

The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

August 2014
Volume 55, Number 7

In This Issue

President's Message.....	2
Rev. Gail's Space.....	3
Religious Education News.....	4
Directory.....	9
Market Place.	10
Calendar.....	11
Sunday Services.....	Back Cover

September 2014 Issue Deadline

Sunday August 10, 2014

Submit articles to:

submission@uucfl.org

Editor

Gary Ladka

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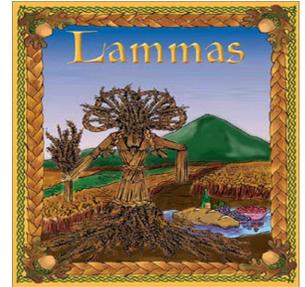
Established in 1958



LifeNet4Families
Cooperative Feeding Program

LifeNet4Families Workday
Saturday August 2 at 8:45am
Work your way to Page 6

**Lammas Ritual and
Native American Corn Festival**
Saturday August 2 at 7:30pm
Corn Field of Dreams on Page 7



Labyrinth Cafe Concerts
Season Kickoff Sing-A-Long
Saturday August 9 at 7:30pm
Tune to Page 6

**New Member
Orientation Classes**
On Two Sundays
August 17 and August 24
At 12:45pm
Show Some Class - See Page 2



Return of the Choir
Choir Retreat
Saturday August 23
At 10:00am
Add Your Voice - Visit Page 5

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.

FREEDOM, REASON
ACCEPTANCE + LOVE



President's Message



I have been so pleased with the attendance and the energy at the church this summer. Members and friends have really answered the call to community put out by Rev. Gail during her sabbatical and by church leaders to support the Sunday Services Committee's work and the wonderful guest speakers in the pulpit from UUCFL's own pool of talent as well as some extraordinary folks from outside our walls. This increased sense of community has seen some really great individuals and families visiting and staying because of the warm and welcoming feeling that they receive from all of us gathered together for service, coffee hour, and beyond. The addition of our bi-monthly lunches by Rick and Nelson have also been a great motivator for fellowship. I am thankful and it really is energizing to have a large sized group of veteran members, frequent visiting friends, and new-comers all feel like there is something special here that we all want to be a part of. Please keep up the "Try to Be at Church Every Sunday You Can" effort to keep that feeling going. We miss you when you

aren't here. What's more, consider that someone who might find a strong connection with you may be visiting on any given Sunday, and you wouldn't want to miss that opportunity for the both of you.

I also hereby appoint everyone to serve as a member of our Caring Committee. We have a small but mighty Committee looking out for our members and friends, but they can't keep track of everyone. If you are at church and you notice somebody is not there, please give them a call and see how they are doing. We will call this the "UUCFL Phone a Friend" program. If they have just been scarce or busy, please tell them we miss them and would love to see them. If they are facing some sort of hardship, please let Rev Gail, myself, or a Caring Committee member know so we can assist people as necessary. We care for each other as a family here at the church and we need all of us to do that. We have also missed our Rev Gail and we are happy to welcome her back to the pulpit this month.

Our new church program year promises to be an exciting one right from the start in September with our homecoming/ingathering Water Sunday service September 14 where we share our summer adventures together. During that service and gathering afterward will be the first phase of our new Long Range Plan and we want to hear your dreams and visions for UUCFL.

You may already even notice some improvements around the church as we prepare to look at our future together with fresh eyes and ideas. See you on Sunday...and the next...and the next...

Gary Ladka

New Member Orientation Classes Offered



UUCFL is a great place and some of our friends probably want to join us. So we will be having a membership workshop with Rev. Gail on Aug 17th and 24th after service. You can come to one or the other or both. We will be talking about Unitarian Universalism and about our church. This is primarily a workshop for new members but existing members who want to learn more about their faith and UUCFL can feel free to participate as well. This is a new curriculum that Gail has created and this is the second time we have run this so I am very excited. So if you haven't had enough Gail time because of the Sabbatical, plan to join us.

