



Naples UU News

6340 Napa Woods Way, Naples, Florida

May 2015

*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

Connecting to the Wider World



This past week I have been holding the people of Nepal, and those involved in the earthquake relief effort, close to my heart. Once again we have witnessed humanity's ultimate helplessness in the face of the awesome power of nature . . . *and* the incredible effort, perseverance and love that human beings exhibit in helping one another in times of need.

Much like the situation after the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, what will be needed moving forward goes far beyond the available resources on the ground. It will take an international effort to restore even the most basic services to the population in the cities and the most remote villages. If you wish to connect to the Nepalese people and contribute to this effort, I urge you to look no further than the work of our own Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC, www.uusc.org). As in Haiti, the UUSC will focus on supporting grass roots organizations that will work to sustain the inherent dignity and human rights of all the people and, in particular, those who are normally marginalized within their own culture. They will coordinate with other organizations to maximize the available resources and create ways for people to pick themselves up and create their own opportunities.

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Later this month, at our last Beyond Sunday program, you will have an opportunity to connect with some of our fellow congregants who will be travelling to Haiti in June to work at the New Life Children's Home near Port-au-Prince. Though this service trip is not connected to the UUSC, the work that New Life is doing with orphans is deeply meaningful.

The focus of the Beyond Sunday session will be on service learning trips in general and the mission of the UUSC and it's affiliate the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice in particular. It's mission is to help Unitarian Universalists deepen and sustain the work of justice in their congregations and communities through experiential learning: "programs that help people cross boundaries, gain insight, and imagine new ways to bring their faith together with their yearning to make a difference in the world." I hope you'll come and find out what kinds of things our denominational organizations are doing and also to learn more about this year's UUCGN trip to Haiti. If you'd like to know more about the context of the ongoing work in Haiti, I'd suggest the book *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History*, by Laurent Dubois.

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Our Unitarian Universalist movement is ripe with opportunities outside the congregation. The **Unitarian Universalist General Assembly**, the annual meeting of our congregations, will be held in Portland Oregon from June 24th to the 28th. Ann and I will be going and I encourage anyone interested to talk to either of us about the incredible experience of spending five days meeting, learning, singing, and growing with four thousand other UUs from across the country. There are worship and workshops, panels and interactive sessions, keynote speeches and small group conversations. This year's theme is "Building a New Way," so it will be interesting to be involved in the discussions about our UU future! I hope you'll consider going and being a delegate from our congregation, carrying our Southwest Florida perspective to the national level with the ability to vote and make a difference at the denominational business sessions.

TONY

A message from the president to the congregation:

I'm pleased and excited to inform you that Betty Shepard has made a \$200,000 gift to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples. As many of you know, Betty and her late husband John have been our congregation's most generous benefactors - we named our recent education building addition for them after their generous gift in 2005 and Betty has continued their practice of being one of the largest contributors to our annual stewardship drive.

Betty has expressed a desire that her gift be used appropriately for a significant enhancement or enlargement of our present facilities consistent with our mission and long term growth goals. In the past Betty has also been generous in presenting us with "matching" funds, so that is one possibility for the new Board to consider as they contemplate this gift and implementing the congregation's recent 2020 Task Force report.

Walter Foley



Held on Wednesday Evenings *Beyond Sunday* is an evening of food, discussions and activities designed to help all members and friends of our congregation connect with each other on a deeper level. Attend all four evening or choose some to attend.

The Evening's Schedule Each Week:

5:30 Vespers

5:45 Dinner (Charge: \$10, children under 13 free)

To reserve spots for dinner, sign up on the patio on Sunday
or call the office by the Friday immediately before the session.

6:30 Choose the Discussion or the All Ages Activity

May

Wednesday

13

Adult Discussion:

"What Do You Say? Standing Up as a UU," Led by the Rev. Tony Fisher

All Ages Activity:

ART, Masks with Juliet Aruajo

Children's Free Play

May

Wednesday

27

Adult Discussion:

"Faith in Action: Service Learning,"
Led by the Rev. Tony Fisher

All Ages Activity: Telling Our STORIES:
Collage/Journaling as Spiritual Practice,
Led by the Rev. Jennifer Dant

Children's Free Play

Fiscal Year-end Treasurer's Report

For the fiscally minded, following are financial highlights for the fiscal year (FY15) which ended on March 31, 2015. I am pleased to report that net income for the year was **\$41,595** (surplus). Several favorable income and expense categories contributed to the greater than expected surplus. The preceding figure does not include income for the IHFS events.

The board has approved that \$20,000 of the surplus will be transferred to the Capital Fund and the balance left in retained earnings to bolster our cash reserves which have also been depleted over the past few years.

