



# UPDATE

October  
2020

*During this current health crisis, the MUUF building is closed.  
Please continue to contact us by email or phone.*

## 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

One of the questions I hear is when can we meet in person again? I wish I knew. The easy answer is when there is a vaccine that is safe and widely distributed. But that answer is not sufficient as it is too vague, too imprecise.

I could make something up. I could say that since Governor DeSantis lifted the ban on worshipers from gathering that we can begin this very next Sunday. But that would be a lie. There is every indication that DeSantis is not following the science on how this virus spreads from person to person—from singing hearts to singing hearts—quietly on circulated air. Three congregations in our town have had outbreaks with Covid-19 because they followed the governor's ok and not the data and science.

I want you all to be safe. I do not want you to risk your loved ones by gathering and inadvertently encounter a person who shows no symptoms but is infectious. As I write this the positivity rate in Manatee County is up to 12.5%, the goal is under 5% for small groups to gather. This means there are cases not being found which means unknown spread. It has been going up in recent weeks since Labor Day.

So when can we worship in person again? If the projections of when a vaccine might become widely distributed are correct, perhaps June 2021. Not what you wanted to hear; I am sure. Not what I wanted to tell you, either. It might be even later than June 2021—one CDC official projected October or December 2021. It all depends on vaccine distribution. And it also depends on us.

If we all wear masks correctly over our mouths and noses, wear some sort of face shield for our eyes [glasses might work], wash our hands frequently, stay six feet apart, then we can drive the numbers down even without the vaccine. If the numbers of cases drop from 35K-40K a day to 1K a day nation wide, which would mean about 20 cases per state a day. Then maybe. Maybe.

But we still would need to stay vigilant. France, Spain, Israel had dropped their numbers to the double and single digits and now they have a resurgence with great virulence. They did not remain vigilant.

So beloveds, remain vigilant. Wear your masks, covering your nose and mouth. Wash your hands frequently. Stay six feet apart. And avoid crowds.

Some announcements:

I will be taking the week of October 13-20 for vacation. If you need to reach me in an emergency, please call John Isham and he will relay the emergency to me. Otherwise, I will not be taking phone calls while on vacation.

**Discussion Group-- Widening the Circle of Concern:** I will be doing two sermons on this UUA Commission on Institutional Change report. And I would like for us to also discuss it with MUUF in mind. So, on **Thursday October 1 and 8 at 2:30 PM** I will host a discussion on this text. You can purchase it from the UUBookstore.org or you can read it for free on the UUA website.

Blessings,  
Fred





## President's Message

*John Isham*

“Plunk your magic twanger, Froggy!”

“Twang” – and a gravelly voice says, “Hiya Kids!, Hiya, Hiya, Hiya” How many of you will remember the Andy

Devine show from early TV in the 50s when Froggy sat on Andy’s shoulder and waved.



Well Froggies, it is our time. It is time to plunk our magic twangers and jump out of the hot water pots we are all in. One pot, the Covid pot is already too hot and we all are being cooked. We have already lost the opportunity to

jump out of the Covid pot thanks to the high heat which came from the incompetence and mismanagement of our government. We are forced to ride this one out to the very end and will have to live with a new unknown norm when and if there is one established many months down the road. Many more of us will die and don’t have a choice. We lost that when one foolish individual thought he could bully the pandemic into submission. There was a time when all the science and calculated methods were in place to tackle the job, but these were shelved and discarded in an egomaniac reaction before the pandemic hit. We are now trapped in a situation not of our doing. Those of us most vulnerable and too old can’t reenter society with our fingers crossed in hopes that if we catch it, it won’t be that bad. Many of us have led our lives with intelligence and good sense and have prepared or were preparing for those good days of retirement when we could reap our rewards of sensibility. We have had that taken away from us and now have to suffer in isolation because of one person’s ill-conceived actions. It makes me extremely angry, disgusted and angry, resentful and angry.

