



# The Big Blue Phrog



**Mission Statement:** The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco is an inclusive spiritual community that reaches out and inspires people to live meaningful, joyful lives of service toward the creation of a more just and loving world.

(Adopted by UUFW on 5/23/10)

## The Big Kahuna—Thinking Out Loud with Reverend Nathan L. Stone

Someone has been chased by a grizzly and been baptized and rededicated more times than memory can recall. Another is a frustrated thespian who never followed-up on a full scholarship to Carnegie Mellon to study drama. That other person is a singer-song-writer-guitarist also known as guitar-crazy. Someone else has jumped out of airplanes over 100 times. And then there's one who hated school and cried every day about having to go to school and yet has been in school for over 60 consecutive years. One person admits that he talks so much that there's nothing about him that has not been told. And look: there is an English teacher who is currently writing a dissertation on relationships among science and contemporary American poetry. Another person has actually re-homed an American alligator. And what about that person who has worked as a cross-country trucker?

Who are all these people? They are the nine (count 'em!!) nine folks who are new members at our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco. They were welcomed in a special ceremony on May 16, 2010, thanks to our Membership Team and the great leadership of Robyn Morrison, Chair.

How did they find us? Many say they come by way of our website: [www.uuwaco.org](http://www.uuwaco.org). Others come for other reasons. But most come because they are somehow attracted to things UUFW is doing in the

community or things some of you are doing to create a more just world.

I am reminded of the public relations policy of my AA and Al-Anon groups. Our 11th Tradition says, "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion."

I think that is the short version of Unitarian Universalist "evangelism" (for lack of a better word or to use a word common to our Bible-Belt culture). We are to be about the business of attracting rather than promoting.

So my word to me and you and us is: keep practicing being the magnets that you are. People are out there looking for something to fill empty spaces inside or are looking for a spiritual community where they will not be judged or criticized because they have more questions than answers and are much more comfortable with ambiguity than with certainty.

We are so very rich folks because nine new folks have come our way. We are so very rich because the rest of you did the good work of attraction.

As your minister, I honor and salute your magnetism. Keep up the good work. Our public relations policy is working.

**NATHAN**

Rev. Nathan L. Stone, Minister

## Upcoming Sundays at a Glance

**June 6 - "A Jesus Parable: What to Do With Those Blankety-Blank Weeds?" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

**June 13 - "'Deliver Us from Evil': a Unitarian Universalist Response" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

**June 20 - "Why Is Fire So Important to Unitarian Universalists?" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

**June 27 - "What the Hell: a Unitarian Universalist Response" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

See feature in new UUWorld for provocative conversations about UU culture:

<http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/162478.shtml>

"You can't really have your multiculturalism and integration at the same time: They're opposites."

—Offie C. Wortham, in "Unitarian Universalism's Rarefied Culture," <http://www.uuworld.org/life/articles/162483.shtml>

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

4209 N. 27th Street  
Waco, TX 76708  
254-754-0599

[uuwaco.org](http://uuwaco.org)

Web Manager/Contact:  
[brian.gates@uuwaco.org](mailto:brian.gates@uuwaco.org)

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

Nursery care provided

Snacks for all before and after in the Fellowship Hall

Youth and Children's Religious Education:

Approx. 11:20am-12pm  
(See Contact Information, middle column of this page)

Choir Practice:

Sundays, 10:00 am

(Occasionally on Fridays—see [Calendar](#) at [uuwaco.org](http://uuwaco.org), or contact Music Director Jane Kittner at [jane.kittner@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.kittner@uuwaco.org))

## Our Affirmation



*Love is the doctrine of this Fellowship, the quest for truth is its sacrament and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve others in community to the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with creation; thus do we covenant with each other.*

## An Official Disclaimer

*The opinions expressed and the ministries described on our website or newsletter do not necessarily 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 UUFW Board on 1/15/06)

## Contact Information

Children's RE (Religious Education):

[tracy.villanueva@uuwaco.org](mailto:tracy.villanueva@uuwaco.org)

Youth Group: [youthgroup@uuwaco.org](mailto:youthgroup@uuwaco.org)

Phrog Editor: [phrog@uuwaco.org](mailto:phrog@uuwaco.org)

Right Relations:

[ingrid.martine@uuwaco.org](mailto:ingrid.martine@uuwaco.org)

### Staff

Minister—Rev. Nathan L. Stone,  
753-3995, [nathan.stone@uuwaco.org](mailto:nathan.stone@uuwaco.org)

### Board Members

President—Jane Derrick

[jane.derrick@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.derrick@uuwaco.org)

President-Elect—Joy Hayes

[joy.hayes@uuwaco.org](mailto:joy.hayes@uuwaco.org)

Secretary—Kris Cervantes

[kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org](mailto:kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org)

