



# NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

*A spiritual home where religion and reason meet*

OCTOBER 2015

## Kindred Spirit



“One thing I’ve learned from Monica’s illness is that although our lives are upended, the world still goes on just the same as before,” said my friend two years ago when she and her spouse were in the midst of a major life transition.

*The world still goes on.* I’ve heard this phrase from folks who have experienced the death of a loved one too. It’s the surreal feeling that while one may be in the throes of catastrophic change, other people’s lives continue.

One doesn’t have to experience hardship to understand the idea that the world will continue with or without one’s direct involvement. For example, recently I took a two-week vacation from work. I also completely unplugged from email and social media which wasn’t easy. I had to repeat “no, no, no” over and over again as the impulse to check my email or Facebook account surged numerous times.

Now that I’ve returned to my vocation, shared ministry with UUFCC, I am delighted to find worthy efforts and fine fellowship continued—thrived even—without me. Ten years ago, I would have been hurt. I would have thought, “Aw, how can this be? They did all this great stuff and had fun without me.”

As I’ve grown older and have pursued a life of faith that involves discerning what has authentic value, my ego is less “noisy” than it was in the past. I don’t mind if another person has the last word, if decisions don’t go my way, if people are less than perfect or if others lead various activities for which I have a passion. (On this last one, I am mostly grateful!)

Developing confidence in my identity as a Unitarian Universalist has significantly assisted my ability to detach from the ego’s strong hold. “It’s not about *me* but about *we*,” as the adage goes. Today, I have fewer distractions that keep me angst-ridden. I have to admit, meditation helps. Through practice, I am learning to quiet the “monkey chatter” that surfaces often. (Buddhism’s fundamental teaching regarding how suffering persists as one remains attached to self-serving harmful behaviors and unhelpful thought processes has been a life-changer.)

All that being said, it’s still hard to “unplug” and “detach” from daily routines. After all, when one is active and engaged, society offers wonderful opportunities to make connections with others, to create pathways for making positive change and to participate in creative endeavors.

I believe it comes down to finding a healthy balance. “Happiness is not a matter of intensity but of balance...” said Thomas Merton. That elusive *balance* reaches all areas of life from the ego to our endeavors.

*I’m happy to be back at work and I look forward to future adventures with the UUFCC community.*



## Message from MaryHolly

### Board President

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This will be the last month that I will write to you as President of the Board of Trustees at UUFCC. I love this Fellowship. It has been an honor to serve for four years as President, and before that as Treasurer, and as a Trustee. Fortunately for our Fellowship, Dennis Shaw has agreed to serve as Interim President until our Annual Meeting on April 3, 2016.

A few things that I want to share:

At our last Board meeting, a **Facilities Options Steering Committee** was established with a charge, in part, to facilitate a process to engage our entire congregation in Town Meetings regarding the FIVE OPTIONS for resolving our need for additional space. Creating space to serve our ever growing congregation and expanding programs will be increasingly important. We will need volunteers willing to serve and hope they have stepped up to serve by the time you are reading this...and there will be opportunities to participate in a variety of ways.

It was also agreed that we **will not be going anywhere immediately**. Careful examination of our financial status and pledge commitments must be addressed. Possible capital donations and loans must be explored, and just how much folks are willing and able to support capital growth must be heavily weighed. **Yes, while this occurs we will be crowded sometimes!** Some of us will be asked to park at the library and walk. Many will want to attend the Second Service starting January - March on Saturdays at 4:30 pm for a more intimate service.

A MAJOR task that is ahead is to refine the assessment of our program needs and current assets and **to carefully identify how we can use our existing space (Option one) including our empty lot to the north of our current building**. Volunteers will be needed to make this happen – YOU will be asked to participate! My wish is that you will agree to step- up, share in the excitement and assume the responsibility of looking for creative alternatives, and what it may cost...planning our way forward with care and fiscal responsibility. WE CAN DREAM BIG with careful planning and engagement of all.

And yes, with our Music Director, Brenda Morris resigning, and she and Casey moving to Missouri we will say farewell to them on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful for the gift of music she possesses and has shared with us! Of course, a search for a new Pianist/Choir Director will be in process.

As I have said in many past Newsletters, **it is an exciting time at UUFCC!!** Our future is bright. We will continue to share our faith and live our principles in a variety of ways – and in between trips you will see me among you. We are a healthy congregation with an exciting future!

