# The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

# April 2015 Volume 56, Number 4

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May 2015 Issue
Deadline
Sunday May 10, 2015
Submit articles to:
submission@uucfl.org

#### **Editor**

Valerie Heller Production Team Jeff Hutt, Vanessa Gilyard

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A Center for Liberal Religious Thought and Social Action in Fort Lauderdale

# Unitarian<del>±</del> Universalist

Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue Oakland Park, Florida 33309 954-484-6734 www.uucfl.org



\*Established in 1958\*



LifeNet4Families Workday Saturday April 4 at 8:45am

See page 2

# Labyrinth Cafe Concerts Presents Eliza Gilkyson Saturday April 11 at 7:30pm

Pete Seeger Commemoration Concert

See Page 6

Sunday April 19 1:00—6:00pm

See Bob Bender for details

#### **Bold Justice Dates Coming Up**

Nehemiah Action—We hope to see everyone there, and bring friends and coworkers: Monday April 20

Justice Ministry Celebration—All Justice Ministry Network Members: June 9

See Page 8 for details

# Easter Egg Hunt Sunday April 4



See DRE Susan's message, page 4

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ft Lauderdale Mission Statement:

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





#### **President's Message**

#### **New Energies Abound**

There is a renewed energy about the church. The Board is working on bringing forth some of the repairs and improvements that we have been talking about. Starting from the front entrance of the property, you may have noticed that our sign is freshly cleaned and painted and we have added two "Standing on the Side of Love" banners to show our alliance with the Unitarian Universalist Association's very visible and successful national campaign. You have seen more of these signs and brochures around the church and we are soon to add a banner with the slogan to our pulpit. We are researching new doors for the main entrance and entrances to the sanctuary. Thanks to Molly St. Cavish, our carpets are cleaner and every chair in the building has been cleaned. We are working on new designs for the sanctuary to make it more

aesthetically pleasing and more functional. Some major audio-visual improvements will also be coming to bring a new dimension to services and to allow us to broadcast our services over the internet. Other improvements will include installation of baby changing tables in both restrooms to be more accommodating to families with young children, and some other restroom upgrades. We also have some things in store for the back yard and playground areas.

Aside from the physical building, new energies abound in programming. Rev Gail and others are working to revitalize the Welcoming/Membership Committee with upcoming orientations and a Membership Sunday that will be announced shortly. Ask Rev. Gail how you could become an active part in this reawakening. The Religious Education Department is seeing a greater participation with children and parents and the congregation at large. Our children benefit from the wisdom of all congregant members. Having children is not a requirement to assist with our children. Please see Susan Friend, our Director of Religious Education, to become a part of this important program. The Long Range Planning Task Force is hard at work creating a timeline of action items to bring our plan to life. See Bill Schoolman to become a part of this movement. With the successful "V-Day" productions, a thespian group has gained some steam and is shaping up to be a new source of social gathering and team building with a good chance of raising funds for the church as well. If you are interested in participating, see Valerie Heller. Victoria Abbott has returned and will be coordinating our upcoming Stewardship Generosity events. Seek her out to work with her and all of her wonderful visions for the coming year.

Another wish of the congregation has been granted. To be a more professionally-run organization, we have hired someone to be the Office Assistant to coordinate daily and weekly activities that need attention here at the church. This person has shown a great enthusiasm for the church being a better place and has many ideas to share and help to bring about. What's more—he's one of our own UUs here at the church. We are pleased to have Jeff Hutt in place with his energies and visions as well as his friendliness and kindness to add to our staff. Jeff will also become the keeper of the building so things will be much more in place and cared for than we have been able to do in the past.

I'm excited and I hope you are as well about all of the great things going on and to come here at UUCFL. Please participate and be as generous as possible with your time, talents and treasure in all areas that you can.

## Gary Ladka

#### LifeNet 4 Families/CFP Update

Thanks to those who came out to volunteer in March. Our April work day is scheduled for Saturday April 4. Meet at CFP at 9AM. Thanks to everyone who keeps the baskets in the lobby filled up. Every donation helps, even that single can of tuna.

Info or questions, DRE Susan tiredmomofbob@aol.com (954) 424-1910



# Rev. Gail's Space

#### **DECLUTTERING FOR FUN AND PROFIT**

When I make resolutions to live a better and healthier life, whether for New Year's or on a random date, they usually involve some sort of effort to cut back on the clutter in my life. I define clutter broadly and so sometimes it means ridding my own body of the clutter of the extra pounds piled on during a period of either way too much stress or way too much fun. However, the more usual understanding of decluttering, which maybe isn't really a word but I know you know what I mean, is about getting rid of excess stuff.

