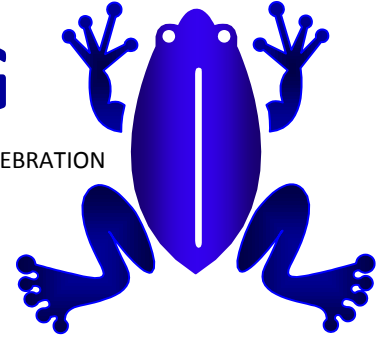




# THE BIG BLUE PHROG



**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)

## In Memoriam...



**Catherine Gordon,  
Quiet Leader**

We appreciate the legacy of Catherine (Cathy) Gordon, member of the Fellowship from 1969 until her death on June 26, 2011. She was president of the Fellowship twice—June, 1974 – May, 1976 and June, 1991 – May, 1992. Cathy was soft spoken, but a dedicated and very effective leader. She attended district leadership training events to hone her skills and bring back new ideas. During her first term, the Fellowship was meeting in rented space, was completely lay-led, and had a budget of less than \$2,000. When she began her second presidency, the Fellowship had just hired our first part-time minister, Rev. Marjorie Montgomery, and had voted to purchase our current facility. Under her leadership, financing was arranged and the purchase of this facility was finalized.

From June, 1992 – May, 1994, Cathy chaired the House and Grounds committee, during which time the Fellowship was remodeled more and had monthly work days for cleaning and repair. And then from June 1994 – May, 1996, she was Membership Committee chair (which included Hospitality).

(Continued on p. 3)

## Welcoming Reverend Byron Miller

I am happy to announce on behalf of the UUFW Board and the Interim Minister Search Committee that we have hired an Interim Minister to serve our Fellowship.

The Rev. Byron C. Miller has accepted our offer and will be here the first weekend in August to begin his duties. We are all very excited about Rev. Byron and the experience, passion and spirit he will bring to the Fellowship. Rev. Byron has expressed his excitement about coming to Waco and helping us in our continuing spiritual journeys. I know he will offer us the healing, guidance and celebration we all crave going forward.

I would like to thank Rev. Bonnie for the dedication and leadership she has shown during her time with us. Rev. Bonnie will certainly be missed, and I know we will always carry her in our hearts.

There will be a "meet and greet" at the Fellowship to welcome Rev. Byron (see p. 4) on Saturday, August 6th, from 6-10 p.m. at UUFW.

In Faith,  
Michael Davis,  
Board Secretary, [secretary@uuwaco.org](mailto:secretary@uuwaco.org)

## Memorial Service

*The memorial service for Catherine Gordon will be at **2:00 pm on Saturday, August 6th at the Fellowship** with a light reception following. The family has requested that memorials in lieu of flowers be given to the UU Fellowship, the League of Women Voters or the Family Abuse Center.*

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

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

[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*

### August Speakers:

7<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Cain, Waco ISD  
14<sup>th</sup> Rev. Byron Miller, Interim Min.  
21<sup>st</sup> Dr. Chris Rios, Baylor Univ.  
28<sup>th</sup> Rev. Byron Miller, Interim Min.

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

## Adult Programs

**Reading Circle Covenant Group**  
*Second Mondays, 6:30 pm*  
POC: [Cheryl.Foster@UUWaco.org](mailto:Cheryl.Foster@UUWaco.org)

**What are we reading? Find out at**  
<http://uuwaco.org/index.php/community/reading-circle/394-reading-circle-june-2011--book-reviews>

**Humanism Interest CG**  
*Every 4 (±1-3) weeks, more or less*  
*Next meeting August 10th, 6:30pm*  
POC: Jane Derrick (753-6920)

**Sisters On A Journey** is on summer hiatus.

## 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](mailto:president@uuwaco.org)  
President-Elect— Kris Cervantes  
[president.elect@uuwaco.org](mailto:president.elect@uuwaco.org)  
Secretary—Michael Davis  
[secretary@uuwaco.org](mailto:secretary@uuwaco.org)  
Treasurer—Marty Van Wagner  
[treasurer@uuwaco.org](mailto:treasurer@uuwaco.org)  
At-Large Director 1—Liz Turnage  
[atlargedirector1@uuwaco.org](mailto:atlargedirector1@uuwaco.org)  
At-Large Dir. 2—Vacant/Phasing out  
At-Large Director 3— Bruce Allen  
[atlargedirector3@uuwaco.org](mailto:atlargedirector3@uuwaco.org)  
At-Large Director 4—April Hull  
[atlargedirector4@uuwaco.org](mailto:atlargedirector4@uuwaco.org)

