The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

AUGUST 2011 Volume 52, Number 7

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September 2011 Issue Deadline Sunday August 14, 2011

Submit articles to:

submission@uucfl.org

Editor

Gary Ladka

Production Staff

Sandy Walker Noralee Traylor
Betty Highton
Myra Symons Rev Gail Tapscott
and other helpers

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A Center for Liberal 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



Cooperative Feeding Program Workday Saturday August 6 - 8:00am

See how you can help on page 4



Labyrinth Café Singalong Night August 13 - 7:30pm

Tune in to page 8 for more details and a sneak peak at the 2011-2012 Concert Season

BOLD Justice coming to UUCFI

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Be BOLD and learn more on Page 5



Rev Kenn Hurto Presents Highlights from 2011 UU General Assembly

Reassemble on page 7



Summer Fun Activities for Kids with "Alice the Chalice"

See page 4

From Your Board President

"You need not think alike to love alike."- Francis David



As Unitarian Universalists, we celebrate our first principal in the belief of the inherent worth and dignity through thoughtful and loving interaction with each other. We express this as individuals when we participate in our

church democratic processes, when we share Sunday Service together, and when we reach out to a member who is experiencing a difficult time in their lives. Most recently, Unitarian Universalists across the country celebrated the recent success of the legalization of same-sex marriage in New York as we view this equal right as confirmation that each individual has the right to choose their own path to happiness.

As a liberal religious community, the passing of this law raises our hopes for the progression of civil rights for everyone, no matter who you love.

For information about how to participate in change, go the website http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/ and learn how Unitarian Universalists are making a difference.

Colette Saucier



Words from the Board



Hello! I am so excited about being your new Secretary and hope I can serve as well as the talented Judy Knopp who is the new Vice President of the Board of Trustees. Take a glance at the bulletin board by the Sanctuary entrance to see who is on the current Board!

Our new Board has gotten right down to business - some new, some recurring. The Clark property, approximately one acre of land adjacent to our own UUCFL grounds is up for sale and at a bargain price. Anyone willing and able to join in doing some research and legwork involved so we as a congregation can make an informed decision about obtaining this property are encouraged to attend the next Building and Grounds workday.

Speaking of volunteering...

Our congregation is rich with volunteer energy but there is always more to do! Whether it is weeding the gardens or watering plants, making coffee or washing dishes, teaching children or greeting visitors, your time and talents are always treasured here. Take in some sunshine during the weekends by attending a Building and Grounds workday. Test out your new cookie recipe during coffee hour. Learn a new skill like running the sound system for Sunday services.

When I first joined UUCFL I never realized how my abilities could help serve in our community. I settled for thinking that I just had a knack for running the dishwasher when I was welcomed into coffee hour duty. I figured I could spare two hours each month when I was elected to the Board. I put my laptop to use to take minutes once during Judy's absence last year and look at me now! Who knew? One of my greatest joys is singing. It's a gift for me to have the opportunity to perform for the congregation and one of my deepest joys to learn that others welcome it as a gift for our community. Imagine the pleasures that await you! It may be summer break for some but life is still busy at UUCFL! We've ministered to each other during our Interdependence Day Coffee House and Poetry services. (We survived an air conditioning meltdown!) There are always guest speakers and CUUPS events. Some of our congregants attended General Assembly and the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute. Individuals interested in putting our community's identity into words can attend the first meeting to create a new UUCFL Mission Statement after service on Sunday August 7th! Enjoy a few lazy summer days, come back refreshed and ready to be a part of our diverse and loving community!

Your Board of Trustees meets every second Monday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. Come sit in on a meeting and see us at work! You are always welcome!

Alexis Blasenheim, Secretary

Rev. Gail's Space

Salvation Through Reading

As usual I have been spending part of my summer study leave time reading, reflecting and engaging in dialogue with other older inveterate students at St. John's College's Santa Fe campus. This experience eventually returns to you in the form of Sunday Services, Vesper programs or Adult Religious Education classes. However, nothing I do can quite capture the extraordinary experience of reading great philosophical or literary works while gazing out at the majestic Sangre de Christo mountain range and then sitting in small classrooms



around a table with two brilliant tutors and fellow students of all ages and from all walks of life and engaging together in very detailed discussions of a text. I find the whole experience a natural high. I sometimes feel like my very brain is cracking open as a story or poem or piece of scripture takes on a whole new level of meaning as someone points to a particular passage in the piece under discussion.

