

The Westside Story

APRIL 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

Lunch Bunch

We will be eating at the Spiral Diner every Sunday after church in April (except April 15th, Potluck Sunday). Matt Erikson suggested the Diner. It is open on Sundays, and he says it does a really good Sunday brunch (pumpkin pancakes and things like that). It is a vegan restaurant; however, meat-eaters have made rave reviews on the pasta dishes. It also has great salads and scrumptious desserts. To get to The Spiral Diner and Bakery from church, go north on Lipscomb Street to Magnolia, turn left on Magnolia, and The Spiral Diner will be on your right at 1314 W. Magnolia.

Please feel free to suggest future venues for the Lunch Bunch for after church on Sundays. Just be sure they can accommodate a group of 20 or so, and that they are open on Sundays.

Sunday Services

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

April 1st - Justice Sunday by John Huffmann. This is the time each year when we join UU congregations in doing a service on an issue selected by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The topic this year is "Drum Beat for Darfur".

April 8th - How Disciplined Are Ya? by Dr. Russell Elleven. Well, today is Easter, the Sunday with the highest church attendance of the year. Where will you be when Russell talks about discipline?

April 15th - To Be Announced

April 22nd - Sermon on the Amount by Dr. Russell Elleven. Russell will offer up to the members and guests of Westside his third annual Sermon on the Amount. You know how much he loves to do this reflection. What will be different this year?

April 29th - On Being Sorry by Dianne Nixon. Dianne will share a sermon she remembers from her childhood. The Reverend Doctor Horace Westwood was the long-time minister of First Unitarian Church in Houston. His surviving brother, the Reverend Arnold Westwood of Massachusetts, sent this sermon, found among his papers, to her.

Welcoming Congregation

On April 8th Russell will facilitate the sixth and final educational session required for the Welcoming Congregation curriculum. We will begin at 9:30 a.m. The program has continued to be well attended, and the conversation has been enlightening. Come to this last session in preparation for our congregational vote in May.

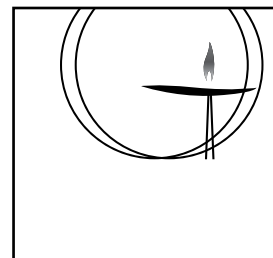
Where's Russell in April?

Unfortunately, Russell will be attending a storytelling festival from March 29th through April 2nd. This means he'll miss the Talent Show and Social Justice Sunday. He will deliver reflections on April 8th (Easter) and April 22nd (Sermon on the Amount). On April 8th he will also facilitate the final educational session of the Welcoming Congregation curriculum.

Office Hours for April are as follows:

Tuesday, April 3rd, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Thursday, April 5th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Tuesday, April 10th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Thursday, April 12th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Tuesday, April 17th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Thursday, April 19th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Tuesday, April 24th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Thursday, April 26th, 9:00 am to 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 Members of the United States Congress

from the Reverend William G. Sinkford, President
of the Unitarian Universalist Association (*Originally
published at UUA.org, March 9, 2007*)

To Members of the United States Congress:
The United States has spent at least \$400 billion on
the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The astronomical
cost of these operations is exceeded only by the
staggering human toll, and both counts are far be-
yond what any of us could have imagined when we
invaded Iraq in the spring of 2003. Now, four years
later, the administration is asking you to approve
\$100 billion to prolong this disastrous conflict and
to return exhausted soldiers to a dangerous and
embittered land.

While this money would allow our nation to send
more brave citizens into harm's way, it would do
little to guarantee that they will be fully trained
and equipped, or that our wounded veterans will
receive adequate medical treatment once they re-
turn home. And the increased funding does nothing
to ensure a speedy end to the carnage in Iraq. We
have already failed our troops in so many tragic
ways. The best way to support them now is to bring
them home and to ensure that they and their fami-
lies are given all of the respect, compensation, and
care they deserve.

Rather than a surge of troops, we American tax-
payers deserve a surge of truth. Because citizens
of all faiths and political persuasions are being
asked to pay to prolong the violence, it is our moral
obligation to reckon the true cost of the war before
we agree to continue it. To give a true reckoning,
we must honestly confront what we have done in
Iraq, and we also must acknowledge the many vital
needs we have left unfunded because we chose to
put our money toward war.

