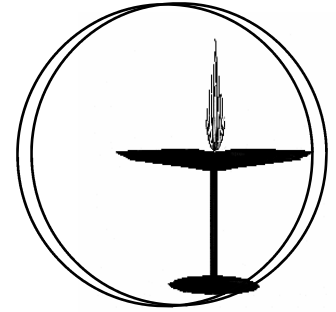


NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF BOCA RATON



VOLUME 43 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 9, 2009

JACKIE SAVITSKY, EDITOR

THE HIGH DESERT OF HOPE

AMY CAROL WEBB, STUDENT INTERN

Like many Unitarian Universalists, I am a “come-outer.” That is, I did not grow up in our liberal faith, but rather, came out of (liberated myself from) another tradition long before finding Unitarian Universalism at the edge of my spiritual desert wanderings. And I do mean “long before,” and “desert wanderings.” I left my birth church in my early twenties, but did not find Unitarian Universalism until my middle forties. In between was a parched two-decade long stretch of struggling over one spiritual sand dune after another, believing there was no place a person like me could find a religious community, a fellowship of kindred hearts and minds, a spiritual home - and what’s more, a spiritual home where religious quest really does mean questioning.

Then there you were. Shimmering in the sun like that shining city on a hill our forefathers declared the American experiment would be. You were no desert mirage born of thirst and longing. You were real. You took me in and offered me the cool water of free faith.

Over the New Year holiday, I returned to the desert – quite literally – for the first time since I joined you, when the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, invited me to be the resident musician for their annual Year-Beginning Conference. Over the course of four days, I would give a concert, accompany liturgical dance, open and close sessions with music to first set the tone for presentations, then button them up. And because the CAC was founded by Franciscan Priest, Fr. Richard Rohr, I would be the musical liturgist for a New Year’s Day Mass.

If that last sentence made you edgy, be assured preparing for a Mass made me nervous, too, given so many of us have pointed histories with Christianity. But long ago I promised to go where the music leads and it has never failed me. After all, the music led me to you. So, I said, “Yes,” bought two tickets west and found myself welcoming the new year in the midst of one of the most progressive gatherings I have experienced. So progressive that though the vast majority of the seven hundred participants identified as some form of Christian, there were also Sufis, Buddhists, Jewish folk, “undeclareds” and me, the only UU to my knowledge. So liberal that, in addition to the lovely and gracious nuns threaded through the assembly, there were women of various denominations participating in worship, teaching and leading meditation, prayer, music, drumming and dance; the woman who sang the liturgy with me is a Mennonite pastor. So welcoming that the program director is Jewish ... and Sufi ... and openly gay. So global that the key presenter, Russ Hudson, holds a degree in Asian Studies and blessed breakfast with me in Japanese. So enlightened that while the stole Father Richard wore over the shoulders of his dark green tweed blazer bore clearly catholic symbols, I would have sworn he is a Universalist when I closed my eyes and just listened to him speak!

But really my eyes were opened again. Opened to the reality that we UU’s are not alone, that there are others on this journey with us. Others who see the Source is beyond any one path toward it. Others still seeking. Others liberated in heart and mind. Others calling believers to risk questioning, and calling questioners to risk believing.

Others who dare to climb to the high desert of hope – where the clean, crisp snow lightly fell on my cheeks as we headed for home.

THE GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION IS HERE!

Check out some of the fabulous items available to you starting January 11th:

A day cruise aboard the sailing vessel, "Cheerios," auto-graphed pictures and books, one-of-a-kind jewelry and art, homemade jams and cakes, golf outings, Swedish lunch, Nuevo Boca cuisine dinner, babysitting, dance classes, handyman services, and more.

Make sure to read about these items in Osias, and then bid promptly. If you haven't donated already, please see an auction attendant for a donation form.

This auction is one of UUFBR's largest fundraisers. Please show your support by making a donation and bidding generously. Thank you!

SYLVIA PARKER MEMORIAL CONCERT

Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 8 pm

For the 4th concert in our Sylvia Parker Memorial Concert Series, we are proud to present Jessica Vanderhoof Soprano; Eduardo Aladren, Tenor; and Roberto Berrocal, Piano. The evening will include selections by Strauss, Tosti, Puccini, Gounod, Gastaldon, di Curtis, Floyd, Rossini, Mozart, Rachmaninoff and of course a few surprises!

Donation \$18 at door (advance \$15); light refreshments will be served.

Please call Ralph at (561) 883-1226, or the UUFBR Office at (561) 482-2001.

Net proceeds benefit the UUFBR Operating Fund.

