



UPDATE

May 2017
Volume 48 Number 5

MUUF'S MISSION STATEMENT

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

May 7

“Flower Communion”

Rev. Emmalou Kirchmeier will be our speaker for a *Flower Communion* service. This is an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. Please bring a bunch of flowers to share.

Music: Betty Comora,



May 14

“Mother’s Day”

Lead by Lisa Bohn, DRE. Her topic will be “Mother’s say the darnedest things – an Intergenerational Mother’s Day service”.

Music: Weintraub Duo

Fellowship Office Hours:

8 am – 1pm Mon – Fri

OFFICE: 941-746-0067

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Website: www.manateeuuf.org

The UPDATE

Update Content Editor – Lorraine Berry

Update Production Editor – Karen Salzinger

May 21

“Faith and Feminism”

Rev. Katie Culbert will be our speaker. Her message topic will be about The Prophetic Sisterhood, liberal women ministers of the late 18th and early 19th century, that paved the way for professional female leadership in the church while contributing greatly to the re-shaping of Unitarian theology & practice. They overcame a system of oppression designed to keep them “in their place” as minister’s wives, deaconesses, lay leaders, and missionaries but not paid ordained ministers.

As we approach the election of a new Unitarian Universalist Association President, what is the significance of all candidates being female? Feminism in faith has strengthened over the years but there is still progress to be made. How can we create more positive change for the rights of women in the church?

Music: Barbara Jensen

May 28

“Happiness is a Choice”

Rev. Frank Papandrea will speak to us about how unhappiness is the root of all problems, removing the wonderful ability to enjoy the week, day or hour. Joy is found in spite of life's stresses, irritations and other people's drama. But we must make deliberate choices, take risks and map changes to obtain and live a rewarding, purpose-filled lifestyle of love, joy, and peace.

Music: Tasha Robinson, harp



Find us on Facebook!

May 2017 MUUF Calendar



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 7:00 Occupy - discussion	2 6:30 Zen Meditation	3 6:00 Toastmasters	4 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	5 1:30 Play Reading 6:00 Celebration for Rev. Dee Graham	6 1-4:00 Game Day
7 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Emmalou Kirchmeier Music- Betty Comora 12:00 RE Meeting 12:00 Social Justice	8 7:00 Occupy - discussion	9 10:00 Chalice Circle 3:30 Membership 6:30 Zen Meditation	10 3:00 Men's Group 6:00 Toastmasters	11 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	12 6:00 Share-A-Dish World Capitals By Geri & Michael	13 1-4:00 Game Day
MOTHER'S DAY 14 10:30am Speaker- Lisa Bohn & RE Music- Weintraub Duo 12:00 Brunch	15 7:00 Occupy - discussion	16 6:30 Zen Meditation 6:30 Board Meeting	17 6:00 Toastmasters	18 9:00 Our Daily Bread 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	19 1:30 Play Reading	20 UPDATE Articles Due 1-4:00 Game Day
21 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Katie Culbert Music- Barbara Jensen Special Collection - Project Lighthouse	22 2:00 Book Club 6:00 Occupy & Social Justice movie "Black Panthers; Vanguard of the Revolution"	23 10:00 Chalice Circle 6:30 Zen Meditation	24 6:00 Toastmasters	25 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	26	27 1-4:00 Game Day 6:00 In-Home Dinners
28 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Frank Papandrea Music: Tasha Robinson 4:00 Pagan Perspectives	MEMORIAL DAY 29 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Occupy - discussion	30 6:30 Zen Meditation	31 6:00 Toastmasters			



President's Message

Carol Bartz

By now our members and friends should have received the letters from Rev. Dee Graham and myself about Dee's need to stop working as of April 10 due

to her disability. Together with her doctors the decision was made to focus on her own health and reduce stress in her life. We knew this would happen eventually, but it's still an adjustment for all of us. We are thankful for the times we have shared with Dee as she has enriched our lives here at Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, provided us with pastoral care, and more fully connected us to our denomination. We are saddened to have reached this crossroads and send our caring and positive thoughts with her. To show our appreciation and love for Dee there will be a dinner on Friday, May 5, at 6:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. Please plan to attend.

