

# *August 2016*



**The Westside Story**

## **Westside Unitarian Universalist Church**

901 Page Avenue  
Fort Worth, Texas  
76110

10:00 & 11:30 AM  
Sundays

[www.WestsideUU.org](http://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.

## The Westside Story August 2016

*Catch-and-release,  
that's like running down  
pedestrians in your car  
and then, when they get  
up and limp away, saying  
-- Off you go! That's fine.  
I just wanted to see if I  
could hit you.  
-Ellen DeGeneres*

## Sunday Services

**August 7:** *"All Will Be Well, Indeed"* by Linda Ice, Cindy Fountain, Dianne Nixon, and James Finn. You have no doubt felt it - this is an exciting time to be at Westside Unitarian Universalist Church! These presenters have had the privilege of serving this congregation as president through this period of transition and interim ministry. They will reflect on the nearly 3-year journey that got us to this exciting place and share hopes and dreams for Westside's bright future.

**August 14:** *"Eight Magic Words that Bring Joy"* by Stan Yoder. We're UUs. We seriously worry about the myriad ills in our world. When things don't improve fast enough, we sometimes feel despair. To refill our own wells of compassion and hope, we need to experience joy. What reliably brings feelings of joy? Play. These eight magic words conjure up playfulness and joyful feelings. (They work, even though we don't believe in magic.) Therefore, let us play together.

**August 21:** *"Waters of Life"* by Rev. Shari Woodbury. You are invited to bring a small amount of water from a place where you have found meaning or refreshment over the summer, whether from overseas travel, your nearest Trinity River trailhead, or your garden hose. Symbolic water will be available for those who do not bring their own. During the service we will ceremonially combine our waters, honor their varied meanings, and celebrate the renewal of our liberal religious community.

**August 28:** *"Breathing Space"* by Rev. Shari Woodbury. What's the common thread in Digital Detox Camp, mathematician J. H. Poincare's inspiration, conscious parenting, and Thoreau's experiments at Walden Pond? This meditative end-of-summer service will explore the role of breathing spaces in our lives.

## SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

### Adult Religious Education Class

11:30-12:30 in the "Glass Classroom"

Throughout August, we will continue viewing and discussing a series of DVD lectures from the Great Courses entitled "Religions of the Axial Age: An Approach to the World's Religions." Professor Muesse, who delivers the lectures, will offer striking insights as he draws you closer to the period between 800 to 200 B.C.E., an era with notable parallels to our own. Together we will explore fascinating aspects of several major world religions at the time of their birth. What could the beliefs and traditions of a Zoroastrian, a person of Jewish faith, a Buddhist, a follower of Confucius, or a Christian have in common? How do religions evolve over time? Throughout these lessons we will reflect on the central question of the course: What does the study of the Axial Age teach us about religion as a phenomenon in our lives? All adults are welcome and we look forward to learning and growing together on our individual and collective faith journeys. For more information, contact Karen Moore at [moorekandk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:moorekandk@sbcglobal.net).

### Religious Odysseys

11:30-12:30 in the "Glass Classroom"

Westside members Bob Vann will be sharing his spiritual journey on August 28 and Sarah Munoz will tell her story on September 25. Religious Odysseys focus on how a person's beliefs and life views developed. The person sharing his or her 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 inspirational odysseys, you are missing out on one of the BEST things happening at Westside! Fortunately, each odyssey is recorded on a CD that is 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](mailto:moorekandk@sbcglobal.net).

## 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. Email John (jbarnes107@gmail.com) and ask to be put on the Forum roster.

## The Westside Story August 2016

*A fellow of mediocre talent will remain a mediocrity, whether he travels or not; but one of superior talent (which without impiety I cannot deny that I possess) will go to seed if he always remains in the same place. -Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

## Upcoming Children's Religious Education Events

Sophia Fah's Pre-K Class

For children under 5, childcare is available in the combined Barton Nursery and Fah's Pre-K Class. This class will be led this summer by our Childcare Coordinator Karen Vera and our other childcare staffer, Karla Hurtado, along with various volunteers. For the older kids, we will be using summer oriented activities such as summer safety, water and ice play, and nature trips as learning opportunities.

