of about \$1,200, or \$100 per month. We don't expect the same amount from everyone. The UUA suggests a sliding scale starting at 2% of income for those earning \$10,000 or less, up to 10% for those in the upper income brackets. That's a pretty aggressive target and we don't have a history that supports that level of giving. You need to decide for yourself, to live within your means. But please consider what you can do. Whether you attend regularly or only sometimes, or are a seasonal member or friend, now is the time to boost your pledge to acknowledge that UUFCC is an important part, even a central part, of your religious experience.

Thank you for your support.

Jack Osborne and Robert Taylor, Pledge Drive Co-Chairs

New to UU, Q and A

Sunday, Feb. 17, Noon, On the Porch

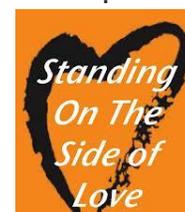
Ever wondered about Unitarian Universalist history? Are you curious about what it means to be a "member" of a UU church? Do you know what we teach our children?

Join us this Sunday morning after the worship service and bring your questions. If you've been interested in making a deeper commitment to Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes, this is the day to find out more.

We'll open the membership book on March 3.

Save the Date! March 3, 10:30 am Sunday Worship Service

Bring a friend to UUFCC
and
share the love
!





UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS – Joan Lund

For over 50 years I have been an advocate of controlling firearms in the possession of Americans. My interest began, when as a young woman, I was invited to be in the pulpit at the UU Church of Wilmington, DE, and had to choose a topic; I chose gun control. I knew, and statistics showed at that time, that handguns were causing problems in society, but then I never dreamed of the proliferation of weapons that would turn our nation into a violent, fearful, gun toting place to live. I know all the gun-rights advocates would say that there is a personal right to bear

arms, even to the point of pre-dating the Second Amendment. But it was clear when the Second Amendment passed that Madison and the other MEN viewed the "right to bear arms" in the context of a "well-regulated militia" to defend communities from massacres. The goal was to resist aggression from European powers, confront Native American tribes, and put down internal rebellions, including slave revolts. What is happening in our country today is quite the opposite of the "security" our Founders had in mind.

The American Right and today's arms industry have devoted enormous resources to twisting the framers of our Constitution and Bill of Rights into extremist ideologues who put "liberties," like individual gun ownership, ahead of all practical concerns about "security." And in today's world the propaganda spewed by many politicians has proved so successful that even those who favor common-sense gun control are deemed violators of the original intent of our Founders, as essentially un-American, and, of course, face defeat in elections.

Guns are robbing us of freedom, not insuring it. Eighty-three Americans die daily from gun violence in the USA, eight are children or teenagers. WE must put in place commonsense gun laws and enforce those laws. Our UUA is urging us to take action to prevent gun violence. The link to help your congregation work toward that end can be found at uua.org. I urge each of us to not let this goal fade from our vision and to embark on congregational discussions about how we can reverse this tide of violence. I can be reached at jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727.



ART ON THE WALL

"Bejeweled," is a mixed media art exhibit on display during the month of February. The lovely work represents a combination of Renaissance beauty and Beaux Arts fashion. Myrna Charry's black and white gelatin silver portraits have been adorned by Ginger Abraham's delicate beadwork and jewelry. The opening reception will be held on Saturday, February 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. A portion of each sale goes to the Fellowship.

Ginger's jewelry is also featured in the glass cases along with earrings by her student and protégé, Carolyn Hansman. Carolyn's husband, Robert, bought jewelry lessons from Ginger at last year's UUFCC auction. After one lesson, a new hobby was born. Carolyn has since made and sold over \$1000 worth of earrings to benefit various charities, including the Fellowship. All proceeds from the jewelry sales go directly to the Fellowship.

NEW PIANIST HIRED



It is a joy to announce that Amy Menard will be UUFCC's new pianist. She will begin playing on Sunday, February 3rd.

Ms. Menard comes to us with 11 years' experience as a church musician. And believe it or not, she is a Unitarian Universalist! She worked for two years at the UU Church in Tampa and three years at the UU Church in Tallahassee. She has a Masters Degree in Music Performance, and amassed over 27 years of piano playing and 20 years of choir participation. Additionally, she is a professional viola player and has played with the symphonies in Port Charlotte, Venice, and Ft. Myers and the Naples Opera.

Ms. Menard is excited about introducing our congregation to a wide range of musical styles and will become a major force in the development of our music program. The following quote is from her resume.

"I love the UU church, and I find its work extremely meaningful. I feel a strong inner calling to help further the causes of the UU church and I go the extra mile to make my contribution the best it can be. I also have a knack for picking music that UUs really like."

I extend my thanks to MaryHolly Allison, Rev. Amy Kindred, Allan Buck, Peg Stunkard, Megwyn SandersAndrews, and Sally Milne for their work as members of the search and interview team.

