

The Westside Story

JANUARY 2007

The monthly newsletter of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Now holding services at Angel of Hope Church, 901 Page Avenue, Fort Worth Texas • 11:00 am • www.westsideuu.org

Beginning January 7, Sunday Worship Service begins at 11:00

Based on the input from members and friends of Westside attending Westside the past few weeks, the Board selected 11:00 as the new start time beginning January 7th. Please check the church website and the weekly insert in the Order of Service to confirm the start time of events before church such as Welcoming Congregation, Choir Rehearsal, and Getting to Know You. Also, please mention this time change to as many people as possible as you encounter them over the next month or so. The more we help each other adjust to this time change, the smoother it will be. See you in church!

Welcoming Congregation

Russell will present the third of six educational sessions for the Welcoming Congregation program on Sunday, January 14th at 9:30 a.m. Please continue to support this program.

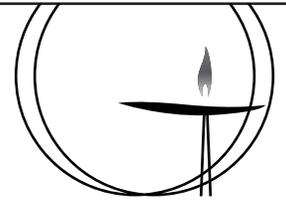
Sunday Services 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

January 7th - *A Graceful Life* - What does that mean? Nancy VanBoskirk will tell us what she thinks about this.

January 14th - *Happy New Year...How's That War on Drugs Coming?* by Dr. Russell Elleven, Minister. As we begin a new year it is beneficial to review our accomplishments of the last. So in that spirit, Russell attempts to review the United States' auspicious War on Drugs.

January 21st - *CSAIs and SOCs and AIWs, Oh My!* Every year at General Assembly, delegates participate in plenary sessions to decide which issues should receive the full focus of the national organization. These Congregational Studies / Action Issues, Statements of Conscience and Actions of Immediate Witness are as vital as they are complicated. We will examine the process and proposed issues for Westside to fully participate as a congregation.

January 28th - *Who is Maria Montessori and What is She Doing in This Church?* by Dr. Russell Elleven, Minister. We have heard recently that Maria Montessori's method of education is very much in line with the Unitarian Universalist Principles. What does this mean exactly? Russell will do his best to explain.



Our Mission Statement

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church makes a positive difference in the lives of our members, our families, and the world at large through supportive relationships, religious exploration, and social action.

Our Vision Statement

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church will grow and become a more influential liberal religious presence through active service to our community and the world at large.

Where's Russell in January?

Russell will be in town early in January. However, he will be in Hawaii from January 5th – 12th. He will present a Welcoming Congregation session on Sunday the 14th. He will offer reflections on the 14th and 28th. Office hours for January are as follows:

Tuesday, January 2nd, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Thursday, January 4th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday, January 16th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Thursday, January 18th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday, January 23rd, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Thursday, January 25th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday, January 30th - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Just call him at 817-370-2171 during those hours. If there is no response, it means he is meeting with another church member.

Our UU Community

Westside Hosts Documentary Film Screening

You are invited to a public screening and discussion of *Rape Is...* on Sunday, January 14th, 2007 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the church. It is sponsored by the Center for Change, Discovery, and Support, Westside UU, V-Day Volunteers, & Delta Theta Tau, Inc. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged and will benefit the Battered Women's Foundation. Contact: Layne Calabro 817-925-1339 or Melodie Bourassa 817-647-5642 or email vdayfortworth@hotmail.com for more information.

Rape is... is a documentary film which explores the meaning and consequences of rape. It is about "a human rights outrage that leaves millions of women, children and men in a state of terror and pain." This powerful documentary by Academy Award-winning filmmakers Margaret Lazarus and Renner Wunderlich of Cambridge Documentary Films is one part of the global effort to stop rape in all of its complex forms.

"*Rape is...* is an effective tool for social change when used in conjunction with an organized post-viewing discussion. The film introduces important and controversial ideas and the discussion allows viewers to explore and make those ideas their own."

We encourage everyone to attend this event. Professional counselors will be facilitating the discussions following the screening. It is a thought provoking, challenging, and at times, disturbing film. It has the ability to change lives and perspectives. It is our understandings that in order to create peace and end violence, we must also heal and learn new perspectives, listen, and be aware. This is such an occasion.

