



UPDATE

February 2020
Volume 51 Number 2

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE 10:30am ~ JOIN US ~ ALL ARE WELCOME

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

As John said in his letter, we are in the season of dreaming, of planning, of figuring out how we make our love real in this next fiscal year. I want to first take us back to one year ago---this fellowship made a courageous leap of faith in bringing on a full time minister to assist in growing our fellowship so that our message of creating justice and love in this community will continue beyond our physical address of 322 15th Street West, Bradenton.

We increased our pledging by 30%-- enabling us to reduce the amount of funds needed from our reserves this current fiscal year. Our finance team became better stewards of our funds enabling them to grow in the first 6 months of this fiscal year by 14% ensuring that our reserve funds will remain healthy into our future. We generously supported 12 social justice ministries in our community and beyond by giving \$7846 in calendar year 2019. This is one lens on our community.

Another lens reveals we empowered (through receiving a grant) a voting registration drive in the black and latinx communities. We worked at passing amendment 4 in the Florida constitution. We received another grant to support Downtown Ministries to create hygiene kits for the homeless. We participated in Manatee Pride and let the community know we stand in solidarity with the LGBT community. We attended NAACP dinners and events. (NAACP's Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast is February 22 at 9AM at the IMG academy.) We furthered our education about Transgender issues and in creating a safe and welcoming space for all who enter here. We are participating in the formation of Manatee Justice Ministry here in Manatee County. This bodes an exciting future as we have more ability to create local change together with other congregations than separately.

A third lens looks at our membership growth—we had a record number of 21 people join our fellowship this year bringing our net membership to 78 people. This speaks volumes about our community as a warm, friendly, and inviting place. A place where people enjoy one another's presence.

Each of you bring another lens to this fellowship. For us to grow in covenant we all need to know each other's perspectives. What were the highlights for you this past year? What might we strive to do this next year to better embody our values?

Towards answering that and in preparation of our stewardship drive we are hosting four cottage meetings on the following dates: Saturday February 29 at 9 AM [light breakfast served]; Wednesday February 26 at 4 PM [appetizers]; Saturday March 7 at 9 AM [light breakfast served]; Wednesday March 11 at 10:30 AM [snacks]. Signup sheets will be in the social hall.

These cottage meetings are a time for us to listen to each other about what supported us this year. I strongly urge everyone to attend one of these cottage meetings. Our future as a fellowship depends on your participation. Together we can make our dreams reality.

Blessings!





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>9:00 Auction Set-up 1:00 Bridge</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Silent Auction Begins 8:30 Choir rehearsal 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred L Hammond Music- Choir & Barbara Jensen 12:00 Social Justice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>10:00 Great Decisions 2:00 Book Group "Crime in Progress" 6:30 Manatee Clean Energy Alliance</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>10:00 Knitting 4Peace 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 3:00 Voter Registration Training 6:30 Zen Meditation</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>6:00 Toastmasters</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>10:00 Worship Team 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>1:00 Bridge</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>Lunch & Live Auction 8:30 Choir rehearsal 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred L Hammond Music- Barbara Jensen</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>10:00 Great Decisions</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>10:30 Chalice Circle 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>2:00 Men's Group 6:00 Toastmasters</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 COSM 7:30 Meditation</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>6:00 Share-A-Dish <i>Love song Sing-along with Shirley Loebel at the piano</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>1:00 Bridge</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>8:30 Choir rehearsal 10:30am Speaker- Rev. Fred L Hammond Music- Choir & B.Jensen Special Collection- Healthy Start</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>10:00 Great Decisions</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>9:00 Board Reports Due 10:00 Finance Mtg 6:00 Toastmasters</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>9:00 Update Articles Due 9:00 Our Daily Bread 12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>4:30 Fellowship at <i>Caddy's at the Pointe</i> Bradenton</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>1:00 Bridge</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>8:30 Choir rehearsal 10:30am Speaker-Paul Carr, PhD. Music- Barbara Jensen</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>10:00 Great Decisions</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>10:30 Chalice Circle 2:00 Overeaters Anonymous 6:30 Zen Meditation 6:30 Board Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>4:00 Cottage Meeting 6:00 Toastmasters</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>12:00 Al-Anon 7:30 Meditation</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>9:00 Cottage Meeting 1:00 Bridge</p>





President's Message

John Isham

Very soon we will be initiating this year's Annual Budget Drive, something akin to the inevitability of death and taxes. Going to the UUA website, as I do every year, I seek advice and words to say to praise and smooth the effort. Don't use guilt it says. "How do you think we are going to pay for the electricity to run the four AC units and the lights and the hot water and the running water and the trash removal? Do you think money grows on trees!?! How about the salaries of the minister, administrator, custodian and grass cutter? Do you think you could do their jobs?"

