

# The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

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**December 2015 Issue  
Deadline (we mean it!)  
Sunday, November 15, 2015**

Submit articles in  
Word Documents only to:  
**submission@uucfl.org**

**Editor**  
Valerie Heller

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Liberal Religious Thought  
and Social Action in  
Fort Lauderdale

**Unitarian  
Universalist**  
Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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LifeNet4Families  
Cooperative Feeding Program

**LifeNet4Families Workday**  
Saturday, November 14 at 8:45am

Work your way to Page 4

**Labyrinth Café Presents  
Nick Annis and  
Tom Prasada-Rao  
Saturday, November 14  
at 7:30pm**

Tune to Page 6

**SE Cluster Growth Workshop  
Saturday, November 7  
9:45am to 4:00pm  
UU Fellowship of Boca Raton**

See Page 4

**Fall Party!  
S,Mores, Campfire and Fun!**

**Saturday, November 21  
6:00pm**

**An All-Ages Event!**

See Page 8

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

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

### UUCFL Rituals

This month we kick off our canvass for pledges to fund our church for 2016.

As many of you know, we haven't been able to fund our congregation from our pledges for many years. We are lucky to have a legacy fund that allows us to make up the difference from what we need and what we get, including extra funding to implement our 10 year plan. But wouldn't it be fantastic if we could narrow or eliminate that gap?

Our current budget would require about \$13 a week from each pledging member of our church. We do not achieve this average. Like any faith community, we span the gamut of financial resources; some of us can give much, some can give little.

At the risk of sounding like a National Public Radio pledge drive, look at what the church gives you. Would you give up that extra cup of coffee at a chain that will go unnamed, or some other purchase that gives a fleeting satisfaction to instead help meet our goals that we all set together?

Please keep these thoughts in mind as we start our pledging season. With this in mind we can become an even brighter beacon of spiritual freedom for all of us, and for those yet to come.

***Dave Griswold***

#### A TOUR OF WORLD RELIGIONS FOR SKEPTICS

Since this is Rev. Gail Tapscott's last year with UUCFL, she is offering up summations of her long ministry in both her sermons and in possible classes. Rev. Gail has taught World Religions at the church and in university settings many times over the years, always coming at it from a different angle. For five weeks starting on Tuesday Nov. 3, she plans to offer a totally new approach to world religions. She will be taking a thematic look at what religious traditions have to offer everyone, believer and total skeptic alike, in helping to fashion a rich and meaningful life. Tentative themes for the fall portion of what will be a total of ten sessions are:

Nov. 3- Wisdom without Doctrine  
Nov. 10- Community  
Nov. 17- Kindness  
Nov. 24- Education  
Dec. 1 Tenderness

## ***Rev. Gail's Space***

### **A TIME FOR REFLECTION ON GRATITUDE**

No matter how much we may resist it, this is the time of the year we start thinking about big topics such as gratitude and thankfulness for the good things in life and about family, community, giving back and trying to create a world that is more reflective of holiday season values all year round.



As most of you know the last year of my life has been a bit fraught with so many changes in my mobility situation and then with the decision to end my long term ministry here.

These and other factors in my life have been stressful and at times I have definitely not been my best self. However, as I personally come up on the holiday season, I am more aware than usual of how very much I have to be thankful for this year. A year ago, I had reconciled myself to living the rest of my life hobbling around indoors and taking a rolator walker with me every time I went out anywhere. Then my primary care doc suggested that I at least consult an orthopedic surgeon. I found the brilliant, cutting edge and also very handsome and kind surgeon who said he thought he could help me get some mobility back. The first surgery has gone well and I have already far exceeded what my physical therapist thought was possible in terms of range of motion and extension in the right leg. If the other TKR goes at least close to as well or better, I have a shot at walking around even outside without the walker and without too much of a limp. I will likely not be taking up a major sport or dancing the night away but I may be able to live without looking or feeling so disabled.

