



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Charlotte County
1532 Forest Nelson Boulevard, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952
941.627.4303 – www.uufcc.org – www.facebook.com/uufcc

COMMUNIQUE

Can you say kuh-myoo-nuh-kay?

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

promotes

SEVEN PRINCIPLES

as strong values & moral guides:

1st Principle

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

2nd Principle

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

3rd Principle

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

4th Principle

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

5th Principle

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

6th Principle

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

7th Principle

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

SUNDAY SERVICES

are at 10:30 a.m.

Services are hybrid: in-person and on YouTube.

www.youtube.com
UUFCC Port Charlotte

Fellowship Accomplishments

– UUFCC Board of Trustees

The Fellowship has accomplished a lot in the past few years. These are the items that we recall. However, there are surely others of which we may be unaware or have simply not remembered.

BUILDING/GROUNDS

After Hurricane Ian blew a few oak trees onto the building, the porch interior has been completely redone and flooring and roof fixed. The sanctuary space roof also was fixed, wall mold mitigated, replastered and, after a congregational vote on the color, the sanctuary repainted. All of the space at the Fellowship has been cleaned and organized.

The entry area repainted. Both the table arrangement in the Fellowship hall and the sanctuary arrangement are visibly posted so those who use the space know how to put it back the way they found it. The back room has been remodeled into an inviting office space. This space was cleaned out, reorganized, painted, the floor and trim all replaced.

The sanctuary has a **new sound system** (thanks to the Endowment for funding), and new supporting hardware in the sanctuary. In addition, there are **new computers** in the administrative office, sanctuary, and Fellowship hall.

We passed fire code inspections.

The **landscaping** for the space facing the road has been improved and is established.

Several **security cameras** were installed.

SUNDAY SERVICES

The **Sanctuary Decorating Group** has been active and thoughtful in making the place look inviting. By coordinating with the Worship Associates Committee's work, they are inspired and support the monthly worship themes.

The co-chairs of the Worship Associates Committee are participating in **UU training to strengthen connections** with UUs outside the Fellowship and to better serve this Fellowship by practicing the craft of creating meaningful services.

Service stability has been established where each month we engage two ministers, one local nonprofit, and one member/friend of UUFCC to bring us sermons/messages.

We have **improved communications** with the folks responsible for music for services.

More ACCOMPLISHMENTS p.2

ACCOMPLISHMENTS from p.1

Year-round choir was established with the guidance of our volunteer music director.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE “Com-Com”

In recognition of the need to be more consistent and simply better at communicating both with each other and with the greater community, the Communications Committee was established. We **regularly advertised** in three local publications: *Florida Weekly*, *Sun*, and *Natural Awakenings*.

The regular gathering of Fellowship leaders, the **Program Council**, has been reestablished and continues to be an important way to support each other and to learn from others.

A **new newsletter team** came together to fill the need for a monthly newsletter.

CARING

The Com-Com and Caring Committee established **geographic clusters for emergency contact**. Members and friends know who lives nearby and will be better able to assist each other.

Caring folks continue to **express greetings, recognize birthdays, express sympathy, and keep a personal connection** with many in the community.

BOARD

Committee and employee liaisons were established to support better flow of information to/from the board.

Four **new employees** have been hired for: pastoral care, office assistant, accompanist, and Fellowship administrator.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The **Immigration Justice Committee** led others in providing support for an asylum-seeking family through **CAPAS**.

Members/friends of the Fellowship supported the establishment of and now lead the newly formed **PFLAG Charlotte County Chapter**.

We continue to provide a safe place for **ARAY** to meet.

We supported **free covid testing** for the community.

Members/friends of our Fellowship supported organizing and now lead newly formed **NAACP Charlotte County Chapter**.

We supported the establishment of **The Social Justice Alliance of the Florida Suncoast** and helped coordinate the **Right to Read festival**.

We established **building rentals** by several groups: Charlotte County Garden Club, Charlotte County Democrats, and Sierra Club.

Scheduling **Second Helping** each month provides significant donations to the community at large.

UUA CONNECTIONS

Three new delegates represented our Fellowship at **General Assembly**.

The Fellowship received a grant for repairing damage from Hurricane Ian.

The Fellowship also received a grant for CAPAS from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Many thanks to everyone who is supporting this Fellowship in many ways.



Sunday School for Unitarian Universalists

A solar eclipse arrives on Monday, April 8th. In some ways, every day is Sunday. And there's always a need for Sunday school lessons. Start with the eclipse on April 8th. **The solar system is a circus and the sun is a superstar.** Living with a superstar can be a challenge but it's possible. Humanist tradition counsels us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science.

In anticipation of this year's eclipse, my wife (Lyn Dalzell) and I went to the **Cirque du Soleil** when it was in Saint Petersburg. We saw something wonderful. Trapeze artists replaced angels, and an impromptu chorus was present, with hundreds of voices included. The crowd quickly moved from light to dark and from dark to light. Imagine a great cathedral hosting a Kennedy Space Center program. YouTube has videos that explain the Cirque du Soleil.

Florida is moving into the season of hot weather and hurricanes. If you're involved with UUFCC, you'll have a front row seat. Cirque du Soleil won't be with UUFCC in April, but we'll do our best to raise solar awareness before Earth Day. **Watch the solar eclipse on April 8th.** On Sunday, April 21st, we'll ask people to read the story of Exodus with green glasses.

The Book of Exodus is the oldest and best of the environmental justice stories.

It's the story that inspires liberation theology in many communities.

In some places, people bang on pots and pans during an eclipse, and in some places people howl at the moon. Some are confused by an eclipse and some are confused by climate change. For UUs who live on the frontlines, the situation is different.



**Rev.
Robert (Bob) Murphy
Unitarian Universalist
Community Minister
Florida**

**CIRQUE
DU SOLEIL**



Like ancient Hebrews, we know it's time to get out of Pharaoh's Egypt and move beyond Pharaoh's way of thinking. A new understanding of community and mutual aid is needed and it's needed today. The sea keeps rising and every summer is hotter than the previous summer. If you want to howl at the moon, give it a try during an eclipse, but, afterwards, come join us on Sunday mornings.

People who managed ancient Egypt loved nature but were weak in the human rights department. In contrast:

UUs respect human diversity and work for equity and inclusivity.

UUs honor science and humanism, and search for something more.

Call it "living in the right way with ourselves and with others," or use a different term, if you like. We know that:

Religious buildings should be accessible and welcoming.

Wellness checks and cooling stations can be provided.

Church landscapes can demonstrate best practices for water conservation and the use of native plants.

For some congregations, installing butterfly gardens and solar panels is possible.

