



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

JANUARY 2019

Dear Ones



With the return of the snow birds, UUFCC is experiencing a surge of energy, enthusiasm and participation. Of course, with increased participation comes increased building use and the need for additional space.

I am delighted to announce that UUFCC now has a 1,000 square foot paver patio complete with much improved lighting, three large custom-built tables and 24 chairs. It is beautiful! My deepest appreciation to Don Liermann for shepherding this project from dream to reality.

The patio is our 50th anniversary gift to ourselves. The actual birthdate of the Fellowship was January 9, 1969. We will celebrate with a service honoring our ancestors on Sunday morning, January 6th. On Saturday, January 12th from 4 to 8 pm, we will party. I've been told by a member of the Festivities Committee, which includes Herb Levin, Alice Clattenburg, Debbie Conrad, Helen Sokalski, and Christina Joy, that the evening will include a fancy dinner and dance. The music will be provided by Katy Brown, a member who just happens to be a professional DJ.

The Ministerial Search Task Force has completed and submitted an extensive profile of the Fellowship to the UUA. Now we wait for applicants to approach us. I am so grateful to Mary Jane Williams (coordinator), Ginger Abraham, Robert Moran, Joseph Fenty, Linda Himes, Sue Burgess and Gudrun Matthaus for their ongoing work.

Jennifer Rose, UU's Religious Coordinator for Children, and I have been exploring a new model that includes our children in all worship services. So, don't be surprised if you receive your order of service or hymnal from a child. Children will also continue to light the chalice, help collect offerings and participate in stories for all ages. We want our children widely known as valued members of our community. Research confirms that when this happens, children are more likely to remain UUs as adults. This new model is the cover story in this past winter's edition of the "*UUA World*". Please read it.

Finally, I would like to express special thanks to Ginger Abraham who chairs the Worship Committee, along with numerous other essential tasks. Despite the absence of a minister, the Worship Committee has services planned through March 2019!

I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

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

UUFCC GETS IN PARTY MODE!!

In case you have been locked in a closet, you are hereby being made aware that UUFCC is about to celebrate its fiftieth birthday!! This event speaks to so many things, and the week of January 6, 2019 will be one of joy, remembrance, and, here you go, PARTY!

On Saturday, January 12, from 4:00-8:00 p.m., we will dine, drink, and dance in celebration of this time in UUFCC's life, and ours.

The entire congregation, members and friends, is invited. And UUFCC is picking up the tab!

Because there is so much planning going into this, we need to know if you will be joining us. So PLEASE RSVP NOW, to Chris at the office, via e-mail (office@uufcc.org).

Dress is decade of the 60's (optional). Hippies, dust off the bells!! So please, get back to us real soon.



The UUFCC Anniversary Party Committee



CASINO ROYALE CELEBRATION DINNER AND SERVICE AUCTION

When: Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
Where: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County

This will be the 6th annual service auction benefitting the Fellowship and celebrating our community. This is a chance to come together in fun and fellowship. The tapas style dinner will be followed by the auction - fun and entertaining for all! Tickets will be available starting January 6th after the service and online at uufcc.net. An email will be sent to all members in the first week of January describing how to access the 2019 auction website. You may reserve a banquet ticket as soon as you get your email. Tickets will be \$10.00 and include dinner and a drink. There will be a tutorial on using the auction website at noon on January 13, to both get tickets and enter all the offerings you may have. There will be both a silent and an oral auction.

Need some ideas? How about this, "imagine, if you will, yourself sitting on an expansive lawn being served wine and cheese while you watch me wash your car." Be creative. Are you able to babysit? Paint a fence? Make a dinner, your home or theirs? You have many talents, show them off by offering them at the auction.

Volunteers are always needed. There are lots of opportunities to help. See the sign-up sheet on the wall in the entry way or call Kay Azar (574-360-9186) or email (kayazar1@gmail.com). There will also be a link on the UUFCC website.

Many Paths...

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.

Sunday Services

January 6 - UUFCC History

Dennis Shaw

Let's explore the fifty years of UUFCC history, from its beginnings to the present day!



January 13 – Stories from Immigrants

Sister Maureen Kelleher

Sister Maureen Kelleher will share stories that she believes humanize a much misunderstood, demonized and hard-working population.

January 20 - The Elements Centering Our Community

Samara Michaelson

We celebrate the fullness of our community in relationship to the four directions/elements that draw us together into the center of our vibrant community: the East/Air, the South/Fire, the West/Water and the North/Earth.



