



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION of
GREATER NAPLES

Naples UU News

February 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

The Edict of Torda

This past Monday, I was honored to provide the invocation at the annual Civics Award luncheon given by the Naples chapter of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. This year the award was given to Dr. Allen Weiss, President and CEO of the NCH Health Care System and visionary behind Blue Zones Project here in Southwest Florida. The fact that American's United exists at all is a commentary on the state of our nation and the fragility of our constitutional rights to freedom of conscience. We are all too aware that there are forces at play that seek to break down the barriers between religion and government in order to dictate public policy based on a particular religious viewpoint.

This is an age-old battle which, until the founding of our nation, had been almost entirely a one sided affair. Yet there are moments in history to which we can turn for inspiration as we struggle anew to maintain our religious freedom.

Four Hundred and fifty years ago this past week, a remarkable proclamation was made by King John Sigismund of Hungary to the people and congregations in his realm. This proclamation, known as The Edict of Torda, established religious freedoms in the nation giving the power of the pulpit over to the preachers and, consequently to the people who could choose which preachers they would support.

... in every place the preachers shall preach and explain the Gospel each according to his understanding of it, and if the congregation like it, well. If not, no one shall compel them for their souls would not be satisfied, but they shall be permitted to keep a preacher whose teaching they approve. Therefore none of the superintendents or others shall abuse the preachers, no one shall be reviled for his religion by anyone, according to the previous statutes, and it is not permitted that anyone should threaten anyone else by imprisonment or by removal from his post for his teaching. For faith is the gift of God . . .

This remarkable edict represented a unique move toward religious tolerance and a renunciation of the overwhelming trend throughout sixteenth century Europe towards the establishment of national religions. What makes it even more noteworthy for you and me is that John Sigismund, the King who established this proclamation was a Unitarian.

Sigismund had been convinced of his anti-Trinitarian perspective by his court preacher Francis David who, subsequently, was able to help establish the first Unitarian congregations in history in the then Hungarian region of Transylvania. And even after the death of Sigismund, David continued the fight to expand the idea of religious tolerance. David and Sigismund's work foreshadowed one of our own Unitarian Universalist principles in which we covenant to affirm *and promote* "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large."

Though the force of the Edict of Torda was short-lived, the enduring story of Francis David's unbending pursuit of religious freedom remains, as does the perseverance of the Unitarian congregations he helped found. These Transylvanian congregations, though subject to repeated persecution over the intervening four hundred and fifty years, have continued to preach and live the Unitarian message.

The quest for religious freedom and the cry for religious tolerance have been present in the world for as long as the power of the state and the power of religion have combined to suppress the forces of freedom and change. It is our responsibility to speak not just for tolerance, but for acceptance of all religious viewpoints and to continue the ongoing struggle to live the words of our UU principles and our U.S. constitution into reality. Blessings,

TONY

Sunday Services: 8:30 & 11 am!

February 4: "FUUtore Forward" — Rev. Tony Fisher

Where does this congregation and this Unitarian Universalist movement go from here?

February 11: "Spirituality and the Sixties" – Jim Kenney

February 18: "Pink Hats and Hashtags" – Rev. Tony Fisher

The New Women's Movement

February 25: "Question Sermon" – Rev. Tony Fisher

The second annual Question Sermon. See below for more information!

Themes for the year: February Theme – Forgiveness!

March: Transformation **April:** Spirituality **May:** Discovery **June:** Celebration

Dear Fellow Seekers!

Is there a question that has been on your mind about the meaning of life, the nature of spirituality, Unitarian Universalism, or even something about this wonderful Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples? During the service on Sunday, February 25th, the Rev. Tony Fisher will attempt to answer your questions in the second annual QUESTION SERMON at UUCGN.

If you have a ticklish quandary, or simply want to try and stump the minister, please submit your queries and questions in person or in writing to minister@uunaples.org. The deadline for submitting questions is Wednesday, February 21st.

Forums: Sundays at 9:45 am.

February 4: "Managing America's Insularity in a World at War," Alan Van Egmond

February 11: "2018: A Democratic Congress?" Jim Kenney

February 18: "Innovations in Criminal Justice: Treatment Court" Janiece T. Martin, CC Court Judge

February 25: "The Biological Foundations of Morality," Charles Kupchella Ph.D.

