# The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale



## FEBRUARY 2011

### THE JOURNEY

#### Prez Says..

finds itself.

It is not the strongest that survives; but the species that survives is the one that is able best to adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it



--Professor Leon C. Meggison's paraphrase of Charles Darwin's thoughts in <u>The Origin of Species</u>

Change is everywhere—in technology, politics, the economy, the media—so how we operate as a congregation needs to recognize that change. UUCFL has made some strides in updating our website, about two years ago; but there is so much more that could be done in terms of putting our programs on the web, and updating our communication and contributions tools to take advantage of the online world.

You have a chance to help launch some of these efforts at our fund raising and budget discussions in February and our

Congregational Budget Meeting, Part Two on March 20. I look forward to seeing you there.

Note: The full title, On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life, was shortened to the title used above at the Sixth printing.

#### Ken Beier

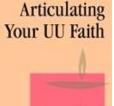
#### Learn to Articulate Your UU Faith

Articulating Your UU Faith is a four class series designed to help all UUs speak more effectively about our liberal religion and their particular perspectives on it. The sessions run Tuesdays from 7pm - 8:30pm on 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 and 3/1. Fee is \$5 per

session or \$15 for all 4 sessions.

Contact me at 954-646-8037 or email at

wilkner7@gmail.com to register or to ask



#### **Book Group: Faulkner on February 27**

The book group meets again on the last Sunday of the month and will be discussing the short story "A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner. The story can be found in *The Collected Stories of William Faulkner*, published by Vintage as well as many short story anthologies found



in bookstores or the library. Larry Wilkner will facilitate the discussion. Come prepared to discuss "A Rose for Emily" or any other of Faulkner's other stories on Sunday, Feb. 27.

The Book Discussion Group

#### Van Up to Tampa for Economic Justice



Many of us feel that one of the best things our church can do to feel better about ourselves and to attract more committed members is to be more true to our Unitarian Universalist heritage by being at the forefront of social justice.

The board has voted that the money raised from our last 5th Sunday collection will go toward paying for a van so that a group of us can go up to Tampa on March 5 and join with other UU Congregations and the Interfaith Community to stage a giant protest at the Publix headquarters on behalf of the Coalition of Immokolee Workers. Publix continues to be one of the main corporate holdout pretending to have no responsibility for the low pay and exploitive conditions that many of their produce providers operate under. Save the date to join us for a day of putting our bodies on the line to advocate for our values. Let me know as soon as possible if you want a seat in the van.

Rev. Gail

#### The Committee on the Ministry

In the Unitarian Universalist tradition ministry is about how we care for each other in our church community. Ministry, then, is everybody's



business. Your committee on ministry would like to hear from you about how we are doing ministry as a community. What are we doing well and what maybe not so well?

The committee on ministry meets monthly with Reverend Gail to support her, and all of us in the work of ministry.

Vanessa Gilyard, Chair Victor Garlock, and David Griswold



auestions.

## **FEBRUARY 2011**

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## Rev. Gail's Space

#### Winter Retreat and Advance

For much of this month I will not be present among you physically. I decided during my sabbatical year that I could be a much more engaged and effective minister if I took some sort of break during the program year rather than taking all my time off in the summer. I realized that taking a mid year break could give me new ideas, energy and enthusiasms for the spring season. This seems to be better than trying to hang on, operating on pure adrenalin, when I am feeling really burned out by the always stressful and overcrowded fall and holiday season.



This year I will be spending the first five days of my time off at a retreat center in Pacific Grove, California at the Institute for Excellence in Ministry. I will be gathered with hundreds of other Unitarian Universalist ministers from all across the country for study, worship, walks, journaling and fellowship. I will be focusing on the Growth track with Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA. I am hoping it will yield up some new ideas for me to bring back here. We have been stuck in a membership plateau for several years. We have lots of visitors but not enough of them actually join us and even some who do seem to move on before we have really assimilated them. The feedback we get from visitors is mainly positive. They seem to feel welcome and find our Sunday experience pleasant but for too many of them it seems to be just a passing thing like attending a concert or visiting an art gallery. Finding more entry points for people and more ways to assess what people's deepest hopes and dreams for community are seems key to our long time viability.

