

Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ormond Beach

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER— Blessings

This month our worship theme is “Blessing” – what does it mean to be a people of or person of blessing? It could be as simple as being mindful of the good things which come to us unbidden and unearned— simple joys like catching sight of a rainbow, experiencing a cool breeze on a hot brow, or hearing a child’s laughter. Or it could be more serendipitous like when I recently took my daughters Allison and Emily kayaking at Blue Springs. The manatees were still at the springs despite the warm weather. Further, a few of them approached our kayaks as we sat as still as we could in the water. My girls were thrilled at the manatee encounter and later expressed how grateful they were for the experience.

So much competes for our attention these days, especially the media and its tendency toward sensationalism. It is unfortunate, but apparently human beings are hard-wired for spotting negativity over all else as a means to our survival; we are more responsive to situations which threaten us rather than to beneficial ones. Today, this tendency means for us that if we don’t pay close enough attention, we might miss the little graces which befall us every day. Therefore, we must cultivate an awareness of the good things, large and small which come to us in order to give balance to our living mind, body, and soul.

Jewish tradition says that a faithful person should name 100 blessings every day. I wager it would take the average person in our culture considerable energy to come up with that many in a day. But just imagine if we tried it. We would be so busy counting our blessings, we’d barely have time for anything else. And wouldn’t that be a wonderful way to spend at least one day of our lives? Can we imagine how we would feel at the end of such a day? What would it mean to other people in our lives and to the world as a whole if we each knew how blessed we are to be alive?

I look forward to sharing a month of counting blessings with you and exploring the many ways we can become a people of Blessing.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Kathy

TO OUR NEW BOARD—Congratulations and Thanks for Agreeing to Serve!

At our April 23rd UUCOB Annual Meeting, the congregation elected a new Board of Trustees:
President - Joan Thate; Vice-President - Betty Green; Secretary - Julie Hilburn; Treasurer – Amanda Attri.
Newly elected trustees: Phil Elliott, Charlie Ferguson, John Horner, Sheila McMahon and Evan Rivers.

The 2017-2018 Nominating Committee was also elected: Bev Berger, Leigh Montgomery, Linda Sanders, Terry Terranera and Carolyn West.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — Not an Easy Year

I cannot pretend that this has been an easy year. Any time of real change, of transition, of growing pains, is accompanied by a certain amount of risk taking and its attendant anxiety. I believe that the beauty of this place has a great deal to do with the fact that, in general, each of us is here because we are not very amenable to dogma, and thus tend to be more flexible in mind, even though quite a few of us are no longer young in years. So, pat yourselves on the back for stretching, and let's keep reminding ourselves that when we stop stretching, we are in danger of becoming moribund. I believe that we are too smart to allow that to happen.

I'll look first at some of the challenges we've had. This year we want to remember two of our long-term members who have died. Natalie Dix Williamson was our last remaining founding member, and had given so generously of her time and money in support of our congregation that her legacy will be long remembered and revered. Chuck McDearmont was not able to attend for the last few years of his life, so some of you will not remember him as the well-loved and respected member he had been for many years. We also lost a recent arrival as a friend, Bob Bitowft, and a longer-term friends, Bill Waldrop and Louise Kubiak. We will miss these wonderful people and are grateful that we had a chance to know them.

Then, most of you know that the treasurer we elected last year, Bob Owens, moved to California last October. Charles Hall was kind enough to help in that role as his health allowed through December, for which I cannot thank him enough. Since then, the person who has stepped up to keep us afloat is Ann Matteson. I feel more than a little guilty about that because I had encouraged Ann to agree to be our vice-president this year, promising that I wouldn't ask her to do anything more except bring her welcome insight to the Board meetings. She and Brian Bielick were already putting in hours and hours creating a more sophisticated and useful data base, already well beyond the time commitment of most. Even so, Ann learned what she needed to learn and filled that gap in spite of her rather complicated life right now. She deserves all of our thanks. Both she and I are extremely relieved that someone as intelligent and conscientious as Amanda Attri has consented to take on that job, and we'll support her in any way we can.

The third challenge has been that perpetual problem of money. I think most of you have been hearing enough from me about this for the last month, so I'm not going to dwell on this too much right now. But we all need to realize that we're going to need to do some serious stewardship work to make us financially viable in the longer term. Planning for our financial future is something we need to take a responsible look at and begin to develop a plan. We have been far too dependent on a few very generous donors, all of whom are up in years. We'll be asking you for your input and ideas, so you can start thinking about it now. It's not too soon.

The final challenge has been a good one. That is the challenge of working with our new minister as she has been learning the complicated reality of us as we are, and then working with her as she begins to help us envision what more we could be. I have personally learned to respect and appreciate her friendship, openness, and honesty as well as her commitment to her new profession. Also, I've been proud of this congregation's behavior in response to her. You've been welcoming and open. I think we have a good match.

