



# NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

*A spiritual home where religion and reason meet*

OCTOBER 2013

## Kindred Spirit

*Reflections from the minister, Rev. Amy Kindred*



*Heading out the door, I yelled to my sweetheart,  
"See you later. I'm going to my yoga practice."  
He answered, "Well, good luck. Someday you'll master it!"*

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A few years ago, I sat in a doctor's office waiting to be called up for my appointment. The woman behind the glass window opened it and called my name. She said something on the order of, "Kindred come to the counter now." She saw me walking toward the counter. She said, "Get over here. I need your insurance card right now. Give it to me and go back and sit down."

She was loud, abrupt and snarly.

I gave her my card and as I went back to the chair to wait some more, another woman who was in the waiting room came over to me and said, "That nurse is being mean to you." I said, "Yep." The woman continued, "Why did you let her speak to you in that way?" I answered, "She is the one having the bad day. Not me."

The point is I didn't let it bother me. Her words flowed off my shoulders. When I was called back up to the counter by the nurse behind the glass I smiled and said, "Hello. You must be having a rough day. I'm sorry to hear of it." It didn't appear to change her attitude in the least. But what I remember is that I did not absorb her bad mood.

I can't say I am able to brush off ugliness all the time. However, I often make it a goal to become like a mirror and let negativity bounce off of me. This capacity to behave with calmness when others appear to be acting without gentleness is a learned approach. This behavioral modification that I have been practicing for years is just that: a practice. *Making a better world begins one person, one attitude, one gesture at a time. What is a practice that helps you become a more peaceful person?*

MaryHolly Allison, Board President and Reverend Amy Kindred welcome new members Gurio Vincenti, and George and Marla Haynes. Not pictured: Linda Levin



## MESSAGE FROM MARYHOLLY Board President



Most long time UUFCCers believe that the summer is a calm, quiet time here at our Fellowship. Well, not this year! Rev Amy has been in the pulpit many Sundays during July, August and September; she was in the community, and thus, in the newspaper on the front page of the Sun twice, and on the radio; and she has supported committees and new programs; provided pastoral care and met with potential new members. WOW- she is amazing!!

We have had more visitors and regularly attending members and friends. Our all time high for summer attendance was 88 folks. We know there will only be more as snowbirds fly back, summer travelers return and new folks find us. We are living our mission and vision and getting out the message of our UU faith and welcoming fellow seekers.

The Board has been and will continue to be focused on:

- Ministerial Settlement Committee – they are meeting with small groups! We want a settled minister and they are gaining your input!
- New Sign with chalice and lighting...and even plants are there now!!!
- Immediate space needs:
  - a. more parking including a **new parking lot** (watch for details and member vote), more handicapped marked parking spaces
  - b. better use of space for potlucks and socializing - notice new tables! Thanks, Bill Wharton!
- Bylaws Revisions to match current operations and best practices- this will take awhile as we seek input from committees and members and consult UUA.
- Supporting our minister to continue to make a positive and effectively functioning organization that *nourishes the spirit and helps heal the world*.

We are progressing...you gotta love that new sign!! Accomplishing these many tasks has been possible only with the help of many. The work continues and we are grateful!

As we anticipate the return of snowbirds and summer travelers, we welcome them and know they will feel the positive energy. We are eager to see them and to be uplifted by their gifts. We may all feel the challenges (and closeness) as we experiment and work through the best ways to use our facility and existing space. It will require cooperation from all - being patient and grateful for the special folks who share our faith and follow the following requests:

- Completing **Building Use forms** to use the building; found on website at UUFCC.org
- Writing up **brief** announcements for Updates or Order of Service and submitting by Mondays- limited to four lines PLEASE.
- Sharing your ideas and compliments with Board members as well as Rev Amy.
- Share your time and talents to make positive things happen at UUFCC and in our community.

We know how busy and fun high season can be. We look forward to your meaningful involvement and spiritual growth or renewal. We welcome all fellow seekers.



