



UPDATE

March 2016 Volume 47 Number 3

March 6:

“Stewardship Testimonial Sunday”

Bill Peruzzi will be service leader. Jim Heaton, Geri Pasquarella, Becky Smith and Jake Geeslin will provide testimonials describing their personal experiences with UUism and/or MUUF.

Music: Eleanora Lvov



March 13:

“Stewardship”

Rev. Dee Graham will speak. “The best things in life are free.” “Here today, gone tomorrow?” Proverbs about money that we’ve heard all our lives may or may not apply to how we live today. We’ll look at the wisdom of the ages and consider how those ideas may shape our approach to life.

Music: Choir

Directory Updates — New Address/Phone
Please notify the office of any changes,
by phone or email. Thank you.

MUUF'S MISSION STATEMENT:

"A friendly beacon for religious freedom, supporting lifelong spiritual growth and working for social justice with compassion and love."

March 20:

“You Can Get Bitter or Better”

Bill Grossman will speak. Many Christians and people from some other traditions would have us believe that God will honor us with riches and success if we simply believe. Many others believe that God does not promise good things to all people. Indeed, many of us struggle with why bad things happen to good people. We can’t determine what happens and why, but we can choose how we respond to the good and bad in life. And our response can determine how we feel about our lives.

Music: Jami Gee

March 27:

Easter Sunday: Our Protestant Traditions

Unitarianism started with questioning the existence of the Trinity. Universalism comes from believing the best of God, that God’s heart is big enough for universal reconciliation with all souls. At the same time, our deep connection with nature reminds us of how Easter celebrations intertwine with the dawn of Spring and the Equinox. Join us for an experience of how spirit, reason and love combine for Unitarian Universalists on Easter.

Music: Andrew Hudson

Fellowship Office Hours:

8 am – 1pm Mon – Fri

OFFICE: 941-746-0067

muufoffice@manateeuuf.org

www.manateeuuf.org

Rev. Dee Graham Office Hours:

Tuesday 9 am-Noon or by appt.

MINISTER: 941-264-5929

muufminister@manateeuuf.org

The UPDATE

Update Content Editor – Lorraine Berry

Update Production Editor – Karen Salzinger

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 5:00pm Transition Support Group 6:30pm Zen Meditation	2 6:00pm Toastmasters 6:00pm Women's Spirituality Class; "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven"	3 12:00pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm Meditation	4	5
6 Stewardship Testimonial Sunday Words for All Ages 10:30am Speaker-Music- 12:00pm RE Meeting	7 10:00am Great Decisions 6:30pm Occupy Bradenton Discussion	8 5:00pm Transition Support Group 6:30pm Zen Meditation	9 6:00pm Toastmasters 6:00pm Women's Spirituality Class; "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven"	10 12:00pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm Meditation	11	12 10:00am Welcoming Committee Movie 1:30 Game Day
13 Stewardship Sunday 10:30am Speaker-Music- 12:00pm Social Justice Committee Meeting	14 10:00am Great Decisions 6:30pm Occupy Bradenton Discussion	15 5:00pm Transition Support Group 6:30pm Zen Meditation	16 6:00pm Toastmasters 6:00pm Women's Spirituality Class; "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven"	17 12:00pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm Meditation	18	19 5:00pm Share-A-Dish Winter Song Fest
20 10:30am Speaker-Music- 12:00pm "What is UU to you?" 2:00pm Pagan Perspectives	21 10:00am Great Decisions 6:30pm Occupy Bradenton Discussion	22 5:00pm Transition Support Group 6:30pm Zen Meditation	23 6:00pm Toastmasters 6:00pm Women's Spirituality Class; "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven"	24 12:00pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm Meditation	25	26 10:00am Welcoming Committee Discussion Group 6:00pm In-Home Dinners-offsite



President's Message

March 2016

Martha Pelletier

Board Nominations Season

Our annual meeting is planned for April 10 at which time we will be electing new officers and directors to the board. I hope you will consider taking a leadership role on the board. Positions open for nomination are as follows: 2 director seats, secretary, treasurer and assistant treasurer. The director position held by Roy McChesney has not been filled by the board but if filled would be through the next fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. I am resigning as President effective the end of this fiscal year June 30, 2016. The term expires June 30, 2017. Bylaws state "the board shall fill an unexpired term on the board by appointment." Article VI, sec. 3.

