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CONSULTING MINISTER

THE REVEREND BETH MILLER

THE FRIENDSHIP

FELLOWSHIP

AT PINEDA

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CONGREGATION IN THE LIBERAL

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This issue of
The Friendship Flyer
completes 24 1/2
uninterrupted years of
publication!






THE FRIENDSHIP FLYER

Volume 24 Number 6

Our mission is to promote living with love and reason

June 2016

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT	SERVICE LEADER	GREETER	TOUCH OF BEAUTY	HOSPITALITY HOST
June 5 	The Reverend Beth Miller , Consulting Minister at Friendship Fellowship	A Matter of Principles: #6 World Community of Peace, Liberty, and Justice	Ruth Rodgers	Barbara Kurtz	Betty Allison	
June 12 	The Reverend Beth Miller , Consulting Minister at Friendship Fellowship	A Matter of Principles: #7 The Interdependent Web of All Existence—Even Us	John England	Donna Klamm	Willa Davidsohn	
June 19	Virginia Barker , Brevard County Employee ... County Water Quality Outreach (Lagoon Restoration)	Saving Our Indian River Lagoon	Laura Petruska	Helen Bennett	Rosemary Stroda	Mireya Bier Birthday Cake: Kathy Lees
June 26 	Dr. Robert Tucker , Minister Emeritus of Lakeland UU Congregation	We Are What We Make of Ourselves	Nancy Shacklette	David Peterson	Vicki Barlow	Harriet & Allen Claxton

BETH'S BITS

... The Reverend Beth Miller

This is my last Flyer column until I return in October. This year's nine months as your part time minister have flown by and I can't believe my June 13th departure date is so near. I will be in Carver, MA most of the time, attending Star Island's International Affairs Conference in July, and in OR and CA for a couple of weeks in September. The five grandchildren Dave and I have between us will keep us very busy the rest of the summer. That time will fly, too!



Last month I wrote about our FF@P snowbirds and invited those who wanted to let the congregation know of their summer destinations to send me the information for this month's Flyer. I received these five responses:

Susan and Tom Goldsworthy will be in the Penobscot Bay Area of ME from June 2 until the middle to end of October. Email contact is sv.gypsoul@gmail.com and you can also find Susan on Facebook.

Bob and Cynthia Johnson will be at their summer home in Tinmouth, VT from mid-June until the first of October.

Rosemarye and Marty Levine live in Summit, NJ from the end of April until the end of January where they are active members of the Summit Unitarian Church. Email Rosemarye at expat191827@gmail.com. She comments, "we are 14 miles from Manhattan. Come see us and stay for dinner."

Bill and Donna Price will be RVing in the Northeastern U.S. and the Maritime region of Canada from May until early Nov. and taking in Donna's 50th high school reunion. They attend the 1st United Methodist Church when they're at their "home base" in Schenectady, NY. Email them at wwprice@aol.com.

Sue Protheroe will be in Great Barrington, MA from early May until the 1st of Dec. She belongs to the UU church in Housatonic, MA. Sue is on Facebook and her email address is protheroesue@gmail.com.

Other snowbirds whose summer destinations are listed in our Directory are:

Mike and Joanne Armenia, Newport, RI
 Laura Friedman, Champaign, IL
 Sue Holland, Chateaugay, NY
 Smithy Hooper, Peacham, VT
 Sue Huseman, Burnham, ME
 Virginia Link, Rockville, MD
 Alan & Pearl Osborne, Brigantine, NJ
 Shirley Works, Hendersonville, NC

We will miss these people and hope their summer travels are fun, fulfilling, and safe. And I hope your summer here in FL is wonderful, too. Keep the FF@P home fires burning.

Though I'm away, I'm avail by email, beth849@gmail.com, and phone or text, 617-893-1949. In case of pastoral need, the Lay Pastoral Care Team is at your service: Vicki Barlow, Marcia Berry, Ed Breakell, and Barbara Kurtz. Please contact any one of them if you or someone you know of at FF@P needs pastoral care.

