

The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

August 2015
Volume 56, Number 7

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September 2015 Issue
Deadline

Sunday August 9, 2015

Submit articles to:

submission@uucfl.org

Editor

Valerie Heller

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Liberal Religious Thought
and Social Action in
Fort Lauderdale

**Unitarian
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Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue
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Established in 1958



August 1st

9:00 a.m.
Lifenet4Families
Cooperative Feeding
Program Workday
(See page 7)



August 1st

Native American Corn
Ritual
(See page 7)



August 6th

Chocolate Ritual
(See page 7)



August 8th

7:30 p.m.
Labyrinth Café
Sing-a-long
(See page 5)



Choir Retreat
TBA

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

On the weekend of July 10-12 I attended the Unitarian Universalist President's Convocation for Florida. It was an intense but very valuable time of seminar

and networking with other leaders. About a third of all the Florida congregations were represented, so we all were able to learn a great deal about what was happening in each other's places of worship. We shared challenges, successes and more than a few in-jokes.

The main theme was anxiety in our troubled, changing times, and how to work through it to make our congregations successful, happy places of worship and spirituality while still dealing with the nuts and bolts that can drag you away from the better states of mind. I really enjoyed the conversations I had with the other presidents, and I have many insights to share with both the board and our church as a whole. And a whole lot of people I can bounce questions off.

We are part of a great movement in Unitarian Universalism, and events like this are a wonderful time to remind me that we have a great church that is part of a much bigger world that we often forget about here in our small corner of it. I'm happy to be a part of this.

Dave

President, UUCFL

Annual Poetry Service

Susan Moss is once again honored to carry on David Fisher's annual tradition of the UUCFL Poetry Service (begun in 2004) on Sunday, August 23. As before, she's requesting that members and friends submit a copy of your favorite poem (could be your own creation or another poet's) for presentation during the service. Please include a brief note telling her how the poem speaks to you and/or how it came into your life. She'll let you know by mid-August regarding inclusion in the service. E-mail Susan at ozwoman321@aol.com

Committee Health Report

On June 7, I facilitated a very productive meeting of committee point people. We had a lively discussion about plans for the "school year" ahead, with representation from the RE, Music, Caring, Membership, Sunday Services, Long Range Planning, Ministry, BOLD Justice, Stewardship and Endowment committees, while also looking at other areas of church life which are currently in need of a few folks to lend a hand, such as Building & Grounds, Nominating, Social Justice and Finance. Remember, no one person "runs the church" – we're all in this thing as a team effort, and every member and friend of our beloved UU has unique skills and expertise to bring to the table to keep this place not only up and running, but also changing and growing into the vibrant, socially-engaged community which I'm sure we all wish it to be.

Love our beautiful grounds? Maybe you'd like to get involved in the B & G committee! A whiz at investing? The Finance committee is just waiting for you! Not sure just where you may feel you're a good fit? Or maybe just don't get what in the world a particular committee is all about? Please feel free to contact me at tapwitch@gmail.com, or our Office Assistant Jeff Hutt at admin@uucfl.org, for more information.

I would like to encourage Committee point people to continue to meet monthly to share current plans and project ideas, and to work together in overlapping areas of concern. Next meeting will be in September, to be announced.

Great things are afoot!!!

Valerie Heller

Vice-President

Rev. Gail's Space

GATHERING COURAGE



Sometime during the time period that this copy of the Journey covers, Aug. 10 to be exact, I will be doing something rather counterintuitive. I am going to become worse in hopes of getting better. I have been getting around fairly well without my walker for a while now. I have been on four trips around the country and managed quite well. I have been back to my usual life of movies, plays, ballet, the pool, meals out, protests, church and community meetings plus sermon preparation, etc. I have never been in much pain, just a bit hobbled. So what am I thinking of to voluntarily subject myself to a lot of pain and inconvenience for both myself and perhaps for the church? Well, it is simple. My knees have been a disaster from childhood on. I have had three major kneecap dislocations and one prior surgery on the right knee. My left knee has also been an accident waiting to happen for many years. I have already spent about three and a half years of my life on crutches, a walker or using braces and a cane. At the ripe age of 69 when everyone else is going downhill, I may have a shot at going uphill. There are no guarantees but almost everyone I know who has had these joint surgeries, even if they have some challenges, is eventually glad they took the plunge.