Some animals hide during an eclipse, and many hide during storms, but, in some ways, people are more sophisticated than squirrels. For organized religion, what's important during extreme weather is to lead by example. **Be present in the community when needed.**

No, it's not necessary to promote this or that religion. What is necessary is to:

**Love our neighbors
in the right sort of way.**

**"You may possess only a small light,
but uncover it, let it shine."**

This quote is attributed to John Murray, one of the great Universalist leaders. It's in our gray hymnal.



**UUFCC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
2024 SPRING ART SHOW
traditionally highlights
the talents of the many
ARTISTS IN OUR FELLOWSHIP**

This year we are honored to display the work of the following 13 UUFCC members and friends:

- Kay Azar — fused glass jewelry
- Trudy Gerhardt - pastel portraits
- Betty Powell - Acrylic Fiber pieces
- Sandy Telander - Photography
- Joseph Fenty - Photography
- Joanne Collins - Acrylics Paintings
- Susan Sammis Goldson — Acrylics
- Dennis Shaw - mixed media pieces
- Tom Deuley - Various media
- Lynn Ritchie - Photography
- Mary Jane Williams - Water Colors
- Sandy Telander - Pastels
- Alan Lane - Gouache

The Art Committee thanks every one of our UUFCC artists for sharing their abundant talents with our Fellowship and with all who enter our building.

You rock!!

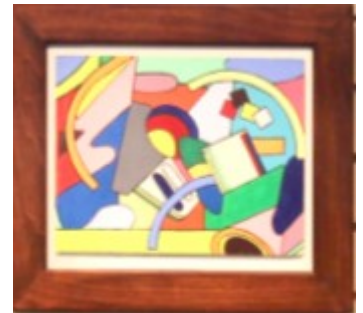
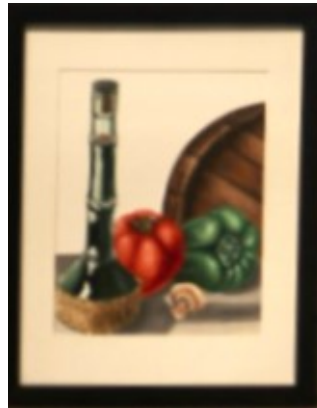
SOME PIECES ARE FOR SALE!

At least 30% of every purchase made goes to support this Fellowship, and in some cases 100%!



More ART p.5

ART from p.4



More ART p.6

ART from p.5



**Caring for one another is a core spiritual practice for Unitarian Universalists.
Pastoral care is the term we use for the ways
we offer support and compassion to each other in community.**

OUR PASTORAL CARE SPECIALIST

**Pastoral Care Specialist,
Rev. Ann Barker,**
is eager to begin her work by meeting with those who need support on their life journey.

She can meet:

- 1) with people in her beautifully redecorated **office** at the Fellowship;
- 2) with those unable to get out at **home**; and,
- 3) with those in **hospital**.

Due to HIPAA regulations, you need to give permission to the hospital to share the information with the Fellowship so Ann knows you are there.



You may reach Rev. Ann Barker by phone at **941-235-0269**. If you leave a message, please give your name and phone number slowly and clearly and she will return your call promptly.

For four weeks, **March 18-April 16**, she will hold **office hours at the Fellowship on Tuesdays from 10AM to 12PM**.

You can drop by to say hi or make an appointment to meet with her.

Her email is revannbarker@gmail.com.





Tom Deuley
Tech Guru

Holistic HOLIDAY AT SEA



In early March, six congregants and a couple of friends went on a **Holistic Holiday at Sea Cruise for vegans and vegan curious**. The cruise was in the Caribbean with stops in Nassau, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Ocean Cay, an Island owned by the ship company.

The program included many well-known doctors and specialists on the general subject of the **health effects of an all-plant-based diet**. The science-based presentations showed the latest data on why:

Relying on unprocessed plants is much better for the human body

than any amount of highly processed plant offerings such as ordinary white bread, most all junk foods, and most all of any line of fast foods. In particular, every speaker warned:

Against all meat, dairy, and poultry products for several reasons, mainly

Against the saturated fats that they all contain and the

inflammation they cause in our heart and blood systems.

They also put away the myth of not having enough protein in plants showing that:

Legumes are better than meat.

On the other hand, they reinforced that **Vegans need to take vitamin B-12 supplements.**

Lastly:

Please minimize salt.

The cruise included vegan meals for every meal of the day divided among two separate restaurants on the ship and an all-vegan buffet. Each evening ended with a themed dance party with vegan munchies.

The speaking schedules were quite full but in general, allowed for excursions on land at the various stops. Most interesting for me was the trip to the rain forest on the Puerto Rico stop.

These cruises have been happening for the last nineteen years and will continue in the future, and I am sure I will consider one again sometime in the future but will wait for some new vegan information to develop.



Unitarian Universalists include, but are not limited to, agnostic, atheist, Buddhist, Christian, earth-centered, Hindu, Humanist, Islam, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, Taoism, believers in God, and more.

www.uua.org/beliefs/who-we-are





LIKE A DEARLY MISSED FAMILY MEMBER, REV. AMY KINDRED CAME “HOME” FOR A VISIT

Our former minister, Reverend Amy Kindred, made her first return visit to UUFCC on March 24, 2024



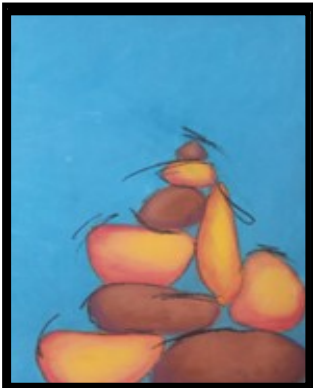
Speaking from the pulpit, Rev. Amy described being drawn to our Spanish moss laden oak trees upon arriving for her interview way back when. She took us down memory lane and our past times together. We heard a powerful tale, “Window to the World,” from *One Hundred Wisdom Stories from Around the World* by Margaret Silf. Rev. Amy even shared her mnemonic for easily remembering our UU Principles:

J. Piglet!

(No excuses now.)

