



# UPDATE

April 2020  
Volume 51 Number 4

## SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS

### 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



The news is grim.

I asked my mother what she did during the Great Depression to find joy/happiness. Most of us were either children or perhaps too young to have lived through the depression. But as I look at the news, this time period in our history may have some important lessons for us to not only survive but to thrive in the current crisis.

My mother lived in Northern New Jersey in a small community called Green Pond. Green Pond was a summer resort community with bungalows rented out by people who lived in New York City. So, the things my mom did in those days were to swim in the lake, ice skate in the winter. Her family also built ice sailboats to race in the winter. She played parcheesi with her great-grandmother. They had great fun together laughing at the game, causing her mother to comment that she couldn't tell which was the 8-year-old and which was the 80-year-old. They listened to the radio as a family. The Shadow was one radio program she remembered. She read novels. The dance hall at Green Pond was closed during the winter and they opened it up for the children to roller skate. She rode horses at her maternal grandparent's farm. The family would gather most weekends at the farm giving her an opportunity to play with her cousins. My great grandmother would make tutti-frutti ice cream in the summer. Mom and her cousins would play in the barn, jumping from the second story into a massive hay pile on the first. (Not exactly the safest thing, I realize, but oh, the invincibility of youth!)

There was not a lot of money. So, they made do with what they had. They highlighted being together whenever they could gather as a family.

I do not know what will be happening when this newsletter comes out about April 1, a week away from

today. Every day something new changes. The pandemic in this country as of today is doubling every 3 days. Even here in Florida our numbers are growing exponentially. We have been advised to stay home as much as possible. Florida has not yet enacted a stay at home order but that may come. Our state is one of the more vulnerable states as a third of our residents are elderly and many have underlying health concerns.

But as I listened to my mother's stories of another dark time in our history, I thought there might be some things we could do to celebrate one another in our lives. We can FaceTime each other on our smartphones. We can use Zoom, the free version allows for 40 minute sessions. But in that time period we could play games, charades, hangman, battleship (I used to play battleship with my Dad, and we made up paper grids). We can use Google Hangouts to chat with one another. This is another free program on our computers.

I am beginning a Zoom check in on Thursdays from 10 AM to Noon. I have the professional version of Zoom which allows for a longer time frame. If people enjoy this, we could set up game night/day and use the breakout rooms that Zoom offers for smaller gatherings. The knitting group could gather to knit and chat via Zoom.

Being together was more important in the great depression than the shopping and having of things. It seems that this will be important during this time as well. Let's replace the having of things with the having of people in our lives. Rebuild those connections with family and friends. Strengthen your support networks with members of the congregation. And know that you can always, always, call me (205-246-6201) as your minister. My time is available for you. May we find the blessings amid this chaotic and uncertain time.

Blessings, Rev. Fred



## **President's Message**

*John Isham*

It Takes a Village – (even a virtual one)

Never, it seems, has the evidence of that quotation been truer than now.

The village is missing. The connectedness is missing. The hearty welcome, great to see you part is gone. The sea of smiling faces, frank discussions and animations of recent experiences are not there.

We are trying to keep the feelings of belonging going in a virtual way with emails, telephone calls and now, Zoom meetings. So far all that gets a C+ because of electronic glitches, drop-outs, full voicemail boxes and "not available" messages. It is better than nothing, but it is not the same. It all is new and strange and for some a more different way to be. For others perhaps not so different but amplified.

We who keep MUUF humming worry about the loss of momentum and growth. At the same time, we have to keep the (church) home fires burning. We have to pay the same bills, respond to the same troubles and hope all will return to normal sooner than later. Expenses stay the same with the same staff salaries, utilities, trash collection and grounds upkeep. However, our income is reduced with no Sunday offerings, no facility rentals and no generous plate donations. Also, we see our nest egg getting hammered with market fluctuations and losses.

We are looking into ways to get through this without coming up on the financial short side next year. We need to complete this year's stewardship drive for 2020-2021 in the next few weeks and prepare next year's budget. We need to research ways for generous people to help us through the next few months. Some ideas are having a way to make gift donations through the website using PayPal. There may be a low-cost loan available using the stimulus package being bantered about in the US Congress. We will let you know.