Now that I have put you back to being 12 years old when you were told to mow the lawn with a narrow old and rusty push mower, (*a shiny new self powered mower appeared as soon as I went away to college*), let's look at things somewhat differently.

We are all together in this and that is good. We need each and every member to do as best as they can. First there is the basic need of a meeting place and an organizational structure and the care and feeding of those things. And then there is everything else.

Everything else is huge. It is all that we are and try to be. Many have said they felt an immediate warmth and belonging when they read the seven principles for the first time. Where else are you not told how to think, and can debate your own search for meaning with that of others? Where else can you find people who like you have hopes to be a better person, to meet new friends, to open new horizons, to improve their lives in new ways? Where else can you find people who are trying with you to make a better world for today and tomorrow?

All of us have treasure to pledge; for some it is more difficult, others not so hard. We all have talent to offer and are encouraged to try it. And we all can find time, no matter how busy. That is Fellowship and we all are the Stewards of it working in harmony, solidarity, togetherness, sympathy, understanding, companionship, friendliness, and friendship.

Stewardship

A Way of Life



Social Justice Committee

Minutes, January 5, 2020

Bernita Franzel

The Special Collections

Amounts collected in the past months:

November for UUSC \$1327,

December for Turning Points \$863

Future collections:

January 19 – Our Daily Bread - **Carol Bartz**

February 16 – Healthy Start - **Carol Alt**

March 29 - Prism – **Chuck Wolfe**

April 19 – CIW - **Bernita Franzel**

Issue of the Quarter: **Mary Frances Kordick** distributed the first installment of a series of articles on Immigration. The installment had been reviewed by email by members of the Social Justice committee.

Share-a-Dish January 10, 2020 - *Protecting Our Future* will feature a video by Greta Thunberg followed by discussion. There may be opportunity for letter writing with **Bill and Carolyn Denison** and signing postcards boycotting Wendy's for not supporting the Fair Food Program for migrant workers.

MLK Jr Day of Service Project: Jan 21 and 25 at *Downtown Ministries* gives community members an opportunity to give a Day of Service.

UU Justice Florida Legislative Days: **Mary Frances Kordick** has the list of positions taken by UUJF on bills coming up. She will be meeting with legislators in collaboration with other UUs from Florida congregations -Jan. 27-28.

Gay Pride event on Saturday, March 21, 2020. A sign-up sheet will be on the display table for setting up, staffing the booth, and taking down. The hours will be 4pm – 9pm.

UU the Vote – **John Isham** will tune us in to the UUA special program on Sunday, Jan.12 at 4pm. All welcome. See page 4 in UU World - Winter 2019.



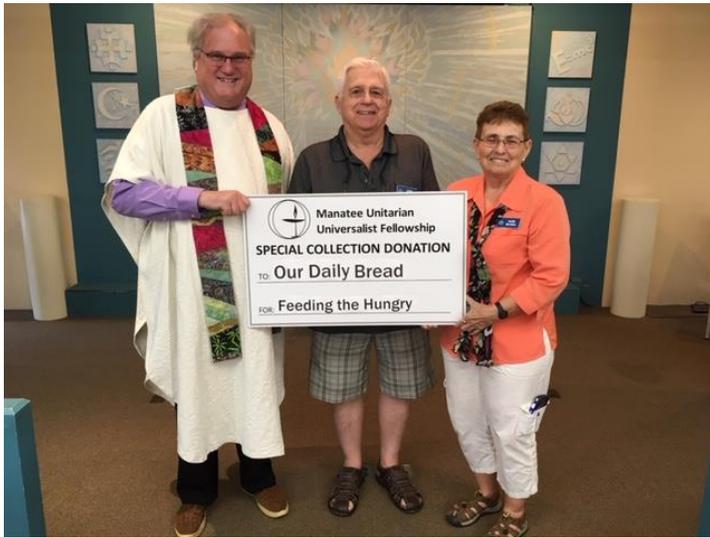
Special Collections

Bill Hayes

Our Daily Bread was the beneficiary of our January Special Collection. **John Isham** was the point person and also filled in for the representative of *Our Daily Bread* who was unable to attend. \$634. was raised.

In February our beneficiary will be *Healthy Start Manatee*. This is our first time working with this organization. **Carol Alt** is the point person. *Healthy Start* provides services to families with new babies to ensure that these babies start life in a healthful manner.

