

January 2016



The Westside Story

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

901 Page Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas
76110

10:00 & 11:30 AM
Sundays

www.WestsideUU.org

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 & intellectual 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

January 3: *“The Sources of Our Faith”* by Reverend Alex Holt. This Sunday we begin the second broad worship team of “Heritage” lasting through March. Our Unitarian Universalist heritage covers many cultures and historical stories. I have talked about the Six Sources and how important they are to our future. This morning we will explore them more fully as our heritage and our future.

January 10: *“The God Problem: Part I”* by Reverend Alex Holt. How to re-imagine the idea of “God” as a useful concept for the 21st century? Impossible? Quite likely, but that doesn’t prevent us from exploring what author Karen Armstrong speaks to as “The Case for God” in very different ways than we might imagine (please note my column in this month’s newsletter for details).

January 17: *“Moral Discernment, Ethics and UU Principles”* by D. Scott Cooper. Oprah Winfrey once said, “Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.” What criteria do we use to ‘get it right’? How do we determine not only what to do, but what methods we may use to determine what to do? We’ll look at the seven UU Principles as well as the words of some leading theologians and ethicists for answers.

January 24: *“The God Problem: Part II”* by Reverend Alex Holt. This morning we continue to explore whether there’s any way for proud theists, atheists, and agnostics to be in the same room and agree about a new understanding of “God” without the “supernatural” bells and whistles.

January 31: Cameron Young, Westside’s Director of Lifespan Religious Education, will be sharing some of his thoughts with us today! We have all been fortunate to witness the energy he brings to our church through the development of programming within our Coming of Age program and the Young Adults; and now, we look forward to welcoming him to the pulpit!

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Adult Religious Education Class

11:30-12:30 in the “Glass Classroom”

In January we will continue to explore and discuss the Transcendentalist movement and how it played a role in the cultural, religious, and philosophical history of our nation and Unitarianism. Come join us in purposeful and enlightening dialogue. All adults are welcome! For more information, contact Karen Moore at moorekandk@sbcglobal.net.

Religious Odysseys

January 24, 11:30-12:30 in the “Glass Classroom”

We will continue with this wonderful tradition on every fourth Sunday of the month in Adult R.E. throughout 2016. On January 24, Janell Broyles will share her religious/spiritual journey. On February 28, Thayer McCaffree has agreed to present her personal story. Religious Odysseys focus on how a person’s beliefs and life views developed. The person sharing their journey talks for 20-30 minutes and then the floor is open for discussion and questions. If you have not attended Adult RE to hear these amazing and inspirational odysseys, you are missing out on one of the BEST things happening at Westside! Luckily, Gary Randall records each odyssey on a CD so that they are available for check out from our church library. To volunteer to share your Odyssey, or to nominate someone to share theirs, please contact Karen Moore at moorekandk@sbcglobal.net.

Him that I love, I wish to
be free -- even from me.

-Anne Morrow
Lindbergh

Men never do evil
so completely and
cheerfully as when they
do it from religious
conviction.

-Blaise Pascal

What’s done to children,
they will do to society.

-Karl A. Menninger

Forum: 10 - 11 a.m.

The best way to get Adult Forum topics is to email John Barnes, the Adult Forum moderator. The Adult Forum strives to be timely in its topics, and sometimes they change at the last moment to address some major event that has just occurred. Please note that there will NOT be an Adult Forum on January 31. Email John (jbarnes107@gmail.com) and ask to be put on the Forum roster.

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Children's Religious Education Upcoming Events

January 9: Middle School OWL Retreat

January 15-17: HoU Uston High School Rally

January 30: North Texas Teacher Appreciation Dinner; Temple Shalom 6:30

For more information, email Cameron Young at DLRE@westsideuu.org

IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

The Traveling Minister's Road Show

Please consider this quote from religious historian Karen Armstrong in her book *"The Case for God"*:

"We have domesticated God's transcendence. We often learn about God at about the same time as we are learning about Santa Claus; but our ideas about Santa Claus change, mature and become more nuanced, whereas our ideas of God can remain at a rather infantile level."

