



NCUU NEWS



The February, 2018, monthly newsletter of the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists
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Facebook: Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists www.naturecoastuu.org

President's Message

It's that time of year when our Finance Committee asks us to make a yearly pledge to support our fellowship.

It requires over \$1000 a week to keep the fellowship's doors open each week. Our operating expenses alone amount to over \$4000 per month. Our committees operate on a budget to which each adheres. Seldom do our committees use more than what their yearly budget allows; however, our Building Fund may take a major blow to its yearly allowance in the coming year.

Our building was built in 2008, and is in need of some costly maintenance. We may need to have an air exchange system installed, and the rugs and furniture need to be cleaned. We need a pull-up window installed in the office, and also, there is the safety concern of a second exit door in the sanctuary which will be a major expense. Our appliances are twelve years old, and you know what can happen with old dishwashers and refrigerators, etc. We take good care of our appliances and have them repaired when necessary, but our microwave above the stove is gone and it's a matter of time when other appliances may go as well. Incidentally, our "Souper Sunday" event last Sunday netted enough money to purchase a new microwave oven.

Last year, our Yard Sale raised \$2000 to add to our budget expenses, but due to an insurance issue, we didn't have a major fund raiser this year. Our new insurance will cover our outside needs, so a fund raiser is on the horizon for the winter of next year.

Our Annual Meeting is Sunday, April 8. On this day we will peruse our annual budget, and each of you will receive a copy of our expenditures. You will see just how much it costs to keep our doors open each week, and it's astounding.

Remember, giving is a joyous process. It helps us grow spiritually. We reflect on why it is important, and by giving, we make a difference in what matters most to us. By pledging and maintaining our pledge each month, we take care of something we value and enable it to grow. Our fellowship's well-being depends on all of us.

On a lighter note, Kerry is adding a new section to our Newsletter which will be a poetry corner. We begin this new section with a poem created by Joe Wetzel for our friend Harry Macleod's memorial service on January 24. It's a beautiful tribute to a dear friend. Kerry will select original poems written and sent to her by our members each month and print them in our newsletter.

Peter Freeman's four-week course, "Life Fulfillment" ended last Saturday. Those of us who attended, found the classes most helpful and enlightening. We read two books, "Practicing the Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle, and "The Four Agreements" by Don Miguel Ruiz. Read them, you'll be glad you did.

Once again, please fill out your pledge and turn it in to the Finance Committee as soon as possible. Thanks.

Pam

SUNDAY SERVICES

The Sunday Service Committee meets on February 26th at 10 AM. (Last Monday of the month).

02/04/18 Speaker: Dr. Kyaein O. Connor

Topic: The Spiritual Benefit of Culturally Based Activities

All of us can benefit from culturally based activities; even if those activities are not part of our own culture. Dr. Connor will use African Dance and Drumming as an example, as she takes the congregation through an African chant, some movements, and rhythmic exercises. She will further discuss how maintaining one's culture of origin has significant self-protective properties for health and wellness, which suggests we should be celebrating and recognizing differences as opposed to trying to look at the world as if all people are the same.

Background: Dr. Kyaien Conner is a professor of cultural diversity and mental health at the University of South Florida in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences and is a professor of West African Dance at the University of Tampa in the School of Dance.

February Birthdays

If your birthday is in February, and your name is not on this list, please notify the editor: erickson872@att.net; 847-682-7527. Birthdays will be celebrated at our Potluck Dinner in February.

02/04	Holly Alexander
02/10	Jean McCauley
02/21	Peg Gotz
02/12	A. Rob Deremer



Congregational Poll Results (Part of the UUA certification process)

Our NCUU members voted Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018 on 2 issues:

1. Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy
2. Dismantling Intersectional Oppression

The vote is whether our congregation thinks either of these issues should be added to the 2018 General Assembly agenda for four years of study.

Both Congregational Study Action Issues received a majority yes vote. About 38 to 40 members (by hand count) voted yes on each issue and by email 3 more yes for Issue 1 and by email 1 more for Issue 2. Votes for a no vote on both issues were 2 votes. Votes to Abstain: on Issue 1) was 3 votes and Issue 2) 11 votes (these include hand count and email votes).

Members not attending had the option of voting by proxy or by email.

The VP thanks you for studying the issues and for your participation in our democratic representative process!

Sheila Wood

02/11/18 Speaker: Arbuth Bumgarner

Topic: FREEDOM OF THOUGHT

Is it possible for China and Freedom of Thought to co-exist in the New World Order?

Background: Arbuth Bumgarner has been a resident of Citrus County since 1995. He has created a successful real estate business, "Dream Citrus". He has earned certification as an International Property Specialist and has been designated as the Ambassador to China from the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Bumgarner is an active member of the Unity of Citrus Fellowship. He and his wife, Annie, started an import company in 2003 and have been traveling to China extensively for the last 15 years. His formal education includes horticulture, business administration, and religious studies with a brief stint in seminary at the Illif School of Theology.

