



NCUU NEWS



The **April, 2017**, monthly newsletter of the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists
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www.naturecoastuu.org

President's Message

March was a challenging month for NCUU. Our Finance Committee went to great lengths to coax more money from us in the form of a pledge, and many of us accepted the challenge and increased our pledges, but unfortunately, many of us did not. You see, we set a \$60,000 goal to pay our monthly expenses, provide our committees with budgets that meet their needs, and pay for speaker fees and travel expenses. Unfortunately, we have fallen short by nearly \$20,000. We've lost three of our biggest donors, and many of our members did not pledge as much as they did last year.

In order to attract new members, and keep our members' interest, we must hire quality speakers each week. Therefore, the Sunday Service Committee needs a very large budget. Some of you have expressed a solution to the speaker problem, and that was to have more lay speakers from our congregation write and present sermons. Unfortunately, we can't depend on people from our congregation to research, and write sermons each month. It's a difficult process and only a few members of our fellowship are willing to do this. We welcome members to come forward with their talks, but few do. We cannot base our monthly schedule on a few possible lay speakers. Therefore, we're at the mercy of paid speakers and their travel fees. Besides, we need to hire outside guests with a variety of knowledge and talent in order to keep our services lively and inviting. In every survey taken by our Sunday Service Com., our members and friends tell us that they want more UU ministers to speak at our services. At \$250 to start, plus travel expenses, hiring UU ministers is an expensive process. Musical programs are very costly as well.

Therefore, I'm asking those of you who care about keeping our fellowship alive and vital, but have not yet pledged, to consider a donation of \$25 per month or \$300 per year. We haven't got a choice at this point. If you want to keep the NCUU a viable fellowship, each and every one of us needs to come forward to meet this challenge.

Finally, I want to thank our Finance Committee which includes Stan Brumaghim, Judy Capone, and Rob Deremer who offered us a wonderful pizza party for our pledge dinner on March 11. Many members were there. Rob and Barbara did the set up and arrangement of the food, beverages, cake, and decorations. We had

a very good time. Thank you, Rob and Barb, for all your hard work. And thanks to Jean Brown who managed to make us all "kitchen-kazoo" enthusiasts.

Once, again, let's sacrifice a little more for the sake of our beloved fellowship, our "little oasis". See you at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 9.

Happy Easter,

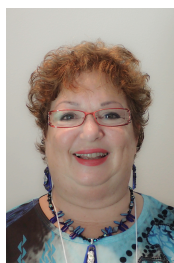
Pam



NCUU NOTICE TO MEMBERS: THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING IS APRIL 9

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, 9 April. The business to be conducted at this meeting is election of a Vice-President, Clerk, 3 members of the Board of Directors, members of the Nominating Committee for next year, and approval of the proposed budget for the next fiscal year which begins on 1 May. Those who have been members for 6 months or more (signed the Book before 9 October 2016) are eligible to vote. It is very important that voting members attend this meeting because our bylaws require that a quorum be present to vote for the candidates and approve the budget. The meeting agenda and the proposed budget are included with this letter. If you are not able to attend the Annual Meeting, you may vote by absentee ballot. These will be available at the Fellowship on the next two Sundays (March 26 and April 2), or contact me before Monday, 4 April if you would like to have me send one to you. Absentee ballots must be returned to Rob DeRemer, Chair of the Nominating Committee, before the Annual Meeting (by Saturday, 8 April) to be counted. According to our bylaws, if there are nominations from the floor for officer or director positions, or if there are changes to the budget, absentee votes are not allowed for these items.

Holly Alexander,
NCUU Clerk (316) 734-0023
halex352@gmail.com



INTRODUCING NEW MEMBER Ellen Saunders

Philadelphia, PA was home for Ellen from birth through college at Temple University where she earned a BA in English. Ellen and her second husband, Mike, have been married almost 30 years. They moved from Dublin (Columbus), OH to Terra Vista in Hernando in 2004. She was raised Jewish and was a bat mitzvah at age 13. She joined NCUU this past year and also became a member of the Humanist Society of North Central FL.

You may wonder what one can do with a BA in English besides teaching. Ellen managed to have a lively career with a variety of positions primarily in Information Technology. She worked as a Systems' Analyst, a Management Consultant, and a Chief Financial Officer and Controller for a retail company in NY. Her last 22 years were in sales and marketing for software consulting services companies.

Hobbies include travel, movies, theater, reading mysteries, going to breakfasts, lunches and Happy Hour with friends. There is a studio in Ellen's home where she does hand-crafted art jewelry. She is the owner and designer of "Beaded Baubles" and calls it her "hobby-run-amok." Her creations are on display and for sale at the Franklin Anderson Gallery in Crystal River and from her directly. Check out the beautiful jewelry on Facebook under her name, Ellen Saunders.

Ellen and Mike are intrepid travelers having just returned from an African cruise. Ellen has visited 107 countries and Mike has completed 100.

Let us welcome this dynamic addition to our NCUU family!

Jean Brown

Wireless amplifying headphones are now available at the rear of the sanctuary. See Gordon Hart or Gordie Dinmore for assistance on Sundays.

