

# The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

**December 2015**  
**Volume 56, Number 11**

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**January 2016 Issue**

**Deadline**

**Sunday, December 13, 2015**

Submit articles to:

**submission@uucfl.org**

**Editor**

Valerie Heller

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and Social Action in  
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LifeNet4Families  
Cooperative Feeding Program

**LifeNet4Families Workday**  
**Saturday, December 12 at 8:45am**

Work your way to Page 4

**Labyrinth Café Presents**  
**Harpeth Rising**  
**Saturday, December 12**  
**at 7:30pm**

See Page 6

**Intergenerational**  
**Holiday Party!**  
**Saturday, December 5**  
**7–10PM**



**Trees and**  
**menorahs and cookies, oh my!**  
**It's time to celebrate the**  
**winter holidays**  
**again, UU-style!**



See Page 4

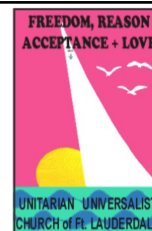
**Christmas Eve Service**  
**Thursday, December 24**  
**6:00PM**

**Join us for a service both playful and peaceful**

See Page 12

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

Nature has been a big part of my life, both physically and spiritually. All my life I've been in the outdoors (my UU parents took a canoe trip for their honeymoon, so it goes way back) and I've never lost that sense of wonder and connectedness that our web of life inspires in me.

Now that the weather and biting insects are getting more conducive to spending long periods out in the wilderness, I'm looking forward to feeling that deeper spirituality I find when nature surrounds me.

Here in the subtropics of South Florida we are surrounded by nature, with northern species such as the blue jays, cardinals and gray squirrels living side by side (and right outside our doors) with royal palms, alligators, and zebra longwing butterflies.

Years ago our church had group campouts in the Everglades with some of the other area UU congregations. I'd like to work on bringing that back, along with putting together some hikes and bike rides, both easy and moderate, in some of the wild places that are so close to us, yet which many people never knew about. I've done lots of exploring both alone and with the Florida Trail Association so if you've ever had a hankering to see a little more of Florida than the beaches and Disneyworld, this will be your chance.

Expect to hear about Big Cypress, Fern Forest, Green Cay and Shark Valley in the next month. Ask me about other wild places that you may have heard of but may have been hesitant to explore.

John Muir said "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." Join me to live his words.

**Dave Griswold**

## Committee News

The UUCFL Committee on Ministry (COM) exists to encourage the congregation to live up to its mission—"To come together as a caring community and sanctuary for seekers of spiritual growth, truth and meaning." (You will find this statement on page one of The Journey.) We meet once a month to assess the pulse of the congregation and discuss aspects of congregational life that may enhance or detract from achieving our mission. If we did not have a religious professional (aka minister), we could still have a Committee on Ministry. While the Minister meets with the Committee on Ministry, it's helpful to keep in mind that the COM is not about the Minister; rather, it is about the Ministry of the Congregation.

The current members of the COM:

Ken Beier (chair) 954-336-7412 beierken@gmail.com

Claire Mostel 786-513-5180 cmostel@gmail.com

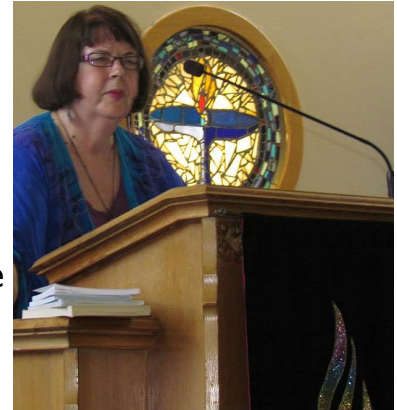
Annette Vafa.954-923-7144 annette2008@comcast.net

We encourage you to contact us with your input on how we are doing with respect to our Ministry.

**Ken Beier**

## ***Rev. Gail's Space***

### **SURVIVING THE AFFLUENZA SEASON**



It is that time of year again where the temptation is great to max out our credit cards trying to buy love, impress people, or keep up with the Jones family. It is also the time of year when we really tend to expand our waistlines and increase our blood sugar levels as well as extend our debt level. What is meant to be a time for family, fun, peace and love can easily become a time for which we will pay dearly with financial and health issues far into the new year.

I invite you this year to attempt a new way of doing the holidays. We are living in particularly strange and scary times. We are in the middle of an election season that at times seems like it is being played out on a movie screen as a less than funny comedy. We are still reeling from evidence all over the world of the exact opposite of peace on earth and goodwill to all. Yet there are hopeful trends as well of a world of greater inclusion and more personal freedoms. As our own Charles Dickens said in "A Tale of Two Cities," it is the best times, it is the worst of times. To some extent, that is always true; individuals always have good luck and bad luck, different countries seem to have different times of prosperity and scarcity. However, with the seemingly unavoidable trends of globalization, a problem in one location will soon be a problem everywhere.