Unfortunately, there is another more fearful hot pot we Froggies are in, where we may still have time to crawl out, but the tipping point is near and the task looks overwhelming. One of the reasons is, despite the obvious evidence, despite each year when our increasing energy input into our thin atmosphere causes more droughts, fires, violent storms and environmental disasters, a large number of us have been fooled into thinking Climate Change is a hoax, it isn’t really happening. HE will provide. Can we push those frogs into the hottest part of the pot so that they will be the first ones cooked and fished out while the rest of us attempt to save ourselves? Where would we be today if Gore and his environmental agenda had won? Where

would we be today if Clinton had won and instituted the available scientifically calculated plan to protect us from Covid-19. We would be way, way ahead today. Instead we wallow in a mash of inaction funded by the upper 1% who only want to protect their empires and their narrow theories. We could be a country of renewed infrastructure, well on our way to total reliance on alternative energy with clean air, water and multiple new jobs. We could be looking forward to an exciting future, instead we are mired in a confusion of misdirection and unknowns. This is the Great America we’ve heard so much about. It only took three and a half years to destroy it and our democracy and to deteriorate into this! Just think what we can look forward to in four more years of walking backwards into an authoritarian world of corruption and manipulated information.

What can we do now? What can we do now for the next forty-nine days when we don’t know what kind of a world to prepare for? What can a church do now? What can our congregation do? What can our members do? We can give each other love and friendship. We can provide connections with each other via zoom. We can provide hope that all this will end soon. We can provide support to those members who are suffering from loneliness and the fear of the unknown. We can call, give encouragement and helpful thoughts and kind words. There are a few we cannot reach, those who are alone and not allowed visitors due to the virus. Can we send flowers, a card, a gift, a note?

The most important thing we can do now is to vote. We must vote. If there is anyone out there who has not requested their vote by mail ballot, do it now. It is a simple five-minute on-line act. When the ballot comes, fill it out immediately and either mail it (put a stamp on it) or run it down to the drop box in front of the office of elections. Then you can track it on-line to make sure it has been received and registered as valid. Don’t sit on it!

The forecasts change daily regarding what will happen after November 3<sup>rd</sup>. We can start actions now on the assumption that the results are going to go according to our hopes. We may have to revert to more protective actions then and change our work to be more in the background to fight and minimize the harm four more years will surely bring. But if we openly take action now to bring about a recovery from the harm that has already been done and things do go our way, we will have a head start. There is going to be a fight no matter what the outcome. The threats are just beginning.

As a church, we can now look to help those who are going to suffer no matter what the next few months will bring. The election will not change the pandemic. Right now that seems to be the best community outreach actions we can take. We know people are going to be displaced, we know shelters will be overloaded, we know people will be put on the street. We also know children will need support who will be quarantined due to the virus. Perhaps some on-line zoom activity there is possible. We can call the schools. There are almost forty food banks in Manatee County. Donations both of food and dollars will appreciated there. We can strive to find ways to support BLM and police reform. We can learn to recognize our own thoughts and words which carry white supremacist overtones and make an effort to understand how to subdue them. We can join phone calling banks to get out the vote. We can raise money for DART.

Let's start by attaching one of the seven UU principles to each one of the seven days of the week and strive to practice that principle for that entire day, then the next, etc.

### **Highlights from the Board**

*Carol Bartz*

Some of the items discussed at the MUUF Board meeting held via Zoom on September 22, 2020:

- **Rev. Fred** spoke of the challenges our fellowship faces due to COVID-19, emphasizing that the best-scenario is that we will be meeting virtually until June 2021. Staying connected with one another is vitally important through Sunday services on Zoom, Thursday morning check in on Zoom, phone calls, and emails, but the question remains what can we do additionally, particularly for those needing assistance? Members are encouraged to contact him directly if they are struggling.
- **Rev. Fred** will host a post-election Zoom meeting Wednesday, November 4. Watch for details.
- The board thanked the Worship Team for their work on providing meaningful Sunday services as they improve their use of technology for our virtual services.
- We are looking into seeking professional help to improve our website as well as other online and social media presence.
- **Rev. Fred** will be giving two sermons on Widening the Circle of Concern, a UUA report

on institutional change, and is planning on using the UUA discussion guide for interested members to further explore the topic.

