

The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

MARCH 2009
Volume 50, Number 3

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**April 2009 Issue
Deadline**

Sunday March 8, 2009

Submit articles to:
submission@uucfl.org

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A Center for
Religious Thought
and Social Action in
Fort Lauderdale

**Unitarian
Universalist**
Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue
Oakland Park, Florida 33309
954-484-6734
www.uucfl.org
Established in 1958
Celebrating Our 50 Year Jubilee

The SE Florida UU Cluster
and the Broward Green League
proudly present
Green Spirit - Green Space
Saturday, March 7th from
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
See page 6 for more



Monthly Freedom Video and
Discussion Series continues
Sunday March 8 - 9:30am
See page 7 for details



Labyrinth Café presents:
Nick Annis/Danny Schmidt
Saturday, March 14 7:30pm
Find out more on page 5



**Announcing Our District
Annual Assembly**
*The Arc of a Moral
Universe ...*
Bends Toward Justice
March 20-22, 2009

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota
Information on page 8

Thanks, Thanks and More Thanks



I forgot to get my thank you article in the January newsletter so here it is. So many of you were kind enough to shower me with gifts, lovely cards, a lunch or invitation during the recent holiday season.

I never cease to be amazed at how some of you give me just the right book or find some little object in purple that you know will tickle me. I got a couple of Dunkin Donut gift cards this year after having mentioned in a sermon that I regard DD's coffee as the nectar of the Gods. I am always delighted to receive gifts but I hope no one ever feels obligated to give me anything. The gift of this lovely community is such an ongoing joy. Again, the mystery of my Secret Santa goes on. Each year someone who seems to be able to read my mind leaves me a book or several books and a little type written note telling me I have been a good girl. All my candidates for who this SS might be have totally denied it. So I continue to speculate on just who it is that gets me some perfect reading material year after year. All of you have also benefited from the existence of my SS because several sermons have come out one of the books that appeared on my desk one Christmas season. You are a wonderful and thoughtful group and so appreciate the opportunity to serve as your minister.

Rev. Gail

Pastor's Fund Can Save A Life

Some of you may not be aware of a small fund of money that the minister or her surrogate can dispense to help someone in the congregation in a crises. It can also be used to help out people in the larger community who call or come by looking for help. Sometimes in the past I have been able to do dramatic things with the Pastor's fund. I was able to pay the mortgage for a month for a member who was about to loose her home. I was able to pay some medical bills for an elderly member with some crushing debt. However, my really big sustaining donors for the fund have sort of dried up in the last couple of years. One member who used to give me a hundred dollars a month has moved away from our community. Other large donors have died or become inactive. However, this year we had a very generous Christmas Eve collection for the Pastor's fund and another good collection on a 5th Sunday. I have about \$600 available at the moment. If you have a bill that just seems to be one more than you can handle, please don't hesitate to ask for help. When I am here you bring your request to me but in my absence, Bill Cox our treasurer has been deputized to both approve and write the checks. Speak with Bill privately on a Sunday or give him a call. We have a limit of \$50 per person at a time and we prefer to write the check directly to a doctor or FPL or AT&T. If you just have a bad week and need a little extra grocery money, Sandy in the office is temporarily authorized to give small amounts of cash - \$ 15 or so that you can purchase some tuna and peanut butter and bread. I would like to be able to help people in a much more substantive fashion. So if you are one of the lucky ones with a steady job, or your portfolio has been less hard hit that most, I would sure welcome some new sustaining donors. Checks should be written to UUCFL with Pastor's fund in the memo line. Be assured that your money will be distributed to those who need it and that hopefully when their situation improves, they in turn will be a patron. Thank you in advance for your generosity to those having a difficult time.

Rev. Gail



Prez Says

Our congregation voluntarily supports the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA), the Florida District of the UUA (Florida District), and the Southeast Cluster of the Florida District of the UUA (SE Cluster). The consequence of our involvement is that, as a congregation, we are not alone. The UUA and the Florida District do an amazing job of supporting our religious concerns and our religious movement, and the SE Cluster helps us work with our sister congregations close to home.