For members and friends here at Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship it means we are in a time of transition as we ask the question "Where do we go from here?" We don't have to rush into any decisions as we take time to reflect and consider our next steps, but we do need to be actively exploring our options. At our board meeting on April 18 we set in motion the forming of a Transitions Task Force that will look into the different possibilities. The resources of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) are available to us and we have already spoken with a number of UUA staff members who have said they will support us and help us as needed.

The important thing is that we are here for each other. Dee has said "MUUF members do a wonderful job caring for one another...you know what to do." It's true and we will continue to do so.

This transition time gives us the impetus to identify what we envision for our future so that we can work collectively towards fulfilling our vision. MUUF does offer a liberal sanctuary and voice in our community...a voice of love, hope, and compassion. Let's make it stronger as we move ahead together.



Religious Education

Lisa Bohn, DRE

I have made peace with the thought of our predicament, here at this Fellowship, of needing to zero out the funding for the Religious Education line in the budget in order to make things work. It's the same way I have dealt with other hard times in my life. By knowing that I have the creativity, ingenuity and confidence to get me through.

I have experienced many times in my life when I just could not stretch my paycheck any farther and I had to make due with a situation I thought was insufficient for my needs. And it's through tough times like these that I have used my inner resources and made things work. Not always easy or totally pleasant, but in the end, deeply gratifying. This situation will force us, as a congregation, to think and work together in ways that we haven't had to before. It might help us to see more clearly where we are strong and where we are less so.

I believe that this situation is an opportunity to reflect, stretch and grow in an intentional, focused direction. And when we finally arrive on the other side, we can look back and feel gratitude and pride in our accomplishments.

RE Calendar

- May 7 Words for All Ages in the service
- May 14 Mother's Day Intergenerational Service
- May 21 RE Classes
- May 28 Fourth Sunday Community-building on the playground

Women's Spirituality Group

Lisa Bohn

The Women's Spirituality Group will take a break until the Fall. Watch for notification of up-coming classes then. Happy Summer!



Mother's Day Brunch May 14



Annual Meeting

Carol Bartz

At our Annual Meeting April 9, we made decisions and discussed a number of topics. The proposed budget was accepted as presented though there was concern and sadness expressed that we will no longer have funding for Religious Education due to the lack of children and youth enrolled. Lisa Bohn has done a wonderful job over the years as Director of Religious Education and we've all enjoyed her "Words for All Ages" each month. We will have volunteers available if children do attend and should we reach a point in time that we see a need for the program again we can re-create it.

Officers were elected for the new fiscal year, with their terms beginning July 1. For two-year terms: Carol Bartz, President; John Isham, Vice President; Directors, Al Guy & AJ Wolff. For one-year terms because of resignations: Assistant Treasurer, Bill Hayes; Secretary, Doris Sutliff. Returning for one more year, but did not need a vote at the meeting: Treasurer, Mary Lou Thompson; Directors, Geri Pasquarella & Jim Heaton; President Emeritus, Bill Peruzzi. Thank you to officers completing their terms June 30 are Ricki Cunninghis, Becky Smith, & Bob Yavis as well as Peggy Dickson, Linda Myers, and Martha Pelletier who served but left their positions earlier.

Thank you to Linda Smith for serving as Parliamentarian, Judith Frey & Geri Pasquarella for preparing lunch, and Gary Chanco for operating the sound system. It was wonderful to see so many members attending and participating, showing that they are good stewards of MUUF by taking part in the decision making.



Social Justice

AJ Wolff

I was asked to write the MUUF Social Justice article this month. In April the Social Justice Committee did not meet. So, instead of writing about what members of the committee have been doing out in our community, I would like to talk about the theory of social justice as I see it. Why do it? At this time in our country's history we are in challenging times that feel almost paralyzing. There are so many causes and pressing matters, it can feel overwhelming. The UUA website is a wonderful resource on ways that we can get involved and what actions our UUA supports. <http://www.uua.org/justice>

I would like to take a moment to share with you an old story that has serviced me well for years in regards to doing social justice work. I learned about this theory called the "100th Monkey Effect" in the 1980's and it made sense to me. It has given me a frame of reference to act as a touchstone against hopelessness and to remind me of the importance of continuing the struggle for a Just World. There has been much written over the years on whether this is a true story or a myth. The basic concept is a sound one that change can and will happen when enough of us believe and work toward a goal. This story gave me a kind of optimism to carry on that we as a people of faith can change the culture by "Standing on the Side of Love".

