



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

APRIL 2019



Dear Ones

Spring has officially arrived and we, the members and friends of UUFCC, are beginning a new fiscal year. By the time you read this, we will have elected a new Board secretary and several Trustees.

I am so grateful for the time, talent and energy that retiring Board members have invested. Jennifer Rose has completed a two-year term as trustee and served as our Children's Religious Education Coordinator during the past year. Under her leadership we sponsored last summer's ANT Camp and integrated children into weekly services throughout the year. She is also participating in the development of a plan to serve our children during this coming year. Jennifer recently began working full time. Consequently, she resigned as Children's RE Coordinator effective March 31st but promises to continue her involvement.

I am also grateful for the work of Joseph Fenty. As the Secretary of the Board, he challenged us to broaden our thinking while following the rules. He also kept exceptional records of our decisions. His term ends this year, but he will continue to lead Chalice Circles and serve on the Ministerial Search Task Force.

The cover story of the Winter Issue of the *UU World* featured new, inclusive ways to include children in the life of the community. The article describes how the "Break Through Congregation", the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, CA., developed a very exciting religious education program for their children. At a recent Board meeting, we decided to follow First Unitarian's model.

Basically, we will once again focus on including the children in the first Sunday of each month. These services will include special stories or activities for all ages. As available, the children will also participate in services throughout the month. They will serve as greeters, pass out hymnals, light the chalice, collect the offering and read from the pulpit.

The key of the new RE model is a week-long camp which is scheduled for June 10 -14. We are renaming our week-long adventure Chalice Camp. Like the three previous ANT Camps, the week will be filled with art, music, games, nature projects, drama and play. But this year's camp will also include opening and closing worship and lessons about UU history. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for **all** (children and adults) who want to participate.

The model also includes expansion of the monthly game nights. We already have these scheduled for third Friday evenings. It is our hope that this event will become a special time for kid/adult play.

Eventually, we plan to develop a mentoring program in which adults and children accomplish a mutually agreed upon religious education project and then share their discoveries and experiences with the congregation.

It is my sincere hope that many of you will become active in our new RE adventures.

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

April 7 - "Humor, Humility, and Joy: Letting Laughter Loose"

Dr. Frances Auld



Everyone has heard that "Laughter is the best medicine." What can laughter do for our brains, our immune system, and our outlook on life? We won't find out until we have the humility to chuckle at ourselves.

April 14 - "Are You in a Procession?" The Reverend Margaret L. Beard

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week in the Christian tradition. On this day many Christian churches tell the story of Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. When we reflect on this account, what can we glean from it? Is there a useful metaphor to help us deal with the issues of today and our own personal journeys?



April 21 - "Flower Communion" Ken Brennen

The Flower Communion service was created by Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. For some time he had felt the need for a symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together. Come participate in this uniquely UU ritual. Bring a flower, wild or cultivated, to share.

April 28 - "The Future of Religion No. 2"

Ted Zawistowski

As more is becoming foreseeable in the world of artificial intelligence, bioengineering and climate change, what might that mean for religion?



A Note from the Membership Coordinator

Lynn Ritchie



April Greetings! Spring has arrived. Our new fiscal year has begun. And our Fellowship will begin to ebb in its own seasonal rhythm.

I've been your membership coordinator for a year now, and I've observed how we come together like long time dance partners; yielding to familiar movements as we experience community at its fullest. We work and play, grieve, console, learn, laugh; and sing and dance together. And we got to celebrate 50 years, the legacy our UUFCC founders so hopefully envisioned.

This past season began with some uncertainty due to the resignation of a beloved minister, but our Fellowship has proven itself to be united and resilient, with more clarity in 'who' we are as we move forward with new chapters of our story yet unwritten.

For those temporarily leaving the year-round flock as snowbirds; **you** will be missed. Return to us next season. We will be here as strong as ever; waiting for your energy, love, and enthusiasm. And our dance shall continue.

“Micah’s Presents”

Film presentation by Ron Taylor



There will be a showing of Ron Taylor's "Micah's Presents" on Sunday, April 7th at 12:30 pm in the sanctuary.

In "Micah's Presents" father/filmmaker Ron Taylor portrays the significant moments from infancy to adulthood of his son Micah's 34 years living with profound Cerebral Palsy. Intimately recorded on film and video, he captured the ups and downs, milestones and challenges, smiles and tears. Ron's presentation also tells the story of the special village it takes to nurture a special child. Recent interviews with family members, caregivers, professionals and teachers provide narrative commentaries that look back at their work with Micah and define their insights about his significant impact upon their lives as they were influencing his. The film touches on many developments in social attitudes, technology, and education such as reciprocal benefits to caregivers and person-centered learning. Through talks and power-point presentations, Ron also is sharing his lessons for a greater humanity.

