



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION of
GREATER NAPLES

Naples UU News

December 2018

*We are a welcoming congregation freely seeking intellectual and spiritual growth.
We strive to create a larger community of peace, justice and love.*

Connecting Points



Envisioning the Future – 2025

Let's say we schedule a "Bring Your Best Friend Sunday" for January 5, 2025—six years from now! Then hold a meeting to decide together how we wanted to prepare for that Sunday! What would you hope those good friends would experience? What would impress them about our congregation? What would you like them to tell others about us? What would be the same as today? What would be different? When you consider our worship services, our programs, our outreach, our organizational structure and our facilities you begin to realize we've done an incredible job getting to where we are—and still the possibilities are great.

During December and the early part of January we'll be building towards an all-congregation visioning event that will help establish where we want to go as an engaged community over the next five years. The **Creating Our Future 2025** Task Force will be seeking your involvement!

Almost four years ago now, the congregation began the process of creating a vision for our future. A Task Force was assigned to involve as many people as possible and their first step was to ask members and friends to harness their passions, use their imaginations, and share their ideas about what they would like the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples to look like five years down the road. Flip charts were set up on the patio during coffee hour (when it was still just a patio) and during the first four weeks of 2015 over 125 individual ideas were generated.

The Task force then engaged every committee, facilitated group discussions and, ultimately, held a Vision Workshop to sift through all the ideas. They took to heart our UU Principles and the core values of the congregation as expressed in our mission statement. They looked at past surveys that identified congregational strengths. Finally, they distilled all the information into the areas that represented the greatest energy and enthusiasm of members and friends and the result was our current 20/20 Vision.

Over the past year, and in anticipation of the next round of congregational involvement to create **a vision for 2025**, a Long Range Planning team has been working with the committees again to solidify their goals and, perhaps, to identify new directions for the coming years. And now it will be placed back in your hands to clarify even further what we as a congregation want to be and how we will live into our mission.

During the fourth week in January, the new "Creating our Future" team, with the help of two experienced facilitators, will host a Visioning Summit. This will be an event –open to all – where we'll look at our strengths (what's working well), our opportunities (internally and externally), our aspirations (our hopes and dreams) and possible results (specific ways we can achieve those aspirations) with the goal of amplifying all that we're doing right here at UUCGN and carrying that forward as the basis for mapping our future.

Check out our website for more information and to register for the event:

<https://www.uunaples.org/creating-our-future>

You'll also be able to sign up after services on Sundays.

I hope you will engage this process with the same energy and enthusiasm that was stirred up in January four years ago. It promises to be a whole lot of fun and inspirational too!

Blessings,

TONY

Services in December

Wednesday, December 12: “Blue Christmas Vespers”

A half hour service to help quiet the noise and slow the pace of the Holiday season. This will be a special time to be together in lovingkindness and gentle community to share reflective words of remembrance, solace and comfort. All are welcome.

Sunday, December 16: “Miraculous Births” – Rev. Tony Fisher and DRECE Mary Borland

Each night a child is born is a holy night – A family Holiday Service

Sunday, December 23: “A Child’s Christmas in Wales” – Rev. Tony Fisher

An intimate service of wonderful music and a reading of the classic story by Dylan Thomas

Monday, December 24: “Christmas Eve Candlelight Service” – Rev. Tony Fisher

A traditional candlelight service with readings, carols, and music – 6:00 PM

Sunday, December 30: End-of-year, cusp of the New-year Service!

UUCGN Worship Associates will join together to present an end-of-year, cusp of the new-year service.

Themes for the year:	December – Mystery	January – Possibility	February – Trust
	March – Journey	April – Wholeness	May – Curiosity
			June - Beauty

Cornell’s Corner on the Board

We’ve all shared Thanksgiving, bringing us to a hectic December. November also saw the UUCGN Board of Trustees meet twice – the regular meeting on November 8 and a special meeting with the two administrative committees, Finance and Facilities. Here’s a brief report, which I encourage you to discuss with me, or any Trustee:

- Joanne Bump was appointed as co-chair of Membership Committee to replace Jon Pipkin (who stays on the committee, and to whom we owe much gratitude!) Welcome Joanne, and thank you Jon!
- Solar Power Campaign finished very successfully. Letter of Intent signed and engineering inspections are underway, with contract soon. Consensus that UUCGN should announce this precedent setting action on climate change very visibly. This was also clear evidence of a strong partnership amongst the Board, Green Sanctuary, Facilities, and Finance Committees and the robust support of the congregation itself.
- Audio/Visual system upgrade for the Sanctuary is advancing with Communications and Technology and Facilities Committees collaborating on vendors – aiming for January completion.
- Our Strategic Plan for 2020, approved in October based on two years of congregational input and the goals of all the program committees, is available on our website, called “Creating Our Future 2025”: <https://www.uunaples.org/creating-our-future>. The next step for the Plan is to ask the Congregation to help create the 2025 Plan, starting with a professionally facilitated workshop January 22-24, 2019.
- The Stewardship Campaign has begun, ably led by trustee and Stewardship Chair Jay Shaplow. If you were in service for its Olympic commencement on Dec 2, you know that this is no ordinary campaign! Be a part of it, and keep in mind the unique community that UUCGN is and how it serves you and the wider community.
- The Board, Finance and Facilities Committee members all met (21 of us in one RE classroom!) on Nov 14 for a heartfelt and important discussion on UUCGN leadership work and shared expectations. It was very productive and showed the passion and dedication of all these volunteer congregation members working on the common cause of serving our UUCGN community. We are also grateful for member Lena Neal’s volunteering to facilitate the meeting with Larry McCarthy’s and Martin Park’s help.

Finally, the Board has changed its regular meeting day to the second Monday of each month, beginning with Monday, December 10 at 5:30pm in the RE Wing Blue/Yellow Room. Congregation members and Committees are welcome! If you can’t come, please let me know your thoughts or questions.

The Sunday Sextons Need Your Help!

The Sunday sextons open and close the church and get everything ready for the service. During Season (December through April), we have two services, an earlier one at 9:00 a.m. and a later one at 11:15 a.m. For those months, we have two sextons, one for each service. We now need one additional sexton, for December. This would be for one month only with no continuing obligations. The work is not difficult or complicated and can be done by both men and women. This is a good opportunity for someone to help the congregation in a meaningful way. If you’d be willing to be a sexton for the month of December, please contact Dick Macken. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Social Justice Committee News!

Holiday Cross Cultural Family Holiday Party This Saturday!

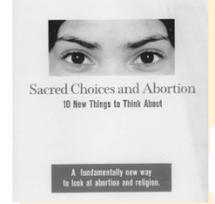


This **Saturday, December 15** from 6:00 to 8:30, the Social Justice Committee has invited our friends from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to join in us in a celebration of community. Food, Music, dancing, conversation, and a sharing of our talents in a special open mike showcase. Suggested donation: \$15.00 (kids free). **RSVP NOW by emailing the office! Head Count is required to purchase the food!**

Split the Plate: On Sunday, December 16 half the donations will go to the Coalition for Immokalee Workers.

Movies & Sandwiches: Sacred Choices

Sacred Choices on December 16 at 12:30 pm in Thomas Hall. This documentary explores the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faith traditions that support a woman's right to make her own moral decisions regarding her child bearing. This film breaks down the stigma of abortion and promotes a more open and healthy communication between women and their clergy. Ten insightful segments feature scholars from Christian, Jewish and Islamic traditions, as well as women and girls whose lives have been forever changed by abortion. It tells the painful history of women killed in the pre-Roe v. Wade period. One segment focuses on a 9-year-old girl, pregnant from rape, who along with her parents, struggle with the Catholic Church in order to save her life. Though this story takes place in Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the growing incidents of pregnant children in this country is a situation that faith communities, health providers and legislators are starting to grapple with; this puts another face on the complex abortion controversy."



Weekend Meals

The FAMILY MEALS program needs your help! The donation bin in the lobby is available to fill with the following items that will be distributed to needy families for the holidays. Thanks for pitching in. Canned fruits & vegetables, peanut butter & jelly, cans or pouches of tuna & chicken, beans and franks, canned soups, pastas, stews, mac & cheese, pasta & spaghetti sauce, cereal, granola bars, laundry soap (small size), toothpaste & toothbrushes.

2nd Annual Christmas Giving Tree

A great Success! Thanks to all who made this happen and Thanks to Alice Modic for organizing and working so hard to get this all together.



