

The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

September 2014
Volume 55, Number 8

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October 2014 Issue
Deadline

Sunday September 14, 2014

Submit articles to:
submission@uucfl.org

Editor
Gary Ladka

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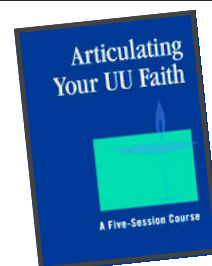
Established in 1958



LifeNet4Families
Cooperative Feeding Program

LifeNet4Families Workday
Saturday September 6 at 8:45am
Work your way to Page 6

New Articulating Your UU Faith
Classes With Rev Gail
4 Tuesdays in September Starting
September 9
Two Class Times Offered
4:00pm and 7:00pm
Be Classy - Go to Page 3



Labyrinth Cafe Concerts
Presents Passerine
Saturday September 13
at 7:30pm
Tune to Page 6

Long Range Planning
Town Hall Meeting
Sunday September 14
at 1:00pm

Plan on Being There and See Page 2



Pagan Pride Day
Saturday September 20
at 12:00pm
Merry Meet on Page 7

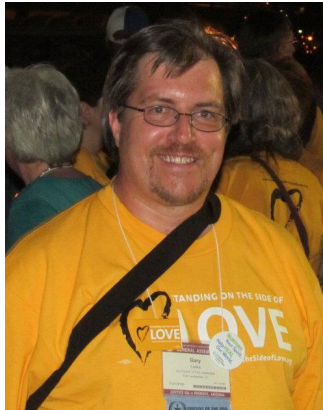
Wounds of Waziristan
Film and Discussion
Sunday September 28
at 1:00pm
More Info on Page 7



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**The Year and Years Ahead**

This year marks my 20th year here at UUCFL, but this may be one of the most exciting. Many were here before me and many will come seeking us in the years to come. As part of one of our treasured traditions, we will gather together in September for our Water Sunday on the 14th sharing our stories of our summer past and it is a time for reflection. This year we add another dimension as we gather to look into our collective future together as we take the first step in our new Long Range Plan. Our dreams and hopes for things to come will be shared, collected, voted on, and implemented to bring our visions to life.

We honor Sara Keeley and the Long Range Planning Committee of the past in helping us to achieve some very lofty goals and keeping us reminded of them and where we were making strides and where we may have fallen short. Our current board as well as our future leaders are committed to re-examining ourselves and where it is that the congregation wants to see itself in the years ahead. This takes planning and diligence in every step of the process as well as support of the congregation to carry out whatever our plans call us to do. Your first step is to come and share your ideas. Please plan on attending church on Sunday the 14th and sticking around for an afternoon of brainstorming and taking a good and honest look into the kaleidoscope of possibilities that lie ahead of us.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, because your idea may be one of the sparks that we are looking for. We are all in this together and so are the wonderful UUCFL family members of the future. Let's pool our energies together to make this an even brighter beacon for all who are here and all who seek us to find us.

Gary Ladka

**UUCFL Begins Long Range Planning Phase 1
And We Want You to Share Your Visions!
Sunday September 14 at 1:00pm**

Participate in the shaping of the future of UUCFL with the new Long Range Plan (LRP).

The service at 11am this day will discuss the strategic planning process and following service there will be congregational town meeting. In addition to going

through the strategic planning process, our expert consultant, Rev. Dr. Randy Becker, will ask us to give suggestions as to what we would like to see changed at the Church.

Please look for more details and start thinking about some new and innovative ideas for our UUCFL to come.

The Long Range Planning Committee

Rev. Gail's Space

Starting a New Program Year

January 1 may be the calendar's New Year's Day but like most schools and colleges the church program year always starts in September. In Unitarian Universalists circles we start the program year with our Ingathering Water Ceremony where we share symbolic water in a common bowl, share something about our time being less involved in the community and get to see some old friends and maybe make some new ones. This year we will also be sharing food and ideas as we kick off our first Long Range Planning Process in about 13 years.



