



# NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

*A spiritual home where religion and reason meet*

JULY/AUGUST 2017

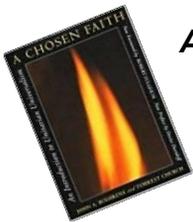
## *This I Believe*



During my last “Face Time” with Reverend Amy this past spring, I voiced my concern that too many Unitarian Universalists are unable to give a five-minute elevator speech on our denomination. We really aren't the new kids on the block with the concept of monotheism going back to the biblical Abraham. Unitarian means one God rather than a trinity. Universalism is universal salvation, a belief held by some Baptists that I have read about. And most importantly, we really are a religious denomination that has evolved to embrace a foundation of reason and freedom of belief including non-belief. To question is a good thing. Most powerful and challenging for me is that the buck stops with me. I must develop my own spiritual focus or personal creed. Something not set in concrete but living and growing and needing to be fed.

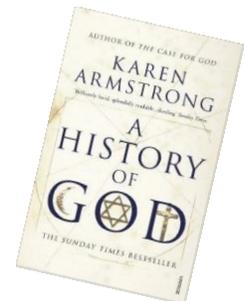
I recently attended a Sunday service given by 4 young women ages 13-17, our Coming of Age UU group at my northern congregation. Each separately delivered their personal creed as a narrative or in song. They were so very articulate about how they came to be who they are in the moment. Three of the four I knew personally over a period of 10 yrs. and recognized their exposure to life living concepts through family and our Religious Education program. A spiritual development from a clean slate with no prior religious exposure.

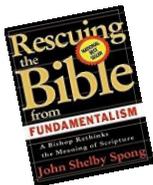
My personal creed was based on a spiritual transition (from Baptist to Unitarian Universalist) and began with courses and readings. Many years ago, I had a minister who would provide a summer reading list via our newsletter. I am suggesting the following, available through the UUA bookstore or Amazon.



***A Chosen Faith*** An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism by John Buehrens and Forrest Church. This, for me, is the UU “bible”. The who, what, where, when, why and how. And where do we go from here.

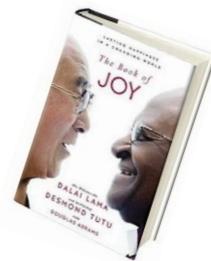
***A History of God*** The 4000-year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam by Karen Armstrong. The author is a former nun and authority on comparative religion. Religion in an historical framework is always helpful to understand how societies/cultures and religions evolve from X to Y or a combination not necessarily the intent of the founders.





**Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism** by retired Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong, my most favorite Christian. Great read and you will feel the tingle of enlightenment. I did and amen.

**The Book of Joy** by the Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu. Two old friends from different spiritual paths providing an approach to joy during our current times of despair.



Happy readings.

Stephanie Garrett  
past UUFCC President



## Dear Ones

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By the time you receive this letter, Rev. Amy Kindred, will have completed the first quarter of her well-earned, four-month sabbatical. I trust she is resting, reading, traveling, creating, and having lots of fun. I am looking forward to hearing about her adventures following her return on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

During our “May Retreat”, the Board decided to focus on financial stability and stewardship during the next year. Due to the loss of several very generous contributors, we are anticipating a significant deficit in this year's general operating budget.

A new Finance Committee has been formed and is meeting monthly. Members include Frank Wilmer (chair), Ellen McGill, Delmar Wooden, Mary Howard, Ken Brennen, Sharon Goding, and me. The Committee's charge includes developing a balanced budget and creating a five-year financial plan that encourages growth.

A new Stewardship Committee has also formed. Members, Ellen McGill, Alice Clattenburg, Tom Deuley, Marion Menna, and me, will meet monthly to develop a year-round stewardship education program. There is room for at least two more members.

Additionally, our treasurer, Ellen McGill will write a monthly financial update for the New Outlook.

Following the service on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, the Board will host a community meeting to share both our fiscal strengths and challenges. Please plan to attend.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude for our Care and Hospitality Committee and Patient Advocates. During Rev. Amy's absence, we continue to minister to those who are experiencing health challenges. If you can help, contact Trudy Gerhard or Herb Levin.

In faith and gratitude,  
Dennis Shaw, President, UUFCC Board of Trustees

## A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

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Thank you to all who completed a pledge form for Fiscal Year 2017-18. Your commitment makes it much easier to plan Fellowship services and programs when we have a firmer idea of what our income will be. As you may recall from our Annual Meeting in March, our budget is not balanced this year. We are now working with a \$34,382 deficit, so if you are able to increase your pledge—by any amount—we would be very grateful.