UU Love T shirts on sale now! Purchase them at the SJC table after service: \$15.00 adults and children; Special "family" discount

Social Justice Charity Partner Finalists

The Social Justice Committee is thrilled to share with you the results of our first-ever Congregation-wide selection for our Charity Partner. We had **148 people** participate in the survey. 42% of you ranked the **Legal Aid Service of Collier County (LASCC)** in first place, and another 33% placed it as your second place choice, making it the clear winner. Thank you one and all for your engagement and input! We hope you will see this as inspiration to help us make the Gala next March the most successful one ever.



WHY AND WHY NOW? Immigration law crisis is poised to reach a breaking point in 2019, with **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** and **Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** set to expire at the same time that ICE and the local Sheriff's Office of Collier County under 287(g) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act are aggressively pursuing the pickup of undocumented immigrants.

WHO ARE WE HELPING? It is estimated that there are approximately 20,000 undocumented immigrants living in Collier County, including thousands lawfully working here under the **TPS** program and hundreds of **DACA** recipients. Our area also has a large number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum. **Last year, LASCC assisted over 1,200 clients with immigration law services.**

VOLUNTEERING. LASCC also has opportunities for us at UUCGN to engage with their clients. Applicants for citizenship need "study buddies" to prepare for their citizenship exam, and this is a way for anyone can contribute to the applicant's preparation, no legal background required.

Citizen's Climate Lobby

Citizen's Climate Lobby, www.citizensclimatelobby.org, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that empowers people to become effective advocates for climate solutions. Meetings are held 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm in Thomas Hall.

Social Activities

Nightlights in the Garden

Join your UU friends for an evening of music and beauty at the Naples Botanical Gardens on Friday, December 14, at 6:30 pm! Let's meet up at the entrance at 6:15. But, you have to get your tickets early! Order on line: naplesgarden.org. \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. Call Robin Schrage for details.



In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play

"In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play" will be presented by Gulfshore Playhouse this winter. Plan to join fellow UUCGN members and friends on Wednesday, February 27th to attend the 3 pm matinee of this poignant and provocative play that has won three Tony Awards. In a well-to-do Victorian home, a doctor innocently invents a new machine to treat

"female hysteria". While his young wife tends to her newborn baby, she begins to wonder what her husband is up to the next room. As she tries to uncover what all the buzz is about, the doctor's new invention sends a shock wave through the lives of his patients and, to his surprise, his own marriage. Excellent seats available for the Feb. 27th matinee; tickets are \$60, made payable to UUCGN. Last day to purchase tickets is Sunday, January 27th. Please send or give your check to Adrienne Cady. Only 16 tickets available.

Circle Dinners

Come, Join our UU Circle Dinner Group. Our Circle Dinners are a way for you to get to know other members and friends in our Naples UU world, in a more intimate way. We try to meet in small groups of 6 to 8 guests per house so that there is an opportunity to talk with each other throughout the evening. The host prepares an entrée, and lets their guest know what to bring. We have anywhere from 2 to 6 dinners each 3rd Friday of the month. Sign-up in the foyer for the Friday, December 21.

Film Fans

Join us on Monday, Dec. 17, to see a movie, TBD, with discussion and a meal afterwards. Robin Schrage

ROMEO

ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meets for breakfast on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Skilllets in the Bed, Bath, and Beyond Plaza at the corner of Airport Pulling Rd. and Pine Ridge. We start at 8 am until ??? Call Roger Brown.

Adult Enrichment

Three Month Chalice Circles Beginning in January. Register Now!

If you missed signing up for a six-month Chalice Circle or if the schedule for those groups did not work for you, consider joining one of the three-month groups that will meet starting in January and running through March of 2019. We will soon have registration details available so you can choose your preference. But first, in case you are wondering, Chalice Circles are a form of Small Group Ministry. Groups of 6 to 10 people meet regularly — in our case twice a month — to reflect, to share deeply, and to listen without judgment about concerns of the heart and mind. Chalice Circles are great places to get to know other people and to get to know yourself better. Over time, participants develop deep connections with one another, with the congregation, and with their spirituality. Each gathering is structured and facilitated by a member of the congregation who is trained in facilitation. Participants are encouraged to share their stories and learn how to listen deeply without judgment to others. For our guide we will be using an exciting new resource this year, *Soul Matters*, a program that has been well-received by a number of UU congregations. In addition to the deep listening in small group meetings, *Soul Matters* incorporates opportunities for experiential engagement and encourages personal reflection. More information in the Weekly Highlights, but feel free to contact Ann with any questions.

