

# The Westside Story

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

## Westside invites the public to GREEN FEST!

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church invites the public to share entertainment, games, food, raffles and other festive Earth-honoring events from 11am – 5 pm, Saturday, April 12th in the congregation's new home at 901 Page Avenue. Among the offerings will be food and beverages for sale (cash only), music and speakers on our "green stage," bakewalks, chair massages, games and crafts for all ages, and an environment-themed film – rain or shine.

Admission is free (while donations are welcome) to learn about ways to "go green" and meet some green vendors in our area. Attendees can buy raffle chances to win services or baskets filled with green products. Attendance at the day's-end ticket drawing will not be required to win baskets. A few events, such as the kids' bounce house, will require modest ticket purchases.

With this secular fundraiser the congregation celebrates and illustrates the Unitarian Universalist principle of respect for the interdependent web of all existence. Dedicated to religious pluralism, Unitarian Universalism honors all spiritual traditions that celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct people to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

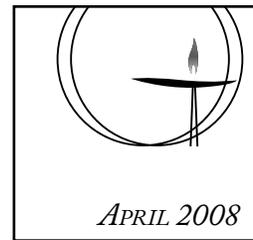
We could use more volunteers to help with the various activities. Also, we would appreciate your saving the following items for use in the kids' games and crafts:

1. Empty eggshells, just top off, rinse out and put upside down back into the egg carton – need 75 dozen
2. Bottom half of OJ or similar cartons, 1 quart size
3. Water bottle caps and similar bottle caps
4. Different sizes of glass bottles
5. Small smooth rocks
6. Cereal boxes
7. Pine cones
8. Butter tubs or larger tubs that can be cut down
9. Odds and bobs – Bettina has buttons, Sandy has bolts and nuts, etc., need small junk pieces of wood, tools, glues, etc. (things that can be used at crafts tables for found art and costumes)
10. Cardboard tubes from rolls of paper towels and toilet paper
11. Handiwipes – not antibacterial

Other items needed (be sure to put your name on everything you want to retrieve at the end):

1. Baskets/containers for displaying items for basket raffles
2. Containers with lids we can use to keep raffle tickets safe
3. Colored paper, colored newspaper ads, etc. for making raffia
4. Patio umbrellas on stands we can place here and there, like for the food and drink sellers
5. Colorful tent canopies we can stretch across the playground or parking lot here and there

For more information contact: Linda Jenkins: [linjentoo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linjentoo@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.*

## Sunday Services

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**April 6** – *Justice Sunday*. Today, we stand with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and UU congregations nationwide. The war in Iraq has drained this nation's resources, created a humanitarian crisis in Iraq, and left a multitude of needs at home unmet – including the disgraceful lack of resources and commitment to rebuild the Gulf Coast. Today's worship service and UUSC's Simple Steps for Justice will empower us each to educate, act, and speak out.

**April 13** – *The Effectiveness of Church Members*. Last month Russell talked about some characteristics of effective churches. At Westside we know that our congregation is about, and made up of, people. The people at Westside can make an effective church. Can our members be more effective?

**April 20** – *Going Green?* Westside's first Green Fest has come and gone. What have we learned? What can we do? Where do we go?

**April 27** – *The Teacher in Me*. Russell has spent most of his adult working career as an educator. What does that mean for and to him? What does that mean for Westside? Come hear his response this Sunday morning.

## Sunday Adult Forum

9:45 SUNDAY MORNING

**April 6** – *Transcendental Eccentrics* facilitated by Brenda Baldwin. Transcendentalism produced more than its share of eccentrics, and some of their viewpoints helped to create a uniquely American version of eccentricity. This lecture explores the eccentricities of Thoreau, Ellery Channing (nephew of Dr. William Ellery Channing), and Jones Very.

**April 13** – *Transcendental Utopias – Living Experiments* facilitated by Russell El-

leven. Transcendentalism was not simply about those major and minor figures who developed and promulgated its doctrines. It was also about a series of attempts at new ways of living that had a powerful impact on 19th century thinking. This lecture provides a background of utopian living through discussion of the Shaker community, Oneida, New Harmony, and Nashoba. It explores the specific transcendental communities of George Ripley's Brook Farm, Bronson Alcott's Fruitlands and Thoreau's Walden.

