

# The Westside Story

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

## SAVE THE DATES!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST**  
CHURCH GARAGE SALE AT THE  
CHURCH. PLEASE COME AND HELP.  
FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT BREN-  
DA MCKEON AT BAMCKEON@AOL.  
COM OR AT 817-921-3692.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND**  
BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH DAY

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH**  
COMMITTEE FAIR

**SEPTEMBER 29TH, AND OCTOBER  
20TH CHURCH WORKDAYS**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH THROUGH  
SUNDAY THE 7TH**  
CHURCH CAMPING TRIP

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH**  
KARAOKE NIGHT

of meetings, church, and office hours. This will, of course, change a bit in 2008! Office hours for September are as follows:

Tuesday, Sept. 4th: 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Thursday, Sept. 6th: 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Tuesday, Sept. 11th: 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Thursday, Sept. 13th: 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Tuesday, Sept. 18th: 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Thursday, Sept. 20th: 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Tuesday, Sept. 25th: 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Thursday, Sept. 27th: 9:00am - 1:00pm

At this time we are still working out Russell actually being at the church for office hours. So, for now continue to call him at 817-370-2171. If there is no response, it means he is meeting with another church member and will turn your call at the earliest opportunity.

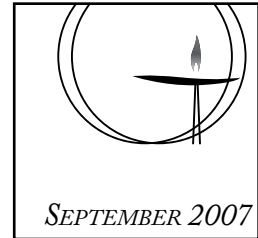
## New Religious Education Classes

The new Religious Education year for 2007-08 will begin September 9th. We will have a grand gathering before breaking into our classes on this morning, after being released from the church service. All are welcome to join us – you won't want to miss the fun!!

## Sunday Services

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**September 2nd - Bring a Friend to Church Sunday!** with Dr. Russell K. Elleven. True friendship can be a highly elusive thing. What sort of friend are you? What sorts of friends do you have? Bring at least one of your friends with you to Westside this Sunday and let's talk about friendship.



## 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, reli-  
gious exploration,  
and social action.*

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

*Westside Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
will grow and be-  
come a more influen-  
tial liberal religious  
presence through  
active service to our  
community and the  
world at large.*

## Where's Russell in September?

Unless something strange happens, Russell should be at church each Sunday of September with the exception of the 23rd. On that date he will be facilitating the Loyalty Class at First United Methodist Church in downtown Fort Worth. For that class he will be addressing Unitarian Universalism since 1900.

Now that the school year has started it'll be a bit more difficult to catch him outside

**September 9th** - *JPS and After: Lessons toward a more human society* by David Burlingame and Ann Sutherland. Westsiders David Burlingame and Ann Sutherland will reprise the efforts of ACT and other local organizations to convince JPS Health Network to include undocumented individuals in their care plan. Their talk will also identify successful strategies and suggest ways that Westside can broaden its outreach.

**September 16th** - *A Divided Court: Where Do We Stand When One Vote Determines Constitutionality?* by Donald Jackson. For purposes of constitutional interpretation, while we have had only one written American Constitution - that ratified in 1789 plus its subsequent amendments - in practice we have had - so far - three different Constitutions, but by judicial interpretation, rather than by amendment. Question: What will the 4th U.S Constitution be like? Donald Jackson, the Herman Brown Professor of Political Science (an endowed professorship) and currently the Director of TCU's Center for Civic Literacy, is a popular and too-infrequent speaker at Westside.

**September 23rd** - *Know Ye the Truth* by Bob Ray Sanders. The popular Fort Worth Star Telegram columnist will provide the topic of his reflection soon, but those of us who have listened to his previous reflections can guarantee it will be enlightening and entertaining - whatever the topic.

**September 30th** - *My Favorite Time of Year* by Dr. Russell K. Elleven. We all have a time of year that most excites us. September is that time of year for Russell. Come hear why and let's compare notes.

## Adult Forum

9:45 AM - 10:40 AM

**September 2nd** - *"Can Virtue Be Taught?"* In typical dialectic fashion Socrates discusses with Protagoras how his friend Hippocrates should be educated and whether virtue can be learned.

**September 9th** - *"Judaism"* Just how is Judaism defined, how did it develop, what is the Diaspora, the Torah, the Talmud, the cabala, Zionism, the Holocaust? and more. A guest speaker or speakers will be invited for this presentation.