January 26 – Pursuit of Happiness

Tom Tyre



Who doesn't want to be happy? Is happiness the right word for what we are pursuing? Looking at the happiest people around the world and around our country, how do we compare? Where are the happiest places? How is happiness even measured? Who's measuring? And the big question is ... Is the pursuit of happiness a spiritual practice?

A Note from the Membership Coordinator

Lynn Ritchie



It seems impossible that I should be writing a note about the upcoming new year as I have not even purchased my 2019 calendar. But time moves along whether my mind keeps up or not.

Like all of you, I have rolled along with our Fellowship's shared process of change, growth and loss. As we move forward with our ongoing transition, our community will be celebrating UUFCC's 50 years of history and ancestry in early January, with a service and a party!

We've created some new space where we can gather. Our patio has become a reality. And our TV monitor of the sanctuary space will virtually expand our seating capacity into the Fellowship hall.

Our ministerial search team has worked diligently and is on task to match us with a contract minister, who will suit our community, mission, and vision.

Belonging and finding your place in our Fellowship is quite simple: sharing a personal commitment to UU's Seven Principles, making a financial donation of record, and participating in our community via covenantal agreement. We have identified growth as a goal, and hope that you might consider joining us.

The next Who are UU? Breakfast is being planned for Saturday, January 19. Watch for announcements in the weekly update and please contact me if you are interested.

I wish each of you a very Happy New Year!
Namaste,
Lynn

Ministerial Search Task Force Update

The Ministerial Search Task Force has spent another busy month completing the packet of information to be provided to minister candidates and entering information about UUFCC into the UUA Minister Search Portal. We are now eagerly awaiting the opportunity to review applicants and proceed with identifying and obtaining the best minister available for our congregation.

The members of the search committee are more than willing to discuss the process with you at any time. Please feel free to contact us with any cares or concerns. Please rest assured that our best efforts are being used in service to the UUFCC community.

Ministerial Search Task Force Members

Ginger Abraham gm54uu@gmail.com 941-204-4067
Sue Burgess suea222@yahoo.com 941-235-2150
Joseph Fenty jmfenty@gmail.com 941-286-7876
Linda Himes himes.music@comcast.net 941-456-0163
Gudrun Matthaus gmatthaus@gmail.com 941-286-7503
Robert Moran robertmoran70@gmail.com 941-380-8648
Mary Jane Williams maryjanewms@comcast.net 941-223-4739

UU Endowment Purpose



The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Endowment of Charlotte County, an autonomous affiliate of UU Fellowship of Charlotte County and the UUA (Boston), is to use the yield on its investments, while preserving its principal to assure the financial future of the Fellowship and further the principles and practices of Unitarian Universalism. It serves as a way of honoring, in perpetuity, gifts received in memory of deceased members and friends of UUism. Requests for funding from this 28-year-old endowment must meet the above criteria and approval from its 5-member Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees are nominated from the membership of the UUE Society, those who have contributed to the UUE and have expressed a commitment to responsible investing which provides a best balance of income, growth and security. Members of the UUE Board of Trustees are elected by vote of the UUFCC membership. There are currently 5 trustees serving a staggered four-year term of office and can stand for re-election.

The above stated purpose and fund management is part of the UUE bylaws as amended in March of 2017. It is hoped that this will clarify what is an appropriate request for financial support.

The trustees of the UUE would like to thank Gene and Phyllis Stanley for their financial contribution in memory of UUE founder Robert Hansman.

The UUE Board of Trustee members are:

Kenneth Brennen, Stephanie Garrett, Mary Howard, Jack Osbourn and Delmar Wooden



Sister Maureen Kelleher to Speak

Lawyer, activist, Sister Maureen Kelleher will be the speaker at the service on Sunday January 13. That day, there will be a second helping for the Immokalee Legal Aid Clinic where the Sister has worked (pro bono) for decades. Sister Kelleher has been advocating for the Immokalee Farm Workers for years, fighting to secure fair working conditions as well as representing the pickers in deportation and other immigration procedures. “Stories from Immigrants” will be the nun’s focus – she believes that stories rather than statistics humanize a much misunderstood, demonized, and hard-working population.

