



UPDATE

May 2019
Volume 50 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.”



Fred's Flavorings

There is a TV show that I enjoy called *New Amsterdam*. It is the name of a hospital in NYC. Like other shows of this genre, it focuses more on the stories of the people who work in the hospital than on the lives of the those that pass through their doors. One character is the hospital's social worker who runs a support group for young teens who have been admitted for multiple mental health issues. One of his patients is being discharged and he has a meltdown over it. At one point the patient mentions needing to stay in order to be fixed. The social worker says, you do not need to be fixed you just need the tools to get through the day.

A friend of mine was having a difficult time and wanted some encouragement. Another friend wisely responded she is taking out her shaker bottle labeled FOR NOW and liberally shaking it on the situation. Adding “may you remember that this is just for now, and things will shift. May there be space in your heart to see the other side.”

We live in a society where there must be a fix. There must be something that will make life smooth again. There must be something that we can take or do, some pill, some magical mind trick that will create the world we want to live in. Something that will fix us, fix them, fix it. Otherwise we believe it will be this way forever and ever.

The Buddha teaches that suffering comes from attachment. This isn't just attachment to material objects. It can also be attachment to more abstract less-tangible objects like thoughts or emotions or situations we find ourselves in. When the attachment is something like emotional pain, grief, despair then the fix is not a fix but an embrace. A loving embrace of being present to the emotion, of

accepting of this for now and, in that embrace, finding the release of the attachment to it. The grip of that pain will lessen, the pain will shift, and another day will have been lived stronger and more resilient.

The hometown church I attended was led by a minister and choir director who wrote songs. One of the songs they wrote spoke of this embrace as an act of loving others now, in this moment, in this present moment. The chorus is

“Love them now. Don't wait till they're gone away. Love them now, while they're around. Touch them, hold them, laugh and cry with them. Show them, tell them, don't deny with them. Honor them, give birth and die with them now. Love them now before they're just a guilty mem'ry. Love them now. Love them now.” (Love Them Now © 1970 by Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh)

There are no fixes. No magical mind tricks. No pill that will fix the heart in emotional distress. Life is something we journey through one moment at a time. There are tools for the journey. One of those tools is a community where we are loved—now.

Blessings abound, Fred





MUUF Calendar 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10:00 Worship Team 6:00 Toastmasters	2 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	3	4 1:00 Bridge
5 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred Hammond Music-Barbara Jensen 12:00 Social Justice Mtg.	6 2:00 Book Group <i>Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer</i>	7 10:00 Knitting 4Peace 10:30 Chalice Circle 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation	8 6:00 Toastmasters	9 12:00 Al-Anon 3:00 COSM 7:30 Meditation	10 6:00 Share-A-Dish <i>Hosted by Social Justice "The Environment" With Jim Willard</i>	11 1:00 Bridge
12 MOTHER'S DAY 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred L Hammond Music- Barbara Jensen	13	14 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 2:30 Membership 6:30 Zen Meditation	15 2:00 Men's Group 6:00 Toastmasters	16 9:00 Our Daily Bread 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	17	18 1:00 Bridge
19 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred L Hammond Music-Barbara Jensen 12:00 Meet & Greet With Rev. Fred Special Collection-Peace & Justice Coalition at Fogartyville	20 9:00 UPDATE Articles Due	21 10:00 Knitting 4Peace 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation	22 9:00 Board Meeting Reports Due 6:00 Toastmasters	23 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	24	25 1:00 Bridge
26 10:30am Speaker- Dr. Robert Tucker Music- Barbara Jensen	27 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 	28 10:30 Chalice Circle 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation 6:30 Board Meeting	29 6:00 Toastmasters	30 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation	31	





President's Message

John Isham

May is when the last of our snowbirds go home. If I let my imagination wander, I can remember May in Massachusetts where, being a country boy, I spent hours in the pine woods alone, walking on the soft bed of pine needles, finding patches of wild May flowers with the sweetest smelling small white flowers one could ever imagine. There was a favorite grassy place next to a bend in the herring brook where the water ran clear and cold and trout and herring rested under the overhanging edge of the bank. Nearby one could find lady slippers growing next to skunk cabbage and princess pine. I was momentarily contented; worry free, and alone with myself to gaze at a sky filtered through pine branches. I hope most snowbirds are returning to similar environments where they can recall and perhaps experience some of those early feelings, for me it was more than 70 years ago.

