The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

October 2014 Volume 55, Number 9

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November 2014 Issue Deadline Sunday October 12, 2014 Submit articles to: submission@uucfl.org

> **Editor** Gary Ladka

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Established in 1958



OCTOBER 2014

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President's Message The Year and Years Ahead



It was very heartwarming seeing so many of our members attend the Sunday Service with Rev. Randy Becker on the need for our Church to move ahead with a strategic plan as a means to sustain our vibrancy, membership, relevance and to attract new members. The afternoon meeting run by Rev. Becker which had over sixty in attendance clearly showed the strong interest of virtually everyone that we did need to move ahead in developing a professionally prepared strategic plan to be implemented beginning in early 2015.

If you were not able to be present at Church that day, it was agreed that three meetings would be scheduled for Long Range Planning Phase 2. Each congregant is requested to attend <u>one</u> meeting to respond in person to a set of questions about the direction of our Church that you would like to see us take in preparing the strategic plan. At each of the meetings, members attending will be divided up into small groups and asked to respond (verbally) to a series of questions prepared by Rev. Becker who has gained extensive experience working with UU

congregations in developing strategic plans. Additionally, Rev. Becker is requesting that attendees at these meetings as well as congregants not able to attend one of the three meetings respond by completing a form, either in a written format (forms distributed at the meetings and also available on Sundays at church) or on "Survey Monkey" at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UUCFL. The information gained by both the in person responses as well as survey responses will better help us in making proposed changes.

We have already completed the first meeting in late September, but you still have 2 opportunities upcoming. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 19 at 12:45 *after* the morning service and ending at 2:45. The last meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, October 27 starting at 7 PM and ending at 9:00 PM. At each of the meetings, members will be divided into groups of 6-12 people. Each group will have a note taker and a team leader to pose various questions and to keep strict time lines to avoid a situation where only a few individuals do most of the talking in each small group.

Whether you are a current member, past member or just a friend, if you are interested in making our Church a place we want to attend regularly and to have an important place in each of our lives, please attend one of the three scheduled meetings.

If you have questions about this, please feel free to contact Bill Schoolman at <u>billschoolman@aol.com</u>. Bill will be available until Oct. 2 after which, please contact me.

Gary Ladka



UUCFL Begins Long Range Planning Phase 2 Please Attend <u>One</u> Upcoming Meeting

Participate in the shaping of the future of UUCFL with the new Long Range Plan (LRP). The next phase of Long Range Planning is underway and you can help shape the future of the church. Please attend one (and only one) meeting - either Sunday, October 19 at 12:45 *after* the morning service and ending at 2:45 or on Monday, Oct. 27 starting at 7 PM and ending at 9:00 PM. We will have discussions about visions and wishes for the church, and you will be given

a confidential form to present your personal views that will be considered along with those of other members and friends of the church as part of the LRP process.

If you prefer to fill out your form online or are unable to attend one of these thought gathering meetings, please visit "Survey Monkey" at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UUCFL. Thank you.

The Long Range Planning Committee

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Rev. Gail's Space

Sabbatical Final Segment and Then Back to Normal

It is hard to say what is normal in the life of our Unitarian Universalist Church but for what it is worth at least the sabbatical year will be over on Nov. 21 and I will be back to my normal yearly schedule. I suspect that the Sunday Service Committee and perhaps the Board especially will be relieved to have me back on a full time work schedule. We will still have

some guests speakers and lay services as always, but we will be back to me being more fully in charge of the Sunday morning experience. We will also be deep into the Long Range Planning Process when I get back, not to mention the start of the always busy and exciting holiday season. The year starting in 2015 is full of the normal mix of challenges and promise for our community. It is up to all of us together to minimize the challenges and make the promise manifest.

I will be working on offering some exciting new weeknight Adult Religious Education Programs for the new year and also some more Sunday Afternoon Enrichment programs for the days we have lunches offered. We will have some new mandates for the whole community coming out of the LRP and I look forward

to working with everyone to help make the church's wishes come true. One thing we are already thinking about on the Sunday Services Committee is ways to involve our young people more in the Sunday program and in general how to move toward being a more intergenerational community again as our number of families and younger children is growing again. It may involve a lot of experiments to find some new experiences that feel good to most of us. Change is always both inevitable and scary and I am no more adept at this than anyone else so we will all be struggling and experimenting together on new ways to be a community. Blessings. Stay calm and I will be back soon.



Rev. Gail

Party Time at UUCFL Saturday October 4 at 7:00pm - And You Are Invited!