I am so grateful for all the wonderful doctors, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists and aides that have worked with me to make the new mechanical knee as functional as possible. It has been scary, painful, stressful and an emotional roller coaster but it is a long term investment in a better and perhaps more active future.

It has also reminded me very viscerally that anything worth having requires investment and sacrifice. I hope we are all grateful this year that we have spiritual home that provides us with stimulation, inspiration, nurturing, community and opportunities to be of service. I also hope that in this transitional year for the church that more of you will avail yourselves of the opportunities to get more involved in the wider world of Unitarian Universalism by attending cluster, district and national gatherings or perhaps by vacationing in one of the many denominational camps all over the U.S. We pretty much get out of things what we put into them so at this time of year as we move into our stewardship campaign and the holiday season on parallel tracks, I hope you will both feel grateful for what the community has give you and also inspired to give back so that you can continue to be a beacon of liberal religion and social justice for many years to come.

Blessings, *Rev. Gail*



Director of Religious Education (DRE) - Susan Dirgins-Friend  
 Phone (954) 424-1910  
 Email tiredmomofbob@aol.com



As we enter the season of Thanks and Giving, I really have nothing more to say to you other than to encourage you to consider the question stated by UU Minister Harry Merse:

*"If you were arrested for being a Unitarian Universalist, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"*

Perhaps Ralph Waldo Emerson is more to your liking:

*"What you are... thunders so that I cannot hear what you say."*

I would actually change it just a bit to suit myself:

*"What you DO... thunders so that I cannot hear what you say."*

Love and blessings,

**DRE Susan**

## November Children's Religious Education Schedule



**Sunday November 4, 11AM**

**Principle 2  
Kids Do Coffee Hour**

**Sunday November 8, 11AM**

**Principle 2,  
continued**

**Sunday November 15, 11 AM**

**Gardening/Outside Play**

**Sunday November 22, 11AM**

**Thanksgiving Lesson**

**Sunday November 29, 11 AM**

**Principle 2**



**Lifenet 4 Families/CFP Update**

LifeNet4Families  
Cooperative Feeding Program

Please come and join your UUCFL friends and our fellow UUs from River of Grass to work in the pantry at Lifenet on Saturday, November 14 from 9-11am.

We make food boxes and fill shelves, or maybe we get pulled into the dining room to serve the guests. Lifenet is located at 1 NW 33rd Terrace, Lauderdale. This is on the corner of Broward Blvd. and 33rd Terr. If we don't get at least a few of our folks out this month, we will have to take this off the UUCFL calendar. In October, we only had myself and Judy King. Judy and I will continue on as individual volunteers, and I will save myself work and embarrassment.

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

**Cluster Growth Workshop November 7**

Carey McDonald, the UUA's Outreach Director, will be the featured speaker at the SE UU Cluster's Annual Meeting November 7. The theme of the meeting is "tending and growing our congregations." Carey and the Rev. CJ McGregor of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches will speak on growth, marketing and the future of faith. How can we reshape our faith to attract Millennials? How can we create a culture of growth? How can we develop our congregations? There will be hands-on sessions in the afternoon on Social Media and other topics. [Bring your smart phones and tablets/laptops.]

This exciting workshop will be at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton, 2601 St. Andrews Blvd, Boca Raton, FL 33434 (www.uufbr.org) on Saturday, November 7, from 9:45 AM to 4 PM. Registration, which includes continental breakfast and lunch, is \$15 advance, and \$20 at the door. To register, send a check payable to the SE UU Cluster to Kathy Jens-Rochow, Treasurer,

**Music Notes**

October is behind us but we can not turn the page without a few comments on the music that has been presented for these services. On

October 11 Mitch Kopp presented original guitar solos to fit with Rev. Gail's meditations to heal the personal pain in all our lives. His instrument was made by the Stradivarius company and had a gentle, mellow tone. Thank you Mitch.

October 18 the organ was requested, but J.W. Arnold, who played in August as a tribute to the memory of Charlie Prather, is no longer available to play organ at the UUCFL. He has accepted a full-time position at Christ Lutheran Church. Dot will contact the Guild of Organists to find a substitute player for future services.