**April 20** – *The Month That Was* Discussion Group facilitated by Dick Trice.

**April 27** – *Transcendentalism and Education* facilitated by Tom Woods. The link between Transcendentalism and education was a close one. All of the major Transcendentalists spent years in the classroom as teachers and all found traditional education to be inadequate and stultifying. This lecture will cover Transcendentalist ideas about education that still impact education today.

## Dedication Sunday - Reflections on a Day to Remember

Westside never looked better! Truer words were never spoken, but . . .

Westside's big day, the day we celebrated the dedication of our building and the ministry of Dr. Russell Elleven, is over. The planning, the work, the anticipation, the celebration, the music, the guests, the good wishes, the speeches, the flowers, the food, the fellowship – finished. We're glad that our Big Day is in the past because now . . .

We have memories to share, memories of sitting quietly while we were reminded of Westside's unique history – that who we are as a congregation and what Westside is today, began in 1994 with twenty-two members who had a dream and a vision.

We revisited in our minds the devastation of the fire that could have destroyed not just a building, but also the spirit of Westside. Instead, with the guidance of the man whose ministry we celebrated, that spirit learned to dance above the ashes. We watched with love and pride as Russell accepted a gift of a boxed set of sterling silver wedding cups.

We felt the excitement in a message from Dr. William Sinkford, president of UUA, as well as in congratulations and good wishes delivered by Mr. Ron Suiter, representing SWUUC, and Mr. Mike Ellsberry, representing NTAAUS. Mr Ellsberry delivered a check, part of our hoped-for 2008 grant from NTAAUS. We found humor, concern, and love in the words of the Reverend Mr. Paul John Roach, minister of Unity Church of Ft Worth; the Reverend Dr. David Barber, minister of First Congregational United Church of Christ; and Rabbi Ralph Meckenlenberger, who also supervised Tom Woods's installation of a Mezuzah on the front doorpost of the Sanctuary.

As the program progressed, the performance of our President, Brenda Baldwin, as mistress of ceremony, had everyone in the sanctuary spellbound and feeling very proud. We delighted in our children's Bell Choir presentation of This Little Light of Mine. We enjoyed musical selections by the TrUUeBelievers and were enthralled by the performance of Dace Sultanov, Cellist, and Matt Erickson, Pianist, as they played Massenet's "Meditation" from "Thais."

We won't soon forget the delicious cake and punch served in the narthex after the program, and our fellowship there with many friends and well-wishers who attended the program.

Yes, the Dedication is over. Westside now looks to the future. Our church continues to expand and offers to us, and to many not yet known to us, a shelter from life's storms, a place to grow in faith, knowledge, wisdom, and spirit. Westside's red doors open wide and say to all who enter, "Welcome home."

***Mezuzah-** The Mezuzah is a parchment inscribed with the Shema, which begins with the words, "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God; the Lord is one . . ." The scroll is protected by a small, decorative case that can be made from wood, pewter, copper, tin, silver, etc., in combination or singly; some are decorated with crushed marble, crystals, turquoise, other gems, or unique romantic themes. The word Mezuzah means doorpost.*

## Kennedy Fund is One Year Old

Our friend Gino Kennedy has been gone from our lives for one year. But the microbank group she had hoped to start is going strong, meeting at 7pm the second Thursday of each month at the church. The Kennedy Fund has distributed funds to 34 individuals or small groups in 17 countries around the globe. They include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Samoa, Senegal and Tajikistan. We plan to fund nearly 3 dozen more projects this spring. Over half of the money has been repaid already, and five loans have been completely repaid.

We are working through KIVA.org, a microbank gateway founded by two twenty-somethings. Individuals all over the world make loans to individuals for as little as \$25. KIVA has been so successful that these loans are now being made at zero rates of interest. Kiva reports that just in the last week, over 3,000 new lenders have joined her. KIVA's field partners have funded 1800 new loans.

At our next meeting we plan to finish distributing about \$3,000 in our Kiva credit to additional entrepreneurs all over the globe. During our second year, we also hope to sponsor a workshop in this area to show other faith communities how their members can lend a hand to reduce poverty.

Come join us!

