

COMMUNITY NEWS



Community Unitarian Universalist Church – December 2014 – Volume XIII – Issue 12

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

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December 7: We welcome newcomer Sheila Csagoly, Hungarian operatic singer, to our congregation for a "Christmas Musical Performance." She will be singing Pia Jesu, O Holy Night, Alleluia, some traditional Hungarian Christmas songs as well as some favorite Christmas carols. Laura Chilkott leads the service.

December 14: Following the summer format, Nancy McCormick will lead us in a discussion about "Christmas Memories." This is the time in the Christmas season to take a deep breath, reflect on the season itself and what it has meant to you throughout the years. This will be a meaningful morning of sharing your thoughts.



December 21: Now a longtime tradition in our church, Martha Swanson and Lloyd Dunham will conduct a Pagan (Winter Solstice) and Christian celebration. Please join us for this festive and informative program about how these two great traditions are historically and spiritually intertwined.



December 28: Joe Wolfarth will use the summer format to lead a discussion about "Joyful Transitions" into 2015. This is a time to take stock, release, and prepare for new beginnings.

Looking ahead to January we welcome Gail Radley, performer Andrew McKnight, and Dorothy Anagnostis.

Services Sundays @ 10:30
Dudley Memorial Chapel
1108 North Dixie Hwy.
(US Rt. 1)
New Smyrna Beach
www.dbcuuc.org

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday						
	1	2	3	4 Girls Night Out Canal St., NSB 5-9 p.m. \$20.00	5 Pot Luck With a Purpose 5:30 p.m. at the home of David and Sharon Herr ----- Little Theatre, NSB Miracle on 34 th St. through Dec. 14 th ----- Light Up Flagler Ave. 5:30-7:30 p.m.	6 Christmas Parade Flagler Ave. to Canal St., NSB 4 p.m. ----- IMAGES: Holiday Tour of Homes, ACA at Yurick Studios 9a.m. – 3 p.m.						
7 Building Fund Sunday Sheila Csagoly "Christmas Musical Performance"	8	9	10 Board of Trustees Meeting @Cullisons 6:00 social 6:30 meeting	11	12	13 Santa on a Toys for Tots Train Canal St., NSB 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. ----- Boat Parade, Riverside Park, NSB						
14 Scholarship Sunday Nancy McCormick "Christmas Memories" ----- Bed and Breakfast Tour Canal St.. NSB	15	16	17	18	19	20 UUCF Christmas Gathering at the home of Lloyd and Laurie Dunham						
21 HUM Sunday Martha Swanson and Lloyd Dunham Pagan (Winter Solstice) and Christian Celebration	22	23	24	25	26	27						
28 Joe Wolfarth "Joyful Transitions"	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Celebration/Fireworks, Flagler Ave., NSB									
	 <table border="0"> <tr> <td><i>Jennifer Brindle</i></td> <td><i>12/6</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Sandy Weihl</i></td> <td><i>12/18</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Mark Moehring</i></td> <td><i>12/21</i></td> </tr> </table>						<i>Jennifer Brindle</i>	<i>12/6</i>	<i>Sandy Weihl</i>	<i>12/18</i>	<i>Mark Moehring</i>	<i>12/21</i>
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UUCF PLANS CHRISTMAS GATHERING

On Saturday, December 20th the UUCF will gather at the Dunham's home, 5927 Aruna Drive in Port Orange for its annual Christmas event with Christmas stories, carols and fellowship. As usual we will meet at 5:00 and start with appetizers followed by a shared meal (Please contact Laurie or Lloyd about your part in our meal – 386-761-6509 or dunham@cfl.rr.com) Main entrée will be cranberry stuffed chicken roll and ham.

CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT GIVING

Debbi Zill and I, Nancy McCormick, have friends, Karin and David Jenkins, who own Applause Salon in New Smyrna Beach. Each year for the last two years, they have helped families at this time of year through a NSB based organization called Helping Hands. This year their list includes 18 families with a total of 30 children, ages 1 through 18 and two older woman who are alone except for a small dog each. About half of the children are age 11 and above. These are struggling families that include many problems such as drugs, divorce, abuse, and other family conflicts. Our church board has decided to make this our Christmas Project this year. We will be collecting gifts on November 30 and December 7, so I can get the gifts to the Jenkin's by December 13. Some ways you can help are: Cash; Grocery Store Gift Cards(Publix does not let a person use these for alcohol or cigarettes, W-D may also prohibit this, please check); Actual food items (please buy an entire meal such as, canned ham, canned sweet potatoes, canned pineapple, canned green beans, or pancake mix and syrup and hot chocolate, or spaghetti sauce, pasta, and canned fruit, etc.);Toys, such as teddy bears (good for all ages),skate boards, art kits, beading kits, dolls, puzzles, books, CD's and DVD's for older children, etc. Maybe the men in the congregation have some ideas of gifts for older boys (that's my weak spot). Since the Jenkins own a beauty salon they have access to hair and beauty products for all ages and both sexes. Nancy McCormick is the contact person for this project. If you have questions call me at 904-860-4983. Let's make this a great Christmas for these families and in the process make it a great Christmas for ourselves!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Members and Friends,

It was a wee bit chilly this morning. According to the weather report, it was one of the coldest for this time of year in Florida.....37 degrees. However, I remember 25 years ago when we moved into our home about this time of the year, we had a hard freeze. It was cold enough to freeze all the mangroves and our garden hose. From our back yard to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, one could see only bare mangrove branches. Happy to say they have returned to their full growth and beauty and doing their job in the natural world.

At Community Unitarian Universalist Church, I am feeling lots of good energy. Our wonderful Sunday morning services have sparked people into good positive conversations.

We are a small group but a mighty one.....generous to the core. On Monday, November 17th. Charley and I were so proud to deliver two very full and piled high grocery carts of food to HUM (Halifax Urban Ministries) along with a generous check, all from our members and friends at CUUC

Thank you all.

What has happened to 2014? It is almost over. But we, at CUUC still have much to look forward to before the end of this year. 1) On the first Sunday we welcome a newcomer, Csilia Csagoly. She will present a musical Christmas program. 2) On December 14th, Nancy McCormick will reflect on the season in her discussion on "Christmas Memories." 3) On Dec 21st, Martha Swanson and Lloyd Dunham present a Pagan-Christian Celebration. 4) A fitting end of the year topic about "Joyful Transitions" sounds like it will lead to a great discussion led by Joe Wolfarth on Dec. 28th.

At this time my mind is jumping from turkeys (yes, more than one to feed 22) to oyster dressing, to pumpkin pies, homemade mince-meat squares, to grocery list. To Christmas trees and decorations, to gifts, to the most magical time of all when there are young children present, The Night Before Christmas. It is always a special time but this one Christmas remains vivid in my mind. The entire family of children and grandchildren were all staying at our son's home in the Boston area. On Christmas Eve we gathered around the tree with the fireplace aglow and Charley read The Night Before Christmas. Not a sound was uttered. As the story progressed the youngest grandchild crawled into her grandfather's lap with wide eyes just soaking up his every word. At the end when Santa sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle and away they all flew like the down of a thistle. We heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight. HAPPY CHRISTMAS to ALL and to ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

A wonderful Holiday Season to ALL,

Audrey Barcelo
President

**Board of Trustees Meeting
Home of the Cullisons
November 12, 2014**

Present: Audrey Barcelo, David Herr, Bud Cullison, Pat Gatbaw, Nancy McCormick, Joe Wolfarth, Debbi Zill

Excused: Dana Jacobsen, Martha Swanson

Meeting called to order at 6:35

Audrey read the Oct minutes: David moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded, voted unanimous. Passed.