For the rest of my time off I will visit some friends in the Bay area, including the Kurjiakas, come home to do some writing on my Mary Poppins project and maybe go down to Key West for a few days to research some of my sermons for the rest of the year. I hope that those of you starting the Building the World We Dream About Journey with Betty Brantley and her great team will have an enriching time. We have exciting service presenters and music set for you for the Sundays I will be away and hopefully I will return for a glorious spring together.

In faith,

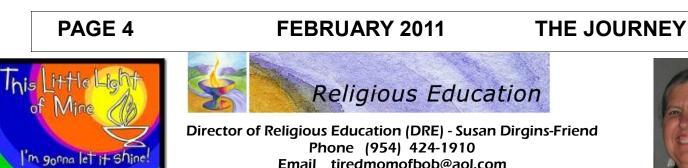
Rev. Gail

#### **Building The World We Dream About on Thursdays**

March 10 will be the roll out date for the second opportunity to explore this special new UUA developed curriculum to acquire cultural competency. Rev. Gail will coordinate this weekly version of the series but she will also be bringing in consultants and some guest presenters. This group of sessions will run from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The location will be determined based on the size of the group. This will also be a chance for those doing the Sunday series who miss a session or two to make them up. Please join in our church wide journey to a broader and deeper life.

Rev. Gail







Valentine's Day is coming up-a day dedicated to love. It is a nice idea. I am sure some of you know the story. Valentine's Day is another one of those semi-Christian holidays taken from early pagan celebrations. The Roman god Lupercus protected the people from wolves and looked after crops and animals. Sometime in the spring there was a celebration of feasting, singing and dancing to honor Lupercus, called "Lupercalia". When the Romans became Christians, they could not keep worshipping Lupercus (darn, too bad they were not UUs), but, they loved their feasts of Lupercus so they looked for a way to keep them going. Handily, they did not have to look far. There were a couple of priests who were called Valentine. Either or both could be the derivation of the holiday. One was the guy who was in jail for refusing to believe in the Roman gods and befriended his guard and his blind daughter. On the day he was beheaded, Valentine gave a note to the quard for the guard's daughter, and when she opened it, his message "from your Valentine" caused her sight to be restored. You can see how the inclusion of written sentiments could be tied to this story. The other Valentine was the priest who continued to marry young couples after Emperor Claudius had forbidden it because he needed more single men for his army. Claudius killed Valentine, so in this case, Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate courage and friendship, love and romance. When you are thinking about celebrating Valentine's this year, try and remember the love, courage and friendship part. Buddhists believe that we should extend our love to all living beings. It is a good idea. How much better might we get along if we really loved our neighbor? Loving everyone really would cut out circling the wagons, wouldn't it? We can love those closest to us, but, is it possible to love everyone? Enemies, homeless people, those who truly annoy us? I say that we give it a try. Maybe make a commitment to even liking them a little-it would be a start. So, this year, keep the chocolates, and send out the love.

#### Love and Blessings, *Susan*

Children's February Religious Education (RE) Calendar

Sunday February 6, 11AM Regular RE Children Start in Church

Sunday, February 13, 11AM Valentine's Day Lesson Children Start in Class Sunday, February 20, 11AM Regular RE Children Start in Church

Sunday February 27, 9:30AM RE Committee Meeting All are Welcome Sunday February 27, 11AM Regular RE Children Start in Class



#### **Help Feed the Community**

Cooperative Feeding Work date for the month is Saturday, February 5. Come out and do something for our community at large. We will meet at church at 8AM for carpooling, or at 8:45 at the CFP.



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#### **Greetings from Building and Grounds**



With a new year I felt compelled to communicate the efforts, accomplishments and hopes for the UUCFL's Building and Grounds Team. With that said, it has been a joy to be part of a team of people who are mutually interested in making our building and the grounds the best it can be. I never tire of the serenity the property provides, specifically the grounds.

