

The Westside Story

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

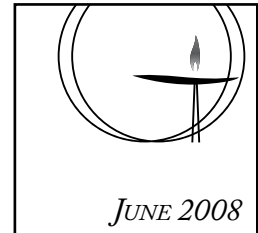
Election of Officers

Westside Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates:

President – Tom Woods
Vice President – Sandy Olah
Secretary – Bob Vann
Director – Brenda McKeon
Director – Ann Sutherland

Charles Palmer (treasurer), Dianne Nixon (director), and John Nagely (director) will complete the second year of their two year terms.

spiration and fulfillment and enjoyment, and if you can spare just 2 Sundays a month for a 40 minute class, we would love to hear from you! We team teach, so no one is alone and everyone has support in their class and support with ideas. We have a teacher training conference in August that really helps throughout the year. This is the best group of people to work with – come check us out! Please contact Mary Noer (817)249-7341 or Jessica Zinn (817)763-0901.



Worship Services

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

June 1st - Religious Education classes are preparing and will present a unique worship service. You won't want to miss the wonderful music and special reflections that all ages will share.

June 8th - *A Journey into Buddhism: A Personal Reflection.* Amy Babb has been practicing Tibetan Buddhism for the past five years. She is a graduate of the Buddhist inspired school, Naropa University and volunteered for a summer at Tara Mandala Retreat Center.

June 15th – Russell reflects *How Do I Love Thee?* Love is the doctrine of this church. There are many ways to speak of love. Sometimes we throw the word around with little regard. Other times we say the word with the utmost of feeling. Is this useful? Is it helpful? Russell will provide his .02 this day.

June 22nd – Russell reflects *Why Worry About the 2nd Coming?* Unitarian Univer-

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.

Westside is Growing

The teachers and assistant teachers of Westside UU Church are excited that our classes are growing! We are going to have an additional class in the fall, breaking up our age groups into nursery, 3-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds, 9-12 year olds, and teenagers.

We will have two new volunteers to welcome in the fall – Andrea Petty and Michael Munoz! These two energetic teachers are going to be helping us with the 3-5 year olds, and we are so excited to be working with them!

We are still looking for one or two assistants for our classes, and we would really like to have one or two more people who enjoy helping in the nursery when we have 3 or more infants.

If you enjoy working with children and/or youth of ANY age, if you want to find in-

salists don't typically talk much about the second coming of Jesus. Our theological bearings are often not focused on this event. Maybe we should. Russell will on this Sunday.

June 29th – *Sabbath: An Ecological Spiritual Delight*. This year, the Unitarian Universalists for Jewish Awareness, sponsored its first Jerry Davidoff Sermon Award to promote Jewish Awareness in our congregations. The winner was the Rev. Patricia Guthmann Haersch of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Outer Banks. \By special permission, this sermon will be delivered by Myrtle McMahan, a board member of the sponsoring organization. The sermon explores the keeping of the Sabbath from an ecological view.

Adult Forum for June

June 1 - *Emily Dickinson* - DVD and Discussion

June 8 - *Walt Whitman* - DVD and Discussion

June 15 - *The Month That Was* - Discussion of Current Events - facilitated by Dick Trice

June 22 - *Transcendentalism's 19th-Century Legacy* - DVD and Discussion

June 29 - *The Legacy in the 20th Century and Beyond* - DVD and Discussion

RE Happenings

On May 3rd, Ron Tate, a Fort Worth Guild storyteller, visited us and regaled us during the worship service with a Story For All Ages, as well as several tales to our RE classes. The children really enjoyed the stories, but they es-

pecially enjoyed how he included them in his presentations and talked to them with respect, listening to what they had to say. They said he was a very nice adult and was glad he came to tell them stories!

RE SUNDAY - Our Religious Education classes are working hard to plan and prepare for the unique worship service they will present on June 1st. You won't want to miss the wonderful music and special reflections that all ages will share. Make sure to arrive early so as not to miss the preview!

SUMMER IS COMING - On June 29th our Religious Education classes will be starting our summer lessons. We will be combining ages 4-12 years into one class. With the help of the Youth class, we will explore various stories, activities and games relating to Heifer Project International. We will learn about its mission and activities worldwide, how they relate to our Seven Principles and how we can help! There will be fun and exciting lessons the kids won't want to miss, so don't go out of town for too long!

Where's Russell in June?

