



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION of
GREATER NAPLES

Naples UU News

August 2017

*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

In Search of . . .

Mid-summer mode at the congregation has felt quite a bit different this year. There is so much going on and so much to anticipate over the coming month or two!

First of all, our search teams are continuing their work to find new professional leadership for UUCGN. The Music search team has narrowed their possibilities and hopes to be able to announce a new Music Director in the coming weeks, and the Search committee charged with finding an interim Director of Lifespan Exploration has closed the application process and has moved to the interviewing stage. The goal is to have both positions filled in time for our ingathering service on September 10.

We are also in search for volunteers to help make our transition to a new staff team much easier, especially in the area of religious education. As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child, and we have an urgent need for you to step joyfully into community and a more active role in the spiritual growth of our youth. We have such wonderful kids who would benefit from a broader involvement from our membership. *And*, the opportunity to work with other adults in the program is often just as meaningful (this is a shared teaching experience, no one works alone). We're looking for both teachers and assistants so this is definitely something you can do, and often the adults take turns in the classroom either every other week, every other month or splitting the year so there's plenty of opportunity to attend services (plus this year we'll be recording services again so you won't miss anything). Please consider this as an important congregational need that you could fill. If you have any questions, you can talk to me or to a member of the Religious Exploration Committee (Carl Erickson, Janet Hoffman, Paul Van Valkenburg, Stacy Shearrion, and Brad Cornell).

Also active this summer is the Responding to Growth committee whose members have been tasked with planning a second service this coming season. Here too, we are in search of your assistance! In the very near future, you will be asked to complete an online survey that will aide the committee in making choices about our Sunday morning experience. Please take the time to give us your feedback so that our decisions will best reflect the will of the congregation.

And finally, as the contractor finalizes their work on the Pavilion, we need to remind everyone that there will still be things that the congregation will need to do to complete the project. As a result, we will be in search of folks who can contribute time, talent and treasure towards putting on the final touches. Read on in this newsletter to find the building committee's article and more details.

Lots going on, lots more to come!

Blessings,

TONY

Pavilion Update

After an arduous effort spanning more than 2 years, the project to “repeal and replace” UUCGN’s worn out and too-small patio is finally nearing completion.

What began as a simple replacement of our awning and concrete slab with a larger version, has ended up as a spectacular multi-purpose space that offers many new options for the congregation. The new pavilion is a permanent open-air structure providing over 3 times the covered space of the patio it replaced. It was made possible by donors Betty Shepard and Suzanne and Paul Hanifl.

The pavilion was designed by Victor Latavish, architect of the original facility as well as the Thomas Hall/RE addition completed in 2010. It utilizes the same materials and design themes as the current building and is designed to integrate with and complement our beautiful gardens. It provides a missing element in the UUCGN facility – an additional space for larger gatherings.

Another feature of the pavilion is a versatile audio/visual system which includes a large LCD screen and ceiling mounted speakers. UUCGN will have the capability of displaying Sunday services from the pulpit utilizing closed circuit TV as well as showing program material generated from a computer or the internet. New options provided by the pavilion include:

- Additional seating capacity for crowded in-season Sunday services
- Adequate room for pleasant mingling during Sunday coffee hour
- Alternate space for presentations and meetings
- Venue for wedding receptions, memorials, mini-concerts, and other events

Construction was begun last December 12 and the project was to be completed in May. Some of the delay was due to problems rerouting the six underground air conditioning lines that ran beneath the prior slab. Other delays were contractor/subcontractor related. The project cost is expected to come in near the \$240,000 approved by the Board of Trustees.

You Can Help

While the funding for the basic Pavilion structure was provided by the primary donors above, those donors expect financial participation (“skin in the game”) by other members. Contributions would be appreciated toward additional items such as furniture, the LCD TV, landscaping and other items. Some members have stepped up already. If you can participate, please see a member of the Board or Pavilion Committee. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact any member of the Pavilion Committee. Committee members are Glen Looney (chair), Bill McCormick, Joe Gellings, Roger Brown, Bill Nicholson, & Mike Kurko.

Sunday Services: 10:30 am

Sunday, August 6: "What Is Your Story?" – Skip Lundborg

Sunday, August 13: "Green Sanctuary Update" – Barbara Glasgow

Sunday, August 20: "I Wish I'd Been a Big Band Singer" – Rev. Tony Fisher

The more we share, the more we can see our own stories as interesting and important strands in the even greater story of humankind.

Sunday, August 27: "The Connected Self" – Rev. Tony Fisher

Small encounters can prepare us for times when we truly need to be connected.

First Friday

First Friday will be hosted by Kathleen Teach and Wayne Dean on August 4 at 6:30 pm.

