

The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

September 2013
Volume 54, Number 8

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October 2013 Issue

Deadline

Sunday September 15 2013

Submit articles to:

submission@uucfl.org

Editor

Gary Ladka

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

**Unitarian
Universalist**
Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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Established in 1958

LifeNet4Families Workday
Saturday September 7 at 8:45am
Work your way to Page 5



LifeNet4Families
Cooperative Feeding Program



**Annual Water Service and
Ingathering**
Sunday September 8
at 11:00am
Flow to Back Cover for More Info



Labyrinth Cafe Concerts
Presents
Grant Livingston and
Mindy Simmons
Saturday, September 14
at 7:30pm

Sing over to page 7



Third Friday Vespers Services
Return
Friday September 20 at 7:00pm
At your service - on Page 6



Mabon and Pagan Pride Day
Saturday September 21
At 12:00noon

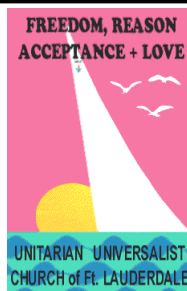
Merry Make your way to page 5

Music - Special Sunday Service
Sunday, September 29
At 11:00am
Tune to page 5 and Back Cover



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

Eight themes that unite us is the title of one of Rev. Gail's favorite sermons. It was delivered at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of New River Valley on September 9, 2001 by the Rev. Christine Brownlie. Rev. Gail asked Steve Lange to read it to our congregation during our August 11 Sunday service.

My first observation is that Steve is such an excellent reader that I for one forgot that I was being read to. Such was his enthusiasm and command of the text.

My more extensive observation is that this sermon speaks volumes to the challenges that many of us experience when asked what we Unitarian Universalists stand for and believe.

What follows is my less-than-perfect review and summary of Rev. Brownlie's clear rendering of some of the commitments that we share with each other. I hope that this will help those who were present more clearly focus their understanding of the usefulness of these ideas. I'm also hoping that this presentation will help share Rev. Brownlie's gift with those who were not present on the 11th.

The eight themes:

Mystery. We recognize that no person or dogma has all of the truth. There is a tremendous mystery to existence and we are committed to remaining open to its unfolding beauty

Revelation continues: Revelation is not done. There is no book or artifact or person who has the final verdict on the important, essential issues of life and spirituality.

Variety: We are committed to variety in ideas and to a variety of people in our midst. We believe that personal faith must be freely chosen not compelled. This commitment to variety gives loving voice to freedom and tolerance.

Divine seed in every person: We may not all articulate this idea quite this way but we would all agree that it is the duty of our church and of us all as individuals to encourage the unfolding of each individual in our congregation to bring to fruition this seed of the best that is in us.

Mutuality: I can think of no better way to sum this up than to repeat a portion of the affirmation of faith that we say each Sunday:.... "To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love and to help one another."

Acknowledging the negative: We do not blind ourselves to the evils and injustices in the world around us. In fact we Unitarian Universalists have a well-deserved reputation for seeking out and attempting to address the important and troubling issues of the day. We see it as our duty to combat unjust laws and to advocate for institutional changes to bring about a more humane and equitable world.

Engagement: This commitment follows naturally from the first six. It is a basic willingness to get involved in the world in support of the potential for world transformation and healing. We unapologetically stand for the good as we understand it.

A commitment to the sacred here and now: Someone once said that God lives only in the now moment. Our free faith celebrates the integrity of the present moment whenever we are together in Sunday service or community service.

The richness of this sermon goes way beyond my humble attempt to paraphrase it here. But I believe that these themes serve to raise our awareness of our common bonds and our common community of ideas and commitments.

Victor Garlock

Rev. Gail's Space

Rethinking When to Call the Minister

At least every other year I tend to recycle some version of what is widely known as the "When to Call the Minister" column. Since I will be on sabbatical for a couple of months at a time this year, it may feel at times like I am playing sort of a "now you see me, now you don't" game with the congregation. However, we all know, I have a cell phone, an email and a Facebook page so I can always be reached and or followed. Although I don't universally accept all friendship requests on FB because I don't want my feed to get too overwhelming, my profile is public and I often post mini-blogs and photos of where I am and what I am doing. Unlike some UU and other ministers, I will accept calls and emails from all members and friends even when I am on vacation, study leave or sabbatical so I will always be with you in a sense.



