



# The Big Blue Phrog



*“BOND OF UNION: The purpose of this Fellowship is to bring religious liberals into closer acquaintance and cooperation for the study and practice of religion, and for the diffusion of the knowledge of Unitarianism and Universalism and the furthering of their principles.”*

-- From UUFW Bylaws, Section II



## The Big Kahuna—

### Thinking Out Loud with Rev. Nathan L. Stone

Every once in awhile --- church-people need to look up. I mean look up and see those Canadian geese.

I have always been fascinated with the explanation of what’s happening when those geese are flying in that V-formation.

Somewhere along the way I picked up a description of those geese in flight; don’t even know where I got it but it sits in a file of mine called “things with no known source.” So it could be a crock for all I know. But I have a hunch it is accurate:

*You have no doubt seen the beautiful teamwork of Canadian geese in flight. We all have marveled at the precision of the flock’s “V” formation. Scientists tell us that each goose, flapping its wings, creates an upward lift for the goose that follows. When all the geese fly cooperatively, in this graceful and marvelous “V” configuration, the whole flock has a significantly greater flying distance --- up to 70% greater! --- than if each bird flew alone. Each depends upon the other to reach its destination. Interdependence, rather than independence, is the key.*

*But there are two more important additional features of this amazing flight behavior. First, when a goose begins to lag behind, other birds in the flock sound him back into place with their distinctive honk. Second, the lead bird at the point of the “V” is periodically rotated. Relieved of the pacesetting post, he takes to the*

*rear of the formation to regain his strength while the next bird in line assumes the lead.*

Those flying geese have so much to teach those of us who do life together as a worshipping, learning, serving, giving community. Church life is not always easy. Working and playing and thinking and questioning and trying to make this world a better place is not for sissies. But it can be done with clarity, focus, ease, beauty, and grace if we’ll be smart enough to remember the geese in flight.

I see about six obvious lessons that apply to people like us:

1. Stick together.
2. Keep on flapping.
3. Cooperate with each other and you will fly higher and longer.
4. Practice interdependence. This is everybody’s Fellowship.
5. Pass the leadership around.
6. Honk lots of encouragement to one another.

On Sunday, the 19th of April, we gathered for a congregational meeting where we voted to approve the core values that will guide what we do and how we do things and how we will treat one another and how we will be in the world:

(See *Kahuna*, continued on page 3)

## Upcoming Sundays at a Glance

**May 3** – “Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco: What is at Our Core?” – Rev. Stone

**May 10** – “Celebrating the Feminine Divine: Earth, Air, Fire, Water and UU” – Joy Hayes

**May 17** – “Eating Ethically: What?” – Rev. Nathan L. Stone

**May 24** – “A Covenant of Right Relations: Why and Must We?” – Rev. Nathan Stone

**May 31** – “Annual Spiritual Odyssey” – John Nobis, facilitator

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

254-754-0599

[uufw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uufw@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.uuwaco.org](http://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](mailto:uufw@sbcglobal.net)

### **Staff**

Minister—  
Rev. Nathan L. Stone, 753-3995  
[natpat@grandecom.net](mailto:natpat@grandecom.net)

Web Manager—  
Kay H. Wilson, 756-7223  
[uufw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uufw@sbcglobal.net)

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

Senior Youth Advisor—  
Brian Tankersley, 723-0109  
[demandtruth@gmail.com](mailto: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 Mar. 11th, 6:30 pm.

“Let's Go To the Movies”

John Nobis (756-4653)

3rd Wednesdays

“Music as Spiritual Practice”

J.P. DeMeritt (756-1010)

(or email [jpdemeritt@att.net](mailto:jpdemeritt@att.net))

“Reading Circle”

Kris Cervantes ([kris.cervantes@gmail.com](mailto: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—vacancy

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

**Phrog Editor—**

**Brian Gates**

[bluephrog@yahoo.com](mailto:bluephrog@yahoo.com)

## 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 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—Vacant/Being Reassessed

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, continued from page 1)**

- Compassion
- Inclusion
- Spiritual Growth
- Inquiry
- Celebration

Let's agree that these will be the things we will use to increase our upward lift; these are the things we need to be honking to one another as encouragement or to honk one another back into place.