Annual Stewardship Picnic!

February 4, following the 11 am service. Contributing members and friends are cordially invited to the Annual Stewardship Picnic this Sunday, to celebrate the official end of our Stewardship campaign. Please don't forget to turn in your completed Pledge Cards before then! The 8:30 service is still an option for those who would like to get their day started early or who would like to avoid the rush.

UU "Feedback Table" on Sunday, February 4

Do you have comments, questions, issues, suggestions regarding the ministry of our congregation? What are we doing right? What can be improved? Your opinions matter, and the members of UUCGN's Committee on Ministry want to hear from you. This committee's purpose is to take the pulse of our membership regarding how our congregation is living its mission and vision. All comments are confidential and will be shared only among committee members (Maureen Armour, Mish Batty, John Boettjer, and Bob Bollinger) and our minister, Tony Fisher. Look for our sign (courtesy of Ann Fullarton) on the pavilion's Feedback Table after both services. We'll look forward to seeing you there this Sunday and on the first Sunday of every month.

Answering the Call

Where do you want to see UUCGN headed in 2020? How about 2025? We are the "Long Rangers", the long range planning team at UUCGN and our task is to map out where our church is headed in the future. But we can't do it without you! In the next month, please make a point to stop by our 4 easels located out in the Pavilion and add your answer to our questions of the day. Your input on this variety of topics is very important and will be considered as we decide on a final direction to head. Questions? You can ask any one of the Long Rangers: Skip Lundborg, Martha Cornell, Maureen Armour, JoAnne Swonk or Kristin Muschett.



Diversity Potluck

February 1 at 6 pm at UUCGN. Embracing Our Differences to Celebrating Our Oneness. -Bring a favorite dish from your youth, culture or ethnic upbringing. -Invite someone of another race, culture or spousal preference. -Bring a favorite story unique to your upbringing. -Prepare to have fun!

Proper Waste Disposal

Sunday, February 4, 12:30 pm in Thomas Hall Proper waste disposal is critical – why? Certain types of wastes can be hazardous and contaminate the environment. They can cause disease or get into water supplies. The regulations for how specific types of waste should be disposed of cuts down on these risks. After you've had your lunch at our pledge picnic, come on down to Thomas Hall – where Dana Algier (*county recycling specialist*) as well as some of our own youth will answer all your questions about waste disposal. "What happens to the throwaways in the trash can?"; "How are unused medicines or leftover pesticides disposed of?"; "Who separates all our mixed recyclables (plastics, glass, dry paper)?"; "What's the best thing to do with clothes, toys, or anything else that we've outgrown?"; "Does UUCGN recycle?" "What about regular alkaline batteries – garbage? Are they recycled? Hazardous waste?" "Incandescent bulbs? Fluorescent bulbs? LED bulbs? How about shredded paper?" *This program is brought to you by your Green Sanctuary Program and our Religious Lifespan Education Department. See you there.*



Update on Home Hosted Events

Once all the payments are in, this year's Home-Hosted Events fundraiser for UUCGN will have netted \$10,000. Everyone's efforts are much appreciated. There are several seats still available for each of the following events. Just email kathie.gorski@gmail.com with the event(s) and number of places you are interested in. The events are: One-Woman Play, Feb 24 (\$45). English Afternoon Tea, March 13 (\$30). Name That Tune, April 15 (\$40). Apple Octoberfest Dinner, Oct 13 (\$40).

Aging Wisely

Aging Wisely will meet on Thursday, February 8, 7:00-8:30. **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 at ***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. This group is OPEN TO MEN & WOMEN.

Gallery Exhibits in Menaker Lobby

The photography exhibit of "The Magnificent Bird of the Everglades" by **Gregory Dupignac** is displayed in the Menaker Lobby. There will be a Gallery walk with him on Sunday, February 11 after the late service.

