



The Oak Leaf

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF OAK CLIFF

Aug. 2012

Kathy Grey, Editor
kmgrey2@tx.rr.com

We, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff, facilitate individual spiritual growth and manifest our shared values through action with the greater community.

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

Architects of Faith

Our year continues with a reminder that our theologies are not handed to us like creeds. They come from our unique journeys and are highly personal. But build them we must if we are to design a significant presence in the world for the religion we now share. Our theologies must drive our commitment to the Unitarian Universalist Religion, and our religion must compel us to the creation of a welcoming and justice-seeking Beloved Community. We are the Architects of our Faith and our future.



Altar, July 29, 2012: "Spirit"

August 5 – *Transcendental Contemplations* – Unitarian Universalism has a tradition of both skepticism and mysticism. What influence does this have for us today? This sermon will reflect on Ralph Waldo Emerson's contribution to transcendental theology—and its influence on social action and personal transformation. Worship Ministry Member Heather Hood is in the pulpit, while Rev. Walz is preaching in Arkansas.

August 12 – *Answering the Call* – In the New Testament, Paul's Letter to the Ephesians speaks of the Diversity of Gifts that belong to all of us. He describes these gifts clearly and forcefully as an individual 'Call' from God and uses categories such as: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors/Shepherds, and Teachers. Which 'Call' did you receive and can any of this be relevant to a 21st Century Unitarian Universalist Church? Rev. Mark Walz will preach the sermon.

August 19 – *UU Voodoo* – Why do we pray? To who or to what do we pray? Is anyone listening? What is our intent? What do we hope to accomplish? What does our praying look like? What does it sound like? Is it ever successful? And most importantly, why are we often afraid of it? Rev. Mark Walz will preach the sermon.

August 26 – *A Celebration of Childhood* – This service will be designed and presented by our Ministry of Worship. Watch for details. Rev. Walz will be preaching at Horizon UU in Carrollton.

SUNDAY SERVICES

10am – 11am

11:15am – noon:

Youth and Adult Religious Education
Choir Rehearsal
Meet & Greet

Childcare is available 10am–noon



**Preceded by Spanish Class
at 7pm**

Childcare is available
6:30–8:30pm

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CHURCH FAMILY: Who remembers Sue Coates? (I believe she is the daughter of a charter member of the church.) She moved away from the area before my family found this church, but I met her during one of her visits here. (Picture is from our 50th Anniversary celebration last year.) Sue dropped me a nice note recently (complimenting the newsletter) and saying the following:

I was glad to see the news about Darrel Richey. I knew him when I was a member of the San Francisco UU Church when he was at Starr King, and Harry Jones introduced us.

Elaine might have kept the UUCOC folks informed about me. I am now a PhD student at UNM-Albuquerque and a member of the ABQ church. But my UU roots were in Dallas and Oak Cliff so I'm always glad to have your news.

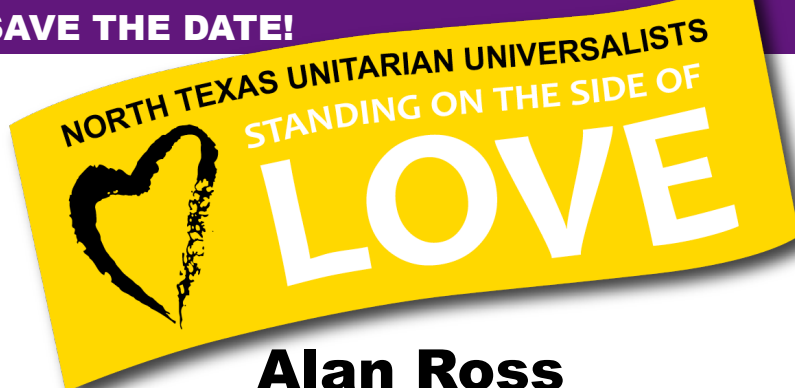
Thanks, Sue!



CHURCH BUSINESS: You'll see on page 3 and 4 that there are several volunteer leadership positions that need to be filled. As a former board member (secretary and twice VP), I feel I can voice a valid opinion: This is important work. Sometimes it's hard work. But it can be very rewarding (and sometimes it's downright fun). Many UU churches have gone through a phase where soliciting volunteers for leadership positions involved assurances that "you don't have to do very much" and "there's only one meeting a month." Someone then woke up to how detrimental this attitude was! I witnessed the change -- our "Nominating Committee" was rechristened "Leadership Development," leadership training was offered and encouraged, and we started talking about how this IS sacred work.

