The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

June/July 2015 Volume 56, Number 6

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August 2015 Issue Deadline Sunday July 12, 2015

Submit articles to: submission@uucfl.org

Editor

Valerie Heller

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Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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join ou

Established in 1958



LifeNet4Families Workday Saturday June 6 at 8:45am No July workday

See page 8

UUCFL Pajama Party!!!!!!

Break out your jammies, fuzzy slippers, favorite board games and your sense of good silly fun!

Friday June 19th 7:00PM til who knows????

See page 6

Committee Chair Meeting Sunday June 7, 12:45PM

See page 2

Labyrinth Café

Is on summer break — BUT mark your calendars for next year's schedule!

See page 5

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ft Lauderdale
Mission Statement:

To come together as a caring community and sanctuary for seekers of spiritual growth, truth, and meaning.



President's Message



I'm excited to be taking the helm of the Board of Trustees at the start of our long range plan. Over the next year we will be planting the tree whose fruit we will be tasting several years down the line, in terms of increased and more active membership, new vitality within our church community, and increased visibility in and interest from the larger community we are a part of.

We have a lot to offer, and with our long range plan we'll be able to maximize our footprint in our and others' lives.

As we end our church year, I'd like to thank the people who have stepped up to the plate (or will be stepping up to the plate) to serve on our committees. The committees will be very important as we start implementing the first stages of our long range plan. We've already started cleaning up the grounds and the playground, and the Ministerial Research Committee will be starting the process of finding us the Developmental Minister called for in the long range plan, along with a special committee which will be working on honoring Reverend Gail for her long service to our community.

This will not be easy, but if we each share our special gifts and talents, we will become so much more than we are today.

Dave Griswold

Committee Chair meeting Sunday June 7 at 12:45

All committee chairs are requested to meet after service to outline the goals and vision for the coming year in their respective areas of concern. A brief, written summary of such goals would be appreciated as well, which can then be presented to the Board as we look toward this next church year's projects and progress. I see great things ahead for us, with all the talented and dedicated people who are stepping into leadership positions!

Valerie Heller, Vice President

Rev. Gail's Space

SUMMER FUN AND SUN AND RENEWAL

It is summer again. It is a unique time for me, both personally and for the church. This will be my last summer as your minister according to our Long Range Plan. By this time next year, you may know the name of your new Developmental Minister even if you have not met him or her yet. I will hopefully have a relatively firmed-up plan for precisely where I will go when I leave UUCFL and Fort Lauderdale. This whole next year will be all about change and transitions for all of us. I feel that the culture and the world in general is very much in transition these days and I also see changes in the lives of many individuals who I know both in the church and in my personal life.



Change is always a mixed bag, but for most of us, summer has always represented a positive kind of change. In childhood it is when we recall being out of school, maybe going to camp, having more time to play outside with our friends, read more books, learn a new sport, take up a new hobby, travel to new places, maybe see relatives who we only see once a year. As we move into a full year of change, I hope we can keep in mind that positive model of change that summer represents.

Change can push us to enlarge ourselves and our world. We can develop new skills, make new friends, learn new things about ourselves and the larger world. A church community can always help us with these kinds of things but during a time of so much change it can offer even more such opportunities.

Times of change can also create a higher level of anxiety as we find that things we have always relied upon to look and feel the same are suddenly different. I recall that even some relatively simple changes like new patio and foyer furniture generated considerable anxiety. When a long-time member or leader leaves the community for whatever reason, this of course can create an empty feeling. In the next year I will be transitioning out of a 17-year ministry, other staff changes are likely, and we can, as always, see members relocating and new people arriving. It has been said that the only constant is change and UUCFL is due for a time of sea change, but I feel sure the community will come through all those changes stronger and more committed to a productive and long-term future. The future may not look like the past, but it is likely going to be an exciting journey for everyone.

Blessings.

Rev. Gail

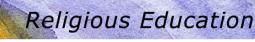
BOLD JUSTICE MAKES BIG GAINS

Thanks to all the members, friends and friends of friends who came out to sit with UUCFL for the May 20 Nehemiah Action. It was a very uplifting evening and big gains were agreed to, with implications for young people being able to receive civil citations rather than getting into the criminal justice system.

Also, City Commissioners agreed to establish a group to look into working toward correcting elder abuse. A follow-up meeting at the County Commission further solidified these commitments. It has been a good year for social justice.