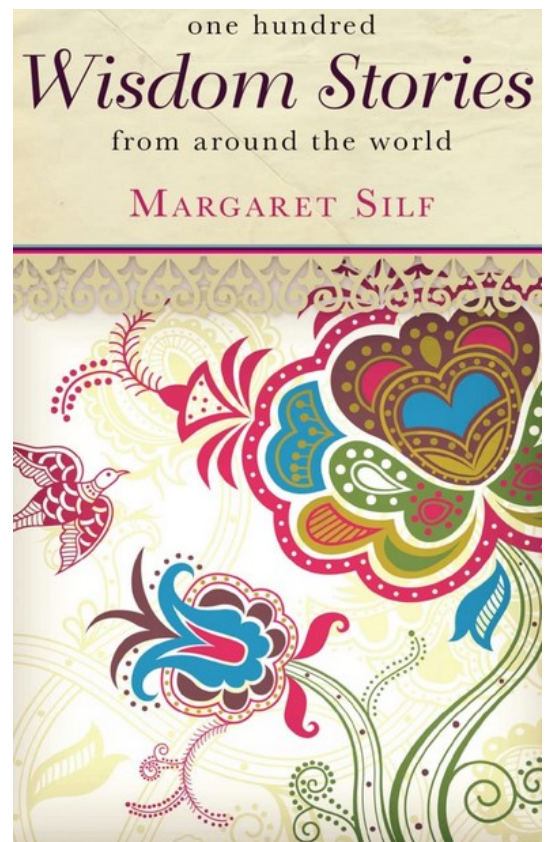
Rev. Amy also noted:

**UUs strive to love one another,
not to try to get into heaven,
but because
it’s the right thing to do.**



Our beloved community welcomed Rev. Amy with love, hugs, tears and a great turnout. We’ve missed her, and it seems she’s missed us too.

No worries. A bit of Rev. Amy is always with us as some of her art hangs in our Fellowship Hall. Rev. Amy is also physically nearer as she now serves the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater.



More REV. AMY p.10



REV. AMY from p.9 — Photos provided by Betty Barriga.



Choir Director Janet Morrill and Rev. Amy



Rev. Amy and Dave Martin



Rev. Amy and one of our prior UUFCC Presidents, MaryHolly Allison



Rev. Amy and Ginger Abraham



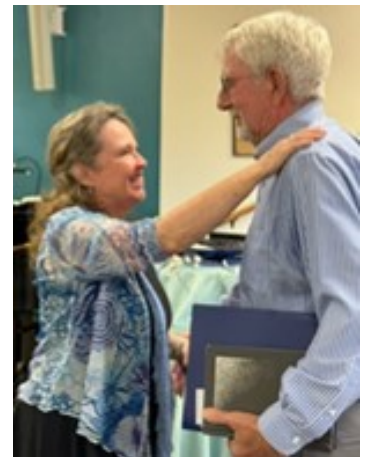
Rev. Amy & Betty Barriga



Rev. Amy with Fred and Dorothy Parmenter and Kay Azar (Auction Team Extraordinaire)



Rev. Amy & Tech Guru Tom Deuley — In her service, Rev. Amy fondly recalled performing the marriage ceremony for Tom and Cheryl



Rev. Amy & Dennis Shaw

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR

— Myrna Charry



EASTER SUNDAY

March 31, 2024

It was Easter.

So we'll say thank you, Jesus,
for your love of justice, of peace,
of humility, and of compassion —
the world needs that message!



PASSOVER

April 22-30, 2024

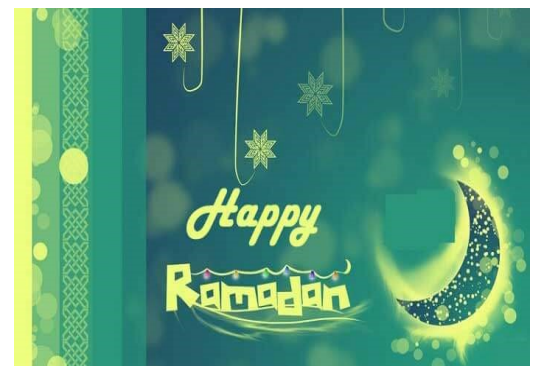
And it's almost Passover where the
message reminds us to say no to slavery
and yes to brotherhood/sisterhood.



RAMADAN

March 12th through April 9, 2024

And it's also Ramadan where we think
about the world and how we should
behave if we are to survive!



UU SOURCES OF OUR LIVING TRADITION

UU congregations “live out [their seven] Principles within a ‘living tradition’ of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture and personal experience. These are the six sources our congregations affirm and promote:

- “Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- “Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- “Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- “Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- “Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- “Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.”

<https://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-believe/sources>

Zen Poetry

“A Zen poem is nothing other than an expression of the enlightened mind, a handful of simple words that disappear beneath the moment of insight to which it bears witness.”

<https://www.shambhala.com/the-poetry-of-zen-1194.html>



I HATE INCENSE

**A master's handiwork cannot be measured
But still priests wag their tongues
explaining the “Way” and babbling about “Zen.”
This old monk has never cared for false piety
And my nose wrinkles at the dark smell
of incense before the Buddha.**

— Ikkyū (1394-1481), one of Japan's greatest Zen monk poets

Ikkyū Sōjun



Zen Master

An eccentric, iconoclastic Japanese Zen Buddhist monk and poet. Greatly impacted infusion of Japanese art and literature with Zen attitudes and ideals, and Zen itself, including breaking Buddhist monastic teachings with his anti-celibacy stance. Memorialized in passed-down stories and an animated TV series, *Ikkyū-san*. A heretic as well as a saint (per Rinzai Zen tradition) due to his “enlightened” anti-celibacy. One of the most famous flute player mendicants of Japanese medieval times. “Murasaki Reibo” is attributed to him. Credited as one of the great influences on the Japanese tea ceremony. Renowned as one of medieval Japan's greatest calligraphers and *sumi-e* artists (monochrome ink and paper).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ikky%C5%AB>



After five years of outstanding service to UUFCC, Office Administrator **Mary Jane Williams**, along with Official Welcomer **Teddy** (MJ's Yorkshire Terrier), have retired.



BTW:
Teddy is not shirking his responsibilities
In this photo.
He was on an official break in the UUFCC Teddy Break Room Doggie Bed.

Our Beloved Community is ever so grateful for Mary Jane's service.
All wish her well as she happily begins planning her retired life.
Planned so far: a Buddhist retreat, reading, sewing, knitting, weaving, beading, embroidery,
and, of course, continuing as a beloved member of this beloved community.



NEW UUFCC OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR!

Let's introduce ourselves and say hello!



CHANGING OF THE GUARD

ANNA SCAGGS

is a recent Florida resident and brings over 35 years of administrative experience to our Fellowship.

Teddy, our retired greeter and comfort dog, asked me to mention that Anna is a pet sitter and fosters small animals.

Teddy asks that we make Anna welcome and allow time for work and people adjusting.



Anna Scaggs, our new UUFCC Administrator, is seen being orientated by newly retired Mary Jane Williams.



SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024

3-4 pm

A PIANO CONCERT AT UUFCC

featuring performances by

CYNDY STIEHL and JODIE DeSALVO



Cyndy is the person who donated the beautiful Steinway grand piano to our Fellowship. Cyndy was our UUFCC Music & Choir Director and a UUFCC Member, until relocating around 2008.

Both she and Jodie are professional musicians.

Donations in support of UUFCC are greatly appreciated.

UUFCC is a ministry standing on the side of love.



Cyndy Stiehl is a Mezzo soprano known for her recitals of American art song, opera and musical theater.

