



# UPDATE

May 2016 Volume 47 Number 5

May 1

**“Ways of Knowing: Religion vs Science”**

**Dr. Robert Tucker will speak.** In honor of this day being the 83rd anniversary of the publication of the *Humanist Manifesto (I)*, Dr. Tucker will survey the crucial epistemological differences separating religion from science in his sermon,

"Ways of Knowing: Religion vs. Science."

**Music:** Robin Skinner

May 8

**“Intergenerational Mother’s Day”**

**Lead by Lisa Bohn, DRE.** Her topic will be Celebrating the Strength of Motherhood.

**Music:** Ishmael Katz

May 15

**“Universal Particularity”**

**Gary Batey will speak.** The world's great religious systems share the assumption that there is a transcendent "spiritual" reality at the core of existence. They almost always share the assumption of particularity: the idea that the transcendent, spiritual reality surrounding and filling the universe is manifest in particular expressions--as a deity (or deities), perhaps as an individual human, or a group of people, or a specific event, or a special place where "holiness" happens. Unfortunately, the various religions also tend to share the trait of *exclusivity*, believing that their own particular particularity is the one and only valid manifestation of the transcendent dimension of existence. Obviously, those who espouse an exclusive particularity can't all be right. Is anybody right who believes that?

**Music:** Weintraub Duo

May 22

**“Flower Communion”**

**The Rev. Dee Graham will lead** the service. This is an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community.

**Music:** Syl Vee



May 29

**“Cash and Contradiction”**

**Rev. Khleber Van Zandt will speak.** Few figures in recent history are more representative of American identity than the late music icon, Johnny Cash. In Johnny Cash and the Great American Contradiction, author Rodney Clapp calls for a truce in our culture wars. We'll explore some of the contradictions inherent in the intersections between democracy and religion, using Cash as the spokesperson for us regular folks.

**Music:** Joan Butcher

**Fellowship Office Hours:**

**8 am – 1pm Mon – Fri**

OFFICE: 941-746-0067

[muufoffice@manateeuuf.org](mailto:muufoffice@manateeuuf.org)

[www.manateeuuf.org](http://www.manateeuuf.org)

**Rev. Dee Graham Office Hours:**

Tuesday 9 am-Noon or by appt.

MINISTER: 941-264-5929

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**The UPDATE**

**Update** Content Editor – Lorraine Berry

**Update** Production Editor – Karen Salzinger

**Please notify the office of any changes  
in your address or phone numbers.**

**Thanks!**

## MUUF’S MISSION STATEMENT

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

# MAY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>10:30am Speaker-</b>Dr. Robert Tucker <b>Music-</b>Robin Skinner <b>12:00pm</b> RE Meeting <b>12:00pm</b> Social Justice Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Occupy Bradenton Discussion</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Zen Meditation</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>6:00pm</b> Toastmasters</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>12:00pm</b> Al-Anon <b>7:30pm</b> Meditation</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>6:00pm</b> Cinco De Mayo Party at the home of Geri Pasquarella</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>10:30am Speaker-</b>Lisa Bohn DRE <b>Music-</b>Ishmael Katz <b>11:30</b> Mother's Day Brunch</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Occupy Bradenton DVD</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>10:00am</b> Chalice Circle <b>6:30pm</b> Zen Meditation</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>6:00pm</b> Toastmasters</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>12:00pm</b> Al-Anon <b>4:00pm</b> Membership <b>4:30pm</b> Play Reading <b>7:30pm</b> Meditation</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>6:00pm</b> Share-A-Dish</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> 
<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>10:30am Speaker-</b>Rev. Gary Batey <b>Music-</b>Weintraub Duo</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Occupy Bradenton Discussion</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Zen Meditation <b>6:30pm</b> Board Mtg</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>6:00pm</b> Toastmasters <b>6:00pm</b> Women's Spirituality Class</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>9:00</b> Our Daily Bread <b>12:00pm</b> Al-Anon <b>4:00pm</b> Caring Network <b>7:30pm</b> Meditation</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>10:30am Speaker-</b>Rev Dee Graham <b>Music-</b>Syl Vee <b>2:00pm</b> Pagan Perspectives; Bus Mtg <b>4:00</b> Pagan Perspectives; Open Meeting</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Occupy Bradenton DVD</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>10:00am</b> Chalice Circle <b>6:30pm</b> Zen Meditation</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>6:00pm</b> Toastmasters</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>12:00pm</b> Al-Anon <b>4:30pm</b> Play Reading <b>7:30pm</b> Meditation</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>6:00pm</b> In-Home Dinner-offsite</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>10:30am Speaker-</b>Rev Khleber Van Zandt <b>Music-</b>Joan Butcher <b>12:00pm</b> "What is UU to you?"</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Memorial Day</b> Office Closed </p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>6:30pm</b> Zen Meditation</p>				

## Words From a Board Member

### Bob Yavis

I felt since I was taking valuable space in the Update that I should be able to relate my Discussion to UU. I see as Parents and Grand Parents that we have an obligation to pass on 'lessons learned.' So I am hoping that I might 'trigger' a thought in your mind that might cause you to pass some of this on to a youngster in your universe.

