



# NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

*A spiritual home where religion and reason meet*

**MARCH 2013**

## Kindred Spirit

***A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.*** – Maya Angelou



At this time of year, people are flocking to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Port Charlotte, Florida. It's a busy place. Countless activities are organized outside of our usual Sunday morning worship services. For example, in January there were many undertakings including an animal blessing ceremony. Celebrating love and relationship in February, we watched a movie that made us chuckle and then cry. March will be no different. There are numerous discussion groups, music practices, presentations and information sessions scheduled this month. Our building is being heavily utilized.

While we as a community are thrilled to see such flutter, we understand it may cause one to experience occasional frustration. Please be patient. We want to make room for all who want to gather. For example, we know parking can be a creative endeavor when arriving at some of our more heavily attended events including

our morning worship services. On other occasions, when walking around inside the building, if you see a sign that says "Do not Disturb: Reserved Space" please honor it. (Of course, go on in if you are part of the group gathering but if not, walk quietly by.)

We are called to live in community, to seek truth in love and to help one another. It's not always an easy or clean process but the song—our message—is worth the singing and worthy of the work.

Rev. Amy Kindred



## T-SHIRT ORDER

Support UUFCC by purchasing and wearing your very own UUFCC t-shirt! These are 100% cotton, green with white ink. Order by March 10, have them by late March. These come in unisex sizes, as you have seen previously, and now in ladies cut also. Unisex and Ladies sizes: S – XL - \$15, 18\$ for XXL and XXXL. Make checks payable to UUFCC. See Cheryl Lee on Sundays to see sample sizes and place orders. Cheryl can also be reached at 661-4674.



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## MESSAGE FROM MARYHOLLY

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We hope to see you at the **SECOND UUFCC CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION MEETING** on Sunday, March 3 following the potluck from 12:15 to 1:15. This is an opportunity for members and friends to learn about:

- Status of Pledge Drive and Proposed Budget - Jack Osborne & Bob Taylor
- Planning for Bylaw changes: Establishment of Bylaw Task Force to be completed by March 2014 - MaryHolly Allison
- Presentation of UUFCC Website and information that is available – Jack Osborne
- CIW Action opportunities on March 5 & 6. Overnight use of building on March 5th -Sue Taylor & Ted Zawistowski
- UU Legislative Ministry - an update from last year -Ted Zawistowski
- Status of Community Radio Project - Rosemary Hagen, Dale French and Joe Fenty



**UUFCC Annual Meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>** - following the potluck. The Agenda will be sent out three weeks in advance and will include such items as elections of Board Trustees and Delegates, approval of the proposed budget, and any other issues to be presented for the approval of the membership. While all members and friends are invited to attend, as designated in our bylaws, only members may vote.

**Let's send a delegation to Florida District Annual Assembly** beginning Friday evening through Sunday morning service on April 12-14. The UU Church of Fort Myers will host this meeting. Dr. Mark Hicks, Angus MacLean Professor of Religious Education from Meadville Lombard Theological School, will be the keynote speaker, and the theme is "Leaning Toward Justice." Watch for flyers with additional information. The registration deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Let me know if you are interested and we will try to do some carpooling as well. (see "Mark Your Calendar" on page 8 for other contact information).

**We also want to a delegation to our UUA National Assembly known as General Assembly or GA!** This is an amazing experience of worship, workshops, lectures, music, and witness - and one all UUs should attend at least once in your lifetime! This year it will be **held in Louisville, KY from June 19 - 23**. We will be allocated two delegates who actually vote on the business part of the meeting and our minister Rev. Amy also attends. We try to support our delegates with at least the registration fees. Early registration begins March 1 and is \$300. For program details and information, check out the website at [uua.org/ga2013](http://uua.org/ga2013). Want to go? Talk to a Board member!

We are pleased that so many folks are finding that UUFCC offers opportunities for fellowship and sharing and provides additional meaning to your life. We are glad you are with us! Your patience and understanding - and ideas and assistance - are greatly appreciated as we experience growth pains. It is an exciting time at UUFCC!

Yours in faith,  
MaryHolly Allison  
Board President



## BUZZ FROM THE BOARD - Carol Powell, Board Secretary



Some important Highlights from the February Board meeting:

- 1.. **The Growth Accommodation Task Force** has identified immediate plans & expenditures to alleviate our parking crunch for necessary improvements creating the proposed NEW parking in progress on the north side of the building.
2. **Potluck setup** – The Hospitality Committee has designed a new “traffic pattern” for crowd control and access to food & beverage during potluck. We will continue to experiment as needed and remind folks that one of the many joys of potluck Sunday is building community while standing in line. Tables on the porch being set up really helped.

3. **Annual Report Preparation** – requests have gone out to the **Committee Chairs** to submit their Annual Reports by March 15. Melanie will provide chairs with their committee expenditures for FY2012-2013.

