



# Naples UU News

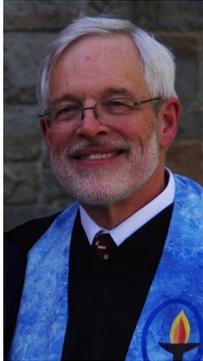
6340 Napa Woods Way, Naples, Florida

July 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

### This Is Personal



Science magazine this past week retracted a much-cited study of how canvassers can sway people's opinions about gay marriage. In addition to the revelation that the author made false claims about some aspects of the California study, including misrepresenting his funding sources and the incentives that he offered to survey participants, independent researchers had also noted certain statistical irregularities in the survey's responses. This is, of course, very unfortunate and speaks to both the extent to which people will go to try and make wishful thinking into reality, *and* the complexity of our society's capacity for change.

As is evident by the legal recognition of gay marriage in 37 of 50 states, our country has come a long way on the issue of gay rights. In the coming weeks, the Supreme Court will decide whether same-sex couples have a right to marry nationwide, culminating a two-decade legal and political fight for marriage equality.

We wait with hope that the highest court in the land will align itself with the principles of freedom and civil rights for all people.

Unitarian Universalists have been on the forefront of the GLBT movement from the beginning. As early as 1970 when, as a movement, our members passed a General Resolution that urged *all people* "to immediately bring an end to all discrimination against homosexuals, homosexuality, bisexuals, and bisexuality," and we have followed that up in the past decade urging the inclusion of transgender people under those protections.

Our first principle speaks to the worth and dignity of every person, and that worth includes our gender and our sexuality. We not only open our doors to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, we *value* diversity of sexuality and gender and see it as a spiritual gift. We strive to create inclusive religious communities and work for LGBTQ justice and equity as a core part of who we are.

We have always understood that this should be a personal issue, that how we live and express our sexuality and gender identity should not be subject to policy and legal barriers. And yet, even if the Supreme Court rules in favor of marriage equality, we know there will be those who will redouble their efforts to challenge and reverse the decision.

The canvassers in California, though feeling like they have been let down by the retraction of the study that purported to support their work, still believe that what they are doing to push back against prejudice, house by house, is important and that they are indeed making progress. They are, after all, the ones on the front line.

This is our work too; to stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ friends and family; to engage our neighbors in conversation; and to proclaim the religious values we espouse as Unitarian Universalists.

On Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> we will share in our annual Gay Pride service. I hope you will be there to celebrate the diversity we know and value as a community of faith and the gifts of many of our members for whom this is a very personal success.

TONY

## SUMMER SUNDAY FUN

During June, July & August we invite you to be: a guest teacher, activity leader or an assistant with 5-15 students ages 4-17 from 10:30-11:30 on a Sunday in the RE wing. See our schedule here and let us know what you want to do! Call or email DRE Heather Desrocher or her assistant Leila Varcoe



<u>DATE</u>	<b>TEACHER</b>	<b>ASSISTANT</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
24-May	Kendra Hermans	Betsy D'Jamoos	Summer Garden
31-May	Heather Desrocher	Mabel Tobon	Board & Card Games
7-Jun	Mabel Tobon		Drawing & Painting
14-Jun	Mabel Tobon		Drawing & Painting
21-Jun	Carl Erickson	Juliet Aruajo	
28-Jun	Juliet Aruajo	Carl Erickson	
5-Jul			
12-Jul	Jodi Bisogno		
19-Jul			
26-Jul			
2-Aug			
9-Aug	Janet Hoffman		
16-Aug	Heather		Yoga
23-Aug	Heather		Labryinths
30-Aug	Heather	Janet Hoffman	



### RE Camping Trip 2015 caloosahatchee regional park



# Upcoming Events

Please refer to the foyer Event Board for detailed flyers.

## First Friday

**Friday, June 5, 6:30 p.m. at Maureen Armour's home**

We'll gather at Maureen Armour's home. All are welcome!



## Drawing Boot Camp

Drawing Boot Camp is a focused traditional academic approach to drawing from life. We will cover contour line, shading, composition and perspective with concentration and exercises for technical skill building using pencil and charcoal. All materials included in fee. Monday June 8- Wed June 10, 10:30am-1pm. For ages 10 and up. Fee: \$100. Class size

limited to 8. Come learn how to draw what you see. No experience necessary only a desire to improve through practice. Call, text or email Juliet Araujo for more info.

## Circle Dinners, June 19

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.

## Aging Wisely

The **Alternate Aging Wisely** is at 12 p.m. on the Patio on Thursday, June 11 for those who can't make the night meeting. The **Aging Wisely** group will be meeting Tuesday, June 23, 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 .