Until we can adequately prepare and protect our
troops, until we can provide them with premium
medical services when they return home, and until
we can guarantee a speedy and just end to the Iraq
conflict, I urge you not to spend another American
dollar on this war. I hope you will take a moment
to review the enclosed balance sheet. These con-
cerns are neither Republican nor Democratic. They
transcend partisan differences. They are moral
concerns that affect all of us.

Sincerely,
Rev. William G. Sinkford

Southwest Women's Conference

The weekend of February 16th-18th, Westside
was well represented at the Southwest Women's
Conference at Moe Ranch (near Kerrsville). At-
tending were Amy Youngblood, Mary Noer, Kerry
Walker and her mother from Temple, Joyce Beck,
three generations of the McMahan family, Myrtle,
daughters Debbie Dawson and Brenda McKeon, and
granddaughter, Natalie McKeon. Amy Youngblood
was elected President, and Myrtle McMahan was
elected Secretary.

WestAid Trinity Trek

WestAid will hold its Second Annual Trinity Trek
Bike-A-Thon, Saturday, April 21st at 7:00 a.m. The
Trinity Trek is a great way to have healthy fun and
benefit WestAid at the same time. This is a fun ride
not a race.

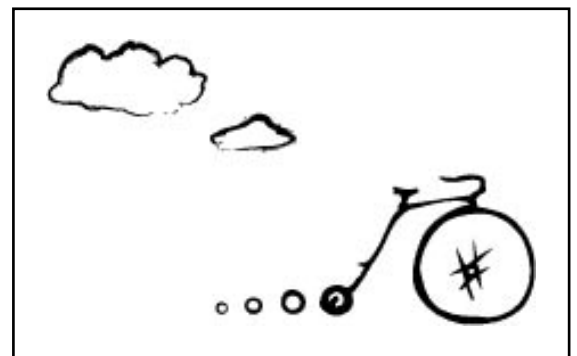
This year WestAid will again have a 50-kilometer
(31-mile) trek along the Trinity River bike paths.
All friends and families are welcome to participate.
WestAid will benefit through pledges for each rider
per mile or kilometer completed. Relay teams are
accepted especially for group members who do not
feel they are capable of the entire distance indi-
vidually. Each member of the team should partici-
pate in the pledge process for his or her individual
progress.

Congregations, youth groups and scout troops or
packs and schools are needed to participate both
with riders and by staffing water stations along the
path. Corporate teams or sponsors are also en-
couraged to participate.

The registration fee is \$15.00. All participants will
receive a T-shirt. The starting line is at Memorial
Oak Park in Benbrook, off Winscott Rd. near the
soapbox derby track. Questions? Call 817-732-3388
or 817-737-9338. Registration forms are available
online at www.westaid.org.

*When you have only two
pennies left in the world,
buy a loaf of bread with one,
and a lily with the other.*

- Chinese Proverb



Inside Westside

THE WESTSIDE STORY - APRIL 2007

From the Ground Up!!!

We are on solid ground and moving up! How high can we go? Please join us on April 14th at 6:30pm to delve into the answers to this question. A delicious dinner will be provided along with wonderful fellowship as we kickoff our 2007-2008 stewardship campaign to discover what dreams we will achieve this year! Please RSVP Mary Noer and Bill Terry (812-249-7341 or terrynoer@sbcglobal.net) by April 8th, and plan on lending your voice and your stewardship in the future of the church!

By Overwhelming Demand: The Return of Forum!

The wasteland of vacuous time for Westsiders between 9:30 and the 11:00 Sunday service, for which the vast majority of members have yearned fervently to be exorcised by a Xanadu of intellectual excitement, will, by decree, soon be replaced to overflowing by (trumpet sound) the return of Forum.

Beginning April 22nd, Dr. Ed Furber and Dick Trice will alternate Sundays, presenting videos of "Great Minds of the Western Intellectual Tradition" (30-minute lectures by the finest of university professors across the land followed by discussion) and "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Religions...Maybe More."