If you are tired of writing checks, you might want to consider setting up a weekly or monthly Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your checking account to UUFCC. The setup is easy and can be done online or in person at your local bank. Please contact me or Chris McCoy for details.

For anyone wishing to donate stock, the UUFCC has an account with Raymond James to help facilitate a direct and easy transfer. Because of our 501(c)(3) status, it can be beneficial for retirees to make direct transfers from IRA accounts to the UUFCC. Please email or call me if you would like more information about either of these options.

Finally, you can help the Fellowship budget by signing up for Amazon Smile at the [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) website and designating *Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County* as your charity. With every purchase you make through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate .05% of your purchase to the Fellowship.

With faith for our future,  
Ellen McGill

## Membership Connections

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Summer is upon us, and things slow down a bit. In a very active fellowship like ours, a bit of a breather can be a welcome change. Not that things grind to a halt. There is still a lot going on at UUFCC.

New people continue to find the fellowship, and a New to UU Breakfast will be scheduled in September. If you are interested in attending a breakfast, or becoming a member, please let me know. I will be available by e-mail for the month of July: [joanimountain@gmail.com](mailto:joanimountain@gmail.com). I'll be in California attending my daughter's wedding.

Chris McCoy will make nametags – whether you are new to UUFCC or just need a replacement tag. MaryHolly Allison ([mallison2@aol.com](mailto:mallison2@aol.com)) will be available for membership questions or concerns in my absence. You can contact them through the fellowship office.

Happy Summer Season!

Joani Mountain, Membership Coordinator

## Sundays

**9:15 a.m.** Conversation Among Friends  
**10:30 a.m.** – Worship Service

Coffee Hour following Worship  
 Potluck Lunch on first Sunday

## Meditation and Buddhist Discussion Group

**Thursday nights, 5 - 6:15 pm**

Each evening, we begin with a discussion and end with a period of meditation. All are welcome to attend.

## July's Theme: Play

**2 – “Independence Now”** **Nellson Moore**  
 How do we make the promise of America real?

12 pm - Racial Justice “Talk Back” Session

**9 - “Why We Need Wonder Woman – Universalism for a Modern Age”**  
**Rev. Katie Romano Griffin**

Wonder Woman is an icon of the Comic Book world, and she is also a purveyor of Universalist Theology. This sermon will explore her relevance both past and present (with minimal spoilers) on our faith experience.

**16 - “Building Community through Play”**  
**Dr. Dennis Shaw**

Play is a primary way we learn about ourselves, our world and our communities. Play has historically been looked at as “just having a good time” but when studied and applied to our lives, it is indeed the way that people learn to live with each other and build community.

**23 - “Reaching Across and...”**  
**Rev. Margaret L. Beard**

Sometimes it seems like brokenness is all around us. Perhaps it always has always been here but now we might be more aware of it. There is also an increasing gulf between segments of our society in terms of how we see each other and the world. How do we reach out and talk with (not at) people we care about and people we do not even know, yet? Can we be a part of the change that needs to occur so that our country and our Association of Congregations can fulfill their highest aspirations?

**30 - Reflections on Service** **Dennis Shaw**

Members of the Board and other Fellowship leaders will share reflections on their service to our faith community. Following the service there will be a town hall meeting on our operating budget.

## August's Theme: Heart's Appeal

**6 - “The Challenge of Challenging Times”**  
**Rev. Roger Grugel**

Each of us at various times in our life will experience personal challenges such as illness, unemployment, or the death of a friend or family member. This service will address how we not just survive, but thrive, in response to these difficult life experiences?

**13 - “Poetry from the Heart”** **Marion Menna**

Members will read their own poetry and/or poems that have been meaningful to them through the years.

**20 - “Heart's Appeal”** **James Abraham**

Love has always been the leaven of human endeavor. It makes the soul rise.

**27 – Good Intentions: How Far Is Too Far?**  
**Sharon Whitehill**

At the 2017 General Assembly in New Orleans, several questions about language and wording were up for debate: our seventh principle, two of our sources, and a possible eighth principle. All well and good--but how far are we prepared to go in our noble wish to include every being? I'm starting to fear that literary integrity, linguistic clarity, even plain common sense might come to be compromised in this endeavor.

