



The Big Blue Phrog

UUFW Core Values

Compassion

Inclusion

Spiritual
Growth

Inquiry

Celebration



The Big Kahuna—

Thinking Out Loud with Rev. Nathan L. Stone

I am compelled to talk about magic.

Magic --- as in our recent Harry Potter Summer Camp (June 15-18) at UUFW. Well, technically it was billed as Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry: A Magical Summer Camp for Children.

The “magic” was even covered by Channel 10 news at 10 p.m. on Monday, June 15. We will be running that piece on our website soon, for those of you who want to see it or see it again and again. They represented us well.

As far as I am concerned this was the very best event that I have ever seen at UUFW in my time with you as minister. Oh well --- my installation back in 2001 ranks way up there but even that ritual that touched me deeply could never match the magical Harry Potter Camp.

In Seminary 101 we were told to avoid talking about any one happening being better than another. And --- for sure --- we were told never to thank any ONE person in particular. “Sets a bad precedent,” they said.

But to heck with seminary. That was a very, very long time ago. I’m breaking that rule.

I just must talk about Tracey Villanueva. She’s the one that made the magic happen. She’s the dreamer, the artist, the creative one who put this Harry Potter-thing together. Magic.

A big piece of her wizardry was the number of

volunteers she pulled together. Maybe she’s just good at delegating or maybe she’s real charming, or maybe she’s just pushy --- or maybe all three --- but she pulled it all together always with a big smile on her face. Magic.

At one point I heard that there were 50 volunteers helping to make this camp happen. Take it from me --- anytime you can enable a church of about 80 or so members to have that many volunteers step up to the plate you have pulled off a major coup! It is interesting that one of the definitions of magic is: an extraordinary power or influence seemingly from supernatural sources. Is that how you got all those volunteers? Magic.

Everywhere I went in our building there was some neat activity going on. People in creative and funky costumes and children laughing --- these were the sights and sounds of Harry Potter. In my mind this is the way church should be --- this is how a church building should be used: crowded with people, everybody having fun, nobody getting heated or judgmental, and everybody eager to know what’s next? Magic.

If there is some wear and tear on our building --- well there should be. All of us seemed to go back to a time and place where the main course was fun, and the dessert was laughter and wonder. When you’re having fun you’re not really worried about a pillow or picture being out of place or a spill here and there or trash bins overflowing. You’re
(See *Kahuna*, continued on page 3)

Upcoming Sundays at a Glance

July 5 – “The Muslim in Me: One Minister’s Journey with Honesty” – Rev. Stone

July 12 – “The Baha’i in Me: One Minister’s Journey with Honesty” - Rev. Stone

July 19 – “The Pagan in Me: One Minister’s Journey with Honesty” – Rev. Stone

July 25 – “Jesus the Rough Rider” – Rev. Jack Harris-Bonham, Guest Minister

UU Fellowship of Waco
4209 N. 27th Street
Waco, TX 76708

254-754-0599

uufw@sbcglobal.net
www.uuwaco.org

Weekly Events

Sunday Services:
10:45 am-12:00 pm

(Nursery care provided. Snacks
for all before and after in the
Fellowship Hall)

Children's & Youth RE:
Approx. 11:20am-12pm

Choir Practice:
Sundays, 10:00 am

**For Board Member and
Committee Chair contact
information, please request the
most up-to-date membership
list from Kay H. Wilson:**

uufw@sbcglobal.net

Staff

Minister—
Rev. Nathan L. Stone, 753-3995
natpat@grandecom.net

Web Manager—
Kay H. Wilson, 756-7223
uufw@sbcglobal.net

R.E. Director—(Vacancy—
Contact R.E. Chair Liz Turnage)

Senior Youth Advisor—
Brian Tankersley, 723-0109
demandtruth@gmail.com

Covenant Groups

INTERESTED IN MAKING CONNECTIONS?

Join a Covenant Group!

“Exploring Spiritual Pathways”

Bruce Allen (776-3036)

3rd Tuesdays

“Humanism Interest Group”

Jane Derrick (753-6920)

Every Four Weeks on Wednesday — Next meeting July 1st, 6:30 pm.

“Let’s Go To the Movies”

John Nobis (756-4653)

3rd Wednesdays

“Reading Circle”

Kris Cervantes (kris.cervantes@gmail.com)

Second Mondays, 6:30 pm.

