



# NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY

*A spiritual home where religion and reason meet*

FEBRUARY 2020

## *Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan*



As the calendar flips from January to February, I find it way too easy to get caught up in the day-to-day busyness of life. I tend to move from activity to meeting to event to activity to meeting to event almost in a fog with my brain on autopilot.

Being laid up at home for almost three weeks (thanks to the flu, then a massive kidney stone), allowed me to think about how I'm managing my time. My insights and conclusions may sound a lot like yours.

I'm over-committed and over-stressed. I do too much for too many without considering taking care of myself. This isn't just an issue ministers face, but most of us deal with similar challenges.

My commitment to myself this year is to create better boundaries with my time. I have to take better care of myself and make sure I'm taking time to enjoy what I'm doing and enjoying those with whom I spend time.

I truly love being your minister at UUFCC. You're such a fun, caring, passionate, and interesting congregation. I find myself saying yes to almost every invitation and opportunity because I want to be with you all so much.

My reality is that I need more down time, more alone time, and more time to study and meditate. My guess is that many of you are thinking, "Yeah, I need that too." Let's agree together to do a better job setting boundaries, saying "No," and smelling the roses that are all around us in 2020.

Not only will we be healthier and happier by so doing, but we'll enjoy life more and do a better job with our responsibilities. That's my goal.

Blessings!

Rev. Dan



*Leading the UUFCC contingent at the MLK Parade*



## Dear Ones

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This month my letter focuses on our upcoming annual operating pledge drive. This year's theme is "**Growing Together in Community.**" The kick-off will occur during the service on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and conclude on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. During these three short weeks, we need to raise a **minimum of \$120,000** from our members and friends. It is very important that we meet this goal in a timely manner. We will vote on a 2020-2021 budget at our annual meeting on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. It is necessary to confirm that there will be funds to cover our operating expenses during the next year. Your pledges will provide this confirmation.

As you are probably aware, the UUFCC Board of Trustees entered into a two-year contract with Rev. Dan Lambert on October 1, 2019. At the time of this agreement, we imagined how this contractual relationship could grow into a full time settled ministry. Our imaginings will only become reality if we increase our giving by a minimum of \$15,000 for the next two years.

The Stewardship Committee has requested that I discuss how the campaign will be structured. Members are Gudrun Matthaus, Ken Brennen, Alice Clattenburg, Rev. Dan Lambert, Tom Deuley and me.

As in previous years, you will receive a pledge packet as you enter the Fellowship on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It will include three budgets for 2020-21. The first is a survival budget which requires \$120,000 in pledges. The second budget, requiring \$135,000 in pledges, will enable us to enrich our programs and grow. The third, an aspirational budget, would require \$150,000 in pledges. This level of giving would enable dreams to come true.

In the packet there will also be letters from me and Rev. Dan, a pledge form stressing the advantages of direct auto payments, UUA giving guidelines, and a return envelope.

Following the service on March 1<sup>st</sup>, we will celebrate our anticipated success with a very special potluck. The special food comes from you and the music will be provided by the grooving DJ, Katy Brown. In other words, we are going to party because we **will** meet our goal!

Please attend the service on March 1<sup>st</sup> but if you cannot, we will mail your packet on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Let's make this pledge drive short and sweet.

Another area that needs to be brought to the community's attention is the need for a program council. This group will be made up of the chairs or designated representatives from each UUFCC Committee. Regular meetings would provide excellent opportunities to share goals, successes and needs. These gatherings can also provide opportunities to deal with scheduling problems.

However, the most important purposes of the council are evaluative. They would determine if we are living our mission. Our current Mission Statement reads: ***UUFCC is a liberal religious community committed to diversity and social justice; where spirituality, reason, compassion, service and fellowship meet.***

The program council would also be a dream team, creating visions that directly reflect our mission. From these visions, measurable goals will develop and become realities. Then the process starts again. Pretty cool!