The Samhain service on October 25 was musically rich with varied music; a solo, a choir offertory and the rousing "Time Warp" closing postlude which lacked only choreography! This is a very moving service of remembrance of loved ones who have passed away. Choir offerings added to the lovely Pagan service conducted by Donna Guitierrez.

Alfredo Tamburrino will play his flute for the November 8 service honoring Veterans. He will play a solo prelude and flute counter melodies with the choir singing "America the Beautiful." Thank you, Alfredo, for being so willing to add the special warmth to our music.

Our choir is small but mighty! We work very hard with limited numbers and limited time, but the music produced is amazing! If you sing, please find the time in your busy schedules to help us create moving experiences for those in the congregation who can not produce beautiful harmonies. We also need appreciative listeners to tell us when our melodies please you. If you don't want to miss special surprises, come every Sunday to UUCFL.

Here's a bulletin: Christmas is coming with joyful sounds, vocal and instrumental.

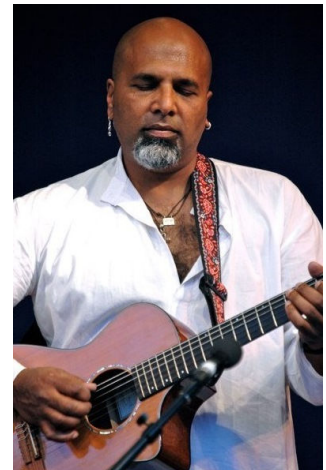
See you in church!

**Labyrinth Café Concerts Presents  
Nick Annis and Tom Prasada-Rao  
Saturday November 14 at 7:30pm**



Drilling for oil in the Midwest. Selling ice cream from a truck. Running a bakery. Starting points for just a few stories Nick Annis deftly weaves between and through song and performance banter. One man medicine show? Itinerant philosopher? **Nick Annis** is an award-winning songwriter, but he is also admired by folk fans for the storytelling talent that makes his performances so memorable. Audiences return to hear him deliver spoken word pieces in the style of brilliant songwriter/storytellers like Gamble Rogers, John McCutcheon and Dave Carter. Drawing on his diverse background and Greek roots, Nick crafts “true” stories and timeless accounts of humanity.

**Tom Prasada-Rao**, born in Ethiopia of Indian parents and raised in Washington DC, is a musician's musician, an unassuming presence on the folk scene since the early nineties. His voice belies his musicianship and his extraordinary songs. From Rishi's Garden with its homage to Ravi Shankar to the groove of Sleeping Beauty, Tom's music is melodic, ambitious, and reverent. He's starting to tour again after being featured last year on the nationally syndicated TV show Troubadour Texas. In the fall of 2007 Tom quit the road to produce records, raise two stepdaughters, and walk a rather large Golden Doodle named Thurman twice a day. From headlining major festivals 15 years ago, to the relative obscurity of a recording studio, Tom continued to mature as an artist. That work blossomed into an impressive resume of producing credits as well as cuts (his songs covered by other artists). 2014 marked Tom's departure from his adopted life and his return to the road.



Reservations requested but not required:

Contact Susan at OzWoman321@aol.com or 954-478-8637

\$20 at the door; \$17 advance reservations (checks made out to the performer received in the UU church office no later than Wednesday before Saturday show) plus non-perishable item for our local Cooperative Feeding Program (canned meats, beans, fruits, vegetables, peanut butter, dried milk, pasta, rice, cereal, baby food and baby formula).

We're once again offering a season pass (\$150), which includes admission to all 9 September—May shows, as well as premium reserved seating and a Labyrinth Café T-shirt (designed and printed by Virginia and Erik, Labyrinth Café volunteers). It's a wonderful way to support the UU church, our performers and the continuation of live, original music! Please visit [www.labyrinthcafe.com](http://www.labyrinthcafe.com) for further details and the artists' websites, and our Facebook page to give us a thumbs-up, which will then keep you informed of upcoming concerts.