I am not a fan of pain and I am also not a fan of pain medications and how they make me feel and what they can do to the tummy, but I would love to have an active and wild old age if possible. I have learned that there are lots of interesting opportunities for full and part-time ministries out there for older folks who are not ready yet to let go of a pulpit. Having worked with Dot Muise for 16 years, the idea of being retired is just not a concept that seems really appropriate anymore. My parents retired at 62 and I think it was terrible for them. They did not have major hobbies and though they found things to do, I think they would have been much happier working longer. Many of my friends retired as early as 50. Some started new, less-stressful careers. One DC friend retired from publishing and became an actor. He works all the time. He is not a movie star or anything but he is now an Equity actor. He is having the best time ever. A lot of people start small businesses. Many do amazing volunteer work but I am kind of a lazy person by nature. I am not sure how good I would be at working hard with no compensation, so I think gainful employment as long as possible is a good idea for me. I do not golf or play Bridge and, really, how many hours a day can you spend at the movies or reading? I would like to live somewhere amazing and glamorous and some of you know I am thinking of making Oxford, MS, which is a little literary mecca, my headquarters; but a lot of the small communities that are desperate for ministerial help are in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas according to one of our UU Regional executives. Who knows where I will wind up but I don't intend to shut up anytime soon, voluntarily at least. If I can also walk better, well, that would be a great thing. Please pray for me if you do that or visualize if you do that. Or maybe you would like to draw a picture of me with two working legs. I will take whatever good energy you have. Call me and come visit me. You know I get bored easily and good conversation can distract from pain. Plus I am pretty amusing they tell me. I am on a journey that I hope will lead to greater mobility. What journey are you on? Whatever it is I send my blessings.

Blessings.

Rev. Gail



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



Last gasps of summer for the rest of America - two more months for us. We will start to act like fall indoors when we head back to school as teachers and students, quit going to the beach even though we still could, drag the holiday decorations down from the crawl space, and start planning for the fall and winter season. I will be doing that at church as well as home, as I plan for the upcoming RE year for our children (we are going to be focusing on our UU 7 Principles this year, with time spent learning them, understanding them, using them in our interactions with each other, and maybe even using that old time saw of MEMORIZING them - yes, you heard it here). I will be assembling supplies, decorating boards and cleaning rooms with help from our awesome RE committee, and we will be putting the finishing touches on our renovated playground area, giving our kids a place that they love to be in and parents feel happy to see them in.

The new church year is always a time for fresh starts, fresh ideas, fresh brains, and new friends. The Sanctuary is looking better all the time, our church library would make any real librarian proud, and people are arguing over which colors to paint the kitchen. So many good things are in the works, and I am so proud of our little community. I hope as we move forward into the fall, all of you will give a hand in finishing these projects and any new ones. If you are involved, you take interest and you take ownership. Make this awesome place more your own.

Love and blessings,

Susan Dirgins-Friend
 DRE

August Children's Religious Education Schedule

Sunday August 2, 11AM
 Summer Activities

Sunday August 9, 11AM
 Summer Activities

Sunday August 16, 11AM
 Summer Activities



Sunday August 23, 11AM
 NO RE/School Starts Tomorrow

August 30, 11AM
 RE Registration 2015/16



Labyrinth Cafe News

Sing-Along; Susan on WLRN; Upcoming Season

Help us kick off our 2015-2016 season on Saturday, August 8 at 7:30 p.m. (only \$5!) with this fun, lively and interactive sing-along! Local performers will host, emcee and lead the evening's festivities, refreshments are available for sale and plenty of free parking is provided. There is no pressure to sing out really loudly, or to sing incredibly well. The only common bond is that everyone in the group loves to sing. That's it. Sharing songs and creating magical sound is really way too much fun. Everyone is welcome. Without you, there is no sound!

We will be singing from the Rise Up Singing songbook (a wonderful guide compiled by SingOut Magazine with lyrics to over 1200 classic songs) as well as from our own memory. Selections will include a great mix of folk, gospel, bluegrass, jazz, contemporary, rounds, old-time. If you have a copy of "Rise Up Singing", please bring it. We will have copies for sale at the event. We will also have used folk/acoustic/roots/country/bluegrass CDs for sale. If you have any to donate, please bring them Saturday night.

Also, Susan Moss will be appearing on Michael Stock's Folk and Acoustic Show on WLRN Sunday, August 2 at 2 p.m. to preview the upcoming season. Listen live at 91.3 FM or webstreamed at www.wlrn.org to hear about the talented performers who will grace our stage this year. Our website should be going live about the same time, and all will be revealed soon about the harmonic treats in store. We will once again be offering a Season Pass for \$150 per person, which entitles you entrance to all 9 concerts, a beautifully-designed Labyrinth Cafe T-shirt and premium, reserved seating! Please plan to join us for another year of song and camaraderie!

