



# The Big Blue Phrog

## UUFW Core Values

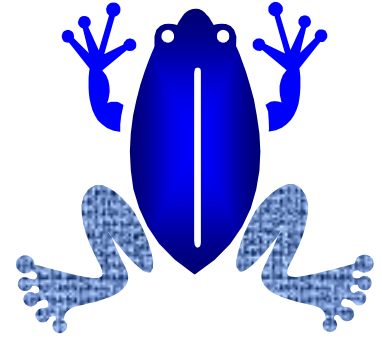
Compassion

Inclusion

Spiritual  
Growth

Inquiry

Celebration



## The Big Kahuna—

Thinking Out Loud with Rev. Nathan L. Stone

Oh my how I did enjoy our party at the Fellowship on Friday night, August the 21st when we gathered to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Randy and John: so much laughter and silliness—so much hugging and carrying on, good food and drinks and conversation. There were new faces and familiar faces and good music and toasting.

When Unitarian Universalists get together like that we call it an Ingathering. Why is that so important to us? It is important because to UUs community is everything.

Since our lives and our faith are not built upon a particular dogma or set of beliefs, being WITH one another is all-important. When we are gathered we remember that we are a covenantal community bound together by our promises: to treat one another kindly and

with respect and to work and play to make this a better world.

Our formal Ingathering Service, our official return from summer, is on Sunday, September the 6th. The service centers on water—that primal element that is common to us all. Some will bring a small sampling of water from their vacation place; others will bring Waco water as a symbol of their summer’s journeys. Others will use water from a pitcher already provided at the service.

All water is placed in a common bowl. A small amount is saved for services like the blessing of the animals and the rest of the water is carried ceremoniously by the children to water our beautiful garden.

There is a poem by Patricia Shuttee in the back of your hymnal (No.729) that speaks of our Ingathering:

*“The Winds of Summer”*

*You and I and all of us blew about with the winds of summer,  
Following the sun in different ways of freedom and play,  
Finding rest in the cool stillness of shadows, and moving to the slow  
Heat struck rhythms which turned the long hours of summer light.*

*Now it is time for gathering in. We come together at this time  
And in this place on the bridge of autumn.*

*Summer is fading backward into memory, and winter waits in snowy brilliance.  
We meet with eagerness and delight, needing one another for sharing.*

*We have joys and sorrows and hopes to share,  
Questions, things we care about and want to help make better,  
Things that we would like to understand, ideas waiting to be heard.*

*(See **Kahuna**, continued on page 3, lower right corner)*

## Upcoming Sundays at a Glance

**Sunday September 6 – “Our Sacred Water” – Rev. Nathan L. Stone [multigenerational]**

**Sunday September 13 – “Creating Generosity --- Really?” – Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

**Sunday September 20 – “Shack Theology: What Is It?” – Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

**Sunday September 27 – “Blessing the Future” – Mr. Joe Sullivan**

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!*

“Humanism Interest Group”

Jane Derrick (753-6920)

Every Four Weeks on Wednesday — Next meeting September 30th, 6:30 pm.

“Let’s Go To the Movies”

John Nobis (756-4653)

3rd Wednesdays

“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—Anita Knight

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—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

## Talking With Bob

The following is a conversation I recently had with one of my many imaginary friends. I call him Bob, an imaginary new member of UUFW. I hope you enjoy the conversation.

*If we UU's aren't creedal, what are we?*

*We are covenantal.*

*What does that mean?*

*I can think of lots of ways to answer that question but one way to say it is that right relationships really, really matter to us.*

*So we're a friendship club?*

*No, my super succinct description of Unitarian Universalism is that we are striving to build ever wider beloved community that will grow our hearts and minds; so that we can then go forth and manifest the transformative power of compassion in a hurting world. Did you know that the UUFW is on a journey?*

*Can we pull over? I need a bathroom break.*

*No, deal with it.*

*Okay, tell me a little more about the journey.*

*We at the UUFW have articulated core values; we have determined how we want to be with each other which we call a covenant of right relations.*

*Are we there yet?*

*No. We are building in tools to help us better live those values and covenants.*

*Is peyote involved?*

*Nope, right now the Board is processing recommended changes in the Policies and Procedures manual.*

*What the heck, are you sure you're not trippin' man?*

*These changes in the Policies and Procedure Manual are going to allow us to better live our values and covenants. They will also allow us to be more effective in getting things done with more clear channels of communications. How this place works will no longer be one of the seven mysteries of the universe and that will be empowering for everyone. In the Policies and Procedures there is a new policy on conflict resolution.*

