



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

A spiritual home where religion and reason meet

SEPTEMBER 2019



Dear Ones

It is a very exciting time at UUFCC. As most of you are aware, based on a unanimous recommendation from the Ministerial Search Committee, the Board of Trustees has entered into a two-year contract with our next minister. The Reverend Doctor Dan Lambert will begin his tenure on October first.

Dan, his wife, Tess, and Boomer, their 25-pound poodle mix, have settled into a condo on Punta Gorda Isles. I had the pleasure of sharing pizza and stories with them last week. Dan has already attended Worship Committee and Board meetings. He is obviously ready to get to work.

I am really impressed with Dan's extensive educational and professional backgrounds. His references are impeccable. But he is a self-proclaimed "casual man". I found him very approachable and easy to be with. Looks like UUFCC has been blessed again!

Our former office administrator Chris McCoy and his family are now safely settled in their new home in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Chris' successor, Mary Jane Williams, is doing an excellent job transitioning into her new role. I think it is important to remind folks that Mary Jane is also a very active member of our congregation. She works on Monday and Thursday afternoons and Tuesday and Friday mornings. She does **not** work on Sunday mornings.

Remember, on Sunday, September 1st, we will celebrate our annual Labor Day Service. Instead of a traditional service, we will labor on our building and grounds.

We will clean the windows and frames, wipe down cove molding, dust high and low, clean out and organize the utility room and the shed. We'll clean fan blades, the AC diffuser and return air vents, tops of door jams, and light fixtures. For those with physical challenges, there will be seated work.

So, come, bring rags, buckets, dusters, and other cleaning tools. Wear work clothes and a smile.

We'll officially begin at 10:00 in the sanctuary. Folks who wish to get a head start on a project, especially those which are outside, may begin as early as 8 am.

We'll end the work around 11:30 and come back together to eat. **HOWEVER, THERE WILL NOT BE A POT LUCK.** The Board decided that it didn't make sense to clean everything and then immediately mess it up again. So, bring a bag lunch. Some cookies to share would also be nice. Beverages will be provided.

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

September 1 - Fellowship Labor Day

Dennis Shaw



Please join us for our annual Labor for UUFCC Day. There will be many tasks available with varying degrees of physical difficulty and exertion required. Indoor jobs begin at 10:00 and outdoor ones can begin as early as 8 am to take advantage of cooler weather.

September 8 - Witnessing Homestead - Where are the Children?

Vielka Wambold



Vielka Wambold, President of the Democratic Hispanic Caucus of Florida, Charlotte County, will talk about the ongoing importance and actions necessary to close the prisons and stop the separation of families primarily at the Homestead site. Homestead is currently without children present on site but it has been learned that there may be children housed there again as early as October this year.

September 15 - "What About Eve?"

The Reverend Margaret L. Beard

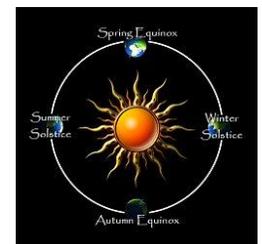


Most of us are generally familiar with the story of Adam and Eve. It is the creation story shared by the three Abrahamic religions: Islam, Judaism and Christianity. This story also sets the basis of the doctrines for "the fall of man" and "original sin" present in Christianity but not in Islam or Judaism (or Unitarian Universalism for that matter.) How can Eve be understood today as a heroic ancestor?

September 22 - Meditation, Guided Imagery and the Autumn Equinox

Gail Fritschi

Gail Fritschi will share the benefits of meditation and guided imagery and lead us in this practice as we acknowledge the Autumn Equinox.



September 29 - Preparing for a New Minister

Dennis Shaw



This service will celebrate what we have accomplished during our 10-month period without a minister. It will also explore anticipated growth that will evolve as we become connected to our new minister, Rev. Dan Lambert. Dan's first Sunday is October 6th.



Money Matters

Nancy Weaver

Did you know that it is much harder to deduct your charitable contributions due to the tax bill that was passed in 2018? This new tax law nearly doubled the standard deduction to \$12,000 for singles and \$24,000 for joint filers while capping or eliminating other deductions. This means it no longer makes sense for most taxpayers to itemize.

One of the ways you can still get tax benefits from supporting charitable organizations like UUFCC is to make use of a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). This applies to those of us that have IRAs as part of a retirement portfolio and are at least 70½ years old when the QCD is requested.

