



The Westside Story

July 2010

Monthly Newsletter of Westside
Unitarian Universalist Church

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

Chaplains report on a Caring Community

The Chaplains Corps, working with Russell, has been contacting various members whom we've missed seeing or hearing from. If you know of anyone that has been sick or in the hospital, or is having a difficult time, please let Russell or a chaplain know. You may contact us at Chaplain@westsideuu.org.

If you cannot attend church, and want one of your Joys or Concerns mentioned during that portion of the Sunday morning service, let us know, and we will try to get it included.

Myron Ice is caring for his parents as they recuperate from recent falls. Lee is slowly recovering from a pelvis fracture, and Cletis is continuing to regain his strength and mobility after a sprained ankle.

Charlie Ogilvie continues to enjoy having visitors at Trinity Terrace. He is under hospice care and some days feels better

than others. His inquiring mind and sense of humor are a delight to visitors, and the nursing staff at Trinity Terrace all love him. Do be aware, however, that long visits and frequent visits can tire him. It is best to keep your visit brief and to call in advance (817-338-2452) to see if he has been deluged with well wishing visitors that day.

Tara Mitchell shared concern for a good friend who has progressed from HIV to AIDS.

The McMahan/McKeon family is mourning the loss of their niece, Erin, from Austin.

Those on the Chaplains Corps are Beverly Archibald, Caroline Nixon, Diane Jones, Paul Maginnis, Jane Hansen, and Myrtle McMahan. Please give us a call or e-mail us with any concerns you may have.

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.

If people are good only because they fear punishment, and hope for reward, then we are a sorry lot indeed.

-Albert Einstein

Our greatest pretenses are built up not to hide the evil and the ugly in us, but our emptiness. The hardest thing to hide is something that is not there.

-Eric Hoffer

In the presence of eternity, the mountains are as transient as the clouds.

-Robert Green Ingersoll

Month	Recipient	Amount
May 2010	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1687.29
April 2010	Trinity Habitat for Humanity	\$900.10
April 2010	UU Women's Federation	\$276.05
March 2010	Americans for the Separation of Church & State	\$1291.94
February 2010	Safe Haven of Tarrant County	\$1092.63
January, '10	UUSC Haitian Relief Fund	\$1751.35
January, '10	Tarrant Area Food Bank Pet Food Division	\$763.61
December, '09	South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC)	\$852.53
November, '09	Westside InReach	\$1305.01
October, '09	UUA Now is the Time Campaign	\$766.05
September, '09	Samaritan House Food Account	\$876.77
August, '09	Safe Haven of Tarrant County	\$832.35
July, '09	Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT)	\$635.69
June, '09	Interfaith Environmental Alliance	\$539.85
May, '09	Women's Center of Tarrant County	\$1,135.31
April, '09	Community Hospice of Texas	\$1,032.39
March, '09	Westside UU "Go Green" campaign	\$816.75
February, '09	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$ 847.44
January, '09	Westside UU "Go Green" Campaign	\$1,231.80
December, '08	Samaritan House	\$1,057.54
November, '08	UU Church of Baton Rouge, LA	\$1,109.56
October, '08	UUA Now is the Time Campaign	\$704.00
September, '08	Kennedy Micro-Lending Group	\$1,272.12
August, '08	Heifer Fund	\$ 1,506.69
July, '08	Clinica Esperanza	\$ 1,149.78

Westside UUC Service Project

Each month at Westside, our un-designated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. The following table lists these organizations and our recent contributions to them.

sunday options

Sunday Services

July 4 - Dr. Elleven, *From the Little I know About...Judaism*. Judaism is an ancient religion. It has loads of tradi-

tions and provides grounding for millions of people. Come hear how little Russell knows about Judaism on this holiday Sunday. Mazel Tov!

July 11 - Tammy Gomez, *"Saliendo Abierta (Emerging Open)"*. On Mother's Day 2008, Tammy Gomez accidentally trapped herself in her own bedroom closet for 55 hours. She finally escaped by carving a hole in the door using whatever she could find. As a writer and theater artist, she has created a stage performance that brings to light the battles she fought against the darkness and isolation of solitary confinement. Today she'll share insights about her experience, which you may find more universal than you ever imagined.