*I thought if your community is beloved, there'd be no conflict?*

*Nope, conflict is universal in Homo sapiens, but it doesn't have to be destructive.*

*Have you been to any health care town hall meetings lately?*

*No, but the board is going to educate us on the conflict resolution policy in the near future and we are even thinking about bringing in an expert on healthy conversations in churches to do a workshop for us.*

*Are we doing all this because the Prez of the board's a shrink?*

*No, we are doing it because it is important to our values and covenant and it is also what highly successful UU congregations have done.*

*Oh, so you mean there really is a bunch of secret conflict in the congregation?*

*No, we are still Homo sapiens; we are never conflict free, but generally speaking relationships in the UU are really good these days.*

*So why bother with a conflict resolution policy?*

*Have you heard the story about the man with the hole in his roof? When it was raining, he really wanted to fix the hole, but he couldn't because it was raining and when it was sunny, he didn't think it really needed to be fixed.*

*Are you sure there's no secret conflict?*

*Well, I have heard that the Midwesterners are getting increasingly uncomfortable with Nathan's sermon references to Hawaiian culture.*

*Yeah, I've always known there's a plot to keep Midwesterners down.*

*So, after the new P&Ps are done and we have a new conflict resolution policy, are we there yet?*

*No, we are going to develop a new UUFW mission and vision statement in the winter of 2010.*

*Will this new mission change us from a UU congregation to a plumbing supply store?*

*No.*

*Will we have achieved enlightenment then?*

*Not exactly.*

*Okay, so what's next?*

*Then, we'll develop a strategic plan that will guide us in living our new mission and journeying towards our vision.*

*Then what?*

*Well you know in liberal religion, revelation is never sealed, so we will just have to see.*

Yours in Beloved Community,  
Bruce Allen,  
Board President

## (Kahuna, cont. from p. 1)

*Today, we are together in gladness, once more the special community  
That we call our church,*

*A community of all ages that sings its songs, tells its thoughts,  
Asks its questions, and searches together with courage and with love.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Welcome back. Welcome home, my friends  
We are at our best when we are together.

*Nathan*

## Social Action Updates

### A New Start at Compassion Ministries

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the shower for the Compassion Ministries apartment! Your support came at a much needed time. We are about to welcome a new resident and her children to our UU-sponsored apartment. These families come to Compassion Ministries with hope for a better future, and little else.

Our participation in this project is another way our Fellowship is making Waco a better place. Kim Whitney, Judy Hendry, and Kay Wilson are our apartment "elves" who fill the new home with bath towels, sheets, dry goods, and love and blessings. A special thanks to you!



**The UU Fellowship is set to work on a Habitat for Humanity home on Saturday October 3rd, from 8am to noon. It's at 1002 Dawson Street in East Waco.**

[Map here.](#)

Hope to see a good UUFW turnout!

Becky Warren,  
Social Action Chair



Although we appreciate your generosity in donating items\* to the Fellowship, sometimes we end up with more than we can use or store. If you are thinking of donating items\* to the Fellowship, please check with a member of the House-n-Grounds committee before you do so. Thanks!

\* Our Treasurer asked us to clarify that "items" does not include money.

Mark Pantle,  
House and Grounds Chair

## UUFW Children's Religious Education

### Swim Parties

UUFW's children and their parents want to thank Randy Culp and John Moody for hosting the two swim parties they graciously held at their beautiful home and pool this summer. We appreciate them so much for their hospitality and we all had a BLAST!

### Sunday Classes

A new curriculum is being introduced in our children's RE classes beginning September 13. The curriculum is called Neighboring Faiths and is based on learning some about other religions and how they compare to Unitarian Universalism.

We have two teaching teams made up of 4 teachers each. The teachers assigned to the 5-9 age group are Robyn Morrison, Jan Snyder, Brian Tankersly, and Tracey Villanueva. Assigned to the 10-13 age group are Kris Cervantes, Pat Stone, Liz Turnage, and Jose Villanueva.

Thank you, Liz Turnage, for coordinating this new teaching team approach as well as the new curriculum and all that's involved.

Thank you to all of the teachers, past and present, for all of your time and dedication in providing our children Religious Education.

### RE Parent Q&A Session

UUFW's RE Team would like to invite all parents of our UUFW children as well as our upcoming scheduled children's RE teachers to a Parent Q&A session on **Sunday, September 6, after the service until 2:30.**

We encourage all of you to attend this important event. Some material regarding our Safe Church Policy will be covered in the beginning of the meeting for all parents. Afterward, parents with children 4 and younger may choose to either depart or stay as the remainder of the agenda will be directed to the parents of our children ages 5 and up.