Looking back the building and grounds team has made continuous progress for a small group of people. While major components of the building were repaired and upgraded a few years ago; our ongoing efforts have been to maintain that which was repaired, repainted and / or replaced; and to concentrate on the grounds and other parts of the building needing to be updated. Remaining projects for the building include: RE wing repairs and repainting; Sanctuary entry doors replaced; patio floor and fans updated: and bathroom upgrades and painting. Though somewhat routine these projects are vital to our growth and appearance. And as we know appearances are important; our facility is not only a refuge for the spirit, but it is a business also. To lure new members, renters, and increase income revenue we need to present ourselves in a positive manner. Presently, we continue our work on the grounds and the improvements that can be accomplished through our Teams efforts; this includes: pruning and landscaping, Memorial Garden restoration, picnic table refurbishing, relocation and repair of the storage sheds; and we are currently entertaining bids from Tree Care Specialists for the trimming of our large tree population. This would be addressed in phases with an emphasis on critical areas; e.g. near the building and electrical lines; playground area as a matter of safety; and along the front south parking lot between our property and the vacant land next door. Our emphasis going forward will be to preserve what we have, and with the addition of any new plants ensuring that they are of a variety "native" to Florida.

Looking forward, we have a new subcommittee; named after a UUA initiative "The Green Sanctuary Committee" which is being chaired by Jose Ponce one of our new members. This committee will be working on matters of recycling to solar energy; with short and long term goals of making us a GREEN community.

I am calling on all members to participate in some way whether with Building and Grounds or through another activity of our community. While money does pay the bills much of our work is done through volunteers. Ask not what your church can do for you; rather, ask what you can do for your church. Our next work day is February 12, 2011.

Steve Lange Chair UUCFL Bldg. and Grounds

#### **Music Notes**

January has been an exciting musical month at UUCFL. Have you noticed that our choir is often singing a capella songs recently? If you are musical, you know that to perform a capella music on pitch is difficult.



We have a great choir! Alexis Blasenheim's beautiful solo on January 9 was well received especially if you know your Latin. The following week Vernon Allen brought us the moving "Ol' Man River" and a brief explanation of Paul Robeson's changed words. Thank you to all of our choir members and especially our soloists.

The series of programs made possible by the David Fisher Memorial Music Fund continued with Raiford Starke's performance of "Blue Suede Shoes", "Johnny B Goode" and "Hound Dog" to enhance Rev. Gail's service on Rock & Roll & Race. Gayle and Allen Giese wrapped up the January services with their lovely Celtic music for violin and piano. We hope to hear more from these fine musicians in the future.

Moving into February, we will have choir the 6th followed the next week by Nancy Ann Gillan, harpist another special soloist provided by the David Fisher Memorial Fund. The annual combined choir will be heard on February 20. We always look forward to this cooperative event which brings together local UU choirs.

March will have more surprises to enhance the music program. Don't miss a single service!

The Music Committee will meet in February to discuss future special soloists or groups for the next three months. Watch for an announcement from Douglas Paul as to the exact date.

Dot Muise, Director of Music

Love is a canvas furnished by nature and embroidered by imagination

--Voltaire



### **FEBRUARY 2011**

## THE JOURNEY



Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series presents Carrie Elkin/Danny Schmidt February 12 - 7:30 pm



Austin, TX-based singer/songwriter Danny Schmidt is a writer's writer, with a lyrical depth drawing comparisons to Leonard Cohen, Townes Van Zandt, and Dave Carter. Upon winning the prestigious Kerrville

New Folk award in 2007, Sing Out Magazine tagged Schmidt "the best new songwriter we've heard in 15 years." Just one man sitting alone on stage with his acoustic guitar and his poetry, in the timeless troubadour tradition, his musical influences draw from deeply-rooted Appalachian mountain gospel to haunted English balladry, from syncopated Piedmont country blues to vagabond 60's protest folk-stumpery. But it all boils down to just great songwriting, in a singular style all his own. Not to be missed.

