The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

April 2013 Volume 54, Number 4

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May 2013 Issue Deadline Sunday April 14, 2013

Submit articles to: submission@uucfl.org

Editor

Gary Ladka

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Established in 1958



Adult Religious Education Series
A New View Of World Religions
With Rev Gail Continues
Tuesdays through April 9 at 7:00pm

Let the spirit move you to Page 5



Labyrinth Café
Concerts Presents
Jennings & Keller/
Nick Annis
Saturday, April 13
at 7:30pm
Concert info Page 7



Third Friday Vespers Service Friday, April 19 at 7:00pm At your service on Page 3





Beltaine Celebration
Saturday, April 27 at12:00Noon

Merry Make Your Way to Page 6



Social Action and Activism Events for April

Sunday April 7 at 1:00pm - The New Jim Crow Sunday April 14 at 1:00pm - War vs Human Needs Thursday April 18 at 5:00pm - Filling Empty Bowls Saturday April 20 at 4:00pm - Occupy Ft Lauderdale Friday April 26 at 7:00pm - Social Justice Committee

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.



From Your Board President

I get these ideas and then I try to implement them myself and frankly I end up needing help. I should have asked for help from the beginning. I am trying to warm up UUCFL and not just by the weather. I think if we all get to know each other better we will fall in loving friendship. I think if we all are good friends, then when new members come to the church, they will feel it. They will sense that we care for one another.

I have asked everyone to be a part of the membership committee. I've asked everyone to bring their friends and be friendly with our lovely guests. If you missed that message, I reissue my request that everyone work together to grow the church. We have to because of the money. We cannot afford what we want. I want to pay our fair share to the UUA. I want to pay our staff fairly for their efforts too. I would like to have more assistance with the administrative piece of the church. I want us to be able to pay for all this ourselves. The only way I see this happening is by growth...

So this is my plan. I am trying to enjoy all of you. I am trying to bring you into relationship with several other members. I've been having people over for dinner. I just don't think I can actually invite everyone. It is looking like I will be a Past-President in a couple of months. I'm running out of year.

So could you please help? Plan a get-together, either at your house or at the church. Feed people, play games, and talk about yourselves. Let me know if you need help planning. I have done this several times. If you need suggestions on who to invite, let me know and I will help you. If you get invited to something, try to make time to go. You can invite me too if you like. This fun and games will build the church and take us into the future.



Let's make the church warm, that will help us grow, that will help us sustain our mission. Spring is a great time to warm things up.

Myra Symons

UUCFL Proclaims Justice Boldly

I was so personally proud of our showing of members, friends and friends of friends at the March 18 BOLD Justice Nehemiah Action. There were 45 people claiming a UUCFL affiliation there at the gathering of more than 1,300. Some important progress was made on both the Local Hiring Ordinance and the Reading Improvement issues. About 16 of us met at the church for pizza beforehand and went over in a caravan adding to the esprit de corp. So far our numbers are growing each year and many people in the community are learning that we are a special and committed crew.

Rev. Gail and the BOLD Justice/Social Justice Team



Come Walk Our Renewed Labyrinth.Since 2002, we have had this meditational walk on the north side of

our building. See uucfl.org/labyrin.htm
15 volunteers gathered on a Sunday to spread fresh mulch. It all cost
\$600+ with money that did not come from our church budget.
Seekers cross denominational and religious lines to search out and
walk a new Labyrinth. We are listed in an international directory,
Labyrinthlocator.com. Fresh visitors come to our property.

There is even such a happening as a Labyrinth Retreat.

Kip. a Walker

Rev. Gail's Space

April Fools and April Showers

The poets have always loved writing about April. It seems to always be the harbinger of spring, renewal, rebirth and new beginnings but then I have read that more people commit suicide in the spring than any other time except maybe the Christmas holidays. I guess it is harder to be depressed when you assume everyone else is happy and having a great time. Some of the April poetry is super laudatory as in Robert Browning's "Oh, to be in England now that April is there." But then there is T.S. Eliot's "The Wasteland" which is the perfect poem for the truly already downhearted. It is pretty much likely to send them right over the edge. Just the first verse of the long poem is a bummer: "April is the cruelest month, breeding Lilacs out the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dead roots with spring rain."