Board Members

President—Bruce Allen

President-Elect—Jane Derrick

Secretary—Terri Jo Ryan

Treasurer—Joe Ahlers

At-Large Director—Kay H. Wilson

At-Large Director—Becky Fox

At-Large Director—Claudia McLatcher

At-Large Director—Anita Knight

Feel free to send the editor
articles, thoughts, ideas or
other contributions:

Phrog Editor—

Brian Gates

bluephrog@yahoo.com

An Official Disclaimer

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and the ministries
described on our
website or newsletter
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represent the opinions
of all members of the
church, nor the
organizations with
which it affiliates, but if
you are a Unitarian
Universalist, you
already know that.*

**(Adopted by the
UUFW Board,
01/15/06)**

Committee Chairs

Care Team—Judy Hendry

Finance—Joe Ahlers

Hospitality—Terri Jo Ryan

House & Grounds—Mark Pantle

Membership—Robyn Morrison

Ministry—Jane Derrick

P.R.—Kris Cervantes

R.E.—Liz Turnage

Social Action—Becky Warren

Strategic Planning—Jane Derrick

Waldo's—Jane Kittner

Worship Team—Joy Hayes

(Kahuna, cont. from p. 1)

just enjoying yourself. And I watched children return night after night with eagerness in their eyes. And there in the middle of it all --- directing traffic and enjoying the adventure herself was --- tada! --- Tracey. Magic.

At bedtime I told Pat: "Whether or not these children and their parents ever come back --- they were in a Unitarian Universalist building for four nights of adventure. And somewhere, sometime, many years from now some youngster turned oldster is going to say something like, 'I can't remember the name of this church I attended one summer in 2009 (it had some long, funky name) --- all I remember is that I spent four nights with nice people and a religion that felt really good.'"

Magic.

And so here's to you thinningtracey (her email name!) --- you with the eyes that sparkle, you with the energy of a 5-year-old, you with more charm than any ordinary person should have, you who are teaching us all to play our way toward success, you who had a dream and made it happen (with lots and lots of help, I know!) at UUFW, June 15-18.

I know we UUs don't talk too much about the biblical notion of heaven and having stars in your crown. So let's think instead of witchcraft, wizardry, and magic --- and poof! You, Tracey Villanueva, DO have stars in your crown. Magic.

On behalf of the church I honor you and thank you. And, on behalf of the church I thank all the people you had working with you to make OUR Harry Potter Magical Summer Camp for Children --- the absolute BEST Vacation Bible School I ever witnessed.

You are the best, Tracey. Go to the head of the class . . . Hogwart's, that is.

Here's to magic.

Nathan

Maslow Was Right; It Is Safety First.

Before I explain the stranger than usual title this month, let me first say thanks to our web team Kris Cervantes, Kay Wilson Rob Cervantes. This team has done an outstanding job. If you have internet access and haven't seen www.uuwaco.org go there now (and then come back for the cliff hanger at the end of this article). If you don't have internet access, it is worth a trip to the library. Our website got a complete makeover and our Core Values and Covenant of Right Relations are a prominent part of the website.

Second, as I am sure others are doing in this month's Phrog let me add my thanks to Tracey Villanueva and all of the volunteers that made our Hogwart's Camp a resounding success. I don't think actual magic was used in pulling off this great success; rather it was a great team that worked hard. I love being a part of religious community that values literature and nurtures imagination, creativity and play. Did I mention that you can go to www.uuwaco.org to see the local news story about the camp and pictures of the cutest kids ever?

Third, in other happy news, Anita Knight has joined our UUFW Board Directors. She was an active member here for a few years, left Waco to pursue professional opportunities, and has recently re-joined the congregation. We didn't waste time in getting her back on the Board to fill our recent vacancy. She attended the June UUFW Board meeting this afternoon and did well in the fist fight that broke out.

What do I mean by the title to this month's column? Let me provide a little background and explanation. UUFW leadership has paid attention to concerns raised in the Big Event about how we resolve conflicts. In our covenant of right relations, we affirm that being in right relationships with each other is both important and probably won't happen by magic alone. These covenants include "resolve conflicts in a timely manner with compassion, dignity and empathy." Our covenants also include "create, communicate and follow clearly defined congregational polices." So what does this have to do with Maslow?