Treasurer—Joe Ahlers

At-Large Director 1—Liz Turnage

At-Large Dir. 2—Claudia McLatcher

At-Large Director 3—Bruce Allen

At-Large Director 4—Anita Knight

### Team Chairs

Care Team—Jim and Donna Myers

Finance—Joe Ahlers

Hospitality—Open (Contact

[liz.turnage@uuwaco.org](mailto:liz.turnage@uuwaco.org))

House & Grounds—Claudia McLatcher  
[claudia.mclatcher@uuwaco.org](mailto:claudia.mclatcher@uuwaco.org) and  
Fanny Rendtorff

Membership—Robyn Morrison

[robyn.morrison@uuwaco.org](mailto:robyn.morrison@uuwaco.org)

Ministry—Joy Hayes

Mission/Vision—Anita Knight

P.R.—April Hull and Brian Gates

R.E.—Tracy Villanueva

Right Relations—Ingrid Martine

Social Action—Becky Warren

Waldo's—Jane Kittner

[jane.kittner@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.kittner@uuwaco.org)

and David McLatcher

[david.mclatcher@uuwaco.org](mailto:david.mclatcher@uuwaco.org)

Worship Team—Becky Fox

**For more: Church leaders see Leadership Roster on our website (log in first). Otherwise contact Membership for Members/Friends List.**

## Covenant of Right Relations

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco, adopt this covenant for the purpose of being in right relationship with one another.

Through this covenant, we make a commitment to act with mutual trust and support in this liberal religious faith community.

We covenant to:

- listen deeply and speak with openness, caring, and respect;
- engage newcomers, youth and young adults in the life of the congregation;
- contribute time, ideas, and income in support of our mission and our community outreach, according to means and abilities;
- foster stable congregational growth by drawing on new people and new ideas while maintaining the best of our Unitarian Universalist traditions;
- resolve conflicts in a timely manner with compassion, dignity, and empathy
- communicate clearly about leadership activities and decisions; and
- create, communicate, and follow clearly-defined congregational policies.

Our true covenant will show by our actions. May this covenant deepen our connections with one another and guide us through conflict with dignity and respect for one another. We sometimes fall short of peacefully resolving our misunderstandings and difficulties. When this happens, we will strive to repair relationships and recommit to these covenants.

This is a living document, intended to reflect the needs of our congregation as it changes and grows, revisiting it as needed.

(Adopted by UUFW on 5/31/09)

## From Your Board President

You may have noticed that I took some time off during the month of May. I am very thankful to President-Elect Joy Hayes-Gates and Secretary Kristen Cervantes who joyfully agreed to carry on my responsibilities in my absence and did a wonderful job. Also many thanks to At-Large Director Anita Knight who skillfully led the finalization of the Mission/Vision Statements. It is wonderful to have such support from my fellow leaders. And it was great to have the support of the congregation in the development and finalization of our mission and vision statements below.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco is an inclusive spiritual community that reaches out and inspires people to live meaningful, joyful lives of service toward the creation of a more just and loving world.

### VISION STATEMENTS

Within (individually):

People of all ages at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco experience lives of deepening commitment to our core values and to one another, through:

- ~ working for a better world.
- ~ being welcomed, accepted and valued.
- ~ spiritual growth on our chosen paths.
- ~ openness to new experiences, viewpoints and people.
- ~ the experience and creation of beauty and peace.

Among (collectively):

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco is a vibrant, accepting and diverse community, where people of all ages:

- ~ feel deeply connected to one another through service and celebration.
- ~ respect and honor diverse beliefs, perspectives and people.
- ~ care for and are cared for in community.
- ~ share inspiration and celebration in joyful worship.
- ~ actively learn together, enriching faith journeys and personal & spiritual growth.
- ~ are equipped to be leaders who serve with creativity, commitment and passion.
- ~ deepen our connection to Unitarian Universalist traditions and the larger faith community & movement.

Beyond (community-wide):

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco is a visible leader and partner, making a positive impact in Waco and beyond.

- ~ We engage in courageous social justice actions in fellowship and in community partnership, and recognize commonalities and common values across faiths.
- ~ People of our larger community experience the impact of progressive religious values and voices, raised together for change.
- ~ Those we serve feel loved, empowered and accepted, regardless of their circumstances.
- ~ Seekers for a progressive religious community hear about and find us.

(Note: A couple of minor grammatical corrections have been made to the mission statement.)

Let us continue to move forward in the development of a strategic plan to implement our Mission/Vision.

