

# The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

**February 2015**  
**Volume 56, Number 2**

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## March 2015 Issue Deadline

**Sunday February 8, 2015**

Submit articles to:

**submission@uucfl.org**

**Editor**

Valerie Heller

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Fort Lauderdale

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LifeNet4Families  
Cooperative Feeding Program

**LifeNet4Families Workday**  
**Saturday February 7 at 8:45am**

See page 2

**Labyrinth Cafe Concerts  
Presents  
Jennings and Keller  
and  
The Sea The Sea**

**Saturday February 14  
at 7:30pm**  
See Page 6

## Official Notice!!!

**Sunday, Feb. 8 at 12:45 will be our annual meeting, at  
which we will vote on both the Long Range Plan and the  
budget. All voting members are urged to attend.**

See President's Message, page 2.

**V-Day Ft. Lauderdale 2015 presents  
The Vagina Monologues  
Feb. 21 & 22**

**Live on our humble stage - Eve Ensler's hilarious,  
hard-hitting and  
heartfelt show exploring  
womanhood in all its  
raw glory! Don't miss it!**

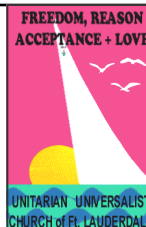


**Spread the word to end  
violence against  
women!**

More info 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

### Democracy, Change and Emotion

Please turn in your hymnals to #361 and let's sing along together as a congregation:



Don't be afraid of some change  
Today will be a joyful day  
Enter, rejoice and come in.

These are words that I ask you to keep in your heart as we move forward together with our Long Range Plan approval. A year ago at our budget meeting, we as a congregation voted to bring in a consultant to help us take a look at ourselves and where we would like to be in the future. We brought forth the wishes of the congregation and all members and friends who wanted to participate in the process were given multiple opportunities to help shape the future of UUCFL through two large meetings with Rev. Randy Becker—one prior to and one reviewing the results of the process which came from input gathered at three smaller meetings and from

individual hard copy/online surveys that everyone was invited to fill out. We also held a town hall-style meeting so that people could discuss the plan and gather more information and express their joys and concerns about the plan and what it will mean for us all. We will vote on our next step on February 8.

There are a few things that are certain. If we approve the plan the way it is—some people will be happy, some will not. If we approve the plan with some modifications—some people will be happy, some will not. If we do not approve the plan—some people will be happy, some will not. Whichever of these scenarios takes place, it is most important that we hold together as a congregational family and understand that the democratic process is our foundation, and as always in the process—some will get their way and some will not. We as UUs are well-known for not agreeing with each other all of the time which is why we are all here in the first place—it is a safe place to do so. Through the emotions and passions we feel about how we see the church in the future, we all need to see the bigger picture, which is that we go forward together, and however we may choose to do that, this will still remain our beloved community.

A great example of this was demonstrated at General Assembly in Phoenix. During the plenary sessions, delegates vote on which one of five Study Action Issues will be the official focus of the Unitarian Universalist Association. One woman, who we had spoken with several times while riding the shuttle back and forth from our hotel, was suddenly seen at the microphone as the main presenter for one of the issues. She spoke passionately about it, and everyone in the room cheered for her for making the points of her cause in the strictly enforced two-minute time limit. Others spoke on their issues and ultimately a vote was taken. This woman's issue did not prevail. I saw her later in the day and told her I was impressed by her speech and was sorry that her issue hadn't won. She said that it was not a problem and that all of the issues were equally important. Now that the vote determined the official Study Action and the direction the UUA would be moving, she said that she would fully support this effort with just as much passion as her issue.

Please always keep this enlightened model of democracy in mind through our journey together as a congregation. Don't be afraid of some change. Today will be a joyful day. Enter, Rejoice and Come In.

*Gary Ladka*

#### LifeNet 4 Families/CFP Update

Thanks to those who came out to volunteer in January. Our February work day is scheduled for Saturday February 7. Meet at CFP at 9AM. Thanks to everyone who keeps the baskets in the lobby filled up. Every donation helps, even that single can of tuna.