Using a QCD allows use of part or all of your current year's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA to donate to charitable organizations tax free. The amount gifted with a QCD reduces your taxable income for the year and allows you to potentially give more to your favorite non-profits like UUFCC! It also could keep you in a lower tax bracket, reduce taxes on your Social Security benefits, and reduce your exposure to the Medicare surtax. If this scenario applies to you, I encourage you to discuss with your tax advisor whether it is something you would like to consider.

We appreciate all you do for UUFCC whether it be from your heads, hearts or wallets!

With respect and gratitude,
Your Treasurer,
Nancy Weaver
nancyxweaver@gmail.com
303-241-0309

Endowment News

The Unitarian Universalist Endowment of Charlotte County (UUE) is an autonomous organization with its own set of bylaws overseen by an elected board of Trustees. It is separate from the operating budget of our Fellowship, with donations from contributors invested in socially responsible initiatives through the UUA in Boston. UUE objectives are always growth, membership expansion and being a liberal religious force within the greater community. In the past funds have been made available to support ANT Camp, memorial services, installation of a new minister and national UUA efforts for the BLUU program.



The UUE Board of Trustees would like to thank Mary Howard for her contribution to our general fund.

UUE Trustees:

Ken Brenner, Stephanie Garrett, Mary Howard, Jack Osbourne, Delmar Wooden

A Note from the Membership Coordinator

Lynn Ritchie



The Worry and The Wondering

Perhaps you noticed that I provided no contribution to the last issue of *The New Outlook*. I was employing a technique I learned during my professional years as a nurse and midwife. Blessed by generally good health, I rarely claimed use of my benefited “sick time”. But when I felt overwhelmed by life’s many demands, I took instead a “mental health” day. Stepping back, giving myself some time and space, free from commitment, I would see things from a different perspective.

During the last 18 months my role with Membership here at UUFCC has unfolded differently than I had anticipated. It changed after our minister resigned and was released from covenant this past November.

With newcomer and general attendance down during the months of transition, I have shifted my priority from seeking to grow the congregation, to keeping it thriving.

- I practically took ownership of the new defibrillator! Grateful for this potentially life-saving gift from the Endowment, I’ve made sure that it is properly registered, and that we could all be instructed in its use.
- The uptick in mass shootings has compelled me to take several hours of Church Safety classes, and I encourage the development of a Safety Team, and Safety Plan while hoping with all my heart that it will never be necessary.
- As fewer new folks were showing up, I changed the name and format of our welcoming Breakfasts from New to UU, to Who are UU? I now invite current members who might want to reconnect as well.

So, I’ve been adapting to my worries. The only thing constant is change. Now this - the arrival of a new minister at the start of a new season. I’m on to wondering!

If you were not present on Sunday, August 18 to hear Rev Margaret Beard’s talk, “Preparing for a New Minister *and Ministry*”, please listen to the podcast posted on our website. It’s very practical and valuable information. Listen if at all possible!

Yoga is returning!



Jim Cupo is hoping to resume yoga at the Fellowship on Sept.21 from 9:00 to 10:00 am.
The classes are on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.
A donation of \$5 is appreciated.

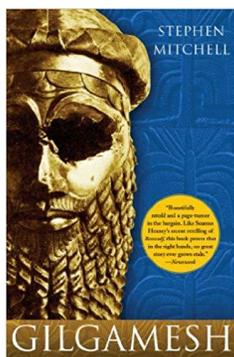
Book Group

Mary Jane Williams

The Book Group meets at the UUFCC on the last Wednesday of the month October through May 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 to attend 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.

If you would like to receive email notifications of future book choices and meeting reminders, please contact Mary Jane and you will be added to the group email list.



The October book will be the Epic of Gilgamesh. The story is about four thousand years old and is considered by many scholars to be the oldest piece of epic writing in existence. There are many versions and translations of this work and some of them are more difficult to read than others. A recommended inexpensive version is *Gilgamesh: a new English version* by Stephen Mitchell ISBN 978-0-7432-6169-2.

There are used copies available from Amazon in the \$5 range. If you can't get it, let me know and I'll see if I can lend you an e-reader with the book on it. The story itself is only about 80 pages in most versions but this edition contains a lot of supplementary material. I just like this translation best.

