



Vol. IV, Combo Issue 3 & 4

March and April 2025

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

COMMUNIQUE

Can you say kuh-myoo-nuh-kay?

UUFCC—founded in 1969

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.

WELCOME UUFCC 2025 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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“Unity is strength ... when there is
teamwork and collaboration,
wonderful things can be achieved.”

— *Mattie Stepanek*

“You can do what I cannot do.
I can do what you cannot do.
Together we can do great things.”

— *Mother Teresa*

“Leaders become great not because
of their power, but because of their
ability to empower others.”

— *John Maxwell*

“If your actions inspire others
to dream more, learn more,
do more and become more,
you are a leader.”

— *John Quincy Adams*

“The ability to learn is
the most important quality
a leader can have.”

— *Sheryl Sandberg*

“The secret to change is
to focus all of your energy
not on fighting the old,
but on building the new.”

— *Socrates*

“Work for a cause, not for applause.
Live life to express, not to impress.

Don't strive to
make your presence noticed,
just make your absence felt.”

— *Unknown*

SUNDAY SERVICES

are at 10:30 a.m.

Services are hybrid:

in-person and

on YouTube.

www.youtube.com

On February 2, 2025
Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers Rev. Sue Gabrielson
provided a unique service:
PORT CHARLOTTE BLANKETED BY OPPRESSION

The Covering and Uncovering



During the month of February, Black History Month, Rev. Sue Gabrielson adapted a litany written by UU Gail Forsyth-Vail which helps us remember the long struggle of African Americans against injustice and unfairness, and the promise to each other that we will continue to work together against injustice and unfairness.

We honored the struggle for justice and fairness by speaking a history: the story of a people which is not often enough told in our society. The words remember the struggle of the first generation of Africans, and 14 more of their descendants were demonstrated with 15 layers of oppression in this service. The words and the actions made this oppression felt in Port Charlotte.



THE ATTENTION RESISTANCE WORKBOOK

— shared by former UUFCC
Beloved Member Susan Taylor

“Resistance is futile.”
— The Borg, *Star Trek*



Or is it?

Remember our beloved former member Susan Taylor who moved away? She still stays in touch, and has reached out to share a recent experience she had in her new home out west.

Her minister there, Rev. Sean Neil-Barron, at Foothills Unitarian in Fort Collins, Colorado, recently gave what Sue referred to as “a stellar sermon.”

How to avoid becoming strung out from the constant barrage of vitriolic, divisive, polarizing, toxic media.

Rev. Sean “talked about how our attention is one of the most powerful things we have — and how so much in the world is trying to steal it.”

As a follow up to the sermon, Rev. Sean sent members “a little homework.” *The Attention Resistance Workbook* is designed to help us step back from the noise, get clear on what really matters, and find ways to stay grounded. It’s a short worksheet to help us narrow our focus instead to those few issues that pull at our heart strings.

Sue says: “I’m sharing it with you in the spirit of love ... and survival.”

The worksheet is from a UUA workbook.

Try it! You might come away saying aah.

<file:///C:/Users/maryl/Downloads/Attention%20Resistance%20Workbook.pdf>

<file:///C:/Users/maryl/Downloads/Attention%20Resistance%20Workbook%20Extended.pdf>

UUA & MORE THAN TWO DOZEN CHRISTIAN AND JEWISH GROUPS SUE THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO BLOCK IMMIGRATION RAIDS AT WORSHIP SITES

As reported in *UU World*, 02/11/2025

Elaine McArdle, is a *UU World* senior editor. She attends the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs in New York. She's an award-winning journalist with more than 20 years of experience who has also written for the *Boston Globe*, *Harvard Law Bulletin*, and others.

According to her recent article in *UU World*, a lawsuit was filed in federal district court in Washington, D.C., by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection (ICAP) at Georgetown University Law Center on behalf of more than two dozen Christian and Jewish religious organizations.

Mennonite Church USA et al.

-vs-

United States Department of Homeland Security et al.

The article notes the historical restriction against immigration enforcement in or near places of worship and how, on January 20, 2025, Inauguration Day, a Department of Homeland Security memo rescinded the "sensitive locations" protection for houses of worship, schools and hospitals.

During the first week of the current Trump Administration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested over 4,500 people. According to the lawsuit, at least one enforcement action occurred at a church in Georgia during a Sunday worship service.

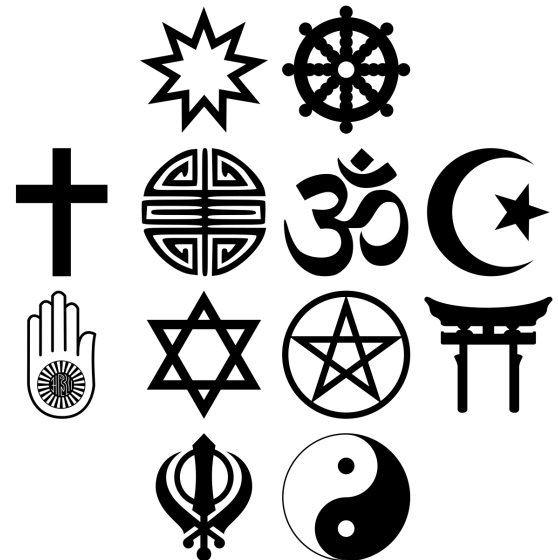
The lawsuit argues that this violates the First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA).

