

# The Westside Story

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
901 PAGE AVENUE FORT WORTH, TEXAS • 11:00 AM • WWW.WESTSIDEUU.ORG

## Where's Russell in January?

Russell will be out of town January 4th – January 9th so will not be present the first Sunday of the month. He will be present at all other services to facilitate Joys and Concerns. On the 13th, he will deliver the reflection. With the exception of the 8th, his office hours will be Tuesday and Thursday mornings. You can try him at home (817-370-2171) or at the church office (817/92-4MYUU) during those times. If no response, please leave a message and he'll return your call ASAP.

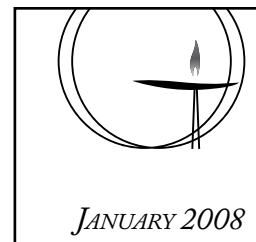
## Let's do Lunch!

Russell would love to have lunch with you to talk about what's going on in your life or about church matters. Email or call him to set up a

time and place that is convenient for you. Lunch can take place in local eateries, in your home, or near your workplace.

## Thank God for Evolution! The Rev. Michael Dowd

The Rev. Michael Dowd will offer a free, two-hour presentation Wednesday, January 23rd at 7:00pm at Westside. In this richly illustrated talk, Rev. Dowd will cover the major themes of his 2007 book, *Thank God for Evolution!*, which has received endorsements from five Nobel laureates, as well as leaders across the religious spectrum. Come learn how our modern understanding of this 14 billion-year-old Universe, as given by mainstream science, builds bridges, provides guidance, and restores realistic hope for individuals and families, for humanity, and for the body of life as a whole.



### 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.*

## SAVE THE DATES!

**JANUARY 20TH**  
**"THE EPIC OF EVOLUTION"**  
A SPECIAL REFLECTION  
BY **CONNIE BARLOW**

**JANUARY 20TH**  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**JANUARY 23RD**  
**"THANK GOD FOR EVOLUTION"**  
**MICHAEL DOWD PRESENTATION**

**JANUARY 26TH**  
**MOVIE NIGHT**

**FEBRUARY 16TH**  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**  
**TEACHERS' CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 2ND**  
**CHURCH DEDICATION**  
**AND OPEN HOUSE**

## Congregational Meeting Planned

Westside's mid-year congregational meeting will be held Sunday, January 20th after the potluck lunch at approximately 12:55pm. Current information regarding finances, committee activities, and other matters important to the operation of the church will be reported. All members are encouraged to attend.

## Sunday Services

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**January 6th** - *Are We Doing this Right?* by Jeff Rodriguez. Almost every parent struggles with how to handle "sex ed." But despite our best intentions, we still are going about it all wrong. Westside UU member Jeff Rodriguez, who taught this delicate subject for 12 years, will try to de-mystify the process for both parents and teens.

**January 13th** - *Because the Bible Tells Me So...* by Dr. Russell Elleven. Many people live their lives according to the Bible...or say they do. As this new year begins, let's examine a bit about what the Bible says we should do in 2008.

**January 20th** - *The Epic of Evolution* by Connie Barlow. The Epic of Evolution is the 14 billion year story of origins, grounded in mainstream science and told in inspiring, sacred ways. It is our shared creation story, born of the collective efforts of scientists of all ethnicities and faiths. In addition to being humanity's only "planet-wide" creation story, it is also the first such story that evolves as the science itself evolves. It is thus "the story of the changing story." Connie will use as the key example one of the dozen evolutionary parables posted on her [www.TheGreatStory](http://www.TheGreatStory.com) website.

"Pluto's Identity Crisis" was written by Connie in 2003, but it had to be revised after the 2006 proclamation that Pluto was to be classified as a "dwarf planet". Connie is the author of four popular science books that bridge evolution and meaning. Connie and her husband, The Reverend Michael Dowd, are members of the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship and have been called "America's evolutionary evangelists."

**January 27th** - *Let the Music Move You* by the TrUUe Believers. How music shapes our lives and expresses our spirituality.

