

*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

### A Song for the Season

It's not a seasonal carol, but "We Laugh, We Cry" is one of my favorite hymns for this time of year, perhaps because it speaks of giving and receiving. Its first verse goes like this:

We laugh, we cry, we live, we die, we dance, we sing our song.  
We need to feel there's something here to which we can belong.  
We need to feel the freedom just to have some time alone,

But most of all we need close friends we can call our very own.  
And we believe in life, and in the strength of love;  
and we have found a need to be together  
We have our hearts to give, we have our thoughts to receive;  
and we believe that sharing is an answer.

There are plenty of reasons to enter this holiday season with some trepidation. First of all we have the uncertainty of a major change in the direction of our government in Washington. Second, while the world's problems may have drifted into the background during the close of the campaign and the election's aftermath, they haven't gone away; and, finally, both of these realities seem to underscore our own lack of control. Add in to this mix the fact that the season itself garners a wide array of responses from excitement to depression and you've got a recipe that can trigger anxiety in the even the calmest of souls.

I've always felt that, at its best, community is the ultimate antidote for anxiety.

The fact that we can come together and engage actively in both the spiritual and intellectual aspects of being human on this planet is so important. Having a place where we can give and receive, where we can belong and share in the journey can make all the difference as we navigate this troubled world.

During this holiday season, let us be open to the wonder that each of us brings; accepting, celebrating, and learning from our differences, believing in the strength of love and knowing that the gift of our best self is the greatest gift we can possibly offer and the greatest joy to receive.

I look forward to our times together this holiday season and again in the New Year as we continue our journey together! Please check the upcoming service schedule so you don't miss any of the opportunities to connect.

My best wishes for a warm and happy holiday season!

Blessings,

TONY

## Stewardship Drive for 2017/18

Our congregation strives to be a community of generous people but we need to be reminded of the importance of generosity. Walt Foley gave a compelling sermon, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> on “The Challenge and Joy of Being a Generous Unitarian Universalist”. As we head into the period in which we ask for your pledges of support for UUCGN we will be reminded of how generosity impacts our relationship with the local community, and new improvements for UUCGN. The Stewardship Drive is getting under way with the Board of Trustees, turning in their pledges for an average increase of 9.5%. In that spirit the general Stewardship pledge drive will be in full swing for all to join beginning in January, 2017. Watch for emails and announcements on various Stewardship activities, and have a great Holiday Season. - Robin Petty & Jim Swonk, Stewardship Co-chairs

## Split the Plate - Guest At Your Table

Sunday, December 18, is the final Guest At Your Table offering. Please return your envelopes and boxes to this service. Additional boxes, Envelopes, and Stories of Hope can be found at the Social Justice Table Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about UUSC's mission and model for affecting social change.

## Sunday Services: 10:30 am

**December 4:** “Cultivating a Culture of Civility” – Rev. Tony Fisher

How do we move forward as “a justice seeking people” in this new world in which we find ourselves?  
Where do we start?

**December 11:** “Bowing to the Wonder of the Season” – Rev. Tony Fisher

In this time of Advent, of expectant waiting, is there still room for awe and the hope that new something will emerge in our lives?

**December 18:** A Family Solstice Service – Rev. Tony Fisher and DRE Heather Desrocher

The Religious Exploration children and youth will participate in a service honoring earth-based stories and traditions of the darkest time of the year.

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Rev. Tony Fisher

A traditional candlelight service with readings, carols, and music

**December 25:** A Mellow Christmas Morning – Rev. Tony Fisher

Warm fellowship, a little singing and a telling of “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry  
Come, let's be together for a while on this Christmas Day.

**January 1:** “On the First Day of the New Year” – Rev. Margaret L. Beard

The beginning of a New Year is often a time to initiate change. What might you do to improve your life and make a difference in the lives of others? The start of 2017 presents unique opportunities to us. Join us to explore what might be possible and to get a jump start.

