

# The Westside Story

FEBRUARY 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](http://www.westsideuu.org)

## Sunday Services - 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

February 4th - *To Be Announced*

February 11th - *A New Humanism?* by Dr. Russell Elleven, Minister. There is some talk about a new humanism emerging in the United States and elsewhere. What is this all about and why should we care? Russell will present some views this Sunday.

February 18th - *Mark Twain and 'The Damned Human Race'* by Dick Trice. Mark Twain, the most conspicuous person on the planet in his time, was so much more than the humorist so many unfortunately visualize. A brief sermon cannot possibly encompass his encyclopedic humor, letters, speeches, adventures, social concerns, complex emotions, fame, uniqueness and timeless observations on the 'damned human race.' But we shall do our best.

February 25th - *A Woman From Our Past* by Dr. Russell Elleven, Minister. Several times this year Russell will remind us of some very important women in our Unitarian and Universalist past. Come hear the first installment of this intermittent series.

## Welcoming Congregation February 11th

The January session of the program was especially well attended given the weather. Russell will present the fourth of six educational sessions for the Welcoming Congregation program on Sunday, February 11th at 9:30 a.m. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

## Where's Russell in February?

Russell will be in town each weekend in February. He'll be giving reflections on the 11th and 25th and asking for joys and concerns each Sunday. He will be offering the fourth session of Welcoming Congregation on the 11th. Office hours for February are as follows:

*Tuesday, February 6th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm*

*Thursday, February 8th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm*

*Tuesday, February 13th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm*

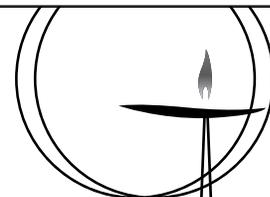
*Thursday, February 15th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm*

*Tuesday, February 20th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm*

*Thursday, February 22nd, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm*

*Tuesday, February 27th, 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 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.

# Our UU Community

***An open letter to George W. Bush***  
***from the Reverend William G. Sinkford,***  
***President of the Unitarian Universalist Association***  
(originally published at UUA.org)

January 11, 2007

Dear Mr. President,

Your decision to increase the US military forces in Iraq by 21,500 additional troops stunningly disregards the wishes of the American people, the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group.

Since March 2003, more than 3,000 Americans have been killed in Iraq, and more than 47,000 have been wounded. You don't want us to see them, but flag-draped coffins arrive daily at Dover Air Force Base. Yes, better body armor might save more lives, but only at very high costs, the greatest being mangled bodies and diminished futures. Even those of our soldiers without physical wounds are hurting; witnessing the meaningless suffering of countless Iraqis is leaving them with spiritual wounds that may never heal. We must not inflict these fates upon one more soldier without strong evidence that sending more troops will lessen the carnage in Baghdad's streets and increase our safety at home. I ask you today, Mr. President, where is the evidence for this?

Your policies have betrayed the trust of thousands of patriotic Americans who volunteered in good faith to serve our country. Four years of a failed war has robbed us of beloved brothers, wives, sons, and daughters. And yet you ask us to order our troops to endure more bloodshed and to inflict more harm on a broken country. My son served honorably as a soldier in Afghanistan during the early stages of that war, and so I know how much courage and dedication our troops embody. If we ask them to risk death daily, we had better have a just and sound reason for that request. Their willingness to lay down their lives is a sacred trust. I implore you not to betray that trust any further.

Yes, Mr. President, we do need a change of policy in Iraq. But do we need to escalate our troop levels? The Iraq Study Group says No. Do we need to put more troops in harm's way? Three out of four of Americans say No. Do we need to spend more, fight harder, sacrifice more American lives, and kill more Iraqi citizens in order to secure peace in their country and in our own? People of conscience the world over say No!

And yet you would have the American people give our blessing to all of these ill-advised plans. As a religious leader, as a father of a former soldier, and as a concerned American, I am compelled to ask -- To what end? The whole world is asking this question and unless you can answer it, America will continue to

lose credibility with the international community. In the months leading up to the war, I posed a number of questions that I felt needed to be answered, questions regarding your plans for acting in partnership with the international community in any diplomatic and military efforts and your plans for ending the proposed war. These questions were not answered when the US invaded Iraq in 2003, and they remain unanswered today. Therefore, I cannot lend my support as more brave and loyal Americans are sent down a failed path with failed tactics.