I am so happy to remain on this journey with you.

Yours in love & faith,  
MaryHolly

## 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: ANCESTORS ALIVE*

**October 4** "Six Little Known Influences in UU History" Rev. Amy Kindred

When I tell people about the contributions of Unitarian Universalists in history, they often respond, "I had no idea he (she) was a UU." Or, I tell them about an event from the past that made a difference and folks say, "A UU started that?" Today is the day to learn something new about your UU ancestry.

**October 11** "UU Trivia Sunday" Rev. Amy Kindred

This is a worship service with a twist of informative fun. We'll do our usual time of quiet devotion and reflection. Then, we'll create a little relaxed space for a game of friendly competition.



**October 18** "Empty Bowls" Joann Winkler



The Charlotte County Public School teacher who initiated and continues to run this annual event will come share with us how it raises money to feed the hungry here in Charlotte County. The Second Helping will be taken this Sunday to support this worthy project.

**October 25** "Merging and Diverging"

In six days, oodles of children will celebrate Halloween. Some folks believe Halloween is the best time for our ancestors to have access to us and we to them. It seems a fitting time to talk about how our past merges with our present, especially when October 31 is also the 54th anniversary of the successful merger of the Unitarians and the Universalists in 1961.



# Reflections of our Religious Education Program

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Our religious education students had a busy September. Nine children participated in the Work Day, helping to clean and organize the RE classrooms and beyond. The highlight for many was cleaning the table in RE with shaving cream, which was washed off later. Children drew pictures and wrote their names in the cream, and enjoyed being told they were supposed to be messy!

The theme for September, aligned with Rev. Amy's services, was **Forgiveness**. Our UU youth learned about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and enjoyed a traditional snack for these Holy Days of apples dipped in honey, to celebrate a "sweet new year." Another week, the lesson was a celebration of the Solstice.

October's them is **Ancestors Alive**. Some planned lessons include Susan B. Anthony and UNICEF.

We have begun student registrations for this school year for the two classes, Elementary and Middle/High School. Child Care is available for younger children in Rev. Amy's office. If you haven't yet completed the forms for your child, please see Marty before or after a service.

**Coming Soon:** Information about a Family Fun event. Let me know if you'd like to help plan this.

Faithfully,  
Marty Wilmer  
Lifespan Development Coordinator

## Do You Enjoy Kids in Small Doses?

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We are looking for Religious Education teachers, and substitute teachers, no experience needed. You don't need to be an experienced teacher. If you have enjoyed being a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, babysitter, mentor, Scout Leader, or tutor, you can teach RE. Have you questioned what you believe? So are our UU kids! You don't need to have *the* answers.

What do you need? About 45 minutes a month - that's it. The curriculum will be prepared for you, if you want this help. Materials will be prepared, as needed. Often, a complete script is part of the lesson, as well as appropriate questions. Training can be provided.

Intrigued? Have questions? Let's chat!

Contact Marty Wilmer, Lifespan Development Coordinator  
[marty.wilmer@gmail.com](mailto:marty.wilmer@gmail.com); cell: [434.942.6317](tel:434.942.6317); home: [941.423.0741](tel:941.423.0741)

# SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR of Meetings and Events

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## Visit Homeless Shelter

A visit to the Homeless Shelter is planned for Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 10 am. This is a component in the SJC effort to extend direct help to the homeless. For more details, please contact Gudrun Matthaues at [gmatthaues@gmail.com](mailto:gmatthaues@gmail.com).

## Discussion Group on Social Class

The SJC is undertaking a study group to examine the effect of social class on social justice. Meetings will be held monthly on Thursday afternoons at 4:30 pm. The first organizational meeting will held on October 8 on the porch when the program will be more fully explained. All are invited. The only qualification for participation is human empathy. Please contact Howard Goldson for more details at [hwgoldson@gmail.com](mailto:hwgoldson@gmail.com).

## Lunches for the Homeless

Bagged lunches are being delivered to the Homeless Coalition on the second Saturday of each month. Volunteers prepare and package the lunches at 10 am for delivery by noon. Three month schedule: October 10, November 14 and December 12. This effort is scheduled to continue through July 2016. Financial donations are welcome to cover the costs.

