



# NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

*A spiritual home where religion and reason meet*

MARCH 2019



## Dear Ones

The Board and merged Finance/Stewardship Committee have been busy developing a budget for UUFCC's 2019-20 Operating Fund. The campaign theme is "50 Years and Thriving!". By now, you should have received your packet (if not, call the office). Please read it carefully and respond with your pledge by Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Our annual meeting is the next Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. It would be very encouraging to go into that meeting knowing that the gifts that will sustain our precious community for the next year have been promised.

The people who wrestle with our finances include Nancy Weaver, UUFCC's brilliant treasurer, Doug Kennedy, Alice Clattenburg, Ken Brennen, Don Liermann, Marion Menna and me. Tom Deuley has once again created the campaign's graphics. They are so cool! Please extend your gratitude for essential jobs well done.

In addition to adopting a budget at the annual meeting, we will be electing at least three Board members, three members to the Nominating Committee, and three delegates to the UU General Assembly. If you wish to serve in any of these capacities, please contact Mary Jane Williams, Nominating Committee Chair. We will also be asked to renew our commitment to flying the "Black Lives Matter" banner. A ballot and agenda will accompany the official meeting announcement. You should receive these by March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Jennifer Rose has served as a Trustee on the UUFCC Board for the past two years and our Children's Religious Education Coordinator for the past year. Due to expanding career opportunities and responsibilities plus the demands of mothering two amazing children, Jennifer has decided not to run again. She has also resigned as RE Coordinator effective the end of March. She will be missed but promises to stay active in Fellowship activities. Jenn, on behalf of our community, I offer our sincere gratitude for your service.

During the next month we will have several dump truck loads of fill delivered to maintain our back parking lot. Without this maintenance, we will be driving through a swamp by June. We will need the help of rakers to spread the multiple piles. If you are interested in helping with some hard labor, let me know. I have extra rakes. Please remember to drive gently on fresh fill.

Two years ago, we dismissed our cleaning service due to budgetary restraints. Since then members have been doing the dusting, mopping, vacuuming, etc. These UU "maids of mercy" include Gudrun Matthaus, Mary Martin, Linda Himes, John Lee, Don and Laura Liermann, George and Alice Clattenburg, Herb Levin and me. To be frank, we are worn out. So, the Board has hired Excalibur Facility Service. They are doing an excellent job!

Finally, I have a special announcement for the men. The hole in the men's room ceiling will soon disappear. The Board has approved the purchase and installation of an exhaust fan for the men's restroom. Consider it an anniversary gift ☺.

In faith and gratitude,

Dennis Shaw, President  
UUFCC Board of Trustees

# 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 - 6:00 pm**

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

## Sunday Services

### March 3 - A Change of Mind: Surviving a Brain Injury" Lay Leaders: Kay Azar & Linda Himes

March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month. In our congregation, we have brain injury survivors as well as their caretakers. More than 3.5 million people sustain a brain injury each year. This is the story of how brain injury is experienced, survived and understood by all involved.



### March 10 - "You Might Be a Unitarian Universalist If..." Dave Martin

Dave Martin will show us some things you might find if you could do a really revealing brain scan of a Unitarian Universalist.

### March 17 – Reinventing Medusa – Sharon Whitehill

The old myth of Medusa is a powerful symbol for women's experience over time—and, especially in the wake of the Kavanaugh hearings, it's a story that can inspire us. Let's look at that story through various lenses and deconstruct it to women's advantage.



### March 24 – "Domestic Tranquility: A Public-Private Partnership" – Joyce Coleman



There's a point where family members alone can't reverse cycles of domestic abuse. That's when the criminal justice system steps in. Rather than punitive measures, however, there are ways to put in place foundations upon which families and societies can build stable, loving communities.

### March 31 - "At Our Best" – Rev. Kenn Hurto



Rev. Kenn Hurto, now retired, is the former UUA Southern Region and Florida District executive. He will help us acknowledge the importance of loving kindness as a spiritual practice, beginning with the frequent gap between how we most want to live and the ways that we too often act otherwise.

# A Message from the Treasurer



Hi Fellowship!! I have been remiss in contributing to the Newsletter since I accepted the Treasurer position last April. I have been busy taking care of the money you all work so hard to raise with your enthusiastic fundraising, and generous pledges and donations.

As many of you know, we were the beneficiaries of several generous gifts to the fellowship this past year due to the loss of several dear members. Two of these gifts were available for use in our operational account. Because of this, and the fact that we did not pay for a full-time minister for the past 5 months, we are in excellent financial condition. However, the submitted budget for next year is only balanced because we still do not have a minister to pay for at least several more months.

