

THE *Westside Story*

MAY 2006

The monthly newsletter of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Now holding services at Angel of Hope Church, 901 Page St. • 11:15 am • www.westsideuu.org

Where's Russell in May?

On Sunday, May 7th, Russell will be in the pulpit of Horizon UU Church in Lewisville. On the 14th and 21st he'll be doing *UU History*, and *Joys & Concerns* at Westside. On the 28th he'll be delivering a reflection at Westside on James Luther Adams.

Office Hours for the month of April are as follows:

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the following dates:

2nd (Tues), 4th (Thurs), 9th (Tues), 11th (Thurs), 16th (Tues), 17th (Wed), 23rd (Tues), 25th (Thurs), 30th (Tues).

Just call him at 817-370-2171 during those times. If there is no immediate response, it means Russell is meeting with another church member at that time and will return your call as soon as possible.

Adult Forum (10:00 am – 10:45 am):

May 7th – “A Real Look at the Media” – Dick Trice – It's time to look at some of the questions we have asked about the media, about the Fairness Doctrine, the digital spectrum, the “gasbag gap”, the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the actual takeover of media, etc. What do some of the most reputable of journalists and writers think?

May 21st – “Theodore Parker and the Second American Revolution” – Dr. Russell Elleven – Along with Emerson and Channing, Theodore Parker was one of the three colossi of liberal religion and was probably the most remarkable of all. At the apex of his preaching career in Boston's Music Hall, he spoke Sundays to congregations of 3,000 or more. You'll want to know more about this great Unitarian.



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.

Sunday Services

May 7th

Ambassadors for Tolerance

Rev. Dr. Judie Arkow and the Tolerance Players
Ambassadors for Tolerance is an acting troupe composed of volunteers who believe in building bridges of mutual respect and tolerance between various cultures and faith traditions. Their mission is to help reduce cultural and religious hatred using interactive action and to help people learn ways to handle difficult religious and cultural diversity situations in their daily interactions.

May 14th

Religion Lite

Paul McClellan

What is it about those mega-churches? How did they get to where they are today? Can we learn anything from them? Our own Paul McClellan will share with us some of his thoughts on the rise of mega-churches.

May 21st

Religious Education Sunday

A Collaborative Service

Having studied the world's major religions this school year, the children and youth will present lessons learned by their individual classes. “Zen Shorts” will be performed for the Story for All Ages so that all can learn its Buddhist teachings. Come, learn how the Golden Rule is interpreted by various faiths, and enjoy the interaction with our children!

May 28th

UU Saint: James Luther Adams

Dr. Russell Elleven

There are many, many respected individuals amongst the ranks of Unitarian Universalists. Some say James Luther Adams is one of our saints. Come hear about the man and why he is still revered in our circles this Sunday.

OUR UU COMMUNITY

Unitarian Universalist Association Supports Immigrant Rights

(originally published on UUA.org)

As the public debate over possible US immigration reform heats up and marchers in support of immigrant rights take to the streets of major cities in ever-larger numbers, the Unitarian Universalist Association has issued a statement in support of immigrant rights. The UUA's statement, made by the Rev. William G. Sinkford, President, is grounded in the Association's commitment to immigrant rights and justice and equality for all persons and is directly tied to four of the Association's seven principles:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- 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.

An interfaith statement in support of comprehensive immigration reform, signed by the UUA among other faith groups, was issued in October, 2005 and updated in February 2006.

Dr. Brown to Speak at First Jefferson UU

James T. Brown, PhD., retired District Director of SWUUC, will speak about the current state of the UUA's anti-racism/anti-oppression efforts on Sunday, May 7th, at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76102, at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Brown says, "The Unitarian Universalist Association adopted resolutions at General Assemblies in 1990 and 1992 to undertake efforts to make the Association an anti-racist, multicultural organization. I participated in the program's formation and initial planning conference in St. Louis in January 1993, just a few weeks after taking my position as Southwest District Executive. I will be giving a PowerPoint presentation on the UUA's current anti-racism/anti-oppression efforts."

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute

The Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SWUUSI) is an annual extended family gathering at Lake Texoma State Park and Resort, sponsored by the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Conference. This year it will be held from July 23rd to July 28th. There are opportunities for people of all ages and interests to develop or enrich their Unitarian Universalist identity. Do a lot, or do a little; choose workshops and activities that suit your interests and energy level.