## Buzz From the Board Carol Powell, Board Secretary



Our agenda for the Board Meeting, held September 19, was packed full with a variety of items.

### **NEW PARKING LOT PLAN**

Herston Engineers attended meeting to clarify their plan for additional parking. They responded to our many questions regarding the 16 new spaces that will be created. We were concerned with every aspect and they were confident that they will keep things as green as can be, saving many of the beautiful trees that are in the area. They will take care of all of the permits and send out Request for Proposals (RFP) to several contractors.

The “guesstimate” for the cost was in the range of \$25,000 to \$30,000. A motion was made and passed to proceed with the parking lot plan.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Rev. Amy has been working very closely with Steve Pollard to have a curriculum that is appropriate for all ages and placed in a folder that can be used if Steve & Valerie are not able to be there. A motion was made and passed to approve additional expenditure for new curriculum for Religious Education (RE).

### **UPDATES**

In addition to the above we had a great deal more on the Agenda which is not included because of space limitations. Please stay tuned every week to the Updates and announcements. You will see the additional items presented as they unfold. See you next time!

## Endowment Plaque Honorees Robert Hansman, Trustee

Who gets their name on the UUFCC board and why?

It is not frivolous or redundant, but we do honor both the donors of funds and those they honor. The rule is any donor whose aggregate contributions total \$1,000 will be posted (the honor system accounting applies, so please remind us). Twenty years ago it was only \$500. For honorees, the threshold is contributions of at least \$1,000.

Every single dollar, “plaqued” or not, counts - no matter how small. Each gift is maintained in perpetuity, and it never leaves the Endowment. The investment earnings generated from each and every gift go on endlessly, to nourish and support Unitarian Universalist-ism. With over \$300,000 invested, at the current projected net investment yield, the Endowment’s annual contribution to greater UUism via the Fellowship, will run over \$15,000, higher than the largest single annual pledge donation to the Fellowship. You can make it swell!

Join up! Did I mention tax deductible?



## GETTING DIRTY AT UUFCC

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On Sunday afternoon, October 13, 2013 at 12:00, we will launch a new Life Span Religious Education program. *(Note time and date change.)* This group is based on our seventh principle, “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” I’ve titled the program “Getting Dirty at UUFCC.” Participation is open to children and adults and modifications will be made to encourage participation by those with physical challenges.



Participants will explore various spiritual questions through the medium of dirt, specifically the Fellowship’s grounds and plants. Members will commit to participating in large group activities, including a tour of our grounds, during the second Sunday afternoon of each month. They will also commit to nurture, on a weekly basis, a small plot on our property. This aspect of the experience can be accomplished by individuals or small groups at the participants’ convenience. Tasks will range from caring for a potted plant to maintaining and developing a native plant garden.

Members can learn and document the names and characteristics of plants and observe changes and interactions in their assigned environs. Documentation of transformations will be encouraged through journaling, photography, art, poetry, etc. and individuals will have the opportunity to share their insights, creations and experiences at the monthly gatherings.

I will send out weekly, thematically related questions and meditations for members to consider and contemplate. Additional activities will include field trips to plant seminars, nurseries and festivals. Sturdy work shoes, gardening gloves, a yearning to get dirty, and a desire to be awed are the only prerequisites for membership. If you are interested in participating, let me know.

Dennis Shaw  
Life Span Religious Education Coordinator  
941-830 0848 or shawdennisg@yahoo.com

## A Trip to ECHO Farms in Fort Myers

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October 26, Saturday      Car pool at 9:30 am      \$8 adults, \$5 children

For over 30 years, ECHO has been helping thousands of development workers and organizations around the world to better access vital information and other resources needed to improve food production and security for small farmers and gardeners.

The ECHO International Headquarters is located in North Fort Myers. This campus includes the Global Farm and Research Center, Reference Library, Seed Bank, Tropical Fruit Nursery, Global Bookstore and Staff Offices.

ECHO also operates Regional Impact Centers, strategically located around the world to bring much-needed agricultural resources within reach of the small-scale farmers that need them. Sign up soon - There is only room for 20 to 22 people.