We are conducting this with the intention of giving all parents an opportunity to ask questions about UUFW's Children's Religious Education and learn more details about our new Safe Church Policy, curriculum, teaching teams, and schedule planned beginning in September through May of 2010. Also, we'll have a few important forms that we'll ask everyone to complete during this session.

Please bring your and your family's lunch with you to the meeting.

Liz Turnage has graciously offered to provide a dessert for everyone to share. And, thanks to Natalie Allen, child care will be provided.

Please consider attending this important event. If you don't mind, please let me know at [rmorrison3@hot.rr.com](mailto:rmorrison3@hot.rr.com) if you plan to attend as we would like to have a good idea of how many to expect.

Thank you!  
Robyn Morrison

## Treasurer's Report

The month of August treated our finances well. Receipts exceeded expenses for the month by \$1,300.

For the 7 months ended July 31 we are still in a deficit position of \$1,700. The budget expected a deficit of \$1,600 at this point so you could say we are right on.

Year to date receipts are \$1,500 below expectations and expenses are \$1,300 below what was budgeted.

We replaced an air conditioner during July but the bill was not received in time to pay it in July so it will hurt our August figures since it was not budgeted for. We have \$59,000 in the bank.

Joe Ahlers, Treasurer

## SAVE THE DATE –

**THURSDAY, September 17, NOON – 1:30,**  
**Texas Life Annex.**

### DON'T MISS THIS!!!

Planned Parenthood, the Advocacy Center, Communities in Schools, Heart of Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Lake Shore Baptist Church, Central Texas Metropolitan Community Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco are partnering to bring you a great lunchtime seminar September 17—

**"Sex Education in Texas Schools - Just Say Don't Know"** with David Wiley, Ph.D., Texas State University, author of Texas Freedom Network's 2009 sex education study which conclusively demonstrates that Texas is failing families and students when it comes to sexuality education.

Dr. Wiley presented at the 2006 3R Coalition—he is always fast-paced, informative, and entertaining.

Put September 17 on your calendar and plan to have lunch with us and to hear how YOU can improve YOUR school's sex ed!

Please RSVP by Sept. 15 to: [pstone@ppwaco.org](mailto:pstone@ppwaco.org).

**UUFW's next Time with Friends** is scheduled September 11, 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. If you have any questions regarding this event, please feel free to contact Robyn Morrison [rmorrison3@hotmail.com](mailto:rmorrison3@hotmail.com), or Joy Hayes-Gates at [joy.uuwaco@yahoo.com](mailto:joy.uuwaco@yahoo.com).

**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](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).

## WELCOME! WELCOME!! WELCOME!!!

From UUFW's Membership Committee  
Hello, to all UUFW Member, Friends, and Newcomers!

**Please join me in welcoming as our newest UUFW Member, Rob Cervantes.** Rob has been attending UUFW for several months with his wife, Kris, who previously joined UUFW, and their two boys, Jack and Gabe. Rob contributes a great deal of help at UUFW by giving his time and effort toward various tasks, including running sound for Sunday morning services as well as developing the new and improved (and GORGEOUS!) UUWaco website at [uuwaco.org](http://uuwaco.org).

Rob, welcome to membership! It is an honor that you chose to officially join UUFW!

To any newcomers and frequently attending guests, thank you so much for choosing to attend UUFW services and events. We love having you with us and feel honored you choose to spend time with us. If any UUFW Member can answer any questions for you about UUFW, please let us know.

### Becoming UU Session

**The fall session of Becoming UU is scheduled for Sunday, October 4, from 12:30 – 3:30.** This event provides an overview of the history of UUFW, the different groups and events held at UUFW, and a better understanding of Unitarian Universalism.

We have wonderful presenters, including Paul Derrick who'll conduct his Spiritual Odyssey segment. This is an exciting exercise to help everyone understand each of our spiritual journeys. You'll learn a little about others and maybe even yourselves.

A light lunch with finger sandwiches, fruit, chips, dips, and cookies will be provided.

**If any of the following statements describe you, Becoming UU is for YOUU!!!**

- I'm considering or interested in becoming a UUFW member.
- I want to learn more or want a refresher course about Unitarian Universalism and its history.
- I want to learn more about what is offered at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco.

So, please consider attending Becoming UU! If you are planning to attend, please notify Robyn Morrison at [rmorrison3@hotmail.com](mailto:rmorrison3@hotmail.com) or at 254-857-3800.

Thanks so much!

Robyn Morrison, Membership Chair

## ♥ Culp-Moody Wedding ♥

Randy Culp and John Moody, former and current UUFW Members, were married in Connecticut on Tuesday, August 25, 2009, making their partnership legal in the state of Connecticut as well as in the eyes of all those they know.