Treasurer report:

Pat moved: we pay UU Justice \$35.00, that's \$1.00 per person. 2nd and approved

Bud suggested we give HUM a check of 224.00 just sitting in an account that's for them. All agreed

Bud said Kathy Campanaro lost her check and is very worried. It's a \$30.00 charge to stop payment. It was agreed to void it and reissue. Bud also suggested we look into other banks with less holding balances and better % for accounts. It was suggested to look into credit unions as well.

Action Items:

Joe will talk with Laurel about updating CUUPS website and give the info to Sharon to add the link to our website. He said Nat'l CUUPS is doing well online and feels if ours is updated this will help local.

Bud will give Kathy her gift closer to the holiday.

All other Action Items were completed

Audrey asked: Are we on target?

Everyone feels we are as a whole.

Debbi feels she needs to communicate better with the members about her ideas for fundraisers. She will write something up for Dec or Jan newsletter.

Joe reported on the Pride Festival: 61 surveys were taken and received 36 email addresses that would like our newsletter, 3 were UU's. The pens went well, but there are many brochures left over.

Also he is taking his time between jobs to be more involved with Cuda Unhooked, PFLAG, Demarcates and gave a updated on the happenings of each.

Sharon Herr and Audrey have kept in touch about the progress of the website and Facebook. Sharon was unable to attend to give more information.

We were asked by UUSC to give a donation to help fight Ebola, it was agreed Dec 14th service will be used.

SWIM - Audrey has the information if anyone is interested. It's like SUSI and will be in Miami next year.

Motion: Nancy moved we get a table for "Run in the Sun" on Nov. 29th to benefit the Cudas Unhooked. 2nd, approved

100% of money received will be given to them.

Calendar items shared and determined, Debbi will look for more.

Next meeting will be Dec 10th at the Cullisons. 6:00 social/6:30 meeting

Nancy moved to adjourn the meeting, 2nd, motion passed unanimous. meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm

CARING AND SHARING

Happy Winter Holiday Season!

I look back on the year that I remember, and these things come to mind: Debbi's voice breaking with emotion as she describes the wonder of 37 years with husband Fred ("I'd never have believed this if you'd told me!"), recounting how he'd pleased her by celebrating this milestone with "a trip to the 'Happiest Place on Earth' - yep! You know how I love Disney!" I remember Pat describing her life with Bud as exceeding her expectations: "I didn't have children of my own before; but I got a family with Bud!" I recall the sparkle in Charley's eyes as he speaks of a life shared with Audrey... and Audrey's joy at the surprise return of the prodigal offspring for the holidays ("They let her come home from her teaching job in Korea to celebrate the season with us here!")... Nancy and Laurie relating the power of holding a grandchild - and then seeing that "wee bairn" grow into a passionate and committed young adult... the love in Anna's eyes as she described her husband Dale's recovery from heart surgery, and their shared excitement about the upcoming trip to the U.K. for the birth of their grandchild... Laura describing her vision of her Aunt Peggy thriving in an afterlife where pain and heartache become ghosts themselves... Julia sharing her pride in David's capable management of their master-bathroom remodeling project ("We're doing it 'from scratch' - and it's swallowing every spare minute! In case you're wondering why we've been absent from church")... Karine speaking of her love for Brian, who shared that he has been readying himself for cancer treatment ("Prayers are always Welcome!")... Lorrie sharing her pleasure at learning to paint with acrylics and then oils ("I want my mother to LIKE my art!")... Ginny describing the simple joys of time spent with her devoted husband - and cat! ("And then to be able to visit with our grandson and his mother... priceless!")... Al nodding happily in agreement...

