

The Westside Story

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

Westside Elects New Board

President Tom Woods is our new president and Sandy Olah our new vice-president. Bob Vann is the new secretary. We elected two new board members: Brenda McKeon and Ann Sutherland.

Continuing on the board are Charles Palmer, treasurer and John Nagely and Dianne Nixon, directors.

The new nominating committee members are Beverly Archibald, Cathy McConnell, Dianne Nixon, Carl Romano and Bill Terry.

Spirit of Life Workshops are coming to Westside

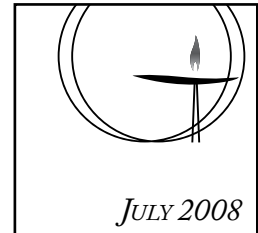
Beginning Sunday morning, July 6, and continuing through September (with the exception of Potluck Sundays and September 7), Beverly Archibald and Brenda Baldwin will facilitate a series of workshops at 9:30 Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall or sanctuary. The series is titled "Spirit of Life", and each session can stand alone. Please join us for as many of the sessions as you desire. If you'd like more information, please contact Brenda at brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441, or talk to Brenda or Beverly at church.

The Spirit of Life workshops offer participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Uni-

versalist spirituality. Each focuses on a different aspect of the spiritual life, framed by the lyrics of Carolyn McDade's song "Spirit of Life." Like the song, the Spirit of Life workshops are designed to be welcoming to Unitarian Universalists of many spiritual sensibilities and theological persuasions. Participants are invited to claim an inclusive definition of spirituality and to recognize the spiritual aspects of their own lives.

Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each of the Spirit of Life workshops. The reflective and expressive activities in these workshops invite participants to give attention to their lives and their choices so that they might live with mindfulness and intention. Most of each session is interactive, although you are welcome to observe and listen if you choose not to speak.

Each participant in the Spirit of Life program will find meaning for the term "Spirit of Life" that engages and reflects his/her own understandings and experience. Choice is central to Unitarian Universalism. Just as each of us is responsible for choosing our beliefs, we are also responsible for choosing practices that support our living them. We make our choices within the contexts of heritage and community. We learn from our experiences and from one another. The Spirit of Life program accompanies its participants on a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" in the context of a covenanted congregational community.



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 UU 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 June, our undesignated plate offering has gone to support the Red Cross/Red Crescent international emergency efforts in the cyclone stricken country of Burma, now known as Myanmar. The work of Red Cross/Red Crescent is described on their website at <http://www.redcross.org>. As a non-governmental organization, Red Cross/Red Crescent has service infrastructure already in place in these disaster zones, delivering critically needed aid to its victims. With the additional strain of disaster relief in China, their operating funds have been depleted and support such as Westside's will be well timed.

For the month of July, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to support an effort located on our continent in the Central American country of Honduras. Located in the town of Roatan is a health clinic named Clinica Esperanza. The needs of this vital and expanding health clinic came to us from the

volunteer service performed there by Max Romano, son of Westside members Maria Schmidt and Carl Romano. The clinic assists more than 150 patients weekly for a wide range of medical needs and is dependent on voluntary doctor participation and the donations of supplies. More can be learned about Clinica Esperanza at their web site <http://www.clinicaesperanza.com>.

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, speak to him 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!

*SILENT GRATITUDE
ISN'T MUCH USE TO
ANYONE.*

*-GLADYS BROWYN
STERN*

*TOO OFTEN I WOULD
HEAR MEN BOAST OF
THE MILES COVERED
THAT DAY, RARELY
OF WHAT THEY HAD
SEEN.*

-LOUIS L'AMOUR

MONTH	RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
JUL-07	Westaid	\$853.63
AUG-07	Tarrant Co Food Bank	\$647.51
SEP-07	Cancer Care Services	\$1,018.75
OCT-07	UUA Now is the Time campaign	\$862.00
NOV-07	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$788.59
DEC-07	Somali-Bantu Empowering Women	\$896.68
JAN-08	SWWC Int'l Convocation of UU Women	\$1,000.00
FEB-08	Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT)	\$556.92
MAR-08	Westside UU "Go Green" campaign	\$6,058.08
APR-08	UUA Service Committee - Kenya	\$600.82
MAY-08	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$640.25

Sunday Services

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

July 6 - *Talk. Talk. Talk!* by Dr. Nadia Lahutsky. Faith communities do a lot of talking. My hope is that people of faith will, in the future, talk with each other more than we do now. How might we approach persons of different faiths? And no faith? How do we deal with the inevitable tendency to become like the other? Dr. Lahutsky, an associate professor of Religion at TCU, returns to the Westside pulpit after a way-too-long absence to discuss these questions.