I started attending discussion groups based on the Great Books of the Western Tradition when I was 23 and then I went four summers to the Graduate Institute at St. Johns in Santa Fe and obtained a Master of Arts in Liberal Education when I was 29. I have been attending alumni seminars in various cities I have lived in ever since.

About 4 years ago during my sabbatical I started coming to the Summer Classics programs in Santa Fe where about a 100 people from all over the world come to spend a week or two taking seminars on works that range from classics of Eastern religion to Shakespeare to short stories or poetry by various well know authors. The conversation over lunches and coffees equals the insights obtained in seminars. This year I had great conversations with a banker from Goldman Sachs who to say the least, has a very different view of the world than I do. I became very friendly with a young public school teacher from Chicago who is active in a Free Evangelical Church and was once part of a Jesus People commune. We shared an interest in young adult literature and he was very bright, well informed and added a great deal to our seminar's discussion of some short stories by Nathaniel Hawthrone that focus the attractions and pitfalls of science, technology and progress. I find these summer intellectual adventures to be equally if not more helpful to me in my life and my ministry than I did Unitarian Universalist only gatherings like General Assembly. However, GA was especially informative and exciting this summer and you will all be hearing from me the other UUCFL attendees about some of our learnings in sermons and other forums in the fall. My wish for each of you is that as the days of summer wane you will find some way to give yourself a natural high by reading a provocative book, seeing a movie that raises your awareness or talking to someone who challenges all your preconceived notions and opens you up to new ways of seeing the world.

In faith,

Rev. Gail





Religious Education

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



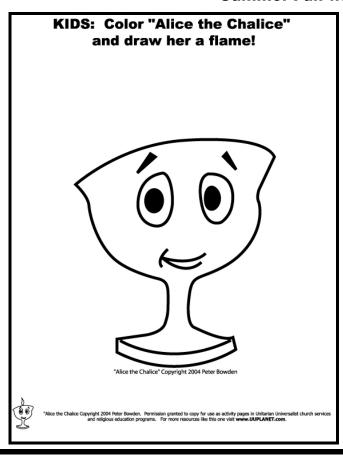
Children's Sunday RE Schedule August

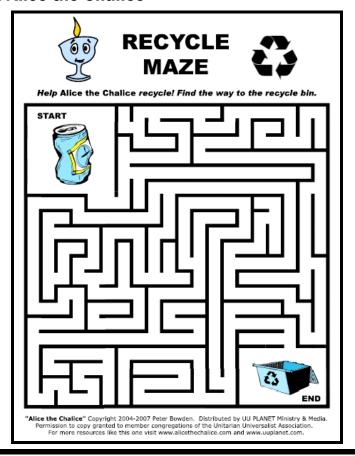
While formal RE classes are on summer break, there will still be something offered for the children every Sunday. It might be a movie, water play, an activity or art project of some type, cooking, or maybe even a field trip.

There will be an attempt made to let folks know in advance what is happening, but, things are always dependent on the ever changing South Florida summer weather.

We will start back with our regular RE classes on August 21.

Summer Fun with Alice the Chalice





Cooperative Feeding Information

We will continue our work at the Cooperative Feeding Program/Life Net4 Families on the first Saturday of each month.

This month's date will be Saturday August 6

We meet at the church at 8AM for carpooling to CFP, or you can meet us there at 8:45. Have fun, enjoy fellowship, do good work.

Questions/Info contact Susan (954) 424-1910

tiredmomofbob@aol.com



UUCFL to Participate in **BOLD** Justice Movement



A group of about 26 local congregations have justice /'dansta begun working together to build a powerful e; justnes organization capable of he mora doing justice ministry here in Broward County.

The concept behind this organization is that a group of religious organizations working together have much more clout than any single entity. The name of this organization is the Broward Organized Leaders Doing Justice (BOLD Justice). This organization will give congregations like ours the ability to effectively work on important issues in our city/county, as well as, strengthen and build relationships and a stronger sense of community within and between congregations. In its short existence, Bold Justice has already had a notable impact on the affordable housing situation in our county and on statewide legislation to establish drug courts that focus on rehabilitation versus prison sentences.