## Exciting Art Group Forming at UU !!



Art in the Garden welcomes all artists or "wanna be artists" to join us this summer. We have had so much fun in our painting group we decided to become year-rounders. The U.U. garden is a beautiful inspiration and we have produced some wonderful paintings. Maybe we will have a show next fall. Group Members contribute \$20. to U.U. at each meeting. So far we have raised about \$400 for the church. We meet the last Sat. A.M. of each month from 10:00 till 12:30. Our painting session includes sketching in the U.U. garden and then completing the work on the shady patio. We share our creations and ideas at the finish of each meeting. Those who choose, have lunch together - resulting in exciting new U.U. friendships - a wonderful bonus. If you would like to join us or want more details please call Anna in the church office or Rona Steingart. .

## DAWN

Our next meeting of DAWN (Dining Around the World in Naples) will be at Lapa's Costa Rican Bistro in Bonita Springs on Friday, July 10th at 6 pm. Lapa's is at 26251 US 41 in Bay Crossing Center. Going north on 41, cross Terry Street, and pass Highland Woods Blvd. Bay Crossings Center is on the right just past the Terraces and Bonefish. This is a new family run restaurant that has great reviews. ph is 239-221-7016. Menu may be seen at [www.lapascr.com](http://www.lapascr.com) .

# Social Justice Committee

## Voting Restoration Amendment petitions

If you think that people who have been convicted of a felon and have completed all terms of their sentence, including parole or probation, should be able to vote, please sign a petition. Florida is one of three states that does not allow the restoration of voting rights to felons who have completed all terms of their sentences. If you think it is unfair for this group of people to be denied the right to vote, we hope to correct this law. The petitions are available at the social justice table in the foyer.

## Weekend Meals for School Kids

Our Weekend Meals for School Kids has ended for this school year. Many thanks to Sonya Light, Ann Burgeson, and Anne Wood for buying, bagging, and delivering the food to Calusa Park and Lely elementary schools. A thank you. also, to all the members of our congregation who signed up to help on Wednesday . Lets not forget the supportive husbands who helped Sonya, Ann, and Anne with this project. Thanks to our generous UUCGN members who contributed financial help and/or food so this program remained viable for the entire school year. No child should go hungry!

## LGBT Pride Service



Sunday, June 7, 2015 is the day UUCGN will celebrate Pride Month. The service will be about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues that continue to hamper and discriminate against our LGBT friends, neighbors, and family members. The Reverend Tony Fisher will provide a sermon, members of our congregation will speak, and the music will provide this service with meaning and contemplation. After the service, coffee and a generous amount of fellowship will be served.

## Split the Plate

Our Split the Plate for the month of June will be for the Naples Chapter of PFLAG. Half of our morning offering on June 21 will go to PFLAG in honor of Gay Pride Month. Thanks to all for your generosity.



## Upcoming Sunday Services

### June 7: Gay Pride Service

We celebrate our Welcoming Congregation and our unity with three reflections from members and friends.

### June 14: "Taking Stock," Rev. Tony Fisher

Before I set off for General Assembly and a bit of vacation and study, I'd like to pause and reflect on our first year of ministry together and celebrate some of the wonderful work that has been accomplished.

### June 21: John Boettjer will share an adapted version of a tongue-in-cheek sermon given on May 19, 2002, by the well-known Unitarian Universalist minister Forrest Church. Rev Church says "I've put together a prescription for unhappiness — a little three-part formula that I absolutely guarantee will make you miserable."

### June 28: "Sufism, the Mystical Side of Islam," Dick Macken

## Equality Prom a Success

Saturday evening, May 16, UUCGN was honored to host the fourth annual Equality Prom in Naples. We had hosted similar proms two times before. Through the efforts of Thom Croce, a "Golden Apple" honored high school mathematics teacher in Naples, and his crew of enthusiastic students, the sanctuary was transformed into a magical place. Rainbow balloons, streamers, and an ever-changing light show controlled by a professional disk jockey created a welcoming and celebratory atmosphere where 70 same-gender couples and their straight allies from Naples high schools could dance away the night (at least until 11:00 p.m.). Thom and several chaperones made sure there were plenty of soft drinks, snacks, and pizzas. The students attending learned that Unitarian Universalists definitely "Stand on the Side of Love" for all!

Special thanks go to Jana Csenger, sponsor of the Gay Straight Alliance at Golden Gate High, as well as Mark Benson and John Boettjer, UU volunteers, for all their help.

### **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 Riazi in the church office, (239) 455-6553, [office@uunaples.org](mailto:office@uunaples.org).

### **New Sohmer Piano**

A new piano will welcome those attending the 10:30 service on Sunday! It's the Sohmer piano Richard Bosworth selected to replace the Boston, which, unfortunately, was at the end of its useful life. Enjoy the Sohmer's vibrant tone and congratulate the members the Board, who, following the recommendation of several committees, made this acquisition possible. It is felt that this new piano will have a positive impact on the musical life of our conegation for years to come.

