Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton

# The Unicorn

AUGUST 1, 2024 Vol.77, Issue 20



#### **Board Corner**

#### Do You Have 15 Minutes?

The last two years at the UUFBR have been full of changes and challenges. Our minister of more than two decades, Rev. Harris Riordan, retired in Summer 2022.

Cont. on pg. 9





#### From The Minister

"The Reality of Transitional Ministry: Why Moses Could Not Cross the River Jordan"

As many know, the epitome of the transitional leader, the biblical Moses does not set foot in the Promised Land. After leading his people on a very long and arduous journey, it seems wholly unfair that Moses would not enjoy the fruits of his labor. Why should he die just short of the goal?

Cont. on pg. 10

# What else is inside?

<u>Upcoming Services &</u>
<u>Share the Plate</u>
<u>Recipient</u>

<u>Featured Events for</u> <u>August</u>

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Calendar & Classifieds

Vol .77 Issue 20



### **August Worship Service Schedule**

#### August 4 - "Let it Go" Cindy and Shawn Malaney

August 4th is International Forgiveness Day. Cindy and Shawn Malaney will be providing music, stories, quotations, and personal reflections regarding the theme of Forgiveness.

### August 11 – "Spiritual Fortitude: Hope and Faith for Extraordinary Times" Rev Kathy Tew Rickey

We face unprecedented times as members of this Fellowship and as denizens of our community at large. What do we need, personally and as a congregation, to move forward with boldness and aspiration into the unknown?

#### August 18 - "The Promised Land: Are We There Yet?" - Rev. Kathy

It feels like there's miles to go in this transitional ministry. Perhaps a look back will tell us how far we've come and what has been gained on our journey together that will make traversing the miles ahead not only doable but joyful at that.

#### August 25 - "A Time Measured in Love" - Rev. Kathy

"Seasons of Love" is a song from the Broadway hit, Rent. The song speaks of a year's time as 525,600 minutes and asks what other ways can the passage of time be measured – in sunsets, in laughter, in strife? What about love? What about time measured in love - seasons of love? Our time together, two years, measures 1,051,200 minutes. By what other ways might we measure this Interim Ministry together?

#### **Share the Plate Offering**





League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County Education Fund The Education Fund is committed to ensuring voters have the information they need to successfully participate in every election to learn more please go to their website <a href="https://lwvpbc.org/">https://lwvpbc.org/</a>

Donate using link <a href="https://donorbox.org/support-uufbr">https://donorbox.org/support-uufbr</a> or QR code "Please write Share the Plate in the comment section when you make your online gift."

#### **Remembering Nancy McElhaney**

Nancy was a member of the Fellowship and a resident of nearby St. Andrews Estates retirement community. Two years ago, when Nancy contemplated retirement community living, her daughter Susie Taylor knew that St. Andrews would be a good fit because of the Unitarian Universalist presence among the residents and the Fellowship situated nearby which Susie attends occasionally. These factors were important because Susie's grandfather, Nancy's father, was a Universalist minister.

Susie tells us that as a child, Nancy would accompany her father in his travels as Superintendent of Ohio Universalist churches. Of course, Nancy was raised Universalist. Later, Nancy would come to understand that part of her father's work was to promote the merger between the Universalists and the Unitarians. Nancy was very proud of her father's part in the successful merger in 1961.

Nancy's travels with her father instilled her with a lifelong love of travel and the joy of encountering new environments. Nancy's own career began after college with American Airlines. Later she took a civilian position with US Special Services in France where she met the serviceman who would become her husband and father to their daughters, Susie and Karen.

Susie says, as wife and mother, Nancy led a life rich with volunteer and philanthropic work. She served on many boards and was President of the American Women's Club in the Philippines. Nancy counted 41 moves in her lifetime. Never did grass grow under her feet.

At the Fellowship we knew Nancy as elegant and gracious, attending services in person with Susie now and then. Early in June, Nancy fell ill and was hospitalized. Despite time in skilled nursing and rehab, Nancy's illness overtook her on July 11. She was 89 years old.