I will miss you and look forward to reconnecting in early October.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship,
 ... Beth

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Meet Sunday, June 5, in Friendship Hall ... following Service and Coffee Break.
 (Irene McDonald)

BRAD'S BEARINGS

I frequently read Facebook and blog posts by James Ishmael Ford, a Zen Buddhist priest and Unitarian Universalist minister. From my observations, Ford's insights are keen, he often presents new ways of understanding issues, and he touches on all sorts of topics.



his week he shared a video of an Episcopalian priest, Dean Baker (no relation), talking to a Sacramento Buddhist Meditation Group about what he learned while attending the 2015 Burning Man festival with his hippie daughter. Many of Dean's Burning Man observations align with Unitarian Universalist Principles and with FFP's Strategic Plan Draft Mission Statement: "Who we are and what we do increases love, justice and respect among ourselves and in the wider world."

Dean Baker said the Burning Man experience, at least for him, was one of living in a community of giving and respect. He recounted a discussion between a hedge fund manager and a Haitian cab driver that emphasized why we need supportive communities. Friendship Fellowship is a supportive community ... we support and we care for each other, even if we disagree at times. Friendship Fellowship is a community where we connect and recognize our common humanity. Friendship Fellowship is a community where we share our hopes, joys, sorrows, and pains. Friendship Fellowship is a community, connected to the larger community, where we share our gifts and talents with others.

I imagine living the Unitarian Universalist Principles is a struggle for each of us. But I content that when we strive to live them we play a part in building the "Beloved Community" Martin Luther King envisioned, for as Unitarian minister Theodore Parker said in 1853:

"Look at the facts of the world. You see a continual and progressive triumph of the right. I do not pretend to understand the moral universe, the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. But from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice."

Thank you,
 ... Brad

FOUNDERS' DAY

... Ruth Rodgers



This June marks the 23rd anniversary of Friendship Fellowship at Pineda, and once again, on the first Sunday of June, we will recognize our founders during our morning service. Our most senior founder Sid Sherman will say a few words about how our Fellowship came to be established and after the service we will celebrate with a special anniversary cake. In addition to our founders, we will also recognize all FFP members who have been with us for more than 20 years, and this year we will be adding one more name to our twenty-plus year roster: Cesare Marchesini. Whether you are a founder, a long-time member, or a relative newcomer, please join us for this special recognition of our beginnings.

Founders still active at FFP (23 years): Sid Sherman, John England, John Curry, Donna Dalton, Smitty Hooper, Eppie Root, Lorraine Hennig, Ruth Rodgers, Virginia Link, David Peterson, Rosemarye Levine, Erich Dalton, Barbara Kurtz ...






22-year members: Willa Davidsohn

21-year members: Marty Levine, Betty Allison

20-year members: Cesare Marchesini

June 2016

Comings, goings, and doings for FF@P

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Girl Scouts Sundays-June 5, 12, 19, & 26 2:00—4:00 PM Coffee House 		Choir Practice: Every Tuesday 7:00 PM Friendship Hall 	1 Tai Chi: Suspended for Summer ... will resume in October	2  Women's Friendship Circle: 10:30 AM Coffee House	3	4
5 Sun Svc 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House— <i>Current Events</i> About the UU Principles 12:15-2:15 PM Friendship Hall The Rev. Beth Miller	6 Spring Film Discussion Series: <i>Waitress</i> (Pregnant waitress caught up in an abusive marriage) Friendship Hall, 1:00 PM (Helen Bennett) Membership Committee: Meet following Service & Coffee [June 5]	7	8 Social Justice: Movie 4:00-6:00 PM Friendship Hall (Dr. Vickie Barlow)	9 Aesthetics Committee: Movie 2:00-4:00 PM Friendship Hall	10	11
12 Sun Svc 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House— <i>Current Events</i> About the UU Principles 12:15-2:15 PM Friendship Hall The Rev. Beth Miller	13 CLC Mtg: Coffee House, 6:00 PM	14	15	16  Women's Book Club: 10 AM Coffee House Criminal Justice: Presentation 6:00-7:00 PM Friendship Hall (John Mandela)	17	18 Roger Gourd's Celebration of Life 5:00-7:00 PM Friendship Hall
19 Sun Svc 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House— <i>Current Events</i>	20	21 Daily Bread Volunteers meet Tuesday at Daily Bread 10:30 AM	22 Summer Film Discussion Series: <i>Nicolas and</i> <i>Alexandra</i> (about last Czar of Russia) Friendship Hall, 1:00 PM (Helen Bennett)	23 Sierra Club: 6:30 PM, Friendship Hall (Donna Burleson)	24	25
26 Sun Svc 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Discussion: 9:15-10:15 AM Coffee House— <i>Current Events</i> NO Music on the Hill thru the Summer months MOTH will resume in the Fall	27	28	29	30	 The Editor needs your July inputs by Sunday, 19 June (Sooner is Better)	

