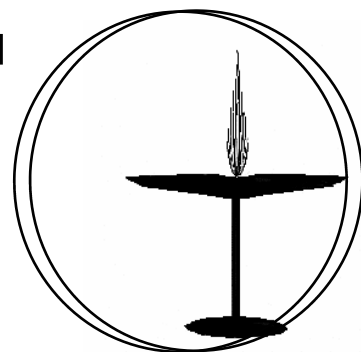


NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF BOCA RATON



VOLUME 41 ISSUE 14

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

GLORIA CHIDO, EDITOR

WELCOME STEPHANIE MONSOUR-NIXDORF

The Board of Trustees of UUFBR announces the appointment of Stephanie Monsour-Nixdorf to lead our choir and provide Sunday morning music for 2007-08. Ms. Monsour-Nixdorf is a professional music educator and a highly trained and experienced specialist in voice instruction.

Stephanie hails from the Glens Falls region of upstate New York. The daughter of a Lebanese father and Greek mother, she received a Bachelor of Music degree from Syracuse University where she majored in Voice Performance. Stephanie earned a Master of Music in Voice Performance from the College Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati. Her professional training includes participation as a Resident Artist in the Tri-Cities Opera Company of Binghamton New York and the Dicapo Opera Theatre Young Artists Program of New York City.

Ms. Monsour-Nixdorf is a member of Actor's Equity, AGMA and has performed in numerous operas and theatre productions in the New York State area. She has been a soprano soloist with both the Cincinnati Philharmonia and Chamber Orchestras as well as the Syracuse University Orchestra. Stephanie has led choirs, bands and voice classes in K-12 and college settings. She has also directed musical theatre productions and given private voice instruction. She currently teaches at Santaluces Community High School where she is the Director of Choirs.

All candidates for the Interim music position were interviewed by the search committee and Harris, and also led members of the choir in an audition. Ms. Mansour-Nixdorf received high marks from the choir and was the unanimous choice of the search committee. Stephanie resides in Boca Raton with her two young children and her husband. The choir will sing under her direction on opening Sunday, September 9th, at the Water Communion service.

Andrew Kahn, 1st Vice President, Board of Trustees



An Old Fashioned Summer Indoor Picnic

Saturday, September 15, 6:00 pm at UUFBR

Enjoy the end of summer with Music, Fun and Games for all as we focus in on a less complicated era of family pastimes.

***Advance tickets are \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, and \$25 per family
Tickets on sale Sundays after the service***

All Proceeds benefit UUFBR

OFFICE HOURS— MONDAY — FRIDAY, 8:45 AM — 4:00 PM

BUILDING ON STRENGTHS

A dear colleague, Scotty Meek, was fond of telling the story of a small family owned manufacturing company forced to let go of one of its two machinists. One was a whiz at fixing the old machines in his factory, getting them up and running in an hour or two. His paperwork and inventory was a mess because he was always rushing from one end of his building to the other, averting this crisis and solving the next. The other seemed to move slow, spent enough time in his office that his files were in perfect order, and his spare part closet was always filled. When a machine did break, it took hours to get it up and running again. After a few weeks of agony, the decision was made to keep the machinist with the remarkable trouble-shooting, problem solving skills. The next quarter's review showed that the cost cutting strategies were beginning to work even though the total down time on the factory floor was increasing. A year later, despite the growing breakdown hours, the company was doing better than ever before and began to plan for expansion by adding a night shift. Hearing this their machinist quit. While they searched for a replacement, three of the machines broke down, orders went unfilled and the company closed.

The brilliance necessary to manage a crisis may not be the only kind of genius there is, or the only kind we need to thrive. Like that small company, sometimes we too overlook or downplay some necessary strengths. In Elementary school many of us figured out that the smartest kids were the ones who got the fewest wrong answers on the test. And if we wanted to be one of the smart kids, we'd study for the test by focusing on what we didn't know. The 70 or 80 or 95% we had mastered became less important, as we concentrated on our weaknesses. Because this approach can be effective, we continue it long after our test taking days have ended.