A private family ceremony will take place on the Gulf shore of Florida. If you would like to honor Nancy, she left a request that donations be made to a fund set up in 1963 in her father's honor. This fund provides scholarships to individuals studying to become Unitarian Universalist ministers. Please use this link:

#### https://giving.uua.org

Follow the prompts. In the notes box, please add the note "scholarship support in memory of Nancy Evans McElhaney." Checks may be sent by mail with the same notation (Scholarship support in memory of Nancy Evans McElhaney) included on the check or in accompanying correspondence. The address is UUA 24 Farnsworth Street Boston MA 02210-1409 Attn. Rev. Lauren Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development.

#### **Fellowship Events**



# GAME NIGHT FRIDAY NIGHT AUGUST 2 AT 7:00 PM

Looking for some fun on a Friday night? Come to Game Night, where you can socialize with other gamers, play interactive group and board games. Pizza and bottled water will be provided. You can also bring the drink of your choice. Please reserve your spot and pizza by sending an email to Deliver2trish@gmail.com.

#### **Ukulele Group**



Ukulele Group
is back
August 14th at
2:00 PM.
If you have any
questions
please contact
Fritz Aufdencamp
at
aufdencampfritz@
gmail.com

#### **Community Craft Fair**





Join us for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton's FREE Craft Fair:

Connecting Community Through Creativity

#### on Saturday, September 14, 2024, from 10 AM to 2 PM!

During this family friendly event, discover unique handmade crafts, connect with local artisans, and enjoy a day of creativity and community spirit. This event will feature over 30 local craftspeople in an indoor, air-conditioned, and ADA accessible venue with lots of free parking. Don't miss this opportunity to support local talent and find one-of-a-kind treasures.

We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information or if you are interested in being a vendor please contact admin@uufbr.org

#### **Sharex Events**



#### **Contra Dance**

August 17th, 2024 \$10 admission \$5 Students Doors Open @ 6:30 PM Lesson/Mixer@ 7 PM Dance @ 7:30 PM located at UUFBR 2601 St. Andrews Blvd Boca Raton, FL, 33434

#### **External Events**

#### An Invitation to Soul Matters Small Group Ministry at Our Fellowship

"Through others we become ourselves" Lyv S. Vygotsky

Small groups in a congregational setting are not just about exchanging ideas; they are most fundamentally a means of offering sacred space to each other.

Simply put, Soul Matters groups mend the threads of spiritual connection frayed by the swirl of a shallow, frantic and materialistic culture that leaves us cut off from our deepest self, life's gifts and needs greater than our own. Many of us come to church hungry to



mend these sacred connections that get frayed and torn. Soul Matters exists to support this journey of reconnection to life, others and our deepest self. We do this work of reconnection by listening. Fundamentally, that's what Soul Matters is: an invitation to listen more deeply and intentionally, in three distinct ways:

**Listening to each other** - being listened to by trusted companions helps us hear our own voice again.

**Listening to our lives** - through spiritual practices and questions focused on our daily living, we engage the world not as an obstacle course to get through, but as a host of holy moments and voices calling us to greater loving and living.

**Listening to our deepest selves** - Introspection is often understood as solitary work, but Soul Matters views it as largely a gift given to us by others. Ironically, we hear that "still, small voice inside" best when the voices of friends speak and offer their presence in a disciplined way.

Together, these three sacred practices of listening – to each other, the world and our deepest self – add up to a more intentional and authentic life. It's a journey back to connection, and ultimately a journey back home.

If this way of being together with others calls to you, please contact Rev. Kathy, revkathy@uufbr.org before the end of this month, or our Administrative Assistant, Ruth, admin@uufbr.org after September 1. Some of the existing Soul Matters groups at the Fellowship welcome new participants while brand new groups are forming. Reach out soon to participate in a group starting in September.

