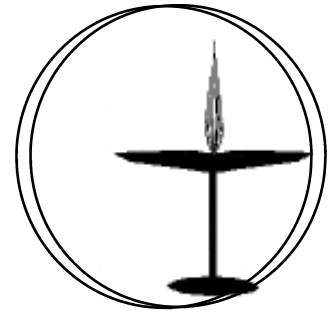


NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF BOCA RATON



A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

VOLUME 43 ISSUE 20

DECEMBER 23, 2009

GLORIA CHIDO, EDITOR

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Vada Mossavat

It has been years since I've really celebrated Christmas.

I didn't abandon it for any particular reason, nor do I really remember the last Christmas I celebrated, or the first I didn't.

As a kid, my mother would sometimes get really intense about "the reason for the season." We were the one house whose front window was decorated in spray snow reading "Happy Birthday Jesus."

When I gave up my religion as a kid and gave up Christ in the process, Christmas kind of went by the wayside.

When I'm with my godparents, we celebrate in New England with the traditional Christmas trappings, but what we are really celebrating is being together at the one time of year people seem to be able to coordinate their vacations.

As an adult I've never had a Christmas Tree. I've never put up lights. I don't bake cookies. My friends and family know that I don't give Christmas gifts -- I don't perform so well under gift-giving pressure -- they know they'll receive gifts from me at other times of the year.

And none of this is sad -- My holiday is right around the corner. I celebrate New Year's: the passage of time, the promise of another year and another chance. And by the end of each year I find I am so ready for the next year that all the Christmas fuss I see around me looks just like a speed bump in between me a fresh year.

That was until this holiday season. This year at UUFBR I've blown up balloons, decorated Christmas trees, made ornaments, sung carols and Hanukah songs and lit candles. I've meditated and cried listening to the amazing singing of our choir and children. I've watched adults pull together to pull off things I didn't think anyone could (like cooking for the Holiday Party.) I've seen patience and teaching and so many things that have just made me want to burst with joy and love and surprise.

This is the first year that the holidays don't seem like an obstacle to be endured before while waiting for my holiday -- welcoming another year. Because of all of you, I find myself wanting to linger at the end of this year.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Happy Holidays to all!
There will be no RE classes on December 27 or January 3. We will have a very special musical Children's Chapel on January 10.

NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP SERVICE AT MACEDONIA AME CHURCH:

UUFBR members are invited to attend this service. It begins at 10pm and ends just after midnight. It has its historical roots in the Watch Night tradition. When slavery was abolished, news was slow to reach the southern states, and the Watch Night is a symbolic recreation of waiting to hear that news. The objective is to be in prayer or in celebration when midnight comes. Today, this has evolved into the New Year's Eve celebration, where people share the triumphs and trials they have had in the past year and celebrate the New Year.



UPCOMING SERVICES AT UUFBR

**Thursday, December 24, 5 & 7:00 pm .
Candlelight Christmas Eve Services.**

Everyone is welcome to this magical night of music and light.

5:00 pm ~ The UUFBR Children's Choir

7:00 pm ~ UUFBR Adult Choir

Sunday, December 27, 10:30 am:

Meditations on Morning. Mary Howard Cadwell, service leader.

Happy New Year!

WOMANSPIRIT

WomanSpirit -- Monday, January 11, 7:30 pm. All UUFBR women members and friends are invited to this gathering where our Intern Minister Amy Carol Webb presents: "Nymph's Lament." Come join us in the Sanctuary and be a part of this intriguing discussion.



AUCTION

Starting Sunday, January 24th for 5 consecutive Sundays.

Did Santa leave gifts which seemed to be meant for someone else?



Never fear: the Auction Team will be happy to offer them as the perfect something-or-other up for bid in UUFBR's 2010 Silent Auction.

The Auction opens Sunday, January 24 and runs for 5 consecutive Sundays.

Contact a member of the Auction Team by Jan 10th: Marybeth Kugler, Carol Gasholder, Marj Kristen, Alexis Moore, Mary Cadwell.



EMPTY BOWLS

Coming soon – our annual Empty Bowls luncheon! **January 31, 2010**, bring your delicious soup, your generous monetary donations and your hearty appetite. We will sell you beautiful hand painted glass bowls decorated by our children, and you can fill them as many times as you want with the soups provided by our congregants. Proceeds of this all-you-can-eat luncheon will be shared between the Cooperative Feeding Program and Boca Helping Hands.

