

# The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

**December 2012**  
**Volume 53, Number 11**

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**January 2013 Issue**  
**Deadline**

**Sunday December 9, 2012**

Submit articles to:

[submission@uucfl.org](mailto:submission@uucfl.org)

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

**Unitarian Universalist**  
**Church of Ft. Lauderdale**

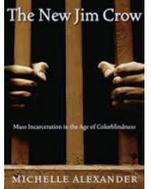
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\*Established in 1958\*

## Racial Caste System in the U.S.? - Two Part Series

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Free Film and Discussion - Broken on All Sides

Part 2 - Thursday, December 6 at 7:00pm  
Review of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*  
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## Kwanzaa Celebration

Sunday, December 30 at 11:00am  
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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 Christmas Wish list



I'm thinking about Christmas dreams. I was sleeping and that's how I got the idea. And then I remembered Santa can make Dreams come true, so I thought I would share my letter to Santa with you.

Dear Santa Claus, (do you prefer St. Nick, Nick or Santa?)

I've tried to be a very good girl this year. I hope I've been mostly kind and a good servant leader. I certainly haven't been very naughty at least I don't think so. Given that, I thought you might appreciate a list of the things I wish for Christmas.

I would like a Yule Decorated Sanctuary, but I get that every year. I do appreciate it, so I thought I would mention it. It would be cool if I could get a list of volunteers. I know I have more volunteers than most UU Board Presidents but it seems we need more. I dream of big picture congregational leaders, and willing workers, folks to serve on committees and people with strong backs.

I want members who remember to be religious about church, by that I mean that they show up with regularity to our awesome Sunday Services, Religious Education, Vespers and other special events too.

I want our members to enjoy themselves so much at church that they want to bring their friends. I'd love it if people would become proselytizing UUs who bring friends with them. I would love it if there was a full complement of filled out pledge forms. It would be wonderful if you could arrange a financial miracle again for us, preferably without killing anyone off this time. I know it's a lot to ask. I few more high pledging members would really make the budgeting process much easier.

Finally, Santa, I hope you can help me to publicize the little party I am throwing on Christmas morning at my place from 10 - 2 ish. I hope people will come and celebrate with me. I hope you can talk them into RSVPing.

Thanks Santa, for listening and for all you do each year to keep the kids happy and the churches running. I promise to be as good as possible and not complain so very much and to work as hard as I am capable of.

**Myra Symons**

### Hello from the Board

Have you thought about your New Year's Resolutions yet? What sort of things in your life are going to change? Your Board is already getting a head start on some changes.



First, is the appointment of Victor Garlock as our President Elect! I am sorry to see Jeff Hutt leave, but as his life is growing and changing, he will be unable to fill his current role of President Elect and has decided to step down.

The Building and Grounds committee is constantly changing *something*. New speakers have been installed in the foyer and others will be added to the library, office, and RE rooms to include those outside the sanctuary in Sunday service. The new ventilation system has also been installed and Mark Woodpecker is researching the cost of repairs or replacements for the front doors. Please reference the Journey for Building and Grounds work days or contact Mark if you would like to volunteer.

Most of the pledges we expect this year have been received, with a few more trickling in here and there. Even if you have turned in a pledge, I strongly urge you to consider what UUCFL means to you and how you can help continue to grow and support our community. There will be some difficult budgetary decisions up ahead. What changes are we as a community prepared to make? A second pledge or donation is always welcome (in the form of time, talent, or treasure!) and the receipt of the CUUPS donation from their Annual Witches Ball was very much appreciated. The Board approved of hiring a quarter-time consulting bookkeeper to help keep our financials in order.

One thing that may or may not be changing is the president of the UUA. Your Board unanimously voted to nominate current president Peter Morales for another term. You can learn more at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

Anyone interested in helping to run, shape (or change!) our congregation is welcome at any of our Board of Trustees meetings held at 7pm, the second Monday of every month.