Having said that here are some reasons you might want to get in touch with me:

- *When you don't know me, but would like to.
- *When you have problems, you would like to discuss about your job, children, marriage , or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help.
- *When you are going to the hospital or know someone else in the congregation who is.
- *When someone close to you has died or is critically ill or you are dealing with a significant loss of some kind.
- *When you are planning to be married or divorced.
- *When you would like a child dedicated.
- *When you are pregnant and glad you are or wish you weren't , also if you want to be pregnant but aren't.
- *When you feel ready to join the congregation.
- *When you have concerns or questions about the church.
- *When you have religious or spiritual questions.
- *When you are seeking to deepen your religious life.
- *When you are upset with me or want to express appreciation.
- *When you have won the lottery or received a large inheritance and want to make a large donation to the church.

To add a little humor to this stew, retired UU minister, Rev. Marilyn Sewell added several reasons NOT TO CALL THE MINISTER:

- *When you want to give him/her the "real scoop" on another member.
- *When you want to explain that you will have to cut your pledge in half because you are spending the summer on a trip around the world.
- *When you want to tell her you didn't like what she wore in the pulpit last Sunday.
- *When you want to tell him/her that one of the reasons you are a UU is that you hate organized religion (our movement is, after all, a part of organized religion.)

Please take all this with a sense of openness and humor and remember that I am a servant leader not a CEO. Although I have my own strong ideas about what my ministry should be, primarily my job is to serve the congregation. I might also remind you that essentially my employer is the whole congregation not just the Board of Trustees.

Blessings,
Rev. Gail

New Member Orientation Classes Offered

Thinking of becoming an official member of the church or just want to know more about us? We are delighted to welcome new members and friends to our family. Please join us for a class so that we can get to know each other better.



The classes will take place on Sunday October 13 and October 20 at 12:45pm (choose one or attend both if you like). Rev Gail and members of the Welcoming/ Membership Committee will be here to share with you information on becoming a member and some of the great benefits as well as some of the history of the church and Unitarian Universalism. We also love to hear the story of your journey that brought you to UUCFL and your hopes and dreams of our shared future

together in the congregation. Our New Members will be officially welcomed on November 3.

Please contact Rev Gail at 954-288-4245 or revgailtapscott@aol.com or Debbie Rivera at 954-815-9230 or justduckiedeb@gmail.com

Rev. Gail and the Welcoming/Membership Committee



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



Welcome back!! Well, at least welcome back to me. Many of our members and friends will not be with us until our weather gets cooler, but our year rounders are back from vacation, back to school, back to work, and this includes me and my crew. It's funny, no matter how old the kids get, September still brings the excitement for the start of school. My daughter Savannah is still concerned about which teachers she might have, what she should wear on the first day, and what she would eat for lunch. She is 19, but she could be 8. It is a new beginning. New beginnings are good; they are exciting, scary, rewarding, and for adults, rare. Once you get to full blown, job intensive, life intensive adult living, new beginnings are kind of hard to come by.

So, since most of us can't create new beginnings by running off to join the circus, I say, let's make some new beginnings on a bit smaller scale. Do you keep saying that you need to move more, get more exercise- well, make a new beginning. Commit to joining the gym, a walking group or a martial arts class.

What about that other you who lived for the arts, but now spends way too much time watching TV? Buy tickets to a chamber orchestra (ask me for ideas), get a ballet or opera subscription, hit a jazz club or become a docent at a museum. How about those dreams of world travel? Make a new beginning by committing to scheduling those weekends in the Keys or on the Gulf coast, or maybe, find a way to take that grand always desired trip (talk to Colette Saucier or Judy King about this).

In closing, I would be remiss in my duties if I did not also suggest getting more involved in your church home. Make a new beginning by coming to 3rd Friday Vespers, joining the choir, or taking an adult RE class.

These little new lights in your life can offer real, tangible rewards.

Life does not have to trudge onward like a tired soldier. Be bold. Be new.

Love and Blessings,

DRE Susan

September Children's Religious Education Schedule

Sunday September 1, 11AM
Miss Susan and Kids do Coffee Hour

Sunday September 8, 11AM
Water Sunday, Kids in Service

Sunday September 15, 11AM
Opening of 2013 RE

Sunday September 22, 11AM
Regular RE

Sunday September 29, 11AM
Music Sunday, Kids in Service



Grand Re-Opening - Coming Soon!

Look for the Grand Re-Opening of the new and improved main RE Classrooms 5 & 7. It will be bright and colorful and will have state of the art audio visual equipment to expand our teachers' abilities to present material and curricula in all new and exciting ways. DRE Susan will also have a better space to meet with parents and children and have classes held in a smaller setting as we use Room 6 in a whole new way. This will be a great year for our Children's Religious Education. Share in the energy!

