



# NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

*A spiritual home where religion and reason meet*

*MAY/JUNE 2013*

## *Kindred Spirit*



Rumi wrote, *"How does an essence of the world leave the world?  
How does wetness leave water?  
Don't even try.  
You are here to stay"*

I've been here since August. When I arrived, I noticed that there were very few birds singing in the morning when I awoke. It seemed eerily quiet in these parts. Months later when the heat subsided down south and the cold began to set in up north, water birds and song birds of all kinds descended on this area of the state. I was delighted by the beauty and astounded by the diversity. Now, I see them less and less.

Long-time residents tell me the winged lovelies begin to make the journey back to parts northern and unknown to me. "Don't despair," locals say. "They'll be back."

On Sunday mornings, I've noticed a change in the worship service. Folks that I have become accustomed to seeing are beginning to travel to homes in other places outside of Florida. Our own "snow birds" are beginning to leave. "We'll miss you," they say. And there we are those of us who remain, waving at the doorway. "Safe travels," we whisper. Good-byes are never easy. There's still that little ache in the gut for those who stay even when we know friends and members plan to return. For the one who departs with intentions to come back, there exists that small voice inside that weeps just a little.

Rest assured all. We belong together. In the hearts of those who journey or those who remain, "you are here to stay." Miles apart or inches away, there exists this confidence: we are one in faith and fortitude. *May you encounter blessings and infinite beauty as you travel your path wherever it leads.*



*A "New to UU" Question and Answer session will be held after the service on May 19 at 12:15 on the porch. Bring a cup of coffee and your curiosity to the table where the minister awaits for an engaging conversation about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. We'll discuss what we teach our children, what we tell our neighbors when they ask why we are not on the golf course on a Sunday morning, and what it means to participate in community of diverse theological understandings.*

## MESSAGE FROM MARYHOLLY



**Our Beloved UUFCC Community:** As a dear friend of mine faces the end of life, I am reminded how fragile life can be and how quickly one can go from healthy to critical. Life can be full of trials and tribulations and we have had many examples this past month right in our own congregation and among friends. May we remember how precious each day truly is.

I am also reminded of the importance of our faith and our beloved community -the connections we make - and how we build relationships to support one another. We are fortunate to have our minister, Rev. Amy (in her pastoral role), our Caring

Associates and now our new Health Advocacy team! We need one another in times of joy and sorrow. Thanks for making it so!

**Our larger UU faith:** I am also thinking of other important connections we make as I reflect on the recent District assembly- being among the larger UU community that lives by our shared principles and learning from others who work to share our faith with those who are looking for us. We have many resources available - learning opportunities abound through our Southern Regional staff and consultants, webinars and conferences. Watch for interesting offerings in updates and flyers-or speak with me if you are interested in participating in broader spiritual & leadership experiences.

On a more personal note, I was inspired to be a UU and reminded of our calling to live our principles-to walk the talk ... And so pleased to have 13 folks from our congregation -yes, wearing our green tee-shirts we stood out-the "green people" showing how proud we are to represent UUFCC.

**We welcome New Board Members-** Dennis Shaw and Stephen Lee and say farewell with much appreciation to Joan Bollinger and Steve Pollard for their service.

I encourage you to become acquainted with the seven Board members listed below and share your thoughts and questions with whomever you feel most comfortable. All we ask is that you do so gently- Board members and our minister are working hard to serve.

We had an inspirational Board Retreat hosted and facilitated by Rev Amy. It was an opportunity to become better acquainted, share our stories that make UU important and identify our hopes and dreams for UUFCC.

It is an exciting time of growth and change at UUFCC. Bear with us as we experience growing pains and work with us as we invite you to be a part of making it all possible.

Yours in faith,  
MaryHolly



### UUFCC Board members 2013-14

MaryHolly Allison, President  
Jack Osborne, VP  
Carol Powell, Secretary  
Robert Taylor, Treasurer  
Vince Frighetti, Trustee  
Stephen Lee, Trustee  
Dennis Shaw, Trustee



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



Our Board seems to cover a whole lot, in a short time. We went from recently having our Annual Meeting, to a Board Retreat, which included a very lovely party at the home of our Board President, MaryHolly and her husband Ben. We certainly know how to work, but also, have learned the art of how to “party”.