#### **UUFBR Summer Survey 2024**

#### Dear Member or Friend:

As you may be aware, the UUFBR Board is sponsoring Saturday meetings to discuss the future of UUFBR. If you have not done so already, we hope you will join in! So far, we have discussed the likelihood that we will be lay-led come September, and what that will mean. We are talking about what being a UU means. We are discussing our mission and purpose. We are discussing UUFBR activities and many other topics.

Not everyone can attend Saturday meetings and we believe it is important to reach out to everyone to see what you think. So... we are asking that you complete a survey (link below). You do not need to include your name. We ask that you complete the survey by August 31st. You can complete the survey in one of three ways:

- You can click on this link: <u>UUFBR Summer Survey 2024</u>. It will take you to the survey, which you then complete online.
- You can get a paper copy from Ruth in the office. Once you complete the survey, you return it to Ruth.
- You can contact Patricia Rogers (<u>prlgc@outlook.com</u>; 305.608.3499), Jennifer Ligeti (<u>nifflig@gmail.com</u>;
   561.239.1662), or Claire Smith (<u>cclairesmith@verizon.net</u>; 571.278.4751). They will arrange to review the survey with you personally.

Questions? Contact Jennifer Ligeti, Patricia Rogers, or Claire Smith.

This information will help us understand better where we, as a Fellowship, should be going, what activities are important to you, and what being a UU means to you. The results will be analyzed and shared with the Fellowship around the end of September.

Respectfully,

**Board of Trustees** 

Survey Link: <u>UUFBR Summer Survey 2024</u>

#### Spaghetti Supper Fun

Congratulations to Jacquie Velazquez, who won the title "Sauciest" Chef AND the 50/50 drawing. Thank you everyone who participated!





#### **Orchestral Masterpieces on Piano**



This month at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton, we've been lucky to explore some beautiful and powerful pieces of music. During our services, we heard excerpts from Sibelius' "Finlandia" and Dvorak's "New World Symphony." These pieces, known for their deep emotional and cultural significance, have brought something special to our Sundays.

Sibelius' "Finlandia" is a piece that holds a lot of meaning, especially for the Finnish people. Written in 1899 as a protest against Russian censorship, "Finlandia" is a powerful expression of hope and resilience. Its themes and sweeping melodies make you feel a sense of triumph over adversity.

Playing it on the piano, even without the full orchestra, still brings out that intense emotion and spirit. It reminds us of the universal struggle for justice and freedom, something that resonates deeply in our hearts.

On the other hand, Dvorak's "New World Symphony" captures the essence of discovery and the beauty of cultural exchange. Composed during Dvorak's time in the United States, it was inspired by Native American music and African American spirituals. The symphony's familiar themes, especially the "Largo" movement, evoke a sense of longing and nostalgia. Performing these excerpts on the piano lets us appreciate the intricate melodies and harmonies in a new way. It's a reminder of how music can bridge cultural divides and create a sense of shared humanity.

Adapting these orchestral works for the piano has its challenges, especially when trying to capture their full essence in a shorter, more intimate format. But this transformation also allows us to see these pieces from a different perspective. The piano, with its versatility, can carry the magnificence of a full orchestra while providing a more personal connection to the music. Playing these pieces, even in their shorter versions, shows how timeless and powerful great music can be, regardless of the medium.

For those who want to experience the full impact of these masterpieces, I highly recommend listening to the Berlin Philharmonic's recordings of Sibelius' "Finlandia" and Dvorak's "New World Symphony," conducted by Herbert von Karajan. These recordings capture the dynamic range and emotional depth of both works beautifully. Von Karajan's interpretation brings out the nuances and richness of these pieces, offering a listening experience that's both profound and moving. Listening to this recording can deepen our appreciation of the music and its transformative power, whether in a grand concert hall or within the intimate setting of our fellowship.

Marina Machado Music Director

#### **Board Corner Continued**



Click <u>here</u> to view Board Minutes. You must be a Member and sign in.