Library Update

Mary Jane Williams

Check out the new book shelf in the UUFCC Library in the Fellowship Hall. We have a number of new books including our first catalogued audio-visual item. We will have more audiovisual items available for checkout in the near future.

Human Flow uufcc call number 305.9 DVD (The packet is presently located on the new book shelf.) This is a wonderful DVD with supporting materials to stimulate discussion about the human migration issue in present day terms. UUFCC Immigration Justice Committee has generously contributed this DVD to the library. If you would like to check it out for viewing, please put your name and phone number on the card from the pocket on the envelope and place it in the blue file box on the far-left shelf of the library.

The on-line library catalog may be accessed from the UUFCC.org web page under the MISC Information tab. You may search by author, title, subject key word or call number. If you're interested in browsing the library shelves for books about a specific subject, try finding a book on that subject in the catalog and then looking on the shelves in that call number area for similar books.

All library returns should be placed on the bottom right shelf for re-shelving and proper check in. Please feel free to contact Mary Jane Williams at maryjanewms@comcast.net or 941-223-4739 for assistance.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION! JOIN US!

Herb Levin



GET YOURSELF IN OUR NEXT PICTURE!

This picture shows two of the three individuals who showed up to protest in front of the Wendy's on Cochran Boulevard in August. What were they protesting? Corporate greed.

For several years now Wendy's has refused to align itself with the Fair Food Program (www.fairfoodprogram.org), an undertaking initiated by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers in search of working conditions that are safe, healthy, and fairly remunerated. All of the other major fast-food companies including Taco Bell, McDonald's, Subway and Burger King, as well as Wal-Mart, have signed on to make sure the produce pickers in Florida and up the East Coast are free from abuse, provided shade and drinking water, and paid what approximates a decent wage for the back-breaking labor they undertake.

The Social Justice Committee of UUFCC decided a few years ago to support these workers in the fields, many if not all of whom are immigrants. They take no jobs from American citizens who want to rise at 4 a.m., get on a bus, hit the fields at sun-up, and return home at dinner time. All this for the princely sum of approximately thirty-three cents per pound of tomatoes picked, shouldered, and launched into trailers, and repeat, and repeat, and repeat, all day long. So many of them crowd into sub-standard rented trailers, about ten per trailer, to better allow them to send remittances home at the end of the pay period.

We look forward to the day when the corporate social conscience of Wendy's will acquire some backbone and follow in the footsteps of its competition. Until such time, please refrain from doing business with Wendy's, and encourage your friends and relatives to do likewise. Their attitude toward the pickers is immoral, and without compassion.

So, we stand, and sit, in front of Wendy's every third Thursday of each month, to support the workers of Immokalee, and say NO to Wendy's. The question now is, what will it take for you to come out and join us? Three is not a good number. We park in the Home Depot parking lot, and come together from 10 to 11:30 a.m., bearing UU t-shirts (optional but nice), hats, water, and camp chairs, to hold up posters already made and explaining our presence. The two ladies in the picture (and the one taking it) really believe in social justice. Can you find a half-hour, an hour, or the whole hour and a half just once a month, to join them in demonstrating your support for workers' rights, and to help send the message to Wendy's: we won't patronize if you won't protect and appreciate those who help you make your money. Do you believe in UUFCC's Social Justice undertakings? Here's a chance to show it. Join us. Questions? Herb Levin, engsp1@gmail.com, 941-286-7939.

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Betty Barriga

The Immigration Justice Committee is in full swing. Its plans include:

- Regular meetings will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5 pm at the Fellowship.
- Citizenship Training has begun that trains “counselors” to help green card holders move toward citizenship. Classes were held at the Fellowship on two Mondays: August 19th and 26th from 1-3 pm. Sister Maureen Kelleher, attorney and long-term immigration justice advocate, led a group of six committed enrollees. If you are interested in a similar class in the future, contact Betty Barriga, b000boop@aol.com.
- Another film series will take place in November at the Mid-County Library on Mondays at 5:30. All selections have not been made and suggestions are welcomed.
- Connecting with community faith organizations regarding immigration justice is an important goal of the IJC. Currently, plans are being made to invite the Muslim community to a pot luck where future advocacy actions will be discussed.
- Another fun night at Visani’s Comedy Club is planned for October – Get your tickets (\$10.00) now – avoid last minute problems (“over-the-quota” tickets are rationed very carefully!)