This year at our Fellowship, as we participate in the FORTH program we are trying something different. Instead of looking for the problems we have yet to fix as an institution, we will turn our focus to building on our strengths. What is good for the institution might well be good for the folks within it. If you want to apply this approach to your own life, I suggest you go to <http://www.authentic happiness.sas.upenn.edu/>, the

Web-site of Dr. Martin Seligman, author of Learned Optimism. Once there, take the signature strength questionnaire, and then on the last Sunday of the month, come to the back table in the garden for a conversation with other UU's about how to build on your own strengths. If you do not have access to a computer, please see me for a paper and pencil version of this test.

Harris

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES:

September 9: Opening Sunday
Water Communion. *In this Very Room.*
The Reverend Ms. Harris Riordan

September 16: High Holy Days Service.
To Forgive? To Forget?
The Reverend Ms. Harris Riordan,
Michael Louis, Cantor.

September 23: *Grapevines and Gossip.* How words get around.
The Reverend Ms. Harris Riordan

September 30: *A Trunk Full of Manuscripts:* Lessons from the History of Unitarians in Transylvania.
The Reverend Ms. Harris Riordan

October 7: *The Night of Power.* A glimpse into Ramadan.
The Reverend Ms. Harris Riordan

October 14: Association Sunday.
The Reverend Ms. Harris Riordan

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2007

I ordered CD's of various workshops at General Assembly and I would be happy to lend them to anyone interested in listening to them. The CD's are the following:

Microfinance for UU's

Conflict: A Community Theater Experience

Conflict Transformation

This is My Song? Reflections on Cultural Misappropriation.

Judy Keiser

PROGRAM FAIR 2007—COMING SOON!

Once again UUFBR is preparing to sponsor our Fellowship-wide “Program Fair.” This popular annual event is scheduled for Sunday, October 21st, 10 to 10:30 am and 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

The Program Fair is a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet members of our many committees, activities’ groups and organizations and find out more about what goes on at the Fellowship beyond Sunday morning services. Explanatory literature will be provided at the various display tables and everyone will have a chance to sign up for a committee, activities’ group or organization in which they would like to participate.

Whether it is Women’s Alliance or the Caring Team, the RE Committee, Terrific Tuesdays, the Fellowship Singers, The Forum, Movie Discussion Group, the Membership or Music Committee, Reel Adventures, WomanSpirit or any of the other groups and activities that go on at the UU, you will be able to browse and discover more about those that specifically interest you. Please mark the date on your calendar and be sure and join us at the Program Fair on October 21st. Being active at the Fellowship is a great way to meet new people and fulfill your own needs to learn, participate and create.

This year’s coordinators are Andrew Kahn, Judy Keiser and Kerstin Kupfermann. Please direct any questions about this year’s Program Fair to one of them.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

GETTING THE WORD OUT!

Written announcements are preferred. Email to uufbr@att.net, or fax to 561-482-2001.

- Sunday morning announcements from the pulpit: Please provide announcement to the office by Friday afternoon, 2 pm. They will be printed out and placed in the Board folder to announce during the service.
- For Chalice Notes and the slideshow: - in the office by Wednesdays, 4 pm.
- For the Unicorn: 1st and 3rd Monday of each

month.

- Website: Send to Paul Kavanagh , our webmaster.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS AND EVENTS AT UUFBR

2007-2008 is going to be a busy year! Our calendar is filling up quickly, so be sure to let the office know if you are working on a project or event and need some space reserved at the fellowship. As well as our own activities, our building is shared with a number of other religious, community and civic organizations and we have to schedule their activities as well, so don’t delay—let the office know if you will need space here!

WELCOMING VISITORS

As we begin a new fellowship year there is a lot of good energy and effort going into planning for growth at every level at UUFBR. A key to growth is how we welcome visitors. People coming here for the first time should be welcomed warmly, and not just by the greeter at the door. Make a point of going over, introducing yourself and saying “welcome!”, even if you aren’t at ease with strangers. It is difficult for most people to go into a room of strangers and walk around, unacknowledged. Just a warm smile and a simple “hello” can make the difference between a visitor returning to find out more about UU, or one who went away thinking we had no interest in them. People who visit are usually on a spiritual quest, and we have much to offer. A warm greeting from a member is a good beginning, and you can always take them over and introduce them to a Board member or someone from Membership if they would like to engage in more in-depth conversation. And encourage them to sign our visitor’s book so we can send them follow-up information. Be a UUFBR Ambassador!

It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.

Albert Einstein

WHAT DO I SAY, WHAT DO I DO?