Rev. Gail







We had an aMAYzing May here at UUCFL. We started off with a great day of volunteering on May 9th for the annual postal food drive. Our UUCFL adults and kids were out doing necessary work, and had a dang good time. It was also a chance to work with some of our neighbors in the community and expose them to our UUism. May was a boffo music month for us. I was at the post office, so I did not get to hear Amy Carole Webb and Cosy Sheridan, but I heard it was one of the best Labyrinths ever. They were in a special space. On May 3rd, our UUCFL choir joined the rest of the Tri-choir at The River of Grass Congregation for a wonderful morning of music. We then hosted the Tri-choir on May 17, where the largest contingent of singers showed up, and we then welcomed them for a Fest Italiana lunch, courtesy of our own Top Chef Rick and his able assistant Nelson. Thank you Rick and Nelson for making UUCFL such a welcoming community, as well as well-fed!!!! It was a short and sweet annual meeting after lunch to elect our new Board, and then on to our All-Church Workday. Thank you to our RE families who came out and got very dirty and sweaty and did such a fabulous job in our playground area. Who knew kids could have such fun digging holes!! We give a hearty thanks to our CUUPS group members who came out and worked filling the dumpster, to Donna and her family for cutting trees and wrestling with undergrowth, to Betty and Molly who worked inside cleaning and organizing the library and office, to our Board presidents past and newly-elected who came out and put their noses to the grindstone, and to Jeff Hutt and the RE Committee for organizing the whole thing. So much good work was done and we are on a roll. You will see people working on Saturday and Sunday for the next months until we finish. We would love to have you come and join in. There is work for all, and many hands make it light. Let me give one last, large thanks to my main man, Mr. Friend, who did way more work than he should have with his bad back. I love this place.

Love and blessings,

his little Light

of Mine

m gonna let it shine

DRE Susan



June Children's Religious Education Schedule

Sunday June 7, 11AM Sunday June 21, 11 AM

Triple Crown? Father's Day

Sunday June 14, 11AM Sunday June 28, 11AM

Ramadan American Revolution

Labyrinth Café- Thank You and Upcoming!

What a great season, beginning with Passerine and ending with our own Amy Carol Webb, so much awesomeness in between... plus a bonus Dar Williams concert and a Pete and Toshi Seeger Tribute Concert. Wow!

We continue to be blessed by our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers: Erik, Virginia, Brian, Myra, Donna, Stephanie, Josh, Jessica, Sandy, Charlotte, Lori, Victoria, Jeff and Eddie... and major thanks to Rev. Gail and the UUCFL for hosting and supporting our series. Together we have created and sustained a musical community to be proud of and uplifted by.

We are also appreciative of our loyal audience, for continuing to choose live, original music on the second Saturday of each month. We do our very best to bring you stellar performers who you may not have heard of but who we believe are more than worthy of gracing our stage. Thank you for trusting our judgment! :-)

We are working to get the website updated and all will be revealed soon. Watch your email, check our Facebook page and listen to Michael Stock's show for announcements of the harmonic treats in store in our upcoming season.

We will once again be offering a Season Pass for \$150 per person, which entitles you to entrance to all nine concerts, a beautifully-designed Labyrinth Café T-shirt, and premium, reserved seating.

Have a great summer. Can't wait for you to join us once again for song and camaraderie. See you soon!

SAVE THE DATE! UPCOMING 2015-16 LABYRINTH CAFÉ SEASON

Saturday, August 8, 2015– Sing-Along Saturday, September 12, 2015 Saturday, October 10, 2015 Saturday, November 14, 2015 Saturday, December 12, 2015 Saturday, January 9, 2016 Saturday, February 13, 2016 Saturday, March 12, 2016 Saturday, April 9, 2016 Saturday, May 14, 2016

Music Notes



Our wonderful choir finished their church year on May 31 and will not return to the regular schedule until September. We will miss

the inspiring anthems that have been presented since September 2014 and look forward to a new year of musical numbers. Please thank choir members for their devoted attendance every Wednesday at rehearsals and especially our Choir Director, Susan Friend. What would we do without her?

We are still basking in the glow of the Tri-choir presentation on Sunday, May 17. Wouldn't it be exciting to have a 30-voice choir every special Sunday? This annual event requires a cooperative effort of all three church choirs and directors from the Boca Raton Fellowship, River of Grass Congregation, and our own UUCFL. Extra rehearsals are required for such an offering but the satisfaction of working together cannot be achieved any other way.