THE REVEREND BETH MILLER—"PRINCIPLE #3: ACCEPTANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH"

April 24

In the third of seven planned sermons on the UU Principles, the Reverend Beth Miller talked about acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.



She began with the story of a Buddhist monk who would climb a particular tree every day, no matter the weather, and sit for hours in its upper branches to meditate. People began calling him "Birdsnest" and would call out questions from the ground below. His sound advice drew people from miles around and his reputation even reached the governor of the province. Traveling for two days to test this monk, the governor yelled up to him, asking what was the single most important thing ever said? After a long silence, the monk called down, "Don't do bad things. Always do good things." Angered by such a simple response, the governor asked, "I walked two days to hear this? I've known this from a child." The monk replied—"Yes, the three-year-old knows it, but the eighty-year-old still finds it hard to do." And that, said Miller, is the crux of the matter when it comes to spiritual growth. "Don't do bad things. Always do good things."

"Acceptance of one another" is something we often confuse with mere tolerance, but acceptance, says the Reverend Kenneth Collier in his book, *Our Seven Principles*, "is not of behavior or ideas. It is of people in their basic humanity, their dignity and worth, their needs for companionship, growth, love, compassion, and justice." To truly accept others, we need to understand them, know what they have endured, what they've invested their passion and life's energy in.

Many UU congregations are divided between the more secular humanist approach to UUism versus those seeking more reverence and spirituality, and without acceptance of one another, it can get to be a debate about who's right and who's wrong. But who's right, said Collier, is the wrong question; the real question is how do we meet both needs and create a feeling of mutual growth and development in our congregations?

Self-acceptance, said Miller, must come before we can be open to accepting others. Buddhist Tara Brach, in her book *Radical Acceptance*, writes that self-acceptance isn't about letting ourselves off the hook or failing to take personal responsibility but simply "acknowledging the truth of what's here, with kindness."

Self-acceptance and a commitment to acceptance of others bring us to encouragement of spiritual growth. Trying to define "spirituality," said Miller, is impossible, for there are so many different dictionary definitions. What's more important is to specify what we're talking about in a given discussion. In a *UU World* article about spirituality and Humanism, Doug Muder defines it as "an awareness of the gap between what you can experience and what you can describe." UU minister Peter Richardson defines it as "a quality of connectedness to life and the cosmos, an integrity and wholeness."

So, concluded Miller, spiritual growth is about becoming more deeply aware of what we cannot describe and our interconnectedness with whatever that is. Some may call it God, or Spirit of Life, or the ineffable, the universe, the cosmos, or simply life. However we choose to describe it, we must



QUOTE:

... Bobbie Keith

The Aesthetics Committee met May 12 to discuss its responsibilities for maintaining attractive and inviting interiors of Friendship Hall and the coffee house. Projects upon which to focus were discussed (i.e. different chair configuration). As we proceed to establish any existing needs for aesthetic enhancement, we would appreciate and welcome our members' input.

Please Note: To avoid outdated materials remaining and cluttering up the **bulletin boards**, it would be appreciated that all postings have a date and are removed when no longer applicable/pertinent. If not, the bulletin board ghost may pay a visit.

FYI: For **Friendship Tree** and **Art Wall** information, contact Bill Scott.

For **suggestions** and/or **advice** re **aesthetics**, contact Bobbie Keith. Our goal is to maintain an aesthetically pleasing environment in which to gather and for all to enjoy.

Next scheduled meeting for the **Aesthetics Committee** is Thursday, June 9, at 2:00 PM in the Egret Room of Friendship Hall. (ALL are welcome to attend and we welcome your participation).