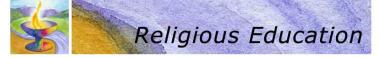


It is time to celebrate UUCFL with a rockin' dance party. Party until you drop, or 10 pm whichever comes first. Our homecoming kick-off party will feature Gary our resident UUCFL DJ making you dance all night, a great skit put on by our UUCFL players and other surprises. This is free to appreciate all of our generous friends and members Show up at 7pm and BYOB and a pot luck dish to share... hang out and have fun and celebrate us!



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



We are off to a new church year, maybe it is getting a bit cooler, and the holidays are just around the corner. With my dedication to getting the playground fixed up, I decided that this year our focus in children's faith development would be on our 7th Principal, the interdependent web and that we care for our planet earth. I hope that as we work towards a cleaned up more fun outdoor area for the children, we can be helping them understand our relation to the earth and all the people, animals, birds, fish and bacteria in it. We are going to talk about more than recycling this year folks, and I hope that I can count on many of you to help out in RE.

As we study and learn, we will also be fixing up our own little part of the world. We need muscle, money and ideas, so please come join us. On another topic, I want to encourage everyone to please get involved in other areas of our community. We need greeters on Sunday; we need folks to help with coffee hour and lots of other things. You don't need to be on the board with a yearlong commitment, just a one shot deal to greet, or once a month clean up of coffee hour; we can take up lots of your time, or just a little bit.

Remember, a community is made up of all the members, and we need you all.

DRE Susan



October Children's Religious Education Schedule

Sunday October 5, 11AM

7th Principal RE

Sunday October 12, 11AM

7th Principal RE

Sunday October 19, 11AM

7th Principal RE

Sunday October 26, 11AM

Pumpkin Carving and Halloween Fun Kids Wear Costumes!!

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Men's Group Open for New Members



Our UUCFL men's support group is currently open for enrollment of new members. We meet every Thursday evening from 7 PM to

8:45 PM. The primary purpose of our 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. Our 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 the church. The group recently purchased a boom box for the church which is now in the "Teen Room" where the group meets. In addition, we find other ways to be of service to our church community from time to time.

Please speak to any one of us if you're interested in joining. We are: Bill Schoolman, Jerry Waltz, Ken Howland, Larry Wilkner, Steve Lange, Tom Karneth and Victor Garlock

UUCFL Men's Group

Annual Poetry Service October 26

I am honored to carry on David Fisher's annual tradition of the UUCFL Poetry Service on Sunday , October 26.



As before, I'm 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 me how the poem speaks to you and/or how it came into your life.

I'll let you know regarding inclusion in the service and the time for a logistical run-through before the service. Call or e-mail me at ozwoman321@aol.com or 954-478-8637.

Susan Moss



Job Opening Announcement Journey Newsletter Seeks New Editor

Get in tune with your creative side and help promote UUCFL's monthly activities. On the job training available. See Gary Ladka if you are interested in the job.

Music Notes



Our 2014-2015 Church Year was launched with many facets on September 14.

Dot's "Mountain Stream" flowed to begin Water Sunday, followed by the Choir's joyous

greeting welcoming "Beautiful Sunday". In some traditional churches, Rally Sunday comes early in September to bring the church family together for the new year. At UUCFL Water Sunday is our welcome day when the Choir returns from our summer break. We share our adventures and add symbolic water to the continuous water saved from year to year and used for special events like child christenings or naming ceremonies.

The Choir sang "Home Is A Special Kind of Feeling" to greet this annual service. The program ended with a rousing rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the poem by Francis Scott Key.

We were inspired by Rev. Dr. Randy Becker's sermon and the workshop after lunch to encourage all of us to think where we want our church to go from here and how to make that happen.

Choir once again enriched the September 28 program which emphasized the Jewish High Holy Days singing "Hashiveinu" and "Ev'ry Time I Feel The Spirit". Did you hear Vernon Allen's rich bass solo that morning?

Choir plans to "Wake Up, My Spirit" on October 12. "Money, Money, Money" comes next. Could this be something to do with Canvass do you suppose? On October 26, you will hear the beautiful and difficult "Give Me The Splendid Silent Sun". How fortunate we are to have these fine singers who work so diligently to bring excellent music to enrich our Sunday programs.

We are always interested in adding to our choir. If you love to sing even if you do not read music, we can help you to contribute your voice. You must be willing to work on anthems at home between rehearsals. Susan provides recordings of each part to help you learn new music. Then you must be available to come to practice with the members on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 8:15 PM. Choir is creative, satisfying, and just plain fun!