It is a great season to think about and recommit to our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes, especially the first one about the inherent worth and dignity of all people and the seventh one honoring the interdependent web of which we are all a part. This season can be a time of retreat, renewal and recommitment rather than a time of excess followed by regret. It is a good time to be grateful for what we have while being acutely aware of those who have so little. What will really make you feel better – a third flat screen TV in the house or a generous gift to one of the many groups that will make life better for the homeless, the refugees, or just less fortunate friends or relatives. Let us make this a mindful and aware holiday season that will leave us healthier and happier mentally, physically, and financially.

Blessings to all in whatever way you celebrate or even if you say Bah Humbug with Mr. Scrooge.

Love,

***Rev. Gail***

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**Please remember to turn in your 2016 pledge forms!**  
**Forms may be submitted to Jim Giblin or Kathy Ervolina, or may be**  
**mailed to the church office. Didn't receive a form yet? Please**  
**contact office assistant Jeff Hutt at [Admin@uucfl.org](mailto:Admin@uucfl.org).**



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



I am feeling speechless right now. There are so many thoughts rattling around in my head, so much angst over so many things in our world, so much loss in the past year in my family and my circle of friends.

As the light of the sun is less, and then comes roaring back, love your family and friends, tell them that you do, and do something everyday, no matter how small, to make the world around you better. It's not that hard.

Happy Holidays and Joyous New Year

Love and blessings,

**DRE Susan**

## December Children's Religious Education Schedule



**Sunday December 6, 11AM**

**Prep for Kids' Service**

**Sunday December 13, 11AM**

**RE Holiday Service**

Please have kids at church by 9:30AM

**Sunday December 20, 11 AM**

**Holiday Fun**

**Sunday December 27, 11AM**

**NO RE**

**Children attend service**



**Lifenet 4 Families/CFP Update**

LifeNet4Families  
Cooperative Feeding Program

Please keep filling our lobby food baskets to help the food insecure. Special thanks to the Labyrinth Cafe folks for their donations. Do your holiday good deed by coming out on Saturday December 12 from

9-11AM to volunteer in the Lifenet pantry with our fellow UUs from River of Grass.

Have fun and help with the increased holiday donations.

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

### **Annual Intergenerational UUCFL Holiday Party Saturday December 5, 7-10PM**

You can get your holiday spirit on at UUCFL Saturday December 5 from 7-10PM as we put up our holiday tree, set up our menorah, make ornaments, sing carols, eat holiday treats, drink DRE Susan's famous hot mulled wine and enjoy each other's company! We will also have a visit from a special someone with a twinkle in their eye! This is a great event to invite friends and family and introduce them to our wonderful community.

Info DRE Susan

tiredmomofbob@aol.com  
(954) 424-1910

**Music Notes**

As we enter the fall season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, let us all pull together to make this beautiful time a festive, happy time.

You may have noticed that the choir numbers have decreased somewhat. We are small but mighty! However, with fewer members, it becomes more and more difficult to produce the special music we want to hear to enhance our services. If you are an ex-member of choir and can give approximately one-and-a-quarter hours to your church from 6:45 to 8:00PM on Wednesday nights for rehearsal and two Sunday mornings a month to raise your voice in harmony with others, you would be most welcome. We are always open to new singers as well. We know that UUs are busy people and have their own lives outside of the church. This commitment is a small gift you can donate to your church and feel the satisfaction that goes along with that gift.

In the month of December we see Hannukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year's Eve all merge into an exciting menu of familiar celebrations and new beginnings. There will be candle lighting and miraculous stories connected to each, along with rededication of our best selves to our church and our lives in general.

On Dec. 6 and Dec. 20, the choir will present music both familiar and new. Watch for different words to well-known hymns. The Christmas Eve service music is in the planning stage, but we promise you will enjoy this intimate introduction to our colorful celebration with our church family.

We wish you a Happy Hannukah, Merry Christmas, promising Kwanzaa, and a hopeful New Year.