The ceremony took place on a scenic beach in Connecticut at the recommendation of UU Minister Ron Sala of the UU Society in Stamford, CT, who performed the ceremony.

The couple met through a covenant group at UUFW in the beginning of 2007. They eventually fell in love and the anniversary of their commitment to one another is August 25, 2007.

Several individuals from UUFW came together to plan, coordinate, and implement a wonderful Wedding Celebration Party for the couple.



The party was held Friday, August 21, the day before the couple flew to Connecticut. More than 70 people were in attendance, including some of the couple's family members and additional close friends outside of UUFW. About 60 people from UUFW participated by attending and helping with various tasks. Thanks to all of these people, the party ended up being a beautiful, warm, and loving tribute to honor the union of this wonderful couple and the love they share.

The party was a HUGE success!

The couple said they so appreciated the party so very much and everyone doing this for them. They truly felt the love of the entire UUFW community.

## Congratulations, Randy and John!



## Community Race Relations Coalition Dance and Silent Auction

**The Community Race Relations Coalition is having its annual dance and silent auction, Classic Ballou & Oldies Too, on October 24, 2009, from 7 - 10 pm, at VFW 6008 in Hewitt.**

We are very thankful to David McLatcher, DLM Technologies, Inc. and the UU Fellowship for being Bronze sponsors of this event this year.

In the past Fellowship members have been very supportive by donating auction items, attending the event and buying auction items and we hope that you will support the event again this year. If you would like donate an auction item, you can pick up a donation form in the foyer, or Jane Derrick can email one to you.

You can also help by volunteering at the event to help set up auction items, decorate, serve food, and clean up. And you can learn group dances before the event so you can join in the fun at the event. Waco International Folk Dance Group will be learning the dances--Electric Slide, Cupid Shuffle, and Macarena.

Tickets at \$20 each or \$125 per table of 8 are available from CRRC Board Members Jane Derrick, April Hull, and Jose Villanueva.  
Contact: Jane Derrick, [piderrick@aol.com](mailto:piderrick@aol.com), 753.6920.

### Other CRRC Happenings

**September 3:** The CRRC, KWBU TV & FM, the Cen-Tex Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Tiempo Newspaper will host Dinner and a Movie, featuring the HBO movie *Walkout*, at the Chamber's meeting room, 915 LaSalle Avenue, Waco, 5:00 to 8:30pm. Dinner will be provided by the CRRC, with donations accepted. The movie will be shown during dinner, followed by a discussion led by Ernesto Fraga of Tiempo Newspaper. To reserve a space, call 836-4599 or email [Jo\\_Welter@hotmail.com](mailto:Jo_Welter@hotmail.com).

**September 22:** the CRRC is co-sponsoring a One Book One Waco event with Jorge Hernandez, author of *Sun, Stones and Shadows*, at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, 915 LaSalle Ave., noon - 1:15pm.

**September 19 or 20:** During the Waco Cultural Arts Fest, CRRC will sponsor south Texas husband and wife duo Rumbo al' Anacua at Indian Springs Park.

**September 24:** CRRC Annual Meeting, Model of Unity Awards, musical performances by awardees and a multi-ethnic choir led by Eric Dozier, former director of the Harlem Gospel Choir, at the Texas Life Annex, 1000 Washington, 5:30 - 8:00 pm.

**October 24: CRRC dance and silent auction, "Classic Ballou & Oldies Too," 7 - 10 pm, VFW 6008 in Hewitt.**

Jane Derrick, CRRC Treasurer

Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waco, Texas

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Put mailing label here

### Thank Rob for Evolution!

The [uuwaco.org](http://uuwaco.org) website has evolved into an awesome, content-rich site, thanks in no small part to new UUFW member Rob Cervantes and his team of co-conspirators.

Log in to see dozens of heart-warming photos of John and Randy's pre-wedding reception and wedding (under [News](#) page), or go read breaking UUFW news, listen to sermons, find current UUA news story links, and so much more!



#### More Curious Web News

The new issue of *UUWorld* has a [cover story about Rev. Carlton Pearson](#) and our core value of [Inclusion](#). *UUWorld* weekly web roundup covers [Covenant, Ted Kennedy, blasphemy, and more](#), and *Washington Post* has [an article on how people answer the religion question on their Facebook pages](#).



### SWUUC Upcoming Events

The UU Church of the Hill Country will ordain and install the Rev. Mark Skrabacz at 7:00 pm, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 960 Barnette St. in Kerrville, Texas.

**Fall Leadership Conference:** November 13, 2009, 8:00 am through November 15, 2009, 4:00 pm

### 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.