See full article at:

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/immigration-lawsuit-unitarian-universalist-association>

See the legal complaint Plaintiffs filed at:

<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/icap/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2025/02/Mennonite-Church-USA-v.-U.S.-Department-of-Homeland-Security-Complaint.pdf>



***One of these things is not like the others.
One of these things just doesn't belong.***

—“One of These Things (Is Not Like The Others)”
song, words and music by
Joe Raposo and Jon Stone.
Often sung on
Sesame Street.

**Some people make the world
special just by being in it.**



BETTY LOUISE MUNFORD
03/16/1934—08/13/2024

**Beloved UUFCC Member
Since 2017**

PROCLAMATION

City of Punta Gorda, Florida

WHEREAS, Betty Louise Munford was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on March 16, 1934, and raised by Jerome E. McDonald and Cleoda Mason McDonald. Jerome, a pharmacist, and Cleoda, a teacher, imparted on Betty the importance of hard work, outdoors and farming skills, and community service, which Betty would hold close throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, segregation greatly impacted Betty's life, seeing her bussed past white schools to attend Black junior and senior high schools. This adversity did not stop her. She flourished academically, graduating from Central High School in 1951 and immediately entering the University of Louisville, where she completed her bachelor's degree in three years before pursuing graduate studies there; and

WHEREAS, Betty lived a remarkable life dedicated to building relationships, eliminating racial injustice, and promoting minority-owned entrepreneurs. Highlights of her career included developing materials and training for the Young Women's Christian Academy's Center for Racial Justice, training corporate buyers on the value of using minority-owned businesses as Director of the New York/New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council, and developing a corporate minority purchasing program for Pepsi-Cola. Her hard work did not go unrecognized, with Betty receiving numerous accolades, such as recognition from Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS, Betty relocated to Charlotte County in 2017, where she remained dedicated to humanitarian causes until her death, maintaining memberships with Habitat for Humanity, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Tuskegee Airmen Museum, and Doctors without Borders.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida does hereby proclaim February 19, 2025, as

Betty Louise Munford Day

and urges all to follow Betty's example to make the world a more just and equitable place.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED in regular session this 19th day of February, 2025.

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA,

FLORIDA

THE JOY OF READING — *Stephanie Garrett*

I come from a family of readers. There were always books, magazines and newspapers in the homes of my relatives. We read for information, reflection, or pleasure. Over the past month, four books came to mind as a reflection of today's reality.

The first is **"1984" by George Orwell**, published in 1949. It's a depiction of a totalitarian society under the eye of "big brother" where truth and facts are manipulated to support one point of view. A prediction of life 76 years into the future when published.

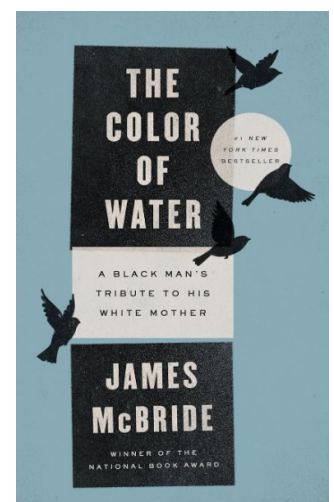
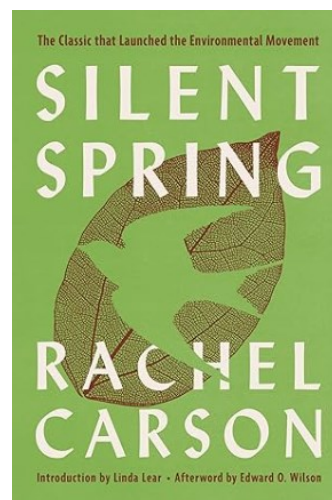
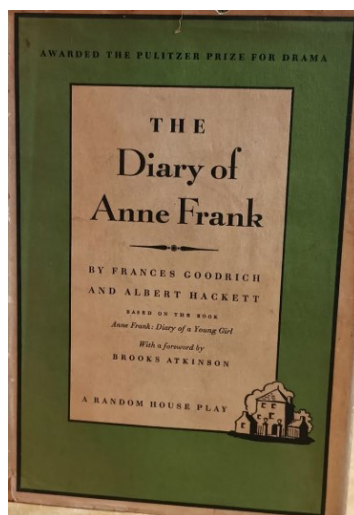
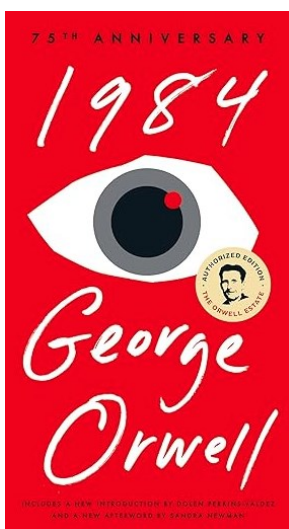
The second was **"The Diary of Anne Frank,"** a true story of the religious persecution/extermination of Jews during the second world war. The diary was written over a two year period by a young girl in hiding with her family during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. The author, Anne, died in the Bergen Belson concentration camp in 1945. Her father, Otto Frank, the sole family survivor, was reunited with the diary saved by the Dutch family who hid them. Persecution because of beliefs and looks continues after her life ended 77 years ago.