*THE IMPORTANT THING  
IS THIS: TO BE ABLE,  
AT ANY MOMENT, TO  
SACRIFICE WHAT WE ARE  
FOR WHAT WE COULD  
BECOME.*

— MAHARISHI  
MAHESH YOGI

## Potluck Picnic Sunday, April 20

This month's potluck, weather allowing, will be held in Daggett Park. If the weather is unsuitable for outdoor dining, we will have potluck as usual in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone's encouraged to bring a "picnic suitable" dish or two to share. "Picnic suitable" foods are foods that you can keep heated or cooled yourself before bringing them to the park AFTER church. Finger foods will be great, but so are those things that require a fork. We'll have disposable service pieces (plates, forks, napkins, etc.) available, but you are encouraged to "go green" by bringing your own reusable set-up for your own use. We will take serving tables to the park, but no chairs. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own chairs and some to share if you have them. Blankets for the ground are also appropriate, and we'll have some tarps for the ground in case there aren't enough chairs and blankets.

In addition to lunch and the usual good conversation, we'll have games (volleyball, relay races, etc.) for all ages. If you have an idea for an activity or would like to assist with activities, please contact Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441).

The part of the park we plan to use, since it has the most shade and is convenient to the playground area, is the farthest corner from the church. If you are mobility-challenged, the shortest distance from parking to this area of the park is from street parking along Jessamine Street. However, there are stairs to navigate from that location. To get to Jessamine, go west on Page, take the first right after the park onto S. Adams St., and then take a right on Jessamine (don't be misled by the "one way" signs, they only apply when school is in session). Another parking option is the Daggett Elementary parking lot at College and Page, where there are no stairs, but it's a longer walk. Maps will be available at church. If you are physically able, please increase your enjoyment of the great outdoors and walk from the church to the park.

We are inviting our neighbors and friends who attend Green Fest on April 12 to return to Westside on April 20 to hear Dr. Elleven's

"Green" sermon and to join us for this picnic. Please show your support of Westside and welcome our guests by participating in, and inviting others to, this community event.

## Passover Seder, First Time in our new home Saturday, April 19th, 6 pm

Charge: \$5.00 to pay for wine, matzo, printing of the Haggadahs and other costs associated with presenting the service.

Make your reservations to attend the first Passover Seder in our new congregation home followed by a potluck dinner. On this night we will join in celebrating as a family, the festival of Passover. Passover is an important part of our religious heritage which comes to us from our Jewish ancestors. Historically it began as a celebration of the liberation of the Hebrew people from slavery under the oppression of the Egyptians. Over the years this bold step toward freedom has become symbolic in the Judeo-Christian tradition of the need of peoples to move toward freedom. We will be using a Haggadah (the book containing the Seder service). Haggadahs date back to the eighth century.

Passover also has an important part in our Christian heritage. The Last Supper was a Passover Seder. During Passover, only unleavened food may be eaten. Therefore, matzo is substituted for leavened bread. Roast chicken, gefilte fish, matzo ball soup, fruits and vegetables are eaten. Look in the kosher section of your grocery store for Passover foods. Albertson's on Hulen and Central Market have good kosher sections for Passover. Look in cookbooks for Passover recipes. We ask that you not bring ham or shell fish as these are forbidden in Jewish diets.

The service lasts about 30 to 45 minutes. Children are invited to participate. If requested at least one week in advance, we will have a child care provider for infants. For more suggestions of food to bring or if you have any questions, contact Myrtle McMahan - 817-294-1363 or mahan34@sbcglobal.net.

*HE WHO KNOWS WHEN  
HE CAN FIGHT AND  
WHEN HE CANNOT, WILL  
BE VICTORIOUS.*

- SUN TZU

## Service Project News

Westside members have been excited about the success of our new plan for service projects. Each month, undesignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. During March, our recipient has been Westside UU Church's own "Go Green Campaign." Westside has begun to look inward to discover ways to be more energy efficient and environmentally friendly. Our campaign has met with great generosity and we thank all who have donated so much to this cause. More information about the focus of the campaign can be found in the March edition of the Westside Story, available on our web site.

For the month of April, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Kenya Crisis Fund. Our national UU association has established the fund to assist with aid for the citizens of Kenya affected by recent political and social strife. Much human suffering and destruction of property has occurred, including the deaths of two UU field workers assisting there. More information can be found at <http://www.uu-world.org/news/articles/102217.shtml>.

Suggestions from Westside members for future recipients of service project plate offerings are encouraged. Please route them through Charles Palmer, Treasurer, at [charles.palmer@tyson.com](mailto:charles.palmer@tyson.com), speak to him

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WATCH THIS SPACE FOR WUU SERVICE PROJECT SUCCESSES!

