



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

JULY/AUGUST 2015

Kindred Spirit

Start Somewhere!



Long before curbside recycling was the norm for most cities, I was adamant about collecting and reusing as many jars, boxes and packaging materials as possible. I did not grow up in the Depression when children's clothing was made from flour sacks but I did grow up with a strong imagination. When I was a child, discarded boxes that once held baking soda, a tube of toothpaste or a package of cereal became small furniture for homemade clothespin dolls. Clothes that no longer fit and weren't handed down to younger siblings were cut up and remade into a menagerie of soft items including

stuffed toys of my own design. It wasn't that we were poor and I didn't have toys, etc. It was just that there were so many resources available to make something new from something old. I never did much with soup cans. It was too difficult to get my small hands around the right tools to cut the metal.

When it became the norm in our society to collect aluminum cans, first for pay then to recycle, I was a fanatic. This made perfect sense to me. However, it took some convincing to get other folks to stop throwing cans in the trash.

Thirty years ago, I found myself red-faced in a heated argument with a loved one I'll call "R". We were talking about trash and tin cans. I placed two separate trash bins in the kitchen and explained to my housemate that one was for garbage and trash that couldn't be shredded in a blender - for Paper Mache! (My interest in the arts and crafts never waned even when I became an adult.) The other bin was for aluminum cans to be taken to the recycling center in town. I told "R" that I didn't want to add to the landfill that which could be recycled.

"R" thought differently. "R" felt adamantly that when humanity packed the landfills to the point of overflowing, smart folks would design some new method for disposing of waste and we wouldn't be bothered with having to separate trash in our homes. I think that might have been the beginning of the end of my relationship with "R"!

There are many diverse ideas about how to solve the issues that confront society. I know my way is not the only way. For example, I spoke about water conservation and protection recently and mentioned actions that folks might do in their homes to make a positive difference. An individual came up afterward and said, "It won't make a difference. After all, China isn't interested in making positive change and neither are other countries." I'm not naïve. I realize there are factors beyond our control. But I disagree that one person's actions can't make a difference. Change has to start somewhere.



Message from MaryHolly Board President

As I write this article I am traveling in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, enjoying the scenery (and family) and anticipating the UUA General Assembly to be held in Portland, Oregon. I am pleased to be a delegate representing UUFCC. Sadly, due to medical issues, Cassandra and Delmar Wooden, our other delegates, will not be joining me. I will miss having them here. Nonetheless, I look forward to sharing some of the exciting experiences and information I acquire when I return.

From our last Board meeting, I would like to share two items discussed:

1. **The newly approved Operating Budget** - a proposal to make a \$4,000 reduction following the analysis of our last Annual Giving Campaign was proposed. We are committed to a balanced budget and this reduction will help us stay in line. You will be hearing more about this soon.
2. **The work of the Long Range Planning Team (LRPT) was presented.** The Board began processing the information shared. We are grateful for their time, efforts and information they gathered.

It will take us a while to find a way forward to review the five options for acquiring more needed space. With your involvement, we must determine what space is most desired to serve our mission, where and how we might meet our needs for growth, and what resources might be available to develop a financial plan to pay for what we all agree is the best way forward.

It is exciting to think about acquiring more space. It is also sometimes a challenge to agree on the best way forward. It will take time, effort and energy. It is a process. It is important that we honor our covenants, listen to each other and maintain positive relationships.

As the Board processes the information and carefully reviews the report, we may need a new strategic plan for our way forward. The Stewardship Team will need to more carefully examine our financial capabilities. We will be sharing more information and the report of the LRP Team with the congregation and seeking your input.

We will also continue to examine options to better utilize our existing space - the plan is to establish an **Accommodations Team**. This may require trying to use space in new and different ways and making some modifications....creating opportunities for your input and sharing your ideas. Please talk to any Board member if you are interested in being part of this team.

We are grateful for **the recent painting inside and out** that was recently completed. There has also been clean-up and reorganizing of storage space. This truly allows us to operate in a more positive environment.