The board will approve members to serve on the nominating committee at its' next meeting.

Martha Pelletier, President

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

March 2016

Lisa Bohn, DRE

There is something about the coming of spring that, even to a Floridian, brings forth thoughts of reflection on a new beginning, of growth and green and the wonder of life. We have enough change in our season to notice... if you look closely: longer days, fewer jackets, grass growing. Spending a little time outside, tending to the yard, planting new flowers, digging in the dirt, brings us closer to the season and closer to the earth. Our 7th principle reminds us that we are part of the inter-dependent web of life. We can feel this connection with something as simple as a walk in the park or a weed-pulling session in the yard. And as we feel this connection, we might just feel our spirit growing ...a sure sign of our own personal Spring season.

RE Calendar

March 6

First Sunday- Words for All Ages in Service, Children then meet upstairs for RE activities

March 13

A famous UU woman- Beatrix Potter and her stories
Daylight savings begins-Spring Forward!

March 20

Spring Equinox and Poetry Day- write a poem about Spring!

March 27

Easter Sunday- Eggstra-special activities for kids!



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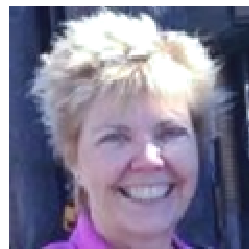
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DeeScriptiions



March 2016

Rev. Dee Graham

What is that thing we do every Sunday? Some of us call our gatherings Sunday Services. Others may think of Sunday Celebrations or some other word that allows us to give importance to our morning sessions yet refrain from calling it "worship."

Worship, in its deeper sense, is exactly what we do. When the word was coined in Old English, the Anglo-Saxon meaning was a "condition of being worthy, dignity, glory, distinction, honor, renown," from *weorð* "worthy". Something worthy in Old

English and in Germanic languages meant “valuable, honorable, even powerful. In 1200 it indicated nobility. When together with another root word, ship meant quality, condition, and act. For Anglicans it was a state of being; Danish and German forms meant “to create, ordain, appoint, relation.”^[1]

So, like many theological things, worship for us in this congregation enlivens the original meanings, not necessarily the specific references to God that Christians put into worship in the 1300s. Yet, when communicating about what we do together, newcomers and people outside Unitarian Universalism easily use the term worship to mean honoring God because they tend to agree theologically.

Reclaiming our religious language means we refuse to let others limit the definition of a word that is rightfully ours as well. No one owns the copyright to the word, which means we can reclaim it by making our worship truly welcoming and inclusive. As a faith community that welcomes theists AND atheists, agnostics and unconventional thinkers, when we worship we are embracing and creating new, more accurate meanings of how we respect and honor one another and the universe.

Worship is something we can do on our feet, dancing, walking in the woods or on bended knee.

Whatever your personal meaning is for worship, what we do on Sunday morning shows the world who we are. When new people come to our door, to make them feel truly welcome we need to greet them eagerly, to engage them rather than doing Fellowship business, to show them that we accept them as they are. Wearing our nametags, keeping announcements to a minimum, sitting next to them and making sure we have easily accessible seats and parking spaces open for them, all of those things matter. We could think of Sunday mornings as a time to be

honorable and respectful of every person who is present.

This isn't easy. It means engaging a stranger with warm hospitality rather than sitting with old friends or trying to accomplish a task that could be done any other time. We aren't there to grab a volunteer for our cause.

Sunday morning worship is the single most important time of the week. We come together for a powerful moment of consequence. We may laugh. We may cry. We may expose our deepest emotions.

Most of all, we engage hospitality and compassion. That is what's honorable.

Let us lovingly open our doors.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Saturday March 19 will be the Manatee Gay Pride celebration. We will set up a table with lots of information and give aways. As usual we will be in a tent and welcome visitors to tell them about MUUF.

Petitions are ready for all who have not signed yet. Restore the right to vote for ex-felons, who in Florida cannot vote. Florida and Iowa are the most restrictive states. Some states allow people in prison to vote. Unlike other states, Florida law was put into the state constitution, so the state constitution must be amended to restore the vote.