A signup sheet will be posted in Osias Hall starting January 3, or you can email Judy Keiser to volunteer to provide soup, bread, butter, and/or help during the service January 31. Bowls will be painted January 24 – any adult wishing to paint a bowl is also welcome!

REEL ADVENTURES JANUARY 9TH FILM



Filmed with incredible sensitivity, Hiroshi Teshigahara's "**Woman in the Dunes**" makes us reconsider who we are and why we pursue what we do.

"**Reel Adventures**" is an evening dedicated to viewing and discussing great films.

Our goal is to present films that both explore the media as an art form and stimulate discussion of provocative social content.

We meet at 7:00 PM **sharp** at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton. The film will be shown in the Rockberger Room.

We look forward to a stimulating discussion and hope you will be able to join us.

Martin Lipschultz and Susan Caruso

REEL POLITIQUE JANUARY 16TH FILM

Join us as we view and discuss Robert Greenwald's 2009 film, "**Rethink Afghanistan.**" This film addresses many questions: Are we doing more harm than good? Will this military action destabilize nuclear Pakistan? What is the "mission?" Can we succeed? How would we measure "success?" See interviews with Afghans, experts, scholars, politicians and veterans.

"Reel Politique" is a new film series that addresses the need to understand our political world. By showing and discussing relevant films we will explore ideas such as those recently presented in "Sicko (health care)," "The Age of Stupid" (climate change), and "Rethink Afghanistan." Feel free to email titles of films you think relevant.

This series is in addition to our regularly scheduled 2nd Saturday "Reel Adventures" series (films that explore the media as an art form and stimulate discussion of provocative social content).

We meet at 7:00 PM **sharp** at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton. The film will be shown in the Rockberger Room.

We look forward to seeing you.

Martin Lipschultz and Susan Caruso



2010 ANNUAL UUFBR CAMP-OUT

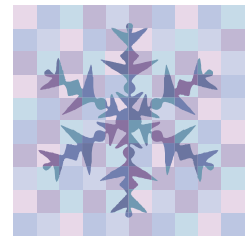
Saturday February 6th – Sunday February 7th

Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach

Arrival: 3:30pm Saturday Departure: 1pm Sunday

We have 19 sites reserved for camping overnight. If you would like to join us on Saturday evening to camp, or just for a fun evening of songs around the campfire, please contact Linda Conroy at 954-775-0030 or lconroy@aol.com for more details.

UUFBR'S HOLIDAY PARTY



Kudos to our wonderful team of volunteers for another great Holiday Party. Completely sold out, the gathering of 120 ate a delicious dinner, enjoyed a great production of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" put on by our Youth Group, a visit from Santa, and some caroling.

A big thank you to those who donated money for turkeys and hams, and those who cooked and brought them in:

Kerstin Kupfermann
Marion Luvisch
Gail Larkin
Linda and Ralph Savini
Jennifer Ligeti
Bill Bode
Eva Emmerich
Marybeth Kugler
Rebecca Bontempo
Brenda Richey
Harris Riordan
Gloria Chiodo

Special thanks to our Minister, who organized, cooked, decorated, and was master of ceremonies. She also hosted our guests from Macedonia AME Church.

This annual event raised \$650 for the operating budget at UUFBR. Happy Holidays to all!



MORE THAN ONE WAY TO HELP FAMILY PROMISE

As most of you know by now, UUFBR is deeply committed to supporting the Family Promise program. For anyone who is not aware of Family Promise, it is a national charitable organization composed of a network of host and sponsor faith communities of many religions and denominations. In South Palm Beach County, UUFBR is one of more than a dozen denominations who have responded to needs of homeless families with children.

Our specific role is to bring temporary shelter, meals, and support to up to four homeless families for five weeks in a 12-week period. The goal is to restore these families to long-term self sufficiency through mentoring and job search assistance that takes place in a day center in Delray Beach.

However, support from UUFBR is crucial so that we can continue to help these families. We are so grateful for the dedication of the volunteers who, in the past, have helped with meals, child care, overnight hosting, and other projects and for those others who have indicated interest in helping in the future.

