



UPDATE

April 2019
Volume 50 Number 4

ANNUAL MEETING OF

MANATEE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, April 7, 2019
12:30pm

~DO NOT MISS THIS MEETING~

This is your chance to hear about the exciting future of MUUF, vote on the proposed bylaws and to elect your next leaders.



Lunch will be served at 11:30am

MUUF'S MISSION STATEMENT

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



Fred's Flavorings

Every other day, I check this bush that is getting ready to bloom outside my house. I never saw its blooms as they had already dropped before I moved here. The first bud began forming back in November. As the days and weeks went by more buds joined the first one to form. In recent weeks new leaves have formed, these bright green leaves are holding more buds. I have no idea what the flowers will be exactly. I think it is a gardenia, but I am not one hundred percent sure, so I am checking the buds that are expanding towards opening, when all its beauty and fragrance will be enjoyed by all.

I see this congregation being like that bush. I could see that we had blooms in our past. Glorious blooms. Magnificent blooms. Fragrant blooms. And I am seeing these new leaves being formed, these new buds being formed. I do not know what they will be when they bloom but I know it will be wonderful and perhaps transformative for all, be they near or far.

I invite you to join me in nurturing this marvelous bush called Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to discover what kind of blooms we might have here.

A recent article in the Spring Issue of the *UU World* has caused controversy in our faith journey as a denomination. The article entitled “After the L, G, and B” placed the lives of our Transgender UU siblings on the fringes of our faith instead of centering their experiences. Even the title of the article makes this group of individuals seem like an afterthought and not inclusively welcomed.

I will be hosting a session (**Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 10 AM**) where we can discuss the article and the various response articles from our Transgender UU siblings. This will be a 101-level discussion in that I will be defining terms that were unheard of ten years ago. This will fall under the category of adult religious education for this fellowship. I will have a signup sheet and I will

email those who sign up a small packet of articles to read prior to our discussing the articles. Regardless of signing up to this session, I encourage everyone to read the article and read it as if the author was talking about the group with whom you most readily identify with, to begin understanding how this article might have offended and harmed our Transgender UU siblings.

April 7th is our annual meeting. In addition to electing new officers and passing a budget; we will be examining our by-laws which are in desperate need of updating to reflect not only the current changes taking place but also to pave the way for our future growth and well-being as a fellowship. Please plan to attend this meeting as your voice will help define our future.

Blessings,
Fred



April

MUUF Calendar 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 2:00 Book Club	2 10:00 Knitting 4Peace 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation	3 10:00 Worship Team 6:00 Toastmasters	4 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	5	6 1:00 Bridge
ANNUAL MEETING 7 8:30 Choir 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred Hammond Music- Choir 11:30 Lunch 12:30 Annual Meeting	8 7:00 OCCUPY General Meeting	9 9:00 Board Meeting Reports Due 10:30 Chalice Circle 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation	10 2:00 Men's Group 6:00 Toastmasters	11 12:00 Al-Anon 3:00 COSM 7:30 Meditation	12 6:00 Share-A-Dish <i>Celebration of New Members</i>	13 10:00 Discussion on <i>UU World</i> article 1:00 Bridge
14 8:30 Choir 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred L Hammond Music- Barbara Jensen 12:00 Social Justice Mtg.	15	16 10:00 Knitting 4Peace 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 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	PASSOVER 19	20 1:00 Bridge
EASTER 21 8:30 Choir 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred L Hammond Music- Choir 12:00 Meet & Greet with Fred	EARTH DAY 22 9:00 UPDATE Articles Due 6:00 OCCUPY Film	23 10:30 Chalice Circle 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation	24 6:00 Toastmasters	25 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	26	27 1:00 Bridge
28 10:30am Speaker- Guest Music- Barbara Jensen Special Collection- Prism	29	30 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation				





President's Message

John Isham

We sure will miss our snowbirds. Some of our most active and helpful people leave us for six or more months very soon. We are considering having a fair well brunch to say our goodbyes to our northern part-timers. It would consist of scrambled eggs, muffins, French toast or pancakes and bacon or ham plus other good things. Of course, the cooking would be done by favorite kitchen snowbird, Linda Wilke. We will be asking for a show of hands of people who would like to attend this \$10 feast after a future service.