**September 16th** - *"Plato's Great 'Republic'--Man Writ Large"* The most famous of Socrates' dialogues, the foundational work in what we call "political science." What is it by which a man can be said to be "good"?

**September 23rd** - *"Judaism"* continued.

**September 30th** - *"Mind and Body: Hippocrates and the Science of Life"* The beginning of "natural science" and the common sense approach by the Greeks to better health.

ONE WHO IS JUST OF HIS  
OWN FREE WILL SHALL  
NOT LACK FOR HAPPINESS;  
AND HE WILL NEVER  
COME TO UTTER RUIN.

-AESCHYLUS

A WISE AND FRUGAL  
GOVERNMENT, WHICH  
SHALL LEAVE MEN FREE  
TO REGULATE THEIR  
OWN PURSUITS OF IN-  
DUSTRY AND IMPROVE-  
MENT, AND SHALL NOT  
TAKE FROM THE MOUTH  
OF LABOR AND BREAD  
IT HAS EARNED - THIS  
IS THE SUM OF GOOD  
GOVERNMENT.

- THOMAS JEFFERSON

### A FEW WAYS THAT YOU CAN PRACTICE A MORE OUTWARD ORIENTATION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM



**NOW IS  
THE TIME**  
A CAMPAIGN TO  
GROW OUR FAITH

(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. Wear your name tag at every Sunday service.
2. Practice your response to the question, "What is Unitarian Universalism?"
3. Display our "7 Principles" at home or work.

# OUR UU COMMUNITY

## SWUUSI 2007

From July 22nd to July 27th, the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute was held at Lake Murray State Park in Oklahoma. Over 400 UU's from Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, and Mexico were in attendance. Westside was represented by Brenda and Gene McKeon, Howard and Myrtle McMahan, Judith Vaughan, Tony Woods, and Sally West. The McKeons, McMahans and Judith helped with registration, getting the packets ready ahead of time, and assisting on Sunday.

The mornings started with a worship service for all ages, followed by the theme talk given by Swami Beyonkananda, a/k/a Steve Bhaerman. Morning workshops followed. One of these was "Gourmet Made Easy" by Myrtle McMahan. There was a break for lunch and some free time. Afternoon workshops started at 2:00 p.m. Howard McMahan led a bridge workshop. There were numerous late afternoon activities, including choir practice. The evening started with the traditional Sunset Talks led by the Rev. Valerie Mapstone Ackerman. Afterwards there were different evening activities, including a choir program, a children's talent show, an evening jam session, and a family movie.

The children's program was outstanding. For the first time, the religious education directors from various congregations led the program. The younger children did a program called "Spirit Play", and the older children attended the Hogwart School of Magic & Fun. The middle schoolers did a "Coming of Age" program. The Hogwart program, based on the Harry Potter stories, was for 3rd through 6th graders, and it was wonderful to see this group running around in hats, capes and wands. Their enthusiasm was contagious.

Our high school youth were camping in another part of the park and came over to do a youth worship service and to have

a pizza party and dance. Each year they do a service project in Ardmore. This year they helped elderly people in a retirement village with cleaning and gardening. A wonderful story ran in the Ardmore paper. It is a time of renewal for all who attend.

## Banned Books Reading

The American Civil Liberties Union and Friends of the Fort Worth Library are hosting a Banned Book Reading on Saturday, September 29th from 2:00pm until 4:00pm at the Library Store in the Wedgwood Shopping Center off Trail Lake and Wedgmont Circle. Come listen to or read from a banned book. Bring your own, or pick one from Reed Bilz's collection of banned books that will be on display at the store during the month of September.

## Humanists of Fort Worth

HOFW will meet September 12th at 7:00pm at the church. Members and guests will be treated to the first episode of an extraordinary production originally aired on the BBC, "A Brief History of Disbelief." It was written and produced by Dr. Jonathan Miller, who was on Bill Moyers' Journal May 4th of this year, and it has appeared on public television stations in some markets but (of course) not in Texas. It's the first-ever historical account of nontheism on television. It outlines non-theistic and freethinking views from the first religious skeptics in ancient Greece through the influence of disbelief in the founding of the U.S. to the role of humanism in public life today. It is a most worthwhile production.

