



The Westside Story

February 2010

Monthly Newsletter of Westside
Unitarian Universalist Church

901 Page Avenue Fort Worth, TX
11:00 AM • www.WestsideUU.org

Name That Unsung Hero!

This month's Unsung Heroes have been nominated by Beverly Archibald. Westsiders may spot this industrious duo working in and out-and-about on project after project! Westside is a member of the South Central Alliance of Churches. Our unsung heroes routinely carry supplies and foodstuffs from the red cart (that they graciously provided) over to SCAC. They attend SCAC meetings when Beverly cannot do so, interview clients, and distribute gifts at Thanksgiving and Christmas. One of our dynamic duo serves on the Membership Committee as coordinator of the Sunday service greeters and ushers. She also participates in the church bridge group and gives rides to others when they are in need. Both our heroes are active in Circle Suppers and the group providing and serving dinner at Samaritan House each month. They have been active as kitchen helpers and are always ready to perform "odd jobs" as they arise.

When our dear friend, Dr. Charlie Ogilvie, needed help transitioning from apartment living to assisted care, these heroes were (and continue to be) on the spot...running errands, laundering, making and keeping appointments, serving as liaisons between Charlie and his family who are not in town; doing whatever it takes on a daily basis to bring him a sense of ease. Outside of church, you might also catch this pair at a humanist meeting, an ACLU meeting, or perhaps folding flyers for their democratic state legislator, Lon Burnam! What a team!

Name these unsung heroes, then go to the bottom of page four to check your answer.

Remember, if you would like to honor an Unsung Hero, please send an email telling us about your nominee! Thanks. Laurie and Steven Hagstrom. Hagstroms2@sbcglobal.net

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.

Valentine Social on February 13

6:30 – 10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

It's a celebration of love and friendship at Westside, a party for singles, couples, families, young and old. We will provide light refreshments and beverages (alcoholic and not), music and entertainment. If you want a specific beverage or want to contribute to the coffers, bring your beverage. Childcare will be provided.

We'll have cookies and ingredients to decorate – to be donated to a worthy cause.

We'll have flowers, candles and craft items for decorating the Fellowship Hall, as well as creating Valentines to be donated to a worthy cause.

Bring a Valentine token for a secret friend exchange - flower, non-gender-specific card, etc, and your abundant good humor and willingness to party hearty.

In some countries Valentine's Day is "Friends Day," a time to appreciate friendships. [Finland (Ystavanpaiva), Estonia (Sobrapaev), and most of South America (Dia del Amor y la Amistad)]. Also, in Slovenia this is when spring begins – a time for renewal and flowering.

Volunteers? Contact Diane Jones, Pam Rogers, or Linda Jenkins (see the directory on the website for contact information).

Sunday Services

February 7 - Gwen Gipson, "Poetry Sunday". Why write a poem? What does poetry allow us to express

that ordinary prose does not? Gwen Gipson and others will share with you some thoughts and, of course, poems.

February 14 - Dr. Elleven, "Evolution Sunday". All over the United States today, progressive churches are taking a positive stance on evolution. Russell will give you a little history on this movement and show how evolved his ideas are this Sunday.

February 21 - Dr. Elleven, "Can't We Just All Get Along?" You've likely heard this saying before in different contexts. We do a pretty darn good job getting along at Westside. Why is that? Russell will offer his thoughts this Sunday morning.

February 28 - Dr. Elleven, "There's No Accounting for Taste". You like some things. Your partner likes other things. I like some music. You like other music. We all like different things. But there are times when there is no accounting for taste. Russell will attempt to explain what he means this Sunday.

sunday morning options

FORUM

Beginning February 7 and continuing every Sunday, Forum will follow a study of the history of the U.S. using the book by Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the U.S.*, beginning with a short showing of the recent TV production of "The People Speak."

Whether or not you are familiar with this introduction by Zinn and the reading of quotations

It is hard enough to remember my opinions, without also remembering my reasons for them.

-Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

We are all atheists about most of the gods that societies have ever believed in. Some of us just go one god further.

-Richard Dawkins

The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.

-Isaac Asimov

by famous champions of the people recited by prominent Hollywood actors and protest songs by well-known musicians, you will greatly enjoy this introduction to a revealing and shocking history.

You may want to procure a copy of Zinn's book, as we go through it chapter by chapter. If you do, be sure to get the "1492 -- Present" volume, first printed in 1980. This book has shocked readers with its revelations of how the history we've been taught over all these years was simply subterfuge. Suppressed by the establishment and the fourth estate, its fame has increased by word of mouth such that sales have increased each year since, now over two million copies. It has become required freshman reading in several colleges across the country and its support by famous liberty lovers offers a great omen of hope. I urge everyone to own and read a copy whether Forum is attended or not.