July 13 - *Civic Engagement* by Dr. Don Jackson. Civic Engagement is a national project that is responsive to the decline in political participation that our country has experienced for the past 60 years or so. TCU's Center for Civic Literacy has responsibility for encouraging engagement in the civic life of our community. Don Jackson, the Center's director and a favorite Westside speaker, will describe the reasons for the decline and the prospects for encouraging participation.

July 20 - *Maybe There's a Chance After All?* by Dr. Russell Eleven. Maybe you have heard the stories of how the youth of the United States are too self-absorbed, that they are poor workers, or they are doomed to repeat the mistakes of previous generation. But there is some evidence there may be some evidence to the contrary. Russell will supply his thoughts this Sunday.

July 27 - *Resolve* read by Linda Jenkins. One of our Unitarian "sheroes", Dorothea Dix,

worked relentlessly to secure better living conditions for the mentally ill, especially those confined to prisons and institutions. What lessons, both inspiring and cautionary, can we gain today from this 19th-century reformer? Westside's own Linda Jenkins will read this reflection, which won the Ministerial Sisterhood Unitarian Universalist Sermon Award in 2004.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Adult Forum

July 6 - *Spirit of Life*. Exploring Spirituality for Unitarian Universalists.

July 13 - *Sing in My Heart*. Celebrations and Rituals.

July 20 - *"The Week That Was"*. Current Events Discussion Group facilitated by Dick Trice.

July 27 - *The Stirrings of Compassion*. Caring for One Another.

Youth RE Happenings

Our classes this summer will be combining ages 4–12 years into one class. This will give students a chance to both teach and learn from other students of different ages. As opposed to being segregated and separated from those of a different age and learning ability, this arrangement will provide an opportunity for a closer community of all ages. Our teens will be joining us to help those younger ones in need.

THE WESTSIDE STORY
JULY 2008

ONE OF THE INDICTMENTS OF CIVILIZATION IS THAT HAPPINESS AND INTELLIGENCE ARE SO RARELY FOUND IN THE SAME PERSON.

-WILLIAM FEATHER

We will be exploring various stories from around the world with activities, games and songs relating to Heifer Project International. We will learn about its mission and activities worldwide and how they do and do not relate to our Seven Principles. We will dance the Chicken Dance, taste sheep's-milk cheeses, and play rabbit tag! There will be fun and exciting lessons indoors and outdoors that the kids won't want to miss, as well as thought provoking questions to think about, so don't go out of town for too long!

KISS A PIG!!! As a facet of our summer program, we will have a KISS-A-PIG fundraiser, whose proceeds will benefit the Heifer Project in ways that the children choose and that respect our Seven Principles. The students will be asking the congregation to pay \$1 to put the name of a member or friend on our list to Kiss-A-Pig. That person may then pay \$1 to have their name removed from the list.

ON SEPT. 7TH, the end of our summer program and the start of our new Religious Education year, we will have a pet pig in church. During the Story For All Ages, all those whose name is on the Kiss-A-Pig list will have one more chance to pay \$1 to have their name removed. Otherwise, we will have a line for those who will KISS THE PIG!! This will not only help to socialize the pet pig and raise funds for other people to have a start and learn how to sustain themselves and their communities, it will also help our students learn about others and our world, and what we can do to help.

Please look for Mary Noer or Jessica Zinn to sign up your friend to Kiss A Pig, or to see if you are signed up! We will begin "taking names" and donations in July. All participation is, of course, voluntary and we hope you will join us in this fun service project.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS' CONFERENCE.

On August 16th from 9:30 am until 2 pm, all those who are interested in teaching our children and youth this year are requested to attend our Summer Conference. We have hired a Montessori-training consultant to come and show us some new ways to help our students on their path of religious exploration! Lunch will be served and our new year will start off with amazing energy! If you are interested in joining our rewarding program, either as a teacher or an assistant of any age class, please plan on attending this wonderful workshop. Contact Mary Noer (817-249-7341 or terrynoer@sbcglobal.net) or Jessica Zinn (817-349-8902 or jzinn@mac.com) for reservations.

NEW DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

We now have a ¼-time interim Director of Religious Education – Sarah Skiles! We would like to welcome Sarah and look forward to working with her. She has her plate full as we start our exciting summer program!