July 18 - Dr. Elleven, *From the Little I Know About...Christianity*. Spring-

ing from Judaism over 2000 years ago, Christianity currently has the most number of adherents in the world. Yet, Russell seems to know surprisingly little about the religion around which he grew up. The summer series continues this Sunday.

July 25th - Dr. Elleven, *From the Little I know About...Islam*. Islam is in the news frequently. Russell begins to wrap up the world religion summer series this Sunday with an attempt to tell you how much he knows about this religion. The reflection may be very brief!

RE News

Don't miss Julie Tribble's RE News. You'll find it in the last two pages of this newsletter (after the page with attendance).

FORUM

Attendance and interest in Forum are growing all the time. In June, we covered the chapters in "A People's History of the U.S." on the age of Desegregation in the U.S., Vietnam, the Women's Movement, and a presentation by the North Texas Boycott, Disinvest, and Sanction organization, represented by Cody Hancock. Coming in July are these Forums:

4th Ch #20 "The Seventies: Under Control?" - Trice

11th Ch #21 "Carter-Reagan-Bush: The Bipartisan Consensus" - Wells

18th Ch #22 "The Unreported Resistance" - Trice

25th Ch #23 "The Clinton Presidency and the Crisis of Democracy" - Wells

All are welcome. Come, listen, and speak out. Beginning at 9:45, our discussions fit conveniently between the first and second services each Sunday.

New Faces

Roy and Sheila Reynolds

Say hello to Roy and Sheila Reynolds. Roy and Sheila visited several churches, and found themselves "coming back to Westside" more often than not. So they decided to join. For Roy, it was the "compassionate" approach of the church towards its members, and society as a whole, that kept him coming back.

For Sheila, it was the welcoming atmosphere. She describes herself as "always curious about something", so the opportunities to learn and help others appealed to her as well. Sheila is always learning, earning a Bachelor's degree over a 16-year journey. That's dedication! She's put it to use by being a hearing officer for the Dallas Housing Authority since 1983. When asked about her hobbies, Sheila replied with "reading, reading, reading." She also enjoys watching crime dramas and educational programs on TV, and doing cross-stitch. Sheila was raised Roman Catholic and attended various religious gatherings of other denominations, but ultimately joined Westside because of its warm and inviting atmosphere to those on spiritual journeys like herself.

Sheila lived in California and New Jersey, but Roy was born and raised in Dallas. Together they have six dogs (3 Shi-Tzus and 3 rescues) and three rescue cats. They have two daughters (Sheila Marie and Jamie Lynn), and one son (Fred) who died in 1997 from AIDS. They have two grandchildren (Brittney and Ryan), and two great-grandchildren

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The highest result of education is tolerance.

-Helen Keller

Every one of us is precious in the cosmic perspective. If a human disagrees with you, let him live. In a hundred billion galaxies, you will not find another.

-Carl Sagan

Yesterday we obeyed kings and bent our necks before emperors. But today we kneel only to truth, follow only beauty, and obey only love.

-Khalil Gibran

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True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create their own.

-Nikos Kazantzakis

Only by going alone in silence, without baggage, can one truly get into the heart of the wilderness. All other travel is mere dust and hotels and baggage and chatter.

-John Muir

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for anyone else.

-Charles Dickens

(Brooklyn and Peighton) all in the DFW area.

Roy is interested in astronomy and genealogy, and likes to watch science and nature programs on TV. He was in the navy, serving eight years as a boatswain's mate. Roy is also musically inclined; he plays guitar, tin whistle, and Native American flute. Spiritually, he has been seriously exploring Buddhism. He joined Westside because it "feels like home."