### Service Project Donation Recipients

JULY 07 - WESTAID	\$853.63 RECEIVED
AUGUST 07 - TARRANT AREA FOODBANK	\$647.51 RECEIVED
SEPTEMBER 07 - CANCER CARE SERVICES	\$1,018.75 RECEIVED
OCTOBER 07 - UUA "NOW IS THE TIME" NATIONAL CAMPAIGN	\$862.00 RECEIVED
NOVEMBER 07 - SOUTH CENTRAL ALLIANCE OF CHURCHES	\$788.59 RECEIVED
DECEMBER 07 - SOMALI-BANTU EMPOWERING WOMEN PROGRAM	\$896.68 RECEIVED
JANUARY 08 - SWWC INTERNATIONAL CONVOCATION OF UNITARIAN UNI- VERSALIST WOMEN	\$1,000.00 RECEIVED
FEBRUARY 08 - ALLIED COMMUNITIES OF TARANT (ACT)	\$556.92 RECEIVED
MARCH 08 - WESTSIDE UU CHURCH "GO GREEN CAMPAIGN"	[amount not yet available]

AH, YES, SUPERSTITION:  
IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE  
COWARDICE IN FACE OF  
THE SUPERNATURAL.

- THEOPHRASTUS

at church, or call him at 817-233-5198. Your Board of Directors will review the recipient's qualifications with two simple criteria: 1) "Do donations to the recipient further our church's vision and mission?" and 2) "Are the recipient's values in sympathy with the seven Unitarian Universalist principles?" Service project donation recipients may be repeated throughout the year based on need and number of participating recipients. All qualified recipients not chosen one month will continue to be reviewed in the following months. Our record of donations and recipient organizations may be seen in the enclosed newsletter table or on our service projects poster located on the church bulletin board outside the office. Thanks!

## More about the UUSC-UUA Kenya Crisis Fund

The Board will donate the April plate offering to the Unitarian-Universalist Service Committee's Kenya Crisis Fund, which was set up in January to assist victims of rioting in Kenya following their election late last year. The recommendation came as a result of contributions made by our Kennedy Fund to a Kenyan woman, who is having trouble repaying her loan on time. When members reviewed the situation in Kenya, they found that over half of loan recipients were behind in repayments because of the civil unrest.

This led to interest in work the UU Service Committee has been doing to help those in need. "It's important for UUs to understand the situation," UUA Trustee Rosemary McNatt said. "We're watching the Kenyan people struggle to create a democratic process, a process we ourselves affirm in our Fifth Principle" ["The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large"].

This was an opportunity for Westside to join hands with the UUA. Hopefully, both organizations, and those in need around the world, will benefit. *-Ann Sutherland*

*A SYSTEM OF MORALITY WHICH IS BASED ON RELATIVE EMOTIONAL VALUES IS A MERE ILLUSION, A THOROUGHLY VULGAR CONCEPTION WHICH HAS NOTHING SOUND IN IT AND NOTHING TRUE.*

*- SOCRATES*

## Religious Education

**STORYTELLER TO APPEAR** - On May 4th, Ron Tate, a Fort Worth Storytellers' Guild storyteller, will be visiting us during our RE classes to share some of his talent and stories! We will be combining the classes and if the weather is suitable, we will be enjoying his stories outside. Adults are welcome to join us! (After all, the adult worship service is podcast and you can download it later!)

**RE IN THE PARK** - Don't miss our spring RE in the Park! On April 20th, our teacher and students (and anyone else interested) will meet at Daggett Park (just down the block from the church) to hold our own Religious Education worship service and our classes. Afterwards we will have snacks and games, and lead right into the church potluck picnic! Please join us and sign the kiddos in at 10:30am. If you will not be staying for our activities, please make sure to retrieve your kiddos by 12:15 pm, or just join them at the picnic. This is a favorite event they won't want to miss!

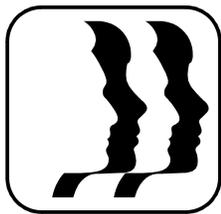
## Youth Happenings

Our teens plan on attending Scarborough Fair either April 6th or May 4th. Everyone is welcome - please contact Mary Noer 817-249-7341 for more information.

On April 20th, the Youth will be leading the RE worship service for RE in the Park and then holding their own classes when the children go to their classes. Therefore, the teens will not be meeting after church at 12:30 pm - look for them at the church picnic, winning the tug-of-wars!