I thought we were home free for this fiscal year from troubles, but it seems a rat was trying to sneak from the crawl space under the building into our kitchen to steal some goodies and got lost in the wall by the stairs and couldn't find its way out. The poor thing died and we are having to deal with the resulting odor. We are having an animal removal service spray the area with a disinfectant, deodorizer and sealing spray but it may not be sufficient. We may have to remove some of the wall in the stair area to locate the source and remove it.

Much of March's time was taken up conducting the stewardship drive, preparing the 2019-2020 budget and the revising the ByLaws. Thanks to the generosity of the membership, the stewardship drive was very successful. Thank you everyone! Documentation of the new budget and revised bylaws have been sent to the membership for their review prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 7th. Time is reserved after the service on March 31st for any questions or concerns members may have regarding the ByLaw revisions or the Budget. Board members will be present to answer questions. We want people with concerns to bring them at this time so that we can take time to answer their questions satisfactorily prior to the Annual Meeting.

When I was very young I used to think *tempus fugit* meant a clock fight. We have only three months left of the fiscal year. It has been a good first year with Reverend Fred.



Social Justice

Ed Kobee

" We strive to provide a safe and empowering place for LGBTQ Youth of Manatee County."

Prism Youth Initiative is dedicated to supporting, affirming, encouraging, enabling, and empowering the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth ages 13-23 of Manatee County. They are committed to doing this in an environment that is safe, hospitable, warm and welcoming. They want all to know that no matter where you are on your journey, Prism is a place where you will find unconditional acceptance.

Prism Youth is located at 501 5th St. E. in Bradenton. They are currently open on the first Saturday of the month from noon till 3 pm (lunch provided) or by appointment. Watch their website event page and Facebook page for posts about times and dates for other upcoming activities.

The center is staffed by adults who are trained in LGBTQ issues - with the goal of creating a safe space just to be who you are, wherever you are on your life's journey.

Prism staff is available by phone. Call to reach (adult) youth counselors 941-357-0111.

Prism is seeking donations to fund a permanent Youth Center.

Special Collections

Bill Hayes

Bernita Franzel has arranged for representatives from the Immokalee Workers to lead our service on March 31. During the service, a Special Collection to benefit the Immokalee Workers will be taken. For many years our Fellowship has worked to support, financially and otherwise, the Immokalee Workers who are known for their support for improved working conditions of the South Florida migrant tomato workers. They are certainly worthy of our support.

In April the Special Collection on April 28 will benefit Prism. This a Manatee County organization supporting LGBTQ teenagers. **Al Usack** will be the point person.

Knitting4Peace

AJ Wolff

The knitting group is a “drop in” open gathering that meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 10:00 am-noon.

In March we continued with our many projects sending seven scarves to Knit4Peace which brings our total sent of 20 colorful scarves. Check out their website to learn more www.knitting4peace.org

March also continued with our monthly delivery of Peace Pal dolls to Hope Family Services. The dolls are given to the children who come into the shelter as well as to children in counseling at their schools. Hope Family Services help nearly 480 women with children of which 300 are children recovering from domestic violence. The staff is always excited to see the dolls. For more information www.hopefamilyservices.org and Hope Chest Thrift Store in Bradenton, where you can buy and give items.

Do you have a favorite charity that would like donations of knitted items? We would love to hear about them.

Talk to or email AJ Wolff ajwolffie@yahoo.com



Book Club

Bill Hayes and Mary Lou Thompson

The Book Club will next meet on Monday April 1 at 2:00pm.

We will be discussing Anand Giridharadas’s book *Winners Take All* and subtitled *The Elite Charade of Changing the World*. It is basically about the very rich not being satisfied with the many advantages they already have and wanting even more guarantees of power. The recent school scandal of the wealthy paying bribes to get their children into prestigious schools is an example of this. Anand has been on various cable news programs explaining his thesis. A lovely discussion should ensue.

Everyone is welcome to join us. Even those who have not read the book may join us, but the discussion is more meaningful if you have read the book.