The Capital Fund is the total of funds set aside for repair and replacement of all physical assets of the congregation. Ideally, the congregation should be budgeting and putting aside \$20,000 to \$30,000 each year so that funds will be on hand when needed. For a period of several years, however, pledge income was not sufficient both to maintain programs and make adequate contributions to the Capital Fund. As a result, the fund balance has been declining and stood at only \$2,792 on March 31!

The increased generosity shown by the congregation over the past two years has reversed this decline and has put the congregation on a path to a stronger and more sustainable financial footing.

Reserve Fund Balances at end of March:

Capital Fund:

Beginning balance:	\$7,382
Paid in from budget:	\$4,500
Paid in by members:	\$1,900
Expended:	\$10,995 (2 a/c repairs, wall ovens, refrigerator, misc)
Year-end balance:	\$2,792

Grant funds: \$10,578

Weekend Meals for Kids: \$5,645

Minister Discretionary Fund: \$7,846

RE Youth Fund: \$4,974

FY15 Fundraiser Results:

Art sales net: \$425

Jazz concerts net: \$1,724

Home-hosted events: \$10,315 (less \$511 auction expenses from last year)

Griffith Lectures net: \$1,125

Progressive Voices net: \$6,127

Garden Weddings net: -\$330

IHFS benefit events (no \$ for UU): \$16,640 total

Tropical Storm net: \$2,674

Renewal of Vows net: \$1,500

Comedy Show net: \$12,466

Financial Outreach for FY15

As reported at the annual meeting, UUCGN has contributed the following for charitable purposes:

Split-the plate: \$6,783

Weekend Meals for Kids: \$4,187

IHFS: \$16,640

This totals \$27,610 and represents almost 7% of income. If the \$22,150 paid to the UUA and partner church is added, the total is \$49,760 which is over 12% of income.

FY15 Pledges

Total pledged: \$331,617

Write-offs: \$8,970

Unpaid balance at year-end: \$10,855

FY16 Pledges

Stewardship campaign incomplete. Total pledged through April: \$341,410.

Mike Kurko

4/27/15

**HELP PUT UUCGN ON THE MAP!
SUPPORT OUR HUMAN SEXUALITY FACILITATORS**



For the 1st time ever UUCGN will host an Our Whole Lives (OWL) training on the weekend of May 22-24, 2015 (Fri/Sat/Sun). OWL is the UU human sexuality class that we will be offering to our 7-10th graders next year. We will be training about 10 of our members (including: our Minster, our DRE, Ann Fisher, Jan Jurgens) in this newly revised program and hosting about 10 other UU's for the weekend.

How can you help? We need: hosts to put visitors up in their home for 2-3 nights; registrar; food shoppers; meal preparers/servers and dishwashers to help with the meals for 30 people (pick one meal or multiple.)

SUMMER SUNDAY FUN WITH OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Support our students & families!

Connect with our future!

Each summer from June - August we invite you to be a guest teacher, activity leader or an assistant with between 5-15 students ages 4-17 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 or her assistant Leila Varcoe to sign up!

Upcoming Events

Please refer to the foyer Event Board for detailed flyers.

First Friday

Friday, May 1, 6:30 p.m. at Jack Ritter's home

This month's First Friday will be held at Jack Ritter's.

Aging Wisely

The **Alternate Aging Wisely** is at 12 p.m. on the Patio on Thursday, May 14 for those who can't make the night meeting. The **Aging Wisely** group will be meeting Tuesday, May 19, 7-8:30 PM. *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.

Unitarian Universalist Book Club

On May 14 we will meet to each give short book talks on titles we would like to recommend.

Circle Dinners, May 15

The May Circle Dinners will be held on the 15th, giving you a chance to make contact with a smaller group of UU's. If you want to participate please contact Jack Ritter or sign up in the church entry by Sunday, May 10. Hosts are also needed for eight or more people.

Exciting New Art Group Forming at UU !!



Artists and Wanna-be Artists who are UUCGN attendees-- sign up for the class on Saturday, May 30, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This group will continue to meet on the last Saturday of each month at this same time. You need to call/email the office to sign up each month. The class will be limited to 10 people. Come and enjoy the spiritual experience of painting in the beautiful Memorial Garden. A donation of \$20 per session will be expected, which goes to UUCGN. Rona Steingart, instructor and UU member, Check out her website: artschool-rona-steingart.com. Need to bring: a set of colored watercolor pencils and a watercolor paper tablet -- 11x14 is a good starting size. Rona will give the basic instructions and a wonderful painting will be created the first session. You'll find your creative side in a fun, uncompetitive way.