The highlights of the Retreat were saying good-bye to Joan Bollinger and Steve Pollard and welcoming Steve Lee and Dennis Shaw. The Retreat gave the newcomers an idea of how hard everyone works to make our congregation both loving, and functional, at the same time. We had a “dream session,” putting things on a chart that we might see in the future, all of which were very exciting and we look forward to having more information for everyone in the future.

We all enjoyed the sharing of food and conversation at the Retreat. The new and old Board members were together at a very convivial party. We also are realistic enough to know that a lot of work will be done in the coming year and a party is nice once in a while.

Some of us will be travelling or doing other things that will make us absent for a little while, but we all know how the congregation always pitches in when needed. We look forward to a great summer for all! See you soon!

## UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS, Joan Lund,



For as long as I have been involved in UUism I have believed, to be effective, our social justice work should be linked with other faith groups working on similar mandates. **The Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC)** is one such partnership of faith-based organizations committed to enacting fair and humane immigration reform. Members of the coalition advocate for just and equitable immigration policies, educate faith communities, and serve immigrant populations around the country, all the while reflecting our belief in welcoming and treating all people with dignity and respect.

**Breaking Bread and Building Bridges (BBBB)** is part of a larger strategy to engage people at the local level through events such as potlucks, vigils, and detention visitations, providing an opportunity to connect with those most directly affected by unjust immigration policies. For example, a group of congregations could hold an “eat and meet” to share family migration stories, while identifying common values and goals. Specific goals and strategies, relevant to your community, could be developed to work towards immigrants’ rights. Much information is available on our UUA web site, with a link to Interfaith Immigration Coalition and a resource toolkit for engaging in such activities. On a personal note: I look forward to being with many of you at General Assembly, my last as your UUA Trustee. I can be reached at [jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org) or 813-931-9727.



# MUSIC NOTES *Amy Lynne Menard*



## Musical Calendar

**May 5<sup>th</sup>:** MUSIC SUNDAY! You won't want to miss this once-a-year Sunday with extra hymns, choir favorites, and special guests including the talents of our very own guitarist, Steve Pollard. Plus, we'll have a special **music program fundraiser**, where you can dedicate one of the new teal hymnals to a loved one by purchasing a name plate for \$25. Come out and lift your heart in song!

**May 12<sup>th</sup>:** In honor of Mothers' Day, Megwyn will sing "The Story Goes on" from the musical, *Baby*. The Choir will sing for the final time this season, "Bright Morning Stars."

**May 19<sup>th</sup>:** The Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun" will usher in our Sunday about hope.

**May 26<sup>th</sup>:** Come have a Zen moment and hear the Taoist poem "The Little Fete" accompanied with Asian-inspired improvised viola.

- **Stay tuned for June music**, which will be announced in upcoming weekly updates!
- The choir will be on summer break June, July, and August, and resume rehearsals in September. **This summer, volunteer** as a small group or soloist. Voices and instruments of all kinds are welcome.
- The **Music Committee** may become reestablished, with new purposes. Stay tuned for announcements about who to contact to get involved.
- Thank you to Bob Taylor and the Board who helped me get funding to attend District Assembly! It was a powerful, inspiring, and enlightening weekend and I am grateful to have had the opportunity.

## CONTACT US

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**Rev. Amy Kindred**, [minister@uufcc.org](mailto:minister@uufcc.org)  
941.627.4303  
Minister's hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays 2:00-6:00 p.m.  
**NOTE: Rev. Amy will be on study leave through May 7.**

**Melanie Blais**, Office Assistant [office@uufcc.org](mailto:office@uufcc.org)  
**MaryHolly Allison**, [President@uufcc.org](mailto:President@uufcc.org)  
**Ginger Abraham**, Newsletter Editor, [newsletter@uufcc.org](mailto:newsletter@uufcc.org)  
**Susan Taylor**, Newsletter Photographer, Copy Editor  
Article Deadline: 20th of the month

**Myrna Charry**, Communications Chair,  
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**OFFICE HOURS Effective Apr. 29 through Sept. 26**  
**Mondays and Thursdays**  
**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

## WE'VE GOT TALENT!

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, basketweaving, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, whatever.