In the mean time, over the summer (unlike some UU congregations), our ministry is vibrant and active: we have engaging summer services, Thursday meditation, and some new programs to serve and engage our members. We hope you will discover something that you find meaningful and enjoyable.

Yours in faith,
MaryHolly Allison



SUNDAYS

9:15 a.m. Conversation among Friends
9:30 a.m. – Choir Practice
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service
Coffee Hour following Worship
Potluck Lunch on first Sunday



SERVICES

Theme: Holy Moly!



July 5 – A Patriotic Celebration

The choir serenades those gathered and all will lift their voices. It's a day to recognize the contributions that have made and continue to make our country great.

July 12 – In Love with Oliver Rev. Amy Kindred

"The high-piled plum-colored storm-heavy clouds are approaching. The fly mumbles against the glass. This is the world..." - *Mary Oliver*

The poet's words make everyday living seem almost sacramental. Join us and fall in love with simplicity, with commonality and even with the most mundane of moments.



July 19 – Spiritual But Not Religious? On Reclaiming Religious Language Rev. Amy Kindred



At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County, we don't require that you check off a box on a form to delineate whether you are a deist, atheist, humanist, pagan, Christian, spiritualist or "other." All are welcome here. Our only request is that you be *open* to living a meaningful life surrounded by community.

July 26 - Holy Moly and Good Golly Miss Molly" Rev. Amy Kindred

When you have good news, you just can't keep it to yourself! That's the theory behind a rockin' good message, possibly peppered with "Amens," and joy-filled music to lift your spirits.



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SERVICES

Theme: Courage



August 2 – Humanely Happy: On Humanism
Rev. Amy Kindred

Most folks are familiar with the First Humanist Manifesto (1933) but many have missed the Second Manifesto (1973). In it we find this statement: "The cultivation of moral devotion and creative imagination is an expression of genuine "spiritual" experience and aspiration." This morning, we'll explore the contributions of humanism.

August 9 – "God Damn It, You've Got to be Kind" Sharon Whitehill

This directive, a quotation from Kurt Vonnegut's novel *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*, sums up what he and, of all people, Charles Dickens had in common: the UU principles both writers acknowledged personally and dramatized in their books.

August 16 – A Wabi Sabi Life Rev. Amy Kindred

"Wabi Sabi" is a Japanese term that spins a positive view on imperfection. How do we thrive and survive when life gives us broken hearts and broken promises?



August 23 – Zebra Stripes: Views on Racism and Other Obstructions to Health and Wholeness Rev. Amy Kindred



Is a zebra a black horse with white stripes? A white horse with black stripes? Does a zebra ever change its stripes? How can society move forward when folks don't see the zebra standing in the room?

August 30 – Cuba: The Neighbor We Do Not Know Dr. Martha Bireda

A talk about the Cuban definition of human rights and how those beliefs and cultural traditions influence the Cuban consciousness.



Membership Notes [Diane Allen-Harkins dallenharkins@gmail.com](mailto:dallenharkins@gmail.com)

On Saturday June 14, a group of people old and new from the UUFCC fellowship joined together for coffee at Burnt Store Grill, where we talked about the many jobs that make up the Membership / Welcome team of UUFCC. Thank you so much everyone who participated: Alice Clattenburg, Marion Menna, Joani Mountain, Regina Renner, Jennifer Rose, Sharon Whitehill, Mary Howard, Marylou-Proudfoot-Kennedy, Marty Wilmer, Jack Harkins, Laura Flachs, Rev. Amy, and Diane Allen-Harkins. As a result of this meeting you may receive a call from **Alice Clattenburg** who has graciously agreed to schedule Sunday door Greeters, people to sit at the Welcome desk, hand out hymnals, and do the collection as well as others to help out in the parking lot. Alice expects to fill the schedule with smiling faces for each position every Sunday. Let's help Alice fulfill her dream of keeping the schedule full and do our part to be sure that every person who enters our doors on Sunday morning is given a warm welcome. If you are willing to do any of these tasks on Sunday morning and have not received a call from Alice, please speak to her before or after service on Sundays or give her a call, her number is listed in the latest directory.