Aging Wisely

Aging Wisely will meet on Thursday, August 10, 7:00-8:30. **Aging Wisely** is a monthly gathering for women that focuses on various issues related to the aging process. In a supportive, non-judgmental environment, we share our personal experiences and learn from one another. All women are welcome regardless of your chronological age. You do not need to commit to coming every month. We begin with a check-in and brief reading, then break into small groups for discussion. For more information, contact Ann Fisher at

***AW Exercise Program** meets every Thursday at 11. This is a CO-ED gentle exercise program that is adaptable for anyone regardless of your physical limitations. This group is OPEN TO MEN & WOMEN.

DAWN

The next DAWN will be held on August 11th at Bha Bha Persian Bistro located at 865 5th Ave South, Naples. Ph: 594.5557 Please note that the reservation is for 5:30 pm so we can order from the early dining menu which ends at 6pm. Bha Bha is always a favorite and seats are limited ,so please e-mail or call Joan Looney to join us. deadline is August 8 or when seats are filled.

Annual Spring Kitchen Cleaning

Please join us at 9:30am or later on Tuesday, August 15 and/or Wednesday, August 16 to participate in the annual clean up of the UU Kitchen. Sign up on the sheet on the kitchen counter or e-mail if you plan to join the team. Our goal is to clean the kitchen and go through all the cabinets to clean, re-organize, and de-clutter so that when coffee etc will be served out on the patio we will have made the preparation as easy and efficient as possible. The goal is also to sort out wine glasses and pack them into boxes. It will then be easy to locate glasses for large evening events as well as give us more storage space in the kitchen. Spray bottles of vinegar and windowlene as well as cloths will be available. Bring elbow grease and any other cleaner you prefer to work with. Thank you!

Laura Nisita, Kathy Falk and Mish Batty, co-chairs

Film Fans

Film Fans will meet on the third Monday of each month to view a film and share dinner together afterwards at a local restaurant. The movie will be chosen as we get closer to the date, which is Monday, August 21. Everyone will meet at the Regal Hollywood 20 movie theatre on Naples Boulevard between Pine Ridge and Airport-Pulling Roads. Joan Insel will be subbing for Robin Schrage (Film Fans coordinator) while she is away during the summer.

Social Justice Committee News

Citizen's Climate Lobby - Naples Group

A New Part of UUCGN's Green Sanctuary Program

Citizen's Climate Lobby, citizensclimatelobby.org, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that empowers people to become effective advocates for climate solutions. The upcoming meeting will feature a video call with Paul Hawken, author of *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever to Reverse Global Warming*. The newly-founded Naples group welcomes new members. Please join us for our next meeting on Saturday, August 12 at 1 pm in the large Religious Education room and follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/cclnaplesfl/>

Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ)

This month's SURJ meeting will NOT take place in Thomas Hall because we are having a New Member Meet and Greet at Ellen Hemrick's house. August 12th. We will be setting the agenda for the fall and getting to know one another. Kids/grandkids are welcome - there is a yard and a pool. Our current initiatives are: community anti-racism education, supporting political campaigns in local elections, addressing the toxic waste in Dunbar (Lee County), Voting Rights Restoration Petition, Join Hands for Justice (criminal justice reform), and, of course, supporting our accountability partners in their work. We hope to see you all there! Meetings will resume in Thomas Hall every second Saturday at 12 pm starting in September.

Split the Plate

August 20 will benefit the Guadalupe Kids Program. Please check out their wish list for the back to school donations.

The Guadalupe Early Childhood Art Show

The concept of the display is to highlight the artistic growth in the students as they mature. This is a great way for the budding artists to share their creativity with family and friends. Study after study has documented that children living in poverty during preschool and the early school years, who do not receive high-quality early childhood education, are less likely to graduate from high school. The impact of early educational intervention has been proven to substantially benefit disadvantaged children, making investment in such programs a win-win.

Many of the children who enter the Guadalupe Center's Early Childhood Education Program come from families that have faced long periods of poverty. Not having their basic needs met has a profound effect upon children; causing them to suffer emotionally, socially, and academically. These children are dependent on others. They live in poverty, by no fault of their own, and are confronted with additional barriers that are detrimental to their future success.

Since its inception in 1996, the Early Childhood Education Program has grown into a highly sophisticated educational program for Immokalee's youngest residents. The Guadalupe Center's Early Childhood Education Program offers students the powerful combination of a safe, nurturing, environment and a highly-qualified, teaching staff in a state-of-the-art learning facility. These

elements together form the high-quality education that is critical to removing the barriers to academic success that low-income children face.

Nationally accredited by NAC since 2010 & APPLE since 2007.

270 students are enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program.

The Guadalupe Center is among top performing early childhood programs in Collier County, and is the largest provider under one roof in Collier County.