Dot's Music Notes



So you thought the Music Department was partying and relaxing until September. Not so!

Choir is not rehearsing until August 15 or 22, possible dates for the Choir Retreat. Susan Friend needs to hear from current choir members and potential new singers as to which date works better for you. After the Retreat, regular rehearsals will begin every Wednesday from 6:45 PM until 8:15 PM. We hope you enjoyed hearing Linda Reiling play for the service on July 26.

There is a special Sunday event coming up on August 16 when J. W. Arnold will play for the service. Finally, you will get to hear once again the organ built and donated by Charlie Prather. This music is presented as a Tribute to the Memory of Charlie, who was a friend of J. W. Arnold for several years. We miss Charlie's music before services and playing the hymns with Dot's piano accompaniments. Piano and organ combinations for hymn support are great. Many of you have wondered if we would ever hear the rich sound of Charlie's organ and here is your answer, so come and enjoy this reminder of the legacy left to us by our friend Charlie Prather. How we miss you!

Many thanks to J. W. Arnold for his willingness to bring back those beautiful sounds we have missed since Charlie passed away too soon. We wish to extend our sympathy to Charlie's partner, Mario De La Rosa. Summer vacation? Not so!

Keep singing, *Dot Muise*

The Good News of What is Happening at Our Church

As chair of the Long Range Planning Task Force, I want to bring you up to date on the good news of what is happening with the implementation of the Long Range Strategic Plan. And that good news is that our Church has become activated in a way we have not seen in many years.

Most committees have added Church members who are moving forward regarding the strategic plan. The Ministerial Search Committee is fully staffed with volunteers and has already contacted the person at national headquarters who deals with ministerial replacements. The Membership Committee, which had been fairly inactive for many months, has also become activated and has been doing follow-up calls for non-members who have previously visited us once or twice. Members have also agreed to serve as greeters in the half hour before the Sunday service and this is most important to give a warm welcome to newcomers and to ask them to fill out our basic information form.

The Building and Grounds Committee is now being reconstituted after being inactive but is always in need of both male and female volunteers. Other committees that might require more volunteers include: Membership, Stewardship, Social Justice and Finance.

It is just wonderful to see how our Church is moving to implement the strategic plan after a decline of many years regarding members, finances and congregational spirit. The future is looking bright. One example of a newly positive attitude is that 55 members attended the recent "Pajama Party" and a good time was had by all. More such events are needed as our Church community continues to be just that: a community where we hope our members will want to actively participate whenever possible.

However, it is still critical for members to increase their annual contributions as well as their active involvement in our Church. If you have not volunteered to serve on a committee since the strategic plan was approved, please consider doing so by calling Jeff Hutt (786) 766-1550 to let him know what committee you desire to serve on or to ask questions of what particular functions are performed by the committees. The more members who volunteer and contribute time and money, the more vibrant our Church will be and the more fulfilling our membership will become.

The fact is, with only three other UU Churches in Broward, there are many, many people out there who we should be able to attract as members. Under the strategic plan, we are waiting until the new minister arrives to activate plans for aggressive outreach regarding promotion of ourselves on social media and other recruitment activities but we still can begin some activities now. Gary Ladka has updated the look and content of the Church website, uucfl.org, and it is much more appealing and user friendly.

With almost 25% of adults stating they do not identify with any religion, we have real opportunity to reach out to people in this category to join our movement as well as former members who previously dropped out. We are at a turning point and working together, we can make our Church the wonderful organization we want it to be!

Bill Schoolman

Chair, Long Range Strategic Planning Committee

Millenium Clinic Clothing Drive

"Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude of compassion and loving-kindness." — Dalai Lama XIV

We talk a lot about helping people, so let's put our thoughts and words into action. We are asking the congregation to look into our hearts to help those in recovery and/or with mental illness at a facility in Broward County called Millenium Clinic. They are a dual-diagnoses psycho-social rehabilitation clinic. There are about 23 houses and 140-plus clients at the Hollywood location. The people who participate in the program are recently homeless, from hospitals or released from corrections facilities. Some of the clients who come in have only the clothes on their backs. These clients need everything you can imagine to help restore their confidence and dignity.