Your opinion is important whether you have been attending UUCFL for decades or days. To create a vision for our future we need both perspectives colored by the past and some unencumbered by history. Rev. Dr. Randy Becker is a colleague and friend who has served our movement for decades as a Minister of Religious Education, a Parish Minister and a District consultant. He has been active in denominational politics and has a cleared eyed vision of the opportunities and challenges that face smaller churches. This is an exciting time in the life of the church and I really look forward to watching you plan for a future that I will be a part of for a time but that will go on long past my tenure here.

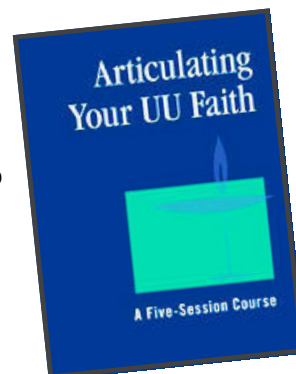
The congregation is here to provide a place for you to learn, grow, ask questions, share doubts, pain and successes. People you have never met and whose names you do not know have helped make this possible. It is now time to pass it on and build a future that others whose names you will never know will also have such a place five, ten and even 50 years in the future. This is quite an honor and quite a responsibility. Don't take a pass on this. It won't come again for possibly a decade or more. However, our plan will be a living document always open to tweaking and revisiting. We are here to be present for each other and to create an increased likelihood of a rich and exciting future. Good luck and blessings on our collective journey.

Blessings

Rev. Gail

Articulating Your UU Faith – The Advanced Class

You have two opportunities, starting on Tuesday September 9, to begin improving your ability to talk about and understand our liberal faith as well as to make some new friends and deepen your own reflection about your world view. Rev. Gail is offering a new and beefed up class based on a curriculum called "Articulating Your UU Faith". She will be updating it and bringing in some new resources and information so even if you have taken the class before, you will have new things to learn. We will share our own faith journeys, look at our historical roots, exam the wide diversity of sources we can draw on and ways we can express our faith out in the world. Rev. Gail will offer this at both 4:00 p.m. and 7 p.m. on four Tuesdays starting on September 9. The costs for the class will be \$25 . If you are experiencing a difficult time financially, talk to Rev. Gail about a scholarship plan. Please join us.



Rev. Gail



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



We are about to embark on another church year. I am very happy that this summer we have had several visits from families with children. Most of those families have been very pleased with our environment, positive about our children's religious education program and happy with UUCFL in general. As I know from experience though, once school starts, it is harder for these folks to make their way to church. I think we have to come up with some ideas to try and encourage them to make their way to church once in a while, stay connected on a regular basis, and participate from time to time in our church wide activities.

One way that we can do this is to make sure that we have people at the greeter's stand every Sunday, so that we get their information. I don't have people fill out forms the first time I see them, as it tends to make them uncomfortable, but, when we tell them at the greeter's stand that the form they fill out gets them our newsletter, that usually does not scare them. I also think that having someone at the entrance helps folks feel more comfortable, and from a selfish point of view, it helps me if there is a greeter, and they can let me know that someone has come in with children. We have to have more volunteer involvement at UUCFL at many levels, some that come with a fair amount of responsibility. Greeting is a one off, you can come and do it, and there is no report to write, no meeting to attend, and all you have to do is show up a little early for church. We are always talking about growing our membership, and one of the ways to start is to make sure that every person, every child, every family that walks through our door feels welcome and has an idea of what to do at our service. So, I am going to be looking for greeters, and I hope that when I ask, you are all going to say YES!!!!

DRE Susan



September Children's Religious Education Schedule

Sunday September 7, 11AM

Summer RE Fun

Sunday September 14, 11AM

Water Sunday Ingathering

Kids will Attend Service

Sunday September 21, 11AM

First RE Sunday of 2014

Rosh Hashanah

Sunday September 28, 11AM

Regular Children's RE

Men's Group Open for New Members**MEN'S GROUP**

Our UUCFL men's support group is currently open for enrollment of new members.