Mark your calendars now for our hosting 2010 dates.

January 24 – 31st

May 16 – 23

June 20 – 27

September 26 – October 3

December 26 – January 2, 2011

Inquires have come to UUFBR Family Promise coordinators asking how people can help if they cannot be on hand to help directly with the families. In order to keep the hosting cost down, donations of specific food and paper goods is an excellent way for other people to help. Here is the wish list for the hosting week starting January 24. Please bring anything on this list to the office by Sunday, January 17 so that coordinators know what supplies still need to be provided.

Juice Boxes,

Coffee (regular and decaf),

Beverages: (large sizes if possible) apple and orange juice, ice tea

Cereals (for all ages)

Granola bars

Small pop-top tuna and chicken cans

Jar of peanut butter and jelly

Snack-pack sizes puddings and Jell-O

Cookies

Paper goods, heavy gauge Dixie-type:

Dinner and cake plates – 150 each

Bowls – 100

Napkins

If anyone needs a reminder of how Family Promises changes lives, here is part of a letter to the congregations from the Ryles family who recently “graduated” from the program now with full-time employment and a home in West Palm Beach.

“ . . . my name is Latonga Ryles. I’d like to start off by saying on behalf of the Ryles family we liked to take a little time to thank everyone for all the love and support that you have given to us. We started out as strangers and now we are a big family. We all left all of our old family and brought together a new one. But we could not have done it with out the strong help of some good friends like you all. We have learned to lean on each other. And help each other. Without that strong foundation of a strong shoulder to lean on you will fall down. . . .”

“A special thanks to all the congregations for making it so much like home away from home and welcoming us in. For all the cooks and other helpers who came to serve us all. Thanks for making this our new home for the time we were here.

May God bless each of you and I pray he keeps you strong for the next families who come along.”

From the Ryles Family

Anna Marie King

NEW DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

A new Membership Directory is now available. Copies were emailed to members for whom we have a current email address. If you did not receive your copy, please let us know where to send it. For those of you without access to email we are happy to print a copy for you—just let the office know you would like a copy and it will be ready to pick up the following Sunday when you are here for services. Not photocopying this directory saves the fellowship \$1.80 in copying costs per copy and mailing costs of \$4.80 per copy.

UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS *Joan Lund*

The UUA Board of Trustees convened in October, and in the report written following the meeting I indicated I would write more about Rev. Peter Morales' thoughts on the "critical" issues facing Unitarian Universalism. In the Trustee report which is available on the District web page I wrote about President Morales' belief that UUs must create a new ministry for a new century. He believes our faith needs to be much more than the "tiny, fringe religion that it is today" and we have not responded effectively for the needs of the liberal spiritual community. Another opportunity we must focus our energy on is growth.

Growth of our faith is not something that is just organizationally desirable. According to Pres. Morales it is a moral and religious imperative in a time when our congregations are amidst the spiritually hungry and religiously homeless who need us. Rev. Morales believes we have failed to grow because of the misplaced attention and energy in media campaigns and costly efforts to start large churches. Growing our faith will happen in our existing congregations through quality relationships, quality welcoming, and a sense of mission. Congregations have much to learn from each other. Congregations that have experienced growth have not done so by creating a growth plan but by being passionate about the possibilities and seeking excellence in congregational life. These congregations realize that growth is not a goal, but is a measurement of health and vitality.

President Morales says there are things we must do. We must create and sustain a sense of urgency throughout our faith by unleashing the commitment and idealism in our congregations who are on both a visionary and practical path. We need to work with our fastest growing churches in close partnership. They are the folks who know how to grow our faith. We must focus growth efforts by ensuring that our UUA staff is an effective partner to our congregations. Rev. Morales stated UUA field staff must focus their efforts on working with congregations committed to sharing our faith and serve as capable consultants who assist in unleashing the congregation's potential. Our UUA must reorganize the way we deliver services to congregations. According to Rev. Morales there is broad consensus that we should move to a more flexible regional model. New congregations need to be started in growing and underserved areas, using new approaches that build on the expertise of our leading congregations and use the opportunities of modern

technology.

Whatever your congregation is doing to celebrate the end-of-year holidays I wish your congregation good health and good relationships. Please know I am available for conversation, and/or speaking at a Sunday service. I am usually a phone call (813-931-9727) or email (jlund@uua.org) away. Happy Holidays one and all.