4. **Office Database & Email changes** – Dale French has agreed to maintain our Master database of members and friends” information. If you have changes or corrections please contact Melanie and they will be submitted to Dale.

5. The Board also approved the following:

a. **to establish a Bylaws Task Force** who, over the next year, will review current by-laws, seek input from members and Committees and make recommendations to the Board in time for a vote at the 2014 Annual Meeting,

b. **to support the recommendation from the Committee on Ministry (Transition Team)** to begin to function as the **Committee on Shared Ministry**, operating based on guidelines recommended by the UUA Southern Region and as they incorporate these new practices they will share these new practices with the congregation and make recommendations to the New Bylaws Task Force

c. To hold the **SECOND UUFCC CONGREGATION INFORMATIONAL MEETING to be held on Sunday, March 3, 2013** following the Potluck at 12:15 to 1:15 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for members and friends to have increased communication from the Board. (See “Message from MaryHolly” on page 2 for details)

d. **The hiring of Amy Lynne Menard-** what an exciting addition to UUFCC! This is a new position of “Music Director” and involves a contract and increased stipend. **We are so glad to have her leading us toward our vision for our Music program!**

## PATIENT ADVOCACY



A Patient Advocate is someone who is ready when asked to stand with, and stand up for a friend who may be headed for the ER, has been hospitalized, has a critical doctor’s visit, is about to be discharged from a hospital, or wherever there is need for counsel, guidance, or help in navigating the system. Anyone can be a Patient Advocate.

With Rev Amy’s encouragement we are trying to establish a registry of members who are willing to do two things. First, if like most of us you do not have experience in being a Patient Advocate, you are willing to attend a session on what advocacy is about with Rachel Struebing RN here at the Fellowship on **Saturday, March 16th at 10:30 AM**. We know you will find the session empowering and illuminating. Second, if you decide to go for it, you are willing to put your name and telephone number on the Congregational Registry, as someone who is ready to serve as an Advocate if called upon by a member of our Fellowship, and **if time and circumstances permit**. You can count on help with your advocacy from your colleagues in the Registry.



## UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS – Joan Lund



General Assembly, 2013 will be held in Louisville, KY, and it is an important one because eleven members of the UUA Board of Trustees, the UUA Financial Advisor, and a **new Moderator** will be elected. For Moderator, I am supporting **Tamara Payne-Alex**, a life-long UU and member of First Unitarian Church, San Jose, CA.

Tamara has served our Association at many levels, starting as a youth and continuing as an adult in her congregation(s), district, and in denominational posts, including the UUA Board of Trustees for nine years, the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and as a member of the Black Concerns Working Group. For thirty years she has worked to help shift our UU culture(s) to be more inclusive and diverse; she has a unique perspective and insight into who we are and where we need to be.

Tamara will serve us with ultimate **clarity**, an abundance of **creativity**, and a thorough **commitment** to our faith. She represents all we stand for as UUs to take us through the next six years as our lay-leader. I ask you to check out her web-site [www.tamarapaynealex.com](http://www.tamarapaynealex.com), read her blog, find her on Facebook, and read her articles/sermons. Then I urge you to vote in June for **Tamara Payne-Alex** as our next Moderator.

## ART ON THE WALL

Mary Taglieri will exhibit her impressionist landscapes in the exhibit, "Coast to Coast," which will be on display during the month of March. Taglieri paints the natural beauty of Alaska, Hawaii, North Carolina, California, Costa Rica, and the Gulf coast of Florida, all places where she has lived and worked. Her art radiates with color and balance and brings a sense of harmony as well as energy to viewers.



In addition to Taglieri, Jean Rosenberg, fused glass artist, will exhibit her work during March in the glass cases in the Fellowship gallery.

Opening reception for both Taglieri and Rosenberg is on Sunday, March 10, 2013, 12 noon to 1:00 PM. All are welcomed to this free and exciting event.

### LOOKING FOR ART LOVERS...

If you enjoy our Art on the Wall --and who doesn't? -- and would like helping with the details and effort it takes to keep this delightful feature of our Fellowship going, why not join the Art on the Wall Committee? See Sue Taylor or Peg Stunkard for details.

# WE'VE GOT TALENT!

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Remember last summer's really great Members' Art Show?? Well, it's time to start planning this year's spectacular event. And, it's going to be bigger and better and more creative because WE'VE GOT TALENT. (Eat your hearts out, all you snowbirds!)

We're looking for not only oil, watercolor or acrylic masterpieces, but showcasing a variety of our members' talents -- photography, quilting, basket-weaving, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, whatever.

The show will be up from mid-June through August. If you're interested in exhibiting your work, please see either Marilyn Reeve or Trudy Gerhardt.