All the best to you and yours,

***Dot Muise, Director of Music***

**Labyrinth Café Concerts Presents  
Harpeth Rising  
Saturday, December 12 at 7:30pm**

**Harpeth Rising** chose to name themselves after a river because water is both dynamic and powerful. These words also describe the music created by the three women – Jordana Greenberg (violin, vocals), Rebecca Reed-Lunn (banjo, vocals) and Maria Di Meglio (cello, vocals). Unapologetic genre-benders, they fuse Folk, Newgrass, Rock and Classical into a sound that is organically unique. Hallmarks of their music include expansive three-part harmonies, consummate musicianship and



a deft, yet soulful, lyrical perspective. Harpeth Rising's roots run deep – from their varied ancestry across Eastern Europe to the musical hotbed of the Mid-South they now call home, they weave together ancient and modern ideas, creating a sound that is both familiar and impossible to categorize. "We don't set out to create something different, we just write in a way that is true to ourselves while trying to always expand and explore the new influences in our lives," says Greenberg. "We're aware of genre divisions, we're just not bound by them."

Reservations requested but not required:

Contact Susan at [OzWoman321@aol.com](mailto: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).

Please visit [www.labyrinthcafe.com](http://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.

Saturday, January 9, 2016 - Jennings & Keller/Flagship Romance

Saturday, February 13, 2016 - Danny Schmidt and Carrie Elkin

Saturday, March 12, 2016 - Rod MacDonald/Jon Brooks

Saturday, April 9, 2016 - Amy Carol Webb/Claudia Schmidt

Saturday, May 14, 2016 - Ellis Paul

Can't wait for you all to join us once again for song and camaraderie!

## Vespers

2nd Friday Vespers December 11, 7PM MPR

Experience some holiday joy at our December Vespers. Larry Wilkner will be leading, and the service will feature holiday words and music. There will also be special festive libations during fellowship hour.

Susan Dirgins-Friend, tiredmomofbob@aol.com  
(954)424-1910



The library now has books for middle school children. Recipe books are going fast. We need donations of board books and gently used picture books for the nursery.

***Molly St. Cavish***

## TED Talks

TED Talks are short (18 minutes maximum) video talks by people in all areas of knowledge from social to science to art. These speakers are chosen by TED organizers as people who are passionate about the ability of ideas to change the world. We listen to three of these talks and then discuss the ideas. Light refreshments are served.

The TED group meets at church on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm. We adjourn at 3:30.

Our next meeting is Dec. 15. All are welcome.

For details contact Molly St. Cavish at mstcavish@yahoo.com .

## Coming CUUPS Events

This year we celebrate Yule on Saturday December 26. We will have a study group meeting December 24 to swap stories and plan. What, are there Pagans who also do Christmas? Hey, we thought of all this first!

Thursday evening study groups continue. Dec. 10 we do "Invoking the Elementals of the East." Dec. 17 we will carefully plan a spontaneous ritual. Dec. 24 is Yule Planning. Dec. 31, even Pagans can't deny it's the Gregorian New Year. Time is passing. Party elsewhere and watch out for drunken Muggles.

***Kip Barkley***  
***Resident Pagan***

[MoonPathCUUPS.org](http://MoonPathCUUPS.org)

TheMoonPath Chapter of CUUPS



### Ten Points!!

Your ministerial search committee has been working diligently to get everyone's opinion on what we would like in a new minister. However we need to make sure everyone gets a fair chance to have a say. Much of what we need is clearly outlined in the long range plan, which is available on the UUCFL.org website. We will be going mainly with that and tempering with these survey results. Since the next minister will be either interim or developmental, we are skipping the 40 page UUA survey this time. So fill out the top ten concerns you have for a new minister, using this template or blank paper, and attach a short paragraph if you are so moved. **Please include your name.** Thank you for your time! Surveys with no name will be discarded.

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 1- | 6-  |
| 2- | 7-  |
| 3- | 8-  |
| 4- | 9-  |
| 5- | 10- |

### From the UUCFL Social Justice Committee:

First, I would like to thank Rev. Gail and the Board for allowing me to Chair the Social Justice Committee. Since I am relatively new to UUCFL, I thought I would share my journey to 3970 NW 21st Ave. I retired and moved to Sunrise in 2010 to take care of my ailing father. However, after he passed I realized I had neither family nor friends locally and was in need of purpose and community. It took me a while but I finally made my way to UUCFL.

I was brought up in the Ethical Society and as a teen went to my first rally/protest on August 28, 1963, where Dr. Martin Luther King gave his "I have a Dream" speech. In college I protested the Viet Nam war although, like most college kids, I had no idea what I was really protesting. My passion for Social Justice was reignited at the age of fifty when I changed careers and landed a paralegal position with the Maryland Innocence Project. I knew from minute one it was my dream job. When I retired there was a void after I had found myself so passionate and driven in my role as an advocate for the voiceless. Currently I am also the President of the Democratic Women's Club of West Broward, where I have the opportunity to share my interests by having speakers about issues that affect our lives. I have been fortunate to network with activists in our community and would like to have them speak at UUCFL Social Justice meetings.

