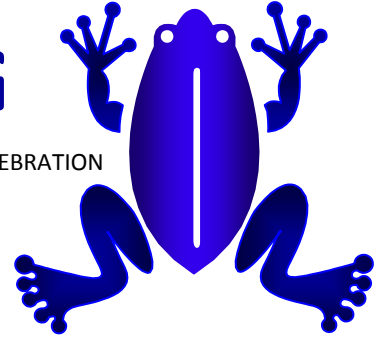




THE BIG BLUE PHROG



Our Core Values: COMPASSION, INCLUSION, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, INQUIRY, AND CELEBRATION

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)

UU Waco Welcomes Rev. Bonnie Vegiard



Rev. Bonnie Vegiard
Photo Credit: Kris Cervantes

UU Waco welcomes Consulting Minister Rev. Bonnie Vegiard to our pulpit. Rev. Bonnie received her Master in Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, Illinois, in 1996, and was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister that same year. Prior to attending Meadville Lombard, she received a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master's degree in Literature and Creative Writing.

Rev. Bonnie served as minister at the Mattatuck UU Society, Woodbury, CT, from 1997 through 2002; following her time in Connecticut, she served for eight years as Program Minister at Eliot Unitarian Chapel in St. Louis, MO. She is a certified Specialist in Pastoral Care and has engaged in continuing education in multicultural and anti-oppression seminars, as well as pursuing her interest in organizational development through workshops covering policy governance, strategic planning, and conflict resolution, among other topics.

She currently resides in Houston, Texas, with her husband, Rev. Daniel O'Connell (minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston), and two daughters.

Kris Cervantes, President-Elect, president.elect@uuwaco.org

Hello UU Waco members and friends of UUFW,

I am Bonnie Vegiard, and most of you know I am your consulting minister for the next four months. I wanted to let you know something about my schedule so you will know how to plan if you would like to meet with me. I will be in Waco about two weekends each month, coming in on Friday around noon, and leaving Sunday in the afternoon. That means that all afternoon and evening on Friday, all day Saturday, and sometimes a little bit of time on Sunday are available for you. If you would like to meet with me for a personal discussion, or just for some socializing, please let me know. You can reach me by e-mail at my UU Waco e-mail address. Also at the bottom of my e-mail, I will post telephone hours, which will generally be Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and Friday afternoons when I am not in Waco. I do look forward to getting to know each of you better. I want to use my time here well, so please do feel free to call or arrange for an appointment. There is no better use of my time than meeting you.

Faithfully, Bonnie
bonnie.vegiard@uuwaco.org

Upcoming Sundays

April 3 - "Credo" - What we believe makes us who we are in the world. - Rev. Bonnie Vegiard

April 10 - "The role of Elijah in Jewish tradition and in the Passover Seder" - Rabbi Mordechai Rotem

April 17 - "Stories that Transform" - Stories hit something in us that is deeper than the rational, and help us deal with the mysteries of life. - Rev. Bonnie Vegiard

April 27 - Flower Communion: A Unitarian Universalist Tradition [Multigenerational] - Egg Hunt to follow service: donations of candy, tiny toys, stickers, beads, etc. are welcome - please bring by Sunday, April 17th]

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

4209 N. 27th Street
Waco, TX 76708
(254) 307-2001

uuwaco.org

Web Manager/Contact:
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, R.E. Children's and Youth Group, third column of this page)

Choir Practice:
Sundays, 10:00 am
(POC: jane.kittner@uuwaco.org)

Adult Programs

Adult Religious Education

"UUism in North America" - Learn more about our roots through video and conversation.

9:20 a.m. Sundays

POC: Bruce.Allen@UUWaco.org

Reading Circle Covenant Group

Second Mondays, 6:30 pm

POC: Cheryl.Foster@UUWaco.org

Let's Go To the Movies CG

3rd Wednesdays

POC: John Nobis (756-4653)

Humanism Interest CG

Every 4 (+1-3) weeks, more or less
Next meeting Apr. 6th, 6:30pm

POC: Jane Derrick (753-6920)

Sisters On A Journey is an eclectic group of women exploring feminist, earth-centered spirituality.
2nd Wednesdays
Potluck meal 6-7PM, book study 7-8.
POC: Joy.Hayes@UUWaco.org

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)