## MUSIC NOTES - Amy Lynne Menard

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### Music Preview for March:

March 3rd: Join us for the jazz piano stylings of Dave Martin.

March 10th: Debussy's "Claire de Lune" transports us to an ethereal realm for the sermon on dreams.

March 17th: Irish fiddling will flavor our celebration of spring, and there will be a charming choir anthem about nature.

March 24th: Delight in the beauty of flower communion with Edward MacDowell's "To a Wild Rose" and a viola transcription of the Flower Duet from *Lakme*.

March 31st: The choir will honor festive Easter traditions with "Calypso Alleluia," and you won't want to miss this Sunday's beloved hymns.

### Calling All Musicians!

If you are interested in playing an instrument or singing during a church service, please let me know. We especially need pianists, guitarists, and someone who owns a djembe or other hand drum, but all kinds of instruments are welcome. Sharing your talents is a great way to support our wonderful church. Email me at amyLmenard@gmail.com

### Big Thanks

- to Dave Martin for volunteering as pianist three Sundays this year
- to Rev. Amy Kindred, MaryHolly Allison, and Dennis Shaw for helping me to get acclimated here at UUFCC
- to those who made it possible for us to get 50 new teal hymnals and a head-worn microphone, which allows me extra freedom of movement at the piano. It is so exciting to me to be at a fellowship that includes music in its mission statement. Together, we will create a thriving music program!



# VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED



UUFCC visitors to CIW headquarters

Our Fellowship is a member of the CIW March Support Group which has been working with other area churches and the NAACP to provide support for the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) as they pass through Charlotte County March 4-6th on their 175-mile march to Publix headquarters in Lakeland.

On Tuesday March 5th we need volunteers to help set up the sanctuary to house about half of the 115+ marchers and to serve dinner that night. On Wednesday, March 6th we need volunteers to serve breakfast and a mid-morning snack for marchers.

We have committed to providing the snacks and need donations of **bottled water, energy drinks, cereal or energy bars, small packets of peanut butter crackers, and fresh fruit**. Outside the sanctuary is a basket for donations, and an easel with a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Please see Ellen McGill or Gudrun Matthaus for more information or to donate money if you prefer not to shop for needed items.



## BUILDING THE WORLD WE DREAM ABOUT



A group of UUFCC members and friends, joined by some members of Unity Church of Peace, have been meeting on alternate Saturdays to participate in the anti-racist UUA curriculum "Building the World We Dream About." The sessions have dealt with topics such as acknowledging differences between us, remembering your first encounter with racism and racial identity formation which provide stimulating and enlightening discussion for the participants. In addition, there is a "homework" assignment to help deepen the ideas presented.

The most recent workshop was about "White Privilege", its manifestations and how it hurts both Caucasians and people of African Heritage but how it is ingrained in us, sometimes very subtly, by a society that sometimes would rather see us fight one another than join together as allies in the fight for justice and peace. Many people spoke personally about their struggle with "privilege" and/or their struggle without "privilege" and we began to think of ways to counteract privilege, whenever we see it (whether in ourselves or in others). The homework assignment was to be vigilant, watching for signs of "privilege" and monitoring feelings about and responses to it. The workshops will continue through the month of April.

### THE FLORIDA DISTRICT UUA (FLD) AWARDS

The Florida District UUA (FLD) Awards Committee requests your nominations to honor members who have made significant contributions to their congregations and communities. Please note, all nominations must include a **nomination form** (available online) with a brief statement and supporting documents and must be received no later than March 15. Awards will be presented during our **District Assembly** in April.



# STAYING GROUNDED – Dennis Shaw

UUFCC's growth is clearly reflected by the changes occurring on our property. Spring is a good time to prune overgrown areas on the grounds.

A big thank you for your hard work and dedication to:

- Dan Cinelli for removing shrubs and tree limbs that were blocking a clear view to Forrest Nelson. Dan has also cleared a very overgrown area east of the building to enable future overflow parking. Dan works independently and makes a significant difference.
- Clarence Perry, Judy Merick (a Florida Master Gardener volunteer) and Dennis Shaw for clearing pathways and pruning shrubs along the paths.
- Clarence Perry again who has been an important member of the gardening team for seven years. He arrives early and often hauls yard waste to the Reuse Center.
- Patricia Thomas-Beard, who has served as Grounds Committee chair for the past several years. She is passing the baton (or is it a rake?) to Dennis Shaw as of March 1, 2013. She will continue working with the garden team as a volunteer.



Clarence Perry



Patricia  
Thomas-Beard

The Grounds Committee continues to pull vines, trim bushes and remove dead palm fronds every Thursday morning at 8:00. If you want to connect with nature and a few terrific folks, join us. Sturdy shoes, work gloves, long pants, and a desire to laugh are the only prerequisites. Hope to see you there.