Karen Armstrong is clear in her book that our western notions of a highly metaphorical and fluid concept of "God" have been lost. The childlike idea of God as an old white man with a long beard and bad temper up there in Heaven has remained strong in America and many countries that practice monotheism. Therein lies a challenge to any alternative ideas to a concept that defies description and analysis.

Like many of you I have wrestled with this God idea for much of my life. It's particularly been a challenge in Alcoholics Anonymous where the idea of God is taken for granted. I chose finally to translate the word "God" into something very different. It was based on personal experiences and also the work of Unitarian Universalist process theologians mixed in with some views of Jesuit priests.

In January I want to devote two services to this slippery concept of an apparently omnipotent deity who manages to have adolescent bouts of fury followed later by regrets. Why? Why bother if we collectively don't believe in that sort of supernatural deity who is only a bit less cranky than the Roman and Greek gods who were also short tempered in those ancient days.

I want to explore this "God Problem" in part because I am of the opinion that the seemingly endless theism vs. atheism vs. agnosticism debate is useless and tiresome. All the 'ism's above are unprovable and unverifiable. They are belief or faith statements.

What I do believe is that we religious liberals (whether we call ourselves humanist or other descriptions) cannot simply ignore the whole concept of God and with a bit of condescension in our voices say it doesn't matter at Westside UU. Otherwise we can be accused as being narrow-minded and that would be inaccurate. Surely there are other ways to wrestle with ultimate philosophical concepts without shrill language.

Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime. Ask the infantry and ask the dead.

-Ernest Hemingway

Patriotism, n.
Combustible rubbish ready to the torch of any one ambitious to illuminate his name. In Dr. Johnson's famous dictionary patriotism is defined as the last resort of a scoundrel. With all due respect to an enlightened but inferior lexicographer I beg to submit it is the first.

-Ambrose Bierce

It's like, at the end, there's this surprise quiz: Am I proud of me? I gave my life to become the person I am right now. Was it worth what I paid?

-Richard Bach

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As this New Year approaches us I'd invite us to lay aside our conclusions about the idea of "God" and explore some creative ways to reimagine a God that might be useful for the future based on evolution rather than mythic beginnings. I hope you'll be willing to explore this concept with me.

In the meantime, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and especially Happy New Year for us all.

-Alex

Young Adults Group

The Young Adults Group meets on the 4th Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Glass Classroom.

In the Event of Inclement Weather

During the work week, Westside will follow the policy of the Fort Worth ISD. Any day their schools are closed due to bad weather, all church meetings and activities will be canceled.

During the weekend, the decision about whether to cancel church activities or Sunday services will be made by the Board President. The Board President shall make this decision after consulting with the Sunday speaker, the worship leader, DLRE (or designated replacement for the day), and chair/organizer of an activity scheduled that day.

Once the decision has been made to cancel services and/or activities, the Board President shall send an email to the membership mailing list announcing the closure and have an announcement posted on the church's web site. The Board President shall also have the church's voice mail message updated. The Board President may delegate other capable individuals to carry out these tasks. In the event that the Board President is out of town or otherwise unavailable, the Vice President shall assume these responsibilities. In the event that the Vice President is unavailable, the Board Secretary shall assume these responsibilities.

I believe the greatest gift I can conceive of having from anyone is to be seen, heard, understood, and touched by them. The greatest gift I can give is to see, hear, understand, and touch another person.

-Virginia Satir

The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them.

-George Orwell

If there is no cancellation announcement on the web site, sent via email, or on the church voice mail, members may conclude that the activities or services will be held. Keep in mind that this policy cannot cover every possible scenario. Therefore, members are encouraged to use their own judgment as to whether it is safe for them to be on the roads.

Notice of Mid-Year Congregational Meeting, January 31

Westside's Board of Directors announces the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 31, from 1:00 to 2:45. Important information about Westside's future will be presented.