**1st Service -- Children's Chapel:** The Children's Chapel class will continue to meet as usual during the first service with lots of guest facilitators to lead alternative, interactive, worship times for kids.

**2nd Service -- Build a Village:** Exploring Neighbors and Economic Justice (Incoming K-3rd)

This class will meet in what is normally the Anthony Classroom (by the parking lot exit in the fellowship hall). Build a Village is story based and is set up in the style of Montessori and Spirit Play. Each tale is accompanied with questions intended as a springboard to explore economic justice. Following each story, there is opportunity to participate in a game or create artwork.

**Sing to the Power (Incoming 4th-8th)** This summer, we will be combining the Anthony Class with the Young Class. The group will meet in the Young Classroom (room in the fellowship hall closest to the sanctuary). Sing to the Power is a UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum which affirms our Unitarian Universalist heritage of confronting "powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love." Participants experience their own power, and understand how it can help them to be leaders.

**Emerson Class (Incoming 9th-12th)** This summer's high school class will consist primarily of youth lead discussions of topics of their choosing with adult facilitators present. The class will also bring in several guest speakers over the course of the summer to discuss everything from Women's Issues to Mental Health Awareness.

**Fellowship Days!!** Fellowship Days are alternatives to Sunday School where groups combine for various activities and workshops during the second service.

**August 14: Teen-Lead Workshop Day.** Teen youth will have the opportunity to engage with the younger children and lead their own workshops in everything from bead making to Rubix Cubes.

**August 28: Story Day.** Guest Storytellers will pay a visit to Westside for a special presentation during CRE Classes.

If you would like additional information, please email Cameron Young at [dlre@westsideuu.org](mailto:dlre@westsideuu.org).

## IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

### Young Adults Group

The Young Adults group meets on the 4th Thursday of every month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

*To a poet, silence is an  
acceptable response,  
even a flattering one.*

*-Colette*

## Signals

As I write this from Indiana, two days before leaving for Texas and Westside, communication methods are much on my mind. People have a proliferation of tools – like this e-newsletter – to help us connect with each other. We use them in a wide variety of ways and they are always evolving. During my recent seminary training, I used video calls, private Facebook groups and collaborative Google docs to connect with people and enhance learning. I continue to use such tools professionally and am delighted that Westside makes use of a variety of technologies to support its mission. Currently, I'm bracing myself for several days without internet access while my family is on the road. Likewise, I'm mentally preparing to adjust to a new smart phone soon. I'm still using my first one, which pre-dates my six-year-old, and it has become increasingly slow and less reliable. I recently updated my web site to reflect my relationship to Westside ([www.shariwoodbury.com](http://www.shariwoodbury.com)) and I created a new email address for use in my ministry role: [revshariw@gmail.com](mailto:revshariw@gmail.com). When I get to Fort Worth, I plan to get a local cell number, too, to use for pastoral care and other church business. Can you hear me now?

Of course, communication is a two-way street. I look forward to hearing from Westside's members and friends and getting to know you. Please stay tuned for structured opportunities to connect with me in person, individually or in small groups, in coming weeks and months.

During this first month, like most new settled ministers, I'll be setting myself up in the church and community, beginning to connect with key groups in the congregation, and starting to plan for the church year. I've decided not to have quite as "soft" a start as some of my counterparts, since Westside is a year-round church, and has been waiting longer than usual for a new settled minister. But we will begin at a measured pace and take the time to get to know each other. The first few Sundays, I will attend and experience the service firsthand, getting a sense of what it's like for a member or visitor to come to Westside for worship. I will be in the pulpit the last two Sundays of August.