**January 8:** “To Be a Good Ancestor” – Rev. Dr. Stephanie May

Using the story of birth control reformer Margaret Sanger, we'll explore how our prophetic ancestors might inspire and inform our own actions today.

Rev. May is the senior minister at the historic First Parish in Wayland, Massachusetts

**January 15:** “Agents of Change” – Rev. Tony Fisher

On this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, we look to the future of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples and its role in the wider community.

**Service Themes : December:** Humility ; **January:** Agents of Change

## Sunday Forums: 9:15 am in Thomas Hall

**December 4:** Biodiversity, Ladd Connell

**December 11:** Religion and Islam, Terry O. Trowbridge

**December 18:** Our Haitian Community, Vladmir Mathieu, M.D.

*No Forums on December 25 and January 1*

**January 8:** June Sochen & Joyce Schrager

**January 15:** “Search for Historic Jesus,” Dr Waler Kania

**January 22:** “Need for Another Enlightenment,” **Charles Kupchella, Ph.D.**

**January 29:** “Your Public Identity: Because Nothing is Private Anymore,” Carrie Kerskie

## First Friday

December's First Friday is traditionally a holiday affair held at Kati and Dave Griffith's home.

## 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, December 4 at 12pm. It will last about 2 hours. Childcare and a light lunch will be provided. If you would like to attend, please contact the office.

## Aging Wisely

The **Aging Wisely** group will be meeting on Thursday, **December 8 (Second Thursday of each month)** from 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. The **\*Alternate Aging Wisely** will be on Thursday, **December 8** at noon.

**\*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**.

## Circle Dinners - December 16

It's a new year for Circle Dinners. We hope many of our new UU members will find their way to our group of friendly and welcoming people. Circle Dinners are always held on the 3rd Friday of each month. We Share dinner in each other's homes, the host prepares an entrée, and lets their guest know what to bring to compliment the entrée. We try to keep our dinners small in number with 6, 8, or 10 guests per house, so that there is plenty of time to get to know each other. We have anywhere from 2 to 6 dinners each 3rd Friday of the month. There is a signup sheet in the foyer, or you can call Sal or Marjorie Corrallo if you would like to sign up for this month's dinner.

## Film Fans

Film Fans will meet again on Monday, December 19; movie TBD.

## Night Lights in the Garden (Naples Botanical Garden)

Join a group of UUs to celebrate the Christmas season at the beautiful Naples Botanical Garden with lights, music and origami sculptures on Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 6 pm. Wine and snacks are also available. Tickets for the 6 pm entry are \$20 and should be purchased in advance. To be assured entry, BUY YOUR TICKETS ON LINE NOW at [www.naplesgarden.org](http://www.naplesgarden.org). On the 21st, meet up at the garden entrance. RSVP to Robin Schrage.

## Spiritual Intensive Based on Teachings of E. Tolle



Winter Program: Program Theme: *Spiritual Awakening in Daily Life*  
Dates: Thursday, January 19 - February 23, 2017 - 6 consecutive Thursday evenings:  
Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2017 at 6:30 - 8:00pm. at UUCGN. Registration deadline:  
January 12 - \$35 for 6-week session. Maximum 50 Attendees - No Walk-Ins. Facilitator:  
Linda Allen\* For more information and to register, contact Donna Carty:  
JourneyToPresence@gmail.com or [Click Here!](#)

## Pavilion Project

The Pavilion Committee is pleased to report that Collier County has finally issued a building permit for UUCGN to commence its long-awaited project to create a new, expanded outdoor meeting place for the Congregation. The work will be carried out by Compass Construction Co. of Cape Coral, FL and is estimated to be completed within 105 days of project start. Our Hospitality Committee will arrange for an interim location for coffee hour following Sunday services during the construction period. There is a Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the project following our Sunday Service December 11, 2016. All members and friends of UUCGN are invited to attend this important event.