The second petition will allow a home owner to sell extra electricity from solar panels on his own home. There will be more and more homeowners who

want this as individuals equip their homes with solar panels. Look at the Bulletin Board and check the legislature activity. Pick up a Legislation handout and call Rep. Galvano and Sen. Boyd to give your opinion by March 11.

Bernita Franzel, Chair Social Justice Committee

STEWARDSHIP

Yes, MUUF's finance committee has produced a budget and presented it to the Board of Directors. Yes, the Board of Directors has considered the committee's recommendations and approved a pledge goal of \$100,000 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. If we as a fellowship achieve that goal, for the first time in about a decade, we will not need to make withdrawals this year from our fiscal reserves. We the friends and members of MUUF are going to have to dig deeply to provide the monies to carry such a goal to fruition.

Please realize that stewardship at MUUF is considered Time, Talent and Treasure. We welcome barter in the sense that no matter what your wealth level, volunteering your talents and time are absolutely necessary for our fellowship to thrive. Another way of putting this is that when a MUUF member visits you to discuss your pledge, those volunteers are going to ask you for your FAIR monetary pledge and therefore no one should be embarrassed if his or her fair share happens to be lower than that of our average pledge level.

Why has giving your fair share become so important? Let's look back at the fellowship's history recalling that we have existed for 57 years:

We met first as a fellowship at the Manatee River Hotel From 1959-61, and then at the Palma Sola Community Club from 1961-65. Both locations were made available to us on a rental basis. In 1965, the home at 322 15th Street West was purchased for \$13,500 with the previous owner holding the mortgage and not permitting

improvements while that mortgage existed. In 1967 seven members took out promissory notes leading to remortgaging through a loan from the Miami Church. Building improvement projects then began, and the loan was paid off in 1970 mainly through an inheritance received upon the death of a member.

In 1980, an important addition to the facilities, our sanctuary, was completed and dedicated. The main outcome was that the attendance at Sunday services was greatly increased. As adjacent land became available over the years, sacrifices were made and those purchases took place. Eventually the fellowship became debt-free and began to build up its fiscal reserves for the first time.

Monetary-wise the years that then followed were the golden years for MUUF. Year-after-year the pledges and inheritances received far exceeded each annual budget. At practically every Annual Meeting of MUUF, a member proudly would stand up and move that the excess funds be added to MUUF's fiscal reserves. That continued until about a decade ago when the membership began to dwindle and as part of a growth effort it was decided to hire our first part-time minister. The minister was hired, but the pledge amounts did not increase, and so to balance the budget each year MUUF has been delving into its reserves. When we were without a minister for a short period of time, the vast majority of members and friends expressed a strong desire to once again hire a part-time minister. Now we do have a minister again, but we still are not collecting enough in pledges and other income to balance our budget.

We find ourselves once again at a turning point in 2016. Contracts have been issued to complete the much needed structural repairs to the outside of our facilities – siding and roof and underpinnings. Plans are underway for fund-raising events needed to replace the reserves. We will need replenished reserves to foster growth through building

additions on our property that will provide the form needed for us to function successfully. Just think how counter-productive it will be if we all don't dig deeply and give our fair share in order to keep from using reserves to balance the budget again this year.

Please respond accordingly when a member contacts you to meet with you and discuss stewardship responsibilities this year.

Bill Peruzzi, Stewardship Chair

MUUF Library Book Review

"My Beloved World"

Autobiography by Sonia Sotomayor 2013

This inspiring story of conquering obstacles to make a life of achievement and success should be required reading for students who feel challenged and adults who need a restart along the way. Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor grew up in a Puerto Rican Spanish-speaking family where poverty and alcoholism existed along with the challenges of her diabetes.

In her family she found constructive examples from her hard working mother and paternal grandmother. Sonia learned "to see another's point of view" and to be hurt when someone else was hurt.

At church she volunteered to do Bible readings from the pulpit to get rid of her public speaking fears. High school boyfriend, Kevin, later her husband, and Kenny her debate coach, insisted she try for Ivy League colleges.

Accepted by Princeton, Sonia found herself in another world- one of privilege, travel, manners, and she earned Phi Beta Kappa and senior Honor Prize. Sonia and Kevin married and she went on to Yale law school. She objected when a job recruiter said it's a waste of time to hire anyone who'd had help by affirmative action because one never knew if they could really do the job. (This kind of remark was also attributed to the late Justice Scalia in a Charlie Rose interview.)