- Dick Trice

How Your Church Family Works

This interesting book discussion group continues and will next meet on Sunday the 28th at 9:45 a.m. Those participating should read the fifth and sixth chapters prior to the February meeting. The ideas expressed in this book and our discussion of them could play a very large role in the health of Westside as we go into our future together. If you have not been participating, consider reading the book on your own.

Choir

Choir will resume Feb. 7th. Email Cathy at clmcc7@yahoo.com for information.

RE News

Don't miss Julie Tribble's RE News. You'll find what you need to know about our RE program and all about the "Souper Bowl", so check it out! It's the last two pages of this document (after the page with attendance).

in & around westside

Social Justice Committee Report

**Next meeting Thursday, March 11th
at 7 p.m. Please join us!**

We met January 14th and accomplished several things. We allocated \$1700 to nine more Kiva entrepreneurs, bringing our entire "portfolio" to 137 groups and the total contributions over \$18,000.

The school-based clinic sponsored by the South Central Alliance of Churches is coming right along. Plans are being finalized between JPS, which will pay for the health care professionals, and the South Central Alliance of Churches. The clinic construction will be paid for by the Southside Church of Christ at 2100 S. Hemphill.

*The Westside Story
February 2010*

*The tragedy of
modern war is not
so much that young
men die but that
they die fighting
each other, instead
of their real en-
emies back home in
the capitals.*

-Edward Abbey

*The truth is that
every morning war
is declared afresh.
And the men who
wish to continue it
are as guilty as the
men who began it,
more guilty per-
haps, for the latter
perhaps did not
foresee all its
horrors.*

-Marcel Proust

The Westside Story
February 2010

We will be approaching area school PTAs asking for support (such as fundraising drives) to help pay for the utilities. Oncologist Dr. Jerry Barker of the Southside Church of Christ will be coordinating this work.

Our Samaritan House dinners are a great success -- I think those of us who bring food are enjoying it more than the residents who need the food. Thanks to John Huffman for organizing it and to Myrtle McMahan for doing the lion's share of the cooking.

The next Samaritan House dinner is Thursday, March 18th. You can contact John Huffman at john.p.huffman@att.net to join us.

Tuesday, Feb. 9th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 11th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 16th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 18th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 23rd - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 25th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please remember to call him at home (817-370-2171) first. If no answer, leave a message, and then try the church office (817-924-6988). If you do not receive an immediate response, it means Russell is with another church member at that time. He will return your call as quickly as possible (if you've left a message).

Mondays are Russell's days off and he tries to stay away from the computer and telephone on those days. He will always respond to emergencies unless out of town.

Where's Russell in February?

*I have ever hated
all nations, profes-
sions, and commu-
nities, and all my
love is toward
individuals.*

-Jonathan Swift

*You live a new life
for every new
language you speak.*

-Czech proverb

*The books that the
world calls im-
moral are books
that show the
world its own
shame.*

-Oscar Wilde

This will be a fairly routine month. Russell will be in attendance on each of the four Sundays and will give reflections at three of these. He will be out of town the first week of March. Office hours are as follows:

Tuesday, Feb. 2nd - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 4th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Are you a new member?

In order to keep the pictorial directory fairly current, we schedule picture appointments on an on-going basis. Pictures for the directory are taken by Mary Cretsinger, a professional photographer and a member of Westside UU, at no charge to you. For more information and to set a time for your photo contact Mary at 817-292-7766, or marycret@yahoo.com, or www.marycret.com

THIS MONTH'S UNSUNG HEROES ARE
SUZIE & JAY LOTVEN

opportunities to learn & serve

Can you help?

We need friendly people to be ushers and greeters. We need them for both the early service and the late service. If you are willing to come about once a month or less to greet people as they come in for church please let me know. My phone number is 817-927-7213 and my email address is lotven@sbcglobal.net. Thanks, Suzie Lotven

Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART)

These confidential meetings are held each week at Westside on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for those who want or need to discuss strategies for confronting addictive behaviors. The group is sponsored by the Humanists of Fort Worth as an alternative to traditional 12-step meetings requiring belief in a higher power. For more information contact Russell at relleven@gmail.com or go to www.rke.cc.

Altogether now -- Click!

Many of you are clicking on the six sites each day to donate to various worthy causes. I hope those who haven't started yet, will join us. With my new computer, it took me less than 30 seconds today to

click on all six sites. If you go to thehungersite.com, you can click on all sites from there; or you can start with any other mentioned site and click on the others from there.

Some interesting statistics: In 2009, our "clicks" provided 92 million bowls of food to Animal Rescue; saved 14,201 acres of land in the rain forest; gave 481,177 books for children through the literacy site; helped 966,281 children through Child Health; provided 6986 mammograms on the breast cancer site; and gave 65.7 million cups of food through the hunger site.