Circle Dinners –February 16

Circle Dinners are all about enjoying dinner together in small groups in each other's homes- usually 6-10 guests per house on the 3rd Friday of every month. The host prepares the main dish and lets their guests know what to bring to compliment the entree. Guests also bring the beverage of their choice. The next circle dinner will be on Friday, December 15. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the foyer or call me if you wish to attend as a guest or be a host. Looking forward to getting to know you better over dinner soon. Cheryl Inglis:

Odyssey

On Tuesday, February 27 at 7 pm, Penny Rambacher will share her inspiring story. Refreshments at 6:30 pm. She is the founder of Miracles in Action.

Art in the Garden at UU

Art in the Garden will meet on February 24 at UU and every last Saturday of the month at 10 am. If you are interested in joining us please email Kathleen Teach at kathleen@zenlamps.com. New people are always welcome. A donation of \$20 per class will go to the UU garden.



Adult Enrichment Winter Offerings



Guided Autobiography

UUCGN on Mondays, 10a.m.-12 p.m., February 5-March 12
Facilitated by Pam Mayers, Ed.D (Certified Guided Autobiography Instructor)

A question you might ask yourself is, "Why would I want to take this course?" Perhaps you heard about the course from others who have taken it, perhaps you read about it in the newspaper or AARP Newsletter, or perhaps you are just curious about what the course has to offer. Let me first tell you a little about myself and what the course has meant for me, as well as for others who have participated. I retired from college teaching over four years ago and was imagining ways in which I could grow, given that I then had all of this free time for myself. I began taking courses in history and French at the local university, and found great satisfaction, but felt something was missing. One day, I was browsing through the New York Times and came across an article on Wisdom and Aging. In it, the author recommended taking a life review class, and made specific reference to Guided Autobiography. I did my own research of the program and was convinced that it was something I wanted to do. I then enrolled in the training course to become a facilitator. Once I completed the training, which included writing my own life stories, I asked myself what had just happened to me. I felt transformed in a way I had never been before, hence, the idea of 'Chrysalis' came to me. There are over 300 Guided Autobiography trained facilitators world-wide, and we all share our passion for the meaning the course can bring to the lives of participants. In my experience as a facilitator, I have heard repeatedly that those who have participated also feel transformed in ways they never imagined. As one participant told me, "I will often tell stories of my past experiences to family members, but through this course, I went more deeply into myself and realized how much I have learned in my life that I never truly appreciated before." Many of the participants want to continue beyond the first course because of the bonds that form among the members, and because of the wisdom they have gained through it. Guided Autobiography was researched and developed by Dr. James Birren, a Human Development Psychologist, for over 30 years as a method for helping people document their life stories. Essentially, group members meet once a week for two hours and are introduced to a variety of life themes, such as 'Family,' 'Spirituality,' and 'Health'. You then write two pages each week on a selected theme of the week and orally share your writing the following week with a small group in confidence. There is no critiquing or judgment of one another's writing, you share only what you want to share, all members are committed to keeping one another's confidence, and the sharing is one of mutual appreciation and delight of others' stories and your own. We all have stories just waiting to be told, and this class will assist you in recalling and documenting those memorable moments. I hope you can join me on this journey! If you would like more information or have any questions, please email me at pammayers@hotmail.com. [Watch this video](#) to learn more about how others have experienced a Guided Autobiography class.

NEW Program! Aging Well for Men and Women: The Future Is Now

A new program entitled "Aging Well for Men and Women: The Future is Now" will meet monthly meeting beginning **Monday, February 26, 2018**, at 5 to 6:30 pm in Thomas Hall. The objective will be to have both men and women attend to discuss topics of mutual interest and concerns on aging. It is expected that meetings will include guest speakers with special expertise on various subjects and also some led by peer members. The meeting agendas and topics will be decided upon by participants in advance of monthly meetings and will be held on the 4th Monday of each month. All men and women are welcome. Please email John Goodlet with questions.

Meditation Retreat

On Saturday, March 3 from 10 to 4, **Ann Marina** has organized a day-long Meditation retreat, with visiting monk, Bhante Jayasara from the Bhavana monastery. The day will include times of silent sitting, stretching and walking meditation (optional) in addition to receiving Bhante's wisdom on "The 3 Characteristics of Existence" and "Metta", Loving-friendliness meditation.

Blue Zones

Several Blue Zones programs are planned for the first quarter of 2018, but as of now only one is on the calendar, a Purpose Workshop, scheduled for **Saturday, March 31**. More details to come later.