## Intergenerational Holiday Cookie Decorating

The Caring Committee and RE will be decorating holiday cookies to distribute to our homebound members. This will take place after church service on Sunday, December 18 in the large RE classroom. All RE students and parents are invited to participate with Caring Committee members. Come and express your creativity on plain sugar cookies.

## Caring For Our Members and Friends

With our congregation's size and growth, the Caring Committee needs your help. Assistance in providing transportation to appointments, for errands, and/or to church services for those unable to drive is an important way to show our compassion. Those who are ill or homebound may need meals taken to them. Sending cards or making a visit helps someone feel valued and a part of our community. Also needed are buddies for those who are homebound. Buddies call or visit the person that they have been matched to monthly. Please sign up on the charts in the lobby for which service or services you would be willing to provide: meals, transportation, buddying, and/or visits or you can call Janet Hoffman. Each sheet of paper has a different job which is listed at the top. We would like to have a sufficient number of volunteers in each zip code so that no one must travel a distance. Also included is a request for help with memorial services such as greeting, ushering, and/or serving refreshments. Your involvement with these activities does not require attendance at any of our meetings, but you are welcome to do so if desired!

## RE Community Garden Replanted

By Cooper Smith, age 10

The Religious Exploration Community Garden, a wonderful symbol of the power of teamwork, was replanted in early November. Volunteers and the youth (including yours truly) worked together to weed the garden, add composted soil, and of course, plant seeds. However, instead of using conventional seeds, the volunteers used organic seeds and organic fertilizer made of chicken manure. Talk about a double whammy of healthy! In an interview with a volunteer, she said that the plants are growing very well and that they will begin harvesting this month.



This photo was taken on November 27, 2016. The garden is thriving!



Kids prepare the beds with organic, composted soil.



Linea helping to prepare the beds by weeding.



Ada and Annie adding a variety of lettuce starts to the garden.



## Jazz Fundraisers at the UU for 2017

The first of two jazz concerts for the 2017 season will feature the:  
**Dan Heck Jazz Trio**

**Saturday , January 21, from 3 to 5 pm. Doors open at 2:30 pm.**

**Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased from John Goodlet immediately after service on Sundays beginning December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Dan Heck** is a world class jazz guitarist/bassist and composer currently living and working in Naples, Florida. Dan was born in Philadelphia and grew up in eastern Long Island, NY. With two very musical parents he was encouraged to pursue music at an early age, starting on cello at age 4. He was playing in bands by the third grade on bass and was playing jobs around Long Island on guitar in his early teens. Dan is a graduate of Berklee College of Music and has been a professional musician for over 20 years in Boston, New York, Paris and Seattle. He has extensive performing experience in the U.S and throughout Europe and has performed at many prestigious venues around the world including the Blue Note in New York and the Space Needle in Seattle. He can be heard on dozens of recordings as both a sideman and a leader and is a co-founder of the award winning Seattle jazz ensemble, Bebop and Destruction. Dan's newest CD, "Compositionality" (Origin) is a recording of 8 original compositions. These tunes feature various jazz styles and grooves in an attempt to explore jazz's versatility in a collaboration between 4 musicians.

### UUCGN Choir

We are hoping many more people will be inspired to join us after a jubilant beginning on Sunday! We are meeting every Tuesday at 7 pm for rehearsal, and will be singing again in the service on December 4.

Our next Sunday to sing in church will be December. We will be singing "The Gift of Love," and "The Ancestors' Breaths" from the teal hymnal. Please reply (ASAP) to let us know if you are able or willing to sing Christmas Eve, Saturday Dec. 24th. It will depend on who is available.