# REFlections - Religious Education for Children at UUFCC

Marty Wilmer, Lifespan Development Coordinator

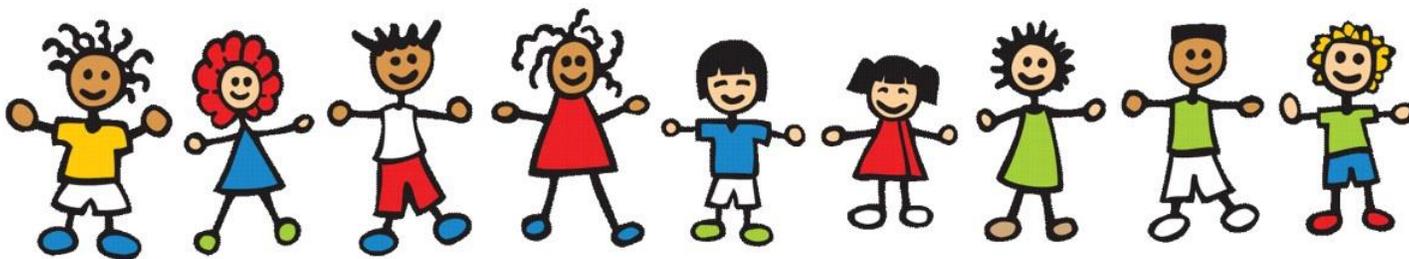
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## RE Class News

This summer, we have asked members of several of our committees to guide our children in “Living Our Faith” each Sunday through August. Each committee will lead an activity related to the goals of their committee. The plans are still being firmed up, and include ideas such as making cards with Caring and Hospitality, making posters with Social Justice, and more. We hope our children will enjoy meeting more people in our congregation and working to support our congregation and the committees throughout the summer. Parents, look for more information in the weekly Updates and our monthly mailings.

Our tentative schedule for July and August:

- July 2: Multigenerational Service
- July 9: Living Our Faith – Green Sanctuary with Gudrun Matthaus and Cheryl Lee
- July 16: Living Our Faith – Social Justice
- July 23: Living Our Faith – Choir with Dennis Shaw
- July 30: Living Our Faith – The Board with Jenn Rose; design our next Fellowship RE space and building
- August 6: Multigenerational Service
- August 13: Living Our Faith – Green Sanctuary with Gudrun Matthaus and Cheryl Lee
- August 20: Living Our Faith – Social Justice – Homeless Coalition with Herb Levin
- August 27: Living Our Faith – Men’s Group
- September 3: Labor of Love – help clean our Fellowship



## ANT Camp Update (Art, Nature, Theater Camp)

- We had 14 children attend ANT Camp this year, up from 5 last year! And, we had three young people who came as Counselors-In-Training.
- We did composting, pinatas, fossils, painting, animal movements, games (parachute, corn hole, Bingo, Ladder Toss), made up a camp song, origami, made slime, made puppets for our puppet show, played with water balloons and oh so much more!
- And, we made a lot of new friends! A favorite last image was some of our youngest children hugging good-bye.

## Many Thanks go to these UUFCC Shining Stars: *It takes a village!*

- Phil Brown, Sharon Goding, Jenn Rose, Carolyn Kellar, Debbie Conrad, Gudrun Matthaus, George Clattenburg, Robert Moran, Joani Mountain, and Dennis Shaw for volunteering their time in our Religious Education class during May and June;
- Sue Burgess, Ginny Dooley, Nellson Moore, Lesley Thomson, Marti Rosenberger, and George Clattenburg for donating materials for ANT Camp;
- Jenn Rose, Laura Tooker, Dennis Shaw, Ginger Abraham, Bill Howat, Jr., Gudrun Matthaus, Marti Rosenberger, Tom Deuley, Robert Moran, Kimber Brouse, Marilyn Reeve, MaryHolly Allison, Deborah Brumback, Nancy Weaver, George Clattenburg, and Frank Wilmer for volunteering at ANT Camp. Several of these volunteers were at camp for many hours a day, including Dennis and Frank, who were present most of the week. Deborah is brand new to our congregation, and jumped right in on several days!

## Lifespan News

New Lifespan Classes

### **Hatha Yoga Classes at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

*Our classes incorporate a meditative approach to the practice of yoga.* Bring a yoga mat and a towel or light blanket. (Don't have one? We have extra.)