Jane Derrick,  
Board President

## Share Your Passion Sundays With the UUFW Youth and Children

This summer I would like to give our RE teaching teams a break. Therefore, I am looking for Fellowship members who would be willing to share something they love with the RE students on one of the summer Sundays. Some possibilities:

1. Let the students know about your profession.
2. Educate the students about a cause that you feel strongly about.
3. Let the students know about service organizations in the community.
4. Share a short film.
5. Teach the students a new craft.
6. Teach the students about your hobbies.
7. Teach the students some songs!!!!
8. Read the students a favorite story.
9. Teach the students a dance.
10. Tell them what it was like way back when.

Feel free to think outside the box!!!!  
These are the Sundays I have available:

Contact me at:  
[tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org](mailto:tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org)  
to reserve your spot today!!!!

June 20th  
July 4th  
July 18th  
July 25th  
August 1st  
August 8th  
August 15th  
August 29th

There are only 8 Sundays available. Act now or you will miss your chance to inspire and interact with the next generation of UU members!!!!

Tracey Villanueva,  
RE Team Chair

## Religious Education For Children and Youth

### Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry

UUFW's Children's RE Team will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, A Magical Summer Camp for Children. The camp will once again be filled with many fun and magical activities. **The camp will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship beginning Monday, June 14, through Thursday, June 17, 2010, from 5:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. each day. Enrollment is for children ages 6 – 12 and camp fee is \$50 per child.**

Many volunteer positions are available for adults as well as ages 13 and older. The amount of time anyone contributes help can be as long or brief as they choose. If you are interested and willing to help with the camp, please contact the Lead Camp Coordinator, Tracey Villanueva, a.k.a. Minerva McGonagall, Deputy Headmistress, at [tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org](mailto:tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org).

We appreciate all of your support!

Robyn Morrison,  
RE Team

## WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!

From UUFW's Membership Team

Hello, to all new UUFW Members, Friends, and Visitors!

On Sunday, May 16, a ceremony was held to recognize and honor the following nine (9) new UUFW Members:

### **Dan Capps and Viviann Capps**

**Rachel Crawford**, who attends with her daughter, Haley Nafe – 7

**Michael Davis and Paige Davis**, who attend with their two children, Ryan – 13, and Grace – 8. (Michael and Paige were UUFW Members about 4 years ago but had to resign their membership due to a job transfer. We are so happy to have them back home in Waco and with us!)

**Sherry Garrett**, who attends with her daughter, Casey Garrett – 13

**Suzie Seibel**, who attends with her two sons, Cameron Seibel – 14, and Devon Seibel – 10

### **Lee VanWagner and Marty VanWagner**

Please join me in welcoming these people as UUFW's newest Members. We are all so honored you have chosen UUFW as the place for you.

We hope and invite other new visitors as well as regularly attending guests will also consider joining UUFW as Members when they decide the time is right for them.

Here's wishing all of you a very happy summer! Thank you so much!

Robyn Morrison,  
Membership Chair

## Treasurer's Report

Our receipts for the 4 months ending April 30 are about \$1,500 over the budget.

Our expenses are over the budget by \$2,200. Since the Mission Vision work was not fully budgeted and because most of the MV expense occurred in April it accounted for all of the overage and then some.

We had budgeted for a deficit of \$4,100 for the 4 months and the actual is \$4,900.

Our cash and CD balance is \$49,000.

Joe Ahlers,  
Treasurer

## Hospitality Teams

What a great first month with our new hospitality teams! Y'all have jumped in and taken care of being great hosts with smiles and generosity. With five Sundays and Mother's day in May, it was a challenging month to start with but with 4 Sunday's down and one to go all has gone well. Sunday snacks have been enjoyed and appreciated by everyone.

By now most of you hopefully know your team assignments and are getting to know your teams. Don't forget that's another advantage of this system—enjoy getting to know your teammates. Not everybody was able to help this first month, but that's to be expected, just plan to jump in next month.

1st Sunday team is coordinated by Steven Bailey, 2nd Sunday team with Terri Jo Ryan, 3rd Sunday team is lead by Claudia McLatcher, and 4th Sunday team is looking for a coordinator. If you're on the 2nd Sunday team, this 1st month has been tricky—you're covering the 5th Sunday due to a Mother's Day trade. The team lists are posted on the bulletin board and on the side of the refrigerator in the kitchen. Please be sure to check your e-mail regularly as that's such an easy way for the team coordinators to communicate with everyone. Let your team coordinator know if there's a better way to reach you.

Are you a good organizer? We are looking for one more person to lead the 4th Sunday team, being the coordinator of your teammates and reminding people as your Sunday rolls around each month—let me know if you're available. All of this falls under the duties of the hospitality team, which is currently leaderless. Are you a social person who enjoys party planning, hosting, and working with a great group of people? The hospitality team is in charge of planning social events for the fellowship, facilitating the friendship building that is such an important part of this fellowship. If you'd enjoy this role let me know! With gratitude to all—

Liz Turnage [liz.turnage@uuwaco.org](mailto:liz.turnage@uuwaco.org),  
At-Large Director

## Social Action News

UUFW will again participate in the Caritas "Fan Club" to assist needy Wacoans with modest means to endure the Texas heat this summer. We will begin taking donations this month. You can make a donation to the fan club by making a check out to UUFW with "fan club for Caritas" on the memo line.

