



# UPDATE

May 2014

Volume 45 Number 5

**May 4:**

**"Searching for the Center"**

**Rev. Marilyn Johnson will be our speaker.**

It's been a great year for core scientific discoveries. Let's celebrate together as we continue to discover, name, and own our own personal core understanding

**Music: Weintraub Duo**

**May 11:**

**"Motherhood and Polite Society"**

**Rev. Dee Graham is our speaker**

The Questions of Julia Ward Howe, a mother of six and founder of the original American Mother's Day, this author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" is truly a Unitarian foremother.

Despite the wishes of her husband and father, author and activist Howe worked for her living, spoke her mind on controversial social justice issues like peace, women's rights and the abolition of slavery. In her essay, "Is Polite Society Polite?" the challenges she raises about the choices we make in our relationships and our lives remain pertinent today.

**Music: Jami Gee**

**Fellowship Office Hours:**

**Hours: Monday - Friday 9am-2pm**

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**The UPDATE**

Content Editor - Lorraine Berry

Production Editor - Roxanne Winstead

**Directory Updates — New Address**

**Please notify the office, by phone or email, of any changes of address.**

**May 18:**

**"Healing and Intention  
Mind/ Body Connection"**

**Nels Gullerud will be our speaker.** Changing the way we think can greatly affect our overall health. Our personal beliefs and emotions play major roles in our overall state of wellness and our ability to heal. The most common Western view of the body is a highly sophisticated clockwork machine. If part of the machine is not working properly, we clean it, flush it, fix it, replace it or remove it. But there are influences on the body that may not respond to medical fixes, influences which can be physical, mental or emotional, and which can lower our immune response and the ability to heal. Facing these issues directly can greatly increase our speed of recovery, and actually heal the subtle causes of illness.

**Music: Robin Skinner**

**May 25:**

**The Challenge of Inherent Worth and Dignity:  
Celebrating Flower Communion**

**Rev. Dee Graham will be our speaker.**

Everyone is asked to bring a flower to service for a re-creation of a spring ritual affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person. It was created by Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia in 1921. When the Nazis took control of Prague in 1940, they found Capek's gospel of the inherent worth and beauty of every human person "...too dangerous to the Reich [for him] to be allowed to live." Capek was sent to Dachau, where he was killed the next year. This Memorial Day weekend we will honor him and others who have stood up for freedom.

**Music: Mary St. John**

**Presidents' Message**  
**May 2014**  
**Bill Peruzzi**



Please be sure to attend, or submit your absentee ballot, for the May 11 MUUF Special Meeting in order to vote on whether to continue our contractual relationship with the Reverend Dee Graham. The meeting will be run by co-president Joan Butcher with the aid of parliamentarian Roger Smith.

On May 12, Joan Butcher will be retiring as co-president and my new co-president will be Martha Pelletier as described below.

**Resignation Letter from Joan Butcher:**

This is my resignation letter as co-president and member of the MUUF Board of Directors. I am doing this for:

- Personal reasons, and
- Because this job is not a good match for my skill set.
- I am not a manager type person.
- I have been feeling out of balance for some time doing this job.
- I need to prioritize caring for myself to be a good steward of my own health as well as that of the congregation.

**Please be assured that:**

1. This was a good learning experience and Bill Peruzzi and I got along just fine as co-presidents.
2. There was no ONE event or experience that caused this decision. You don't need to look for one or speculate about what it was!
3. I am NOT leaving MUUF and still want to see us grow and prosper.
4. I am delighted that we have asked Rev. Dee Graham to join us and I fully support having her continue beyond the two month introductory period. I will, of course, respect the congregational decision when it is made on May 11th.
5. I need some "time off" to regain my enthusiasm and energy.
6. I expect to continue contributing in the future in ways that I feel good about. For example: Playing music or being Service Leader on Sundays from time to time if I am asked. I

intend to be active with specific social justice issues such as: Immigration reform, the annual CROP Walk and Gay Pride events.

I want to say thanks to each of you for all you do. If you do a lot, make sure you keep your balance. If you have been holding back; letting Bill and Joan do it, please seriously consider increasing your commitment of time and energy in at least one more way. MUUF needs you.

I am very happy that starting on May 12, Martha Pelletier has agreed to take my place and be co-president with Bill Peruzzi until the end of the current term of office a year from now.