In March our collection will be for *Prism*, a support group for young LGBTQ persons. **Chuck Wolfe** and **Barb McCrea** will be point persons.



Pictured: Rev. Fred, John Isham, Barb McCrea

Did You Ever Hear of Mahjongg?

A new group of game-loving folks are meeting every Wednesday at 11:00am at MUUF to play Mahjongg. You ask what in the world is Mahjongg? Mahjongg is a tile-based game that was developed in China during the Qing dynasty and has spread throughout the world since the early 20th century. It is commonly played by four players. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun, even beginners.



Book Club

Bill Hayes



On January 6, we had a good discussion of Colin Whitehead's book *The Nickel Boys*. This is the story of Florida's reform school for boys which was notorious for its racial cruelty. It closed in 2011.

We decided to move up the reading of *Crime in Progress* by Glenn Simpson and Peter Fritsch to our February meeting. This book about Donald Trump's 2016 election is relevant right now with his impeachment trial in process. We will meet on Monday, Feb 3 at 2:00pm.

In March our book is *Educated* by Tara Westover. It is the story of a young girl growing up in an Idaho survivalist family. She does not attend school until she is seventeen because of her father's paranoia with the outside world. She goes on to become a psychiatrist and identifies his bipolar traits which worsen with age.

Then in April we will read Mitch Albom's book *Finding Chika*. This is a story of a childless couple in their forties adopting an orphan Haitian girl who needs specialized medical treatment. She taught the author what it feels like to be a father, if only for a short time.

In May we will read *Here We Are* by Aarti Namdev Shahani. This is the heartfelt memoir of the immigrant experience. The author, an NPR correspondent, wrestles with the question of who belongs in America. She finds the answer in an unlikely place.

The Book Club is open to all. We meet the first Monday of each month at 2:00pm. Our books are chosen by the members of the club. This is a laid-back, fun group. Come join us.

New MUUF Directory

It's time for a new MUUF Directory. Look on the Social Room table later this month for an updated directory. If your information has changed please notify the office so we can be up to date for the new printing.



**FELLOWSHIP
DIRECTORY
UPDATES**

AUCTION

When: Sun., Feb., 2 (Silent Auction) & Feb. 9 (Silent Auction & Live Auction)

Where: Manatee UU Fellowship

Why: Fun, Fellowship, Finances

This year we have the largest collection of unique social events and items than we have ever had! Thank you to all of you who have offered your time, talents, and treasures. Our goal this year is to enjoy one another and to raise \$9000!

We have over 125 items to bid including:

- many special themed dinners at homes, traditional tea, tapas—all done on first come basis on sign-up sheets
- choose sermon topic for **Rev. Fred** to write & share on Sun. & genealogy research for you by Rev. Fred
- “Stump the Wine Guy,” singing telegram
- membership at Selby Gardens, be a guest at Bishop’s Museum of Science & Nature, tickets to Manatee Performing Arts Center
- Earth Box Growing System
- home maintenance, consultation for a “whole new look” of your living space, cleaning of your home
- canoeing with campfire dinner, Irish sing-along with **Shirley Loebel**
- French lessons, bridge lessons, knitting or crocheting instruction, watercolor, acrylic or silk painting lessons, piano lesson, computer help
- 7 different Vera Bradley totes/travel bags, Steve Madden clutch bag
- incredible artwork & jewelry, collectable silver dollars
- gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses
- member-donated gift cards to Pier 22, Mitaka Japanese Ramen House, Riverhouse Waterfront
- your own reserved parking spot
- household items in new or like-new condition

Come and help set up at 10:00 on Sat. Feb. 1 when catalogs will be available, and you can get a head-start on bidding! Official registration starts on Feb. 2 and it’s **only \$5** to receive your bidding number, catalog, and lunch which will be on Feb. 9 after the service. Lunch is being prepared by new member, **Todd Borselle!** There’s something for everyone! Come often throughout the week of Feb. 2 – 9 to raise your bid on

Silent Auction items or to enter your name on the signup sheets for in home dinners. **Ed Janz** will be our auctioneer! We’ll have raffle drawings! Bring friends! Questions? Contact **Carol Bartz** cdbartz1@verizon.net 941 224-9158.