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

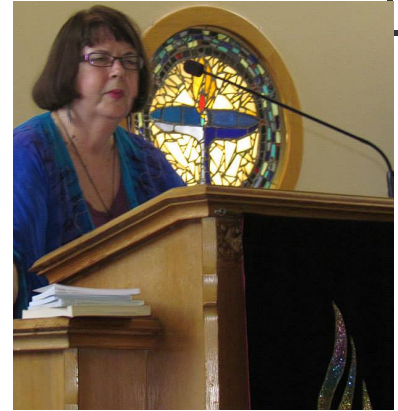


LifeNet4Families

Cooperative Feeding Program

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

### **Seeing Selma and Remembering**



As I had suggested that all of you do in my Jan. 11 sermon, I went to see the movie Selma. While it was not a perfect movie, it was an inspiring one and it brought back a lot

of memories of a very special moment in time when a people came together to change their lives and change the world. Yes, it is true that terrible things are still going on all the time and that racism is still alive and well in this country and around the world. But I was still in and out of Mississippi all the time during the years of the events in Selma and I recall the way people talked and acted and the fear that pervaded everything. When I go back there now it does not feel like that. Of course there is still racism but so many things are better there now. As a woman, I can attest that sexism also still exists, yet I have been able to have an amazing and satisfying series of careers that simply would not have been possible in the world that I was born into. We certainly do seem to be living in a scary moment in history but maybe the world has always been scary. But then first a few people and then many people come together to try to change it. The change is always messy and full of contradictions. People try one thing and hope it will work. If it doesn't, they don't give up hope. They try something else and maybe that will work better.

One of the things I really liked about the movie is that it made clear that the leaders of the civil rights movement often disagreed and sometimes disagreed strongly. Martin Luther King was a brilliant man and inspired leader but a flawed human being. I am sure that, like most martyrs to a cause, MLK did not want or intend to be a martyr, but he continued to offer himself to the cause, even knowing that he and all the leaders were vulnerable.

I know that there were many people in the women's movement, also, who strongly disagreed with each other on goals and tactics and there were many schisms, but still the effort, as a whole, made the world much safer for women to move forward and have more choices.

Many people of color still live in poverty, lack access to education and good jobs, and are more likely to be arrested and go to prison on minor drug charges. People of color who encounter the police or other authorities are still more likely to be killed or hurt. This is, of course, very wrong and it must change. I am so glad the affected communities and their allies are fighting back.

Women are still more fearful of aging than men and are devalued more when they are older. Many women are starting to fight back on this issue as well. The formidable Ruth Bader Ginsburg is refusing to retire at 82. Many men have served on the Supreme Court and in the Senate at that age or later without a great deal of comment. Hillary Clinton may run for President at 70 and we will be hearing a lot more about her age than we did about Ronald Reagan or John McCain, who were serving at older ages. This too will gradually change.

We seem to be living in a time of both extreme positive and negative developments. Seeing a movie like Selma reminds us of how messy and confusing times of big change can be. We always tend to live with little victories and big defeats. But we can keep on moving forward one step at a time if we keep our "eyes on the prize and hold on;" to quote one well-known civil rights song, we can move to a different place. Selma is a great reminder that the battle for freedom and justice is never totally won. It has to keep being rethought and refought on new ground, whether it is about civil rights, women's rights, gay rights or the environment. We are in the middle of another compression point in history. Don't be a bystander. Make your voice heard and be part of the solutions.

Blessings on our individual and collective journeys.

***Rev. Gail***

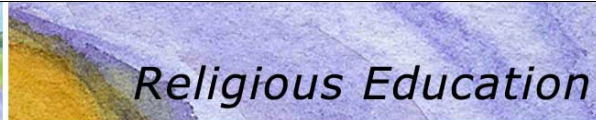
### **Important dates to hold on your calendar for Bold Justice:**

Rally– Tuesday March 24, 2015

Nehemiah Action– Monday April 20, 2015

Justice Ministry Celebration– Tuesday June 9, 2015

***Rev. Gail***



Director of Religious Education (DRE) - Susan Dirgins-Friend

Phone (954) 424-1910



Black lives matter. White lives matter, brown lives matter, all lives matter. Some lives seem to matter more though. I agree with the people who say that Mike Brown was not a choir boy; however, he did not deserve to be gunned down like a rabid dog. Had he been white, chances are he would not have been. Trayvon Martin did not have the opportunity to walk through a neighborhood that my son Spike would have had. The NYPD thought they had to rough up a guy selling cigarettes. They rough folks up quite often; unfortunately, this guy was not in the best of respiratory health, and oops, he died. There was a march on Saturday January 17 to say that black lives matter; people were marching all over the country. In Oakland Park, there were about 60 of us. I wished there had been more participants. Most of the people who were there were African American, which makes sense, but, there were just too few folks of other hues. In fact, there were only a handful of white folks, some of which were part of the organizing group. There were not enough UUs either. There were quite a number of college-age kids there, but not enough teenagers. There were some kids, which made me happy. Most were being wrangled by moms and grandmas. They were inspiring. They chanted until they were hoarse.