\$5 suggested donation to the teacher.



Taught by newly Yoga Alliance certified and licensed teachers, all classes begin at 9 am on the following Saturday mornings:

June 3	Kristi Berg	Aug. 19	Jim Cupo
June 17	Jim Cupo	Sept. 2	Wendy Salafia
July 8	Wendy Salafia	Sept. 16	Gill Ward
July 22	Gill Ward	Oct. 7	Wendy Salafia
Aug. 5	Kristi Berg	Oct. 21	Jim Cupo

I will be attending RE Week at the Mountain, in Highlands, North Carolina, the week of July 9-14. This is an opportunity for me to meet with my colleagues from the Southern Region, and get some professional development. The theme for the week is UU Theology. I was honored with a partial scholarship towards my registration from the South East Liberal Religious Educators' Association. I am very excited to be attending my first regional professional development event!

Marty Wilmer, Lifespan Development Coordinator

# UU Endowment of Charlotte County

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The UU Endowment continues to support growth of Unitarian Universalism! This is happening in a variety of ways, particularly in the recent months. We have supported the growth initiatives at UUFCC as well as an annual contribution to the Operating Budget. However, one of the main goals is to support the growth of UU in the wider community, from the proceeds earned on the principal. Thus, the Trustees agreed to financially support the following:

1. The ordination of Rev Katie Romano Griffin - congratulations, Rev Katie. It was a beautiful ceremony!
2. The Chalice Lighters program in Florida - in this case, a contribution to help the CUUC of New Smyrna Beach, FL with acquiring their first building.
3. A radio ad for our now famous ANT Camp - what a great week was had by so many children and adults!



4. The UUA, our association in Boston that will have a new president after General Assembly and will offer a bold new vision for a way forward to grow our faith and to nurture spirits and help heal the world. This donation was matched by the Shelter Rock congregation.



Another purpose of the UU Endowment is to serve as a Memorial Fund to honor those who have passed away. It is also there to help support costs for a Celebration of Life for members who may require financial support. The service for Gayle Richens was lovely thanks to a team of many,

With appreciation and gratitude to those who have recently made donations to support the Endowment which will live on in perpetuity.

#### **In memory of Gayle Richens**

Mary Burcham  
June Stark  
Dennis Shaw  
Lynn Ritchie  
Kurt and Laura Flachs  
MaryHolly Allison

#### **In support of the UU Endowment**

Robert Hansman

#### **In memory of Vince Frighetti**

MaryHolly Allison & Ben Crosby  
Stephanie Garrett

## Library Update

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There are a number of new acquisitions in the UUFCC Library. I'm busy cataloguing and will have a list of new books for the next newsletter.

The UUFCC Library would like to acquire the following 5 books:

***Humanist Voices in Unitarian Universalism***

***Jewish Voices in Unitarian Universalism***

***Christian Voices in Unitarian Universalism***

***Buddhist Voices in Unitarian Universalism***

***Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism***

They are each approximately \$14.00 from Amazon.com

If you are interested and able to donate one or more of the books, please contact either Chris McCoy at [office@uufcc.org](mailto:office@uufcc.org) or Mary Jane Williams at [maryjanewms@comcast.net](mailto:maryjanewms@comcast.net)

**If you have any trouble locating materials in the library please contact Mary Jane Williams [maryjanewms@comcast.net](mailto:maryjanewms@comcast.net) or Debbie Conrad [debbieconrad4@gmail.com](mailto:debbieconrad4@gmail.com) for help.**

Just a reminder, donations and materials for re-shelving should be placed on a bottom shelf. That way they will be processed quickly and available to everyone in a timely manner.

## UU Book Group

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The Book Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. except for the November and December discussions, which are combined and held on a date to be determined. For further information contact either Joani Mountain [joanimountain@gmail.com](mailto:joanimountain@gmail.com) or Mary Jane Williams [maryjanewms@comcast.net](mailto:maryjanewms@comcast.net)

**The Books for July through November/December of 2017 are as follows:**

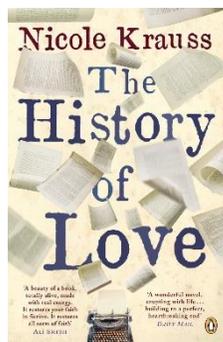
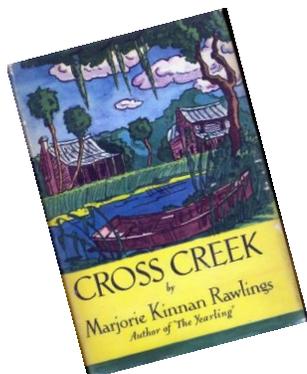
**July 26<sup>th</sup>** *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers (nonfiction)