Dennis Shaw
UUFCC Music Coordinator

NEW LIFE SPAN R.E. COORDINATOR POSITION

On January 16th our Board of Trustees voted to add a Life Span Religious Education Coordinator position to our administrative structure. I am very excited to announce that I have volunteered for and have been accepted to fulfill this role. In this capacity I will focus on three general areas of development during the next year.

First, I will help our new pianist acclimate to our existing music program. Music is such a vital part of our worship services. With the formation of our choir and the expansion of our community concert series; we have established a strong foundation from which we will surely grow.

I will also participate in and actively publicize Fellowship based or community activities that will introduce individuals from diverse backgrounds to Unitarian Universalism. This is a priority for continued growth and directly reflects our goals and mission.

My third area of focus will include supporting our current religious education leaders. Additionally I will explore and recommend, as appropriate, adoption of new RE curricula and activities.

I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity to contribute to our Fellowship and nurture my faith.

Dennis Shaw



CARING AND HOSPITALITY, Joan Bollinger, Chair

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality committee is really excited about all the social events being planned for the "season".

"Dining Around" is now in full swing. Dinners are planned for groups of 6 or more in different homes with different host/ hostesses. The purpose of the dinners is to get to know each other better in a more relaxed setting. These dinners have been really popular for years and an event that everyone looks forward to.

There is a new "SOLO" group forming. Roxann Luning is organizing events for single people to be able to share - a movie, lunch, fair, or similar reason to get together. Sometimes you'd really like to do something-- but not necessarily alone.

Game Night is back! Our first game night was held from 4-6 on the same Friday as Cafe' Serendipity. We played cards, Scrabble and assorted games. Fun, some serious competition and laughs made for a really good time. Some of us either brought a snack or ordered pizza after the games. That made it easy to stay on for Cafe' Serendipity and a night full of music, stories, coffee and snacks. Put this on your calendars!

CARING COMMITTEE

The committee caters to members in need of help, cards, visits or just a phone call. Thanks to all the people who have pitched in to help.

We will soon be presenting the Red Dot program. It is a way to alert the Fire and EMS departments of your medical needs in an emergency, at your home, when they arrive on a 911 call and we'll also explain their new program that keeps your information available in your car.

The Caring and Hospitality Committee is always looking for people that would like to join us in our efforts to make this Fellowship a special place for all our members and friends. Join us at our meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

CONTACT US

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 Susan Taylor, Newsletter Photographer
 Article Deadline: 20th of the month
 Myrna Charry, Communications Chair
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OFFICE HOURS

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

BOOK GROUP -

The Book Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month. For more information, contact Joyce Gendzwill.

UPCOMING BOOKS

February SENSE AND SENSIBILITY by Jane Austen
 March THE LAST BROTHER by Joe McGinniss
 April MRS. CALIBAN by Rachel Ingalls

Mutual Support Group

A new group of mutual support for the bereaved, sad and lonely will be starting Friday, Feb 1 at 10:30 at the Fellowship. It will be held weekly at that time. Join by showing up. Barbara Pierce and Dave Shumway will be the coordinators. All UUs and nonUUs are welcome. The membership and content are to be confidential. Ask Barb Pierce or Dave Shumway if you have questions.

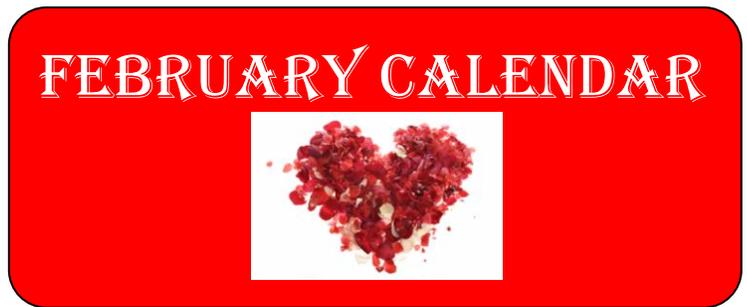
SUNDAYS

9:15 a.m. Conversation among Friends

9:30 a.m. Join us for Choir practice

10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

WORSHIP SERVICES



Feb.3 - "A Black Pioneer in a White Denomination", Rev. Amy Kindred, Worship Associate
Stephanie Garrett presents and Myrna Charry will share information about the new mural project dedicated to early settler and business man, George Brown.

Feb. 10 - "Prayers and Promises" - Rev. Amy Kindred, MaryHolly Allison, Worship Associate
What does it mean to covenant with another? How do we keep the faith when the rest of the world wants to diminish the light of our liberal theologies? It has to do with prayers and promises "and things we believe in." On this day, we will kick-off the annual pledge drive.