Since this only a short-term budget solution, we need to prioritize a strategy that will sustain paying the salary of a long-term, full-time minister. We still need a few more strategic thinkers to join our Stewardship/Financial Committee to help us sort this out. Shoot me and/or Dennis an email if you are interested. This should not be a significant time commitment.

Back to the operations of the church, if you collect any money or have an authorized expense that you need to submit for payment or reimbursement, please remember to fill out an expense or income report. It just takes a few minutes and ensures we document the financial operations of the church accurately. Both forms are in the bookcase on the left wall of the social hall. Feel free to leave any paperwork in the Treasurer's slot by the office, and submit any cash directly to me, Chris McCoy or Dennis; or place in the box at the back of the Sanctuary.

Lastly, did you know you could provide a gift or pledge to the Fellowship in stock? We have an account set up that can accept such transactions.

For any comments, questions or concerns you have regarding these or related subjects, feel free to contact me anytime! Call 303-204-0309 or email me at [nancyxweaver@gmail.com](mailto:nancyxweaver@gmail.com).

More to come at the annual meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>. See you there!

With respect and gratitude,  
Your Treasurer,  
Nancy Weaver

## Jenny and Nathan Wilson Concert – March 1 at 7 pm

Jenny and Nathan Wilson play an eclectic mix of classic and contemporary jazz. Jenny's piano and warm vocal style are compared to that of Diana Krall and Shirley Horn. Nathan's melodic and swinging bass are the perfect accompaniment to the duo's full sound. Both musicians are well seasoned performers who enjoy performing with a variety of great musicians in the metro Washington, DC area. This will be Jenny and Nathan's fourth performance at UUFCC where Jenny's mom, Marion Menna is a member. Jenny will also have prints and original artwork on display and for sale. She is an award-winning contemporary landscape and abstract painter. Visit their music and art websites at <http://www.jennyandnathan.com> and [www.jennywilsonjazzart.com](http://www.jennywilsonjazzart.com).

# A Note from the Membership Coordinator

Lynn Ritchie

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It is March and “high season” here at UUFCC. Our planned events roll on, committee work is humming along, and our energy level is amped up. It is a good time to also enjoy relaxing on our patio seating, to peruse our Art on the Wall exhibit, or to join our community in movement with Conscious Dance or Saturday morning Yoga. Our Fellowship is a frequent venue for both local and visiting musicians. Make sure you are on our email list, so that you will receive our Weekly Update and not miss out.



This is the last month of UUFCC’s fiscal year. Our finance committee is preparing our projected budget, stewardship is gearing up for its annual campaign, and our yearly Congregational Meeting is being planned. There are several vacancies on our Board of Trustees, and if you are interested in the administration of this organization, please see a member of the nominating committee to be placed on the ballot.

I had the distinct privilege of welcoming four new members to our Fellowship on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please take time to say hello to Irene Morth, Frank Llamas, Alan and Jeri Searle.

Lastly, a shout out to the Worship Associates who have provided us with a wonderful variety of Sunday morning services as we move on during this time of ministerial transition.

Thank you to each and every one of you who make this place such a rich and thriving community. I am enormously grateful.

Namaste,  
Lynn Ritchie

## Immigration Justice

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A free film offering, *Human Flow*, will be shown on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Mid County Regional Library. The film depicts the epic journey of more than 65 million people from 23 countries who have been forced from their homes, escaping famine, climate change and war. Acclaimed Chinese director Ai Weiwei gives a powerful visual expression to this massive human migration and elucidates both the staggering scale of the refugee crisis and its profoundly personal human impact. *Human Flow* is a witness to its subjects and their desperate search for safety, shelter and justice; from teeming refugee camps to perilous ocean crossing, to barbed wire borders; from dislocation and disillusionment to courage, endurance and adaptation. *Human Flow* comes at a crucial time when tolerance, compassion and trust are needed more than ever. This visceral work of cinema is a testament to the unassailable human spirit and poses one of the questions that will define this century: Will our global society emerge from fear, isolation, and self-interest and choose a path of openness, freedom and respect for humanity?



The free showing is co-sponsored by the Immigration Justice Committee, The Indivisible Action of Southwest Florida, The Hispanic American Citizens Council and the Democratic Hispanic Caucus. Information: 941-258-8473.

## A Mutually Beneficial Fundraiser

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The Fellowship has again agreed to hold a mutually beneficial fundraiser that will benefit both the Fellowship and the Charlotte County Jazz Society (CCJS). We held a similar fundraiser with the Society last year that resulted in the CCJS increasing their annual membership by six people and raising about \$150.00 for the Fellowship.