Many years ago, after being in the Military for 25 years, I had thoughts about some sort of occupation related to 'How to Study' like Sylvan and Kaplan might offer. But I passed on the opportunity. So in the next few paragraphs I will try to pass on to you where my thoughts materialized. I remember as a defiant sophomore in High School telling my English Teacher I hadn't completed an assignment because "I don't care." Wow what a kid. Shortly thereafter they did break up the makeup of the students I was 'infecting.' So we were inserted into new classes.

I think back to then where I was quite inept and sort of floundering academically.

My study habits were nonexistent. If I had a 20-page assignment to read I would start at page 1 and methodically read page by page and usually fall asleep by about page 2. So I had about 'zero' study habits. I was lucky to have parents whose dinner time conversation probably prepared me for the vocabulary portion of the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test).

So it was a miracle in itself that I was accepted at barely 17 to the Military Academy at West Point where I was unable to pass English in my first year. So yes I flunked out. At this point I want to focus on what I learned that allowed me to successfully be readmitted and graduate because what follows is the essence of what I would like to pass on to you UU's.

At the Military Academy there is very limited time for study. Approximately 3 hours a night which means by default you learn to compress your preparation for each class. And you use small bits of time economically. For example, I had about 40 minutes after breakfast to prepare for my first class and that's all. So Lesson #1 I learned to be a master skimmer. What that means is if I had a 20-page assignment I might use the first 15-20 minutes skimming the material maybe reading topic sentences eventually, chapter questions. So my last 15 minutes was finally reading in detail, but by then I had digested the essence and was ready for detail.

I got so good at study techniques that as a senior I was the 'head tutor' for the 100 cadets in my area.

As I write this I am thinking you haven't told MUUF how you were taught these techniques. I guess the answer is I was self-taught. As an adult I was lucky to enhance my study skills by taking a speed reading course. Certainly Sylvan, Kaplan, and on-line teaching offer versions of 'How to Study' courses, but I am not aware of public schools offering such courses.

I finally want to cover 'Test Taking' focusing on the SAT. My thesis is every test with proper preparation materials can be passed. SAT of course stands for Scholastic Aptitude Test. And is required to be taken by applicants to most colleges. The word aptitude is a misnomer. Any applicant who does not obtain paid help has missed the boat! Personally I partook of Kaplan and a Prep School called 'Bradens On Hudson'.

Without my parent's guidance in getting paid assistance I might not have passed the SAT. In not so recent years 'personal tutors' are hired with a price tag of 1K-40K.

Can you imagine say a poor one-parent family on welfare or very low income having any chance to score high enough on the SAT to enter any elite University?

So summing up, I see us as Parents and Grand Parents watching over our flock and not letting a seemingly poor student be left thinking he does not have mental capability as a student and carry that into adulthood. You should see that their school is providing some sort of 'How to Study Help' and testing for dyslexia.

At one point I had a very poor opinion of my mental capabilities and it took me many years to prove that incorrect!

Help financially your sons, daughters, grand kids, etc. with tests like the SAT.



Remember -  
our fallen heroes.  
They are the reason  
that we are free.



DeeDescriptions  
Rev. Dee Graham

We've got a secret!  
Our good news is there's a place in Manatee County where all people who love are welcome

into religious community!  
And even though some of us prefer a small congregation where most "everybody knows your name," where we nurture friendships with those close friends who greet us on Sundays and at the fun new get-togethers, there is a deeper purpose here.

Our coming together is about changing the world, making this life meaningful. That only happens when we who found our center in Unitarian Universalism throw open the doors and welcome in our neighbors.

Up to now, that meant engaging newcomers in worship and making some attempt for having religious education. Reaching out beyond that happens less often. We became accustomed to just letting folks find us. That's one thing keeping us small.

Now, one small change may help us grow in new ways.

Thanks to the technology team, led by Tom Stockebrand and Bernita Franzel, we now reach into cyberspace where unlimited numbers of people and families can find us, bringing our worship services into virtual reality.