The V-Day Worldwide Campaign is a catalyst for mobilizing communities to heighten awareness to stop violence against women and girls. In addition to this screening of *Rape Is...* V-Day Fort Worth 2007 will also be presenting, eVeryDAY women on January 20th, LUNAFEST on February 3rd, and two benefit productions of Eve Ensler's, *The Vagina Monologues* on February 16th and 17th, to raise funds and awareness for The Battered Women's Foundation of Fort Worth, The Breast Cancer Fund, and V-Day's Spotlight Campaign: Reclaiming Peace in War Zones. For sponsorship opportunities, times, locations, and ticket information, visit www.vdayfortworth.com.

What is TCEA and why does Westside Belong?

Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness had its first official meeting on November 26, 1990, focused on the issue of Hazardous Household Waste (HHW). The initial meeting convinced the founders that an "umbrella" organization was needed to address environmental concerns with a collective voice. As a result an organization was formed with the specific purpose of environmental education. A formal charter for a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization was applied

for and was granted in July of 1991. TCEA was incorporated in January of 1992.

Soon Gary Mauro, Director of the Texas General Land Office, invited TCEA members to view a hazardous waste collection day in Austin to arm TCEA with information to lobby for the creation of waste collection days in Tarrant County. Returning from Austin, TCEA with its member organizations supporting their efforts, encouraged local collection days and took on the responsibility of providing the manpower for many collection events.

The member organizations are quite an impressive group: Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, The League of Women Voters of Tarrant County, Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, The Arlington Conservation Council and the Fort Worth Audubon Society. The individuals that were the moving forces behind the original idea and the organization that was formed included: Earl and Alma Burnam, Bob and Mary Scott, Marty Kissinger, Linda Hanratty, Bonnie Bowman, Dottie Harmon, Sarah Scott, and Fran Nichols.

Hazardous Household Waste collection evolved into a central collection site. TCEA also worked with the Fort Worth environmental staff and elected officials to retain the air quality section of the City when there was a proposal to disband it. Over the years TCEA has had representatives at the North Central Texas Council of Governments' environmental committees, including solid waste, air quality, and water (including sanitary sewer and storm water). Most recently TCEA participated in the planning activity toward resolving the EPA Attainment of Metroplex Air Quality including attending the Air Modeling Committee.

For six years TCEA sponsored volunteer Water Quality monitor training in addition to actively performing water quality testing. One TCEA member became a qualified trainer. Bob Scott serves on the Texas Water Development Board on Regional Planning for the Region C Water Planning Group.

TCEA participates in Earth Day Activities, river clean up events, and often has a table at local Home & Garden shows. Most recently TCEA had a booth at the Front Street festival in Arlington and at the Alternative Holiday Bazaar. TCEA event tables always include educational brochures along with their note cards and refrigerator magnets, books and CDs.

Westside UU Church is the newest institutional member. TCEA also has individual membership. Linda Hanratty, John Huffman and Louanne Rice are Westside members.

As most of you know, environmental issues impact on our quality of life. Current hot topics include air quality, Barnett Shale gas drilling, and the financial problems that besiege our state parks. Our current drought has brought water availability issues to the forefront. If there ever was a time

when an organization like the Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness was needed, the time is now, and Westside is part of it!

Our membership in TCEA gives us a "more influential liberal religious presence through ACTIVE SERVICE to our community." Please visit the TCEA website at <http://www.tceaonline.org> and if you wish to join TCEA as an individual please ask Linda Hanratty, John Huffman, or Louanne Rice.

Announcing the 2007 UUSC Holiday Card Design Contest!

Creative Unitarian Universalists of all ages are invited to submit festive original designs for UUSC holiday cards for the 2007 holiday season. Each year, UUSC holiday card sales help support our worldwide work for human rights. One of these cards could be designed by you! Create an original design that reflects the joy of the holidays, as well as the spirit of justice, equity, and compassion.

Please visit www.uusc.org/ia/holiday_cards/2006/contest2007.html for submission guidelines and to the 2006 award-winning card.

Submissions must be received on or before April 27, 2007.