Peter Fancovic, our new Music Director

### Seraphic Fire!

SERAPHIC FIRE! If you love extraordinary, deeply moving vocal ensemble music don't miss this Candle Christmas Concert to be held at Bower Chapel at Moorings Presbyterian Church December 13, 7pm. This Emmy nominated group based out of Miami performs all over the country. They are giving us a group rate of \$45 (vs \$60) for the Christmas concert and \$35 tickets for the other concerts. To order, call Jude at 305-692-0270 and mention UU-Naples discount. They will even reserve rows of seats for us. Check out their website for future concert information. Any questions, contact Jean Seidl 239.784.7870 [Jeanseidl@earthlink.net](mailto:Jeanseidl@earthlink.net).

### Chrysalis

*TRANSFORMATION THROUGH LIFE STORIES :  
AN EIGHT WEEK COURSE IN GUIDED AUTOBIOGRAPHIES*

Chrysalis: the state of quiescence or period of 'becoming.' INSTRUCTOR: Pamela Mayers, Ed.D (Certified GAB Instructor) [pammayers@hotmail.com](mailto:pammayers@hotmail.com) Tuesdays, February 7<sup>th</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup> 1 to 3 pm at UUCGN. COST: \$160 (\$20/per session). \*Class size limited to 8. Deadline to enroll: January 5.

### Odyssey

There will be no Odyssey in December. The next Odyssey will be January 24 at 7:00 pm. Julie Olander will be sharing her life stories with us. Put it on your calendar for 2017!

## **Social Justice Committee News**

### **Beyond Sunday: Social Justice, A Collective Conversation**

The direction of our social justice work was discussed by a succession of three Wednesdays with conversation and stories that defined individual passion and desire to build a mission of justice within our community and beyond our walls. The meals were hearty. We had an overall attendance of 120 people including our R.E. youth. The Challenge Commitment: We had 10 congregants pledge a specific amount of hours to a sub-committee after the 3rd session, and others left with enhanced awareness of the need to build alliances and devote our energy as agents of change. As you read this you may be inspired to be involved. The Social Justice Sub Committees need continued input and volunteers. Please contact any of the facilitators for more information, or see a SJC representative at our Social Justice table after Sunday Service.

**Here is an overview of our the Social Justice Sub Committees and the outcomes from our focus groups:**

#### **Reproductive Justice: Harriet Lancaster, Jane Graham**

Our goal is to:

- Affirm and promote U.U. principals which include the inherent worth and dignity of every person by insuring justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- To inform regarding current legislative initiatives or educational events related to reproductive justice
- To engage congregants in proactive outreach for reproductive justice such as letter writing campaigns, support meetings, and positive peaceful community support
- To partner with Planned Parenthood and assist when needed
- To collaborate with other religious communities and organizations

At Beyond Sunday, we found that many members seem to be genuinely interested in the work that U Us might do to help with the coming huge assault on reproductive justice. We will be planning a workshop to teach letter writing skills aimed at the State legislature, the Federal government, when appropriate, and the Naples Daily News. We are also hoping to show the documentary, TRAPPED, after church in the winter. This film is about targeted restrictions on abortion providers.

#### **Welcoming LGBTQ Life/Justice: Steve Espinosa**

What is Welcoming? Welcoming is a spiritual practice which includes: promoting inclusivity, and using inclusive language, creating welcoming spaces, deepening our understanding of identities that differ from our own, offering sexuality education, engaging in justice ministry in our communities. A steering committee will be formed for recertification of our Welcoming Congregation. A new LGBTQ Circle has been formed and 5 people joined our committee at Beyond Sunday. Ideas from the evening included:

- Sponsor the UUA recorded WEBinar, with other links for education, and action, which speaks specifically to Transgender awareness.
- Advocate for awareness and ministry in Elder Care Centers
- Films/dialogue that shines light on struggles in the Gay community
- Support LGBTQ Teens & PFLAG within the greater community
- Education Workshops for Adults based on the OWL program
- Pride Service, June 3, 2017

#### **Racial Justice: Ellen Hemrick**

**We mobilize to support and advance human rights through advocacy campaigns, human rights programs or engaging volunteers to take action.**