She became a NY D.A. assistant and found the poor and minorities are disproportionately

the victims of crime. She served on the Hispanic Defense Fund opening bilingual schools, refining voting rights, discrimination and labor strikes. Her D.A. cases of police brutality to Blacks, the Tarzan Murderer, the dealer in child pornography made her realize a judgeship could improve the criminal justice system which she couldn't do as D.A.

In 1992 she became a district judge. In 2009 Sonia joined the Supreme Court. She said, "I've spent my whole life learning how to do things that are hard for me. It's never easy to start. I learned how and thrived. I'm not intimidated by challenges."

Sonia acknowledges her love of conversation with push and pull, of flexing rhetorical muscles, eager to exchange and explore ideas. She was accused of not being able to take a stand, but she took this as a complement that if one held to principle too strongly, one would be abdicating the responsibilities of a thinking person. Sonia holds some firm values: integrity, fairness, and the avoidance of cruelty. Concern for individuals, "treating them with dignity and respect for their ideas and needs regardless of one's own views, is surely worthy to be deemed inviolable."

GREAT DECISIONS

Great Decisions had its organizing meeting on January 18, 2016 and has set up the following schedule. All discussions will be held on Monday mornings at 10:00am at the Fellowship at 322 15th St West, Bradenton, FL 941-746-0067:



3/7/16 - The Koreas - Ed Kobee & Al Usack

3/14/16 - The Rise of ISIS - Bob Yavis

3/21/16 - Climate Change - Paul Carr

Contact Bill Hayes if you have any questions.
727-470-9148 largomatch@hotmail.com

Our Annual Auction was Fun and Lucrative!



The “stuff” along the perimeter of our sanctuary walls is finally gone, no more announcements

about the auction, and no more auction inserts in the Sunday program! Now we have people enjoying the dinners, trips, beautiful as well as practical items that were available, and gift certificates donated by local businesses. Our general fund has approximately \$5000 more (the final figure is not available at the time of this writing since a few more things are expected to sell).

There were so many people who helped to make MUUF's Annual Auction 2016 a success!

- Bob Yavis did a super job as auctioneer and “50/50 pusher” by being flexible and fun!
- Sharyn Devine & Glenn Tarver hosted the Bayou Party and donated much of the refreshments.
- Rob, Sharyn's brother, and Carol Alt provided live music at the Bayou Party and Rob again at our auction.
- For the Auction Lunch Geri Pasquarella and grandson, Michael, donated and prepared the lasagna and garlic bread while Lee Summerville donated and prepared the desserts.
- Al Guy, Bill Hayes, and Lee Summerville served as cashiers.
- Becky Smith, Martha Pelletier, Maggie Bayliss, and Lorraine Berry served as data entry people, known as “The Computer Crew.”
- Help for set up (chaos to order) came from Carol Alt, Bernita Franzel, Judith Frey, Joel Bastow, Barbara & Jerry Hughes, Dick Kraft, Linda Marshall, Leslie Roell, and Lee Summerville.
- All those business-donated items were “solicited” by Martha Pelletier, Bob Yavis, and myself.

Please note these businesses listed in your catalog and frequent them often!

- Many helped behind the scene in the kitchen before, during, and after lunch.
- Doris Sutliff and Charles McLeod donated their winnings of the 50/50 back to MUUF.
- Members, friends, and guests supported the auction by donating, bidding and having fun!

A great big THANK YOU to all!

Carol Bartz, Auction Chairperson

Thank You

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Occupy Bradenton With Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

March education programs.

Free and open to the public.

Monday, March 7: 7:00pm (Doors open @6:30)
2-hour documentary, ‘OPEN SESAME; The Story of Seeds’. One of the world's most precious resources is at risk. This film tells the story of seeds by following the challenges and triumphs of some of their most tireless stewards and advocates. Discussion follows.

UPDATE DEADLINE

The deadline for the April Update is *Thursday, March 17th at Noon*. Anything that you would like published in the April Edition of the Update needs to be into the office **prior** to the deadline unless other arrangements have been made **prior** to the deadline.



Thank you so much to everyone who provides items for each month's Update. Your prompt consideration is greatly appreciated.