Myra Symons - Welcoming/Membership Committee

Rev. Gail's Space

Hellos and Goodbyes

This sabbatical year seems to be working our pretty well for the church so far. I have been trying to get regular reports on the quality and the reception of services during my time away. Although as is normal in the summertime attendance has been down on a few Sundays, it seems that things have been going very well. The lunches and breakfasts that Rick and Nelson have been providing along with regular coffee hour offerings appear to have kept people talking and making connections.



Despite my right knee problem which may take quite a while to resolve as all orthopedic issues do, I am planning to be back on duty as planned on August 7 with planning for my first time back in the pulpit on August 10. Then I will be preaching or coordinating all the services through Oct. 5 and then Sabbatical Part III starts which will be a shorter time than the other parts. Before Thanksgiving I will be back on regular duty.

On Water Sunday Sept. 14, I will be coordinating the Water Ceremony but the sermon will be delivered by my wonderful colleague and friend Rev. Dr. Randy Becker from Key West as the kick off for our exciting Long Range Planning process. It is very crucial that as many church community folks as possible participate in this exercise. We need a mix of longer term and new members and people across all age groups to be involved so we can plan for a church that will be here thriving and contributing a liberal religious and social justice presence to the community for the long term. It is especially important that all the ideas we generate have people who will take ongoing ownership for their implementation. Just expressing the same ideas we have shared over and over in hopes that someone else to execute for us will get us nowhere. We always have new people showing up at UUCFL who have new aspirations and new talents. The future is always open. We never have to feel that we are bound by past limitations in our personal lives or our spiritual home. Let's all make up our minds to create a great future for ourselves and all the questing souls in Ft. Lauderdale who just have not found us yet.

Blessings
Rev. Gail



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

I've got joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart!! Sundays in the RE wing lately have become mini-versions of "the happiest place on earth". We have had babies, toddlers, teens and adults in the nursery, playing, interacting, talking (those who are capable of course) eating snacks (pretzels and goldfish are favorites) drinking juice and being happy. When parents come to our church on Sundays with little ones, it is a blessing for all of us that we have a welcoming, love filled place for the littles to be so that their folks can participate in the service uninterrupted. If you have never thought of taking care of the smallest amongst us as a spiritual practice, you should come and poke your head in. As I have said many times, I enjoy the company of children immensely, if truth be told, probably more than that of adults; they are honest, loving, funny, joyful and insightful. I know that many of you agree with me, so, here comes the pitch. We are going to have a workday in August or September to fix up our outdoor playground. We need to trim trees, put down mulch, clean up, paint and other tasks. We need to get our playground in shape for all these young ones coming along, and we will need help. The children of our church belong to all of us. Please join us when we call on you to build the future of UUCFL. No special skills are needed, just a willingness to tread the spiritual path of caring for our kids. Keep watching and listening for the date.

DRE Susan



August Children's Religious Education Schedule

**Sunday August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
and September 7
11AM**

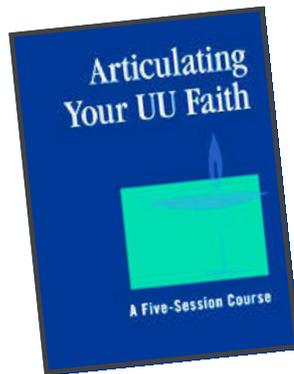
Summer Fun Activities

DRE Susan is officially off in the summer (but often seen in the RE wing), and Sunday children's programs are available but are not curricular and are sometimes presented by church members. Nursery is available most Sundays. Regular children's RE will begin again on Sunday September 21, but we will welcome everyone back on September 14 with our Ingathering Water Sunday Service and children will attend the service.