Sister Kelleher has trained volunteers to become certified immigration workers, assisting undocumented folks to petition for asylum, green cards or citizenship. Betty Barriga, chair of the UUFCC Immigration Justice Committee (IJC), has completed the Sister’s training and is now ready to lead the IJC toward establishing a monthly “Informational Clinic,” a difficult but important project that already has the support of several outside local organizations as well as the attention of a working legal expert.

Information: Betty Barriga - b007boop@aol.com

Racial Justice Committee



The Racial Justice Committee will again hold two events this winter. To celebrate Black History Month, there will be a film series held at the Mid-County Library each Monday evening in February. Put those dates in your calendar. The theme will be Unsung Heroes. There will be more information to follow on the exact films to be shown.

Racial Monologues will also be featured following the film series. This year they will be performed on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at the Fellowship. To be successful, we need your participation and that of others outside our community; talk with friends and neighbors about their experiences, take down stories of those not willing to write but more comfortable dictating them. There is an Information and Brainstorming Sheet on the Fellowship website. If you recall, submissions and performances of the monologues are **completely anonymous**. There are opportunities to write your story of experiences with race, to help with editing and in production/performance. **Submission Deadline is February 17, 2019** to r.m.uufcc@gmail.com. For more information see Kay Azar or Samara Michaelson.

Immigration Justice



The Social Justice and Immigration Committees had the pleasure of hosting a guest speaker from Nicaragua (not identified due to safety concerns), to speak about the present day political crisis. Following some peaceful protests by senior citizens and students in reaction to a cut in social security in mid-April, the Nicaraguan people have been living with an increasingly repressive and brutal reaction from the administration. As a result, the early protests developed into a broad-based movement demanding the resignation of President Daniel Ortega and Ms. Murillo, his wife. It is reported that 325 people have been killed (many of whom are male college students), over 600 imprisoned (NY Times 11.2018), and approximately 30,000 have fled as refugees to Costa Rica.

The political unrest has stalled the country's economy (already the 2nd poorest in the Americas), which depends on tourism, agriculture and export-assembly plants. For more information & how to help, including help with food distribution, contact Lorrie Douglas with the Nicaragua Project.

Social Justice Committee Announces Speaker Series



The Peace Initiative Speaker Series, sponsored by the Social Justice Committee, kicks off on Sunday, January 6, after the potluck. Dedicated to broadening our horizons and enhancing our understanding of different aspects of our society, this annual three-speaker series occurs right after the potlucks of January, February and March.

Jan. 6 - Professor Doug Ford, who teaches African American literature at State College of Florida.

Feb. 3 - Christian Ghering, an acknowledged expert on human trafficking.

March 3 - Sabrina Salovitz, a major participant in the anti- gun demonstrations of last year.

Social Justice hopes you will reserve time after the three potlucks mentioned to hear these three speakers. Their presentations are free and open to the public.

Library News for January 2019

Mary Jane Williams

During our current web site redesign, the library catalog has been dropped from the web site. Please be patient while we get the link back in place on the new pages. In the meantime, if you are looking for a specific book in the library, please contact Mary Jane Williams at maryjanewms@comcast.net or 941-223-4739 for assistance.

The cataloguing of new books has been on hold for a couple of months while the Ministerial Search Task Force has been in full swing. Due to our hard work, we have completed some of the most time-consuming tasks and I'm now ready to resume my library duties. Look forward to the announcement of some great new titles in the next issue of this newsletter.

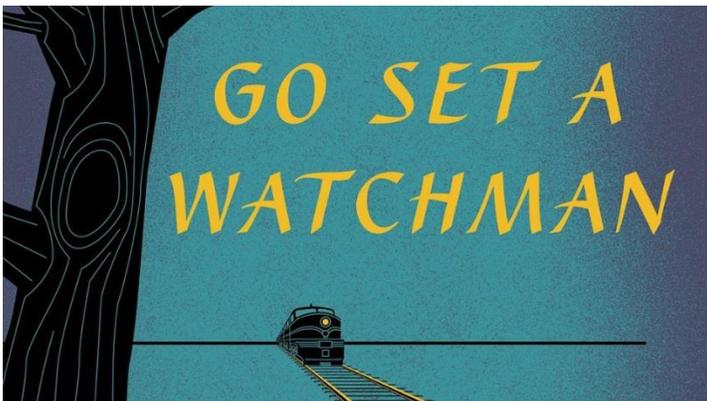
Book Group

The Book Group meets at the UUFCC 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 Mary Jane Williams maryjanewms@comcast.net

All are welcome and suggestions for future discussions are welcome. Please keep in mind that we try to keep the price down for books that need to be purchased by discussion participants. The availability of inexpensive used copies is frequently a consideration.