Here's some quick good news items:

- The last of the five original air conditioners is now replaced, so with our air conditioning maintenance plan, we shouldn't have to talk about air conditioners for 10 years or so.
- Many of you were able to add to your pledge or gave additional donations beyond your pledge when you were asked, which made our budget work for next year. I want to add that our Alliance has voted to contribute \$2000 to this final push. Your generosity is both necessary and wonderful.

- The board has spent time this year working on updating and improving our current bylaws. We will send our proposed changes to you soon. We plan to call a special meeting for congregational discussion and vote on the changes in the near future.
- Our friend, Nick Kaars, a professional graphic designer, has offered to design an enhancement for the north wall of our sanctuary. We'll bring you that proposal during this year.
- Kurtland Davies has gathered a group of you who are committed to cleaning up and enhancing our grounds and hammock dune—something that we've needed to do for several years.
- Rita Sheeler is working to build a cadre of members and friends who are willing to help with building and grounds upkeep once a month rather than once a quarter.

One of the aspects that I suspect that most of us would not fully understand until we take on the job of being president of the congregation is this — a community only works when its members care enough about it to pitch in and do the actual work, when they agree to take charge and make things run with amazing smoothness, when they do the repetitive and sometimes rather thankless nitty-gritty jobs. It takes all of us.

--Joan Thate

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

April 30—Dan Kerr, “Why It’s Important to be a UU Now”

Today we are struck by the question: Why don't neighbors live peacefully together without the threat of terrorism, bigotry, hatred, and isolationism? What can we do about a world in such turmoil? Our choir will share five readings with the congregation, followed by singing five new anthems, describing the five steps of Unitarian Universalism that can lead us to counter the negative world we live in.

Service Leader: Denise Carter

May 7—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Original Blessing”

Matthew Fox, a Dominican Priest, was defrocked in 1993 for claiming that all people are born in Original Blessing, not sin and that all of creation is the original blessing of an immanent God. Perhaps more of a factor in his ex-communication is Fox's attempt to theologically reconcile science and religion. Fox's *Creation Spirituality* will be the springboard for this month's worship theme of “Blessing.”

Service Leader: Sheila McMahon

May 14—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Gaia: Mother of Us All”

With Earth Day and environmental consciousness not far behind us, let's examine some of the ways in which we revere and revile our Mother Earth and how she nurtures, teaches, and punishes us in our human naiveté.

Service Leader: Carolyn West

May 21—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Mixed Blessings”

It has been said that often when we claim to be “blessed” we are actually proclaiming our privilege. How do we distinguish blessings which are unearned and un-asked from those which arise from material wealth and station in life? Also, blessings often arise from sorrow and vice versa. How do we recognize this phenomenon when it happens and how can we stay buoyed in life when the universe seems so indifferent to our pain?

Service Leader: Rita Scheeler

May 28—Ted Mashburn, “From Fundamentalism to Freedom: How I Changed My Mind”

Dr. Ted Mashburn, professor of philosophy and theology at the University of Mobile, describes his life journey within Christianity: “I’ve known for a long, long time—nearly 45 years—that my views were very different from the tradition that birthed, educated, and now even employs me.” Dr. Mashburn is making a special trip from Alabama on May 27-28 to share his ideas with us. Please welcome him with your hospitality.

Service Leader: Patty Alsobrook

THE ALLIANCE—and Now, the Grand Finale!

The Alliance had a busy and successful year. The proceeds from our two soup lunches benefited both the Family Renew Community, which supports homeless families, (\$375) and also the interfaith social justice organization F.A.I.T.H. (\$400). Our Share-the-Plate program of sharing a monthly Sunday offering has generated funds which we have donated to our twelve Share-the-Plate partners, worthy charities in our local community. Our Christmas Giving project helped provide a happy holiday for sixteen teenagers living in group homes. These programs work well thanks to the generosity of our UU members!

Over 80 people attended our Easter Brunch, so the Alliance was able to donate over \$1,000 to our UU. Everyone enjoyed visiting, eating delicious quiche, cookies and other treats prepared by our loyal Alliance members. We thank our members for their contributions, whether cooking, serving or helping clean up.

On May 11th, our annual end-of-the-year luncheon will be at Caribbean Jack's in Daytona Beach. We will meet there and have a cold drink outside on the river deck around 11:15. We have reserved the private room at noon for lunch and a short business meeting. During the summer months, the Alliance will take a hiatus and begin meeting again in October. Meanwhile, we will continue sharing the offering on the 3rd Sunday of each month with selected local charities. Watch for announcements in upcoming Jotter articles!