**SURJ:** (Showing Up for Racial Justice) is a vehicle to educate white people on racism and to offer alternatives to supporting institutionalized racism. We offer solidarity to local and national communities of color. SURJ provides resources for us to prepare ourselves for one-on-one conversations, book and movie clubs, community events, child-rearing, and political organizing that is anti-racist and dismantles white supremacy. While we join others' street protests in solidarity, our focus is on education and dialogue. Annual church events include MLK Parade, January 16 & Justice Sunday, March 26. In my table discussions, most people expressed dismay at the size of the problem of racial injustice. Most were uncomfortable talking about the subject as they had no experience or personal stake in it. Most people were interested in plugging into groups already organized like CIW, SURJ, NAACP. Suggestions: Working with minority children and Criminal Justice, Immigration focus, SURJ Speakers Bureau. Monthly meetings held on second Saturdays of each month at 12 pm.

## **Social Justice Education: Bill McCormick, Jean Seidl**

To engage UUCGN Members to participate in voluntary programs to mentor and/or tutor area middle and high school students, who are economically challenged and educationally under-served. Our goal is to provide equal educational opportunities for such students by working within the framework of existing community programs devoted to this goal. Current efforts of the subcommittee are aimed at identifying community educational programs suitable for UUCGN membership participation [e.g. Champions for Learning]. Suggestions from my focus groups included: tutoring and mentoring in language arts in collaboration with the NAACP or Collier County Schools, particularly in Immokalee.

## **Green Sanctuary: Barbara Glasgow**

Our Green Sanctuary program was accredited by UUA in 2008, and is now time to begin the work of recertification. It's purpose is to help our congregation live sustainably in this time of climate destabilization. Climate Justice is a moral issue as it represents the interdependent web of all existence. The Goal:

- Educates about the impacts of climate change
- Suggests ways to reduce our GHG emissions
- Offers ways for volunteers to act that makes a difference
- 2017 Earth Day Service on Sunday April 23 with Rev. Kathy Kirshner
- Progressive Voices Lecture February 1, by Climate Scientist Dr. Hal Wanless
- Develop/implement of long range U.U. Climate Change Outreach project in collaboration with UU Racial Justice sub-committee
- Include Solar photovoltaic panels in the 20/20 long range planning

Outcomes from our table discussions were Timely advocacy / lobbying / or responding to an action alert:

- Ask Florida Governor Rick Scott to support the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Project
- Signing the Now-or-Never Declaration is a yes vote for that: [www.gladesdeclaration.org](http://www.gladesdeclaration.org)
- Support (with your vote & donations) any anti-fracking candidates for local or state offices
- Visit state legislators about specific issues consistent with UU values
- Attend any county or state government hearings or protests on fracking.
- We'll send an action alert to the congregation when any hearing or proposed legislation on fracking in Florida comes up.
- Organize occasional meatless meals at UU programming.
- Support the Coalition of Immokalee Workers by boycotting Wendy's until it supports human rights for farmworkers in their supply chain by joining the Fair Food Program.
- Food Forest & compost pile at church, trip to a local land fill

## **Weekend Meals: Ann Burgeson, Anne Wood**

**Social Justice for children is an on-going program based on our UU Principles.** Food and supplies are purchased and packed weekly and delivered to Lely, Calusa & Vineyards elementary schools. Forty five children are presently served. Suggestions for broadening the program include: adding clothing, and meals for the existing extended families; Holiday meal bags. If you would like to help please sign up at the social justice table.

## **UUCGN At Large: Pam Gharabally**

**Venturing beyond the walls of our church, we practice our faith of peace, justice and love in the larger community.** Organizing our congregation for one time participation in the following events to include all who have a limited time to be involved: MLK Parade. Interfaith participation. Community letter writing, calling and protests. Annual Charity Auction Dinner. Suggestion: "UUCGN Social Justice Leadership Hub" offer a common space to various social justice non profits in partnership with other interfaith social justice committees for presentations and forums.