If we don't make at least occasional attempts to get rid of clutter we might end up auditioning for a star turn in "Hoarders," a reality TV show about the very dark final turn we can make if we don't stay on top of stuff. What I normally do is try to go through a pile



or two of "stuff" while I am watching something on TV that does not require a lot of attention. Usually I get through two or three piles, feel very virtuous and then realize that I have to sort through what I have not thrown away again, to put it into categories. Pretty soon it all starts to feel like an effort that I should be getting paid to do and I move on to another task. Then the "stuff" piles up for another month or more. The last three times I moved, I moved clutter with me, thinking I would sort it out at the new place. Well, that never happened. I did reorganize my church office once but that quickly went south also, as more books and files accumulated from classes finished or sermons done. It all makes me feel like a bad and totally inadequate human being.

Prior to being a full-time minister, I had a handle on things. I cleaned out files and put photos into albums every year during the holidays. There were even years when my books and my music sources were more or less sorted by genre.

Now that I am looking toward another big move and have plenty of advance warning, I am again thinking of what a better person I will be if I get rid of tons of magazines, books and files. I will probably continue to do some preaching and classes no matter where I end up, but I likely don't need the remnants of 22 years of ministry following me into the future. Oh my, I feel lighter already. Perhaps, with our Saturday renter cutting back soon on their use of the sanctuary, we can think about doing a church-wide rummage sale again. It would give all of us a chance to get rid of some things that represent our past but could represent someone else's future. Who is on board to help organize a sale that can make everyone feel like a better person and make some money for the church as well? I await your answer.

Blessings.

Rev. Gail

#### **Life Crafting and Saging**

For the spring adult religious education offering this year, Rev. Gail Tapscott is offering a four-session series culled from several sources to help people look at the narrative of their lives in a way that aids in navigating the next steps called for in the journey. Although some pieces of the class will have special references to getting older, it will be appropriate to folks at any stage on the life journey. We will create a life map or timeline, do guided imagery, a little journaling and some modest art projects, all in an effort to get better acquainted with ourselves and each other. It has been awhile since we have offered anything along these lines so I hope a broad range of people will avail themselves of this opportunity. This will happen on four Tuesdays starting April 7 and again, if there is enough interest, it can be offered at both the 4:00 and 7:00pm time slots. Please let Rev. Gail know if you are interested and, if so, which time slot will work best for you. Cost for the series of four will be \$20 or you can pay \$6 per session. A detailed flyer will be available by the Sunday before class but mark your calendars right away.

Rev. Gail



# Religious Education

Director of Religious Education (DRE) - Susan Dirgins-Friend Phone (954) 424-1910



As April begins with Easter, I am happy to report that UUCFL is experiencing a resurrection of its own. There has been a resurrection of our sanctuary that has left it welcoming, neat and tidy and looking as if we really care about it. Thank you to the Board for the funds for cleaning and thanks to Jeff Hutt and others for their hard work in purging and putting things in order. We are also having a resurrection in both our children's RE program (we are seeing children every week), and our long-slumbering RE committee. Our parents have taken it on themselves (with NO prodding from me) to get together and have discussions about the direction they would like to see their program go, as well as providing some much-needed support and boots on the ground for moi.

Hallelujah, we are rising!!

Did these things happen mysteriously? Was there an unseen hand guiding things? Not a chance! What is happening is that individually and collectively, folks are taking responsibility for our community. Instead of just complaining about how unloved the sanctuary looked, a group took the initiative to do something about it. Instead of just bemoaning our lack of kids, our parents made a commitment to make church a Sunday morning priority and to get involved to make our program better and help it grow. Now the question is, for every able-bodied member and friend, how can you take responsibility? What can you do? There are many small tasks that need doing. If you like drinking coffee after church, how about taking care of coffee hour tasks one Sunday a month? Want our church to grow faster? You can greet each and every visitor in a warm and welcoming way, and do it just once a month. We are on our way, but we need you to pitch in. The old adage "Many hands make light work" is absolutely true.

Hallelujah, we are rising!!