Those pink flamingos keep popping up! Our youth are still busy with flockings - so busy in fact they have to call a halt to the process of redirecting or they will never be able to stop! If you have signed up to pay \$20 to put the birds in someone's yard, never fear, they will get to you. However, if the birds show up in your yard, you will not be able to automatically redirect them to the yard of your choice. Please talk to Kim Paulos or Justin Paulos with any questions!

## New Faces at Westside



MICHAEL JOHNSON  
& KEVIN R. STEIN

*by Linda Hanratty*

New members Michael Johnson and Kevin Stein live in Fort Worth. Michael is the son of long-time First Jefferson members Shirley and John Johnson. He was born in Galveston, Texas, but grew up mostly in Fort Worth's Mistletoe Heights where his mother, Shirley, held court to the few liberals in town. Michael is a life-long UU.

Kevin hails from New Holstein, Wisconsin, presumably in dairy cow country. Kevin was raised a Catholic and still considers Catholicism to be an important part in his life.

Kevin and Michael have two improbably large red (yes red) labs.

Kevin is an accomplished cook and has an artistic streak that he applies to gardening and crafts as well as to cooking. Those of us fortunate enough to share a Dinners for 9 with Kevin and Michael can attest to Kevin's flair for cooking. Michael hasn't acquired new active hobbies since his "first mid-life crisis" when he became a Certified Massage Therapist in Denver, Colorado.

Michael and Kevin were brought to Westside by Michael, who missed the feeling of community and warmth and energy of being part of a vibrant UU community. Kevin was so moved by the wonderful energy of the church that he insisted on joining on their first visit. They like the community, the people, the energy, and the warmth. They decided to join at first visit because of their need to become part of a community, a need shared by many Westside members. They both have strong families that they are close to, but they both travel for work and have not developed a network of friends and like-minded "fellow travelers." Westside provided that community for them and Westside hopes it always does.

MYRON & LINDA ICE

*by Myron & Linda Ice*

Myron and Linda Ice are very excited to be a part of the Westside UU congregation. Since the first Sunday they attended, they have been very impressed by the warm welcome they received from members of the church.

Myron was born right here in Fort Worth, "Harris Hospital room 224" and has always lived within 5 miles of Granbury Road and Hulen Street. Seriously, he was raised in the Fort Worth schools, graduating from Southwest High School in 1974. Coincidentally, he and Brenda McKeon played in the orchestra together at Southwest! Myron and his family were active members at Broadway Baptist Church. He couldn't wait to be old enough to participate in the operettas presented each year at Broadway! Myron went on to West Texas State University to earn his degree and certification in Music Therapy. He began his teaching career as the part-time music teacher at The Oakridge School in Arlington. A short 24 years later, he had grown the program to a Fine Arts department offering music, drama and art to all levels, Pre-K through 12th grade. He finally got the Fine Arts Performance Hall that he so richly deserved and then retired from the classroom about 3 years later. He now has a private voice studio of 40+ students comprising home schooled, private and public school students aged 12 – 18.

Linda is from Richardson and graduated from JJ Pearce High School and then went to West Texas State University to pursue her dream of being a music educator. This is where she met Myron and their relationship began! They even did their senior recital together. Linda taught one year in Brownwood and then returned to the metroplex to teach in Garland for 14 years. She is now in her 29th year of teaching middle school choir and has been at Young Junior High in Arlington for the last 12 years. She plans to retire from the classroom next year and then who knows what opportunities may arise? She loves sharing her passion of music with the "hormonal wonders" but is ready for a "different busy".

THE WESTSIDE STORY

APRIL 2008

*ALL TRUTH PASSES  
THROUGH THREE  
STAGES. FIRST, IT IS  
RIDICULED. SECOND, IT  
IS VIOLENTLY OPPOSED.  
THIRD, IT IS ACCEPTED  
AS BEING SELF-EVIDENT.*

- ARTHUR  
SCHOPENHAUER

Linda was raised in the Methodist church and remained active in the church (always in a musical capacity) throughout her years of teaching in Garland.

Myron and Linda were “college sweet-hearts” with one slight hurdle: Myron is gay. They talked about marriage in the early 80’s but Myron, wanting to be true to himself, was honest with Linda about his homosexuality at that time and they parted ways amicably. They remained friends through the years exchanging pleasantries and Christmas cards. Fast forward to 1993 when Linda was judging a contest in Fort Worth and asked Myron if he was free to go out to dinner. Following that evening, they both recognized that their love had not diminished and yet, Myron was still gay, and well... Linda was still a girl! After reading a lot, they found that their relationship even has a clinical name: mixed sexual orientation. They chose to commit their lives to one another in marriage. They have been happily married for 14 years and are thankful for being given a second chance for happiness together! They are the proud parents of two rotten cats: Raleigh and Indy.