We all have to say that young black men have the right to be dumb kids, and not get shot for the same behavior that any other young man might do. We all have to say that young black men have a right to drive in a nice neighborhood and not get pulled over (oops, he lives here because he plays for the Dolphins). We all have to say that if young white men get a slap on the wrist and sent home for minor infractions, then the same thing should be true for young black men. Things are better than they were 50 years ago, but they need to be better still. As we pass another Dr. King birthday, let us keep the dream in our sights, and work together to make it real, and true, for all God's children.

Love and blessings,

*DRE Susan*



## February Children's Religious Education Schedule

**Sunday February 1, 11AM**

Groundhog Day

**Sunday February 15, 11 AM**

Garden Work

**Sunday February 8, 11AM**

Valentine's Day

**Sunday February 22, 11AM**

Chinese New Year



**V-Day Ft. Lauderdale 2015  
Presents  
*The Vagina Monologues*  
Feb. 21 & 22**

V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls. Every year around Valentine's Day, performances are staged to raise awareness of this issue and to support organizations working for the betterment of women's lives. As part of this year's campaign, Eve Ensler's provocative, profound and hilarious work will be brought to life by a diverse cast of women, including your humble new Journey editor. Proceeds will benefit the PACE Center for Girls, an organization for teens in crisis, and the Women with Pride group at the Pride Center in Wilton Manors, serving the LBT community, with 10% of ticket sales going towards our church.

Tickets are \$30, with showtimes Saturday Feb. 21st at 3:00 & 8:00 and Sunday the 22nd at 3:00. Prepare to be thoroughly entertained, surprised, outraged and enlightened, be you the proud possessor of a vagina or not. This year, Ms. Ensler has added three new pieces to the script, which is being performed over 5500 times around the world. Don't miss this groundbreaking show!

**This is a "PG-13" event.** You may hear a few words not normally uttered in church (even our church).

Tickets on sale at:  
vdayfortlauderdalevm2015@brownpapertickets.com.  
See v-day.org for further information on the international V-Day movement.

**The Vagina Monologues: Spread the Word!**

*Valerie Heller, Resident Thespian*



**Music Notes**



Now that January is over, how are you doing on those resolutions? We have resolved to keep the choir together and

to enhance the Sunday services to the best of our ability. If you notice empty seats in the choir, make a phone call to those singers who usually fill the seats and ask where they are. We miss each and every one when they do not come, and need to ask why. This is not just the job of the Music Committee but of every member of the church.

The choir sang on January 4 to welcome the New Year, and on January 18 with a wish for Peace in the World and a salute to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. January 11 brought some blues music from guest pianist Linda Reiling while Dot was attending a Liturgical service at a Lutheran Church. It is always good to compare what we do that gives us satisfaction and what we might do better!

February brings thoughts of Valentines, red candy hearts, and sweet music of Love.

The choir will be singing on February 8th, with "Seasons of Love" from Rent by Jonathan Larson, and on the 22nd with "In This Very Room." Alfredo will play his beautiful flute solos for the service on February 15. We look forward to hearing him once again.

On a personal note, I want to thank all those who wished me a Happy 91st Birthday. It was wonderful because I was surrounded by my family, daughter Debbie and her husband Steve and my son Joe and his wife Cheryl. They spoiled me by taking me out for some great meals, filling my house with flowers, and making sure I had some favorite amusements to fill the week. I think I'll stay around for next year!

Let's all work to make 2015 our best year yet at UUCFL.

And a Happy New Year to you!