02/18/18 Speaker: Luz Lecour

Topic: Love or Fear – Your Choice

Her topic is centered around love, its transformative power and how it is manifested through compassion. It will address the shadows of fear that are appearing and how love is the remedy. References from spiritual leaders of various faith traditions as well as circular leaders, like Martin Luther King, will be used to support the topic.

Background: Luz Lecour is a Ministerial Candidate at the Unity Urban Ministerial School. She will be a licensed Unity Minister in June of this year. Luz has a Master's Degree in Education and taught in our public-school system for 24 years before retiring three years ago. She is a member of Unity of Citrus where she actively serves in various ministries.

02/25/18 Speaker: Rev. Elaine Silver

Topic: ERNEST Through Song – Singing the Words of Ernest Holmes

Elaine will be sharing original songs and stories from her forthcoming CD titled "ERNEST".

Background: Elaine Silver (A.K.A. "Faerie" Elaine) is a seasoned performer, songwriter, touring musician and recording artist (20 CDs to date and counting!). Her voice has often been described as stunningly clear, supple, rich and like fine crystal. She has had the honor of working in conjunction with many world-renowned spiritual leaders, teacher and authors including Deepak Chopra, Neale Donald Walsh, don Miguel Ruiz, Marianne Williamson, Alan Cohen and Wayne Dyer.

Sally Smith-Adams and Amy Haiken

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARADE

Ten NCUU members marched at this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, proudly carrying our banner. It was a beautiful day, and our marching members reported having a very good time!



Linda Myers

Grounds & Gardens Day

The **First Friday** of every month is **Grounds & Gardens Day** at NCUU.

Do you like to work outside in the yard and garden? Whether weeding, trimming, planting, raking, the NCUU Yard and Garden Crew *always* needs help. Please come Friday morning, **February 1**.

Gordie Dinmore and Bree Hill are usually there by sun-up. (*The rest of us usually are not.*) We're normally done by 10:30 - 11:00.

Sally Smith-Adams

Ladies' Luncheon

The NCUU November Ladies Luncheon will be Tuesday, February 27, (last Tuesday of the month).

Sign-up sheet, directions, and menu sheet are in the foyer. If you have any questions, contact Peg Gotz (527-4113) or Julie Macdonald (465-5646)

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 7th, 2:30-3:30 at the church. Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings.

New Members

Don Howse and John Rushong

Don Howse and John Rushong, also known as DonJuan, are a rare "bi"coastal couple who spend their summers in Portland, Oregon and winters in Inverness, Florida. They will be celebrating their fifth wedding anniversary in February but have known each other for over forty years.

Don graduated from the University of Idaho in Ornamental Horticulture and pursued a nursery career in Sandy, Oregon, specializing in rare and unusual conifers. He was a rock star in the plant world selling plants to friends, colleagues, and admirers all over the world. Don has forgotten more about plants than most will ever learn. Don's Oregon home is a showplace that is visited by groups like The American Conifer Society. His Florida home is now his new greenhouse for his tropical plants.

John graduated from Portland State University in Education. Most of his career was spent teaching First Grade. He requested that the Latino students be placed in his class as he had developed a Spanish/English program before it was in vogue. John has always been a Dreamer at heart. He encouraged artists to volunteer in classrooms in conjunction with the district art curriculum.

John and Don never worked a day in their lives because they loved what they did. They have two dogs. Codee is a neurotic Pug who is always hungry. Kruzer is a Papillon-Chihuahua mix who is cute and knows it.

They drive across our magnificent country twice a year avoiding Interstates, always taking the road less traveled.

Welcome John and Don!

Pot Luck Dinner

Our Potluck Dinners are held on the third Friday of each month. We hope to see you on Friday, February 16th.

Membership Committee

Membership News

The Membership Committee invites you to thank Amy Haiken and Gordon Hart for their long hours of hard work on our newly revamped website. Please be sure to check it out at ncuu.org. If you have calendar changes or additions or have questions, please contact either Amy or Gordon and inform them.

We welcome ideas for how to grow our congregation with new members and keep our present members informed and participating in this caring and lay led fellowship.

If you are interested in joining NCUU, please contact Connie Hart at conlhart@gmail.com.

The Membership Committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month, February 28, at 10:00 A.M.

Connie Hart

Earth Center Small Group Ministry



The Earth Center Small Group Ministry is a 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 also join us on Wednesday, February 21, at 3 PM (Third Wednesday of the month).