**Alexis Blasenheim - Secretary**

### New Years Day 2013 Mini Retreat

Please join us for a few hours of reflection of the year past, and planning for the year ahead. There will be time for solitary and group meditation, journal writing, and sharing.

Date: January 1, 2013      Place: UUCFL Multipurpose Room  
Time: Noon to 5 pm      Cost: \$15.00



The event is being organized by John Shearer and Douglas Paul with help from Rev. Gail and members of the Sunday Services committee. Please call John at 859-358-0095 or Douglas at 954 739-8879 to reserve a space.

You can also reserve a space by e-mail to me at [Cobidante7@hotmail.com](mailto:Cobidante7@hotmail.com).

**John Shearer**

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

### **Reframing Church for the Future**

A member asked me on a recent Sunday if I didn't feel that our community had a different feel about it recently. My reply was that the culture and atmosphere of a congregation is always in flux.

When I first began to serve this community almost 14 years ago, we had a fairly large number of families with children under 12. We also had a large and very active contingent of LGBTQA folk who were just coming off the high of helping UUCFL become an official welcoming congregation. We also had a significant number of childless couples with both partners active.

Over the years most of those original kids became young adults and the upcoming generation of young families did not seem to find our congregation in large numbers. We still have a significant number of members from the LGBTQA community but since so many of them became involved in running the whole church, specifically focused social functions and activism sank into the background for a long time. Now Interweave is back. While we still have an active Covenant of UU Pagans group here, the other theological affinity groups have not been functioning for a while. We once had active UU Christian, UU Buddhist and UU Humanist groups here.

Two other demographic changes I have notice over the years are more and more single people joining us and more and more folks who have spouses or partners that don't find church involvement to be important to them. Still another shift I have noticed is that more of our retired members and friends are younger, more prone to travel a great deal and therefore attend services less frequently. Also the number of members and friends from a range of racial, ethnic, educational and economic situations has increased significantly. All of these changes are really positive and exciting but they do create a very different set of needs for a religious community. These changes have had an impact of our level of financial support and the number of people with large blocks of time available to volunteer for church duties. Yet another factor I am aware of is due to the economic situation we have all been faced with in the last five years or so. More and more people are working longer hours, working extra jobs or even working on Sunday. These factors also affect our bank of time, talent and treasure.

On another front, our Sunday attendance is sometimes affected because people attend a Vespers Service, an Adult Religious Education class, a Labyrinth Cafe Concert or participate in some type of church related social justice activity during the week. Therefore they feel they have already had their UUCFL fix as it were by Sunday. The end result of all these changes is that while still being a welcoming, diverse, intellectually stimulating and friendly haven, our church looks and feels very different than it once did. I am sure I missed out several important trends and changes but I think I have addressed several new frames through which we need to understand our spiritual home. I welcome more conscious group and leadership discussions on these and other changes you have noticed and the development of creative ways to respond to these changes to keep UUCFL a thriving place long into the future.

Blessing on our ever changing and unfolding journey,

***Rev. Gail***



### **Vespers Services Continue**

Vespers are held the third Friday of each month starting at 7PM. It is a time for music, readings, and quiet meditation that generally lasts 40-45 minutes followed by fellowship over wine and cheese.

Monthly vespers are:

December 21, January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17

There will be no vespers during the summer months (June, July, August)

See [www.uucfl.org/vespers/](http://www.uucfl.org/vespers/)





