

The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

September 2015
Volume 56, Number 8

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October 2015 Issue Deadline

Sunday, September 13, 2015

Submit articles to:

submission@uucfl.org

Editor

Valerie Heller

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upon request.

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Liberal Religious Thought
and Social Action in
Fort Lauderdale

Unitarian
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Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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LifeNet4Families
Cooperative Feeding Program

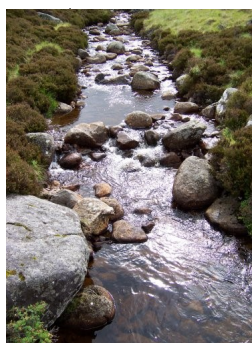
LifeNet4Families Workday
Saturday September 5 at 8:45am

Work your way to Page 5

Labyrinth Café Presents
Grant Peeples
and The Sarah Mac Band
Saturday, September 12
at 7:30pm

We are beyond excited to kick off our 2015-16 concert season! Grant is a known quantity at the Labyrinth Café: political and thought-provoking and poetic, oh my! Grant and Sarah Mac will each perform their own material in the first set, and the sum promises to be greater-than-the-already-amazing parts in the second half. This one is a guaranteed do-not-miss.

Tune to Page 6



Water Sunday
Sunday, September 13

Bring water collected from your summer travels and adventures, both physical and spiritual, to share in our annual water ceremony. Our choir returns from their summer break.

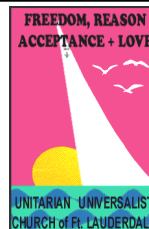
Pagan Pride Day
Saturday, September 19
12:00 pm
Celebrate the Autumn Equinox and All
Things Earthy and Magickal!

See page 7



Unitarian Universalist Church of Ft Lauderdale
Mission Statement:

To come together as a caring community and sanctuary
for seekers of spiritual growth, truth, and meaning.





President's Message

The Start of a New Church Year

I hope you all have had a pleasant summer, with the right balance of relaxation and stimulation to make it memorable.

As we start our new church year, I'd like everyone to think of at least one extra thing you can do for our spiritual community. Can you make coffee one service a month? Help out on a Buildings and Grounds Day? Teach a Religious Education class one Sunday? Bring snacks for coffee hour? The list is endless, and I've found new friends and interests by volunteering through the years.

We have many committees that see to all aspects of our physical and spiritual life.

I started out in the Religious Education Committee many years ago. Whether you can devote a little or a lot of time, there's probably a committee that would find you to be an asset. Talk to people who work on the committees, explore the possibilities that can open for you with joyful service.

Don't be afraid that what you can do is too small. It takes a village to do all the good work we do, both for ourselves and others. And we have a great village here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ft. Lauderdale.

Dave Griswold

BECOMING A MEMBER AT UUCFL

During the summer we have had about 12 people go through an orientation to Unitarian Universalism in general and to the UUCFL in particular. Due to all the traveling and transitions in summer, we were not able to schedule a New Member Ceremony. On Sept. 20, I will hold another orientation after church and then on Sept. 27, we will welcome all those who have been oriented and desire to make a formal commitment into our fold. There may not be a lunch that day but for sure there will be cake. Thanks to Sandy Lange and Victoria Abbott who are coordinating Membership/ Welcoming functions and to former Membership maven Larry Wilkner who steps in when needed. Also a thank you to Janet Logan who sat in on two of the orientations as a member representative. Come find your home with us.

Rev. Gail

Rev. Gail's Space

ADVENTURES IN THE MEDICAL WILDERNESS

Public intellectual and writer Susan Sontag, who fought a long and ultimately unsuccessful battle with cancer, wrote a book called "Illness as Metaphor." In this provocative work she attempted to show, among other things, how when we become ill or disabled we move instantly from what she called the kingdom of the well to the kingdom of the ill. She observed that there is sort of an invisible wall between these two ways of being in the world and argued that those in the kingdom of the well will go to almost any lengths to avoid really understanding or identifying with those on the other side of the wall. Even if there is no communicable disease involved, she argued, the well may still feel on a gut level that they can be contaminated in some way by associating with those on the other side of the invisible barrier.

During my various illnesses over the years, I have truly found this to be the case. If people think of you as being especially animated and cheerful they will be truly almost offended when they see you suddenly looking pale and weak and having no interest in being entertaining or even optimistic.

