



NEW OUTLOOK

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY
A spiritual home where religion and reason meet MARCH 2020



Chalice Chatter from Rev. Dan

March is Stewardship Month, the time each year when we ask you to make another annual financial pledge to UUFCC so the Board knows how to plan for budgeting. Asking for money is not something many of us enjoy. The fact is that we cannot grow and thrive and impact the community the way we want to without your pledges.

Just as important, though, is YOU. We cannot do what we want to do without you and your time, your talents, and your treasures.

Time has become the most important commodity in our modern culture. I hear people say, "I don't have time," when they are explaining why they can't attend an event or help with an activity more than I hear any other single reason. UUFCC is dependent on your time, however. Everything from committee work to organizing events to music to landscaping to community outreach depends on thousands and thousands of volunteer hours. I'm hoping you can give a few more hours in the coming year.

Talent is something everyone has, and again, we need yours! What are you good at? What are you experienced with? What is your education or training in? I promise that we can use it! Whether you were a CPA or an electrician or a marketing exec or a small business owner or an educator, etc., we need your skills! We asked back in January for you to let us know how you can help, whether that's long-term or for a quick project. Right now, we could use people with woodworking, electrical, and cut glass skills for a project for the sanctuary.

Treasure is so much more than what you declare as your pledge. While we need your pledge for budgeting, there are many times through the year that we need a few extra dollars as well. We are averaging around \$1000 each time we do a 2nd Helping. We have a generous response when we ask for help building up the Minister's Discretionary Fund or when a local family needs assistance. This is a very generous fellowship!

By the way all of this is **good news!** UUFCC is a healthy and growing congregation. We are becoming more diverse and younger. We are having an increased impact on social justice causes in the area. People are connecting with our Principles and our message. With a membership of about 140, and a large group of friends and people who attend often at around 100 more, we are having a far-reaching impact.

We can't continue this positive trend without you. Thanks for being willing to give your time, talents, and treasures so we can continue to achieve our mission.

Be blessed!

Rev. Dan

Dear Ones



This is my 45th and last “New Outlook” letter as President of UUFCC’s Board of Trustees. How quickly the last four and a half years have passed. I will always be grateful for your unwavering trust and support. Serving as your Board leader has been an amazing honor that has deepened my sense of self-worth and purpose. What an incredible gift! I love you.

While this may be the last newsletter article, it certainly is not the end of my term. From an institutional perspective, March is UUFCC’s busiest month.

We begin with our annual pledge drive, “Growing Community Together” on Sunday, March 1. Following an inspiring “Stewardship Sunday Service”, we will celebrate with a special potluck, music and dancing.

As in previous years, you will receive a pledge packet as you enter the Fellowship on March 1st. It will include a proposed 20-21 budget, letters from me and Rev. Dan, a pledge form stressing the advantages of direct auto payments, UUA giving guidelines, and a return envelope. If you cannot attend on the first, your packet will be mailed on Monday, March 2nd. We plan to conclude the campaign on March 22nd!

On Sunday, March 29th, we will conduct our Annual Meeting. At this important gathering, UUFCC members will elect a new president, vice president, four trustees, members to the Nominating Committee and delegates to General Assembly. We will also vote on a budget. You will receive an official meeting notice, a proposed agenda and budget by March 8th. It is essential that we have a quorum in order to do business. So, please plan to attend. We will start at noon.

During March you will also receive an Annual Report. This document will highlight the successes and challenges faced by our many committees. I anticipate that once again we will be amazed at the quantity and quality of our service to the Fellowship and the larger community.

Finally, I am delighted to report that UUFCC now has a Program Council. This group is made up of the chairs or representatives from all the Fellowship’s committees. These gatherings will provide many opportunities to support one another, problem solve and resolve scheduling issues. The next meeting is at 1 pm on Monday, March 2nd.

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

March 1



UUFCC Celebration & Stewardship Sunday

It's time to celebrate all the wonderful ways that UUFCC impacts people's lives and helps the community. We'll have music & dancing along with our monthly potluck lunch.

March 8

Our 7 Principles: Principle 7 Respect for the Interdependent Web

As we wrap up our series on the 7 Principles, we will discuss many ways that we can respect the Earth and her inhabitants. We will also have a Blessing of the Animals during the service!



March 15



Crisis at the Border

Hear from a few people who have recently been at the U.S./Mexico border and what they witnessed as they participated in protesting the current administration's immigration policies and practices.

March 22

Justice Sunday

Leaders from UUFCC's Social Justice, Racial Justice, and Immigration Justice groups will share their activities and purposes.



March 29



"I'm Not Racist, But I Know People Who Are!"