Social Justice Committee News

UU Social Justice & SWFL Justice 4 All Coalition's Moral Monday Meetup

Coalition for Quality Public Education (C4QPE), [A Perfect Storm: Why Quality Public Education Must Survive](#). February 5th, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm. A "perfect storm" of ideological and political challenges now threatens educational standards, accountability and teacher autonomy in our public school system. With C4QPE Steering Committee member Judi Palay serving as Moderator, panelists including Beth Povlow (C4QPE President) and Steering Committee members Bill Korson and David Goldstein will address. Censorship, School choice; Religion and State; Resegregation; Lack of trained teachers; Licensing issues; Legislative support at all levels of government; Services for kids, including spiritual needs if the parents so request. The audience will have ample opportunity to comment and ask questions of the panelists after their presentations. During the last half-hour of the Meetup, representatives of C4QPE – and of other grassroots groups -- will be available to share information about their respective groups, and how to become involved.

SURJ Will Meet on February 10 at 12 pm in Thomas Hall.

Women's Health Justice Upcoming Events

From the Women's Health Justice Subcommittee of the congregation's Social Justice Committee are the following announcements of upcoming opportunities to participate in educational events and action opportunities. On **February 10, 2018**, Planned Parenthood will hold its annual Gala, the Choice Affair. More information will follow but as a fundraiser it will cost \$350 per person. Barbara Bush (the younger) will be the speaker on her work with Global Women's Health Care.

Citizen's Climate Lobby

Citizen's Climate Lobby, citizensclimatelobby.org, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that empowers people to become effective advocates for climate solutions. Each meeting we have a guest speaker (by video) and make plans around outreach opportunities, building relationships with local business, faith and political leaders, and pursuing media opportunities. Next meeting is on Saturday, February 17 at 1 pm.

SJC Movies and Sandwiches

Join us to watch a 25 minute documentary , The Hidden Hungry on Sunday, February 18 at 12:15 pm in Thomas Hall. South Florida has 326 food deserts. Many seniors living in them never imagined themselves going to a food pantry because they could always afford to feed themselves. Until now Dr. Felke of the FGCU School of Social Work will give a brief talk on the most recent study of our own seniors in Collier County. Tatiana Fortune from Golden Gate Senior Center also will present a short video on the Center.



Split the Plate Sunday: Half the offerings will benefit the Collier Senior Resource Center.

NAACP

In honor of Black History month in February and anticipating Women's History month in March, we invite you to read this 2013 article from Huffpo. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/roslyn-m-brock/women-of-the-naacp-exempl_b_3934005.html; <https://www.makers.com/blog/naacp-founding-female-members-history>

Legislative Workshop

How to Follow Members and Track Legislation during the 2018 Florida Legislative Session on Monday, February 19. Reception 5:30, Meet the Candidates; Workshop 6:30. You don't have to be in Tallahassee to be current on a bill's status through hearings and floor action. "Now, learn how to follow our local representatives, the bills they are sponsoring, and how they are voting. We will take you through the resources available to make you a better advocate for issues of importance to you and the Collier County community. League of Women Voters of Collier County member, Liza McClenaghan will cover the makeup of the Florida Legislature, its leadership and Collier County legislative delegation and how to access online resources to track legislation in both chambers. Liza McClenaghan has been a political and civic activist since her teens in the 1970s. She worked in the private, non-profit and public sectors in Washington, DC for 20 years. She was the executive director of the American Institute for Public Service; a staff assistant to US Senator Al Gore; and information technology consultant. She was appointed the first Chief Information Officer at the US Department of State where she also worked on strategic and performance planning. She joined her husband in his retirement in Florida where she volunteers for organizations engaging the electorate in issues that impact their daily lives. She has been a member of the LWV Government Committee for 5 years.