So why do we have vacancies on the board? An unavoidable reality is that all of our volunteer leaders have lives outside of the church. Very full lives. Jobs and school and family and... sometimes something's got to give. So, thank you Mike, for your service as trustee and Heather, for your work as treasurer. Good luck to you both!

SAVE THE DATE!



**Alan Ross
Texas Freedom Parade**

(AKA Dallas Gay Pride Parade)

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012 • 2:00 pm

plus The Festival in Lee Park, starting at noon



NTAUUS will have a float in the Parade and a booth at the Festival. Need to ride rather than walk in the parade? Contact Daniel Polk at executive@ntauus.org or (469) 682-8870 to reserve a seat.



August 1 – The Circle of Life

Facilitator: Heather Hood

August 8 – Universal Love

Facilitator: Renée Brill. Music: Reggae

August 15 – TBA

August 22 – Drumming Circle

Facilitators: Glorian Mulligan-Stratton and Cheryl VanVolkinburg

August 29 – Full Moon Service

Facilitator: Cheryl VanVolkinburg



BOARD RECAP

RECAP OF BOARD MEETING OF JULY 24, 2012 – Anita Mills, UUCOC President

The Board confirmed Alicia Morales as **Chair of the Fundraising Committee** and heard updates as follows: (1) **Pastoral Care Fund** is now at \$500 and so the “Building Fund” collections will be deposited in savings under Building Fund; (2) the insurance claim has been submitted to Church Mutual; (3) a final **reimbursement policy** with Board comments was completed and is filed in the Church Administrative Office (it states that expenses must be submitted for reimbursement within 30 days, and the reimbursement should be made within 30 days after submission); (4) the **Leadership Development Committee** was alerted to recruit for the position of **Treasurer** (Heather Hood’s resignation is effective August 26, when she is moving to the East Coast); and (5) the Board Retreat was set for August 18.

The Board approved funding of \$200 for **Vaudeville Night’s Ice Cream Social**. June’s income was reported to be \$6774.37, expenses \$4243.14, with a net gain of \$2531.23. However, this only included a partial payment of the minister’s stipend.

The Board heard from the **RE Transition Planning Team**, which stated there was a need for two back-up teachers and two back-up nursery people. Setting term limits for RE teachers was seen as a possible way to recruit more people – they wouldn’t feel locked in.

The Board approved a job description for the part-time administrative position. The second quarterly **Congregational Talkback** is scheduled for Sunday, August 5, during the RE hour.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for **August 28, 2012**.

CONGREGATIONAL TALKBACK

August 5, 2012

**11:15 am– 12:15pm
Sanctuary**

The board wants to hear from YOU! Congregants attending will be asked to respond to the following questions:

- What is going well?
- What would you like to see down the road in one year from now?
- Five years from now?
- What can be improved and how?



BOARD NEWS...

Help Wanted:

Volunteers to fill the positions of **Trustee** (term expires June 2013—job description this page) and **Treasurer** (term expires June 2014—job description next page).

Please contact Anita Mills (uucoc.president@gmail.com) or Renée Brill of the Leadership Development Committee (leadership@oakcliffuu.org).

From the UUCOC Bylaws as amended 5/15/2011:

Section 1b – Board of Trustees

In a manner consistent with the Purpose of the Church, the Board of Trustees shall:

- Establish and maintain Church policies consistent with the bylaws and membership-approved long-range goals and objectives,
- Take charge and responsibility of the property and physical assets of the Church,
- Ensure the sound conduct of the Church’s business and fiscal affairs,
- Employ and dismiss employees other than Ministers,
- Receive and act upon recommendations of the Coordinating Council,
- Create and dissolve Ministries not listed in these bylaws,
- Appoint and remove chairpersons of Ministries and Committees,
- Maintain job descriptions for Ministries not listed elsewhere in these bylaws,
- Propose improvements and planning for Membership consideration,
- And determine items to be acted on by the Board of Trustees, the Coordinating Council, and the Voting Members of the Church.

TERMINOLOGY

I can’t be the only one who’s been slightly confused by the word “trustee”! Yes, there are four trustees on the Board of Trustees, along with the President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, and Minister (ex officio). See page 6. — KG

Section 3 TRUSTEES

The purpose of the Trustees serving on the Board is to represent the concerns of the Membership of the Church and to perform other functions in concert with the Board. Four trustees shall be elected by Voting Members to serve two-year terms. Two Trustees shall be elected in even numbered years and two Trustees shall be elected in odd numbered years.