Story For All Ages
Ruth and the (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie ...by Laura Rankin
read by Laura Petruska
note six children present!

acknowledge that our description might not work for someone else. That's where acceptance comes in.

However we define it, our spirituality is manifest in our actions. Spiritual growth transforms us, and we, in turn, are called to transform the world. It is both vertical (our inner growth as we become more in tune with being a part of all that is) and horizontal (giving back through social action and connecting with others).

There is no specific way to grow spiritually that is right for everyone. For some it might be prayer and meditation, for other it might be poetry, music, reading or journaling, while still others might find it in social action. Many UUs would affirm that gathering in shared community is in itself a spiritual practice. However we find spirituality, it all goes back to the lesson of Birdsnest, "Don't do bad things. Always do good things." ...rr

continued at the bottom of the next column





Tammy and daughter Bindie



Salmah

Twins
Salmah
&
Summer

Coffee Hour With Friends

Dr MOHAMMAD SAMARAH SPEAKS ON UNIVERSAL VALUES AND OTHERIZATION from MOSLEM VIEW

1 May



Dr. Mohammad Samarah, who resides in Melbourne Beach with his wife Tammy and two daughters and two sons, is blessed with a three-year-old baby daughter, Bindie. He holds a doctorate in computer science from Florida Institute of Technology, has served in senior engineering management roles locally and in the Puget Sound area. He currently serves as the founder and CEO of E-Medical systems and a professor of Big Data Analytics at Florida Polytechnic University.

He began by defining *Universal Values*: “Done or experienced by everyone: existing or available for everyone, existing or true at all times or in all places. A value is a universal value if it has the same value or worth for all, or almost all, people. Spheres of human value encompass morality, aesthetic preference, human traits, human endeavor, and social order.”

Otherization: “What happens when people are not included in their tribe; the others are commonly classed as beasts or subhumans. Can be broadened towards separating people belonging to different religions or separating believers/non-believers, friends/not-friends.”

Comparing Universal Values, beginning with the Western Judeo-Christian world, they are:

- Self DirectionCreativity, Freedom
- SimulationExciting, Life
- Universalism.....Social Justice, Equality
- BenevolenceHelpfulness
- ConformityObedience
- Tradition.....Humility, Devotedness
- SecuritySocial Order
- Power.....Authority, Wealth
- Achievement.....Success, Ambition
- HedonismPleasure

Corresponding Islamic Universal Values are:

- Justice
- Equality
- Self Control
- Compassion
- Caring
- Curiosity
- Patience
- Honesty
- Humility
- Purity

Dr. Samarah then linked each value to the Koran or Hadith (writings or sayings by the Prophet Muhammed) with descriptions and stories. For example, a Hadith: “God does not judge according to your bodies and appearances but He scans your hearts and looks into your deeds.” From the Noble Quran, “Show us the straight path; the path of those of whom You have favored, not those who earn Your anger, nor those who go astray.” ... je

Music On The Hill ... April 24, 2016



Dick-Doc-Duo (pre show)

Marshall Frank described the Sponsor of Music On The Hill: ***The Creative Arts Foundation of Brevard, Inc.***, and how they support young talented performers.

Money collected is divided among those who entertain. And, is frequently the case, the winner of the 50-50 drawing, which was in the \$90 range, did return it to the performers.



Bethany Davis, piano
with Daniel Grest, vocalist
and Emcee

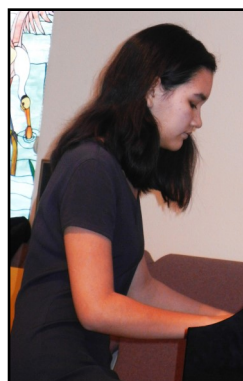


Eliana Berrean, vocalist

Elianna Berrean &
Hunter Curry, vocalists



Bethany Davis, Elianna Berrean, Daniel Grest ... curtain call!