Her repertoire extends from Bach to Gershwin and beyond. She has appeared as a guest soloist with symphonies, choirs, and ensembles in Florida, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Wisconsin.



CDs for both performers are available on Amazon.

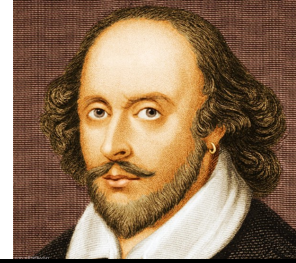
Cyndy Stiehl will be accompanied by **Jodie DeSalvo**, of the Naples Symphony, on the piano.

She is a frequent soloist with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra. She has toured extensively as a piano soloist appearing with the orchestras of Chicago, Geneva, Lucerne, San Francisco, Hartford and Chautauqua.

SHAKESPEARE INSULT KIT

Combine one word from each of the three columns below, prefaced with "Thou":

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
artless	base-court	apple-john
bawdy	bat-forling	baggage
beslubbering	beef-witted	barnacle
bootless	beetle-headed	bladder
churlish	boil-brained	boar-pig
cockered	clapper-clawed	bugbear
cloouted	clay-brained	bum-bailey
craven	common-kissing	canket-blossom
currish	crook-pated	clack-dish
dankish	dismal-dreaming	clotpole
dissembling	dizzy-eyed	coxcomb
droning	doghearted	codpieve
errant	dread-bolted	death-token
fawning	earth-vexing	dewberry
fobbing	elf-skinned	flap-dragon
froward	fat-kidneyed	flax-wench
frothy	fen-sucked	flirt-gill
gleeking	flap-mothed	foot-licker
goatish	fly-bitten	futilarrarian
gorbellied	folly-fallen	giglet
impertinent	fool-born	gudgeon
infectious	fill-gorged	haggard
jarring	guts-gripping	harpy
joggerheaded	half-faced	hedge-pig
lumpish	hasty-witted	horn-beast
mammering	hedge-born	hugger-mugger
mangled	hell-hated	joithead
mewling	idle-headed	lewduster
paunchy	ill-breeding	lout
pribbling	ill-nurtured	maggot-pie
puking	knotty-pated	malt-worm
puny	milk-livered	mammet
qualling	motley-minded	measle
rank	onion-eyed	minnow
reeky	plume-plucked	miscreant
roguish	pottle-deep	oldwarp
ruttish	pox-marked	mumble-news
saucy	reeling-ripe	nut-hook
spleeny	rough-hewn	pigeon-egg
spongy	rudè-growing	pignut
surlly	rump-fed	puttock
tottering	shard-borne	pumpion
unmuzzled	sheep-biting	ratsbane
vain	spur-galled	scut
venomed	swag-bellied	skainsmate
villainous	tardy-gaited	strumpot
warped	tickle-brained	varlot
wayward	toad-spotted	vassal
weedy	unchin-snooted	wheyface
yeasty	weather-bitten	wagtail



Shakespearian Factoids

Wow your literary peers!!

1. His father had the job you always longed for but never got: beer taster! Daddy also made gloves, the only outgrowth of which was the family lived above a glove shop.
2. Spelling wasn't a big deal in Billy's day, so people spelled words as they wanted. As a result, you can find Willm Shakp, William Shaksper, Wm Shakspe, William Shakesper, and Willm Shakspere. But they all refer to the beloved bard!
3. He married Anne Hathaway. No, not that one! And he found time to father three children in three years!
4. He produced so much more than children! At least 37 plays in his life, that we know of, and that averages out to two per year! And many sonnets. In one year alone, 1609, he published 154 of them. Never at a loss for words this one!
5. Billy knew his way about business. Did you know he owned the renowned Globe, built in 1599? And he bought the biggest house in Stratford-upon-Avon, which had as many as 30 rooms!
6. Lastly, on a more somber note, one of his sons, Hamnet, died of bubonic plague at age 11. With no historic certitude, Shakespeare may have named his most tragic character, Hamlet, after him.

Happy reading!

— Herb Levin

March 16, 2024, Beatles Sing-Along FUNDRAISER FOR OUR UUFCC CAPAS FAMILY

Co-Sponsored by UUFCC Immigration Justice Committee & Congregational United Church of Christ

— Betty Barriga, IMJ Chair (and photographer too!)



Certified Beatleologist, Rev. “Fairie” Elaine Silver led the sing-along.

UUSC’s Community Accompaniment Program With Asylum-Seekers (CAPAS)

supports communities of faith as they host and accompany individuals and families seeking safety through the process of obtaining legal asylum in the United States.

UUFCC’s Venezuelan CAPAS family—
Mother, Sorangel;
Daughter, Zhoemy;
Son, Luciano —
for whom funds were raised to support their path to asylum, citizenship, productivity and permanence.



Rev. Michael Ford of CUCC, co-sponsor & venue where Beatles Sing-Along Fundraiser was held.



A BLAST FROM THE PAST!
Attendees, supporters, and/or Beatles aficionados sang Beatles songs and revisited and/or heard from “Fairie” Elaine new and interesting stories about the Beatles.

AWESOME!

\$1,175 UUFCC presold tickets
\$1,165 CUCC presold tickets
\$1,686 Concert Day sales & Donation receipts

\$4,026 TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

AND DONATIONS ARE STILL COMING IN!

To the team who worked so hard to make it happen; and,

To the community for such outstanding support:

THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH!

More BEATLES p.18

BEATLES from p.17



Myrna Chary; Myrna's son-in-law, Joseph Roca; Myrna's daughter, Dr. Margo Roca; and, Dr. Lucy Gardner



Michael McGroarty



Laura and Cliff Anderson



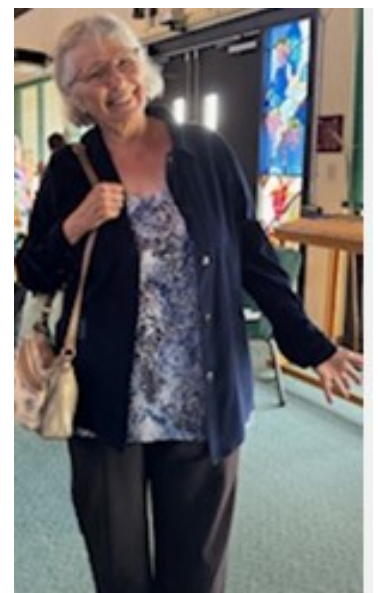
Robert Moran, à la 60s & 70s



Linda Richardson got her psychedelic on!



Ted Zawistowski, emergency volunteer transportation chauffeur!



Trudy Gerhardt, feeling the beat!

The UUFCC Book Group

will discuss
The Great Alone
 by Kristin Hannah

1:30 pm, Wednesday, April 24th, at the Fellowship

Any and all are always invited and welcome anytime.