CCJS normally sells tickets for individual concerts at \$20.00 each. This year, CCJS is allotting us up to 40 tickets for their March concert that we will purchase for \$10.00. Since we sell tickets for \$15.00, our ticket sales will yield \$5.00 per ticket sold for the Fellowship. The real benefit for CCJS is that we will be exposing members of the Fellowship (and perhaps friends of Fellowship members) to the quality of music and the economies of having a yearly membership in CCJS.

The Fellowship will be selling tickets to the CCJS's March 11th concert for \$15.00. Please consider joining the 14 members of the Fellowship who are currently members of the CCJS and enjoy an evening of memorable music by established musicians.

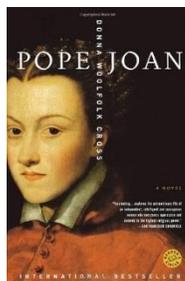
## Book Group

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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](mailto: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.

### Book Selection for March 27: *Pope Joan* by Donna Woolfolk Cross (fiction)



In this international bestseller and basis for the 2009 movie of the same name, Donna Woolfolk Cross brings the Dark Ages to life in all their brutal splendor and shares the dramatic story of a woman whose strength of vision led her to defy the social restrictions of her day.

For a thousand years her existence has been denied. She is the legend that will not die—Pope Joan, the ninth-century woman who disguised herself as a man and rose to become the only female ever to sit on the throne of St. Peter. Now in this riveting novel, Cross paints a sweeping portrait of an unforgettable heroine who struggles against restrictions her soul cannot accept.

Brilliant and talented, young Joan rebels against medieval social strictures forbidding women to learn. When her brother is brutally killed during a Viking attack, Joan takes up his cloak--and his identity--and enters the monastery of Fulda. As Brother John Anglicus, Joan distinguishes herself as a great scholar and healer. Eventually, she is drawn to Rome, where she becomes enmeshed in a dangerous web of love, passion, and politics. Triumphant over appalling odds, she finally attains the highest office in Christendom--wielding a power greater than any woman before or since. But such power always comes at a price.

## UUFCC Climate Action Team

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For the past decade, the World Economic Forum has issued yearly a review of the **greatest threats** to our world—the economic and geopolitical risks that endanger our planet, our way of life, and even our species. In 2018, for the third year running, “extreme weather” induced by climate change has taken the top spot in the [Global Risks Report](#).

Peter Morales (UUA President) and Bill Schulz (UUSC President and CEO) recently wrote that “*The crisis of climate change is the **gravest threat** facing our world today.*”

“Multilateral action on climate change is the single most important moral decision of our time,” said the Unitarian Universalist Association United Nations Office Director, Bruce Knotts. “We either move quickly to address this **existential threat** of climate change or we consign the planet and all life on the planet to a living hell on earth.”

We are forming a UUFCC Climate Action Team with the first meeting being Sunday, March 24 at noon on the porch.

We envision the Team partnering with other organizations that focus on climate change, such as Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Indivisible, Sierra Club, etc. Through these partnerships and our own initiatives, we want to help bring awareness of this threat to our fellowship and community and to address specific things that we can do to mitigate the risks.

So many actions can be taken to address climate change – in the political arena, in purchase options, and in lifestyle choices. Our hope is to offer a plethora of ways we can individually, collectively and by leadership make contributions to risk mitigation. We believe these options will help empower our fellowship and community to work together on climate change solutions.

If you are interested in being part of a UUFCC Climate Action Team, please contact Aubrey or Nyna Sykes at [nynasykes@me.com](mailto:nynasykes@me.com) or 616-446-5134 (text or call). All suggestions will be welcome. Participation at any level or frequency will be appreciated.

## Social Justice Committee Speaker Series

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The Peace Initiative Speaker Series, sponsored by the Social Justice Committee, will have its final speaker on March 3, Sabrina Salovitz, a major participant in the anti-gun demonstrations of last year. 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.

Social Justice hopes you will reserve time after the potluck to hear the speaker. The presentation is free and open to the public.