Contact Information

Board Members

President—Joy Hayes

president@uuwaco.org

President-Elect— Kris Cervantes

president.elect@uuwaco.org

Secretary—Michael Davis

secretary@uuwaco.org

Treasurer—Marty Van Wagner

treasurer@uuwaco.org

At-Large Director 1—Liz Turnage

atlargedirector1@uuwaco.org

At-Large Dir. 2—Vacant/Phasing out

At-Large Director 3— Bruce Allen

atlargedirector3@uuwaco.org

At-Large Director 4—April Hull

atlargedirector4@uuwaco.org

Team Chair or Contact

Care Team— Kris Cervantes

kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org

Choir—Jane Kittner

jane.kittner@uuwaco.org

Finance— Marty Van Wagner (pro tem)

marty.vanwagner@uuwaco.org

Hospitality—Carolyn Foster

carolyn.foster@uuwaco.org

House & Grounds—Rob Cervantes

rob.cervantes@uuwaco.org

Membership—Kris Cervantes (pro tem)

kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org

Ministry—Joy Hayes

joy.hayes@uuwaco.org

P.R.—Brian Gates

brian.gates@uuwaco.org

R. E. Adult Programs—Bruce Allen

bruce.allen@uuwaco.org

R.E. Children's—Tracey Villanueva

tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org

Right Relations—Executive Team

joy.hayes@uuwaco.org

Social Action—Becky Warren,

becky.warren@uuwaco.org

Waldo's—David McLatcher

david.mclatcher@uuwaco.org

Worship Team—Becky Fox

becky.fox@uuwaco.org

Youth Group—

youthgroup@uuwaco.org

For more: Church leaders see Leadership Roster on website (log in first)

Social Action Updates

UUA Aiding Japan with Relief Fund

While Japan's disaster-relief capacity is strong, UUSC stands in solidarity and sympathy with the people of Japan as they face the triple disaster of an earthquake, a tsunami, and the risk of nuclear meltdowns in four plants. UUSC has joined with the UUA to respond to this humanitarian crisis through the new UUA-UUSC Joint Japan Relief Fund. UUSC is engaging with the UUA to determine the most effective way we can support the Japanese people and how UUSC can best apply its expertise in the disaster response. You can donate to the Relief Fund and monitor the situation through regularly checking UUSC's website, http://www.uusc.org/content/uusc_joins_uua_in_responding_to_japan_disaster.

"Pink U's" Komen Race Team needs members

Social Action Team member Suzie Seibel has created a UU race team for the annual Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure for breast cancer. Race day is Saturday, April 30th.

Participants can choose from a 1-mile fun run, 5K or 10K run. To join our team, go to the website: komencentraltexas.org. Choose "join existing team" and pick Pink U's under church teams. Team members joining before April 20th get a \$5 discount.

To join, choose new user, give contact information, agree to terms and pay \$30 through Visa or Mastercard. You can add additional family members at the same time.

If you choose to sponsor our team, rather than run, you can accomplish this online as well. Suzie and Kris Cervantes are designing our team T-shirt and would like to know how many shirts to order by April 15th. For more information, contact Suzie at suzie.seibel@gmail.com.

Worm Workshop Delayed

For those still wriggling with excitement over worms, you will need to wait until May/June for our next workshop. This Spring has proved busy, but we promise to get you in the worm business soon!

Becky Warren,
Social Action, becky.warren@uuwaco.org

Circle Suppers!

Saturday, April 16, from 6:30-9:30pm

Sign-up will be available at the next three Sunday services (March 27, April 3, April 10), or email John Nobis at jrandjo@hotmail.com.

Members, potential members, and guests are all welcome to these small, informal and fun events held at various members' homes. For more information contact John Nobis at 756-4653 or jrandjo@hotmail.com.

Boston, MA - Were you ever planning to go?

Hello, UUFW Members and Long-Time Guests!!!

Have you ever thought about wanting to take a trip to Boston and willing to pay all of your own personal expenses associated with the trip? Are you interested in traveling on the same flight as others from UUFW?

As you know, the RE Coming of Age Youth are working toward a trip this summer to Boston. The dates are set tentatively for Tuesday, July 12 through Monday, July 18.

July 12 - Stay in hotel in Dallas

July 13 - Depart to Boston on early a.m. flight

July 18 - Return to Dallas on early a.m. flight

We wanted to let all of you know this information in case any of you are interested in making a trip to Boston and going at the same time. Of course, you would be responsible for paying your own expenses and arranging all of your personal accommodations, hotel, rental car, food, etc... But, if you're interested, it is possible you might be able to benefit from group flight rates if you're interested in committing and let us know prior to booking our flights. Also, you might be interested in touring UUA with us as well as attending a Blue Man Group show and other activities.

We are hoping to be able to book our flights the first Sunday in April. If you are interested in taking advantage of the group flight rates, payment for flight will be needed at the time we are making the reservation. If you are interested, we would LOVE for you to join us!!!