Learn To Talk About Our Faith in September Class

For the first time in a few years, we will be offering a newly enhanced version of one of the most popular classes we have ever had at UUCFL. The curriculum called "Articulating Your UU Faith" will be back for four Tuesdays in September. This interactive class will help you understand more about Unitarian Universalist history, beliefs, our potential to help you grow a strong personal faith and world view and your ability to make a difference in the world.

Rev. Gail plans to enhance this already excellent curriculum with some new materials and evolving ideas about the future options for our faith. Mark your calendars now for Tuesdays Sept. 9-30. This class will give you a chance to get to know other members better, explain our community better to others and have fun. Do not miss this opportunity to broaden and deepen your commitment to our unique movement. Look for a more detailed flyer soon and for a more detailed article in the September 2014 Journey.



Rev Gail

Name Tags – If you have not yet received a 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 cUUrrier – If you are not receiving our weekly email newsletter, the cUUrious cUUrrier, visit our website at www.uucfl.org and click on "Weekly Email Broadcast" to sign up

Music Notes



If you have been attending church regularly, you have noticed an absence of piano and choral music from the Music Department due to our summer break. That absence is about to be remedied.

As promised, the Choir Retreat is coming up on August 23 in the R.E. Wing at UUCFL. We will meet at 10 AM to warm up those rusty vocal chords and find out plans for the Fall services to be revealed by our wonderful Choir Director Susan Friend. There will be a brief break for lunch followed by further polishing of the music to be presented at the Water Sunday service on September 14.

Now is the time for all current, past, and future choir members to meet and greet each other. Let's have a social, warm start to another productive, musical year. This is the ideal time for new singers to support the choir by attending our "kick-off" for the 2014-2015 season.

We hope you have enjoyed your summer break, choir members, and are looking forward to a chance to work together once again making beautiful moving music to enrich, inspire and have fun!

See you all on August 23.

Dot Muise, Director of Music

Music
is the voice of the soul

**Labyrinth Café Season Kickoff Sing-A-Long
Saturday August 9 at 7:30pm**

Help us kick off our 2014-2015 season on Saturday, August 9 at 7:30 p.m. (only \$5!) with this fun, lively and interactive sing-along! Local performers will host, emcee and lead the evening's festivities, refreshments are available for sale and plenty of free parking is provided. "There is no pressure to sing out really loudly, or to sing incredibly well. The only common bond is that everyone in the group loves to sing. That's it. Sharing songs and creating magical sound is really way too much fun.



We will be singing from the "Rise Up Singing" songbook (a wonderful guide compiled by SingOut Magazine with lyrics to over 1200 classic songs) as well as from our own memory. Selections will include a great mix of folk, gospel, bluegrass, jazz, contemporary, rounds, old-time. If you have a copy of "Rise Up Singing", please bring it. We will have copies for sale at the event. Everyone is welcome. Without you, there is no sound!

We will also have used folk/acoustic/roots/country/bluegrass CDs for sale. If you have any to donate, please bring them Saturday night.

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

We are working to get the website updated and all will be revealed soon. In the meantime, we ask you now to save the following dates (2014: September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13; 2015: January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9) and join us once again for song and camaraderie. Watch your e-mail, check our Facebook page and listen to Michael Stock's show for notice of the harmonic treats in store.

We will once again be offering a Season Pass for \$150 per person, which entitles you entrance to all 9 concerts, a beautifully-designed Labyrinth Cafe T-shirt and premium, reserved seating!

Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series

LifeNet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Update



LifeNet4Families
Cooperative Feeding Program

Our next workday will be Saturday August 2. Please join us at 8:45 at the CFP to help in the pantry, or perhaps help in the kitchen or dining room. Due to a lack of attendance on a regular basis except by a dedicated few folks, I am going to be changing our workday to once every other month or perhaps once a quarter. I cannot be at every workday in the winter due to my work, and we need more bodies if we are going to continue. It is with regret that I take this step. Thanks as always to those of you filling the baskets in the narthex. Every bit helps.