**Process followed in selecting a new co-president:**

After spending time hoping Joan might change her mind and failing to convince her otherwise, I approached our Nomination Chair and asked for help finding a new co-president. In accordance with the MUUF By-laws our vice-president Geoff Graham was approached about taking over the open position. Geoff found it necessary to decline due to health reasons. As you can imagine, we were thrilled that Martha has agreed to fill the position!

**Biography for Martha Pelletier:**



Martha let us know that she has been self-employed as an Acupuncture Practitioner since 2002. Prior to then she worked as a Registered Nurse in medical-surgical, oncology and hospice home health. She joined MUUF 3 years ago and immediately took a post in that political breeding ground the MUUF kitchen with Peg Peruzzi, Doris Sutliff and Joan Stockebrand. After a year she left the kitchen to join the choir where she has been a member for 2 seasons. This year she was Chair for the Stewardship drive. Martha also attends the meditation group that meets at MUUF on Thursdays and more recently, she has joined the Membership Committee and is working with Kim Gardner on revising the Involvements Book for new members. For fun she likes music, dance, mysteries and nature. She has 3 children and 7 grandchildren who live in her home state of Maine, in Virginia and in southern France. She is thankful to be working with Dee Graham, Roxanne Winstead and the Board and intends to do her best to serve MUUF in her new role as co-president.



**RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**  
**May 2014**  
**Lisa Bohn, DRE**

May is the month where the flowers bloom following the April showers. Well, that's a good thing because May brings us Mother's Day and Graduations and what a great excuse for giving flowers! These three May happenings can have a real symbolic connection too. Mothers are the nurturing "rain" for the children who mature and are graduating, or "blooming" into their full selves. In this way, we can honor the mothering we all do to the children of our Fellowship. The connections we make and are together nurturing will help the bloom. Don't underestimate the value of a simple conversation or a shared meal at a potluck. Many of us have fond memories of the adults who were always happy to see us on a Sunday morning. Let's all remember to do a little "Mothering" to the children and to each other and to appreciate the Mothers that nurtured us as we "blossomed" into the people we are today.



**Calendar**

- May 4 First Sunday "Words for all Ages". Children attend the service with family until the meditation, then proceed upstairs for RE classes.
- May 11 Mother's Day service. Childcare for younger children. Older youth attend service. Plan to stay for Congregation Town Hall Meeting following the service.
- May 18 RE classes.
- 5th UU History movie at 1:00
- May 25 Multi-age games and fellowship on the playground



The paradox of self honesty is that I need the help of others to achieve it. I need their support to explore my feelings. I saw this all come together at the April 11, 2014 new member Share-A-Dish!

We had a visitor and her friend from Longboat who learned of us thanks to Dee Graham. Walter Pascal, just before heading back to Michigan, did a great impromptu job of introducing new members.

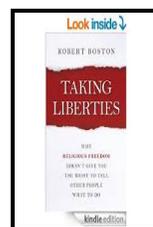


We sang together tunes of the 20's and 30's accompanied by Jack Gardner & Rich Walkey on banjos.



We welcomed new members Maggie Bayliss, Ricki Cunninghis, Peggy Dixon, Jake Geeslin, Jim Heaton, Niki Kissell, Linda Wilke, Chuck Wolfe and Robert Yavis . Unfortunately not all were able to be in attendance.

Quoting from Robert Boston's book *Taking Liberties* "why Religious Freedom doesn't give you the right to tell other people what to do.



Meaningful religious liberty, according to Roger Williams, means the "right to be wrong" from someone's else's perspective."

Thanks Ricki Cunninghis for joining our team and thanks to MUUF, for being a part of our journeys.

Kim Gardner

## Rev. Dee Graham's Column

### "The Dee Descriptions"



"A living tradition is not bequeathed through some law of inheritance; it must be earned, not without dust and heat, and not without humbling grace."

— the Rev. James Luther Adams (1901–1994), Unitarian Universalist Minister

We want it to be easy. That's the dream of beloved community. Everyone loves one another, we make room for each other's idiosyncrasies, we laugh at each other's jokes and we hold each other's hands when we face life's challenges.

Only nothing goes that easily.



Building a brave new world doesn't come without bumps and scrapes. So things may not turn out as we plan, but that doesn't mean the efforts aren't successful.

We who are here today ARE the living tradition of Unitarian Universalism. That's why it matters so much that we do figure out where we fit in the puzzle. That's why we need to try on this job or that one, but keep going until we know deep inside what is the right fit for us. This is no one-size-fits-all religion. This is a faith community where we keep asking the questions together. And that's the challenge.