Per Amazon.com:

An instant #1
 New York Times bestseller!
 "A TOUR DE FORCE."
 —Kirkus (starred review)

Alaska, 1974.

Unpredictable. Unforgiving. Untamed. A family in crisis' ultimate test of survival.

Former POW Ernt Allbright comes home from the Vietnam War changed and volatile. When he loses yet another job, he impulsively decides to move his family to Alaska to live off the grid in America's last true frontier.

Leni, a 13-year-old coming of age in a tumultuous time caught in her parents' stormy relationship. She wants a better future for her family and is desperate for a place to belong. Her mother will do any-thing and go anywhere for the man she loves.

At first, Alaska seems to be the answer with its fiercely independent

community of strong men and even stronger women. Generosity of locals makes up for the Allbrights' lack of preparation and resources.

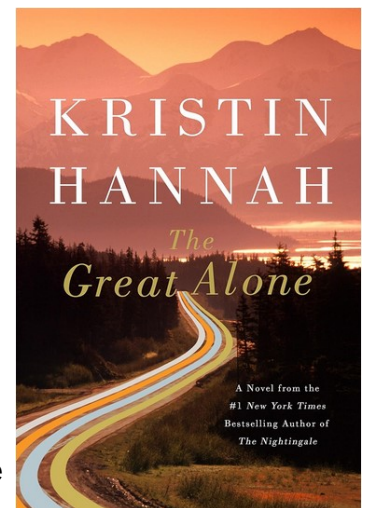
But winter approaches, darkness descends, and Ernt's fragile mental state deteriorates. The family begins to fracture. Outside perils pale in comparison to threats within. In their small cabin, covered in snow, with 18 hours of night, Leni and her mother learn they are on their own in the wild with no one but themselves.

In this unforgettable portrait of human frailty and resilience, Kristin Hannah reveals the indomitable character of the modern American pioneer and the spirit of a vanishing Alaska—a place of incomparable beauty and danger.

***The Great Alone* is a daring, beautiful, stay-up-all-night story about love and loss, the fight for survival, and the wildness that lives in both man and nature.**



Mary Jane Williams
 UUFCC Book Group Chair



The UUFCC Book Group Schedule Fall 2023 thru Spring 2024

10-25-23	Circe	Madeline Miller	F
11-29-23	Under a White Sky – The Nature of the Future	Elizabeth Kolbert	NF
12-27-23	The Matzah Ball	Jean Meltzer	F
01-31-24	Book Woman of Troublesome Creek	Kim Michele Richardson	F
02-28-24	A Little Devil in America Notes in Praise of Black Performance	Hanif Abdurraqib	NF
03-27-24	The Road Back (sequel to All Quiet on the Western Front, but no need to read first!)	Erich Maria Remarque	F
04-24-24	The Great Alone	Kristin Hannah	F
05-29-24	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Rebecca Skloot	NF

An Elevator Speech
 Unitarian Universalists
 gather in community
 to support
 one another's individual
 spiritual journeys,
 trusting that openness
 to one another's experiences
 will enhance
 their own understanding
 of their own links
 with the divine,
 with history, and
 with one another.

—UU Rev. Jonalu Johnston,
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
<http://archive.uuworld.org/2003/06/affirmations.html>

VENICE AUDUBON ROOKERY PARK

<https://www.veniceaudubon.org/rookery>

— Maureen Peters

In search of a nature retreat for a walk, Jonathan and I recently discovered the Venice Rookery. What a discovery. Venice Audubon Rookery Park is an oasis of tranquility, a wonderful place for a therapeutic walk ... with an added bonus. Rookery Island sits in the middle of the park.



The park is small but beautiful.
 Seeing the rookery? Priceless.
 Pictures don't do it justice. We saw teems of birds
 and their nests and chicks newly hatched.
 Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Glossy Ibises,
 Green Herons, Tricolored Herons,
 and Black-crowned Night-Herons.
 Too special to not share.

Photography by Jonathan Panzer

APRIL THOUGHTS

April, the fourth month of the year in both the Julian and Gregorian calendars, is associated with a **new beginning**. Its Latin name, Aprilis, is from the verb aperire “to open” and hearkens buds, birds and bunnies. The Anglo Saxons called April eastre-monap after their spring goddess Eostre. The Pagans celebrated with a feast and somehow incorporated rabbits and dyed eggs.

I remember singing “Welcome Sweet Springtime” annually in elementary school (K-6). The tune was composed in 1884 by a Michael Watson but the lyricist is unknown. I remember having to learn and recite, in church, a poem about Easter and it’s Christian meaning. I remember getting a new set of clothes for the occasion and also an Easter Basket full of chocolate candy, dyed eggs and yellow marshmallow chicks. A mix of the Pagan with Christianity is more common than thought.

I remember “April in Paris” and pain. I missed the last two steps on a spiral staircase and fractured my ankle. Thankfully, we had been to the Louvre the day before. Hubby continued being a tourist while I read, slept and took aspirin. The well known tune was written in 1932 for the Broadway musical “Walk a Little Faster” composed by Vernon Duke with lyrics by Yip Harburg. Never heard of them? Look up “Autumn in New York” and “Somewhere over the Rainbow” for starters.

April 1 reflects a time honored tradition of playing jokes on family and friends. It seems its origin dates back to the 1600s when France switched to the Gregorian calendar as called for by the Council of Trent. Thus, the new year began on January 1. Formerly, New Year’s was celebrated the last week of March through April first. The change was slow to be acknowledged. The unenlightened were called **April Fools**.



Other occurrences during the month of April include the **claiming of Florida for the Spanish crown in 1513**. General George Pickett and his Confederate troops were defeated in 1865, bringing the Civil War to an end.

We still recognize Earth Day enacted April 22, 1970. This event established the **Federal Environmental Protection Agency, Clear Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act**. Unfortunately the health of the earth is still a worldwide issue not recognized as a high priority by too many.

Hopefully, April showers will bring May flowers and peace on earth.

“The best way out is always through.”
 — Robert Frost,
Servant to Servants



Stephanie Garrett



Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion characterized by a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Unitarian Universalists assert no creed, but instead are unified by their shared search for spiritual growth, guided by a dynamic, living tradition.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UnitarianUniversalism



PFLAG PORT CHARLOTTE CHAPTER UPDATES

— Patrick Eaton

The support meeting held at UUFCC on March 18th presented the video: Ensuring Mental Wellness for Transgender and Nonbinary Youth. Members shared, all confidentially.

On March 20th:

- We attended the **Social Justice Alliance** meeting in Venice and advertised PFLAG events.
- We spoke with **Equality Florida** for advice for an upcoming meeting with the **Charlotte County School Board superintendent**.
- We attended a meeting via zoom with **PFLAG National** for support.