## R.E. Corner - A Tribute to UUFCC R.E. by Robin McMillan



My daughters, Erica, and Sabrina Schmitt, love coming to church to attend Sunday School with Steve and Valerie Pollard! They ask me if they can go to church each week, so I know that something good is happening out on the porch! I feel that my girls have benefited from the stories read by Steve, and ensuing craft activities with Valerie, while the subliminal messages of caring, respect, understanding and justice are discussed. The kids have become familiar with the UU seven principles, and practice what they learn. They have also been introduced to many different religions and symbols, while learning to appreciate and respect diverse beliefs.

Last spring, both girls received Caring Kids Awards at their elementary school, Toledo Blade in North Port; Erica for demonstrating the value of Respect, and Sabrina for Caring. I truly believe that what they discuss and learn in Religious Education has reinforced strength of character in the girls, and also helped them develop into positive role models for their peers. I was so excited to hear Erica's teacher commend her for speaking up for others in her class and standing up for doing the right thing! These values and the positive social development in my kids are definitely reinforced by, and attributable to their Religious Education classes with the Pollards at UUFCC. I am so grateful for their efforts with the kids and believe their time is making a positive difference!!! Also, it is important to mention that Valerie Pollard is an *extremely* talented artist and the girls are so lucky to have her spend time with them doing artsy, creative activities. They love it! Valerie is super patient and kind, and the little girls love the art they create with her. Steve too, is a natural with the kids and I think he even enjoys making Shrinky Dinks!

I highly support and encourage the continuation of the Religious Education program! While my girls are often the only ones in class, they are still excited to attend! I am so grateful that the UUFCC has offered the opportunity for them to learn to practice kindness, love and respect in the UU style. They love to go to church on Sunday and are so excited to be with Valerie and Steve. We feel very comfortable and welcome at UUFCC and have appreciated all the kindness and caring extended to us. Thanks so much!



### THE CHILDREN ARE HERE

I am delighted by the number of new folks that are attending our Sunday morning services. Among these newcomers are children. Thanks to the dedication of Steve and Valerie Pollard we have a religious education program for these youngsters. BUT, Steve and Valerie need help! If you are willing to teach "Sunday School" from a prepared lesson plan or work in the nursery one Sunday per month, please contact me as soon as possible.

Thanks,  
Dennis Shaw  
941 830 0848 or shawdennisq@yahoo.com



# UUFCC Is On The Air Ted Zawistowski

[KDWRadio.com](http://KDWRadio.com) is carrying our new UUFCC internet radio program it has titled "Unitarian Universalist Universe." Every Monday evening at 7 p.m. you can listen to our new outreach venture. Our shows are being archived so you can listen at your leisure again at a later date or tell your family or friends how to do it wherever they are with their internet access.



A few months ago a committee was formed here at UUFCC to explore the challenge being offered by the FCC. Bandwidth for low-power FM radio stations has been set aside for local community broadcasting. The idea is to use local talent to serve each community and to address local issues. We were intrigued by the idea and started to look into it, only to conclude that it was beyond our resources.

But some persisted, especially Rosemary Hagen. She found among us some engineers with needed skills and some experience in radio broadcasting, namely, Phil Brown, Que Burgess, Tom Deuley, Joseph Fenty and Dale French. A stepping stone towards the goal of a small radio station was found: internet radio. We could begin to develop our skills before making a major commitment.

And so we have begun. We are doing original programs based on our own UUFCC membership. We have a small congregation but it is full of people with many talents and broad experiences. Plus, we have tapes of many sermons dating back a number of years, thanks to Bill Wharton. Rev. Amy is one of our stars giving voice to our UU principles. There are many sources of UU materials. Recently, Rosemary has told about the beginnings of the UUSC. Judy Fincher described her UUSC sponsored trip to Guatemala to give witness to the tragic brutality and abuse of the indigenous Mayan people. Various UUFCC members are being interviewed about what attracts them to Unitarian Universalism.