Saturday, December 12, 2015 - Harpeth Rising

Saturday, January 9, 2016 - Jennings & Keller/Flagship Romance

Saturday, February 13, 2016 - Danny Schmidt and Carrie Elkin

Saturday, March 12, 2016 - Rod MacDonald/Jon Brooks

Saturday, April 9, 2016 - Amy Carol Webb/Claudia Schmidt

Saturday, May 14, 2016 - Ellis Paul

Can't wait for you all to join us once again for song and camaraderie!

***Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series***

## Vespers

Come out, come out, wherever you are and join us for Vespers on Friday, November 13th at 7PM. Vespers, say what? A short, quiet, reflective service of readings, meditation, music, and no announcements! This month, Valerie Heller will be showing her quiet side [yes, really -ed.] with a service that will feature some chanting, earth-based readings, and reflection on this darkening and "dying" time of the year. We finish the evening, as always, with a time for socializing and enjoying wine and cheese. What could be a better way



The church library is now officially reopened. We have had some great recent donations: cookbooks, gardening, fiction. Please browse. Donations always welcome. Just leave them on the library table. Toddler books can always go to the nursery.

*Molly St. Cavish*

You are invited to honor, celebrate or memorialize your loved ones or special occasions by offering flowers, a floral arrangement or plant to the Sunday Services Committee. Your gift will not only decorate the pulpit on your chosen Sunday but its beauty will add to the feeding of souls. In return, unless you ask us not to do so, your name and the reason for the gift will be mentioned in the Order of Service. After services you are welcome to take it home or re-gift it to a member or another group. We are excited about the possibilities this added offering to our Sunday Services will bring. Please contact Jeff or Rev. Opal for more information or to sign up.

In gratitude,

*Rev. Opal Murray*

## Coming CUUPS Events

We have no Sabat in November. The Witches' Ball will have to hold us over. On Turkey Day, eat tofu with some Muggles.

Meanwhile, Thursday evening Study Group continues at 7:30pm. Topics will be:

- Nov. 5- The Star Ruby and the Thelemic Middle Pillar
- Nov. 12- Candle Magick
- Nov. 19- Giving Thanks: Spontaneous Ritual and Potluck
- Nov. 26- No CUUPS Study Group



Blessings,

*Kip Barkley*

*Resident Pagan*

[MoonPathCUUPS.org](http://MoonPathCUUPS.org)

**S,Mores, Campfire and Fun!**  
**November 21, 6:00pm**  
**Intergenerational Fall Festivities!**

Love howling at the moon while enjoying our cooling weather and lovely grounds? Come out for a potluck supper, a fall craft table (think Thanksgiving table décor), board games, conversation and a final around the fire, singing songs, eating s'mores and spending quality time with your UUCFL friends.

This is a family-friendly event, and the perfect time to invite a friend or two to visit us so they can see what a fabulous place we are.

Info, DRE Susan  
 954-424-1910

If you're a parent, part of your experience of autumn is probably that back-to-school rush of busyness and excitement at all the fresh new opportunities the year brings. What activities are we going to leap into??? Theatre? Dance? Everglades conservation education? 4H? Gay/straight alliance? Renaissance Fair club? I'm not making up random ideas; this is the list of what my daughter is involved in this freshman year, both at school and privately. GAAHHH!!!! Yes, it can seem overwhelming to the scheduling, driving and paying parent; yet it's also exhilarating. It's all about pursuing treasured passions, trying new activities, and effecting positive change in the community. And it was exciting for me to browse the list of clubs and activities available at her high school. Too bad we can't all go sign up for debate team or to take care of the resident animals or audition for the musical production or, for you types who can actually catch a ball, try out for a sports team.