See you in Church

Dot Muise, Director of Music

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Labyrinth Café Concerts Presents Cliff Eberhardt Saturday October 11 at 7:30pm



Red House recording artist **Cliff Eberhardt** knew by age seven that he was going to be a singer and songwriter. As a child Cliff taught himself to play guitar, piano, bass and drums. In his teens Eberhardt was fortunate enough to live close to the Main Point (one of the best folk clubs on the East Coast), he cut his teeth listening to the likes of James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Bruce Springsteen, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, Bonnie Raitt, and Mississippi John Hurt - receiving an early and impressive tutorial in acoustic music. At the same time, he was also listening to great pop songwriters like Cole Porter, the Gershwins, and Rodgers and Hart, which explain his penchant for great melodies and clever lyrical twists. A driving force of the Greenwich Village New Folk movement and well known among his peers, Cliff's songs have been covered by the likes of Richie Havens, Buffy St. Marie, Erasure, Lucy Kaplansky and the folk superstar band "Cry, Cry, Cry" (Dar Williams, Richard Shindell, Lucy Kaplansky).

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 are working to get the website updated and all will be revealed soon. In the meantime, we ask you now to save the following dates (2014: October 11, November 8, December 13; 2015: January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9) and join us once again for song and camaraderie. Watch your e-mail, check our Facebook page and listen to Michael Stock's show for notice of the harmonic treats in store.

We will once again be offering a Season Pass for \$150 per person, which entitles you entrance to all concerts, a beautifully-designed Labyrinth Cafe T-shirt and premium, reserved seating!

Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series

LifeNet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Update

Thanks to Judy, Julia, Gary and Oliver for coming out in September for CFP workday. We actually did a lot of needed work. I hope that more of you can come out for our day on Saturday October 4. Show up at 9 at the



CFP, and work until about 11-11:30. We make food boxes, fill shelves, maybe work in the dining room or kitchen and have lots of good conversations as we work. Keep a look out for the upcoming holiday food drives in November and December which will be taking place possibly at our church and the Brazilian 7th Day Adventist Church next door in collaboration. We need folks to do a lot of different tasks, and it is fun and very rewarding.

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

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Building our Beloved Community The Importance of Mission and Covenant





UU SE Cluster Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 11, 2014 9:45 am to 5:00 pm [Continental Breakfast at 9:00] - \$15 Treasure Coast UU Congregation 21 SE Central Pkwy, Stuart, FL 34994 www.tcuuc.com A Workshop with the Rev. Kenn Hurto, Congregation Life Staff, UUA Southern Region Deadline for registration is Saturday, October 4, 2014.

Come with a congregational team; no solos please.

Pre meeting information and "homework" will be sent to participant teams before the Workshop. Visit http://uuflorida.org/beloved/ for more information and to register



Forum on Homeless Hate Laws - Saturday, October 18 at 7:00pm

Join us as a part of our UUCFL social justice outreach and become educated about laws being passed right here in Broward County that are harmful to the well-being of the homeless in our area.

Rev Gail hosts this evening of coalition building, speakers and music

UUCFL Social Justice Committee

Coming CUUPS Events

October is the month of Samhain and our 16th Annual Witches Ball on Saturday, October 25. Now is the hour of the Final Harvest at which we each reap what we have sown. There will be live music by Celtic Mayham starting at 7:30pm and Rituals at 10 PM and Midnight. The veil between the worlds will be especially thin and fortune tellers will be standing by to facilitate any unfinished conversations with the departed. Admission is \$20 at the door. See www.MoonPathCUUPS.org/wball.htm

We have a full slate of programs at Thursday 7:30 PM Study Group: Oct 2, the Knotty Hooker Presents All Things String. Oct 9, Something Witchy This Way Comes with Spelcastor, Oct 16, the Morrigan with Kalimir, Oct 23, Stories of Samhain and Planning our Witches Ball, Oct 30, a Historical View of Ancestor Worship with MoonDay.



September's Pagan Pride Day brought in many new faces, \$625, and 518 lbs of food for LifeNet4Families.

Kip, Resident Pagan

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Expand your UU and Facebook horizons by joining the new UU Southeast Cluster page to stay informed about activities of the Cluster which encompasses participating UU congregations from the Treasure Coast to the Virgin Islands Visit this page and click "Like" to join www.facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster





UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST



At least 1,500 Unitarian Universalists join People's Climate March

Unitarian Universalists came from across the U.S. to the People's Climate March in New York City. The huge climate change march in New York City on September 21 drew at least 300,000 people. The march's faith-based contingents, which marched last, included at least 1,500 Unitarian Universalists. Photos collected by uuworld.