We meet every Thursday evening from 7 PM to

8:45 PM. The primary purpose of our support group is for members to give voice to personal joys, sorrows and concerns that can only be spoken in a trust – based environment of compassionate listeners. Our group is a means for men to form more meaningful and supportive relationships with each other.

There is no fee for membership, but we do pass the basket at each meeting for donations to the church. In addition, we find other ways to be of service to our church community from time to time.

Please speak to any one of us if you're interested in joining. We are: Bill Schoolman, Jerry Waltz, Ken Howland, Larry Wilkner, Steve Lange, Tom Karneth and Victor Garlock

UUCFL Men's Group

Know More About Each Other and Church Events

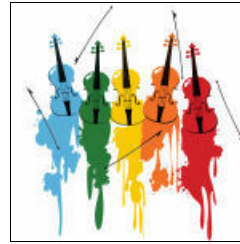
Name Tags – If you have not yet received a name tag lanyard, please sign up in church on Sundays. You have a choice of designs between a picture of the church and a chalice.

Please wear your name tags each Sunday so our veterans and our newer members and visitors recognize each other better.



cUUrious cUUrrier – If you are not receiving our weekly email newsletter, the cUUrious cUUrrier, visit our website at www.uucfl.org and click on "Weekly Email Broadcast" to sign up

Welcoming/Membership Committee

Music Notes

Where did the summer go? Saturday, August 23 was the predicted Choir Retreat with a fine turnout anxious to pursue the Choir program for the Fall menu. Our wonderful Choir Director, Susan Friend, has prepared a tentative

schedule of anthems which we tasted and declared delicious. Regular Wednesday rehearsals have already begun on August 27. If you were unable to attend the "kick-off" for 2014 - 2015, you may join us any Wednesday night at 6:45 PM as regular rehearsals will continue throughout the year.

Contributing to your church by singing enriches your soul. Try it, you'll like it and it is fun meeting regularly to produce beautiful music that no one of us can do alone. Be part of this creative cooperative effort to enhance the services. Watch for news of a combined choir some Sunday in early 2015. We love to plan ahead!

Dot is busy dusting off her collection of service music for Preludes, Offertories, and Postludes. We hope to have special soloists added on Sundays when the choir does not sing, so if you know vocal or instrumental performers who might be interested, please have them call Dot at 954-731-8790 or speak to her after a service to discuss a possible date to schedule. The David Fisher Memorial Music Fund has been jealously guarded and may be used to pay special soloists within limits set by the Music Committee.

So onward and upward to an exciting, fulfilling musical program for UUCFL for the 2014-2015 year.

Dot Muise, Director of Music



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

**Labyrinth Café Concerts Presents
Passerine
Saturday September 13 at 7:30pm**

Passerine's (Carmela Pedicini, David Brain, Sara Stovall Moone) distinctive sound combines vocal harmonies, the crisp rhythms of an acoustic guitar and the haunting voices of the fiddle and dobro (resonator slide guitar). With this unusual arrangement of voices and instruments, Passerine offers a fresh take on traditional folk and bluegrass music as well as a repertoire of original songs that range from sweet ballads to the edgier side of contemporary Americana. Altogether, the members of Passerine have joined their talents in search of an acoustic sound that is simple and compelling, that has both purity and depth, and that adds new musical layers to the tradition of the singer/songwriter.



Passerine is the common name for the order of birds that includes not only songbirds known for the sweetness of their songs but the raven, a bird known in myth as the companion of deities, as a courier who inspires laughter and reveals truth, and as a trickster whose appetite for life brings wisdom, healing and great acts of creativity. www.passerinemusic.net

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 are working to get the website updated and all will be revealed soon. In the meantime, we ask you now to save the following dates (2014: October 11, November 8, December 13; 2015: January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9) and join us once again for song and camaraderie. Watch your e-mail, check our Facebook page and listen to Michael Stock's show for notice of the harmonic treats in store.

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

Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series

LifeNet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Update



LifeNet4Families

Cooperative Feeding Program

Thanks to the basket fillers as always. Thanks to the people who came in August for our workday, and I hope that I will see some others of you on September 6 for our monthly workday. Please meet at the CFP at 8:45 to make food boxes, fill shelves, and yes, deal with donated bread!!