Plans are in the works for a tribute to Charlie Prather, who passed away on Good Friday after a valiant fight against lung cancer. We miss his playing the organ, which he built and donated to UUCFL. More information will be forthcoming.

Services during the month of June are varied in subject and music. Rev. Opal Murray will be leading on June 7, 21 and 28, and Jim Giblin will coordinate on June 14. Special speakers invite you to attend each of these services and Dot Muise will be available for music as needed.

During the months of July and August, I will be on summer break, as will the choir. Our annual Choir Retreat will be announced in late August to prepare for the new church year.

Thank you for supporting your music program.

Dot Muise, Director of Music

Election Results 2015

At our annual Congregational Elections Meeting on May 17, the following people were elected to fill our open positions on the Board of Trustees, the Nominating Committee and the Endowment Board. These are the results:

Board of Trustees

President (to 2016) - Dave Griswold

President Elect (to 2016) - Jim Giblin

Past President (to 2016) - Gary Ladka

Secretary (to 2017) - Molly St. Cavish

Trustee (to 2017) - Alexis Blasenheim

Trustee (to 2017) - Bill Schoolman

Trustee (to 2016) - Betty Brantley

Continuing to serve on the Board in their current positions are:

Vice President (to 2016) - Valerie Heller

Treasurer (to 2016) - Donna Gutierrez

Trustee (to 2016) - Kathy Ervolina

Nominating Committee

Tom Karneth

Sandy Lange

Jerry Waltz

As per bylaws, the Board will appoint 3 additional members to the Nominating Committee.

Endowment Board

Steve Lange

Judy Knopp

Jerry Waltz

Continuing to serve on the Endowment Board in his current position is:

Doug Friend (to 2016)

Also at this meeting was some discussion of possible future bylaw changes but no voting took place. The changes discussed would affect the size of he Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee and would update the way notifications are sent to the congregation.



UUCFL ALL-CHURCH PAJAMA PARTY FUNDRAISER!

Join us on Friday, June 19th from 7PM until ??? in the Sanctuary for dancing, games, music, gossip, movies, make-overs, nail art, dream interpretation, ghost stories, and lots of snacks! There may even be a pillow fight or two. Help us raise money for the church. We are asking for a \$20 donation per person or \$25 per family, but please come regardless of ability to donate. Bring friends! Bring friends' kids! Bring kids' friends! Bring... oh, you get the idea.

Requirements? Just two: be between the ages of 1 and 100, and wear your jammies!

Questions, or want to help out? Call Jim Giblin at (954) 296-0089.

Questioning the Long Range Plan

For me, the value of a religious community rests in its ability to support its members and friends emotionally and socially, to respect and make room for difference, including strong differences of opinion, and to provide a space for spiritual and personal growth, however each individual defines it. Growing membership and budget is not in and of itself something I value in a religious community.

It is argued that without growth in membership and budget, eventually we will not be able to pay for our building and grounds and our staff and other things that we do today. That may be true. However, do we absolutely know that to be the true consequence of not implementing a growth plan now?

Even if the above scenario is true, what of it? Do we exist as a community to be able to pay for our building and staff? Sure we take pride in both, but at our core, is that what we're about? I don't think so. I think a nice building and the ability to pay for staff are the fruits of a community, not the reason for its existence.

Let's play out the worst case scenario. Let's say we lose our building sometime down the road. Let's say we have to rent a facility somewhere else. Someplace smaller. Let's say we can no longer afford hired staff, like a minister, a music director, an RE director. Do we absolutely know that we'll be less of a community in those circumstances? That we'll be less happy? Consider that we have all those things now and we're not always happy as a community, not always fulfilling our mission.

Sure, we have moments of happiness as a community, but there is a lot of hand-wringing now, about the future, about our declining size of membership, about the lack of access to our church because of renters. If we were smaller, less staffed, etc., my guess is that we would also have moments of happiness along with moments of hand-wringing, about a new set of problems. Or look at it another way: when we were larger than we are now, were we a happier congregation then or was it pretty much like it is today? I wasn't a member when the church had a membership approaching 150, but for those who were, I ask you to think back to those days and appraise them honestly. It seems to me, in hearing stories from veteran members, a larger congregation was at best a mixed bag.