## LGBT Pride Parade

Congregations from across North Texas are planning to have a big UU Entry at the Gay Pride Parade in Dallas on September 16th. We would love for our UU brothers and sisters, and children of the LGBTQA (now noting allies!) community

THE WESTSIDE STORY  
SEPTEMBER 2007

*EVERY GUN THAT IS  
MADE, EVERY WAR-  
SHIP LAUNCHED, EVERY  
ROCKET FIRED, SIGNI-  
FIES IN THE FINAL SENSE  
A THEFT FROM THOSE  
WHO HUNGER AND ARE  
NOT FED, THOSE WHO  
ARE COLD AND ARE NOT  
CLOTHED.*

- DWIGHT EISENHOWER

*GOOD CAN EXIST WITH-  
OUT EVIL, WHEREAS  
EVIL CANNOT EXIST  
WITHOUT GOOD.*

- SAINT THOMAS  
AQUINAS

to join us at this event and help spread our message. It may be important to touch people who have thought about visiting a UU Church to know that we are out here, that we are a church, (some don't know that) and that we are welcoming.

It would also be a time for fellowship, and a chance to meet other UUs. Additionally, there will be a UU booth at the rally at the end of the parade where people can learn about UUs in general and all the congregations in North Texas. If there is interest at our church, maybe we could get a group together to car pool to Dallas. Contact Mark McMurry (817-683-9621) at our church or write Daniel Polk at [danieldale@att.net](mailto:danieldale@att.net). For general parade information, visit <http://www.dal-lastavernguild.org/> (the parade lines up on Wycliff Avenue, and our space number will be available on August 26th.)

## Tarrant Coalition for the Environment

The Tarrant Coalition for the Environment will meet at the church on Saturday, September 15th from 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. Set-up will begin at 12:30 p.m., and we plan to be out of church by 3:00 p.m. For more information contact Linda Hanratty at 817-924-6629 or at [llswenson@yahoo.com](mailto:llswenson@yahoo.com).

## INSIDE WESTSIDE

### The Link Program

The membership committee is launching a new program in order to facilitate the integration of new members into the life of the church. This voluntary program will involve "linking" new members with a current member of the church who will help the new members get to know us better and us to get to know them better as well.

The present church member will make sure that the new member meets other

church members and knows about various activities of the church, answer questions which may arise, offer transportation to events if needed, and in general serve as a mentor/friend to the new member.

As our church grows, we feel it is very important that our new members feel welcome and "at home" as soon as possible. This program is designed to help this process along.

Remember, this program is voluntary - on both sides. It is a trial which we hope will contribute positively to the growing of our church. The Membership Committee will provide a list of guidelines to help members who choose to participate. If you are interested in serving as a Link, please contact [Membership@Westsideuu.org](mailto:Membership@Westsideuu.org) or call 817-991-3939.

## Report of July's Service Project

In July, the non-designated offering benefitting Westaid totaled \$853.63. This donation by members and friends of Westside will assist Westaid to help families prepare for the new school year with clothes, shoes and school supplies. Although there are several programs in Fort Worth to assist with preparations for school, and Westaid assists families with accessing those programs, Westaid finds many families are unable to access those programs and stands ready as a resource. Thank you to all who helped make this donation possible.

## Committee Fair

Westside Committees will have informational displays for you to view before, during, and after potluck Sunday, September 16th. Along with ad hoc committees and other groups, our standing committees are those wonderful groups who make things happen at Westside - providing ongoing opportunities for adults to learn (Adult Education), caring for our building and grounds (Building and Grounds), man-

*CONCEIT SPOILS THE  
FINEST GENIUS. THERE  
IS NOT MUCH DANGER  
THAT REAL TALENT  
OR GOODNESS WILL BE  
OVERLOOKED LONG;  
EVEN IF IT IS, THE  
CONSCIOUSNESS OF POS-  
SESSING AND USING IT  
WELL SHOULD SATISFY  
ONE, AND THE GREAT  
CHARM OF ALL POWER IS  
MODESTY.*

- LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

aging our financial resources (Finance), caring for our members and facilitating the path for new members (Membership), coordinating fun times (Social), finding opportunities for social action (Social Justice), leading our children in religious exploration (Religious Education for Children and Youth), and coordinating the Sunday services (Worship). Please plan on taking some time to check out the displays, ask questions, gather information, make suggestions, and/or find a place to volunteer your talents.

## Kennedy Micro Bank Group Update

The Kennedy Group Committee met Tuesday, August 2nd. Members present were Sandra Morales, Linda Hanratty, Mary Noer, Bill Terry, Charles Palmer, John Huffman, Howard McMahan, Myrtle McMahan, and Ann Sutherland.