The UUA (www.uua.org) supports over 1000 congregations, provides a continental voice for our religious movement, and supports the lay and religious professionals (ministers, religious educators, and church musicians) who make things happen at the congregational level.

The Florida District (www.floridadistrict.org), one of twenty districts in the UUA, supports 44 congregations with 5,000 members in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Reverend Kenn Hurto, Connie Goodbread, and the administrative staff of the district do an incredible job of supporting leadership and congregational development in the Sunshine State.

Some important Florida District events are coming up in March: March 20-22—The Florida District Annual Assembly meets in Sarasota with the theme, *The Arc of a Moral Universe . . . Bends Toward Justice*. This includes worship events, the annual business meeting of the Florida District, and workshops. For more information, go to "Events" at www.floridadistrict.org

March 25--The UU Legislative Ministry of Florida (UULMF, www.uulmf.org), which supports individual and congregational participation in our state government, sponsors its Legislative Day in Tallahassee. The ministry is in its second year of operation and Rev. Gail Tapscott is a member of the UULMF Steering Committee. The legislative ministry has worked on The Marriage Amendment, Voter Rights, Global Warming, and Homelessness. On March 25, UULMF, along with its cosponsor, Florida Coalition for the Homeless, will focus on the situation of the homeless in Florida.

The SE Cluster (<http://uufloida.org/secluster.htm>) supports communications and joint projects among the UU congregations and fellowships in Southeast Florida (from the Florida Keys to Stuart), Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

On March 7, the SE Cluster and the Broward Green League are presenting *Green Spirit – Green Space* at UUCFL. (For more information on this, see page 6.)

For each member of UUCFL, we provide \$56 to the UUA, \$21 to the Florida District, and \$1 to the SE Cluster, or a total of \$78. For two member households, this is \$156. Our payment to the UUA supports the annual program fund, which provides about one-half of its operating budget. At our UUCFL budget meeting on February 1, you voted to continue our financial contributions to our UU associations—this maintains our status as a "Fair Share" congregation.

At our budget meeting, you also voted to maintain funding for our staff (minister, office administrator, director of religious education, music director, and choir director), our physical facilities, and our church programs at, generally, their current level of funding. You also supported the re-entry of BINGO to our fund raising activities. In addition, you approved an expenditure of up to \$50,000 from the Building Fund for external maintenance and repairs. This will fund badly needed work to restore the tower and exterior of the building. Thanks to those of you who participated in our annual budget meeting and all of you who are working to sustain and grow our Congregation.

Ken Beier

Rev. Gail's Space

Everything Passes, Everything Changes



It is becoming quite a cliché to talk about how challenging and scary the current times are, and certainly it feels that way. I was down in Hollywood, FL recently for Sunday brunch (a luxury I don't get to enjoy often for obvious reasons). While a few of the restaurants seemed to be doing a good business several of them looked rather pitiful. Then a stroll down one of the side streets showed almost every other storefront empty. It sort of reminded me of the small southern towns and towns in the rust belt I have seen that look like dying communities. This is south Florida in the height of the "season". It is pretty unnerving. However, some people are finding opportunities in this atmosphere, and the key I think to find some creative potential in this downturn is flexibility.

I recall going through the terrible regional downturn in Boston in 1990 or so. Nothing was happening for me as long as I was attached to staying in Boston or even to staying in the same line of work. It wasn't until I took a total risk and applied for a job in Arizona with Greenpeace that my life got moving again. Basically, I did not think I was even qualified for the position of Director of a National Fundraising office. However, there were internal conflicts going on at Greenpeace that made an outsider like me with a good education and a lot of corporate experience very desirable for them. I got the job over 280 other applicants due to a total random convergence of circumstances. The move was difficult and I was rather lonely out in Flagstaff for a while but it was that totally risky move that led directly to my fulfilling my dream of becoming a minister, a dream that I had thought was never going to come true. Life is full of ups and downs for all of us individually and for the larger culture, and I believe we always have more options than we can see at any given time. Aristotle said in his book on Ethics that we can never fully determine whether someone had a happy life or not until that life is over because circumstances are always changing..