Since I have been in ministry these experiences have only been exaggerated. I have observed something that has happened on the two or three times over the years when I have needed to use a walker. I have always essentially been disabled. My knees have been in braces or wraps all the years I have been here but many people had never noticed, as I wear long dresses or loose pants most of the time. I am the exact same person on or off a walker or other device. Nothing is different about my intellectual or emotional capacity, but it upsets people to know and to see it.

I get it. People don't want to feel they have to pity someone who they look to for help. Even my not driving, which as far as I can determine has never prevented me from performing my duties, is disturbing to some when they first learn about it. There are people who have attended church here for years without knowing I don't drive but when it finally hits them one day, some have suddenly seen that as a handicap like an illness or the walker. We have several ministers who are visually impaired, several who have done years of ministry from a wheelchair or a scooter and the congregations who are served by these hard-working professionals often feel like they deserve extra points for diversity. I think this sometimes arbitrary division between the worlds is one of the last acceptable prejudices.

The minute I walked into the hospital on Aug. 10 to have my knee replacement surgery it felt like everyone thought my IQ had dropped 40 points. Some of the nurses quickly got that I was able to help in my own care and acted accordingly. Others just continued to treat me like I was mentally impaired. It is a hard wall to cross between. Now at Manor Pines I have managed to convince most of the staff that I can participate in my own recovery and that no one knows my body as well as I do, but it is a struggle with each shift change. However, on Saturday a young man from occupational therapy had heard there was a new patient who was really motivated and totally alert. He came to get me because he was so excited to work with someone who really wanted to work hard on getting better as rapidly as possible. We had a great conversation. There was no wall between us. He was interested in my views on the healthcare system and my frustration at the way PT is approached here as though everyone wants to do as little as possible. He did not see me as a sick or impaired person but as someone interested in learning a new skill. We worked on my arm strength. To him, after working with so many weak people I seem strong. Now staff are just coming in to see me and they all say, "Oh you are so young. You are a star. You are an inspiration." It sure goes to show that like race, class and sexual orientation, how we see the boundaries between sick and well, able and impaired are largely a matter of perception.

Is there anyone in your life who you have prematurely pushed behind a wall into a different kingdom? For sure, some day you will be in the kingdom of the ill, impaired and elderly yourself. That is a guarantee. Blessings on all of you and thanks for all the good wishes as I try to learn to walk better again.

Blessings.

Rev. Gail





Religious Education

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



We need you! We want you! Our children's religious education program is growing, yay, and we are going to separate the children into different age groups—this means we need more adult bodies in the back to teach, to love, and to wrangle. We need you! We want you! The qualifications are basic—enjoy kids, follow an easy lesson plan, keep a modicum of order—pretty simple. This year we will be tackling the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism, so you will have a chance to explore these basics of our faith while you help the children learn them. We need you! We want you! You don't have to participate for the whole church year; you can be in the saddle for 3-4 Sundays teaching one Principle. If you feel teaching is not for you, or you can't do 3-4 Sundays in a row, how about being a teacher's assistant by helping set up and clean up and being another adult in the room. Our church is small—it is valuable for our kids to meet and know all the adults in our community. This is a chance for you to be one of the KNOWN. There is nothing I love more than having a child run up and yell "Miss Susan!" and throw their little arms around my legs—you will love it too! Come join us—we need YOU! We want YOU!

Love and blessings,

DRE Susan

September Children's Religious Education Schedule



Sunday September 6, 11AM

Labor Day

Sunday September 20, 11 AM

**The Inherent Worth and Dignity
of Every Person**

Sunday September 13, 11AM

**Water Sunday— Children
Attend Service**

Sunday September 27, 11AM

Principle 1 Continued

Lifenet 4 Families/CFP Update

LifeNet4Families
Cooperative Feeding Program

Please join us on Saturday September 5th at 9AM at Lifenet to volunteer in the food pantry. Lifenet4Families provides monthly food boxes and daily meals to thousands of our fellow

Broward County residents every year. Lifenet is located at 1 NW 33rd Terrace in Lauderhill, right on the corner of Broward Blvd and NW 33rd Terrace. We are considering some changes to when and how often we volunteer, so look for updates in the program in our weekly announcements and the Cuurier.