The third book was **"Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson**, published in 1962, documenting the environmental harm of DDT, a pesticide regularly used by the agricultural industry. This singular

book began the environmental conservation movement, leading to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency by 1972.

I recently completed a book by African American Jazz musician and writer James McBride. His first novel, his autobiography, **"The Color of Water,"** published in 1995, was a tribute to his Jewish Polish immigrant mother. His father, a black Baptist minister who died of cancer prior to his birth, had converted his mother to Christianity. However, her orthodox Jewish upbringing, he states, provided the wherewithal to raise a large family of mixed race children during the 1950s. McBride's recent book, **"The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store"** published in 2023, depicts life in the 1930s community of Chicken Hill located in Pottstown PA. The Chicken Hill area consisted of immigrant Jews and African Americans who banded together to protect a young hearing-impaired black boy. Being familiar with the Pottstown, Reading and Philadelphia areas of Pennsylvania kept me reading to completion. He has three other novels I must read.

People can overcome their differences and work together for the good of all. Reading provides education about other points of view, history, cultures and the world at large.



There are approximately 4500 books currently banned in Florida classrooms.



The UUFCC Board of Trustees would like to honor

TOM DEULEY

and all he has done for this Fellowship.

We were going to create a list of his accomplishments, but it would take an hour to read it aloud.

You know him as our technology volunteer, who, with Cory, set up a system so that we have microphones and YouTube capability.

If something needs to be repaired, Tom does it, many times “on his dime,” from technology to doors to A/C.

For years and years, he loaded his mower onto a trailer and mowed the whole property. The space behind the Fellowship looks nice because he cleared it, every branch and bramble.

Much of the graphic artistry we use is his too. He has been on the Art Committee forever and he rarely misses a Sunday behind the technology corner.

This building and our Fellowship functions because of him, and we are grateful.



TOM DEULEY

TECH SUPPORT VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

in his new hat from the Board inscribed:

**I'M A VOLUNTEER
I SOLVE PROBLEMS
You don't know you have
In ways you can't understand**

thank you

April is the month for Earth Day.

There are many other holidays in April and many should be mentioned. Still, the **Earth Day (April 22)** celebration has special significance for Unitarian Universalists. We're reminded that human beings are not alone on planet Earth. Flamingos and dolphins and alligators are among our neighbors and we need to live together in the right sort of way. Humanity is part of a natural world that goes way beyond our human understanding.

According to legend, **Francis of Assisi preached to the birds**. Many churches bless pets and other animals. I've suggested, on several occasions, that perhaps Unitarian Universalists should turn the situation around.

Perhaps we should listen to what the non-humans are saying in today's world.

Instead of blessing their animal companions, perhaps humans should ask the animals for their friendship. Might do some good.

Two events will happen in April that have special importance for UUFCC.



Community Gardening



See bread & roses explanation at:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bread_and_Roses

Both events connect to the Earth Day season and to the themes of joy and justice.

April 16th (Wednesday online): The national Unitarian Universalist Association will celebrate the **35th anniversary of the start of the Green Sanctuary program.**

UUFCC IS A GREEN SANCTUARY

The April 16th program is an electronic program. Starts at 7:00 pm Eastern time. Registration is required. It's free. For information, please contact:

Ministry for Earth
environment@uua.org

April 27th (Sunday service): The "Ethical Eating" program for UUs developed from the Green Sanctuary program. The emphasis is on environmental justice and the production and distribution of healthy food. Food prices are high in the United States and government programs for food assistance are being reduced.

How can communities feed hungry people while protecting the natural environment?

Our Sunday service will have some helpful suggestions.



Baking Bread

WELCOME

UUFCC WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Let's introduce ourselves and say hello!



New UUFCC Members JANE BODINE and MARY LAVIGNE
receive roses on February 23, 2025,
from incoming President Robert Moran and outgoing
Co-President Lorrie Douglas, incoming Membership Chair



PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS and the FAIR FOOD PROGRAM

— excerpted by Theodore Zawistowski with permission of CIW



Susan L. Marquis is the Charles and Marie Robertson Visiting Professor and Lecturer in Public and International Affairs at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. Her report, "Worker-Driven Social Responsibility: A New, Proven Model for Defining, Claiming, and Protecting Workers' Human Rights" was published by the Harvard Law Center for Labor and a Just Economy, and she is author of the book, "I Am Not a Tractor! How Florida Farmworkers Took On the Fast Food Giants and Won." She recently wrote in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*:

Carter's lesser-known but important post-presidency achievement

"With President Jimmy Carter's death, we've been reminded of the successes and failures of his presidency and remarkable post-presidency. Less attention has been given to what will be **Carter's continuing legacy** through the work of The Carter Center, including the critical supporting role it played in what has become **"one of the greatest human rights successes of our day."**

"Envisioned and led by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the Fair Food Program is transforming agriculture, ending the endemic abuse on farms across the U.S. and, increasingly, around the globe."