Roy and Sheila Reynolds
8601 Reese Road
Alvarado, TX 76009
(817) 783-2713
Sheila e-mail: sar917@aol.com
Roy e-mail: astargypsy@aol.com

Jonathan Griffin

Jonathan Griffin is a self-described Nomad. He was born in Utah, considers Wyoming (where his brother and sister live) and Montana "home", but is happy with his current habitat, Fort Worth. Jonathan is looking forward to spending time again with his parents who have recently relocated to the Houston area.

Jonathan is currently enrolled at Tarrant County College, pursuing an Associate's Degree in I.T. Support, but he is considering switching to Engineering or Math. He lists Math as one of his hobbies and talents, along with computers, traveling, rock climbing and playing guitar. He is an avid reader, and some of his favorite authors are Jared Diamond, Howard Zinn, and Carl Sagan. He works at a mobile electronics warehouse.

Jonathan considers himself fortunate to have never been "coerced into" any religion. He chose to be baptized Mormon at 13, not because he found truth, but rather, community, in the church. Jonathan says he later dropped Mormonism because he was forbidden to drink

iced tea! He has also been involved in the Church of Body Modification. (Google it!) Today, he says, his theistic and political beliefs can be summarized with, "Neither God nor Master."

So, why Westside? Jonathan admits that at first he was skeptical of going to church. After being invited to Westside by his roommate Will Schnack, he read about Unitarian Universalism on Wikipedia and agreed to come along. Jonathan enjoys the reflections, and considers Russell a comical genius. He also enjoys learning about current events and issues through Adult Forum. Jonathan feels that while other churches expect conformity, Westside embraces differences and encourages people to be themselves. Jonathan views Westside as a positive atmosphere and joined to become more involved, and hopes to do and give what he can to help promote Westside. Besides, he says, "it's just a fun place to be!"

Jonathan Griffin
1618 6th Ave
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(817) 812-7141
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in & around westside

Howard McMahan's 80th Birthday Celebration

WHEN: July 11th 2010 following church services

WHERE: Fellowship Hall of Westside Church

WHAT: Cake and punch for all. Please save the date and share some good

times with your church family on Howard's special day.

Contacts: Diane Jones or Jeff Bullock

Where's Russell in July?

I will be traveling much less in July having just returned from General Assembly in Minneapolis. In fact, I will be in attendance each and every Sunday of July! I will deliver reflections on the 4th, 18th, and 25th. I will facilitate Joys and Concerns each Sunday this month. I'll be off to the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SWUUSI) in early August.

While no one has said anything to me, I am concerned there may be some confusion about my "office hours." I think some folks believe I am sitting at the church twiddling my thumb and waiting for the phone to ring on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. While this does happen from time to time, it is not typical.

What is more typical is that a church member emails me (relleven@gmail.com) and says s/he wants to talk. I try to set up a time during those Tuesday and Thursday mornings and then give the person a choice: We can meet at the church, at their residence, or at a coffee shop/lunch venue. This is my attempt to make the time together as convenient to church members as possible.

But it will often also mean that I'm not always sitting by the phone when you call on Tuesday/Thursday mornings. I typically am able to call people back within a few hours of their call, but I check email very frequently (less so on my day off [Mondays]). So, shoot me an email or give me a call at home (817.370.2171), whatever is easiest for you and we'll set up a mutually agreeable time to meet.

With this in mind, my Office Hours/ Appointment Times for July are:

Thursday, July 1 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 6 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 8 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 13 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 15 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 20 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 22 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 27 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 29 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saliendo Abierta (Emerging Open)

Written and performed: Tammy Gomez
Digital projections: Layne Calabro
Original live musical score: Ramsey Sprague
Lighting: Cesar Hernandez

Sunday, July 11, 2010, 7 p.m.
Westside UU Church
\$8-10 donations gratefully accepted

On Mother's Day 2008, Tammy Gomez accidentally locked herself in her own bedroom closet. She lived alone at the time and had just spent all weekend with friends and family, so no one would think it odd that she wouldn't contact them for several days. Using a motley variety of tools, she worked for 55 hours to carve a hole in the door big enough to make an escape. She emerged weak, dehydrated and disoriented, but otherwise in good shape. The paramedics who cared for her said that, yes, they had dealt with other people who had locked themselves in closets, "but never with a happy ending."