*Dot Muise, Director of Music*

**Labyrinth Café Concerts Presents  
Jennings and Keller & The Sea The Sea**

**Saturday February 14 at 7:30pm**

**Jennings & Keller** is Laurie Jennings Oudin and Dana Keller, an acoustic duo based out of Miami. They bring a wealth of experience to their collaboration, from the Broadway musicals of New York to the honky-tonks of West Texas. Their music is called "Fusion Folk Americana" - a blend of many different elements that comes from their vast and wide-ranging musical backgrounds. Laurie Jennings Oudin is well-known as the former proprietress of The Main Street Café, which was viewed across the country as the premier acoustic music venue in Florida. A former Shakespearean actress, Laurie has been a singer and songwriter for many years. Since the café's close in June 2006, she has been devoting her time to her musical career with Dana Keller, a veteran pedal steel, dobro, and guitar player who has spent years performing on stage or in the studio with such luminaries as Vince Gill, Ricky Skaggs, Stevie Wonder, Larry Graham, Marvin Gaye, Dave Mason, Johnny Rodriguez and The Allen Brothers, to name a few. The synergy created from these two diverse talents is not easy to define, but will leave a lasting impression on all who listen.



If life is measured by our leaps of faith, then **The Sea The Sea** (singer-songwriter duo Chuck E. Costa and Mira Stanley) have found a way to catch us midair as we jump headlong into the infinite abyss. Their debut album **LOVE WE ARE WE LOVE** finds the duo in suspended animation, exploring moments of the unfolding future through their sincere, storyline lyrics, intimate harmonies and emotive sonic landscapes. They borrowed their name from Xenophon's *Anabasis*, the ancient tale of Greek soldiers returning to their coastal home after a long, arduous battle inland. "The Sea! The Sea!" is a cry of joy. They accompany each other with electric/acoustic guitars, the occasional banjo, piano, and percussion, but it is Chuck and Mira's rich harmonies that provide the depth to their songwriting. Their perfectly matched voices

sometimes share the back-and-forth conversations of the songs' characters and other times are the exchanges of one mind, weighing a decision, analyzing the moment, and trying to find the answers. Indeed, The Sea The Sea implores us through beautiful song and their own connectedness to believe that we all exist in this world together, as we stare into the unknowable future.

Reservations requested but not required:

Contact Susan at [OzWoman321@aol.com](mailto: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).

### **Spirituality, Science and Healing Class Continues**

This class continues for four more sessions during February at 4:00 and 7:00 pm. Please join us. The upcoming classes are:

Feb. 3—Religion and Spirituality in Health and Well-Being

Feb. 10—Mindful Healing

Feb. 17—Spirituality, Science and Healing

Feb. 24—Comfortable Misery and Good Medicine is Science, Not Technology:  
No Time to Listen

We will enjoy videos, conversations and healing meditations. A donation to the church of \$5 to \$7 per class is suggested.

Please ask rev. Gail if you have questions.



### **UUA'S New Headquarters Awarded LEED Platinum**

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is pleased to announce that it has received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certification for its new headquarters located at 24 Farnsworth Street in Boston's Innovation District.

"The LEED Platinum Certification for our new office space is an acknowledgement of the tremendous importance we placed on creating a green workplace in accordance with the values of Unitarian Universalism. We hope our efforts will be a model that other organizations and architects will follow," said the Rev. Peter Morales, president of the UUA.

LEED certification, awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council, is recognized across the country as the premier mark of achievement in green building. Platinum is the highest of the four possible LEED certifications.

### **Coming CUUPS Events**

In February, 7:30 p.m. Study Group continues each Thursday with a different program:

Feb. 5 Scrying with Shaper

Feb. 12 Love Magick

Feb. 19 Meet the Huichol

Feb. 26 Queen of the Heavens

We have no sabbat to celebrate until March, when we do Ostara. Meanwhile, Valentine's Day is second only to Halloween when it comes to Witch Awareness. Here is the time when Muggles come to us requesting love spells, empowerment, and the occasional hex. Hey, for us on the inside, the Craft is a year-round practice.



*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](http://www.facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster)



### **Ukraine: the Danger of a Disastrous Big Power Conflagration**

Did the Cold War end permanently in 1991? What, nowadays, is the rationale for a North Atlantic Treaty Organization? How far does European Unity reach?

Hear and respond to the eloquent and thoughtful historian and activist Dr. Mark Solomon as he addresses these and other potentially explosive topics, as he reflects on "Ukraine: the Danger of a Disastrous Big Power Conflagration" on Sunday, February 15 at 1 p.m. The public is welcome at this free event, sponsored by the UUCFL Social Justice Committee and War vs. Human Needs South Florida.

*Bob Bender*

The ongoing book sale that has been in the sanctuary is in the process of being relocated. When the new place is ready, the location will be announced.