All members have been assigned a board member with whom to be connected. They will call you with news of MUUF and have a genuine concern for your welfare. That is one of our ways to keep us all together. We want you to use us to fill your needs, especially if you are alone. If you need someone to talk to, please do call. This is a great time to examine

your spirituality and make progress on your search for a personal meaning. Let's talk about it. Maybe we can form virtual group meetings through Zoom. Those without the necessary computer assets can join with your phone, even a landline. What is most important, however, is to stay healthy, physically and mentally, and to stay connected. Let's all pass around love to one another and we will get through this, perhaps with newfound methods and skills.

## **AUCTION DINNERS AND EVENTS**

*Carol Bartz*

Thank you again to everyone who participated in so many ways in our February auction fundraiser. We had such a lovely, creative, generous event...before we knew what was about to happen. By degrees we have all come to realize that for now, due to COVID-19, the sobering fact that the gatherings we planned and offered or happily purchased just can't happen.

We are hopeful that we can still have them rescheduled for later in the year when things return to a more normal level. We do so love getting together! More time for our "chefs" to look for more scrumptious recipes!



## Social Justice Committee

*Highlights of meeting on March 1, 2020*

*by Bernita Franzel*

**Bill Hayes** has agreed to be Chair until June 30, 2020. We welcomed special visitor Neil Vandereen from Lakewood Ranch UU.

### **Writers for Social Justice articles:**

- **Bernita Franzel** – Contact person for CIW in April UPDATE and Bulletin
- **Bill Hayes** – Special Collections Report to the April Update
- **Randall Coleman** – Minutes of March meeting to Board of Directors March meeting
- **Bernita Franzel** – Highlights of March Social Justice meeting for April Update and Website
- **Special Collections—Bill Hayes:**
- February 16 – Healthy Start – **Carol Alt** \$575
- March 29 - Prism – **Chuck Wolff**
- April 19 –CIW Fair Food Program – **Bernita Franzel**
- May 17 - DART – **Rev. Fred** and **Bill Hayes**
- June 21 – Planned Parenthood – **Lisa Marie Allen**

**Issues.** An Action Paper by **Chris MacCormack** has been added to the display table with the Immigration Issues paper and resources. **Carolyn Denison** distributed contact information for legislators. Individual letters to Jewish community can be sent together in one package.

**Share-a-Dish** program May 8 suggestions: Green grocery bags, LGBTQ issues, Black issues.

**Homeless Census** found that there are less homeless in Manatee County this year.

**MLK Jr Day of Service** at SCF awarded us a statue which we will put in a prominent place.

**Gay Pride Festival** March 21. The signup sheet has many volunteers. Booth plans are in order. **Rev. Fred** will be in the opening ceremonies.

**UUA Get Out The Vote grant** - **Mary Frances Kordick**. \$500 was requested for Mail in Ballot requests for about 10 community groups doing door-to-door voter registration.

**UU the Vote** – **Lisa Moschin** will present ideas of community mobilization at next meeting.

**Structuring the Social Justice Committee** has begun condensing our many issues into smaller groups that incorporate several activities.

## Poems of the Pandemic

*Carol Alt*

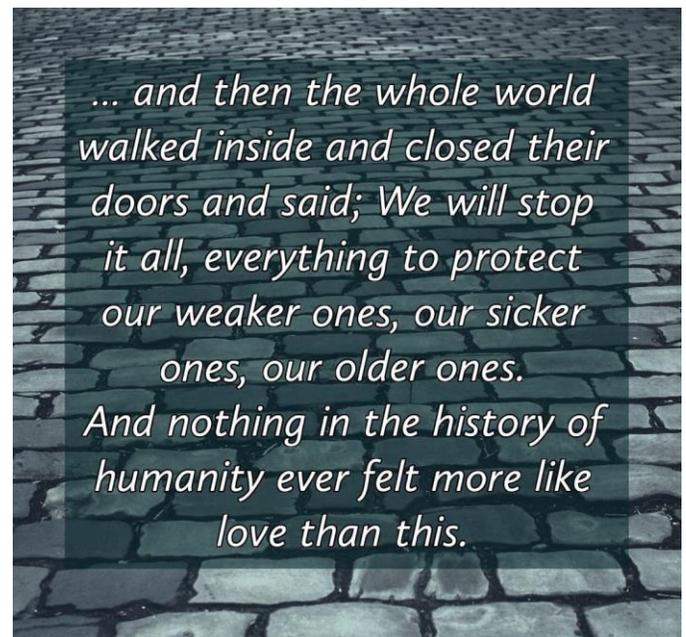
*“In Times Like This”*

*This time of a pandemic  
When all life seems to be tilted out of perspective  
I begin each morning with my usual yoga  
salutation—  
“On the wings of this new day I breathe”  
And I write and reflect.*