The ordeal changed Tammy's life forever. Fortunately for us, she is a performance artist and has created a production to share her experience. The result is not a re-creation of the ordeal. Rather, it is a poetic rendering of the internal dynamics and meditations that such an en-

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*One cannot do
right in one de-
partment of life
whilst he is occu-
pied in doing
wrong in any other
department. Life is
one indivisible
whole.*

*-Mohandas
Karamchand
Gandhi*

*Impulses we
attempt to strangle
only develop
stronger muscles.*

-Yahia Lababidi

*He that uses many
words for explain-
ing any subject,
doth, like the
cuttlefish, hide
himself for the most
part in his own
ink.*

-John Ray

duration challenge can summon.

From Tammy: "I had to endure much discomfort and emotional anguish, but eventually focused on carving my way out--chiseling a hole in the solid wood door--using tools I'd found in the closet, but also my own inner tools of resilience, imagination, and positivity. Folks and friends, comrades and colegas: This is my most personal work yet. If you see nothing else that I do ever again, THIS is the one to experience. Please consider checking this out. I am very pleased with what we've done with this work since we premiered it last year."

*Learning to Pray
by Yabia Lababidi*

*Long susceptible to
the pious heresies,
of mystics, martyrs
and other fanatics
mad enough to
confound them-
selves
with God, and
declare it free of ego*

*no social drinkers,
these revelers
they drank to get
drunk, alone
that they might
stay that way
sobriety being the
only sin...*

*But what of us
without stamina
for such superhu-
man attention
or the patience to
stand in line
inching towards
the checkout*

*might we forge our
own language
(until we can speak
in tongues)
by asking of our
every action
does this or that
please You?*

"Saliendo Abierta (Emerging Open)" premiered at the Mexican American Cultural Center in Austin in April 2009, and has since been performed at the Out of the Loop Festival in Addison in March and Rose Marine Theater in May.

Circle Suppers in August

There will be two circle suppers in August - the family one which will be on the 21st, and an adult supper which Reed Bilz and Beverly Archibald are hosting at the Villas on the Bluff clubhouse, also on August 21.

The family supper will begin at 5:00 pm. Please contact Elizabeth Murphy for details at emurphywa@aol.com.

The adult group event will be a repeat of the one held last year. It will not be limited to a small group, but is open to all Westside adults. Starting at 6:30 pm at Villas on the Bluff, 5234 Bryant Irving Rd. Bring meat to grill, a side dish (salad, veggie, dessert etc.) and BYOB (we will provide iced tea, lemonade and water). Call 817-346-3303 for more information.

We will send a "circle supper" e-mail

asking for reservations and food selections, and providing directions later.

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

Newly elected and appointed positions

The new board is listed at the end of the newsletter. The new nominating committee is: Beverly Archibald, Reed Bilz, Jeffrey Bullock, Linda Jenkins, and Mary Noer. And, the new audit committee is...(drum roll): Myrtle McMahan, Charles Palmer, and Michael Oglesby.

Green Sanctuary Committee, 2009-2010 Annual Report

In its first year as a church committee, the Green Sanctuary accomplished a great deal. In the coming year, we plan to complete the Green Sanctuary Application and begin fulfilling our Green Sanctuary plan of action.

- Wrote a brief history of Westside

- Compiled a history of environmental activities at Westside.

- Created an all member church survey to access what activities the congregation would like included in the Green Sanctuary application that will be administered in June/July.

- Worked with the Children's RE Committee on developing a survey for the children of Westside.

- Will be working with Children's RE on the summer camp which has the theme of reduce, recycle, and reuse.

- Robert Vann donated a recycling cart to Westside for collection of recycling. He takes the materials left in the cart home, sorts the materials to make sure only the proper items are placed in his home recycling bin.

- At the church sponsored camp-outs, all recyclable materials are separated and disposed of at home by various campers.