We are asking people to check their closets and storage units for things that they are no longer using that could really help someone in need. The items can be brought to the UU Church on the first and third Sunday of each month. The following is a list of items requested:

Men's and Women's clothing including pants, shorts, shirts, t-shirts, skirts, dresses
 Shoes, light jackets, bathing suits, new socks and underwear, backpacks/purses/wallets
 Hair dryers, curling irons, hair accessories
 Toiletries - toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, combs, brushes, fingernail clippers, soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair gel, mouse, razors, shaving cream, aspirin/Tylenol, lotion, Chapstick
 Make up: lipstick, eyeliner, mascara, face powder, foundation, blush, eye shadow, nail polish, nail polish remover.
 Cleaning Supplies: laundry soap, fabric softener, dish washing soap, Windex, etc.
 Household items: dishes, silverware, pots and pans, small appliances, decorations
 Blankets, sheets, pillows, towels
 Books/magazines

If you have any questions and/or would like to make a monetary donation that will be used to purchase toiletries and supplies, please contact Victoria Abbott 561-767-5713 or email Victoria.abbott23@gmail.com. What you give comes back to you tenfold in blessings, love and light. Thank you all so much, *Victoria*



Vespers Update August 2015

It is time for us to get together and decide what Vespers will be for 2015/16. Vespers has been our 3rd Friday service which features readings and music, as well as time for meditation. It is a shorter service, contains no

announcements or joys and concerns and finishes with time for snacks and fellowship. Douglas Paul and I will be organizing a meeting, so stay tuned for the upcoming date, probably in late August or early September. Douglas, Doug and I can no longer run the whole thing on our own. The three of us often have work conflicts, so other folks need to step forward and take leadership. There are several parts to each event: the set-up, the clean-up, the shopping for snacks and drinks, finding presenters, and often, putting together an individual service. Putting together a service is the most rewarding part for any of us, but the other components are also important, less rewarding, and, perhaps, in need of change. At the meeting we will talk about possibly changing the format, how often Vespers takes place, and what we really want from this special service. Be ready to bring your ideas, and your commitment to help, to our meeting.

Questions or info DRE Susan

(954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com

All-Church Pajama Party Follow-Up!

If you missed it, you missed a wild church party for the ages...

On June 19th, we converted our sanctuary into a play space, and had an awesome pajama party fund raiser. The sanctuary was split into different sections...one for eating and fraternizing, one for relaxed conversation and make-overs, one for gaming, and one for movies (which the older kids seemed to really enjoy). We had at least 18 kids of all ages running around and beating each other with pillows. We saw almost 40 adults, who danced and had some truly epic gaming sessions. Music was everywhere. We even had a visit from Laura Sue, the Silver Nightingale, who charmed us with her ethereal flute music. Many people brought food and snacks, which were summarily devoured. The punch was a hit! A few adults and kids had so much fun they decided to stay overnight, and continued the party until the wee hours. It was an incredible night of building relationships, meeting new people, laughing with our adults and kids, and best of all supporting our church to the tune of almost \$700.00!

The best part of the whole experience was hearing members of our church say how important this event was in building community. Although our membership is small, we have a vibrant and powerful group of people committed to growing the UUCFL. Let's do this again...and invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, and other family members. This is how we grow our community...by opening our hearts, minds, and DOORS to others who may not know we exist or how awesome we are. We have so much to offer. We need to tell people, but it's better to SHOW it!

Jim Giblin

Vice President

CUUPS Update

Saturday, August 1, we celebrate the Native American Corn Ritual. This is a composite of what goes on in multiple tribes around the Americas. Check it out online at <http://moonpathcuups.org/rituals/corn.htm> The Thursday before, we will be sharing Green Corn Stories.

In Study Group, Thursday August 6, we celebrate our Chocolate Ritual. We will revere all things chocolate in their many aspects. Please wear brown and bring your favorite samples. We are still planning topics for the rest of August, so stay in touch or look online at <http://moonpathcuups.org/coming.htm>

Kip

Resident Pagan

Lifenet 4 Families Update

Lifenet4Families

Cooperative Feeding Program

We will be working in the food pantry on Saturday, August 1, from 9AM-11:30AM. Please come and help us stack shelves, unload boxes and enjoy each other's company. Wear closed-toed shoes and comfortable and cool clothes. This is a great way to help folks in our community who rely on the pantry to help them feed their families. Again, I must say that unless we start to get a bigger group showing up from UUCFL, we will have to discontinue our regular monthly spot. Hope to see you there. Lifenet is located at 1 NW 33rd Terrace, on the corner of Broward Blvd and 33rd Terrace.