Mail submissions to:
UUSC Holiday Card Contest
130 Prospect Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

E-mail submissions to: volunteerservices@uusc.org

Community Conversations Continue

On January 11th from 7:00 p.m. through 9:00 p.m. at the Intermodal Transportation Center at Jones and Calhoun Streets, in the Second Floor Community Meeting Room, Westside UU will co-sponsor a discussion on gas drilling. Gas drilling is a major public issue in this area with vocal proponents and opponents. The purpose of this forum is to inform the public about the gas drilling process, the benefits, and the risks. Speakers will include representatives from Harding Company, Texas A&M University, and the City of Fort Worth Gas Well Office. Other sponsors include the League of Women Voters and the Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness. For additional information, contact Linda Hanratty at 817-800-5922 or at llswenson@yahoo.com.

Inside Westside

Worship Demystified

Ever wonder how these Sunday services develop? Where do the opening and closing words come from? How do we line

up guest speakers? And do you wonder if, maybe, you can join in? On Sunday, January 28th, at 1:00 p.m. the Worship Committee will answer your questions.

Everyone is invited to join in this "Worship Demystified" workshop. The first part is devoted to the nuts 'n' bolts of a worship service, the different parts of the service, and the roles of the worship leader and chalice lighter, etc. -- "demystifying" the service for those who think participating is impossible. Anyone who aspires to take an active part in the service should attend this.

Next, everyone's welcome to stay for an in-depth discussion of our worship service, learning why we do things the way we do and what we hope to accomplish. (You may be surprised to learn that our style of Joys and Concerns is just one of dozens of styles used across the country.) Feedback is encouraged. You can gain insight into the effort poured into each service, and at the same time find it isn't as difficult as you thought.

Fair Trade Coffee

Westside is taking orders for Fair Trade Coffee on the second Sunday of each month. For every pound of coffee sold, Westside will receive \$3. We also have Fair Trade Teas, Cocoa Camino Chocolate Bars, and Fair Trade Chocolate Covered Coffee Beans. See Dolores Ruhs to place your orders.

Westside Minister Needs Help with Divorce

No, Russell and Gayle are not divorcing! Russell is creating a divorce education curriculum. The curriculum is being developed as his final project for the Doctor of Ministry degree at Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary. If you have gone through the experience of divorce, you can help Russell by evaluating the program. There will be two sessions that will occur on two consecutive Saturdays - March 3rd and March 10th. The duration of these sessions is anticipated to be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. If you are willing or able to help, please contact Russell at doctorelleven@gmail.com (preferable) or 817-370-2171.

Cookbooks For Sale

We have Westside cookbooks for sale, \$20 each or \$18 each for orders of five cookbooks. See Dolores Ruhs.

New Books!

Reed Bilz has donated 21 children's books to the church library. They are ready to be checked out. Some of the titles: The Golden Treasury of Poetry, Over in the Meadow, The Cow Who Fell in the Canal, The Big Book of Real Fire Engines.

The UUA has sent us *Listening for our Song*, a book of meditations. "It is good to know our songs by heart for those lonely times when the world is not singing them back to us," writes David Blanchard in his meditation *Listening for our Song*. We each have our own unique songs that reflect our life experiences and our particular wisdom. We carry these tunes around with us but sometimes forget the words when the world distracts us with its daily obligations. This collection is designed for such times." -- from the Preface.

The library is located in the small room directly in front of the sanctuary. Please sign the card that is in the pocket and leave it in the box on the shelf. When you return the book, please find the card and put it back in the pocket. If you have questions, contact Myrtle McMahan at 817-294-1363 or at mahan34@sbcglobal.net.

Eric Stevens and Jill Jung Join Westside Story

The Westside Story welcomes two new volunteers to its staff. Eric Stevens will be coming on board as the layout editor, and Jill Jung will be acting as the publisher by distributing paper copies and posting the electronic version to the website. They are replacing Paul Zinn, who has acted as the layout editor for the last year; John Huffmann, who has been posting the electronic version; and Jessica Zinn, who has helped distribute paper copies. We are grateful for their service to the newsletter. Myrtle McMahan will continue to help with the mailing process, and Jane Palmer will continue acting as the editor for purposes of content. Articles and ideas for articles may be submitted to her at Cpalmer263@sbcglobal.net. The monthly deadline is always posted on the last page of the newsletter.

Westside Does Tamales

Westside members, friends, and their families enjoyed a delightful luncheon after the Christmas Eve service. Many Westsiders purchased tamales to supply the luncheon, and although our supplier of tamales suffered a break-in and theft the week before, Dolores Ruhs saved the day by making numerous trips to pick-up tamales as they became available. Nancy Hynes, Dolores Ruhs, and Myrtle McMahan provided tortilla soup. Bob Vann provided a cornbread salad, Brenda Baldwin provided a taco salad, and ice cream and sweets rounded out the meal.