In the 1990s, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) was formed.

In 1997, just before Christmas, the CIW launched a hunger strike to shine light on abusive working conditions.



39th US President Jimmy Carter brought national awareness to the Fair Food Program, starting decades-long support by The Carter Center and Jimmy Carter personally.

Carter came out in support of the farmworkers' call for direct talks with the growers.

In 2003, the former president and The Carter Center moved from support to active conflict resolution and engagement.

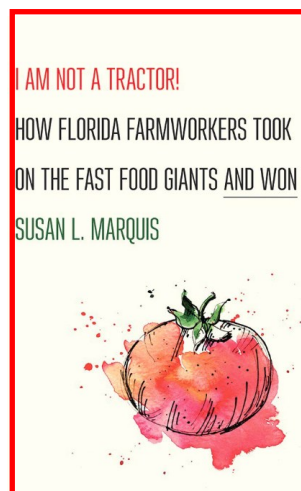
Jimmy Carter and The Carter Center brought expertise in conflict resolution and Carter's prestige to the farmworkers' campaign for human rights.

"The initiative is recognized as being the only effective program to eliminate the abuses in corporate food supply chains, as exposed by the CIW and abhorred by Jimmy Carter, for tens of thousands of farmworkers each year on participating farms. The former president committed his and The Carter Center's time and expertise believing that corporations, growers, consumers and workers must be active participants in establishing a fair wage and good working conditions in service to the human rights and dignity of every human being."

The Fair Food Program is transforming agriculture across the U.S. and the globe.

See full CIW article at:

<https://ciw-online.org/blog/2025/01/atlanta-journal-constitution-op-ed-shines-light-on-decades-long-relationship-between-president-carter-and-ciw-for-farmworker-human-rights/>





ASHEVILLE ANGELS UPDATE

— *Peggydawn Moran*

On September 26, 2024, Asheville, North Carolina, residents experienced flooding of unprecedented proportions. Hurricane Helene swept over Western North Carolina, bringing record levels of rainfall that overwhelmed the area's rivers and dams and left many dead, missing and/or homeless.

Our Fellowship collected 15 bags of donated clothing and blankets.

A Fellowship couple researched how to get the donations delivered.

UUFCC Conversation Among Friends donated the funds to pay for the delivery.

Carolyn Kellar offered her son Nathan in Asheville to help with delivery and distribution.

Photo on right was taken at Carolyn Kellar's Farewell Party.

NATHAN KELLAR (seated) delivered our donated items to a Mexican church in Asheville, North Carolina.

MATT KELLAR and PEGGYDAWN MORAN are standing behind Nathan.

CAROLYN KELLAR (below) is off to South America for her life's next great adventure.



**“The work goes on, the cause endures,
the hope still lives,
and the dreams shall never die.”**

— U.S. Senator Edward “Ted” M. Kennedy
(Massachusetts 1962-2009)



Betty Barriga

I would like to thank UUFCC for giving me the opportunity to do immigration justice work. Although I am stepping down as chair of the Immigration Justice Committee March 2025, I will continue the immigration justice work with the newly formed Charlotte Harbor LULAC.

LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) is the oldest and most widely respected Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States. Under the current administration, LULAC is stepping forward and doing what they do best: fighting and advocating for the Hispanic community. This year, 2025, LULAC filed the first lawsuit against the current administration's effort to strip birthright citizenship from thousands of children born in the USA to undocumented parents. Stayed tuned, you will be hearing more about LULAC.

When I first entered UUFCC's doors back in 2016, I was not looking for a new religion or a community but that is what I found. And the timing couldn't have been more perfect, a time when a newly elected president quickly implemented harsh measures against the most vulnerable among us, immigrants with no documents and no voice. That administration separated children from their parents, raided immigrant communities, sent thousands to prisons and detained children in crowded and unsafe detention centers.

I was in turmoil. I felt the need to do something but I did not know what to do or how to do it. I found people here at the Fellowship who heard me and were willing to help. That is how the Immigration Justice Committee got started with the help of UUFCC members and the approval of the UUFCC Board. I thank you all for your support and faith in me.

Here we are again in 2025, with the same president that we had back 2016. We know there will be many challenges ahead but we are in a better place today than we were in 2016. We are organized and we take action. Locally, we have branches of the NAACP, LULAC, PFLAG, and other organizations advocating for marginalized Communities.

Together, we will make a difference.

I would like to end with quote by Martin Niemoller, a prominent Lutheran pastor in Germany and early sympathizer of Adolf Hitler. But after Hitler came to power in 1933, he became an outspoken critic of Hitler and was imprisoned for eight years.