Info or questions, DRE Susan

tiredmomofbob@aol.com (954) 424-1910

A Note on Building Usage

Recently, there have been some concerns about random comings and goings by some people in our beloved church building. While we consider the UUCFL to be a safe space, a place of spiritual refuge, even a home of sorts, we also need to be aware of safety and liability issues.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, allow me to give a gentle reminder that no individual who is not a staff member or Board member is to enter the church building or grounds when there is not a service or other church function in progress. Activities by our renters are *not* UUCFL church activities, and those groups need to be given the courtesy of privacy and security without anyone wandering about and, at the very least, disrupting their functions and at worst, violating their trust in the safety of our community. There are several religious groups and a school which utilize our space; let's give them the respect they deserve.

Valerie Heller, Vice President

Music Notes

We are so excited to be starting a new church year at UUCFL. The Choir held a Choir Retreat from 10 AM to 3 PM on Saturday,

August 22 as planned. For now, our numbers are small and we need more good singers in all parts, but especially sopranos, tenors and basses. We have a wonderful time learning music both old and new and socializing at rehearsals every Wednesday from 6:45 PM to 8:15 PM. If you sing, even if you cannot read music, please join us. You don't know what you are missing if you don't try!

The choir will participate in the Water Sunday Service on September 13 and will be joined by Alfredo Tamburrino with a beautiful flute obbligato in the anthem. After Water Sunday, the choir plans to sing approximately every two weeks through December's lovely holiday songs, some familiar and others new.

The first of September marks the end of summer breaks. Dot will return to the piano on most Sundays beginning September 6. There will be occasional special soloists to vary the musical portions of services. Our wonderful and faithful Choir Director Susan Friend will continue to direct the choir program. We are so lucky to have you, Susan.

Now the assignment for the congregation is that you show appreciation wherever you feel it is due. Our choir is all volunteer. The least you can do is show them how much you like having special vocal music offered by these busy people. A few words of thanks are all they ask for hours of rehearsal and sacrifice of limited time.

We are off to our best year yet. What an amazing music department we have for a relatively small congregation.

Sing and Rejoice,

Dot Muise, Director of Music

**Labyrinth Café Concerts Presents
Grant Peeples and The Sarah Mac Band
Saturday September 12 at 7:30pm**



"I'm a vegetarian that watches NASCAR, a tree-hugger that keeps a gun under the seat."— Grant Peeples. Dubbed a "guitar-slinging poet" by Music News Nashville. A voice No Depression says "sounds like a '57 Chevy with glass mufflers..." Songs that Routes & Branches deemed "smart, strong lyrics that mean something, and say it in a way that you haven't heard before."

This finger-in-your-eye styled songwriter and 7th generation Floridian is a former expatriate. He spent 11 years on a tiny island off the coast of Nicaragua, where he installed the island's first flushing toilet. He returned in 2006 to a very different homeland. Much of his songwriting is a response to what he found

when he returned.

www.grantpeeples.com

Claire, Charlie and Sarah Mac joined together in early 2005, aspiring to create original music that blended the unique styles that each brought to the group. From this emerged

The Sarah Mac Band, an engaging combination of blues, jazz and acoustic rock that has been classified as both Americana and Alternative. The band simply describes the sound as "jazzy, bluesy rock with a healthy dose of soul." Sarah Mac's voice at times has the full power and grit of Janis Joplin, the sweet, soothing breathy tone of Feist or Edie Brickell, and the gut-wrenching raw tones of an old soul or gospel singer. Paired with Charlie's intricate, sultry guitar work and Claire's solid, intriguing bass lines, this trio creates a powerful live experience that has earned them a loyal, growing following.



Reservations requested but not required:

Contact Susan at OzWoman321@aol.com or 954-478-8637

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

...plus non-perishable item for our local Cooperative Feeding Program (canned meats, beans, fruits, vegetables, peanut butter, dried milk, pasta, rice, cereal, baby food and baby formula).

We're once again offering a season pass (\$150), which includes admission to all 9 September—May shows, as well as premium reserved seating and a Labyrinth Café T-shirt (designed and printed by Virginia and Erik, Labyrinth Café volunteers). It's a wonderful way to support the UU church, our performers and the continuation of live, original music!

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.