Great Decisions

Bill Hayes

The Great Decisions discussion group held its organizing meeting on January 20 with 19 present. Three others were unable to be here but will join at our first discussion meeting. We decided to continue to have meetings on Mondays in February and March at 10:00am. The following is our schedule:

2/3/20 - Climate change and the global order - **Paul Carr**

2/10/20 - India & Pakistan - **Neil Niekerk**

2/17/20 - Red Sea Security - **Bill Hayes**

2/24/20 - Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking - **Chuck Wolfe**

3/2/20 - US Relations with the Northern Triangle - **Renee Motley**

3/9/20 - China’s Road into Latin America - **Nelson French**

3/16/20 - The Philippines & the USD - **Bill Hammes**

3/23/20 - Artificial Intelligence & Data - **John Isham**

If anyone is interested in joining us, we still have room. Please contact **Bill Hayes** 727-470-9148 largomatch@hotmail.com



Share-A-Dish

This year our February Share-A-Dish falls on Valentine’s Day, Friday, Feb. 14th! Please bring a dish to share and also bring a friend! Our very own **Shirley Loebel** will accompany us on the piano for a love song sing-along.

Special Collection for February

Our special collection on February 16th will benefit *Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee county*. This is an organization dedicated to enhancing maternal and infant health care. *Healthy Start* offers free support services for pregnant women, new mothers, and infants. This program aims to assure they all have access to prenatal and pediatric care. It promotes healthy birth outcomes, parenting, and child development. **Carol Alt** will be the point person.

Note From Leslie Roell

Former MUUF member

Every name on the lovely memory card that I received, and I counted close to 30, overwhelmed me! Each one of you is a memory of my beloved home. Though some are new, YOU are the goals that I had dreamed of, following 50 some years of my life with my forever friends.

I am enjoying a queen's life, wishing that you could be a part, which IS possible you know? Face Book will provide photos of my "digs", with Medical care, years ahead.

I have comfort that "MY" Buddha, which is now in Chris's garden, will provide care to all who cross into my beloved MUUF.

😊 Leslie

Immigration: Questions and Answers

On the table in the Social Hall is a well-researched report by **Mary Frances Kordick** about Immigration. Please take a copy and don't hesitate to ask Mary Frances for more information. The Issue Papers are presented quarterly on a topic proposed in the Social Justice Committee. The full report and resource page is available on the website under the Heading>Blog.

Meet Our New Member

Alia Starkweather

Born, White Plains, NY (16 years)

College UMass 4 years, Sociology, married, 2 children
2 more children, MEd in Counseling

Jill of all trades, OT, substitute teacher, bank teller,
waitress, caregiver, etc. etc. all the time working.
"Profession", psychotherapist 12 years

Divorce, married again, 3 stepchildren, 9 grandchildren
last count, 6 great grandchildren, I think. Divorced
again. (alone now 20 + years)

Hobbies: Travel--(England, India, Mexico, US, other
countries briefly), reading, singing in choirs, clown
camp, art (mostly painting) dancing (all kinds),
friendships.

Now living in Florida, so happy to be warm, see the
sun, make new friends, have time for hobbies.

AUCTION ART PREVIEW

Carol Bartz

This month our sanctuary walls are featuring some of the art that will be available for bidding in our Annual Auction Feb. 2-9. Enjoy the Peruvian llama fur rug, framed original paintings as well as prints, and nature photography. The print by David Hockney is especially striking as you walk in the front entrance. There are many other works you will be able to view beginning Feb. 2.





Doris Sutliff	2/10
David Beaton	2/16
Carol Alt	2/20
Ted Medrek	2/24
Carolyn Denison	2/25
Bob Yavis	2/26
Walter Pascal	2/27



Board of Directors

President	John Isham
Vice President	Carol Bartz
Secretary	Randy Coleman
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.

Chalice Lighter Schedule

Feb. 2nd	Mary Frances Kordick
Feb. 9th	John Steinmeyer
Feb. 16th	Pat Rohrer
Feb. 23rd	Cori Prout

DECEMBER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME	\$ 8,800.98
EXPENSES	\$21,771.58
USED FROM SAVINGS	\$ 7,200.00

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



2/2	Bridge Group & COSM
2/9	Board of Directors
2/16	Membership
2/23	Men's Group & Finance Comm.

Fellowship Office Hours:

Mon – Fri 8am – 1pm

OFFICE 941-746-0067

Rev. Fred L Hammond: Minister

Email: muufminister6@gmail.com

Karen Salzinger: Office Administrator

Email: muufoffice@gmail.com

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, February 14th at 6:00pm



“Love Song Sing-along”
Shirley Loebel, accompanist



Bring a Friend and a Dish to Share

~Sign Up on the Social Room Table~

***Social Hour at 6:00pm ***

Dinner at 6:30pm



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

*Join us for
Sunday
Service
10:30am*