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



The gift giving season is upon us once again. Whether you celebrate Hanukah, Christmas, Yule or all of the above, if you are like me, the race is on to get the right gift, no, the PERFECT gift for all the folks on your list. With each passing year, I find I get more and more frustrated; I don't want to just get something to get it. I adore my sister, and I want to get her a great present, but, she is the hardest person in the world to pick something for; she has everything that she needs or wants that I can afford to give her-likewise for my brothers, my husband, and now that they are adults, even my children. Gift cards and money are useful, but somehow make me feel like I am copping out, and frankly, no one opens a gift card and gets ecstatic. I want to give Magi type presents to people, not lotions or candles from Bath and Body Works. Of course, there is the idea of home made gifts-yeah, well, when pigs fly. Enough said. What about gifts to a charity in someone's honor? That is really a gift for me, picking my charities, and feeling good about it. I have again never known anyone to be really jazzed about that little card in the mail. I am going to move forward though, and this year, I am going to do my best, accept my failings, and remember to tell all the folks I care about how much I love them. Maybe my real gift to loved ones this year will be to call them more often, be more tolerant of their foibles and give them more hugs. Perhaps when it is combined with those things, the bad gift is not so bad. Besides, how bad can a present be when it comes wrapped in love.

Love and Blessings, *DRE Susan*

### December Children's Religious Education Schedule

Sunday December 2, 11AM  
Judaism

Sunday December 9, 11AM  
Holiday Service Rehearsal  
**Sunday December 9, 12:15  
Holiday Party and Lunch**

Sunday December 16, 11AM  
Holiday Service  
Children in Church for Entire Service

Sunday December 23, 11AM  
Christianity

Sunday December 30, 11AM  
Christianity

Remember, children start every Sunday in church before retiring to the RE wing for religious education.



### Holiday Party and Gathering



Please join us for our post service Holiday Potluck Party on Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:15.

We will be eating, drinking and making merry.

Holiday decorations will be made, songs will be sung, and food will be eaten. A good time will be had by all. Bring your favorite holiday hot dish or salad to share and plan on spending the afternoon. If you don't cook, no worries, we have room for you on the clean up crew!!!

**Budget Challenges**



Other folks may be writing something about our Stewardship campaign or budget challenges but I feel a minister's perspective is also called for. We have lost several of our highest donors in the last three or four years. This small group of people often accounted for almost a quarter of our pledge revenue. Without them, we are in a challenging situation. Even with greatly increased rental income coming from our two large church renters and small groups, and the fact that we no longer are paying an administrative salary we are still in a major deficit situation. I offered to work a 4/5 time schedule last year which also saved the church \$10,000. Even with all these changes, our pledged income is just not enough to support a healthy church. If you involved with the church at any level and want us to be here, please consider increasing your pledge, making a pledge or offering some services that may save the church a significant amount of money. We are blessed with a legacy fund which will enable us to continue function more or less as we are for a few years. However, as our church Treasurer Benny Rivera has pointed out we really need a long range financial and growth plan for our church home.

*Rev. Gail*

**Interweave Events**

My name is Nicole Rivera and I am the chair for the Interweave organization at the church. Interweave is a group that advocates for civil rights for the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, transgender, and questioning community. Interweave has had two solid meetings so far! Myra has offered her home to meet where we will discuss the future events we have planned. This event will take place Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. This is a potluck so bring your favorite food! Myra's address is 2998 NW 48th Terr #221, Lauderdale Lakes, FL 33313. Myra's cell phone: 954-770-7023.



Interweave will be celebrating the holidays with **PRIDE** December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 with Food, fun, music, and candy!! Bring your favorite food or goodies!!! Interweave will continue to work hard and play hard. Look out for future activities, fundraisers, festivals, and social justice opportunities. Please contact me if you would like to ask questions or you would like to participate in Interweave. Thank you.

*Nicole Rivera - Interweave Chair*

**Music Notes**

I hope you found our Thanksgiving service as rewarding as I did. We should feel grateful for our many blessings and the choir anthem reminded us that we have a caring community here at UUCFL. The Vesper Service on November 16 also reminded us how fortunate we are to be surrounded by our friends in warm sharing. We take so much of our comfort for granted - good friends, good food, and good health.



Our December program will be rich with music and celebration. We will touch on Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. Choir will be singing for at least 3 of the six services, and all Vernon Allen fans must plan to be on time for the Kwanzaa service on December 30 as his solo comes early that day. Rev. Opal Murray will explain the meaning of the promises to improve our lives. Dr. Kitty Oliver is expected to appear that Sunday as well.