--Jeanne Young

F.A.I.T.H. Moved a Mountain

Volusia County Council has voted to move forward on partnering with First Step Shelter! Thursday morning, FAITH members packed the Volusia County Council meeting as Daytona Beach Mayor Derrick Henry made a presentation on First Step Shelter, the **countywide homeless assistance center concept** that FAITH has been championing for over five long years. FAITH members were overjoyed when the council voted 4-3 to move forward in partnering with First Step Shelter! This action signals that the project will soon become a reality!



In the beginning, our campaign was widely seen as a long shot. Throughout, you heard plenty of elected officials tell us that our plan was too ambitious, too expensive, and could never happen. However, FAITH Justice Ministries came together to support this effort — 1,553 Volusia county residents from over 32 area churches and organizations attended our Action Assembly last month, including 50 of us from our UU.

Please join us as we celebrate this incredible victory and all the accomplishments of our Justice Ministries on **Monday, May 1st** at the FAITH Celebration Banquet at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church (4675 South Clyde Morris Boulevard in Port Orange). Festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be provided.

--Leigh Montgomery

SHARE-THE-PLATE — Shoes-That-Fit

On Sunday, May 21st we will share our offering with the Shoes-That-Fit program. Since 2006, our UU has provided new shoes and socks for school-aged children in Volusia County. This year we will purchase new footwear for the teenagers who live in Brian's House and Destiny House, both facilities run by the Children's Home Society of Volusia County. These teenaged girls and boys have been taken out of their own homes for their safety. Living at Brian or Destiny offers them a sense of security and stability.

The social workers at the two facilities will measure feet with the device we have provided. Each teen's name, size, age and gender are then given to the Alliance, and our members purchase the new shoes and socks for them. Shoes-That-Fit is uniquely efficient and effective in helping kids improve their self-esteem and fit in at school by eliminating one of poverty's most visible and debilitating marks. So, please remember to bring your generous contribution on Sunday, May 21. Many thanks!

--Joyce Nelson

LIFE LONG LEARNING— Programs for May 2017

The Life Long Learning programs for 2017 will be varied and include topics related to philosophy, history, spirituality, sociology, and science. Each program includes time for audience questions and comments. Excepting holidays, programs are usually scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

“Murder in Paradise” — Wednesday, May 10th

In the genre of contemporary mystery, crime, and detective fiction, Florida is blessed with many of the best authors writing today. Sarah Fogle will address the reasons why the Florida setting is conducive to the genre, some of the most popular and successful authors, and the important themes addressed in their novels. Dr. Fogle is a Professor of Humanities and Communication and program coordinator for the B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies at Embry-Riddle University. She has published extensively in the crime, mystery, and detective fiction areas, including articles on novels and films.

“Contemporary Life in Iran” — Wednesday, May 24th

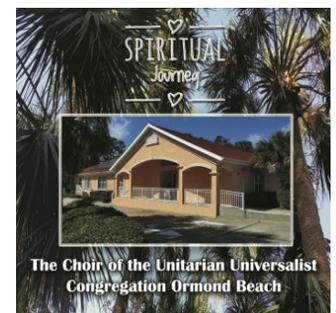
Dr. Dan Kennedy's interview with Dr. Massood Towhidnejad will focus on recent past and current life in Iran. Born and raised in Iran, Dr. Towhidnejad will share his insights about social, political, and general cultural issues, including his observations on life in Iran today, on its socio-economic stratification, and on Iranian opinions concerning Western culture. Dr. Towhidnejad is Professor of Software Engineering at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and earned his Ph.D. in that field at UCF.

--Tom Hilburn

OUR CHOIR— Making History Together

A few years ago, Cliff Jackson and I discussed an idea for a musical CD of the choir anthems from our Sunday services. Cliff began to compile some master recordings of our presentations, a process that would continue with Tom Hanson. Some 230 anthems later, the final CD of the best of our choir music is now in production.

The CD is called *A Spiritual Journey*, and the music traces the paths we often take and decisions we often make that can lead to a UU kind of spirituality. Starting with the musical detours and forks in the road we take in "Amani Utupe," we embark on a journey full of experiences, memories, and obstacles that finally lead us to becoming a family and community of one people.



Continued from page 5:

Copies of the CD should be available during last week in April. This CD would not be possible without the considerable talents of Tom Hanson, who took everything I described in the design of our musical journey and turned it into a sleeve depicting it in visual form. Tom also worked his magic editing the anthems into a truly high-fidelity quality product. It will provide many hours of enjoyment to family and friends.