YOUTH TACO PARTY

January 25: Youth Taco Party and Conversation on Youth Ministry at UUFBR

Middle and High School Age youth and their parents are invited to a Taco Party on Sunday, January 25, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. After enjoying a delicious dinner, we'll have a conversation with the ministers and members of the RE council about the possibilities for ministry to and with youth at UUFBR. Please RSVP to the fellowship office, and indicate if child care is needed for younger children: 561-482-2001.

UUFBR HOLIDAY PARTY

What an unforgettable evening for all of us UU members. About 100 people came to attend this joyous occasion. The evening included beautifully decorated tables with balloons, and menorahs, a feast of wonderfully prepared foods and desserts, and a humorous play full of props and member participation. Topping off the night was a visit from a special Santa for young & old to enjoy a visit with.

What a big event to prepare for! Deepest thanks to all who participated and contributed. It showed the true spirit of the holidays for members to come together to help such a celebration be such a wonderful success.

A Special Thanks to our Minister Harris Riordan for all her arranging and hosting such an enchanting evening.

Wishing Everyone A Happy, Healthy, & Peaceful 2009

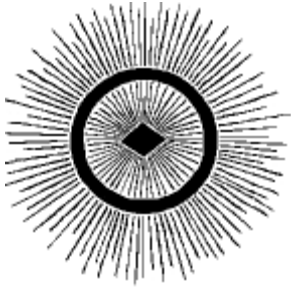
Yours, Kerstin Kupfermann

SMALL GROUP SUNDAY JANUARY 18, 12:15 - 1:45

Topic: Justice, Compassion and Equity in Human Relations. Small Group Sundays is a new program that will offer participants a space to be fully heard and validated as we explore the personal experiences that inform our convictions as Unitarian Universalists. Meet in the Hartley Room to then break into small groups for a conversation on our second UU principle. Light finger foods are available from 11:45 to 12:10, and participants are encouraged to bring a bag lunch to eat before the gatherings begin. Please contact the fellowship office to reserve child care: 561-482-2001. For information about the program, contact Jan Taddeo, uurev2bjjet@earthlink.net

Privacy Notice:

When submitting information for publication in our newsletter, please be aware that the Unicorn is identical in format for both the mailed hard copy version and the emailed electronic version. The electronic version is available on our website (www.uufbr.org) and is emailed to visitors, as well as members and friends.



BEGIN A JOURNEY IN YOUR LIFE

Experience a life-changing process to give your life greater direction, vitality and purpose. UUFBR is hosting the Progoff *Intensive Journal* Program of Self-Development, with Kelley Williams, a 2-part series on February 13-16.

You will: be guided through exercises step-by-step as you apply them to your life; work in total privacy; use the method on your own afterwards. You will gain in your decision-making abilities, energy and momentum, intuition, self-esteem, healing and creativity. You do not have to like writing or be a good writer. You write what comes from within, not a life story. Only you will read what you write.

Part I - Life Context - *Gaining a Perspective on Life:* February 13, 3-6 pm and 7-9 pm; February 14, 9 am - 12:30 pm and 2 - 5:30 pm. \$135 for 12 hours.

Part II - Depth Contact - *Symbolic Images and Meaning in Life:* February 15, 1-5 pm and 6-8 pm; February 16, 9 am - 12 pm and 1:30 - 4:30 pm. (Prerequisite: Life Context or Life Experience workshop. \$135 for 12 hours.

“The Intensive Journal method is an amazing process of writing that helps you to access your inner voice as a way to get to know yourself better. It can help spur your creativity to realize new possibilities for your life as well as to gain additional perspectives about your experiences. I heartily recommend the Intensive Journal program and am pleased to help bring it to the UUFBR.” --Margaret McElrath, Member, UUFBR

For more information on the Intensive Journal method go to www.intensivejournal.org.

WE'RE ABOUT TO TRY SOMETHING NEW!

Inspired by other congregations, we are going to start having YOU provide the goodies for coffee hour. Beginning January 25th, everyone with last names beginning with the letters A through E will bring cookies, cake, brownies, cupcakes or the item of your choosing for our after service coffee hour. The following Sunday, everyone F through J will have their turn. And so on. We'll continue to provide the coffee and juice. So start thinking about what favorites, store bought or homemade, you'll be bringing!! For more info contact Noel Levin at jasperlev@yahoo.com. Extra Special “Thanks” to Bill Bode and Robert and who handled coffee on Dec. 28 and to Bill Bode and Steve D. who handled coffee on Jan 4. Please think about which of the upcoming Sundays you would like to help with. Two people per Sunday seem to be working out nicely.