Saturday, October 10, 2015 - Sam Pacetti CD Release Party

Saturday, November 14, 2015 - Nick Annis/Tom Prasada-Rao

Saturday, December 12, 2015 - Harpeth Rising

Saturday, January 9, 2016 - Jennings & Keller/Flagship Romance

Saturday, February 13, 2016 - Danny Schmidt and Carrie Elkin

Saturday, March 12, 2016 - Rod MacDonald/Jon Brooks

Saturday, April 9, 2016 - Amy Carol Webb/Claudia Schmidt

Saturday, May 14, 2016 - Ellis Paul

Vespers

Keep an eye out for information regarding Vespers. On Sunday August 30th, a meeting was held to discuss putting some changes into place regarding different aspects of this service. Look for updates and schedules in the weekly announcements and in the Cuurious Cuurier.

Questions can be directed to Susan Dirgins-Friend,
tiredmomofbob@aol.com.



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Thanks to overachieving Board member Molly St. Cavish who has been holding down the adult RE fort over the summer. I will plan to attend the TED Talks she is coordinating and look forward to some stimulating discussion.

For later in the year, Molly and I plus some other Adult R. E. regulars will be discussing what kind of things I should teach or facilitate during my last year with UUCFL. Learning is a life-long affair and for UUs I feel it is truly an imperative that we keep educating ourselves.

Rev. Gail

Coming CUUPS Events

Saturday, September 19th we celebrate Pagan Pride Day. Starting at Noon, we will have vendors, workshops, food, and events. At 5:30 we celebrate the Second Harvest: Mabon. We do this on the Saturday closest to the Autumn Equinox. Plans will unfold and there will be more online later.

We will dedicate one of the Thursday Evening Study Groups to planning all this, including our Ritual. The other three Thursdays we will have programs that will be listed on the Church Google Calendar.

Do come out and play! Old Time Religion can be fun.

Kip, Resident Pagan

MoonPathCUUPS.org
TheMoonPath Chapter of CUUPS





**Pride Fort Lauderdale's week of events to end with first ever
downtown street party:
Become Pride.**

Pride Fort Lauderdale 2015 is focusing on ending LGBTQ inequality by bridging gaps between communities in greater Fort Lauderdale area.

For the first time since Pride Fort Lauderdale's inception, a full week of Pride events will end with an event held in downtown Fort Lauderdale: **Become Pride**. This historic event is being held in Himmarshee on October 11th from 6pm to Midnight. We are expecting thousands to be in attendance with live performers, dancers, DJs and events supporting equality that will make this evening one to enjoy and remember; one such event we now officially announce to be the crowning of a local youth as winner of the Fort Lauderdale Teen Pride Pageant by the reigning Miss Teen Pride USA: Jazz Jennings. Teen star Jazz Jennings of The Learning Channel's (TLC) reality show "I Am Jazz" holds the inaugural Teen Pride USA national title in honor of her bravery and activism for LGBTQ youth.

To get involved, please contact:

Bryan Wilson [of UUCFL fame as the director of The Vagina Monologues, Feb. 2015]

Become.City

Phone 954-636-1223

bryan@pridefortlauderdale.org



News from Yellow Wood

Thank you to the wonderful Board of Trustees for the warm welcome at August's meeting. As I mentioned, this year I want to invest more effort in reaching out to a broader community to try and get our message across—namely, that there IS another path for education other than home school or traditional school. We want to grow and thrive so that we may reach more teens who are unhappy or suffering in their current education system.

Yellow Wood is the perfect sweet spot! All the classes, tutoring and mentoring a teen could want but without the sometimes harsh approaches of today's traditional system. We are ideal for young people who need a year or two of stepping out of the system without missing an educational beat!

If you haven't seen our website, please visit ywlc.org and our Facebook page, which has lots and lots of photos of us in action!

Thank you for helping me spread the joy—here's to 2015/2016 and to helping our youth learn and grow, and *thrive*, in a non-judgmental environment of inquisitive minds and hearts!

Judith Hurst

Founder, Yellow Wood Learning Community

"He was a dreamer, a thinker, a speculative philosopher... or, as his wife would have it, an idiot."