“First they came for the socialists,
and I did not speak out
—because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I did not speak out
—because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews,
and I did not speak out
—because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me
—and there was no one left to speak for me.”



**LEAGUE of UNITED LATIN
AMERICAN CITIZENS**

**Charlotte Harbor LULAC Council #7276
lulac7276@gmail.com**

UUFCC Art Committee
ART ON THE WALL



The UUFCC Art Committee
March 21, 2025, Reception

FIBER

Six Artists from the
VISUAL ART CENTER
2D OPEN STUDIO

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD : Vote for your favorite!
Vote as often as you like for \$1.00 per vote.
All proceeds benefit the winning artist.



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>



Margaret is an accomplished pianist, harpist and guitarist with years of music and choir directing experience who's provided music for various religious organizations and musical groups.

She's also an environmental advocate!

Twofer?

Spouse Jamie will also contribute his music talent and presence in our community. Both joined us February 1st and are new to UU but look forward to spending time with like-minded people.

Another trip checked off our Wish List: A THOUSAND MILES UP THE AMAZON RIVER

(and why March & April newsletter issues were combined)

— Mary Lou Proudfoot Kennedy

CARNAVAL! First stop: Rio de Janeiro Carnival! (That's how they spell it.) Floats were over the top, four and five tiers high with moving parts. Endless dancers skimpily clad in sparkling multicolored costumes, shimmering and shimmying. Massive feather headdresses. Joyous music and singing. Loud crowds screaming for their favorite Samba school dance contestants. Phenomenal!

HAMMOCK CLASS. Locals travel the Amazon River on three-deck vessels. Lower deck is for cargo. Middle deck is open air for hammock hanging. Yup, BYO hammock ("rede"), hang it from the ceiling of that open air middle deck, and catch zees with other passengers snoozing in their hammocks right alongside you. Upper deck is cheaper SRO (ok, chairs too) with food, drinks, etc. **Bring-and-Sling** was not our thing, opting instead for our own bed in our own cabin on Azamara.

RIBEREÑOS (RIVER DWELLERS). Many natives still live along the river in roughly thrown together stilt and/or floating ramshackle houses built of whatever mishmash of lumber scraps they can gather. Most without power, although a random wire was seen (generator?), as well as a solar panel.

PINK DOLPHINS ("BOTOS COR-DE-ROSA"). Seen mere feet from us, on multiple occasions. Beautifully pink with gray spots. Seemingly malformed bulbous foreheads and long snouts. Bigger than expected. Yet such graceful swimmers. (Local not-ship-organized Portuguese-only speaking captain and his boat disappeared without a word to anyone while we watched dolphins from a native floating house—you get what you pay for, just saying.)

FORDLANDIA. Henry Ford's 1928 prefabricated rubber cultivation town with strict rules: no alcohol, no prostitution, attend Christian church regularly, dress and eat like Americans or else. Native Indians were captured, enslaved and abused.



A ship excursion to "Tour Fordlandia" was misadvertised. Our Brazilian born-and-bred, English-speaking, government licensed guide said he'd never heard bad things about Fordlandia and, anyway, there's nothing to see there now, but, "This is Belterra. A nicer gentler Fordlandia." Hmm.

MANAUS OPERA HOUSE (TEATRO AMAZONAS). Completed in 1895 at the height of the rubber boom. Deemed one of the most beautiful opera houses in the world. Not only saw it, but attended a live cultural performance: Samba dancing, native Indian singing, dancing and drum performances. (Afterwards, Doug fell down the stairs, landing flat on his back, and miraculously wasn't hurt.)

PIRANHA. Tales of going in the water and coming out missing a toe or two paled in terms of candiru-urethra-death tales. Piranha fished (fed?) using a rustically simplistic hook on a wire attached to a palm-sized chunk of wood. Piranhas were too smart for me: all my bait vanished with nary a tug.

CAIMAN. Neither crocodile nor alligator. Similar yet dissimilar. Native offered holding opportunity, like holding gators in the Everglades.

GIANT WATER LILLIES (VICTORIA AMAZONICA). Up to 10 feet in diameter! Spectacular!

MEETING OF THE WATERS. Rio Negro ("black" water) and Solimões River ("white" water) run side by side in the same river without mixing! One side brown, the other a lovely steely gray blue!

BOOKS THAT GREATLY ENHANCED/ENRICHED TRIP:

Fordlandia by Greg Landin
The Lost City of Z by David Grann
Mother of God by Paul Rosolie
The River of Doubt by Candice Millard
Journey of the Pink Dolphins by Sy Montgomery
The Mapmaker's Wife by Robert Whitaker



JOY

— **Laura Anderson**

April Soul Matters brings us the Practice of Joy. I'm a firm believer in joy and believe it is center to my spirituality. When I pause, even briefly, to notice the good, then my heart is fed sustenance that is used up by all that is hurtful in the world.

I found this question interesting:

"Are you mostly a creator of joy, receiver of joy, noticer of joy, or spreader of joy?"

The monthly materials include (as always) videos, books, poetry, music, quotes, and images all related to joy. If you would like to see them yourself, just send me an email (I'm in the directory) and I would be delighted to share. It's a lot and it might make you feel good. Just saying..