### Team Chair or Contact

Care Team— Kris Cervantes  
[kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org](mailto:kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org)  
Choir—Jane Kittner  
[jane.kittner@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.kittner@uuwaco.org)  
Finance— Marty Van Wagner (pro tem)  
[marty.vanwagner@uuwaco.org](mailto:marty.vanwagner@uuwaco.org)  
Hospitality—Carolyn Foster  
[carolyn.foster@uuwaco.org](mailto:carolyn.foster@uuwaco.org)  
House & Grounds—Rob Cervantes  
[rob.cervantes@uuwaco.org](mailto:rob.cervantes@uuwaco.org)  
Membership—Kris Cervantes (pro tem)  
[kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org](mailto:kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org)  
Ministry—Joy Hayes  
[joy.hayes@uuwaco.org](mailto:joy.hayes@uuwaco.org)  
P.R.—Brian Gates  
[brian.gates@uuwaco.org](mailto:brian.gates@uuwaco.org)  
R. E. Adult Programs—Bruce Allen  
[bruce.allen@uuwaco.org](mailto:bruce.allen@uuwaco.org)  
R.E. Children's—Tracey Villanueva  
[tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org](mailto:tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org)  
Right Relations—Executive Team  
[joy.hayes@uuwaco.org](mailto:joy.hayes@uuwaco.org)  
Social Action—Becky Warren,  
[becky.warren@uuwaco.org](mailto:becky.warren@uuwaco.org)  
Worship Team—Becky Fox  
[becky.fox@uuwaco.org](mailto:becky.fox@uuwaco.org)  
Youth Group—  
[youthgroup@uuwaco.org](mailto:youthgroup@uuwaco.org)

**For more: Church leaders see Leadership Roster on website (log in first) or contact Membership for current list.**

### Catherine Gordon, Quiet Leader (Cont. from p. 1)

During Cathy's leadership, she generously hosted UUFW events at the Windmill Hill Club House. After this strenuous leadership tenure Cathy stepped down from Fellowship leadership positions to concentrate on the Presidency of the Waco Area League of Women Voters which she held for many years. She continued as a faithful UUFW participant, however. And as she was confined due to ill health in her last year, she kept up with the Fellowship through visits with friends and reading the PHROG. Her heart was with the Fellowship as we strived to re-build the community that she worked so hard to lead.

Cathy Gordon at 707 N. 19<sup>th</sup> contract signing, 1978



Cathy Gordon as UUFW President, 1992



Jane Derrick,  
Immediate Past President,  
[jane.derrick@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.derrick@uuwaco.org)

### Tributes

For years, I would see Cathy Gordon sweep the walk leading to the Fellowship Hall and empty the ashtrays (even though she did not smoke). We will miss this incredible woman...

—Randy Culp

### Tributes

I will miss you Cathy Gordon

I cry today for a long term friend, Cathy Gordon, who died Sunday. A quiet woman whose wee voice spoke volumes, Cathy's life had a huge impact on others. For example, Cathy taught my daughters through church Sunday school and such to support the rights of others through community involvement. Always a fair and honest person, Cathy worked tirelessly and forcefully to incorporate fairness for all into Waco's election processes. She prevailed; she often prevailed... often after taking years and years of hard dedication... but she did prevail. Cathy believed that women, children, and men should not be abused in their personal relationships—ever. The Family Abuse Center of Waco was established [through her efforts]. Cathy tackled all tasks at hand quietly, calmly, and with a true graciousness. She worked so hard, whether in the League of Woman Voters or cleaning her church. Thank you Cathy. My great privilege to have known you... You gave and gave and gave... May you rest in peace...

—Joyce Nobis (via Facebook, June 28<sup>th</sup>)

Catherine Gordon, a longtime leader of the Waco Area League of Women Voters, was dedicated to good government—government that is open, respectful, informed, careful, and wise. She epitomized fairness and was a tireless advocate for people in need. In her quiet, gentle manner she attended countless meetings of various government groups and spoke when she felt the need to voice a reasoned opinion. I recall her telling me a few years ago about her significant trip to the Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York. It was established in the location of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention to honor women for various accomplishments. She was especially moved by the lives of women who worked for women's suffrage.

—Annette L. Lindsey,

Organization VP, Waco Area League of Women Voters

I remember a conversation with Cathy Gordon at a UUFW potluck a few years ago. I was a new parent at the time and people were congratulating me on what a beautiful, clever, etc. child Merry is. I commented about how much harder parenting is than it looks and Cathy relayed an anecdote: Someone once asked her how she managed to appear so calm while raising her four children and she replied "it isn't calm—it's shock!" We laughed a little and I still smile to think about her inspiring example, how a quiet person can become a leader, a parent, a force for positive action, and even in a state of mild shock at it all, still manage graciousness.

—Brian Gates,  
Phrog Editor

## From the President:

### Let Your Light Shine

©1986 Joe McDermott/True Blue Music BMI

Some people want to live in anger  
Some people want to live in the rain  
I tell you this and I know it's true  
What you give is what you gain

We all have a light inside of us  
Waiting to come out  
It's bigger than anything you fear  
Or anything you might be worried about

Let your light shine on the world  
Take any chance that you heart really wants to  
Dream any dream, you know it might come true  
Let your light shine on the world  
Let your light shine on the world

<http://www.joemcdermottmusic.com/>

Some of you may remember Joe McDermott from his concerts here at UUFW. We listen to his music while traveling to and from Waco. You just haven't heard singing until you hear Merry singing at the top of her lungs, "Let yur LIIII-ght SHIIIIINNNNe on tha WURLD!" Oh my! It makes my heart laugh and melt.

