



# The Journey

The Newsletter of the  
**Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church**  
 *A Welcoming Congregation*



April 2014

## Prayer Shawl Affinity Group

The prayer shawl affinity group will be holding its meetings at the Mandarin Panera Bread at 11111 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville. The meetings will be the first Thursday of every month from 10am to noon.

The Prayer Shawl Affinity Group has been producing shawls for members of the BBUUC community who are experiencing some difficulty in their lives. The shawls are distributed in cooperation with the Caring Committee.

If you are planning on coming, please contact Lisa Cromar by the Wednesday before the meeting at [lisasancrom@gmail.com](mailto:lisasancrom@gmail.com) or 904-827-0107. If there are no RSVPs on a given month, the meeting will be cancelled.

## Lunch Bunch

**Wednesday, April 9 at 11:30am**

The BBUUC Lunch Bunch meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30, at Pengree's Restaurant in Orange Park (556 Kingsley Avenue) for food and fellowship. All are welcomed to join us! Please contact Frances Kennicutt or Beth Christiansen, the office administrator, at [admin@bbuuc.org](mailto:admin@bbuuc.org) if you plan to join us, so that a table can be reserved at the restaurant.

**Directions to Pengrees:** From the exit at 295 and 17 (Park Ave) just west of the Buckman Bridge, you will turn off into 17/Park Ave) south past Wells Road and proceed towards Kingsley. Turn right onto Kingsley and get into the left hand lane as early as possible as you will turn in just three short blocks on Kingsley. Turns left at the light on Plainfield and then turn into the parking lot. You are there!

April 20th at 10:30am

## EASTER SERVICE &

## FLOWER COMMUNION AT BBUUC

Easter Egg Hunt for the Children  
and a Covered Dish Dinner for All  
to follow the service.

Bring a dish to share  
(see the sign-up sheet at church)  
Kids: Bring your baskets!



**See Page 10 and 11  
for more  
information about  
EASTER SERVICE  
AND ACTIVITIES!**

**The Pledge Drive and Canvass** are underway now, and will conclude on April 20th. Once the results have been tabulated, the Finance Committee and Board will be in a position to draw conclusions about the financial support for the budget, and for Rev. Jack's ministry. This will determine whether or not to take the ministry question to a congregational vote at the annual meeting. A town hall meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at noon, to present information from the pledge drive and canvass, and to field questions and allow further discussion around the issues that we are considering at the upcoming annual meeting and projects that are in the works.

# CHURCHWORKS

Every member should have a pledge packet now, either hand-delivered or sent via US Mail. The pledge packets are an important part of our Stewardship Campaign. Please review the information in the brochure, and support our congregation with a pledge for the **July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015** fiscal year.

Each packet also contains a “Gift of Self” form that we ask each member to complete. Please indicate your areas of interest and willingness to serve with TIME and TALENT. (**Time, Talent and Treasure** are the components of stewardship in our Unitarian Universalist tradition).

The other piece of the Stewardship Campaign is our Canvass. At BBUUC, the Canvass is conducted by a team of dedicated Member/Stewards of our church who will meet with every member in person. They will have a dialogue about what our congregation means to you and what your dreams and visions are for the church. These meetings generally take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour, and can be done at a pre-arranged location (at home, a local coffee shop, a park, or any quiet, comfortable spot for conversation).

The goal of the Canvass is to connect, to listen, to answer questions, and to make sure that everyone is heard. The Canvasser will ask to collect your “Gift of Self” form, if you have not already turned it in. You can talk with the Canvassers about ways that you wish to serve, and opportunities for connection. You can talk about how you think our community is doing, and your hopes for the coming year and beyond. You can also give your canvasser the envelope containing your pledge card if you have not already submitted it. They will make sure that your pledge and your “Gifts of Self” form get to the appropriate hands and are acknowledged.

It is important to know that, even if you have submitted your card and form, our canvassers still want to meet with you in person for your valuable input. Each of you will be receiving a call from a member of our Canvass Team in the coming week or two. I hope you will find the time to engage with them. This is critical to the health of our congregation!

**The Stewardship Drive will end on April 20th**, and we hope to have all canvass meetings completed, all pledge cards and “Gifts of Self” submitted by that date. Your Board hopes that EVERY SINGLE MEMBER of our congregation will make a pledge, will contribute time and talent, and will participate in the canvass with a loving heart this year!

This process is a great way to begin the mission of getting every member more deeply engaged and connected (or reconnected) with our beloved Unitarian Universalist community. Membership is a commitment that brings us into the delicate and sometimes challenging dance of being together in covenant with one another, and it also implies a commitment to work together in love, through the inevitable changes and difficulties as well as the joys and the accomplishments. This church not only has individual souls to nurture, but we have a corporate soul as well that needs our cooperation and care.