“BY YOUR PUPILS YOU’LL BE TAUGHT”

Remember the scene in *The King and I* in which Anna is teaching the King of Siam’s children? She sings that wonderful “Getting to Know You” song. The introduction to that song is not as well known as the main verses, but comes to mind when thinking about our religious education program at UUFBR. “It’s a very ancient saying, but a true and honest thought, that if you become a teacher, by your pupils you’ll be taught” is resonating in my head. Any adult who has had experience teaching, whether at UUFBR or in schools, knows the truth of that statement. Not only do students teach us the occasional fact we didn’t know, but we learn by watching them, whether they’re experiencing “aha” moments or confusion. We learn how to be better teachers. We can also learn to really “get” the value of shared experiences, the deep and lasting influence we can have by sharing ourselves with others, and the grace that comes with helping someone grow. These derivative lessons are usually the longest-lasting.

In the upcoming weeks, we members of the RE community will be learning some very interesting and important lessons along with our children. First of all, there are the curriculum-linked lessons, another semester’s worth of “Stories about God”, “Heart Talk”, and “Neighboring Faiths” (lessons about faith development, nonviolent communication and appreciation for diversity). Then there are the lessons about togetherness, taught by events like this Sunday’s bowling party (there’s room for you to join us, if you want to try your hand at bowling a few!).

And then there are the lessons about social justice, and walking the talk, that we will experience on the weekend of January 16-19, when we join our community and the nation in celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

What do you want to get out of that holiday (especially this year, when it is so close in time to the historic inauguration of Barack Obama as President of the United States)? How do you want to grow through participating in the celebration? Do you want to experience what it feels like to participate in a march for freedom and justice? To sing in a group as you walk, to have your (probably) white face be part of a crowd of (mostly) black faces? To testify to justice by your presence among people who could teach you much about injustice? Our children and their families will be having these experiences on Martin Luther King Day, and learning the deep and lasting lessons that come with them. We invite you to join us, in solidarity and support (and for the fun of it, too!). Join us for coffee at Mizner Park at 8:30 in the morning, carpool over to the Ebenezer Bap-

tist Church, walk Federal Highway back to Mizner Park in the ML King Day March starting at 9:00 am, and stay for the memorial celebration at the Mizner Amphitheatre the rest of the morning.

Imagine what you’ll teach our children – that we UU’s understand the importance of Dr. King’s life and work... that we UU’s aren’t afraid to take a stand and be public witnesses for our values... that we UU’s really do believe in our Principles enough to wake up early on a holiday morning and put our feet where our mouths are. In fact, you’ll be teaching our children a crucially important lesson just by showing up.

And just think of what you could learn...

Judy Keiser

ABD DINNER - JANUARY 31!

What: A Celebration Dinner with delicious food, wonderful music and fellowship for all!

Why: At this dinner we will all make our financial commitment to UUFBR for the 2009-2010 year (ie. we will fill out our pledge cards, turn them in, and ring the bell!)

What Do You Need To Do? Mark your calendars now for Saturday, Jan 31 from 6-9pm.

New this year.... Tickets with a Refund! Tickets for the dinner will be on sale at UUFBR starting Sunday, Jan 4th.

The cost is \$20, **HOWEVER**, when you turn in your Financial Commitment form at the dinner you will get \$15 back!

Children are free! Fun, exciting games and activities are being planned for them!

~Annual Budget Drive Committee

**NO ONE HAS EVER BECOME POOR
BY GIVING**

~Anne Frank

THE FOOD FOR THOUGHT PROGRAM

needs volunteers to help set-up and clean-up on the 1st Sunday of every month in Rockberger Hall. If you have yet to participate in this potluck lunch and film, you don't know what you're missing!

Contact David Hitchcock at 904-240-7094 or dhitchcock7@comcast.net.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHANGE

Hi All and Happy New Year. Needed to tell you about the change in meeting time for the Membership Committee. We're going to be meeting the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 in the Living Room, before my Women's Group. Please update in the necessary places. Thanks and see you after the 7th.

Karen Sherman

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The Young Adult Group is meeting Sunday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m. in Rockberger Hall. Come meet new friends, play games and enjoy some food! All adults between the ages of 18-35 are welcome. If interested, please contact Schuyler Vogel at faithdevelopment@riverofgrass.org. Hope to see you there!

Thanks! Schuyler Vogel

GRANT REQUESTS DUE FEB 1

The UUFBR Endowment Committee has changed its consideration of grant requests to three times per fiscal year: June, October and February. The next meeting at which grant requests will be considered is Feb. 15. Grant requests must be received by the committee by Feb. 1. Grant request forms are available in the UUFBR Office.