It is also worth noting that April 1st is known as April Fools' Day. I think what all the poems are saying in various ways is that the month can fool us and trick us. It is sort of a bi-polar month. One day it can be warm and inviting and the next day chilly and rainy. It can lull us into a false sense of possibility and well being and then kick us in the teeth. It is kind of a more intense microcosm of life itself which can be wonderful and terrible, happy and sad, funny and scary in moments that follow quickly on each other. I know for me the idea of mixing memory and desire is certainly true. What was likely the pivot point of my life happened in Washington D.C. the April of my 18th year. Sometimes it feels like that time was so intense that everything that has happened since then has been a kind of epilogue or commentary. A lot of it was my age but it was also the time and the place- 1964 in the nation's capitol that had recently been devastated by the death of our young president but then had welcomed the Beatles in the winter and had brought Bob Dylan into my life in the spring. I still look back at that spring as a sort of born again experience. The little girl from Mississippi who read too many books and talked too much in class essentially died that April and someone else took over. The new Gail was fearless, an adventurer, a bohemian and future Hippie and a person who in a lot of ways was always destined to be a bit disappointed that life did not turn out to be quite as exciting as that that April promised it would. Still, I would not trade that time and those memories for anything. It gave me a sense of the magic and possibility of life that I have never really lost. So I hope your April brings you some foolishness, some showers and some memories and desires.

Blessings,

Rev. Gail

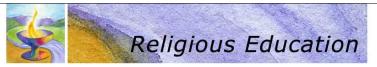
Vespers Services 2013

Vespers are held the third Friday of each month starting at 7PM. It is a time for music, readings, and quiet meditation that generally lasts 40-45 minutes followed by fellowship over wine and cheese. This month's service is on April 19

Last Monthly Vespers Service before the summer is May 17 There will be no vespers during the summer months (June, July, August) See www.uucfl.org/vespers/







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



Our little church needs help. It needs everyone to be a better steward of the building, the grounds and the general environs. We don't have the money for lots of expensive janitorial services, carpet cleaning, heavy duty grounds maintenance or similar services. I would encourage you, if you drop something, please pick it up and throw it away. If you spill something, please clean it up. If you have a group meeting, and you enjoy snacks and use the kitchen, please clean up your chip crumbs (vacuum in the closet in the

If you spill something, please clean it up. If you have a group meeting, and you enjoy snacks and use the kitchen, please clean up your chip crumbs (vacuum in the closet in the sanctuary), wash and dry the dishes or cups that you use, wipe the tables, and put out the garbage. If you use the sanctuary for a big event, such as a concert, ditto. It is pretty simple. Those of us that care about our church as a church, not just as a building to use, want the building to look really good on Sunday morning.

Please join me in the effort to put on our best face.

Love and Blessings, **DRE Susan**

April Children's Religious Education Schedule

Sunday April 7, 11AM Regular RE

Sunday April 14, 11AM Regular RE

Sunday April 21, 11AM Regular RE

Sunday April 28, 11AM Regular RE

Remember, children start every Sunday in church for the opening rituals, and then go out for children's RE.



Lifenet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Program Update

Our next Saturday workday will be April 6 Meet at the CFP at 8:45am

Questions or info DRE Susan (954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com



Join Us for Final World Religions Sessions

The two final sessions of our spring class on a new look at World Religions are coming up in April and each of them will be totally self contained and we would welcome first timers joining us for these last two classes which will perhaps be the most unique of the series.



Adult Education

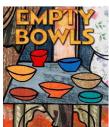
April 2- New Religious Movements – We will look at the enormous proliferation of new forms and manifestation of the religious impulse over the last 100 years or so.

April 9- Developing a Unitarian Universalist Meta- Narrative- In reviewing what we have learned about other world religions we will attempt to start developing our own unique religious world view in a positive rather than negative framework. We look at some spiritual practices that may work especially well for religious liberals.

Cost for each class is \$8.00. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on these two Tuesdays in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Rev. Gail

Social Justice - Filling Empty Bowls



Our fantastic little church got 45 people to the BOLD Justice Nehemiah Action on March 18th! We got all of the commissioners who came to commit to the jobs issue (see me if you'd like details).

The annual Filling Empty Bowls Dinner is coming up on Thursday April 18th from 5 - 7 p.m. Empty Bowls benefits LifeNet for Families (The Cooperative Feeding Program) and is only 10 dollars for a delicious evening of soup and fellowship.

Yours in Justice,

Lore Bernier

The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year.
~Mark Twain

Music Notes

March had some of the High Holidays of the UU Church. Oh yes, we do have them! Read on. Surely Rev. Gail's 'Liberation for All' service on March



24 was one with the Tri-Choir providing exciting music. Next came Easter and more choir presentations.

How's that for High Holidays?