In addition, volunteers have begun to serve lunches at the Homeless Coalition on an "as needed" basis. The first occasion was on September 22. Future dates: Tuesday, Nov. 24, Tuesday, December 22, Monday, December 28. Contact Herb Levin at [engsp1@gmail.com](mailto:engsp1@gmail.com) for details and to sign up.

## SJC Monthly Meeting

The SJC monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11, on the porch following the noon coffee hour. All are invited.

## Second Helping

The Second Helping will be taken on Sunday, Oct. 18, in conjunction with the Empty Bowls presentation. This will take the place of the usual collection on the second Sunday.

## Game Night

If you enjoy fellowship and playing board and card games, join us on Friday, Oct. 23, at 6:30 pm, in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite games to share. Refreshments too, if you please.



*Members of the Social  
Justice Committee help  
serve a meal at the  
Homeless Coalition*



# Endowment Q & A

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## Why do Trustees serve longer terms than UUFCC Officers?

Endowment Trusteeship is not an innovative policy making position, but a managerial one with long term perspective and a relatively low work load. The role is circumscribed by the dictates of the Trust. These (*pro bono* in our case) Trustees are often selected for their mature judgment, and sustained adherence to the objectives of the trust. Historically, the term has been more like that of a minister or university president, continuing until one party or the other wishes for a change. Recently, the By-laws included a change that limits terms to four years and a Trustee may serve for two terms(modified March, 2015). This stability is useful. A turgid set of Trustees would be an unwelcome one, and the Trust provides remedies to replace a Trustee as needed, without delay with approval of the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The longer tenure of responsible Trustees slows changes and is consistent with and supportive of the enduring obligations they monitor.

## Who are the UU Endowment Trustees?

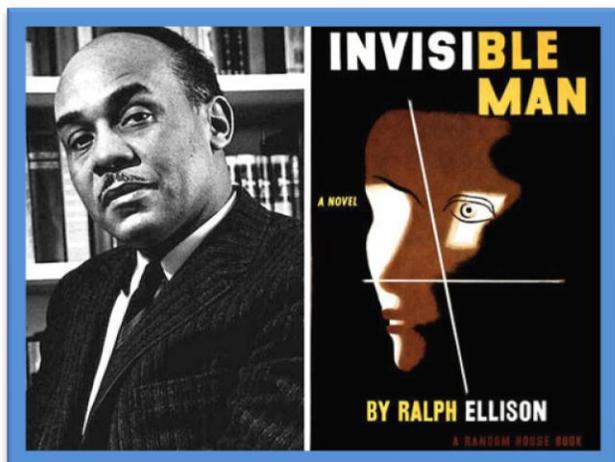
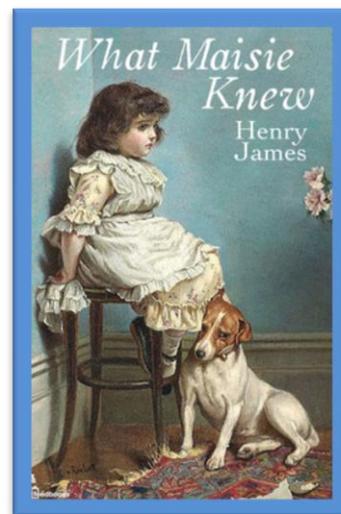
MaryHolly Allison, Robert Hansman, Robert Taylor

# BOOK LOVERS TAKE NOTE

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We have had well attended, thoughtful and fun monthly discussions this summer despite missing some regulars. At this writing, I am still eagerly anticipating our September 30<sup>th</sup> discussion of “In the Garden of the Beasts” by Eric Larson with its special take on the early stages of the Nazi Regime.

Our October meeting will be on **Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm at the Fellowship**. The book will be a change of pace—“**What Maisie Knew**” by **Henry James**. This classic novel describes how a girl going from earliest childhood to precocious maturity in adolescence negotiates the maze imposed by a sophisticated European world and the manipulation of divorced and irresponsible parents. It is worth a first, second or additional reading.



For those who like to read ahead, the book for our combined November/December meeting will be “Invisible Man” by Ralph Ellison . This novel is considered by some to be the greatest American novel of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Read it to find out why, or why not (in your opinion).

Contact: Mary Wolff at [hmwolff9@hotmail.com](mailto:hmwolff9@hotmail.com) or 629-0669.