Grants are made for long-term development funds and special projects for any purpose which "shall further the cause and principles of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton or Unitarian Universalism", according to the Endowment Committee Bylaws.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE NEWS

The **Women's Alliance** will meet at UUFBR in Osias Hall, on Tuesday, January 20, 10:30 AM - 1: PM. This meeting will usually be held every Third Tuesday of each month. Members, Men and Guests are welcome.

W.A. aims at being of service to the Fellowship and the community.

Adele Alexandre' will present "The Resurgence of Midwifery in the USA in The 1970's."

Please, bring a sandwich divided in four to share at our luncheon. Coffee and Dessert will be served.

Women's Alliance had its Holiday party for members and guests December 16, 2009 at Kerstin Kupfermann's home. Everybody contributed to the scrumptious luncheon. Among the desserts, Kerstin served "Princess Torte" and "Dajm Torte," Swedish delights from IKEA.

The highlights of the party were listening to Bill Bode reading "Born in Bethlehem," (Luke 2: 1-16) and Andrew Kahn's extended presentation of the background of Hanukkah. Brenda Parker, at the piano, accompanied us in singing the well-known holiday songs. Eva Emmerich, beautifully white-clad with candles in her hair, was our St. Lucia, serving us the traditional Gingersnaps and Cinnamon buns.

Helen Rockberger, one of the founders of Women's Alliance - thirty years ago - spent some of her time, playing with my three year old grand daughter, Emily, one of her favorite word games. It was Emily's highlights of the party. A special thank you to you, dear Helen.

The Party was a festive introduction to our celebration of our Holidays.

Kerstin Kupfermann,
President of the Women's Alliance

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

The Forum: Sundays at 9:00 am, Hartley Room, presentations and discussions on various topics of interest.

Food for Thought Film & Potluck: 1st Sunday of every month, 12:15 pm, Rockberger Hall. All are welcome!

First Sunday Vespers: at 7:00 pm. We gather in the sanctuary for music and quiet reflection. This is a time to share the diverse spirituality that sustains us.

Connections (hosted by the Membership Committee): 2nd Sunday of every month, 12:15 pm, Hartley Room. A potluck lunch and enlightening group discussion about Unitarian Universalism

Odyssey Group: (for 30-somethings, give or take 10 years), 3rd Sunday of every month, 6:30 pm, Minister's home. An evening of food, friendship and conversation. Bring something to put on the grill. Salads, beverages and desserts will be provided. Get directions at the Visitor's Desk. On Sunday afternoons call 561.279.4281. Open to all who are interested. (Will not meet in December, 2008)

Community Service Team: 4th Sunday of every month (but will meet in December on the 16th) at 9:15 am on the Patio. Works to aid local charitable organizations. All are welcome to share ideas and energy.

WomanSpirit (Woman's Spirituality): 2nd Monday of every month, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary. Open to all UUFBR women, members and friends. Gatherings center on special topics of interest often including ritual, meditation, music, and craft activities.

Women's Alliance: 3rd Tuesdays, 10:30 am, Osias Hall, provides friendship and sociability for its members and friends and to be of service to the fellowship. Everyone ~ men, women, and newcomers are welcome at the meetings. December Party at Kerstin's home! (details page 6)

Spirit in Practice: 1st Tuesday of every month, 7:00 pm, Gridley Howe Room. We explore UU Spirituality, with time for centering, a guided meditation or experience with a spiritual practice, and then spend time in deepening dialogue with one another on "things spiritual." All are welcome to attend.

Quilting Group: Every Wednesday, 10:30 am, Smith Room. No meetings on 12/24 or 12/31.

Tony's Team: Every Wednesday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, everywhere, inside & out. Come and help with routine maintenance of our buildings and grounds. No meetings on 12/24 and 12/31.

Journey Through Womanhood Support Group: 3rd Wednesday of every month, 7:00 pm, Living Room, a group experience where women will meet to "care and share" the issues that are relevant to all women of all ages.

Denominational Connections: 4th Wednesday of every month, 7:00 pm, Living Room, get involved in the larger Unitarian Universalist worlds of the Southeast Cluster and the UU Association.

UUFBR Choir Rehearsals: Every Thursday, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary, join in the fun and sing. Everyone is welcome!

Interweave, 2nd Friday Social: 2nd Friday of every month, 7:00 pm, Rockberger Hall, for all GLBT people, their friends and allies. Bring a snack, sweet or drink to share and join us as we unwind from the week.