I share my own pleasure at the memory of all the blessed creatures who have given so much love to me as I pet-sit... and human friends who have helped me cope with loss of employment and depressing financial straits and moments of uncertainty along life's path... balanced by moments of serendipity - like being treated to a lovely meal by someone I care about... my sister Bonnie sharing pictures of wee Brinley - her son's newborn - on the 1-month anniversary of her birthday... and then trading "baby stories" with our server - Ali - who laughed at Brinley's adorable pics and then displayed her own - the baby she shares with the man who'd poured our wine for us moments earlier is 4 months old... I asked if she has health insurance, and she replied, "I qualified for it as a pregnant woman with financial need - thank God! And now I am working at getting my baby into the Florida Kid-Care program [designed to assist low-income families by providing children's health care]... I only work 3 days a week; otherwise the child care might cost more than I could make to pay for it..." I asked if Ali had heard of 'Behind The Kitchen Door' and the online petition to demand Congress raise the minimum compensation legally offered to "tipped workers" such as "front-of-the-house" restaurant staff like Ali, not raised in decades despite the rising costs of living... she pulled out her pad and noted the book's name, happy to know that people were becoming aware of the dire situation for many servers, bus-persons and others employed even in "nice" restaurants like the establishment where she works. I reflect on the value of just knowing that people "See" you and Care.

I read on the Internet that an old demon survives on: according to the U.S. Census Bureau, women today in our nation still make only 77 cents for each dollar earned by males in identical jobs... I felt slapped... I had guessed - naively - that we must have finally eradicated this situation. No such luck. What's more, a bill to right this wrong by making such financial discrimination illegal was shot down swiftly last April by Republicans in the U.S. Senate (according to moveon.org), who stated that they feared the ramifications of pressuring employers in today's economy. "This bill would hurt the very people it's intended to help," they said. My cheeks are still burning! I think of the sociopath I worked for once whose implicit message of "Just be happy we provided you with the

'gift' of a job" in this recession," colored every meeting, unmasked every false kindness, and revealed the abusive manipulations underneath the surface of my everyday working life... how happy I am to be free of such abuse! (though I still miss the income)... I recall an episode of the PBS series, "The Makers," - about the emergence of female empowerment in so many important fields significant to our contemporary society... The episode on "Women in Government" predicted - correctly - that more females would hold seats in the U.S. Congress after these 2014 elections than ever before - even in the U.S. Senate, long considered the 'last bastion' of elite white male political dominance... the episode did not predict the number of these female politicians who would be running fairly "conservative" (Republican) campaigns... will these female politicians agree that their labor is worth only 77 percent as much as a man's? I think of the line in the classic film, "The Wizard of Oz" in which, for the very first time, we heard the words, "Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain!" and I wonder, "Does it matter if it's a man or a woman?" But I feel certain that behind the curtain of today lurk the giant global corporate enterprises which have championed deregulation, cheapened human labor, eradicated competition from small business, and franchised the provision of basic human needs; these corporate interests rake in hundreds of trillions annually, pay CEOs Billions altogether, and subsidize the election of governing bodies and lawmakers who refuse to admit that the Federal minimum wage is no longer a "living wage" for an average worker in these United States. I want to say (like Dorothy!) "You should be Ashamed of Yourselves!" - but to whom? The 'villains' turn out, after all is said and done, to be human beings who, all too often, also long to go 'back home' to a place 'where troubles melt like lemon drops,' just as much as I do. The difference is that the villains own the properties where "church mice" like me actually live!

Rev. Christa Landon of CUUPs taught me this simple prayer: "We give thanks for unexpected blessings yet to come." As we prepare to say goodbye to 2014, I pray that our nation finds a way out of unjust economic policies. As a Unitarian Universalist, I pray for equity and compassion in human relations. And along with the "Whos" in "Who-Ville" I find myself singing, "Da-Hoo! Da-hoo! Welcome, Christmas! Welcome, welcome, Christmas Time!" We need you, Christmas Spirit, to heal our lives.

Namaste!

Joe Wolfarth, Trustee



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**Newsletter deadline
20th of each month**

Please submit items by e-mail to
info@dbcuuc.org