LifeNet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Update

Please join us on September 7 for our monthly workday. Meet at the Cooperative Feeding program at 8:45 am, and we work until 11:30. We work every month on the first Saturday of the month; in the fall those days will be September 7, October 5, November 2, and December 7. Thanks to those who keep filling the baskets in the church lobby. Every single can helps.

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

Susan Friend

Events at the Church for Progressive Thinkers

September 15 1:00pm

Discussion Group - War vs Human Needs

Film and discussion: Naomi

Klein's Shock Doctrine:

The Rise of Disaster Capitalism

Discussion led by respected activist Carol Lewis.

Free and open to the public.

warvhumanneeds@gmail.com;

Carol Lewis 561-346-4161



September 22 at 1:00pm

Southeast Florida Initiative to End Mass Incarceration

This Town Meeting will follow and expand upon our Sunday service on this topic that same morning. Contact Bob Bender for more

information at bob@benderworld.com

**Coming CUUPS Events**

Saturday September 21 we celebrate Pagan Pride Day from noon til 7 PM. There will be workshops, vendors, food, ritual and more. Everyone else does pride so why not Pagans.

Study Group continues every Thursday 7:30 PM with a different topic each week. 9/5 we learn about Dark Moon. Others call that time New Moon, but we know better. 9/19 we share stories of the Second Harvest and plan for our Pagan Pride day. The other two weeks are open, but we will fill those dates with interesting programs.

Kip, Resident Pagan

Music Notes

As promised last month, the choir had it's annual Choir Retreat on August 17. They worked from 10 AM to 2 PM with a break for lunch. It was at Dot Muise's home this year as the sanctuary was busy during those hours.

For those of you who have been asking when the choir would be back, here's your answer. On Water Sunday, September 8 they will be raising their voices in a Welcome Home anthem for this first Sunday of our regular church year. In many churches this is called rally Sunday when most members are back from their summer travels and are ready to get to the work that keeps our church running.

Susan Friend has put together a fine program of choir music for many weeks ahead. If any of you are planning to join the choir, you need to put aside every Wednesday night for rehearsals which began on August 21. High voices start at 6:30 PM to be joined by the lower voices at 7:00 PM. Most practice sessions are over by 8:30 pm or earlier except when we have a challenging anthem to learn. It is not all hard work, we also have fun.

Dot has returned from her summer break. It was a restful time and I thank you all for making it possible. During the two months I do not need to plan and practice Sunday music daily. This leaves quite a lot of time for reading and rest which at my age is really needed. Now the regular season has begun. With Charlie Prather providing organ backup for the hymns, we look ahead to enthusiastic singing from you, the congregation. So do your part as we begin our Fall Music Program.

Our thanks to Charlie for helping with music during the summer and to Opal Murray for all her efforts to provide us with varied and provocative speakers.

Susan Friend invites you all to attend a varied musical Sunday service on September 29 which will include several different types of music suitable for the worship service. Several of our multi-talented singers will present different types of music. This will be a most unusual, entertaining, and uplifting program.

Dot Muise, Director of Music

My New Thoughts of Social Justice Ministry

What a lot of great work was accomplished last year on the social justice front by our hardworking Social Justice Chair Lore Bernier, tireless all purpose activist Bob Bender, Interweave Chair Nicole Rivera, LifeNet 4 Families coordinator, Susan Friend and all the folks who showed up for BOLD Justice, Empty Bowls, the Postal Drive, Food pantry workdays, protests, Pride Float and Booth and anything else I am forgetting. For such a small church we rock when it comes to putting our bodies out there when it counts. Lets make even more of a difference this year. With me in an out all year the fine volunteer leaders will be even more key. I know you all can do it.



Rev. Gail

3rd Friday Vespers Resumes on September 20th at 7pm!!



Join us on Friday September 20th at 7pm for our 4th season of poetry, music, prose, reverie and fellowship. This early evening service offers a 45-60 minute reflection in a quiet, candlelit, snug environment. Our September Vespers is titled "Fall Colors", so make the time to be inspired, relaxed, amused, delighted, and don't forget, we share wine and cheese afterward! Info: (954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com

DRE Susan Friend

Adult RE to Focus on Spiritual Maturity

In keeping with our year's theme of becoming spiritually mature Unitarian Universalists, we will be offering an adult education class starting in October focusing on what Aldous Huxley called "The Perennial Philosophy." This class will focus primarily on experiential practices that can be called "Perennial Practices." It will be a new and updated version of a class offered about 5 years ago that was well received and well attended. It would be especially great if some of the members in leadership roles could attend. It is important to find some nurturing experiences in your community if you are already working hard to serve the group. Exact dates and a flyer will be available soon. I need to find out what night if any I will be teaching on site at Strayer before I flesh out all the details.