As many folk and fairy tales tell us we can never be sure of what situation is really fortunate or tragic until things unfold over time. This is a good time for patience and for remembering that "this too shall pass." It is a time to look at things through a different frame. Perhaps if you think you are about to lose your house, you could find a roommate or take in a boarder. Maybe you have to be open to the option of relocating, going back to school, living with children or with your parents depending on your time in life. Maybe you have to stay in a job or other situation you were planning to leave and find some other option for changing or improving your life. All I can offer is don't despair. Someone else has been in just your situation before and not only lived to tell the tale, they may have come to feel it was a time of great growth. This is a time to listen to the beat of your own drummer and not try to meet the expectations of other people. My father loved to tell the stories of what a bum he was during the great depression. He had graduated from college with a degree in commerce in 1929 – what timing. But his life unfolded quite well despite spending the better part of his twenties and thirties unemployed or doing part time work and often coming back to live with this family. He liked to recall what good friends he had during that period and all the fun they had despite most of them having almost no money. It is true the culture is very different now, but friends are still a joy, and there is still nothing more fun than sharing a potluck and good conversation. People used to have rent parties to raise enough money to keep their homes – How brilliant to offer people a good time as they help you survive. We will all get through this time, and many of us may look back on these years as a risky and rewarding time when we rethought our values and refocused our lives individually and as a society. I believe this community is ready to be a safe place to weather the storm.

Blessings on you for taking risks, learning and growing together.

I am off taking some risks of my own and trying to learn and grow. I will be back soon.

Love,

Rev. Gail

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) NEWS

Director of Religious Education (DRE) - Susan Dirgins-Friend

Phone (954) 424-1910

Email tiredmomofbob@aol.com

Committee Meetings - Third Sundays of the Month—9:30am



Spring is here, spring is here. It is warm again and our new garden is taking shape. As time goes on, we hope to produce real food for use here at church and also be able to contribute some fresh veggies to the Cooperative Feeding Program.

Thanks again to Endowment for the grant to build and develop the garden and thanks to Doug Friend for building it for us.

We are going to be continuing with our regular RE classes in March and working on the garden. Put April 5th, Sunday on your calendar. We will be having a children's Seder on that Sunday. We welcome anyone who may want to celebrate with us that morning. It would be especially nice to have some of our Jewish members to contribute their know-how and memories. Please let me know if you would like to participate or help.

April 12 is Easter and we will be having our normal egg hunt and festivities.

April 12 is Easter and we will be having our normal egg hunt and festivities.

This is a great Sunday to invite friends and family.

I am trying to organize a regular once a month Saturday work-day at the Cooperative Feeding Program. It will be probably 2-4 hours, most likely in the morning. There is a flyer at church and a sign up sheet available. Once I know who is interested, we will meet and decide which Saturday works best for all. It will not be the third Saturday as that is all-church work day. We hope that many people will be willing to participate in this worthwhile endeavor.

Keep coming to church, and bring love with you.

Love and Blessings, Susan



RE Calendar for March

Sunday March, 1, 11AM

Regular RE/Garden Kids Start in Church

Sunday March 8, 11AM

Regular RE/Garden Kids Start in Class

Sunday March 15, 9:30AM

RE Committee Meeting

All are Welcome and Encouraged

Sunday March 15, 11AM

Regular RE/Garden Kids Start in Class

Sunday March 22, 11AM

Regular RE/Garden Kids Start in Class

Sunday March 29, 11AM

Regular RE/Garden Kids Start in Class

ADULT RE: Thanks once again to Kathleen

Rhoad and Noralee Traylor for their presentation of the women's spirituality class, "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven". There is a part two of the class, so look for an update on when it will be offered.