Besides all that Alice is doing, the following have agreed to take on these tasks:

- **Marion Menna** has taken on the task of making Name tags, and seeing that newcomers are added to our mailing list and directory as they wish.
- **Joani Mountain** will be keeping track of our UU publications wall and ordering pamphlets when needed.
- **Jennifer Rose** has taken on the task of writing welcome notes to Newcomers.
- **Marty Wilmer** has agreed to help with the Open Book Welcome ceremony.
- **Mary Howard and Laura Flachs** have agreed to host the quarterly New to UU Orientation Breakfast.

Please thank each of these dear people when you see them for jumping in to help with a very big task.

SAVE THE DATE for the next "NEW TO UU" Orientation Breakfast



Welcome all Newcomers, visitors and long-timers with thoughts of, or questions about becoming a member at UUFCC. Bring your questions and join the new UUFCC Welcome Task Team for breakfast on Saturday August 22 so we may all get to know one another better and you may learn a little about our UU history and other fun facts about our congregation.

"New to UU Breakfast/Orientation"

Hosted by the Membership Task Team

Saturday August 22, 2015 at 10:00am

At the home of Mary Howard

259 MacArthur Drive, Port Charlotte, Fl. 33954

Please R.S.V.P. to the office at 941-627-4303 or to one of the membership/welcome task team...by Sunday August 4, 2015 to let us know you will be coming.



Endowment Q & A



Why is the Endowment a separate entity from UUFCC?

Endowments are sometimes a part of the organization they support, but equally often separate “independent trusts,” as ours is. An “independent trust” is one of the structures recommended by the Endowment Fund Guide for Unitarian Universalist Congregations. Separation of the Endowment from Fellowship operations helps assure that the Endowment will be protected for the long term and will not be eroded by short term budget short falls. Independence also helps thwart a remote but possible takeover, or distortion of the Purpose of the Endowment. Having a life in perpetuity, the trust might conceivably outlive UUFCC, and continue unabated in support of Unitarian Universalism principles elsewhere.

Thank you for these recent contributions to the Endowment Fund

In Honor of Robert Hansman

Bill and Charlotte Wharton
 Dave and Florence Martin
 Rosemary Hagen
 Marilyn Reeve
 Rev. Amy Kindred and Phillip Brown
 Delight TePaske
 Phyllis Foster
 Sarah Rains
 Jack and Joan Osborne
 Ben Crosby and MaryHolly Allison
 Robert and Sue Taylor
 Rev. George Brooks

In Memory of Priscilla Brooks:

Rev. George Brooks

In Memory of Art Howard:

Donald and Sis Courtsal
 Carolyn Kvam
 J.E.M Libby
 Rachel H. Bacon

In Memory of Charles Miller:

Mary Howard
 Chuck Miller
 Richard Dick
 MaryHolly Allison
 Robert Hansman

NEW UUFCC SCHOLARSHIP: Send a Vet to Nursing School- you can help!

Our own member, Michael Apostolou, has been accepted into the Licensed Practical Nursing Program at Charlotte Technical Center. He has had a long time goal of being involved in the medical profession.

While Michael has a small savings to contribute and will continue part-time work to pay part of his expenses, he will need support for tuition, books & materials, immunizations and, of course, he must cover living expenses. He is also seeking opportunities for additional work. The costs for the one year program are close to \$7,000. (excluding living expenses).

Ways you might help include:

- Make a financial contribution (to UUFCC memo line: Scholarship for Vet)
- Connect Michael with those who might have a decent paying job.
- Hire him for projects that you might need done.

There will be team at UUFCC to mentor and support Michael: Phil Brown, Jack Harkins and Ted Zawistowski. Please contact them if you have questions or are willing to help in any way.



WE CAN MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER!