In faith and gratitude,

Dennis G. Shaw, President  
UUFCC Board of Trustees

# Many Paths...

## Sundays

**9:00 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

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from [sources](#) as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, “The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.”  
(from the UUA website)

Rev. Dan continues a sermon series that allows us to take a “deep dive” into each of the principles, one per week.

### Feb. 2 - Principle 3

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

### Feb. 9 - Principle 4

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

### Feb. 16 - Principle 5

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

### Feb. 23 - Principle 6

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all



## Message from the Treasurer

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These are exciting times at UUFCC. It has been wonderful to feel the new energy of a full-time minister after so many months on our own. I think we did a great job hanging in there without one, but am grateful that Rev. Dan has joined us, and excited to see what the new year brings.

I am happy to tell you that the current state of our UUFCC finances is excellent, and that all of our accounts have healthy balances. In addition to our operating account, we have two investment accounts (one capital, one reserve) that have shown good growth over the past year. As of the end of December, we have received 75% of the amount pledged, which is right on track. We still have our major fundraising events in front of us – the service auction and the rummage sale. Please support these two events since we depend on these to make ends meet. Besides, they are a lot of fun!

The finance committee is meeting this month to start planning for next year. Now that we have a full-time minister, our financial needs have increased. We also have many ideas for improving our facility and making room for an expanding congregation, all part of our long-term financial strategy. Up next: preparing and vetting the 20/21 budget in preparation for the annual meeting at the end of March. Anyone who would like to be part of this process is welcome. Our next meeting is January 30th at 10 a.m.

By now you should have received a letter summarizing your pledge submittals for this Fiscal Year (April 1 2019 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020). We did not send out letters for the calendar year this year because as you may remember, the 2018 tax law nearly doubled the standard deduction. Because of this change, it no longer makes sense for most taxpayers to itemize.

If you do want a calculation of the calendar year total, please contact Mary Jane Williams in the office and she will provide you a copy. We are happy that the new pledge data base we implemented over the past six months has improved the ease and accuracy of the tracking process.

As the new Fiscal Year approaches and we start considering our 2020/21 pledges, I want to remind you that there is a mechanism to still deduct charitable donations by taking advantage of qualified charitable distributions (QCDs). This applies to those of you that have IRAs as part of a retirement portfolio. You need to be 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 an IRA or an inherited 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! QCDs could also 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 accountant or tax advisor to see if it is something you would like to consider doing this pledge year.

Lastly, I'd like to give a shout out to Linda Quinn for stepping in to help with the Treasurer's duties. She has been a life saver by filling in for me when I am gone and making sure there are volunteers to count the collections every Sunday. Thanks to all those counters as well!

Thanks so much for your consistent generosity – it's what keeps the UUFCC doors open so we can gather in this warm and safe community and do the important work that we do.