Please note we will only have one service, starting at 10 a.m., followed by a potluck lunch until 12:30, allowing 30 minutes for cleanup.

A 20-minute video entitled "Shots Fired" from the Center for Personal Protection and Safety will be shown in the Glass Classroom at 12:15.

Child care will be available by contacting Childcare Coordinator Karen Vera at childcare@westsideuu.org no later than Tuesday, January 25.

Agenda Will Include:

- 1. President's Report**
- 2. Minister's Report**
- 3. Vice-President's Report on Committees**
- 4. Treasurer's Report**

- 5. Ministerial Search Committee's Report**
- 6. Recommendations of the Facilities Task Force**
- 7. Proposed Bylaw Amendments**
- 8. Dick Smith Volunteer Award**

An updated agenda and appropriate documents will be emailed to members at least two weeks prior to the meeting. If you have any questions or concerns you would like addressed at the meeting, please contact the Board at president@westsideuu.org by Monday, January 25.

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Westside UUC Service Project

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

November '15	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees	\$274.00
November '15	LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S	\$256.10
October '15	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	\$638.07
September '15	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1,022.60
August '15	Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County	\$1,135.52
July '15	ACH Child & Family Services	\$722.87
June '15	School Based Health Centers	\$745.36
May '15	Planned Parenthood of North Texas	\$990.23
May '15	First Unitarian Church of Southhold, New York	\$296.75
April '15	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1,218.46
March '15	Westside's InReach Fund	\$997.83
February '15	Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry	\$801.00
January '15	Texas ReEntry Service	\$833.20
December '14	Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County	\$805.00
November '14	Catholic Charities of Fort Worth	\$923.86
October '14	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	\$454.00
October '14	Friends of the UUA.	\$140.00
September '14	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$876.59
August '14	Day Resource Center, Fort Worth	\$941.96
August '14	The Unaccompanied Children from Central America	\$827.28
July '14	James L. West Special Care Center	\$854.16
June '14	Planned Parenthood of Tarrant County	\$619.00
May '14	Sickle Cell Anemia Assn. of Tarrant County	\$692.76
April '14	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$675.73
March '14	InReach Fund	\$934.38
February '14	Long Way Home	\$504.00
January '14	Gill Children's Services	\$777.82
December '13	Downwinders at Risk	\$583.82
November '13	Meals on Wheels	\$1,269.18
October '13	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	\$587.68
September '13	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1,151.33
August '13	Mental Health & Mental Retardation of Tarrant Co,	\$842.58
July '13	Samaritan House Dinner Fund	\$1,100.41
June '13	Texas Re-Entry Services	\$982.42
May '13	Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas	\$1,033.22
April '13	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$801.70
March '13	In-Reach Fund	\$1,448.88
February '13	Fort Worth Day Resource Center	\$1,091.86
January '13	Don't Forget to Feed Me, Tarrant Pet Food Pantry	\$930.61
December '12	Cancer Care Services	\$974.93
December '12	UUA Sandy Storm Relief	\$375.75
November '12	Lighthouse for the Blind	\$931.54

Life is a jest, and all
things show it,

I thought so once,
and now I know it.

-John Gay

A rock pile ceases to
be a rock pile the
moment a single man
contemplates it, bearing
within him the image of
a cathedral.

-Antoine de
Saint-Exupery

Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) Progress Report

The MSC worked feverishly during the month of November to complete the special Westside Packet (website) and Congregational Record that went live December 1. We have been doing research in order to complete all the articles as well as collecting images for the photo gallery. The Digital Communications Committee made up of Craig Bowes, Paul Corbett and Matt Craig created the website which is now live, and all members of Westside are able to view it. MSC member, Jeff Rodriguez, also contributed many hours as the packet editor.

When you go to the main page of the Westside church website, <http://www.westsideuu.org/> you will see a box in the upper right corner that says Ministerial Search Update. When you click on that box, you will see a link that says "Check out Westside's Ministerial Search Webpage." This will take you directly to the website that we have been working on.

