

The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

April 2014
Volume 55, Number 4

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May 2014 Issue

Deadline

Sunday April 13, 2014

Submit articles to:

submission@uucfl.org

Editor

Gary Ladka

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upon request.

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A Center for
Liberal Religious Thought
and Social Action in
Fort Lauderdale

**Unitarian
Universalist**
Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue
Oakland Park, Florida 33309
954-484-6734
www.uucfl.org

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Established in 1958



BOLD Justice Nehemiah Action

Thursday April 3rd - Yah heard?

5:00pm (meet at UUCFL) or 7:00pm (meet at St. Mark's Church)

Be BOLD - See Page 6 - And Wear Purple!!



LifeNet4Families
Cooperative Feeding Program

LifeNet4Families Workday

Saturday April 5 at 8:45am

Help others in the community - go to Page 6



Labyrinth Cafe Concerts Presents

Rod MacDonald and

Jesse Terry

Saturday April 12 at 7:30pm

Folks can get music info Page 7



Third Friday Vespers Service

This Month We Sing!!

Friday April 18 at 7:00pm

Sing your way to Page 5



Earth Day Park Cleanup and Picnic

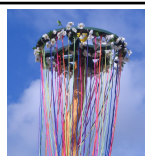
At John U Lloyd Park

Saturday April 19 at 8:00am

Feel the earth move on Page 6

All Church Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday April 20 at 12:30pm



Beltaine Celebration

Saturday April 26 at 12:00pm

Around the May Pole to 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.

**FREEDOM, REASON
ACCEPTANCE + LOVE**



President's Message



Saturday, May 17, from 7 to 9 PM our church will be hosting the second Wisdom and Enlightenment Forum. The forum is loosely fashioned after the highly popular, Ted Talks. The first forum was held last November on the topic of "expressions of hope" and those in attendance agreed that it was indeed enriching and enlightening. "Happiness" is the theme for this upcoming forum

Does a Wisdom and Enlightenment series and the topic of happiness have anything to do with being a part of a Unitarian Universalist congregation? Indeed they do, for the free and responsible search for truth and meaning is a large part of who we are.

So wisdom and enlightenment are an important part of what Unitarian Universalism has to offer. And so is happiness. It has been said that what we as a denomination offer is more complex and subtle than more traditional denominations. More than one wise person has said that pursuing happiness directly is likely to be futile. Instead, happiness is a byproduct of finding meaning and purpose in life. Such a quest is an important part of our denominational purpose.

In his famous interview with Bill Moyers, Joseph Campbell, beautifully stated the idea that it is not that we are looking for the meaning of life, it is rather that we are looking to experience life as meaningful in our everyday existence. At its best, our Sunday service provides us with nourishment for our hunger for a full and meaningful life. The Wisdom and Enlightenment Forum series is the brainchild of the Rev. Opal Murray, whose inspired leadership is making her idea come to life for us all. It is her hope, and the hope of the committee that supports her work, that these forms will provide another experience for such nourishment. It is our hope that this series will become known in the community and be a source of fundraising for the church. It is also our plan that the forum will increase community awareness of who we are and what we are about.

By declaration of the Gen. Assembly of the United Nations, March 20 was international happiness day. The declaration reads in part, "– happiness is a fundamental goal, (and) the declaration invites (everyone) to observe the international day of happiness in an appropriate manner, including through education and public awareness-raising activities." So our forum is being planned at an opportune time.

There will be more detailed information forthcoming regarding this planned event. In the meanwhile, please mark your calendars for May 17th and plan to support this worthwhile endeavor and experience.

Victor Garlock

Men's Group Open for New Members

The UUCFL men's group has been meeting every Thursday evening from 7 to 8:45 for about three months now. There are seven members of the group and everyone is planning on continuing for at least another three months. We are now opening enrollment for a few weeks so that other interested men may join the group. After this window of opportunity, the group will again be closed for three months. Our maximum enrollment is 12 men.



This is a support group. The primary purpose of a 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. The 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 our church. In addition, the group will find other ways to be of service to our church community. For example we are planning on conducting the service on Father's Day, June 15.

If you are interested in joining this truly worthwhile group, please contact me by email. vicgarlock@gmail.com or by phone 954-563-7769. You will be warmly welcomed.

Victor Garlock

Rev. Gail's Space

Coming and Going

For the months of April and May, I will be actively back among you and I hope we can make it a very special time together. I am aware that this sabbatical year is presenting some unique challenges for the congregation. The Sunday Service and other committees are having to work extra hard and from all I have heard everyone has been coming through in a big way.