A troubadour in the most classic fashion, Carrie Elkin has ridden a Gypsy breeze of serendipity for the last ten years, landing for a time in Cleveland, Athens, Taos, Steamboat Springs, Colorado Springs and Boston, finally coming to settle in Austin, TX in the summer of 2007. It's exactly this sort of openness to the people and places that pass through her life, and to the opportunities that might emerge in every new and particular circumstance... and the very process by which Elkin somehow managed to find herself in the midst of some of Austin's finest musicians and producers, literally, within days of arriving in town. While already making quite a buzz around the Austin scene with her highly spirited and spontaneous performances, Elkin spends the majority of her time on the road still, touring nationally and in the UK and Europe.

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

\$15 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: \$12, checks (made out to artist) received in the UU church office (address above, ATTN: Labyrinth Cafe) no later than Wednesday before Saturday show...

Please visit www.labyrinthcafe.com for further details and the artists' websites, as well as our MySpace page for song samples (coming soon)... and our new Facebook page to give us a thumbs-up, which will then keep you informed of upcoming concerts... :-)

Susan Moss—Labyrinth Café Concerts

#### **UUs of Jewish Background To Gather**

The first national UU Jewish gathering in over 29 years is set for Feb. 18-20 in Atlanta, GA. All UUs with Jewish background are invited celebrate, explore and enjoy worship and music that honors their Jewish heritage. More information at www.uuja.org.

#### Dorothy Bellick



Unitarian Universalists for Jewish Awareness

#### **CUUPS Update**

Just as you are reading this, we will be doing our Saturday January 29 Imbolc Ritual with Special Guest High Priestess Sandra Cheryl Richardson. Imbolc celebrates the first light of Spring.

Thursday February 10th at Study Group, we will learn more about Love Potions from Barlowe. This was an ecstatic hit last year, and just in time for Valentine's Day. Other programs for Study Group have yet to be planned. And then the Renaissance Faire is going on at Quiet Waters Park. Here is an excellent chance to dress up and act out.





#### Future Labyrinth Café Concerts

March 12, 2011 – Nick Annis/Chuck Brodsky April 9, 2011 – Rod MacDonald/Joe Crookston May 14, 2011 – Marie Nofsinger/Annie Wenzway

## Building the World We Dream About

#### Building the World We Dream About (BtWWDA) Interactive Seminars Continue Sunday, February 13

"Rock, Roll and Race" by Rev. Gail Tapscott, was the service that launched **Building the World We Dream About (BtWWDA)** at UUCFL on Sunday, 1/23/11. We had an excellent turnout for the kick off session of the UUA's national program for cultural competency skill building. We got off to a great start and now the dreaming continues with Workshop 2 after the service on February 13, 2011.

"Telling Our Story — Multiple Truths and Multiple Realities" is of necessity the only way to start the work of **Building the World We Dream About.** Again we'll sponsor the highly popular \$2 lunch for the congregation and babysitting will be available for participants.

It's not too late to join us for this important journey of faith. Come one, come all on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday afternoon of each month through the spring. Beginning March 10<sup>th</sup> a concurrent set of sessions will be available in the weekly class night format on Thursday nights. In this way, we hope to accommodate as many busy schedules as possible and enable a significant percentage of the congregation to participate.

**BtWWDA** utilizes spiritual reflection, journaling, visual arts, poetry, music, theater tools, simulations, guest speakers and field trips. There's a vast and deep well of experiences at UUCFL to be tapped. Your voice is important. Don't miss out on this opportunity for growth and development for our congregation.

From the Building the World We Dream About Task Force

#### **Guests Feel Very Welcome at UUCFL**

Welcoming guests to our church is a crucial way to both grow our congregation and live our faith. Each guest to UUCFL is invited, if they provide an Email address in the guest registry, to complete an anonymous online survey about their experience of our church and the service they attended. Results from the survey, covering the last six months, were compiled recently and the message was positive! An impressive 76% of visitors (that's three out of four!) felt "very welcome" upon entering the building. The remaining respondents felt "mostly" welcome. That speaks to the warm, friendly and accepting nature of our congregation and we should feel proud of that.

It is well documented that the likelihood of a guest deciding to join a congregation improves as they make more personal connections with church members. Here again, UUCFL scored well in the survey. An impressive 92% of respondents talked to "at least three people" during their visit. Around 62% talked to "6 or more" congregants during their visit!