Bethany Davis



Jan Johns, accompanist

Rev. Beth Miller Addresses—Principle #4: “A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning” May 8

In the fourth of her series of sermons on the seven UU principles, the Reverend Beth Miller asked us to consider the implications of “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” Unlike the generally heard statement that UUs “can believe whatever they want,” this principle makes clear that we have covenanted to affirm and promote a careful, reasoned, responsible search for our own truth and meaning in life. Most of us coming to UUism from other traditional religions found the newfound freedom of not being told what to believe exciting and liberating, but with this freedom comes responsibility to take this search seriously and to forge our beliefs only on what we can, in all honesty and integrity, determine to be true.



We can define truth as “that which conforms to reality, fact, or actuality,” and this may work for simple, small truths, but what about deeper meaning and higher truth? Although she believes there are Truths about such big questions as the origin of life, the nature of ultimate reality, and the destiny of our essence or souls when we die, Miller also believes we cannot discover their reality or actuality at this point in our evolution. But just because we cannot know these things with certainty, that doesn’t mean we can’t make them part of our search.

Most religions rely on sacred teachings of scripture and the church for their truths, but for us UUs, doubt is essential to our search. We remain open to new information as life continually presents it, and as reading # 650 in our hymnal states, “doubt is the attendant of truth...the key to the door of knowledge; it is the servant of discovery.”

Our Unitarian Universalist tradition draws from six sources: direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder, words and deeds of prophetic people, wisdom from the world’s religions, Jewish and Christian teachings, Humanist teachings instructing us to look to reason and the scientific method, and earth-centered traditions that look to the cycles of life and the harmony of nature. This gives us plenty of fodder for our search, and many of us may have other resources, depending upon our own life experiences, background beliefs, personalities and dispositions, and even genetics that shape our view of the world. Like the parable of the blind men and the elephant, we may all look at the same thing and come away with wildly disparate interpretations of truth and meaning.

Ultimately, to find meaning, said Miller, is to make sense of our experience. As human beings we are constant and persistent “meaning makers.” We hope our meanings come from truth, but we know that the truths we rely on are usually subjective and certainly incomplete. And so, like the six blind men, we include one another in our search, sharing our experiences and perceptions in order to reach a more complete picture. Our search is communal as well as individual. We gather to consider many sources of truth, knowledge, and wisdom through Sunday services, forums, discussion groups, movies, book groups, and a host of other opportunities. None of it is meant to be taken as divine truth but simply as grist for our meaning-making minds to grapple with, discuss, and share with one another. Religion, said Lloyd Averill, is “the search for that meaning that has power to give shape and purpose to our existence, and motivation and moral energy to our human enterprises.”

continued at the bottom of the next column



DISCARDED GODS

My God was a judgmental God,
He sat with His ledger book,
And every time you committed a sin
This God would take a look.
And unmercifully, He would mark an X
In His tiny ledger square;
I kept this God until I discovered
The outlook of Voltaire.

My God was a sentimental God,
He made the rainbow hues,
He created the flowers and all the stars
And the gorgeous mountain views.
I credited Him with all the Good,
The Beautiful, and True,
And he kept a pocket beside his heart
To protect and safeguard you.

This God created the autumn leaves
And the glory that was fall;
I said so in my childhood poems,
And to Him I gave my all.
But later, I came to see this view
As sentimental rot—
If God was good and omnipotent,
This guy was clearly NOT!

If was difficult to give Him up
And it caused a mental tussle,
But it all became quite clear to me
When I first read Bertrand Russell.
I knew I was an agnostic then,
And even, I suppose a
Cheerleader for all heresy
When I marveled at Spinoza!

If God was anything, God was All,
Or maybe the concept of God
Was what my computer prompted me
To simply mark “Discard.”

... Helen Bennett

Miller closed with the legend of a powerful Persian ruler who asked his wise sages to give him one true statement that would be accurate at all times and in all situations. After deep contemplation, the wise men finally came up with an answer: “This too, shall pass.” The ruler was so impressed that he had the statement inscribed in a gold ring which he wore for the rest of his life. This is probably the only real “capital T” Truth we can know for sure.

In an 1859 speech, Abraham Lincoln told a version of this story, observing of this truth, “How chastening in the hour of pride! How consoling in the depths of affliction.” May our covenant as a community of faith to affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning chasten us in our times of pride when we would ridicule another’s beliefs and may it console us in times of affliction when fear attends our days and grief is with us.