It's free, it's easy, and is another way in which we can make a difference. You can set it up so you get a daily reminder to click. Please join us.

- Beverly

Ethical Eating Group

The Ethical Eating group enjoyed January's meeting where Katherine Lawrence taught us about the macrobiotic ideas of eating and health. This month, Thursday the 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the church, we return to our series of video lectures. Caldwell Esselstyn, M.D., formerly of the Cleveland Clinic, will be examining heart disease and how you can eat in a way to prevent or reverse it.

Humanists of Fort Worth

HOFW meets the second Wednesday of every month. The February 10 meeting will present a book review of *The Family* by Jeff Sharlet.

*The Westside Story
February 2010*

*It is not life and
wealth and power
that enslave men,
but the cleaving to
life and wealth and
power.*

-Buddha

*My words fly up,
my thoughts
remain below:
Words without
thoughts never to
heaven go.*

-William
Shakespeare

*The cardinal
doctrine of a
fanatic's creed is
that his enemies are
the enemies of God.*

-Andrew Dickson
White

Every humanist, freethinker and advocate of our Bill of Rights should be aware of the existence of this powerful fundamentalist and anti-democratic group. Tom Woods will be our reviewer and all are encouraged to come, discuss and learn more about this religio-political threat to freedom.

- Dick Trice

Contemporary Books

This group will meet at 12:30 at church Sunday, February 28th. Bring a book you would recommend for us to read in subsequent months.

One can promise actions, but not feelings, for the latter are involuntary. He who promises to love forever or hate forever or be forever faithful to someone is promising something that is not in his power.

-Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

A man's library is a sort of harem.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Hypocrisy is the homage which vice pays to virtue.

-Francois, duc de La Rochefoucauld

our wider community

SCAC Needs Us

The last Westside Story contained a letter from the Tiel Jenkins, the program director for South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC). I hope this gave you an idea of how very much our support means to this organization which helps the needy in our neighborhood.

As usual, each member church has been asked to make a special effort to help with the supplies of food and toiletries which SCAC makes available to those in need. Westside has signed up for food in April and toiletries in September.

In the meantime, if you would like to help out by contributing items for the food pantry, there is always a need for canned meat. So - if you

would like to bring cans of meat (watch for sales and check the expiration dates), please put them in the red cart by the church entrance. Other food donations are always welcome, but the pantry coordinator told me that canned meat is always in short supply.

Thanks to everyone for your generous and continuing support. SCAC is one place where we really do make a difference.

If you have questions about SCAC and their mission, please contact the Lotvens or Beverly Archibald.

Top Social Media Tools for UU Congregations

by Peter Bowden

The following article is an excerpt from uugrowth.com/2009/12/20/social-media-tools. Peter Bowden is an independent UU growth & media consultant, new part time growth consultant for the Ballou Channing District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of congregations, and a television producer.

When talking social media I think congregations need to focus on the goals of their communications with members and friends, and to determine how these tools fit in.

Social media — blogs, Facebook and Twitter in particular — are one more communication channel. But with some differences. When people sign on to receive blog posts, Facebook announcements, and Twitter tweets, they are opening the door to be in closer contact with the congregation than the average email or print bulletin allows.

My top social media pick for congregations is to start publishing news items via a blog either on their primary website or a dedicated news blog hosted by one of the many free blog services. Once news is moved from bulky bundled “I don’t have time to read this right now” publications to a blog platform the magic of social networking can kick in. Congregations sharing news via a blog should publish each discrete item of news as a single post. Why? Because other social media tools are optimized for sharing discrete news items and links. This brings us to pick number two – Face Book.

Once a congregation has a blog, they can set up a Face Book fan page. This page allows anyone to become a “fan” of the congregation and receive all of its shared news items without sharing personal information with the congregation. With a FaceBook fan page created, all of the congregation’s blog posts can be set up to automatically be shared via Facebook. Every blog news item posted is turned into a shared item on Facebook. All of the congregation’s fans can then share these items in turn.

This allows news to spread in a more viral fashion. Fans can also comment on items increasing communication and strengthening relationships.

Just as new items are easily distributed via Facebook, the same is true with Twitter, the most popular micro-blogging service. Congregations may use a free service such as hootsuite.com (my pick) to automatically send out “tweets” notifying their Twitter followers of each blog post. Post a news item and your followers receive a tweet with the title of the post and a link to it. They may then click on the link and read the full post.

It’s important to highlight that once you are publishing news via a blog item-by-item for no additional time investment, you may set up Facebook and Twitter to share these items as well. This leads to a cascading effect with news traveling from the blog to Facebook and Twitter and from there to whomever your fans and followers share items with. We’ve all heard a picture is worth a thousand words, and it’s true. And congregations should cash in on this.

The Westside Story
February 2010

Nations have recently been led to borrow billions for war; no nation has ever borrowed largely for education. Probably, no nation is rich enough to pay for both war and civilization. We must make our choice; we cannot have both.