- The possibility of small group gatherings while keeping social distance, masked, and held outdoors was discussed. We will test the logistics of small groups being able to converse while being 6 to 12 feet away from each other. **AJ Wolff** will be inviting the Knitting Group to do so in November.
- **John Isham** stressed the fact that members can do things individually to work towards getting out the vote and to alleviate some of the hardships in our local community due to the pandemic.
- **Bill Hayes** presented the board with the newly created format for the finance report and said that our finances are doing well. The lack of plate donations is a concern as well as how to do a virtual stewardship campaign in the spring.
- There will be an all-day Southern Region virtual assembly on Sat., Nov. 14. Registration (fee \$20) is required: <https://uua.wufoo.com/turn-turn/>
- **Ed Janz** presented his idea of holding a theatrical/musical telethon sort of fundraiser via Zoom on a Saturday as a direct request for funds. Possibly combining it with an auction was discussed--**Carol Bartz** will host a brainstorming session for those interested in coming up with ideas for an online auction which holds the reality of the pandemic in mind.
- **Sally Isham** reported that the Membership Team held a MUUF 101 meeting via Zoom and on Sept. 20 four new members were welcomed to our fellowship. We currently have 76 members.
- **Randy McCrea** reported that the Caring Committee continues to make calls and that they advise Fred when they are aware of those in need of pastoral care and/or supportive contact. He also reported that **Lisa Marie Allen** has joined the Publicity Committee and is helping with advertising ideas on Facebook. Possibilities for Instagram and Twitter are in consideration.
- **Bill Hayes** and **Cindy Evans** will co-host a racial concerns group, using a variety of sources such as videos, articles, lectures, and podcasts to initiate their discussions.

## **Book Club**

***Bill Hayes***

The MUUF Book Club next meets on Monday, Oct 5 at 2:00pm to review the book *On Fire - The (burning) Case for the Green New Deal* by Naomi Klein who was the Ware lecturer at this year's General Assembly. This book is so current. With the "climate" fires consuming the West coast and multiple hurricanes slashing into the Gulf coast, there is no doubt to this proposition.



We may also devote some time to discussing the video conversation between Robin D'Angelo, author of *White Fragility*, and a representative from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. We discussed this book last month, but this video was not available at that time. Plus, it is always timely to discuss race relations.

Our November book is *Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult and in December it is *Sweet Taste of Liberty* by W. Caleb McDaniels. The former is the story of a man who receives a heart transplant and the mother whose daughter gave him the heart. The latter is the true story of a female slave who seeks and receives restitution from the government after the Civil War.

Finally, I just recently emailed a list of possible books for reading in 2021. Hopefully we can make a few choices there.

The Book Club meets once a month via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. We do not even insist that you have read the book. The discussion usually ranges around 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Just let me know if you want to join us so that the Zoom link can be set to you. If you later change your mind, that is ok too. See how easy we are!

## **Knit n' Chat**

***AJ Wolff***

Sharing on Zoom is what life has become to all of us. Our Knit n' Chat is now really a fun time of catching up along with showing off any current project we are doing. Some of us are still away in our summertime digs but can join on Zoom which has really been fun to see their places. Zoom is both a challenge to deal with and a new kind of joy in sharing our personal space. Often there are family members that pass behind us or cats on the key board with tail's filling the camera eye. We miss the hugs but enjoy our time of connecting. So, please join us on the first and third Tuesday of the month by

emailing [ajwolffie@yahoo.com](mailto:ajwolffie@yahoo.com) for the zoom link which is sent out the day before.