Monday, March 21: 7:00pm (Doors open 6:30)
94 minute film, 'THE WAR ON DEMOCRACY' written, directed and reported by John Pilger, what's happened in Latin America shows that great power is not invincible; people power is enduring. Discussion follows.

Occupy Bradenton meetings Mondays when no ed program 6:45pm at MUUF.

Demonstration: 3rd Saturday, March 19 @ 11:00-12:00noon. Corner of 43rd St. W and Manatee Ave. W.

PEACE DEMONSTRATIONS:

Sundays 11-12 noon. Green Bridge Patriots for Peace (north side of Green Bridge, Palmetto.) Sign available.

New Members or Almost New Members

We will be honoring all our new members of this past year at the Share A Dish dinner on April 8. If you are considering joining MUUF this is an excellent time of year to do so. We encourage potential members to attend at least one of the sessions on the 3rd Sunday of the month with Rev. Dee Graham following the Sunday service where you can learn more about Unitarian Universalism and ask questions. Then when you feel ready we have a membership book for you to sign with either our President, Martha Pelletier or Membership Committee Co-Chairs Pat Rohrer or Carol Bartz at which time you will receive a bag with information and a couple of forms to complete. By becoming a member you will have voting rights at our Annual Meeting, receive the UUA World Magazine, and of course have the opportunity to become as involved as you wish with other members and the activities here at MUUF.

Think about it. And then join us if it's right for you!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Martha Pelletier
Vice President	Becky Smith
Secretary	Peggy Dickson
Treasurer	Al Guy
Asst. Treasurer	Bob Yavis
Directors	Monica DeBarros Chuck Wolfe Ricki Cunninghis
Pres. Emeritus	Bill Peruzzi

Board Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm in the Social Room. All members of the Congregation are invited to attend.

New Office Administrator

The hiring committee for MUUF, Lorraine Berry, Allan Guy and Bill Peruzzi has news for you! The newly hired office administrator has decided to relinquish the position she had taken at MUUF.

The good news is that Karen Salzinger of Palmetto has agreed to take that position. Karen has been living in Florida for six months after coming down from Illinois.

Karen worked for a decade as Accounts Payable/Field Payroll Clerk for United Insulated Structures Corporation and then worked for three years for Grace Lutheran Church as Administrative Assistant doing much the same work that she will be doing here at MUUF. (She also knows what is

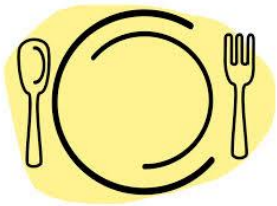
like to be a volunteer having done so for over 25 years at her church prior to Grace.) When Grace Lutheran closed, Karen then worked for two years doing office work for the Baluchi Medical Group.

The people Karen listed as references spoke very well of her, particularly praising her organizational skills and creativity. If you are at MUUF during the weekday mornings, drop by the office and introduce yourself, but please keep it brief – we have a lot of catching up to do.

GET-TOGETHER
DINNERS

Get-Together (In-Home) Dinners For the month of March are cancelled due to Easter activity.

If you have any questions or for more information, please feel free to contact Bob Yavis at 941-794-3901, ryavis@tampabay.rr.com or Melissa Kinder at 772-342-0635.



**Don't forget to
change your clocks
March 13th**



Hello! I'm Karen Salzinger, your new Office Administrator. I live in Palmetto, recently moved from IL. I am married to



Bernie for 35 years. We raised four children and have eight grandchildren. My favorite place to go in FL is Disney World! I love to cook and entertain and organize events. I am very excited to be at MUUF and to meet all of you!

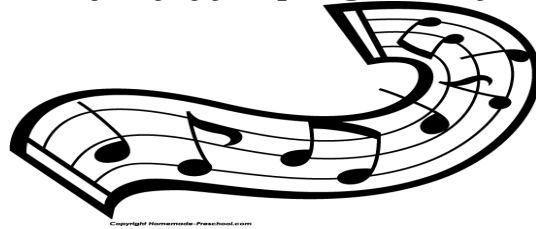
March Share-A-Dish
Saturday, March 19, 2016

Winter Song Fest!!!

5:00PM Gathering/Appetizers

5:30PM Dinner

Followed by a joyful program of music!!!



Let's join together for this special evening!
Bring a dish to share and come join us.
Sign up in Social Room.



**Manatee Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship
322 15th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205**