Visual Arts Group

George Wright, a Photographer and New UU member is starting a Visual Arts Discussion Group that will meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 4 pm. Everyone is welcome!!! Come and bring in examples of your recent work...Painting, Photography, Sculpture or any other medium. We will try to go beyond a technical critique and explore what story the artist is trying to tell. Contact Georg.

Sunday Forums at 10 am!

December 16: Thomas Felke, Ph.D.: Think hunger doesn't exist behind gated communities in Collier County? Think again?

December 23: Vincent A. Keays, Pres. NAACP: "Set to Fail"

December 30: Tom Eddy: "The Righteous Mind" by Johnathan Haight

A Few Words from the Blue Zones Dance Committee

We hope that by now you've heard of our dance. We're telling you more so you don't miss a chance.

On the **16th of February, Saturday** that is.

A **Valentine's Dance at UU**, Gee Whiz!

Blue Zones is the sponsor and needs you to dance. It's good for your health. Come on! Take a chance! We've got all you need, finger food, dancing, drinks. It's good to let loose, limber up those old kinks.

Will there be music? Oh, that's a sure bet.

Provided for us by **Bob Zottola Quartet**.

The cost is so modest, \$15 per adult.

Kids welcome FREE, that's a happy result.

Starting January 6th, there are tickets for sale.

Purchase yours soon, be sure, without fail.

The goals of Blue Zones include moving and meeting. These both come free on the night of our greeting.

So from **7:00 to 9:30 on the sixteenth of Feb.**

The Saint known for love will be spinning a web.

Come single or coupled, with spouse or a friend.

The point's having fun, relax and unbend.

Thanks to Skip Lundborg for this poem and his ability to add spice to humdrum words.

Blue Zones

We, at UUCGN, are working on becoming a designated Blue Zones Faith-based organization. You may be wondering what that means for us (no cake at coffee hour?). Let us tell you a little bit about what "Blue Zones" means. Dan Buettner scoured the globe to find the people who lived the longest, most productive, happiest lives and identify what they had in common. The five places that he identified he called Blue Zones. The commonalities, he found among the places he termed "Power 9". They were the things that the residents of these five areas had in common. They are:

*Belong *Move Naturally *Purpose *Down Shift *80% Rule

*Plant Slant *Friends@5 *Family First *Right Tribe

We're going to explore each of the Power 9 every month. We're going to start with "Belong" because that is why you're reading this; you BELONG to a faith-based community. It has been found, through research studies, that belonging to a faith-based community and attending services regularly can add up to 14 years to your life. This statistic seems to be true no matter the religious denomination. Researchers hypothesize that some reasons for this may be that people who attend a faith-based organization may be less likely to engage in risky behaviors, may be satisfied with less material goods, and have built-in social networks. Additionally, attending services can be meditative and serve as a stress reliever. It has been found that the benefits of belonging to a faith-based organization is amplified if your activity participate in it. Therefore, to get the maximum benefit of belonging to UUCGN employ your talents in some way; volunteer to work in the kitchen, sing in the choir, or become a member of the Blue Zones committee. If you would like to explore the Power 9 in greater detail, pick up one of Dan Buettner's books. We plan on have a book club early next year where we will discuss one of his books. Stay tuned! The Blue Zones Committee

Aging Wisely - No Meeting in December!

Aging Wisely will meet on 2nd Thursday of each month from 7:00-8:30 pm. **Aging Wisely** is a monthly gathering for women that focuses on various issues related to the aging process. In a supportive, non-judgmental environment, we share our personal experiences and learn from one another. All women are welcome regardless of your chronological age. You do not need to commit to coming every month. We begin with a check-in and brief reading, then break into small groups for discussion. For more information, contact Ann Fisher

***AW Exercise Program** meets every Thursday at 11. This is a CO-ED gentle exercise program that is adaptable for anyone regardless of your physical limitations.

UU Book Club

The UU Book club meets on the third Thursday of each month in Thomas Hall at 2 pm. All are welcome. If you have any questions please contact Joann Anthony.

December 13, 2018: The Anthologist by Nicholas Baker; Facilitated by Betty Walsh

January 17, 2019: Nutshell by Ian McEwan, Facilitated by Kati Griffith

Cannabis Forum: Medical Marijuana & You

January 7, 2019 at 6 pm at UUCGN. Refreshments at 5:30 pm. Free admission.

