



NCUU NEWS

The **March, 2017**, monthly newsletter of the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists
7633 N. Florida Ave. (Hwy. 41) Citrus Springs, FL 34434 352-465-4225 www.naturecoastuu.org

President's Message

Our fellowship is relatively new compared to other UU churches throughout the country, but nevertheless, we must preserve what short history we have and pass it down to new members so that they too will treasure it, and, in turn, pass it down to future generations of members. One of the visible ways to preserve our history is to note various artifacts that abound in our building both inside and out. This will help us learn and respect their relationship to the history of the NCUU.

Let's now consider the objects that we see each time we visit our fellowship, but do not know the history behind each object:

- The lectern was built and donated to the fellowship by member Natalie Milana's husband, Richard, in 1998-99, soon after the fellowship was established.
- The podium was originally a honey color as is the chalice on the front of the structure, but in 2014 the Sunday Service Committee asked Sandy Sondheim to refinish it so that its color blended with the piano and chairs behind it.
- The quilt that hangs on the wall in the foyer contains panels of handiwork created by different women (Jean McCauley being one of them) at the NCUU. It represents the Nature Coast and the Unitarian Universalist religion. The quilt was sewn together by member Margaret Huband in 1999. She created the chalice in the center of the quilt. Jean's panel is the panel of a lemon.
- The various wrought iron sculptures in our fellowship were created by Gene Gotz husband of Peg Gotz. Peg and Gene joined the NCUU in March of 1999. Gene loved welding and metal work. He created the chalice, the sculpture that hangs on the wall behind the podium, and the two chalices that hang outside above the entrance and under the peak on the side that faces Rt. 41. Gene also created the chalice that sits atop the Memorial Pillar in the Memorial Garden.
- The large painting that hangs in the sanctuary was painted by Jean Morey, a well-known artist who donated the painting to the fellowship in lieu of her pledge one year. It hung in the rented space in Lecanto for a few years. The painting was a subject of much discussion, as to where it should hang in the new building. We hung it in the foyer for a while, but the Sunday Service Committee needed a large space for a bulletin board, so the picture was removed for that purpose and wound up in Joan Burnett's closet for about three years. Finally, the congregation decided it belonged in the sanctuary, and that's where it hangs today.
- The painting of sand hill cranes was painted by Polly Keene a long-time member of our fellowship. Her daughter, Laura, whom Polly gave up for adoption at birth, searched for her birth-mother and found Polly a few years before Polly passed away. They established a loving relationship. Laura presented Polly's painting to us after her Memorial Service. Polly was also an accomplished poet, speaker, and a good friend to those of us who knew her.
- The gong which calls us to Sunday services was purchased by Alan and Julie Macdonald in 2002 as a gift to the fellowship, and it has been used to call us to service ever since.
- The pictures of the world's religions that hang on the wall in the back of the sanctuary were created and donated to our fellowship by member Linda Reiland. Linda and her husband Dennis were instrumental in the construction of our building, and worked tirelessly to accomplish this feat.
- And now we have a new artifact. A beautiful Tibetan Singing Bowl donated by the gentlemen of our fellowship as a Christmas gift on December 25, 2016. The bowl is located on our baby grand piano, and is struck before and after the meditation portion of our Sunday service.

It is a good thing to document Nature Coast UU's artifacts so that, as I stated before, future generations will know their history. I'm sure everyone agrees that traditions both visible and physical such as

the annual yard sale, pot luck dinners, circle dinners, the pledge dinner, the water and flower services, and the Christmas Eve service are all an important and cohesive part of our fellowship. They are honored traditions to pass down to future members who will thank us for our efforts, and hopefully, will carry them forward... years from now.

Peace to You,
Pam

PASSAGES

It is with sorrow that we say good-bye to our friend Rod Cole who passed away last month. Rod and his wife Lois joined our church in 1999, and Rod was president of the Board of Directors from 2008- 2010. He was an avid reader and gave many thought-provoking sermons at our Sunday services. Rod was scheduled to speak again in April, but was hospitalized with pneumonia and never recovered. Rod’s Memorial Service is Wednesday, March 15 at 1PM.

Our dear friend and long-time member Ellen Pedersen sold her condo and is moving back to Buffalo, NY next month; she will not be returning to Florida. I know that we will miss her sweet smile and sense of humor. Her daughter Laura will be missed as well for her inspiring and often hilarious sermons.

