



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION of
GREATER NAPLES

Naples UU News

June 2016

*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

June means General Assembly (GA)

On June 22, six of us from Naples, Joan Insel, Susan Musick, Ann Wilson, Heather Desrocher, Ann Fisher and I will join thousands of UUs from across the country for the annual General Assembly of Unitarian Universalist congregations. The theme for this year's assembly in Columbus, Ohio is "Heart Land: Where Faith's Connect," and organizers will be bringing together leaders and communities from many faiths to worship together and learn from one another. All will be invited to explore how we can move towards authentic and fruitful interfaith partnerships, both within and beyond the congregation. It promises to be a remarkable experience with the goal of exploring what grounding and vision we share across our different traditions, and what aspects of each tradition would lend creativity and depth to our work across faith borders.

Since the 2012 "Justice GA" in Phoenix, there has been a Social Witness event organized during every General Assembly. This year we will join with our interfaith partners as well as the Ohio Student Association, the People's Justice Project, and UU Justice Ohio, to rally at the Ohio State House to highlight issues of racial injustice and the growing Movement for Black Lives in America. I have no doubt this will be a powerful event and it will be introduced and supported through a variety of GA sessions. Together they will strive to broaden our understanding and commitment to a broad based anti-racist movement.

And these are just the highlights! There are regular worship services with fabulous music from the best and brightest UU music leaders; there's a wide range of programming offering presentations, workshops, and panels on every possible subject; there's an Exhibit Hall where you can walk the aisles and talk to people engaged in the wide variety of UU related endeavors, buy your fill of books from the UU Book Store, and find a plethora of items for sale; and, of course, there's the business sessions where the annual work of the Association is accomplished and where the delegates choose the important issues for congregational study that may eventually result in a UUA Statement of Conscience. Even for an introvert like me, it is a remarkably rejuvenating experience.

There's still time to sign up and go to this year's GA, but if your plans are otherwise set, then perhaps you could pencil in next year's gathering in New Orleans from June 21 – 25. That will be a historic meeting where the delegates will choose from three excellent candidates and elect the first female president of the Unitarian Universalist Association!

Blessings,

TONY

Social Justice Committee News

Please join us on Sunday, June 5 at 10:30 am for our annual Gay Pride Service, sponsored by the new LGBTQ branch of UUCGN's Social Justice Committee. It will be a joyful celebration assembled by members and friends of our gay community within our congregation. There will be special music, readings and inspirational guest speakers from our congregation and the greater community.

Byron Bordt, who has been attending UUCGN since April 2015, will share his personal journey with us. He's become a beloved friend to many since beginning to attend last year.

Jenna Satterfield is a 60 year old transgender woman originally from New Jersey, and has been living in Fort Myers since 1992, and transitioned in 1995. She will share her stories about discrimination as a transgendered person.



Thom Croce has been teaching in Collier County since 1989, and started the first Gay-Straight Alliance in Collier County in 2003. He will bring his rich and sometimes very difficult experience to the podium, in having to come out in full view of the county school system.



Arlene Goldberg was in a long term (47 year) relationship with her wife Carol, whom she was also married for 3 years. During that time, she co-founded Visuality, Inc., the only LGBT youth group in SW Florida and restarted PFLAG Fort Myers.

She was added to ACLU of Florida's Federal law suit, as plaintiff, to recognize same sex, out of state marriages in Florida.

We are grateful to have each of our speakers, who will bring great inspiration to this very special service.

After the service, there'll be a reception, and you'll have an opportunity to speak with all participants and learn more about this new committee. Please invite your friends and family. All are welcome!

Our Mission

Visuality's mission is to promote the health, safety, and personal growth of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning youth. Visuality strives to end all forms of violence, harassment, and discrimination based on real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Our vision is that all persons are able to fulfill their potential and live their lives with honesty, dignity and without having to pretend, lie or hide due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Our Split the Plate for June will be collected during the offering on June 5. Half of the morning's offering will benefit Visuality of SW Florida

SURJ - The New Jim Crow

"Why is the 1994 Crime Bill making election headlines in 2016? Didn't we vote for that? Who profits from mass imprisonment of people of color? Why can't 'they' just not break the law? What is Structural Racism? What is the Black Lives Matter crowd talking about?"

IF you haven't read **The New Jim Crow**, by Michelle Alexander, you might be asking these very questions. The Collier NAACP, Showing Up for Racial Justice, and the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples invite you to a Community Read of **The New Jim Crow**.

The New Jim Crow was the UUA Common Read in 2012. It has sparked major reforms and helped create a movement for criminal justice reform in all levels of government. Showing Up for Racial Justice is providing copies of the Study Guide and the Organizing Guide for a suggested \$5 donation, a 50% savings. Community discussion groups will be hosted by UUCGN in the fall. You can participate in online discussions with people across SWFL who are reading the book this summer.