## Sunday Adult Forum

9:45 AM – 10:40 AM

Our study and discussion of "Emerson, Thoreau and the Transcendentalist Movement" began in November. In November and December, we were introduced to Transcendentalism and to the ideas and history of Ralph Waldo Emerson. In January, we will turn our attention to Henry David Thoreau. Our sessions, held on all but the third Sunday of the month, include a 30-minute lecture on DVD, followed by group discussion. On the third Sunday of each month, Dick Trice facilitates a discussion of current events - "The Month That Was". Please join us!

**January 6th** - *Thoreau - An American Original*, facilitated by Tom Woods

**January 13th** - *Thoreau at Walden and Beyond*, facilitated by Brenda Baldwin

**January 20th** - *The Month That Was* (discussion group), facilitated by Dick Trice

**January 27th** - *Thoreau's Politics*, facilitated by Dr. Russell Elleven

A PAINTER IS A MAN  
WHO PAINTS WHAT HE  
SELLS; AN ARTIST, ON  
THE OTHER HAND, IS A  
MAN WHO SELLS WHAT  
HE PAINTS.

-PABLO PICASSO

## OUR UU COMMUNITY

### UU Learning Opportunities

Meadville Lombard Theological School, a UU seminary in Chicago, Illinois, announces two learning and networking opportunities for lay leaders, seminarians, and ministers:

*Winter Institute - February 8th – February 10th: Can We Build the Beloved Community through Political Action?*

Explore the potential and the limitations of democratic processes for creating the beloved community. During two days of lecture and discussion, consider the kinds of political activities effective in building community and how this political work is connected with the institutional life of the church. This workshop will be led by Dr. Melissa Harris-Lacewell, Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies at Princeton University and author of “Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought.” Fees for the Institute are \$130 for students; \$190 for all others (not including lodging). For more information, visit the website at [www.meadville.edu](http://www.meadville.edu). Registration closes January 15th.

*Civil Rights Bus Tour: March 22nd – 30th*

Join Rev. Dr. Gordon and Judy Gibson as they take you on a tour of significant sites of the Southern Civil Rights Movement, offering a journey of experiential learning where you will encounter the sights, sounds, and especially the people who worked to create change during this revolutionary time in our country's history. The course is offered for credit for seminary students, but non-students are encouraged to audit the course. Enrollment to take the course for credit will be limited

to 15. An additional 15 seats on the tour will be available to the general public. Registration is on a first-come basis and is due no later than January 18, 2008. Please note that this year the course runs across Easter weekend. Participation for the entire eight days is required for those seeking academic credit and strongly encouraged for all others. See the link on our home page for more information about this course: [www.meadville.edu](http://www.meadville.edu). This course was offered in 2006 and was a life- and ministry-changing experience for all of the participants. For an account of that trip, please visit the website at [www.meadville.edu](http://www.meadville.edu).

### Sherman Awakening the Dreamer Symposium

You are cordially invited to attend the first Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium to be held in the historic Red River Valley on January 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We'll be meeting in the Arena Theatre, located on the lower level at Ida Green Communication Center on the Austin College Campus. The fee for this event is \$20, and prior registration is required.

The purpose of the Symposium is to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just human presence on this planet as the guiding principle of our time. If this purpose resonates with you, then this is an event you'll not want to miss!

The primary presenters will be Charlie Behrens and John Ockels, with audio/visual support from Cathy Ingham and Ramesh Mahale. The videos alone are worth your attending, and include insights from inspiring philosophers, scientists and community leaders such as Brian Swimme, Matthew Fox, Thomas Berry, Lynn Twist, Paul Hawken and Van Jones.

THE WESTSIDE STORY  
JANUARY 2008

*I'VE MADE AN ODD  
DISCOVERY. EVERY TIME  
I TALK TO A SAVANT  
I FEEL QUITE SURE  
THAT HAPPINESS IS NO  
LONGER A POSSIBILITY.  
YET WHEN I TALK  
WITH MY GARDENER,  
I'M CONVINCED OF THE  
OPPOSITE.*

-BERTRAND RUSSELL

Participation in this event is limited to thirty persons, so please register early to assure your seat. For additional information and online registration, please go to <http://029d256.netsolhost.com/schedule/sherman.html>.

This Symposium is a community outreach program of the Red River Unitarian Universalist Church, Denison, Texas. [www.ruuu.org](http://www.ruuu.org).

If you have questions, please contact John Ockels [ockels@mac.com](mailto:ockels@mac.com).