The author of this poem isn't attributed in the Small Group Conversation packet.

*It's easy to get tricked,
taken for a ride,
convinced that joy
is a possession.*

*Something to be caught,
contained and controlled
just by us.
As if it's a birthday present,
waiting for us to unwrap it
and keep forever and ever.*

*And who can blame us,
with pain seeming so powerfully
prevalent,
and permanent.
If sadness can stay for so long,
why can't joy?*

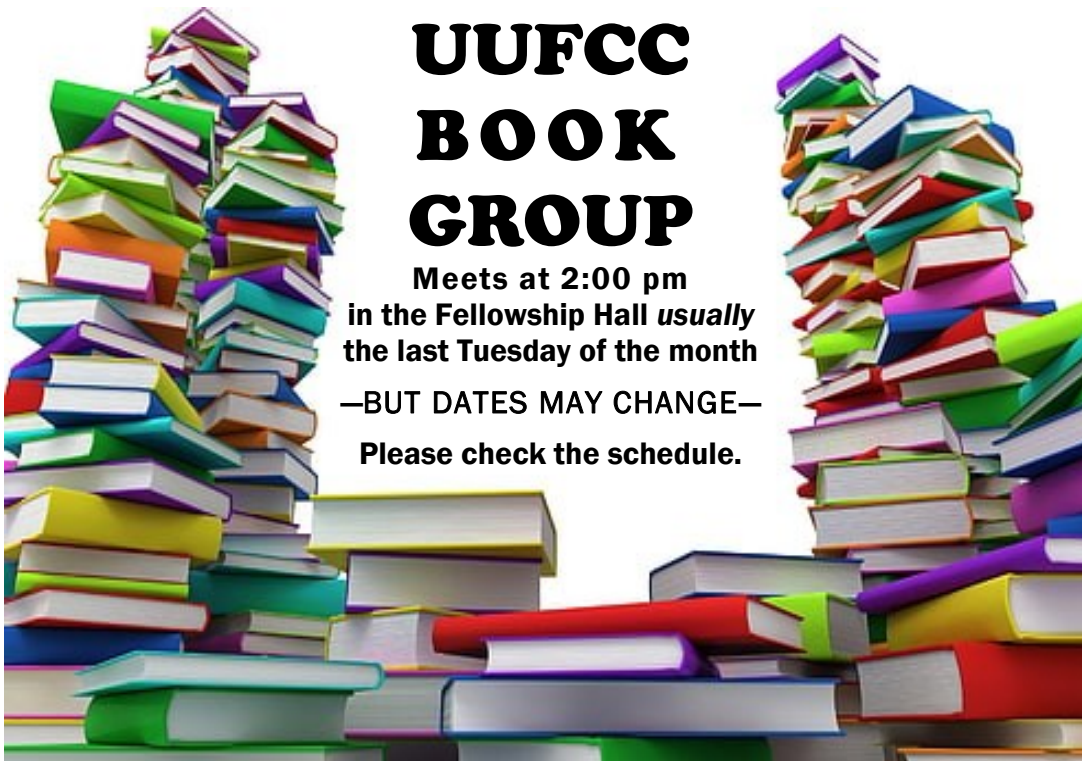
*But maybe it's elusive
for a reason.
Maybe it's slippery
in order to help us understand
that it was put here to fly.*

*Or better yet:
To be flung!
To be passed, not possessed.
To be spread
between you and me,
between the ones who receive its gift
and the ones that have been looking
for its treasure
for a very long time.*

*Maybe it's a beautiful and elegant contagion,
over which we just might have more control
than we think.
If only we share it.
If only we notice that joy is not ours to keep,
but ours to give.*

*Maybe joy is a gift that opens us
as much as we open to it.*

*Maybe that's the way light leaks
into our weary world.*



UUFCC BOOK GROUP

Meets at 2:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall *usually*
the last Tuesday of the month
—BUT DATES MAY CHANGE—
Please check the schedule.

2024-2025

...DATE...	GENRE	TITLE	AUTHOR	MODERATOR
10-31-24	Kid Lit, Fantasy	The Golden Compass	Philip Pullman	Roundtable
11-26-24	Environment/ Food Science	Comfortably Unaware --What We Choose to Eat Is Killing Us & Our Planet	Dr. Richard A. Oppenlander	Aubrey Sykes
12-31-24	Historical Fiction --community efforts to halt proposed displace/eliminate native American tribes in 1950s	Night Watchman	Louise Erdrich	Nancy Weaver
DATE 01-21-25 CHANGE	Nonfiction UUA 2024-2025 Common Read	Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans & Nonbinary People & Their Families	Peggy Gillespie Jazz Jennings Jeannette Jennings	Laura Anderson
DATE 02-18-25 CHANGE	Historical Fiction— Inspired by story of midwife Martha Ballard 1735-1812	The Frozen River	Ariel Lawhon	MaryLou Kennedy
03.25.25	Nonfiction-Philosophy-Ethics-Morals —How 4 core sources of judgment & clear-thinking work together	The Road to Wisdom: On Truth, Science, Faith & Trust	Francis Collins	Mike Krzyzkowski
04.29.25	Thriller, Spy Fiction, Humor	Slow Horses	Mick Herron	Betty Pritchard
05.27.25	Memoir	The Girl with Seven Names -Escape from North Korea	Hyeonseo Lee	Linda Quinn

Like to read?
Like to discuss
what you read?
Like to make
new friends?