*The sun comes in my back door  
Soon to bathe the lily pond  
Where sea birds frolic and feed  
And people too re-create along the sanctuary path  
greeting each other from a distance.*

*The afternoon sea breeze cools me  
I take some nourishment in grateful small amounts  
and soon the glorious sun sets on the bay  
Earth’s cycle undisturbed by  
We human’s anxious worry for the day.*

*March 19, 2020  
First Day of Spring*



## Lisa Marie Allen

### *New Member*

Mother, Realtor and serious Lightning fan, often seen in the company of Borzoi. An island resident for over 40 years, I explored Western New York for 9 years, and that was sufficient! Back home and back to MUUF!

A graduate of the University of Florida (BA) and then a graduate fellowship in 2008 in Natural Resources Leadership. Recognized by my peers with the Burl Long award for graduate most likely to implement resource economics and conflict resolution in their community. A Bradenton Beach Commissioner/Vice Mayor for 3 years: most hateful job I ever loved.

Three wonderful children: Miranda (32), Darren (27) and Peyton (26) - the loves of my life, all dedicated in the UU faith. Mother (here) and brother and family in Napa, CA.

Completely dedicated to a minimal footprint on this Earth; haven't taken a plastic bag from a store in 16 years.

Do you know what a group of flamingos is called?



*A flamboyance*

During this Coronavirus Pandemic, our Office Administrator, Karen Salzinger, has been working alternately between the MUUF office and her home office. The MUUF office phone has been forwarded to Karen's cell phone so she will be able to answer your call during regular office hours M-F 8-1pm.

Additionally, you may always call Rev. Fred at 205-246-6201



## My Calendar is a Mess

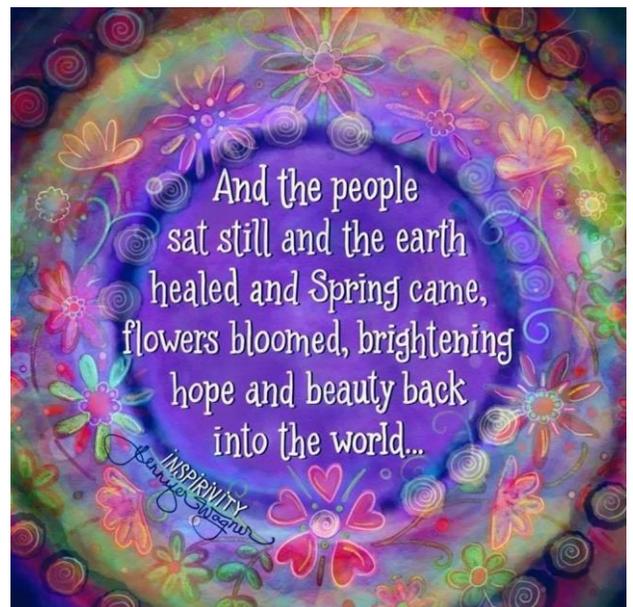
### *Sally Isham*

As these days of self isolation stretch forward, I am crossing off more and more activities and meetings and appointments from my calendar. Beginning March 12 there's one X after another. I turn the page to April and make more Xs and then May, more Xs. My calendar is a mess!

I look at the activities under the Xs. Choir practice, Sunday service, Our Daily Bread, Caddy's, NVC workshop, Irish Sing-a-long, Gay Pride Festival, Meditation, MUUF 101, New Member Ceremony, Book Group, Share a Dish, Choir party, Meatless Monday auction dinner, Tapas auction dinner, French cuisine auction dinner, the Nehemiah Action Assembly. Every one of these activities is tied to my life at MUUF. Until this exercise with Xs, I really didn't realize how much of my life IS Manatee UU! And I miss it terribly.