Abraham Maslow was a humanistic psychologist who developed a theory that included a hierarchy of human needs. The first level of human need is physiological (air, water etc). The second level is the need for safety. The third level is reality TV (according to Wikipedia). In agreement with Dr. Maslow on the importance of safe places for human well being and growth (and in agreement with UUA best practices), our By-Laws committee is working on a Disruptive Behavior Policy and Conflict Resolution Policy. The RE Committee is also working on elements of Safe Church policy. The Board discussed these policies today and first thought they were unnecessary, but after the fist fight, reconsidered. Of course, I jest. We thought they were necessary even before the fist fight. The By-Laws Committee and the Board are continuing the dialogue of how to best meet the psychological and physical safety needs of the congregation as well as how to create a clearly defined policy on conflict resolution. Stay tuned.

Finally, I want to give an update on a committee that does not have as high a profile as the folks who brought you our new website www.uuwaco.org. That Committee is the Committee on Ministry (COM). The COM is also the Board's Executive Committee. It is made of up Kay Wilson, Brian Gates, Jane Derrick and me. In our last meeting, we decided that until we get a permanent conflict resolution committee and clearly defined procedures, we would be the group that helps folks resolve conflicts with compassion, dignity and empathy. It is important (for our well being) to note that we are not a generic complaint department. However, if you experience a conflict in the course of UUFW activities and would like to try resolving it with compassion (as opposed to going home and festering about it), then contact a member of the COM.

Yours in Beloved Community,
Bruce Allen, Board President

Social Action Updates

Medical Equipment Available

Diane and Henry Walbesser have initiated a durable medical equipment "library" to benefit those with temporary needs. Plans are to house the library for equipment check out in the social action room closet. For more information on available equipment or other donations to this new library, please see Becky Warren, social action chair.

Community Volunteers Needed

Texas Home Health Hospice is in dire need of volunteers in Waco and surrounding areas. Volunteers are needed to spend 1-2 hours weekly with visits to patients in their home or nursing residence. For more information, please find the blue flyers in the foyer or contact Tami Ott at tsott@txhha.com or 254/756-0404.

Compassion Ministries Apartment Update

Our UU apartment at Compassion Ministries has recently welcomed a new family. More information on the family will be available in the next Phrog. We are planning a "shower" for our apartment to help set up a welcoming living space and provide for basic necessities for our family. More information on the shower to follow soon.

Meals on Wheels continues to grow

MOW is an important, ongoing effort supported by UUFW. Currently, 70 individuals are now served on Wednesdays and Fridays by our volunteer servers and drivers. Kudos to coordinators Cathy Gordon, Kim Whitney and Nathan Stone as well as our regular serving and driving staff and substitutes!

Becky Warren,
Social Action Chair

UUFW's Time with Friends

Let's Eat, Drink, and Be Merry—Together!

UUFW's next Time with Friends is scheduled **Friday, July 10, 2009**, from 5:30 – 7:00 in the Social Hall of the UU Fellowship of Waco. Time with Friends is a scheduled time when everyone of UUFW interested in doing so may get together for Dinner or Happy Hour.

Everyone brings their own food and beverages.

Please know you are welcome to come even if you need to arrive later or leave earlier than the schedule.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please feel free to contact me, rmorrison3@hotmail.com, or Joy Hayes-Gates at joy.uuwaco@yahoo.com and see also Guidelines in previous Phrog issues.

Thank you!
Robyn Morrison

UU Parenting and Parenting UUs

The next UU Parenting and Parenting UU's meeting is scheduled **Sunday, July 5, 2009**. The meeting will begin 15 minutes after Circle Time and is scheduled for 30 minutes and held in the nursery.

The discussion topic is "**How to help your children respond to religious discussions with their peers.**" The content of these discussions is dynamic and broad to allow for many ideas to come forth. The past meetings have been very successful with much interest and active participation.

UU Parenting and Parenting UUs was founded with the intention of having informal discussions among UUFW parents to give us different ideas for approaches of how to guide our UUFW children as Unitarian Universalists.

The hope is as many UUFW parents as possible will participate, including those whose children are young or grown and whether or not their children were raised as UUs.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, rmorrison3@hotmail.com, or Brian Tankersly, demandtruth@gmail.com.

Thank you!
Robyn Morrison



Did you notice the small blue and white sign on the window at our main entrance? This symbol is the new, internationally recognized symbol for breastfeeding. The purpose of this breastfeeding symbol is to increase public awareness of breastfeeding and to designate breastfeeding and family friendly facilities in public. The overwhelming majority of research has shown that breast milk is best for human babies and has countless advantages over formula. However, in our country, stigma remains about a woman choosing to nurse her baby in a public place, causing some women to become uncomfortable, nurse their children in restrooms, or to be asked to leave altogether. By displaying this symbol at our entrance, we demonstrate that we value, support, and accept breastfeeding mothers and their children. We value inclusion, and all are welcome here.