So, rather than a long range plan, what would I propose, you might ask? A fair question. I propose a focus that celebrates and nurtures what we have now. We love our building and grounds? Let's enjoy them. Now. We value our staff. Let's appreciate them and support them when they challenge us to be a better version of ourselves. Now. Let's focus on this present moment and celebrate the members and friends, the building and grounds and the talented, giving staff we have today.

If we celebrate our current bounty consistently and well, you never know, but it might just make us a more attractive group to folks looking for a religious community to join. I firmly believe people join communities because of the current members' community spirit, not the curb appeal of the building, the charisma of the minister or the size of the staff. But even if it doesn't reverse our current trajectory, we will be achieving our objective as a religious community, to support and affirm our membership so they can go out and do good works in the community and have that foundation of nurturance from which to grow spiritually and personally. And we'll have the confidence and the base of support as a community to meet the challenges the future throws our way.

The congregation approved the Long Range Plan. As a member of this church, I recognize the authority of the members to decide the agenda of our Board. But I challenge each of us, Board member or not, to consider why this community exists and have that inform every action and decision we make going forward, whether it's part of the Long Range Plan or not.

Larry Wilkner

Coming CUUPS Events

In June we celebrate the Summer Solstice with a ritual on June 20. The ancient Celts call this season Litha, but this year Dragnfli will invoke the Sea Goddess Yemaya. Her traditions are prominent in Africa, the Caribbean and South America. There is some comparison to the Hawaiian Sea Goddess Pelee. See http://www.moonpathcuups.org/liktha/.

Thursday 7:30PM Study Group continues. Topics will be:

June 4: Stories of a Kitchen Witch

June 11: A Solitary's Journey into a Year and a Day

June 18: Stories of Solstice and Ritual Planning

June 25: The Shamanic Path of Lady Red Dragon



LifeNet 4 Families/CFP Update

May 9th was the Postal Food Drive all over America. People put non-perishables in bags out in their mailboxes or on the ground, and the mail carriers took them when they delivered the mail and returned them to their post office. This annual event raises a huge portion of the food used in local food banks all over the country, and this is the case here in Broward County. UUCFL participated this year at the Melrose Vista branch, where Judy King and Susan Friend captained the day's activities. Thank you to all the UUCFL folks who came out to help: Laura, Steve, Geneva and Peter Lange, Gary Ladka, Douglas Paul, Dave Griswold, Molly and Nick St. Cavish, Tyler Coburn, Doug Friend, and Rev. Gail Tapscott. We separated and boxed up over 7000 pounds of food which will feed hungry families this coming year. UUCFL member Molly Lesnick and her husband Alan also participated, out at the Plantation branch. We will be doing this again next year, so if you missed it this time, it is the second Saturday in May - so put it on your calendar.

Our once a month workday at the food pantry is coming up quickly on Saturday June 6. We meet at LifeNet at 9:00am and work until about 11:30, separating food, filling shelves, making food boxes, and once in a while, helping to serve the meal in the kitchen. Attendance at these once a month activities has been dropping for some time, and if we cannot get at least 5 folks to show up, we will need to stop participating. The pantry needs to know that folks will be there. If anyone has questions, please direct them to me.



Cooperative Feeding Program

Info or questions, DRE Susan tiredmomofbob@aol.com (954) 424-1910

Vespers Service

May was our last Vespers for the church year. Thank you to the small but loyal group who came out to hear poems and music and to enjoy fellowship. We have had some really wonderful Vespers

services this past year and in prior years. Betty Brantley's terrific presentation on Maya Angelou was so successful that she has been encouraged to flesh it out into a Sunday service. We are thinking of taking Vespers in a slightly different direction next year due to lack of volunteers to put the services together. We would like to hear what Vespers regulars think, and other members who might have some ideas. Vespers is our once a month service which contains readings,



music, meditation, and fellowship, featuring wine and cheese afterward. It is a shorter, more reflective service than our usual Sunday. Please contact me with your ideas and questions.

See www.uucfl.org/vespers/ For more info or question, DRE Susan Dirgins-Friend (954) 424-1910

'Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments will hum about mine ears, and sometimes voices.'