Art on the Wall

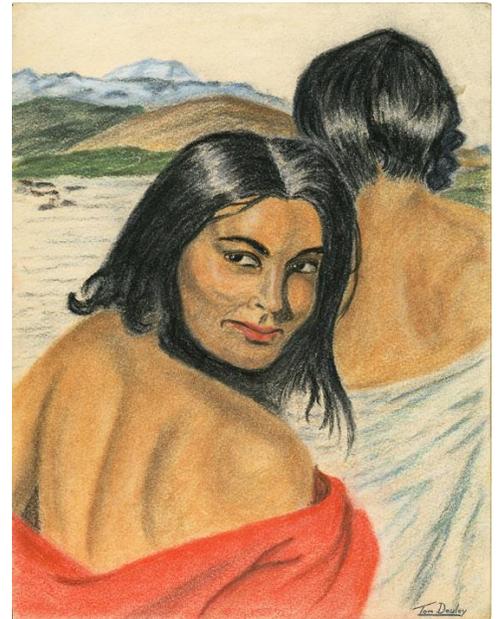
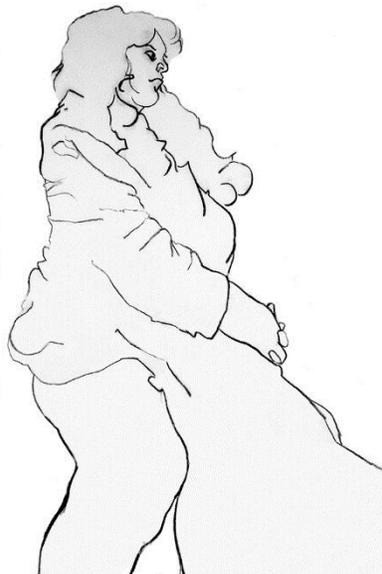
A lifetime of artwork will be displayed in our gallery during September and October. The artist is our own Tom Deuley, a retired naval officer. Everyone is invited to meet the artist and view the exhibit at a reception on Saturday, September 7, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

Tom's work includes digital reproductions of his original paintings -- both oil and watercolor, drawings in pencil, charcoal, conte crayon, pen and ink, brush and ink, pastel and many photographs, both black and white and color.

Also included are some pottery pieces. Some of the items will be for sale and can be special ordered when specific sizes are desired.

The large collection represents Tom's life and his love of art, which he says began when he was ten years old and began drawing copies of cartoons from the comics. His grandfather gave him a paint by number book, and he read every book he could find on art. By junior high he said he could reproduce on paper just about anything he could see. He received awards for his work through junior high and high school where he was editor and chief photographer of the yearbook.

When Tom joined the Navy, his art work took a vacation until he was sent to Auburn University where he received an engineering degree. After a 20-year naval career, he went to a community college where he earned an associate degree in Advertising Arts and won the Excellence in Advertising award. Then came his own company, Deuley Graphics for 17 years. Since moving to Florida, he bought a ceramics wheel and is mastering that art form.



WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays — Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Conversational Spanish 5 pm

Thursdays — Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Meditation 5 pm

- Sept. 4** Immigration Justice 5 pm
Gulf Coast Acoustic Guitar Society 7 pm
- 7** Artist Reception – Tom Deuley 4 pm
- 8** Social Justice 12 pm
- 10** NAMI Group 7 pm
- 11** Caring & Hospitality 10 am
- 13** Café Serendipity 7 pm
- 14** Chalice Circles 2 pm
- 15** Art Committee 12 pm
Mystical Experiences 12 pm
- 17** UU Ministers Cluster 10:30 am
UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
Sierra Club 7 pm
- 18** Immigration Justice 5 pm
- 20** UUFCC Gaming Night
- 21** Yoga 9 am (see p. 4)
- 25** Worship Committee 10 am
Healing Oasis 6 pm
- 28** Chalice Circles 2 pm
Meatless Meal 5:30 pm



Laura Flachs 9/1

Mary Holly Allison 9/12

Betty Barriga 9/19

Cassandra Wooden 9/26

George Clattenberg 9/27

Tom Deuley 9/30

If you would like your birthday recognized in our newsletter contact Stephanie Garrett at garwalsr@gmail.com