Rev. Gail

UU-WE is Coming!

UU-WE: Expressions of Hope - We borrowed from ancient and modern traditions where community leaders, elders, thinkers and innovators come together to offer new ideas, tweak current thoughts and re-imagine old stories. Unitarian Universalist - Wisdom and Enlightenment series aim to inspire, inform and encourage us to explore what is True as we build a just, prosperous and sustainable community/world. The first event will take place on Saturday November 2. Tickets on sale in September. We hope to see you and lots of your friends there as we launch this exciting new program.



Opal Murray

**Labyrinth Cafe Concerts Presents Grant Livingston/Mindy Simmons
Saturday, September 14 at 7:30pm**



We are beyond excited to be celebrating our 11th season of the Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series... and who better to kick off the festivities than Florida's own Grant Livingston and Mindy Simmons? - rhetorical question, to be sure... :-)

A dose of singer/songwriter **Mindy Simmons** is just what the laugh doctor ordered. She is truly a genuine performer who guides her audience down the bumpy road of life, smiling all the way. She combines quick wit and charm with a voice that moves flawlessly from satin smooth to gutsy, creating a memorable performance that feels like an evening with your best friend. A seasoned professional, Mindy has toured nationwide since 1980, and her repertoire is a soulful combination of originals and standards. Mindy energizes her audiences with her delightful interaction and broad emotional performances. She is especially adept at engaging an audience with her witty banter between songs as well as her songs themselves, which show a finely crafted detail mixed with some pathos and healthy doses of humor. "Think Carol Burnett meets Peggy Lee and you've got Mindy Simmons." www.mindysimmons.com



Grant Livingston has been a favorite at acoustic music venues throughout Florida since the mid-eighties. An offbeat sense of humor comes through the stories told in Livingston's songs. You'll meet Einstein and Gypsy Rose on a road trip, a guy who is way serious about eating pie, a French-speaking cat in a graveyard, armadillos, barnacles, an unleashed dog and more. Many of Grant's songs reflect his love for his South Florida home. History, environment, social commentary, bringing Florida's past to light and making light of its present, Grant has earned the title of Miami's Historian-in-Song. As a guitarist Livingston employs a style which is a unique mix of ragtime, country blues, and early swing. Comfortably at home with the musical style of the 1920s, he sometimes adds his interpretation of classic songs from the period to his performance of originals. "Magical - his words really lighten the soul!" - Miami Herald www.grantlivingston.com

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 Grant Livingston) received in the UU church office no later than Wednesday before Saturday show.

We're once again offering a season pass (\$150), which includes admission to all 9 September-May shows, as well as premium reserved seating and a Labyrinth Cafe T-shirt (designed and printed by Virginia and Erik, Labyrinth Cafe volunteers) - 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, and our Facebook page to give us a thumbs-up, which will then keep you informed of upcoming concerts - see you soon!

I also wanted to thank those who participated in, and volunteered for, the Labyrinth Cafe Sing-Along on Saturday, August 10 - major kudos to songleaders Rob Koppelman and Nick Annis for keeping the tempo, the melodies and the subject matter diverse, inspiring and fun. The participatory spirit of inclusion and community was heartwarming as well as lovely to listen to - we sang from the Rise Up Singing canon as well as our own memory banks (complete with guitars, banjo and egg shakers)... and there were also a few ringers in the crowd, to balance out those of us with more enthusiasm than vocal ability (that would be me... :-)

Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS



"Behind the Kitchen Door" Selected as UUA Common Read

The 2013-2014 UUA Common Read selection is *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman. The book reveals how restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages in America and how poor working conditions-discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary kitchens-affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables. As part of the UUA's commitment to ethical eating and economic justice, *Behind the Kitchen Door* invites Unitarian Universalist individuals, groups, and congregations to advocate for just working conditions for the 10 million restaurant workers who bring passion, tenacity, and insight into the American dining experience. Visit www.uuabookstore.org

UUA Southern Region



UUJusticeFL.org is here!!

August 6 marked the debut of the website for **Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida (UUJF)**, successor to the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Florida (UULMF), and an independent organization affiliated with the Florida District of the UUA. UUJF is applying for 501(c)(3) status for our educational work, and has a companion organization, the UUJF Action Network, that will address specific legislation and citizen initiatives, and for which we are applying for 501(c)(4) status. Please join us in both efforts!



Here are specific requests to start: Please LIKE US and follow us on Facebook and Twitter, post on our Facebook page, and Sign Up on our Action Network. That's where we can make the most difference together on key legislation. Let us know what you and your congregation are doing for social justice. Send articles or news clippings to action@uujusticefl.org so we can celebrate your good work.