A few weeks ago I saw some of my favorite signals. It was dusk, and in the cooling Indiana evening, fireflies twinkled under the outstretching arms of a great tree. As I walked toward home, a firefly flew right before me, and I spontaneously reached out to catch it. Aha! I marveled at having this glowing being within my fist. But I quickly opened my hand, not wanting the creature to feel trapped. It stayed with me, riding along on my thumb as I walked, for about five minutes, while I studied its blinking form. Later I looked up the meaning of this creature as a totem animal, just for fun. Of the many meanings suggested, at this time of beginning to connect with Westside, this one especially rings true for me: "Fireflies remind us that there are others who will respond to us.... They flash with similar creative rhythms." I certainly sense that there is great creative energy at Westside. Even before I have arrived on Texas soil, I witness partners stepping forward to help create new and meaningful worship experiences; to engage more deeply in "being UUs out loud" in the world; and to enhance the diverse, intergenerational community of Westside. What a delight to see these signals!

Whether you communicate by blinking lights, phone or Facebook, I look forward to connecting further with you. If you made it all the way to the end of this newsletter column, you can help me with church communications by dropping me an email at [revshariw@gmail.com](mailto:revshariw@gmail.com) to let me know that you did so. I may not respond to these messages, but the number I get will tell me something about how many people are reading the printed word at Westside these days.

See you soon!

*-Shari*

*Rev. Shari Woodbury*

## Save the Date! A Special Celebration

Reverend Shari Woodbury will begin her ministry at Westside Unitarian Universalist Church very soon now. Her first Sunday in the pulpit will be Sunday, August 21 and she is planning a special Ingathering and Water Ceremony service.

The Water Ceremony was first used at a Unitarian Universalist service in the 1980's. As a part of the Water Ceremony, Reverend Woodbury invites you to "bring water from where ever you've found meaning or refreshment over the course of the summer, whether that's on another continent, at their nearest Trinity River trailhead, or from your own tap. The water can also represent an experience or awareness that aligns with the energy of each of the directions. For example, East is new beginnings, so if it's a new job or relationship, new perspective on something important, however you wish to acknowledge what has gone on for you this summer." The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources.

**The Westside Story  
August 2016**

*Love, friendship, respect,  
do not unite people as  
much as a common  
hatred for something.  
-Anton Chekhov*

To welcome Shari, William and Avonelle, our Social Committee will be hosting a party all morning in Fellowship Hall! There will be snacks, festive drinks, games for the kids, and a celebration cake made by Myron Ice! The Social Committee will be at the committee table on Sunday, August 7 to recruit some assistance. If you would like to help or provide a food item, please contact Linda and Myron Ice at Landmice@gmail.com or plan to sign up at the committee table.

## 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.

June '16	One Safe Place Ministerial Search Committee	<b>\$868.16</b>
May '16	Minister Installation	<b>\$1,378.75</b>
May '16	South Central Alliance of churches	<b>\$1,094.16</b>
April '16	Sickle Cell Disease Association of Tarrant County	<b>\$1,038.49</b>
March '16	Downwinders at Risk	<b>\$603.20</b>
February '16	Texas UU Justice Ministry (TUUJM)	<b>\$601.00</b>
January '16	Aija Jansome, UUA ministerial candidate	<b>\$774.80</b>
January '16	Community Hospice of Texas	<b>\$540.00</b>
December '15	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees	<b>\$661.02</b>
November '15	LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S	<b>\$274.00</b>
November '15	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	<b>\$256.10</b>
October '15	South Central Alliance of Churches	<b>\$638.07</b>
September '15	Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County	<b>\$1,022.60</b>
August '15	ACH Child & Family Services	<b>\$1,135.52</b>
July '15	School Based Health Centers	<b>\$722.87</b>
June '15	Planned Parenthood of North Texas	<b>\$745.36</b>
May '15	First Unitarian Church of Southhold, New York	<b>\$990.23</b>
May '15	South Central Alliance of Churches	<b>\$296.75</b>
April '15	Westside's InReach Fund	<b>\$1,218.46</b>
March '15	Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry	<b>\$997.83</b>
February '15	Texas ReEntry Service	<b>\$801.00</b>
January '15	Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County	<b>\$833.20</b>
December '14	Catholic Charities of Fort Worth	<b>\$805.00</b>
November '14	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	<b>\$923.86</b>
October '14	Friends of the UUA.	<b>\$454.00</b>
October '14	South Central Alliance of Churches	<b>\$140.00</b>
September '14	Day Resource Center, Fort Worth	<b>\$876.59</b>
August '14	The Unaccompanied Children from Central America	<b>\$941.96</b>
August '14	James L. West Special Care Center	<b>\$827.28</b>
July '14	Planned Parenthood of Tarrant County	<b>\$854.16</b>
June '14	Sickle Cell Anemia Assn. of Tarrant County	<b>\$619.00</b>