John Huffman set up an internet connection, allowing the group to view and choose four new loan recipients as well as check on current loans. The committee hopes to report on the start of loan repayments next month. It was decided \$250 per recipient was a good figure for current investments. Our four new recipients—Morn Mora, Phnom Phen province, Cambodia; Katuska Mora, Guyaquil, Ecuador; Carmen Bennet, Guyaquil, Ecuador; and Svetlana Nepechiy, Zaporozhye, Ukraine.

Mary Noer was asked to extend an invitation through Brian Dierolf, RE Director, to the church's youth group to participate. We will have more news on this endeavor next month.

Our Kennedy Micro bank group will next meet on Thursday, September 6th at 7:00pm. This is only our fourth meeting, but already we are working to help eight citizens on three different continents to work their way out of poverty! We plan to look at these individuals' progress and choose four more to help. Contact Ann Sutherland at 817-294-0401 for further information.

## Religious Education Update

I am pleased to inform you that Westside now has a youth group! Middle school and high school students are now meeting every Sunday at 12:30pm. After eating lunch together the group engages in UU According to the Simpson's. This modern curriculum uses the popular Simpson's cartoon to teach UU principles. Along with meeting after church for the Simpson's, the youth group is planning on going to a water park, designing a MySpace page on the web, going bowling, and doing several other fellowship activities. For upcoming events or more information, contact our youth sponsors Alisha Scott and Mary Noer.

In other RE news, September 9th will start our new RE year - studying UU Identity. Each Sunday our children will be investigating what it means to be a Unitarian. They will learn about Unitarian history and important Unitarians while examining what it means to be a UU in today's world. Upcoming RE events include the Halloween party on October 27th, from 2:00 to 4:00pm and RE in the Park on November 11th.

Take care,  
Brian Dierolf

## BRIC Update

Several significant Building Repair and Improvement Committee events took place during the month of August, including painting of some of our interior spaces, an initial meeting with our landscape architect, and a well attended church workday on Saturday, August 11th. We wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with details regarding these events and take a brief look ahead at how we plan to move forward.

On August 6th, we invited members of the board and church committee chairs to

*AN EYE FOR AN EYE  
ONLY LEADS TO MORE  
BLINDNESS.*

*- MARGARET ATWOOD*

*IN EXPRESSING LOVE  
WE BELONG AMONG THE  
UNDEVELOPED COUN-  
TRIES.*

*SAUL BELLOW*

join us for an informational meeting with our Landscape Architect, Oliver Windham. On July 21st the board voted to hire Oliver. Oliver was one of three landscape architects considered by the BRIC and was selected because, in comparison to the other landscape architects, his proposal provided the most clearly defined objectives. We also liked the examples he shared of his previous work, including two Arlington church campuses, Fielder Road Baptist Church and Lake Arlington Baptist Church, as well as the Fuller Garden located within the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. Members of the BRIC checked references on each of the three landscape architects and, when possible, visited sites from previously completed projects. We were pleased with all the choices we had in this area, and while we think any one of the landscape architects would have done an excellent job for us, we feel very good about our decision to go with Oliver. We would also like to acknowledge Harry Van Dam who found Oliver through the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens and pointed Maria Schmidt in his direction. Thank you Harry!

The purpose of the August 6th meeting was to provide other leaders of the church an opportunity to meet Oliver and to provide input as he begins to develop our master plan. Before finalizing this plan, Oliver will check back in with us to ensure we're all on the same page. This plan will address both short and long range goals, and - while we hope to implement some immediate changes based on the plan Oliver supplies us - we also hope to use it as a guide for the next few years.

The BRIC also scheduled professional painters to paint some of the church interior the week of August 6th. We received two paint bids, one of which came from Liz Hutchison's son-in-law, Brad Pope, a local contractor who has also done work for Ray and Audrey Weil. After speaking with Audrey, and checking with the reference for the other painter who supplied us with a bid, the decision was made to go with Brad. In addition to Audrey's feedback about working with Brad, there were also some aspects of Brad's bid, for

example the painting of the offices and the sanctuary doors, that were as much as 2 times lower than what was bid by the other painter. Brad's quote and Audrey's reference were the deciding factors as to why we chose to go with him.