Thanks!

Robyn Morrison,
robyn.morrison@uuwaco.org

HELP WANTED: Greeters & Ushers

Seeking friendly faces to greet and/or usher our members and guests on Sunday mornings.

Greeter skills needed: A smile, a welcome, and the ability to show our guests where the nametags and guest book are located.

Usher skills needed: A smile, a welcome, and the ability to hand our guests a bulletin as they enter the sanctuary.

Arrive at 10:15 on your Sunday to greet/usher and welcome.

Contact Kris Cervantes: kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org or sign up in the foyer.

News In Brief:

Social Action news: We're looking for walkers/runners who'd like to make up a UUWaco team for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, taking place Saturday, April 30th at 8:30 a.m. For information, to donate money, or to sign up, contact Suzie Seibel. (See **Social Action Update**, previous page, for contact info and more.)

Website news: Our website has had a makeover for Spring! Updates and consolidation of services mean it's faster and leaner than before, and you will no longer need to log in to view all content (see article →).

Search Team Chosen: The board has selected the search team for our interim minister (who will begin in August). This team is two board members, Michael Davis and April Hull, and one non-board member, Jane Kittner. The search team will work closely with the board to prepare the application and packet to submit to the search process. If you have any questions, please ask Joy Hayes, president@uuwaco.org.

Upcoming Events at UUWaco:

Sun, Mar 27 - Home-cooked Meals CoA Fundraiser, 12-1 p.m. Enjoy a home-cooked lasagna meal and raise funds for our Coming of Age class!
POC: Tracey.Villanueva@UUWaco.org.

Sun, Apr 3 - **Welcoming Potluck**, 12-1 p.m. All members, friends, visitors and guests are welcome to join us for a potluck to kick off Becoming UU (below).

Sun, Apr 3 - **Becoming UU**, 12:30-3:30 p.m. One-day UU101 - orientation/refresher on what being a member of UUWaco might look like for you! POC: Kris.Cervantes@UUWaco.org.

Sun, Apr 17 - Annual Congregational

Meeting, 12:30-1:30 pm! The Democratic process in action! Members may vote, everyone may attend.
POC: Joy.Hayes@UUWaco.org.

Local Opportunities & Events

The Tolle Group (not affiliated with UUWaco) is having a study of *The Power of Now*, led by Wes Eades. Every 4th or last Thursday of the month at the West Waco library on Bosque 5:30-7:00 pm in the conference room. Cost \$10. POC: Jackie Lott, sjlott68@gmail.com

Big News From the Big UUs: What's going on in the wider UU world

Fri-Sun, Apr 29-May 1 - SWUUC Spring Conference & Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX.

Compiled primarily from "All the News UUs Can UUse," 19 March 2010 - Volume 2, Issue 9, via list@uuwaco.org.

Sun, Apr 3 - Becoming UU, 12-3:30pm

Potluck lunch followed by UU 101 - orientation/refresher on what being a member of UUWaco might look like for you!
←See **Upcoming Events**, column A, middle, for more details.
Contact: Kris.Cervantes@UUWaco.org.

The UUWaco website has undergone a major facelift and restructuring.

What's gone:

- Forums (that no one used)
- Team Pages (that no one used)
- Team Calendars (that no one used)
- Sidebar menus
- All user IDs and passwords have been suspended. Users no longer need to sign in to view all the content.

What's new:

- Consolidation of links and services
- MP3 player gives users the option to listen OR download
- One-click access to most features, including Phrog and Audio services
- **UUWaco's Reading Circle is an Amazon.com affiliate partner.** Users can now purchase the Reading Circle featured books directly from our website and a small portion of the purchase benefits the Reading Circle. What's more, if you get to Amazon.com through our website, we also get credit for other purchases, too.
- Visitors may (and are encouraged to) share website articles on their Facebook using the share button located at the top of select articles. By sharing this content we are better able to spread the good word about UUWaco.
- Visitors may contact the fellowship leadership by navigating to the newly updated leadership roster.

This is not to say that I cannot bring back any of the banished features. We probably just need to repackage them--in the future.

I'm still working out some bugs, but basically what you see is what you get.

Rob Cervantes,
Webmaster, webmaster@uuwaco.org

HELP WANTED:

Child care/Housekeeping

We're looking for a qualified person to work with a volunteer member with our children on Sunday mornings.

This is a paid position, and would also involve some assistance with hospitality and clean-up before and after the service. An ideal position for a college student seeking regular hours. Background check will be required.

Contact Tracey Villanueva at tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org.

UUFW Scheduling

Email building.use@uuwaco.org to schedule events at UUFW facilities.