Ed's presentations will lead with the questions philosophers have pondered for thousands of years: the purpose of life; what is real; what is justice, beauty, virtue, etc.? The study begins with the pre-Socratics of Greece (the very first philosophers), followed by the Sophists, Plato, and Aristotle - through the development of the Hebrew Bible - the philosophy of Christianity - on to Hobbes, Spinoza, Hume - and all the way to Dewey, Heidegger and later philosophers most of us have never heard of.

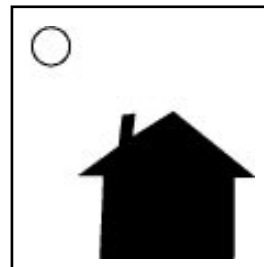
On April 29th, discussions of the world's religions, beginning with its origin (either "Thank God for this gift" or "What brought this curse?"), plus the earliest known religions, the ten or so greatest religions, pagan religions, the Dead Sea Scrolls and papyrus books of Nag Hamadi, arguments re the existence of God, the various holy books, different eschatologies, the Da Vinci Code funny business and a lot more.

Forums will begin at 9:30, end at 10:30, and be held in the sanctuary. Ed's philosophy course will begin April 22nd to be followed on April 29th by

the world religions study, the two alternating weekly presentations as much as possible, depending upon exigent circumstances. As Mark Twain would describe it, "the doors open at 9:15, the trouble begins at 9:30."

Pod-casting now available on Church Website

If you would like to have the latest audio recording of Westside's sermons delivered to your computer automatically, visit our church website www.westsideuu.org, and go to the 'Sermons' page. There you will find a link that you can copy and paste into your personal pod-casting software, which will check periodically for new sermons and download them when available. From those downloads, you can listen to them, copy them to MP3 players (for portable listening), or forward them to a friend. We may still be working some bugs out of the pod-casting system so do be patient if you experience technical difficulties. If you experience pod-casting difficulties please contact our webmaster, John Huffman.



CASA 2007

For the past eight years, a group of us, called CASA, have gone down to the Mexico border and built a small house for families that live there. This year's trip down to Progresso, Mexico is scheduled for June 3rd - 6th. We are building one house this year. If you are interested in joining us or want to know more about the project, please contact Bill Terry or Mary Noer (817-249-7341 or email terrynoer@sbcglobal.net). We are also accepting contributions to fund the building materials we use for the project. Any contribution will help and is greatly appreciated. You may contribute through the church. Just write CASA 2007 on the memo line of your check, and place it in the offerings basket.

Mardi Gras Party and Auction - Fun and Successful

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the most successful Mardi Gras/Auction Party. The net income was \$ 8,769.43. More than 80 adults enjoyed an evening of food, drink, fun, friends, and lively bidding on Saturday, February 24th at Westside. Our children enjoyed a separate fun time together, and they gifted us with a parade in the midst of the live auction.

*If only I may grow: firmer,
simpler, - quieter, warmer.*

*- Dag Hammarskjold
Secretary General of the United
Nations, Nobel laureate*

*I frequently tramped eight or
ten miles through the deepest
snow to keep an appointment
with a beech-tree, or a yellow
birch, or an old acquaintance
among the pines.*

- Henry David Thoreau

The donations and quality of items received show the generosity of our members and friends. Thank you to everyone who donated items, and to everyone who purchased them.

It takes many people to make such a wonderful event happen. Having David Ferabee as our auctioneer added to the fun of the evening.

A special thanks to numerous people:

Brenda Baldwin for the decorations that made us feel like we were in New Orleans, and to her hard working assistant, Alan Wilhelm;

Mary Noer for soliciting many businesses in the area and securing many donations of "outside" money, for arranging for child care and entertainment for the children, and to Jessica Zinn for picking up the pizzas for the children. Mary also coordinated with Myrtle McMahan the items for the silent and live auction items in the catalogue.