Info: DRE Susan (954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com
Susan Friend

UUCFL Begins Long Range Planning Phase 1 And We Want You to Share Your Visions! Sunday September 14 at 1:00pm



Participate in the shaping of the future of UUCFL with the new Long Range Plan (LRP). The service at 11am this day will discuss the strategic planning process and following service there will be congregational town meeting. In addition to going through the strategic planning process, our expert consultant, Rev Dr. Randy Becker, will ask us to give suggestions as to what we would like to see changed at the Church. Please look for more details and start thinking about some new and innovative ideas for our UUCFL to come.

The Long Range Planning Committee



Mr. President, Tear Down This Wall

*by The Reverend Kenneth Gordon Hurto,
Southern Region Congregational Life Staff*



*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.*
The New Colossus, 1883; Emma Lazarus (1849–87)

In her 2012 UUA GA Ware lecture in Phoenix, NPR journalist **Maria Hinojosa** spoke movingly of “two Americas,” one which moved about freely and another always in fear of being detained, harassed, or arrested because of color or accent. A Mexican born American, she noted having a New York drivers license was not sufficient to prove her citizenship. She then asked the assembled whether we felt the need to bring our passports to travel to Arizona.

A line stayed with me: **No human being is illegal...**

(Continue reading the rest of Rev. Kenn’s article at <http://www.seduua.org> then click “Newsletter”)



Coming CUUPS Events

In August we celebrate our ever-popular Native American Corn Festival. The ceremony is a composite of Native American customs for this harvest. Yes, Injuns did not eat just buffalo. The Thursday before, we plan the ritual and cast parts. It takes place Saturday August 2 starting at 7:30pm. Do join in. Visit <http://moonpathcuups.org/rituals/corn.htm>.

Study Group continues every Thursday. The following week we perform our very Sacred Chocolate Ritual. WE wear brown, bring traditional offerings, divide up parts, act out, and then eat chocolate. Women tell me this is a very spiritual evening.

The following Thursday, we will learn of Asatru, a bit from our Druid, and perform a spontaneous ritual. We will have much magick in August.

Kip, Resident Pagan



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



UUA President Issues Statement on Contraceptive Mandate Decision by SCOTUS

June 30, 2014

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued this statement following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on the contraceptive mandate:

"Today in its 5 to 4 decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that 'closely-held' companies cannot be required to pay for

insurance coverage for contraceptives because it violates a federal law protecting religious freedom. This is yet another blow against reproductive rights. Removing the no-cost contraceptive coverage requirement in the Affordable Care Act dangerously diminishes the religious, moral, and legal rights of every American, but especially women.

I am deeply concerned by the growing rights granted to corporations by this decision and others of this Court and our Congress. I am also deeply concerned by the growing use of the religious freedom argument as a tool of discrimination and oppression.

The Unitarian Universalist Association, in its dedication to the principle of separation of church and state, joined with other faith groups in an amicus curiae brief that argued the federal contraceptive rule does not substantially burden religious exercise under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and applauded the Affordable Care Act as the single most important piece of legislation to address gender- and race-based health inequities.

Unitarian Universalists affirm that parenthood and sexuality are sacred gifts. Women's access to key preventative contraceptive services is essential not only to their health, but also to other rights including religious liberty, equality, and economic security.

Though I am exceedingly disappointed in this ruling, I reaffirm the commitment of the UUA to work for reproductive justice in accordance with our first principle because 'justice is what love looks like in public.'"