Registration forms are available at the church. Information is also available on the SWUUC website.

Quakers Donate Conference Center to UU's

On behalf of all Unitarian Universalists in the Southwest District, First UU Church of Austin has accepted the generous gift of a Hill Country retreat and conference center from Quakerland Friends Community. The Quakers found that they no longer had the resources needed to fulfill their vision for this property and sought out the UU's to act as stewards to retain their vision for the space as a place where people could find quiet, community, and refreshment for the spirit.

The property, now known as U Bar U, consists of three cottages, a storage barn, and a large meetinghouse, all on 142 rugged acres. Two of the cottages are of straw bale construction. The UU's intend to use the property as a place for "group retreats, reunions, workshops, sun and stargazing, birding, music programs, rites of passage, advanced and primitive camping, land stewardship, straw bale construction, continuing education classes, native plant xeriscaping, story telling, and ministers' programs."

The Unitarian-Universalist Friends Retreat Foundation, titleholder and property managers, may be contacted at 4700 Grover Avenue, Austin, TX 78756 or by phone at 512-452-6168. For additional information, contact Jon Durbin at jon_d@juno.com or at 512-331-9536.

SWUUC Sponsors Leadership Program

The SWUUC is encouraging each congregation to send two present or potential leaders (lay or professional) to the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience which it is sponsoring. DBLE is a six-day, intensive program, designed to teach and reinforce skills and abilities for leaders in UU congregations. Participants must agree to attend the entire program, which will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 16th and end at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, July 21st, and must be endorsed and sponsored by a congregation.

The program will be held at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. SWUUC congregations who are Fair Share Contributors to the District must pay \$150 to be eligible to send participants to DBLE. In addition to the church fee, the registration fee is \$400 for each participant for registrations received before May 15th; after May 15th, the registration fee is \$450. This covers tuition, room, board, and all supplies. Congregations are encouraged to pay all, or at least part, of the individual registration fees for their participants.

The program is designed for a maximum of 40 participants and tends to fill up rapidly, so apply as soon as possible to be sure of securing a place.

For more information visit the District's website at swuuc.org or call the District's office at 817-446-0099.

Horizon UU Presents "Pieces of East"

"Pieces of East" the award-winning folk/world music group from Austin, Texas, will appear in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 19, in Sanders Hall of Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church (1641 West Hebron Parkway, Carrollton – two miles east of Vista Ridge Mall). Tickets are \$10 for ages 12 and up, \$5 for ages 4-11; children under 4 admitted free if they sit on someone's lap. The concert is a fund-raiser for a storage building to house theatrical equipment for Horizon Players, the church's amateur theatrical group.

Drawing from American Folk and Classical Indian cultures, Pieces of East's folk/pop songs have earned them fans from around the world, won for them several prestigious Austin Music Awards, and ignited radio stations all over the country. They got their start in 2002 in Austin as Shadow Box, and their self-titled groundbreaking compact disc, "Shadow Box," produced by legendary producer Mark Hallman (producer of albums for Carole King and Ani DiFranco) received both popular support and critical acclaim. The eleven tracks include "Brothers in War" and "Jimmy and the Elephant."

In the 2003 Austin Music Awards (AMA) the group was nominated, in their former name of Shadow Box, for eight awards, and took home Best World Music Band and Best Miscellaneous Instrument awards. In reviewing the 2003 AMA, David Lynch of the Austin Chronicle hailed Pieces of East as "a veritable supergroup" and further, "...the

group's blend of Eastern timbres and Western structures spotlights Giammona, whose voice is as graceful as figure skating swans." At the end of 2003, he put "Shadow Box" on his list of Top 10 Texas picks for the year.

In 2004, the group was nominated for AMAs in 12 categories, and again received the Best World Music Band award. They spent 2004 touring the mid-western United States and performed at the South Park Festival in Colorado.

In January 2005, they released their second CD, "Mr. President EP," with two new songs, "Mr. President" and "Cherry Tree." To celebrate the EP release, they teamed with Austin-based group, Atash, in a concert at a local Austin establishment to raise money for relief of victims of the 2004 tsunami. During 2005, they toured the western and mid-western United States, including performances in an Austin fund-raising concert in support of World Beat Café, an Austin benefit concert for Manos de Cristo, and the Union Street Festival in San Francisco. In mid-October, they released their latest CD, "So Many Things," eight tracks of new songs including "Holiday" and "Tabla Solo."