The Social Action Committee is also planning a series of workshops to highlight our passion for ecology and how we can positively impact our planet. Ask Carla Carr and Suzie Seibel about the workshop on worm composting! This and other workshops will be coming to UUFW soon and open to the public. Also, we will be collecting fluorescent light bulbs for the greening of Habitat for Humanity, in honor of their first "green" build beginning this summer. More information to come soon!

\* \* \*

The Betrayal, a powerful documentary that chronicles the secret war waged in Laos during the Vietnam war, will be shown on Tuesday, June 1, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Waco-McLennan County Library, 1717 Austin Avenue. CRRC's Dinner and a Movie event is also hosted this month by KWBU-FM.

When the U.S. military withdrew, thousands of Laotians who fought alongside American forces were left behind to face imprisonment or execution. One family, the Phrasavaths, made the courageous decision to escape to America, hoping to find safety. Instead, they discovered a different kind of war. For more information and scenes from the Academy Award-nominated movie, go to <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1157685/>.

Dinner is provided by the CRRC, with donations accepted. Space is limited, so you must reserve a place for this event by calling 836-4599 or emailing [Jo.Welter@hotmail.com](mailto:Jo.Welter@hotmail.com).

Becky Warren,  
Social Action Chair

## From Treasurer & Finance Chair Joe Ahlers:

In case you have not received your Chalice Lighter Call and would like to participate, please keep reading.

Three times a year we receive a call from the Southwest UU District asking for a \$10 donation per member to benefit a UU church somewhere in our district. This time it is for the UU church in San Marcos so that they can pay off the land they purchased and prepare to build a building.

Our Fellowship has been a recipient a couple of times, so we can view this as payback time.

You may write a check to Chalice Lighters, SW District Office, 6720 Brentwood Stair Road, Ft. Worth, TX 76112 or make one to UUFW with "Chalice Lighter" in the memo field, and I will send a check on your behalf. You can also donate online through PayPal by [clicking here and using the Chalice Lighters donation form](#). Thanks for your consideration of this opportunity.

Also, months ago I asked if any folks would be willing to forgo (or expand) their NPR membership and donate through UUFW to pay for our publicity there. Some of you may have responded with a 'yes' and/or a check. For those who have not, this is a follow-up. If you are willing and able now would be a good time to write a check to UUFW with a memo line of "NPR."

Joe Ahlers, Treasurer & Finance Chair

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco, Texas

4209 N. 27th Street  
Waco, TX 76708

Phone: 254-754-0599  
Email: [brian.gates@uuwaco.org](mailto:brian.gates@uuwaco.org)  
Website: [www.uuwaco.org](http://www.uuwaco.org)



Put mailing label here

### Covenant Groups

#### INTERESTED IN MAKING CONNECTIONS?

*Join a Covenant Group!*

“Reading Circle”

Contact Kris Cervantes  
[kris.cervantes@gmail.com](mailto:kris.cervantes@gmail.com)  
Second Mondays, 6:30 pm

“Let’s Go To the Movies”

Contact John Nobis (756-4653)  
3rd Wednesdays, 7 pm

“Humanism Interest Group”

Jane Derrick (753-6920)

Every 3 or 5 weeks, more or less  
Next meeting: June 23th, 6:30 pm

The new Summer UUWorld is out, with articles on hospitality, Margaret Fuller, and spreading the UU message through social media: <http://uuworld.org/>.



### UUFW Calendar 2010

See [Calendar](#) at [UUWaco.org](http://UUWaco.org) for most up-to-date calendar and email Claudia McLatcher at [claudia.mclatcher@uuwaco.org](mailto:claudia.mclatcher@uuwaco.org) to schedule events at UUFW facilities.

#### Area UU Upcoming Events

Faith Development Training, All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa OK, **June 3 – 6**

General Assembly, Minneapolis MN, **June 23 - 27**

Primary Camp, U Bar U, **July 4 - 10**

Junior Camp, U Bar U, **July 11 – 17**

Senior Camp, U Bar U, **July 18 – 24**

Dwight Brown Leadership Experience, Glen Rose, TX, **July 25 - 30**

SWUUSI (Southwestern UU Summer Institute), **August 1-6** at Western Hills Guest Ranch in Wagoner, Oklahoma

**For more information on any of these (Area UU) events contact Jennifer Nichols ([jnichols@uua.org](mailto:jnichols@uua.org)) or Connie Nolen ([swduua@aol.com](mailto:swduua@aol.com)) at the District Office at 817-446-0099.**

### 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.