I have heard some positive things about each of the services during my absence. I am sure some of you have also had issues or disagreements about some of the things said during some of the services but of course that happens with all my services as well. The defining characteristic of Unitarian Universalism is being able to agree to disagree.

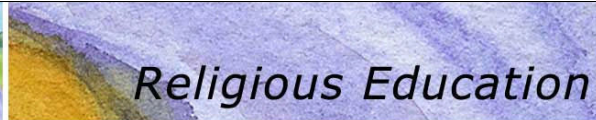
Part I of my sabbatical did not turn out to give me as much time for writing on my own projects as I had hoped but I was able to attend to a lot what I call life maintenance issues that can easily slip through the cracks when I am working full time. I finally had time to shop for, purchase and arrange for delivery of a new memory foam adjustable bed which my doctor had more or less mandated for continued mobility due to my arthritis issues. I got some file and book sorting done and did some random reading that has given me new ideas for future sermons. I have also spent some time at workshops and classes here in Ft. Lauderdale. I also spent some time on church work mainly on rental stuff, some pastoral care issues and several rites of passage for some people for who I was unable to find another officiant. A special treat was being the guest preacher at congregation Etz Chaim, a group that met here at UUCFL for years. As a result of my speaking there, you can likely look forward to having Rabbi Noah Kitty do a service for UUCFL during one of the next pieces of my sabbatical.

I realize that ministers, priests, rabbis and professors are about the only professions anymore where sabbaticals are part of the picture and I am well aware of what a privilege it is to be able to take this time renew, refocus and regroup, learn new things and actually spend more time practicing some of the spiritual practices I preach and teach about.

I feel sure that the church is going to benefit from the experience as well. That last time I went on sabbatical I came back and several great new members had become active during my time away. It seems likely that that will happen this time. Hopefully, I will be full of new energy and new ideas when I return. I miss you all but I think it is important to realize that you are the community with our without me here.

As Gary has kept posting putting in the columns KEEP CALM. I WILL BE BACK SOON

Blessings
Rev. Gail



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



Soapbox time again. We have an opportunity to make a real difference in our community. On April 3rd at 7pm at St. Mark's Catholic Church (5601 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches FL 33330) the Bold Justice Nehemiah Action will happen. We will have the Broward County Commission there to see how many folks support the jobs ordinance that they are going to vote on. We are also going to show our numbers for our criminal justice issue of civil citations and our reading program. The powers that be will respond to numbers. If we could have 2000 people there to show them that this community supports real change in these areas, it will have an impact. Remember, they know that for each person they see at the rally, statistics tell us that there are at least 100 other folks in the community that feel the same way. 2000 is a lot of folks, but 200,000 is a whole big lot of folks. I know that some of our church members have a problem with the Christian underpinnings of Bold Justice, but justice in our community is more important than our belief differences; whatever our spiritual beliefs or practices, we all believe in justice for everyone, not just us. This is an opportunity to work together with our very diverse community to change things that we know are not right. This is an opportunity to link arms with people that we disagree with on other issues, but who also support our belief in an equal opportunity for everyone, not just those who have the education, means and time to demand it. Make sure that you have the evening of April 3 on your calendar, and encourage everyone that you can convince to come with you. Organize a carpool. Tell your friends and family to just do it for you, if that is what will work. Call in personal chits. This is the time to do it; this is our chance to make a real change in our community.

Love and Blessings

DRE Susan

We have some new families who have been attending church lately, and I am thrilled. It is a joy to have a full RE classroom on Sunday again. Please make sure that you make an effort to meet and welcome these folks into our community. This is how our church can grow and thrive and be a beacon of liberal faith in Fort Lauderdale.

April Children's Religious Education Schedule

Sunday April 6, 11am

Regular RE

Sunday April 13, 11am

Regular RE

Sunday April 20, 11am

Easter Lesson

Egg Hunt will take place after church so that parents may participate

Sunday April 27, 11am

Regular RE



Singing Vespers in April!
Friday April 18 at 7:00pm

Thank you to Rev Opal for her delightfully presented Spring Vespers in March. April



Vespers will be on April 18, and will present an opportunity for participants to have a singing spiritual experience. Singing has long been a spiritual practice, but it does not have to be restricted to the choir or the folks with the fabulous voices. Choir Director Susan Friend will offer an opportunity for group singing that will lift your spirit and energize your soul. As usual, the service will be short (45 minutes) and will include time for meditation and quiet reflection. We will enjoy libation and chit chat afterwards. If you have not experienced Vespers yet, this is your chance to step out for something new.