Upcoming Services

Sunday Services at 10:30 am

June 5: “Annual Pride Service”

Our annual celebration of LGBTQ Pride with reflections music and readings that are sure to inspire. We will also hold our Monthly Split the Plate on this Sunday, which will benefit *Visuality Florida*.

June 12: “Looking Back, Looking Forward” – Rev. Tony Fisher

Before your minister heads to GA and then some time off for reflection, he'll take the opportunity to celebrate and honor the wonderful people and the great work of the congregation!

June 19: “Father’s Day” – John Lynch

June 26: “Our Shared Calling” — UUCGN Worship Associates

Drawing from the work and writings of fellow UU's, the Worship Associates will lift up the idea of “shared ministry” and what that could look and feel like here at UUCGN.

TEACHING AS RELATIONSHIP: A UU Workshop with Connie Goodbread

By Heather Davis Desrocher, DRE

On a Saturday in May, five of our members journeyed to Venice to explore who we are as UUs in the context of teaching in RE. Here are some of the insights that I took away:

- The most compelling question that Connie asked us to consider is: WHY?
 - WHY do we do what we do?
 - What is at the heart of our work as UU's and as teachers in RE?
 - What is the deepest reason for what we do?
 - The answer to the WHY is what feeds us all. This is the question that will guide us as we continually create our program of Religious Exploration.
- What makes us unique as UUs is HOW we do faith Development, not that we do it, since many faiths do.
- THE HEART OF OUR UU FAITH: What do you cling to in times of trouble? What do you share in times of joy?
- We must forgive ourselves when we fail and celebrate when we do well, and we must learn from BOTH.
- The UUA Southern Region's MANTRA:
 - Faith Development is WHAT we do.
 - UU is the faith we teach
 - The congregation IS the curriculum.



Steve, Heather, Janet, Dixie & Pam at UU workshop in Venice with UUA Consultant, Connie Goodbread, called Teaching as Relationship. may 14, 2016.

Weekend Meals for Kids

Many thanks to the following generous donors who have answered our call to sponsor children in our community who will be served through our Weekend Meals for Kids program for the next school year:

John Boettjer
Monique Bondeux and Robin Petty
Adrienne Cady
Ann and Frank Burgeson
Karen and Stephen Clegg
Marjorie and Sal Corrallo
Sidney and Kevin DeGraw
Janys and Walt Foley
Patricia Freyberg
Gretchen Grey and Bill Clinkenbeard

Kati and Dave Griffith and
Donna McEncroe
Suzanne and Paul Hanifl
Joyce Harvey
Suzanne and Herbert Herman
Jan Jurgens and Nic Provenzo
Mike and Barb Kurko
Emily Laeser
Patricia MacArthur
Dick Macken

Bill and Maria McCormick
Bill and Sharon Nicholson
The Naples Jewish Congregation
Robert and Joan Pulfrey
Philip Pyles and Stan Lepard
Marion and Bill Reigle
Len Sayles and Kathy Ripin
Marion and Ed Southard
Robert and Sandra Strutzel
Joan Waldman

Upcoming Events

First Friday

June 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Maureen Armour's Home

Aging Wisely

The **Aging Wisely** group will be meeting Tuesday, June 7, 7-8:30 p.m. *Aging Wisely* is a monthly gathering for women which focuses on various aspects related to the aging process. 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, brief reading and then break into small groups for discussion. If you have any questions or would like to know more about this program, feel free to contact Ann Fisher. **Alternate Aging Wisely** is at 12 pm on the Patio on Thursday, June 9 for those who can't make the night meeting.

Aging Wisely Exercise Program

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 exercise group is **OPEN TO MEN & WOMEN**.



DAWN

Our next DAWN (Dining Around the World in Naples) will be Friday, June 10th at 6PM at Café Luna. Their new location is in Liberty Plaza 4947 Tamiami Tr N , just south of Pine Ridge ,ph 239-529-2101. Their specials are 2 dinners and a bottle of wine for \$29 with upgrades available. Menu may be seen at www.cafelunanaples.com. If you'd like to join us, please email Joan Looney by June 6th.

John Forsyth-Picture taken At Zen Asian BBQ in Naples on May 13.

Circle Dinners - June 17

Circle Dinners are a great way to get to know each other in a small intimate environment. New members and visitors, we would love to meet you too. Everyone is invited, we hope you will join us; our dinners are always fun and easy. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for the Circle Dinners. What is Circle Dinner? It is dinner where an entrée is prepared by a host/hostess in their home, for a party of 6-12. what are you to bring: one of these, appetizer, soup, salad, bread, vegetable, dessert; as requested by the host/hostess, and whatever you would like to drink. If you have questions or suggestions, or want to sign-up, give us a call, Once you are signed up a host/hostess will call or email you to let you know where you will be dining and what you should bring. We always meet on the 3rd Friday of each month. We look forward to getting to know you better; Marjorie & Sal

Film Fans

Our next Film Fans meeting is on Monday, June 20, movie TBD. Would anyone be willing to take over Film Fans planning for July, August & September? Please contact Robin Schrage:

Exciting Art Group at UU !!