The summer months bring a time of excitement and travel. Russell will be in town as much as possible but will also be away from Westside and Fort Worth often. In June he will deliver reflections on the 15th and 22nd. He will facilitate Joys and Concerns on those two dates as well as June 1st and 8th.

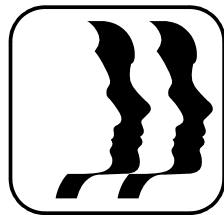
Then some travel begins. Russell will be in Fort Lauderdale the week of June 23rd through the 29th for the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly. He will get home in time to

wash clothes and get on another plane (this time with Gayle!) for two weeks in Austria and Switzerland. The fun will continue in July but more about that in next month's newsletter.

CONFIDENTIAL SELF MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY TRAINING (SMART) 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 believe in a higher power. For more information contact Russell at relleven@gmail.com.

RELATIONSHIP ENHANCEMENT GROUP. Gayle and Russell facilitate a group each month that is focused on improving our couple relationships. Come share your relationship expertise and learn from others who are also committed to making their intimate relationships as good as possible. The group meets at 4:00 p.m. on the third Saturday each month at Westside (June 21st). If your committed relationship is a priority for you, or you want it to be, come spend time with other couples who have this same goal.

At this time no childcare is provided. However, PLEASE let Russell (relleven@gmail.com) know if lack of childcare prevents you from attending.



New Faces

JOY COUNTS

by Reed Bilz

Joy comes to us in a very interesting way -- she is the former wife of member Jay Lotven. She explains that "my family"

brought her to Westside and the family includes her daughter, Laurie Hagstrom, who joined with her, Jay, and Jay's wife, Suzie. Joy also has a son, David Lotven, and a son-in-law, Laurie's husband Steven. She adds her cats, Rudy and Cleo who "stabilize my life at home."

Joy was born in Lindsay, OK (the broom-corn capital of the world for the uninformed) but grew up in Stillwater. She got a BS degree from Oklahoma State University and moved to Arlington where she got an MS degree in Education at NTSU. She retired from the Arlington School District in 1990.

Although she grew up in the Methodist Church, she has always found comfort in the principles of Unitarianism. She feels secure in her personal beliefs and values whether attending Methodist or UU churches. Joy spends her leisure time reading, playing bridge and painting in acrylic and oil.

Joy was attracted to Westside because of our welcoming community and Russell's warm interaction with the membership. We are happy to add Joy to our rolls and thank Jay and Suzie for bringing her and Laurie to us.

LAURIE HAGSTROM

by Laurie Hagstrom

I come to Westside from a background of attendance as a youth at UU churches in Tulsa and Houston. In addition, during the 90's, my husband and I were members at First Jefferson UU church here in Fort Worth.

After living several years outside a congregation, my family and I find ourselves extremely comfortable in the welcoming environs of Westside. My husband, Steven, visits with me and is considering membership. My dad and step-mom, Jay and Suzie Lotven, are members; and my mom, Joy Counts, recently joined as well. We are a close (if slightly unconventional!) family and appreciate the acceptance offered by the members of Westside.

BEWARE HOW YOU TAKE
AWAY HOPE FROM AN-
OTHER HUMAN BEING.

- OLIVER WENDELL
HOLMES

Professionally speaking, I was a public educator for 23 years who retired early due to health problems. Currently, I work, work, work on keeping my health up! I consider myself a student of Buddhism without beliefs and meditate each day. I am also a beginning harp enthusiast and study with a teacher once a week. Steven and I are avid film viewers, readers, fans of the Mavericks, Stars, and Shakespeare in the Park. We have a beautiful grown daughter whom we like to call the "Dog Whisperess". Becky left the world of high finance 4 years ago to live with her husband in South Texas and run an animal rescue center.

In addition to the fine welcoming atmosphere provided by her members, Russell's wonderful reflections have kept me returning to Westside. I look forward to enjoying more of each, sharing and growing with you all.

Children in Texas Need Our Help

There are about 18,000 children in the state of Texas who need a family, many of them right here in Tarrant County. CPS licenses married people or single people for adopting or fostering children. You must be at least 21 years old, be willing to attend the training, and be willing to have background checks completed.

The training provides an opportunity for the family and DFPS to assess whether foster care or adoption is best for the family. The family may withdraw from the meetings at any time. There is no charge for the meetings. Foster/adoptive parents generally train together.

Contact Sandra Balderas with questions. Call her at is 817-255-8877 or email to Sandra.balderas@dfps.state.tx.us.