## CONTACT US

1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
941.627.4303  
[www.uufcc.org](http://www.uufcc.org), [www.facebook.com/uufcc](http://www.facebook.com/uufcc)

Rev. Amy Kindred, [minister@uufcc.org](mailto:minister@uufcc.org)  
941.627.4303  
Minister's hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays 2:00-6:00 p.m.

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)  
Marilyn Reeve, Copy Editor  
Article Deadline: 20th of the month

Myrna Charry, Communications Chair, [mcharry@earthlink.net](mailto:mcharry@earthlink.net)

## OFFICE HOURS

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

As things develop, we hope to add new features such as musical performances, announcements of coming events in our community, discussions with leading figures on current topics, poetry readings, reviews of books and movies, etc. We are also seeking partners in the broader Charlotte County.

So, listen. And if you have stories to tell and talents to perform, contact us. Together, we can create a whole new chapter in our contribution to our community.



## BOOK GROUP *Joyce Gendzwill*

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Do you enjoy books? Do you attract books? Do you maybe even hoard books? Could be you are a bookaholic. Our group is looking for you.

We are not a self-help group. We won't work to get you to abstain. In fact, we'll egg you on

At our most recent meeting we discussed *UNDAUNTED COURAGE* by Stephen E. Ambrose. One might call it history. Or true adventure. In any case, the book opens a world we seldom think of any more. The raw ordeal of traveling through strange territory where the only inhabitants are Indian tribes hostile or unknown. Subsisting largely on the land itself. Making canoes from large trees to travel the waterways. Sometimes eating only what they could kill or what they were given by friendly Indians who were themselves starving. And they were cut off from civilization until they returned.

They had left Pittsburgh on August 31, 1803 and were back in St. Louis on September 23, 1806. They had crossed two thirds of the continent.

We meet on the last Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 30 at 1:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. The book discussed will be *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. It is available through the UUA Bookstore.



## OUTSTANDING NEW ART ON THE WALL!

*Marilyn Reeve*

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We're pleased to announce that the work of two well-known, award-winning artists will be featured on our art wall from mid-October through the month of November. They are Beverly Yankwitt and Lois Porter. Both are members of Sea Grape Gallery as well as the Visual Arts Center.

Bev will display her abstract paintings, while Lois will hang her paintings as well as painted paper weavings. Her Grisalle enamel portraits, small paper weavings and fiber weavings will be featured in our display cases.

We'll have a chance to meet these two exceptional artists at a reception in their honor on Sunday, October 20, right after our service.

## HURRICANE SHELTER

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In case we have a hurricane which requires that folks evacuate their homes, the Fellowship will be opened as a shelter. In case of an emergency those needing shelter are advised to bring basic bedding, a change of clothes, flashlights and medications. If you'd like to help prepare for a possible emergency, contact Dennis Shaw at [shawdennisg@yahoo.com](mailto:shawdennisg@yahoo.com) or 941-830-0848..



## SUNDAYS

**9:15 a.m.** Conversation among Friends

**10:30 a.m.** – Worship Service

Coffee Hour following Worship, Potluck lunch on the first Sunday



## WORSHIP SERVICES

### October 6 - Sacred Space and Architecture

Rev. Amy Kindred, Worship Associate – MaryHolly Allison

What determines "sacred space?" How do we know when we are in a holy place? Is it man-made? Is it open to anyone or is it only available to people who hold the same beliefs? *Visuals incorporated.*

### October 13 - On the Poetry of Dante

Rev. Amy Kindred, Worship Associate – Sharon Whitehill

Classics become classics for a reason—they address concerns by individuals born in any era.

This morning's focus is about our longing for beauty, our intrigue with death, our curiosity about God, and our love of good literature.

### October 20 - The New Kulturkampf

James M. Abraham, Worship Associate – Ginger Abraham

Kulturkampf, or culture wars, is a term from nineteenth century Wilhelmine Germany, when Protestant monarchists attacked the perceived threat of German Catholicism. But it has a corrosive meaning today. Even as Americans, led by leaders who should know better, tilt at false windmills, our country staggers along, rent by discord that has no basis in common sense. If ever there was a need for people like UUs, folks who base their spirituality and world view on reason, that time is now.