I am excited to announce that BOLD Justice recently hired a new fulltime staff person, Matthew Pigatt who will be working closely with our congregation as we deepen in involvement with this group. Many of you will remember that we voted at our annual meeting to become involved with BOLD Justice. A number of you told me how impressed you were with the Director, Andy Lee as he shared the vision of the group. It is also important to note that many of or sister UU congregations in Florida are active in similar local initiatives.

Visit www.thedartcenter.org/BOLDJustice.html for more information about this movement and get excited about our congregation's role in it. Feel free to contact me if you have any auestions.

Rev. Gail

Music Notes

There is not much news in the Music Department as both Dot and the Choir are on summer break.



Our thanks to Bill Cox for covering the summer services with his dancing fingers playing service music.

A tentative date for the Choir Retreat is Saturday, August 27 from 10 AM to 2 PM when we will have a chance to get acquainted with the music that is planned for Water Sunday, September 11 and possibly also the 25th. A light lunch will be provided.

If choir is on your list for the coming church season, this is a great time to meet the choir members and get started learning to blend your voice with others in joy and fun.

Dot Muise, Director of Music

Name Tags – If you have not yet received your new name tag lanyard,

please sign up in church on Sundays.

You have a choice of designs between a picture of the church and a chalice. Please wear your name tags

each Sunday so our veterans and our newer members and visitors recognize each other better.

cUUrious cUUrier - If you are not receiving our weekly email newsletter, the cUUrious cUUrier, visit our website at www.uucfl.org and click on "Weekly Email Broadcast" to sign up



Larry Wilkner - Membership Committee

Building the World We Dream About A Tapestry of Life



BtWWDA is an interactive program that helps transform how participants see themselves, their congregation, their community, and world through the lens of race and ethnicity.

We received handouts. We read them. We broke into small groups to discuss them. We told our stories. We listened to others. Topics included race and ethnicity --- racially or ethnically marginalized people. By listening to each other and reaching into ourselves, we learned to recognize that there are multiple truths out there and multiple realities.

We often used role playing techniques. We began to comprehend how we all operate within our own frames of reference, our comfort zones, and how we relate to those who are different from us and react differently than we do.

As Unitarians, we pride ourselves on being non-racist and all-accepting. But there are subtleties. There is a difference in the experience of "whiteness" and the experience of "people of color". When did you notice a difference? Who told you? How did you feel? We talked about it. It isn't often that the mask comes off and we allow ourselves to face each other honestly.

Then there's the thing about "unearned privilege". Does that connect only with "whiteness"? How do we feel about that?

This program is special. You can even miss a week or two and fit right in when you come back. BtWWDA will begin again in September. So, next time when you hear about it, why don't you sign up and check it out for yourself? See you there!

Judy Knopp

You Oughta Be in Pictures

You may have noticed the addition of an electronic picture frame in the lobby over the fountain (my gift to the church). We are looking for smiling faces to fill it. If you have pictures from church events and would like to have them added to the slide show, please email them to me at garyladka@mindspring.com.

We have lots of fun here at UUCFL and this will allow us to relive all of our great memories and show everyone who visits that they can become part of the big picture too.



Gary Ladka

UUCFL Picture Phone Directory Coming Soon Smile for the Camera!



So that we can all recognize each other better, Mark Woodpecker and Myra Symons will be taking pictures of willing members and friends for the new upcoming UUCFL Picture Directory on Sundays.

If anyone wants to dress in a particular way - that would be awesome. Also if you have a favorite picture in your collection (shoulders and up) that you would like us to use instead please email to myrafly@yahoo.com.

CUUPS Update

Saturday September 17 we celebrate Pagan Pride day with vendors, food, workshops, live music and an Autumn Solstice Ritual around 5 PM. Come join us for this Festival of the Second Harvest.

Meanwhile, Thursday evening Study Group continues with a different topic every week. We are very good at doing different.



Kip, Resident Pagan

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time. **~John Lubbock**





UU General Assembly Highlights

The 50th General Assembly of our Association was grand, simply grand! Over 4,100 Unitarian Universalists (nearly 150 from 22 FLD congregations) met in Charlotte to worship, learn, reflect & decide. And perhaps most importantly to challenge ourselves to ask: *How do we ensure our future as a vital religious alternative* (to orthodoxy and consumerist-secularism)?