We encourage everyone to explore this website at www.westsideuu.org/minister-search and learn about the past, present, and future hopes of our church. Be sure to check out the photo gallery, located under the "Our Community" tab. Also check out important information in the Congregational Profile located under the "About Us" tab and the Ministerial Profile found under the "What We Envision" tab. The information we received from members and friends during the cottage meetings and from the fall survey was helpful in writing these two profiles which will convey to prospective candidates both what we are looking for in a minister and what to expect from our congregation.

The MSC could not have accomplished the important responsibility of creating this website as well as the congregational record without the help of the following members and friends of Westside: Cathy Spitzenberger, Bill Russell, Bill Terry, Linda Ice, Gary Randall, Stan Yoder, and Mary Alice Cretsinger. The MSC wants to express our thanks for all their input and assistance in helping us achieve our goals.

The negotiating team made up of Tom Woods, Bill Terry, and Debby Rake have been working on the salary and benefits package and ministerial agreement that will be offered to the minister who is selected as a result of the search process.

At our last meeting on December 9, we started getting ready to hold mock interviews with both our interim minister, Alex Holt, and retired minister, Annie Foerster. MSC member Jane Hardwick passed out information that will help in preparation for these interviews. We also discussed more about posting the position at Brite and Perkins Schools of Theology. Jeff is working on the position write-ups. The schools have online forms for posting jobs.

Prospective UU ministers are now able to view our website, and our congregational record, a site specifically for ministers to get information about our church, our community and salary ranges. After January 2, the UUA Transitions office will provide the MSC with the names of those ministers who have expressed an interest in applying for the job of settled minister here at Westside.

From these names or other names that are put forth, we will be contacting and interviewing possible candidates. Three or four of these will be invited to speak at off-site churches in the months of February and March. Confidentiality of minister names is very important! So please respect that the MSC must keep this confidentiality, and that we are not able to offer names or other pertinent information until we have the name of the candidate whom we have selected to be our settled minister. After hearing these candidates, one person will then be invited to come to Westside from April 24-May 1st. He or she will speak on both Sundays followed by a congregational meeting on May 1 following the second service. This is when the congregation will vote whether or not to hire this candidate as our settled minister.

-Carol Cappa, MSC Secretary

**It is almost impossible
to carry the torch of
truth through a crowd
without singeing
somebody's beard.**

**-Georg Christoph
Lichtenberg**

**A book must be an axe
for the frozen sea inside
of us.**

-Franz Kafka

Endowment Committee

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Have you noticed that the Westside website has a new look? On the right-hand side of the top menu is a Giving option. Yes, now members and friends of Westside can donate to the church general fund, plate offering service projects, and/or the Endowment Fund online. It's easy, and at the end of the process you receive a printout for tax purposes. The funds can be taken from a bank account or charged to a credit card. And there is no requirement for signing up to our vendor, Vanco, unless you choose to do so. Selections can be made for a one time donation, say in memory of or in honor of someone. Or they can be on-going. What could be easier? Just scan the QR code to the right with your smartphone or go to <http://www.westsideuu.org/giving/giving.html>.



-Linda Harratty, Chair

Life Crisis Support Group

Rev. Alex would like to try out an idea several people suggested this year. We will have an informal support group for anyone who is going through some type of life crisis (and 'crisis' might simply mean a major change that may be good or not). We will meet in Alex's office on Wednesday, January 27, and Wednesday, February 24, from 7-8 p.m.

All conversation will be strictly confidential. This isn't a therapy group as such as there'll be no certified therapist present. It will be a mutual support group to share anxieties, hopes, fears, and much more as the holidays end and the New Year begins. Please check in with Alex if you have questions.