It is good to fly with you good people. It is good to know that I am not alone. It is good to know that others are flapping energy in my direction. It is good to know that all of us have the option of periodically going to the back of the formation in order to regain strength for the journey.

Warning: not a good idea for everybody to fall back at the same time. And, because we are slim and trim and don't have the luxury of hundreds of geese --- we can't fall back for long. But do get the rest and refreshment that's needed when you need it.

It is good to be in flight with you. HONK!

*Nathan*



**I WANT YOU!**

Did you know that the first church to call itself "Unitarian" was established in Transylvania in 1638?

**Treasurer's Report**

March was another month not to write home about. Receipts for the month were \$1,100 below the budget. Happily, expenses were \$500 below the budget.

For the 3 months receipts are \$1,300 below the budget and expenses are \$1,200 below the budget. All of which results in us being right on target for our estimated 3 month deficit of \$2,200.

All receipt categories are on track except for Pledges and they are about \$1,800 below the budget for the 3 months. One reason we send out pledge-giving reports each quarter is to give all pledgers a chance to catch up if they have fallen a bit behind.

We have \$58,000 in the bank and savings accounts as of the end of the month.

Joe Ahlers,  
Treasurer

**Presidential Palaver**

There are no Jedi mind tricks in this column.

I was sick the Sunday of flower communion. I heard from several folks what a lovely and inspiring experience the service was. As president of the board, now more than ever I feel gratitude for all the commitment and faith that goes into making those experiences of connection and inspiration possible. I am grateful for the founding mothers and fathers whose vision created this inclusive and compassionate liberal religious community right here in religiously conservative Waco, Texas. I am grateful to all that have given so much of themselves across the years to make that vision our reality today. I am grateful to our minister whose dedication to reflective inquiry and spiritual growth results in beautiful services and sermons that open our hearts and minds. I am also grateful for everyone that participates in our Sunday Services (including but not limited to the following: greeters, bulletin ushers, sound system operators, singers, musicians, celebrants, readers of stories, kids of all ages, basket passers, guests, givers, basket collectors, regulars, irregulars, occasional nappers, child nurturers and cleanup crews). When we put it all together, the spirit of love lives in this congregation in a way that makes our Sunday experience sacred.

For those who wonder what that UUFW Board is up to these days, on average we are about 5'6". Seriously, in addition to keeping up with everything going on around here, our current priorities are 1) supporting the adoption of Core Values and a Covenant of Right Relations, 2) finding ways to bring our core values more fully into the heart of everything we do and 3) creating a stronger relationship between the board and the committees through further developing the At-Large Director role. We also try to be responsive to current opportunities. We have noticed that we have been given an opportunity to work on the core value of *inclusion* in the form of so many young adult visitors lately. As a board we will discuss (and are eager to hear from you about) how we can meet the needs and hopes that these young folks bring with them when they walk through our doors.

Finally, let me say that on May 15th we have a great opportunity to hear about Mark Adams' journey from internalizing judgments about himself based on pre dark ages beliefs about the world to compassion toward self and others. He leads an important ministry of hope for GLBT students at religiously conservative colleges. Showing up is more than an opportunity to learn about the journey of many gay people in our society, it's a great way to demonstrate that Unitarian Universalists stand on the side of love.

Yours in Beloved Community,  
Bruce Allen,  
Board President

## UUFW's Time with Friends—Eat, Drink, and Be Merry!

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

The next UUFW's Time with Friends is scheduled **Friday, May 8, 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.

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

If anyone is interested in playing board games afterward, that is scheduled from 7:00 to 8:00. (Please see Guidelines and Schedule below.)