...rr

A MATTER of PRINCIPLES #51: RIGHTS of CONSCIENCE and DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

by Reverend Beth Miller

May 22

In the 5th of a series of sermons on the seven UU Principles, the Reverend Beth Miller talked about the rights of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. Coming from two Greek words, democracy means “rule of the people,” and admittedly, said Miller, we have problems today with the way our US democracy functions, including the undue influence of money on our political system (wealthy candidates, Super PACs); the apathy of too many citizens in learning about the issues and making informed choices; and the esoteric rules of both major parties, varying from state to state, of how the party delegates who actually get to vote for national candidates are selected. But instead of focusing on those problems, Miller chose to talk about the first half of the principle, the rights of conscience.



The Quakers refer to conscience as the “Inner Light of God,” and Hindus see it as “the invisible God who dwells within us.” Behavioral psychologists view it as “a set of learned responses to particular social stimuli” and intuitionists see it as “an innate faculty determining the perception of right and wrong.” Conscience is all of those things: it is an inner part of us where we develop a sense of right and wrong, a kind of guardian prompting us to do right and making us feel guilty when we do wrong.

Conscience, said Miller, is the spiritual nature of people independent of geography, nationality or race. It is an innate sense of fairness and justice, of what contributes to the greater good and what distracts, of what beautifies and what destroys. Certainly our conscience is influenced by our family and religious background, our culture, and how we educate ourselves in our own search for truth and meaning. Some values are temporal while others are more universal and enduring, and our conscience knows the difference.

Sometimes we don’t listen to our conscience because we don’t want to do the hard thing or we want to indulge our desires, but if we continually ignore our conscience, its voice will grow softer and more distant. In *The Eighth Habit*, author Stephen Covey makes a clear distinction between ego and conscience. Ego focuses on “survival, pleasure and enhancement to the exclusion of others” while conscience “elevates ego to a larger sense of the group, whole, community, in short, the greater good.”

We need ego to survive and thrive, but we also need our conscience to temper our ego with morality. Miller showed photos on screen of two prisoners of conscience: Aung San Suu Kyi, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, who spent 15 years under house arrest for advocating for democracy in Myanmar (Burma), and Liu Xiaobo, a writer, professor, and human rights activist who called for political reforms and the end of communist single-party rule in China. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010 and is currently a political prisoner.

The rights of conscience are at the heart of our Unitarian Universalist history. Numerous UU men and women have been outspoken in support of their own beliefs and human rights. Miller recounted the civil disobedience of Henry David Thoreau and concluded that although we might now see him as heroic, she

UPDATE TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

Please update your April 2016 Friendship Fellowship Telephone Directories . . .

Add Members telephones and one email:

Bill Price
518-321-3082

Donna Price
518-321-3083
dflp4@aol.com (email)

Correct Member telephones—

Ruth Rodgers
264-2007

Jessica Roberts
307-220-8414

Changes and updates will be in the April 2017 Directory

Thanks!

... editor

**Inputs to the *Friendship Flyer*
July 2016 edition
are due to the editor
by Sunday June 19**

wondered if we would have responded the same way if we had been living at that time.

The democratic process sometimes conflicts with the rights of conscience, and trying to reconcile them can leave us in a quandary about what to do with a minority view. When one or a few won’t go along with the majority, do we ignore them, do we listen to them and then go with the will of the majority, or do we keep talking, never deciding anything? There is no one right way to solve this tension. It is important to listen to the minority and try to figure out what their feelings and needs are. Sometimes just being heard and understood is enough. Sometimes compromises can be made so that everyone gets some of their feelings and needs met. In such cases, it is crucial that we examine our own motives in the positions we take, whether we are in the majority or the minority. Are we following our conscience, or is our ego insisting on getting its own way? How do we judge whether something is necessary or only self-indulgent? When we show respect for others’ views, feelings and experiences and courage in expressing our own convictions, that is when we achieve genuine community.