I have a personal joy--a knitting anniversary--making Peace Pal Dolls for two years. In January of 2018 the Knit n' Chat group found out about Knit4Peace, a worldwide organization. They had a pattern for Peace Pal Dolls which started me on a journey I never expected. I made 243 dolls over the next ten months for this organization. But the anniversary I am writing about is the one I have with a local organization, Hope Family Services; Serving Domestic Violence Survivors in Manatee Co. Every month I deliver dolls I have made to their counseling office. After I have delivered the dolls I get a personal letter in the mail from the director thanking me with little hand written comments like "We love, love, love Peace Pals" Thanks again!". This always fills my heart because I truly know I have made a small difference in the lives of people in our community whom I will never meet but do know that I put a smile on the faces of 385 children and counting with my handmade dolls.

Here is the story of how this all began in the fall of 2018 when MUUF had a school supplies drive for Hope Family Services and I was one of a number of members who delivered the supplies and got a tour of the counseling center along with a very hidden emergency shelter. In the shelter a toddler was standing on a sofa leaning against the back of a it watching us tour the open space kitchen, the toddler watched with such big soulful eyes it touched my heart. The mother was sitting away on another sofa lost in her own moments of despair and I wished I could give that child something to bring a little joy/comfort. We finished the tour and I continued to think of that child watching us and contacted the director asking if they would like Peace Pal dolls to give to the babies and children when they come into the shelter. They have come to use the dolls in counseling both at the center and at schools in the county. Wow, when I look back what a simple thing that brings me joy in the making has had on my community.





## Meet Our New Members

### **Cindy Evans**

Born and raised in suburban Chicago, I had the good fortune to attend Northern Illinois University where I completed my Masters in Adult Continuing Education. I also had the good fortune to work at National Louis University and Concordia University with returning adult students completing bachelor's degrees. A move to Fort Lauderdale in 1993 altered my career as I pursued a degree in nursing where I worked for VITAS healthcare as a hospice nurse. A move to Bradenton in 2001 led to Hospice of Southwest Florida, later known as Tidewell. I continued my studies in traditional Chinese Medicine and opened a private practice in 2007 focusing on pain management. I closed the practice a few years ago to pursue avocational interests. I completed the UF program as a Florida Master Naturalist and continue to hike and kayak the preserves. I'm currently exploring the Enneagram, Depth Psychology with the Sarasota Jungian Society, and Mindfulness Meditation and Buddhist studies. Recently joining the Manasota Interracial Book Club, I want to explore Racism on both the personal and societal levels. A Unitarian Universalist for thirty years, I am active in social justice initiatives.

### **June L. Mohns (nee Weixler)**

I was born in Louisville, Kentucky - the 2<sup>nd</sup> of six children, one of two daughters. I married my sweet husband 51 years ago. We have two amazingly honest, hard-working, loving children who have 6 grandchildren between them.

Bill & I raised our children in Massachusetts and fled the snow to live in the sunshine of Florida when our children finished college and married. In 2001, we started a small business in Madeira Beach, and retired in 2019.

Our decision to move to Bradenton brings us near old friends, a simplified lifestyle in a senior community and the chance to do things that we had little time for when running our business.

While I was brought up a Southern Baptist, my life experiences and grasp of our world align with MUUF's mission. I am looking forward to the fellowship of the group and supporting worthwhile work.

### **G. William "Bill" Mohns**

Born and reared just outside Louisville, KY, I am a Baby Boomer and reared conservative Southern Baptist. In our neighborhood, although more country than city, most of the men had good jobs, many union, and neighbors were mutually respectful, which influenced a lot of my concepts of how the world should be.

My wife and I went to the same high school, same grade level, so we've known each other from 'way back. After each of us went our separate ways to very different colleges (me to engineering and June to liberal arts), we somehow met again as young adults. We have two wonderful children, reared them in New England for a couple decades until they were fully on their own, starting each their own families. With an empty nest, we decided to move to Florida, see what next our lives could be.

We started a small resort/hospitality business in Madeira Beach and operated successfully for a couple decades. It was a wonderful experience, but realizing it was well time to pass it on to others, we sold and began a search for where to live next. We have good friends in Bradenton, discovered we like the city with some depth of history and breadth of cultures, and moved here in late 2019.