As you risk the lives of our men and women in uniform on a mission that is completely contrary to the will of the American people, it is our democratic duty to make our voices heard. It is time to say NO!

Sincerely,  
Rev. William G. Sinkford

## ***Community Conversations Continue***

The February Community Conversation is another League of Women Voters Public Forum. The topic is The Impact of Immigration on Tarrant County: Facts, not Myths or Fears. The conversation will be held on Thursday, February 8th, 2007 at Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center, 1001 Jones Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102, Community Meeting Room, 2nd floor, from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m.

Participants will include Juan Rangel, Fort Worth School Board and United Hispanic Council, Trends in Immigration from the Hispanic Point of View, Gary Sweeney, Director HUD Fair Housing Enforcement, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fort Worth Office, Fair Housing and Undocumented Residents, and Bernard L. Weinstein, Director of the Center for Economic Development and Research and a professor of applied economics at the University of North Texas in Denton, The Demographic and Economic Impacts of Foreign Immigration in Tarrant County.

Immigration is a major public policy issue in Texas and the U.S., fueled by lots of emotion and limited facts. The purpose of this forum is to provide facts to members of the League of Women Voters and the public about how foreign immigration is impacting Tarrant County. Westside had a forum on refugees in Tarrant County, so this forum will be the second in a series. The Gas Drilling Forum in January, which we co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County, attracted an estimated 150 Tarrant County residents who heard excellent presentations on the gas drilling process; water usage, disposal, and recycling; and the City of Fort Worth regulation of gas drilling within its boundaries. The League's six-page handout on gas drilling issues is available on the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County website. For more information, contact Linda Hanratty at 817-924-6629 or at llswenson@yahoo.com.

## **Wine Country Excursions**

The UU's of Napa, California are proud to offer their third season of Wine Country Excursions, a delightful way to enjoy two of America's most scenic valleys, Napa and Sonoma, an hour northeast of San Francisco.

Tours are small and customized to focus on guests' interests, e.g. wine education and tasting, art, history of the region, gourmet dining, or exploring the natural beauty of the hills and valleys. Visits will include private room/bath and breakfast in the homes of congregation members.

Sites of particular interest include COPIA (the American Center for Food, Wine and the Arts); Jack London's home; renowned and boutique wineries; fine restaurants including the Culinary Institute of America; the diRosa Art and Nature Preserve; many museums and galleries; miles of bicycling and hiking trails, etc.

In 2007 they will offer excursions from mid-May through mid-October. Plan for two days of touring and a two or three night stay with all local transportation provided. Home hospitality without tours is also available. Fees are below market rate for similar services with all proceeds donated to our small fellowship. They have limited openings, so contact them now for details: Iris Barrie, 707-265-6926 or barrie001@comcast.net.

## **Neighborhood Tree Planting Program**

The City of Fort Worth provides free 5-gallon trees to Fort Worth neighborhoods. Linda Simmons, a Westside friend, recently coordinated her neighborhood program and suggests that Westside UU might consider taking the initiative for such a program in our new neighborhood home as a means of community building and in keeping with our principle of honoring the "interdependent web" of which we are a part.

Consider these facts. In Fort Worth trees save \$61,473,000 in reduced energy cost per year. There are about 4.7 million trees in the city limits of Fort Worth that provide \$77 million in benefits annually. Trees capture 1,440,998,000 gallons of storm water each year and 16,171,000 tons of carbon per year.

To begin, a neighborhood project coordinator must be designated for communications purposes. Additionally, at least 25 neighborhood residents must agree to plant and water the trees. For more information, contact Michelle Villafranca, for-ester, at 817-871-5729 or at michelle.villafranca@fortworthgov.org. You may also contact Linda Simmons at 817-920-9790 to discuss her experience in coordinating her neighborhood's program

## **Friends of the UUA Phonathon**

As a supplement to periodic mailings, Friends of the UUA will be conducting a fundraising phonathon beginning the week of February 19th and continuing through the third week in March. Outreach Associates, a telemarketing firm located in Pittsburgh, will be phoning members who are currently active Friends of

the UUA to ask them to renew their support.