Back here to reality, April has been a month when many past efforts have come to fruition with satisfaction. With the annual meeting completed, next year's budget is set in stone being based on a generous congregational stewardship effort and a very rewarding auction. Our bylaws are updated to reflect the latest UUA congregational concepts with expert help and efforts of our minister. We are finally rid of the awful odor of the remains of a large animal that died under the floor of our building. This was one of those unplanned happenings for which we were completely unprepared, I hope our acquired knowledge of how to deal with it will go unused for the next 50 years. Has anyone noticed the garage? It is clean and organized thanks to **Bernie Salzinger**, our handyman, whose work ethic is uncompromised and was evident in his unflinching pursuit of the cleanup of the animal nest under the building. Gradually the landscaping is improving. We held a successful work party attracting six pizza lovers who earned their slices by doing cleanup of the grounds. One more party soon will have us ready for planting some color in appropriate places. The memorial garden is looking more English every day. Check it out.

In the financial arena, early next month we will meet with our new financial advisor and set investing goals for the future. We will also hold informational meetings soon to inform members of the many ways

to set up legacy giving arrangements. MUUF was fortunate to have past members start a legacy giving circle about 20 years ago. I want to create a commemorative plaque showing the donor's names.

Coming soon are adult RE classes in UU history and concepts taught by our minister. Also, social justice is considering recommending we endorse the Manatee Clean Energy Alliance who will give us a talk at the May share a dish. Also, in the works is a consideration to declare MUUF to be plastic free.

Board Highlights

Some of the items discussed at the April 16 board meeting are:

- We will be celebrating our 60th anniversary on May 5 via our worship service.
- **Rev. Fred** led a forum on April 13 to discuss the UU World article on transgender lives and expressed a desire to purchase the online course on transgenderism.
- **Rev. Fred** is intending to attend UUMA ministry days June 17-19 and UUA General Assembly June 19-23 in Spokane, WA.
- Plans for next year will include reviewing and updating our SOPs, implementing the Legacy giving program, the Leadership Development committee, and the Conflict Resolution procedures.
- **Rev. Fred** will be registering with Manatee Memorial Hospital as clergy.
- Our Office Administrator duties were updated to include new items and provide clarification.
- The removal of the dead animal and the odor resulting from it seem to have been successful, mostly through the work of **Bernie Salzinger** and **John Isham**.
- A calendar planning meeting will be held Sunday, June 9 after the service to plan for the upcoming year.
- There will be a work party to clean up and plant new plants Saturday, April 27.
- Through the use of grant money our web site is continuously being improved upon.
- The Committee on Shared Ministry is planning a Vision workshop and training for the facilitators early in October.

- The Membership Team hosted the Share a Dish dinner honoring ten new members who have joined since April 2018. A brainstorming session was held that evening. The Involvements Booklet is being revised and the next MUUF 101 session will be Sept. 8.
- The Choir will finish this season April 21 and begin anew with rehearsals Oct 6.
- Social Justice presented a lengthy report including information on special collections, plans for the May Share a Dish with a presentation by the Clean Energy Alliance, discontinuation of the Wish List program, legislative issues, and an update on the lawsuit of youth vs the government.

Social Justice

Bernita Franzel

*Peace and Justice Center
at Fogartyville, Sarasota*

May's Special Collection presenter will be **David Beaton**, Co-Founder of Radio WSLR (96.5-FM) and host at Fogartyville for musical entertainment productions and the programs sponsored by the Sarasota Peace and Justice Center. These events are published quarterly in "Critical Times," available on our display table in the Social Room. Advertised are meetings of the Sierra Club, League of Women Voters, Project 180, Pioneers of Climate Science, Citizens Climate Lobby, Earth Day and more.

Fogartyville is also the meeting place for the Sarasota-Manatee Chapter of Move To Amend. Jaime Canfield, known at MUUF through OCCUPY, is the Manatee representative. Some programs benefiting local groups include showing and selling art works by local artist including MUUF artists.

Arlene Sweeting, Co-Founder at Fogartyville and publisher of "Critical Times" quarterly newspaper pulls together articles of legislative issues such as Ranked Choice Voting, Redistricting, Raising the Minimum Wage, Medicaid Expansion, and Florida's solar energy plans.