Even the unstructured survey responses about our congregation were by-and-large positive:

Comments like "Felt at home there" and "everyone was gentle and respectful" were not unusual. Of course, not all of the feedback was positive and some constructive criticism was provided. One person found the service they attended to be "too political" for them, while another got the impression, based on an offhand comment, that as a church we did not welcome Christians. Of course, we will never be to everyone's taste and we should be true to our personal beliefs, but it serves as a useful reminder that our guests are paying close attention to what we say, do and don't do as they evaluate whether to make UUCFL their spiritual home.

So, keep up the good work, UUCFL! You may not be directly responsible in greeting guests at a Sunday service, but you do your part by introducing yourself during the appropriate time in the service or striking up a conversation during the coffee hour. Welcoming guests and growing our congregation is all of our business and we have a solid base upon which to build.

Larry Wilkner - Membership





#### A Message from Our UUA Florida District Executive

"There is no finish line. See you tomorrow!" says the banner over the exit door at my gym. Now and then I tramp out tiredly and moan at that sign. Yet, it is true. Life just continues; it is not a defined race with a finish line.

Here we begin a new year. But there was no line that finished off last year. The calendar notwithstanding, 2011 carries the weight of last year's hopes and disappointments. Still, pausing to do a life inventory and make new plans is a good thing.

Have you considered your religious life similarly?

In workshops, I often ask: "*If you were to grow religiously as a Unitarian Universalist over the next year, what would change?"* Faith development is a daily practice, a discipline, now and then a work-out. It also has no finish line. We have to work at it all the time.

May your resolutions this winter include going beyond UU101. Reach more broadly, go for greater depth into our heritage. Put theological reflection into your daily meditations. Commit to live your spiritual and moral values more openly and with greater dedication. Become a better Unitarian Universalist in 2011.



All blessings, this new year and always.

Rev. Kenn

## Florida District UUA Upcoming Events

**Empowering Lay Ministry** 

March 5, 10am, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation March 12, 10am, Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

In Honor of our UUA's 50th Anniversary:

#### "Unitarian Universalists Face a New Age - Yet Again"

Two panels exploring what we have learned and the opportunities ahead. February 26 (with co-sponsor, Southwest Cluster), Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte County May 14, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach

> **District Annual Assembly** April 8-10, First Unitarian Church of Orlando

Annual Conference Allies for Racial Equity March 25-27, Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers Details: http://www.uuallies.org/

Visit www.floridadistrict.org for more details on these and other events and news

## NURTURE Your Spirit. Help HEAL Our World. Unitarian Universalists UUA.org

## THE JOURNEY

#### **FEBRUARY 2011**

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

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1
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• Director of Religious Education
Susan Dirgins-Friend
• Music Director
Dorothy Muise954-731-8790  • Choir Director
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Susan Dirgins-Friend
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•Vice President
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Empty Bowls Project
Colette Saucier954-240-3759 Cooperative Feeding Program
Cooperative Feeding Program
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South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice
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Joe DeÁngelis	954-973-1337
Finance	
Douglas Paul	954-331-5025
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Sandra Walker	954-484-6734
Human Resources	
Mara Newman	
Green Sanctuary Commit	
Jose Ponce	954-324-6239
Labyrinth Café Concerts	
Susan Moss	954-433-2372
Membership	
Larry Wilkner	954-646-8037
Ministry	
Vanessa Gilyard	954-683-0498
Nominating	
Susan Moss	954-433-2372
Religious Education	
Laura Lange	954-584-2499
Social Auction	
Jack and Dorothy Bellick	954-360-9404
Sunday Services	
Susan Moss	954-433-2372

#### ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

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Monica Pavlik	954-530-5844
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Southeast UU Cluster	
David Armstrong	954-730-7763
UU Service Committee	
Noralee Traylor	954-776-4226



## **FEBRUARY 2011**

## THE JOURNEY

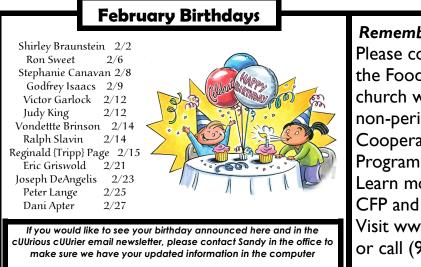


## The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalists

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.