Choir selections will be "Celebrate a Happy Hanukkah" on December 9, "Snow" from White Christmas by Irving Berlin on December 16, and leading the carols on December 24.

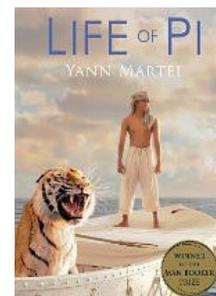
We all look forward to the rituals of our Christmas Eve service with carol singing and words of comfort and joy leading up to the festivities of Christmas Day. You are invited to attend all of these beautiful programs and share the blessings offered by our UU family.

See you in church

*Dot Muise, Director of Music*

**Daytime Book Club to Enjoy Some Pi**

Our next gathering is Thursday December 13, 1:30 at UUCFL library. This month's selection is Life of Pi by Yann Martel. Is the tiger real or not? Discuss. Get your copies early as Broward library has a run on them. (Finally, a book under 500 pages)



*Molly St. Cavish*  
954-649-5717

**Occupying Ft Lauderdale**



Occupy Ft Lauderdale/Labor Outreach holds regular meetings at UUCFL every Saturday at 4 p.m.

**Bob Bender**

### Coming CUUPS Events



The Witches ball was a big success and grossed \$2,738.00. Yes, there will be expenses, for decorations, cleanup, and torch fuel. We use a lot of torch fuel. We do like fire.

Our next Sabbat is our Yule on Saturday, December 15th at 7:30pm. Everyone is invited to join us in our celebration of the Winter Solstice in an Old Fashioned Way. Admission is free, but we set out a cauldron for love offerings. We are part of this UU community and look to lend our support.

Thursday evening Study Group continues at 7:30 PM. There is a different topic each week. We cycle between presentation and ceremony. Occasionally we do something that looks dreadfully close to a business meeting, but we do have to share about what is going on around us as we plan our future events.

*Kip, Resident Pagan*

### UUCFL Celebrates Kwanzaa

UUCFL will join millions of people worldwide in celebrating Kwanzaa this year. The concept of Kwanzaa is rooted in the ancient African tradition of the 'first-fruit harvest'. The model stresses the cooperative creation, gathering and sharing of good, gratitude for the bountifulness and beauty of the world and the commitment to protect and preserve the earth as both a source of life and site of the sacred.



Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga who introduced seven Principles or the Nguzo Saba: Umoja (Creativity); Kujichagulia (Self-Determination); Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility); Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics); Nia (Purpose); Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith). We will celebrate each Principle in song, words or dance.

Renowned historian, television personality and professor, Dr. Kitty Oliver will share with us the resilience and faith of our community as she tells the story of a not too distant past, when integration came to Fort Lauderdale and its beach. Join us for this special celebration at our 11:00am Sunday Service on December 30.

*Rev. Opal Murray*

### Winter Adult R.E. Coming



The exact times and dates for our winter adult religious education programs are not quite in place but will likely consist of a January 2013 class offered by Dr. Victor Garlock, based on his new book Your Genius Within about sleep, dreams and hypnosis. Coming in February and March Rev. Gail plans to offer an all new class on how Unitarian Universalists can draw on World Religious Traditions to enhance their own psychological and spiritual growth. This class will provide a more in depth follow up to a winter and spring series of sermons on World Religions. Plan to broaden your horizons this year with some new experiences and information.