But wait! You, too, can get that same giddy rush of excitement at trying something new and becoming part of the cool crowd! The UUCFL has a wide variety of niches to be filled with caring individuals who want to contribute to the overall good of the community, even with limited time to spare in our busy weeks. What are you into? What are your strengths? What new activity secretly piques your interest? OK, OK, I admit it – I can't make serving on the Finance committee sound as romantic as learning medieval combat techniques and performing at the RenFest. Sorry. BUT, maybe you're a wiz with numbers (hey, somebody's gotta be). Maybe you're into landscaping. Or planning parties. Or organizing presentations. Or managing limited resources. Or making phone calls. Or maybe you're feeling adventurous and want to give something new a shot. We've got a committee for you! As your committee liasson, I'll be happy to help you find the coolest activity to get involved with, and hey – your mom doesn't even have to pay any club dues!



"The leaders are lizards. The people hate the lizards and the lizards rule the people."

"Odd," said Arthur. "I thought you said it was a democracy."

"It is."

"So why don't the people get rid of the lizards?"

"It honestly doesn't occur to them. They all pretty much assume that the government they've voted in more or less approximates to the government they want."

"You mean they actually *VOTE* for the lizards?"

"oh yes," said Ford with a shrug, "of course."

"But," said Arthur, "why?"

"Because if they didn't vote for a lizard," said Ford, "the wrong lizard might get in. Got any gin?"

Douglas Adams



## Directory of Staff, Board, Committee Chairs & Affiliates

### **STAFF**

#### • Minister

Rev. Gail Tapscott.....954-288-4245

#### • Director of Religious Education

Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910

#### • Music Director

Dorothy Muise.....954-731-8790

#### • Choir Director

Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

#### •President

Dave Griswold.....786-389-9575

#### •Past President

Gary Ladka.....954-650-3728

#### •President Elect

Jim Giblin.....954-296-0089

#### •Vice President

Valerie Heller.....954-663-3859

#### •Treasurer

Donna Gutierrez.....971-267-9165

#### • Secretary

Molly St. Cavish.....954-752-5717

### **Trustees**

Kathy Ervolina.....813-312-3292

Bill Schoolman.....954-565-6358

Betty Brantley.....954-536-5754

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

#### **Building & Grounds**

Gloria Stein .....954-578-9454

#### **Stewardship**

Victoria Abbott.....561-767-5713

#### **Community Outreach**

##### **Social Justice Committee**

OPEN

##### **BOLD Justice**

Betty Brantley.....954-536-5754

##### **Cooperative Feeding Program**

Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910

##### **South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice**

Rev. Gail Tapscott.....954-288-4245

### **Webmaster**

Kip Barkley.....954-784-8307

### **Printed Newsletter – The JOURNEY**

Valerie Heller.....954-663-3859

### **Email Newsletter - The cUUrrious cUUriar**

Gary Ladka.....954-650-3728

### **Caring Committee**

Douglas Paul.....954-739-8879

### **Library**

Molly St. Cavish.....954-752-5717

### **Finance**

OPEN

### **Building Usage**

Rev. Gail Tapscott.....954-288-4245

### **Labyrinth Café Concerts**

Susan Moss.....954-478-8637

### **Welcoming/Membership**

Sandy Lange.....954-401-5675

### **Ministry**

Ken Beier.....954-336-7412

### **Nominating**

Jerry Waltz .....954-527-5275

### **Religious Education**

Michael Coburn.....305-409-7340

### **Sunday Services**

Opal Murray.....770-265-6242

### **Wisdom and Enlightenment Series**

Opal Murray.....770-265-6242

### **ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS**

#### • CUUPS

Kip Barkley .....954-784-8307

#### • Endowment

Doug Friend.....954-424-1910

#### • Interweave

OPEN

#### • UU Service Committee

Noralee Traylor.....954-776-4226



## The Market Place

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Business Card Sized Ad**

**\$10.00 per month  
\$100.00 per year**

**Call 954-484-6734**

The program is easy and convenient. H&R Block will send the church \$20 for each new client you refer. The more new clients you refer, the more money the church can make!

So distribute the Referral form to your members and friends—even if they don't attend the church.