- Hoyt West performed a general energy audit of our facility that made certain recommendations including changing to a green energy provider and replacing our 175, 40- and 32-watt- fluorescent fixtures with 12- and 15-watt- LED fixtures. Our new energy provider is green at a net savings in utility cost. NTAUUS awarded Westside a \$10,000 grant for replacing the fluorescent fixtures.

- Committee members have continued Westside's involvement with the Interfaith Environmental Alliance. As part of that group, we appeared in a YouTube video on gas drilling for 320.org, helped staff a booth at Prairie Fest as our Earth Day celebration, and attended an Air Quality Rally in Arlington.

- The committee screened Split Estate, a documentary about the gas drilling industry in Colorado and New Mexico to inform our members and the community at large of the potential negative impacts of gas drilling.

Green Sanctuary Vision:

- Living as harmoniously as possible with the earth and the environment.

- Making the church building as environmentally friendly as feasible, given the age and condition of the facility and our limited finances.

- Being recognized in the Tarrant County community as a force for environmental justice.

- Continuing and expanding our green church practices.

- Incorporating the green message in worship services, adult education, and children's education (RE).

- Encouraging members, friends, and our children to be informed about environmental issues.

Religious Education Committee Annual Report

Religious Education is growing! We have over 60 registered students, with a regular attendance approaching 40, and more coming each week. For the fall we will have 6 classes, including the nursery. But, a top-notch R.E. program would be nothing without its teachers, assistants, Religious Education committee and Director of Religious Education (DRE).

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To write that essential book, a great writer does not need to invent it but merely to translate it, since it already exists in each one of us. The duty and task of a writer are those of translator.

-Marcel Proust

The human mind is inspired enough when it comes to inventing horrors; it is when it tries to invent a heaven that it shows itself cloddish.

-Evelyn Waugh

Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it and make it survive, you haven't done a thing. You are just talking.

-Wangari Muta Maathai

*An age is called
Dark not because
the light fails to
shine, but because
people refuse to see
it.*

*-James Albert
Michener*

*I believe in evi-
dence. I believe in
observation,
measurement, and
reasoning, con-
firmed by indepen-
dent observers. I'll
believe anything,
no matter how
wild and ridicu-
lous, if there is
evidence for it. The
wilder and more
ridiculous some-
thing is, however,
the firmer and
more solid the
evidence will have
to be.*

-Isaac Asimov

*The nuclear arms
race is like two
sworn enemies
standing waist
deep in gasoline,
one with three
matches, the other
with five.*

-Carl Sagan

We have doubled our number of teachers and assistants this year and plan to add more for this fall. With a dedicated R.E. committee and a professional DRE, we are prepared to embrace our explosive growth. In fact, in January, we had what is called a DRE start-up. This day-long workshop, led by a Southwest District UU facilitator, had as its purpose to set goals and establish responsibilities for our religious education department, with an emphasis on identifying our strengths and anticipating potential challenges that fast-growing churches face.

Our growth presents us with the opportunity to provide expanded programming. One of our newest programs on offer at Westside is OWL—Our Whole Lives. OWL is a comprehensive sexuality education class for 10-12 year olds from Westside and First Jefferson. This year's class had 14 students. We will be offering it again next year to accommodate the huge demand for this class. In addition to OWL for the 10-12 year olds, we will be offering an OWL class for K-1 next year, and in two years a middle school class. The current R.E. chair, Andrea Petty, and the DRE have just completed training to facilitate the middle school and high school programs.

Our on-going offerings for the kids included a spring and fall R.E. in the Park, a Halloween party and trick-or-treat for Unicef, an Easter egg hunt and a Christmas tree decorating party. In addition to our regular activities, we raised money for the Souper Bowl of Caring and toured the Tarrant Area Food Bank, delivering birthday bags that the children assembled.