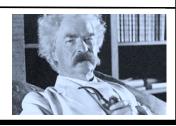
Choir will sing "Colors of the Wind" on April 14, but the next two Sundays will be Tri-Choir presentations at Boca Raton Fellowship and River of Grass. Gerry Miller, violinist will play for our April 21 service. Music for April 28 is yet to be determined.

A generous donation has been received from Rachel P. Donelson, a former choir director and long time member of UUCFL. Her donation is designated for the purchase of a choir anthem in loving memory of Lucretia Tice Smith another former choir director who passed away recently. Thank you sincerely for your memorial gift, Rachel. This is a fitting way to remember the contribution of a treasured member of our congregation.

Those of you who have heard that the Music Committee is dead and gone, you are so wrong! There will be a meeting of this Committee at 12:45 following the service on April 14. If you have any concerns or suggestions for this group of dedicated musicians and listeners, please plan to attend this meeting. Items to be put on the agenda should be given to Douglas Paul, Chairman by April 7. Light refreshments will be provided, so bring your cup of coffee and be prepared to offer your input.

We need every voice, especially if you have a great idea and will organize it in conjunction with the Committee and the Director of Music.

Dot Muise, Director of Music





Exciting News! UUA Announces its New Headquarters!

March 15, 2013 My fellow Unitarian Universalists,

I am delighted to tell you that last night the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) Board of Trustees authorized the purchase of a new

headquarters for the UUA at 24 Farnsworth Street in Boston's Innovation District and the sale of our current Beacon Hill properties. This is truly a historic moment for our UU movement.

This new facility will reflect and promote our values and aspirations. It will allow staff to collaborate and work more closely with colleagues and constituents across the world. Visitors, committee members, and youth groups will be able to gather, meet, worship, and learn in a flexible space that is accessible to all. It will meet key environmental standards to reduce our impact on the Earth. Our movement will grow into a new era in this new space.

After a strategic analysis of our current infrastructure, we became very aware of the limitations of our headquarters including accessibility issues, members of staff spread out across 16 floors making collaboration and communication difficult, inadequate meeting space, and many more issues facing a modern workplace. These factors helped us determine that to renovate would be financially prohibitive.

With this information and after much deliberation, we concluded that in order to further our movement and work in a place that reflected our values, we needed a new headquarters. I am thrilled that our new headquarters will meet the current and future needs of the Association and our religious community.

In the weeks and months to come, the UUA will be sharing information about the new headquarters as it develops, and we want you to participate. There will be many opportunities for engagement, conversation, and contributions to this vital transition. To start, watch this video highlighting UUA staff's unique insight into this important and historic opportunity.

I am deeply appreciative of the scrupulous attention given to this matter by our Board of Trustees and of the work of our staff who contributed to the search process for a new headquarters. I give thanks to the countless individuals who have visited our headquarters at 25 Beacon Street and to all who have made it a place worthy of such admiration and meaning. I look forward to building upon our traditions and dreams in our new home.

In Faith,

Rev. Peter Morales - President - Unitarian Universalist Association

Coming CUUPS Events

Saturday afternoon April 27 we hold our Annual Beltaine Festival. There will be vendors, food, and amusements concluding with our Beltaine Open Ritual at 5 PM. We will welcome in the coming summer with all the abundance it brings. This is an ancient ceremony that



extends back into the mists of time in many cultures. It is a High Holy Day second only to Samhain which appears in our modern culture as Halloween. But now is the time of the Mother Goddess as she blossoms and the world follows her example.

Thursday 7:30 PM Study Groups continue. On the third Thursday, we will learn about Mind Magick. We are still booking the other two. Do come out and play.

Kip, Resident Pagan



Labyrinth Café Concerts Presents : Jennings & Keller/Nick Annis Saturday, April 13 at 7:30pm

Jennings & Keller is Laurie Jennings Oudin and Dana Keller, an acoustic duo based out of Miami, Florida. They bring a wealth of experience to their collaboration, from the Broadway musicals of New York to the honky tonks of West Texas. Their music is called "Fusion Folk Americana' - a blend of many different elements that comes from their vast and wide-ranging musical backgrounds Laurie Jennings Oudin is well-known as the former proprietress of The Main Street Cafe, which was viewed across the country as the premier acoustic music venue in Florida. A former Shakespearean actress, Laurie has been a singer and songwriter for many years. Since the cafe's close in June 2006, she has been devoting her time to her musical



career with Dana Keller, a veteran pedal steel, dobro, and guitar player who has spent years performing on stage or in the studio with such luminaries as Vince Gill, Ricky Skaggs, Stevie Wonder, Larry Graham, Marvin Gaye, Dave Mason, Johnny Rodriguez and The Allen Brothers, to name a few. The synergy created from these two diverse talents is not easy to define, but will leave a lasting impression on all who listen.