For more information about the concert (or Horizon Players), contact Eileen Terrell at 469-222-8685. To learn more about Pieces of East or to hear some of their music, visit www.piecesofeast.com

Register now for the UUA General Assembly in St. Louis

The UUA's General Assembly will take place from June 21-25 in St. Louis, Missouri, and registration is now open! If you're an active youth, young adult or adult member of a UU congregation, plan now to join us in St. Louis for GA! You'll want to be present for the rousing ingathering program with its banner parade and terrific music, the Ware Lecture delivered by award winning poet Mary Oliver, and the Sunday morning worship service led by the Rev Gail Geisenhainer, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, FL. You'll have the opportunity to attend hundreds of valuable programs and workshops, meet Unitarian Universalists from across the United States, and worship and celebrate together at GA. Registration, hotel, and travel information is available at <http://www.uua.org/ga/>.

Westside Canvass Week

Every evening, Monday thru Friday, during the week of May 1st, members and friends of Westside will be meeting in a member's home to discuss the financial aspects of our church and its programs and services. A member of the Board or the Finance Committee will facilitate the discussions. Each group will have about ten members. The evening will also be an opportunity to become better acquainted with Westside members and friends.

Last year the annual canvass was conducted using small groups. Those who were part of Westside during last year's canvass will recall the numerous uncertainties facing us at that time. During the course of the year most of these issues have been resolved, at least for the next year. Last year the canvass resulted in an increase in pledges of approximately \$20,000, which enabled us to call a one-half time minister and lease additional space that better meets our needs.

These additions also increased our budget for the 2006-07 fiscal year by approximately 10 per cent.

If you have not signed up for a canvass dinner, contact the McMahan's at 817-294-1363.

Howard McMahan, Chair, Finance Committee

INSIDE WESTSIDE

Westside UU Talent Show A Smash Hit!

Westside celebrated April Fools Day this year with its second, semi-annual, talent show. A record 75 people attended the event where they were treated to a wide variety of entertainment, snacks, and beverages.

Vocal performances included Ken Carlson as a one-man-band, Caroline Nixon's vocal tribute to her parents, Alan Wilhelm's memorable original music (including his ode to Tai Chi), Rachel Malone's French song "A la Claire Fontaine", Iris Jacobs-Acuff's humorous folk tune, and multiple performances (including a sing-along) from "The True Believers", an all UU group comprised of Rachel Malone, Cathy McConnell, Caroline Nixon, Jeff Rodriguez, Carl Romano, and Alan Wilhelm.

Sarah Wilhelm performed "Claire de Lune" on guitar and was accompanied by her dad Alan Wilhelm. Carina Terry played Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" on piano and a duet with her mom, Mary Noer.

The audience was also treated to some spellbinding oral interpretation by Grayson Harper who presented some scathing social criticism in "Sleeping on the Bus" and "I Like to Think of Harriet Tubman" and by Kelsey Shipman who performed three original poems, one a tribute to her grandmother who died recently.

Amy Youngblood and Mike West lampooned President Bush and Condoleeza Rice in an original comedy skit, and their daughter Sally appeared as Jenna Bush.

While sets were changed between acts, Gino Kennedy, Mary Noer, Welton Martin, and Charles and Jane Palmer provided comic relief with real-life 911 calls, snappy one-liners, and the occasionally painful pun.

Brenda Baldwin organized the evening and the Social Committee decorated and provided the wide array of treats.

Annual CASA Event

It is time for another home to be built in Progresso Mexico! A group from Westside UU, usually of four to twelve people, joins with other friends and relatives to travel down to Mercedes, Texas. We then cross the border every day to Progresso to build a small, simple house for a family there. We visit with the other families we have built for, and try to bring them clothes, drapes, kitchen sinks, tires, books, shoes (you name it, they need it.)