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



## THIS I BELIEVE Dave Shumway

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### May 26th at noon in the Sanctuary

**Topic:** From obituary notice of Rev. W. Edward Harris 1935-2012

*"The church is not a place of right convictions, a fortress of truth or even a bastion of philosophy. The church is a community of those who have suffered loss, lived through it, and learned true compassion. We have a sense of awe and mystery about this world and this enterprise of living... We learn from each , and for these reasons we come to this special place, infusing it with hope."*

Where does this leave us at UUFCC? Without doctrine, discipline or boundaries, are we relegated to a pep club, a mutual support society, a social club? Are we a minor variation on any social club? We feel we are diverse, yet we say we are liberal, vote pretty much the same way and rarely have dissention as to convictions, doctrine or philosophy. Our services look and feel remarkably like main street Protestantism. Are we really free thinkers? Are capable of acting on an unpopular, minority opinion? Are we burying our independent thinking in our dependency on the group?

### June 30 at noon in the Sanctuary

**Topic:** We think of ourselves as a "welcoming congregation." If we were to discover that one of us was a thief, a traitor expelled from the military, a convicted pedophile, a rapist, a murderer of any degree, or any other convicted felon, could we, should we draw the line? Where?

If we became aware that one of us was an adulterer, a liar, or a con artist, is that our business? Should the person be confronted? Should that information be taken to the preacher or the board? If a participant begins to show delusional or manic behavior in the service, how do we deal with that? If a person came among us and began proselytizing, claiming the son of God, or speaking in parables, would they be tolerated? Do we excommunicate, medicate or ignore? Are we too accepting and reasonable? How vulnerable are we by our very nature?

## BOOK GROUP Joyce Gendziwill

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JOIN US! We discuss all kinds of books. We choose books we think we all will enjoy. We choose books that we should read sometime in our lives. Books we have read once and want to read again. Books we own and cannot bear to part with. Books that will inspire a lively discussion.

One recent book was *The Last Brother* by Joe McGinniss, a story of Ted Kennedy from boyhood to just beyond the Chappaquiddick tragedy. How does the book fit in with what we already know from other sources? Does the author go too far in suggesting the thoughts and feelings of his subject?

We agreed that the book was hard to put down. That it showed the power that unlimited wealth has over politics. And the power an ambitious father can have over his sons.

At our most recent meeting we discussed *Mrs. Caliban* by Rachel Ingalls. A lonely housewife shelters a manlike ocean creature who had escaped from the cruel experiments at the research institute. Is the creature real, as in a sci-fi story? - or is he a hallucination to rescue the desperately unhappy woman? The book has been called one of the twenty greatest post-war American novels.

Books for future discussions are:

May - *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte

June - *The Code Talker* by Chester Nez

July - *The Professor and the Madman* by Simon Winchester

Meetings at 1:30 on the last  
Wednesday of the month.  
All bibliophiles are welcome!



## RADIO COMMITTEE REPORT, Rosemary Hagen

R. J. Malloy, general manager of Internet Radio KDW, has offered UUFCC an hour of free time each week for radio programs. He is doing this as a community service and includes help editing the programs. In response, the radio committee is really getting going.



Phil Brown and Rosemary Hagen are working on shows, and Rosemary's on the UU Service Committee is ready to be edited. Sally Clarke has started interviewing GLBT people and so has Joseph Fenty, but his program will have to be put on hold until he finishes his physical therapy following his heart attack. Work hard, Joseph! Do your physical exercises and keep blowing into that balloon. Become a blowhard! We all hope to see you soon, and are delighted that you are home and recovering.

Tom Dueley, with the help of Jack Osborne is transferring key sermons by Reverend Amy to KDW for broadcasting. The first will be the sermon on the Immokalee Farm Workers which she gave on November 4. We are using that first to call attention to what UUFCC is doing in the community. We will let you know when it will be played on KDW.

Bill Wharton reports that he has taped programs for many presentations to our congregation which go back through the years. We will be looking at those and considering which tapes seem to be most appropriate. We could use some volunteer help on this project. If you are interested, please see Rosemary or another committee member--Que Burgess, Tom Dueley, Dale French, Ted Zawistowski, Phil Brown.

I am happy to report that we are just about equipped to run our own internet station, and as soon as we all receive training from KDW the committee will discuss when to start.