Drilling for oil in the Midwest. Selling ice cream from a truck. Running a bakery. Starting points for just a few stories Nick Annis deftly weaves between and through song and performance banter. One man medicine show? Itinerant philosopher? **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 to hear him deliver spoken word pieces in the style of brilliant songwriter/storytellers like Gamble Rogers, John McCutcheon and Dave Carter. Drawing on his diverse background and Greek roots, Nick crafts "true" stories and timeless accounts of humanity.

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

\$20 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: \$17, checks (made out to the performer) received in the UU church office, c/o Labyrinth Cafe, no later than Wednesday before Saturday show.

We encourage you to take advantage of our season pass which includes admission to all remaining shows, as well as

a Labyrinth Cafe T-shirt (designed and printed by Virginia and Erik Anderson, Labyrinth Cafe volunteers) and premium reserved seating. 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, as well as

www.myspace.com/labyrinthcafe for song samples!

Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series

H&R Block Non-Profit Referral Program Benefits the Church

As an H&R Block nonprofit partner, your organization will be able to raise money while helping your members and associates get exceptional tax preparation services. Last tax season we awarded more than \$500,000 to organizations like yours and we hope to increase that number in 2013. The program is easy and convenient. We'll send you \$20 for each new client you refer to H&R Block. The more new clients you refer, the more money your organization can make! So distribute the Referral form to your members and friends—even if they don't attend the church. The program runs between January 1 and the IRS income tax filing deadline (usually April 15) of the current year. By June 30th, your organization will receive one convenient check with your total program reward.

Contact Ken Wensel at 561-542-3198 to participate and help the church.



Nonprofit Referral Program

Programs of Discussion and Action for April The Case Against The War on Drugs and Racist Mass Incarceration



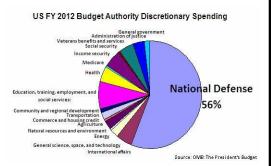
Reading and discussion of, and action upon, the issues posed by Michelle Alexander in her book, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness will take place on Sunday April 7, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the church. This will be the concluding session. Join the eleven to twenty-two people from diverse environments, few of whom knew more than a few of the others, who have had stimulating meetings and have resolved to meet two more times to finish discussing Alexander's analysis of the rebirth of a U.S. caste system whose population consists primarily of African-American men whose lives have been constrained by their contacts with the criminal justice system and who therefore face life-long discrimination in housing, employment, and civic participation.

Alexander graphically depicts how this criminal justice system, based on a hyper-inflated War on Drugs, functions as a means of social control of this population following the dismantling of Jim Crow in the 1960s. Alexander challenges the civil rights community and all of us to place the challenge of mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America.

The Broward library system has numerous copies, and the book is available at all physical and on-line bookstores. The discussions are free.

War vs Human Needs

FAU Professor of Communications Mike Budd: *Media and Politics* discussion will take place on Sunday April 14, at 1 p.m. We are in the midst of an historic social transformation in our use of media, from "old" media like print, film, radio and television to new digital media of Education, training, employment, and all kinds. But this technological transformation can hide the larger economic and political struggles going on underneath the surface. In this talk, Dr. Budd addresses the shifting role of large private media corporations in relation to independent, non-commercial media.



Occupy Ft Lauderdale



Occupy Ft Lauderdale Labor Outreach will meet Saturday, April 20, 4 p.m. at the church. Protect Gains for Workers: Combat Impending Efforts to Squash Local Living Wage and Wage Theft/Recovery Ordinances What are the current efforts in Tallahassee to preempt counties retroactively from enacting these important ordinances, which benefit both working OCCUPY people and our local economies? Mobilize and Fight Back!

Those interested in any of the above are invited to contact me at bob@benderworld.com 954-531-1928.

Bob Bender



Expand your UU and Facebook horizons by joining the new UU Southeast Cluster page to stay informed about activities of the Cluster which encompasses all of the UU congregations seen to the right.