Brad has been very accommodating and has assured us that any time we see some of the recent paintwork that needs to be touched up, to let him know and he will be certain to address it. Thank you Liz for your referral! As a general contractor, Brad will also be supplying us with other referrals for additional interior projects.

Because the school was scheduled to be closed for teacher training on August 8th and 9th, we knew this would most likely be the best time for us to paint the church offices while they are still empty and also paint the hallway and foyer areas. We also painted the library, sanctuary doors and the newly designated nursery/RE storage area. The need to paint our sanctuary doors and nursery/RE storage area was obvious, but we chose to paint the other areas because we believe fresh paint will make a big impact on the appearance and overall cleanliness of our space. Painting of additional interior spaces is currently under consideration, with the intention of the BRIC to provide a complete list of their recommended interior improvements to the board in early September.

The school's schedule is one of the biggest factors we must consider when scheduling interior work to be completed. Cindy Greaves, AMS BRIC representative, has been incredibly flexible with us and we are very appreciative of the role she's played as we've worked to make these improvements. Out of respect for her and her staff, as well as the children, we are working very hard to "compartmentalize" the work scheduled for completion, so the children and/or the teachers can relocate to a specific area of the building while the work is being done. We have also learned that with some projects (painting for example) smell can be a problem, so we have to be sensitive not to schedule too much work to be completed at one time, or the kids and/or the teachers will be overcome by fumes.

*ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE UNTIL THEY ARE PROVED IMPOSSIBLE - AND EVEN THE IMPOSSIBLE MAY ONLY BE SO, AS OF NOW.*

- PEARL S. BUCK

*A WONDERFUL FACT TO REFLECT UPON, THAT EVERY HUMAN CREATURE IS CONSTITUTED TO BE THAT PROFOUND SECRET AND MYSTERY TO EVERY OTHER.*

- CHARLES DICKENS

Our church workday was a TREMENDOUS success. We had 34 volunteers show up to work on August 11th. Some began their day as early as 7:30am that Saturday! Volunteers broke into four teams, so they could work together to weed the flower beds, empty the storage unit, clean the interior space and hang bulletin boards along with other miscellaneous tasks.

On the inside, folks were on their hands and knees cleaning behind toilets, refrigerators, scrubbing floors and cleaning windows -- and those bulletin boards were hung with extreme precision!

On the outside, weeds were "whacked" with wild abandon -- and it was hot and humid that day! We filled 20 large bags with debris from the flower beds and some volunteers had to be "begged" to stop working because it seemed like they could pull weeds FOREVER!

The folks assigned to tackling our storage unit sorted through the items to determine what we could continue to use and what we no longer needed in our new space; items that were determined to be no longer of use were marked for the upcoming garage sale. Our goal is to ultimately empty the storage unit so we no longer have to pay the rental fee.

Thank you everyone for your hard work. Even with all the sweat, it was a good time, and we all felt a sense of accomplishment! If you didn't get to join us, you still have a chance on September 29th and/or October 20th.

The BRIC will meet again with the board in early September to begin planning for the next round of interior projects. As soon as these are determined, we will post the schedule on the updated BRIC bulletin board.

The BRIC will be publishing a list of how the building repair and improvement funds have been used and the plans for future use, as well as the cost estimates for projects that we would like to do but currently do not have the funds available.

## Board of Directors Report

The Board met with the BRIC (Building Repair and Improvement Committee) on Sunday, July 8th. This was a marathon meeting of more than three hours where all of the forms submitted by congregants were reviewed, discussed, and prioritized. Space allocation was discussed and finalized. The BRIC also updated the Board on what they had accomplished to date and their plans for the future. The BRIC has established a good process, and the Board encouraged them to continue following the process to insure a fair and impartial handling of requests. Both the Board and BRIC are using our mission and vision statements as a key factor in decision making. The BRIC has done an excellent job getting multiple bids for big-ticket items as well as considering quality and experience. The Board supports and encourages this process. Monthly updates to the Board as well as more frequent reviews of expenditures are ongoing.

I hope you will join me in saying "Thank you!" to the hard-working BRIC. The current members are Gayle Elleven (chair), Jill Jung, Bob Vann, and Maria Schmidt. Gene McKeon, as the new chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, will participate in many aspects of the BRIC's work to insure coordination between the groups. I am thankful to John Huffman, former chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, for serving this role until August.