Join a Circle Supper – January 16

For those who have not attended a Circle Supper, it is the opportunity for getting to know members/friends of the church over good food and conversation. These are dinners in small groups of six to eight people, generally, and held at the home of a member/friend of the church. If you would like to host but have limited space, you may partner with someone who has the room but would prefer not to host alone. The dinners are held on the third Saturday of every month. The host will organize the meal and will ask the guests to bring something like a side dish, bread, wine, or whatever is needed. Please contact Trudy Sena at esena6236@yahoo.com.



Family Circle Suppers will also be resuming in January, meeting the third Saturday of every month at various members' homes. If interested, please contact Lauren Leising at eLLekaye@juno.com or 817-846-8012.

Sin lies only in hurting others unnecessarily. All other "sins" are invented nonsense.

-Robert A. Heinlein

Summary of the November 18 Board Meeting

Consent Agenda (reports and minutes in the minutes book)

- A. Board Meeting Minutes October 21, 2015 (attached)
- B. Committee and Task Force Reports (attached)
 - a. Building & Grounds
 - b. Membership
 - c. Ministerial Search
 - d. Nominating and Leadership
 - e. Adult Forum
 - f. Audit
 - g. NTUUC
 - h. Auction

Should you shield the canyons from the windstorms you would never see the true beauty of their carvings.

-Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

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Minister's Report - (full report in the minutes book) Alex is working on an update of the bylaws. This may include reducing the bylaws by transferring some items to Policy.

DLRE Report - (full report in the minutes book) Cameron is tentatively planning a youth trip to GA in New Orleans in 2017.

Financial Statements (full report in the minutes book)

The Board added \$1,050.00 to the budget for the pianist. The increase is necessary because the budget did not include funds to cover choir rehearsals at \$25.00 per rehearsal and it also did not include funds to cover a substitute pianist.

Aija Jansone request (documents attached last month) The Board voted to approve Westside sponsoring Aija's candidacy for UU Fellowship.

Facilities Task Force Recommendation (attached) – The Board voted to approve the Task Force Report and to submit it to the Congregation at the January meeting.

NTUUC Grants - The Board approved the following grant requests:

- A. Replace cracked and/or crumbling wheel stops, and straighten the light pole in the the Lipscomb parking lot.
- B. Seek a grant for \$2,500 toward repaving the West parking lot contingent on St. John's paying for their portion of the project which is on their property. Westside will pay \$1,000. The cost estimate is \$11,000 plus wheel stops at \$100 each.
- C. Seek a grant for an assistant in training for the office and bookkeeping. We will also seek assistance and training for a financial secretary.

Moms against Guns – The Board voted to provide space for quarterly meetings of the group without charge.

TXUJMJ Membership Dues – The Board agreed to pay dues (\$2 per member) now as requested and that TXUJMJ be the recipient of the February loose plate offering. Any overage after the operating budget is reimbursed for the dues will go to TXUJMJ.

Heart of Texas conference – The Board agreed to pay \$200 tuition for Annie Foerster and Karen Moore to attend the December 5 conference from the Hardwick fund.

Appointments – The Board approved the following appointments:

- A. Caroline Nixon and Sandra Lord, co-chairs of the Stewardship Committee.
- B. Sandra Lord to serve on the Endowment Committee

Bylaws – The Board approved bylaws changes for the Nominating and Leadership Committee description for presentation at the Mid-Year meeting.

Sprinkler heads – The Board voted to lower the heads to ground level in the play area for safety reasons.

The next meeting will be January 20, 2016, at 7:00. All members are welcome to attend. Notebooks containing copies of the full minutes, reports, and financial statements are available in the church office.

-Reed K. Bilz, Secretary

We now know that memories are not fixed or frozen, like Proust's jars of preserves in a larder, but are transformed, disassembled, reassembled, and recategorized with every act of recollection.

-Oliver Sacks

Wise sayings often fall on barren ground; but a kind word is never thrown away.

-Arthur Helps

Buddhist Meditation Group

Rev. Alex and a group of dedicated meditators meet every Thursday at 7 p.m. usually in the sanctuary of the church. We sit together for 25 minutes followed by tea and conversation about Buddhist teachings. All are welcome no matter what your experience level (or none!) with meditation. Please check with Alex if you're interested or have questions.