# Membership Updates

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On Saturday September 19, a New To UU, Orientation and Breakfast was held and was a great success. The Membership Welcome team, several board members and Reverend Amy Kindred shared breakfast with several newcomers who were interested in membership at UUFCC. Huge thanks to all who came to set up, break down, clean up and everyone who prepared food, and especially to our dedicated board president and trustees for attending and welcoming the newcomers.

I won't mention names since I am worried about missing anyone, but you all know who you are, and I greatly appreciate your help, food and good humor for showing up so early on Saturday morning.

One newcomer, Gayle Richens signed the membership book after the orientation, and was welcomed and celebrated by the congregation on Sunday September 20. Please be sure to reach out and congratulate Gayle for becoming our newest member at UUFCC.



Alice Clattenburg of the Welcome/Greeting team will continue to call members and friends to ask for participation in the Sunday Door Greeter program. If she has not yet called you and you are interested in helping at the door to greet or by sitting at the desk to welcome visitors, please let Alice know (or leave a message for her at the office) so she may fill the schedule for the upcoming busy season. It's a wonderful way to help, and very much fun to be the smiling face at our doors on Sunday mornings.

Finally, it is with mixed emotions that I will step down on October 15 from the Membership Support Coordinator position which I've held at UUFCC for almost 2 years now. I have immensely enjoyed holding this job and bringing together a terrific team of people to help with all of the Membership tasks.

I wish to thank from the bottom of my heart, everyone who has stepped up to help make a successful team, who not only welcome but embrace new comers to our Fellowship.

I plan to continue as a Membership team member, and will help in any ways I can but I will now put more of my energy into the work of the Board of Trustees, and other committees I participate in.

Thank you especially, Chris McCoy for all of your assistance in the office with my many needs for Membership.

Thank you Rev. Amy for always being there to support me and the team.

Thank you to all of the Board of Trustees who voted 18 months ago to make the Membership Support Coordinator a paid position.

And last but not least, thank you to the entire congregation, both members and friends, for allowing me to be one of you...I love this community and each of you holds a special place in my heart.

I look forward with great anticipation to meeting and helping out the next Membership Support Coordinator, who should be announced in the upcoming weeks.

In Gratitude and Love,  
Diane Allen-Harkins

# WEEKLY EVENTS

WEDNESDAYS – OCT. 7, 14, 21 (MON. 26) – Choir Practice 6:00 pm  
THURSDAYS, – OCT. 8, 15, 22, 29 – Meditation 5:15 pm

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| <b>Oct. 6</b> Homeless Coalition Field Trip 10:00 am   | <b>Oct. 14</b> Caring and Hospitality 10:00 am<br>Worship Associate Workshop 3:30 pm |
| <b>7</b> Worship Associate Workshop 3:30 pm<br>Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7:00 pm            | <b>17</b> Art on the Wall Reception 4:00 pm  |
| <b>8</b> UUFC Executive Board Meeting 3:30 pm<br>Social Justice Discussion Group on<br>Class 4:30 pm | <b>18</b> Mystical Experiences 12:00 pm  |
| <b>9</b> Karaoke Night 5:30 pm<br>Café Serendipity 7:00 pm   | <b>20</b> Sierra Club 7:00 pm  |
| <b>10</b> Chalice Circles 2:00 pm  | <b>23</b> Peer Writing Group 1:00 pm   |
| <b>12</b> Citizen's Climate Lobby 6:30 pm  | <b>24</b> Chalice Circles 2:00 pm  |
| <b>13</b> Art on the Wall Set Up 10:00 am<br>UUFC Board Meeting 3:30 pm<br>NAMI 6:00 pm              | <b>28</b> Book Group 1:30 pm<br>Healing Oasis 6:00 pm                                |
|  | <b>30</b> Meatless Meal 5:00 pm  |

## CONTACT US - OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

9 am – 2 pm

1532 Forrest Nelson Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

941.627.4303

[www.uufcc.org](http://www.uufcc.org), [www.facebook.com/uufcc](https://www.facebook.com/uufcc)

**Rev. Amy Kindred**, [minister@uufcc.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@uufcc.org)

**MaryHolly Allison**, [President@uufcc.org](mailto:President@uufcc.org)

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

**Ginger Abraham**, Newsletter Editor, [newsletter@uufcc.org](mailto:newsletter@uufcc.org)

**Article Deadline:** 20th of the month

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