As Unitarian Universalists each congregation governs itself. We don't have a centralized authority that supports us financially, or tells us what to do or what to believe. Each UU congregation is self-sustaining, and our primary source of financial support comes from our members and participants. We are a church, associated with a larger religious organization. We have assets to manage and business to conduct to assure that we continue to have a home that will provide us with a sanctuary and space to carry out our mission and grow our spirits...now and for generations to come. That's a pretty heady reality -- and one that we HAVE to work through together as a community. Let's do the work of this sacred community with commitment, with passion, with forgiveness and care, good intentions and most of all with love.

And to that, I'll add faith...my faith in Unitarian Universalism and in all of you who make up **our beloved community**.

Linda Mowers  
President

*“When practiced consistently and intentionally, giving can become a spiritual discipline and, even more, a sacred art. When we practice giving regularly and understand that our motivation has some connection outside of ourselves, we have the opportunity to radically transform our lives, the life of another person, even the lives of entire communities...It's about creating an entire lifestyle of generosity.”* (LAUREN TYLER WRIGHT)

*Money can be used as a tool to celebrate life and increase joy rather than being a source of contention or stress. The key is to have a proper, skillful relationship with money—neither fearing it nor craving it, but respecting it and the power it can have in our lives and in the lives of others...In fact, through skillful giving, money can be transformed from a profane object into a sacred tool for achieving good.* (LAUREN TYLER WRIGHT)

## More thoughts on Stewardship:

The great Unitarian minister A. Powell Davies sang to us about who we are and what we're up to, when he told us, *"When... individuals meet, so do... private worlds. None of our private worlds is big enough for us to live a wholesome life. We need the wider world of joy and wonder, of purpose and venture, of toil and tears. What are we, any of us, but strangers and sojourners forlornly wandering through the nighttime, until we draw together and find the meaning of our lives in one another, dissolving our fears in each other's courage, making music together, and lighting torches to guide us through the dark? We belong together. Love is what we need. To love and to be loved."*

This is our project. This is our mission. Please allow this work not just to survive, but to flourish. These times are hard. What we do is more needed than ever. Please give it your heart. Please give it your time. And, please, support it with the most generous pledge you can.

### Lauren Tyler Wright shares her story:

*In grade school I had a box of sixty-four Crayola crayons. It drove me crazy when kids would borrow them because, inevitably, they would blunt the sharp point of the crayon, put them back in the wrong color order, or, heaven forbid, break one. Truth be told, it took me at least a month after I got the box to actually use one of the crayons because I wanted to keep them perfect for as long as possible. That's how much I valued the little bit of control I had over those sixty-four uniquely colored objects, they were mine.*

*When I eventually came around to the idea that my crayon box was not really mine in the first place but was rather on loan to me for a while, I discovered a surprising sense of freedom—of relief, almost. I was freed from fretting over the inevitable demise of each perfectly sharpened crayon tip. I still had a momentary anxiety attack when I heard snap and saw a classmate with a piece of crayon in either hand. But I released the worry in my heart about messing them up and was freed simply to enjoy what had been loaned to me and to share it with others.*

*When you are able to see every component of your life—your money, your home, your car, your bank account—in this way, you find that you worry less and that giving generously is no longer threatening or a chore. Instead it becomes a life-enriching experience that underscores the abundance of what you do have. The secret is learning to hold your possessions more loosely.*

*It's a strange paradox, but it's true: when you loosen your grip of control on your stuff, you find that you actually appreciate it more than you did when you clutched it for dear life. You also discover a freedom with (and from) your possessions that leads to joy in the act of giving.*

## "Straw Poll" Survey Results for Rev. Jack Ford Ministry Proposal

Sixty-two of our 124 members responded to the Survey that was sent out after the second town-hall meeting to discuss hiring Rev. Jack Ford as our half-time consulting minister. Out of those responses, the following data was recorded:

*Do you plan to support BBUUC next year (July 2014 - June 2015) with a financial pledge?*

YES .....85.48%  
NO .....1.61%  
NOT SURE .....12.90%

*Are you in favor of having Rev. Jack Ford as a half-time consulting minister at BBUUC beginning in July of 2014 for a three-year period?*

YES .....74.19%  
NO .....12.90%  
NOT SURE .....12.90%

*Do you currently support BBUUC with an annual pledge amount?*

Yes, I filled out a pledge card and make contributions toward that pledge .....67.74%  
No, I filled out a pledge card, but have not been able to make contributions toward that pledge .....1.61%  
Yes, I make financial contributions to BBUUC but did not submit a pledge card .....22.58%  
No, I did not fill out a pledge card and do not currently make financial contributions ....8.06%

*Would you increase your expected Fiscal Year 2014-15 pledge amount this year to support the addition of Rev. Jack Ford as our consulting minister?*

Yes .....39.68%  
No .....19.05%  
Not sure .....20.63%  
N/A--I did not pledge last year .....9.52%  
Other .....11.11%

*How much would you increase your current level of giving in order to support increased ministerial services?*

**48 of 62 participants responded to this question, with 35 of them indicating that they would give over their current level to support Jack as a consulting minister.**

## From the Desk of the Treasurer

As we approach the end of the church's fiscal year, we have a very encouraging financial outlook, particularly when compared with the financial outlook at the beginning of the fiscal year. We have had an unexpected windfall from the estate of former members, which has significantly strengthened the church's finances. We have established an Endowment Fund and a fund to maintain the church's facilities. We have had a very successful fundraiser which, in conjunction with the frugality of our committees, has helped us survive a year in which our pledges fell considerably short of expectations.