We are going to be offering an adult RE class on "Articulating Your UU Faith" which will be a fun and engaging way to learn how to communicate your liberal religious beliefs. We are also thinking of presenting a class based on a new book called "Heart to Heart". This will be an "Evensong" type class, but focusing on topics like nature, money, forgiveness, and friendship.

Dates for both of these classes will appear soon in the cUUrious cUUrier email newsletter.

Keep your eyes open.

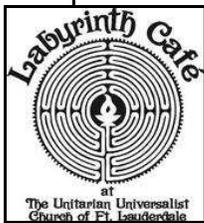
Teens Eyeing Trip to Boston

The teen group will be focusing on their upcoming heritage trip to Boston, the central location of the Unitarian Universalist Association Headquarters and the history of the UU movement. We have appreciated the support of our generous congregant members and our Endowment Board in our fundraising efforts, and we ask for your continued support as our teens trace their religious roots to hold them close as they develop their wings to set them free.

Gary Ladka and Valerie Turner—Teen Advisors



Don't forget to buy some tea or chocolate to support both our programs and The Cooperative Feeding Program. It is organic and Fair Trade. We are also still doing our Heifer Project drive. Any small amount is welcome to help families all over the world.



**Labyrinth Café presents
Nick Annis/Danny Schmidt
Saturday, March 14, 2009 7:30pm**

Visit www.nickannis.com and
www.dannyschmidt.com



Nick Annis is an award-winning songwriter, but he is also admired by folk fans for the storytelling talent that makes his performances so memorable. Audiences return time after time to hear him deliver spoken word pieces in the style of brilliant songwriter/storytellers like Gamble Rogers, John McCutcheon, and Dave Carter. Nick's insights are drawn from widely varied careers (including selling ice cream from a truck, running a small bakery, and drilling for oil in the Midwest), but also from his upbringing in a large Greek family. Drawing on this diverse background, Nick crafts "true" stories and timeless accounts of humanity.

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.



Reservations requested but not required:
Contact Myra at Myrafly@yahoo.com or 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 received in the UU church office, c/o Labyrinth Café, no later than Wednesday before Saturday show.

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, the artists' websites, as well as www.myspace.com/labyrinthcafe for song samples!

Susan Moss—Labyrinth Café Concerts

🎵 **Saturday, April 11, 2009**

Amy Carol Webb/Denice Franke

🎵 **Saturday, May 9, 2009**

Rod MacDonald/Michael McNevin

Music Notes

January was a hard act to follow. Our parade of varied and interesting speakers continues, and the choir adds their special music to enhance these services. Wasn't the Unbirthday fun?



We missed our choir on February 22 when they sang with the Tri-Choir at River of Grass Congregation. They will be back with us on March 1.

We have a special treat planned for March 1 when our friend, Alfredo Tamburrino, will be here to play his flute for the prelude and with the choir at offertory time. Be sure to come as we also welcome Schuyler Vogel, director of Faith Development at River of Grass UU Congregation to speak at this service.

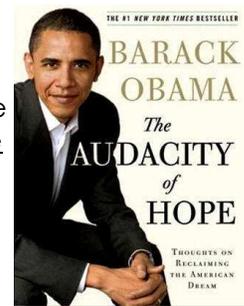
The choir will sing again for the March 15 service. The next Sunday they will be at Boca Raton Fellowship for the final Tri-Choir performance this year.

With March moving right along, can Easter be far behind? We will have choir April 12 for that very special service. More about that in next month's Journey.

Dot Muise, Director of Music

UUCFL Book Group

The Book Group will gather on March 22 at 12:45pm and will be discussing The Audacity of Hope by our new president Barack Obama. In this book he charts many aspects of his vision of a different and more just and hopeful country. Join us for a lively discussion even if you did not have time to read the book. The group is lead by Melanie Taffel. Melanie can be reached at 954-298-9827.