Over the summer we started a joint summer camp with First Jefferson based on Hogwarts, the Harry Potter wizarding school. We also had a one-week vacation church school program called WOW (Week of Westside). The WOW program was "Under the Story-Telling Tree" which

continued last year's R.E. theme of Judeo-Christian roots. Jessica Zinn headed WOW. She organized volunteers of all generations to read stories, lead craft projects, learn songs and play games. It was a rousing success-- with almost 40 students. Plans are under way for this year's WOW featuring natural disasters as the theme

Our curriculum theme for this summer's RE program is Putamayo's World Playground. This curriculum takes children on a journey around the world. At each stop on the globe, the kids will learn a little about the country they are visiting, including games and music. Each child will have a passport that will be stamped after "visiting" each country.

For our next school year, the curriculum theme is UU Identity. Several of the classes will be using a curriculum entitled "Dr. Seuss and Unitarian Universalism" which utilizes Seuss's unique children's literature to emphasize UU values. The older class will use a curriculum entitled The New You The Creator. This is an activity-based program of creative empowerment. Its basic message is expressed in its title: You the participant are, can be, and should be one of the creative forces in the world. The teens will use a curriculum entitled "Pop Corn Theology." As the title suggests—movies are at the heart of this curriculum. The teens will explore the issues of theology and ethics in popular film.

One of the major goals of the R.E. is to help instill a sense of camaraderie among the students. Towards this aim, we arranged a bonding experience for our middle school group. They completed a ropes course at Camp Carter in April, in the rain!

Continuing education is an integral part of a successful R.E. program. Westside offers teacher-training events twice a year. Our teachers

and DRE are keeping in touch with events around the district as well as gaining confidence and knowledge as teachers by participating in district teacher trainings, district R.E. conferences, NATUURES teacher appreciation dinners, OWL trainings, and SWUUSI.

Microbank makes nearly \$3000 in loans

Westside's Kennedy Fund is chugging along! Named for longtime Unitarian and Westside founder Gino Kennedy, the group made another large donation in June to ten more individuals and groups in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. We are very glad that Myrtle McMahan has agreed to organize the meetings in 2010-11. Myrtle has been a loyal partner in this effort since its inception in 2007. We are lucky she is willing to help.

Name That Unsung Hero!

July's hero truly exemplifies our UU principles! Here is his story:

This seeker spent over 15 years searching for a spiritual place to call home. While living in Boca Raton, Florida, 4 years ago, he attended his first UU church and immediately fell in love! Later, he briefly attended the lay led fellowship in Galveston before moving to Fort Worth in order to become a resident at Cenikor. He has been at Cenikor for 16 months.

Cenikor is a residential treatment program that has helped more than 30,000 people nation-wide create an addiction-free future and regain their self worth. Cenikor's residential re-

covery services are different than other providers in three major ways: 1) the program is an 18 month Therapeutic Community, with an additional 3 to 6 months of re-entry. Cenikor is not a quick fix, but for those who are truly serious about changing their life, Cenikor can be very effective. 2) Everyone works at a Cenikor. Work is part of primary recovery and assists the client to reclaim or develop a healthy work ethic. And 3) Cenikor's services are offered for a one-time non-refundable fee of \$350 that is supplemented by income received from clients who work at jobs provided by Cenikor's community business partners.

Although Cenikor is not a faith-based program, they believe helping a resident connect to his or her individual spirituality is one of the most important components of a wholesome, well-rounded recovery program.

When our hero joined Cenikor, he learned that there were only two "approved" traditional churches that clients could attend if they wished. At first he did, along with some of his fellow residents, visit these places of worship. However, they just weren't for him (or some of his new friends). Then, one day, he happened to drive by Westside! He approached his clinical manager with Cenikor's own statement above about believing it is important for residents to connect to their own individual spirituality. She was sympathetic and assisted our hero in getting Westside approved as the third acceptable place of worship at Cenikor!

Our hero joined Westside and then began bringing others with him. At present he and 11-12 others come as they can to worship with us on Sundays!

In 6 to 7 months, July's hero will graduate from Cenikor, perhaps returning to Boca Raton. But, he hopes to leave a legacy behind. He

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I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next. Delicious ambiguity.