Board of Trustees
Rajeev Arora
Claire Smith
Co-Presidents
Patrick Larson, VP, Facilities
Judy Keiser, Secretary
Bill Jensen - Treasurer
Trustees at Large
Rajeev Arora /
Carole Stephens/ Claire Smith/
Howard Prentice/ Rick Troiano/
Lynn Smith
trustees@uufbr.org
https://groups.google.com/uufbr-board

We employed an interim minister, Rev. Kathy Rickey, to guide us through a transition to a different UUFBR, and to identify issues we want to examine. In 2023, the UUA recommended amendments to the 7 Principles that resulted in a spiritual and philosophical discussion among our members which is ongoing.

Rev. Kathy leaves UUFBR at the end of August. On behalf of the Board and members, we thank Rev. Kathy for her listening to our many issues, of providing guidance and advice, for expanding our horizons with her services and discussions, and for opening up new possibilities.

As Rev. Kathy readies herself for her new journey, UUFBR is now faced with becoming a lay-led congregation. For many, this prospect is unsettling. Yet it is also a time for exploring a re-envisioned UUFBR. We are now entering another opportunity for transformation.

Over the past couple of months, the Board has held Saturday meetings to begin this exploration, to explore where UUFBR has been, what we, as a congregation, want from and for UUFBR, and we can create for our future. To help the Board and leadership with re-imagining UUFBR, we have developed a survey. The survey asks a variety of questions – from what you like and don't like about UUFBR, to your spiritual journey and intellectual growth wishes, to community participation – and more. Participating in this survey will help leadership plan for the next phase of UUFBR life. The survey takes about 15 minutes.

We want everyone's point of view. Therefore, we've provided three ways to participate:

- First, Ruth will send an email with a link to SurveyMonkey. You can complete the survey online once you receive it.
- Second, Ruth will have paper copies of the survey in the office, if you are more comfortable with paper and pen. Just fill it out and return it to Ruth.
- Third, you can click the link at the bottom of the email Ruth sends, and someone will call you to arrange an in-person conversation.

The survey is anonymous, unless you wish to include your name.

Once you receive the survey, if you have questions, you may contact Jennifer Ligeti or Patricia Rogers--they are here to help.

So, I close by asking you: do you have 15 minutes? It will help create a more consequential future at UUFBR.

## From the minister... Reverend Kathryn Tew Rickey

"The Reality of Transitional Ministry:
Why Moses Could Not Cross the River Jordan" cont.



According to Rabbi Jonathon Sacks, Moses was a leader of his time and circumstance, tasked with bringing the Israelites through a transitional period from slavery to freedom. A different skill set would be needed to take the Israelites from being nomads in the desert to settlement in a land of plenty. Further, Rabbi Sacks points out,

"Leadership is a function of time... Each age produces its leaders, and each leader is a function of an age... A leader must be sensitive to the call of the hour - this hour, this generation, this chapter in the long story of a people. And because he or she is of a specific generation, even the greatest leader cannot meet the challenges of a different generation. That is not a failing. It is the existential condition of humanity."

Indeed, this is true of Interim Ministry. It is about the current chapter in the long story of this Fellowship. My task has been to lead you from Rev. Harris' retirement to the shores of a new ministry and new era for the Fellowship. We began the work of transitional ministry together on September 1, 2022. Our time together will end August 31, 2024. In this two-year span, we have engaged in specific tasks intended to prepare you for a new way of being. Unlike the Israelites, we don't have 40 years to transition. Your learning, your growth, your readiness for the next chapter must be gained in a much shorter span of time. Therefore, the interim ministry program is designed to concentrate and expedite your readiness with recommended tasks to be completed by the interim minister and the congregation. Given that process, the following areas were determined to be priorities for the interim period:

- Leadership Development and Assessing Governance Structures Board of Trustees, By-laws, and Shared Ministry,
- Hospitality/Meaning of Membership,
- Stewardship Development
- Heritage/History Research,
- Explore identity what does the foregoing transitional work of the congregation mean in terms of who UUFBR is and why the Fellowship exists,
- Renew Mission and Vision
- Discern the best option for bringing in a new minister.