## ***The Green Corner:* UUs Discuss Energy Use**

Nine of us UUs just finished exploring issues related to **energy use**; we decided on actions we can take as individuals and as congregants to promote energy sustainability. Over three Tuesday afternoons in November, we used the Northwest Earth Institute's course containing readings and links to videos:

- 1) on ways to reduce energy consumption and solve energy issues,
- 2) to see the big picture of energy sources and their impacts, and
- 3) to explore ways to address energy issues in our own lives.

Some of the greenhouse gas-reducing actions committed to by participants include:

- ⇒ purchase green electricity (e.g., Arcadiapower.com)
- ⇒ turn up the thermostat in summer
- ⇒ ride my bicycle more
- ⇒ install another low-flow showerhead
- ⇒ use wooden racks to air-dry clothing
- ⇒ switch to LEDs
- ⇒ install a tankless water heater
- ⇒ unplug ghost electronics overnight

We talked about living with greater intention and commitment to sustainability every single day and the need to let our lawmakers know that policy needs to be based on science. Lowering our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is critical, but not sufficient: political influence to clean up the environment, to mitigate climate change, is even more important. The participants committed to writing letters to leaders advocating urgent action for the changes they wish to see and to support UUCGN's Green Sanctuary Program.

Participants of this stimulating discussion on energy included: Amy Clifton, Barbara Glasgow (facilitator), Harold Williams, Johanna Parkes, John Goodlet, John Lynch, Kathy Faulk, Karen Hamm, and Kevin DeGraw.

Want more ideas on what you can do? Check out "The Lazy Person's Guide to Saving the World" from the United Nation's Sustainability Office: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/takeaction/>

### **UU Book Club**

The UU Book Club is happy to announce the book selections for 2016 - 2017. All are welcome to attend our meetings which are held at the church at 2 pm on the third Thursday of the month, October through April. You may call Joann Anthony.

DECEMBER 15, 2016: *Embers*, by Sandor Marai; Facilitated by Kati Griffith

JANUARY 19, 2017: *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole; facilitated by Jeff Davis

FEBRUARY 16, 2017: *Our Souls at Night*, by Kent Haruf; Facilitated by Kathi Gorski

MARCH 16, 2017: *Remarkable Creatures*, by Tracy Chevalier; Facilitated by Marion & Bill Reigle

APRIL 20, 2017: *Enduring Love* by Ian McEwan; Facilitated by Maureen Armour

### **New Art Show in Menaker Gallery**



Art in the Garden meets on December 31; and the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am at UUCGN. A donation of \$20 each session goes to UU. Please call Rona Steingart with questions.

"The weather is cool and perfect for working in the garden. Let's start a new painting -- your choice of media. I'll do a quick demo of abstracting nature forms in the garden using oil pastels and washes. Fun and easy. Laura Nisita is busy w. holiday guests and is unable to do her demo. We scheduled it for our Jan. meeting. New members are cordially welcome to our group. No art experience is needed. Just bring a sense of adventure and fun."



### **Mindful Meditation Group**

Mindful Meditation Group meets on Saturdays, from 10:30 am to 12 noon. We use Thomas Hall when available, and other rooms when the Hall is reserved for special events. All are welcome; no experience needed. We share silent sitting, mindful stretching and walking, indoors or in the garden, and discussion. Group leader Ann Marina studies with Bhante Gunaratana, author of *Mindfulness in Plain English*, and other Buddhist monastics. Contact Ann for details..