The horrific tragedy in Paris has brought to light our global connections, and my vision of the UUCFL Social Justice Committee is to share not only what is happening in our community but follow the guidelines of the UUA: *Our justice efforts are grounded in our congregationally-driven social justice statements and our call to break down divisions, heal isolation, and honor the interconnectedness of all life and all justice issues. We model these commitments by creating just, welcoming, and inclusive congregations.*

UUCFL is fortunate to have a legacy of social activism, and we can be a conduit to share information. One avenue which we are thinking about is having a short documentary series after Sunday service with videos like ***The Homestretch***, about the difficult plight of three homeless teens in Chicago; ***CitizenFour***, about Edward Snowden, who leaked classified information in 2013; and ***Citizen Koch***, the story of the Tea Party "movement" which has been financed by the billionaire Koch brothers.

Our first meeting of 2016 has been arranged by Bob and Patty Bender: Sunday January 24, 2016 at 12:45pm, Dr. Mark Solomon will be addressing "Black Lives Matter, Moral Mondays, Mainstream Politics: 2016 African-American Activism in the Context of African-American History". Dr. Solomon is currently an Associate at the WEB DuBois Institute of African and African-American Research at Harvard, where he is writing a memoir/narrative on the peace and civil rights movement of the 1940s and 1950s. The meeting is co-sponsored by Black Lives Matter Broward Alliance and The Democratic Women's Club of West Broward. Please let us know any suggestions you have and we hope you can join us on January 24<sup>th</sup> to hear Dr. Solomon. We will also be posting current events on Facebook on the **UUCFL – Blog**.



"I've come up with a set of rules that describe our reaction to technologies:

1. Anything that is in the world when you're born is normal and ordinary and is just a natural part of the way the world works.
2. Anything that's invented between when you're 15 and 35 is new and exciting and revolutionary and you can probably get a career in it.
3. Anything invented after you're 35 is against the natural order of things."

Douglas Adams



## Directory of Staff, Board, Committee Chairs & Affiliates

### STAFF

#### • Minister

Rev. Gail Tapscott.....954-288-4245

#### • Director of Religious Education

Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910

#### • Music Director

Dorothy Muise.....954-731-8790

#### • Choir Director

Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910

#### • Office Assistant

Jeff Hutt.....954-625-9697

Admin@uucfl.org

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Betty Brantley.....954-536-5754

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Building & Grounds

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#### Stewardship

OPEN

#### Community Outreach

##### Social Justice Committee

Linda Gallun

##### BOLD Justice

Betty Brantley.....954-536-5754

##### Cooperative Feeding Program

Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910

##### South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice

Rev. Gail Tapscott.....954-288-4245

### Webmaster

Kip Barkley.....954-784-8307

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Valerie Heller.....954-663-3859

### Email Newsletter - The cUUrious cUUrier

Gary Ladka.....954-650-3728

### Caring Committee

Douglas Paul.....954-739-8879

### Library

Molly St. Cavish.....954-752-5717

### Finance

OPEN

### Building Usage

Rev. Gail Tapscott.....954-288-4245

### Labyrinth Café Concerts

Susan Moss.....954-478-8637

### Welcoming/Membership

Sandy Lange.....954-401-5675

### Ministry

Ken Beier.....954-336-7412

### Nominating

Jerry Waltz .....954-527-5275

### Religious Education

Michael Coburn.....305-409-7340

### Sunday Services

Opal Murray .....770-265-6242

### Wisdom and Enlightenment Series

Opal Murray .....770-265-6242

### ASSOCIATE & AFFILIATE GROUPS

#### • CUUPS

Kip Barkley.....954-784-8307

#### • Endowment

Doug Friend.....954-424-1910

#### • Interweave

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#### • UU Service Committee

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The program runs between January 1 and the IRS income tax filing deadline (usually April 15) of the current year.