It's Tax Time - Each Referral to H&R Block Helps UUCFL

As tax time approaches there is a way we can help our church as well as helping ourselves to what is hopefully a large refund. Member Ken Wensel is arranging for a \$25 gift back to the church for every new person who brings their 2008 taxes to H&R Block. Ken's office is in Welleby Plaza at 10097 W Oakland Park Blvd, Sunrise. Of course if you wish you may take the certificate, which you may pick up at UUCFL, and take to any H&R Block office.



Ken Wensel

Service Auction / Wine & Cheese Party

There was wine. There was cheese. There was bellydancing. Huh? As a surprise highlight, Elizabeth Bercaw, a professional bellydancer, gave the delighted audience a sample of the family-oriented bellydancing session that she was offering.

We are ever so grateful for our helpers, donors, and bidders. Thanks to Frank Solis our sanctuary was transformed into a cozy auction house. Phoenix Cockerham warmly greeted bidders with catalogs. Ever-smiling Mary Bardis wore multiple hats as food preparer, bartender, cashier, raffle-ticket seller, and event photographer. While awaiting the live auction and raffle, bidders put their names on sheets for fixed-bid and silent auction items, mingled, noshed, and imbibed. Stirring the warmly glowing crowd into a bidding frenzy, auctioneer Kip Barkley's ad-libbed quips kept the afternoon entertaining and exciting. Poured into a copper gown and elbow-length gloves, Judy King camped and vamped while encouraging bidding and taking items into the audience for closer inspection. Models of efficiency, Melanie Taffel and Phoenix made checking out a breeze by keeping running tabs for each winning bidder.

It was Susan Friend's lucky night. She won both the highly coveted chenille afghan hand-made by Virginia Anderson and the raffle for the tree of 50 Lotto/lottery tickets. (You will make a contribution to the church if you win big, right, Susan? ;-)) We all had fun and made about \$900 for the church in just one night. If you couldn't attend, it's not too late to participate. You can bid at the fixed-bid and silent auctions over the next few weeks.

Judy King and Melanie Taffel



Auctioneer Kip with Judy as Vanna White

Attentive and bemused bidders

Elizabeth Bercaw Shimmying

Lotto Tree

Phoenix and Melanie Counting Beans

Words from the Board

Your Board of Trustees met in February and here are some of the highlights:

- Heard a report from David Fisher on behalf of the Jubilee Task Force. The event brought in a profit of \$2,097.15 and the board voted to split the profit between the church operating budget and the Cooperative Feeding Program. The board expressed gratitude to David and the committee for their work on the Jubilee.

- Treasurer's report showed the operating fund account at \$4,934.41. The Colonial Bank Balance is at \$6,611.10 as Bill had to move \$13,000.00 from Colonial to pay insurance bills which are now paid. UUA dues are not paid for the year yet. We usually pay in installments and they are due by June. We reported a membership count of 129 to the UUA.

- Discussed current renters and potential future renters.

- Learned more of an estate settlement that the church may receive.

- The board continues to participate in 3rd Thursday leadership training teleconferences with the Florida District UUA.

- Debriefed congregational budget meeting. Set date of May 17, 2009 for Annual Congregational Elections Meeting

- Regretfully accepted the resignation of Judy King from the board. Thank you for your efforts and all you do for the church, Judy.

- Continued work on staff job descriptions.

- Heard committee reports :

Ways and Means - raised \$800.00 in one night with Service Auction and projects at least another \$400.00 in follow ups.

Building and Grounds - Appreciate the support of the congregation on repairs needed. Expecting to get the major repairs done by rainy season.

Committee on Ministry - Active when called upon.

Finance - Will be working on quarterly reviews of finances and examine church's investments.