#### **Remember the Hungry People Around Us**

Please continue to fill the Food Baskets at the church with non-perishables for the Cooperative Feeding Program. Learn more about the



CFP and other ways you can help. Visit www.feedbroward.org or call (954) 792-2328

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		Thu	Fri	Sat	Ŧ
Unitaric Univers Church of Ft. Lau	alist	February Calendar					E JOURNE	
Every Se 11:00 Church and Chi Religious	) AM- Service Ildren's	<b>1</b> •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal •7:00pm - "What Moves Us" Class with Rev Gail	2 •6:00pm -	Bingo (calling at 7)	3 •7:30 pm CUUPS	4	5 •8:00am–Cooperative Feeding Program Work Day (See page 4)	×
6 •9:30am - UU Sisterhood	7 •7:30pm - Peaceful Meditation	8 •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal •7:00pm - "Articulating Your UU Faith" Class (see page 2)	-		10 •7:30 pm CUUPS	11	12 •8:00am - Building & Grounds Workday •7:30pm - Labyrinth Cafe Concert (see page 6)	FEBRU
<b>13</b> •Journey Submission Deadline •12:45pm—Building the World We Dream About (see page 7)	14 •7:00pm - Board Meeting	<b>15</b> •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal •7:00pm - "Articulating Your UU Faith" Class (see page 2)	al •6:00pm - Bingo (calling at 7)		<b>17</b> •7:30 pm CUUPS	18	19	ARY 2011
20 •9:30am - UU Sisterhood	<b>21</b> •7:30pm - Sunday Services Committee •7:30pm - Peaceful Meditation	<b>22</b> •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal •7:00pm - "Articulating Your UU Faith" Class (see page 2)			24 •7:30 pm CUUPS	25 •6:00pm - Vespers Service	26	
<b>27</b> •9:30am - Religious Education Committee •12:45pm—Building the World We Dream About (see page 7) •1:00pm - Book Discussion Group (see page 2)	28 •7:00pm - Membership Committee	Religious Educati Events See special calend on the RE page	Events contraction of the second calendar late- ne RE page 4 w		sit our on line calendar for breaking events ww.uucfl.org & "Coming Activit	ies"	love	PAGE 11



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Minister: Rev. Gail Tapscott

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Fax: 954-484-6778 E-mail: uucfl@aol.com

Website: www.uucfl.org

SundaysService & Children'sat 11 am:Religious Education

## The JOURNEY

### Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

#### **FEBRUARY 2011**

#### February 6 - Fairy Tales and Revolution -

Rev. Gail has shared her love of fairy tales and her view that they are really meant for adults on several occasions. This time she will take a look at some of the radical aspects of tales that were often told to shift consciousness and sometimes contributed to new ways of viewing power structures in the world.

**February 13 - All Sides Now** - This Valentine's Day weekend, Susan Moss and other UUCFL Friends will share their thoughts on clouds, love and life. We will also be treated to lovely harp music, performed by Nancy Ann Gillan.

**February 20 - Rev. Kalen Fristad** - Universalism: Past, Present and Powerful - Rev. Kalen is a United Methodist minister who will tell us about our Universalist roots and what they have to offer us today. He is the author of "Destined for Salvation, God's Promise to Save Everyone". We are also lucky to have the Tri-Choir performing at this service!

**February 27 - Rita Mittal - Eternal Life, Eternal Love** - In celebration of Hindu Heritage Month, we welcome Ms. Mittal, secretary/youth volunteer coordinator of the South Florida Hindu Temple, where hundreds of people come together for collective prayers each Sunday morning, embracing a culture of inclusiveness.

**March 6 - Now or Neverland** - We live in a world where youth is valued over age and some of us buy into that concept in different ways. Rev. Gail take a look at both the up side and downside of the myth of eternal youth and examine the possibility of finally really growing up.