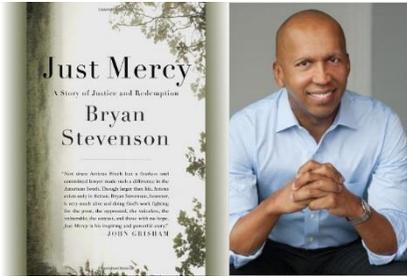
Racial Monologues

A week after members of the Unitarian Universalist congregation and friends presented “The Racial Monologues” at the fellowship sanctuary, they gave a second well-received performance at Florida Gulf Coast University. The occasion was FGCU’s One Society: Race Relations in Current Events class. UU member Kay Azar brought the idea to the UU Fellowship three years ago. Samara Michaelson was the director this year. Readers included: Ginger Abraham, Kay Azar, Sushila Cherian, Gabe Diaz, Lorrie Douglas, Patrick Eaton, Samara Michaelson, Betty Munford, Lynn Ritchie, Sharon Whitehill, Jackie Williamson, Ted Zawistowski, Lionel Lewis, Betty Barriga, and Jim Boyle. Those interested in submitting a piece for next year’s Racial Monologues are asked to send their work to rmstories2020@gmail.com.

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.



Book Selection for April 27, 2019 - UUA congregational read: *Just Mercy: a story of justice and redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (nonfiction)

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time.

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinkmanship—and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

Conscious Dance

Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 at UUFCC - April 2 & 16

It's not too late to join the fun for the last two sessions! 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 or 304.520.1501 call or text



Thrive MOVE Express

\$5 love donation to the UU suggested

Immigration Justice

Betty Barriga

The Immigration Justice Committee (IJC) is lending support to the Literacy Program that was launched by the Hispanic American Citizens Council (HACC) that is also in partnership with the Port Charlotte Library on Aaron Street. Members of the IJC helped to recruit and publicize the two-day training sessions that were led by an experienced language teacher from North Port. In addition, several IJC members went through the training program and soon will be working with students eager to improve their English language skills. Presently, the IJC is helping recruit other volunteers for the next tutor training session scheduled for Thursday, April 18 and April 25, 2019 at the Port Charlotte Library, 2280 Aaron St, Port Charlotte. Interested persons should see Betty Barriga.



The Immigration Justice Committee has been working with the Hispanic American Citizens Council to launch a Certified Citizenship Training Program here in Port Charlotte. Before beginning this intensive training, to be led by Sister Maureen Kelleher, the program must be certified by the U.S. government immigration agency that requires it be under the auspices of a non-profit organization with a permanent physical address. The HACC volunteered to be the non-profit but has no physical address, only a post office box number. The IJC requested the UUFCC Board lease their space to the HACC for this purpose and the Board agreed, pending review of a formal lease document. On March 19, 2019, a lease was submitted to the Board who then agreed to lease the space to the HACC for \$1.00/month. Within the next month, the IJC and the HACC will begin intensive training sessions to certify preparers to help those who hold green cards apply for citizenship.

To supplement monies granted to it, the Immigration Justice Committee is planning a fundraising event on Wed. April 3rd at Visani Comedy Dinner Theater. The Committee has only twenty tickets – see Betty Barriga for tickets at \$10 each. Visani allows non-profits to keep the \$10 admission cost, however, guests have to pay for drinks and/or dinner. Guests are asked to telephone Visani before April 2nd so the club knows how many places to set aside for the group. People can arrive by 5 pm -- the comedy show begins at 7:30 pm.



In April, IJC will meet on Wednesday, April 10 and April 17. For the months of May and June, meetings will be reduced to once a month, on the first Wednesday of the month - May 1st and June 5th at 5 pm. In July, IJC will resume regular scheduled meetings, the first and third Wednesday of the month. The Committee's focus for April, May and June will be to ensure that both the Literacy Program and the Citizenship Training Program are well developed and attended.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays – April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Conversational Spanish 5 pm
Thursdays – April 4, 11, 18, 25 - Meditation 5 pm, Choir Practice 6:00

- April 2** Conscious Dance 4:30 pm (see p. 4)
- 3** Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7 pm
- 6** Yoga for Life 9 am
- 7** “Micah’s Presents” 12 30 pm (see p.3)
- 9** N.A.M.I. Group 7 pm
- 10** Caring & Hospitality 10 am
Immigration Justice 5 pm
- 12** Artist Reception 4 pm
Café Serendipity 7 pm
- 13** Chalice Circles 2 pm
- 16** Conscious Dance (see p.4)
UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
Sierra Club 7 pm
- 17** Immigration Justice 5 pm
- 19** UUFCC Gaming Night 6:30 pm
- 20** Yoga for Life 9 am
- 21** Art Committee 12 pm
Mystical Experiences 12 pm
- 24** Book Group 1 pm (see p.4)
Healing Oasis 6 pm
- 26** RE Family Gathering 6 pm
- 27** Chalice Circles 2 pm
Meatless Meal 5:30 pm



Joanne Schmalzer	4/1
Lorrie Douglas	4/8
Joan Bollinger	4/13
Dennis Shaw	4/14
Miles Williams	4/17
Jim Boyle	4/22
Roberta (Bobbie) Cole	4/25
Alice Clattenberg	4/27

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