Giving You the Right Information. Learn if medical marijuana is for you. Find what is the process for eligibility, to get registered and to sign up for medical card. What are the best options for your needs.

Getting the Questions, You Want Answered. Do I need another doctor other than my regular doctors? What do I bring to my medical marijuana doctor's appointment? What type of conditions are medical marijuana prescribed for? How will I know the correct dosage of cannabis I may need? Does it really help with depression, insomnia, anxiety and PTSD? What about Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and other debilitating or chronic conditions?

Our Panel Are Caring Specialists, Advocates and Champions Working for You. Providing the Best Information, Care and Resources.

What patients really need to know about in the cannabis industry

Cannabis as medicine for patients in need

'Wouldn't Be Alive' Without Medical Marijuana (Book available now)

CBD/THC: The various forms and methods available for use

The effects of cannabis use for medical purposes

The push for adult use of cannabis in Florida on ballot (2020)



Panelist **Dr. Barry Gordon:** Panel Moderator Chief Medical Officer, Compassionate Cannabis Clinic **Dr. Kelly King:** Veterans for Cannabis; **Irvin Rosenfeld:** The Longest-Surviving U.S. Federal Marijuana Patient; **Shannon Livingston President,** Livingston Foundation for Cannabis Education; **Dr. Gregory Sonn D.O.:** Iona Cannabis Clinic; **Michael Minardi, Esquire:** Special Guest Senior Partner at Minardi Law. Sponsor Information: Yvette.

Trust Women: A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice

Join us on **January 30 from 4-5:30** to hear religious scholar, The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Todd Peters discuss her new book *Trust Women: A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice* (Beacon Press, 2018). Peters examines the moral questions underlying the abortion debate. She explores women's rights and abortion rights from a faith-based perspective. Peters will be available to sign her new book, which can be purchased at the event. Light refreshments will be served.

The location for this event will be listed in the ticket issued by the Florida Interfaith Coalition for Reproductive Health. We are being mindful of keeping this event free from protestors, if possible, so each request will be reviewed for admission. Therefore, please make sure to mention you are from UUCGN.

CO-SPONSORS AND PARTNERS: Florida Interfaith Coalition for Reproductive Health is grateful to its co-sponsors and partners Progress Florida and Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida.

About the Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Todd Peters is Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Poverty and Social Justice Program at Elon University. As a feminist and Christian social ethicist, Rebecca Todd Peters' scholarship focuses on questions of social ethics as they relate to economics, the environmental crisis, globalization, poverty and women's access to reproductive health care. Peters addresses issues of conflict and social injustice in the world with the recognition that religion plays a significant role in shaping people's worldviews and moral ideas. Her most recent work is developing a Christian ethic of reproductive justice as the framework for thinking about women's whole reproductive lives, including everything from access to contraception to fertility treatments to unplanned pregnancies. She is drawing from many sources, including history, social science, philosophy, and Christian tradition. This new project also focuses on helping people think in more sophisticated ways about how pregnancy challenges our existing moral categories of personhood and life.

Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), she has been active in her denominational and ecumenically for more than twenty-five years and currently represents the PC(USA) as a member of the Faith and Order Standing Commission of the World Council of Churches. Peters is the 2018 recipient of the Walter Wink Scholar-Activist Award from Auburn Seminary. In addition to her eight books, Peters has published more than 25 articles and chapters and her blog, "To Do Justice" can be found on the Progressive Christianity page of www.Patheos.com. She is currently a Public Fellow at the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) and an Elon Senior Faculty Research Fellow for 2018-20. She is a graduate of Rhodes College (B.A.), and Union Theological Seminary in New York (M.Div., Ph.D., Christian Social Ethics).

Here Comes The Sun!

We can celebrate! Our solar panel fundraising campaign came to a successful close last month with a whopping 107 donations totaling more than \$36,000 and representing over 150 members and friends. Through your generosity and our shared common principle of respect for the interdependent web of all living things, solar panels will soon be a reality at UUCGN, making us the first congregation in Collier County to install solar. What is the current status of the project? A structural engineering study has been completed by SEM Power, our selected vendor, ensuring that our roof can carry the load of the proposed plan of 92 solar panels, that will produce 32.2 kW of energy, about 62% of our current energy usage. Further engineering analysis is now underway to verify that the solar panel load is expected to withstand a Category 5 hurricane. Upon favorable outcome of the full analysis, a contract will be signed and down payment made, with the projected installation being completed this winter. Questions? Email greensanctuary@uunaples.org.