*Molly StCavish*

### **Third Friday Vespers Service February 20 at 7:00 pm**

Vespers is our third Friday service that combines readings, music and meditation in a small group setting.

It is a short service at 7 PM, usually 45 minutes long. These services may include poetry, prose, music, singing, occasional live music, occasional dance, and meditation. The service is followed by wine and cheese and an opportunity to enjoy fellowship.



See [www.uucfl.org/vespers/](http://www.uucfl.org/vespers/) For more info or questions, DRE Susan Dirgins-Friend (954) 424-1910

*"If music be the food of love, play on." —*

*William Shakespeare*



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

#### • Music Director

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

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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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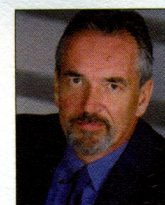
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### Remember the Hungry People Around Us

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)



*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.*

### February Birthdays

**Claire Mostel 2/1**  
**Victor Garlock 2/12**  
**Judy King 2/12**  
**Ralph Slavin 2/14**  
**Reginald (Tripp) Page 2/15**  
**Eric Griswold 2/21**  
**Joseph DeAngelis 2/23**  
**Peter Lange 2/25**



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

# February Calendar




Religious  
Education Events  
See special  
calendar  
on the RE page 4

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

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> •9:30am - UU Sisterhood •12:45 Q&A with Medea Benjamin on demilitarization	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> •4:00 & 7:00 pm-- Spirituality and Health class	<b>4</b> •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> •9:00 am LifeNet4Families Cooperative Feeding Program Workday (See page 2)
<b>8</b> •Journey Article Submission Deadline WE MEAN IT! •12:30pm-- Fellowship Lunch Day •12:45 pm Annual Budget Meeting!	<b>9</b> •7:00pm-- Board Meeting	<b>10</b> •4:00 & 7:00 pm-- Spirituality and Health class	<b>11</b> •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> •7:30 pm Labyrinth Café Concert (See page 6) •Happy Valentine's Day! 
<b>15</b> •9:30am-- UU Sisterhood •1:00 pm- Ukraine: the Danger of a Disastrous Big Power Conflagration (See page 8)	<b>16</b> •7:00pm-- Sunday Services Committee	<b>17</b> •4:00 & 7:00 pm-- Spirituality and Health class	<b>18</b> •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS	<b>20</b> •7:00 - Vespers Service	<b>21</b> •3:00 pm & 8:00 pm - The Vagina Monologues (See page 5)
<b>22</b> •12:30pm-- Fellowship Lunch Day •3:00 pm- The Vagina Monologues	<b>23</b> •7:00 pm-- Welcoming/ Membership Committee	<b>24</b> •4:00 & 7:00 pm-- Spirituality and Health class	<b>25</b> •6:45 pm-- Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

# Unitarian Universalist

Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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

## The JOURNEY



### Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

### FEBRUARY 2015

#### **February 1– Demilitarization at Home and**

**Abroad–** Brilliant and resourceful international peace and justice activist Medea Benjamin, founder of Code Pink and Global Exchange, suggests that all the US military interventions since 9/11 have only led to more extremism and violence. This militaristic response is now coming home, with police departments acquiring military equipment and starting their own SWAT teams. Ms. Benjamin will offer the sermon and an after-church Q & A.

**February 8– Love Actually–** Rev. Gail Tapscott will offer some thoughts on different kinds of love and will focus especially on the difficulty of hanging on to love when the going gets tough. She will look in particular at love in the trenches of partnerships and families. Our wonderful choir will sing.

#### **February 15– The Passion of the Western Mind**

**Part II–** Rev Gail Tapscott will pick up on her earlier sermon and try to help us understand some of the forces that helped shape both the modern and post-modern world view that our current Unitarian Universalist movement grew from.

#### **February 22– Aging Well in the Coming Grey**

**Dawn–** The demographics of our society are changing rapidly as our population ages. The implications for our economic, social and cultural life are enormous. Rev. Gail Tapscott will address some of the positive and negative issues that will flow from this and some actions we can all take to make our aging population safer and to improve the quality of their (soon to be our) lives. The choir will be singing.

#### **March 1– Who Owns the Future?– Jihad vs.**

**McWorld–** Rev. Gail Tapscott will look at two possible extreme futures that we could be facing and try to help us think about some alternative options for our collective futures.