Directory of Staff, Board, Committee Chairs & Affiliates

STAFF

Minister

Rev. Gail Tapscott: 954-288-4245

Director of Religious Education

Susan Dirgins-Friend: 954-424-1910

Music Director

Dorothy Muise: 954-731-8790

Choir Director

Susan Dirgins-Friend: 954-424-1910

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Dave Griswold: 786-389-9575

Past President

Gary Ladka: 954-650-3728

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Jim Giblin: 954-733-8797

Vice President

Valerie Heller: 954-663-3859

Treasurer

Donna Gutierrez: 971-267-9165

Secretary

Molly St. Cavish: 954-752-5717

Trustees

Kathy Ervolina: 813-312-3292

Bill Schoolman: 954-565-6358

Alexis Blasenheim: 732-841-0790

Betty Brantley: 954-536-5754

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building & Grounds

Gloria Stein

Stewardship

Victoria Abbott: 561-767-5713

Com. Outreach/Social Justice Committee

Open

Interim Contact Rev. Gail Tapscott

BOLD Justice

Betty Brantley: 954-536-5754

Cooperative Feeding Program

Susan Dirgins-Friend: 954-424-1910

South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice

Rev. Gail Tapscott: 954-288-4245

Webmaster

Gary Ladka: 954-650-3728

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Valerie Heller: 954-663-3859

Caring Committee

Douglas Paul: 954-739-8879

Library

Molly St. Cavish: 954-752-5717

Finance

Open

Labyrinth Café Concerts

Susan Moss: 954-478-8637

Welcoming/Membership

Sandy Lange: 954-401-5675

Committee on Ministry

Ken Beier: 954-336-7412

Nominating

Jerry Waltz: 954-527-5275

Religious Education

Michael Coburn: 305-409-7340

Sunday Services

Opal Murray: 265-6242

Wisdom and Enlightenment Series

Opal Murray: 770-265-6242

ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

CUUPS

Edie and Marty McAnulty: 954-559-2816

Endowment

Doug Friend: 954-424-1910

UU Service Committee

Noralee Traylor: 954-776-4226



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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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Please continue to fill the Food Baskets at the church with non-perishables for the LifeNet4Families Cooperative Feeding Program.

Learn more about the CFP and other ways you can help. Visit www.lifenet4families.org or call (954) 792-2328




August Birthdays

Susan Moss 8/5
 Susan McAlpin 8/11
 Doug Friend 8/16
 Victoria Abbott 8/23
 Sandy Lange 8/24
 Molly Lesnick 8/29



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.

C	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>  <div> August Calendar Sundays at 11 am: Service & Children's Religious Education </div> </div>						
2 9:30am - UU Sisterhood	3	4	5	6 7:30 pm CUUPS (See page 7)	7	1 7:30pm CUUPS Ritual Lammas (See page 7) 9:00am - Lifenet/Families Cooperative Feeding Program Workday (See page 7)
9 12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day Journey Article Submission Deadline	10 7:00pm - Board Meeting	11	12	13 7:30 pm CUUPS (See page 7)	14	15
16 9:30am - UU Sisterhood Charlie Prather Memorial	17 7:00pm - Sunday Services Committee	18	19	20 7:30 pm CUUPS (See page 7)	21	22
23 12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day	24 7:00pm Welcoming/Membership Committee	25	26	27 7:30 pm CUUPS (See page 7)	28	29
30	31	Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events www.uucf.org and click Coming Activities			Weekly Happenings UU Mens' Group, Thursdays, 7 pm Free Thinkers Anonymous Thursdays, 7:30 pm	

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Minister 954-288-4245

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 August 2015

August 2

Beyond Denominational Spirituality

A journey in sacred words and music with Rev. Gail Tapscott and Kantor Andy Sussman.

August 9

Fear, Fate, Chance, and Living with Insecurity

On the eve of her knee surgery, Rev. Gail Tapscott will look at some of life's curve balls.

August 16

Alchemizing Grief: Accepting the Promise of Joy in the Morning.

Douglas Paul and Dorothy Muise will share their memories of our beloved organist, the late Dr. Charles Prather. And for the first time since his passing, the organ will be played, by J. W. Arnold. Rev. Opal Murray takes a look at David's words - 'weeping may tarry for the night but joy comes in the morning.'

August 30

The Sunday Services Committee is working on another informative and inspiring service, the speaker and title of which is to be announced soon.