As we go through our current Stewardship Campaign, I hope that this more robust financial outlook will strengthen the commitment of all of our members to increase their support of the church financially in the coming fiscal year. A strong response to the Stewardship Campaign will ensure that we can build upon these hard-earned gains.

*I can see clearly now, the rain is gone,  
I can see all the obstacles in my way  
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind  
It's gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright)  
Sun-Shiny day.*

Thank you, Jimmy Cliff.



## A Letter from our Director of Religious Education

*Happy Spring Everyone!* Spring time is my most favorite time of year. It throws together renewal, rebirth, cleaning, and tank tops all into one happy place. For me every year, spring becomes a time of renewed energy. With the reemergence of the sun I want to be out and active. This is convenient because it's a very active season for our denomination- we have Earth Day, Flower Communion, and District Assembly. These are big events that our entire association celebrates, and participates in, and are great ways to reach out and understand the denomination beyond our front doors.

The UU ministry for the Earth (<http://www.uuministryforearth.org/>) is doing phenomenal work for our entire faith, and Earth day represents one day when we can all focus and assist them in their quest to inspire, facilitate, and support personal, congregational, and denominational practices that honor and sustain the Earth and all beings.

Flower Communion is a ritual that we take part in through our worship. It can be a moment or series of moments of shared hope, and remembrance of the work the Norbert Capek did for our world. The gift of sharing flowers with one another, and sharing bread with each other at our annual potluck, binds us together in such a joyful way.

Then, of course, there's District Assembly, a time when we send representatives together to vote, worship, and practice our 5th principle in a tangible way. Events like these, open to everyone, give us chance to come together with more than each other. It reminds us that our congregation is not an Island Unto Itself, and always inspires me to believe that we are part of something special, that is making the world better, bit by loving bit.

It is my wish for everyone, that this spring be a time of renewal and rebirth of the soul. That we come together with rejuvenated spirit, to gather, to live, and love.

*With Hope*

Dani Slader

Director of Religious Education

## Immigration Detention in Florida

### *It's a Human Rights Issue*

On Sunday, April 6th at 12:00pm in the Middle School Room, there will be a discussion of March 30th's service, "And If a Stranger Sojourn". The goal of the discussion will be to find ways our community can get involved on this important issue. If you feel moved to change the lives of those being detained because of immigration policies, please attend this meeting.

BBUUC Operating Profit and Loss July1, 2013-March 22, 2014	
Income	Total \$
Contributions	
Donation General	8,869.63
Plate Cash	1,917.00
Pledge Paid	64,374.15
Other Income	11,889.79
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>87,050.57</b>
Expenses	77,815.28
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>9,235.29</b>



## Introducing Dave Austin

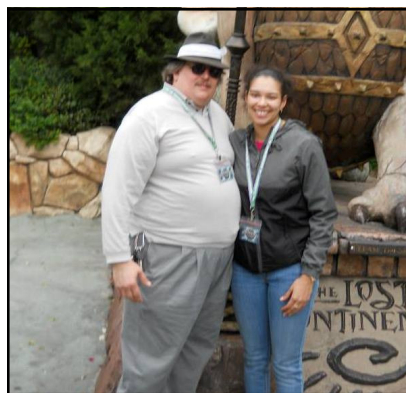
Dave was drawn to the UU ideal of respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Growing up as an “Army brat” took him to several states from coast to coast and to five other countries. His personal faith journey has included exposure to Islamic, Jewish, and varied Christian influences as he has looked for a spiritual home, and he is a high priest of the Circle of Ivy church.

After taking the Newcomers class in November 2012, he took his time becoming acquainted with our community, eventually becoming a member in March 2013. During his time among us, he has found a place for himself in the BBUUC community. Dave has assisted on several fundraising and other events, is a new member of the Membership Committee, and is taking the class to become a Worship Associate.

One of Dave’s passions is history. History was one of his favorite subjects in school, and he has been an active history recreationist since he was 19. He started with 13th century Saxon, has done Golden Age of Piracy and is now expanding into Elizabethan.

Another passion is reading; he reports that English was his other favorite school subject. Among his favorite authors are “Lena Austin, J. R. R. Tolkien, Mercedes Lackey, Robert Heinlein, and anything that is actual history.”

20 years ago, Dave assisted a lesbian couple in creating a child, whom he was delighted to be able to reconnect with this year. Over the years, he has also been involved in co-parenting for six other young people “all of whom have become people of honor and integrity.” Co-parenting can be very difficult because of the lack of legal standing for the co-parent, so Dave is especially pleased that things have turned out so well.