### **John Steinmeyer**

I was raised Catholic and attended Catholic schools and college, but at age 65, I left the Church because of its conservatism. I joined the Episcopal Church after marrying my second wife, and we attended a liberal Episcopal parish in Washington, DC, where we both worked.

When we retired, we moved down here to be close to my mother and attended a small Episcopal church in Lakewood Ranch. This was the 2004-2008 period when the US was involved in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which I opposed. I started a peace group at this church but there was very little support. And I was not hearing anything against these destructive wars from the pulpit, so I started visiting other churches in the area. I ended up in Sarasota at a Quaker Meeting; the Quakers are anti-war and anti-violence. I attended there for about 10 years before disagreements arose over the treatment of persons considered at odds with that Meeting. During this later period, I visited and became acquainted with

MUUF and started attending on alternate Sundays. When I eventually resigned from the Quaker Meeting, I continued attending MUUF full time.

MUUF offers me the opportunity to relate to people that come from a variety of moral viewpoints, although we generally agree on many governmental and societal issues. I think that I have moral support here in my attempt to find my way in a society that is, I believe, in need of moral direction.



## Choice

—Lynn Ungar

There isn't a right answer.  
There just isn't. The game show  
where the bells ring and the points  
go up and the confetti falls  
because you got the answer  
is a lie. The preacher who would assure you  
of how to attain salvation  
is making it all up. The doctor  
who knows just how to fix  
what ails you will be sure  
of something else tomorrow.  
Every choice will  
wound someone, heal someone,  
build a wall and open a conversation.  
Things will always happen  
that you can't foresee.  
But you have to choose.  
It's all we have—that little rudder  
that we employ in the midst  
of all the eddies and rapids,  
the current that pulls us  
inexorably toward the sea.  
The fact that you are swept along  
by the river is no excuse.  
Watch where you are going.  
Lean in toward what you love.  
When in doubt, tell the truth.

*Lynn Ungar is an author and minister of the  
Church of the Larger Fellowship  
[www.lynnungar.com](http://www.lynnungar.com)*



October is National Pastor Appreciation Month...a month long celebration of our minister, **Rev. Fred**. Be sure to express your appreciation through an email, text, phone call or even an old fashioned handwritten note!

Bonus Celebration – October 27<sup>th</sup> is Rev. Fred's birthday!

**EVERYBODY LIKES TO BE APPRECIATED**



UUA Southern Region  
Online Regional Assembly  
**Saturday, November 14, 2020**

10:00am-2:00pm central

11:00am-3:00pm eastern

\$20 per person



## Turn Turn Turn

Join your Southern Region staff team and sibling Unitarian Universalist congregations in the Southern Region for a day of companionship, collaboration and learning!

Keynote address by UUA President  
Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray

Workshops with Your Southern Region Staff

Rev. Nato Hollister and Kathy McGowan  
*Where Do We Go From Here?*

Co-Leads Connie Goodbread and Natalie Briscoe  
*To Every Season*

Cameron Young and Lillian Drab-Braddick  
*A Time To Build Up*



## **Workshops with Your Southern Region Staff**

**Rev. Nato Hollister and Kathy McGowan**

**Where Do We Go From Here?**

**Widening the Circle of Concern**

“Where Do We Go From Here?” Join us in a discussion of how we might live out our UU values in the aftermath of the election. What does our response look like, depending on those election results? How do we continue our work for justice, peace, and an ecological world? How might we continue our work of dismantling white supremacy culture, both in ourselves, in our congregations, and in our wider communities? What should our actions be with regard to the Commission on Institutional Change’s recommendations in their work “Widening the Circle of Concern” be? Our work doesn’t end on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, so let’s talk!

**Southern Region UUA Co-Leads Connie Goodbread and Natalie Briscoe**

**To Every Season**

**The Changing Congregational Landscape**

Come into community with Natalie Briscoe and Connie Goodbread. We will hold one another in brave space and talk about what is going on around us and how our partnerships will help us to weather the storm. We can talk about what is working in your congregation that helps you to cope. We will talk about how relationships with the larger faith are grounding and supportive. We will talk about how we support each other.