It was great to share such a special time with friends and family.

Volunteers Needed in Kitchen

Every Sunday we enjoy refreshments after the service, and once a month we gather to share a potluck lunch. Dolores Ruhs faithfully coordinates these gatherings for us, and we thank her profusely!

Help is needed for the cleanup so we have resurrected the sign-up sheets. They will circulate during the potluck, and please consider picking a Sunday to help out. Since several persons are needed each week, you can ask a buddy to join you! If we each pitch in every few months, as we are able, this necessary chore will prove that "many hands make a light load." Dolores has prepared sheets with "how to" information for those who would like guidelines, and they are on the shelves in the supply room. Thanks go to those who have already volunteered this year!

Mardi Gras Party & Service Auction Saturday, February 24, 2007

This evening requires lots of help and is great fun. An early donation is a Gourmet Dinner for 10 and a Gourmet Made Easy cooking class. A list of items that you might consider donating will be out soon.

Congregational Meeting January 14, 2007

The next congregational meeting will be on January 14th, at church, 30 minutes after worship service concludes. The Board will present an update on the status of purchasing a building and ask for your vote on the final action plan.

Please contact Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441) if you would like to discuss these or other topics in advance of the meeting. More detailed information will be distributed to members prior to the meeting.

April Fool's Talent Show Saturday, March 31, 2007

Be sure to set this date aside on your calendar so you won't miss a highlight of Westside's social calendar. The audience will be entertained by the high-quality talent of the members and friends of Westside Church while enjoying drinks and snacks with new and old friends. Child-care will be available.

Sign-ups for talent are open NOW. Please contact Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441) to reserve a spot in the show. Music, comedy, drama, and more are welcome. All participants will need to attend one technical rehearsal during the week before the show.

Social Activities

Great Books Group #1 – Second Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is January 14th at the McConathy's home. The selection is The Theory of the Leisure Class by Thorstein Veblen. For information, call 827-294-5894.

Great Books Group #2 – Second Sunday of each month from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the church. Because of the conflict with the Congregational Meeting, this month's date has been changed to January 7th in the Fellowship Hall. The selection is Carl Jung's "The Stages of Life". Bring a sack lunch. Discussions are open to all. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or at paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

Social Committee - The Social Committee is looking for committee members to help with planning the social events for the year 2007. If you would like to join the committee, please call Dolores Ruhs, 817-249-1829 or e-mail ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net. The first meeting has been changed to Sunday, January 7th at 12:45 at AOH. Bring a brown bag lunch.

Contemporary Books – Fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is January 28th to discuss The Archivist by Martha Cooley. We will meet at the home of Reed Bilz, 6130 Haley Lane. Call 817-292-7974 for gate code.

The Humanists of Fort Worth - (HoFW) group is now meeting in our Fellowship Hall on the second Wednesday of each month, and everyone is invited to attend. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and end by 8:30 or 8:40. If anyone would like to know more about the group and its programs please contact Dick Trice at 817/446-3840 or paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

Kimbell Lunch Bunch – Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Westsiders and friends gather at the Kimbell for community discussion and a good lunch. Look for a crowded table with familiar faces.

After-Church Lunch Bunch – We will meet at Cafe Express (on University) each Sunday during the month of January.

Birthdays/Anniversaries - Starting in January we will have birthday and anniversary celebrations on the 1st Sunday of each month. Please call Dolores Ruhs, 817-249-1829 or e-mail ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net.

Bridge Night – First Sunday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be January 7th at Reed Bilz's house, 6130 Haley Lane Fort Worth, Texas 76132. All levels are welcome and we are always glad to have new players. Please call Ann Sutherland at 817-294-0401 if you wish to attend or to have further information.