Interacting with persons who have disabilities.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has committed itself to the removal of all barriers—attitudinal, physical, communicative, and programmatic—that prevent the full participation of persons with disabilities in the life of our Association. Our religious values affirm our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Our faith calls us to not only begin the task of removing barriers to persons with disabilities in our congregations, but also to celebrate the unique gifts and talents that people with disabilities bring to our religious communities.

Beginning this month, and continuing each month for the next nine months, the Unicorn will reprint excerpts from a UUA pamphlet on interacting with people with disabilities.

Almost 50 million people in the United States (1 in 5) have a disability. The Americans with Disabilities Act defines an individual with a disability as “A person with physical or mental impairments that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

When you are with someone with a disability remember that they are first and foremost people.

- Show the individual the same respect you wish for yourself.
- Speak naturally and talk directly to the person; don't speak only to others who are with the individual.
- Be aware of barriers—or architecture, attitude, and communication—that prevent people with disabilities from full participation.
- Offer assistance, but do not impose.
- Ask the person with the disability the best way to be of assistance.
- When referring to a person's disability, use “people-first” language. In other words, it is better to say “person with a disability” or “man who has autism” rather than a “disabled person” or an “autistic man.”
- Focus on commonalities, not differences.

Next month: Blindness and Visual Impairments

CLUSTER CONNECTION - SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, November 17, 2007 9:30 am to 3:00pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ft. Lauderdale

"Cluster Connections"

Discovering Resources & Networks for SE Cluster Congregations

Round-table discussion for Presidents

Round-table discussion & panel for Treasurers & Finance Committees

Best Practices workshop for Membership Committees

Introduction to the Florida Legislative Ministry

RE workshop - Rotating Classes - A new model for RE

Cluster Annual Meeting

And many more to be announced later!

Contact Kathy Jens-Rochow, 954 463-2085



CIRCLE DINNERS

Circle Dinners are being organized for the coming season. Don't miss out on this enjoyable social activity. Sign up on the bulletin board in Osias Hall. You are asked to sign up anew

for the current year, whether you participated last year or not.

By attending casual dinners at various members' homes, you get to meet new people, make new friends, and re-connect with those you already know. Everyone brings part of the meal, so it is a cooperative effort. Each participant is asked to host one dinner during the year. If you are able to host two dinners during the year, you are an angel!

For more details, pick up a Circle Dinner flyer in Osias Hall, or call Rebecca Bontempo, Chair: 561.482.7381.

Rebecca Bontempo, Circle Dinners Chair

NOTICES AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, September 8, 7:00 pm. Reel Adventures is back! Summer vacation is over and we will begin the new year with a showing of Federico Fellini's *Nights of Cabiria*, starring Guilietta Masina. This film won the 1957 Academy Award for Best Foreign Film and Guilietta Marina (Fellini's wife) won "Best Actress" at Cannes. It challenges us to ask: Can we distinguish between human behavior and that which is humane? Join us as we try. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, September 9, Noon—3:00 pm: Annual RE Pool Party at Meadows Park Pool. Admission, pizza and drinks provided. Please bring a dessert to share. RSVP to Claire Teller at 561-470-8475, 561-901—2081(cell), or email cteller@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, September 15, 9 am - 1 pm P.E.A.C.E. Meeting at Calvary Methodist Church in Lake Worth. UUFBR Congregation members are invited by P.E.A.C.E. (People Engaged in Active Community Efforts) to explore how Congregation Based Community Organizations operate—by attending a Community Problems Assembly of that group and the North Palm Beach neighborhood. The UU Church of the Palm Beaches is one of 17 other multicultural churches (primarily Christian) of various denominations that comprise P.E.A.C.E. The Assembly, "Rethinking Justice; How P.E.A.C.E. as an organization works," will be held at Calvary Methodist Church, 301 1st Ave S, 1 block S of Lake at intersection of Federal Highway, Lake Worth. Contact Judy Kraft for questions or carpooling.

Monday, September 10, 7:30 pm. WomanSpirit. All UUFBR women are invited to pull a chair into the circle at this first WomanSpirit gathering of the new program year. Our evening's theme is circles, especially mandalas. We'll also plan together for the year ahead: please bring your dream of the WomanSpirit program you want to see happen -- and be ready to sign up to facilitate one of our 2nd Monday gatherings in the months ahead. Meet in the Sanctuary. Questions? Contact Mary Cadwell.