Douglas Adams

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

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- Molly St. Cavish.....954-752-5717

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Building & Grounds

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Stewardship

- Victoria Abbott.....561-767-5713

Community Outreach

Social Justice Committee

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BOLD Justice

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Cooperative Feeding Program

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

South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice

- Rev. Gail Tapscott.....954-288-4245

Webmaster

- Kip Barkley.....954-784-8307

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- Valerie Heller.....954-663-3859

Email Newsletter - The cUUrIous cUUriEr

- Gary Ladka.....954-650-3728

Caring Committee

- Douglas Paul.....954-739-8879

Library

- Molly St. Cavish.....954-752-5717

Finance

OPEN

Building Usage

- Rev. Gail Tapscott.....954-288-4245

Labyrinth Café Concerts

- Susan Moss.....954-478-8637

Welcoming/Membership

- Sandy Lange.....954-401-5675

Ministry

- Ken Beier.....954-336-7412

Nominating

- Jerry Waltz954-527-5275

Religious Education

- Michael Coburn.....305-409-7340

Sunday Services

- Opal Murray770-265-6242

Wisdom and Enlightenment Series

- Opal Murray770-265-6242

ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

• CUUPS

- Kip Barkley.....954-784-8307

• Endowment

- Doug Friend.....954-424-1910

• Interweave

OPEN

• UU Service Committee

- Noralee Traylor.....954-776-4226



The Market Place



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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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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



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.

September Birthdays

Paige Breen Page 9/04
 Nicole Rivera 9/07
 Phoenix (Lesa) Cockerham 9/08
 Edie McAnulty 9/12
 Janine Griffiths 9/15
 Madisyn Young 9/15
 Bob Zumstein 9/22
 Lizzy Barnette 9/25
 Suzannah Ryals-Luneburg 9/29



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

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



September Calendar

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

13

•Water Sunday
•Journey Article
Submission Deadline
•12:30pm - Fellowship
Lunch Day

14

•7:00pm - Board
Meeting

20

•9:30am- UU Sisterhood
•12:45 New Member
Orientation

21

7:00pm - Sunday
Services Committee

27

•12:30pm - Fellowship
Lunch Day

28

•7:00pm Welcoming/
Membership Committee

1

2

•6:45pm - Choir
Rehearsal

3

•7:30 pm CUUPS

4

5

•8:45am -
Lifenet4Families
Cooperative Feeding
Program Workday
(See page 6)

8

9

•6:45pm - Choir
Rehearsal

10

•7:30 pm CUUPS

11

12

•7:30 pm Labyrinth Café
Concert (See page 6)

15

16

•6:45pm - Choir
Rehearsal

17

•7:30 pm CUUPS

18

19

•12:00 Pagan Pride
Festival

22

23

•6:45pm - Choir
Rehearsal

24

•7:30 pm CUUPS

25

26

29

30

•6:45pm - Choir
Rehearsal

Religious
Education Events
See special
calendar
on the RE page 4

Unitarian Universalist

Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue
Oakland Park, Florida 33309

Minister: Rev. Gail Tapscott

Phone: 954-484-6734

Minister Phone: 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

SEPTEMBER 2015

September 6– Labor Day Panel and Celebrating Labor History with Music– Join us on Labor Day for a special service put together by Bob and Patti Bender and Rev. Gail. Patti will facilitate an exciting panel of speakers updating us on current issues in Labor and Income Inequality. Pink Slip will join us to sing special uplifting music focusing on labor issues.

September 13 - Water Sunday– On this annual ingathering of the community, we celebrate a ritual to share who we are and how we want to be together in a loving church family. UUCFL President Dave Griswold and Rev. Gail (if her recovery from surgery is on schedule) will share readings, stories and a homily focused on water and community. However, the centerpiece of this Sunday is always the water ceremony, where members and friends bring water from their inner and outer travels and mingle them together as a symbol of our fundamental unity. Our UUCFL choir returns for the program year.



September 20 – Scary Words – In the season when our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrate the High Holy Days, Rev. Gail Tapscott will talk about some of the words associated with these holidays that can be problematic for Unitarian Universalists. She will also look at some additional terms from the Abrahamic religions that have had bad connotations for many of us and try to reframe them in a meaningful way.

September 27 - When Staying the Same is Not an Option– We all understand that along with death and taxes, change is one of the few things we can depend on in life. Nonetheless, we tend to try to avoid it at all costs. Using, among other resources, a book called "Oops, My Iceberg is Melting," Rev. Gail will attempt to help us come to terms with those situations where, rather than providing comfort and the familiar, not changing can become destructive and scary.

October 4 - Religion at a Turning Point : A New Axial Age– At a couple of previous times in human history, shifts in the religious landscape on a large scale have taken place. These changes have tended to be paradigm shifts and to have taken place in many locations at once. Many are saying we are somewhere in the cycle of a new world-wide shift. Rev. Gail will examine what happened in the last "axial age" and compare with what is going on now.