FUTURE PFLAG EVENTS

APRIL 1st

PFLAG and ARAY to speak with

Charlotte County Schools Superintendent to discuss the plan post "Don't Say Gay"

discriminatory policies that have been defeated after a two year law suit by Equality Florida.

PFLAG-PC plans to ask about having the banned books available in schools including black history.



APRIL 2nd
PFLAG-PC will attend and speak at the **Sarasota School Board** meeting after training by **SEE Alliance**.
Vanity Fair will be filming a documentary on that day. We plan on passing out rainbow flags to our supporters for the visual.

APRIL 14th
12:30 to 2:30 pm
OUR SECOND SOCIAL
At North Port Art Center. Water coloring, bracelet beading, string art, etc. Bring your craft or skill or just come to socialize. All ages welcome. Admission Free—Bring a friend

APRIL 20th
8 to 10 pm
DRAG QUEEN BINGO
Fundraising for 3 non-profits:
• PFLAG Port Charlotte
• Crestwood Circus Ranch
• Fairytails Dog Rescue
\$30 cash at the door.
No smoking.
Security and
Food truck available.
Two great entertainers.

Moving forward with love,
Patrick Eaton





Coalition of Immokalee Workers FIRST FARMWORKER FREEDOM FESTIVAL

Held March 8-10, 2024 in Palm Beach, Florida

— Theodore Zawistowski, SJC Chair
(Photos and reporting reprinted with permission)



Longtime member of CIW family and artist/activist extraordinaire, Olmecca, receiving the first-ever CIW Artist of Conscience Award, says: “CIW doesn’t just see the long road, CIW is the long road!”



CIW’s 15-ft tall puppet, Esperanza (Hope), represented the hopes of all farmworkers for a more humane agricultural industry.

“The Coalition understands the long-term process, they have a vision of the future. And they are very disciplined about what that vision is... And it’s really, it’s about being patient, and the belief that humanity trumps everything. Humanity is first. Politics is second. And as long as we can believe and understand that part, we’ll be together for the long haul.”



Hundreds of workers and allies streamed into town in buses and caravans from Tampa, Miami, Homestead & Gainesville.



The 813 Project from Tampa brought Bomba music to the heart of Palm Beach, with rhythmic roots that reach all the way back to West Africa, emerging 400 years ago on Puerto Rico’s colonial plantations in the fight against slavery there, continuing to echo throughout the Caribbean today.

More CIW p.23

CIW from p.22

Hundreds of farmworkers took to the streets of Palm Beach, Florida—an enclave for billionaires like Nelson Peltz, the chairman of Wendy’s and its largest shareholder. By their side was a 15-foot puppet in the form of an imagined farmworker named Esperanza, who led the way as workers embarked on a pilgrimage to the neighborhood of Peltz’s sprawling beachfront estate. The puppet served as a physical embodiment of the sentiment that farmworkers like Nely Rodriguez wanted to capture through the Farmworker Freedom Festival, a three-day event put on by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), an organization that advocates for the rights of farmworkers. “We wanted to make her larger than life,” Rodriguez says of the puppet, whose name means “hope” in Spanish. “That’s the size of the hope that we have.”

The farmworkers were in Palm Beach to celebrate more than a decade of winning workplace protections through the Fair Food Program—an initiative started by the CIW to improve working conditions on farms—and to send a message to Wendy’s, which is one of just a handful of major produce buyers who have refused to participate in the program. “The invitation that we’re trying to make to Nelson Peltz is that it’s important for him to reflect on the great power that he has, and the opportunity that he has to prevent the kinds of injustice and abuses that occur with agriculture workers,” Rodriguez says.

On Sunday, when workers brought Esperanza to Peltz’s doorstep, they took bandanas inscribed with their messages of hope and tied them together, creating a chain that they draped over the puppet. The bandanas symbolized the face covers that farmworkers often wear on the job to help shield them against the harsh sun and dust they endure in the fields.

“This was a really inspiring moment for me,” Rodriguez says. “It was an emotional thing to see and to participate in, as each worker put their

bandana on this offering.” For Rodriguez and other female farmworkers, those bandanas don’t just protect against the elements. “We’ve seen and experienced the tremendous fear that women in the fields [face],” she says, “worrying that they’re going to lose their jobs and crying into those bandanas out of frustration and wishing that things were different.”

Beyond making a plea to Peltz and Wendy’s, the CIW also used the Farmworker Freedom Festival as an opportunity to highlight the working conditions that many farmworkers continue to face; an exhibit called the Modern Day Slavery Museum documented the history of forced labor in Florida and how the practice continues to this day. Farmworkers have long faced some of the worst abuses on the job, from wage theft and sexual misconduct to instances of forced labor. (They were also some of the most vulnerable people during the pandemic, as frontline workers who often lived in close quarters.)

When Rodriguez first came to the U.S. and started working on farms, she knew very little about her rights as a worker, or what kind of recourse she had if a boss physically hurt her or behaved inappropriately. “It was well known that when a new woman would come and work on the crew, [bosses] would just pick them out as their own,” she recalls. “Sometimes they wouldn’t let the men working on the crew talk to women, because the idea was the women on the crew were the property of the crew leader.”

The Fair Food Program has changed these dynamics on many farms, according to Rodriguez and other workers. The origin of the program dates back to the late 1990s and grew out of the farmworkers’ protests and appeals to farm owners....

News of the first-ever Farmworker Freedom Festival spread far and wide, even reaching the pages of Mexico’s leading daily newspaper, *La Jornada*.



GUN CULTURE IN AMERICA

— Stephanie Garrett

During eight summers at Camp Cherith, a Pioneer Girls Scouting Camp in the Pocono mountains of Pennsylvania, I learned many things. It was a Christian overnight camp where I learned to swim, found love of the outdoors, archery, tent camping and three ways to make a camp fire. I can add the care and riding of horses, and how to handle and shoot firearms.

At age 15, I was given a membership to the National Rifle Association (NRA), having earned my Junior Marksman Certificate. The NRA, founded in 1871, had as its stated purpose “to promote and encourage and advance marksmanship.” I learned gun safety and respect. Youth groups were formed in 1903.

Gun powder was invented by Taoists before 900AD for medical purposes. Taoism, an ancient Chinese philosophy and religion which teaches believers on how to exist in harmony with the universe, seems incompatible with gun use today.