Women of Westside Group (WOW) – January 16!

WOW meets at the church on the third Saturday of the Month for a brown bag lunch, conversation and a short program.

On January 16 Debby Rake will talk about the art of quilting and its history. If you have an antique quilt that you would like to learn more about and how to preserve it, bring it to the meeting for her to evaluate. If you have a quilt of particular interest that you would like to bring for “show and tell,” please do.

If you would like to receive an email reminder of the meetings, contact Sue Anderson at Sander60tx@yahoo.com.

– Sharon Salih

Quilting/Handiwork Group

Quilting at Westside resumes in January! We will be meeting on the third Sunday after Church every month. So, we hope to see many quilters, quilters to-be, and folks who would just like to help on Sunday, January 17, in the Sanctuary. We will be making small quilts to be donated to the children of Samaritan House. We will also be looking at some new projects and we have lots of gorgeous new fabric. Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier. For information call Debby Rake 817-473-2414 or email dsrake@gmail.com.

Humanists of Fort Worth

The HoFW will meet at its regular time at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, at Westside. All Free-thinkers are welcome to attend. Please check the HoFW Meetup site for further information at <http://www.meetup.com/Humanists-of-Fort-Worth/>

If life had a second edition, how I would correct the proofs.

-John Clare

Contemporary Book Group

The fourth Sunday in January, we will discuss “Sex Wars” by a UU poet, Marge Piercy. The title is misleading. Set in Post-Civil War New York City, this is the story of Freydeh, a spirited young Jewish immigrant, and some of the epoch's most notorious figures: Elizabeth Cady Stanton; Susan B. Anthony; sexual freedom activist Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run for president; and Anthony Comstock, founder of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, whose censorship laws are still on the books.

Literature encourages tolerance - bigots and fanatics seldom have any use for the arts, because they're so preoccupied with their beliefs and actions that they can't see them also as possibilities.

We meet in the Glass Classroom after the second service. Please join us even if you have not read the book. We may inspire you to do so. We are also open to suggestions for books to read. Contact: Reed Bilz – reed.bilz@gmail.com.

-Northrop Frye

Humanist Book Club

The Humanist Book Club meets at Westside UU Church on the fourth Saturday of the month, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. A book is chosen by the group and the next month it will be discussed together. At the January meeting we will discuss “Regaining Balance: The Evolution of the UUA” by Michael Werner. All are welcome. Facilitated by Morris Meador, meadormorris1@gmail.com

Seventh Principle Notes from your Green Sanctuary Committee

So much to cover, and so little space. Writing this in mid-December, I note that Aljazeera America online has three important environmental articles, just on their front page, and not including the many buried further in their files. One article discusses two large California builders who are incorporating water recycle systems in their new homes to reuse gray water. A second provides information on 2015 Arctic temperatures being the warmest on record, and the effects that is having.

By the time you read this, we will know if the third has come to pass: The big food industry, through agricultural state representatives, has been trying for at least a couple of years to pass legislation that would prevent individual states, and severely hamper the FDA, from mandating labeling of genetically engineered (GE) food products. (Didn't see anything about it in the Startlegram? Really!?) They are, at the time I'm writing, trying to attach this travesty to the must-pass federal spending bill. This industry has spent in excess of a hundred million dollars over the last two to three years to fight this labeling. Now they are jacking up a new ploy, the use of Quick Response (QR) codes on labels to inform consumers of product content, rather than simply putting this information on labels as has been the practice. This is an industry that is absolutely terrified that we will find out what they are putting out as food--and this just at the time when even more of us are demanding this information. Look this up in Aljazeera's files, or Google it and look at what is going on, then take action. Even if this has passed, it can and must be reversed. We have a right as consumers to know what is in our food.