JOB DESCRIPTION – TREASURER

The Treasurer of UUCOC (per Bylaws) shall:

Section 2d – The TREASURER shall receive and disburse monies as directed by the Board of Trustees, transact all Church financial business, keep an accurate record of all Church finances, make reports to the Board of Trustees at its regular meetings, and report to the Membership at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall also serve as an ex officio member of the Ministry of Finance.



Operationally, that means:

1. Responsibility for receiving, counting and recording all collection plate proceeds.*
2. Responsibility for receiving, counting and recording all other receipts of the church (e.g., checks and electronic payments).*
3. Responsibility for preparing periodic reports for the Board and individual members setting out their pledge and the amount received against their pledge.*
4. Responsibility for disbursing funds and paying all bills for the church.*
5. Responsibility for accurately recording all receipts and disbursements for the church.*
6. Responsibility for preparation and presentation of financial reports to the Board at each regularly scheduled Board meeting and for semi-annual congregational meetings, and as otherwise directed by the Board.*+
7. The Treasurer shall serve as an ex officio member of the Ministry of Finance.

* Items 1-6 may be delegated by the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board, to one or more members and/or staff of the church. Currently the part-time administrator records all receipts and pledges, prepares the bank deposits, writes checks, records disbursements, reconciles the bank account and helps prepare reports. Collections are counted by the Deacons. Variously the Treasurer, President and/or Finance Chair make the deposits. Signatories on the bank account are the President, Treasurer and Senior Minister.

+ Item 6 may be done in conjunction with Finance Chair.

DEACONS NEEDED

Deacons? Yes, our deacons are volunteers who help count the collection on Sundays. Please see Heather Hood or Anita Mills if you can help. It only takes about 15 minutes, and it is important that we have people who are not Board members participate.

Current UUCOC Board* and Leaders

President (1-year term): Anita Mills (2013)

Vice President (1-year term): Pat McAfee (2013)

Secretary (1-year term): Mari Vega (2013)

Treasurer (2-year term): Heather Hood/_____ (2014)

Trustees: (2-year terms): Bert Vandenberg (2014), Don Watkins (2014), Vickie Johnson (2013), _____(2013)

Immediate Past President: Gene Dailey

Ex-Officio Board Member (non-voting): Rev Mark Walz

Endowment Fund Managers (3-year terms): Susan Ammons (2013), David Biehl (2014), Jim Wrightsman (2015)

Leadership Development Committee (formerly Nominating Committee) (2-year terms):

Renée Brill (2014), Diane Castillo (2014), Mary Kappes (2013), Chris Snively (2013), Mari Vega (2013)

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The baseball raffle drawing was conducted at the church after Vespers Wednesday, 8/1. Winners are: **1st Place – Sherri Randall, 2nd Place – Edel Isaac, & 3rd Place – Erin Raines.** Many thanks to everyone who sold and purchased raffle tickets! Our combined effort raised \$545 for UUCOC.



FUNDRAISING BOWLATHON!

Saturday, August 18 from 5:30- 7:30

Don Carter Lanes

\$20/person covers shoes and bowling for 2 hours; the church will receive \$8 for each participant!

COORDINATING COUNCIL RECAP

MEETING OF JULY 10, 2012 – Pat McAfee, UUCOC VP

Attending: Mark Walz, Don Watkins, Renee Brill, Vickie Johnson, Marcia Shannon, Cheryl VanVolkinburg, Alicia Morales, Diane Castillo, Pat McAfee

Minister: Mark will be in the pulpit 7/15, 7/29, 8/12 & 8/19. He'll be in Hot Springs AR* 7/31- 8/5 and attend the SWUUC Board Meeting 8/9-8/11.

Worship: Topic for the July 22nd service is Transitions and Changes. The August 5th service will focus on Ralph Waldo Emerson. A Celebration of Childhood by many voices is planned for 8/26.

Vespers: Services are planned through July. Diane Castillo has accepted the position of Vespers Chair.

RE: The RE Advisory Committees continue their work with Marcia preparing for her departure. By the end of July the transition will be complete. We currently need four backup people for RE – 2 for teachers and 2 for nursery.

Membership: We have one new member since last month's meeting: Tommie Kinney.

Communications: Kathy is working on updating the online Membership Directory. She and Mari are also collaborating on a photo directory. A Spanish version of church brochure is in the works.

Scott is thrilled that Jim Ward has offered to train in the A/V booth to take Geoff's place after Geoff and Heather move at the end of August. The website is up-to-date with all current events and Scott anticipates additional updates with the RE transition. Progress has been made with tree-trimming: only removal of a limb hanging over Hope remains on this list.