**Come! Invite your friends!**

# **The Racial Monologues**

## **Stories from our Community**



**Saturday March 9 - 7pm**  
**Free & Open to the Public**

**Our stories are written & read**  
**by a diverse group of local folks**

**The Racial Monologues are produced by:**  
**The Racial Justice Committee of UUFCC**  
Questions? Email: [r.m.uufcc@gmail.com](mailto:r.m.uufcc@gmail.com)

## **Conscious Dance**

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**Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 at UUFCC**  
**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**.  
Contact: [samaramich@gmail.com](mailto:samaramich@gmail.com) or 304.520.1501 call or text



**Thrive MOVE Express**

\$5 love donation to the UU suggested

## Art on the Wall

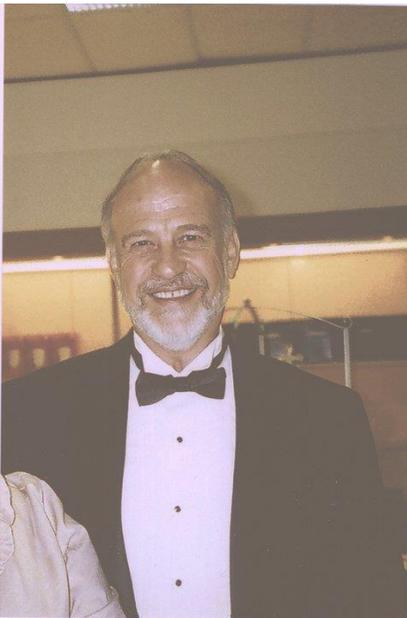
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Popular acrylic painter, Larry Palmer, will exhibit a series of colorful Florida landscapes on our Art Wall during the month of March. Palmer's work has been exhibited Internationally as well as here in the US. Most recently his work has appeared at the Visual Art Center in Punta Gorda, Harborside Event Center, Punta Gorda Airport, and the new Charlotte Arts Gallery at Town Center Mall.



Also exhibiting 3-D work will be Michelle McCarthy of Firefly Design Studio. McCarthy creates beads, pendants, jewelry and functional pottery. Her work can also be found at several other places including Arts Alliance of Lemon Bay, Ivy's Attic in Englewood, the Visual Art Center in Punta Gorda, as well as Etsy.

The public is invited to meet the artists and view the exhibit at a reception on Saturday, March 16, from 4-6 pm. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call 941-627-4303.



## Jim Boyle in Concert

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**Friday, March 22nd @ 6:30 pm**

Our very own Jim Boyle will be playing a concert at UUFCC on Friday, March 22nd at 6:30 pm. This concert is made available thanks to an auction item to which several members and friends contributed. All are welcome and the event is open to the public; an admission donation to the fellowship is encouraged. We hope to see you there!

# WEEKLY EVENTS

**Mondays – March 4, 11, 18, 25** - Conversational Spanish 5 pm  
**Thursdays – March 7, 14, 21, 28** - Meditation 5 pm, Choir Practice 6:00

- Mar. 1** Art on the Wall Hanging 10 am  
 Jenny and Nathan Wilson Concert 7pm  
 (see p. 3)
- 2** Yoga for Life 9 am
- 3** Peace Speakers Initiative Speakers  
 Series 12 pm (see p. 6)
- 5** Conscious Dance 4:30 pm (see p. 7)
- 6** Immigration Justice 5 pm
- 8** Café Serendipity 7 pm
- 9** Chalice Circles 2 pm  
 Racial Monologues Set Up 5 pm  
 Racial Monologues Performance 7 pm
- 10** Social Justice 12 pm
- 12** NAMI Group
- 13** Caring & Hospitality 10 am
- 15** UUFCC Gaming Night 6:30 pm
- 16** Yoga for Life 9 am  
 Artist Reception 4 pm (see p. 8)
- 17** Art Committee 12 pm
- 19** UUFCC Staff Meeting 9:30 am  
 Conscious Dance 4:30 pm (see p. 7)  
 UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm  
 Sierra Club 7 pm
- 20** Immigration Justice 5 pm
- 22** Jim Boyle Concert 6:30 pm (see p. 8)

- Mar. 23** Chalice Circles 2 pm  
 Meatless Meal 5:30 pm
- 24** Climate Action Team 12 pm (see p.6 )
- 27** Art on the Wall Take Down 10 am  
 Book Group 1:30 pm (see p.5 )  
 Healing Oasis 6 pm
- 29** Art on the Wall Hanging 10 am
- 31** Annual Meeting 12 pm (see p. 1)



Trudy Gerhardt 3/2  
 Marty Wilmer 3/9  
 Debbie Conrad 3/14  
 Betty Munford 3/16  
 Kenneth Brennen 3/18  
 Kenneth Brink 3/18  
 Myrna Charry 3/31

If you would like to be included on  
 the monthly birthday shout out  
 listing, contact Stephanie Garrett  
 at [garwalsr@gmail.com](mailto:garwalsr@gmail.com)