-Gilda Radner

Gods are fragile things; they may be killed by a whiff of science or a dose of common sense.

-Chapman Cohen

It will not do to investigate the subject of religion too closely, as it is apt to lead to infidelity.

-Abraham Lincoln

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hopes others will continue to attend Westside, and discussion groups will continue at Cenikor about free and open religious community.

Name that Unsung Hero!

Turn (or scroll) to page 11 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 & Steven Hagstrom

No sooner is the rage of hunger appeased than it becomes difficult to comprehend the meaning of starvation. It is only when you suffer that you really understand.

-Jules Verne

Convulsions in nature, disorders, prodigies, miracles, though the most opposite to the plan of a wise superintendent, impress mankind with the strongest sentiments of religion.

-David Hume

A couple of months in the laboratory can save a couple of hours in the library.

-Frank H. Westheimer

Board Minutes Available to Westsiders

Copies of the minutes of all regular Westside Board meetings, from the beginning of FY 2009 to the present, may be found in a binder in the church office. Some attachments, such as reports from church committee meetings, are not yet included, but should be added very soon. Where available, there are also copies of the financial reports provided to the board by Westside's treasurer. Please do not remove the binder or its contents from the office.

Thanks,
Suzie Lotven, Board Secretary

our wider community

Congratulations and welcome back to Texas to the Rev. Sam Schaal. He is the new Interim Minister for the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church. Rev. Schaal was Westside's first minister.

The Eliot & Pickett Houses, the UUA's bed and breakfast in Boston, is offering a discount for all new reservations made for a minimum three-day stay between May 17, 2010 and September 30, 2010. Discounts apply to new reservations made between April 25, 2010 and September 15, 2010.

From the Church of the Larger Fellowship: A flyer describing online Unitarian Universalist courses – Unitarian Universalism offered 24/7!

opportunities to learn & serve

Humanists of Fort Worth

Mark Greene, one of the leaders of our North Texas area group of Coffee Party activists, will speak out on current issues and what the Coffee Party is doing to resist the far right's pernicious amalgam of Tea Partiers, socialist bashers, birthers, Obama haters and Palin lovers. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the church at 7 p.m. Whether you agree with him or not, all are welcome to come, join the debate and enjoy coffee after the talk.

Ethical Eating

The Ethical Eating group learned about the tricky business of reading food labels in June. This month the group will meet on Thursday the 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. We will watch a presentation on SUGAR ADDICTION. Come one, come all!

Contemporary Book Club

The Contemporary Book Group will discuss *Suite Française* by Irene Nemerovsky on Sunday, July 27 after church. We discuss *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett in August -- a great book! Join us! - Reed K. Bilz

Social Justice Committee Needs New Leader

Help! Westside has an abundance of leaders, but not one of us has stepped up to take on this committee. If you have ideas for our work that have not been fulfilled, let us know.

I have enjoyed very much the opportunities this chairpersonship has provided, and there is a lot of flexibility for someone who wants to do some good, either locally, nationally or even internationally. But, I need to spend my time on the schools. Feel free to call me 817-504-3360 if you want to think about it with me. Ann Sutherland

Self Management & 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.

Samaritan House Dinners Needs New Coordinator

Westside has been involved with Samaritan House (a housing project for persons affected by HIV) since October of 2008. We have joined with other groups and churches and currently provide the residents an evening meal on the third Thursday of each month.

Our members provide side dishes for the meal, cooked at home, or bought and brought to the event; our church funds the main course.

With the new church year, this service project is in need of a new coordinator. Our coordinator works with members supporting this effort each month to identify who can help, what food they can bring, and sends a reminder e-mail. On the day of the event, she (or he) joins the others and serves the meal to the residents.

If you can help the church mission in this way, contact the Social Justice Committee or John Huffman 817.924.9845.

Name that Unsung Hero!

This month's Unsung Hero is Tom Young!

*The Westside Story
July 2010*

One is happy as a result of one's own efforts once one knows the necessary ingredients of happiness: simple tastes, a certain degree of courage, self denial to a point, love of work, and above all, a clear conscience.