YOUTH EVENTS. The neighborhood Street Dance was enjoyed by several of our youth and members on May 25th. The youth

*THEY WERE SO STRONG
IN THEIR BELIEFS THAT
THERE CAME A TIME
WHEN IT HARDLY MAT-
TERED WHAT EXACTLY
THOSE BELIEFS WERE;
THEY ALL FUSED INTO A
SINGLE STUBBORNNESS.*

-LOUISE ERDRICH

sold various sodas and birdseed eggs, raising money for their future endeavors.

COLD SODA FOR SALE. We have several cases of soda left that we would like to sell to anyone who drinks Coke or Diet Coke. At potluck, the 20oz. bottles, cold, will be \$1 each. If you wish to buy a case of 24 of the 20oz bottles, they will cost \$18 each, a true bargain, and all profits go to support the youth activities. Please see Susan Farris (817) 454-6043 or Sandy Olah (817) 988-4714 if interested.

On June 7th, our youth worked at the Tarrant County Food Bank for 3-4 hours, preparing food to be sent to those in need. Though not necessarily "fun", the youth did appreciate being able to help those who needed help, and are looking for more ways to contribute to helping those who are hungry and homeless. We are very proud of their contributions and ambitions.

FUTURE EVENTS

ROCK-CLIMBING – for ALL AGES. On July 12th, all those interested are invited to join the youth and their leaders at Dino Rock for a day of Rock-Climbing! Exact time will be in the Order of Service and next month's newsletter as we have yet to make the reservations, so keep a lookout. Contact Sandy Olah (817) 988-4714 or Susan Farris (817) 454-6043 for additional information and to let us know of your interest so we have a count with which to make the reservation.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT. On August 23rd, our youth and their spon-

sors will be hosting a Parent's Night Out at the church, starting at 5 p.m. until 10:30 pm. The youth will lead games and activities for the children, as well as provide the pizza for dinner! Look for more information in the coming newsletters!

Where's Russell in July?

July and early August brings another time of travel for Russell. As you may remember, right after returning from the UUA General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale Russell will be taking off again. The first week of July he and Gayle will be in Austria and the second week they'll be in Switzerland. Russell will deliver the reflection on July 20th and then immediately take off for the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SWUUSI) at Lake Murray, Oklahoma where Russell understands the terrain and temperature will fondly remind him of Switzerland.

Russell will be back in Fort Worth in time to lead Joys and Concerns on the 27th but will then take off again. He will be gone the entire following week and will deliver the reflection that Sunday (8/3) at Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston. Whew! When people ask you where Russell is, tell them to check out the Westside Story.

As always, Russell's office hours are on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Please call his home first (817.370.2171) and the office second (817.924.MYUU). If there is no answer, it simply means Russell is meeting with another Westsider. Leave a message and he'll call you back as

THE WESTSIDE STORY
JULY 2008

*THE WHOLE ART OF
TEACHING IS ONLY THE
ART OF AWAKENING THE
NATURAL CURIOSITY OF
YOUNG MINDS FOR THE
PURPOSE OF SATISFYING
IT AFTERWARDS.*

-ANATOLE FRANCE

soon as possible. Because of his travels, for the month of July, you can best reach him on the following days:

Tuesday the 15th: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Thursday the 17th: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tuesday the 29th: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

CONFIDENTIAL SELF MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY TRAINING (SMART). These meetings are held each week at Westside on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. 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.

RELATIONSHIP ENHANCEMENT GROUP (REG). Gayle and Russell facilitate a group each month that is focused on improving our intimate 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. Look at www.rke.cc for additional information.

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

PEOPLE LIKE TO
IMAGINE THAT BECAUSE
ALL OUR MECHANICAL
EQUIPMENT MOVES
SO MUCH FASTER, THAT
WE ARE THINKING
FASTER, TOO.

-CHRISTOPHER
MORLEY

Kennedy Fund

The May meeting of the Kennedy Fund resulted in our adding new clients from around the world. Westside now has donated to 42 different groups and individuals. One of our new groups is the Solola group in Guatemala. These women borrowed a total of \$4,000 from over 150 Kiva lenders throughout the world in order to pursue different businesses from clothing construction and resale to operating a motorcycle taxi.

We will meet again in July and hope to extend our interest in microbanking to other organizations in the Fort Worth area. If you would like to join us, email Ann Sutherland at ann.sutherland@sbcglobal.net.