--Dan Kerr

HAPPY BIRTHDAY— To One of Our UU Veterans, Mike Priano

Mike, you are one of the few “Greatest Generation” World War II veterans we know. We thank you for your service and admire your accomplishments, first growing up as a competitive swimmer in New York. Then you joined the U.S. Navy, working on developing the early underwater breathing apparatus. You were one of the original Navy “Frogmen” serving in Burma and had so many other exciting adventures. Your service contributed to America’s winning WWII to keep us free.



As a Navy “Frogman” your pioneering work is the foundation of today’s U.S. Navy SEALs. Your dedication and risk taking during WWII led to the development of the breathing apparatus still in use today known as SCUBA. You are a true American hero, we salute and thank you for a job well done. In Navy parlance, “Bravo Zulu.”

--Harry White & Leigh Montgomery

GROWING TOGETHER—Our New Committee on Ministry

We would like to introduce you to your new Committee on Ministry. The members were selected by Rev. Kathy and the Board of Trustees, and they are Cliff Jackson, Bill Ternent, Linda Kalaydjian and Gaia Davies. We have accepted the mission to assure a wide range of support to the congregation and to Rev. Kathy in order to ensure that we continue to have a successful UU ministry at UUCOB.

Our committee has two major responsibilities with a number of tasks. Our first area includes promoting open communication between the congregation and Rev. Kathy. By this we mean that we will provide a sounding board for both minister and congregants about when things are going well and when changes might be suggested, and encourage dialogue when needed.

The second area of responsibility includes providing feedback, consultation and evaluation for Rev. Kathy in support of her pursuit of permanent UU Ministerial Fellowship. The UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee requires three years of follow-up evaluation for new ministers. Evaluations will be submitted by this committee, our Board of Trustees and a ministerial mentor.

Some areas of evaluation include the following: [1] Counseling and Pastoral Care; [2] Administrative Skills; [3] Growing our UU and Keeping It Healthy; [4] Personal and Professional Growth; [5] Teaching (all ages), [6] Worship (including sermons); [7] Denominational Activities, and [8] Outreach (including community service and support of local, national and international social justice issues). The most important component of evaluation will be recommending steps for growth and development in areas where they are needed. Please feel free to talk to any one of us about the work of our committee.

--Gaia Davies

May 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm FAITH Banquet Celebration: Our Lady of Hope in PO 6:30	2 Mah Jongg 1: 10 am -noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	3 Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm	4 Caring Mtg: 10- 11 am Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm	5 Potluck Supper: 6-8:30 pm	6 Building & Grounds workday 9 am-noon Geho Gold: 9 am-noon Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm
7 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service & New Member Welcome: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	8 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	9 Writers Group: 10 am –noon Mah Jongg 1: 10 am -noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	10 Worship mtg: 11 am –noon Life Long Learning: 4-5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm	11 Finance mtg: 10:30am –noon Alliance luncheon at Caribbean Jack’s: noon -2 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm	12 Guild Auditions: 9 am-6 pm	13 Guild Auditions: 9 am-6 pm
14 Mother's Day Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	15 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	16 Mah Jongg 1: 10 am –noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	17 Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm	18 Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm Board of Trustees Mtg: 5:30-7 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm	19 Exploring Metaphysics: 6-7 pm	20 Jotter articles due Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm
21 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service & Share-the-Plate offering: 10:30-11:30 am Recital 1:30-5:00 pm Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	22 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	23 Writers Group: 10 am –noon Mah Jongg 1: 10 am-noon Women’s Group: 1- 2 pm Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	24 Life Long Learning: 4-5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm	25 Membership Mtg: 2:30-4 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm	26 People’s Church: 6:30-8:30 pm	27
28 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	29 Memorial Day	30 Mah Jongg 1: 10 am -noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	31 Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm			

Upcoming Sunday Services

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Presenter:</u>	<u>Service Leader:</u>
April 30.	“Why It’s Important to be a UU Now”	--Dan Kerr	--Denise Carter
May 7:	“Original Blessing” New Member Welcoming Ceremony	--Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey	--Sheila McMahon
May 14:	“Gaia: Mother of Us All	--Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey	--Carolyn West
May 21:	“Mixed Blessings” Share-the-Plate with Shoes-That-Fit	--Kathy Tew Rickey	--Rita Scheeler
May 28:	“From Fundamentalism to Freedom: . . .”	--Ted Mashburn	--Patty Alsobrook

May Birthdays

Judy McCausland-11th
Patty Alsobrook-12th

Leigh Montgomery-14th
Cathy Jackson-17th

John King-17th
Charles Hall-18th
Bill Ternent-22nd



The Jotter

May 2017

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

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 Sunday: 9:45 am +

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 Carolyn West: *Jotter* Editor (386) 672-9352
 Website: <http://www.uuormond.org/>
 Children’s’ RE on Sunday 10:15 -11:45 am
 Discussion Group meets Sunday at 9:15 am

Sunday Service: 10:30 am