Social justice: Vickie reports rousing SJ meetings. On the agenda has been the redecoration of the narthex and refreshing of SJ materials, reaching out to other Kiest churches to join forces on common projects, setting the schedule for First Tuesday films for the coming year and developing a Flash Mob list so alerts can be sent out to members about events to which they might want to add their support as they are happening.

Kathy & Ian are on the NTAUUS Gay Pride Parade Committee and will be keeping us informed of any assistance they need—date set for September 16th.

Sacred Spaces: We appreciate the contribution of disposable products for the kitchen (plates, cups etc.) and request that all items be recycled/recyclable.

LWCH: Shoot Low Sheriff will grace our Gazebo (if it's cool enough) or stage (if it's not) for Jazz under the Stars on Sunday, 7-29 at 7:30pm.

Leadership Development: LD will utilize rotating chairs to break up the responsibilities required of this committee. Replacements for Heather in the Treasurer and Bookkeeper positions are being sought. The committee is also building a database of the "talent" and "time" contributions offered by members on our pledge cards

Fundraising: Alicia Morales has agreed to take over as chair of Fundraising. We currently are selling raffle tickets for a drawing Texas Rangers tickets (against Seattle Mariners 9/15) or a Nolan Ryan autographed baseball. Drawing is scheduled for August 1st.

Our first Bowlathon is rolling up on Saturday, August 18th from 5:30- 7:30 at Don Carter Lanes. The \$20/ person fee will cover shoes and bowling for 2 hours; the church will receive \$8 for each participant.

Old items: Fall Festival/Dia de los Muertos is scheduled for November 3rd. We need to pull together a committee to organize this festive day. The day's activities include (but are not limited to) another garage sale, Dia de Los Muertos crafts, a chili cook-off, electronics recycling, face-painting and a bounce house.

Next CC meeting: Tuesday, August 14 at 7pm.

CLARIFICATION: Mark is preaching at the Unitarian Universalist Village Church (UUVC) in Hot Springs Village, a community located in the Ouachita Mountains of central Arkansas (as opposed to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs).

GREEN SANCTUARY

The Green Sanctuary Program, originally nurtured and managed by the [Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth](#), was designed to give roots and wings to the vision that, together, we can create a world in which all people make reverence, gratitude, and care for the living Earth that is central to our lives.

A Green Sanctuary is a Congregation that...

- Has received official recognition for completing the Green Sanctuary Program.
- Lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating sustainable lifestyles for its members as individuals and as a faith community.
- Is committed towards creating a religious community that has a fundamental, bottom-line, commitment to living in harmony with the Earth.

A number of years ago, UUCOC explored Green Sanctuary certification, but did not move forward. Watch for more information as we revisit this issue in the coming months

Can You Lend a Helping Hand in Growing the Next UU Generation?

The UUCOC Children and Youth Religious Education Program needs immediate assistance in the following:

- Nursery Aide
- RE Teachers (All Grade Levels)
- RE Teacher Assistants (All Grade Levels)

All interested in inspiring our UUCOC young minds, know that training is available.

“It takes a whole village to raise a child.”
Ashanti proverb

NATUURES Teacher and Advisor Training Workshop

Saturday, August 18, 2012

First Unitarian Church, Dallas

Registration Ends Tuesday, August 7, 2012

(Child care is available)

Your talent, time and willingness to serve will be greatly appreciated!

Contact: Diane Castillo or Lorraine Montemayor **Email:** uucoc.youth.re@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY TEAMS

Our newly formed Religious Education Advisory Teams plan to keep the RE program running smoothly as we make the transition to a new RE Director.

Members of the RE Advisory Teams are as follows:

Children's Advisory Team

Chair/Co-chairs: Diane Castillo
Lorraine Gonzales Montemayor

Scribe: Kathy Grey

Registration/Greeting: Leilani Castillo

Budget/Statistics: Diane Castillo

Special Events: Lorraine Gonzales Montemayor

Personnel: Clara Moses

Adult Advisory Team

Pat McAfee

Chris Snively

Renee Brill

Ian Grey

Vickie Johnson

Advisory team meetings will be held in Hope Chapel, at 7pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. This month's meetings are **August 2 and August 16.**

DONATIONS REQUESTED

Look for the box in the lobby



Classroom & art supplies needed for RE

Pencils and pens

Copy paper (white and colors)

Paint, paintbrushes, poster board

Hand sanitizer, tissues, wipes

(Take advantage of those back-to-school sales!)