About "Art in the Garden" - An enthusiastic, creative group, " beginners "and experienced artists meet in the beautiful church garden on the last Saturday of each month. We paint or draw from 10:00 to 12:00 in the medium of choice. We have also photographed the garden and based our work on our photos. Our painting session is followed by a discussion of the day's work. We love to share techniques and ideas. Participants contribute \$20. each session---a donation to U.U. The group is limited to 10 people. If you would like to join us on June 25 please contact Rona Steingart at for more information.

Religious Exploration End of Year Service



The Orange Elementary class sharing their Promises & Buckets at the RE Service.



Our Pianist for the day: Rachel Kastner with mom Stacy.



The Chalice Children class telling the story of Small Fry at the RE Service.



Loving Hearts: Our Students leading the congregation in the Chalice Lighting at the RE service.



We light this chalice!

SUMMER SUNDAYS WITH OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Support our students & families!

Strengthen our Community!

Connect with our future!

Each summer from June - August we invite you to be a guest teacher, activity leader or an assistant with between 5 - 10 students ages 5 - 15 from 10:30 - 11:30 on a Sunday in the RE wing. Some ideas of what you could do:

Lead an activity

Tell a story

Do an art project

Create a UU experience

Play games

Do an experiment

Call or email DRE Heather Desrocher to sign up (dre@uunapels.org or 239. 785.4590).





Spiritual Intensive based on teachings of E. Tolle

Summer Program: "The Journey of Awakening" - "The greatest mystery in the universe is not in outer space... it is the mystery of human consciousness"

4 Thursdays: July 14–August 4, 2016. 6:30 P.M.–8:00P.M. in Thomas Hall

Registration deadline July 8: \$30 for 4 week session. Maximum 50 attendees. No Walk Ins.

Contact: Donna Carty at . Facilitator: Linda Allen*

Beyond Sunday Field Trip!

On May 18, UUCGN was well represented at a Special Town Hall Meeting to learn about the remarkable work of The Honorable Janeice Martin and the Collier County Drug Court. More than fifteen of our members attended the presentation at the River Park Community Center and heard from individuals representing all aspects of the system. During the presentation, Judge Martin called on drug counselors, therapists, lawyers, advocates and graduates of the program to give their personal perspectives on the program's success to date and what needs to happen so that it can serve a wider range of people.



Hunger Banquet



The "poor" at the hunger banquet. The other 70%. Steve and the 4 lucky people who were at the Wealthy table (10% of attendees). The middle class (20%)



Pet night led by the Rev. Jennifer Dant.



The Chalice & Elementary classes learning about sustainable gardens with Dixie.

Bring Water! September Ingathering Service!

This coming September 11th as the church year begins in earnest and our children and youth return to their Religious Exploration, we will celebrate an Ingathering Service celebrating the gifts of our community and its members! Everyone is urged to bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. It could be from a retreat in Maine, from the Pacific Ocean, from a nearby canal, or even your own back yard sprinkler, just something from a place that has meaning for you.

In January we'll have another shorter ceremony so that we can include water brought south with our seasonal members. The combined water will become a symbol our shared faith coming from many different sources. It will then be blessed by the congregation, and sometimes is later boiled and used as the congregation's "holy water" in child dedication ceremonies and similar events. Mark your calendars and don't forget to collect your water!



A Little Help Please

Two volunteers are needed each Sunday to spend a few minutes after service counting the offering cash. This small, but important, task helps maintain the integrity of our financial procedures. If you can help, please see or contact Mike Kurko – . Many thanks!

Home Hosted Events

A lovely evening on Wiggins Pass hosted by Janice Rogers.



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!



Membership Committee



New Members

Rev. Fisher, Jon Pipkin, Anne Wood, Bob Bollinger, Nancy & Lanny Carroll, Patsy Sachs, Bobbi Berglund, Brigit Sparling, Anna Riaiz, Lyle Warnock; Saying goodbye and thank you to Bob Bollinger as the committee chair for years and welcoming Jon Pipkin as the new chair!

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

*Flo Beckler
Ann Burgeson
Bill Greene
Mac McQuistan
Johanna Parkes
Robin Petty
Helga Richards*



Happy Anniversary

*Roger & Sandra Brown
Patricia & Charlie Freydsberg
Ed & Margaret Ostrom
Albert & Joan Waldman*

Have we missed you? If you would like your birthday or anniversary to appear in the monthly newsletter, please contact the office

Calendar



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

UUCGN Orientation Series

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 July 24 from 12pm to 2 or 2:30 pm in Thomas Hall. If you would like to attend, please contact Anna Riazi in the office, (239) 455-6553, office@uunaples.org.