*Rev. Gail*

### UUCFL to the Rescue!

Everyone at UUCFL needs to be proud of how our little church stepped up to the plate to host the Lifenet 4 Families/ Cooperative Feeding Program holiday food box distribution. Due to new restrictions on them at their facility off Broward Blvd, the CFP could not do the distribution at home. In prior years, so many people came for the holiday boxes in a short period of time that the traffic became snarled and crowd control was an issue. They had lined up a church to host, but the church backed out for some reason. We were asked, and our Board agreed that we had to step up. We walked the walk. We hosted the distribution for three days, November 12, 13, and 14 from 9AM to 3PM. The distribution then moved to St. Benedict's Episcopal in Plantation for the rest of the event. Thanks to our crew of folks who came out to volunteer with this project: Judy King, Mark Woodpecker, Larry Wilkner, Molly Lesnick, Ken Beier, Oliver Patterson, Kimani Pearce and Susan Friend.

The volunteers directed traffic, took cards, got signatures and handed our food boxes. CFP will be doing this again in December and volunteers will be needed.

*Susan Friend*



LifeNet4Families  
Cooperative Feeding Program

### ChildNet Adopt-a-Wish Program Returns to UUCFL

At a time of year when so many children are dreaming of what Santa Claus will bring them for Christmas, children in foster care are simply hoping someone will remember them this holiday. You can help make wishes come true. We will be receiving wish lists from children here in Broward County along with their age and gender, and we are asking you to pick one item on their list or to use your imagination and choose your own special gift to be presented to your child for this magical season. Please bring in all gifts in by Sunday, December 9. We had such a wonderful time with this program last year providing a whole vanload of toys not to mention the priceless smiles on children's faces. Watch for our Sleigh of Wishes (kept safe and warm in the off season by our own UUCFL Elf, Cam) in the Sanctuary, or contact me at 954-247-4216 to find out more. Let's fill lots of little hearts with joy this holiday.



*Lore Bernier*

## Labyrinth Café Concerts Presents : Ellis Saturday, December 8 at 7:30pm

A native of Texas, **Ellis** moved to Minneapolis at the age of 16, where she quickly built a local following that blossomed into a nationwide presence, with extensive touring and seven albums released in the last sixteen years. If you haven't yet caught her engaging and disarming live show, take a chance on Ellis and you'll become a lifelong fan. Her fans describe her as not only a talented folk musician, but also as a supportive friend who offers encouraging words and humor alongside her compelling songs. She leaves audiences better than she finds them, with softened edges & opened hearts. With wholehearted songs that capture deep wisdom as well as a childlike joy, Ellis' music is being spread across the globe by fans who are so moved that they have to share it others. [www.ellis-music.com](http://www.ellis-music.com)



Reservations requested but not required:

Contact Myra at [Myrafly@yahoo.com](mailto:Myrafly@yahoo.com) or Susan at [OzWoman321@aol.com](mailto: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 the performer) received in the UU church office, c/o Labyrinth Cafe, no later than Wednesday before Saturday show.

We encourage you to take advantage of our season pass (\$150.00 per person) which includes admission to all shows, as well as a Labyrinth Cafe T-shirt (designed and printed by Virginia and Erik Anderson, Labyrinth Cafe volunteers) and premium reserved seating. It's a wonderful way to support the UU church, our performers and the continuation of live, original music!! Please visit [www.labyrinthcafe.com](http://www.labyrinthcafe.com) for further details and the artists' websites, as well as [www.myspace.com/labyrinthcafe](http://www.myspace.com/labyrinthcafe) for song samples!

**Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series**

### Endowment Grant Program

The Endowment Fund, Inc. is pleased to announce the beginning of their annual Holiday Program. Any organization with a 501(c)3 status is welcome to request a grant from EFI by downloading the below link:

<http://uucfl.org/evolution/endowment/grants.shtml>

Please complete the application and submit to EFI mailbox or hand to any EFI member:

Vernon Allen, Doug Friend, Guy Jeanty, Steven Lange, Taylor Mattis, Monica Pavlik.

Please note that the deadline is the end of November and we are requesting 6 copies.

I look forward to announcing the grant recipients in December!