Your feedback about the calls will help us to monitor their quality. We have established a Friends Phonathon Hotline to facilitate that feedback: Members may call (617) 948-6525 to leave a message to ask to be placed on the "no call" list or to share a comment directly with a UUA staff member.

Your willingness to support the UUA enhances our ability to provide services and programs to member congregations and presents avenues for future growth of Unitarian Universalism throughout the country.

## **Important Southwest UU District Discussion on Revitalizing Youth Programming- February 3rd, First Unitarian Church, Dallas, TX**

Ministry with youth is instrumental to the vitality and growth of Unitarian Universalist communities. Our district is taking part in an important two-year process to revitalize and strengthen youth ministry. This is a grassroots process that began in early 2006 with surveys that our own youth and UU youth across the country completed, and our district's engagement in this process is essential to its success. You are encouraged to attend if you are a teen, parent of a teen, minister, religious educator, youth advisor, congregational leader, or a board member. The District (SWUUC) Conversation on Ministry To and With Youth will be held at the First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Saturday, February 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP if you plan to attend. RSVP and/or get more information from Jennifer Nichols-Payne, our District Director for Lifespan Faith Development, at (817) 446-0099 or jnichols-payne@sbcglobal.net.

## **UU Bed and Breakfast Directory**

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 27 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at 828-281-3253 or at info@uurehome.com, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations. Host listings on the UU're Home website at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published every year in April (and has many listings different from those on the website). For a copy of the 2007 directory, please send a check for \$20 (or \$25 and your e-mail address for both the book and a year's access to the website) to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806

## Inside Westside

### **Bob Conti Offers Matching Grant**

Bob Conti is a founding member of Westside U.U. Church and a long time Unitarian. He was born in New York, went to school there, and was trained as an engraver. He came to Texas as a member of the Armed Forces, and stayed here. Early in his career he founded his own business using his engraving skills. He made a variety of parts including aircraft instrument panels. Another of his businesses was printing the metal information tags on numerous types of engines, motors, etc. Over the years his businesses grew and prospered. Bob has a daughter, son, and adopted daughter and is married to Genalynn. Over the years Bob has been a generous supporter of Westside Church. He has offered matching grants to Westside that helped us finish out the space on McCart. We are most appreciative of his recent offer of matching \$25,000 for the purchase of Angel of Hope facility.



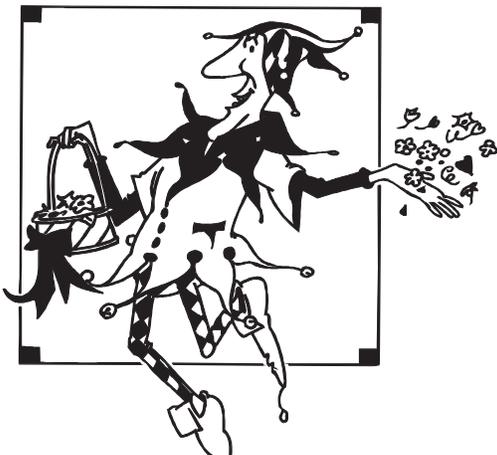
### **Russell & Gayle's Tea Party March 24th, 3 - 6 pm**

Come and go as you please during, what may potentially become, an annual event. Both tea/crumpets and wine/cheese will be served. Feel free to bring another beverage of your choice. We are over by Hulen Mall at 6120 Comfort Drive. (817) 370-2171.

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

Be sure to set this date aside on you 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 Justice Committee Meeting**

The Social Justice Committee will meet Sunday, February 11th after church to plan the Justice Sunday service "Drumbeat on Darfur". For information, contact Linda Hanratty at llswenson@yahoo.com or at 817-924-6629.

### **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.



## MARDI GRAS PARTY & SERVICE AUCTION

**February 24th, 2007**

### **Westside Unitarian Universalist Church**

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres and bidding on the silent auction items. Bring your friends for an exceptional night out! Dinner (by Chef Extraordinary Dolores Ruhs) will be served at 6:45 p.m.

The silent auction ends at 7:15 p.m.

At 7:30 the Live Auction begins.

There will be entertainment, fellowship, and exciting things to bid on.

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children (includes pizza and child care).

A King or Queen will be crowned to reign till the next Mardi Gras Party.