## CONTACT US

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Minister's hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays  
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Ginger Abraham, Newsletter Editor  
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Susan Taylor, Newsletter Photographer, Copy  
Editor  
Article Deadline: 20th of the month  
Myrna Charry, Communications Chair  
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## OFFICE HOURS

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

## Book Group

Have you ever read a book that you liked so well you wanted your friends to read it so you could talk about it? That's what we do at our book group meetings, so come join us. If a book is endorsed by two or more members it is considered for our list of future readings.

At our most recent meeting, we discussed *TROPIC OF CANCER* by Henry Miller. It is mainly the stream-of-consciousness of a young writer living in Paris without money. Although it had been banned because of its sexual references, it is so well-written that some critics feel that it rises to the level of poetry and quotable lines. It is on the "best books" list of many organizations.

Our future books are:

*SENSE AND SENSIBILITY* by Jane Austen  
*THE LAST BROTHER* by Joe McGinnis  
*MRS. CALIBAN* by Rachel Ingalls.

We meet at 1:30 at UUFCC on the last Wednesday of each month.



## 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



**March 3** *Poets Call to Worship* Rev. Amy Kindred

Poets have a special sensitivity to or an awareness of sacramental truths that are often overlooked. We'll explore worshipful themes as revealed by poets.

*We open the membership book this morning and celebrate those who wish to join with others as members of UUFCC.*

**March 10** *Dreams That Teach* Rev. Amy Kindred

What do we do with odd dreams? What do they mean? Many dream experts offer pointers that help us make sense of the subconscious. Join us as we explore the topic of dreams.

**March 17** *Celebrating the Spring Equinox* Rev. Amy Kindred

We in the sunny south don't realize change in weather patterns as much as our brothers and sisters up north but we DO recognize that the earth turns. People have gathered for centuries to worship during times of changing seasons. Using passages from earth-centered traditions, we'll celebrate the move from cooler, less lengthy winter days to spring in full bloom.

**March 24** *Flower Communion* Dennis Shaw

Dennis Shaw will create a floral bouquet that symbolizes the various gifts members bring to our sacred community. The focus of the service will be a flower communion, a UU tradition.

**March 31, Easter Sunday** *Death, Rebirth and Renewal* Rev. Amy Kindred

What can we learn about faith and life's mysteries from viewing a painting? What nuggets of truth exist in looking at the life of the artist who created it? Come and explore Van Gogh's perceptions of faith that includes Easter season's theme of triumph over death.

## OTHER EVENTS

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**March 1** –Support group (Tough Times) for those in need of mutual support. 10:30am - Noon. (Every Friday of the month)

–“Patchouli” Concert. 7:00pm. Tickets available at the door \$12.00

**March 2** –Building The World We Dream About (BTWWDA). 10am – Noon

–Recorder Group. 2:30 – 4:00pm on the porch. (Every Saturday of the month)

**March 5** – Caring and Hospitality committee meeting. 10:00am

- Hosting CIW Marchers starting the evening through noon of March 6

**March 8** –Support group (Tough Times) for those in need of mutual support. 10:30am - Noon. (Every Friday of the month)



**March 10 – Artists' Reception for Mary Taglieri and Jean Rosenberg, Noon – 1 p.m.**

**March 16 - Rachel Struebing RN 10:30 a.m.** Workshop on Patient Advocacy (See p. 3 for details)

**March 18-19 - Legislative Day – From the UU Legislative Ministry Florida:** We drive up on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup> (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.

**March 27 – Book Group, 1:30 p.m.** (See page 7 for details)

- Healing Oasis. Local alternative healing practitioners meet to offer restorative sessions that assist the well-being of health, body and mind. Donations to UUFCC gratefully accepted. 6:00pm. (Fourth Wednesday of the Month)

**March 29 –Support group (Tough Times) for those in need of mutual support. 10:30 a.m. – Noon** (Every Friday of the month)

**March 30 – Building The World We Dream About (BTWWDA). 10am – Noon**  
–Recorder Group. 2:30 – 4:00pm on the porch. (Every Saturday of the month)

**March 31 – This I Believe meeting at noon in the sanctuary.**

Topic: SNOW BIRD SONG

Here and there; now and again

"Sweet tea and black coffee, please; pour a glass half empty"

Living the double life

Disappear like the April fog; but, "Here I am. I'm back"

Never, never land; bye, your leave

"Where did I leave that?" Winter romance, summer passion

"I can commit"

Hopes and expectations dismissed

Memories cherished and memories lost

"What was your name again?"

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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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 (watch for flyers or contact the Southern Region Office – [kcharles@uua.org](mailto:kcharles@uua.org) or 407-894-2119)
- **June 19-23 UUA General Assembly** Louisville, KY (cheap flights from PG to Lexington).