You can get a sense of how it went by checking out: http://blogs.uuworld.org/ga/, for a full report, including videos, on the many events and actions.

Among Delegate Decisions:

- After 3 years study, approved A Statement of Conscience on Ethical Eating.
- Approved implementation of off-site delegate voting effective in 2012.
- Agreed to reduce the size of the UUA Board to 14 and making all Trustees "at large."
- Amended UUA By-Laws to replace the terms "church" and "fellowship" with the more inclusive "congregations."
- Affirmed the decision of the former *Thomas Jefferson* District to name itself *Southeast*.

For me, the most important part of GA was renewed commitment to "Justice GA" next June in Phoenix. Last year, GA delegates opted not to boycott Arizona and instead to restructure GA to encourage Unitarian Universalist witness for the civil and human rights of migrants there. This decision is not without some controversy. However, as Gini Courter, UUA Moderator noted:

"Unitarian Universalist congregations are going to Phoenix for a Justice GA in 2012. On our borders human[s] are being treated inhumanely.

People are dying. Children are dying. Families are being torn apart. We go to Phoenix because we believe that [we] may be able to help end this tragedy."

I am excited that next year's GA will unite our faith, our theological reflection, our hearts and our actions. It will challenge us in ways more than organizational. Allying oneself with the oppressed stretches one's comfort zone, far more than the heat of Arizona in June. This is good work, good ministry for us to do. I hope you will plan now to be there.

I begin by asking all Florida Unitarian Universalists to commit to standing on the side of love and making GA 2012 among our best attended! I propose some challenges to you:

- Can we get 5% of our FLD membership to attend? That would be about 250 people, twice our typical turnout?
- Can we ensure 50% (23) of our congregations will send full delegations?
- Can we get 50 youth to attend? The FLD will offer matching scholarships for all congregations that pay their youths' registration.
- Can we get all of our congregations to participate in a "Justice Sunday" this winter (January 15), with worship, public forums, or educational programs on immigration and migrant rights?
- Can we get 5 more congregations to participate in the *Building the World We Dream About* curriculum which addresses issues of racial justice and living in a multi-cultural world?
- Can our Clusters to devote one of their meetings to migrant justice in Florida?
- Can our congregations create intentional partnerships with other organizations devoted to the migrant rights?

Can we? I bet we can. Will we? I long to hear from you. What do you think?

Your FLD Board has approved **"Crossing Borders"** as the theme for our next District Assembly (Jacksonville, March 23-25). The DA will offer participants educational and experiential learning to prepare those going to Phoenix and to empower our congregations' ministries here in Florida.

GA's closing worship was heart-lifting. The Chalice Lighting that day was presented in song, with this text: "Que recibamos esta luz y los ricos paisajes que hoy nos brinda. (That we receive this light and the rich landscapes that today offer us.)"

May it be so. Blessings.

Rev. Kenn Hurto - Florida District Executive

Visit www.uua.org/ga/2011/ for video highlights from this year's General Assembly

August Singalong and Sneak Peak at Labyrinth Café New Season

I'm very excited about the season - hope you will be, too!



2011-12 SEASON

August 13, 2011 – Sing-Along
September 10, 2011 – Matthew Sabatella and The Rambling String Band
October 8, 2011 – Rebecca Zapen/Grant Peeples
November 12, 2011 – Jennings & Keller/Small Potatoes
December 3, 2011 (first Saturday) – Karen Mal/Laurie McClain
January 14, 2012 – John Wort Hannam/Rod MacDonald
February 11, 2012 – Gurf Morlix/Sam Baker
March 10, 2012 – Sam Pacetti/Nick Annis
April 14, 2012 – Raina Rose/Rebecca Loebe
May 12, 2012 – Amy Carol Webb/Kat Eggleston

Join us on Saturday August 13 for our opening Singalong Night with lots of fun and surprises, and get ready for a great season

Susan Moss-Labyrinth Café Concerts

Office Notes August 2011

Greetings and good wishes from Sandy in the Office.

There are 'Lost' items in the Church Office:

A camera, a hat, a tablecloth, a lunch

bag, and a few other items.

Check the office 'Lost & Found' if these might be your property.

Here is a 'Safe Church' idea if you are alone, or if there might be a person arriving late to your class.....

You do not have to leave the Church unlocked while you are focused on your important project.