**Cameron Young and Lillian Drab-Braddick**

**A Time To Build Up**

Small Group Ministry and Membership Paths ‘Building Community, Virtually’

We need community more than ever. Come learn useful methods for fostering connections, virtually. Cameron Young & Lillian Drab-Braddick will share strategies for employing Small Group Ministry to build community and facilitate exchange between congregational leaders. Join in this discussion; share what is working for you and learn from one another's experiences.

Register HERE: <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/z39qdei114dkya/>

Questions? Please send an email to [kcharles@uua.org](mailto:kcharles@uua.org)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Randy McCrea     | 10/4  |
| Ann Rogers       | 10/6  |
| Joyce Phillipoff | 10/9  |
| Pat Rohrer       | 10/23 |
| Fred Hammond     | 10/27 |
| Carolyn Baker    | 10/28 |
| Joan Butcher     | 10/28 |
| Melissa Rhodes   | 10/30 |
| Linda Smith      | 10/31 |



*If we haven't listed your birthday in the Update please notify the MUUF office. 941-746-0067*



## Board of Directors

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>President</b>       | <b>John Isham</b>     |
| <b>Vice President</b>  | <b>Carol Bartz</b>    |
| <b>Secretary</b>       | <b>Randy Coleman</b>  |
| <b>Treasurer</b>       | <b>Bill Hayes</b>     |
| <b>Asst. Treasurer</b> | <b>Sharon Chofey</b>  |
| <b>Directors</b>       | <b>Sandy McCarthy</b> |
|                        | <b>Ted Medrek</b>     |
|                        | <b>Pat Rohrer</b>     |
|                        | <b>AJ Wolff</b>       |
| <b>Pres. Emeritus</b>  | <b>Carol Bartz</b>    |

*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. Ask John Isham for the Zoom ID*

## AUGUST FINANCIAL SUMMARY

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>            | <b>\$4,186.79</b>  |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>          | <b>\$12,537.02</b> |
| <b>USED FROM SAVINGS</b> | <b>\$7,200.00</b>  |



### Fellowship Office Hours:

**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  
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### The UPDATE

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

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

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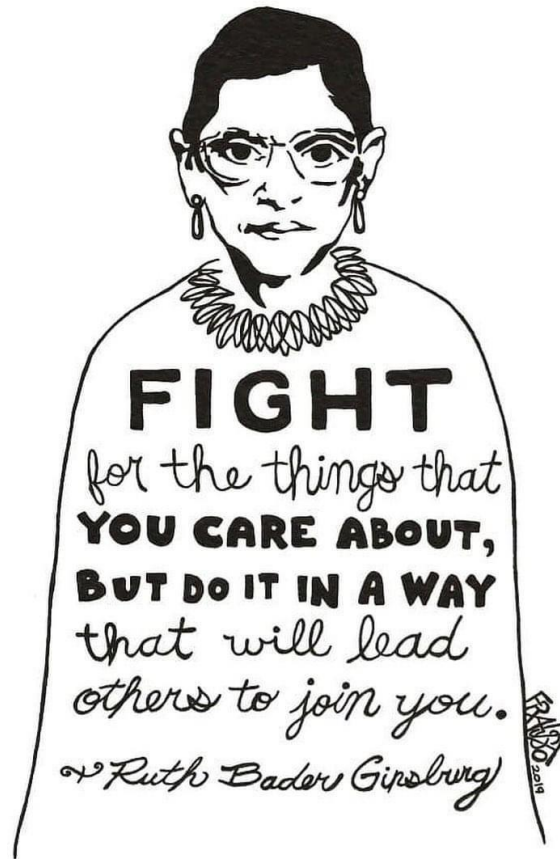
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### **Mary Frances Kordick**

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Ruth  
Bader  
Ginsburg  
1933-2020

Rest  
In  
Peace



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