100th Monkey Effect

The Hundredth Monkey Effect is the spontaneous transference of knowledge throughout a species once a certain number of individuals has learned a new idea or action. It bypasses physical barriers. A mind-to-mind jump. A leap in consciousness.

This idea came from Dr Watson, who wrote about studies of Japanese monkeys in his book *Lifetide* (1979). Later it was used as a parable in Ken Keyes Jr's book *Hundredth Monkey*.

Japanese scientists observed the macaca fuscata over a span of 30 years. In 1952 a young monkey called Imo who solved the problem of dirty raw potatoes by washing them in a nearby stream. This new trick was passed along to her mother and playmates and then their mothers, and so on until most of the troop has learned to do the same. Members of troops on other islands also exhibited the same behavior.

AJ will be acting social justice chair for May and June. Bernita will retire as chair June 30 and be concentrating on the MUUF website. Al Usack will be interim chair in July.

Book Discussion Group

Bill Hayes & Mary Lou Thompson

The MUUF Book Club will meet on April 24 at 2:00pm to finish its discussion of Eleanor Roosevelt by Blanche Wiesen Cook. This book covers the years 1939 to 1962 - from World War II to her death. Geri Pasquarella will be our discussion leader.

In May, we will meet on Monday, May 22 at 2:00 pm. to discuss Karen Armstrong's book The History of God. Skip McAfee will lead the discussion based on a synopsis he developed.

Special Collections

Chris McCormack



Project Light Adult English Learning Center - Most of you know that Project Light has been a priority for me since I became director 18 months ago. That's because the work fits me like a glove and I believe totally in the mission of providing tuition free English classes to help people become active members of the Bradenton community. Between now and June 30, a family foundation will match every dollar we have raised this year over \$16,000 which we have already met. Project Light will be the group we sponsor for special collections in May or June and I am inviting one of the founders, Ann Griffin, to present a slide show about the history and mission, and Victor Diaz, our 90-year-old student to describe his experience as a student. We have many MUUF members who have volunteered in the classrooms or offices. I'm looking forward to our presentation at MUUF. Chris MacCormack

MUUF raised \$618. for Prism at its March Special Collection and \$782. for the Crop Walk in February.

From the Worship Team

Sally Isham

At the April 9 Sunday morning service, the Worship Team handed out a survey for members and friends to give us an idea which recent speakers were well liked by the majority. The sample was not a large one but the results will help us in our future Sunday speaker selections.

In addition to our own Rev. Dee Graham, the five favorite speakers, in alphabetical order, are:

- Rev. Gary Batey
- Rev. Emmalou Kirchmeier
- Rabbi Michael Sternfield
- Rev. Robert Tucker
- Rev. Khleber Van Zandt



The Worship team will do these surveys from time to time. Next to come: a survey of our recent musicians.

Right Relations Team

Why do you come to this Fellowship?

As part of the process of forming a Covenant of Right Relations, a question was asked at the Annual Meeting on April 9: *Why do you come to this Fellowship?* A lavender-colored piece of paper was handed to everyone, people were given a few minutes to write their answer and the papers were collected. The answers are on a poster board display in the Social Room for all to see. A common theme ran through most of the answers: *Fellowship*. We come to this place for friendship, support, and love. May we all find what we seek.

Caring Committee

Lorraine Berry/Leslie Roell

With the warming of our continent in late spring, Leslie Roell will be returning to Michigan. Lorraine Berry, as co-chair of the Caring Committee, and a fulltime Florida resident, will take the helm when Leslie leaves to go north on May 8th. Lorraine has been "shadowing" Leslie, learning the ropes. If you know of any MUUF member or friend who needs help from the Caring Committee, please contact Lorraine for assistance:

Telephone: 941.795.7617 or 240.604.8309 (cell).

Email: lorrainefberry@earthlink.net

Membership Committee

Sally Isham

Notes from Membership Committee brainstorming meeting 4/11/17 where newer members (and one snowbird from upstate New York) were invited to share ideas on Welcoming Visitors, Path to Membership and Integration/Retention of members.