While we are still ironing out little challenges, sometime this month you will be able to watch MUUF live on YouTube. Temporarily these webcasts are augmented by live coverage on Periscope.com, transmitted from my mini iPad held by a volunteer (often one of our pre-teen boys).

There are already a few regular followers, at least one of whom has attended in person before. So our congregation grows virtually.

There is one church on Periscope shortly before us with whom we share much in common – Unity-Unitarian meeting near London, England. That minister and I, who met earlier in the states, share similar perspectives and our congregations have similar challenges. So if you wake up one Sunday especially early and want a daybreak dose of Unitarianism, tune in on Periscope.

Most importantly, know that there are people out there seeking a faith where they can fully be themselves. Sometimes one can feel so constrained

by religion or customs that just the existence of a progressive faith community – one without creeds or exceptions – changes a person's life with hope, hope that they can feel that inherent worth and dignity for themselves.

We can do this. We can be the religion that loves all for who they are.

This doesn't mean we encourage all behavior, and that's why we covenant to live in concert with our stated principles. But we cast a broad net that's intentionally inclusive of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and more. The world needs this kind of love and there should be no secret about it.

So, find us on the internet website ([www.manateeuuf.org](http://www.manateeuuf.org)) or on Facebook. Share our broadcasts to your friends on social media.

Some Unitarian Universalist congregations are way ahead of us. They have a media volunteer who Twitters about worship while it's happening. They offer online groups and religious education.

We don't have to duplicate efforts. But we do have a role to play in Manatee County, and that means opening our hearts and doors.

Please, make this secret of the Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship the greatest news you can share – in person or online!

Guaranteed: you won't lose the close knit friends you have here now. Growth will only deepen those relationships.

By reaching out ourselves, we ensure the ongoing health of this ministry and of Unitarian Universalism.

It's what we do.





## **Religious Education**

**Lisa Bohn, DRE**

What do you know about Unitarian Universalism? In my quest for information, when putting together a service or an

RE class or even just writing a piece for our Update, I delve into the UUA website and am constantly amazed. The information within that one site will keep me learning for the rest of my life.

Do yourself a favor and do some exploring. Not only will you encounter thousands (and more) of articles written expressly for the UUA website, but you will gain access and links to information from other churches and UU Communities. Did you know about "Interweave," a Unitarian Universalist group addressing LGBTQ concerns within the UU community and beyond? Did you know you can listen to a webinar on Black Lives Matter? Did you know you can sign up for a newsletter on all UUA Social Justice Issues?

These are just specks in the vast landscape of resources available to us to deepen our understanding of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. I encourage you to do some religious educating of yourselves using this wonderful resource that's right at your fingertips!

### RE Calendar

- May 1 RE Classes- International Workers Day
- May 8 Mother's Day- Multi-generational service for families
- May 15 RE Classes – What is fair trade?
- May 22 Fourth Sunday- community building activities on the playground
- May 29 Memorial Day Weekend

## **Social Justice**

On all fronts of work for social justice, the underlying injustice is the devastating 2010 US Supreme Court decision known as "Citizens United." The decision says corporate money/donations are free speech; it says corporations have same rights as individuals. What this decision makes legal are corporate donations to campaigns of candidates for elected office. It does not require the names or the donation amounts to be made public. The abuses of this decision, seen in our current presidential campaign, must be alleviated by an amendment to the US Constitution.

Other amendments have been the Bill of Rights, voting rights for minorities and women, right to free speech, abolishing slavery, right to due process, free exercise of religion, prohibiting unreasonable searches, among others. All these are necessary in determining activities of daily living.



**Move to Amend** is the popular name of the proposed 28<sup>th</sup> amendment which revokes corporate personhood and denies money as free speech. Support for this amendment can be given by individuals, groups, municipal and county groups. Our Social Justice Committee voted support in 2013. MUUF was the first UU congregation to vote to support this amendment by making a resolution in January 2014. Now our focus is on the county commission and then the city councils, to urge them to support this non-binding resolution. In May we will be asking for your support by attending a county public hearing when speakers will urge Manatee County commissioners to make such a resolution.

This is important as the initial step in establishing equality of opportunity in all matters of democratic living.

Take a copy of Al Usack's Issue of the Quarter about Move to Amend on the display table.

Take a copy of the Resolution we will be asking the County Commissioners to support.

View the thousands of others who support Move to Amend on their website: [www.movetoamend.org](http://www.movetoamend.org). You will find MUUF and many city and counties in Florida and the U.S.