If you would like to raise awareness by displaying this breastfeeding symbol at your place of business or you know someone who would, they can be purchased at www.mothering.com.

Thanks for your support,
Becky Fox

WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!**From UUFW's Membership Committee**

Hello, to all UUFW Members, Friends, and Newcomers!

First of all, I want to welcome our newest UUFW Members, Johnathan and Sara Kluczynski and Anita Knight.

- Johnathan and Sara along with their 5 year old son, Jace, have been attending since February of this year. Johnathan and Sara, we are very much enjoying getting to know you and are so happy and honored you decided to join UUFW.
- Anita was previously a long time Member of UUFW. She accepted a job in North Carolina and has been there for about 2 years. She decided to move back to Waco and come back to and reactivate her membership at UUFW. Anita, we've missed you and we're so glad you're back home with us!

To all newcomers, I want to welcome you to UUFW and thank you so much for choosing to visit UUFW. Please let someone know if you have any questions regarding our events and ongoing activities. There are many ways to get to know us on a deeper level.

Thank you to everyone at UUFW who help make our guests feel at home. I believe we are a very warm and friendly group of people and this shows when our guests walk through our doors.

I hope everyone is having fun this summer!

Robyn Morrison, Membership Chair

Treasurer's Report

May was not a very good month for our finances. Receipts for the month were \$1,200 below the budget and for the year they are \$2,000 below the budget. Most of that shortfall is among the pledgers.

Expenses for the month were \$400 below the budget and for the year are \$1,600 below the budget.

We were expecting a deficit of \$1,500 for the month (it is the month to complete paying our Society Dues installment of \$1,500) but the actual deficit for the month was \$2,300. For the year we are behind the 8-ball by \$3,200 instead of by \$3,000 which the budget anticipated. Our bank balance is almost \$58,000.

Joe Ahlers, Treasurer

Waco International Folk Dancers is a group of men and women who enjoy the experience of dancing as a group. Our dances have interesting steps and interesting music from a variety of countries. No partners are needed. We meet the first and third Mondays of every month from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. For more information or to be added to the list, contact Jane Derrick, pjderrick@aol.com.

UU Birders is a group of bird watching enthusiasts who meet from 4:30 - 6:30 pm on the 4th Sunday of the month. We gather at the UU Fellowship at 4:30 pm and carpool to a birding spot in the Waco area. For more information or to be added to the contact list, contact Jane Derrick, pjderrick@aol.com.

**HOGWARTS SCHOOL of WITCHCRAFT and WIZARDRY**

A Magical Summer Camp for Children

Presented by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, held June 15 through June 18, was a fantastic experience! Everyone who participated had a **BLAST!**

On behalf of everyone at UUFW, I would like to extend our deepest and most sincere appreciation and gratitude to Tracey Villanueva for her dream to make this camp happen and all of her hard work on and dedication to coordinating and facilitating the camp.

I would also like to thank all of the many volunteers for making this camp possible. It is because of everyone's assistance the camp was such a huge success.

Most Sincerely,
Robyn Morrison



Headmistress McGonagall (a.k.a. Tracy) Sorts a young wizard into his proper House.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry is not authorized, prepared, approved, licensed, or endorsed by J. K. Rowling, Warner Bros., or any other individual or entity associated with the Harry Potter books or film. All Harry Potter logos, trademarks, names, characters, and related indicia are the property of Warner Bros., J. K. Rowling, and/or their respective owners. We do not claim any affiliation with those who own Harry Potter and would like to make it clear that no copyright infringement is intended in these publications.

Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waco, Texas

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uuwaco.org

Put mailing label here

♪ **Calling All Songbirds!** ♪

If you love to sing and make music, consider singing with the choir!

We have a lot of fun, and would love to add more voices to our group, especially men.

Feel free to talk to any of us before or after service, or contact Becky Fox at 836.1142.



“I am determined that my children shall be brought up in their father's religion, if they can find out what it is.”

Charles Lamb (1775 - 1834)



SWUUC Upcoming Events

June 28-30—SWUUC Primary Camp

July 1-3—SWUUC Primary Camp

July 5-11—SWUUC Junior Camp

July 12-18 SWUUC Senior Camp

July 26-31 Dwight Brown Leadership Experience

Unitarian Universalist Principles

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

- I. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- II. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- III. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- IV. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- V. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- VI. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- VII. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.