Joan Burnett

Citizens for Informed Teens

In 2012, the General Assembly of the UUA chose "Reproductive Justice" to be the issue that all UU congregations would be encouraged to study. Although a new issue was chosen in 2016, a small group from our congregation has continued to focus on reproductive justice. We are the committee we call "Citizens for Informed Teens". Our mission is to ensure that babies are born to committed and prepared parents. To make that mission a reality, we have been raising awareness of the lack of comprehensive sex education in our Citrus County schools. We have made presentations to health care professionals, school personnel, and many civic organizations. What we need now is for some of you to join us. We need your ideas, your passion and your

willingness to work toward a worthy goal. If you think this is something you might like to become involved in, let one of us know, Linda Myers, Sheila Woods or Joan Burnett. We will invite you to our next meeting and familiarize you with the work we have done and what we hope to do in the future. There is still much that can be accomplished.

Joan Burnett

Denominational Affairs

The 2018 General Assembly of the UUA will take place in Kansas City, Missouri on June 24-28. NCUU will be able to send two delegates to be our voice. Please consider being one of those delegates. Ask anyone who has attended a GA about how transformational that experience can be. Former delegates were, Pam Ricker, Irene LeMon, Linda Myers, Edythe Reid and Joan Burnett. Registration begins on March 1, 2018. The Denominational Affairs Committee has funds to cover the expense of your registration fee. Please give this opportunity serious thought.

Joan Burnett

Religious Education Assistance Needed

We love to have children come to NCUU with their parents. If you would like to help out with the children present once a month for 20 minutes during the service, please contact Connie Hart; conlhart@gmail.com. Many thanks.

Caring Committee

Please inform the Caring Committee if an 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

Board of Directors

Our Board meeting is Monday, February 5 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)

Social Service Help Line

Wellcare a health insurance company, has set up a help line for social services. If you need assistance, call 1-866-775-2192

AARP Tax Preparation

Free tax preparation, done by IRS certified tax counselors, is available at the Dunnellon Library on Saturdays from 10:30-2:30 and at the Dunnellon American Legion on Hwy. 41 on Wednesdays. You can make an appointment by stopping by the Dunnellon Library reference desk; walk in appointments are available at both sites on a first come-first serve basis. You do not have to be a member of AARP, nor do you have to be a senior citizen. You do have to bring your social security card (Medicare card with SS# is acceptable, as is a Social Security statement), photo ID, 2016's tax return, and all your tax documents for 2017. Absolutely free, highly recommended!

Kerry Erickson

POETRY CORNER

My Friend Harry's Julkrubba Wood (Trees)

I don't really know a lot about Harry, but I really do *know* him.

He spoke little, but said a lot; though it's what he did that counts most.

Let me list a few memories here, lest unspoken they grow dim;

For Harry's aura gently filled the room, but he was not one to boast.

Over the years at our little church, he'd sometimes offer a juicy dish.

Then he'd leave the kitchen, and use those hands to help build a home,

Habitat for Humanity: a fitting name for such a man, we might wish

Our own character could reflect so well the human genome.

Talk about your holidays! Saint Pat's, Valentines, Christmas, and all

He'd come with those artist's hands filled with many a trinket,

Wooden, beautifully hand-made, to decorate the tree, or wear to the ball,

Such treasures inspire many a use; all one need do is think it.

One such treasure: years ago, Harry made us a Nativity treat,

He said the Swedish was Julkrubba; he followed that tradition.

Teen grand-daughter saw "scene," heard "Swedish", 'n said, Harry's sure "sweet".

But she was right: we could say being "sweet" was his mission.

Harry's spirit will live in our hearts, and also surely in his art.

Our church Christmas tree will always display its little part.

Speaking of a tree and wood art reminds me of a familiar verse:

"I think that I shall never see

"A poem lovely as a tree."

Which inspires me to say:

I think that I shall never see,

Nor could there ever, even be

A sweeter man than dear Harry.

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Joe Wetzel, Jan. 24, 2018

Barry Pendry's Booklist

Barry Pendry, friend of the NCUU fellowship, gave a most encouraging talk about New Year's resolutions and personal renewal. Various authors, Dr. Pendry suggests, make resolutions that: enhance our self-worth, relate to a positive future self, create an area of focus, relate to ourselves and others in ways to stepwise free the mind and spirit as in mindfulness-meditation and through the Unitarian Universalist seeking spiritual community.

Here is a copy of his Booklist:

One Small Step Can Change Your Life: The Kaizen

Way by Robert Maurer

The History of New Year's Resolutions by Sarah Pruitt

The Biology of Belief by Bruce Lipton

Inspirienc by Richard Haight

Sheila Wood

Send Sunday Morning Announcements to:
ncuuannouncements@gmail.com
Deadline is the Friday before Sunday service.

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please remember that the deadline for March's Newsletter is **February 25**.
Send to: erickson872@att.net

NCUU Committees

- Building Carol & Gordon Dinmore
 - Calendar Linda Myers
 - Caring Committee.....Carol Dinmore
 - Choir Director Sally Smith-Adams
 - Denominational Affairs Joan Burnett
 - FacebookConnie Hart
 - 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 JusticeAndrea Rae, Tom Hibberd
 - Sunday ServiceOPEN
 - Treasurer (Acting) Nick Kalfas
- *****

NCUU Board of Directors

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