Circle Dinners: Small, organized potluck dinners for six to twelve people at each other's homes. Everyone interested in participating must sign up in advance. See the sign up bulletin board in Osias Hall, Main Building. Circle Dinner dates: 1/23/09, 2/27/09, 4/24/09 and 5/22/09.

United in Peace Rally: Every Saturday, 12:00 noon. Meet at the corner of Glades Road and St. Andrews Blvd. for a peaceful demonstration. Bring a sign. For more information contact Susan Caruso at 561-637-5768.

Reel Adventures: 2nd Saturday of every month, 7:00 pm, Rockberger Hall. Join us to watch interesting films from around the world, followed by stimulating discussion and light refreshments. (No meeting in November or December)

Gardener's Work Party: Various Saturday Mornings, 8:30 am – 10:30 am. Join a lively group as we trim, weed, and clean up UUFBR's "manicured wilderness". We welcome all and promise to keep a tight time schedule. See Chalice Notes for the upcoming date.

Meet the Rev: 4th Sunday of every month, 12:15, Main Building, Living Room.

FROM THE GARDENING GROUP


Our regularly scheduled work party for January will be in a few weeks on the 17th, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. when the big project will be transplanting a tree that is too close to the playground fence.

Hope to see you all soon,

Linda Conroy, Gardening Work Party

month, 7:00 pm, Hartley Room, for individuals currently

JANUARY 2009 FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2 • 7:00 pm OWL	3
4 • 9:00 am Forum • 10:30 am Service and RE • 12:15 pm Food for Thought Film • 12:15 pm RE Council • 7:00 pm Vespers	5 UNICORN DEADLINE	6 • 7:00 pm Terrific Tuesday	7 • 9:00 am Tony's Team • 10:00 am Quilting Group	8 • 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 • 7:00 pm OWL • 7:00 pm Interweave 2nd Friday Social	10 • 7:30 pm REEL Adventures
11 AUCTION • 9:00 am For- um • 10:30 am Ser- vice • 12:00 pm RE Bowling Party • 12:15 pm Peace Congregational Mtg.	11 (Cont.) • 12:15 pm Peace Congregational Mtg. • 12:15 pm Con- nections • 7:00 pm UU Young Adults of South FL	13 • 7:00 pm Terrific Tuesday	14 • 9:00 am Tony's Team • 10:00 am Quilting Group	15 • 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 • 5:00 pm Visitor Coffee • 7:00 pm OWL	17 • 8:30 am Gardening Group • 5:00 pm Sylvia Parker Concert
18 AUCTION • 9:00 am Forum • 10:30 am Service & RE • 12:00 pm Endowment • 12:15 pm Small Group Sunday • 12:15 pm RE Council Meeting • 6:30 pm Odyssey Group	19 UNICORN DEADLINE	20 • 10:30 am Women's Alliance • 7:00 pm Terrific Tuesday	21 • 9:00 am Tony's Team • 10:00 am Quilting Group • 5:30 Membership Committee • 7:00 pm Women's Support Group	22 • 7:30 pm Choir Researsal	23 • 7:00 pm Circle Dinners • 7:00 pm OWL	24
25 BHH AUCTION • 9:00 am Forum • 9:15 am Community Service Team <i>(Cont. on 1/30)</i>	26 • 7:00 pm UUFBR Board Meeting	27 • 7:00 pm Terrific Tuesday	28 • 9:00 am Tony's Team • 10:00 am Quilting Group • 7:00 pm Denomina- tional Connections 7	29 • 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	30 • 7:00 pm OWL ***** (1/25 continued) • 10:30 Service & RE • 12:15 Pm Meet the Rev. • 5:00 pm Youth Ministry Plan- ning	31 • 6:00 pm ABD Kick Off Dinner

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
2601 ST. ANDREWS BOULEVARD
BOCA RATON, FL 33434
(561) 482-2001 FAX: 482-2011
EMAIL: UUFBR@BELLSOUTH.NET
WWW.UUFBR.ORG

OFFICE HOURS: MON—FRI, 10 AM—4 PM

STAFF:

MINISTER ~ *The Reverend Ms. Harris Riordan*

MINISTERIAL INTERN ~ *Jan Taddeo*

STUDENT INTERN ~ *Amy Carol Webb*

MUSIC - *Stephanie Nixdorf*

ADMINISTRATOR ~ *Jacqueline Savitsky*

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ~ *Gail Larkin*

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Deadlines for the next 3 months for the Unicorn

Please plan ahead and get your information in on time!

Jan 19, Feb. 2 and Feb. 16, March 2 and March 16

TO:

Time Dated Material—Please Expedite

Change Service
Requested

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