**This event is for everyone of UUFW including Members, Friends of the Fellowship, Newcomers, children, adults, all marital statuses, those with children, those without children, and so on.**

UUFW's Time with Friends is an event founded with the intention of creating another informal opportunity for UUFW Members, Friends and Newcomers to get to know each other better. By providing a more relaxed setting, the hope is this will also make our newcomers feel comfortable enough to want to come and get to know us and us them.

This event is held on a monthly basis on the 2nd Friday of each month in the Social Hall of the UU Fellowship of Waco.

The goal is to keep it simple and fun for all involved. So, a few "simple and fun" guidelines were decided upon.

1. All participating will bring their own food and beverages for dinner or Happy Hour.
2. Before leaving, all adult participants will be responsible for their own, as well as their children's, set up and clean up, including trash and floors.
3. A designated UUFW Member will ensure all lights are off, security system is activated, and all doors are locked.
4. OPTIONAL: This is not planned as a pot-luck style meal. However, to add to a sense of community and fun, anyone interested in doing so may bring a main or side dish, snack or dessert of their choice to share. (Please come whether or not you want to participate in #4.)

To accommodate the schedules of those interested in participating but needing time afterward for other things, it was decided a schedule for the evening is important.

- **5:30 - 5:45 Arrive and Set Up (Or earlier if preferred)**
- **5:45 - 6:45 Dinner and Happy Hour**
- **6:45 - 7:00 Completion of Any Pending Clean Up**
- **7:00 - 8:00 Games - We may decide on a time-to-time basis to add this to the schedule if enough participants are interested in staying a little longer to play games (board games, cards, dominos, etc...)** If you are interested in this activity and have a board game for a group you would like to offer for the evening, please bring it with you. If more than one is offered, those interested in this activity may decide together which one to play.

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

This event is intended to be informal, with the exception of the evening's schedule, and for anyone interested in participating as they wish.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please feel free to contact me, [rmorrison3@hot.rr.com](mailto:rmorrison3@hot.rr.com), or Joy Hayes-Gates at [joy.uuwaco@yahoo.com](mailto:joy.uuwaco@yahoo.com).

Thank you!

Robyn Morrison

## UU Parenting and Parenting UUs

The next UU Parenting and Parenting UU's meeting is scheduled **Sunday, May 3, 2009**. The meeting is scheduled for 30 minutes and will begin 15 minutes after Circle Time held at the end of the service. It will be 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.**

The plan is for the meetings to take place on a monthly basis the first Sunday of the month. The meetings are scheduled for 30 minutes beginning 15 minutes after Circle Time held at the end of the service. The meetings will be held in the nursery to allow babies to play while having parental supervision and to allow clear sight of the playground.

If anyone willing to participate is interested in staying a shorter time than 30 minutes, they may feel free to leave the meeting at anytime they choose.

If more than 1 person wishes to continue the discussion after 30 minutes, those interested may choose at that time to do so.

**We would very much appreciate participation from as many UUFW parents as possible including those with young or grown children whether or not their children were raised as UUs.**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, [rmorrison3@hot.rr.com](mailto:rmorrison3@hot.rr.com), or Brian Tankersly, [demandtruth@gmail.com](mailto:demandtruth@gmail.com).

Thank you!

Robyn Morrison

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

A special ceremony was held during the service on April 12 to recognize and induct four new UUFW Members. They are Natalie Allen, Carolyn Foster, Bobby Graham, and Linda Martan. Please congratulate and welcome them. They are all very special, unique, and dynamic individuals and UUFW is honored they have chosen to become members.



(Photos courtesy of John Hendry—Above, Robin welcomes new member Bobby Graham, while new member Natalie Allen observes.)

We asked each of them to tell us something unique about themselves and to tell us their thoughts about UUFW.

**Natalie Allen** - a college student at MCC and now a church member, but most importantly, she is the mother of a beautiful little girl. Madelyn is her motivation, her inspiration, and the love of her life. Natalie has been a part of the church since she was about 7 and is currently working in UUFW's nursery.