**August 30<sup>th</sup>** *Cross Creek* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (memoir)

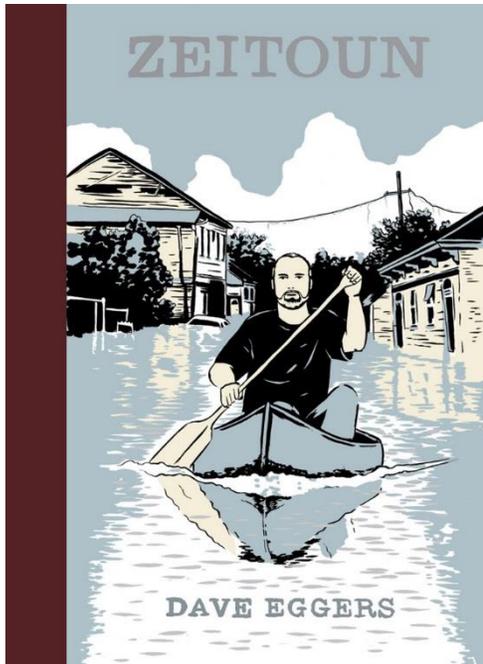
**September 27<sup>th</sup>** TBA a "classic" (please suggest one)

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** *History of Love: A Novel* by Nicole Krauss (fiction)

**November/December TBA** *Atomic Weight of Love* by Elizabeth J. Church (fiction)



**July Book Group Selection: *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers (2010)**



The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina.

Abdulrahman and Kathy Zeitoun run a house-painting business in New Orleans. In August of 2005, as Hurricane Katrina approaches, Kathy evacuates with their four young children, leaving Zeitoun to watch over the business. In the days following the storm he travels the city by canoe, feeding abandoned animals and helping elderly neighbors. Then, on September 6th, police officers armed with M-16s arrest Zeitoun in his home. Told with eloquence and compassion, *Zeitoun* is a riveting account of one family's unthinkable struggle with forces beyond wind and water.

**CONTACT US - OFFICE HOURS Monday through Thursday 8 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](http://www.facebook.com/uufcc)

**Chris McCoy**, Office Administrator, [office@uufcc.org](mailto:office@uufcc.org)

**Dennis Shaw**, Board President, [President@uufcc.org](mailto:President@uufcc.org)

**Joani Mountain**, Membership Coordinator, [joanimountain@gmail.com](mailto:joanimountain@gmail.com)

**Marty Wilmer**, Lifespan Development Coordinator, [UUFCCLifespan@gmail.com](mailto:UUFCCLifespan@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)

## WEEKLY EVENTS

Mon. July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28 – Conversational Spanish Class

Wed. July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – Knitting Circle 10 am

Thurs. July 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Meditation 5 pm

Sat, August 5, 12, 19, 26 – Happiness is an Inside Job Workshop 10 am

**July 1** Art on the Wall Hanging 10 am

**July 1, 16, August 5, 19** Chalice Circles 2 pm

**July 2** Racial Justice “Talk Back” Session 12 pm

**July 5, August 3** Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7 pm

**July 8, 22, August 5, 19** Yoga for Life 9 am

**July 9** Artist Reception 12 pm

**July 0, August 13** Social Justice Committee 12 pm

**July 10, August 21** Art Committee 10 am

**July 11, August 6** NAMI Group 6 pm

**July 12** Worship Committee 12 pm

**July 12, August 9** Caring & Hospitality/Patient Advocates 10 am

**July 14, August 11** Karaoke Night 5:30 pm  
Café Serendipity 7 pm

**July 16, August 20** Mystical Experiences 12 pm

**July 18, August 15** UUFCC Board Meeting 7 pm  
Sierra Club 7 pm

**July 19, August 16** Democracy Study Group 4:30 pm

**July 21, August 18** Gaming Night 6:30 pm

**July 22, August 26** Meatless Meal 5:30 pm

**July 26, August 30** Book Group 1:30 pm

**July 26, August 23** Healing Oasis 6 pm

**July 30** Membership Informational Meeting 12 pm

**August 27** Art on the Wall Takedown