Kindra Muntz, Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida, www.uujusticefl.org, kindra@uujusticefl.org, or 941-497-1764.

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.



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

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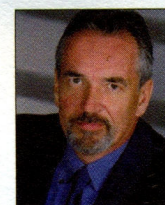


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YOUR FLUENCY BEGINS HERE™

September Birthdays

Paige Breen Page 9/4

Nicole Rivera 9/7

Phoenix(Lesa) Cockerham 9/8

Bob Zumstein 9/22

Suzannah Ryals-Lunenburg 9/29



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.

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

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



September Calendar



| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1 •9:30am - UU Sisterhood | 2 •7:00pm - A Course in Miracles | 3 | 4 •6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-Sopranos and Altos •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal-Tenors and Basses | 5 •7:30 pm CUUPS | 6 | 7 •8:45am - LifeNet4 Families Workday (See page 5) |
| 8 •11:00am - Annual Water Sunday Service (See back cover) | 9 •7:00pm - Board Meeting •7:00pm - A Course in Miracles | 10 | 11 •6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-Sopranos and Altos •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal-Tenors and Basses | 12 •7:30 pm CUUPS Annual Chocolate Ritual | 13 | 14 •7:30 pm Labyrinth Café Concert (See page 7) |
| 15 •Journey Submission Deadline •9:30am - UU Sisterhood •1:00pm - War vs. Human Needs - Film and Discussion | 16 •7:00pm - A Course in Miracles •7:00pm - Sunday Services Committee | 17 | 18 •6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-Sopranos and Altos •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal-Tenors and Basses | 19 •7:30 pm CUUPS | 20 •7:00pm - Third Friday Vespers Service (see page 2) | 21 •12:00n00n - Pagan Pride Day (see page 5) |
| 22 •1:00pm - Southeast Florida Initiative to End Mass Incarceration | 23 •7:00pm - Welcoming/Membership Committee •7:00pm - A Course in Miracles | 24 | 25 •6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-Sopranos and Altos •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal-Tenors and Basses | 26 •7:30 pm CUUPS | 27 •7:00pm -Social Justice Committee | 28 |
| 29 •11:00am - Special Music Sunday Service (See back cover and page 5) | 30 •7:00pm - A Course in Miracles | Religious Education Events See special calendar on the RE page 4 | Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events www.uucfl.org and click "Coming Activities" | | | Every Sunday : 11:00 AM- Church Service and Children's Religious Education |

Unitarian Universalist



Church of Ft. Lauderdale

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

The JOURNEY



Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

SEPTEMBER 2013

September 1 - A Personal Memory of Union Organizing and Other Thoughts on Unions -

A secret part of Rev. Gail's past that many of you may not be aware of is that one of her many rabble rousing activities over the years was being a founding member of a teacher's union in Santa Fe, NM. She will share her tales of excitement, conflict and secret meetings along with more recent activism in other union activities. She promises to make this fun and uplifting as we celebrate Labor Day.

September 8 - Water Sunday Ingathering - Don't forget to bring your real or symbolic water of travels undertaken or lessons learned over the summer as we celebrate the official regathering of our community for the church program year. We mingle our stories and our water in this unique ritual. A homily on the lessons of the Jewish High Holidays for our community will be offered and the UUCFL Choir returns from summer hiatus.

September 15 - The Search for the Yellow Meme - Rev. Gail will be exploring Philosopher Ken Wilbur's ideas about different levels of spiritual development. Part of this theme will be looked at through skits and monologues based on his understanding of the spiritual breakthroughs we might all be able to experience.

September 22 - Liberation for All - This service will look at the new Jim Crow like policies that have been created by current drug policies and the resulting mass incarceration of minorities. Desmond Mead, President of the Florida Coalition for Rights Restoration will be the featured speaker sharing his compelling personal story. Rev. Gail will provide a UU context and take you on a Guided Imagery journey. Nicole Schulman will also offer a testimony. The service will be followed by a simple lunch and an informative afternoon Town Meeting on the subject with other presenters, discussion and commitments to specific future actions.

September 29 - Music Sunday - Please join Music Director Dot Muise and Choir Director Susan Friend and friends as they present Music Sunday. The choir will sing favorites, church members will sing and play, and we will hear folks speak about what music means to them and how it enhances our spiritual lives. Do not miss this Sunday!!!

October 6 - Strengthening The Tribe - Building on our Age of Aquarius Stewardship theme of last year, we will look at what can add to the strength and solidarity our community, our movement as a whole and our commitment to make a difference on the side of peace and justice in the larger world.