We need to have several things to be able to build. We need volunteers, people willing to make the drive and pay for their room and board at the ranch house (usually around \$60/person for the week) plus gas to get down there, and then do some building (or support work at the ranch house for those who are building.) We also need people to donate items to bring down to the families (although we usually have plenty of clothing.) And finally, we need funds! Each home costs around \$1300. Any amount would be greatly appreciated to go towards paying for the home. If you wish, you can make out checks to Westside UU, and put "CASA build" on the memo line.

So please help in whatever way you can. We will be leaving June 3rd and, weather permitting, be driving back on June 7th. (We do try to carpool when possible.) Contact Bill Terry or Mary Noer at 817(249-7341) or at terrynoer@sbcglobal.net as soon as possible. Thank you!!

Religious Education Committee Meeting

The next R.E. Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, May 4th, at 6:15 p.m. at the Chik-fil-A on Hulen at I-30. If you have any questions, contact Caroline Nixon-Garcia at carolinenixon@sbcglobal.net.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please mark Sunday, May 21st on your calendar. This is the date for our Annual Congregational Meeting. There will be a number of important items to discuss including election of the 2006-2007 board of directors, bylaws revision, Volunteer of the Year award, discussion of our current church location and ratification of the 2006-2007 budget. This is the Sunday of our church potluck lunch, so we will be well fed before the meeting. Look for the official agenda toward the beginning of May. The board hopes you will take this opportunity to participate in our church governance. We will see you on May 21st.

Bill Terry

President, Board of Directors

Gino Kennedy To Move Closer

Mark your calendar for June 17th. One of our long-time members, and current Secretary of our Board, needs our help. Gino Kennedy needs some assistance in getting some things done around the house in order to put it up for sale and move closer to our church family.

As most of you know, Gino lives in Stephenville and will sometimes make the drive to Fort Worth more than once a week in order to attend services, Board meetings, and committee meetings. Gino has devoted a great deal of her time and talent to our church. We now have an opportunity to assist her in a time of need.

This is what religious communities do for one another. If you can help in any way, please contact our minister, Russell Elleven.

doctorelleven@gmail.com

817.370.2171



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Religious Education Committee – First Thursday of every month at 7:15 p.m.

Snacks and Potlucks – or “eats and greets!” - We enjoy each other’s company so much we never want to leave on Sunday – until we get hungry!

Please help support our Sunday snacks by donating \$1 per person per month (just write “snacks” in the memo line of your check). We also need volunteers to set up the snacks and make sure they are cleaned up afterward. If you would like to be on the “SNACKS” committee, perhaps helping out once a month, please contact Brenda McKeon (817-921-3692) or bameckeon@aol.com. Dolores will surely appreciate our help!!

UU Women – Come meet for food and fellowship every First Friday of the month. Women of all ages are welcome. We will be meeting at noon at the Kimbell Art Museum in the cafeteria. Please call Liz Hutchison (817-726-3999) if you have any questions.

Great Books Group #1 – Second Sunday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is May 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Furbers’. The selection is “Pensees” by Blaise Pascal. For information, call 817-294-5894.

Great Books Group #2 – Third Sunday of each month from 6:30 p.m. To 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is May 21st at the church. The reading will be “Pensees” by Blaise Pascal. Discussions are open to all. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or at paandmatrice@sbc-global.net.

Contemporary Books – Fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Our May meeting will be May 28th at the home of Reed Bilz, 6316 Walburn Court. We will be discussing Marj Bixler’s book Potluck, and she will be present to tell us about it. Plan ahead for our June 25th meeting by reading *Midwives* by Chris Bohjalian. For information, contact Reed at 817-292-7974 or at rbilz@earthlink.net.

Bridge Night – First Sunday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the church. All levels of players welcome! Please contact Mary Noer at 817-249-7341 or terrynoer@sbcglobal.net for information.

Dinners for Nine – No dinners are currently planned. If anyone is interested in planning one, please contact Mary Noer (817-249-7341 or terrynoer@sbcglobal.net)

Dinner-Making/Serving – First Saturday of every month from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. You are invited to participate in Angel of Hope service projects: to make/serve dinner at Samaritan House, for residential adults with HIV/AIDS. Contact Kim Haymon, cell: 817-726-6856. Donation accepted in “Turner Projects” (large plastic jug) on the front left platform of the church.