## Community, Friendship, Compassion, Generosity



These are some of the words that come to mind when I think of our beloved congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples. It is where I feel supported and safe. As we approach the new year, my wish is for this sacred place--this place where we call our church home--to be that same place for generations to follow. As the newest member of the Endowment Board, I understand the important part a growing Endowment plays in that wish. In this season of Thanksgiving, I am grateful to the visionary members who have chosen to include the UUCGN Endowment Fund in their estate planning. "Yes, but I pledge each year" you may be thinking as you read this. A pledge is like your annual household budget. You know that most of it is earmarked for life's essentials: your home, auto, fuel, electricity, groceries, water, telephone, insurance and medicine. An endowment is like your savings for the future. In this case, the future of our beloved UUCGN. You can shape that future by making a gift to the Endowment Fund in your estate. You may call the church office and ask for one of the Endowment Board members to contact you to answer any questions you may have. In closing, I share this Swedish proverb: "All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today"

- Adrienne Cady, UUCGN Endowment Board Member

## A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner at UUCGN!

Pictures taken and submitted on November 24, 2016 by Sherri DeRousse



## Latest Coffee Hour Update!

**Wow!** Thanks to the over 20 members who have joined the volunteer team. We'd welcome more kind members who'd like to join us. Contact Mish at if you're willing to volunteer and we can work out a schedule that works for you. We need 2 volunteers for each out-of-season Sunday, and we need 3-4 volunteers each Sunday during Season.

We have a firm commitment to our volunteers that they will never work more than 5 Sundays a year, so we need at least 30 volunteers. You do not have to join the Committee to be a volunteer, nor, with our new simplified menu do you need to have any cooking or decorating skills. As a Sunday volunteer, you arrive at least a half an hour before the service, start the coffee, clean and setup the tables, plate the bagels and muffins, and wipe the tables outside. During the hospitality hour, you keep the food and coffee coming. After the coffee hour is over, you help clean up.





## **Transitions: Aging & Dying – a new, five-week class starting in January**

In case you missed this in last month's newsletter, here's a recap:

Kathie Gorski and Ann Fisher will be co-facilitating this class (with a little help from Tony Fisher), which will run for five consecutive Thursdays from January 12 thru February 9. It will start at 12:30 pm to 2 pm.

The class is open to any interested person, male or female, of any age. Sign up by emailing or phoning UUCGN at [office@uunaples.org](mailto:office@uunaples.org) or 239-455-6553, or sign up in the foyer. Contact Ann at or Kathie at with any questions.

Topic areas include:

### **Telling our stories**

- Setting the stage by exploring some of the indispensable work of "spiritual eldering"
- Doing a life review to help us gain perspective on significant influences on our lives
- Addressing the desire, emerging from the life review exercise, to express forgiveness and/or gratitude

### **Leaving a legacy**

- The value of creating a legacy letter or ethical will
- Writing one's own obituary
- Pondering one's own memorial service

### **Assessing our worries**

- What are our chief worries/fears/concerns as we age -- Dementia? Being alone? Money issues?, Physical health issues?, Choosing a retirement community vs staying at home? What else?

### **Planning ahead - creating peace of mind by planning for our death**

- Advance directives (e.g., Five Wishes), getting our financial and legal affairs in order
- Creating an advance directive for "conscious dying"
- Having "the conversation" with relatives and/or friends
- Choosing hospice or palliative care

### **Wrapping up, going forward**

We plan to leave the last session open so that we may address topics that arise or possibly invite a guest speaker, or talk about establishing Special Interest Groups to delve more deeply into certain areas.

## **Home-Hosted Events Fundraiser!**

Looking forward to bidding on the 2017 Home Hosted Events? Well, get ready! Bidding will take place after the services on Saturday Jan 7 and Sunday Jan 8 as well as on Saturday Jan 14 and Sunday Jan 15. The printed brochure listing the events will be available on the two or three weekends prior to the start of the bidding, and will also be added to the UUCGN website so you may view the offerings from afar.

Thanks to our gracious and generous hosts, we have a wonderful array of unique and exciting gustatory experiences to bid on, as well as several musical events, a play, boat trip, a helicopter tour, art gallery tour, field and garden tours, game lessons, and more.