Love and blessings,

## DRE Susan



# April Children's Religious Education Schedule

Sunday April 5, 11AM

**Easter Sunday-**

**Easter Activities in Class** 

Egg Hunt after church

Sunday April 12, 11AM

**Holocaust Lesson** 

Sunday April 19, 11 AM

**Earth Day Lesson** 

Sunday April 26, 11AM

**May Day Lesson** 

# Earth Day Park Work Day April 11

Care about our planet? Want to do something about it? Come to the 12th Annual Earth Day Work Day at John U. Lloyd State Park on Saturday April 11 from 8am until 1pm, followed by the annual potluck bar-b-que. There will be beach erosion-saving plantings, beach cleanup, and whatever the ranger thinks needs to happen. Please look for the flyers in the lobby.

Our 7th Principle calls us to action.

Questions or information: DRE Susan (954) 424-1910 Or tiredmomofbob@aol.com

# Easter Egg Hunt Sunday April 4

Please remember that we will be celebrating Easter in our usual pagan-inspired UU way, with egg dying during our children's RE class, and our annual children's egg hunt after church. Parents are encouraged to come into the back as soon as service is over so we can get the hunt going, and still get everyone back for Easter lunch.

#### DRE Susan

#### Editor's Note:

I welcome your contributions to the Journey, and, indeed, encourage everyone to submit your thoughts, musings and observations about our church life, as well as upcoming events, to be shared on these pages. (And I'm tired of looking for filler!) **BUT.....** 

Please take note of a pesky little detail called a deadline! The second Sunday of each month is the deadline for submitting material to me, and although there's some wiggle room to stretch a bit beyond that date, I cannot guarantee that any late material will be included.

Articles should be sent to: submission@uucfl.org

Valerie Heller

#### **Music Notes**



April begins with our annual Easter Sunday service on the 5th. Our choir is

preparing a rousing "Alleluia" and the exciting "Gloria in Excelsis" by Antonio Vivaldi.

The Tri-Choir directors from Boca Raton Fellowship, River of Grass Congregation and UUCFL have submitted their choices for 2015. Rehearsals have already begun to work on these special anthems to be offered at the three services later in April and May- dates to be announced. This cooperative musical treat is always an exciting special day with a choir of twenty-five to thirty singers. How great it would be to have that many voices every choir Sunday.

Meanwhile the choir is also rehearsing for our own Sundays between the Tri-Choir ones. Proposed anthems include "Give Me Wings" by David Sprunger and "The Twenty-Third Psalm" later in our church year. Soon the choir will be on their summer break, so don't miss a single chance to hear beautiful anthems under the able guidance of Susan Friend, our wonderful Choir Director.

I hope you appreciate the dedication of our choir members attending not just our regular rehearsals on Wednesdays, but extra meetings with the other choirs to prepare for these special services. Do not hesitate to thank choir members as we meet at coffee hours or after church in the sanctuary. We all need appreciation.

Dot Muise, Director of Music

# Labyrinth Café Concerts Presents An Evening with Eliza Gilkyson

Saturday April 11 at 7:30pm

**Eliza Gilkyson** is a politically-minded, poeticallygifted singer-songwriter who has become one of the most respected musicians in Folk and Americana music circles. The daughter of songwriter Terry Gilkyson, whose songs were recorded by artists as diverse as Johnny Cash, the White Stripes, and Dean Martin, Eliza was headed for a career in music at an early age. She has appeared on NPR, Austin City Limits, Mountain Stage, Etown, Sirius/XM, and Air America Radio and has toured with Richard Thompson, Patty Griffin and Mary Chapin Carpenter. She has been inducted into the Austin Music Hall of Fame alongside legends Willie Nelson, Townes van Zandt, and Nanci Griffith, received a Grammy nomination for her 2006 CD "paradise Hotel," and is an ongoing winner of the Austin Chronicle's various music awards, as well as the Folk Alliance Best Artist, Best Songwriter and Record of the Year. Eliza's music has always reflected her vivid vision of the world around her, full of joys and sorrows, each song a window into a life of struggle and triumph in a world she feels is "poised on the edge of moral, economic and environmental bankruptcy."



Reservations requested but not required:

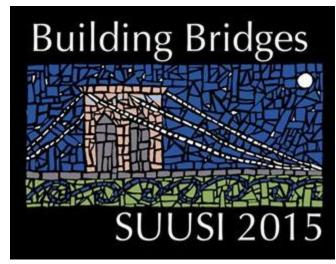
Contact Susan at OzWoman321@aol.com or 954-478-8637

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

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

Watch your e-mail, check our Facebook page and listen to Michael Stock's show for notice of the harmonic treats in store.

Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series



Looking for a great, affordable value for your whole family, with lots of adventures and filled with friends? Then come to SUUSI! July 19—25 in Blacksburg, VA.

You'll be welcomed warmly and invited into our community.

SUUSI is an international community of approximately 1,200 people who gather in the third week of July near Roanoke, VA to explore our interconnectedness, learn new ways of seeing our world and each other, delight in the joys of meeting old friends and making new ones, share outdoor adventures, dance, and sing.

Together, we'll create a week of conversation, reflection,

activity, nourishment, fun and family. "Building Bridges" is this year's theme. SUUSI 2015 will be held on the Virginia Tech campus (near Roanoke, VA).

You'll be challenged intellectually and nurtured spiritually. You can stay up all night dancing or making music and/or spend all day communing with nature or exploring your personal growth. We have special programs for all ages of children, teens and young adults, so be sure to bring the whole family. Music is central to our evening nightlife, with concerts, cabarets and showcases.

Run totally by volunteers from its inception, we celebrate over 60 years of renewal and value in the spirit of Unitarian Universalist principles of inclusion, respect and responsibility. We even have various online communities, where SUUSI-goers share the experience year-round.

Explore www.suusi.org for programming, volunteer opportunities, costs, accommodations, and registering for SUUSI 2015.

## **Coming CUUPS Events**

The merry month of May brings us the High Holy Day of Beltaine. Second only to Samhain on the Wheel of the Year, here we celebrate the Goddess, her fertility and the beginnings of Summer. Saturday April 18 there will be a Beltaine Celebration, with Vendors, Food, Workshops, the Sadie of the Hawk Chase, May Pole and an Open Ritual. Dance the May Pole with us.

Thursday evening Study Groups continue:

April 2: "Ecology and Paganism" with dragnfli.

April 9: The Magickal Meaning of Flowers and the Goddess Flora.

April 16: Stories of Beltaine and ritual planning.

April 23: Pagans and Seminary: What's It All About?

April 30: Drawing Down the Moon

Yes, come out and play!



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



www.facebook.com/UUFloridaSoutheastCluster

# BOLD Justice Nehemiah Action Monday April 20 7:30pm Little Flower Church

Please see Betty Brantley, Sandy Lange or Rev. Gail Tapscott for details, and plan to represent our church at this important social justice action event.



# Third Friday Vespers Service April 17 at 7:00 pm

Vespers is our third Friday service that combines readings, music and meditation in a small group setting.

It is a short service at 7 PM, usually 45 minutes long. These services may include poetry, prose, music, singing, occasional live music, occasional dance, and meditation. The service is followed by wine and cheese and an opportunity to enjoy fellowship.



See www.uucfl.org/vespers/ For more info or question, DRE Susan Dirgins-Friend (954) 424-1910

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."
William Shakespeare

# Directory of Staff, Board, Committee Chairs & Affiliates

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Welcoming/Membership		
Sandy Lange	954-401-5675	
Ministry		
Betty Highton	954-484-6313	
Nominating		
Steve Lange	954-257-9262	
Religious Education		
Laura Lange	954-584-2499	
Sunday Services		
Opal Murray		
Wisdom and Enlightenment Series		
Opal Murray	770-265-6242	

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#### • CUUPS

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• Interweave	
Nicole Rivera	954-815-0086
UU Service Committee	
Noralee Traylor	954-776-4226



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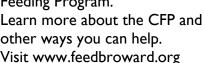
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# Remember the Hungry People Around Us

Please continue to fill the Food Baskets at the church with non-perishables for the LifeNet for Families Cooperative Feeding Program.