With respect and gratitude,

Your Treasurer,  
Nancy Weaver

[nancyxweaver@gmail.com](mailto:nancyxweaver@gmail.com), 303-241-0309

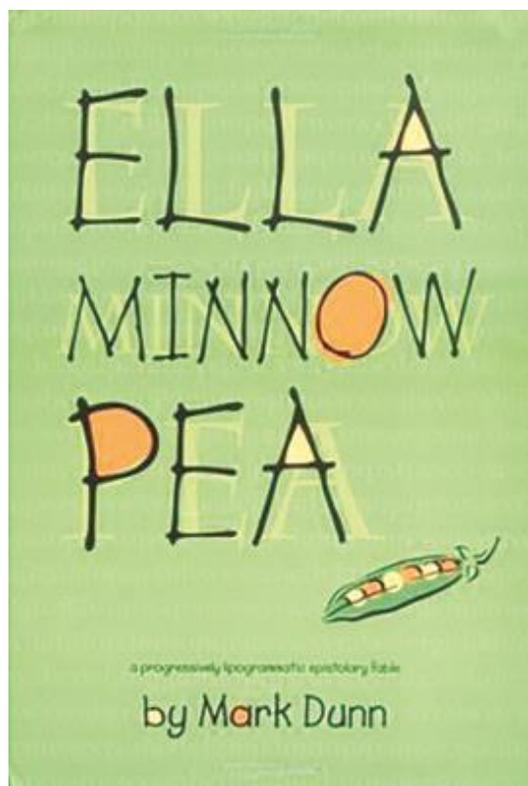
# Book Group

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. For further information contact Mary Jane Williams [maryjanewms@comcast.net](mailto:maryjanewms@comcast.net).

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.

Please note the change in book selection for February 2020 from *White Fragility* by Robin D'Angelo to *Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn. The change was necessary due to a variety of future programming that will include discussions of the *White Fragility* book.



February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m.

***Ella Minnow Pea*** by Mark Dunn (from book flap)

Ella Minnow Pea is a girl living happily on the fictional island of Nollop off the coast of South Carolina. Nollop was named after Nevin Nollop, author of the immortal pangram, \* "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." Now Ella finds herself acting to save her friends, family, and fellow citizens from the encroaching totalitarianism of the island's Council, which has banned the use of certain letters of the alphabet as they fall from a memorial statue of Nevin Nollop. As the letters progressively drop from the statue they also disappear from the novel. The result is both a hilarious and moving story of one girl's fight for freedom of expression, as well as a linguistic tour de force sure to delight word lovers everywhere.

\*pangram: a sentence or phrase that includes all the letters of the alphabet

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| <b>March 25</b> | <i>A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and The Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i> by Mary Ann Glendon |
| <b>April 29</b> | <i>The Sandcastle Girls</i> by Chris Bohjalian   |
| <b>May 27</b>   | To Be Announced  |

# Service Auction

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The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Service Auction is February 8<sup>th</sup>, and it's not too late to reserve your ticket or to donate a service or items to the silent auction. There are so many possibilities for donations for both the oral and silent auctions. Think of what you do well – sewing and mending, cooking, gardening, organizing, shopping, baking – then decide how you want to share those talents with others in our community. What have you made that others might want - specialty cakes, new small household appliances, your handmade art? There are so many possibilities.

One new and exciting entry this year is an African photo safari. You and your partner or travel companion can win a 6-night stay at Zulu Nyala Heritage Safari Lodge or Tented Safari Camp.



The package includes:

- 6-night stay for 2 people in a standard room. (Standard rooms can be upgraded to suites, please enquire when booking.)
- 3 meals per day (breakfast, lunch and dinner).
- 2 game viewing activities per day on Zulu Nyala Game Reserve, with a host ranger who will assist you in the planning of your safari and activities during the day.

The package *excludes*: Airfare, airport transfers, drinks, laundry, telephone, excursions, any item of a personal nature and gratuity

- \* The market value is \$5950 per couple.
- \* We have a minimum bid of \$2500 per couple.
- \* We will require 50% of the amount bid which is payable within a month after the event or a penalty fee might apply for late payment.
- \* NO booking will be confirmed unless payment has been received.
- \* Trip is valid for 2 years from the date of purchase.
- \* Trip is Non-Refundable.
- \* The Fellowship gets one half of the bid

Go to [www.uufcc.net](http://www.uufcc.net) to reserve tickets and make your donations. Laura Liermann and Fred Parmenter will be available shortly before and after the service each Sunday to assist you with completing these activities, get more information and reserve tickets.

You are also encouraged to go to local businesses you might frequent and ask for products that can be auctioned or gift certificates. Lorrie Douglas is coordinating this endeavor so if you want to know if a business has already donated, please let her know. You can also call her ( 734 846 0448) if you have gotten any donations.

Contact Kay Azar at [kayazar1@gmail.com](mailto:kayazar1@gmail.com) for more information. Can't wait to see you there!