I know that one day we will be together again. The Xs will be gone from my calendar and life will return to normal, perhaps with some new hygiene and personal safety habits added. Until that day comes, I am thankful that my computer still works, my phone still works, the U.S. mail still works. I can stay connected to my MUUF family in new ways. I am making new connections with MUUF members. Others are doing the same. We are staying connected. And that feels good.

With love and virtual hugs,  
Sally



## Stewardship *Shirley Loebel*

Going to church has been very important to me. In my early years it was the source of conflict in my family. My father was Catholic, my mother Protestant. Since I was the only child, I was the battlefield. I attended a liberal Congregational Church, which was very meaningful to me since I knew the conflict it caused.

In college, I realized for the first time, that some people I admired were atheists who were more Christian in behavior than some who called themselves Christian. When I met Ken Loebel, he said he was Jewish; years later I realized he'd never been raised in the Jewish tradition and was an atheist. In Seattle, our first home, we met a Unitarian and we wanted to learn more, thinking it might suit our differing backgrounds. I wanted a church that brought people together, not tearing them apart. One where we could go as a family, together.

We became Unitarians in Brookfield, WI, in 1968, and it has been one of the most important decisions I've ever made. At first, I missed the Lord's prayer and "communion." I got upset when they made fun of "Holy, Holy, Holy" singing "Coffee, Coffee, Coffee;" it seemed sacrilegious to me. The choir sustained me and friendships made then are life-long. My narrow view of religion expanded, and our marriage was enhanced by our joint involvement in that church. I could say almost the same things about the UU Fellowship we attended in Summerfield FL as snowbirds, before I came here.

I have 2 quotes which reflect my attitude toward religion today:

From Pearl Buck "One faces the future with one's past;"

From Harrison Salisbury; "What is in one's life stays there to the end of one's days"

I carry vestiges of behaviors and teachings from my past religious roots; I haven't given up traditional religious terms like "worship" or "prayer;" Singing in the choir or playing the piano here is "worship", for me; I pray, at times, to God "if there is a God" YOU might call it meditation; but I call it "prayer" ; I'm probably a Humanist, but I do believe there is some force at work in the universe beyond what we

understand, and I call upon that force when I am in turmoil or indecision. And at turning points in my life, unexpected sources have guided me; One of those brought me here.

I had looked at Westminster for over 8 years before I moved here; first, with my husband, later, alone after he died. When I was ready to make a final decision to leave my house in a Del Webb community, I came to your service Memorial Day weekend in 2018. I wanted to be with others in an independent living facility while I was healthy enough to make that decision. But, first, the church had to feel right.

It DID for many reasons, and due to several people. This fellowship allows atheists to have a spiritual home; it also accommodates those who still cherish parts of their previous religious experiences. It is a fun place to be; There is serious business, but also a touch of childlike joy, here; and again, I quote, "When we are no longer children, we are already dead."

My religious path has been a continual process of keeping parts of the past and moving on toward a future. I try to live my life with Christian values, but without the dogma and creeds. I came here to start a new life at the final portion of my life but bring with me the cherished parts of the past.

I am a Unitarian Universalist; and I support this Fellowship as it has welcomed me to the fold.



## Highlights from March Board Meeting

*Carol Bartz*

Because of precautions being taken due to the COVID-19 virus the March 24, 2020 board meeting was conducted using Zoom, an online meeting system. Closing down our services and building 3/11/20, done by MUUF prior to the UUA recommendation to do so and before many other congregations even considered it, has proven to be the responsible thing to have done. However, we are needing to learn new ways to stay in communication and in connection with one another. The uncertainty of how long this will be and the non-linear path it seems to be taking adds to the challenge. We are all grappling with how to remain healthy at the same time as how to incorporate changes in how we “do church.” Some of the items discussed were:

- **Rev. Fred** has been writing both Thursday and Saturday evening homilies or inspirational words available to people via email, on our website, and on Facebook.
- Use of Zoom for meetings is already being used for board meetings and can be expanded for Sunday services, committees, social gatherings. There will be an open Zoom meeting this Thursday, March 26 at 10:00 a.m. See details in email. **AJ Wolff** shared what Georgia Mountain UU, her previous congregation, did last Sunday via Zoom and Fred has been exploring what many other congregations are doing.
- Fred has done a video on Facebook which had 277 views and is working on different ways of having a live Sunday service.
- Board members have been in regular contact with members and friends using email and phone calls. John stressed the need for all to communicate with one another so that everyone knows that they are loved, cared for, acknowledged, appreciated, and informed.
- Though our current finances appear healthy our investments will be impacted. It is expected that the market will rise once things stabilize and move towards normalcy.
- Our budget for the next fiscal year needs to be planned in time for our Annual Meeting scheduled for June 7, 2020. The Finance Committee will work on an initial draft ready for the April board meeting to look at and discuss.