Miller ended with a slide of a Cherokee legend about a grandfather telling his young grandson that inside each of us is two wolves—one evil and the other good. When the grandson asks which wolf wins, the grandfather replies, “The one you feed the most.” Let us feed both ego and conscience, for both serve us, but let us feed our conscience the most. . . . rr

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REFLECTIONS FROM EARTH ORBIT, by Astronaut Dr. Winston Scott

15 May

Captain Winston Scott, retired from NASA and the U.S. Navy, gave an inspirational talk about his early experiences as an astronaut, and how he got to be one. He served as a mission specialist for space shuttle flights in 1996 and 1997, and had three spacewalks. Captain Scott rose from humble beginnings in Miami, where he attended segregated schools in the "hood." Were it not for his talent in music, and the intervention of a music teacher, he would not have achieved his remarkable career.



Winston is a graduate of Florida State University, a music major who switched to engineering when he realized his great interest in the sciences and technology. At first, he was rejected by that university's admissions office, but his bandleader made a call and immediately that rejection was changed to acceptance. He had a double major in both music and engineering, but despaired of going further for lack of money. Mr. Scott decided to join the military, which would pay for his further education. He joined the Navy and earned a Master of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. After his work as an astronaut, having been selected from over 3,000 candidates, he is now the Dean of the College of Aeronautics at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. He is also the author of the book *Reflections from the Earth*, which was sold at our Fellowship on Sunday, May 15.

Captain Scott began his talk by telling us his remarkable impressions of Earth on a space mission. First, one must sit vertically for three hours in the capsule before launch. Then, there is a great deal of shaking and vibrating as the rocket is thrust forth from the pad. His first flight was at night, and it made a full circumference of the planet every 90 minutes. After two minutes, a huge explosion occurred; that was the detachment of the solid rocket boosters, which would then be recovered after they fell to earth. After 45 seconds, it reached the speed of sound (mach 1). The rocket went faster and faster until it reached 25,800 feet per second. Once in orbit, they achieved zero gravity, or weightlessness. Scott said it took awhile to get used to this feeling, and he could see the atmosphere, which is 50 miles thick, looking like a thin layer. The curvature of the earth became visible, and our planet looked small and fragile. When it was dark, the temperature was minus 500 degrees Fahrenheit outside; when it was light, it was 500 degrees above.

Having expressed delight at the book read "for all ages," *Mousetronaut*, by Mark Kelly, Captain Scott told us that there were mice aboard his space craft. It was funny to see the mouse neonates (babies) floating in space, and the mother going after them and grabbing the babies to feed them. Most of the mice survived.

A graduate of Coral Gables High School, which has a superior marching band, Captain Scott marveled at how far he had come since his 'hood days. He emphasized the importance of encouraging minority children, especially, and mentoring and giving them a hand, when possible. If not for his own music teacher's encouragement, he would never have achieved his potential. He said that we all have God-given talents, which we are meant to discover and pursue.

A long question-and-answer period followed, after which our many guests and congregants offered loud applause. We were grateful for astronaut Scott's perceptions and inspiration to always do our best.
... Helen Bennett

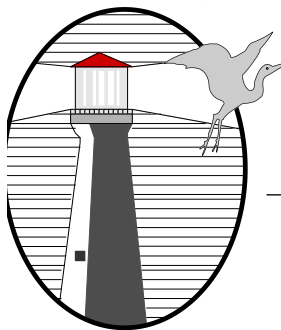
SHOUT-OUT TO SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

The Veterans' Transitional Center, which shelters the veterans' entire family—from homelessness to independent living—is in need of: new bed pillows, single bed sheets and Clorox. Anyone wishing to donate any of these items, please see:

Bobbie Keith ... 321-777-5561



Story For All Ages
The Magic Vase
told by Ruth Rodgers 24 April 2016



THE FRIENDSHIP FLYER

is the monthly newsletter of
THE FRIENDSHIP FELLOWSHIP
AT PINEDA
A Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
District 62, Society #2923

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM
3115 Friendship Place, just off US Hwy 1

Sunday School
available for children at 10:30 AM

Editor John England — jengland@cfl.rr.com
Printing & Mailing Brad Baker

Find us on the web at www.uuspacecoast.org

CONSULTING MINISTER

The Reverend Beth Miller

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

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