Info: DRE Susan (954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com

Free Film, Priceless Discussion about Drones

You've heard about drones. You know what they do. You know that we use them to fight terrorism and protect American soldiers from the risks they would face on the ground. Yet the Obama administration, when deciding to employ drones, may not have considered those most affected: innocent civilians. In Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia, drones have become an integral part of civilians' lives. Even those who have not lost a loved one cannot ignore the noise and the damage drones caused.



Since the U.S. started using drones in 2004, hundreds of civilians have been killed in Pakistan alone. 200 of them are believed to be children. The United States government is a world leader in the use of drones and OUR tax dollars are financing them. Like most technologies, drones are not intrinsically good or evil. It depends on how they are used. We citizens need to educate ourselves about this new technology.

On Sunday, September 28, 1 p.m. at the church you can see the documentary film, *The Wounds of Waziristan* which depicts several first-hand accounts about the US's use of armed drones in the Pakistan tribal areas. This will help you understand what life is like for ordinary people living under the constant threat of drone strikes.

The presentation is sponsored by War vs Human Needs, South Florida, an affiliate of Peace Action and the UUCFL Social Justice Committee. Ed Wujciak of Hollywood is the discussion leader. After the film he will lead an open discussion about how drones are currently being used and how they may be used in the future. Are drones legal? Are they effective? Are there unresolved privacy or civil liberties issues? What else should we be thinking about? Please bring your questions and concerns and join us.

UUCFL Social Justice Committee



Announcing the 2014-2015 UUA Common Read

Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square by Paul Rasor is the 2014-2015 UUA Common Read. In this inspiring call to action, Rasor dispels the myth that conservative Christianity is the only valid religious voice in national debates on social policy, and shows us that the powerful support of religious liberals may be more numerous than we realize. For more information visit www.uua.org.

Coming CUUPS Events

Saturday September 20 we celebrate Pagan Pride Day. Starting at noon there will be vendors, food, and activities going on. At 5:50 PM, we will perform a Ritual of the Second Harvest, Mabon.

At Study Group the Thursday before we will do a casting call for the Ritual, tell stories of the season, and share more about the season.

Other Study Groups: Thursday September 4, we will learn about the History and Lore of Mead. Thursday September 11, we learn of Protection masks and how to make them. Do come out and play!

Kip, Resident Pagan

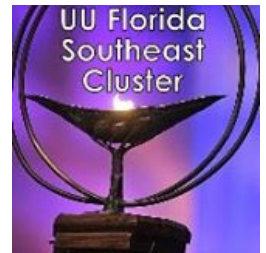




Expand your UU and Facebook horizons by joining the new UU Southeast Cluster page to stay informed about activities of the Cluster which encompasses participating UU congregations from the Treasure Coast to the Virgin Islands

Visit this page and click "Like" to join

www.facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster



Interfaith Leaders Urge President to Act on Immigration

In a letter delivered today to President Barack Obama, religious leaders urge the president to take administrative action on the issue of immigration reform.

This letter comes to the president as he continues to weigh executive action in the midst of Congress' inability to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

In the letter to President Obama, the Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), and five other national faith leaders call for executive action that includes three significant components:

1. Stop deportations immediately.
2. Expand deferred action to immigrant workers and families.
3. Protect unaccompanied children who have sought refuge within the United States border.



Morales was joined on the letter by Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, General Minister and President of United Church of Christ, Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño of the United Methodist Church, Los Angeles Area, Rev. Dr. Susan T. Henry-Crowe, General Secretary, Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, Rev. John L. McCullough, President and CEO of Church World Service, and Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The letter reads in part, "As a nation of immigrants, we must stand on the side of love with immigrant families. As a religious community, we cannot ignore the moral call to help those who are suffering. And as citizens of the world, we must respect the inherent worth and dignity of all."