-Abraham Flexner

Forgive him, for he believes that the customs of his tribe are the laws of nature.

-George Bernard Shaw

*The deadline for next month’s newsletter
is always the 15th of the month.
Please submit items for next
month’s newsletter to
janice_williams@charter.net.*

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Our Board

President: Sandy Olah

Vice President: Gwen Gipson

Secretary: Bob Vann

Treasurer: Bob Rake

Directors, two- year terms: Reed Bilz, Michael Muñoz, and James Finn

Director, one-year interim term: Nancy Van Boskirk

Directors, continuing: Brenda McKeon and Ann Sutherland

By The Numbers

Date	Adults	Children	Total
December 6	112	28	140
December 13	116	39	155
December 20	140	28	168
December 27	108	19	127
Average	109	28.5	147.5



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

The 7 UU Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience & the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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

How are we doing?

Do you feel that our church is doing something right? Should we be doing more or less of something? Should we be doing something different? If so, let the Committee on Ministry (COM) know. The committee also wants to know if you have a criticism, concern, or question. Look for us after the service, call us, or email us at COM@westsideuu.org.

Committee on Ministry

Dick Trice, Chair

Mary Cretsinger

Kay Kubala

Lin Wells

Tom Woods

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

RE News

February, 2010

RE Committee:

Co-Chairs: Mary Noer & Susan Farris

DRE: Julie Tribble

Andrea Petty Sara Munoz

Brenda McKeon Sarah Skiles

Tricia Bowes Jessica Zinn

Bettina Pfieffenberger

Souper Bowl of Caring

We are hosting the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 7, to collect canned goods and money to give to SCAC. This charity was started 20 years ago when a seminary student gave a prayer about people remembering while they are eating an abundance of food while watching the Super Bowl game; other don't even have soup to eat and will go to bed hungry. So, look for our kids holding a big soup pot and throw in a can of soup or some coins or whatever your heart leads you to give.



Mission Statement: Our RE provides a safe environment that supports development of an open mind, helping hands and a loving heart in our children and youth.

Change in leadership

After two and a half years as RE Co-Chair Mary Noer is stepping down. The RE department owes Mary a big debt of gratitude for all the wonderful work she has put into the running of religious education here at Westside! We are happy to say that she is going to continue teaching in the Whitney Young class. To make the transition easier, Mary has written out all of the activities and steps to achieve them for the RE year. Mary, YOU ROCK!!! Andrea Petty will be stepping into the RE Chair role in February. Susan Farris is staying on as Treasurer of the RE Committee (thank you sooo much!) and the Committee will stay the same. We are sure the the Religious Education Program will continue to grow and produce many lifelong UUs.

4th & 5th Grade OWL

Westside and First Jefferson are working together to provide the OWL (Our Whole Lives sexuality class) to the 4th and 5th grade students. We will have a few teachers from First Jefferson who have taught before, come and share teaching duties with our own OWL trained teachers. If you have a child in this age group, please contact Andrea Petty. We are still working on the dates and I will post them when they have been finalized.

What in the World Religions are we studying?

Clara Barton Class (3-6 year olds)

Chinese New Year gives our class a great reason to make dragons and play instruments. All the children will have a great time participating in our class parade. Hearts will abound on the 14th of February as we learn all about love: feeling love, showing love, doing and saying things in a loving way. Winter is upon us and we'll once again visit our class tree outside in the courtyard to observe nature during the colder months.

Susan B. Anthony (7-9 year olds)

With the new month comes a new year- Chinese New Year, that is. We'll observe it February 7th. On February 14th, we'll learn the significance of Mardi Gras and Lent. If you've ever wondered why our class is named after Susan B. Anthony, find out on February 21, when we learn about the life and activism of this important UU foremother. And on February 28th we celebrate the Hopi bean-planting festival of Powamu.



Whitney Young (10-13 year olds)

This month we will be studying some great stories from Africa to celebrate African History Month.

February 7 - "Tongue Meat" is from East-Central Africa—Swahili. This story where the power of the spoken word is valued. A story rich in tasty choices in how to better our lives and the lives around us.

February 14 - "The Red and Blue Coat" is a story from Central Africa – Congo. A metaphorical tale from the Congo geographically depicts one reason why battles begin between neighbors who interpret reality from different viewpoints. Can their friendship survive?

February 21- "Uncle Eddie's Barbershop" Despite serious obstacles and setbacks, Sarah Jean's Uncle Jed, the only black barber in the county, pursues his dream of saving enough money to open his own barbershop.

February 28 – "Black Ghost"

Emerson (youth class)

Will start the month finishing up Buddhism, and possibly taking a trip to the Buddhist Temple in Rendon.

Next month we will have another close- up look at one of our teachers!