Monique Bondeux Remembered with Gratitude

The UUCGN Endowment Fund received its largest bequest to date from the estate of Monique Bondeux. Monique is remembered as a beloved friend. Her characteristic joie de vivre is something many of us still carry in our hearts. Apparently, she carried our UU Congregation in her heart as well. We will forever be grateful to Monique for her beautiful smile, her abundant heart and her generous gift of \$196,170. Our Endowment Fund---and I do stress **OUR**---has reached a milestone. Our mission is to continue to grow this Fund to build a strong fiscal foundation for the future. This Fund was built by donations--large and small. Beloved members were memorialized, gratitude was expressed, and celebrations were recognized--all with donations to the Endowment Fund. Others have chosen to remember the Congregation in their wills or trusts. Remember the UUCGN Endowment Fund is **YOUR** Fund and do contribute as you are able for our benefit---present and future.

Brown Bag Lunches with the Minister!

Come and join in the camaraderie Thursdays at noon on the Pavilion. Rev. Tony Fisher and staff members will be there to eat and chat and see where the conversation takes us. There's so much happening at UU, sometimes it's nice just to be together for the sake of being together! This month December 13 & 20.

Change in Office Hours

Please note this important change to office hours at UUCGN: The office is open Sunday from 8:30 to 12:30 and then from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Monday through Thursday. **The office will be closed on Fridays.** Office support is available at other times by special arrangement with Anna Riazi. Rev. Tony Fisher's posted office hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 9:30 until 4:00. Please call ahead to be sure the minister is available. The minister is available at other times by appointment. Monday is the minister's day off and Friday is the day he sets aside for writing. Mary Borland's posted office hours are Sunday after services and Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00 to 2:00 - Mary is available other times by appointment. Lan Lam, our Music Director, is available for meetings by appointment. Also, the office staff will be off on Christmas Week!

Largest UU Garden Crew Ever!

On November 27, a grand total of 15 UU Garden Crew members showed up at UU for the day's gardening projects. It was the largest attendance ever! Clearly, the season has kicked in. Please visit the garden when you are next at UU and enjoy the many changes and new plantings added by the Garden Crew. Any time is great for a visit, but Sunday, when the garden fountain is flowing, it is a especial treat. Members pictured below taking a break and enjoying delicious treats are Jane Ellsworth, Co-chair of the Garden and Grounds



Committee and the following dedicated members: Bill and Marie McCormick (a dynamic duo for sure!), Gary Pajonk, William Haubrich III, Jan Jurgens, William Scheiman, Kathy Ripin (our leading Master Gardener), John Boettjer, Cheryl Nunes (joining William Haubrich as our newest Garden Crew members), Mary Ellen Wolff, Carl Veraja, Joe Gellings, Rose Lemery, and George Evans. Garden Crew members not pictured are Keith Inglis, Patrick Parker, John Graydon and Patsy Sachs. Join the Garden Crew for great times every Tuesday (except holidays) weather permitting from 9:00 am to noon!



Making Memories – Lend Your Support to Help Make the January 2019 Silent Auction Fundraiser a Grand Success for UUCGN!

The silent auction coming up next month is the major fundraiser for which the proceeds go directly into the congregation's coffers. It supports UUCGN members directly, so that we can better fulfill our mission, serve our community, and champion our social justice initiatives. Want to know how you can help make it a grand success? Read on!

Formerly known as the Home-Hosted Events, the fundraiser now has a working name of **Making Memories**. We are in the midst of lining up all sorts of social events and activities, also services, for your bidding pleasure after both services on Sunday January 6 and 13. We would love to have more events and services to offer in the bidding.

Already on the slate of offerings is a brunch, a luncheon, several dinners (including one with a party boat excursion, another featuring Indian food, another meeting over dinner at the Fishers' home for food and conversation with Tony and Ann). Music will feature in several of the events, and other artistic activities will be on offer too, including a play, a poetry get-together, and a painting party. We'll also be offering a farm event and a garden visit, also a wine tasting get-together.

There is room for more events to be added to the list, so if you want to jump in and offer something for folks to bid on, contact Kathie Gorski (contact info below) now to start the discussion. We are hoping to finalize the lineup by December 7, so that we can prepare the fundraiser's booklet for distribution, publicize the auction items, and generate excitement in the weeks leading up to the bidding.