## Facilities Committee

The BBUUC’s beautiful building and grounds are the hub of our community’s social and spiritual life. The Facilities Committee is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of our physical facilities.

Committee members make sure that BBUUC’s facilities are up to date and meet all safety and health codes. When something breaks, they make sure it is fixed. When the community needs something improved, they identify the best way to improve it, and they take charge of the improvements.

When meetings or activities are scheduled, a member of the Facilities Committee opens the building and they coordinate the activities of volunteers to set up and clean up for activities and services. The Facilities Committee manages the audio, lighting, and electronic equipment that is used to help us all enjoy the activities and services held in our building.

During the periodic clean-up drives, the Facilities Committee members coordinate the volunteers and sent the priorities. As the new memorial garden is created and maintained, the work of the volunteers on the Grounds Subcommittee will become even more visible and valued. If you would like to help improve the beauty and functionality of the BBUUC grounds, please contact [grounds@bbuuc.org](mailto:grounds@bbuuc.org)

Inside the building, the Facilities Committee is always looking for volunteers for any number of tasks.

- To learn more about what the committee does and how you can help, you can contact Dave Christenson at [facilities@bbuuc.org](mailto:facilities@bbuuc.org).
- If you would like to help with the sound system and the recordings, please contact [audio@bbuuc.org](mailto:audio@bbuuc.org).
- The Aesthetics Subcommittee advises on the aesthetics of our building, and they work with the office administrator to schedule and maintain the Artists Corner; contact them at [aesthetics@bbuuc.org](mailto:aesthetics@bbuuc.org)
- People who are interested in the building’s physical plant can volunteer to help at [building@bbuuc.org](mailto:building@bbuuc.org)

# Rev. Jack Ford

## Speaker & Chaplain



A lot of us know Rev. Jack Ford as the speaker at some of the best-attended services throughout the year. Under a proposal that the BBUUC community is considering, Jack may become a more regular presence in our congregation. The proposed arrangement would call Jack

Ford to be a half-time consulting minister for our congregation.

The form of ministry that Jack would provide us under this arrangement would be determined in mutual consultation. Some of the possibilities that were discussed in the Town Hall sessions include:

- A more regular pulpit presence, perhaps twice a month.
- Pastoral care and counseling.
- Officiating at weddings, memorials and other rites of passage.
- Teaching or helping with classes.
- Professional presence for BBUUC in the local community.
- Fundraising and budgetary advice.
- Ministerial representation to the UUA and Florida District

Jack is uniquely qualified to act in this capacity for our congregation. He understands the strong volunteer-led personality of this congregation; this would not be the case for most other ministers we could hire.

There are financial and other considerations to take into account, and discussions about this opportunity will continue up until the BBUUC annual meeting on May 18. We look forward to a strong pledge drive, as people are excited by the possibility of extending an offer to Rev. Ford.

Jack is a Jacksonville native. He is a graduate of Wolfson High School and also attended Terry Parker High School. His mother and two brothers currently live in Switzerland, which is listed as Jack's

permanent address. (Jack rents a wonderful place by the river in Palatka.)

His 25-year career as a carpenter started by chance, when his car broke down and he lost his job with Greenpeace. He found a job as an apprentice carpenter, then took over when his boss left the business six months later. Although he loves working with wood, he is finding that the dual vocation is taking its toll as he gets older.

Rev. Ford grew up as a Baptist, and began his theological studies at Stetson University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. At the UU Church of Jacksonville, he found a mentor in the Rev. John De-Wolf-Hurt. As a result of this relationship, Jack entered the ministry as a Fellowshiped (Preliminary) UU minister and served at the Valdosta UU Church for seven years.

He has continued his studies in a number of different venues, including the Florida State School of Social Work, as well as training in Clinical Pastoral Education at the University Medical Center. He has a strong background in eastern religions and Native American spirituality.

Because Jack is working towards his Final Fellowship certification with the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee, he is pursuing ministerial opportunities that will help him finish his required time as a parish minister. If BBUUC extends Jack an offer, we will be able to assure ourselves of his continued presence in our community.

**For all those looking to join  
Buckman Bridge  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
as a Member, we will hold a  
New Member Ceremony on  
April 13<sup>th</sup> during the service.  
Please e-mail  
[membership@bbuuc.org](mailto:membership@bbuuc.org)  
if you would like to participate.**



April 12 between 8am and 2pm, BBUUC will hold a church-wide rummage sale and bake sale. Past sales have featured great values on a broad variety of items, as well as hot dogs, baked items, and good company. Please let your friends and co-workers know about our sale and the great deals that will be available.

Our past sales have had a lot of success because of the great donations the church community has made. We'll start collecting donations on Sunday, April 6 in the High School room. We will also accept donations Friday, April 11 between noon and 8pm.