It's really easy when someone else gives us the answer, even if we don't like it. But here, we have to love each other beyond disagreement and stumbles and awkward attempts at justice ... and hearing how they did it up North. But we're all together now. No matter what, we have each other. And that's what beloved community is all about. We may not agree. We may not always even exactly like each other. But we have to respect each other because we trust, we KNOW that each of us has that inherent worth and dignity.

We really do.

James Luther Adams lived this faith through World War II, studying in Europe, applying our

principles before they were even stated, making sense of our varied spiritual perspectives and becoming the leading theologian/philosopher of the Unitarian Universalist movement until his death in 1994.

Parting from Puritanism and Calvinism, Adams declared, "Our chief end, clearly, is joy in community."

Let joy be our shared goal. When we greet one another, think first of joy, not duty, not what must be done, but simply of the joy of being together. If we have that joy in our hearts, everything will come around.

First, let your heart sing.



### Play Reading Group

The New Play Reading Group is alive and well and is changing schedule for the summer and fall to accommodate persons who would like to participate, some of whom are working during the day. We are scheduling two in the month of May for Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on May 7th and 21st. We are reading classic plays. We hope more of you will join us! (Lois and Roy)

### Separation of Church and State

#### Means MUUF Needs to Guard

#### Its Non-profit Status

Putting our support behind any candidate in a race where one clearly supports our principles seems reasonable on the surface, but to give even the impression of doing so through political support flyers and petitions in our building puts us in serious jeopardy of losing non-profit status. For instance, when we invite political candidates to speak at our services or forums or other MUUF vehicles, we are careful to invite candidates having diverse viewpoints.



One UU congregation in Texas already lost its status despite a lawsuit defending its position. The religious right is vigilant.

The rule is that religious and non-profit organizations can keep tax-exempt status only if they limit involvement and endorsements to issues, not candidates. Remember to help us keep to this rule



## **News From Occupy Bradenton**

Occupy Bradenton and MUUF Social Justice Committee are expanding their education format, with video presentations of Oliver Stone's Untold History of the United States, one chapter at a time, with follow-up discussion. The first chapter, "The Cold War", will be shown on Monday, May 19th. Light snacks and beverage will be available at 6:30, with the video presentation at 7:00. Nominal donations are requested. The dates and topics in June will be in the June Update

## **SHARE-A-DISH ON MAY 9**

After the usual wonderful meal prepared by those attending, the Social Justice Committee will lead a discussion about our present issue of the month: Voting Rights. Al Usack will talk briefly about what is being done to erode voting rights in the U.S. and Florida.



The remarks will be followed by a discussion of what we as a religious organization and as individuals can do to counter the efforts that make it more difficult for some folks – particularly those in minority populations --to vote. For background information, please see the folder on Voting Rights in the Social Justice corner and/or surf the net for recent activities relating to the subject.

Al Usack, Social Justice Committee



## **Congregational Dialogues**

"Congregational Dialogues" Topics for May:  
May 11th: "What is Creative Living?"  
May 25th: "Arianna Huffington's revised take On life." We have quotes to guide our discussion.

(A note from Roy Mc Chesney, who has accepted the role of coordinating this program: For the last 6 months the discussions have been attended by 5-10 persons, some of whom have migrated to the north for the next 6 months. If this program is worthy of continuance, it needs the (even occasional) support (attendance) of more persons - especially those who agree that it is important to have opportunities to think and speak (in addition to "hearing").



## **Announcement from MUUF**

### **Choir Director Ann Rogers**



Ann Rogers, our choir director for MUUF, reports that the AME Choir has recognized our great mutual relationship with them

by presenting us with a trophy and a certificate, in gratitude for our joint participation in music (both are on the shelf in the Social Room beside the John Kokajko picture of Ann.

# Board of Directors

The Board of Directors at its recent meeting approved returning the gesture by obtaining a plaque for AME to commemorate this relationship. The Board is researching paying for the plaque through the Warmington Music/library Fund.

The Board of Directors also approved that \$750 of the Web Site budget be spent on a contractual relationship with our new web master Liz Beth Gonzalez. Please thank committee members, Ann Rogers, Bernita Franzel, and Lorraine Berry for conducting the search and gathering the proposed changes that have led to this accomplishment. For the time being, please continue to deal directly with the committee members on ideas and constructive criticism having to do with the web site <http://manateeuuf.org>



## GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions completed a successful 2014



program on March 25. We averaged 18 participants at each of the eight sessions of the course, each meeting dealing with a different US foreign policy topic. The topics are chosen by the Foreign Policy Association of NY and this year they were Defense Technology, Israel and the US, Turkey's Challenges, Islamic Awakening, Energy Independence, Food and Climate, China's Foreign Policy, and US Trade Policy. A member of the group facilitates the discussion each week.