Green Movie Nites: Our John Huffman Green Movie night will be January 23 at 6:30 p.m., when we will show “Merchants of Doubt,” detailing how a handful of scientists and others fought to block, delay and add uncertainty to protect industry in critical, life-and-death matters.

Choose only one
master -- Nature.

-Rembrandt

John was an important part of our Green Movie program. The last thing he asked me, a couple of days before he died, was whether Green Movies would continue. I choose to keep his memory alive by adding his name to Green Movie night.

January Committee Meeting: The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet January 10 at 12:45 p.m., location TBD. Whether you're interested in membership, or just want to sit-in, you will be very welcome.

Never underestimate
the determination of a
kid who is time rich and
cash poor.

-Cory Doctorow

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

SWUW Conference 2016 – Save the Date!

The annual SouthWest Unitarian Universalist Women (SWUW) Conference will be held in Lawton, Oklahoma, from February 26 to February 28. The Keynote speaker will be Lauren Zuniga, an internationally touring poet, activist, and teaching artist. She is a three time national slam finalist and one of the top ranked female slam poets in the world. For your listening pleasure, music will be provided by musicians SJ Tucker and Emma's Revolution.

It is not the mountain
we conquer, but
ourselves.

-Edmund Hillary

A non-profit organization that supports women through worship, learning, leadership, community and social justice, SWUW addresses women's issues, explores feminist theology, promotes friendships

and celebrates the diversities that make us unique women on our individual spiritual paths. SWUW is an organization open to all UU women, particularly those women in the Southwest District of the Southern Region of the UUA. SWUW aligns itself with the spirit of Welcoming Congregations as depicted by the UUA. All who see themselves as women are welcome.

Registration opened Dec 1. For additional information or to register, go to <http://www.swuuw.org/>

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Westside Story Staff:
Janice Sims; Editor
Eric Stevens; Designer
Sharon Salih; Distrib.

Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART)

These confidential meetings are held each week at Westside on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for those who want or need to discuss strategies for confronting addictive behaviors. The group is sponsored by the Humanists of Fort Worth as an alternative to traditional 12-step meetings requiring belief in a higher power. To learn more, please contact Jeff@vireomarketing.com or Ericasmartrecovery@gmail.com.



There are two kinds of truth: the truth that lights the way and the truth that warms the heart. The first of these is science, and the second is art. Neither is independent of the other or more important than the other. Without art, science would be as useless as a pair of high forceps in the hands of a plumber. Without science, art would become a crude mess of folklore and emotional quackery. The truth of art keeps science from becoming inhuman, and the truth of science keeps art from becoming ridiculous.

-Raymond Thornton
Chandler



*Email submissions to our Editor Janice Sims
at janicesims1617@att.net.
The deadline for submissions is
the 15th of each month.*



Our Board

President: Dianne Nixon

Vice-President: James Finn

Secretary: Reed Bilz

Treasurer: David Burlingame

**Directors: Randy Gregory, Ginger Courtney,
Debby Rake, Don Jackson, Ken Leising, Bob Vann**

November 2015 Attendance

	10AM Adults	11:30 Adults	10AM Kids	11:30 Kids	Total
Nov. 1	62	62	9	19	152
Nov. 8	41	46	5	12	104
Nov. 15	51	48	10	19	128
Nov. 22	37	60	4	11	112
Nov. 29	30	59	5	8	102
Averages	44.2	55	6.6	13.8	119.6



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 & compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free & responsible search for truth & 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.

The Six Sources

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Westside UU 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 Transition Team know. The Transition Team also wants to know if you have a criticism, concern, or question. Look for us after the service, call us, or email us at TransitionTeam@westsideuu.org.

Transition Team

Tanner Trask, Chair. Myrtle McMahan, Suzie Lotven,
Robert Slane, Anita Snyder

Ministerial Search Committee

Cindy Fountain, Chair. Carol Cappa, Sara Munoz, Jane Hardwick, Morris Meador, Jeff Rodriguez, Tom Woods

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