## The Westside Story August 2016

*When you turn the  
corner / And you run  
into yourself / Then you  
know that you have  
turned / All the corners  
that are left.  
-Langston Hughes*

## Social Committee

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church has new SOCIAL COMMITTEE Chairpersons! Linda and Myron Ice are excited to redirect their energies in our beloved community and give new life and opportunity to the Social Committee which has been without official leadership for a year or so. Many have already come forward to offer their assistance and they would welcome others who have interest in this area. The Social Committee will be at the Committee Table on two upcoming Sundays: August 7 and September 11. There will be a "Suggestion Box" and opportunities to take part at whatever level of time and interest you might have. Linda and Myron look forward to organizing and helping implement new activities, reviving some former favorites, and working together with other areas of the church to encourage more involvement! ‘



## Evenings @ Westside

2016 Evenings at Westside Calendar:

**AUGUST 13: Pentacon 6/Signals & Alibis**  
**SEPTEMBER 10: Spoken Word Showcase**  
**OCTOBER 8: Stories in the Dark**

More details at [www.eveningsatwestside.org](http://www.eveningsatwestside.org)

### Want to Be Involved?

If you want to volunteer as part of the E@W Crew (and see the shows for free!), sponsor some of our refreshments, or otherwise be a part of Evenings at Westside, contact Janell Broyles at [eveningsatwestside@gmail.com](mailto:eveningsatwestside@gmail.com).

## Join a Circle Supper – August 20

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. For more information or to be added to the email list, please contact Elizabeth Campbell at [batescampbell@gmail.com](mailto:batescampbell@gmail.com)

Family Circle Suppers will also be meeting the third Saturday of every month at various members' homes. If interested, please contact Lauren Leising at [eLLekaye@juno.com](mailto:eLLekaye@juno.com) or 817-846-8012.

## Pastoral Care Team

Your Pastoral Care Team, originally called The Chaplain Corps, was started by Dr. Russell Elleven in 2009. This is the group who help the minister in serving the needs of the congregation. This includes, but is not limited to, visiting the sick and homebound, arranging for help with meals where needed, calling and checking on the health of members who have been ill, have had surgery, or are otherwise needing help, and generally keeping up with the health and welfare of the congregation. We provide a listening ear for Westsiders.

In order to do this, we need your help! We cannot serve you if we don't know what is going on in your

life. Please, let us know when you have health or other concerns. Or if you know of a fellow member who might like to have a visit or benefit from our services. We can sometimes put you in touch with community services of which you might not be aware. And we are good listeners!

Strict confidentiality is maintained at all times. You do not need to worry about anything you tell your Pastoral Care Team. We, as does the minister, keep all of the information you give us in strictest confidence, unless you give us permission to share with the congregation. Sometimes, sharing with the congregation will help you to get support from your fellow Westsiders and you may wish for us to do this. There is a saying that "If you share a joy, it becomes two joys. If you share a sorrow, it becomes half a sorrow". But please know that your information is only shared with your permission.

The original team, chaired by Caroline Nixon, was Beverly Archibald, Jane Hansen, Diane Jones, Paul McGinnis and Myrtle McMahan. Myrtle and Beverly are still with the team, having been joined by Andrea Petty, Coordinator, and David Burlingame, Linda McDonnell, Aija Jenssen and Sandy Lord.

The names of the members of the current Pastoral Care Team are listed in the Order of Service each Sunday. Our contact information can be found in the Westside Directory (available on line).