Myron and Linda had always hoped to find a congregation where they could be out and open about their marriage. As you can imagine, that was almost an impossible task. But, now at Westside, they have found an amazing group of people who do not judge, who welcome and even celebrate differences. They are thrilled to be here and look forward to exploring ways in which they can contribute to this fast growing congregation!

## SHELLY HATTEN

*by Shelly Hatten*

Contrary to the way I sound, I am not from Wisconsin. I was actually born in Amarillo, but stayed there all of two months before my father enlisted into the US Air Force. By the time I was 18; I had literally packed up and moved 19 times. I attended four different high schools: one in Germany, two in the Miami area, and finally graduated from an

American High School in Naples, Italy.

My college years were equally transient. I started off at Georgia Tech and then transferred to Texas A & M (where I met my husband) because the tuition was cheaper. I was a mechanical engineering student at the time and took thermodynamics - only to find out that the bread and butter class for my major was baffling. Rather than continuing to go to school, I decided to go to work. I started off in Houston as a secretary-receptionist for a start up civil engineering company.

I worked my way up to engineering technician and ended up getting married to my husband, John in 1991. The reason we’re in the Fort Worth area is that he was hired by Tandy as his first job out of A & M.

Right after I got married, my husband told me that I was going to go back to school and finish up my degree. I went to UTA and got my BS in Civil Engineering. After graduation, I began working for local municipal entities: the Tarrant Regional Water District, the City of Fort Worth, and the City of Arlington. Eight and a half years ago, I decided to strike out on my own, and currently work as a consulting engineer in my home. John also works at home now, and writes casual games (<http://www.thecodezone.com>).

Six years ago we had our one and only daughter, Maggie. Before kids, we tried out various hobbies: juggling, high powered rocketry. We joked to our family when Maggie was born that she was our ultimate hobby. About two and a half years ago, I decided to learn how to knit, and I must admit that I’m totally hooked (pun intended).

Even though my immediate family bumped around the world, we all ended up in the D/FW area. My folks live in Granbury and my sister and her family live in the Valley View area in Irving. My husband & I have been active with various local organizations including the North Texas Church of Free-thought, Metroplex Atheists, and the now defunct D/FW Ethical Fellowship.

Westside is the first church I have ever belonged to.

ALL THAT I KNOW  
ABOUT MY LIFE, IT  
SEEMS, I HAVE LEARNED  
IN BOOKS.

-JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

# Opportunities

**YOU CAN HELP** - SCAC (South Central Alliance of Churches), of which Westside is a member, is collecting items to assemble emergency toiletry kits for their clients. SCAC has found that distributing sample-size products to their clients isn't sufficient to get families through the crisis that created the need. Therefore, they will be assembling kits of full size toiletries for families, and Westside will be providing the deodorant.

**YOU CAN HELP BY BRINGING FULL-SIZE PACKAGES OF DEODORANT TO CHURCH IN APRIL** and depositing them on the designated table in the rear of the sanctuary. Your participation in the recent two month drive to collect canned meat products for SCAC is very much appreciated, and your continued participation in supporting this organization will allow Westside to continue to offer help and hope to the needy in our immediate community through this central agency.

SCAC can always use volunteers in the office to assist with clients and administrative work Monday - Thursday 9am to 3 pm. Please call 817-923-0486 if you can help in this manner. For more information about SCAC, please see their website at [www.fwsac.org](http://www.fwsac.org) or ask our congregation's representative, Jane Hansen.

**AT NIAGARA FALLS** - Join UUs from around the country in Niagara Falls, July 20-23, 2008. Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit our web site: [www.uunex.net](http://www.uunex.net).

**HUMANISTS OF FORT WORTH** meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month at the church at 7 pm. The program for

April 9th will be announced at a later date. Please see Dick Trice or Ray Weil for more information.

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**AIDS WALK!** On Sunday April 6th the Tarrant County Annual Aids Walk will take place at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, 1300 Gendy Avenue, across Lancaster Avenue from the Amon Carter Art Museum. We will start walking here and go through the beautiful Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. Events are from 1-5pm, with the walk starting at 2:30pm. If you plan to attend, please contact Mary Noer 817-249-7341 or [terrynoer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:terrynoer@sbcglobal.net)). If you cannot walk, please sponsor someone who is walking, or sign up with Mary to sponsor the team. This is a lot of fun for everyone - don't miss it!