I was pleased that this year the participants included several new

members of the Fellowship plus 5 persons from the community at large. All five of them have indicated a desire to participate again in 2015. One of the missions of the Fellowship is to make itself more known to the wider Bradenton community and I feel Great Decisions helps in this matter. MUUF is listed on the Foreign Policy Association website as a host organization.

Plans for 2015 will begin this December. Please look for announcements and consider joining.

Bill Hayes



## Corrections for the 2014 Spring Edition Directory

Corrections are the following:

Don Heath:	941-746-1306
Roy McChesney:	941-746-4891
Zada Merrill:	716-680-1581
Martha Pelletier:	941-744-9770
Joan Moog	382A Oakwood Ave East Aurora NY 14052

### *Your 2014 Board of Directors*

<i>Co-Presidents</i>	<i>Bill Peruzzi &amp; Joan Butcher</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Geoff Graham</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Peggy Dickson</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Kristin Robinson</i>
<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>	<i>Al Guy</i>
<i>Directors</i>	<i>Monica DeBarros</i> <i>Martha Pelletier</i> <i>Linda Marshall</i>
<i>Pres. Emeritus</i>	<i>Grace Hirsh</i>



## Social Justice Committee

Issue of the Spring Months, Voting Rights, will be the program for the May 9th Share a Dish. Our vote in November is very important for many reasons – whom will we elect to represent us in our government,



voting on Water and Land Conservation measures, voting issues, and more. Our Habitat for

Humanity workday, previously scheduled for March, was cancelled due to expected rain. The rain date will be announced for a day soon.

May 3, Saturday, MUUF will host the play Project Unspeakable presented by the Fogartyville Players.

The special collection on May 18 will be for PRISM which provides a safe setting for Manatee County LGBTQ youth.



Donations will be used to expand the Saturday afternoon hours and provide after school programs at the space donated by UCC on 26th Street W in Bradenton. There is peer counseling, homework help, free HIV testing, education on bullying, homeless issues, leadership training, PRISM initiated the first Manatee Gay Pride Day 3/22 at which MUUF had a table.



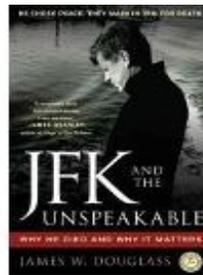
Social Justice will co-sponsor an eight-session DVD and discussion program on Oliver Stone's Untold History. Look for Monday dates in May.

Don Thompson is attending the multi-session program at the Peace and Justice Center on Non Violent Civil Disobedience.

Due to the special congregational meeting on the 2nd Sunday in May, the meeting of the Social Justice Committee will be on the 1st Sunday of the month, May 4, at noon.

Contact: Bernita Franzel

## JFK AND THE UNSPEAKABLE



Is a book written by James Douglass, and will be presented as a staged reading by the Fogartyville Community Players on Saturday May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the MUUF meeting room.

The subtitle of the book is "why JFK died & why it matters." The book (and the play) is full of direct quotes of about 60 persons who are principals in the intrigue of not only the assassination of JFK, but of Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X and others.

This is an important, well-documented work, which should be seen by many U.S. citizens. The production is co-sponsored by Occupy Bradenton, the MUUF Social Justice Committee, and the Fogartyville Peace Education and Action Center. Doors will open at 6:15, with the performance at 7:00. There will be a 15 minute intermission with light refreshments. To cover the costs of production, a \$5 donation is requested by those attending. Part of the proceeds will be given to MUUF.

**PLACE AN AD FOR YOUR BUSINESS HERE**

**For \$24 per year  
Beginning July 2014**

The ads will run each month beginning July 2014 and running through June 2015. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity or placing an ad, please email Maggie Bayliss at [maggie.muuf1@gmail.com](mailto:maggie.muuf1@gmail.com) or call 813-741-1713.



*May Share-a-Dish*  
*Friday, May 9, 2014*  
*6:00 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Dinner*  
**What is being done to erode voting rights in the U.S. and Florida?**

*Bring your friends, share a dish,  
Sign up in Social Room.*



**Manatee Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship**  
**322 15<sup>th</sup> Street West**  
**Bradenton, FL 34205**