Dolores Ruhs for her food expertise, and all of her assistants which included Gayle Elleven, Marge Bixler, Linda McConathy and Audrey Weil. They also did the kitchen cleanup.

Caroline Nixon and John Huffman for advance ticket sales. To Caroline for entertaining us.

Charles Palmer for arranging for the wine, and to servers Rachel Malone and Gene McKeon. To Gene for picking up and returning the tables.

Paul Zinn for designing and running a new computer program that expedited the smooth closure of the auction and to Mary Cretsinger who assisted in recording the purchases and collection of the receipts. To Reed Bilz for checking in the bidders;

Tom Woods and his assistants for post party cleanup; and

Myrtle McMahan for preparing the bid sheets and the illustrations for the silent auction, and to Jill Jung, Eric Stevens and Linda Hanratty for setting up the silent auction.

If I've left anyone out, please accept my apologies.

Howard McMahan,
Event Chair

Gino Remembered

Compiled from accounts by Dr. Russell Elleven, Barbara Laskey-Dobbins, Myrtle McMahan, Linda McConathy, Mary Francis, John Johnson, M.D., Laura Nagel, Connie Dunn, Erin Dunn, Nancy Hynes, Beverly Archibald, Jane Palmer, and Gino's daughters.

Westside recently lost a dear friend and fierce advocate. Dr. Virginia Kennedy, known to us all as "Gino", left this life on March 12th, 2007. Her memorial service was well-attended, and many shared their special anecdotes of their times with Gino. As Russell said at her service, "Make no mistake about it, she will be remembered through all of us."

Gino was born in Ohio on October 1st, 1925 and was raised in the little town of North Bloomfield in a home once built for the Underground Railroad. (It had a secret space for hiding escaping slaves.) Her childhood friend Barbara Laskey-Dobbins recalls, "We had two small grocery stores, a post office, a bank, and a hardware store. We kids had freedom, and we felt safe to wander in the woods, ride our bikes or ponies or horses. We could pack a lunch and have permission to be gone for hours. Our school, all twelve grades in one building, was the center of activity. If memory serves, Gino (that's how she used to spell her name) played the trombone." She graduated high school in the same building where she started first grade. In 1949, she earned a bachelor's degree from Antioch College, a progressive institution, which she loved dearly.

Gino and her first husband, Nick Kurko, adopted four children: Paul, Jeanne, Kaye, and Lee Ann. The family lived variously in Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville (the city Gino recalled most fondly.) In Knoxville, Gino joined and became very involved in the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Her daughter Kaye recalls that her mother often had great difficulty leaving church after services, her own involvement was so great that others clamored for her attention.

It was her son Paul's learning difficulties that prompted Gino to return to school and earn a master's degree from the University of Tennessee in 1969. She was so eager to find a way to help him that she wanted to learn everything she could. Ten years later, she would go on to earn her doctoral degree from East Texas State University. John Johnson, M.D. met Gino during this time and recalls "Gino's single-minded preoccupation, which included endless research, toward finding help for Paul in school." She would later turn this energy toward working with Dr. Johnson in treating Paul's brittle diabetes.

Gino was a teacher in Fort Worth schools and a professor of curriculum and instruction at Tarleton State University in Stephenville. Russell recalls, "She taught in big ways, like in the classroom and

People like to imagine that because all our mechanical equipment moves so much faster, that we are thinking faster, too.

*- Christopher Morley,
writer*

Social Activities

in her research, but she also continually taught in many small ways. She would send you things to read in the mail. She would forward you things of interest on email." Erin Dunn recalls, "Gino was this woman who listened intently to everything a person had to say. Especially young people! She said my voice was important, and she valued my opinion about education."

After moving to Texas, Gino served as president of First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church. Myrtle McMahan, her friend of 40 years, recalls that her daughters were in the first group of teenagers to benefit from the sex education program taught by Gino at First Jefferson. As her involvement continued to grow, she served as chair and as a board member of the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women. Connie Dunn recalls, "My first memory of Gino is asking her to be president of the Southwest UU Women. I asked her, expecting her to say 'no'. I was surprised when she said 'yes'." According to Mary Francis of Norman, Oklahoma, Gino was a "godsend" to SWUUW. Laura Nagel, past president of SWUUW, recalls Gino as "the woman who brought us back from the near dead, which is what we were in 2001. Though we were nearly moribund from lack of leadership, Gino had found that we had plenty of money, and she insisted that we use it for social justice. She was a forward-looking leader, always a positive force, and a force for innovation, and change."