Mention the Church to any H&R Block Agent when you refer someone to make sure UUCFL receives the credit

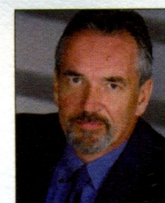


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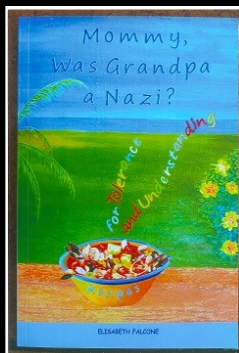
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### Remember the Hungry People Around Us

Please continue to fill the Food Baskets at the church with non-perishables for the LifeNet for Families Cooperative Feeding Program. Learn more about the CFP and other ways you can help. Visit [www.feedbroward.org](http://www.feedbroward.org)



**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.**

### December Birthdays

Caterina Turner 12/2  
Amy Ladka 12/3  
Pierre Claros 12/4  
Mara Hutt 12/5  
Tabo Glenn 12/7  
Taylor Mattis 12/12  
Jerry Waltz 12/15  
Steve Lange 12/16




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

Every Sunday, 11am  
Sunday Services and Children's Religious  
Education

# December

Visit us at [www.uucfl.org](http://www.uucfl.org) and click  
**Coming Events** to view our Online  
Calendar.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>6</b> 9:30am UUSISTER 11am Sunday Service  A-C Snack Day	 <b>Mark Your Calendar</b> <i>Don't sit on the sidelines...Get involved!</i>					<b>5</b> 6:30 Holiday Party
	<b>7</b>  	<b>8</b> 4pm A Tour of World Religions for Skeptics	<b>9</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 7pm UU Men's Group 7:30pm CUUPS Study Group 7:30pm Free Thinkers Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>11</b> 7pm Vespers	<b>12</b> 8:45am LifeNet4Families 9pm Buildings and Grounds Comm. 7pm Labyrinth Café Harpeth Rising
<b>13</b> Journey Submission Deadline 11am Sunday Service  D-J Snack Day	<b>14</b> 7pm Board Meeting	<b>15</b> 2pm TED Talks 4pm A Tour of World Religions for Skeptics	<b>16</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 7pm UU Men's Group 7:30pm CUUPS Study Group 7:30pm Free Thinkers Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30am RE Comm. 11am Sunday Service  K-N Snack Day	<b>21</b> 7:30pm Sunday Services Comm.	<b>22</b> 4pm A Tour of World Religions for Skeptics	<b>23</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 7pm UU Men's Group 7:30pm CUUPS Study Group 7:30pm Free Thinkers Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 4:30pm CUUPS Yule
<b>27</b> 11am Sunday Service  O-Z Snack Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b> 7pm UU Men's Group 7:30pm CUUPS Study Group 7:30pm Free Thinkers Alcoholics Anonymous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RE Calendar pg 4</li> <li>• CUUPS Calendar pg 7</li> <li>• Labyrinth Café Calendar pg 6</li> <li>• Sunday Services Calendar pg 12</li> </ul>	

# Unitarian Universalist

Church of Ft. Lauderdale

3970 NW 21st Avenue  
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E-mail: [uucfl@aol.com](mailto:uucfl@aol.com)

Website: [www.uucfl.org](http://www.uucfl.org)

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

## The JOURNEY



### Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

### DECEMBER 2015

#### **December 6– Don't Let the Lights Go Out-**

Although homage will be paid to the Jewish festival of lights and other light filled holidays, Rev. Gail Tapscott's primary focus will be on our inner times of darkness and how we often find that our way out is lit by others. Also sometimes we are the torch bearers out of a dark tunnel for a loved one or a stranger.

**December 13 - A Holiday Celebration of our Young People-** DRE Susan Friend and others will offer a program focused on our younger community members.

**December 20 – Solstice for All and a New Look at Old Christmas-** Rev. Gail Tapscott will explore the inner meanings of customs and rituals from several of the seasonal holidays we are celebrating during these winter days.



[www.clipartof.com](http://www.clipartof.com) · 100682

**Christmas Eve- December 24 at 6PM** - Christmas Unitarian Universalist Style- Rev. Gail Tapscott and friends will provide a touch of tradition and a touch of innovation as only we can. We will hear readings, sing carols, listen to a short Homily, perhaps see a skit and enjoy the traditional candle ceremony. This will be followed by the usual cider, sweets and holiday fellowship.

#### **December 27 - Universalizing Kwanza-**

This year we will again honor the principles of this modern African American holiday while combining it with a ritual to help us empty ourselves of the inner and outer clutter of the past and open up a place for new growth and experience. Rev. Gail Tapscott will facilitate with help from congregants.

**Jan. 3- Adventures in UU Land-** Rev. Gail Tapscott and UUCFL leaders will share some of the recent new insights they have gained about our movement from traveling physically or virtually to gatherings with folks from other congregations near and far. It gets way too easy to think that the way we do church is the only way to do it. Opening ourselves to the huge variety in our tradition is always a broadening and deepening experience.