For May we will be reading *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Kimmerer. Robin, a Native American, shows how the factual, objective approach of science can be enriched by the ancient knowledge of indigenous people.

Great Decisions

Bill Hayes

Great Decisions is winding down for 2019 and by the time you read this we will have completed all eight sessions.

The last two are:

7. *The US and Mexico* with Bill Hammes, leading the discussion.

8. *The State of the State Dept and Diplomacy* with Renee Motley leading the discussion.

We are planning a luncheon at Pier 22 following the final session.

In October look for news regarding the 2020 program.

meet+greet



Every 3rd Sunday of each month Rev. Fred will meet with folks who may be interested in joining the fellowship as a member. This is a casual gathering to get to know one another better and to answer preliminary questions. Meet in the sanctuary about 15 minutes after the service ends.

Art Exhibit

AJ Wolff

Beginning in mid-March, **Chris MacCormack's** new silk batik art will be our feature. When she was in Thailand Chris had the opportunity to learn silk batik painting from a Master Artist. She learned traditional ancient techniques bringing home her knowledge to her studio to make her own vibrant creations.

Both **AJ Wolff** and **Chris MacCormack** find inspiration in designs they see when they travel and stay in other countries. **AJ** lived on the Baja Coast in Mexico for nearly a year finding inspiration in the local traditional Talavera pottery designs. This month, two of her colorful Florida whimsical style paintings inspired by the Talavera Sun motif are on display in the Social Room. To learn more about AJ Wolff's art, visit her website: www.ajwolff.com



Publicity

Randy McCrea

The Publicity Committee reminds the congregation that there are "tear off" information pads available in the Fellowship office to help promote Manatee UU in the community. There are 25 sheets to a pad. Each sheet welcomes the reader to join us for Sunday service and gives pertinent information such as address, telephone number, etc. These pads should be helpful to members who want to help publicize and raise awareness of our Fellowship in the greater Bradenton community. See Karen in the office if you'd like a pad to help you in your outreach activities or pick one up at the Visitor's Table. Also, a new brochure describing Manatee UU Fellowship is now available in the brochure rack next to the Visitor's Table. Thanks to **Linda Wilke**, **Rev. Fred** and **Randy McCrea** for all their hard work on these two projects.



Manatee Pride 2019

AJ Wolff

This year was the 6th annual Pride Festival and MUUF has been there since the beginning. We had our biggest turnout from MUUF to date. There was a rainy start to the day, but it cleared just in time for setup. The family friendly event was well attended featuring live entertainment, local vendors, food and free Tropicana bottles of fruit juice which helped us though a warm afternoon. We felt inspired with the opening candle lighting readings by the group of Progressive local clergy, followed with **Rev. Fred** giving us an informative homily on *Love is Love*, and ending with a favorite peace song, *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. After the opening we enjoyed a busy day at the MUUF booth which was well visited. We gave out candy, UUA Welcoming Congregation brochures and tear off sheets with information about MUUF. Our new booth went up with ease and looked great. Thanks to all who helped at the booth, **Rev. Fred L Hammond**, **Chuck Wolfe**, **Carol Bartz**, **Ed Kobee**, **Al Usack**, **Linda Marshall**, **Bernita Franzel**, and **AJ Wolff**, with a special thanks to Bernita's son **James Grogan** for getting the new tent up and down and **Karen Salzinger** for getting the brochures ordered and labeled.



A Note from the Choir

Sally Isham

A very special *Thank You* to **Will Whitehead** and to **Barbara Jensen** for sharing their skills and energy with the choir throughout the 2018-2019 singing season. Our final singing Sunday will be April 21 and we'll start up again on October 6th. We welcome all singers ~ tenors and baritones especially! If you love to sing, consider joining us in October. We rehearse every Sunday morning from 8:30 until 10 o'clock. It's fun and good for the body and soul. Studies show that choral singing improves our mood, with a decrease in stress, depression and anxiety. Give it a try!

Membership

Sally Isham

Please welcome our new members **Ellie Syverud, Carolyn and Bill Denison, Lisa Moschin and Shirley Loebel**. Learn about their backgrounds in the biographies and extend an invitation to join your group or committee. At the [April 12 Share a Dish dinner](#), we will be celebrating all 10 new members who signed the membership book since April 2018. We will also be celebrating a very special birthday that evening. (It's a surprise...) See the sign-up sheet in the social room and come to the party!