Visitors: It is important to ~

- . be thoughtful and intentional when we greet visitors
- . have front door greeter with a good memory for faces and names
- . have soft, spiritual piano music as people are seated, before the service begins
- . follow-up with a phone call to visitor within several days of visit
- . have at the beginning of the service, a 'greet your neighbor' moment
- . have at the end of the service, hold hands for the (extinguishing of chalice) (benediction)
- . have seasoned member greet and introduce visitor to another member



- . sit with visitor during social hour and engage in conversation
- . invite visitor to breakfast ~ or maybe lunch following the service

Path to Membership:

- . Offer to make nametag for visitor who has attended 2 services.
- . Invite returning visitors to join small group, possibly a group just for newcomers
- . Every other month have a UU 101 class for visitors who have attended at least 3 services and have shown an interest in joining the Fellowship.
- . At the UU 101 class be sure to have a member of the Stewardship team or Finance Committee explain the pledging process and the importance of financially supporting the Fellowship
- . After attending the class, invite the attendees to meet with the Minister (or Membership chair and Board chair in case there is no minister) before they sign the membership book
- . In the New Member bag, include a brochure explaining ways of naming the Fellowship a beneficiary of insurance and wills.

Integration and Retention:

- . Better training of service leaders. Delivery should be calming and professional.
- . Invite new members onto committees or into small groups
- . Find out new member's interests and talents and suggest ways to be involved
- . Personally, invite to Share a Dish event; offer to drive. Programs more diverse, less social justice oriented.
- . Telephone a member if they have been absent for several Sundays
- . Send birthday/get well/new baby/sympathy cards
- . Organize fun, all Fellowship events such as July 4th Hot dog & Ice Cream Social followed by Fireworks on the waterfront.

Final notes: We need exposure in the community ~ festivals, marches, carry the banner. Friday film nites. . .

Notes from the April Share-A-Dish Dinner

The Membership Committee hosted the April 14 Share A Dish dinner welcoming and honoring 16 new members who signed the membership book between April 2016 and April 2017. Not all were able to

attend but those who were there were surrounded by good food and good wishes. A brief ceremony of welcome was held, roses were handed out, stories were shared. It was a most enjoyable evening. Welcome to our newest members: Richard and Regina Arata, Carol and Jim Burch, Ed and Mary Hord, John Isham, Ed and Lisa Janz, Skip McAfee, Ginger Rechlin, Melissa Rhodes and Valerie Fisher, Scott Richardson and Carol Sherman, A.J. Wolff.



Ed and Mary Hord

Ed and Mary obtained Mary's parent's house on Anna Maria Island in 1997. They lived there and attended services at MUUF. In 2007 they couldn't get insurance on their home so they moved to Ocala. Now they have returned to MUUF and reside at Westminster in Bradenton. They are very glad to be back.

John Paul Isham

Born and raised in a Unitarian household in Pembroke, Massachusetts, a small New England town 30 miles south of Boston. My mother's ancestors were all Unitarians. By today's standards she would be considered a staunch feminist, as would be her stern grandmother who raised her. After three years in the U. S. Army, I was accepted by Northeastern University to study Electrical Engineering. I graduated Summa Cum Laude and was President of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society in my senior year. My professional field was acoustics where I designed and field- tested many underwater systems for a number of aerospace companies. Sally and I were married in Las Vegas in 1978 both for the second time. I retired in the mid 90's to a hobby of computerized investing and concentrated on raising my youngest children, Laura and Paul. I coached boys' soccer for ten years and chaperoned many middle school field trips. I was active in various groups and committees in the Unitarian Universalist congregations in Santa Barbara and North Palm Beach and have served as treasurer and canvass chair. We moved to Tequesta, FL in 2004 and after two years of touring the USA in our motor home, Sally and I now make our permanent home in Bradenton.

AJ Wolff

AJ Wolff born in San Francisco July 3, 1947 to high school sweethearts and 4th generation San

Franciscans. Her parents gave her the name Jeannie Ann (now you know what the AJ stands for). They moved out to the suburbs for her and her sister to go to high school. She graduated from San Jose State University, San Jose, CA with a degree in Art Ed. She later went on to get her M.A. in Art Ed. from Piedmont College. AJ became a UU in Ventura, CA in her forties when her friends suggested going to their UU Church. She had been raised in the Unity Church and was a Unity lay minster at the Ventura church. A divorce had her looking for a different church other than where her wife was attending. The UU Church was the perfect fit with their strong Social Justice program. AJ spent the last 15 years in Cleveland, GA near Dahlonega where she was an active member of the Georgia Mtns UU church. She had moved from the West Coast to help care for her mother who had Alzheimer's and passed away in 2011 at age 84.