## Sweep a Floor, Sweep a Heart: Humans AS Resources at U-Bar-U

We have many opportunities for humans to re-source themselves in personal work-study, short term professional interns, adult and youth program leaders, and general staff. Artists, builders, geeks, cooks, shoppers, naturalists, and hard workers needed. If you know of anyone who might be interested in engaging with the Zen mountain/retreat/camping/service work mode of UUism, please do send them my way. This is a capstone UU experience for both young and older adults to bring their religion into deep, direct practice.

We seek, develop, and expect the following standards: strong work ethic, elasticity of temperament, compulsion to closure, im-

peccable circumspection, common sense, and common kindness - all suffused with profound peace, personal integrity, and the common good. As a year round facility, we have opportunities that can fit your personal, school, or work schedules.

To register and ask questions, contact U-Bar-U director, Mike Schwab, at [michael.lee.schwab@gmail.com](mailto:michael.lee.schwab@gmail.com) or (c) 651-472-2249 or (office) 830-864-8419. 277 U-Bar-U Drive, Ingram, TX 78025.

## Niagara Falls Opportunity

Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls! July 20th through July 23rd. Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls, including some great educational opportunities, while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four-day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich historical and natural wonders around the Falls. For information visit the web site <http://www.uunex.net/> or Email: [uunex@yahoo.com](mailto:uunex@yahoo.com) or call 716-745-7149 or 716-791-4453.

## Humanists of Fort Worth

HOFW meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the church. The next meeting is January 9th at 7:00pm. Program details will be announced at a later date.

A FEW WAYS THAT YOU CAN PRACTICE A MORE OUTWARD ORIENTATION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM (*originally published in The Membership Journey*) By Art Brewer, First Unitarian Congregation, Toronto, Canada.

This month, challenge yourself to apply these as you move through your daily life:

1. Participate in a community event that reflects UU principles (for example, a gay pride parade.)
2. Attend a UU church when you are on vacation.
3. Talk to nonmembers about your church.



DO SOMETHING FOR  
SOMEBODY EVERY DAY  
FOR WHICH YOU DO NOT  
GET PAID.

-ALBERT SCHWEITZER

## Tribute to Robert Conti

By Howard & Myrtle McMahan

On October 31, 2007, our dear friend and Westside member, Robert (Bob) Conti died. He leaves behind a wonderful legacy that Unitarian Universalism will enjoy for many years to come.

Many in our congregation did not have the pleasure of meeting Bob as he was in failing health the past few years.

Over the years Bob was an active member in three UU Churches in Fort Worth: the First Unitarian Church; First Jefferson; and, more recently, Westside. During his time with each of these churches, he was a generous financial supporter. In each case, he was the largest contributor to the annual pledge drive. Several times, Bob verified that he had the largest pledge; if he did not, he increased it. He gave the land that First Jefferson is built on.

To Westside, he offered challenge grants to assist, first in remodeling the store front on McCart, later in expanding it, and most recently he offered to match up to \$25,000 for the renovation of our present building.

Bob loved to entertain. For many years he maintained a second home in Acapulco. He offered the use of the house as a Service Auction item for many years. He was a perfect host, dining, and entertaining the purchasers of the trip. He took you to wonderful restaurants and on outstanding tours of the city. Lounging around the back yard pool was very relaxing. Over the years this was the most profitable item for the auction.

Bob always kept a low profile, never serving as an officer in any of the churches. Instead he used his influence for the improvement of each of these churches.

Westside continues to enjoy success with our new plan for service projects. Each month, undesignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. During December, our recipient was the Somali-Bantu Empowering Women Program, a collective of refugee Somali-Bantu women who have gathered in the local area and are producing and selling native craft works to support their new lives here.

For the month of January, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women for the International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women. It will be used to assist women from other countries to attend the conference which will be in Houston, Texas, February 27 – March 1, 2009. The Southwest UU Women are providing the major leadership for a unique event, a convocation that is gathering in response to a summons. According to Myrtle McMahan, “We are summoned to respond to a hurting world, to gather as women of faith to share and learn ways we can improve women’s lives. We are coming together in recognition of the need for action. A Global Literacy Project for congregations and women’s groups will be available very soon to assist us in preparation for the Convocation.”