We need someone to be the point person, the person that Westsiders will look for at the Walk. Mary will be out of town that weekend and we want to have a great team, as always. Please wear your new "WWUUD?" T-shirts! (What? Don't have a T-shirt? No problem - they are still available from the youth group every Sunday after church - just look for the green shirts!)

**SWUUD ANNUAL MEETING** - The news is out about the Southwestern UU District Annual Meeting and Spring Conference, Friday, April 25 - Sunday, April 27, 2008, at First UU Church of Austin. The theme this year is What the World Needs from Religious Liberals and will cover a wide variety of subjects in keynote addresses, workshops, worship, and UU conversations. There are optional opportunities for recreation and for ecumenical choices: a workshop with highlights from the Jesus Seminar, another with exploration of Adult RE work on the Qur'an, UU history, and an invitation to visit Barsana Dham, Austin's Hindu Temple.

Please check out the FUUCA brochure online at [www.austinnuu.org](http://www.austinnuu.org). Registration forms and fees must be received in the FUUCA office in order to attend any or all of the conference. If you have questions, e-mail [conference@austinnuu.org](mailto:conference@austinnuu.org).

*ONLY THE PURE IN  
HEART CAN MAKE A  
GOOD SOUP.*

*- LUDWIG VAN  
BEETHOVEN*

## Wanted: Twelve Usher/Greeters

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Friendly, punctual, can-do attitude, available for 6 Sundays each year.

**BENEFITS:** Meeting new and interesting people, helping our church grow, flexible schedule.

Come join our awesome team of usher/greeters so we can continue to welcome visitors to our church. This is an excellent way for new members to get involved! Contact Bill Terry at 817-249-7341 if you are interested in hearing more about being an usher/greeter.

## INSIDE WESTSIDE

### Where's Russell in April?

Russell will be at church all but the first Sunday of April. He and Gayle will both be out of town from April 3-6. He will give you a Day in UU History, facilitate Joys & Concerns and deliver reflections on each of the other Sundays this month. Mondays are his day off but you can most easily catch him during office hours (Tuesday and Thursday mornings) at home (817-370-2171) or at the church office (817-92-4-MYUU). If he is with someone else at the time of your call he'll get back to you as quickly as possible.

### SMART Group Meeting at Westside

Through a grant obtained by the Humanists of Fort Worth ([www.hofw.org](http://www.hofw.org)), Westside is hosting Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART) meetings. These meetings, facilitated by our minister, are an alternative to 12 Step recovery programs. The SMART program is based upon cognitive behavioral techniques and does not require the participant to believe in a higher power or to deem themselves powerless. The meetings occur each Tuesday evening

at 7:00 pm and are confidential. If you, or someone you know, might benefit from SMART meetings, please contact Russell at [relleven@gmail.com](mailto:relleven@gmail.com) or by phone.

## Thank You, BRIC

Our thanks to the BRIC for the enormous undertaking of making our building a place we're proud to call our church home. Thank you for our property's new exterior - with the thinning of trees, new sidewalk, gorgeous pavers, bi-colored concrete entry walk, stonework, new plantings, and welcoming RED front doors, Westside's outward appearance can be a source of pride not only to our members, but also to the neighborhood and the larger community. Thank you for the too-long-ignored cleaning of the interior, fresh paint everywhere, renovated office and library areas, new carpet, tract racks and bulletin boards, improved-still improving- and (once in a while) improvised-plumbing, sound system, heating, and air-conditioning - the many things that keep us comfortable and secure.

## Posting Information at Church

We currently have four bulletin boards at church: The "Religious Education" bulletin board is located near the water fountain between the fellowship hall and rear door of the sanctuary. It is kept up-to-date with news from our RE program, and all are encouraged to use it to stay informed of the latest activities of our children and youth. (Don't miss the re-use of materials and use of renewable resources in the creation of the display!)

In the hallway just outside of the rear sanctuary entrance, to the right of the pamphlet rack, is the "Westside and UU Happenings" bulletin board. On this board, you'll find information about upcoming events at Westside and our larger UU community.