**Monica Pavlik**



ENDOWMENT FUND  
—LEADERS, LEGENDS AND LEGACIES—

### Social Justice Victories and Challenges



Recently, several important small victories have been won on the social justice front with UUCFL members playing a role. The Broward County Commission passed a new Wage Recovery Ordinance. This is something Rev. Gail has worked on for years with the Interfaith Worker Justice group and several dedicated UUCFL folk attended hearings, wrote letters, made calls etc. to help this happen. Bob Bender read Rev. Gail's statement at one of the hearings. The commission has been looking at a number of other issues that would help workers. Many of you worked hard in GOTV(Get Out the Vote) operations for the recent very exciting election. Some of you and Rev. Gail have been supporting the Airport Workers in their struggle for better working conditions and fairer wages. There are so many other activities going on in our Church through the Social Justice

Committee, the Occupy groups, Religious Education sponsored efforts and Interweave.

There is no limit to what a small group of dedicated people can do.

**Rev. Gail**

### Reproductive Justice: New Curriculum and Resources Available from the UUA

In light of the 2012 - 2016 Congregational Study Action Issue chosen at this year's General Assembly, a brand new six-week curriculum from the Unitarian Universalist Association titled, "Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling," will equip Unitarian Universalists with tools for effective public advocacy, tie us to our theological and historical resources, help us understand the complexities of reproductive justice, and strengthen our relationships with each other. For more information and to download it today, visit [www.uua.org/reproductive](http://www.uua.org/reproductive)

CSAI 2012-2016



REPRODUCTIVE  
JUSTICE

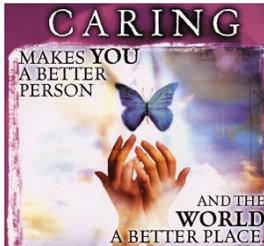
### Contagious Untold Chronicle

Arm in a sling 6 weeks and no driving? The doctor must be daft! Yet, I did it and missed: not a single church service, choir practice, or meeting. Etc. How? Can't you guess? Why the UUCFL congregation rocketed to fill my need: commuting to & from places. Can you say community? Village?

So what's contagious about this chronicle? It could happen to you! Have you heard of the UUCFL Caring Committee? These are folks who want to activate help when it is needed.

Below find the Caring Committee names and phone numbers.

Don't hold your cards so close; call one of these folks and tell them what's going on in your life.



Molly Lesnick	954-587-9552	Nicole Schulman	954-942-0394
Douglas Paul	954-739-8879	Jerry Waltz	954-591-3513
Larry Wilkner	954-646-8037		

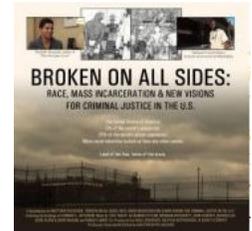
**Jerry Waltz - Caring Committee**

### Racial Caste System in the U.S.? - Two Part Series

The program is open to the public and is free.

#### Part 1 - Sunday, December 2 at 1:00pm - Free Film and Discussion

Civil rights lawyer and legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that we have not ended racial caste in the USA but have simply redesigned it. Primarily by targeting black men through the War on Drugs, the US criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control. We will be showing, "Broken on All Sides: Race, Mass Incarceration & New Visions for Criminal Justice in the U.S.", a documentary by Matthew Pillischer that features interviews with Professor Alexander and others. The movie dissects the role of mass incarceration in the U.S. and explores possible reforms and solutions to ending mass incarceration and this new racial caste system. A discussion will follow.



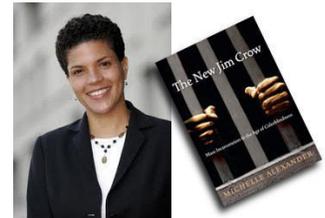
#### Part 2 - Thursday, December 6 at 7:00pm - Review of Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. The New Press, 2010.

The majority of young black men in American cities are locked behind bars or labeled as felons for life. Jim Crow laws were wiped off the book decades ago but today an astounding percentage of the African American community is housed in prisons or trapped in a permanent, second class status – much like their grandparents, who lived in an explicit system of control.

