



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION of
GREATER NAPLES

Naples UU News

July 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

Impressions from General Assembly

I will admit that I was somewhat anxious as I headed off to New Orleans on June 18, first for the gathering of Unitarian Universalist ministers (called Ministry Days) and then for the annual General Assembly of UU congregations from across the country and around the world.

During a time in our nation when mainline religions are losing membership and closing churches, Unitarian Universalism has been able to hold its own. Granted, we are already a pretty small entity in the panoply of world religions, but over the years, our impact has been greater than our numbers might suggest. And, there has been hope over the past decade or so that the ongoing shift in the religious landscape might cause a few of those who are no longer affiliating elsewhere (the “nones”) and some of those who say they are “spiritual but not religious,” to look our way.

Unfortunately, this spring, just as we were experiencing renewed interest in our brand of liberal religion, our organizing institution tripped over its own principles and values and was found to be deficient in its hiring practices and thus in its own stated commitment to diversity at all levels of leadership. The question going into General Assembly was how the Association would respond?

I can only tell you my own impressions, which were very positive. Others who attended will have a chance to share their experiences, both formally and in conversation, but I found the tenor of the whole set of meetings to be optimistic and welcoming of a challenge that is and will be significant. Our three interim co-Presidents, the Reverends Sofia Betancourt and William Sinkford and Dr. Leon Spencer, set the tone with their strong pastoral presence, their openness, and their integrity. As a movement we owe them a debt for holding the moment and modeling all that we aspire to be. And our newly elected President, the Rev. Susan Frederick-Grey, promises to continue their work in the spirit of thoughtful and proactive leadership.

The challenge is for us to completely rethink our cultural biases while still holding true to our Unitarian Universalist values; to live out our desire for a more inclusive and diverse world and denomination every day by “de-centering” our whiteness and yielding space to those who we have held on the margins for too long.

Not easy work, but necessary.

In early May, I promised that we would spend some significant time over the coming year leaning into the ways institutional racism plays a role in our UU culture and in society at large, and so my study-time this summer will be devoted to learning how best to do that in a positive, inclusive and joyous way. As always, I am grateful for the time you grant me to do this kind of important work and I look forward to your continued input in the process.

Blessings,

TONY

P.S. When you see them, please ask our members and youth who journeyed to New Orleans what they thought of their GA experience! They are: Ann and Frank Burgeson, Mike and Barb Kurko, Michelle and Ken Notturmo, Jim and Joanne Swonk, Brad Cornell, Pam Moran, Ann Fisher, Zoe Burge, Caroline Cornell, Jack Dant, Lulu DiPasquale, Manouk Hermans, Aubrey Hunt, Jackson Moran, Malcolm Shearrion, Miranda Shein, Chelsea Varcoe, and Serena Zepeda.

Sunday Services: 10:30 am

July 2: "Bertrand Russell - Explaining Today's Politics (from 1950)" - Tom Menaker

July 9: "The Pursuit of Happiness" - Ann Fisher

July 16: "Happy Birthday Henry David!" – Rev. Tony Fisher

This week marks the 200th anniversary of Thoreau's birth. Though he resigned from the Unitarian church of his youth, he left a rich legacy for our faith.

July 23: "First Thoughts on General Assembly" – Rev. Tony Fisher

It was an historic week in New Orleans but it's the still future that matters.

July 30: "Finding Hope and Connection" - Janet Hoffman

Endowment Fund

It has been said that, "the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago; the second best time is now!" The Endowment Fund of our beloved congregation depends on the generosity of visionary members who understand that the best time is now.....to ensure that UUCGN will remain a viable place for spiritual support, social justice advocacy and programs for young and old alike. You may make a donation to the Endowment Fund in any amount at any time or you may wish to make a bequest in your will or trust. Your donation will make an impact on the future of our congregation and, as the Fund grows, there will be more immediate opportunities for disbursements for special projects. The Endowment Fund's most recent bequest was from the estate of the late Joyce Harvey. Joyce was born in Boston and graduated from Simmons College in 1956 at the age of 20. She was an accomplished computer programmer. She was an active member of UUCGN and served on the Music and Worship Committees and enjoyed singing in the choir. She will be remembered for her intelligence, perseverance, kindness and courage. When Joyce informed the Endowment Board of her intended bequest, she became a member of the Legacy Circle. We are grateful to Joyce for her generosity, altruism and vision. For more information, please speak to a member of the Endowment Board--Johanna Parkes, Adrienne Cady, Robin Petty, John Goodlet or Bob Ainsworth.

The Summer (July & August) 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.

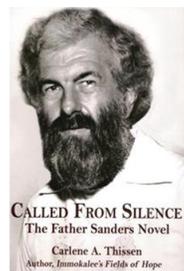
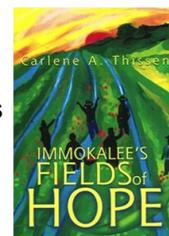


Carlene Thissen, is a singer, songwriter and author in Naples, Florida, where she dedicates herself to performing, speaking, songwriting, singing and playing piano and guitar. She also serves the community as Coordinator of a Farm Labor Supervisor Training program at the University of Florida's Research & 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.