The complete letter with the list of signatories can be found at www.uua.org



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• Director of Religious Education

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• Music Director

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Betty Highton.....954-484-6313

Nominating

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Laura Lange.....954-584-2499

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Wisdom and Enlightenment Series

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

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• Endowment

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• Interweave

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• UU Service Committee

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

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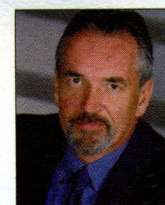
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Remember the Hungry People Around Us

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September Birthdays

PAIGE BREEN PAGE 9/4
 NICOLE RIVERA 9/7
 PHOENIX (LESA) COCKERHAM 9/8
 MADISYN YOUNG 9/15
 BOB ZUMSTEIN 9/22
 LIZZY BARNETTE 9/25
 SUZANNAH RYALS-LUNEBURG 9/29



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

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



September Calendar



<p>Every Sunday : 11:00 AM- Church Service and Children's Religious Education</p>	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 •8:45am - Lifenet4Families Cooperative Feeding Program Workday (See page 6)</p>
<p>7 •9:30am - UU Sisterhood</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 •4:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith Class •7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith Class</p>	<p>10 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 •7:30 pm Labyrinth Café Concert (See page 6)</p>
<p>14 •Journey Article Submission Deadline •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day •1:00pm - Long Range Planning Meeting (See Page 2)</p>	<p>15 •7:00pm - Board Meeting</p>	<p>16 •4:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith Class •7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith Class</p>	<p>17 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>18 7:00 _ Vespers Service - TBA</p>	<p>20 •12:00 pm Pagan Pride Day (See Page 7)</p>
<p>21 •9:30am - UU Sisterhood</p>	<p>22 •7:00pm - Sunday Services Committee</p>	<p>23 •4:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith Class •7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith Class</p>	<p>24 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day •1:00 pm "Wounds of Waziristan" Film and Discussion (See Page 7)</p>	<p>29 •7:00pm Welcoming/ Membership Committee</p>	<p>30 •4:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith Class •7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith Class</p>	<p>Visit our on line calendar for late- breaking events www.uucfl.org and click "Coming Activities"</p>		<p>Religious Education Events See special calendar on the RE page 4</p>	

Unitarian Universalist

Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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E-mail: uucfl@aol.com

Website: www.uucfl.org

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

The JOURNEY



Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

SEPTEMBER 2014

September 7 - Born Again Unitarian Universalism or What Do You Say After You Say I Am a UU- Rev. Gail will explore some new and fun ways to talk about and share our exciting faith with friends, family and co-workers and even each other. We need to deepen our conversations about our world views and maybe this will be a starting point. The idea of how to develop, grow and sustain a strong Unitarian Universalist identity will be the primary theme of the 2014-15 church program year. Come to the service and join us on 4 Tuesday nights for the follow up interactive class sessions.

September 14 - Water Sunday and a Look Toward Our Future - On this homecoming Sunday we bring our symbolic water to share our summer journeys and learnings. Rev. Gail and Prez Gary will officiate. The Rev. Dr. Randy Becker our Long Range Planning consultant will offer the message for the day. We will have a celebration lunch and then we invite all our members and friends to participate in discussing options for our future.

September 21 - Compassion As Key to a More Conflict Free World - We seem to be at war around the world and in our own country. Sometimes we are at war with our communities, family and sometimes in our own heads. Rev. Gail will look at some steps we can take to living a more compassionate life that will help us understand all levels of conflict.

September 28 - Living in an Awe Filled Universe - We sometimes live in awe of an amazing world and we sometimes complain about what an awful world we live in. Sometimes understanding what it means to live in the balance between these extremes is hard. Rev. Gail will look to lessons of the Jewish High Holy days for lessons on how to do this.

October 5 - Memoir As Spiritual Tool/ Telling My Story and Other's Stories to Help You Tell Your Story - Rev. Gail's sabbatical did not allow her to take a planned workshop on Memoir but she did spend a lot of time reading some very unique memoirs and personal histories- non-fictional and fictional alike. Today with some congregational readers she will share some classic memoirs and offer a unique tool for using our own life stories as a tool for emotional and spiritual growth. A short workshop on ways to tell your own story will be offered after church for all interested. It will be free.