The radio station at Fogartyville is 96.5-fm. Most of us MUUF members live outside the broadcasting area, but we can still listen online. Go to <https://WSLR.org> and then click on Popup Player

and then click the green square with triangle arrow for the program in session at the time. National figures such as Amy Goodwin and Thom Hartman are regulars with today's issues. You can hear **Mariano Vera**, MUUF member, at 10 am alternate Tuesdays with program entitled, "Nuestra Musica." Also, the You Tube programming is at WSLR Fogartyville.

Special Collections

Bill Hayes

Here we are winding down at the end of our fiscal year. Our collection in March was for the Alliance For Fair Food and the Immokalee Workers. We had representatives from the Alliance addressing us in both English and Spanish. \$778. was raised.

On April 28 we had a Special Collection for Prism, an organization supporting gay teenagers and the sponsor of Manatee County's Gay Pride Celebration. **Valerie Fisher** was Prism's spokesperson and **Ed Kobee** was our point person.

On May 19 the Special Collection will benefit the Peace and Justice Coalition at Fogartyville and its efforts to undo the Supreme Court's decision known as Citizens United. This decision ruled that the First Amendment should be interpreted to allow corporations to be persons and money as speech, thus giving corporations the same rights as individuals. This decision has wreaked havoc in our political system. A representative from Fogartyville will be on hand to describe their latest efforts. Point persons are **Mariano Vera** and **Jo Williams**.

Our beneficiary in June will be Planned Parenthood and **Al Usack** will be our point person.

At our May Social Justice Committee meeting we will decide on the twelve beneficiaries to recommend to the Board for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The Board must approve all beneficiaries. If you have any suggestions, please contact **Bill Hayes** or **Bernita Franzel**. We look to organizations which are doing social justice locally.



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 April, we continued with our many projects along with sending colorful scarfs to Knitting4Peace. Check out their website to learn more www.knitting4peace.org. AJ Wolff carried on 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 children in counseling at their schools. Many of these children are recovering from domestic violence. For more information visit 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 meet on Monday, May 6, at 2:00pm. We will be discussing *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall

Kimmerer. Kimmerer is a trained botanist and also an indigenous American who loves her ancestral traditions. This book tells how she combines the two. Each chapter is a separate episode of her life.

In June, on the 3rd at 2:00pm, we will discuss *In Pieces* by actress Sally Field. In this intimate, haunting memoir she tells her story for the first time. She opens up about a challenging and lonely childhood, the craft that helped her find her voice, and a powerful, emotional legacy that shaped her journey as a daughter and mother.

At our May meeting we will also choose books to read for the next several months. For the summer months we may decide to read something lighter as a novel or mystery or comedy. Bring your suggestions with you. I would like to offer though, that it works out best if you have at least read part of a book before suggesting it as our monthly read.

Art Exhibit

AJ Wolff

For May, AJ Wolff’s “Song Bird Meditation Series” will be featured in the sanctuary. The paintings were done as a form of daily meditation. One painting each morning, painting a song bird that she saw while out walking in early spring. This focus on detail painting, helped to inspire other artwork AJ was doing, as well as being a delightful way to start her day.

The joy of “flocking together” was experienced by AJ at the members opening Art Reception at Manatee Art Center in Bradenton where AJ received a second-place award for her mosaic “Gone Fishing.” She was so delighted to have Rev. Fred and MUUF members there to share in her celebrity moment.

Do you know a local artist you would like to see exhibited at MUUF? Contact Art & Decorating Chair, AJ Wolff at ajwolffie@yahoo.com.



The Caring Committee Needs Your Help

Randy McCrea

A recent definition of what the Caring Committee does reads like this: “The Caring Committee endeavors to be aware of the needs of members and friends of the Fellowship. The committee sends out birthday cards, makes hospital visits and makes friendly visits to those who are unable to leave their homes. We offer food when a member is ill. We send cards in times of illness and grief. We make phone calls to members who are facing a personal challenge. We offer help with memorial receptions. The Caring Committee offers a compassionate heart, confidentiality, and a willingness to listen.”