For the month of February, the board is also pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to the Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT). ACT has recently been instrumental in informing the public about JPS Hospital’s positions on health care for undocumented aliens and influencing posi-

*THAT SOME GOOD CAN  
BE DERIVED FROM  
EVERY EVENT IS A BET-  
TER PROPOSITION THAN  
THAT EVERYTHING  
HAPPENS FOR THE BEST,  
WHICH IT ASSUREDLY  
DOES NOT.*

*-JAMES KERN  
FEIBLEMAN*

tive changes in their policies. ACT continues its work to improve health care for Tarrant County's residents by publicizing the recent expansion of access at its member churches. They are resuming their work to improve Fort Worth schools, focusing on attendance, graduation rates and more. ACT meetings are held monthly and are announced at [www.alliedcommunities.org](http://www.alliedcommunities.org). More information about the public outreach and services sponsored by ACT will be included in the February edition of the Westside Story.

Suggestions from Westside members for future recipients of service project plate offerings are encouraged. Please route them through Charles Palmer, treasurer, at [charles.palmer@tyson.com](mailto:charles.palmer@tyson.com),

or call him at 817-233-5198. Your Board of Directors will review the recipient's qualifications with two simple criteria: 1) "Do donations to the recipient further our church's vision and mission?" and 2) "Are the recipient's values in sympathy with the seven Unitarian Universalist principles?" Service project donation recipients may be repeated throughout the year based on need and number of participating recipients. All qualified recipients not chosen one month will continue to be reviewed in the following months. Our record of donations and recipient organizations may be seen in the enclosed newsletter table or on our service projects poster located on the church bulletin board outside the office. Thanks!

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR WUU SERVICE PROJECT SUCCESSES!**

## Service Project Donation Recipients

JULY 07 - WESTAID	\$853.63 RECEIVED
AUGUST 07 - TARRANT AREA FOODBANK	\$647.51 RECEIVED
SEPTEMBER 07 - CANCER CARE SERVICES	\$1,018.75 RECEIVED
OCTOBER 07 - UUA "NOW IS THE TIME" NATIONAL CAMPAIGN	\$862.00 RECEIVED
NOVEMBER 07 - SOUTH CENTRAL ALLIANCE OF CHURCHES	\$788.59 RECEIVED
DECEMBER 07 - SOMALI-BANTU EMPOWERING WOMEN PROGRAM	
JANUARY 08 - SWWC INTERNATIONAL CONVOCATION OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN	
FEBRUARY 08 - ALLIED COMMUNITIES OF TARRANT (ACT)	

# Items Needed on History of Church

Dear Westsiders:

The Committee for the Dedication of our New Building is looking for some items on the history of our congregation. If you have any old photographs of early or recent church activities please let me know. If anybody has a complete set of Westside Stories I would like to look through the issues you have, be they for two years or ten. Apparently we do not have a church historian. If anyone is interested in becoming our historian, please contact me. We have different records in different places but seemingly no comprehensive set of records. If you have some items that might be of interest from your time as an officer or a board member or general observer, let me know so we will have a starting place for our historian. This will obviously be a work-in-progress and may take a long time, but hopefully there will be some basic items we can share with all on March 2nd.

Thanks,  
John Nagely  
Membership Chairman  
817-991-3939  
John@Nagely.com

## Social Committee News

We all love the social interactions we share with the members, friends, and guests of Westside. The Social Committee focuses on organizing and supporting events that provide social interaction. From Karaoke Night to Mother's Day Pancakes, to Sunday Coffee, to Monthly Potluck, to Dinners for Nine, and beyond, this group coordinates publicity, set-up, clean-up, refreshments, and much, much more. Almost everyone supports such events by attending, bringing food,

and helping clean-up, but without the behind-the-scene organization and coordination provided by the Social Committee, the outcome would likely be chaotic.