We can accept following types of new or gently used items:

- Small household items
- Decorative items
- Antiques
- Books, CDs and DVDs
- Collectibles
- In-season clothing
- Handbags and other accessories
- Toys

Please only donate items that are in good condition and have all necessary parts. We cannot accept items that, if unsold, would need to be disposed in a hazardous waste facility, including:

- TVs and other electronics
- Old computer equipment
- Tires
- Paint
- Items containing gasoline or other hazardous chemicals

If you are available to volunteer on April 11 or April 12, please sign up at <http://bit.ly/1ifkb4r>. For more information, please contact Scott Cromar.



Several congregants have asked whether BBUUC accepted checks for pledges or donations sent directly from their banks, rather than turned in via the offering plate each Sunday. Yes, we most definitely do. The check should be made out to the church and preferably noted on the memo line as a pledge or donation. Most banks will allow you to set up the payment automatically, for monthly, or quarterly or whatever frequency you wish, so you do not have to remember to send the check, and you don't have to pay for the envelope and postage. The check should be mailed using our post office box address, not our street address. The post office address is:

**Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**P O Box 844**  
**Orange Park, Florida 32067**

This month R.E. would like to honor the large gifts of self that our 3 OWL (Our Whole Lives) teachers give.

Pat Ray and Annabelle Gallois-Bernos take time every year to work with our elementary aged children through the sessions of OWL geared at the younger ages. They are the cornerstone on which our children's OWL program has been built, and do this year after year.



Liz Teal this year, bravely jumped into a new structure of OWL for our middle school class. She's worked collaboratively with our DRE and the Gainseville church to bring a program to life, and make a class something that the children look forward to attending.

*The proceeds from the Rummage Sale will go towards the Teen Enrichment Trip to the Trail of Tears this summer. Please donate your treasures, and come enjoy the sale on April 12!*



## Caring Committee

In some ways, the Caring Committee represents the best parts of the ideals of UUism. This committee has the responsibility to tend to the health and well-being of members of our community.

Some of the things that the Caring Committee does are to keep in touch with home-bound members of our congregation, organize warm meals for a BBUUC family in need, or organize memorial services when a member of the congregation passes away.

The Caring Committee works hand-in-hand with BBUUC's chaplains to minister to people in need. The committee works to make sure that the community remains engaged with its members who are having problems.

Because of the committee's respect for the privacy of families in difficulty, much of the work of the Caring Committee goes unannounced and unnoticed by the broader congregation. But members of the community who have been helped by the Caring Committee are very familiar with the services that the committee provides and organizes.

The Caring Committee also manages the use of the BBUUC's Emergency Caring Fund. Community members may remember some recent fundraisers for this fund, which provides some emergency assistance to church members who are facing a crisis. Members of the community can always donate to that fund by writing "Emergency Caring Fund" on a donation envelope or in the memo field of a donation check.

People in the BBUUC community who want to help with the activities of the Caring Committee might find themselves visiting or phoning members who need support, preparing or delivering food or other necessities, or offering child care for a member who is dealing with an emergency.

The Caring Committee meets after services on the second Sunday of each month. Congregation members or friends interested in attending should contact co-chairs Frances Kennicutt or Myrna Kissinger at [caring@bbuuc.org](mailto:caring@bbuuc.org)

## Painting the Human Condition: 4 Pioneering Artists

On the 4 successive Wednesday evenings of May, we will discuss a group of Western painters who placed mankind at the center of their work: Rembrandt (Dutch, 1600's), Goya (Spanish, 1700's to early 1800's), Courbet (French, mid-1800's), and Hopper (American, 1900's).

Each of those painters, in unique and transformative ways, focused on our first Unitarian Universalist principle: the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Linda Crawford, your discussion leader, holds a Masters and ABD (all but dissertation) in the history of art, and is also a watercolorist.

Everyone is invited to join this series, or to attend only those sessions which interest them. Sign-up sheets will be available in April.

## Birthdays

<b>Valerie Bouffard</b>	<b>04/07</b>
<b>David Murphy</b>	<b>04/09</b>
<b>Judy Culpepper</b>	<b>04/11</b>
<b>Barbara Bujak</b>	<b>04/13</b>
<b>Joann Carollo</b>	<b>04/20</b>
<b>Jonnie Long</b>	<b>04/28</b>
<b>Sarah Ritzmann</b>	<b>04/30</b>

## Anniversaries

<b>Michael Bernos and Annabelle Gallois-Bernos</b>	<b>04/16</b>
<b>Dale and Linda Crawford</b>	<b>04/18</b>
<b>Eileen and Brantley Morrison</b>	<b>04/21</b>
<b>Joann Carollo and Robert Lopez</b>	<b>04/25</b>
<b>Don and Judy Culpepper</b>	<b>04/27</b>



# HAPPY ACTION!

On Social Justice Sunday, March 23rd, we talked about Compassionate Consumption, Ethical Eating, Fair Food and Joyful Eating. We can impact many areas with very little effort. So what are some of the actions BBUUC can share in on the larger scope? As promised, here is a list – and it's just the start! Happy Action! Rev. Pat