See www.uucfl.org/vespers/
 Please Info or questions, DRE Susan Dirgins-Friend
 (954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com

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

March was a five-Sunday month with all those opportunities for expression through music! The month began with flute solos presented by Alfredo Tamburrino, all classical selections for our enjoyment.



Our wonderful choir sang on March 9th and 23rd. The Choral Call to Community on the 9th was the Swahili song "Bwana Awabariki" and the Offertory was "The Irish Blessing" to get us in the mood for St. Patrick's Day. We had 16 singers for that service. On the 23rd, the Choir gave us "We Shall Overcome" and "Do You Hear the People Sing?" Did you hear Jim Giblin present the sermon entitled "Faster Than Feeling" by Rev. Chip Roush? I wonder if Jim missed his true calling.

We look forward to Rev. Gail's return on April 6th. The choir will greet her with "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" by Paul Simon arranged for women's voices, a departure from our usual mixed voice anthems. Then on Easter Sunday, the full choir returns with the Cohen "Halleluia" which received enthusiastic kudos in past years.

We have missed Rev. Gail during her partial sabbatical. It will be nice to have the UUCFL family back together. I hope she will bring us stories of her adventures traveling the USA.

Charlie Prather has returned to play preservice organ music fitting for the programs and playing organ with Dot on the hymns. The organ adds richness to the accompaniment which helps the congregation to sing. Some of you sound as if you should be in the choir. Don't be shy, come to a rehearsal on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:45. You will be welcome. Many thanks to Charlie for his contributions.

Dot Muise, Director of Music

*"Music is the language of the spirit.
 It opens the secret of life bringing
 peace, abolishing strife."*

— **Kahlil Gibran**



LifeNet4Families
Cooperative Feeding Program

LifeNet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Update

Our April regular workday will be on Saturday April 5. We will be working in the pantry as usual. Thank you to the folks who have been showing up to represent us at our once a month, as I have been working every Saturday and unable to attend. Thanks also to the lobby basket fillers. A special shout out to Labyrinth Café attendees who do a great job with the food donations. The postal food drive is coming up in May. Put May 5 on your calendar, and plan on joining a big group of UUCFL folks working to separate, box and stack the donations that will be coming in to our local post offices. As of now, I think that we will be at the little Oakland Park post office that we were at last year, just off Dixie Highway north of Oakland Park Blvd. Stay tuned for more info.

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

BOLD Justice Nehemiah Action - Thursday April 3rd, Yah Heard?

I'm pretty excited. This year we've committed to get 55 people to the BOLD (Broward Organized Leaders Doing) Justice! Nehemiah Action on April 3rd (last year we had 45 people!). I think this year we can not only meet, but exceed our goal. We have more people in our congregation involved in BOLD Justice! than ever, including our new Justice Team Members Nicole Rivera and Doug Paul! Come speak truth to power! We will once again be pushing for justice for our children and our community.



44% of our third graders are still not reading at grade level, and 54,000 of our Broward County fellow citizens are still unemployed. We've presented solutions, we've stepped forward, and we will continue until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream. The purpose of this event is to show solidarity in the community on actionable issues of education, employment and justice in Broward County to the officials who can bring about real changes. We will meet at for pizza at UUCFL at 5:00pm and carpool to the site. The action will take place at St. Mark's Catholic Church 5601 S. Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches FL 33330 at 7:00pm (meet us there if you can't make it at 5:00pm) Wear purple if possible - that is UUCFL's color to have us stand out and be unified. I'd like to see us give a record turn-out!

Yours in Justice,
Lore Bernier

11th Annual EARTH DAY Work Day & Pot Luck BBQ - John U. Lloyd State Park, Dania Beach Saturday, April 19th, 2013 8am-1pm

We are very excited to celebrate our 11th year of service to J.U.Lloyd State Park with our annual Earth Day Work Day & Pot Luck BBQ on Saturday, April 19th from 8am to 1pm. We will once again be planting some large palms and plants near the beach, and we'll clean up the beach. Please plan on being at the Park Gate at 8am sharp. You will be directed to the SE corner of parking lot #2 by the Ranger on Duty, and from there we will organize into two teams — the Cooks and the Workers. **PLEASE RSVP** what food you are bringing by email or phone. We will supply water, chick dogs, hamburgers & boca burgers and condiments.

For Broward County School Students, this is an opportunity to earn Community Service Hours, just bring your paperwork to be signed by a Park Ranger.