All of these areas have been addressed and much has been accomplished. Projects such as heritage/history and mission/vision have been taken up more recently. While many tasks remain in each area, I believe leadership and various members of the Fellowship have taken ownership of said work and will continue on track, regardless of my presence. Therefore, like Moses, my journey with you ends before the transition is complete but you are not far off. The most important achievement of the journey is this: just as the Israelites were transformed by their journey, so have you been transformed. It may not seem like it, but I am witness to what happened when you peered into the future of this Fellowship and rather than shying away from the challenge of the work ahead, you took up the reins with gusto. You have found your strength, your confidence. You know what to do. Do it with all the hope, faith, and love you can muster.

It has been my honor to serve you. I will miss you. Every one of you. It is not my fate to know the rest of your journey. Fortunately, I don't have to die of old age for that to be so, but it is the professional pledge of the Interim Minister to absent oneself from the life of the congregation they have served. We get two years, one chapter in the life of the congregation. And if, together, we've do our jobs right, it's all that's needed.
In faith and love,
Rev. Kathy
Source: https://rabbisacks.org/covenant-conversation/chukat/why-was-moses-not-destined-to-enter-the-land/



# Committees ZOOM links & descriptions

#### **Board of Trustees**

1st Thursday at 7:15 pm Rajeev Arora, Claire Smith copresidents@uufbr.org

Use this link to join on Zoom:
https://zoom.us/j/93768534897?
pwd=WEFNODZBV21Bc25sQWVjUGImRzdmdz09
Meeting ID: 937 6853 4897 Passcode: 114338

#### **Landscape Committee**

First Tuesday at 7:00 pm Group contact: Celia Hirsch 561-870-3577

> Use this link to join on Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/95

432721616?pwd=dWNySFF5bTdoN3JSYi9JT1hBTEsOZzO9

Meeting ID: 954 3272 1616 Passcode: 575795

#### IT Team

Meets as needed Group contact: Louis Merlin, louismerlin@gmail.com

Use this link to join on Zoom:
https://zoom.us/j/95229659211?
pwd=SVJUdU93WXJLbEVhSWxuR0duNE9aQT09

Meeting ID: 952 2965 9211 Passcode: 023036

#### **Worship Committee Meeting**

Bi-weekly on Wednesday at 5:00 pm Group contact: Bill Jensen wmjensen44@gmail.com Zoom Host: itteam@uufbr.org

Use this link to join on Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/94556595523?

pwd=cDE3VkwvMUNSVXo2N3pra0drV25UZz09

Meeting ID: 945 5659 5523 Passcode: 540050 One tap mobile +13052241968,,94556595523# US

#### **Endowment Committee**

2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm Group Contact: Mitch Major: mitchmajor@earthlink.net The Endowment Fund: Sustaining the Legacy, the Continuity, and the Future of UUFBR and our UU Principles.

Use this link to join on Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/92039364170?

pwd=RzRMdjVWOGITMEJjVDU2V0JFTFJQdz09

Meeting ID: 920 3936 4170[1] Passcode: 361129 One tap mobile: +19292056099,,92039364170# US (New York)

#### The Legacy Group

Third Sunday @ 1 pm Group contact: Judy Keiser Zoom Host: itteam@uufbr.org

Use this link to join on Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/98795244584?

pwd = d1 NuVzZnM05 ycDkwVWtQQnJyUm1PQT09

Meeting ID: 987 9524 4584 Passcode: 388278

#### **Membership Committee**

Third Tuesday at 7:30 pm Group contact: Sharon Drew

Use this link to join on Zoom:

https://zoom.us/j/93534994263? pwd=WEwwVE0wMHQzZVg2bC9TeU5NMGdwdz09

Meeting ID: 935 3499 4263 Passcode: 232167

### Religious Education Council (RE Council)

RE Council is taking a hiatus until further notice RECouncil@uufbr.org This group organizes activities for families with children and promotes religious education for all ages.