Directory of Staff, Board, Committee Chairs & Affiliates

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- **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

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- Steve Lange954-257-9262

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BOLD Justice

- Lore Bernier.....954-670-3664

Cooperative Feeding Program

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South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice

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- Joe DeAngelis.....954-973-1337

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- Mara Newman.....954-849-3736

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Labyrinth Café Concerts

- Susan Moss.....954-433-2372

Welcoming/Membership

- Myra Symons.....954-770-7023

Ministry

- Betty Highton.....954-484-6313

Nominating

- Steve Lange954-257-9262

Religious Education

- Laura Lange.....954-584-2499

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**

- Nicole Rivera.....954-815-0086

• **UU Service Committee**

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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



August Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| LEVANT EKENDIZ 8/1 | EDDIE CUMMINGS 8/12 |
| BENNY RIVERA 8/1 | THOMAS KARNETH 8/12 |
| BOB HILL 8/2 | DANE RAMSON 8/14 |
| SOPHIA LeTOURNEAU 8/2 | DOUG FRIEND 8/16 |
| SUSAN MOSS 8/5 | LEILA EKENDIZ 8/23 |
| JANE CROSS 8/6 | SANDY LANGE 8/24 |
| LORE BERNIER 8/7 | GAIL MORRISON 8/24 |
| JANET BURNETT 8/11 | MOLLY LESNICK 8/29 |
| SUSAN McALPIN 8/11 | MONICA PAVLIK 8/29 |



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

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.



August Calendar



<p>Every Sunday : 11:00 AM- Church Service and Children's Religious Education</p>	<p>Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events www.uucfl.org and click "Coming Activities"</p>			<p>Religious Education Events See special calendar on the RE page 4</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 •8:45am - Lifenet4Families Cooperative Feeding Program Workday (See page 6) •7:30pm - Lammas Ritual and Corn Fest (See page 7)</p>
<p>3 •9:30am - UU Sisterhood •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 •7:30 pm Labyrinth Café Concert (See page 6)</p>
<p>10 •Journey Article Submission Deadline</p>	<p>11 •7:00pm - Board Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 •9:30am - UU Sisterhood •12:30pm - Fellowship Lunch Day •12:45pm - New Member Orientation Class</p>	<p>18 •7:00pm - Sunday Services Committee</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 •10:00am - Choir Retreat (see Page 5)</p>
<p>24 •12:45pm - New Member Orientation Class</p>	<p>25 •7:00pm Welcoming/ Membership Committee</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 •6:45pm - Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p>						

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

AUGUST 2014

August 3 - Pulpit Guest Rev. Lori Cardona - Rev. Lori Cardona of Love Miracles Community Ministries gives an encore presentation with "Forgiving is Forever" helping us to understand how we are being confronted by obstacles and circumstances that challenge our willingness to forgive.

August 10- Welcoming Obstacles - Rev. Gail returns to the pulpit after a very different sabbatical Part II than she had in mind. However, life rarely turns out just as planned. Rev. Gail will discuss the idea of making the obstacles in our journey part of our spiritual practices and how the lessons we don't sign up to learn are often the ones we need the most.

August 17 - Eternal Wisdom for Changing Times - It has been said that there is nothing new under the sun but there are always new situations in which we need to apply old ideas. Rev. Gail will look at many sources ancient and modern to help us think about the difference between information and knowledge and real wisdom.

August 24 - Practical Shamanism - Rev. Gail's interest in Shamanism has been one of the most enduring aspects of her study of religion in general. From the theoretical and scholarly study of historical shamanism to studying periodically with various modern teachers of the practice, she will try to show why this phenomena should be of interest to even the most secular or skeptical among us.

August 31 - Building A World With Economic Justice For All- On this Labor Day Rev. Gail shares this year's theme for the South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice on whose board she has served for many years. We have determined to focus this year on a more positive model for the future of all people in the work force and not just look all the time at what is wrong. How can we build an economic system what works for more of us and what practical small things can we all do in the meantime.

September 7 - Born Again Unitarian Universalism or What Do You Say After You Say I Am a UU - Drawing on several long time favorite sources Rev. Gail will help look at new ways to think about our faith, to talk about our faith, to grow our faith and to enjoy being part of one of the most unique communities on earth. The idea of how to develop, grow and sustain a strong Unitarian Universalist identity will be the primary theme of the 2014-15 church program year. Come to the service and join us on 4 Tuesday nights for the follow up interactive class sessions.