# February Black History Month Film Festival

The Racial Justice Committee is again presenting 4 movies for the Black History month festival. The movies will be every Monday in February at the Mid County Library (near the Fellowship) at the corner of US 41 and Forrest Nelson Blvd. All movies start at 5:30 and are free to attend. This series is presented in partnership with the Mid County Library and The Blanchard House Museum. Discussion to follow each film. This year's selection includes:

**Feb. 3 – Get Out**



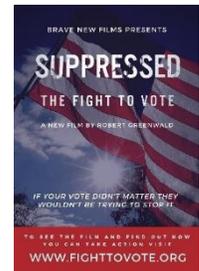
**Feb. 10 – Loving**



**Feb. 17 – Selma**



**Feb. 24 – Suppressed:  
The Fight to Vote**



**You are invited to  
The Racial Monologues  
Stories from our Community**

**Saturday March 7, 2020 at 7pm  
Free & Open to the Public**

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County**



**Our stories are written & performed  
by local community members**

**The Racial Monologues are produced by:  
The Racial Justice Committee  
of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County**

**Questions? Email: [rmstories2020@gmail.com](mailto:rmstories2020@gmail.com)**



## New Art Exhibit at UUFCC

The new art exhibit for the month of February will feature 3 local artists, Betty Pritchard, Helga Weichselbaum and Linda Himes.

Dr. Betty Loftin Pritchard, a retired professor from Michigan's Grand Valley State University School of Arts and Sciences, pursued her art full time after retirement. Working in oils, watercolor and fabric, she paints a variety of subjects from still life to plein air, always intrigued by scenes with strong color and lights and shadows.

As a child in Austria, Vienna, pencil and paper were the favorite toys of Helga Weichselbaum. After retiring from a career as a mechanical engineer and computer graphic designer, she was free to pursue her passion for art. Studying painting in watercolor, acrylics and oil with local painters, Helga has joined plein air and portrait groups. Her subjects range from still life, portrait and plein air paintings. She has exhibited her work previously at the Visual Art Center in Punta Gorda winning several awards.

Also featured is the pottery of Linda Himes and Pamela Cox. Linda only recently began to pursue her interest in art after being disabled by a traumatic brain injury. After taking classes in handbuilding and wheel throwing, she fell in love with pottery. Pamela Cox has a BFA from Pensacola State College. A talented potter, Pam teaches handbuilding and wheel throwing as well as drawing at the Cultural Center in Port Charlotte.



Everyone is invited to a reception to meet the artists on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm.

## Vigil at Congressman Steube's Punta Gorda Office



A vigil calling for justice at the border has been arranged by a newly formed group, *The Coalition for Justice at the Border*, comprised of many like-minded local groups and individuals, including the Immigration Justice Committee of UUFCC. The vigil will be on Friday, February 7 from 5-6:30 PM, at Rep. Steube's local office, the Old Charlotte County Court House, 226 Taylor Road, Punta Gorda. The group is calling for ending the separation of families, allowing asylum seekers their "day in court," respecting those who have left home in search of better lives (as did many of our grandparents), and passing new and

fair immigration laws. They want to remind Congressman Steube that "...the moral test of a government is how they treat their children, their elderly, and their sick..."

Everyone is invited to join this vigil. For more information, call 941-764-5859.

You are invited to the world premiere of  
***Side by Side***  
 March 15 at noon, UUFCC



Produced from 550+ hours video recorded over the last 35 years, the **Side by Side** tells the story from infancy to adulthood of a unique individual living with Cerebral Palsy. The film captures the ups and downs, milestones and challenges, smiles and tears, and significant relationships of Micah Sage Bea-Taylor, son of father/filmmaker Ron Taylor who will be in person at the film.

Recent interviews with family members, caregivers and teachers provide narrative commentaries that 'look back' at their work with Micah and the insights and understandings that they gained from his impact upon their lives and careers. Soon to be released to television and educational venues, Ron welcomes your feedback.