UU Web

(See also UUA News links near bottom of uuwaco.org home)

UU World has weekly news updates:

<http://www.uuworld.org/>

Sign up here to receive these every Monday:

<http://www.uua.org/visitors/>

This week in news and blogs--civil rights era UU minister James Reeb's case re-opened by the FBI, responses to the Japan tragedy, and Rev. Morales responds to the Rob Bell "I am not a universalist!" comedy.

Leaders check out the *Monthly Bulletin for Congregations* at UUA.org:

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/announcements/congregationalmonthly/index.shtml>.

Interested in Social Justice? See

<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/> and/or

<http://www.uusc.org/>.

Reading Circle teams with Amazon.com

UUWaco's Reading Circle is now an official Amazon.com Associate!

What this means is that a portion of your purchases initiated from this site come back to support the Reading Circle.

How can you help? Go to the Reading Circle page (<http://www.uuwaco.org/index.php/community/reading-circle>), click through any month's featured books from the Amazon.com player, and when you are ready to purchase, clicking the player will take you to the Amazon.com checkout. Don't worry, it will automatically know you are with UUWaco and we will receive credit--as long as you click through the Amazon.com widget on our site.

UUWaco also receives credit for any other window-shopping you do while you are at Amazon.com, as long as you initiated the session from our website.

Thank you for your support and thanks to Cheryl Foster, Reading Circle leader, for setting this up. Contact Cheryl at cheryl.foster@uuwaco.org if you would like more information about the Reading Circle.

Rob Cervantes, Webmaster, webmaster@uuwaco.org

Editorial reflections...

I WANT YOU!

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

I found this gem, created by member Mark Pantle, in the *Big Blue Phrog* archives (May 2009). Maybe it's just because lately I've been reading too many things like ex-evangelical Frank Schaeffer's "We Need Freedom from Religion, Not Just Freedom of Religion," but that is one of the creepiest images that I've seen in quite a while --part Dracula, part Uncle Sam, and part Joel Osteen.

A fellow member of the Reading Circle Covenant Group has a passion for vampire stories. I have a passion for science fiction and fantasy in general, but the vampire subgenre isn't one I've explored much beyond Anne Rice, Bram Stoker, and Stephenie Meyer. Yet maybe I should.

There's an uncanny resemblance between religious organizations and vampire covens. Finding any society

you're passionate about is like stumbling on a vampire coven, with only a few likely endings to the story. You may be sucked dry right away and tossed aside, an empty husk. You may be turned into a vampire, becoming a coven leader yourself, bringing in new blood, literally and figuratively, and the occasional new convert to coven leadership in turn. Or you may merely have a brief fling with the group and then escape fairly intact, still alive, still merely human, and a little wiser. This is unlikely in fiction (boring!), but very likely in the UU world, going by the number of visitors who never return to our covens. For most people we're just not that appealing or enticing. Yet for a few we are. UUFW gets in their blood. So to speak.

As mammals, we suck life from our parents from the start, yet as social animals, sometimes our societies suck that life right back out prematurely, leaving empty husks.

I'm fascinated that religions use parent metaphors so often, and that the parent religion of so many of us uses drinking the blood of God's son as a sacrament. Powerful metaphor--do we not *all* feed our children with our own lives: blood, sweat, and tears? In return, we only ask they do the same: dedicate their lifeblood--their lives and their children's--to our organizations. Is that so much to ask?

Blood drinking... The promise of immortality... Just lead your family and friends to us and it can all be yours!

FYI, Bram Stoker was Irish Protestant, Anne Rice is ex-ex-Catholic, and Stephenie Meyer is Mormon.

Brian Gates,

Phrog Editor, phrog@uuwaco.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waco, Texas**

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mailing label goes here



“There is no reason to take anything any religious book ‘says’ seriously, let alone literally -- unless it corresponds to some deeper truth we've experienced ourselves about how to treat others.”

-- Ex-evangelical Frank Schaeffer at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/frank-schaeffer/the-atheist-vs-religion-d_b_830708.html?view=print

UUs Said It:

John Quincy Adams about America: *“Wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will her heart, her benedictions and her prayers be. But she goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy ... she is the champion and vindicator only of her own.”*

John Quincy Adams was one of four Unitarian U.S. Presidents. Like his father, John Adams, he was a single term President. He lost his bid for re-election to Andrew Jackson, founder of the modern Democratic Party. Serving as an American diplomat and serving in both the Senate and House of Representatives, Adams is perhaps best known as a diplomat who shaped America's foreign policy in line with his deeply conservative and ardently nationalist commitment to America's republican values.

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)

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.

uuwaco.org