The committee currently has only four members and we could use several more. If you think you could fit in with any parts of the above description and would like to help, we can certainly use you. Please contact **Randy McCrea** at 512-763-9356 or remccrea6@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer or have any questions. Thank you.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting was held April 7 at which time we approved the budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year. In addition, the slate of officers submitted by the Nominating Committee was approved unanimously. Thank you to **Sandy McCarthy** for coordinating and setting up lunch.

Beginning July 1, 2019, the board will be as follows:

John Isham	President
Carol Bartz	Vice-President
Randy Coleman	Secretary
Mary Lou Thompson	Treasurer
Bill Hayes	Assistant Treasurer
AJ Wolff	Director
Doris Sutliff	Director
Pat Rohrer	Director
Sandy McCarthy	Director
Carol Bartz	President Emeritus

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.

Brainstorming ideas from April 2019 Share a Dish

At our April 12, 2019 Share a Dish dinner honoring new members since last April, we had a lively brainstorming session focusing on two main questions: (1) How best to assimilate our new members into the life of the fellowship; (2) How can we become better known in the community. Following are some of the ideas:

- Design & order MUUF tee shirts
- SEO (search engine optimization)
- Facebook marketing
- Networking in person
- MasterMinds group: ask the question How can we be more visible/attract youth and children.
- Seek out, mentor, accept youth here
- Form newcomer group = bonding
- Covenant groups/chalice groups
- Need adults too
- Growing pains need to be planned for (read UU Rev. Robert T. Latham)
- Need people closer to kids' ages
- Socrates Cafe type of group (philosophical issues not political)
- Need some events outside of regular work and school hours
- Play reading group
- Offer respite night for foster parents
- Join in various activities with other denominations e.g. climate change, gay pride, Christmas
- Dinners in the home 6-8 people; alternate being host
- Reach out more -- maps, business card size, on handouts
- Buddy system/ambassador
- Free fun events
- Exchanges with other places of worship - choir/events
- Small groups do specific projects
- Reach out to college age young people/set up table to talk: Starbucks, State Coll of FL, etc.

Letters received at MUUF...

Dear Friends at Manatee UU,
The CIW's 2019~4 Fair Trade Tour was a huge success! Each major action is not possible without the support of our allies. We are grateful for all the work your congregation did to prepare our farm war members with winter jackets. This was so significant. As we marched through light snow in Michigan and yelled, "Tienen frio? (Are you cold?)" our members responded, "Que es eso? (What is that?)" Everyone meant it. Thank you for being part of the struggle for farmworker justice. We look forward to continuing working with you.

In Solidarity,
Your friends at the Coalition of
Immokalee Workers and the Alliance
for Fair Trade

Dear members of MUUF,

This church deserves the prize for friendliness, love, going the extra step, inclusiveness, and sociability in activities and conversation. Joel and I have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the church life from pot lucks, choir, meetings, counseling, knitting, and innumerable coffees. Thank you so much for being YOU.

Love,
Lee Summerville and Joel Bastow

Lee and Joel will be heading back to Delaware this week. With Joel's health what it is, there is a chance they will not be returning to Bradenton in the winter. They both have served and participated in MUUF's activities during the past months and they will be missed.

Eco-Friendly Celebration...

Elliot Prout celebrated his April birthday by inviting his friends to pick up trash on Leffis Key Preserve at the south end of Bradenton Beach. They picked up 40 pounds of trash! **Popaja**, daughter-in-law of **Peggy Dickson** and new addition to our website wizards, was one of the collectors. We hope Elliot's celebration will be copied by others.

Weekend in Pictures...

Transgender Workshop 4/13/19



New Member Mary McClendon 4/12/19



Gary Chanco 65th Birthday 4/12/19



Photo credit **Sally Isham**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 5/7 Bill Hayes
- 5/9 Valerie Fisher
- 5/9 Mary McClendon
- 5/19 Lisa Janz
- 5/22 Ed Kobee
- 5/27 John Isham



Sunday Morning Coffee Hour Hosts

- 5/5 Book Group
- 5/12 Choir
- 5/19 Worship Team & AV & Knitters
- 5/26 Bridge Group

Chalice Lighter Schedule for May

- May 5 John Isham
- May 12 AJ Wolff
- May 19 Pat Rohrer
- May 26 Bill Hayes

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Lisa Moschin
 3402 27th St. W
 Bradenton, FL 34205
 941-565-2429
 babygreenapples@aol.com