The book selection for the January 30, 2019 meeting is *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee (fiction).

Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch - "Scout" - returns home to Maycomb, Alabama from New York City to visit her aging father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Jean Louise's homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town, and the people dearest to her. Memories from her childhood flood back, and her values and assumptions are thrown into doubt. Featuring many of the iconic characters from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Go Set a Watchman* perfectly captures a young woman, and a world, in painful yet necessary transition out of the illusions of the past—a journey that can only be guided by one's own conscience.



Written in the mid-1950s, *Go Set a Watchman* imparts a fuller, richer understanding and appreciation of the late Harper Lee. Here is an unforgettable novel of wisdom, humanity, passion, humor, and effortless precision—a profoundly affecting work of art that is both wonderfully evocative of another era and relevant to our own times. It not only confirms the enduring brilliance of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but also serves as its essential companion, adding depth, context, and new meaning to an American classic.

Art on the Wall

The New Year brings a new art exhibit to the Unitarian Universalist's Gallery. Starting January 17 through February 27 two talented photographer/artists will display their work.



Shelley Bell is an award-winning photographer and pastel artist. The focus of her work includes subjects from city to wildlife showcasing moments inspired by everyday life.

Sally Rockefeller, another award-winning photographer, also enjoys painting in acrylics. Her subjects include people, wildlife, landscapes, buildings, and sculpture. She also creates jewelry from photos under glass cabochons. She describes her style as “adjusted reality” and uses PhotoShop to achieve her vision.



The public is invited to an opening reception on Friday, January 18, from 4–6pm. Come and meet these talented photographer/artists. Light refreshments will be provided.

Conscious Dance

Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 at UUFCC
Jan. 8 & 22, Feb. 5 & 19, March 5 & 19, April 2 & 16



Have **fun** and dance your heart out! Conscious Dance is a mindful movement practice where you listen to your inner voice and move from the wisdom of your body, accompanied by dynamic and varied music. There are no steps to learn and no right or wrong movements; simply the chance to move freely. Samara will provide guidance to assist everyone to find their groove. Join us as we create a safe, sacred and play-filled space to connect with your emotions and spirit. This class will guide you to fully engage both your physical and emotional self as you get looser, stronger and smarter as you **dance, dance, dance**.

Samara Michaelson has been teaching dance and yoga for over 30 years. She is a compassionate, inspiring and innovative teacher. From kids to Seniors, Samara loves to share her love of movement on the dance floor, on the streets... really just everywhere. Contact: samaramich@gmail.com or 304.520.1501 call or text

Thrive MOVE Express
 \$5 love donation to the UU suggested

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 – Conversational Spanish 5 pm
Thursdays, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 – Meditation 5 pm, Choir Practice 6:15 (not 1/3)
Saturdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 – Happiness is an Inside Job

- Jan. 2** Immigration Justice 5 pm
 Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7 pm
- 5** Yoga for Life 9 am
- 8** Conscious Dance 4:30 pm (see p.8)
 NAMI Group 6 pm
- 9** Caring & Hospitality 10 am
- 11** Anniversary Set Up 7 am
 Café Serendipity 7 pm
- 12** Chalice Circles 2 pm
 UUFCC Anniversary Party 4 pm (see p.2)
- 13** Auction Website Training 12 pm
 Social Justice Committee 12 pm
- 15** UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
 Sierra Club 7 pm
- 16** Art Show Hanging 10 am
 Worship Committee 4 pm
 Immigration Justice 5 pm
- 18** Artist Reception 4 pm
 UUFCC Gaming Night 6:30 pm
- 19** Who Are UU? Breakfast 9 am
 Yoga for Life 9 am
- 20** Art Committee 12 pm
 Mystical Experiences 12 pm
 Racial Justice 12 pm
- 22** Conscious Dance 4:30 pm (see p.8)
- 23** Healing Oasis 6 pm
- 26** Chalice Circles 2 pm
 Meatless Meal 5:30 pm
- 30** Book Group 1:30 pm (see p. 7)

Birthday Shout outs

Unless my computer has somehow done a delete, I have no record of January birthdays.

If this is your special month please contact me at garwalsr@gmail.com so that you name can be added to the list.

You will also receive an acknowledgement in a weekly update for the month of January.

Stephanie Garrett