THE HUNGER PROJECT

Empowering Women and Men to end their own hunger

Saturday, Jan. 23, 1—3 pm

In Rockberger Hall

The Hunger Project is a global, non-profit, strategic organization committed to the sustainable end of world hunger, working in 13 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to develop effective bottom-up strategies to end hunger and poverty.

Please come for an enlightening afternoon. Participants will be invited to invest in the work of the Hunger Project. More information is available at www.thp.org.

Sponsored by Congregation Kol Ami, RSVP to Jeff Bonar at 561-212-0451 or jgbonar@gmail.com.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bernard Azif	10/4/09
Dorothy Brown	10/4/09
Brian and Erin Schoenberg	10/25/09
Elsa Lamb	10/25/09
Maria Mol	11/1/09
Adrianna, Peter and Pedro Riera	11/29/09
Denise Jackson	12/6/09

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

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

Theoria: 6pm, first Sunday of each month. An open conversation on theology. The topic this month is God. Facilitated by The Reverend Harris Riordan

Vespers: at 7:00 pm on the first Sunday of each month. We gather in the Sanctuary for music and quiet reflection—a time to share the diverse spirituality which sustains us.

Connections: Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:15 pm. in the Hartley Room. A pot-luck lunch and enlightening group discussion about Unitarian Universalism.

Odyssey Group: For 30 somethings (give or take ten years). Meets at the Minister's home on the third Sunday each month at 6:30 pm. Bring something for the grill—salads, beverages and desserts provided. Directions available at the Visitor's Desk.

WomanSpirit: Meets the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. All UU women and friends are always welcome.

Terrific Tuesdays: The next Terrific Tuesdays begin February 2010— details will be posted in the Unicorn. Join us for evenings of shared conversation over a simple meal, followed by stimulating classes on a variety of topics.

The Women's Alliance. Meets the 3rd Tuesday, 10:30 am, in Osias Hall.

Tony's Team: Every Wednesday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, everywhere, inside and out. Come and help with routine maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

Movie Group: The Movie Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month at 10:30 am at the fellowship. View and discuss movies of interest. Please call Marion Luvisch at 561-496-5476 with any questions.

Book Club: 1st and third Thursday each month. Read and talk about books of interest to the group. Contact Gail Esty for more information.

Choir: Thursdays at 7:30 pm Choir rehearsals. New choir members welcome—please contact our Music Director, Stephanie Nixdorf, if you are interested in joining.

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 in Rockberger Hall at 7:00 pm. Join us for interesting movies from around the world and stimulating discussion afterwards. Reel Adventures will not meet in December, but will return in January.

Gardener's Work Party: 3rd Saturday of every month, 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: In the Living Room at UUFBR on the 4th Sunday of each month at 12:15 pm. A time to sit with one of our ministers and ask questions, large and small, about Unitarian Universalism. No December meeting.

Community Food Pantry collections: Please bring in non-perishable food items (no glass jars) for Boca Helping Hands and Similac Formula, Ready to Feed with Iron, for Florence Fuller Child Development Centers.

P.E.A.C.E. People Engaged in Active Community Efforts. A congregation-based community organization charged with the mission of effectively fighting injustices in the communities of PB County. Current work includes affordable housing, health care, homelessness, and alternative schools.

Family Promise: The faith community's unique response to homeless families. Family Promise is a network of area congregations who open their doors to families in need. Families receive hospitality at each congregation for a week at a time, with each family sleeping in its own private area at the congregation facilities. Every Sunday volunteers help to move the families to the next congregation in rotation. The program is to bring immediate but temporary shelter, meals, and support services to homeless families. The goal is to restore the families to long term self-sufficiency.



Check out the UUFBR Bookstore!

In the back hallway to the playground. Share your good reads and find some there from others. Great prices, and it benefits the fellowship. This year to date the bookstore has made \$280.00.