-George Sand

Cautious, careful people, always casting about to preserve their reputation and social standing, never can bring about a reform. Those who are really in earnest must be willing to be anything or nothing in the world's estimation.

-Susan B. Anthony

Punishment is the last and least effective instrument in the hands of the legislator for the prevention of crime.

-John Ruskin

*The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 15th of the month.
Email submissions to our Editor Cindy Fountain at vanessa4907@sbcglobal.net.*

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Our Board

President: Gwen Gipson

Vice President: Caroline Nixon

Secretary: Suzie Lotven

Treasurer: Bob Rake

Members at large: Cody Hancock, Diane Jones, Nancy Van Boskirk

By The Numbers

May	9am	11am adults	11am kids	Total
May 2	13	101	31	145
May 9	23	122	41	186
May 16	20	120	37	177
May 23	9	128	35	172
May 30	43	128	40	211
Average	21.6	119.8	36.8	178.2



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

DRE: Julie Tribble

July, 2010

Chair: Susan Farris

Committee:

Amanda Oglesby

Brenda McKeon

Sara Munoz

Tricia Bowes

Jessica Zinn

World Playground

So far we have visited Senegal in Africa, and Bolivia in South America. We made pan flutes and learned about the "Death Road" in Bolivia, the most dangerous highway in the world! The next few weeks bring us to Jamaica and Australia.

If you are interested in teaching a class, check out the bulletin board in the foyer and add your name to the list! We will supply you the lesson and anything else you need to ensure a successful class. Our children are wonderful and this is a great opportunity to interact with them, and have lots of fun!

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.

End of year party for the teachers!

This year's RE party is at Andrea Petty's home on July 17th from 5 - 7. Come and relax with your fellow teachers to celebrate another wonderful RE year success story. Thanks to all of our teachers we have a Religious Education department to be envied! Thank you!

New Playground Rules

We have gotten big enough that it is necessary to come up with some rules for the playground. They are simple and easy to remember:

1. The little kids toys/equipment are for the little kids, including the plastic playhouse by the fort. (Cindy has informed us that the little kids equipment is designed for ages 5 and under)
2. Clean up after yourself.
3. Accidents do happen, so please report any breakages.
4. We will clean up and close down the play area at 12:30



Hogwarts Academy

We are in the middle of our Hogwarts camp as I write this newsletter... it is fantastic!!! We have many of our children from last year but we also have many, many more new ones! I will be posting pictures on my office door for people to come check out and get an idea of all the fun we've had. We have many Professors and Heads of House from Westside that have added to the fun and learning this year; Tricia Bowes(Prof. Dee Crescendo) is our Incantations Professor and taught us many new songs. Andrea Petty (Madame Scarlett Petticoat) has been our Deputy Headmistress and keeps us organized and where we should be. Kendra Whitson (Madame Kindred Spirit) is a Head of House and a guide to our Owls. Amanda Pryor (Prof. Swiftshoe) is a Head of House and a Quidditch referee. Bree Bailey (Madame Bumbledore) is a Head of House and guide. Berry Bock (Professor Posey Hydrangeagloria) is the Herbology Professor, and a favorite class this year!

We have 57 children registered and attending camp this year, up from 44 last year.

Our camp t-shirts were tie dyed, by Amanda Pryor and Roxanne Jones, for our campers... but we have extras! and they will be available for purchase at both churches, so keep a look out for them!

What to expect for the rest of the summer

I will be at church for all of July. We have a lot of preparation going on for our vacation church camp, The 3 R Camp - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle going on at Westside August 11 - 13. Registration will be available the beginning of July.

I am also teaching the 3rd - 6th graders at SWUUSI (Southwest UU Summer Institute) in eastern Oklahoma this year the first week of August. This is a wonderful camp! The theme for this year is "Swimming in the Deep End" and is a UU 201 course (a step above the basics of UUism). I hope you consider going at some point, it is amazing to be around so many UUs at one time.