- Use the Diners' Guide to Ethical Dining to help make your restaurant choices when possible. The manual is now located in back of church. It includes mini "cards" you can use at restaurants to share your input.
- Attend the Adult RE sessions next month on "Behind the Kitchen Door" which will share how to address these issues in every day life.
- Work with the CIW on measures to support them at our local Publix. Although many organizations have joined in the Fair Food practice, Wendy's and Publix continue to resist the change to increase payment for tomatoes by 10 cents per pound for Florida workers. I mean, seriously, wouldn't you be willing to pay 10 cents more for your tomatoes if you knew it meant a better life for the person who picked them? P.S. If you go to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers website you will see our fellow Florida UU peers at the 24 hours vigil held last week at Publix main headquarters in Lakeland. See the website at [ciw-online.org](http://ciw-online.org) for more information
- In 2007 I attended General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. There I had the opportunity to attend the workshop on Children in the Fields. At the workshop a powerful film was shown regarding 10 year olds who had the dangerous job of picking large onions. Then, they then had to chop off the greens before putting them in the baskets. Today 7 in 10 child laborers still work in agriculture field work. And the minimum age for non-family business remains at 12 years old. Interested? The website is [www.stopchildlabor.org](http://www.stopchildlabor.org)
- As part of this year's UUSC Plant a Seed for Justice program - Sign up to grow a garden in the community. Sponsor a garden for a family in Haiti. \$250 provides training and materials for a Haitian family to grow their own food and achieve food sovereignty and sustainability.
- Join the UUSC webinar next Sunday, March 30th, at 4pm for conversation with several food sovereignty experts including Wendy Flick, manager of UUSC Haiti Program; Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, founder of the Papaye Peasant Movement; and Fred Pearce, author of The Land Grabbers.
- Recent studies have shown that raising the minimum wage actually has no notable effect on employment numbers. Some employers already pay over \$10 per hour to their employees and are doing just fine (e.g. Shake Shack). Support this at the website [raisetheminimumwage.com](http://raisetheminimumwage.com) Note that this movement to raise the minimum wage will not include the wages of restaurant and field workers, which is why the continued work of Compassionate Consumption is so important
- Come to the Social Action Committee the first Sunday of the month. Watch egroups and the Journey for opportunities to volunteer and be involved.
- Respond to the SA survey next month to help guide the church's outreach for the new fiscal year.
- Take your children on field trips to nearby organic farms. Include conversations with the farmer about the challenges they face, take a few seeds to plant at home.
- Gather to watch movies, read books, host forums, write letters, go out to restaurants, lobby the legislature.
- Join the UUSC. Go on a mission trip with them. Yes, we have UUSC mission trips.

*The voice of faith calls us to justice and to mercy, to knowing that people matter more than things and that we are more alike than different.*

– Jim Nelson, UU minister

## Easter Potluck



Easter brings another potluck and the opportunity to share favorite spring time dishes with our BUUCC family. The annual Easter Potluck will be **Sunday, April 20**, after services. There is a

sign up sheet on the back table for attendees to indicate what dishes they would like to contribute to the meal.

## Our “UU Egg Tree”

As part of our Easter celebration we are inviting the Elementary, Spirit Play and Nursery children to bring a decorated egg to church for our “UU Egg Tree.” The “UU” part is that the eggs will be embellished with motifs that show some of the things that are important to most Unitarian Universalists. You decide your own, of course, but here are some suggestions:

- Images from the earth: soil, worms, insects and seeds
- Images from nature, including plants and other living creatures
- Images depicting spring, returning flowers and birds
- Images depicting birth, babies, fathers and mothers
- Images depicting our chalice light
- Images depicting friendship
- Images depicting searching and wonder
- Symbols of world religions

Symbols of the Rainbow Path of our Unitarian Universalist community:

Gold, the symbol of the spirit of Love and Justice and Truth, the Spirit of Mystery that some people call God;

Red, the symbol for respect of all people;

Orange, the symbol of kindness and fairness to all people;

Yellow, the symbol of learning and accepting our differences;

Green, the symbol of growing by exploring what is true and right in life;

Blue, the symbol for belief in our ideas and act on them;

Indigo, the symbol for insisting on a peaceful, fair, and just world; and

Violet, the symbol for valuing our home, the Earth

Even young children can learn to handle the eggs with care, and help to color or paint them. Try dyeing brown eggs for the rich, deep colors that result. Older children and grown-ups can experiment with different methods of decoration, such as decoupage.

### To create your eggs for the tree, you need:

Eggs, white or brown – as many as you wish to decorate - have a few extra in case of breakage

Commercial food coloring or egg-dyeing kit prepared according to directions

Small 'Dixie' drinking cups

Craft scissors

Large, long sewing needles

Gold or silver craft twine, or colorful cotton embroidery thread

Set of water-based craft or acrylic paints and brushes, if desired

For decoupage: various colored/ printed papers including origami and gift wrapping paper, pages from catalogues, white glue, satin finish acrylic medium or "modge-podge"+ brush

### Egg 'how-to':

Using **uncooked** eggs, rinse under running water. Dry and set aside to bring near to room temperature. Using a large sewing needle, poke small holes in both ends of egg. Shake egg gently - hold over a bowl and blow air through the holes until contents of egg slip out and into the bowl. Rinse and pat dry.