Ellie Syverud (Feb 20, 2019)

My husband Mark and I are snowbirds from upstate New York (the beautiful Finger Lakes area). At home, we belong to the UU Church of Canandaigua, another small congregation. We have been members there for 25 years; I have served as treasurer, president, and membership chairperson. I grew up and attended college in New York City. Retired now for almost 9 years, I spent most of my career in social services although the last 10 years I worked as a Probation Officer. I like to spend time with friends and family- especially those grandkids!- and love the outdoors, reading, and movies. I feel fortunate to have found MUUF and become a member.

Carolyn Denison (Feb 24, 2019)

I was born in Pennsylvania, first child of southerners who came north when Dad joined General Electric. After graduating from Penn State in journalism, I spent several months in Paris before returning home and moving to Chicago. My last few jobs included community relations for a bank and a hospital in New Mexico and United Way and a Children's Home in Connecticut. I married Bill in 1991 and in 1998 we retired and traveled the US for three years in an RV while summering at Lake Winnepesaukee, NH. We moved to Bradenton in 2013. We like to travel and work in the yard. My interests are hand work, reading, and family genealogy. I volunteer at the Manor where we live, tutoring young students and church membership.

Bill Denison (Feb 24, 2019)

Bill was born on August 4, 1929 in New Haven, Connecticut. He attended local schools and was graduated from Hillhouse High in New Haven in 1947. His college education was interrupted in 1951 by the Korean War so he received his BS in

accounting and business from Quinnipiac University in June 1956. For 15 years he worked in industrial purchasing as a buyer and then manager. He served as executive vice president of the Connecticut Association of Purchasing Management for six years and the balance of his career in real estate and land development. In addition, he taught real estate at Middletown Community College. Bill also was active in his community as a Sunday School teacher, on the Board of Education, in Rotary and politics. For fun, he sailed and enjoyed his summer home in New Hampshire. After retirement he and his wife Carolyn traveled for three years in an RV and he continued his accounting as an income tax preparer. Bill and Carolyn each have three children and have lived in Bradenton for six years.

Lisa Moschin (Mar 17, 2019)

Lisa Moschin has two children Anthony, 17 and David, 16. She appreciates the fine arts including plays, museums, and art galleries. She also enjoys the orchestra and singing. Lisa loves to read and has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from USF. She is also 2/3 into a program for Mental Health Counseling which she plans to finish when she has the time to dedicate to it. Lisa is the Sales Manager at Eagle Stones, specializing in stone countertop fabrication and installation. She also sells pavers and tile. Lisa is also the president of Business Connection Network. She hosts monthly meetings in Sarasota.

Lisa owned Italian Tile Design for 13 years. She also has a social work background as an Adoption Supervisor for Manatee Glens and a Child Welfare Case Manager for Family Preservation Services.

Shirley Loebel (Mar 17, 2019)

Shirley has been a UU since 1968, mainly involved in choirs. She taught high school econ, history, and 9 subjects at 4 different schools during a period of declining enrollment in Brookfield, WI. When laid off for the final time, she enrolled and went to Marquette law school at age 49. She was hired in a different district and left law school to continue teaching. After retirement, she and husband Ken were snowbirds for 12 years before he died in 2016. Shirley has served as a pianist at the UU Church in Marion County during those years. Daughter Lauri and son Ken live in IL, but Shirley prefers FL over winter, so moved to The Shores in Bradenton this November.