Feb. 17 - "Reproductive Justice: Reflections on why it matters to all of us."
Rev. Amy Kindred and MaryHolly Allison
It's about so much more than the "birds and the bees". Join us for stories that matter.

Feb. 24 Good Questions - Dave Martin, Dennis Shaw, Worship Associate
We will consider all kinds of questions, especially those that can disturb our sense of place in the universe, and where we can look for some answers.

OTHER EVENTS AT UUFCC

Friday, Feb 1 at 10:30 until Noon. Mutual Support Group -A weekly meeting for UU and non UU people who are bereaved, sad or alone. Join by coming; it's open ended and ongoing. Coordinated by Barbra Pierce and Dave Shumway.

Sunday, Feb 3, Afternoon – The Second Peace Initiative Speakers Series. After the Potluck lunch, Sushila Cherian will speak about her recent trip to Pakistan and the effects of the drone strikes. She has slides and other display materials. She will speak on Sunday.

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1:00 p.m. – Planning meeting to support CIW March for Rights, Respect and Fair Food (see next page)

Wednesday, February 6, 6:30 - 8:30 Mid-Week Movie Night - *InLaws and OutLaws* - Our minister, the Rev. Amy Kindred, hosts. We'll watch a funny, poignant documentary celebrating love between straight, gay, lesbian and transgendered individuals. We will have popcorn and drinks to go with our movie.

Saturday, Feb 9th at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary. Rachel Streubing, RN will meet with us to give instruction on how to be an effective patient advocate for yourself, or anyone you care about, when hospitalized. I took a short course from Rachel years ago and I vouch for her ability to get down to cases (e.g., How do you fire your doctor?), to answer questions, and give us reliable information.—Herb Jenkins.



OTHER EVENTS AT UUFCC, cont'd

Feb. 24 at noon in the main hall. This I Believe meeting All are welcome. Topic: The Impostor Syndrome: "It's a problem especially for professionals...You work and study and aspire away and suddenly someone hands you a piece of paper that says, okay, you're a lawyer. A lawyer! And you don't feel any different. You know you're still that kid with the Spyder bike who shoplifted Ho-Hos. You think you're still a fraud. It can get pretty bad, this terror of being discovered. Happened to me. I think-- and I dealt with it by debunking the whole profession instead of myself. I figure the impostor syndrome applies to adulthood in general. After all being grown-up is disillusioning." From The New Republic by Lionel Shriver, Harper Collins, 2012.

AREA EVENTS

Tuesday, February 12, 10:30am to 1:30pm UU Immersion Visit Day To Immokalee

Join fellow UUs for a visit to Immokalee. Hear first-hand from CIW members about conditions in the fields and the Campaign for Fair Food. Take a tour of the CIW's community center, their low-power FM radio station, and local housing in the community. *Bring funds for lunch at an authentic Mexican restaurant and a \$10 suggested donation for Interfaith Action to help make our work possible. RSVP by February 4 to Jordan at (239) 986-9101 or jordan@interfaithact.org. Talk to Sue Taylor about carpooling.*

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 10am – Noon & 1:00 – 3:00pm Critical Choices at the End of Life at Florida Gulf Coast University 117 Herald Square #211 in Punta Gorda.

HEALING OUR WORLD AND OURSELVES VISIONARY CONFERENCE The visionary conference *Healing Our World and Ourselves* is being held at the First Unitarian Church of Orlando February 15-16, 2013. It is co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard and the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Florida. See www.healingourworldandourselves.org for the full schedule and location.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, March 3 – Bring a Friend Sunday. Share the love! Also, a Congregational Information Meeting will follow the potluck.

Sunday, March 3 - Sunday, March 17 -MARCH FOR RIGHTS, RESPECT AND FAIR FOOD Epic, 150-mile March from Fort Myers to Lakeland!

Join the CIW as they undertake a historic 150-mile march from Fort Myers to Lakeland over 14 days! Click here to read the CIW's powerful announcement: http://www.ciwonline.org/march_for_rights_respect_and_fair_food.html.

To get involved, contact Jordan (jordan@interfaithact.org), Elena (elena@interfaithact.org) or Ted Zawistowski (zawistowski@embarqmail.com) who is coordinating support for marchers as they pass through Charlotte County. First planning meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1:00 p.m. at the Fellowship – everyone welcome

March 18-19 - Legislative Day – From the UU Legislative Ministry Florida: We drive up on Monday the 18th, have dinner at the Tallahassee church, have lobby training by a representative of the League of Women Voters after dinner (we hope to have Ben Wilcox this year!) and visit the capitol and our legislators and committee meetings Tuesday morning and early afternoon. The details are still being firmed up, but we have the block of motel rooms reserved for March 18th (we all stay at the Days Inn, with continental breakfast included, and UULMF pays for the Monday night hotel for everyone). We look forward to your joining us.