To RSVP or for more information,
please contact Janine Griffiths at 954-764-7782 / dragnfli@bellsouth.net
for food contact Lisa Holstein at 954-579-6882 / lisamholstein@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTE: *please bring* or wear the following items:

- Gloves & a Hat
- Sunscreen
- Food for the Feast (please call Lisa for more info.)
- Plastic bags (like grocery or shopping bags, etc.)
- It is recommended that you wear closed shoes with socks & long-sleeved shirts & long pants for safety
- Bathing Suit & Towel (you may stay in the park after we are done, if you've volunteered for the day)



Co-Sponsored by: The Sisterhood of Ahel Adom, Moonpath Circle and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale



**Labyrinth Cafe Concerts Presents
Rod MacDonald and Jesse Terry
Saturday, April 12 at 7:30pm**

A pivotal force in the 80's Greenwich Village folk revival, New York's Village Voice wrote of Rod MacDonald, "politics, passion and a sense of humor", which accurately describes Rod's passion for music, and his personal commitment to communicating events that have affected and shaped our world's societies. Rod seamlessly weaves romantic ballads in between his trademark tongue-in-cheek socio-political commentaries. With lyrics and music that are infectious and inspiring, often humorous, sometimes reckless, frequently evocative, usually thought provoking – and – always compelling, Rod's songs will stay in your heart and mind long after the music has ended.

"an extraordinarily gifted songwriter who does the topical, humorous and touching folk songs equally well – think Phil Ochs, Loudon Wainwright and Bob Dylan all wrapped in one." (Dans Distractions)



Jesse Terry is an international award-winning singer-songwriter whose transcendent life and music make him one of the most prolific indie artists today; his intimacy with audiences, sincerity, and approachability solidifying him as a favorite at nationwide live venues and concert series. This salt of the earth musician's lyrical mastery, emotional depth, and soothing voice have often been compared to the likes of Ryan Adams, Jackson Browne, Ray LaMontagne, and James Taylor, reaching deep into listeners' hearts to envelop them in shared joy, sadness, love, and unrelenting hope. "His ability to craft

memorable songs is complemented by his supreme ability to deliver them in a sometimes funny, sometimes gut wrenching, but always sincere and authentic manner," praises Dave Dircks, host of the #1 Acoustic Podcast on iTunes, Acoustic Long Island. "At the core of it all, his personality – sunny naivety meets gritty wisdom – is what sets Jesse Terry apart..."

Reservations requested but not required: Contact Susan at OzWoman321@aol.com or 954-478-8637

\$20 at the door, 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); advance reservations: \$17, checks (made out to Artist) received in the UU church office no later than Wednesday before Saturday show.

Please visit 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 - see you soon!

Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series

Coming CUUPS Events



Saturday April 26 we hold our Beltaine Festival. There will be vendors, food, May Pole, and a ritual at 5 PM. Beltaine is a celebration of the fertility of summer. There will be much talk of swything in the fields. On the Celtic calendar, Beltaine is second only to the Grand Sabbat of Samhain. That would be called Halloween by Muffles. We have eight sabbats each year plus Full Moons, and Dark Moons, and some miscellaneous partying.

Thursday evening Study Groups continue with a different topic each week. We have not booked any programs for April yet and typically we alternate between head talk and ceremonies.

Kip, Resident Pagan



**Mark Your Calendar for An Evening of Happiness
Saturday May 17 at 7:00pm**

The Wisdom and Enlightenment Forum

7:00pm – Wisdom and Enlightenment Forum – An Evening of Happiness

See Happy Places, Taste Happy Foods, Hear Happy Music and Learn about Happiness and your Wellbeing - Donation \$10:00



Andi Evans will be speaking about the science of happiness and the positive effects happiness has on our health, well being, and overall experience of life.



spreadhappy
BE GRATEFUL. BE LOVING. BE PASSIONATE. BE.

Andrea L. Evans, CHT., is a former radio sales rep turned happiness activist! She is the founder of Spreadhappy.com, and a speaker, teacher and writer on happiness, faith and optimism. She is the author of the Top 100 self-help blog, Spreadhappy Blog!, and creator of the self-esteem building curriculum for high school students, *Live Your Best*

Life-Skills. She can be heard weekly Tuesday mornings on the Happy Hour radio show on News/Talk 1180, WFYL in Philadelphia and on 1180WFYL.com.



Chef Mario De La Rosa of SizzOle` -Hands on Cooking and Hosting Classes with Flair will lead us to Happiness through Culinary. Did you know it is impossible to be angry while eating ice cream? Other surprises await you. Chef Mario brings years of experience as Executive Chef, Director of events at major resorts, and Director at Le Cordon Bleu culinary school. Culinary is one of his deepest passions and it shows through his presentation of food as well as himself. Bring your taste buds and come prepared to be entertained and enlightened as Chef Mario leads us to a new awareness.