And remember, we are good listeners.

*-Beverly Archibald*

## **The Westside Story August 2016**

*Jobs are like going to church: it's nice once or twice a year to sing along and eat something and all that, but unless you really believe there's something holy going on, it gets to be a drag going in every single week.*

*-Thomas Michael Disch*

## **Summary of the June 15 Board Meeting**

### **Consent Agenda (reports and minutes in the minutes book)**

- A. Ratification of email vote to approve change in plate offering
- B. Committee and Task Force Reports (attached)
  - a. Ministerial Search Committee/COM
  - b. Building and Grounds
  - c. Membership (recommendations in New Business)
  - d. Safe Congregation (recommendations in New Business)
  - e. UUA GIFT Honor Congregation
- C. Ratification of email approval for audit committee members

### **Minister's Report - (full report in the minutes book)**

### **DLRE Report - (full report in the minutes book)**

**Financial Statements and Report - (full report in the minutes book)** The new Board will be asked to help find a depository for our reserve funds which is more cost effective.

**Roof Repair** - Dianne has signed a contract with Dennehy Architects for documents and other services to assist with the repairs. The total cost is not to exceed \$10,625 but Dennehy has been advised that we budgeted a maximum of \$10,000.

**Repainting Request for AMS** - The Board voted to authorize paying up to \$1,000 to repaint two classrooms preserving the murals, with AMS paying for half.

**Structural Information** - We have learned from a member of Unity Church that the Fellowship Hall was not built to sustain a second story. Unity Church considered adding a second story, but decided against it when a study showed that the ground under the building is very soft, and that one would have to drive piles thirty feet down to bedrock to provide adequate support for a second story.

**Sanders Gift** - The Board expressed a preference for placing the money in an accessible, interest bearing fund such as our Endowment Fund. A final decision will be postponed until the new minister arrives.

## **The Westside Story August 2016**

*Writers, like teeth, are  
divided into incisors and  
grinders.*

*-Walter Bagehot*

**Membership Committee Requests** - The Board voted that the President would publish a draft Agenda of upcoming Board meetings to all members by the Monday preceding the meeting. The request from the Committee to include a current profession/job in the Directory on a voluntary basis was denied. As an alternative, members might be allowed to post small ads on a bulletin board, and the Digital Committee is working to include access to this information as part of their upgrade of the email Forum.

**Building Request for Ladder** - The Board voted to purchase a folding ladder for \$249.

**Safe Congregation, CPR/AED Training** - The Board agreed that training should be conducted only by a certified trainer.

**Scheduling "12 Years a Slave" Movie** - Cameron will work with Adult RE to find an appropriate current movie on the issue of racism and schedule a showing.

The next meeting will be August 17 at 7:00 p.m. 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*

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND SERVE**

### **Thursday Meditation Group!**

The Thursday evening Buddhist meditation group will continue to meet weekly in August and beyond. Thayer, Matt, Jane and others will continue to shape the future of the group.

### **Choir Practice**

If you love to sing and joining our choir is on your to-do list, our first rehearsal will be held on Sunday, August 21 at 8:30 a.m. There will be an additional practice on August 28, but subsequent rehearsals will be held every other Sunday. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please contact Cathy McConnell at [clmcc7@yahoo.com](mailto:clmcc7@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

### **Women of Westside Group (WOW) – August 6!**

WOW meets on the first Saturday of the month for lively conversation, a brown bag lunch and a short program. The meetings begin at 11:30 and close about 1:30. In August Andrea Petty will report on all the interesting events and workshops she participated in at General Assembly. Our September speaker will be Jay Dodds, who will present another in an occasional series on the fascinating UU women in our history.

If you would like to receive an email reminder of the meetings, contact Sue Anderson at [Sander60tx@yahoo.com](mailto:Sander60tx@yahoo.com).