Man Talk Support Group

Man Talk is an open, ongoing social/support group for gay, bisexual or questioning men, regardless of their HIV status, in a safe and casual atmosphere, in order to discuss topics and issues surrounding these identities in the Fort Worth area. Our gatherings will allow men to meet new people, have good conversations, and have a great time! This group welcomes all men who are interested in attending, and is NOT invitation only. If you want to know more about our group, please join us.

New Meeting Time - First & Third Wednesdays, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM. Facilitated by Tony Maclin, LPC with guest speakers.

AIDS Outreach Center, 801 W. Cannon, Fort Worth, TX 76104

For more information, please call AOC at 817-335-1994.

Three for Three

WestAid, a nonprofit that has helped needy families on the west side of Fort Worth for 20 years, announces a summer program. This time of year presents a special challenge to families whose children normally receive free or reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches at school. WestAid wants to offset this imbalance.

We will offer families with children living in zip codes 76107, 76116, 76126 and 76109 (in Benbrook) additional food during the summer. They can receive food assistance 3 times this summer, one time each month—June, July and August.

We need your help: Please consider donating these items: Spaghetti O's, Beef-a-Roni, Mac 'n cheese, hot dogs, sandwich meats, grape jelly, peanut butter, cereal, powdered milk. Please help families in our community by bringing these items to church or to the WestAid office, lower floor of the JPS Viola Pitts/Como Clinic, 4701 Bryant Irvin North, Suite #100 (lower level entrance). If you have questions, call us at 817-737-9338.

Social Activities

CONTEMPORARY BOOKS will meet at Marjorie's house, 6825 Fortune Road, on June 22 to discuss *The Easy Way Out* by Stephen McCauley.

HUMANISTS OF FORT WORTH met May 14 and elected new officers for 2008-09. They are:

Chairperson - Michael Little
Vice-chair - Josh Donnoe
Treasurer - Dolores Ruhs
Secretary - Suzie Lotven

Just Say No

Unwanted pre-approved credit card offers are not only environmentally offensive; they can be used to steal your identity. Stop them online or call 1-888-5-OPTOUT. Or go to www.optoutprescreen.com

A lengthy and interesting discussion on the subject of freethinking and the future of HOFW followed the business meeting. The next meeting will take place June 11, 7 p.m. at the church.

GREAT BOOKS discussion group will meet June 15, 6:30 p.m., to discuss the famous novella *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad. This is an excellent choice for anyone who enjoys discussing great literature. Come and join the monthly discussions or come once to exchange ideas on this particular book. All are invited.

Fall Foliage Tour

UU Church of Rutland, Vermont has asked our help in getting the word out about their great hospitality (and fundraising!) effort as they present **ESCAPE TO VERMONT** September 26 - 28, 2008. It is the fourteenth Annual B&B Weekend offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, kayaking, bicycling, antiques/arts, cider making historic tour, soaring tour, touring historic sites and quaint towns, and much more. Registration by August 1, \$250 (single) and \$450 (double). After August 1, \$300 (single) and \$500 (double). For more information call (802) 353-7969 or contact uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com or www.rutlanduu.org.

AFTER CHURCH OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH will meet immediately after Sunday services, except on potluck Sundays. They are looking for a new location, maybe the Spiral Diner?

**THE DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
NEXT ISSUE OF THE
NEWSLETTER
IS JUNE 18.**

*PEOPLE DON'T WANT
THEIR LIVES FIXED.
NOBODY WANTS THEIR
PROBLEMS SOLVED.
THEIR DRAMAS. THEIR
DISTRACTIONS. THEIR
STORIES RESOLVED.
THEIR MESSSES CLEANED
UP. BECAUSE WHAT
WOULD THEY HAVE
LEFT? JUST THE BIG
SCARY UNKNOWN.*

- CHUCK PALAHNIUK

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.

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

By The Numbers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sunday, April 06, 2007	67	9	76
Sunday, April 13, 2007	87	15	102
Sunday, April 20, 2007	100	15	115
Sunday, April 27, 2007	64	6	70
Monthly Average	79.5	11.3	90.8

The 7 UU Principles

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

- THE INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON;
- JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND COMPASSION IN HUMAN RELATIONS;
- ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OUR CONGREGATIONS;
- A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING;
- THE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE AND THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS AND IN SOCIETY AT LARGE;
- THE GOAL OF WORLD COMMUNITY WITH PEACE, LIBERTY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL;
- RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART.

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