We have all probably said something like this. What does it really mean? Why do we get so defensive when racism is discussed?

Message from the Treasurer



Hello Fellowship family!

This is the busiest time of the year! Not only are we bustling with the energy of our new minister, Rev. Dan, but most of our friends from up north are back. To add to the excitement, we are ending our current fiscal year and starting the next on April 1st. As the old year ends, and the new one begins, we head into our pledge drive March 1st with a big celebration.

When you receive your pledge packet, you will see the proposed FY 20/21 budget as well as a quick look at what we expect over the next few fiscal years. This is aligned with the strategy we developed last year, when we realized that we would struggle making ends meet with a full-time minister. The budget paperwork included in your pledge packet will show you how we have validated this strategy with real budget numbers.

The proposed budget has three columns: The budget for the current FY19/20, the actuals for the current FY19/20, and the proposed budget for FY 20/21. This allows a comparison of the current budget, how we did this year based on the financial data through January, and what we are proposing for the next fiscal year. These numbers have already been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees.

The 2nd budget item illustrates the projected budget for the next three fiscal years. You can see how, as the pledge goal increases by 15K per year, we will have the funds to fully close on the budget gap by FY 22/23.

As you may remember, we moved excess funds from our operating account to a UA reserve investment account last year in order to get a better return on our money. Most of this money was saved because of the lower operating costs we incurred without a minister. The rest was money remaining from some gifts we received in 2018. We can use some of these same funds to cover any over-runs over the next few years, if needed.

Feel free to reach out anytime with questions or concerns.

On a related subject, if you haven't yet transitioned your giving to automatic deposits, please think about it for the coming fiscal year. Consistent deposits help us with cash flow and smooth operations. Let me know if you need some help setting one up.

Thanks again for all you do. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the celebration on March 1, the Annual Meeting on the 29 and all the Sundays in between!

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

A Note from the Membership Coordinator

The Fellowship is in high gear and checking off the many annual events this thriving community is known for. The energy and activity are powerful and affirming of who we are and all that we can accomplish together.

We continue to grow our membership. We welcomed four new members in February. Their introductions will be published in the April Outlook.

Dear members and sustaining friends of UUFCC, your active participation in our work and your generous financial support are essential to this congregation. We are truly grateful for your many contributions and commitment.



I will be stepping down as Membership Coordinator effective March 29. I am hoping this will allow a new coordinator to commence along with the newly installed Board of Trustees. It has been my pleasure and a fulfilling experience, to have served the Fellowship in this role.

Namaste,
Lynn Ritchie

Climate Action Team



Talk it up! What is the most effective thing you can do to create consensus on climate change solutions?

Talk about it.

Yes, reaching your neighbors, friends, colleagues, and elected officials builds the "political will" that pushes our community members and leaders to take action.

Like a quick but effective blurb or a longer letter that gets attention? The UU Climate Action Team is hosting a fun "make and take" workshop at noon on Sunday, March 22. Lindsey Kohlenburg, group leader of the local chapter of CitizensClimateLobby.org will offer some ideas that will get the attention of your target audience.

In the meantime, talk it up!

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.

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.

March 25 - *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* by Mary Ann Glendon



Unafraid to speak her mind and famously tenacious in her convictions, Eleanor Roosevelt was still mourning the death of FDR when she was asked by President Truman to lead a controversial commission, under the auspices of the newly formed United Nations, to forge the world's first international bill of rights.

A World Made New is the dramatic and inspiring story of the remarkable group of men and women from around the world who participated in this historic achievement and gave us the founding document of the modern human rights movement. Spurred on by the horrors of the Second World War and working against the clock in the brief window of hope between the armistice and the Cold War, they grappled together to articulate a new vision of the rights that every man and woman in every country around the world should share, regardless of their culture or religion.

A landmark work of narrative history based in part on diaries and letters to which Mary Ann Glendon, an award-winning professor of law at Harvard University, was given exclusive access, *A World Made New* is the first book devoted to this crucial turning point in Eleanor Roosevelt's life, and in world history. (from Amazon.com)

Upcoming Books

- April 29** *The Sandcastle Girls* by Chris Bohjalian
- May 27** To be announced

The Racial Monologues

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



This is fourth year that the UU Racial Justice committee has collected personal stories written by people from a diverse array of backgrounds. The stories are submitted anonymously and then read by community performers. The group also produces a booklet of the submissions which will be available for sale.

