

## **2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT OF UAAA COMMUNITY OF WRITERS**

The UAAA Community of Writers meets on the second Sunday of each month and welcomes adults interested in creative writing, from beginners to advanced writers, seeking a supportive community to foster self-awareness, spiritual growth, creative expression, communication, and social witness through writing. Our meetings are focused on our original writings, both impromptu and works prepared in advance, which are read together and given appreciative feedback as requested by each writer. (Paraphrased from the Community of Writers' credo).

From May 2016 to April 2017 the Writers encouraged members [fifteen active members] to both participate and lead in our meetings. We explored why each person writes in their chosen genre, the role of memory in writing, blog creation, memoir, the art of the personal letter, current social issues, and other topics. For example, for the June 2016 meeting, the focus chosen by group consensus was our favorite authors, poets, memoirists, and journalists and their influence on our own writing. We highlighted Stephen Crane, 19<sup>th</sup> Century poet; Ernest Hemingway, 20<sup>th</sup> Century novelist; and contemporary poet, Mary Oliver, respected by many members for her poem, "The Summer Day," which questions our universe. Each member then read to the group a sample of their own writing, illustrating their regard for their admired writing style. These shared samples fulfilled the Writers' goals of creative expression, spiritual growth, and social witness.

On May 15, 2016 and December 18, 2016, 1:00-2:30pm, the Writers presented two formal Readings, inviting the UAAA congregation, ministry, and staff, and concluding with a social time of coffee and conversation. The writers, eleven in May and fourteen in December, presented many themes in several genres, poetry, fiction, memoir, journal, and song. The Readings attracted appreciative audiences, numbering twenty-three and twenty-five, and each event brought new members.

Thank you very much.

Respectively submitted by Mary Lund and Bridget Laundra, Co-Facilitators of the UAAA  
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