The Second Amendment in the US Constitution was written long before there was a standing army. Many of the founders feared that a professional Army would corrupt power and make wars unnecessarily. A compromise was reached which ratified the government’s military authority while protecting the right of each state to maintain or call up a militia of citizens. It was for the common defense of the nation, not

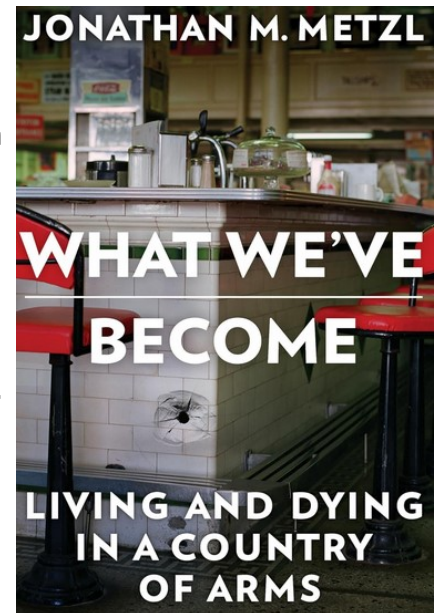
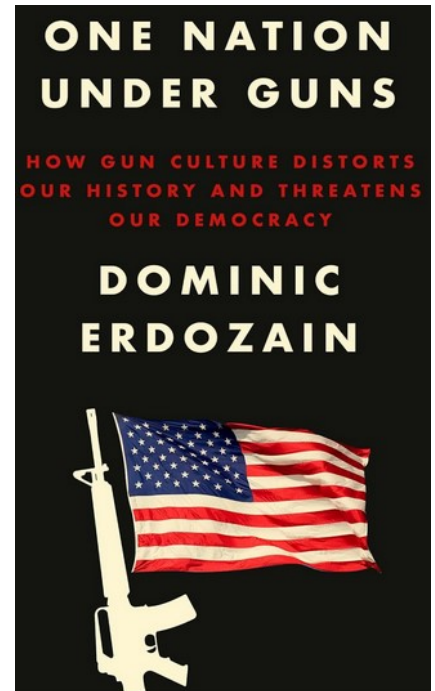
individuals. There have been many court cases debating the right of individual citizens to own and carry firearms. The book, “One Nation Under Guns: How Gun Culture Distorts Our History and Threatens our Democracy” by Dominic Erdozain, addresses guns from a cultural, legal and historical perspective and is an easy read.

A second book, “What We’ve Become – Living and Dying in a Country of Arms” by Jonathan M. Metzl, provides a view of America today and its gun culture which is still being debated. Statistics seem not to be included in the debate over gun ownership.

- Killings take place more often in private homes than schools, churches or supermarkets.
- Semiautomatic handguns are more common in mass killings than assault weapons.
- Nearly two-thirds of all gun deaths in the US are suicides.
- This country has a higher rate of private gun ownership than other developed nations. “

“The right of people to keep and bear arms” was separated from “a well regulated militia “ in 1846 in the case *Nunn v Georgia*. Following the Civil War, many civilians still had their weapons. Their usage was prevalent in the settling of the wild west where law enforcement was scarce.

So where do we go from here?
Have Gun will protect.



OUR UUFCC AFFIRMATION

Love is the spirit of this Fellowship, And service is its law. This is our aspiration: To dwell together in peace, To seek truth in love, And to help one another.

GO VEGAN



COMPASSION



NONVIOLENCE



FOR THE ANIMALS



FOR THE PLANET



FOR THE PEOPLE

LENTIL SOUP



Carolyn Kellar



INGREDIENTS & DIRECTIONS

Sauté 5 minutes:

- 1 chopped onion
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 1 TBS olive oil

Add and simmer 30 minutes:

- 3 chopped carrots
- 2/3 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup dried lentils
- 5 cups veggie stock or water

Add and simmer 10 minutes:

- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- Salt and pepper to taste

Makes 6-7 cups



LOOK AT THIS



UUFCC GENEROSITY!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SECOND HELPING

Your DECEMBER 2023 Donations Totaled **\$894.00** which was given to:



FAMILIES IN TRANSITION Homeless Education Project
Removing barriers that might prevent students enrolling, attending, and/or succeeding in school

Wow!

PEACE GARDEN ENGRAVED PAVERS

Honor beloved UUFCC members and friends AND help UUFCC.

\$75 buys one paver of which \$45 gets donated to UUFCC

Use **ORDER FORM** in **WEEKLY UPDATE**



ENDOWMENT

Honor beloved Fellowship members and friends AND help UUFCC.

Endowment funds assure UUFCC's financial future and further UU principles and practices.

Make contribution to: **UUFCC Endowment Fund** and on check memo line write "In Memory of [beloved's name]"



UUSC CAPAS

Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers and UUFCC are assisting a Venezuelan family seeking asylum.

YOU CAN HELP!

- Donate clothing, diapers, food, filing fees, etc.
- Provide transportation to school, appointments, etc.
- Translate for the host family.
- Plan a recreational outing.
- **DONATE MONEY!**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Correction: The October 2023 issue reported that July 2023 donations received totaled \$487.00. Donations received and given to Charlotte Behavioral Center totaled \$687.00.

**SECOND SUNDAY
SECOND HELPING
APRIL RECIPIENT**



www.plannedparenthood.org

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

*"Covenant" is Latin for "walking together."
This Covenant is a living, dynamic document
describing how we intend to live the Principles
we value in our religious community.*

We, the members of UUFCC, covenant to support and cherish all our members and friends and encourage each other to honor these high standards of relationship.

We value a free, open, and mutually respectful exchange of ideas. We honor all voices and encourage thoughtful freedom of expression.

We respect each other's views, backgrounds, and spiritual ideas. We listen to each other without judgement or interruption and speak directly with a person instead of about a person. We will address issues and behaviors, rather than people and personalities.

We will be considerate but courageous in name behavior that diminishes our community. We offer forgiveness and understanding and expect that from each other. In all situations, we strive to honor everyone's dignity and wellbeing.

We trust this Covenant will help us work well together to make decisions, solve problems, and express differences of opinion in a considerate, respectful, and genuinely caring way.

SUNDAY SERVICES

**April
Theme**

INTERDEPENDENCE

04-07-24 300,000 YEARS AND COUNTING

Speaker: Rev. Ann Barker
Worship Associate: Lorrie Douglas

POTLUCK AFTER SERVICES!

04-14-24 PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Second Sunday Second Helpings are for worthy organizations in our community to intentionally support their good work.)