# Bill Jensen, August 27

"Best wishes to you on your birthday.

### WHAT'S **HAPPENING**

Everyone is welcome!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				Board Meeting- Adaptive/ strategic 5:30pm Zoom	Admin in Office 10 -3pm Friday Night Happy Hour 5pm, Zoom Game Night 7pm	The Forum 10am, Zoom What do we want UUFBR to be and become Meeting 2pm-In person & Zoom
Admin in Office 9 -12pm Worship Service 10:30 am (Zoom also) TeenTech 11:30am	5 Cleaning service 8am Office closed Pagan Study Group 7pm, Zoom	Admin in office 10 -3pm Landscape Committee Meeting 7pm, Zoom	7 Admin in office 10 - 3pm Ground Maint. 9:30am Worship Committee 5pm, Zoom Midweek Meditation 8pm, Zoom	8 Board Meeting- Adaptive/ strategic 5:30pm Zoom Endowment Committee 7pm, Zoom	9 Admin in Office 10 -3pm Friday Night Happy Hour 5pm, Zoom	10 The Forum 10am, Zoom What do we want UUFBR to be and become Meeting 2pm-In person & Zoom
Admin in Office 9 -12 pm Worship Service 10:30 am (Zoom also)	Cleaning service 8am Office closed Men's group in person 10am Death Cafe 7:30pm, Zoom	13 Admin in office 10-3pm	14 Admin in office 10 -3pm Ground Maint. 9:30am Ukuele Group 2pm Worship Committee 5pm, Zoom Mickweek Meditation 8pm, Zoom	15 Board Meeting- Adaptive/ strategic 5:30pm Zoom	Admin in Office 10 -3pm Friday Night Happy Hour 5pm, Zoom	The Forum 10am, Zoom What do we want UUFBR to be and become Meeting 2pm- In person & Zoom
Admin in Office 9 -12 pm Worship Service 10:30am (Zoom also) The Legacy Group 1pm, Zoom	19 Cleaning service 8am Office closed Pagan Study Group 7pm	20 Admin in office 10-3pm Membership Committee Meeting 7:30pm, Zoom	21 Admin in office 10 -3pm Ground Maint. 9:30am Worship Committee 5pm, Zoom Midweek Meditation 8pm, Zoom	Leadership develop.6:30pm, Zoom Board of Trustees meeting 7:15pm	23 Admin in Office 10 -3pm Friday Night Happy Hour 5pm, Zoom	24 The Forum 10am, Zoom What do we want UUFBR to be and become Meeting 2pm- In person & Zoom
25 Admin in Office 9 -12 pm Worship Service 10:30am (Zoom also)	26 Cleaning service 8am Office closed	27 Admin in office 10-3pm Healing Justice 7:30pm, Zoom	28 Admin in office 10 -3pm Ground Maint. 9:30am Worship Committee 5pm, Zoom Midweek Meditation 8pm, Zoom	29	30 Admin in Office 10 -3pm Friday Night Happy Hour 5pm, Zoom	The Forum 10am, Zoom What do we want UUFBR to be and become Meeting 2pm- In person & Zoom

Groups on hiatus

Book group-return date to be determined Bowling-will return in the Fall Movie Group-will return in the Fall Non-Violent Communication- will return in September Check out our website for more information at

**UUFBR.org** or scan the QR code below



Please follow us on

**UUFBR Facebook** and **Instagram** 

## Classifieds







Due to a back injury and circumstances beyond my control, my girls—Momma Kit, about 6 years old, and her daughter Yoshie, 4 years old—are in need of a loving home. They are spayed and up to date on all their shots. If you can provide a caring environment for them, please contact me Caryn Vigil at 754-367-2070 or email Admin.

Your help would mean the world to me.