### October 27 - The Living Dead

Reader is Sue Burgess. Worship Associate – Dennis Shaw

We humans have many rituals to remember our beloved dead (Dia de los Muertos, Ghost Suppers, etc) — and even more to distract ourselves from the fact that eventually we will be the ones remembered. Seeking more life *before* death.

*This Sermon is written by the Rev. Chip Roush. It is part of his "buffet" of sermons for sale. UUFCC Worship Associates are adventurous types and wanted to try something new this Sunday.*

## Events at UUFCC

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**Wednesday, October 2-** 4:30 –6:00pm. **Spanish Lessons** led by Herb Levin.  
7pm. **Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society.**

**Friday, October 4-** 2-3:30pm. **Jungian Psychology.**

**Sunday October 6-** Noon-1pm. **Social Justice Committee's Open Discussion** of Chris Hedges' Lawsuit regarding the threat to democracy and the US Constitution due to the National Defense Authorization Act and the interpretations of its provisions

**Tuesday, October 8-** 5-6:30pm. **Tough Times support group.**



**Wednesday, October 9-** 4:30 –6:00pm. **Spanish Lessons** led by Herb Levin.  
6:30–8:00pm. **Mid-month movie night.** An upbeat film offers an exciting new idea for fundraising at UUFCC. It's titled "Calendar Girls," and it stars Helen Mirren and Julie Walters. (For those who remember, Walters played Rita in "Educating Rita" many years ago.) Wonderful acting, touching and funny characters, and based on a true story--with two documentary features that follow the film to prove it. Sharon Whitehill.



**Friday, October 11-** 2-3:30pm. **Jungian Psychology.**  
5:30pm. **Karaoke night.**  
7pm. **Café Serendipity.**

**Saturday, October 12-** 9 am. **Discussion of gardening in Florida.**

**Sunday, October 13-** 12:30-2pm. **Life Span RE- "Getting Dirty @ UUFCC."**

**Tuesday, October 15-** 5-6:30pm. **Tough Times support group.**

**Wednesday, October 16-** 4:30 –6:00pm. **Spanish Lessons** led by Herb Levin.

**Thursday, October 17-** 10-11:30am. **Writers and Storytellers Workshop.**  
4pm. **Board meeting.**

**Friday, October 18-** 2-3:30pm. **Jungian Psychology.**

**Sunday, October 20 – Noon – Art on the Wall Reception for new artists,** Beverly Yankwitt and Lois Porter

**Tuesday, October 22-** 5-6:30pm. **Tough Times support group.**

**Wednesday, October 23-** 4:30 –5:45pm. **Spanish Lessons** led by Herb Levin.  
6pm. **Healing Oasis.**

**Friday, October 25-** 2-3:30pm. **Jungian Psychology.**

**Sunday, October 27-** Noon in the Sanctuary. **"This I Believe"** Discussion Group. Borrowing heavily from "Regaining Balance, the evolution of the UUA," by Michael Werner, The Humanist, Sept-Oct, 2013, we will explore this question: At UUFCC does old timey, hard science, non-spiritualist, non-deist or theist UUism have a place at the table? Could it be preached, voiced from the audience or tolerated? Would it be viewed as reactionary, mean spirited, exclusionary or 1970's UU? Join us.

**Tuesday, October 29-** 5-6:30pm. **Tough Times support group.**

**Wednesday, October 30-** 1:30pm. **Book Group.**  
4:30 – 6pm. **Spanish Lessons** led by Herb Levin.

#### Mark your calendars:

- **Sat., November 2, 10:00 to 3:00 Leadership Retreat** for Board and Committee chairs and interested lay leaders
- **Sunday, December 8** Celebration Sunday: Congregational meeting, POTLUCK, crafts fair, Musical Concert Fundraiser (\$10.00 tickets)