Respectfully Submitted - Gary Ladka/Secretary

**The SE Florida UU Cluster and the Broward Green League proudly present:
Green Spirit - Green Space - Saturday, March 7th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ft. Lauderdale**

Come hear our DYNAMIC DUO – South Florida Climate Change Experts Barry Heimlich & Capt. Dan Kipnis. Then find out what you can do about Climate Change.



Captain Dan Kipnis – trained by Al Gore – is a Charter Boat Captain. He will present a dynamic and energetic talk on the causes and Impacts of climate change on the ocean.

Barry Heimlich - President of Florida Energy Imperative, Inc. – is a climate and energy consultant. He is a Senior Fellow at FAU's Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions, where he is doing research related to climate adaptation policy. He will discuss local, state & federal policy to address mitigation and adaptation to climate change..

Registration is \$10 per person (\$5 under 21 & free after 2:00) postmarked before March 3 - \$15 at the door

Scholarships are available for members of SE Cluster congregations.

Contact Kathy Jens-Rochow 954 463-2085 or kjensrochow@comcast.net.

Freedom Video and Discussion

A series of 30 minute stimulating and challenging "Freedom" videos on topical civil liberties issues is being offered at the church. The next will be on Sunday, March 8 at 9:30 AM. The award winning videos were prepared by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Each video will be followed by a 30-45 minute discussion which will be moderated by Bill Schoolman, president of the Broward ACLU and a new member of UUCFL. The videos will be held on the second Sunday of each month.

If you have any questions, contact Bill at billschoolman@aol.com. The schedule of the videos for the next six months is as follows:

March 8 - 9:30 AM - The Death Penalty
 April 12 - 9:30 AM - Drug Wars
 May 10 - 9:30 AM - Gay and Lesbian Rights
 June 14 - 9:30 AM - Women's Rights
 July 12 - 9:30 AM - Dissent



Office Notes March 2009

Greetings and good wishes from Sandy in the Office. The cold Winter we had will influence the character and gifts of our beautiful gardens. Our Building and Grounds Committee, as well as, the other volunteers have helped to shape our landscapes, Memorial Garden, lot entrance, sign protective boundaries, play area and building entrance. Take time this Spring to enjoy the serenity and gifts of our building, garden and grounds. The stewardship shows skill, love and care. Let me know when I may be of help to you. Good wishes.

Sandy - UUCFL Office



CUUPS Update

Saturday, March 21, we will gather at 7 PM to celebrate Ostara and the Spring Equinox. It is a time of flowers, greenery and bunnies. We will share an ancient story and welcome the coming of spring. Do wear colorful garb and bring food and beverage for the feast to follow.

Thursday Evening 7:30 PM Study Group continues. We will tell stories of Ireland before Patrick and do other pre-Christian things. Bring back the snakes!

Kip, Resident Pagan

Committee on Ministry Always Here for You

The Committee on Ministry will be available to address any concerns you may have while Gail is away for the next couple months.

We have been pleased to hear so many positive remarks about our minister and our congregation. Please contact us.

Annette Vafa, Ministry Chair, 954-923-7144

Steve Lange 954-257-9262

Kathleen Rhoad, 954-627-2665

Endowment Update:

An endowment is a large body of money surrounded by people who want some of it. One of the things we do is offer plaques for the Memorial Garden. We ask for the name of the person to be remembered and the years of their life. We order the marble plaque and have it mounted. We do insist on the loved one's information in writing. Yes, we are writing it in stone.

Plaques cost \$250 each. Planning ahead is a good idea. I see plaques of husbands on the wall but none for the wife. We don't do free plaques but you are welcome to buy as many as you desire for the people you want to remember. Liberal religion continues because you are willing to support it.

Kip, Trowel Wielder

A Walk Within: A Gathering of Women

The Sisterhood of the Temple of Ahel Adom, with the assistance of The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale, invites you to attend our second annual women's conference scheduled for March 28th, 2009 beginning at 8:00 am at the church.