The first Board Meeting of the new church year was held Saturday, July 21st. One of our topics of discussion was each board member's hopes and dreams for the coming church year. From this discussion, our top three common objectives for the coming year were identified as membership growth (in numbers and in feeling of connectedness), policies and procedures to better define how things work and to make that information accessible to our members, and improved support of and communication with the church commit-

*EITHER YOU DEAL WITH  
WHAT IS THE REALITY,  
OR YOU CAN BE SURE  
THAT THE REALITY IS  
GOING TO DEAL WITH  
YOU.*

*- ALEX HALEY*

*HOW STRANGELY  
WILL THE TOOLS OF A  
TYRANT PERVERT THE  
PLAIN MEANING OF  
WORDS!*

*- SAMUEL ADAMS*

tees who do so much to make our church a place we all want to be. Communication with the congregation about all of these objectives and more was also identified as an ongoing priority. Other hopes and dreams were stated, and we will include those in our decision making process, but we feel it important to focus on a few things we feel will bring the most benefit to the church as a whole.

Our regularly scheduled meeting will be held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Board Meetings are open to observers, but since the building is normally locked after all attendees have arrived, it is helpful to let Brenda Baldwin (at [president@westsideuu.org](mailto:president@westsideuu.org) or 817-988-9441) know you plan to attend. If you have an item for the agenda, please contact Brenda Baldwin in advance of the meeting.

The congregations input and feedback is most welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact the Board as a whole via [board@westsideuu.org](mailto:board@westsideuu.org) or to contact any of us individually through e-mail, by phone or in person.

In our faith,  
Brenda Baldwin, President

## Bring a Friend to Church Sunday (9/2)

It has been proclaimed from on high (not really, Russell just suggested) that Sunday, September 2nd will be Bring a Friend to Church Sunday. All Westside members are invited to extend the hospitality of our church to their friends on that day. While you are, of course, encouraged to invite your friends to church at any time, September 2nd will be a church-wide effort. Russell knows who he is inviting. Gayle knows who she is inviting. Do you?

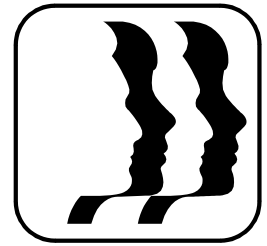
The membership committee has printed up 50 brochures to offer your friends if you will use them. These brochures are pretty expensive to print, so please only ask Reed Bilz for a brochure if you'll really use it:-)

*IF THE WORLD WAS PERFECT,  
IT WOULDN'T BE.*

- YOGI BERRA

*IRON RUSTS FROM  
DISUSE; WATER LOSES ITS  
PURITY FROM STAGNA-  
TION... EVEN SO DOES  
INACTION SAP THE VIGOR  
OF THE MIND.*

- LEONARDO DA VINCI



## New Faces

### Cindy Fountain Joins Westside

Cindy Fountain has lived in Texas all her life. In 1999 she and son Zach moved from Tarrant County to Cleburne. She likes to read, walk, and jog. A person of many talents, her most recent project is building her own paving stone patio.

After a marriage that ended in divorce, Cindy decided she wanted to be a mom. Luckily she was able to find an agency that handled adoptions of children from Central and South America. Zach is from Guatemala. She began adoption proceedings immediately after his birth and was able to visit the country and bring him home with her when he was only six months old. He is now almost fifteen.

Following graduation from college, Cindy worked at General Motors until taking early retirement to spend more time with Zach. Lloyd, her partner of ten years, also a GM retiree, keeps a separate home on his ranch where he takes care of his cattle and harvests hay "while the sun shines," if he's lucky,

Cindy does substitute teaching, often at an alternative school for children with disciplinary problems. In addition, she is a volunteer at CASA, a Court Appointed Special Advocate for the rights of children who are under the care of Child Protective Services. Many of the problems they face stem from their parents' drug use. Volunteers like Cindy ease some of the burdens that overwhelm social workers. Currently she is the advocate for three children in foster care. One of her tasks was getting shot records and the birth certificate for the child who is about to start school. Her main goal is to see that the children are placed in permanent, safe, and loving homes.



Cindy's mother was Lutheran and her father Baptist, neither particularly devout. She felt she was a Unitarian and looked for a church on the internet. She joined Westside because she likes the services and what the church is doing and represents.