Board Highlights

At our March meeting some of the items discussed were:

- Our Stewardship Campaign to date raised \$85,154, showing an increase of 31% from last year. The cottage meetings proved successful and plans are to have six meetings next year and to send the pledge card and letter out two weeks earlier than this year.
- There will be a Q & A session for the proposed bylaws on Sunday, March 31 following the service.
- Rev. Fred will lead a session/workshop/discussion on the UU World Spring issue article on Transgender individuals on Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 a.m.
- Manatee Pride was a successful event, especially since Rev. Fred gave the interfaith prayer service, thus opening up conversations and giving MUUF more visibility.
- Sandy McCarthy will complete the 2nd year for Bernita's position as director.
- The Publicity Committee has completed a new brochure as an introductory view of our Fellowship. This will be given to visitors when they arrive.
- Sandy McCarthy will coordinate volunteers to provide lunch for members during the transition from the service to the Annual Meeting on April 7.
- A seed was planted to have a worship retreat to brainstorm and come up with two or three major services that are special and out of the ordinary.
- There will be a new member recognition on Sunday, April 7 to welcome Carolyn & Bill Denison, Shirley Loebel, and Lisa Moschin. All new members since April 2018 will be honored at our April Share-a-Dish dinner. The next MUUF 101 session will be Sept. 8.
- Reminders of our no smoking policy will be rejuvenated in the Update, 2 Minute Update, and posting of a small sign.
- Improvements are continuing to be made on our website with use of the grant we received.

- The possibility of sending 1-3 persons to the UU Musician's Network this summer was discussed.
- Slow but steady progress is being made on the building's "odor problem."
- The board held a special meeting March 14 to review the proposed budget and recommended approval for presentation to members at the Annual Meeting at which time they may vote to show their approval.

Stewardship

Rev. Fred L Hammond

\$85,000! That is the amount we raised for next year's budget! It is a 31% increase over last year's Stewardship campaign. On behalf of all of us, thank you for your generous spirit that will move us in the direction the fellowship voted on going a year ago.

This also means that we will be using less money from our reserves this next year. Which is remarkable because last year's amount from the reserve was based on a full-time minister for ten months and not twelve.

Again, congratulations to us for heeding the call!!
May great things be done with this generosity.



The board would like to remind folks that the Manatee Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a nonsmoking campus. Thank you for not smoking/vaping on our campus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Carol Bartz 4/9
 Gary Chanco 4/13
 Bob Phillipoff 4/16



Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Hosts

4/7 Membership
 4/14 Men's Group & Finance Committee
 4/21 Social Justice
 4/28 Chalice Circle & Caring Committee

Chalice Lighter Schedule for April

April 7 Randy Coleman
 April 14 Pat Rohrer
 April 21 AJ Wolff
 April 28 Carol Bartz

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Lois Stilley
 1700 21st Ave. W #524
 Bradenton, FL 34205
 941-745-5189

Leslie Roell
 269-443-7030

Jim Burch
 609 Cornerstone Rd.
 Venice, FL 34293

Zada Merrill
 Beatitudes Campus
 Plaza View Rm 289
 1610 West Glendale Ave.
 Phoenix, AZ 85021



Board of Directors

President	John Isham
Vice President	Carol Bartz
Secretary	Randy Coleman
Treasurer	Mary Lou Thompson
Asst. Treasurer	Bill Hayes
Directors	Bernita Franzel
	Doris Sutliff
	Pat Rohrer
	AJ Wolff
Pres. Emeritus	Carol Bartz

Board Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm in the Social Room. All members of the Congregation are invited to attend.

\$	INCOME	\$16,001.29
	EXPENSES	<u>14,498.10</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 1,503.19

The Auction Fundraiser brought in **\$7,998.00** which increased the income for the month of February.

Fellowship Office Hours:

Mon – Fri 8am – 1pm
 OFFICE 941-746-0067

Rev. Fred L Hammond: Minister
 Email: muufminister@manateeuuf.org
 Karen Salzinger: Office Administrator
 Email: muufoffice@manateeuuf.org
 Website: www.manateeuuf.org

The UPDATE

Articles must be submitted by the 20th of each month for publication the following month.



Share-A-Dish

Friday, April 12th at 6:00pm

Celebrating Our New Members

Hosts: Membership Committee

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the social room.

Celebrate!! ... Let's all honor and celebrate those who have joined our congregation since April of last year. After dinner, we will have a ceremony to welcome our newer members and each will have an opportunity to tell us what brought them to Manatee UU Fellowship. Come...introduce yourself...help our newer members realize they have made a great choice by signing MUUF's Membership Book!

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 dish to share (no desserts please) ...and bring a friend!



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