Let's have Manatee County be included!



# Announcements and Upcoming Events

## New Members

We would like to welcome our newest members who joined us in April: AJ Wolff, Richard and Regina Arata, Carol Sherman and Scott Richardson. When you see them in Sunday services or at a MUUF event, make sure to welcome them in person.

## Flower Communion

May 8th we will have a Flower Communion at MUUF. Flowers symbolize hope and beauty in our world. You can help by bringing a bouquet of flowers to share. Please call Chris to help her plan. 941-727-5183.



## New Women's Group

A new Women's group has started at MUUF, meeting on the second Wednesday of every month. This will be a meeting of women who value the special relationship that a group of women will provide. It will be part education, part exploration, part support and hopefully fun all the way. We will share leadership in this group and take turns being the presenter of a topic of personal interest that supports the goals of the group. We hope that this group will stretch us, inspire us and lift us on our life journey as women. Next Meeting May 11th @ 6:00pm. For more information, contact Lisa Bohn, DRE, [ottersbend@verizon.net](mailto:ottersbend@verizon.net).

## Special Collections

Bill Hayes - Special Collection Coordinator

The Special Collection for May will be held on May 15 and will benefit Manasota 88. This non-profit, volunteer run organization has been working for over 30 years to protect the environment in Manatee and Sarasota Counties. It receives no government or special interest monies or funds from any polluting industries. It works tirelessly to fight water, land and air pollution. Glenn Compton

will describe the work Manasota 88 does. Bill Hayes and Arlene Sweeting are point persons.

In the past two months, MUUF has donated \$575.50 to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and \$540. to Centerstone ( Manatee Glens ).



## Book Discussion Group

MaryLou Thompson and Bill Hayes, Coordinators

The Book Discussion Group hopes to start up again on Monday afternoons in mid-May. We are awaiting the books from the distributor. The book is *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. It deals with the medical care being provided to the elderly in our nation and how it too often fails to prepare us for our inevitable death. We have 15 signed up for the group, but there is still room for anyone else interested.

We plan to decide on future reads early in order to avoid the lag waiting for books to be delivered. Some ideas for future books include the following: *Losing Faith in Faith* by Dan Barker, *The Short Tragic Life of Robert Peace* by Jeff Hobbs, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Magic of Reality* by Richard Dawkins, *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel and *Godless Grace* by David Orenstein and Linda Ford Blaikie. And we are open to other suggestions, so put your thinking caps on.

Cinco De Mayo Celebration  
Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm  
At the home of Geri Pasquarella

&

Mother's Day Brunch  
May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30

Proceeds to fund outdoor  
security lights at MUUF

## Occupy Bradenton

Education Programs

Free and Open to the Public

Monday, MAY 9; 7:00pm (doors open @ 6:30)

90-minute documentary, 'SHADOWS OF LIBERTY' presents the story of today's disintegrating freedoms within the U.S. media and government.

OUR NEWS FOR SALE. Discussion follows.

Monday, May 23; 7:00pm (doors open @ 6:30pm)

Documentary 'ROADMAP TO APARTHEID' "A harrowing expose of Israel's unique system of official discrimination." Discussion follows.

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

Demonstration: 3rd Saturday-May 21st, 11am-12noon, corner 43rd St. W and Manatee Ave W.

Peace Demonstrations:

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

Signs available.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Carolle Hunt	5/1
Bill Hayes	5/7
Gordon Brookfield	5/8
Valerie Fisher	5/9
Jackie Callahan	5/11
James S. Brown	5/14
Lisa Janz	5/19
Kim Gardner	5/22
Ed Kobee	5/22
Jackie McNeal	5/25
Allan Guy	5/26

**NEW**

## Update Deadline

**The Update deadline is being changed to the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month!** Anything that you would like

published in the June Edition of the Update needs to be into the office no later than NOON May 20th unless other arrangements have been made **prior** to the deadline.

May
20

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



## Board Of Directors

<b>President</b>	Martha Pelletier
<b>Vice President</b>	Becky Smith
<b>Secretary</b>	Peggy Dickson
<b>Treasurer</b>	Al Guy
<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>	Bob Yavis
<b>Directors</b>	Monica DeBarros
	Chuck Wolfe
	Ricki Cunninghis
	Linda Myers
<b>Pres. Emeritus</b>	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.*

***May Share-A-Dish  
Friday, May 13, 2016***

***6:00PM Gathering/Appetizers  
6:30PM Dinner***

***Sponsored by The Social Justice Committee***



***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 15<sup>th</sup> Street West  
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