A reminder of the types of events and services you might volunteer to offer:

Whatever event or service you want to dream up to auction off to your fellow congregants would be gratefully accepted. Examples include:

Food, food, food! There's always room for more food-related get-togethers. Specialty, ethnic, seasonal, or themed dinners are always sought after.

Experiences such as recitals, plays, field trips, artistic/creative gatherings, boat trips (just for fun or focusing on birding, shell collecting, fishing), game nights (including charades and murder mystery parties), specialty events or classes where you can share your expertise/hobby.

Services such as:

- ◆ **Baked goods on demand:** Cheesecake or other cakes, cookies, or other desserts, breads, etc., provided either monthly or quarterly, to deliver to you at UUCGN on Sunday, or you can decide on pickup on another day. (If recipient out of town, might consider donating to Sunday hospitality at UUCGN.)
- ◆ **Focus on Food:** preparing and delivering a special meal; teaching a class in cooking using a particular theme or technique (e.g. sushi)
- ◆ **Sewing and Alterations:** Several hours of alterations/mending of clothing
- ◆ **Pet Sitting/Walking:** Dog and/or cat sitting, dog walking
- ◆ **Home-related:** Cleaning, organizing and/or simplifying, yardwork, gardening, or garden design
- ◆ **Yoga or tai chi-related, also sports:** examples include one-on-one yoga session or tai chi introduction, pickleball party

Please contact Kathie Gorski. She is happy to hear about your suggestion(s) via email or phone and will follow up by sending you a template asking for details of your proposal. Lining up hosts and service providers will take place into the first week or so of December, but contact her soon so you can get the date you prefer!

Important note: Another way to contribute to the success of the silent auction is to visit the bidding tables on January 6 and/or 13 and bid often and generously for all events/service that catch your eye. Winning bidders will enjoy a unique opportunity to spend time with a small number of UUCGN members and friends in a variety of social settings, or receive a service offered by another member or friend of the congregation. The events will take place from late January through December 2019, although many occur in season. The events on offer are perfect for new members to jump into the action and meet others. The services on offer will provide help with many tasks.

Thanks for considering contributing to this fundraiser.

Youth Religious Exploration and Community Engagement

November Highlights: The November theme was “Memory.” One week, we looked at memory in light of the stories *not* told in our history, in particular that of African American participation and leadership, in the stories of [Fannie Barrier Williams 1855-1944](#), and [Joseph Jordan 1842-1901](#). We connected our faith tradition to Transylvania where 450 years ago the King John Sigismund, our first and only Unitarian King, issued the Edict of

Torda (in 1568) after Francis David won a religious debate advancing Unitarian ideas. The law was radical because it gave people the right to choose their own religion for the first time vs. being forced to share the religion dictated by their monarch. Religious tolerance and freedom are part of our history and UU identity. Our “All ages Thanksgiving Service” was a beautiful mix of the singing of the youth choir, the story called [The Thanksgiving](#)



[Door](#) by Debby Atwell, “setting the table and our individual memories written down and brought to the table.]”

Congregational and Family event on Saturday, 11/23 was

Campfire and Drumming that included: taco eating, s’more making, drumming, singing and a story around the campfire. Sunday, 11/25

Chapel we remembered what really matters and reminded each other to stay focused on our values as the materialization of the upcoming holidays progressed.

(Right) A West African Game of jumping and stepping (like rock, paper, scissors) played in a group in November was a lot of fun.



DECEMBER Sundays THEME: MYSTERY

16th The Mystery of Us
2nd & up in the sanctuary today
PreK-1st the Christmas story



23rd Solstice Chapel
2nd & up in Thomas Hall



30th Pam Moran leads Water Justice

NOTE: “TAKE-IT-HOME” RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES AND ADULTS are now available on our website weekly. Click on This week’s service <https://www.uunaples.org/this-weeks-services>



Hymn Notes

Rebecca Richardson, soprano, was our special guest musician on November 4. Her presence was generously underwritten by Jeannette Boucher in memory of her husband. Rebecca is a versatile singer with repertoire ranging from jazz to opera. Her rendition of “Deep River” was perfect as the musical meditation. Her music was a great contribution to the service. We also welcomed Jessica Jarvis, soprano, on Sunday, December 2. Jessica is a former first prize winner of the Naples Music Club. Her appearance is underwritten by Larry McCarthy in honor of the centenary of his mother’s birth. We are always in need of sponsorship for special musicians. If you can help, please contact me at music@uunaples.org, or see me after the services on Sunday.