Lock the front door and post a clear sign saying something like:

For admittance, call cell # (insert your cell number here)

Keep your cell phone handy... i.e. in your pocket.

Do you need an updated phone directory? Are you planning an event at the Church? Feel free to ask questions, schedule an event on the UUCFL calendar, make suggestions, or get information at the office. Your thoughts are most welcome.

Thank you. Enjoy the rest of the Summer.

Good wishes.

Sandy in the UUCFL office



Directory of Staff, Board, Committee Chairs & Affiliates

<u>STAFF</u>
• Minister Rev. Gail Tapscott954-288-4245
Office Administrator Sandra Walker954-484-6734
• Director of Religious Education Susan Dirgins-Friend954-424-1910
• Music Director Dorothy Muise954-731-8790
• Choir Director Susan Dirgins-Friend954-424-1910
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<u>Trustees</u>
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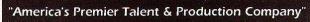
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Human Resources		
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Jose Ponce	954-324-6239	
Labyrinth Café Concerts Susan Moss		
	954-433-2372	
Membership		
Larry Wilkner	954-646-8037	
Ministry		
Victor Garlock	954-563-7769	
Nominating		
Judy King		
Religious Education Laura Lange		
Laura Lange	954-584-2499	
Social Auction		
Jack and Dorothy Bellick	954-360-9404	
Sunday Services		
Susan Moss	954-433-2372	
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• CUUPS	
Kip Barkley	954-784-8307
• Endowment	
Monica Pavlik	954-530-5844
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Dani Apter	973-879-5656
 UU Service Committee 	
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H & R Block Fundraiser Continues

The tax season is over for many of us, but Ken Wensel H&R BLOCK continues to participate in the H&R Block referral program that benefits UUCFL. Ken can be reached at 561-542-3198.

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The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalists

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations:
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

August Birthdays

Kristine Stewart 8/1 Bob Hill 8/2 Sophia Letourneau 8/2 Susan Moss 8/5 Susan McAlpin 8/11 Thomas Karneth 8/12 Dane Ramson 8/14 Doug Friend 8/16 John Stanic 8/18

Gail Morrison 8/24 Sandy Harris 8/26 Jesse Gold 8/29 Molly Lesnick 8/29 Monica Pavlik 8/29



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

Remember the Hungry People **Around Us**

Please continue to fill the Food Baskets at the church with non-perishables for the Cooperative Feeding Program. Learn more about the CFP and other ways you can help.



Visit www.feedbroward.org or call (954) 792-2328



3970 NW 21st Avenue Oakland Park, FL 33309

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

Office Hours: Sundays 9:30am - 1:30pm Tuesdays 9:00pm - 2:00pm Mondays 9:00am - 5:00pm Wednesdays 9:00am - 5:00pm

The JOURNEY



Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

AUGUST 2011

August 7 - This I Believe, Part II- Rev. Gail will be back in town and coordinating another installment of our own version of the popular radio segments and book. We will hear a mixture of believe statements from famous people, average people and our own UUCFL philosophers waxing eloquent.

August 14 – UUs in Literature- Many early Unitarians and a few Universalists were well known literary figures. Rev. Gail will reintroduce you to some of them and take a look at how Unitarian Universalists are doing more recently in producing their own literature and how we are portrayed in fiction written by outsiders. You will be surprised at how often we figure in Science Fiction.

August 21- Poems to Set You Free, Part II-

UUCFL readers will introduce five more great poems with liberating messages. Rev. Gail will provide a short commentary on each one and again will receive your own copies of the poems to ponder and be inspired by as the spirit moves you.

August 28 - Amy Carol Webb - "Da Capo al Fine" - Da Capo Al Fine is a musical notation directing the musician to go to the beginning and play through to the end. What can "da capo al fine" mean to our faith, our work in the world, out intentions to be who we mean to be as individuals and as Unitarian Universalists.

September 4 - Labor in the Pulpits - Rev. Gail and union friends will provide a reminder of how important Labor Unions have been to our past and offer suggestions for how Unitarian Universalists whether Union members or not can help create a safer and brighter future for our country's workers. Hopefully some rousing Labor songs will be heard and sung.

September 11- Ingathering - On this special Sunday, we will have our Water Ceremony and mingling of the waters of our individual summer adventures. Rev. Gail will also reflect on the ongoing lessons of the anniversary of 9/11 and other recent life changing events.