Rev. Mary Louise DeWolf has moved to Windsor of Ocala, an assisted living facility. She will not be attending our fellowship any longer because she is no longer able to drive. A relative will drive her to the Marion County UU in Summerfield from time to time, but not as far as Citrus Springs. We are sorry to see our Minister Emerita leave us, and we wish her well. I’m sure, once she gets settled, she will welcome visitors from our fellowship.



“Zora” on March 5, at NCUU
A Talk by Zackary Cote

Zack Cote, an instructor at the College of Central Florida will present the sermon on Zora Neale Hurston, a remarkable, forward thinking woman.

He became enchanted with Zora Neale Hurston after moving to Florida, and will be speaking at NCUU on March 5 about this very interesting woman.

Every year there is a Zorafest in Eatonville, in northern Orlando. Zora Neale Hurston lived there many years, and it is the backdrop for many of her stories. Zora was an African American novelist, short story writer, folklorist and anthropologist, an amazing accomplishment for a black women born in 1891. She was the 3rd child of former slaves, a Barnard/Columbia graduate in the 20’s, and she achieved prominence during the Harlem renaissance. Despite her achievements, she was severely criticized by the likes of James Baldwin and died a pauper. Her best-known book is Their Eyes Were Watching God. It is about Florida and a woman finding liberation.



**INTRODUCING NEW MEMBER
Jelynda Vanover**

Jelynda and her husband, Justin, live in Beverly Hills with their two daughters Alexandria, 5 ½, and Ember, 19 months. Jelynda works from home for an Apple call center doing technical support. She also has her own business as a pregnancy coach and sells Plexus products. Formerly, she lived in Columbus and Springfield, OH. Jelynda was homeschooled by her mother and her grandmother and is homeschooling her own children with a no-curriculum approach.

As a child, Jelynda was taken to various Protestant churches, but never attended regularly. She also studied Wicca for a few years as a teenager. A year ago she visited NCUU, felt comfortable, and became a member in May of 2016. In September, her children were dedicated in a beautiful ceremony conducted by Rev. Mary Louise DeWolf.

Jelynda is a gluten-free vegetarian who loves to cook. Books on self-help, philosophy, history, and romance appeal to her. She enjoys many kinds of music.

We are thrilled to welcome this young woman to NCUU and to have her children as founding members in our Sunday School!

Jean Brown

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

NCUU PLEDGE DRIVE FOR 2017/18
NCUU Message to Members from the Finance
Committee:

NCUU's Pledge Drive Complimentary Pizza Party is going to be held at the Fellowship on Saturday, March 11th, starting as a social gathering at 12:30 pm, and serving at 1:00 pm. The menu is: antipasto, tossed salad, stuffed shells, veggie pizza, cheese pizza and super deluxe pizza. For dessert we have Publix sheet cake. There will be soda and iced tea available. There will be a sign up sheet in the foyer on Feb 26th and March 5th. The Annual Pledge Drive continues. If you have already pledged, thank you, and if you have not yet returned your pledge, please do so.

Thank you for helping us keep the doors open at NCUU!

We look forward to seeing you all there.
The Finance Committee

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!

March Birthdays

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

- 03/07 Monique Sondheim
- 03/26 Rochelle Piso



Ladies Luncheon

The Ladies Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 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, March 24, 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, March 17.



Since St. Patrick's Day (March 17) falls on the Friday we normally have a Celebration Pot Luck, the Social Activities Committee has decided to hold our St. Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage feast on that evening. Instead of charging a fee, the NCUU will purchase and prepare the corned beef, but the rest of you who wish to attend will bring the cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rutabaga, Irish soda bread, pumpernickel bread, and dessert. There will be a sign-up sheet this Sunday for those who wish to attend this special pot luck supper because we need to know how much meat to purchase. We'll have fun, and enjoy a great meal.

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 **March 24**.

Send to: erickson872@att.net

Sunday Service Committee

Next meeting is Monday, March 27, 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, March 22.

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 March 15, at 3 PM.
(Third Wednesday of the month)

Joan Burnett

Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, March 13, 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 only \$8.

Social Justice Committee

Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 2:30 PM. The next meeting will be on March 1. Please contact Don Wright, Andrea Rea, Connie Hart, Tom Hibberd, or Pam Ricker for more information. We hope to see you there!

March Speaker Schedule

- March 5 Zachary Cote (International Woman's Day)
- March 12 Rev. Roy Sniffing UU Minister
- March 19 Rev. Bob Murphy UU Minister
- March 26 Dan Gribbin Lay Speaker

Wildlife Club

The next meeting held at the NCUU is on Tuesday, March 28. 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
- Directors Irene LeMon
- Tom Hibberd, Gordon Dinmore, Nancy Pettus,
- Rob Deremer, and Sheila Woods