Our Gathering of Women: A Walk Within is a truly eclectic array of workshops and will include a spectacular keynote speaker and luncheon with Cat Rocco, acclaimed artist, energy worker and Professor of Art at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. There will be a presentation to encompass a Gallery exhibition.

Please check out the links below for further information/pre-registration:

<http://thesisterhoodofaheladom.org/wwposter.html> or <http://thesisterhoodofaheladom.org/ww08reg.htm>

Through these various workshops specific to this goal, each woman has the opportunity to tap into her own psychological, social, cultural, and sexual interpretation of herself. As we stretch, stir, yawn, and gently open our eyes, we intend to begin bridging the gap of separation, creating ecstatic reconnection "to ourselves and to our Sisters - by acknowledging and embracing our needs, our desires, and our personal power. We shall become a new page on which to write our new stories...





Announcing Our District Annual Assembly
The Arc of a Moral Universe ... Bends Toward Justice
March 20-22, 2009 ~ Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

Hi Friends,

Each year the congregations of the Florida District come together in common Assembly to celebrate, to meet and to learn from each other. We also come to conduct the District's shared business. The notice of our District Assembly Annual Business meeting and delegates' credentials will come to you separately. For now, suffice it to say we have new officers to elect and a budget to adopt.

Meanwhile, the District Assembly is a great moment of shared ministry. We welcome **Dr. Charlie Clements**, head of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, as our theme speaker. Additionally, we have nearly 20 workshops and other meetings focused on our theme and congregational life.

After our **Awards Dinner** Saturday night, **Geoff Kaufmann**, renowned Unitarian Universalist folk singer, entertains us in a concert for delegates and others.

We thank our friends at the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota** for hosting us this year [including offering B&B accommodations].

You will find linked here the **program & registration flyer** for our Assembly. We're "going green" by not printing up flyers. We do, however, ask you please to print a few copies and post them where appropriate. We ask you also to distribute the flyer in your worship bulletin, post it on your website, and send to your members through your e-mail newsletter distribution.

Please note these dates:

Registration deadline is: Friday, March 6th.

Child-care is provided for children 1-12 years at no cost. You must return your request no later than March 6th.

Late-registration deadline is: Monday, March 16th.

On-site and/or registrations received after March 16th are welcome, but we cannot guarantee your meals.

We are eager to welcome **youth** and **young adults** to our Assembly. Note there is only a modest cost for their participation.

We eagerly look forward to seeing you in Sarasota next month.

With appreciation,

The Florida District Board of Directors:

**Jennifer Carver, Bill Bode, Rachel Christensen, Rev. Lora Kim Joyner, Ila Klion, Judy Lehman,
 Rev. Susanne Nazian, Steve Pitkin and Frank Wells**

Connie Goodbread, FLD UUA Lifespan Program Consultant

Kenn Hurto, FLD UUA District Executive

Bingo Fundraiser Returns to UUCFL in the Near Future

Bingo will be coming to UUCFL as a major ongoing fundraising effort as voted by our congregation. We are working on the format now, and we will be making announcements of the exact details shortly. Your help will be needed to make this program a success. Volunteers will be running the evening by calling, selling tickets, working the floor, cooking and serving in the kitchen as well as setup and breakdown. The most important need will be somebody(s) to advertise the game to the public to insure we have the volume of players to make the effort worthwhile. Please keep in mind that this is a whole church effort and we need the whole church to participate. You can even do that by playing and winning yourself. Another benefit in this for all of us is that it will be fun and a great social experience at the same time.

We will be raising money to keep our church and programs strong and have a blast by working at it together.

Please call or email me at 954-969-7221 or garylada@mindspring.com.