In telling his son's story with intimacy and mastery, Ron is also telling the story of society's many new nurturing techniques that engage, include, and provide reciprocal benefits to caregivers and person-centered education for all. Ron is also telling the story of his lessons for nurturing a greater humanity.

## Conscious Dance is Rich and Nourishing in February

**February 5 and 19, 4:15 set-up, Dance 4:30-5:30**

I have been teaching a wide variety of Improvisational Dance forms since 1988 and it is a joy to be sharing some of my most recent creative explorations through Conscious Dance at the UU. This month we will gather Wednesdays February 5 and February 19 to move from the inspiration of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Chakras. The Chakras are energy centers along the midline of our bodies, and they are interpreted differently through various lineages.



In the system that I have studied the 6<sup>th</sup> chakra corresponds to the third eye/forehead region and is all about wisdom, inner guidance, and creativity. The symbol is called, "Ajna" and when in balance we have clarity, vision, wisdom good memory and good dream recall. This will be our inspiration for February 5.

On February 19, we come to the crown chakra, Sahasrara, and when the 7<sup>th</sup> chakra is in balance we are able to perceive, analyze and assimilate new information. We are open-minded and spiritually connected. Sounds wonderful, right?



The classes are all accompanied by an eclectic music playlist. Please explore with us and enjoy trying something completely new.

*Samara Michaelson*

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Mondays** – Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24 – Conversational Spanish 5 pm.

**Tuesdays** – Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 – Teaching Tuesdays 12 pm

**Thursdays** – Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 – Meditation 5 pm, A Course in Miracles 6 pm  
Choir Practice 6:15 pm,

**Saturdays** – Feb. 1, 15 – Happiness is an Inside Job 10 am

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| <p><b>Feb. 1</b> Yoga 9 am<br/>Art Take-down 10:30 am<br/>Art Hanging 12 pm</p> <p><b>2</b> Peace Speakers Initiative 12 pm</p> <p><b>3</b> Iowa Democrats Caucus 3:30 pm</p> <p><b>5</b> Auction Bid Team Meeting 2 pm<br/>Conscious Dance 4:30 pm<br/>Immigration Justice 5:00 pm</p> <p><b>9</b> Social Justice 12 pm<br/>Who Are UU? Class 12 pm</p> <p><b>11</b> Worship Committee 3:30 pm<br/>NAMI Group 7 pm</p> <p><b>12</b> Caring &amp; Hospitality 10 am</p> <p><b>14</b> Art Reception 4 pm</p> <p><b>15</b> Yoga 9 am<br/>UUFCC Climate Action Team speaker 2 pm</p> | <p><b>Feb. 16</b> Art Committee 12 pm<br/>Mystical Experiences 12 pm</p> <p><b>18</b> UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm</p> <p><b>19</b> Conscious Dance 4:30 pm</p> <p><b>21</b> UUFCC Game Night</p> <p><b>22</b> Meatless Meal</p> <p><b>23</b> Climate Action Team 12 pm</p> <p><b>26</b> Book Group 1:30 pm<br/>Healing Oasis 6 pm</p> <p><b>27</b> Jewelry Making Party<br/>(Auction item)</p> <p><b>28</b> Art Take-down 10:30 am</p> <p><b>29</b> Art Hanging 10:30 am</p> |
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Peg Stunkford	2/1
Stephanie Garrett	2/2
Helen Sokalski	2/5
Sara Raines	2/9
Que Burgess	2/14
Joan Osborn	2/21
Herb Levin	2/21
Mona Azar Johnson	2/23

For the past two years there have been no birthday announcements for January. Is it possible that out of our membership of 135 no one was born in January or that it is the month for low key folks? If you are a new member or a shy older one, for any month, let us say HAPPY BIRTHDAY by contacting Stephanie Garrett at [garwalsr@gmail.com](mailto:garwalsr@gmail.com).