In the hallway between the Angel Montessori and Westside offices, just around the corner from the pamphlet rack, are the "BRIC" and "Community News" bulletin boards. The

BRIC board is kept up to date by the Building Repair and Improvement Committee. Look there for the latest information regarding our building repair and improvements. The Community News bulletin board is for posting of events in the community that may be of interest to Westside members and friends.

Tom Woods, Westside Vice-President, is working on a formal policy for the posting of materials. Until this policy is adopted, please contact Tom if you have any questions or comments regarding the posting of materials.

Please do not post materials on the walls or doors of the church without checking with Tom (or Brenda Baldwin, Westside President, if Tom is unavailable). If you have a need to briefly post something, the use of MASKING TAPE will help preserve the "newly painted" condition of our walls and doors as long as possible.

## Annual Congregational Survey

By now, all members should have received an email with an invitation to complete the annual Westside congregational survey online. Should you not utilize email or would prefer to complete the survey on paper; hard copies can be located in the church office. Please remember the deadline for submission is April 7th. If you need additional assistance, don't hesitate to contact Caroline Nixon (817-922-9742) or any other member of the Committee on Ministry (COM).

## A Huge Thanks

A HUGE thanks to everyone who donated coats, sweaters, hats and other warm weather attire for the Somali-Bantu families in southeast Fort Worth. They were much needed and greatly appreciated. Also, thank you for the December collection plate donation of almost \$900. More beads and supplies have been ordered so that the ladies can start making and selling necklaces again. We have identified a jewelry store that will begin selling the jewelry. The extra income really helps the families and the work increases the self-esteem of the women. I am proud of how Westside steps up. - *Sandy Myers*

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

**Westside Great Books** began the discussion of the first selection on January 16, 6:30 pm at the church. The group will meet every third Sunday evening of the next 14 months to discuss some of the most basic and most influential questions of humankind. The selection for April, for example, is 23 pages from "On Happiness" by Aristotle. In following months these selections will follow: Plato has Socrates speak in defense of his life before his Roman accusers in 30 pages of the dialog, "The Apology;" Joseph Conrad explores the depth of inhumanity in the "Heart of Darkness;" Kant in seven pages opens "Conscience" to a greater understanding; in 17 pages taken from "Karl Marx--Early Writings," you gain a better understanding of the struggle between labor and capital. These selections will be followed by short but enlightening studies of "Genesis," of the ground breaking ideas of Freud, Rousseau, Darwin and five more immortal minds in the history of great thinkers, including dramatists such as Shakespeare and Sophocles.

If an hour plus perhaps 15 minutes of serious discussion of real value appeals to you, please see Dick Trice (817-446-3840) for ordering your set of paperback books for approximately \$34 and enjoy the next 14 months of Great Books discussions. It is not necessary to a member of the church to join. All are invited.

**Contemporary Book Group** will meet at Audrey Weil's house, 2912 Woodlark Drive at 6:30 pm on April 27, 2008. We will discuss *The Stone Diaries* by Carol Shields, Pulitzer Prize winner. Call Audrey at 817-346-2402 for directions.

**Westside Bridge Group** meets the first Sunday of each month from 6:30 to 9pm, usually at Reed Bilz's home. All ability levels are welcome. We try to maintain groups of four, so if you would like to join us, please call or email Ann Sutherland, [ann.sutherland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ann.sutherland@sbcglobal.net) or leave a message at her house, 817-294-1645.

**Dinners for Nine** - There will be no dinner in April due to all of the other activities at the church. For information, contact Paul McClellan, at [pclaypool@yahoo.com](mailto:pclaypool@yahoo.com) or you may sign up on the Westside web site.

# 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 Chairs**

Adult Education - Vacant  
Building - Gene McKeon 817-921-3692  
Finance - Howard McMahan 817-294-1363  
Membership - John Nagely 817-292-3629  
Social Justice - Vacant  
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  
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](mailto:COM@westsideuu.org).

Caroline Nixon (Chair, 817-922-9742), Reed Bilz, Mark McMurry,  
Jane Palmer, & Maria Schmidt

## ***Have an announcement?***

Submit announcements for the next monthly newsletter by April 18.  
All submissions should be made to Janice Williams at  
[Janice\\_williams@charter.net](mailto:Janice_williams@charter.net) or at 817-236-8364.

## **By The Numbers**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sunday, February 03, 2007	76	7	83
Sunday, February 10, 2007	97	14	111
Sunday, February 17, 2007	110	13	123
Sunday, February 24, 2007	85	14	99
<b>Monthly Average</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>104</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.

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