William Shakespeare

The Tempest

Directory of Staff, Board, Committee Chairs & Affiliates

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Sandy Lange	954-401-5675
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Betty Highton	954-484-6313
Nominating	
Jerry Waltz	954-527-5275
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Opal Murray	
Wisdom and Enlightenmen	
Opal Murray	//0-265-6242

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Nicole Rivera.....954-815-0086

Noralee Traylor954-776-4226

• CUUPS

Endowment

Interweave

• UU Service Committee



The Market Place



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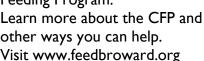
Gary Ladka

(954)755-7759

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Remember the Hungry People Around Us

Please continue to fill the Food Baskets at the church with non-perishables for the LifeNet for Families Cooperative Feeding Program.





Please Patronize and refer the above Friends and Members of the Church as they support the us with their advertising. Make sure you tell them you saw their ad in The Journey.

June/July Birthdays

dyra Symons 6/7 mond McAtter 6/12



If you would like to see your birthday announced here and in the cUUrious cUUrier email newsletter, please contact the office to make sure we have your updated information in the computer

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: I I:00 AM- Church Service and Children's Religious Education	Unitaria Universo	n \ alist lerdale	une/July	, Age		Religious Education Events See special calenda on the RE page 4
Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events www.uucfl.org and click "Coming Activities"	June I	2	3	4 •7:30 pm CUUPS	5	6 •8:45am Lifenet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Program Workday (see page 6)
• 79:30am - UU Sisterhood • 12:15 Fellowship Lunch Day • 12:45 Committee Chair Meeting	8 •7:00pm - Board Meeting	9	10	•7:30 pm CUUPS	12	13
14	•7:30pm - Sunday Services Committee	16	17	18 •7:30 pm CUUPS	•ALL-CHURCH PAJAMA PARTY! 7pm-???	7:00pm - Litha Celebration (see page 7)
2 •9:30am- RE Committee 9:30am - UU Sisterhood •12:15 Fellowship Lunch Day	•7:00pm- Welcoming/ Membership Committee	23	•UUA General Assembly through 6/28 Portland, OR	25 •7:30 pm CUUPS	26	27
28	29	30	July I	2 •7:30 pm CUUPS	3	4 Happy Independence Day!
5 •9:30am-UU Sisterhood	6	7	8	9 •7:30 pm CUUPS	10	П
I 2 JOURNEY SUBMISSION DEADLINE	13 •7:00pm - Board Meeting	14	15	16 •7:30 pm CUUPS	17	18
I 9 SUUSI through 7/25 •9:30am-UU Sisterhood 9:30am- RE Committee	20 7:30pm—Sunday Services Committee	21	22	23 •7:30 pm CUUPS	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 •7:30 pm CUUPS	31	



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Sundays Service & Children's at 11 am: Religious Education

The JOURNEY



Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

JUNE/JULY 2015

June 7— Radical Forgiveness: Seeing God in Everyone – Rev. Dr. Grace Telesco brings the wisdom and spirituality from the richness of Hindu scriptures and traditions to teach us the beauty and power of forgiveness. Join us as we invoke the sacred, universal sound when we chant "Om."

June 14—Native American Spirituality — "Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions... celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature." Join us as Sandy Lange guides us on a personal journey of her experience of Native American spirituality through songs, readings and meditations.

June 21 —**Being a Better Father**— Michael Coburn and his helpers will lead us as we collectively visualize what it means to be a father and how we can be even better fathers.

June 28 — It's All Sacred— Betty Brantley will honor the work and spirit of author, civil rights activist, dancer, poet and sage, Dr. Maya Angelou. Betty, in her own lyrical style, interprets Dr. Angelou's work and strength that are available for us to savor.

July 5—This I Believe – Why is belief important? Do you know what you believe? Rev. Opal Murray returns to give a thought-provoking, inspiring sermon on some of her beliefs.

July 12—History: Yours, Mine, and Shakespeare's — Rev. Gail Tapscott, back from a Drama Festival Study Leave Experience, will be talking about how history can be told from many different perspectives and using some of the Bard's historical tales as illustrations.

July 19 —**The New York Times and Me** — A love story, a breakup, and a rekindled romance. Rev. Gail Tapscott will talk about her highly personal relationship with our national journal of record.

July 26 —Trusting Your Intuition and Inner Voice—
Rev. Gail Tapscott will talk about how we can all improve our ability to listen to the still small voice of wisdom within.

Aug. 2 —**Beyond Denominational Spirituality**— a journey in sacred words and music with Rev. Gail Tapscott and Kantor Andy Sussman.