- Plate donations will be nonexistent while we are not meeting on Sundays unless we set up other ways for members and friends to donate online. **John Isham** partook in an online seminar and has been investigating various methods.
- We need to establish how much revenue is needed to finish up this fiscal year ending June 30. In many of our budgeted lines we have not yet spent  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the amount budgeted (March is the 9th month of the fiscal year) so based on that there should be some unused funds that can remain in the general fund towards next year.
- Our Stewardship Campaign needs to be completed. There are still a few members who have not yet returned their pledge cards and this information is necessary for the planning for next year. Encouragement to use direct deposit and other electronic methods needs to become part of how our pledges are transmitted.
- Fred reported on the four cottage meetings that were held, sharing the responses people made.
- Our involvement with most social justice activities are on hold for now. This includes Manatee Pride Day--tentatively rescheduled for May 23, DART, Our Daily Bread, UU the Vote.
- Nonviolent Communication Workshop—watch to see if this is rescheduled for later or done relatively soon via Zoom. John Steinmeyer is considering options.
- The board approved **Lisa Moschin** to serve as a delegate for UU General Assembly as well as covering the cost of registration. (**Mary Frances Kordick** was similarly approved to be a delegate at the Feb. meeting)
- Creation of an acoustic loop for hearing impaired members and guests is a possible project for some of our talented engineers to tackle. This could be done much less expensively than if we were to purchase a system commercially.

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

The MUUF building has exterior security cameras that send a picture email to Karen every time there is motion around the building. Karen keeps a very good eye on these emails to be sure the building is safe.

## Your Pastor

Your pastor has never pastored a church through a pandemic before.

When he opens, people are going to say he should have closed. When he closes, people are going to say he should have opened.

When he does not shake hands, people are going to say he needs faith. When he shakes hands, people are going to say he's foolish.

He's going to make some difficult decisions to protect the flock considering everything from your spiritual growth to legal liabilities that you aren't even thinking about.

Every pastor believes that they pastor the most amazing group of people.

Remember this:

No one wants things to go well at church as much as your pastor. Your Pastor needs your prayers and support right now.

~copied

#Prayforyourpastor  
#Prayforyourchurch  
#Prayforyourcommunity



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

## FEBRUARY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME	\$ 14,127.01
EXPENSES	\$ 15,939.96
USED FROM SAVINGS	\$ 7,200.00

### *Fellowship Office Hours:(in normal times)*

Mon – Fri 8am – 1pm

OFFICE 941-746-0067

Rev. Fred L Hammond: Minister

Email: [muufminister6@gmail.com](mailto:muufminister6@gmail.com)

Karen Salzinger: Office Administrator

Email: [muufoffice@gmail.com](mailto:muufoffice@gmail.com)

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

### *The UPDATE*

Articles must be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for publication the following month.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual meeting of the congregation, which is usually held in the month of April has been tentatively scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Please mark your calendars and stay tuned.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

Bobbi Bordeaux

941-251-4875

[growlove1136@gmail.com](mailto:growlove1136@gmail.com)

Bob Yavis

[rpyavis@gmail.com](mailto:rpyavis@gmail.com)

Barbara Foye

[barbarafoye@gmail.com](mailto:barbarafoye@gmail.com)



Take a shower, wash off  
the day. Drink a glass of water.  
Make the room dark. Lie down and  
close your eyes. Notice the silence.  
Notice your heart. Still beating.  
Still fighting. You made it, after all.  
You made it, another day. And you  
can make it one more. You're  
doing just fine.



Manatee Unitarian  
Universalist Fellowship  
322 15<sup>th</sup> Street W  
Bradenton, FL 34205