Gary Ladka



Directory of Staff, Board, Committee Chairs & Affiliates

STAFF

- **Minister**
Rev. Gail Tapscott.....954-288-4245
- **Office Administrator**
Sandra Walker.....954-484-6734
- **Director of Religious Education**
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- Cooperative Feeding Program**
Rev. Gail Tapscott.....954-288-4245



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Mary Bardis954-298-9779

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Annette Vafa954-923-7144

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Ways & Means

Virginia Anderson.....954-975-4686

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• **Endowment**

Sandy Harris.....954-564-6236

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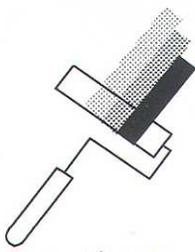
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March Birthdays

Vernon Allen 3/1
Kathleen Rhoad 3/3
Gail Tapscott 3/10
Renee Robinson 3/10
Frank Solis 3/12
Susan Dirgins Friend 3/13
David Fisher 3/13

Morgan Laign 3/14
Zachariah Griffiths 3/18
Cory Cockerham 3/20
Duncan Oberg 3/22
Ivor Vidal 3/23
Rachel P. Donelson 3/27

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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MARCH 2009 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/events.htm



Religious Education Events
 See special calendar
 on the RE page 4

1 •9:30am-UU Sisterhood	2 7:30pm—Peaceful Meditation	3	4 •10:30am—Gentle Yoga •12:00Noon—Brown Bag Lunch Bunch •7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal	5 7:30 pm CUUPS	6	7 10:00am—SE UUA Cluster “Green Spirit— Green Space” (See page 6)
8 •2:00am—Daylight Savings Time Begins •Journey Submission Deadline •9:30am—Freedom Video and Discussion (see page 7)	9 •7:00pm - Board Meeting	10	11 •10:30am—Gentle Yoga •7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal	12 7:30 pm CUUPS	13	14 7:30pm—Labyrinth Café Nick Annis/Danny Schmidt (See page 5)
15 •9:30am—Religious Education Committee •9:30am-UU Sisterhood •3:00pm -Labyrinth Remulching	16 •7:30pm - Peaceful Meditation •7:30pm—Sunday Services Committee	17	18 •10:30am—Gentle Yoga •7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal	19 7:30 pm CUUPS	20 Florida UUA District Annual Assembly in Sarasota (through 22nd) (see page 8)	21 •7:30am Building & Grounds Workday •7:00pm- Ostara Celebration
22 •12:45pm—Book Discussion Group •12:45pm—Membership Committee	23	24	25 •UU Legislative Day in Tallahassee (see page 2) •10:30am—Gentle Yoga •7:00pm—Choir Rehearsal	26 7:30 pm CUUPS	27	28 8:00am—A Walk Within: A Gathering of Women (see page 7)

29	30	31
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Unitarian Universalist

Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue

Minister: Rev. Gail Tapscott

Phone: 954-484-6734

Fax: 954-484-6778

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

MARCH 2009

March 1- Multigenerational Communities

Schuyler Vogel, the Director of Faith Development at our sister congregation, River of Grass Unitarian Universalist Congregation, will lead this service which will reflect on how our UU principles call us to create inclusive, multigenerational communities, both to ensure our own future and to fulfill our calling as a welcoming faith that brings hope and love to all people.

March 8 - When I Die Just Send Me to SUUSI

with Kip Barkley and Friends. SUUSI is the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute held with about 1,000 UUs in Virginia on a college campus. Come hear the stories and music of the family, single, nature, workshop, youth, and worship events that fill this magical week.

*****Daylight Savings Time Reminder*****

"Spring" your clocks ahead one hour before you go to sleep Saturday March 7 to be on time for service. DST begins March 8 at 2:00 am.

March 15 - Poof! Moments

Rev. Ren Bell, minister at Church of Our Savior Metropolitan Community Church, speaks of miraculous, transformative, life-changing experiences.

March 22 - TBA Sunday Service

....but sure to be intellectually challenging as well as spiritually fulfilling!

March 29 - Prosperity Consciousness

Rev. Kathy Bishop, minister at Independent Unity Church of Ft. Lauderdale, graces our pulpit once again to share her wit, wisdom and warmth with us.