See Rev Opal Murray for Tickets

The Southeastern Unitarian Universalist Cluster

And the Broward and Delray Move to Amend Affiliates

present



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Saturday, May 24, 2014 9:45 am to 4 pm

Registration and Continental Breakfast 9:00 am

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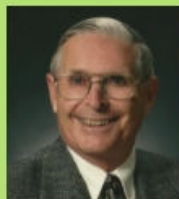
S P E A K E R S



GEORGE FRIDAY
Is a superb anti-oppression
trainer and community organizer.



MICHAEL GREENMAN
Moderator, Move to Amend
Interfaith Caucus.



RICHARD HATTWICK
Dr. Hattwick is a retired
professor of economics

\$15 advance, \$20 at the door

Please mail check, payable to SE UU Cluster,
& form from website below to
Kathy Jens-Rochow, Treasurer,
1420 SW 13 St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312.
Deadline for mail in registration is postmark
Monday, May 19

For Payment by PayPal:

Deadline for PayPal registration is
Midnight, Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Childcare through 12 years old for \$15 each
child only by mail until May 19

Registration Scholarships available:
please ask.

Registration includes Lunch and Continental
Breakfast. Please indicate dietary preference.

www.uuflorida.org/secluster.htm

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• Music Director

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

• Choir Director

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Nominating

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

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

Jim Giblin954-296-0089

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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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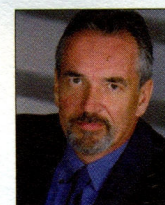
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Remember the Hungry People Around Us

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



April Birthdays

DAVID GRISWOLD 4/1
 ERIKA ROSE ELARDI 4/2
 BETTY BRANTLEY 4/3
 MARY ANNE ROBERTSON 4/4
 FILIZ DOLAR 4/12
 JOE LAWSON 4/12
 LARRY WILKNER 4/21
 ROBERT VAN SICKLE 4/22
 CADEN RYALS-LUNEBURG 4/23
 MARK WOODPECKER 4/29



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

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



April Calendar



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

Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events www.uucfl.org and click "Coming Activities"

6

•9:30am - UU Sisterhood

7

8

•7:00pm - New Jim Crow
2 short documentaries
and discussion at UU
Fellowship of Boca Raton

9

•6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal

10

•7:30 pm CUUPS

11

12

•7:30 pm Labyrinth Café
Concert (See page 7)

13

• Journey Submission
Deadline

14

**Passover
Begins**

•7:00pm - Board Meeting

15

16

•6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal

17

•7:30 pm CUUPS

18

•7:00pm - Third
Friday Vespers
Service (see page 5)

19

8:00am - Earth Day
Cleanup and Picnic at
John U Lloyd Park
(See page 6)

20

Easter

•9:30am - UU Sisterhood
•12:30pm - Easter Egg Hunt

21

•7:00pm - Sunday
Services Committee

22

23

•6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal

24

•7:30 pm CUUPS

25

26

•12:00pm CUUPS Beltaine
Celebration (See page 7)

27

28

29

30

•6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal

Happy Passover



Religious Education
Events
See special calendar
on the RE page 4

Unitarian Universalist

Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue
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Phone: 954-484-6734

Minister Phone: 954-288-4245

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

The JOURNEY



Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

APRIL 2014

April 6 - An Honest and Fearless Tale of My Personal Spiritual Odyssey

- Rev. Gail will reveal the many diverse spiritual influences that have taken on her journey thus far. Choir sings and lunch offered.

April 13 - A UU Look at Passover and Palm Sunday

- As Unitarian Universalists do for most holidays, we will attempt to find some lessons that speak to us from the Jewish and Christian holidays. Rev. Gail will try to find some new takes on some ancient themes.

April 20 - Easter and Initiation - Rev. Gail will look to the past of the Easter holiday to try to find some lessons for the future. Once upon a time the Easter morning service was the most important moment in the lives of newly minted members of an endangered new religion. We will look at what we might reclaim as U Us from some older ideas of initiation in Christianity and many other traditions. Choir renditions and a festive Easter lunch will make for a great day.

April 27 - Embracing the Earth; A Survival Plan

- In a slightly belated Earth Day service, Rev. Gail will look backward and forward and try to help us develop a deeper sense of why saving the earth from ourselves has to become everyone's issue.

May 4 - This Town - Based on both some reading and research and personal experiences, Rev. Gail will venture into trying to analyze some of the disturbing realities of current electoral politics, what we can do differently and how not everything is as it seems.