Both the adult and children’s choirs sang on November 18, our intergenerational Thanksgiving service. You may have noticed that the adult choir sang a short piece after the Benediction the last two Sundays. If you are interested in singing this with us, see me after service. If you are new member of UUCGN and are looking for a group to be involved in, consider singing in the choir. You don’t have to be able to read music. A good ear and the love of music are all you need. The choirs will be singing in early December and at Christmas Eve Candlelight service. We will be joined by Nadia Marshall, soprano, Geoffrey Day and Caroline Cornell, violinists. It will be a joyously festive celebration with seasonal music.

Do you feel inundated by Christmas music in the stores? Do you miss hearing and singing the Christmas carols of your youth? If so, join us for an informal carol sing-along on Sunday, December 16 at 7 pm, hosted by the UUCGN choir. Come, lend your voices to your favorite Christmas carols. If you have any special requests (carols that are not in the hymnals), let me know and I will try to find them.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

Antonella Albano
Phyllis Andrews
Chris Barret
Nick Conforti
Chloe Cornell
Sharon Feldman
Janys Foley
Beth George
Pam Gharabally
Jill Gnesda
Perry Gotsis
Paul Hanifl

William Haubrich III
Jill Haughie
Janet Hoffman
Pam Moran
Carolyn Nichols
Walt Noyes
Ed Ostrom
Janice Rogers
Rob Snyder-Pitts
Christina Wright
Dinah Wright



Happy Anniversary
Ann & Frank Burgeson
Bill & Maria McCormick
Jeff & Parin Winter

Happy Belated Birthday
Jon Pipkin: 11/29



**Calendar
Click Here!**
Have we missed you?
If you would like your birthday or anniversary to appear in the monthly newsletter, please contact the office.

Art in the Garden

Art in the Garden meets every last Saturday of the month at 10 am. If you are interested in joining us please email Kathleen Teach . A donation of \$20 per class will go to the UU garden.

Tech4Good

Tech4Good is a nonprofit organization that meets the first Tuesday of each month, from 6 to 8 pm at UUCGN. We invite all local nonprofit organizations to network, learn, test and explore new technologies, exchange ideas, and best practices. To learn more about the program or to register, please visit the website: <http://www.tech4goodswfl.org>.

LGBT Bereavement Support Group

The WeCare Committee, with Avow Hospice, is offering a 6 to 8 week LGBT bereavement support group This evening support group is for those whose partner has died, either recently or many years prior. This support group will provide: *A safe environment for sharing thoughts and feelings for the loss of a partner both present and prior years. *A compassionate group for expressing sadness, pain, joy and lasting memories. *A vibrant place for embracing hope, support and healing in the absence of community or family The focus of this group will be grief issues specific to the LGBT community. The support group will be co-facilitated by Mike Dias, M.ED., LSW., UUCGN member, and Louise Kenny, LCSW Bereavement Coordinator/Avow Hospice. This is a free service, developed by and for the LGBT community. Please email Mike Dias for more information and register for the group.

"The Beauty of a Violin and Piano" - UU Fundraiser

Through the generosity of Daniela Shtereva and Richard Bosworth we are now selling their wonderful CD: **The Beauty of a Violin and Piano**. All the proceeds will directly benefit our UU congregation. This is possible because Richard and Daniela wanted to let our Congregation know how much they have appreciated our love and support and have donated 50 CD's to this fund raiser. If you have not heard it, it is simply an exceptional recording of fabulous music, recorded by two equally wonderful musicians. It is a **"must Have"** CD which is guaranteed to bring hours of musical delight. The price for each CD is \$20.00.

Fundraiser for UUCGN by Amazon Smile

For newer members and as a reminder to other members, this is to point out that there is a link to Amazon.com at the bottom of our home page at uunaples.org. Once you access Amazon through this link and make purchases, a percentage of the purchase price is credited to UUCGN and UUCGN will be saved as your charity of choice for the future. It's a painless way to help the congregation - and there is no extra cost to the purchaser! Please consider making purchases from Amazon using the link on our UUCGN website or by [clicking here!](#) Thank you!