On Sunday, December 16th, a group met to brainstorm and plan social activities for the coming months. Here is a listing of some of what is coming up:

**Saturday, January 26th** - Movie Night (watch for details via e-mail and in the Order of Service insert)

(The following dates/events are subject to change; please check your newsletter for more info as the time approaches)

**Saturday, February 23rd** - Karaoke Night

**March 29th** - April Fool's Talent Show

**April** - Fundraising Social Event - details/date to be determined; **Saturday, the 19th** - Passover Seder at the church; **Sunday, the 20th** - let's take Potluck to the park for a picnic complete with fun and games (or stay at church if the weather doesn't cooperate); the weekend of **the 25th through 27th** - Camping Trip

**May 11th** - Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

Ongoing events include Dinners for Nine (typically to be held on the second Saturday of the month), Men's Group (typically held on the third Friday of the month), and, of course, Potluck on the third Sunday of each month.

Your support of and suggestions for social events are most appreciated. In addition, helpers are needed in the kitchen each week to support coffee time and Potluck. Please sign-up for a shift or two on the clipboard you will find on the pass-through bar of the kitchen.

## The Making of a Sunday Service at Westside UU

By Tom Woods

Do you know what goes into coordinating and planning Sunday services at Westside Church? Well, here is a short list: There are speakers to contact; music to coordinate; worship leaders to recruit; chalice lighters to recruit; opening words, closing words and chalice lighter readings to select; and story tellers to recruit for Stories for All Ages. And most importantly the service has to appeal to the diverse community of Westside UU Church.

All of this, and more, has been accomplished Sunday after Sunday through the efforts of your Worship Committee. Led by Amy Youngblood, the committee includes Iris Acuff, Brenda Baldwin, Joyce Beck, Reed Bilz, Russell Elleven, John Huffman, Linda Jenkins, Cathy McConnell, Brenda McKeon, Gene McKeon, Mark McMurry, Caroline Nixon, Scott Paulson, Louanne Rice, Jeff Rodriguez, Nancy Van Boskirk and Jessica Zinn. It has been the efforts of these people that have placed before you meaningful, diverse and enjoyable Sunday services.

Part of the committee's work is to listen to the members and friends of Westside in order to adapt our services so they stay fresh and reflect the diversity of our community. So let the members of the Committee know how you feel about our services and remember the challenges of their tasks. I hope everyone will join me in expressing gratitude and appreciation to these hard working members of our community.



LIZ YOUNG, JAY AND SUZIE LOTVEN, DECEMBER 13. LIZ YOUNG, CHRISTMAS ANGELS CHAIR, DISCUSSES THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES WITH WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH MEMBERS SUZIE AND JAY LOTVEN. PHOTOGRAPHER: V.LEE

## The SCAC Angel Project

By Beverly Archibald

We were asked by South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC) to take part in its program to provide Christmas gifts to needy children in our neighborhood. We received a list of ten boys and ten girls, ranging in age from infants to eleven-year-olds. Angel Sponsors were asked to provide an outfit of clothing and a toy the child had requested.

Audrey Weil and Beverly Archibald made copies of the angels (pattern provided) and put the information about each child's age, clothing sizes and toy wish on each angel. Dianne Nixon made a cardboard tree for us and put Velcro "dots" on the angels so they could be fastened

### EMPLOYMENT OPPPORTUNITY

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE. WWW.WESTSIDEUU.ORG

to the tree. The angels were taken by various families in the church who purchased the items for their adopted angel and brought their colorful Christmas bags stuffed with goodies back on December 9th. The bags were delivered to SCAC on the 12th, and on the 13th Jay and Suzie Lotven went to SCAC to hand out the gift bags to the families. Interestingly, there were three different Valdez families, so more than half of the children were Valdezes!

The following people adopted angels: Myron and Linda Ice; Paul and Joy McClellan; Greg and Gwen Gipson (who took two brothers, ages five and six); Russell and Gayle Elleven; Mary Noer and Bill and Carina Terry; Diane and Delilah Jones; Janice Williams; Linda Jenkins; Cathy McConnell; Michael, Amanda, Alex and Ashlyn Oglesby; Jane and Ric Hansen; Dianne Nixon; Ed and Genie Furber; Gene and Brenda McKeon; Sandy Olah and Susan Farris; Kimberly and Caitlin Paulos; and Bettina Pfeifferberger.

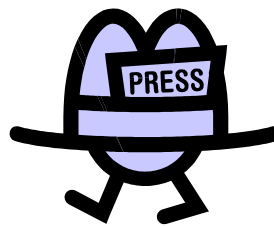
Below is a first-hand report from Suzie Lotven. She and Jay went to SCAC and joined with people from other member churches in handing out the gift bags to the families.