All of those whose lives intersected with Gino's are permanently changed by that relationship, and we all keep her alive as a result. Connie Dunn says, "Gino is a part of my life and will always be. She's alive in my life everyday. I have psoriatic arthritis. But every day that I wake up feeling every joint in my body, I remember Gino saying, 'Once you sit in that rocking chair, you're dead!'" Linda McConathy, who so faithfully attended to Gino in her final illness, adds, "We will miss her and her example to fully engage oneself in life."

Gino is survived by her daughters: Jeannie, Kay, and Lee Ann; her grandchildren: Roman, Tiffany, Jacqueline, Samantha, Nicholas, Paul, and Marvin; eight great-grandchildren; and her dear friends Tephney and Linda

Choir Practice – Sunday, April 1st and April 29th at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to join in. For information, contact Cathy McConnell at 817-734-1822.

Contemporary Books – Fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is April 22nd at 6130 Haley Lane. Call Reed Bilz at 817-292-7974 for the gate code. We will discuss book choices of group members.

Bridge Night – First Sunday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the church. The next night is April 1st. 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 - Humanists of Fort Worth meet in our church the second Wednesday of each month, and quite a few members of our church belong to that group also. The March meeting on the 14th brought a crowd of 22 for an outstanding presentation and enthusiastic responses from the audience. Dr. Kristen Klopfenstein of the Department of Economics at TCU talked about taxes here and abroad and their effect on citizens and economies. The quality of her performance had everyone discussing and praising it. The speaker and title of the next meeting, April 11th, will be announced later. Visitors are always invited to attend.

Great Books II has given itself a new name: Westside Great Books - Eleven members participated in the discussion led by Charles Palmer of Alice Monroe's "Boys and Girls." The next reading is a very short book, a compelling autobiography of an extraordinary man born into slavery, "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave." For anyone interested in democracy, law, history and what it means to be human this book should be required reading. WS Great Books meets the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 in the sanctuary. Put it on YOUR calendar and come to a great discussion. Call Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 if you would like to have a copy of guide questions before the discussion.

Moral certainty is always a sign of cultural inferiority. The more uncivilized the man, the surer he is that he knows precisely what is right and what is wrong.

All human progress, even in morals, has been the work of men who have doubted the current moral values, not of men who have whooped them up and tried to enforce them.

The truly civilized man is always skeptical and tolerant, in this field as in all others. His culture is based on "I am not too sure."

- H.L. Mencken

April 2007

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 Palm Sunday Choir Practice WS Great Books Bridge Night	2	3 First Day of Passover	4 Kimbell Lunch	5	6 Good Friday	7
8 Easter Sunday Welcoming Congregation	9	10	11 Kimbell Lunch Humanists of Fort Worth	12	13	14 Stewardship Dinner
15 After-Church Potluck Lunch	16	17	18 Kimbell Lunch	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 Contemporary Books	23	24	25 Kimbell Lunch	26	27	28
29 Choir Practice	30					

May 2007

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

THE WESTSIDE STORY - APRIL 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Kimbell Lunch	3	4	5
6 WS Great Books Bridge Night	7	8 Veterans Day	9 Humanists of Fort Worth Kimbell Lunch	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day Choir Practice	14	15	16 Kimbell Lunch	17	18	19
20 Potluck Lunch	21	22	23 Kimbell Lunch	24	25	26
27 Choir Practice Contemporary Books	28 Memorial Day	29	30 Kimbell Lunch	31		

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 April 20th. 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>
February 4, 2007	57	6	63
February 11, 2007	52	6	58
February 18, 2007	58	8	66
February 25, 2007	55	5	60
Monthly Average	55.5	6.3	61.8

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.