90% of the students tested in the Fall of 2015 met the State criteria for acceptable performance on the kindergarten entrance assessment

The art is not for sale, but note cards that feature their fish theme are \$10. They are available in Menaker Lobby. You are on your honor to take a box and leave your check made out to Guadalupe Education Center in the office. During the summer please donate items from their "Wish List". You will find the list and the basket at the SJC table in the lobby. Don't forget to include empty toilet paper rolls for the art teacher!!



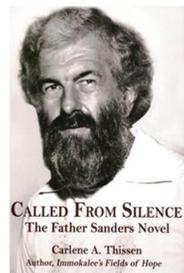
The Summer Social Justice Committee Community Read

Musical Presentation & Book Discussion Wednesday, September 13, 6 pm; Soup and Sandwiches at 5 pm. Both books will be available for purchase at the UU office. Please call Anna to reserve. Immokalee's Fields of Hope is also available on Kindle or at your public library.



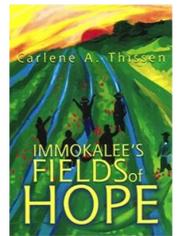
Carlene Thissen, is a singer, songwriter and author in Naples, Florida, where she dedicates herself to performing, speaking, songwriting, singing and playing piano and guitar. She also serves the community as Coordinator of a Farm Labor Supervisor Training program at the University of Florida's Research & Education Center in Immokalee. Carlene says a series of God-driven events led her back to her true self through the agricultural community of Immokalee, where she volunteered as a music teacher for pre-school children and sang in the choir at Our Lady of Guadalupe church. Her love of the farm workers inspired two books: Fields of Hope and Called From Silence: The Father Sanders Novel. She

graduated with a B.A. in Business Administration from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1982, and an M.A. in Latin American History from Florida International University in Miami in 2005.



IMMOKALEE'S FIELDS OF HOPE

Carlene weaves the personal, intimate stories of the Mexican, Guatemalan and Haitian immigrants with the political histories of their home countries. Carlene lets you see inside her time in Immokalee and how these beautiful people have forever changed her life.



FATHER SANDERS

Father Richard Sanders served farm workers in Naples and Immokalee, Florida. Carlene came to know and love Father Sanders through the stories the farm workers shared as she wrote her first book. She spent two years writing this novel-like biography. Father Sanders was a Trappist Monk who left the silence of his South Carolina abbey to help the poor during the boiling emotions of the 1960s.

21st Annual Undy Sunday

August is "Back to School" month and school staff members and nurses continue to remind us of the surprising number of young students who lack decent, or sometimes any, underwear and socks. Therefore, we ask your assistance by bringing new and unused underwear and socks sizes 2 through 12 (small sizes preferred) to your church or synagogue. This essential clothing will help give low income children a decent start in their new school year. There will be collection containers marked "Undy Sunday" at the church exits. Catholic Charities volunteers will pick up each week. The items will then be sorted and packaged for proper distribution –before labor day- to needy children at Collier County schools and select social service agencies. Cash donations will also be accepted and will be used to purchase additional underwear and socks and to meet other needs of low-income children. Please make your check payable to *Catholic Charities of Collier County*, mark it "for Undy Sunday" and mail to 2210 Santa Barbara Blvd., Naples, FL 34116 or you may deliver it to your church office. Thank you for supporting this worthy project, the weekends of August 5th & 6th and August 12th & 13th, to help our needy school children throughout Collier County.



Respond To Growth

And the Survey Says... Our second Sunday Service Survey is coming soon! Be watching. The Response to Growth Committee needs your input.

Art in the Garden at UU

Art in the Garden will meet on August 26 at UU and every last Saturday of the month at 10 am. If you are interested in joining us please email Kathleen Teach . New people are always welcome. A donation of \$20 per class will go to the UU garden.



Florida Poet Laureate To Visit Naples: Poetry & Music Unite

On Tuesday Evening Aug. 15th PETER MEINKE, Florida Poet Laureate, will be speaking about his work and giving readings from a selection of his poetry at one of the year's most unusual cultural events in Naples - a very special fusion of literature and music. SW Florida composer, William Dawson, Jr., who has become an aficionado & friend of Peter, has composed a song cycle for Soprano, Baritone and Piano to various texts of Meinke's poetry. The concert will be held at Beverly Hall (on the campus of Naples United Church of Christ) 5200 Crayton Rd. in Naples at 7 PM. The world premiere of these songs will be the musical highlight of this event which is produced under the auspices of Grand Piano Series. The performing artists at this event include the renown Naples soprano, Steffanie Pearce, founder of Opera Naples & Gulfshore Opera, Christopher Holloway, Baritone, Nadia Marshall, rising young star in the opera world, and Richard Bosworth, pianist. A reception after the concert will give the public a chance to greet and meet the Poet Laureate, Mr Meinke. Will do some book signing. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased on line at www.grandpianoseries.com or by calling Milana Strezeva



Peter Meinke,
Florida Poet Laureate

William Dawson Jr,
Composer

Steffanie Pearce,

Christopher Holloway,
Baritone

Richard Bosworth,
Pianist

Garden Crew Volunteers

Many Thanks to Our Garden Crew Volunteers hard at work every Tuesday at 9 am. Everyone is welcome to join the fun! "Special kudos to Papparazzi Anna Riazi for her quick thinking in the capture of this historic event!" -



The Coming of Age Group at General Assembly in NO.