In this incisive critique, civil rights lawyer-turned-legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that we have not ended racial caste in the US; we have simply redesigned it. She shows that, by targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the US criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control.

Alexander challenges the civil rights community and all of us to place mass incarceration at the forefront of a new movement for racial justice in America.

Discussants: Rebecca Doggett and Joseph Thomasberger are life-long activists and leaders with the Undoing Racism Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, New Jersey which addresses mass incarceration and immigration reform. Rebecca recently retired as Senior Fellow of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice a non-profit research and advocacy organization. She previously held responsible positions with the Newark Public Schools, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and Tri City Peoples Corporation. She was the first Director of the Essex County Department of Citizen Services and has been involved in early childhood care and education for many years. She had been the board chair of the national Center for Community Change and had been active with Newark-Essex Congress of Racial Equality in the 1960s. Joe Thomasberger is a retired clergyman as well as a retired executive of non-profit organizations. His community work included the operation of a multi-service organization based in Newark, New Jersey that provided housing, child care and protective services to low income families. He was also instrumental in organizing a coalition of 50 community based child care organizations that negotiated service contracts with the Newark Public Schools and the NJ Department of Education that significantly raised salaries for low income workers.

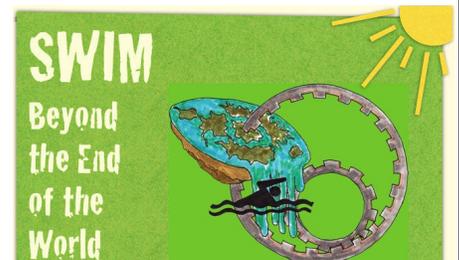


For more information, contact me at bob@benderworld.com. – 954-531-1928

**Bob Bender**

### Winter is Here - Time for a SWIM

SWIM (Southeast Unitarian Universalist Winter Institute Miami) will take place December 26—January 1 at Camp Owaissa Bauer. Much more than a vacation, SWIM is an intentional, intergenerational community of Unitarian Universalists and friends, including awesome people like YOU. We gather once a year in South Florida for a week. Fun in the sun, friendship, off site trips, workshops, worship, singing, dancing, volunteering... SWIM has it all! Visit [www.swimuu.org](http://www.swimuu.org) for more details and to register.



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

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- **Director of Religious Education**  
Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910
- **Music Director**  
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- **Endowment**  
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**December Birthdays**

- |                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| CATERINA TURNER     | 12/2  |
| AMY LADKA           | 12/3  |
| TAYLOR MATTIS       | 12/12 |
| BILL COX            | 12/13 |
| JERRY WALTZ         | 12/15 |
| STEPHEN LANGE       | 12/16 |
| JIM GIBLIN          | 12/24 |
| SAVANNAH FRIEND     | 12/29 |
| ANNEMARIE JAMESON   | 12/30 |
| KIMANI SALIM PEARCE | 12/30 |



*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*

**Remember the Hungry People  
 Around Us**

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



Visit [www.feedbroward.org](http://www.feedbroward.org) or call (954) 792-2328

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church of Ft. Lauderdale

# December Calendar

Every Sunday :  
11:00 AM-  
Church Service  
and Children's  
Religious Education

1  
•4:00pm - Occupy  
Ft Lauderdale/Labor  
Outreach

2  
•9:30am - UU Sisterhood  
•1:00pm - Racial Caste  
System in the US? - Part I  
(See page 8)

3  
•7:00pm - A Course in  
Miracles

4  
•7:00pm - Soul to Soul  
Class with Rev Gail

5  
•6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-  
Sopranos and Altos  
•7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal-  
Tenors and Basses

6  
•1:00pm - Racial  
Caste System in  
the US? - Part 2  
(See page 8)  
•7:00pm  
Interweave at  
Myra's Place  
(see page 5)  
•7:30 pm CUUPS