Speaker: Kira-Lynn Ferderber
Worship Associate: Kay Azar

04-21-24 EARTH DAY AND EXODUS

Speaker: Rev. Bob Murphy
Worship Associate: Bill Stanwood

04-28-24 FROM THE AGE OF GOLD TO THE END OF THE WORLD

Speaker: Sharon Whitehill
Worship Associate: To Be Determined



THE BOOK OF LIFE

Your Book of Life entries or announcements you would like read from the pulpit Sunday mornings are important. Make sure your entry or announcement gets read on Sunday morning; send it to:

bookoflife@uufcc.org

by 6:00 p.m. Saturday



Your
Worship
Associate
Committee



04/08 Lorrie Douglas
 04/14 Dennis Shaw
 04/22 Jim Boyle
 04/25 Roberta "Bobbie" Cole
 04/27 Alice Clattenberg

For Birthday Shoutouts, contact Caring Committee:

caring@uufcc.org

Weekly Events

Sundays 09:00 am Conversation Among Friends

10:30 am Worship Services

Wednesdays 07:00 pm Happy Hour with John Lee

Links

Use **UNIVERSAL ZOOM** for most activities
<https://zoom.us/j/93526372148>

To add to **SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS** or **BOOK OF LIFE**
 email bookoflife@uufcc.org by Saturday night

CONVERSATION AMONG FRIENDS
<https://zoom.us/j/95584243345>

CHALICE CIRCLES have their own Zoom links.

Azar Chalice Circle
<https://zoom.us/j/92886172999>

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE COMMITTEE
<https://zoom.us/j/97789863043pwd=c2tUenpGMmhjSExaUINOL3VHNIK5UT09>

UUFCC Social Group Sign-Up
social-uufcc@googlegroups.com

Spanish for Beginners
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81408957224pwd=cUhGejBuOVVRckU0L1R2SkM2SXhZQT09>

APRIL 2024 EVENTS

04/01 Mon	12:30 pm	Williams/Whitehill Chalice Circle
	04:00 pm	Azar Chalice Circle
04/02 Tue	08:00 am	Men's Coffee Group
04/03 Wed	11:00 am	Membership Committee
	Noon	Brown Bag Luncheon
	Noon	Policies & Procedures Manual
	04:00 pm	Immigration Justice Committee
	06:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
04/04 Thu	04:00 pm	Buddhist Meditation
	07:00 pm	AA
04/05 Fri	10:00 am	Art Exhibition Take Down
	03:00 pm	Yoga in the Sanctuary
04/06 Sat	10:00 am	Worship Associates
04/07 Sat	Noon	PFLAG Steering Meeting
04/08 Mon	10:30 am	Program Council
	01:30 pm	Shaw Chalice Circle
04/09 Tue	08:00 am	Men's Coffee Group
04/10 Wed	10:00 am	Caring Committee
	06:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
04/11 Thu	08:45 am	Port Charlotte Garden Club
	04:30 pm	Buddhist Meditation
	07:00 pm	AA
04/12 Fri	01:00 pm	Communications Committee
	03:00 pm	Yoga in the Sanctuary
	04:00 pm	Art Reception
04/13 Sat	09:00 am	Democratic Club of Charlotte County
	03:00 pm	Concert at UUFCC
04/14 Sun	11:45 am	Social Justice Committee
04/15 Mon	10:00 am	Art Committee Zoom Meeting
	12:30 pm	Williams/Whitehill Chalice Circle
	04:00 pm	Azar Chalice Circle
	06:00 pm	PFLAG Support Group
04/16 Tue	08:00 am	Men's Coffee
	07:00 pm	Sierra Club
04/17 Wed	Noon	Policies & Procedures Manual
	04:00 pm	Immigration Justice Committee
	05:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	06:00 pm	NAACP Executive Board Meeting
04/18 Thu	02:00 pm	UUFCC Board Meeting
	04:30 pm	Buddhist Meditation
	07:00 pm	AA
04/19 Fri	03:00 pm	Yoga in the Sanctuary
04/20 Sat	09:00 am	Democratic Party Caucus
04/21 Sun		BIRTHDAY CAKE SUNDAY
04/22 Mon	01:30 pm	Shaw Chalice Circle
04/23 Tue	08:00 am	Men's Coffee
04/24 Wed	01:30 pm	UUFCC Book Group
	04:00 pm	ARAY
	05:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
04/25 Thu	04:30 pm	Buddhist Meditation
	07:00 pm	AA
04/26 Fri	03:00 pm	Yoga in the Sanctuary
04/28 Sun	03:00 pm	Secular Community
04/30 Tue	08:00 am	Men's Coffee

MISSION: UUFCC is a liberal religious community committed to justice, a place where spirituality, diversity, reason, compassion, service, and fellowship meet. *(Adopted at 03-24-24 Annual Meeting.)*



PURPOSE: UUFCC is a religious community committed to diversity and social justice where spirituality, reason, compassion, service and fellowship meet. *UUFCC Bylaws Art. III (Adopted 03-27-22).*

VISION: Using our Covenant as a guide, we will provide expanded opportunities for ministries, programs and fellowship that inspire and support our life journeys. We will affirm: Love is the spirit of this Fellowship, and service is its law. This is our aspiration: To dwell together in peace, To seek truth in love, And to help one another. In the larger community, we will continue to be a strong, relevant voice serving justice and equality. *(Adopted 03-24-24.)*

WELCOMING: UUFCC strives to practice non-discrimination by embodying what UUFCC hopes to see in the world—a just, loving community in which people are free to be themselves fully and without fear. *UUFCC Bylaws Art. IV (Adopted 03.27.22).* [UUFCC: FOUNDED IN 1969.]

SUBMISSIONS INFO

COMM **UU** NIQUÉ welcomes submissions of 300 words or less.

Submissions may be edited for spelling, grammar, punctuation, clarity, legal ramifications, length, or general taste at the editors' discretion. Editors reserve the right to refuse to publish submissions for the same reasons. While acceptance rules are lenient, the editorial board will reject that deemed potentially libelous, racist, hateful, or a personal attack.

Anonymous submissions are not accepted.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SUGGESTIONS & IDEAS

Yes, we'd like to get to know you if we could ... (Spanky & Our Gang flashback?)

Tell us about you. What is your background? Where are you from?

Tell us about your life journey. What brought you to Florida and when?

Tell us about your career paths. Accomplishments? Interests? Hobbies?

How did you come to UUFCC? What keeps you here?

Tell us about current and past UU roles or involvement.

Something else? You decide! You tell us what you want us to know!

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Views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the official view, policy, Principles, Covenants, or positions of UUFCC or its newsletter editors.

Views and opinions expressed are not intended to malign any religion, ethnic group, organization, individual, or anyone or anything.

Guarantees are not made as to completeness, accuracy, usefulness, or timeliness.

SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER'S INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

Content is not intended to be negative, divisive, and/or diminishing.

Encourage and value a free, open, and mutually respectful exchange.

Uphold one another's First Amendment right to free speech.

Take all content kindly and in the spirit in which it was intended.

Cherish our Beloved Community.

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UUFCC

COMM **UU NIQUÉ**

Can you say kuh-myoo-nuh-kay?

EDITORIAL BOARD

Stephanie Garrett

Herb Levin

MaryLou Kennedy

300-word limit articles due

1-wk before last day of month:

editorialboard@uufcc.org

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