Mindful Meditation Group

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

Sunday Offering Cash Counters Needed!

We need a few volunteers to count the offering cash following Sunday Service. Enumerators work in pairs and this task takes about 20 to 30 minutes. We would like a commitment of a month at a time if possible. If you are able to help, please contact Ann Wilson at . Thank you!

Launching Chalice Circles in the Fall

Do you often wish that you could get to know congregational members better than is possible during coffee hour?

Are you new to UUCGN and want an opportunity to learn more about being part of a community such as ours?

Have you longed for a chance to engage in deep conversation with others about significant life topics?

Beginning next fall, UUCGN will launch **Chalice Circles**. Chalice Circles are a form of Small Group Ministry. Groups of 6 to 10 people meet regularly — probably twice a month — to reflect, to share deeply and to listen without judgment about concerns of the heart and mind. Chalice Circles are great places to get to know other people and to get to know yourself. Over time, participants develop deep connections with one another, with the congregation and with their spirituality. Topics will range from “compassion”, “blessings”, “trust”, “spiritual experiences” to “aging”, “addiction” and “resilience”. Each gathering is structured and facilitated by a member of the congregation who is trained in facilitation. Participants are encouraged to share their stories and learn how to listen deeply without judgment to others. The Adult Enrichment Committee in collaboration with Rev. Tony will launch Chalice Circles in fall, 2017. We plan to have circles that meet at various times of day and anticipate offering groups that meet for six months or three months to accommodate seasonal members. We imagine that there will eventually be groups that meet year-round. We are currently recruiting people who are interested in becoming facilitators. We will have an initial training prior to the launch of this program and will provide ongoing guidance for facilitators. If you'd like to learn more about Chalice Circles or are interested in becoming a facilitator, please contact Kathie Gorski at or Ann Fisher.

Leadership Coalition on Aging

The Leadership Coalition on Aging is hosting a three-part educational series to educate our community seniors on Advanced Planning, Elder Abuse and Identity Theft, and Navigating through the Health Insurance Market. We are looking for community partners to support our mission. All three events will be held at the South Regional Library in Naples. Please review information and sponsorship levels below. If you have any questions please call or email, Adam Corcoran at or acorcoran@goldencarefl.com. Navigating through the Health Insurance Market (Medicare and Medicaid) Wednesday, September 27th 1pm - 3pm South Regional Library 8065 Lely Cultural Pkwy, Naples.

LGBT Bereavement Support Group

The WeCare Committee, with Avow Hospice, is offering a 6 to 8 week LGBT bereavement support group This evening support group is for those whose partner has died, either recently or many years prior. This support group will provide:

- A safe environment for sharing thoughts and feelings for the loss of a partner both present and prior years
- A compassionate group for expressing sadness, pain, joy and lasting memories
- A vibrant place for embracing hope, support and healing in the absence of community or family

The focus of this group will be grief issues specific to the LGBT community. The support group will be co-facilitated by Mike Dias, M.ED., LSW., UUCGN member, and Louise Kenny, LCSW Bereavement Coordinator/Avow Hospice. This is a free service, developed by and for the LGBT community. Please call Mike Dias at for more information and register for the group.

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday



*Maureen Armour
Donna Carty
Russ Duggan
Patricia Freyberg
Roger Frick
Dave Griffith
Jan Jurgens*

*Rowena Kolhatkar
Rose Lemery
Ann Marina
Jennifer Mattson
Maria McCormick
Denise Miller
Laura Nisita
Jean Prokopow
Chris Sachs*

Happy Anniversary
*Annie Bilodeau & Jim Bolduc
Chris & Missy Cowan
Leslie & Roger Frick
Sue & Richard Guilford
Joan & Glen Looney
Katie & Don Rung
Sara & James Teborek*

*Kathy Schneider
Nancy Van Valkenburg
Paul Van Valkenburg*

Happy Belated Birthday
*Harriet Lancaster
Kathleen Teach*

Calendar



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

Have we missed you?

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

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 unaples.org. Once you access Amazon through this link and make purchases, a percentage of the purchase price is credited to UUCGN and UUCGN will be saved as your charity of choice for the future. It's a painless way to help the congregation - and there is no extra cost to the purchaser! Please consider making purchases from Amazon using the link on our UUCGN website or by [clicking here!](#) Thank you!