Board Opportunities are Wide Open

Because of several coincidences, 6 of the 7 members of the UUCGN Board of Trustees will be retiring on March 31. All UUCGN members are eligible to serve, and to help UUCGN continue the exciting initiatives that have recently begun, and to pursue its Mission Statement and 2020 Vision. If you are curious about serving on the Board, please contact:

2018 Progressive Voices Speak Out Lecture Series

[Click Here](#) for the Complete Schedule. UUCGN in cooperation with Common Ground of Naples, is pleased to provide you with the program for our annual Progressive Voices Speak Out lecture series beginning Wednesday, February 7. We have scheduled a series of excellent speakers who will focus on important issues of the day. Individual donations of \$15 per person/lecture will be received at the door at each of the six lectures (cash or checks only - made payable to UUCGN). Alternatively, you may purchase tickets online by following one of the 2 links provided here:

[Click Here](#) for the complete series of six lectures for \$75.00 total per person.

OR Series tickets will be sold at UUCGN at the door on the evening of the first lecture. All workshops are \$10/pp. We hope you can join us. Progressive Voices Speak Out Committee: Dave Griffith, Barbara Glasgow, Jim Swonk, Flo Beckler, Frank Burgeson, David Goldstein, Jim Lancaster, and Jack Moter.



UUCGN Adult & Children's Choir

We are always looking for singers to join the choir! Please contact Music Director Lan Lam if interested. To join the adult choir, please contact Eleanor Richardson at .

Film Fans

Film Fans, the UU Movie Lovers group, will meet on Monday, February 19, to see a late afternoon movie, TBD. See you at the movies! Contact Robin Schrage .

Are You a UU? Prospective Member Orientation

For those who would like to find a way to connect and learn more about our congregation and for those who may be ready to join, we will have an orientation on Sunday, February 18 after the 11 am service. They last about 2 hours. Childcare and a light lunch will be provided. Please contact the office to sign up and also let Anna know if you would like to meet a day other than a Sunday. Thank You!

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 at for more information and register for the group.

Mindful Meditation Group

Mindful Meditation Group meets on Saturdays at 10:30 am. All are welcome; no experience needed. We share silent sitting, mindful stretching and walking, indoors or in the garden, and discussion. Contact Ann Marina for more information.

First Friday

Unfortunately there will not be a First Friday in February because we did not have a host. Please contact Cheryl Lash if you would like to host a First Friday in the future. Thank You.

UUCGN 32nd Annual Charity Auction & Dinner

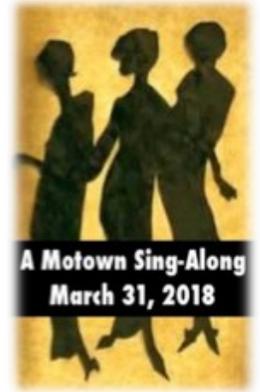
Save The Date! **Stop!** In The Name Of Love.

Benefits NAACP & FGCU Educational programs for underserved Collier County middle and high school students.

Weekend Meals for Kids

Weekend Meals for Kids is still collecting extra food for our three schools where counselors decide what families will need extra food items in addition to the kids weekend meals. The list of food items is attached to the basket in the Lobby. Take one and bring in as many items as you can. Thank You.

Social Justice Events in January



Medical Marijuana

information presented by Dr. Jack Tseng, Shannon Livingston and Yvette Stafford



MLK Parade

Thanks To Bill & Marion Reigle, Bill McCormick, & Paul VanValkenburg for organizing.



Women's March on January 20, 2018.

February

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays

*John Boettjer
David Bosworth
Joe Halperin
Jakob Isbrandtsen
Jim Lancaster*

*Allen Landreth
Bill McCormick
Nancy Medis
Stacey Shearrion
James Teborek*



Anniversaries

*Charles & Marilyn Doebler
Marilyn King & Jakob Isbrandtsen
Joan & Neil Morrison
Ed & Marion Southard
Elle Vollerthum & Ray Dicasparro*

Calendar



To view the full and updated calendar please visit our website or [Click Here!](#)

Have we missed you?

If you would like your birthday or anniversary to appear in the monthly newsletter, please contact the

UU Book Club

The UU Book Club meets on the third Thursday of every month in Thomas Hall at 2 pm. All are welcome to join us. For more information, contact Joann Anthony

February 15: The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman, facilitated by Betty Walsh
March 15: When We Were Orphans by Kazuo Ishiguro, facilitated by Gerry Croghan
April 19: Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe, facilitated by Carolyn Bordeau

"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. They will be for sale after Sunday Worship and in our business office.

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 unaples.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!