Enter the shrunken world next door: voluntary simplicity from Stoicism to counterculture & beyond



We The Tiny House People
Small Homes, Tiny Flats & Wee Shelters in the Old & New World

A documentary film by Kirsten Dirksen

FREE SCREENING 1st Tuesday Social Justice Films

Cosponsored by the
Dallas Peace Center

In the UUCOC
Sanctuary, followed
by discussion

We The Tiny House People August 7, 2012 • 7pm

Kirsten Dirksen's documentary, *We the Tiny House People*, tells the story of people who often aren't even aware there's a world-wide movement surrounding them—people living in shipping containers, shacks, houseboats, converted garages, caves, tool sheds, former pigeon coops, Airstream trailers and treehouses. They don't all think alike, but all those she's interviewed see their decision to live small as a choice, and often as the most direct path to an examined, and happier, life.

Ms. Dirksen is reluctant to claim there's some sort of magic in small abodes, but it's obvious these stripped-down shelters reveal for many the essence of home.



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY MEETING August 12, 2012 • 12:15pm • Hope Chapel *Open to people of all faiths*

It's easy to do your part!

The normal day-to-day recyclables: paper, cans, bottles, jars, are taken to the nearby Westmoreland Recycling Drop-Off. Current volunteers Jay and Mari Vega report that there has been increased weight collected in the tall blue Recycling Bins in recent months. This is a great trend! Hopefully more recyclable items will be diverted from the trash bins and put where they really can live again. Please note: Crushing your bottle or can will improve the efficiency of transporting these. Also, please remove food scraps or residue.



A GOOD READ

Reviews of books relevant to
our lives as UUs – Judy Watkins

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man, by
John Perkins

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man (EHM) is really two stories in one. The author was a Peace Corp volunteer in Ecuador from 1968 to 1970. Seduced by sex and money, Perkins became an economic hit man for an international US based corporation. In this role, he convinced third world countries of the need to develop infrastructures they did not need and pay for them with more borrowed money than the projects were worth.

When the promised economic development from those improvements were not realized and the countries could not pay their debts, their natural resources were confiscated along with that country's military and political support. When he left that corporation, he founded an alternative energy company and was convinced that its success was a reward for keeping silence about his previous experiences as an EHM. In 2004, Perkins broke his silence and told his story about corporate intrigue, corruption and greed and sold his company.

Perkins, an expert on indigenous cultures and shamanism, became a teacher, a lecturer and writer, using his expertise to promote protection of indigenous culture and advocating for ecology and sustainability. He has founded not-for-profit organizations, including Dream Change, dedicated to encouraging people to attain their dreams while being mindful of the impact those dreams might have on others and on the environment.

If you order books online from Amazon.com through our website, a percentage of your purchases will be remitted to the Church. See <http://www.oakcliffuu.org/readings.shtml>.

NATIVE AMERICAN SMOKE CEREMONY



On the first Saturday of each month, weather permitting, a group meets on our campus to conduct Native American rituals.

Interested? Contact organizer Fritz Kuehn, fritz@dreamlab.com or 469-939-2031 for more information.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff

3839 W. Kiest Blvd.

Dallas, Texas 75233

(214) 337-2429

www.OakCliffUU.org



IT'S THE RETURN OF THE **UUCOC ICE CREAM SOCIAL!**
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, prior to Vaudeville Night

**Labyrinth Walk
Coffee House** presents

**VAUDEVILLE
NIGHT**

Saturday, August 25

8:00pm

All tickets \$10

Our Annual LWCH Fundraiser is once again packed with talent!

*SINGING!
DANCING!
COMEDY!*

THE LINEUP:

Circus Freaks

Steve Leach

Wigouts

Adira

Judith Ann Anderson

Rachel and the Rackettes

Miss Marcy

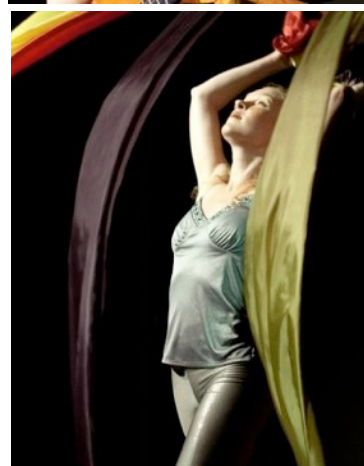
Paula Held

Brigid Greene

The Texas Vanilla Drops

*AN EVENING NOT
TO BE MISSED!*

More info at www.LabyrinthWalkCoffeeHouse.com



Photos by Ira Hantz, from Vaudeville Night 2011