She says something unique about her is she is a liberal Unitarian who lives in Woodway, Texas!

She describes UUFW as a church which was built on the foundation of love, equality, and acceptance. We are proud to be made up of people from many different walks of life, and of every age, gender, sexuality, and religion. We believe in every soul finding its own path to peace and we allow our members to travel down whatever life path they may choose.

**Carolyn Foster** - an art teacher in Temple teaching middle school students. She has a son who lives in Waco and attends MCC.

**Bobby Graham** - loves roller skating, bowling, and volleyball. He loves UUFW because it's a beautiful place to be. He loves the people, and the support he gets helps him feel proud to be who he is. He has been providing assistance with different tasks because he wants to help the church and it makes him feel good to be part of the church.

**Linda Martan** - from Niagra Falls. She is a Member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and a Pillsbury Grand National Bake-Off Winner. She is an artist and

loves to paint murals. She has been a ski instructor and used to own a fudge shop in California and makes 37 different kinds of fudge. (She has promised to bring some to us at some point.)

She loves UUFW because (1) the size allows you to get to know more people, and (2) the people.

I want to thank all UUFW Members and Friends of the Fellowship who extend their hands and smiles to our Guests as they enter the doors of our beautiful Fellowship. Its helps them know and feel how welcome and wanted they are and how honored we feel they have chosen to come and visit us.

To all of our Newcomers, we hope you will enjoy your time with us and find it's a place that brings you joy and peace. We look forward to meeting and getting to know you.

Thank you!

Robyn Morrison, Membership Chair

(Below, Kris Cervantes leads the children's choir singing "Enter, Rejoice and Come In." Bottom, Tracy Villanueva directs a play from "When the Root Children Wake Up")



**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 third Monday 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](mailto: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](mailto:pjderrick@aol.com).



Author/Activist Marc Adams

**WHEN:**

**Friday, May 15, 2009  
7 PM**

**WHERE:**

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco  
4209 North 27th Street, Waco, TX**

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

[www.meetmarcadams.com](http://www.meetmarcadams.com)

[www.heartstrong.org](http://www.heartstrong.org)

## Founder of HeartStrong Comes to Waco

### Restorative Therapy & Faith-based Anti-GLBT Bullying At Religious Educational Institutions Uncovered

Marc Adams, Lambda Literary Award finalist and Silver Pen Award recipient for his autobiography, *The Preacher's Son*, will be speaking at a special community gathering at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco.

*The Preacher's Son* chronicles Marc's life growing up gay as the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister in rural Pennsylvania where he endured a childhood of physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse. He went on to attend, by choice, Jerry Falwell's Liberty University where he also was employed for 3 ½ years in the student recruiting/university relations department. His book articulately reveals life at Liberty and the struggle to conform to the standards for which he would have been a martyr. He shares about his years as an ex-gay. It culminates with his coming to terms with being gay and his coming out to his fundamentalist Baptist Christian family.

Since its release in 1996, *The Preacher's Son* has garnered praise from bookstores, reviewers, the mainstream press, and the gay and lesbian media. Not to be discounted, Marc says, are the thousands of letters and e-mails he has received from men and women, gay and straight, who have read his books and found themselves changed.

Marc will share some of his life's story, talk about his latest book, *(lost)Found*, as well as **HeartStrong, Inc.**, the non-profit organization he co-founded. **HeartStrong, Inc.**, is a non-profit educational organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students of religious schools, colleges, and universities. HeartStrong has provided hope and help to GLBT students who have endured faith-based anti-GLBT bullying in religious schools around the world since 1996.

All of Marc's books and resources will be available for purchase, including his latest book (the much anticipated follow up to *The Preacher's Son*), *(lost)Found*. For more information about Marc [www.meetmarcadams.com](http://www.meetmarcadams.com).



UUFW: Friday, May 15, 2009 7 PM

## Last Year's "Big Event" Bears Fruit!

We did it! The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco adopted the following core values at the April 19 spring congregational meeting:

### *We Value Compassion*

Compassion is the flame that inspires and illuminates our shared journey.