January 2007 Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Year's Day		Kimbell Lunch			
7 Social Committee Meeting Great Books #2 Bridge Night	8	9	10 Kimbell Lunch	11	12	13
14 Welcoming Congregation Meeting Congregational Meeting Great Books #1 <i>Rape Is...</i> film screening	15 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Celebrated	16	17 Kimbell Lunch	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
21 After-Church Potluck Lunch	22	23	24 Kimbell Lunch	25	26	27
28 Contemporary Books	29	30	31 Kimbell Lunch			

February 2007

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Bridge Night	5	6	7 Kimbell Lunch	8	9	10
11 Great Books 1 Great Books 2	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18 After-Church Potluck Lunch	19 Presidents' Day	20	21 Kimbell Lunch	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24 Mardi Gras Auc- tion & Dinner
25 Contemporary Books	26	27	28 Kimbell Lunch			

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Board of Directors 2006-2007

President – Brenda Baldwin
Vice-President – Linda Hanratty
Secretary – Beverly Archibald
Treasurer – Mark McMurry
Director – Dianne Nixon
Director – Charles Palmer
Director – Audrey Weil

Committee on Ministry

Reed Bilz, Chair
John Huffmann
Walt McConathy
Jane Palmer
Maria Schmidt

Committee Chairs

Adult Education - pending
Building - John Huffman 817-924-9845
Finance - Howard McMahan 817-294-1363
Membership - Reed Bilz 817-292-7974
Social Justice - Linda Hanratty 817-924-6629
Religious Education - Jessica Zinn 817-763-0901
Social - Dolores Ruhs 817-249-1829
Worship - Amy Youngblood 817-924-1358

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church
c/o McMahan, 3600 Lawndale Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Have an announcement?

Submit announcements for the next monthly newsletter by January 19th. Submit announcements for the weekly Order of Service by the Thursday before you want the announcement to appear. Specify where you want your announcement to appear. All submissions should be made to Jane Palmer at Cpalmer263@sbcglobal.net or 817-847-9713 or 2609 Silver Hill Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76131.

By The Numbers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of Adults</i>	<i>Number of Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
November 05, 2006	42	9	51
November 12, 2006	60	2	62
November 19, 2006	47	6	53
November 26, 2006	52	9	61
Monthly Average	50.3	6.5	56.8

The 7 UU Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Spread the Faith!

When you have finished reading your Westside Story, leave it at the doctor's office, barbershop, wherever it might be read by a potential UU.

Westside UU Service Auction: Mardi Gras Party Saturday, February 24, 2007

SOME IDEAS FOR AUCTION ITEMS:



If you have a boat, offer a boat ride or a boating picnic.

If you like to cook, share a special meal with 2-7 guests. You may offer it for auction to an individual (with them inviting the guests), or you may offer it for seats to be sold to individual guests. It is suggested that you list the delivery date of the meal.

If you like to bake, offer a cake at auction, then additional cakes during the year.

If you own a truck, offer to haul something.

If you have a chainsaw, offer to cut up downed tree limbs.

Many of you have special skills or knowledge. Offer a sample or activity using these special skills for the benefit of the purchaser and the church.

Host a party for someone who wants to give one but does not want to plan it.

If you love kids, offer to baby sit, maybe for an overnight special date.

If you garden, offer plants, labor, garden planning.

If you drive, offer trips to the doctor, trips to the airport.

If you are good with hammer and nails, offer to build or repair something.

**Complete the product/service form as soon as you can so we can let prospective buyers make buying plans.
2007 WESTSIDE UU SERVICE AUCTION: MARDI GRAS PARTY
SATURDAY, February 24, 2007**

Westside UU Church

901 Page

Fort Worth, TX

Adult tickets \$10.00 – Children’s tickets \$5.00

PRODUCT/SERVICE FORM (To be listed in the Service Auction Guide.) Please return to church or e-mail to mahan34@sbcglobal.net by Sunday, February 11 to be included in brochure. Questions – call 817/294-1363.

Name: _____ Donation (Title): _____

Street: _____ Estimated Value: _____(each) Quantity: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Suggested Minimum Bid: _____

Zip: _____ Telephone: _____ Description: _____

Delivery Date: _____ or at Purchaser’s Convenience _____

Note: All items should be delivered within twelve months of the auction. Please include as much information as possible such as the maximum number of people allowed for group activities (i.e. – dinner for up to 8, my house or yours). It is suggested that if it is a dinner that the delivery date be given. The estimated value may be claimed as an Income Tax deduction, but the purchaser may not claim anything as you have received something of value for the money you have spent.

Childcare and pizza are included in the price of the children’s tickets. Please let us know the ages of the children when purchasing the tickets. If you will be leaving an infant you will need to buy a child’s ticket.