Right now, we need more programs dealing with current activities and issues. What are the various committees doing? For example, Delight TePaske from the Social Justice Committee is working on a program about Afghanistan. That is only one committee. Please see Rosemary and tell her about your committee work or send her a written report.

Anyone who wants to help prepare radio programs, or who has an idea about one, see Rosemary Hagen or a committee member

**To listen to KDW radio type <http://www.KDWradio.com/nowplay>**

## ART ON THE WALL

The paintings of Punta Gorda artist Joan Bradley will be on display beginning on the first of May and running until June 15.

Ms. Bradley's subjects, done mainly in acrylic, cover a wide spectrum of subjects including tropical birds and other wildlife, sailboats, landscapes, orchids, portraits as well as abstracts.

Also featured again will be the popular wood-turned work of Normand Desjardins. Many of the paintings as well as the wood works may be purchased.

The public is invited to a reception for the artists on Friday, May 3, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.



# COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS AND UUs

Ted Zawistowski, Social Justice Committee Chair



At the recent first-ever [White House Forum to Combat Human Trafficking](#) the CIW and the Fair Food Program were front and center. The Fair Food Program was singled out as "one of the most successful and innovative programs" in the world today in the fight to uncover and *prevent* modern-day slavery.

Over the years, numerous congregations of a broad variety of religious denominations and other social action groups have supported the CIW in many ways, among them the Unitarian Universalist fellowships of SW Florida,

including us at UUFCC. Last November, an assembly of UU congregations met here in Charlotte County to plan coordinated support for the CIW across this region.

This year, we provided leadership together with the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to organize community-wide support for the CIW's march in March from Fort Myers to Lakeland where the Publix supermarket chain has its headquarters.

On March 4, 5 and 6, the CIW marchers passed through Charlotte County. Some of us joined them as they walked across the Peace River bridge. We housed some 100 marchers for two nights here at UUFCC, helped feed them several meals here and at other locations, soaked some sore feet in Epsom Salt baths, drove a few to our homes to take showers, sang with them and to them, and walked more miles. Eventually, two carloads of us rejoined them in Lakeland for the final action on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

For the first time, a representative sample of Charlotte County organizations and individuals worked together to help the cause. Some of these groups came to help the CIW for the first time. We sang in unison songs of hope, courage and determination, we sat at the same tables to eat with those who serve us, we spoke with one another as equals, and we stood together hand in hand with the oppressed to protest oppression.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Help is needed in operating various technical equipment around the Fellowship. We are seeking some folks to join the "Technical Committee" and learn how to setup and operate the projector and computer and software used during our Sunday services. Help is also being sought for working on our UUFCC website.

There are several routine pieces of updating and maintaining of the site that are easy to learn, fun to do, and can be "creative". If you think you might be interested in giving this a try, please talk to MaryHolly Allison or Jack Osborne. There will be a tech training on May 8 from 5-6 p.m.

## NEW SIGN

Many thanks to those of you who have already made a contribution towards the purchase of our beautiful new sign. If you would still like to donate, it's not too late! Just look for the large picture of the sign and drop your donation in the bucket attached underneath.



## 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

**May 5** Music Celebration Sunday, Amy Lynne Menard and Dennis Shaw, Worship Associate  
See Music Calendar p.4 for details

**May 12**, Rev. Amy Kindred. Sue Burgess, Worship Associate

### **Margaret Fuller: A Mama Who Didn't Mince Words**

A number of women throughout the history of Unitarian Universalism have made grand contributions to the faith we celebrate today. Margaret was one woman who lived her convictions. Her story will surprise you.

**May 19**, Rev. Amy Kindred, Annie Ross, Worship Associate

### **Hope Happens Here**

In a beautiful world challenged by adversity and despair, where do we find the will to exist? What keeps one from falling into a well of fury and cynicism? Through the centuries, there have been those who have fanned the embers of hope. Are you one of them?

*A "New to UU" Question and Answer session will be held after the service. See p. 1 for details*

**May 26**, Rev. Amy Kindred, Ginger Abraham, Worship Associate

### **Tao of Winnie the Pooh**

Based on a book of the same title, this morning's sermon explores Taoism's fingerprint on the actions and relationships of the characters in Milne's beloved classic tale of the escapades of Winnie the Pooh. Who said children's books are only for children?