The program runs between January 1 and the IRS income tax filing deadline (usually April 15) of the current year.

Mention the Church to any H&R Block Agent when you refer someone to make sure UUCFL receives the credit

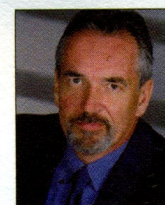


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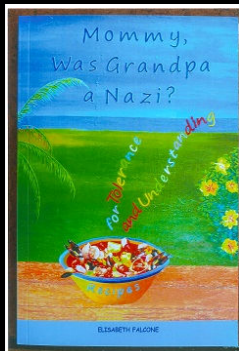
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Author Elisabeth Falcone collected true stories that show food connects people of all cultures. Recipes included. Available at all booksellers or at [fla.osprey9@yahoo.com](mailto:fla.osprey9@yahoo.com).



### 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. Learn more about the CFP and other ways you can help. Visit [www.feedbroward.org](http://www.feedbroward.org)



### November Birthdays

*Erik Anderson 11/1*  
*Philip Morse 11/1*  
*Ken Beier 11/2*  
*Coral Horton 11/4*  
*Hannah Solis 11/30*



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.

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

Sat

Fri

Thu

Wed

Tue

Mon

Sun



# November Calendar



Every Sunday :  
11:00 AM-  
Church Service  
and Children's  
Religious Education

Religious  
Education Events  
See special  
calendar  
on the RE page 4

Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events [www.uucfl.org](http://www.uucfl.org) and click "Coming Activities"

<b>1</b> •9:30am- UU Sisterhood	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS	<b>6</b> •7:00pm Vespers	<b>7</b> 8:45am- LifeNet4Families Cooperative Feeding Program Workday (see page 4)
<b>8</b> •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day •1:00 Social Justice Summit	<b>9</b> •7:00pm - Board Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:30pm Labyrinth Café Concert (See page 6)
<b>15</b> Journey article submission deadline •9:30am- UU Sisterhood	<b>16</b> •7:00pm - Sunday Services Committee	<b>17</b> •2:00pm TED Talk	<b>18</b> •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:00pm Fall Party
<b>22</b> •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day	<b>23</b> •7:00pm Welcoming/ Membership Committee	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> •Thanksgiving	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					

# Unitarian Universalist



Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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Website: [www.uucfl.org](http://www.uucfl.org)

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

## The JOURNEY



**Sunday Morning Services at 11 am**

**NOVEMBER 2015**

**November 1– The Blues and Poetry–** Long a lover of the many forms of the blues idiom, Rev. Gail will take a new and different look at this all-American poetic and musical expression.

**November 8 - The Tree of Life and the Tree of Disciplines-** Taking a unique approach to this year's very critical Stewardship campaign, Rev. Gail will look at the Tree of Life Image in the movie Avatar and a widely circulated image of a Tree that shows all the options available for spiritual growth to talk about how we can use time, talent and treasure to fund the community that will give us life, help us develop the disciplines to grow spiritually, and be a beacon for action and a refuge for comfort. Following the service the Board of Trustees will be sponsoring a special free lunch for all members and friends as we celebrate the community we are and share visions for the community we can be in the future.

**November 15 – The Dystopian Worlds of Young Adult Novels and their Lessons for Religious Liberals-** One of Rev. Gail's guilty pleasures is reading way too many novels written originally for young adults. Many, but by no means all, of these books are Dystopian in nature. This seems like a disturbing trend and Gail will try to examine what this trend has to tell us as religious liberals.

**November 22 - The Gifts We Receive and the Gifts We Offer-** As we move into Thanksgiving week Rev. Gail examine how being on both ends of the sharing of abundance is a real gift. We will learn about some of the gifts our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee shares with the larger world and we will take home our Guest at Your Table Boxes so we can be a small part of that gifting to the world beyond our normal borders.

**November 29 - What Has Class Got to Do With It-** Rev. Dr. Dorothy May Emerson , one of Rev. Gail's close friends from seminary, will grace our pulpit for the third time.