The choir welcomes newcomers and others who love to sing or are willing to learn. Why not try us out for a while? A few weeks, a few months, or long term--you decide. No prior experience necessary; most important are a love of good music, the desire to share it with others, and your readiness to meet and make friends. Speak to our director, Brenda Morris, or anyone you see in the choir.



CONTACT US - OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
8 am – 1 pm

1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941.627.4303

www.uufcc.org, www.facebook.com/uufcc

Rev. Amy Kindred, minister@uufcc.org
941.916.0957

Minister's hours: Tues. and, Thurs, afternoon.
It's best to call for an appointment.

Chris McCoy, Office Assistant office@uufcc.org

MaryHolly Allison, President@uufcc.org

Diane Allen-Harkins, Membership Coordinator,
dallenharkins@gmail.com

Ginger Abraham, Newsletter Editor,
newsletter@uufcc.org

Article Deadline: 20th of the month

Myrna Charry, Communications Chair,
mcharry@earthlink.net

VEGAN COOKING CLASS WITH hors d'oeuvres

Join Diane Allen-Harkins and Gudrun Matthaus to learn about some vegan alternative ingredients, shortcuts, and tricks for making your new lifestyle/dietary choices and recipes a little more simple and a lot more tasty. We'll show you how to make a few simple, tasty items and sip a little wine while we enjoy each other's company.

WHERE???--- AT Rev. Amy's Home: 3868 Bordeaux Drive Punta Gorda, FL. 33950

WHEN???--- Tuesday July 21, 2015 4:30-6:00 pm



Limited to 15 people per class.

Asking for a small donation (\$3.00) to cover costs if you are able

Please sign up on the clip-board in the Social Hall

R.S.V.P. to the office: 941-627-4303 By Friday July 19.



Final Thoughts on Climate Action Jack Harkins

Two years ago a small group of us started the UU sponsored Climate Action Team. The main focus has been to reduce our "Carbon footprint." Due to the urgent nature of our changing climate, when the very existence of human civilization is at stake, even within the next 100 years, all of us must "wake up" to the many ways that we contribute to this planetary problem.

What we do as individuals matters! What we do as families matters! What we do as a fellowship matters! What we do as a state, and especially as a country matters!!! What we do on a world-wide basis matters!! It all matters!!!

And yet where is the urgency?? I just don't see it!!

Some deny it, because we don't want to change Some believe it, but still where is the change???? Very few take it to heart!! Very few act like "every day is Earth Day!"

WE all must be the change we wish to see in the world!! Not just a small group of us, but all of us!! Our grandchildren and their children are calling out to us!! "BE THE CHANGE", they say!! "WE need you to act now," they cry!! "Now is the Time," dear friends!!

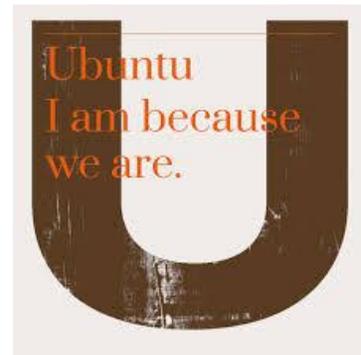
SUMMER ART SHOW FEATURES PORTRAITS

Some amazing works of local artists from the Portrait Studio at the Visual Art Center are featured on our art wall. The exhibit opened with a reception on Friday, June 19, and will continue through August.

Among the artists is our own Trudy Gerhardt. And, if you look closely, you may find someone you know as one of the subjects.

Work in the glass cases includes some lovely jewelry by artists Judy Rehill and Harriet Hazlett.

Let's hear it for our Art Committee for bringing us another great show to grace our wall!



Ubuntu Singing Workshop With Tom Tyre July 11 at 1:00 pm

Are you someone who loves to sing? Would you like to find a friendly, welcoming group of people to share your love of music? Have you wanted to sing but felt like your voice isn't quite good enough to sing in a group? All are welcome to come to Ubuntu singing. We'll sing music from around the world and from many traditions and styles. No experience is necessary. You don't need to have a "good singing voice", just a desire to sing. A donation of \$5 per person will help show our appreciation for Tom Tyre's time and talent.