Peruse the offerings at your leisure, check the dates in your calendar, and get ready to bid! The bidding closes at 12:30 pm sharp on Jan 15. You can find more details on the bidding, including proxy bidding, from the soon-to-be-released brochure. See you at the bidding tables!



### **Generosity Corner**



Giving brings happiness at every stage of its expression. We experience joy in forming the intention to be generous; we experience joy in the actual act of giving something; and we experience joy in remembering the fact we have given.

Lama Surya Das, Quoting the Buddha

## **LGBT Bereavement Support Group**

The WeCare Committee, with Avow Hospice, is again offering a 6 to 8 week LGBT bereavement support group beginning December 14. 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 call Mike Dias for more information and register for the group.

## **Martin Luther King Parade January 16**

A fun mile walk through Downtown Naples and culminating at Cambier Park. The Social Justice Committee will sponsor a UUCGN table after the parade. Please sign up at the Social Justice table if you are planning to march in the parade. We can car pool to the event from the church. Please indicate if you are willing to drive.

## **Charity Auction Dinner April 1**

Benefiting programs initiated by the NAACP Educational Fund. UUCGN Annual Charity Event selections are funded for 3 consecutive years. This is the second year for this worthy organization's STEM and Raising the Bar academic camps for middle and high school students. The Social Justice Education subcommittee needs volunteers to help recruit corporate sponsors for charity event work in various capacities on Charity Auction. Join the Education sub-committee as a mentor or tutor. Please Call Bill McCormick for more information .

## **Mentor a Young UU**

This year our Coming of Age program will have at least ten young people - ages 14-17 - participating in this important capstone to their religious education experience. A vital component of the Coming of Age program is the Adult Mentor. Mentors are matched with COA youth, attend occasional Sunday morning group meetings and meet individually with their "mentees". This is an opportunity for adults to connect in meaningful ways to the formation of the next generation of UUs and learn firsthand what a wonderful group of young people we have at UUCGN. The program will run January through May. If you would like to consider becoming a mentor, contact Heather Desrocher, Brad Cornell, Jennifer Dant, Jodi Bisogno or Ann Fisher.

## **Cats For Adoption**

Janet New, a UUCGN member who died unexpectedly last month, left two cats in need of a home. Noodles is a gentle, little ginger tabby male and Cala is a shy, sweet black female. Both cats are healthy 14-year-olds with complete medical records and up-to-date shots. If you have any ideas for finding homes for them, please call Maureen Armour.



Garden Crew Volunteers enjoying the Ghost Cake donated by Bill and Maria McCormick on their break!

# December Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Happy Birthday



*Phyllis Andrews  
Chris Barret  
Karl Connel  
Janys Foley  
Pam Gharabally  
Joyce Harvey  
William Haubrich*

*Jill Haughie  
Janet Hoffman  
Pam Moran  
Carolyn Nichols  
Ed Ostrom  
Janice Rogers*

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

## Happy Anniversary

*Ann & Frank Burgeson  
Bill & Maria McCormick  
Ken & Michele Notturmo*

## Calendar



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

## Tech4Good

Tech4Good is a nonprofit organization that meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 8pm 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>.

## New Sunday Flowers Policy



Music and Worship together with The Garden committee have come up with a Sunday Floral idea which is more "GREEN" and also reflects our tropical climate. Kathy Ripin has put together two beautiful LIVING arrangements to be used on alternating Sundays. Once the blossoms have faded, the orchids and plantings will be transferred to the garden. The question most people will have is, "Will I still be able to dedicate Sunday Flowers for a special occasion or memory?" Yes, you may do this one of two ways. **First** let Anna know your intentions, write your memorial, and have the florist of your choice deliver the flowers and pay the florist directly. The **second** choice is to Write a check for \$25.00 to the UUCGN (note garden memorial) The order of service will acknowledge your gift. Your donation will be used to replenish our floral arrangement.

## "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 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!