Westside UU's GREEN FEST 08

DONORS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

Rachel Brown: Kira soaps

Mary Alice Cretsinger:
Art note cards

Cindy Fountain:
"Green for Green" \$63.00 bottled cash

Jane & Ric Hansen:
Organic Dinner for 4

Nancy Hynes:
Books on organic living

Charlie & Susie Murray:
Murray Family Farm Outing

Dianne Nixon: "Cool Green Stuff," walking stick/walking journal, children's books, environmentalist basket, seedling trees

Maria Schmidt:
Teas, canisters, herbs, tomatoes

Nancy Van BosKirk:
Thrift Store Picnic Basket

Sandra Zieg:
Small trees

Jessica Zinn's kids:
Cleaning Supplies Market Basket

Anderson-Sargent:
EcovillageCo: housing

First Methodist Church:
First Earth information booth

Green Mountain Energy, (www.greenmountainenergy.com):
Booth fee and \$50 per signup

Mel Harris, Elements Realty (mel@elementsrealty.com):
presentation on eco--realty

Russell Feed and Supply:
booth fee; profits from sales; rain barrel and Nature's Guide Organics basket

BASKET DONORS

A Natural Home-Susie Little (www.anaturalhome.com): Child's Wooden Toy

Beyond Learning (www.beyond-learning.com):
Word Chase and Number Hunt games

LMT, Center for the Healing Arts (www.centerforthehealingarts.net):
Ramona Perez, massage/infrared sauna

Author Sally Nemeth (www.sally-nemeth.com): Young Adult Novel "The Heights, the Depths and Everything in Between"

Marshall Grain (www.marshallgrain.com): gift certificate and plant
Plant Shed in Kennedale:

Mixed perennials, "Red Hot" Gerbera Daisy, Shasta Daisy, Yellow Gerbera Daisy, trumpet vine

Plant Shed in Benbrook:
mixed perennials

South Meadow Animal Clinic (www.southmeadowanimalclinic.com):
two pet (dog) physicals

Wild Birds Unlimited, (www.wbu.com): bird feeder

Many people donated cakes, cupcakes, tents, baskets, recycled goods and time!

Social Activities

CONTEMPORARY, "NOT SO GREAT," BOOK GROUP will meet July 27, 6:30 pm at Ann Sutherland's house, 4028 Aragon, 817-294-1645, to discuss books written by Anita Shreve.

AFTER CHURCH OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH meets immediately after Sunday services every Sunday except potluck Sundays.

HUMANISTS OF FORT WORTH will meet at the church Wednesday, July 9, at 7 pm. Program subject, speaker and details will be emailed before the meeting.

WESTSIDE GREAT BOOKS will meet Sunday, July 20, at 6:30 pm at the church. The selection for discussion is from the work of one of the world's greatest philosophers, Immanuel Kant, a brief essay entitled "Conscience." Visitors are welcome to attend and participate.

THE WESTSIDE STORY
JULY 2008

I THINK PEOPLE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO DO ANYTHING THEY WANT. WE HAVEN'T TRIED THAT FOR A WHILE. MAYBE THIS TIME IT'LL WORK.

- GEORGE CARLIN

IF IT'S TRUE THAT OUR SPECIES IS ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE, THEN I'D HAVE TO SAY THE UNIVERSE AIMED RATHER LOW AND SETTLED FOR VERY LITTLE.

- GEORGE CARLIN

I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW PEOPLE SEEM TO READ THE BIBLE A WHOLE LOT MORE AS THEY GET OLDER; THEN IT DAWNED ON ME - THEY'RE CRAMMING FOR THEIR FINAL EXAM.

- GEORGE CARLIN

FRISBEETARIANISM IS THE BELIEF THAT WHEN YOU DIE, YOUR SOUL GOES UP ON THE ROOF AND GETS STUCK.

- GEORGE CARLIN

ALWAYS DO WHATEVER'S NEXT.

- GEORGE CARLIN

PLEASE SUBMIT
ITEMS FOR AUGUST
NEWSLETTER TO
JANICE_WILLIAMS@CHARTER.NET
BY JULY 15.

WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Board of Directors, 2008-2009

President – Tom Woods
Vice-President – Sandy Olah
Secretary – Bob Vann
Treasurer – Charles Palmer
Director – John Nagely
Director – Dianne Nixon
Director – Brenda McKeon
Director – Ann Sutherland

By The Numbers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sunday, May 04, 2008	74	14	88
Sunday, May 11, 2008	86	11	97
Sunday, May 18, 2008	104	17	121
Sunday, May 25, 2008	81	16	97
Monthly Average	86	14.5	100.5

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.



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

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