### Meet Suzie and Jay Lotven

Suzie was born in El Paso, Texas and moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico when she was ten years old. She returned to El Paso to attend the University of Texas at El Paso where she got a degree in history. Later she went to North Texas State for her master's degree in education. She was an elementary school teacher for 29 years. The last several years she trained other teachers in ESL, reading, and math. She formerly was an Episcopalian.

Jay was raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He received a business administration degree from Oklahoma State University, and many years later, a degree in education from Blackburn University in Illinois. Jay had a varied career including selling pharmaceuticals, administering defense contracts, owning his own business, and teaching high school. His family was Jewish. After college, in 1958 while living in Houston, he joined First Unitarian Church.

The Lotvens met in Arlington and married in 1977. Jay has a grown daughter and son. Jay and Suzie have four dogs, four cats, and one bird. They live in the Fairmount Addition, north of the church.

In 1987-88 they did a stint with the Peace Corps in Belize. They have also lived in Mexico, California, Oklahoma and Illinois.

Their hobbies include reading, traveling, and eating. Suzie likes to play Free Cell and Sudoku on the computer. She also volunteers at the zoo two days a week. Jay has "outgrown" most of the activities he enjoyed when younger. Now he likes to read on the computer and eat.

The Lotvens met Russell when he spoke at

a Peace Vigil on the fourth anniversary of the war in Iraq. They were both impressed with his defining Unitarian Universalism as "our actions are our prayers". They like the friendliness of the people in the church, and the fact that there is no pressure or guilt put on people. They joined because they felt that - as long as they were going to be attending - they might as well be members.

### Say Hello to Debbie Aulenbacher

Debbie Aulenbacher is a native Texan and a retired U.S. Navy nurse with a specialty in neurology. Her twenty years of service included both the Vietnam War and the first Gulf conflict. During this time she was awarded two navy commendation medals. Her nursing career included duty in hospitals in Chicago, Corpus Christi, and Japan.

Debbie lived in Okinawa, Japan, for three years and traveled extensively in the Orient, including Singapore, Korea, and Hong Kong. In China she saw the Great Wall and the Forbidden City in Beijing. As a nurse, she was especially interested in acupuncture and the medicinal uses of herbs by the Chinese. She also visited the opium fields in Thailand where the government gives incurable addicts small plots of land to tend without penalty, a liberal attitude that makes the site a tourist attraction.

Now unemployed by choice and living on military retirement benefits, Debbie looks for activities that are free. She enjoys cultural exhibits at the various museums and working out at the senior fitness center. She is interested in gardening, likes to read, watch foreign movies, and study Buddhist teachings. She belongs to a drumming circle and feels that the rhythmic beat of percussion instruments in a group setting has a spiritual quality.

Debbie's religious background was non-denominational. She learned about Westside from her neighbor and friend, Beverly Archibald. She joined because she likes it here (and because Russell said she would be the one hundredth member). She likes

*AS SOCIETIES GROW  
DECADENT, THE LANGUAGE GROWS  
DECADENT, TOO. WORDS  
ARE USED TO DISGUISE,  
NOT TO ILLUMINATE,  
ACTION: YOU LIBERATE  
A CITY BY DESTROYING  
IT. WORDS ARE TO  
CONFUSE, SO THAT AT  
ELECTION TIME PEOPLE  
WILL SOLEMNLY VOTE  
AGAINST THEIR OWN  
INTERESTS.*

- GORE VIDAL

the open-mindedness at Westside that encourages a healthy skepticism, the emphasis on education, and the loving acceptance and peaceful attitudes of Unitarians.

## New Directory is Coming Your Way

If you have changed your name, address, phone number or e-mail address, please notify Myrtle McMahan, mahan34@sbcglobal.net immediately. With as many new members as we have, we are trying to get a new directory out in September.

## Board of Directors Meeting

The standing meeting of the Westside UU Church board is the third Tuesday 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.

*IT IS IMPORTANT TO EXPECT NOTHING, TO TAKE EVERY EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING THE NEGATIVE ONES, AS MERELY STEPS ON THE PATH, AND TO PROCEED.*

- RAM DASS

*FORTUNATELY ANALYSIS IS NOT THE ONLY WAY TO RESOLVE INNER CONFLICTS. LIFE ITSELF STILL REMAINS A VERY EFFECTIVE THERAPIST.*

- KAREN HORNEY

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).