“We arrived at the church at about 9:40. We went into this large gym-like room where there were lines of presents with poles at the front of each to identify which group each one belonged to. Ours was the shortest group as the other churches were much larger than ours. At about 10:00 they all gathered together for a prayer. The people then started coming in to pick up their gifts. We had one family early and then not another one for a long time. Meanwhile Jay talked to one of the women in charge and found out that individuals are allowed to come only one time a month, on a Tuesday, for food. On each Tuesday in October

they told the ones that came of the chance to apply for gifts. This is how the lists were made. They are required to have a utility bill, an ID and their children’s social security numbers. We waited for quite awhile until I finally called the last few families to come pick up their gifts. While we waited I helped quite a few times translating for those who did not speak English. All in all we had a good time and met some very nice people. They seemed really glad we joined them.”

This was an exciting and fun way for us to participate in SCAC’s ministry. Since we are the “new kids on the block,” it was a great way to start our relationship with them and with the neighborhood. Well done, Westside!

## HELP DESPERATELY WANTED



**WESTSIDE STORY EDITOR. YOUR SKILLS ARE NEEDED: ORGANIZING, EDITING, PROOFREADING, AND PROFICIENCY WITH WORD. NO DESKTOP PUBLISHING IS REQUIRED (ERIC STEVENS HAS THAT COVERED). IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP FACILITATE COMMUNICATIONS AT WESTSIDE, CONTACT BRENDA BALDWIN**

## Board of Directors Meeting

The standing meeting of the Westside UU Church board is the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Please check the church calendar at [www.westsideuu.org](http://www.westsideuu.org) to verify the meeting date as it is sometimes necessary to meet at another and/or an additional time.

If you would like to add an agenda item, please contact the church president, Brenda Baldwin, at [president@westsideuu.org](mailto:president@westsideuu.org) in advance of the meeting. If you would like to attend a meeting as an observer, advance notice isn't necessary, but is appreciated and will provide more effective building access.

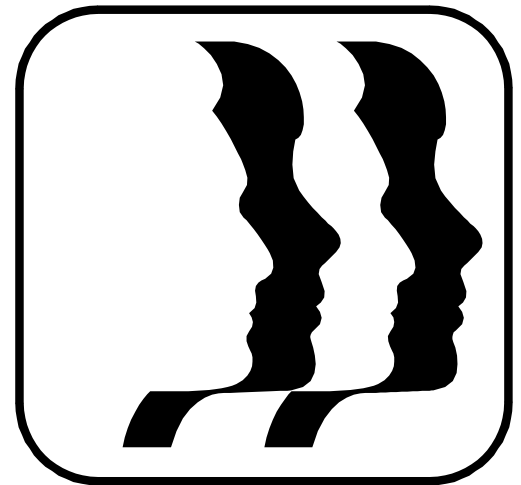
If you would like to receive board meeting minutes and/or financial reports, please utilize the links available under "church business" on the church website, or contact Beverly Archibald for minutes and Charles Palmer for financial reports at their phone numbers listed in the church directory or leave a message on the church phone (817-292-3337).

## Church Calendar, Contacts & Communication

If you are planning (or canceling) a church event or committee meeting, please send the information to [calendar@westsideuu.org](mailto:calendar@westsideuu.org), so the calendar can be updated accordingly. This link to the Webmaster, as well as links to the newsletter editor, committee chairs, the board, and others may

be found by clicking on "contact us" near the bottom of the homepage of [www.westsideuu.org](http://www.westsideuu.org).

Announcements of upcoming activities are also included in the insert in each Sunday worship's Order of Service and sent out in the Weekly Web. If you are not receiving timely notification of events, please let us know via e-mail or via phone (817-292-3337).



## New Faces

Welcome Radmila and Sara  
*By Audrey Weil*

Sara Cecura-Dukic and her mom Radmila Dukic are from Zenica, Bosnia.

Sixteen-year-old Sara is currently a high school student, starting her senior year this fall. This very smart young lady is supposed to be a junior, but she's skipping her junior year. In 2006 Sara represented Paschal High School in the Fort Worth Regional Science Fair; she was awarded 2nd Place in Division 1, Category - Space Science. She wants to go into medicine to become an anesthesiologist. Her dream is to someday

travel all over the world.