Saturday, September 15, 6:00 pm. An Old Fashioned Summer Indoor Picnic. A FUN raiser to kick off the new fellowship year. Tickets available after service on Sundays.

Sunday, September 16, 6:30 pm. Odyssey Group. At the home of Rev. Riordan. If you are 30 something, and interested in discussion of life's questions in a circle of peers, then come to this evening of food, friendship and conversation. Bring something for the grill—salads, beverages and desserts provided.

Tuesday, September 18, 10:30 am. A Celebration of Nature in honor of Rachel Carson, writer, scientist, and ecologist, born 100 years ago. Readings dealing with this important subject by:

Margery Delano, R.N., Actress
Betty Fleischman, Award-winning Author
Bob Fleischman, Actor and Playwright
Doris Hannum, Musician
Barbara Kane Nickens, Educational Psychologist, Ph.D.
Kerstin Kupfermann, Psychologist

Lunch will be served. No reservations required.

October Meeting: *The History of Beads*, with Helen Rockberger

Thursday, September 20, 2007, 10:30 am. Movie Group. This will be our first meeting of the season, so come bring your news of summer viewing and your suggestions for the fall.

October 12—14. Being Peace is the theme of Florida Women & Religion Fall Retreat: Oct. 12 -14, to be held at Chinsegut Hill Conference Center, Brooksville, FL. The weekend focuses on bringing and being peace, through individual and collective activities, including creating a communal work of art. Women & children are encouraged to attend, but registration is limited to 56. The Center is about 250 miles from Boca. See Osias bulletin boards for more information/registration.

October 17-21 Spiraling Out from our Center is the theme of UU WomenSpirit's Fall Institute (Oct. 17-19) and Gathering (Oct. 19-21), held at The Mountain Conference Center, Highlands, NC. More information/registration? See Osias bulletin boards.

Join the Choir

SEPTEMBER 2007 FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
1 UUFBR Office Hours Monday to Friday 8:45 am — 4:00 pm Phone: 561-482-2001 Fax: 561-482-2011	UUFBR Website: www.uufbr.org Email: uufbr@att.net				1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30 am Service• 10:30 am RE
3 Office Closed Labor Day	4 Unicorn Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 :00 a.m. Quilting Group• 4:30 pm: Save Darfur Coalition	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:00 a.m. Tony's Team	6	7	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:00 am — Noon Painting and Clean Up day at UUFBR• 5:00 pm UUFBR Chess Club• 7:00 pm Reel Adventures	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30 am Service• 10:30 am RE• Noon—3 pm RE Pool Party at Meadows Park Pool
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7:30 pm WomenSpirit	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:00 am Quilting Group• 4:30 pm: Save Darfur Coalition	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:00 a.m. Tony's Team• 7:00 pm Social Justice Group• 7:00 pm Personnel Comm	13 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> Congregation Kol Ami services at UUFBR	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7:00 — 9:00pm Interweave Social , Rock-berger Hall	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5:00 pm Chess Club• 6:00 pm An Old Fashioned Summer Indoor Picnic	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30 am: Service• 10:30 am: RE• 12:15 pm: Endowment Committee• 6:30 pm: Odyssey Group
17 Unicorn Deadline	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30 am-Women's Alliance• 4:30 pm: Save Darfur Coalition	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:00 a.m. Tony's Team• 7:00 pm Fundraising Comm.	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30 am Movie Group	21	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5:00 pm Chess Club	23 BHH Food Collection <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:00 am Community Service Team• 10:30 am Service• 10:30 am RE
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:00 am Quilting Group• 4:30 pm: Save Darfur Coalition	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 :00 a.m. Tony's Team• 7:00 pm. Denominational Connections	27	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5:00 pm Chess Club	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:30 am Service• 10:30 am RE

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

STAFF

MINISTER ~ *The Reverend Ms. Harris Riordan*

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ~

Lynn D. Stevens

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR ~ *Gloria Chiodo*

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ~ *Gail Larkin*

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Len Perry, Programs

Deadlines for the next 3 months for the Unicorn ~

Please plan ahead and get your information in on time!

September 17, October 1 and 15. November 5 and 19

TO:

Time Dated Material-Please Expedite

Change Service
Requested

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