Visit this page and click "Like" to join www.facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster



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Susan Moss	<u> </u>
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Dave Griswold786-389-9575	
Nominating Gary Ladka954-650-3728	`
Gary Ladka954-650-3728	5
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Ways and Means Annemarie Jameson954-552-0581	
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Opal Murray770-265-6242)
John Shearer	-
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April Birthdays

David Griswold 4/1
Erika Rose Elardi 4/2
Betty Brantley 4/3
Joe Lawson 4/12
Larry Wilkner 4/21
Caden Ryals-Luneburg 4/23
Mark Woodpecker 4/29



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

Fri

breaking events www.uucfl.org

and click "Coming Activities"

Mon

Sun

April Calendar



	1	2	3	4	5	6
Every Sunday: II:00 AM- Church Service and Children's Religious Education	•7:00pm - A Course in Miracles	•7:00pm - A New View of World Religions Class with Rev Gail (see page 5)	•6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal- Sopranos and Altos •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal- Tenors and Basses	•7:30 pm CUUPS		•8:45am - Cooperative Feeding Program Workday (See page 4)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
●9:30am - UU Sisterhood ●1:00pm - Book Discussion The New Jim Crow (See Page 8)	•7:00pm - Board Meeting •7:00pm - A Course in Miracles	•7:00pm - A New View of World Religions Class with Rev Gail (see page 5)	•6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal- Sopranos and Altos •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal- Tenors and Basses	•7:30 pm CUUPS		•7:30 pm Labyrinth Café Concert (See page 7)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
•Journey Submission Deadline •12:45pm - Music Committee •12:45pm - New Member Orientation •1:00pm - War vs Human Needs (See Page 8)	•7:00pm - A Course in Miracles •7:30pm - Sunday Services Committee		•6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal- Sopranos and Altos •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal- Tenors and Basses	•5:00pm - Filling Empty Bowls Dinner (See page 5) •7:30 pm CUUPS	•7:00pm - Vespers Service	•4:00pm - Occupy Ft Lauderdale/Labor Outreach
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
●9:30am - UU Sisterhood ●12:45pm - New Member Orientation	•7:00pm - Welcoming/ Membership Committee •7:00pm - A Course in Miracles		•6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal- Sopranos and Altos •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal- Tenors and Basses	•7:30 pm CUUPS	•7:00pm –Social Justice Committee	•12:00pm - Beltaine Celebration (See Page 6)
28	29	30				
	•7:00pm - A Course in Miracles		Religious Education Events	STANDING ON THE SIDE	OF	ine calendar for late-

See special calendar

on the RE page 4

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APRIL 2013



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Sundays Service & Children's at 11 am: Religious Education

The JOURNEY



Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

APRIL 2013

April 7 - Humanism for a New Generation - The last couple of years at General Assembly, the big UU Tribal Gathering, the Humanist Booth in the Exhibit Hall has had a sign up saying "This is not your father's Humanism." Over 80 years since the first Humanist Manifesto, the style and role of this part of our Unitarian Universalist heritage has changed noticeably. One major contribution of the UU Humanists in recent years was their leading the charge to retain our principles and purposes and the wording of our statement on the living traditions we draw from in their current form. Rev. Gail will share some thoughts on what humanism in our movement will look like in the next few decades.

April 14 - Syncretistic Religions I - Rastafari Perspective on Spirituality and Religion By Norman "Humble Lion" Lawrence aka Gabre Selassie - Quote from (H.I.M) His Imperial Majesty Hailie Selassie First..."No one should question the faith of others, for no human being can judge of the ways of God." There is so much confusion when it comes to the topic of Rastafari. This confusion is not only with the general public but also with many people that identify themselves as Rastafari. Ras Humble Lion does not claim to be the official spokesperson for Rastafari. However, he has been trodding in the faith for the past 25 years and attempts to bring some clarity by exposing the teachings of (H.I.M) His Imperial Majesty, in relation to the often misunderstood culture that developed around his name and title Ras Tafari, and also his baptismal name Haile Selassie First.

April 21 - Children of Abraham: A Look at the Often Uneasy Family Dynamics of Three Related Faiths -

Rev. Gail will take a look at the many ways that these three religions share not only a holy place, Jerusalem, but also many of the same stories and concepts while seeming so antagonistic toward each other in many ways. Gerry Miller, violinist will play for this service.

April 28 - When Bad Things Happen to Good People - Rev. Gail has been trying to fit this sermon in for over a year. Something kept getting in the way. Now she knows this is the right time for this particular message. This will not be a depressing service. Ideally, it can help us find healing in community.

May 5 - Syncretistic Religions II - Living in South Florida we are surrounded by the practices of several traditions that mix Catholicism with religions imported from Africa and the Islands. Sunday Service Co-Chair and UU ministerial hopeful John Shearer will try to demystify these very colorful traditions for us and show us that there may be lessons for Unitarian Universalists in unlikely places