*-Sharon Salih*



## Adult Religious Education (ARE) Class presents

### COMING SOON TO A TV NEAR YOU!

\*\*\*Mark your calendars for a special event in ARE Class\*\*\*

**What:** A showing of the DVD “Shots Fired” produced by the Center for Personal Protection and Safety

**When:** Sunday, September 18, 11:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M.

**Where:** The “Glass Classroom”

**Who:** Scott Paulson, Chair of our Safe Congregation Committee, will facilitate the viewing and discussion of this video with assistance from Dianne Nixon

**Why:** To empower us with knowledge and strategies for preventing and surviving an active shooter situation

**Details:** “Shots Fired - When Lightning Strikes” provides the individual with critical guidance on how to recognize and survive an active shooter situation.

## The Westside Story August 2016

*The mark of the educated man is not in his boast that he has built his mountain of facts and stood on the top of it, but in his admission that there may be other peaks in the same range with men on the top of them, and that, though their views of the landscape may be different from his, they are nonetheless legitimate. -E.J. Pratt*

## Humanists of Fort Worth

The HoFW will meet at its regular time at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10, 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/>

## Contemporary Book Group

Thanks to discussion leader, Rita Fouts, we had an informative discussion of “*A House in the Sky*” at our June meeting. We are looking forward to another great meeting on August 28, when we will be discussing “*Outlander*,” the first in a series of eight novels by Diana Gabaldon. Ms. Gabaldon describes the books as “Big, Fat, Historical Fiction, à la James Clavell and James Michener. However, owing to the fact that I wrote the first book for practice, didn’t intend to show it to anyone, and therefore saw no reason to limit myself, they include...history, warfare, medicine, sex, violence, spirituality, honor, betrayal, vengeance, hope and despair, relationships, the building and destruction of families and societies, time travel, moral ambiguity, swords, herbs, horses, gambling (with cards, dice, and lives), voyages of daring, journeys of both body and soul - you know, the usual stuff of literature.”

Obviously, she must be doing something right, because the series is immensely popular and has even spawned a popular television series of the same name. As usual, the meeting will be held in the glass classroom after the second service, and everyone is welcome. If you read the book, but cannot join us for the discussion, please email Linda Hanratty so your comments will be shared with the group.

We need a book selection and a discussion leader for September, because your committee chair will be unable to attend the September meeting.

## Humanist Book Club

The Humanist Book Club meets at Westside on the fourth Saturday of the month, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. In August we will continue a series on the Transcendentalist Movement that will be based on a

## The Westside Story August 2016

*The hardest thing about  
any political campaign  
is how to win without  
proving that you are  
unworthy of winning.*

*-Adlai Stevenson*

series of 30-minute videos. This should be a great learning experience about a group who changed the course of Unitarianism. After 5 sessions now, those attending are enjoying the stimulating lectures and discussion. All are welcome. Facilitated by Morris Meador, meadormorris1@gmail.com meadormorris1@gmail.com

## Seventh Principle Notes from your Green Sanctuary Committee

Food, Monsanto, and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs): On July 10, our Sunday Forum discussed food that has been genetically modified to achieve certain effects, mostly to do with making crops resistant to select pesticides and herbicides. Perhaps the best known bio-agricultural company is Monsanto, with its highly popular Roundup (glyphosate) herbicide. Our discussion elicited the usual questions about the benefits and dangers of GMOs. We also talked about why the biotech and food industries have been willing to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on lobbying and donations to legislators to defeat GMO labeling at state and federal levels. We mentioned that many farmers in India have committed suicide (I have since learned that the number was 17,638 in 2009, alone) because they have become trapped in the ultra-expensive Monsanto GMO web and cannot provide for their families. We talked about the testing of these products and how they are approved: Individuals who helped develop some of these products at Monsanto then resigned and immediately went to work for the FDA in a position where they helped approve them for public release. One of the most noteworthy was rBGH, or recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone for dairy cattle, which causes problems in animals, people, and beyond. And we also touched on the dangers of monoculture and industry control of agriculture. Space here is limited, but I'd suggest you look at [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org) for a lot more information. There is a short bit, "Five Things Monsanto Doesn't Want You to Know About GMOs," and a 28-page detailed profile of the company. We considered showing one of two movies on Monsanto, Percy Schmeiser: David versus Monsanto, or The World According to Monsanto for our Green Movie this month, but both are readily available on you tube for your viewing pleasure. So I think we will go with a different film, instead.