JOIN US!

Get to know
Fellowship
members & friends.

Explore a
variety of topics
and a wide
range of genres:
fiction & nonfiction,
UU-related,
religion & spirituality,
social justice,
historical fiction,
racial issues,
banned books,
history & biographies,
the environment,
classics, & more!

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](http://archive.uuworld.org/2003/06/affirmations.html)



I confess that I dropped out mentally and emotionally about mid January. In addition, I strained my neck and discs near my left shoulder. I was not a happy person and chose not to socialize unless necessary. I canceled the Sunday *New York Times*, limiting my news sources to local TV stations and the Public Broadcasting Station. National Public Radio is also a staple. I was depressed and didn't want to hear anything political.

As a retired federal employee, I was very upset about political decisions being made without acknowledging policies, procedures and laws. In addition, there was no understanding that federal employees had to maintain political neutrality. This included political state or national election signs on your personal property. Now employees are not to be trusted, despite their allegiance being to the country and flag. All federal and armed service members take the same oath of office as the President.

Trust. I can hear my very religious great grandmother saying, “Lean not on your own understanding.” Proverbs 3:5. Trust in God completely. By high school I had learned another mantra from Shakespeare’s play *Hamlet*: “To thine own self be true.”

If you are true to yourself you will be true to others. This was recited by my favorite high school english teacher, Elizabeth Kogol, prior to every exam. She handed out the exams and left the room, returning at the end of the period. I never saw any cheating.

Trust. “In God We Trust” was adopted in 1956 as the official motto of the United States, the state of Florida, and the country of Nicaragua. In the United States, these words replaced “E Pluribus Unum,” out of many, one. I like the latter which was adopted in 1782 with the official seal of the United States.

Trust. The Pledge of Allegiance, written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a socialist minister, spoke of allegiance to the flag and the republic, one nation with liberty and justice for all. He wanted it applicable to all citizens. The words “Under God” were added in 1956 in response to the communist threat. Mr. Bellamy’s daughter protested to no avail.

Trust. Who do you trust? I trust myself and others to speak up and act to defend the freedoms of a democratic society. I believe in the melting pot I call America. We are all interrelated in the web of life.

Divided we cannot stand.



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



Based on years of research and conversations with slaughterhouse workers and farmers, to animal rights philosophers, environmentalists, and everyday consumers, **vegan educator and public speaker Ed Winters**

gives readers the knowledge to understand the true scale and enormity of the issues at stake.

Through exploring the major ways that our current system of animal farming affects the world around us, as well as the cultural and psychological factors that drive our behaviors, Winters asks and answers:

Is there a better way?

Every time we eat, we have the power to radically transform the world we live in.

Our choices can help alleviate the most pressing issues we face today: the climate crisis, infectious and chronic diseases, human and non-human exploitation.

These issues can be uncomfortable to learn about but the benefits of doing so cannot be overstated.

Whether already vegan or curious, Winters tells the other side of the story.

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



GO VEGAN



COMPASSION



NONVIOLENCE



FOR THE ANIMALS



FOR THE PLANET



FOR THE PEOPLE



SILESIA POTATO DUMPLINGS

I finally tried to make the **SILESIA POTATO DUMPLINGS**

I received at Christmas.

The box said to mix the powdered contents into two cups of water and stir until smooth.

— It never got smooth.

Then mold the result into 20 golf ball size balls.

— I ended up with 14.

Flatten the balls a bit and make a dent in the middle.

Place each ball into a pot of boiling water.

— The pot turned out to be too small for all of them at once.

Wait for the balls to rise to the top and then cook on low heat for another 4 minutes or so.

— Took a while for the balls to rise but with a little push they did.

Did not look any different after a few minutes but I fished them out and put the remaining ones into the water on high heat again.

The ones on the plate did not look much different from when they went into the pot.

Meanwhile I had boiled some kielbasa.
[Editor's Note: Vegan kielbasa, right, Ted?]

I warmed some gravy and put it on the finished dumplings.

They tasted like boiled potato lumps.

I wonder what they are supposed to look and taste like.



SILESIA DUMPLINGS are potato dumplings traditional to the wider Silesia region of Poland. They are also called *biale kluski* ("white dumplings"). Dumplings are part of a traditional Silesian lunch, also consisting of a rolada (rolled meat) and a red cabbage salad.



Ted Zawistowski

**LOOK
AT THIS**



UUFCC GENEROSITY!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SECOND SUNDAY SECOND HELPING

On the Second Sunday of each month, a second basket is passed to collect for a worthy community organization, to intentionally support their good work.