DAWN

Our next meeting of DAWN (Dining Around the World in Naples) will be WEDNESDAY, June 10 at 5pm at Bha Bha Persian Bistro ,865 5th St South in Naples . Ph is [239-594-5557](tel:239-594-5557). Please note the change of day and time in order to attend Lamb Fest which features \$15 entrees and \$7 starters. Orders must be in before 6p. The regular menu will also be available and it may be seen at bhabhapersianbistro.com. Our numbers are limited for this so please sign up early.

UUCGN Prospective Member 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 offer Orientations (consisting of two sessions) 6-8 times per year. The next Orientation Series will be at the church on two Sundays, June 7 and 14, from 12– 2:30 pm in Thomas Hall. If you would like to attend, please contact Anna Riazzi in the church office, (239) 455-6553, office@uunaples.org.

Social Justice Committee

Split the Plate

Split the Plate on May 17 with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW). This organization began in Immokalee, Florida, and is recognized world-wide for its achievements in farm workers' rights. The CIW is known for its Fair Food Program which has been called a model for "Worker-driven Social Responsibility." Their Anti-Slavery Campaign is acclaimed for its combating forced labor in the U.S agricultural industry and the preventing of sexual assault in the fields. Last year CIW received the Presidential Medal for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking. What a grassroots organization right here in Collier County! Let us honor this organization with our financial support when we Split the Plate on May 17.



The Immigration as a Moral Issue

The Immigration as a Moral Issue one and a half hour weekly workshops ended on April 29. Every week for six weeks 16-18 UUCGN members read the UUA's handouts and came prepared to discuss the complicated issues of immigration. Now we'll begin to plan how we as a congregation can make a difference. If you can commit to the time needed to move forward with this issue, please contact Steve Espinosa.

Upcoming Sunday Services

May 3: Rev. Tony Fisher - "Those Sentinels of the Walls"

Using the Song of Solomon as a starting point, this service explores our Patriarchal culture as the foundational obstacle to a peaceful, just, and loving world.

May 10: Rev. Tony Fisher - "Is Grace in Our Vocabulary"

As Unitarian Universalists, we struggle with terms and concepts that challenge the rational lens through which we engage the world. What is this thing called "grace," and how do we open ourselves up to our non-rational side.

May 17: RE Service - Our children and youth along with their teachers and the RE staff, present this Sunday's service as their gift to the community.

May 24: Rev. Jennifer Dant - Memorial Day Service

May 31: Rev. Tony Fisher - "Loneliness"

Even in the heart of paradise and amidst the bustle of a vibrant social climate, many of us find ourselves feeling isolated and alone. Moving beyond our own natures, our personal choices, our inevitable losses, and the resulting loneliness is a difficult but not impossible thing.



Orchids

Orchids For the Garden: The garden crew is now gladly accepting orchids needing homes due to the northern migration. Just place the plants in a shady spot on the patio and the crew will do the rest. Be assured the orchids will delight in their new home and enjoy good care.



Colored Name Badges!

You now see people wearing GREEN name badges. This indicates they are visitors to and/or non-members of our congregation.. People sporting YELLOW badges are our newest MEMBERS! The Officers and Board of Trustees are wearing BLUE. Church members will continue to wear the WHITE badges we have been using for years. So...remember,

YELLOW = NEW MEMBER

GREEN = VISITOR/NON-MEMBER

WHITE = MEMBERS

BLUE = BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May Birthdays

Happy Birthday



Jeanne Bolds
Roger Brown
David Cousineau
Corinne Duggan
Michael Moran
Bill Reigle
Dick Sharp
Ric Sommer



Have we missed you?

If you would like your birthday or anniversary to appear in the monthly newsletter, please call the office at (239)455-6553, or email Anna at office@uunaples.org

Streaming

If you have missed a Sunday service or can't attend on a Sunday, you may want to watch the service in the comfort of your home using your computer. Here is the way to do it:

1. Log into the church website uunaples.org
2. At the top of the screen, select "Weekly News", choose from an option on top of the page.
4. To watch the service live on Sunday morning, click on Streaming Church. You need to log into Facebook or enter a nickname that you choose.
5. To view previous services, click on Media Vault.
6. Click on the arrows to reach the video of the service you wish to view.



Remember -
our fallen heros.
They are the reason
that we are free.

May Calendar

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



Newsletter and Weekly News Article Submission Rules!

Please use the following format when submitting items for the weekly and Sunday news and no later than every Wednesday:

Title

Date and Time

Location

Contact information

Short blurb (2 sentences) that can be linked to a more detailed article on the website if necessary.

The deadline to submit information for the monthly newsletter is the Monday before the last Friday of each month. The deadline to submit information for the June Newsletter is Monday, May 25.