## MAY CALENDAR EVENTS

**Wednesday, May 1**- 7pm. Choir Practice.

**Friday, May 3** – 5 p.m. Artists' Reception for Joan Bradley and Normand Desjardins

**Saturday, May 4**- 2:30pm. Recorder Group.

**Tuesday, May 7**- 10am. Caring and Hospitality committee meeting .

5pm. Tough Times support group.

7pm. Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society.

**Wednesday, May 8** – 5 p.m. Tech Training

**Thursday, May 9** - Navigator River Trip - Ecological Tour on the Peace River.

Everyone should arrive at the Navigator Bar and Grill off of King's Highway at 11:15 for lunch after which, we will board their pontoon boat and head out on the river for a narrated tour for 1 ½ hours. The cost is \$36.00 including lunch and gratuities. Please make your checks payable to UUFCC but make sure it states RIVER CRUISE in the memo area of your check. Joan Bollinger will collect the checks. TO reserve your space, you can call Joan at 941-286-7297.

**Friday, May 10**- 4pm. Game Night.

6pm. Karaoke Night.

7pm. Cafe Serendipity.

**Saturday, May 11**- 2pm. Chalice Circles.

**Tuesday, May 14**- 5pm. Tough Times support group.



**Wednesday, May 15-** 6:30pm. Mid-Month Movie Night. Congregation member Roxann Luning suggested a wonderful movie titled "Searching for Sugarman". It's an incredible true story of a 70's rock singer who "never was". You'll be moved to tears of joy! Bring yourself and a friend if you like. We'll supply the popcorn and beverages.

**Tuesday, May 21-** 5pm. Tough Times support group.  
7pm. Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society

**Wednesday, May 22-** 1:30pm. Book Group.

**Wednesday, May 29-** 6pm. Healing Oasis.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### **June 2, Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Roger Fritts**

On occasion, Unitarian Universalist ministers exchange pulpits. On this Sunday morning, Rev. Roger Fritts, who serves the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Sarasota, delivers the sermon. Our minister, the Rev. Amy Kindred, will carry the message to the congregation in Venice, Florida.



### **June 9, Rev. Amy Kindred**

#### **Stranger than Fiction**

Based on a movie, the sermon explores the power of the story and examines what might happen if the lives of the characters in a book are truly guided by the author's pen. If you had the opportunity, would you like to know how the story of your life ends? Who or what determines your destiny? (Come see the movie, *Stranger than Fiction*, at Mid-Month movie night on Wednesday evening, June 12 at 6:30 pm. All are invited for free popcorn and beverages.)

*This will also be a **Membership Sunday** for those interested in becoming a member of UUFCC. See p.3 for details.*

### **June 16, Dennis Shaw**

#### **Reflections and Readings on Fatherhood**

Join us as we recall the people in our lives who are or were our fathers or like fathers to us.

### **June 23, Unitarian Universalist General Assembly**

Our congregations are united by a covenant to gather under a central association. That is, we are part of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Once a year, delegates from our congregations gather to vote for policies and governance matters. We also come together to celebrate our shared faith. On this Sunday morning, we will attempt to participate with the morning worship via live stream feed from Louisville, Kentucky.

### **June 30, Sharon Whitehill...**

#### **Dancing With the Stars."**

"We are made of star stuff," said Carl Sagan. "The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars." And so, in a very real way, we all dance with the stars, all of us joined in one cosmic dance.



# JUNE CALENDAR EVENTS

**Tuesday, June 4** – 10 a.m. Caring and Hospitality Committee Meeting

5 p.m. Tough Time Support Group

7 p.m. Acoustic Guitar Society

**Tuesday, June 11** - 5 p.m. Tough Time Support Group

**Friday, June 14** – 4 p.m. Game Night

6 p.m. Karaoke Night

7 p.m. Café Serendipity

**Tuesday, June 18** - 5 p.m. Tough Time Support Group

7 p.m. Acoustic Guitar Society

**Tuesday, June 25** - 5 p.m. Tough Time Support Group

**Wednesday, June 26** – 1:30 p.m. Book Group

6 p.m. Healing Oasis



**Pictures from the New Member Picnic Lunch at Gilchrist Park held on April 6**