## MISSING

FROM WESTSIDE'S KITCHEN: APPROXIMATELY FORTY GREEN CLOTH NAPKINS POSSIBLY TAKEN TO BE LAUNDERED BY KIND INDIVIDUAL

PLEASE HELP THEM FIND THEIR WAY HOME

OR

IF BEING HELD FOR RANSOM, CONTACT DOLORES RUHS AT 817-249-1829

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT WANTED!

Westside is in a position to hire its first part-time administrative assistant. The position will be hired by the Board with Russell's input. The position will report directly to Russell and cannot be a Westside UU Church member. We will be offering 40 hours of work per month at a rate of \$12 per hour. We hope for someone with email and office skills, World Wide Web proficiency, and Microsoft Office familiarity. If you know of someone who might be interested in becoming our first Administrative Assistant, please have him or her email a resume directly to Russell at [doctorelleven@gmail.com](mailto:doctorelleven@gmail.com).

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).

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

**After-Church Potluck Lunch** – Third Sunday of each month. The next one will be September 16th. Please join us for food and fellowship. A special table is reserved for visitors and newcomers.

**Contemporary Books** – Fourth Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. We will next meet on September 23rd at Linda Hanratty's house, 4236 Oak Park Court. We will discuss *Quite a Year for Plums*, a short first novel by Bailey White. Ms. White is a commentator on NPR. Call 817-924-6629 for more information.

**Bridge Night** – First Sunday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the church. The next night is September 2nd. 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 first Sunday of each month. Please call Dolores Ruhs, 817-249-1829 or e-mail ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net.

**Westside Great Books** - First Sunday of each month at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting is September 2nd when we will discuss the play by Euripides, "The Bacchae." Older members of our discussion groups may remember another of Euripides' plays discussed several years ago, "Iphigenia at Aulis." The Bacchae are the women followers of the god Dionysus.

Questions raised by Euripides concern connections involving religion, madness, civilization, and reason. The play is considered a masterpiece of Euripides'. These discussions are held in the sanctuary and newcomers are invited to attend. Discussions are open to all and usually last about 80 minutes. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or at paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

**Annual Church Camping Trip** - October 5th, 6th, & 7th. HURRY HURRY!! Reserve your space NOW because it is filling up fast. We are heading to Cleburne State Park with dogs, kids, teens, adults, tents, sleeping bags, burgers, fajitas (for omnivores & herbivores), pancakes, breakfast tacos, sandwiches, games, scavenger hunts, rest & relaxation, nature hikes, and lots more. Don't miss it!! Contact Bettina Pfeifferberger at 817-343-8873 or at Zookittie@gmail.com or Jessica Zinn at 817-507-5157 or at jzinn@mac.com to reserve your spot and to get more information.

**Dinners for Nine** - The first 'Dinners for Nine' were held Saturday August 4th and were a resounding success with 28 members and friends attending. The next dinners will be held Saturday, September 8th. If you wish to join in the great food and conversation, please sign up on the Westside Web page by August 26th or fill out one of the sign-up sheets available at the church. For information, contact Dolores Ruhs, Social Chair, at 817-24-1829 or at ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net.

**Karaoke Night at the Church** - October 13th. Come to sing or come to listen - it will be a fun evening. We would like for people to come at 7:00 p.m. and the Karaoke will start at 7:30. This will give folks a chance to sign up if they want to perform. (Also, to get their beverage of choice and socialize a bit.) We are providing coffee, wine and lemonade, and are asking people to bring finger-food snacks (popcorn, nuts, cookies, cheese and crackers or whatever) and a beverage of their choice if it is different from what is provided. For information, contact Beverly Archibald at 817-346-3303 or at bevanfw@wt.net.

THE WESTSIDE STORY  
SEPTEMBER 2007

*FORGIVENESS IS A VIRTUE OF THE BRAVE.*

- INDIRA GANDHI

*A GENTLEMAN IS ONE WHO PUTS MORE INTO THE WORLD THAN HE TAKES OUT.*

- GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

# 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

## 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.

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

## Have an announcement?

Submit announcements for the next monthly newsletter by September 21st. 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.

## By The Numbers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sunday, July 01, 2007	57	5	62
Sunday, July 08, 2007	90	10	100
Sunday, July 15, 2007	91	7	98
Sunday, July 22, 2007	81	7	88
Sunday, July 29, 2007	75	9	84
<b>Monthly Average</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>86.4</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.

## 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.