NOVEMBER 2024
Donations Totaled
\$600.00 for



**Pioneering all-embracing care for all
stages and all dimensions of well-being
for the full life.
empathhealth.org**

DECEMBER 2024
Donations Totaled
\$800.00 for



TEAM BROWNSVILLE

**Humanitarian Assistance for Asylum Seekers
who find themselves in Brownsville TX and
those waiting in Matamoros and Reynosa MX.
Founded in July 2018.
teambrownsville.org**

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]”

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*



SECOND SUNDAY SECOND HELPING

April 2025 Recipient



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.

APRIL SUNDAY SERVICES

**APRIL
THEME**

**THE PRACTICE
OF JOY**

04-06-25 FINDING JOY IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

Speaker: Rev. Ann Barker

Worship Associate: Ted Zawistowski

POTLUCK will be after 04-06-25 services

04-13-25 NAACP 5395B CHARLOTTE COUNTY

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, founded in 1909, dedicated to advancing the rights and well-being of Black people through advocacy, litigation, and community organizing.

[**SECOND SUNDAY SECOND HELPINGS** are for worthy organizations in our community to intentionally support their good work.]

Speaker: Attorney Richard Patrick

Worship Associate: Shelly Canterbury

04-20-25 EASTER

Speaker: Dennis Shaw

Worship Associate: Shelly Canterbury

04-27-25 FOOD: JOY AND JUSTICE

A delicious Sunday service about the joys of cooking, baking, & sharing food during some challenging times in Florida. Community gardening & mutual aid info will be on the menu.

Speaker: Rev. Bob Murphy

Worship Associate: Bill Stanwood

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

If you have an emergent/urgent need to be announced after that, please call the worship associate directly. See info in Weekly Update.



Your
Worship
Associate
Committee



03-02 Trudy Gerhardt 04-01 Joanne Schmalzer
 03-19 Debbie Conrad 04-08 Lorrie Douglas
 03-11 Trisha Lane 04-14 Dennis Shaw
 03-18 Kenneth Brennen 04-22 Jim Boyle
 03-31 Myrna Charry 04-27 Alice Clattenburg

For Birthday Shoutouts, contact Caring Committee:
office@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

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 2025 EVENTS

04/01	Tue	08:00 am Men's Coffee 02:00 pm Women's Support Group
04/02	Wed	noon Brown Bag Social Luncheon 01:15 pm Membership Committee 01:30 pm Bid Euchre 04:00 pm Immigration Justice Committee 05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 06:30 pm OA
04/03	Thu	04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation 06:30 pm OA
04/06	Sun	09:30 am Choir Rehearsal
04/07	Mon	01:00 pm Collins Chalice Circle
04/08	Tue	08:00 am Men's Coffee
04/09	Wed	10:00 am Caring Committee 01:30 pm Bid Euchre 05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 06:30 pm OA
04/10	Thu	04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation 06:30 pm OA
04/11	Fri	11:00 am Stamping with Nancy
04/12	Sat	09:00 am Democratic Club of Charlotte County 01:30 pm USA Dance Charlotte Harbor
04/13	Sun	09:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11:45 am Social Justice Committee
04/14	Mon	01:00 pm Collins Chalice Circle
04/15	Tue	08:00 am Men's Coffee 01:00 pm Tidewell Hospice 02:00 pm Women's Support Group
04/16	Wed	01:30 pm Bid Euchre 05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 06:30 pm OA
04/17	Thu	04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation 06:30 pm OA
04/18	Fri	10:00 am Art Takedown 05:00 pm Healing Harps & Crystal Bowls Sounds Fundraiser
04/20	Sun	EASTER SUNDAY & BIRTHDAY CAKE SUNDAY 09:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am Leadership Council
04/21	Mon	10:00 am Art Committee 01:30 pm Shaw Chalice Circle 06:00 pm PFLAG Port Charlotte Support
04/22	Tue	08:00 am Men's Coffee
04/23	Wed	01:30 pm Bid Euchre 05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 06:30 pm OA
04/24	Thu	04:30 pm Buddhist Meditation 06:30 pm OA
04/25	Fri	04:00 pm Art Reception
04/26	Sat	10:00 am Board Meeting
04/27	Sun	09:30 am Choir Rehearsal Noon PFLAG Steering Committee
04/28	Mon	01:00 pm Collins Chalice Circle
04/29	Tue	08:00 am Men's Coffee 02:00 pm Book Group
04/30	Wed	01:30 pm Bid Euchre 05:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 06:30 pm OA

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.]

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS INFO

COMMUNIQUE 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!

UUFCC directory/archives picture is used unless another is provided.

REALITY CHECK — DISCLAIMER — THE FINE PRINT

Views and opinions expressed in submissions are personal and belong solely to the author/submitter.

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.

UUFCC CONTACTS

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board@uufcc.org

bookgroup@uufcc.org

bookoflife@uufcc.org

buddhistmeditation@uufcc.org

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UUFCC

COMMUNIQUE

Can you say kuh-myoo-nuh-kay?

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MaryLou Proudfoot Kennedy

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300-word limit articles due

1-wk before last day of month:

editorialboard@uufcc.org

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