Sandwich-Making – Second Monday of every month from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. You are invited to participate in Angel of Hope service projects: to make sandwiches at the Presbyterian Night Shelter. Contact Kim Haymon, cell: 817-726-6856. Donations accepted in “Turner Projects” (large plastic jug) on the front left platform of the church.

Thanksgiving Thursday – May 11th at 6:30 p.m. **Please note the new start time of 6:30.** (This change is to allow the Pre-School to dismiss without the safety challenges of our entering the building for set-up before 6:00 p.m.)

Please join us for the last Thanksgiving Thursday before we take a break for the summer. The menu will be Mexican. We’ll have two entrees (one meat and one vegetarian), side dishes and dessert. Please pre-pay for your dinners by signing up and giving \$5 per adult and \$3 per child to Barbara Trice in the fellowship hall after church on April 30 or May 7. (Or, call her to make arrangements if you won’t be at church either of those days). This communal meal precedes Think-N-Talk, and you are welcome to participate in both, or just one.

Think ‘N Talk – Thursday, May 11th at 7:20 p.m., Topic to be announced. Watch for Sunday announcements and the Weekly Web updates.

Westside’s Spring Picnic Revisited

Wow! We had the best time at the church picnic April 23rd. The weather was perfect, the food was wonderful, and the desserts were heavenly. No surprise here, but Dolores Ruhs won the dessert contest with her divine chocolate mousse dish. There were several other serious contenders however, so I don’t think Dolores will be able to rest on her laurels!

Alan Wilhelm and Carl Romano won the water balloon toss, although there is some speculation this was only because they hired the kiddos to razz and torment their competition. Mary Noer and Carl Romano definitely won the three-legged race, even the rematch. Sara Wilhelm won the sack race, though a private vendetta was

apparently settled as Alan W. and Jeff Rodriquez raced in a separate sack race, and Alan, doing somersaults and rollovers (on top of Jeff) won by a backside.

We can’t really say who won the tug-of-war, as it was as hard to organize as herding a bunch of cats. But all participants had a great time. The kids particularly loved cooling off the many adults with water balloons after the tug.

Many adults played horseshoes and competed in a quiz that Dick Trice developed – and they did quite well. And to finish off the event, kids and adults alike flew many kites – it was a wonderful sight! Carina Terry’s only complaint was that it would be a whole year before we do it again.

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

Spread the Faith! When you have finished reading your *Westside Story*, leave it at the doctor's office, barber shop, wherever it might be read by a potential UU.

Have an announcement?

Submit announcements for the next monthly newsletter by May 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 at 817-847-9713 or at 2609 Silver Hill Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76131.

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church Board of Directors 2005-2006

President – Bill Terry

Vice-President – Paul McClellan

Secretary – Virginia (Gino) Kennedy

Treasurer – Mark McMurry

Directors –

Andrea Dorgan • Linda Hanratty

Bettina Pfeiffenberger • Dick Trice

Religious Education

2006-2007

“Peace”

Beginning in September, our children and teenagers will be studying the state of, the freedom associated with, and the harmony created by peace from a global perspective.

All ideas, suggestions, and materials that could be used this curriculum are welcomed. Contact Caroline Nixon at Caroline.Nixon@sbcglobal.net.

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.

By the Numbers:

Date	Adults	Children	Total
March 05, 2006	51	8	59
March 12, 2006	56	7	63
March 19, 2006	49	4	53
March 26, 2006	53	10	63
Monthly Average	52.5	7.25	59.5

June 2006 *Westside Unitarian Universalist Church*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
• Bridge Night	5	6	7	8	9	10
• Great Books #1	12	13	14	15	16	17
• Father's Day • Great Books #2	19	20	21	22	23	24
• Contemporary Books	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2006 *Westside Unitarian Universalist Church*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Bridge Night	• Angel of Hope Sandwich-making (Presbyterian Night Shelter)	• National Teacher's Day		• Religious Education Committee	• Cinco de Mayo • UU Women's Lunch	• Angel of Hope Dinner-making/ serving (Samaritan House)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				• Thanksgiving Thursday/ Think 'N Talk		
• Mother's Day • Great Books #1	14	15	16	17	18	19
					• Newsletter Submissions Due	• Armed Forces Day
• Great Books #2	21	22	23	24	25	26
						27
• Contemporary Books	28	29	30	31		