Prepare holders for drying eggs by cutting holes in the bottom ends of small 'Dixie' cups.

Dye eggs as desired. Eggs will float, so use a spoon to keep them under dye solution. Allow eggs to dry on holders.

Decorate eggs as desired using paints or decoupage method. To decoupage, cut images from catalogues or shapes from colored paper and apply with white glue. Allow to dry, and then follow with layers of acrylic finish. Keep the eggs on their holders as you apply the finishing touches.

To prepare for hanging: thread a long needle with a double length of twine or embroidery thread. Drop needle through both holes in the egg. Tie off at both ends, leaving a 'tassel' at the bottom and a 'loop' at the top for hanging.

## What is a Flower Communion?

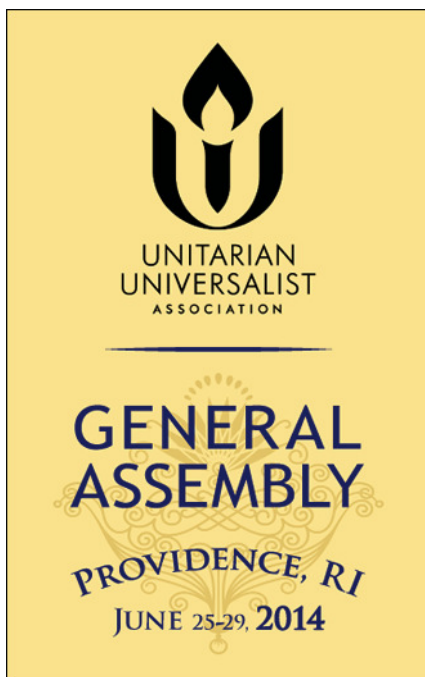
Sunday, April 20

The Flower Communion ceremony is usually held in spring, involves members of the congregation bringing a flower to Sunday worship service and placing it on an altar or in a shared vase. The flowers are blessed by the minister or congregation and the sermon usually reflects upon the flowers' symbolism. At the end of the service, each person brings home a flower other than the one that he or she brought.

The Flower Communion is intended to symbolize the way in which, just as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make to the community. This is a wonderful way to affirm and celebrate our Unitarian Universalist faith and the spiritual community we create when we join together in our congregations.

Flower Communion was originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. The service was later brought to the United States by his wife, Maya.

(Information from <http://uua.org/beliefs/congregationallife>)



### Sarah Ritzmann Worship Co-Chair

It is impossible to miss Sarah at church on Sunday. She can usually be seen right near the front of the sanctuary with her husband, Jeremy, and her son, Judah. That is the ideal place for the Co-Chair of the Worship Committee to observe the services and look for ways to make them more fulfilling for the rest of us.

Sarah was raised as a UU in the 1990s, and her outlook and worldview were shaped by her childhood experiences in Religious Education and YRUU. But, as a young woman, she rebelled and drifted from church life. She went to college, got married, and worked in the beauty industry. During this time, she self-identified as an atheist or agnostic UU, but did not participate in church life.

Shortly before Judah was born, Sarah felt a pull back to the church community. She has come to feel a strong connection to UU history and tradition. She says, "I have come to believe that, rooted in our theological history and development, Unitarian Universalism has the power to save lives—if we would just share it. Other faiths have the power to truly transform people by challenging them to live better, and I believe we hold that same power, but better!"

Last year, as a Chair of the Membership Committee, Sarah helped introduce a lot of us to the faith that has come to mean so much to her. This year, as a Worship Committee Co-Chair, she has worked tirelessly to make sure that our Sunday services help to strengthen the community and improve the lives of its members. And she serves the UU community at large on the Regional Elderhood Task Force, and as a Trustee on the Florida District Board

## **Schedule of Services**

Services are held Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at  
8447 Manresa Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32244  
Church Phone: (904) 276-3739 • Website: [www.BBUUC.org](http://www.BBUUC.org)  
Check Calendar for information on other programming.

### **April 6: Linda Crawford presents "Does Religious Faith Suppress Curiosity?"**

If we ascribe to a particular religious faith, does it mean that we stop asking questions about ourselves and the universe? Is atheist and evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins right when he describes religious faith as “a process of active non-thinking”? Linda will examine the question of faith and curiosity in terms of modern-day Christianity and Unitarian Universalism.

**Led by Candace Gerding, Accompanied by Gary Smart**

### **April 13: Rev. Jack Ford presents "Yes We Might!"**

Picasso became incredibly famous developing his cubism style and the fantastic imagery of surrealism. An American millionaire visited the artist's studio. She stood in front of a painting and asked, “What does this picture represent?” Picasso replied, “Two hundred thousand dollars”.