Today AJ shares her home with her dad, John Bush, and her two cats Tyler, and Lucylu. After wintering last year in Florida, she decided to become a full-time resident, living in a senior mobile home park in Palmetto. AJ enjoys painting, crafts and making recycled art. AJ's winter stay 2013 on the coast of Baja Mexico has inspired her paintings incorporating Mexican tile designs and adding colorful florals to her work. Recently she created a series of paintings taking some of the Mexican designs and adding whimsical flying pigs. She was inspired to create her flying pigs' series after having heart valve replacement surgery. "I am living thanks to a pig's valve and so I feel the expression 'When pigs can fly' fits the magic of my current joyful life." AJ is a member of the Manatee Art Center and is often in their shows.

Needed: Kitchen Equipment

Please HELP! The kitchen is in need of several things to help the cooks prepare all those delicious meals and snacks for everyone. Please donate if you can:

Frying pans (ceramic or Teflon coated)

Large serving platters and bowls

Electric can opener

Knives

Hand held mixer

Electric knife

Electric stand mixer



Signup to be a Greeter, Chalice Lighter or Hospitality Host.

(Signup sheets are on the social room table)



MARCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income	\$ 5,277.07
Expenses	<u>8,310.94</u>
Deficit	-3,033.87



Carolle Hunt	5/1
Bill Hayes	5/7
Valerie Fisher	5/9
Richard Walkey	5/9
Lisa Janz	5/19
Kim Gardner	5/22
Ed Kobee	5/22
Allan Guy	5/26
John Isham	5/27

Update Deadline

The Update deadline is the 20th 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 9:00am* May 20th 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.

May 20



**A Special Celebration in honor of
Reverend Dee Graham
will be held on Friday, May 5th at 6:00pm.**

A pot luck dinner (please bring a dish to share) will be included in a celebration of our journey and ministry with Rev. Dee Graham.

Please plan to attend and extend your warm thanks and well wishes for our Rev. Dee.

(Rev. Dee's medical staff has advised her to retire from work)

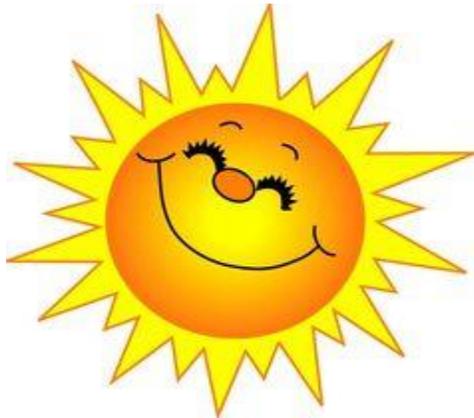




Board of Directors

- President** Carol Bartz
- Vice President** John Isham
- Secretary** Doris Sutliff
- Treasurer** Mary Lou Thompson
- Asst. Treasurer** Bill Hayes
- Directors** Geri Pasquarella
Jim Heaton
AJ Wolff
- 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.



**The League of Women Voters of Manatee County is having:
A Gathering to Celebrate Solar Energy**

Tuesday, May 9
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm (or so)
Motorworks Brewery
1014 9th Street West
Bradenton, Florida 34205

We will have a few games, a few announcements, and fun. Wear something yellow and a smile.

RSVP - Alice Newlon at anewlon@yahoo.com

Longtime member of MUUF,
Don Thompson
is located at the Savannah Grand of Sarasota,
7130 S Beneva Rd, Sarasota, FL 34238,
Apt.109. Phone # 941-260-9111
(no answering machine).

Don would love to receive cards, letters, phone calls, or visits. You should keep in mind, that although he wishes he could, Don **cannot** be taken off the premises for physical health reasons.

Directory Changes

New Address:

Peg Green
333 Yonge Ave.
Sarasota, FL 34235
703-774-6733

New Members

Ed & Mary Hord
2113 17th St. Ln. W
Bradenton, FL 34205
941-251-5872
Mhord54@gmail.com





Share-A-Dish
Friday, May 12th 6:00pm



***Visiting the World
Through the Eyes of
Geri And Michael***

Come enjoy the highlights of funny stories
and see pictures of places where
Geri and Michael have traveled to.

Maps will be available

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the social room. Social hour at 6 PM; dinner at 6:30; program will begin around 7 o'clock. Bring a friend and bring a dish to share.



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