Jeannette Boucher, Music Coordinator



## Endowment Board News

As the newest member of the Endowment Board, I am excited to be a part of the important work of increasing the funds to ensure that UUCGN remains a vital and vibrant congregation for generations to come. A gift to the Endowment Fund is a gift that keeps on giving; the collective sum will one day create a perpetual stream of financial support for our congregation.

Some of you may remember "The Domes" while many of you have only heard about it. When I first joined the congregation in 1998, services were held in a large geodesic dome that congregants had constructed from a kit. Picture a very large igloo and no air conditioning!! The land had been donated by the late Nils Engvold and, at the time, some folks thought the location was too far and too remote. That was 1981 and there were no traffic lights at Pine Ridge and Airport Roads. Pretty hard to imagine today!

Soon after I became a member, construction began on our present building and, after the last service in "The Domes", I joined others in a ceremonious march to the new church building.

All this happened because this group of early "pioneers" had a vision and made the financial commitment to ensure that UUCGN would grow and evolve to serve the needs of members and the greater community.

In 2008, the Endowment Board created the Legacy Circle honoring individuals and families who have informed us of their plan to leave a bequest to UUCGN.

True wealth in life can be measured by one's compassion and generosity. Please consider being a member of this Legacy Circle.

Adrienne Cady



## June Birthdays & Anniversaries



*Happy Anniversary!*

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

*Roger and Sandra Brown  
Patricia and Charlie Freyberg  
Edward and Margaret Ostrom*



### 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](mailto:office@uunaples.org)

### June Calendar

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

## **CHURCH STAFF**

### **Minister**

The Reverend Tony Fisher  
Phone: (617)823-5904  
Email: minister@uunaples.org

### **Director of Religious Education**

Heather Desrocher  
Cell: 784-4580  
Email: dre@uunaples.org

### **Assistant to DRE**

Leila Varcoe  
Cell: 784-7877  
Email: asst2dre@uunaples.org

### **President**

Bill McCormick  
Home Phone: 331-8808  
Email: bartfarm@aol.com

### **Office**

Anna Riazzi  
Phone: 455-6553  
office@uunaples.org

### **Sexton**

David Bosworth  
Cell: (302)383-7288

### **Office Hours**

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday—Friday

## **THANK YOU**

### **SERVICE AND COFFEE HOUR HELPERS**

**Sunday Service Hospitality Committee**  
Ann Burgeson, Della Hansen, Laura Nisita,  
Sandy Weiss

### **MAILERS**

Della Hansen, Brigit Sparling

### **SUNDAY SEXTONS**

Doug Bracy, Dick Macken

### **FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS**

Adrienne Cady

### **MUSICIANS**

William Dawson

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Phone: 455-6553  
Fax: 455-3148  
Email: office@uunaples.org  
Website: www.uunaples.org

6340 Napa Woods Way  
Naples, FL 34116  
We are located on Napa Woods Way,  
one block south and east of Pine  
Ridge Road at I-75.

## **Volunteers Needed!**

### **The Sunday Sextons Need Your Help**

The Sunday Sextons are responsible for opening the church; getting everything ready for the service and closing the church after the coffee session is over. Our duties are not that onerous and take up just a little extra time on Sunday morning. If you are willing to help, please call Dick Macken at [239-594-2763](tel:239-594-2763) or email him at [ramacken@comcast.net](mailto:ramacken@comcast.net). Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

**Ushers** are needed for Sunday services - please contact Jon Pipkin: [jon4travel@aol.com](mailto:jon4travel@aol.com)

**Hospitality** Volunteers are needed and much appreciated in the kitchen every Sunday. Please sign up on the form in the foyer. Many Thanks!

**Garden Crew Volunteers** are needed every Tuesday at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome and much appreciated to help our garden grow more beautiful.

### **Did You Know About Saturday Evenings?**

Since September a Young People's AA meeting has been held in Thomas Hall on Saturday Evenings from 8-9 p.m. We need members to be on duty during this meeting. Would you open & close the building and be present from 7:30-9:30 on a Saturday? If you are willing and able, please contact Heather Desrocher, DRE ([239.784.4580](tel:239.784.4580) or [dre@uunaples.org](mailto:dre@uunaples.org).)



# Mission Statement

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

## Receiving the Newsletter -- Electronic Vs. Snail Mail

UUCGN is working on being more green and efficient and cost-effective. The emailed newsletter comes in vibrant color, is efficient and green. It will be greatly appreciated if anyone that has access to email to receive the electronic version. Please let us know if you would like to switch to emailed newsletters. Many Thanks!



Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Greater Naples

6340 Napa Woods Way  
Naples, Florida 34116-3844