We believe that when our hearts are filled with love, our hands will be moved to acts of kindness and social justice.

We affirm that the measure of our faith journey is not the brilliance of our ideas but the generosity of our lives.

Service is our prayer.

### *We Value Inclusion*

We work to eradicate artificial barriers that separate humanity.

We welcome all souls who share or seek to understand our Unitarian Universalist ideals.

We don't have to believe alike to love alike.

### *We Value Spiritual Growth*

We seek to honor that which is sacred in our lives and in each other.

Recognition of the mysteries of the universe leads us to respect and honor each person's sincere search for meaning, enlightenment, and spiritual development.

We are committed to lifespan religious education in our congregation because we realize that spiritual development is for all ages and is enriched by diverse beliefs.

### *We Value Inquiry*

We value science, philosophy, literature and the world's great religions as sources of wisdom.

We believe in intellectual freedom and encourage each individual's ongoing, free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

We are committed to the intellectual growth and moral development of our children, youth and adults.

### *We Value Celebration*

We enrich our lives by celebrating together in a sacred spirit of camaraderie.

We cherish the rituals which connect us in good times and comfort us in dark times.

We believe in the joy of fellowship and fun for its own sake.

Now, beloved members, cherished friends and valued guests, we turn to the next task at hand – a Covenant of Right Relations. This is an important step in a Fellowship's life. From the UUA website:

*Developing a Covenant of Right Relations is an important step in clarifying expectations and creating a safe environment for congregations. "Covenant" is Latin for "come together" and means a "solemn agreement" or "promise from the heart" regarding a course of action between parties.*

As descendents of the Puritans, whose covenant was called the *Cambridge Platform of 1648*, UUFW leadership now sets about this vital work – but we need your feedback to validate it. This covenant is not a creedal test, but rather an expression of how we as a group of like-hearted people would "walk together" in community.

**The board on April 19 authorized the draft proposed Covenant of Right Relations to the greater membership for its input into the final document. The comment period will end Monday, May 4:**

## **DRAFT Covenant of Right Relations for UUFW**

"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 a fair share of time, ideas, and income in support of our mission and our community outreach
- 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 leadership activities and decisions
- 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."

Comments should be submitted to Jane Derrick at [pjderrick@aol.com](mailto:pjderrick@aol.com) or 918 N. 30th, Waco, TX 76707 by May 4. We have also posted the draft language on boards around the Fellowship, for you to pick up a pen and add your own thoughts, or amend as you see fit.

Terri Jo Ryan,  
Board Secretary

Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waco, Texas

4209 N. 27th Street  
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Phone: 254-754-0599  
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[uuwaco.org](http://uuwaco.org)

Put mailing label here

♪ **Calling all Singers!** ♪

Do you know how easy it is to join the UUFW choir? Just show up! If you like to sing and usually think you are on the right pitch, come to the piano at about 10 a.m. on Sunday and sing with us. We also have a one hour rehearsal 5:30-6:30 Friday evenings with Beth Ullman about twice a month. Contact me at [jane@grandecom.net](mailto:jane@grandecom.net) if you have any questions or if you want to be on the choir email list. Love to see you there!

Jane Kittner, Music Director



“Concerning the Pope's claim that homosexuality is 'unnatural'. Perhaps the Pope is suggesting that it lies beyond the scope of 'normal' human behavior. If so, this has uncomfortable implications for an association of old men who wear dresses, hear voices and practice ritual cannibalism. Self-enforced celibacy is all but unknown among other animal species. If any sexual behavior is out of tune with the natural world, it is surely that of the priesthood.”

—George Monbiot, *The Guardian*,  
July 13, 2000



**SWUUC Upcoming Events**

June 5-7—Our Whole Lives  
June 24-28—General Assembly  
June 28-30—SWUUC Primary Camp  
July 1-3—SWUUC Primary Camp

**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.