7  
8  
•4:00pm - Occupy  
Ft Lauderdale/Labor  
Outreach  
•7:30 pm Labyrinth Café  
Concert (See page 7)  
•Sunset:



Happy Hanukkah

9  
•Journey Submission  
Deadline  
•ChildNet Gift Collection  
Deadline  
9:30am - UU Sisterhood  
•12:15pm - Holiday  
Gathering Party (see page 4)

10  
•7:00pm - Board  
Meeting  
•7:00pm - A Course in  
Miracles

11  
12  
•6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-  
Sopranos and Altos  
7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal-  
Tenors and Basses  
•7:30pm - Drumming

13  
•1:00pm - Daytime  
Book Club  
(see page 5)  
•7:30 pm CUUPS

14  
15  
•4:00pm - Occupy  
Ft Lauderdale/Labor  
Outreach  
•7:30pm - Yule  
Celebration  
(See page 6)

16  
•9:30am - UU Sisterhood  
•1:00pm - Interweave  
Holiday PRIDE Celebration  
(See page 5)

17  
•7:00pm - A Course in  
Miracles  
•7:30pm - Sunday  
Services Committee

18  
19  
•6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-  
Sopranos and Altos  
•7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal-  
Tenors and Basses

20  
•7:30 pm CUUPS  
21  
•7:00pm - Vespers  
Service (See page 3)

22  
•4:00pm - Occupy  
Ft Lauderdale/Labor  
Outreach

23

24  
•6:00pm - Christmas  
Eve Special Service

25  
  
•10:00am - Party at  
Myra's (See page 2)

26  
  
•SWIM (through 12/31)  
(See page 8)  
6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-  
Sopranos and Altos  
•7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal-  
Tenors and Basses

27  
•7:30 pm CUUPS

28  
•7:00pm -Social  
Justice Committee

29  
•4:00pm - Occupy  
Ft Lauderdale/Labor  
Outreach

30  
•11:00am - Kwanzaa Service  
(See page 6)

31  
•7:00pm - A Course in  
Miracles

January 1  
•12:00noon - New Year's  
Day Mini Retreat  
(See page 2)



Religious Education  
Events  
See special calendar  
on the RE page 4

Visit our on line  
calendar for  
late-breaking events  
[www.uucfl.org](http://www.uucfl.org)  
and click  
"Coming Activities"



Unitarian  
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Minister Phone: 954-288-4245

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Website: www.uucfl.org

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

The JOURNEY



Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

DECEMBER 2012

**December 2 - Waiting for Godot or Whatever -**

Playing off of the Samuel Becket play, Rev. Gail will address the waiting season of Advent from some new angles as she examines the perils and pitfalls of patience, impatience and waiting with no expectations.

**December 9 - A Hanukkah Puppet Show-** The Autonomous Playhouse which presented our Earth Day program last spring returns to offer us a unique take on one of our seasonal holidays and likely spice it up with some really progressive ideas. Rev. Gail and others will be presenting special readings and a ritual.

**December 16 - Special Holiday Program** with DRE Susan Friend (Director of Religious Education) and our younger folks.

**December 23 - Still Here for Christmas-** If we are all around for this service it means the world did not move off its axis on Dec. 21st. Nonetheless change is coming so fast in our world, it may still be the end of the world as we know it. Hear Rev. Gail's take on planetary transformation.

**Monday December 24 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve Special Service - Christmas Messages from our Unitarian and Universalist Ancestors** - An Original Pageant by Rev. Gail Tapscott and Nicole Rivera.

**December 30 - A Celebration of Community** - Based on the Principles and Symbols of Kwanzaa. Coordinated by Rev. Opal Murray with Kitty Oliver. (See article on Page 6)

**January 6 - Starting Over** - Periodically in life it seems like everything gets ripped away from us and we feel like we are back at square one. Rev. Gail will address the resilience required for this type of situation. We will enjoy the music of Four Schillings Short.