The earth. One planet. Round, global, so that when you trace its shape with your finger, you end up where you started. It's one. It's whole There is only one earth we all share, we, the living, with all else that lives and does not live. Everything, everything, for good or ill, is part of the shared whole: sky, earth, song, words and now, this silence. --Mark Belletini, from "Communion Circle," in *Sonata for Voice and Silence* (UUA's Skinner House Books)



THE JOURNEY

OCTOBER 2014

Directory of Staff, Board, Committee Chairs & Affiliates

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Steve Lange954-257-9262		
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Laura Lange954-584-2499		
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Opal Murray770-265-6242		
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(usually April 15) of the current year.

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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



954-278-1143

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.

October Birthdays

AMBER ANDERSON 10/2 GUY JEANTY 10/2 NORALEE TRAYLOR 10/5 GERARD {JERRY} ZELIN 10/10 JUDY KNOPP 10/12 MARA NEWMAN 10/20 GINO CRUSE 10/21 DEBORAH RIVERA 10/31



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	THE
					IE JOURNEY		
Every Sunday : I 1:00 AM- Church Service and Children's Religious Education	Visit our on line ca breaking events v and click "Comir	/ww.uucfl.org	 ∙6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	2 •7:30 pm CUUPS	3	4 •8:45am - Lifenet4Families Cooperative Feeding Program Workday (See page 6) •7:00pm - All Church Dance Party! (See Page 3)	EY
5 •9:30am - UU Sisterhood	6	7	8 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	9 •7:30 pm CUUPS	10	 •9:00am - UU SE Cluster Meeting at Treasure Coast UU of Stuart (See page 7) •7:30 pm Labyrinth Café Concert (See page 6) 	OCTOBE
I 2 •Journey Article Submission Deadline •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day •1:00pm - Long Range Planning Meeting (See Page 2)	I3 •7:00pm - Board Meeting	14	I5 ∙6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	I 6 ∙7:30 pm CUUPS	17 •7:00 _ Vespers Service - by Douglas Paul	18 •7:00pm Forum on Homeless Hate Laws	ER 2014
I9 •9:30am - UU Sisterhood •12:45pm - Long Range Plan Meeting (See page 2)	20 •7:00pm - Sunday Services Committee	21	22 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	23 •7:30 pm CUUPS	24	25 •7:30 - 16th Annual Witches Ball (See page 7)	
26 •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day	27 •7:00pm - Long Range Plan Meeting (See page 2) •7:00pm Welcoming/ Membership Committee	28	29 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal	30 •7:30 pm CUUPS	31	Religious Education Events See special calendar on the RE page 4	



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Phone:	954-484-6734		
Minister Phone:	954-288-4245		
E-mail:	uucfl@aol.com		
Website:	www.uucfl.org		
Sundays at 11 am:	Service & Children's Religious Education		

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Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

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October 5 - Memoir As Spiritual Tool/ Telling My Story and Other's Stories to Help You Tell Your Story - Rev. Gail's sabbatical did not allow her to take a planned workshop on Memoir but she did spend a lot of time reading some very unique memoirs and personal histories- non-fictional and fictional alike. Today with some congregational readers she will share some classic memoirs and offer a unique tool for using our own life stories as a tool for emotional and spiritual growth. A short workshop on ways to tell your own story will be offered after church for all interested. It will be free.

October 12 - Are you a Furnace Church or a Foot Warmer

Church? - Another encore sermon from Rev. Carole Yorke. Today the stewardship canvass to fund the needs of this congregation for the coming year begins. If you questioned it before, do not divorce yourself from the truth that the funding of this church's future demands your most responsible and generous support. It is our shared responsibility to help make this church all that it can

become. In such an effort, it is important, even vital, that we all participate in the decision-making process before us. This is an opportunity to share our individual reflections on what is going well and what our hopes and dreams for the future of our shared religious community are. And, at the onset of this 2014-2015 canvass effort, it is only fair that I share with you both the good news and the bad news.

The good news is . . . that we already have the money to do everything that needs to be accomplished as well as the funding to do all that this congregation wants to do in the coming 2014-2015 church program year.

The bad news is that . . . it is still out there in your pockets and checkbooks.

October 19 - Cycles of Jewish Life - Rabbi Noah Kitty from Congregation Etz Chaim will speak to us about the Cycles of Jewish Life and the Importance of the Sabbath for everyone.

October 26 - Annual David Fisher Memorial Poetry Service -Coordinated once again by Susan Moss, this UUCFL favorite in honor of our beloved late choir director is always a hit as members share original poems or a poem that has spoken deeply to them.

November 2- Samhain and Day of the Dead - UUCFL Treasurer Donna Gutierrez returns to give us a unique angle on this holiday and to share a meaningful ritual. We will have a memorial altar set up. You can bring photos and small memorabilia of loved ones passed. A solemn but beautiful service.