Radmila and Sara form their own very close-knit family of two. The war in Bosnia separated them from other members of their family, and Sara was too young to remember them.

Sara used to play the piano and violin; she likes to draw and write poetry, and loves listening to music. She also likes to read a lot.

After Sara was born, the war began in Bosnia. She and her mom spent four years surviving the war and two and a half years in a refugee camp. When they came to America, they had no money, knew no English, and knew no one in this country.

Sara and Radmila wanted a place where they could speak their minds and not be judged by how they think. One day Sara was browsing through the internet and stumbled upon the Westside UU Website. The first thing that caught her eye was the logo. When she told her mom about the church, they decided to visit Westside the very next Sunday.

Sara's favorite thing about the church is that people can say whatever is on their minds and no one will judge them on their opinions.

Sara and Radmila decided to join Westside because of the variety of people and their open-mindedness. Westside is lucky to have them.

Radmila and Sara Cectura-Dukic  
7816 Ocean Court  
Fort Worth, 76133  
817/944-4898  
Email: jorasa@sbcglobal.net

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

*THE WESTSIDE STORY*  
*JANUARY 2008*

**AFTER-CHURCH POTLUCK LUNCH** – Third Sunday of each month. The next one will be January 20th. Please join us for food and fellowship. A special table is reserved for visitors and newcomers.

**CONTEMPORARY BOOKS** – The next meeting is January 27th at 6:30 p.m. at Marjorie Bixler's home. We will be discussing Elmer Gantry by Sinclair Lewis. For information, contact Reed Bilz at 817-735-9559.

**BRIDGE NIGHT** – First Sunday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the church. The next night is January 6th. 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.

**THE WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE KIMBELL LUNCH BUNCH)** is now meeting at various restaurants around town. See the Weekly Web for the restaurant of the week, and join the group for food and fellowship. Contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840.

**BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES** - We will have birthday and anniversary celebrations on the first Sunday of each month. Please call Dolores Ruhs, 817-249-1829 or e-mail ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net.

**WESTSIDE GREAT BOOKS** – A new meeting time is currently under discussion. Watch for the meeting date in the Order of Service announcements and the Weekly Web. The next meeting is to discuss *The Master and Margarita*, a novel by Mikhail Bulgakov. Discussions are open to all. For additional information, call Dick Trice, 817-446-3840.

**DINNERS FOR NINE** - For information, contact Dolores Ruhs, Social Chair, at 817-24-1829 or at ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net.

# WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

## **Board of Directors 2007-2008**

President – Brenda Baldwin  
Vice-President – Tom Woods  
Secretary – Beverly Archibald  
Treasurer – Charles Palmer  
Director – Amanda Oglesby  
Director – John Nagely  
Director – Dianne Nixon  
Director – Audrey Weil

## **Committee on Ministry**

Chair - Caroline Nixon 817-922-9742  
Reed Bilz  
Jane Palmer  
Maria Schmidt  
Mark McMurry

## By The Numbers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sunday, November 04, 2007	96	9	105
Sunday, November 11, 2007	78	19	97
Sunday, November 18, 2007	68	7	75
Sunday, November 25, 2007	65	20	85
<b>Monthly Average</b>	<b>76.75</b>	<b>13.75</b>	<b>90.5</b>

## **Committee Chairs**

Adult Education - Vacant  
Building - Gene McKeon 817-921-3692  
Finance - Howard McMahan 817-294-1363  
Membership - John Nagely 817-292-3629  
Social Justice - David Burlingame 817-294-0401  
Religious Education - Jessica Zinn 817-763-0901  
Social - Dolores Ruhs 817-249-1829  
Worship - Amy Youngblood 817-924-1358



This congregation has taken part in the UUA Welcoming Congregation Program to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people.

## **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.

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church  
901 Page Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110

## **Have an announcement?**

Submit announcements for the next monthly newsletter by January 18th. All submissions should be made to Jane Palmer at [Cpalmer263@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Cpalmer263@sbcglobal.net) or 817-847-9713 or 2609 Silver Hill Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76131.

When you have finished reading your Westside Story, share it with a potential UU.