**Urban Agricultural:** Don't forget the Ft Worth Urban Agriculture Ordinance hearing at the City Council on August 2 at 7:00 p.m. The number is ZC-16-129. Attend or email your support.

**Green Movie Nites:** Our next John Huffman Green Movie is scheduled for August 27 at 6:45 p.m. We will show Fall and Winter, a survival guide for the 21st century.

**August Committee Meeting:** The Green Sanctuary Committee will next meet August 14 at Westside, immediately following the second service. We'd like to invite you to attend.

**Wise Humor--or Humorous Wisdom?** *As for my view on the world, I'm an Optimistic Realist. The glass is always half-full...but the water's not always drinkable. Someecards.com*

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

### UUWomenspirit Fall Retreat – October 19-23

UUWomenspirit is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that has hosted all-women retreats since 1987. Our retreats emphasize and celebrate the Divine Feminine in her many forms. Our next retreat will be held on October 19-23, 2016 at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC.

Our theme for this event is Moon Energy: Rhythm, Mystery, Illumination. During this event, we will explore the six phases of the moon and how the moon's influence has an impact on us, in both overt and subtle ways. We will also experience moon rituals and share ideas on how you can work with the moon's energy to enhance your connection.

For more information about UUWomenspirit, please visit our website [www.uuwomenspirit.org](http://www.uuwomenspirit.org). Information about The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center can be found at [www.themountainrlc.org](http://www.themountainrlc.org).

## The Westside Story August 2016

### WESTSIDE STORY STAFF:

Janice Sims; Editor

Eric Stevens; Designer

Sharon Salih; Distribution

## Bring Toiletries for SCAC in August

Each year we are given two months in which to help South Central Alliance of Churches to replenish their supplies of food and toiletries. August is our month for toiletries. Please get full-size items (not the travel size - these are for families) and bring them to the church during the month of August. Put them in the big red cart which will be by the entrance door.

### Here is the list and what makes up a "hygiene kit":

- Toilet Paper (2 rolls)**
- Tissue (1 box)**
- Shampoo and conditioner**
- Bar soap (2)**
- Deodorant (men's and women's)**
- Disposable razors (2)**
- Shaving cream**
- Toothpaste**
- Toothbrushes**

*Sunshine is delicious,  
rain is refreshing, wind  
braces us up, snow  
is exhilarating; there  
is really no such thing  
as bad weather, only  
different kinds of good  
weather. -John Ruskin*

Pads, tampons, lotions and toothbrushes are extra items kept on hand when requested. If you would like to donate an entire toiletry pack, it would be appreciated, however individual donations of items is also appreciated. Watch the sales, clip coupons and help out by replenishing the shelves at SCAC. Our efforts are really appreciated by the clients and Opel Smith, the Director of SCAC.

## 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](mailto:Jeff@vireomarketing.com) or [Ericasmartrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:Ericasmartrecovery@gmail.com).



*Email submissions to our Editor Janice Sims  
at [janicesims1617@att.net](mailto:janicesims1617@att.net).  
The deadline for submissions is  
the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.*



## Our Board

**President: James Finn**

**Vice-President: Bill Terry**

**Secretary: Bob Vann**

**Treasurer: David Burlingame**

**Directors: Randy Gregory, Brenda McKeon, Debby Rake, Don Jackson, Matt Sacks, Paul Corbett**

## June 2016 Attendance

	10AM Adults	11:30 Adults	10AM Kids	11:30 Kids	Total
June 5	65	81	15	24	185
June 12	0	106	16	0	122
June 19	44	48	6	13	111
June 26	42	45	9	9	105
<b>Averages</b>	<b>37.75</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>130.75</b>



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](mailto:TransitionTeam@westsideuu.org).

### Transition Team

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

---

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