Zada Merrill
 1616 West Glendale Ave.
 Phoenix, AZ 85021

Joyce Phillipoff
 941-447-8639

Karl & Florris Marshall
 Discovery Village
 1414 69th Ave. W
 Bradenton, FL 34209
 603-630-6245 Florris
 941-567-1873 Karl



Board of Directors

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| President | John Isham |
| Vice President | Carol Bartz |
| Secretary | Randy Coleman |
| Treasurer | Mary Lou Thompson |
| Asst. Treasurer | Bill Hayes |
| Directors | Sandy McCarthy |
| | 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.

APRIL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

\$	INCOME	\$16,535.21
	EXPENSES	13,531.13
	TOTAL	\$ 3,004.08

Income is up and spending is being held to a minimum (except for critters that die in the floorboards.)

Fellowship Office Hours:

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

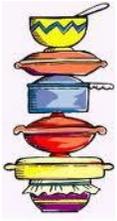
Rev. Fred L Hammond: Minister
 Email: muufminister@manateeuf.org
 Karen Salzinger: Office Administrator
 Email: muufoffice@manateeuf.org
 Website: www.manateeuf.org

The UPDATE

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

Share-A-Dish

Bernita Franzel



**Share
A
Dish**

Jim Willard, former MUUF member, will be with us again on the subject of Climate Change, our number one global problem. In the past he brought us Al Gore's follow-up to "An Inconvenient Truth" and he will bring us a new program on the Climate for our Share-a-Dish dinner program on May 10. Jim is the leader of the Manatee Clean Energy Alliance which has brought

together several organizations in Manatee County which are working on this problem: Sierra Club, Clean Climate Lobby, Ready for 100, and others. The Social Justice Committee has proposed the Climate as the MUUF focus activity.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

***General Assembly 2019
June 19-23, Spokane, WA***

The Power of We

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year's General Assembly we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists. Attendees will leave inspired, with the tools needed to carry on the work into their own congregations and communities. Join us as we work for collective liberation inside and outside our faith.



**May 27, 2019
OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

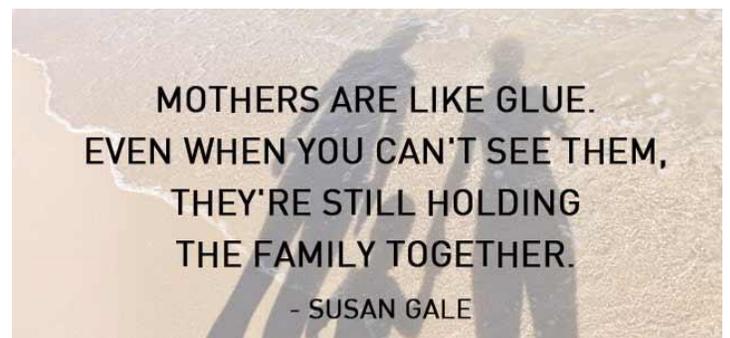
OCCUPY

The OCCUPY group that meets at MUUF on Monday nights is taking a break for the summer months, May - September. Meetings will resume in October.



FLOWER COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 12, 2019



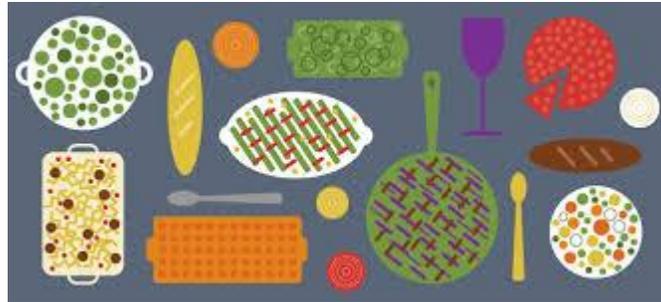
**MOTHERS ARE LIKE GLUE.
EVEN WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE THEM,
THEY'RE STILL HOLDING
THE FAMILY TOGETHER.**

- SUSAN GALE

MOTHERS DAY SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019

Share-A-Dish
Friday, May 10th at 6:00pm
Clean Energy Alliance
with Jim Willard
Hosts: Social Justice Committee

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



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...and bring a friend!



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