This is Stewardship Sunday, a part of our incredibly important canvassing kickoff. What does Picasso have to do with it? I'm not sure, but if you join us I promise to try and figure it out.

**Led by Kris Kines, Accompanied by Marilyn Smart**

### **April 20: Easter Sunday Flower Communion**

Celebrate the season with a multigenerational service honoring Easter, rebirth, and Spring! We will share in the distinctly Unitarian Universalist tradition of the Flower Communion, and our children will decorate the egg tree. This service will also be followed by a Potluck and Egg Hunt.

**Led by the Worship Team, Accompanied by Gary Smart**

### **April 27: Rev. Liz Teal presents "Spiritual Practices, Part 1: Daily Practice!"**

Rev. Teal offers part one in a three-part series on spiritual practices. How can we get to the promised land? The same way you get to Carnegie Hall - practice and good maps. How our daily actions impact our lives and how we can create heavens on earth.

**Led by Jennifer Stokes, Accompanied by Ellen Miceli**



# April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> <i>7pm PR Committee</i>	<i>2</i> <i>7pm BEACON</i> <i>7pm CUUPS</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> <i>OWL</i> <i>Lock In</i> <i>(Gainesville)</i>	<i>5</i> <i>OWL</i> <i>Lock In</i> <i>(Gainesville)</i>
<i>6</i> <i>9:45am Coffee Conversations</i> <i>12pm Social Action Committee</i> <i>12pm Immigration Detention Discussion</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> <i>7pm Council Meeting</i>	<i>9</i> <i>11:30am Lunch Bunch</i> <i>7pm BEACON</i> <i>7pm "Behind the Kitchen Door"</i> <i>7pm Parents Group</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <i>12pm Rummage Sale Set Up</i>	<i>12</i> <i>8am Rummage Sale</i>
<i>13</i> <i>9am Pancake Breakfast (TET)</i> <i>9:45am Coffee Conversations</i> <i>10:30am OWL</i> <i>12pm Caring Committee</i>	<i>14</i> <i>7pm Worship Committee</i>	<i>15</i> <i>7pm Welcoming Congregation Ministry</i> <i>7pm Finance Committee</i>	<i>16</i> <i>7pm BEACON</i> <i>7pm CUUPS</i> <i>7pm "Behind the Kitchen Door"</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20 Easter Sunday</i> <i>9:45am Coffee Conversations</i> <i>12pm Potluck</i>	<i>21</i> <i>6:30pm First Coast Free-thought Society</i>	<i>22</i> <i>7pm Board Meeting</i> <i>7pm Programs Committee</i>	<i>23</i> <i>7pm BEACON</i> <i>7pm BBUUYA</i> <i>7pm "Behind the Kitchen Door"</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> <i>9am BBUUCF</i> <i>9:45am Coffee Conversations</i> <i>10:30am OWL</i> <i>12pm Membership Committee</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> <i>7pm BEACON</i> <i>7pm CUUPS</i> <i>7pm "Behind the Kitchen Door"</i>			



On April 13th, join us for a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser to benefit the Teen Enrichment Trip Fund.

This year our RE middle and high school teens will be traveling with the Or-

lando First UU Church to the Trail of Tears. Donate a few dollars, have a warm, steaming stack of hotcakes and then settle back in the sanctuary to listen to The Reverend Jack Ford during our Sunday service. Mmmmm, sounds like an awesome morning!

### **Calling all Parents!!!**

The 2nd Wednesday of every month is officially Parent Night At BBUUC. This group is geared so that parents will have a place to come and taking about pits and peaks of raising UU children. Our current group has been focused around our OWL group's challenges and joys, but will be expanding to include all parents in our congregation.

### **“Behind the Kitchen Door”**

*By Saru Jayaraman*

### **Book Discussion Group**

*Wednesdays, April 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 7pm*

How do restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages in America? And how do poor working conditions—discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary kitchens—affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables?

Books may be purchased On Amazon, ( Kindle price, \$9.44, hardcover \$17.56 or UUA \$21.95 (10% off if 5-10 copies) Two copies have been purchased to share at BBUUC and remember the library! Reading ahead will enhance our meetings, but your experiences with restaurants, either eating or working, will also. The book is an easy read, and can be done in sections as we go along.

<http://thewelcometable.net/behind-the-kitchen-door>



### **Lifespan Religious Education Class: Let it Begin With Me**

Let it Begin With Me will be offered Thursdays starting May 1st and continuing for 8 weeks. This class is aimed to help people develop inclusive practices through personal reflection, sharing and collaboration. The activities in class ask participants to take a true look at personal privilege, class-ism, and prejudice in a safe circle of understanding. The group is limited to 8 people, and participants are asked to commit to attend a minimum 7 of the 8 weeks. It is a pilot course and will be taught by Sarah Ritzmann and Dani Slader, please e-mail Dani at [dre@bbuuc.org](mailto:dre@bbuuc.org) to enroll.

## **The Journey**

*Newsletter of*

**Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church**

P.O. Box 844

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