The project is inspired in part by the words of Ruth King from her book *Mindful of Race, Transforming Racism from the Inside Out*. Ms. King is a meditation teacher who addresses the emotional and spiritual impact of racism. She says, "The world's heart is on fire, and race is at its core... Racism is a heart disease. Many of us can live for a while with a heart disease without knowing it, and others of us know we have a heart disease but are afraid or even in denial about it. But racism is a heart disease, and it's curable!" Sharing our stories is part of the cure.

The performance will be one hour with a short discussion to follow. Please join us for a heartfelt, thought-provoking evening.

Side by Side

March 15 at noon at UUFCC



Side by Side captures the ups and downs, milestones and challenges, smiles and tears, and significant relationships of father/filmmaker Ron Taylor's son Micah. In his Q&A after the film, Ron will reveal his lifespan of insights into special parenting for all nurturers, parents, teachers and caregivers.

Neil Young, father of two sons with disabilities, praised Ron Taylor's book ***All by Self*** before it became the inspiration for this intimate and revealing film portrait. *"I was struck by the sensitivity of this tale of a little boy going down the road of life.... Thank you, Ron for putting into words what so many of us feel."* **Neil Young** 1991

Ron's film portrays Micah's 35-year journey from infancy to adulthood living with Cerebral Palsy. It is a truly masterful portrayal of a unique and warm *Soul's Journey* through our contemporary landscape. What if all children could have nurturing like Micah had with universal *Health Care for All*? For parents, health-care professionals, educators, therapists, self-advocates and general audiences. See the 2:48 trailer at: vimeo.com/rontaylor/trailer

New Art Exhibit at UUFCC

The focal point of the new photo art exhibit titled "Bejeweled" is a collaboration between fine art photographer Myrna Charry and jewelry designer Ginger Abraham. Also featured will be a collection of Ginger Abraham's jewelry as well as the fused glass jewelry and creative designs of artist Kay Azar.

Myrna "shoots" with a 35mm and medium format film camera and processes, prints and frames all her own work. In the surreal school of art, Charry's work is not conventionally pretty; rather she wants to create fresh forms and curious arrangements. The work in this exhibit is from Charry's "Portrait" series; her images use light to highlight as well as hide shapes and form, employing "chiaroscuro" techniques of earlier artists.

Ginger Abraham has been creating jewelry as a hobby for almost 25 years. With more time in retirement, she hopes to learn new techniques to incorporate in her designs. The collaboration in this exhibit was a new and unique opportunity. The photographs provided ideas for the use of shapes and colors in addition to whatever feeling the photographs invoked. Besides beads from her extensive collection, adhesive rhinestones were also incorporated into many of the pieces.

The public is invited to a reception to meet the artists on Friday, March 6th from 4-6 pm.



UUFCC Rummage Sale - Saturday, March 14th, 2020

Got too much stuff!? We're having another rummage sale on Saturday, March 14, 2020, so put aside the "stuff" you no longer need or want so we can have a successful sale! We will need volunteers, so please contact Alice Clattenburg or Debbie Conrad for further details! Thank you!

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays – March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Conversational Spanish 5 pm

Tuesdays – March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – Teaching Tuesdays 12 pm

Thursdays – March 5, 12, 19, 28 – Meditation 5 pm, A Course in Miracles 6 pm
Choir Practice 6:15 pm

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| <p>Mar 1 Racial Monologues Rehearsal 2 pm</p> <p>2 Program Council 1 pm</p> <p>4 Conscious Dance 4:30 pm
Immigration Justice 5 pm</p> <p>6 Art Reception 4 pm (see p. 8)</p> <p>7 Yoga 9 am
Recorder Group 2 pm
Racial Monologue Performance 7 pm (see p. 7)</p> <p>8 Social Justice 12 pm</p> <p>10 NAMI Group</p> <p>14 UUFCC Yard Sale</p> <p>15 Art Committee 12 pm
Mystical Experiences 12 pm
Side by Side 12 pm (see p. 70)</p> <p>17 UUFCC Board Meeting 6 pm
Sierra Club 7 pm</p> | <p>Mar 18 Caring & Hospitality 10 am
Conscious Dance 4:30 pm
Immigration Justice 5 pm</p> <p>20 UUFCC Game Night 6:30 pm</p> <p>21 Yoga 9 am
Partners Yoga (Auction event) 11 am
Climate Action Team Speaker 2 pm</p> <p>22 Climate Action - Talk It Up 12 pm
(see p. 5)</p> <p>24 Worship Committee 3:30 pm</p> <p>25 Book Group 1:30 pm
Healing Oasis 6 pm</p> <p>28 Chalice Circles 2 pm
Meatless Meal 5:30 pm</p> <p>29 Annual Meeting 12 pm (see p. 2)</p> <p>30 Art Takedown 10 am</p> |
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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.

March Birthdays

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