Goodbye Heather and Peter! Will Miss You!

Honoring Heather Desrocher's last day at UUCGN on June 11.



Honoring Peter Fancovic's last day at UUCGN on June 18 after performing in a concert with Flip Pogady.



Diversity Potluck II - July 20 - Save the Date!

We'll hold our second diversity pot-luck on Thursday July 20. This time we'll celebrate our diversity in musical backgrounds and tastes. Mark your calendar and ask a friend to join you! More info to come!

Art in the Garden at UU



Art in the Garden will meet on July 29 at UU and every last Saturday of the month at 10 am. If you are interested in joining us please email Kathleen Teach at .New people are always welcome. A donation of \$20 per class will go to the UU garden.

Name Tags

Name tags are under the purview of the Membership Committee. We have been asked to clarify the color code and sticker use before Anna tackles reprinting and reorganizing them over the summer.

Colors will stay the same: Green:

Returning visitors who expect to attend frequently. **Yellow:** New Members; until they are introduced to the congregation at a Recognition Ceremony. (The yellow tag should be a signal for long-time members to make an effort to welcome the new member). **White:** Member; **Blue:** Officers.

Instead of stickers, a committee designation will be printed under the person's name (ex. Membership, Social Justice, Music etc) by request. For those of us serving on several committees, it may be best to limit the number of designations to one or two because of name-tag space, keeping in mind the purpose is to help newcomers identify a person whose committee they are interested in. Additionally, besides the first and last name in a large font, the

Rainbow & "LGBTQ member or ally" can be added (as approved by the Membership Committee). We can fit a committee designation or two with this.

Individuals are asked to please let Anna know if they would like the **rainbow** and/or their committee designation added to a name tag. UU Congregation, Naples will be printed on the bottom of each tag. If we don't hear from you, you will have a new tag with only your name and our Congregation's.

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.

First Friday

First Friday will be held at Chris and Patsy Sachs' home on July 7 at 6:30 pm. .

DAWN

The next DAWN will be held at 6 pm on July 14th at El Gaucho Inca located at 2700 Immokalee Rd .It is next to Sam's Club where Fred's used to be. They have an amazing menu featuring Peruvian, Argentine and Italian food. Menu may be seen at www.elgauchoinca.com; 239.431.7928. Seats are limited so be sure to e-mail Joan Looney at to join us. Deadline to respond is July 9 or when seats are filled.

Aging Wisely

Aging Wisely will meet on Thursday, July 13, 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.

UUCGN Members March in 4th of July Parade



PFLAG president



Several members of the UUCGN LGBTQ Welcoming Committee braved the 101 degree heat index to march in the Naples Fourth of July Parade along with members of PFLAG and SURJ. John Myles, David Sleeper, Adrienne Cady, Jake Rose, Richard Caden and Rick Gazerro arrived at 8 am and were later joined by Janet Hoffman pulling grandson Mac in a red wagon. It took no time until Mac wanted to march, too, and dispensed with his wagon and enjoyed throwing candy to the onlookers. After the first

mile, Mark Benson and Jim Flagler joined the marchers. Our group carried rainbow flags and banners and was received enthusiastically by parade watchers with cheers and "thumbs up" which heartened our group. Jodi Bisogno and Brentley Moore were cheering the loudest as we marched by. It was emotionally and physically energizing for us; perhaps you'll consider joining us next year on the Fourth!

LGBT Pride Festival

The UUCGN table at the Saturday, June 17, LGBTQ Pride Festival in downtown Cambier Park of Naples offered information to a crowd estimated at 3,000 to 5,000 people. Pictured (l. to r.) are



Social Justice Committee News

Split the Plate

July 16 and August 20 will benefit the Guadalupe Kids Program.

Ya Gotta Have H' "Art"

Created by 3-5 year old students from the Guadalupe Center

Featured this summer in The Gallery Menaker Lobby



The Guadalupe Early Childhood Art Show Sponsored by Social Justice Committee

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!!

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. Our goal is to meet regularly with members of Congress and their staffs, collaborate with groups that share our concerns, host public outreach events, conduct letter-writing campaigns, submit letters to the editor and op-ed pieces for local newspapers, and seek endorsements from editorial boards and community leaders. 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.



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 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 at .

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 Advanced Planning; Things to Know About Aging: Wednesday, July 26th 1pm - 3pm 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 for more information and register for the group.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday



*Alan Buchholz
Dennis Cady
Sal Corrallo
Michael Diaz
Kathy Faulk
Joe Gellings*

*Nadine Landreth
Sallie Light
Brian Maitland-Smith
Dorothy Mills
Ken Notturmo
Joseph Richards*

Happy Anniversary

*Ronald Crawford & Judy Quinn
Lena & Yvette Stafford Jones
Denise & Glenn Miller
Kristin & Bob Muschett
Martin Parks & Larry McCarthy*

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

Calendar



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

Tech4Good—July 11

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 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!