So, What Is the Booster Club?

There are members and friends of UUFCC who experience financial distress. Some of these have difficulty, or the inability, to stay current in rent and utility payments, or are unable to make basic purchases, such as food, medications and other necessities.

The Boosters Club consists of UUFCC members and friends who are able to contribute a minimum of the equivalent of ten dollars per week, for as long as they are financially able, to assist those of our Fellowship in need. These monies would be held in a unique fund to be administered by Rev. Amy.

Those who are in need must present documentation, in complete confidence, to Rev. Amy or her designee(s), of the financial circumstances prompting the request for assistance. Assistance may be contingent upon active consideration of suggestions made for the reduction or elimination of further assistance.

So, want to be a Booster? Want to join the Club to help those among us in need? A check made out to UUFCC and directed to The Boosters Club would be funneled through the bookkeeping process, thereby allowing for a tax deduction for contributors.

There is an immediate need for support for The Club. Are you ready to be a Booster?

Save the Date!!

SERENDIPITY REVUE!!

Friday, July 17, 7 to 9 P.M.

On Friday, July 17, UUFCC will host a fund-raising concert featuring some of the best of our local musical talent. **Serendipity Revue!!** will showcase prominent local musicians who over the years have graced our monthly stage at Café Serendipity. Featuring Bo and Mary Kirgis, we will also have appearances by Steve Ford and UUFCC's own Jonathan ("JC") Fixler, who together will charm and rock the house with original and cover offerings from a variety of popular genre, including folk, rock, and blues. Tickets are \$10 each at the door; children under 12 may attend free of charge.

Hey, Book Lovers!

Think about trying out our dynamic book group now that some of your activities may be in "Off Season" mode. It meets from 1:30 until 3 pm on the last Wednesday of each month. We discuss a book chosen by the group with the first criteria being excellent narrative and writing style.

The book for July is **When Women Were Birds** by Terry Tempest Williams. She is well known for being a conservationist and activist but she is also a poet and memoirist. When her mother dies from cancer, Terry inherits all her beautifully bound journals. "In Mormon culture, women are expected to do two things: keep a journal and bear children." The mystery (and the poetry) begins when she discovers all the journals are blank.

Contact: Mary Wolff - 629-0669 or hmwolff9@hotmail.com



WEEKLY EVENTS

WEDNESDAYS – JULY 1, 9, 15 (MON. 27), AUGUST 5, 12, 19 (MON. 24) –
 Choir Practice 6:00 pm
 THURSDAYS, – JULY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 27 –
 Meditation 5:15 pm

July

- 1 Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7:00 pm
- 7 N.A.M.I Group 6:00 pm
- 8 Caring and Hospitality Committee 10:00 am
- 10 Karaoke Night 5:30 pm
Café Serendipity 7:00 pm
- 11 Ubuntu Singing Workshop 1:00 pm
- 12 Social Justice Committee 12:00pm
- 14 N.A.M.I Group 6:00 pm
- 16 Peace River Audubon Society 6:00 pm
- 17 Concert – Café Serendipity Revue 6:00 pm
- 19 Mystical Experiences 12:00 pm
- 21 Vegan Cooking Class 4:30 pm (see p. 7)
Climate Action Team Meeting 5:30 pm
- 22 Healing Oasis 6:00 pm
- 24 Peer Writing Group 1:00 pm
- 26 This I Believe Discussion Group 12:00 pm
- 29 Book Group 1:30 pm

August

- 4 N.A.M.I Group 6:00 pm
- 5 Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7:00 pm
- 9 Social Justice Committee 12:00 pm
- 11 N.A.M.I Group 6:00 pm
- 12 Caring and Hospitality Committee 10:00 am
- 14 Karaoke Night 5:30 pm
Café Serendipity 7:00 pm
- 16 Mystical Experiences 12:00 pm
- 20 Peace River Audubon Society 6:00 pm
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- 28 Healing Oasis 6:00 pm