As donations roll in for the auction, Dr. Russell K. Elleven has offered to deliver a reflection/sermon on a topic chosen by the winning bidder. The estimated value is \$250.00, and the minimum bid will be \$50.00. Russell and the winning bidder will agree upon the delivery date.

The deadline to purchase tickets for the Mardi Gras Dinner is Sunday, February 18th. If you do not wish to eat, you may still come to the auction.

**IT'S  
SHOW  
TIME!**

## Social Activities

### **Great Books Group I**

Second Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Sunday, February 11th at the McConathy's home. The selection is The Theory of the Leisure Class by Thorstein Veblen, which is rescheduled from January. For information, call 817-294-5894.

### **Contemporary Books**

Fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is Sunday February 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Reed Bilz, 6130 Haley Lane. Call 817-292-7974 for gate code. We will discuss books by Kaye Gibbons.

### **Bridge Night**

First Sunday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the church. The next night is February 4th. 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.

### **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.

### **Birthdays/Anniversaries**

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.

### **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 next meeting is February 14th. Topic to be announced. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and end by 8:30 or 8:40. Everyone is invited for a good presentation and lively discussion following. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

### **Great Books II**

First Sunday of the month from 12:15 to 1:45 in the sanctuary. The next meeting is February 4th to discuss the O'Henry Award winner for the best short story of 1961, "Tell Me a Riddle", by Tillie Olsen. Attendance at our January discussion was 17. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or at paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

# February 2007

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

THE WESTSIDE STORY - FEBRUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Great Books 2 Bridge Night	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Kimbell Lunch	<b>8</b> Community Conversation	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Welcoming Congregation Social Justice Committee Mtg Great Books 1	<b>12</b> Lincoln's Birthday	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day Kimbell Lunch Humanists of FW	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> After-Church Potluck Lunch	<b>19</b> Presidents' Day	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Kimbell Lunch	<b>22</b> Washington's Birthday	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Mardi Gras Auction & Dinner
<b>25</b> Contemporary Books	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Kimbell Lunch			

# March 2007

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

THE WESTSIDE STORY - FEBRUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Great Books 2 Bridge Night	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Kimbell Lunch	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Great Books 1	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Kimbell Lunch	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day
<b>18</b> After-Church Potluck Lunch	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Kimbell Lunch	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Contemporary Books	<b>24</b> Ellebens' Tea Party
<b>25</b> Contemporary Books	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Kimbell Lunch	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Talent Show

# **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 McMahans, 3600 Lawndale Ave.  
Fort Worth, TX 76133

## **Have an announcement?**

Submit announcements for the next monthly newsletter by February 16th. 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.

## **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.

## **By The Numbers**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of Adults</i>	<i>Number of Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
December 03, 2006	55	8	63
December 10, 2006	52	8	60
December 17, 2006	50	6	56
December 24, 2006	64	6	70
December 31, 2006	41	1	42
<b>Monthly Average</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>58.2</b>

## **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.

SERVICE AUCTION/MARDI GRAS PARTY  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2007  
WESTSIDE U.U. CHURCH

Tickets are now for sale, \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children (includes pizza and child care). Please return your Product/Service Form as soon as possible. Items already contributed for sale:

- Four to five day vacation in San Miguel de Allende at the home of Pam and Jerry Rossing.
- Gourmet Made Easy Class – by Myrtle McMahan
- Massage Therapy – 1 massage per week – by Tom Woods
- Gourmet Dinner for Eight – by Howard & Myrtle McMahan
- Child Care – by Bettina Pfiffenberger
- Game Night with non nutritious snacks with children invited – by Bettina Pfiffenberger
- Banana Nut Bread – by Brenda McKeon
- \$100 gift certificate to a Dallas Restaurant – by Gayle Elleven
- Starbuck Coffee – by Brian Dierolf
- 4 Rodeo tickets to Cowtown Coliseum
- \$10 certificate from Half Price Books
- \$20 certificate from Jason's Deli
- Dinner for 4 – at the Purple Cow
- Admission for 4 at Billy Bob's
- Gym Bag from Fort Worth Running Company



2007 WESTSIDE U.U. SERVICE AUCTION: MARDI GRAS PARTY  
SATURDAY, February 24, 2007  
Westside U.U. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (Title): \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Value: \_\_\_\_\_ (each) Suggested Minimum Bid \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

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.