Caring Committee

Please inform the Caring Committee if a NCUU member is ill or in need of some cheer. Carol will keep in touch with ailing congregants, as well as our snowbirds.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this very fulfilling job, please contact Carol Dinmore at 352-419-5515. We especially need help during the summer months!

April Birthdays

If your birthday is in April, and your name is not on this list, please notify the editor: erickson872@att.net; 847-682-7527

04/04	Joe Wetzel
04/09	Mary Louise DeWolfe
04/15	Phyllis Bernard
04/15	Sandy Sondheim
04/21	Lynn Carole Baker
04/28	Lois Cole



Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 28, at 1:00 pm (last Tuesday of the month. Check the sign-up sheet is in foyer for details.

Men's Lunch

Please join us on Friday, April 28, at NCUU. Bring your lunch and share in the conversation! We look forward to seeing you; we meet the fourth Friday of the month. Questions, contact Dave K.

Zen Sitting Group

We meet on Fridays at 3:45 PM at the church (except for the 3rd Friday when potluck is on). For subsequent sitting locations please confirm with: Barbara Ewing DeRemer at: 352-795-5736.

Monthly Potluck

Our monthly Potluck dinner will be on Friday, April 21.

Bring your covered dish between 5:00-5:30 and we will sit down to eat at 6 PM.

Thanks, Pam

Send Sunday Morning Announcements to:

ncuuannouncements@gmail.com

Deadline is the Friday before Sunday service.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please remember that the deadline for April's Newsletter is **April 27**.

Send to: erickson872@att.net

Sunday Service Committee

Next meeting is Monday, April 24, at 10 AM.

(Last Monday of the month)

NCUU Council of Committees

The Council of Committees meets quarterly. All NCUU Committee Chairs are asked to attend. Any and/or all of your committee members are welcome to join you and add to the discussion. If for any reason you cannot attend, please send a representative from your committee.

Membership Committee

If you are not yet a member and are interested in joining NCUU, please see Connie Hart or any member of the Membership Committee. If you like, we will feature you in our newsletter, and we'll have a nice welcoming ceremony.

Please check us out, comment, and like us on Facebook at Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists. If you have photos or information you would like posted, please email: conhart@gmail.com.

The next membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26.



Earth Center Small Group Ministry

We are a focused, lay-led small group that deepens and expands the ministry of our NCUU Congregation. We focus to build and deepen community relationships.

The members of our group have made a commitment to one another and to the spiritual, physical and emotional well-being of our group's participants.

Please join us on Wednesday April 19, at 3 PM. (Third Wednesday of the month)

Joan Burnett

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 2:30. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 5th, 2:30-3:30 at the church. Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings. In February, Tom, Andrea, and Peggy attended UU Justice FL's conference "Let's Begin to Save Our Democracy." The focus was on the role of Big Money in Politics, how it is corrupting our Democracy, and what to do about it. More specifically it focused on Move to Amend's proposed "We the People" amendment to the U.S. Constitution to end money in politics and corporate personhood. The UUA including NCUU have endorsed Move to Amend's proposed "We the People" amendment. So far over 400,000 people nationwide have signed a petition endorsing the proposed amendment, 18 states, over 700 towns nationwide, and 12 towns in FL.

Moreover, NCUU Social Justice Committee will have a booth at the Citrus County Fair March 27-April 1st. The booth will focus on getting big money out of politics and ending corporate personhood which is at the root cause to most or all other justice issues

Andrea Rea, Co-Chair

Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, April 10, at 2 PM.
If you want to place an item on the Board agenda, please
send it to the clerk, Holly Alexander about a week in
advance. (Second Monday of the month)



Yoga Classes

These classes meet every Tuesday and
Thursday at 10:30 am. The cost is \$8.

Wildlife Club

The next meeting held at the NCUU is on
Tuesday, April 25. Set-up is at 6:00 PM and the meeting
starts at 7:00 PM. Please bring your own refreshments.

NCUU Board of Directors

President Pam Ricker
Vice-President..... Bert Gagnon
Clerk Holly Alexander
DirectorsIrene LeMon
Tom Hibberd, Gordon Dinmore, Nancy Pettus,
Rob Deremer, and Sheila Woods

NCUU Committees

Building Carol & Gordon Dinmore
Calendar Linda Myers
Caring Committee:..... Carol Dinmore
Choir Director Sally Smith-Adams
Denominational Affairs Joan Burnett
Facebook Available
Finance Stan Brumaghim
Librarian Tom Hibberd
Membership Connie Hart
Music Sally Smith-Adams
NewsletterKerry Erickson
mailto: erickson872@att.net
Nominating Committee..... Connie Hart,
..... Rob DeRemer
PhotographerGordon Hart

Piano: Connie Hart, Sally Smith-Adams, Sheila Woods
PublicityOPEN
PropertyCarol Dinmore
Religious EducationJoan Burnett
Social ActivitiesAvailable
Social Justice
Sunday ServiceOPEN
Treasurer (Acting) Nick Kalfas
Web MasterJean McCauley
jeaniebeanienccuu@yahoo.com
Websitewww.naturecoastuu.org