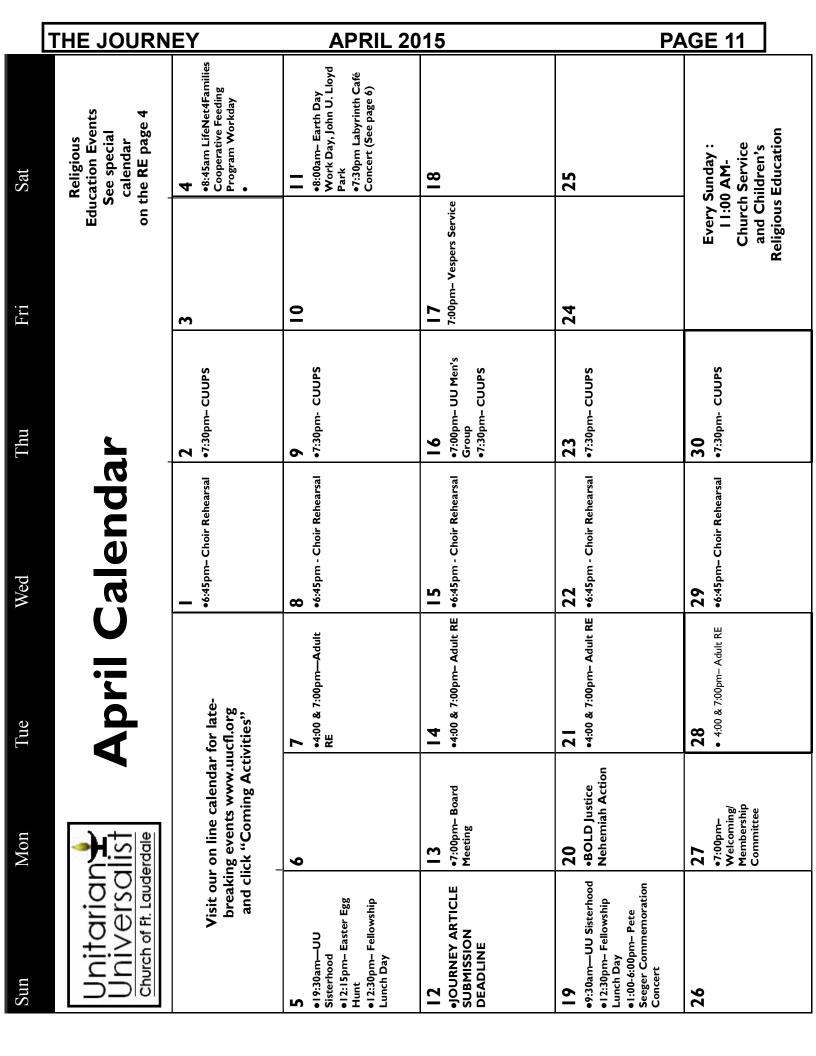
Please Patronize and refer the above Friends and Members of the Church as they support the us with their advertising. Make sure you tell them you saw their ad in The Journey.

## April Birthdays

David Griswold 4/1
Betty Brantley 4/3
Mary Anne Robertson 4/4
Filiz Dolar 4/12
Joe Lawson 4/12
Larry Wilkner 4/21
Robert Van Sickle 4/22
Caden Ryals-Luneberg 4/23
Mark Woodpecker 4/29
Spike Friend 4/30



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





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Minister: Rev. Gail Tapscott

Phone: 954-484-6734

Minister Phone: 954-288-4245

F-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

### **APRIL 2015**

April 5— Easter Again - Easter and Passover are close | April 19 —An Earth Day Experience - Rather than to each other in this year's calendar, which is not always the case. Using a book called "The Prophetic Imagination" by Dr. Walter Brueggerman, Rev. Gail Tapscott will try to show how there ancient holidays may have a lot to teach us in these troubled and confusing times. Our choir will sing traditional seasonal anthems and we will enjoy both Easter and Passover feasting after the service.

#### April 12—The Place of Myth in a Modern World -

Rev. Gail Tapscott has been fascinated by world mythology since childhood and for much of her adult life has been interested in examining the psychological role mythical awareness plays in the unfolding of our life story. She attended a workshop in the fall that has brought some new insights to this long fascination and will be sharing those with us today.

a specific sermon, Rev. Gail will be taking us on a journey through various experiences today as we think about the implications of earth changes and the impact they will have on our lives. Some different kinds of musical experiences are also in the works.

April 26—A Tempest in a Boston Teapot – Rev. Gail Tapscott will take a look at a tempestuous time in the Unitarian side of our heritage that is still playing out to some extent in our own time. Some excerpts from the most famous Unitarian sermons of all time will be read by some of our talented congregational readers as well.

**May 3 — The Cathedral of the World —** Having taken a look at the Unitarian side of our heritage, Rev. Gail will turn her attention to the Universalist side with particular attention to the modern Universalist views of the most famous modern spokesperson of our movement, the late Rev. Dr. Forrest Church. Excerpts from famous Universalist sermons will be offered by talented readers this week as well.