JANUARY 2010 FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

UUFBR OFFICE CLOSED DEC. 25 THROUGH JAN. 3						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am Forum • 10:30 am Service • 10:45 am: R E Classes • 12:15 pm Children's Chorus Rehearsal • 12:15 pm Member-ship Comm. • 6:00 pm Theoria • 7:00 pm Vespers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am: Unicorn Deadline 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am Tony's Team • 10:30 am Quilting Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 am Book Club • 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00 pm: Reel Adventures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am Forum • 10:30 am Worship Service • 10:45 pm: RE Classes • 12:15 pm -: RE Bowling Party • 12:15 pm: Connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 pm: UUFBR and Macedonia Leadership Meeting (Rockberger) • 7:30 pm WomanSpirit 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am Tony's Team • 10:30 am Quilting Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 am Movie Group • 7:30 pm: Choir Rehearsal 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 am—1:00 pm Flea Market • 8:30 a.m. Gardening Group • 7:00 pm : Movie ~ <i>Rethink Afghanistan</i>
Flea Market Week at UUFBR →						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am Forum • 10:30 am Service • 10:45 am: RE . • 12:15 pm Children's Chorus Rehearsal • 12:15 pm: Endow-ment Meeting • Noon: RE Teacher Workshop • R E Bag Lunch • 6:30 pm: Odyssey Group 	<p style="text-align: center;">Office Closed</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>MLK Jr. Day</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am: Unicorn Deadline • Off the Grid Night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am Tony's Team • 10:30 am Quilting Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 am Book Club • 7:30 pm: Choir Rehearsal 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Budget Drive Kick-Off
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHH Food Collection • 9:00 am: Forum • 10:30 am: Service • 10:45 a: RE Classes • Auction begins • 11:45 a RE Council • 12:15: Meet the Rev 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30 pm UUFBR Board of Trustees Meeting <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All members welcome</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am Tony's Team • 10:30 am Quilting Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 am Movie Group • 7:30 pm: Choir Rehearsal 		
← Family Promise at UUFBR →						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am: Forum • Auction • 10:30 am: Service • Noon: Empty Bowls Luncheon • 12:15 pm Children's Chorus Rehearsal 						

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WWW.UUFBR.ORG

STAFF:

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR ~
*Vada Mossavat***

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - *Stephanie Nixdorf*

MINISTERIAL INTERN ~ *Maddi Gutfreind*

MINISTERIAL INTERN~ *Amy Carol Webb*

ADMINISTRATOR ~ *Gloria Chiodo*

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ~ *Gail Larkin*

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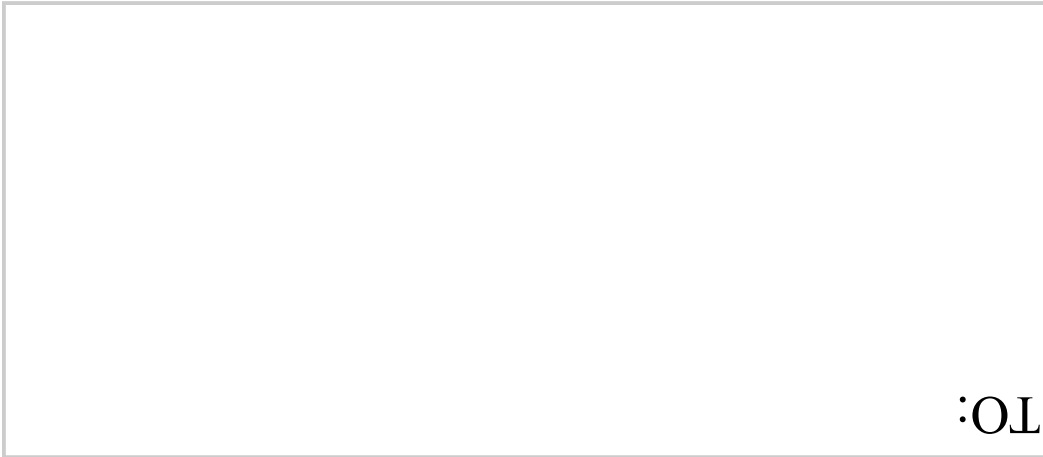
Anna Marie King, Programs

Upcoming newsletter deadlines

Please mark your calendars and get your information in on time!

Jan. 5 & 19, Feb. 1 & 15, March 1 & 15

If you are receiving a paper copy of this newsletter and would like to be removed from our mailing list, or receive it electronically, please write uufbr@bellsouth.net with your email address or call 561-482-2001.



TO:

Time Dated Material—Please Expedite

Change Service

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