Joe's words are simple and so true. We DO all have a light inside of us. Not literally, of course. But we all have potential to help or hurt. We can choose to make someone's day in a positive way, or cut them down in misery.

COMPASSION, one of our core values, is so very important for our church at this time. One of our key phrases for compassion is "We believe that when our hearts are filled with love, our hands will be moved to acts of kindness and social justice." Does that mean that everyone's heart will be filled with love all the time? No. But it would certainly help if we think of our fellow human beings with goodwill. Many people struggle from time to time with at least a little stress, anxiety or depression. Some people struggle with a lot. You just never know what someone is going through. Show them acts of kindness! A simple smile and "Hello!"

How can you help the folks around you have a more wonderful day? How can you show love and compassion to someone who might really need it?

(Have you seen that bumper sticker? "Practice Random Acts of Kindness Everyday." I like it!)

Let YOUR light shine on the world with COMPASSION!

Joy Hayes,  
Board President,  
[president@uuwaco.org](mailto:president@uuwaco.org)

## Potluck, Party & Song Circle to Welcome Reverend Miller

**Saturday, August 6th, 6-10 pm, UUFW**

As most of you have heard, our new interim minister, Rev. Byron Miller, will be arriving in Waco the first week of August—his first Sunday with us will be on August 7th. So, let's all pitch in to throw a great welcoming party! Claudia McLatcher has graciously agreed to coordinate the food and the set up for the event. Jane Kittner is coordinating the Song Circle. TJ Ryan is coordinating the games & activities. April Hull volunteered to assemble a welcoming gift basket of local & Texas goodies.

Here is what we need YOU to do:

If you are willing, donate a small sum of money (\$5 or less) or a particular local or Texas item for the gift basket to April.

Contact Claudia at [Claudia.McLatcher@UWaco.org](mailto:Claudia.McLatcher@UWaco.org) or 254-753-6656 and let her know if you will bring a main dish, side dish, salad, dessert, or non-alcoholic beverage. (Adults are always welcome to bring other beverages of their choice.) There will also be a food sign-up sheet at the Fellowship for you to sign up.

Eat, drink and be merry, and stay for the presentation of the gift basket!

Help clean up after dinner (washing dishes, putting away tables & chairs). With willing hands the work will go quickly!

Remember that 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.

Many thanks in advance for your help in throwing a FUN, FESTIVE, UUFW TEXAS-STYLE PARTY welcoming Rev. Byron and his partner, Carla Allison!

April Hull,  
[April.Hull@UWaco.org](mailto:April.Hull@UWaco.org)

and Jane Kittner  
Music Coordinator,  
[Jane.Kittner@uuwaco.org](mailto:Jane.Kittner@uuwaco.org)

## Also from the President:

### THANK YOU REV. BONNIE!

Rev. Bonnie has been our Interim Consulting Minister (March-July of this year) and we really appreciate her willingness to serve our fellowship. We hired her with several goals: "Healing our congregation" will take time and Rev. Bonnie definitely helped us toward this goal. "Supporting the leadership" is something that I know I appreciate tremendously. She has provided a calm ministerial presence for us as board members as we intentionally look at the changes that life has given us. Change brings loss and potential. We have all felt *something* related to change in the past year. Let's focus on the potential and what we can become as UUWACO.

Rev. Bonnie has been an incredible "bridge" for these 5 months as we move into a longer term interim ministry with Rev. Byron beginning August. Thank you Rev. Bonnie! You will be missed and know how much we appreciate you!

### WELCOME REV. BYRON!

I don't think I've ever talked with someone so excited to move to Texas before... even in the 100 degree weather! We'll be getting more information about Rev. Byron to you. Come on out to some of the welcome festivities planned for his first week here in Waco!

AND...a **BIG THANK YOU** to **Kris Cervantes** and the whole board for carrying on without me while I took "Board Maternity Leave." I am so grateful! (So is Ronan!)

Joy Hayes,  
Board President,  
[president@uuwaco.org](mailto:president@uuwaco.org)

## Treasurer's Report

Income for June: \$7337.01 (\$4,062.50 of this is coming of age income)

Expenses for June: \$5759.21

Income YTD: \$53,306.97

Expenses YTD: \$53,520.42

Assets 6/30 \$43,296.19

Dedicated accts 6/30 \$21,770.74

Shine on!

Marty Van Wagner,  
Treasurer, [treasurer@uuwaco.org](mailto:treasurer@uuwaco.org)

## Social Action Updates

### Cereal Sunday is August 7th

UU donated 20 pounds of cereal to Caritas in July. The lady who took the donation said that they really appreciated the cereal that UUs bring every month. She said, "We always seem to run out of cereal. This donation always helps. Everyone likes cereal, especially the kids." So, remember the kids, and put an extra box of cereal in your car to bring to church on August 7th.

### "Fan Club" wraps up for 2011

The Fellowship came through again for the needy in Waco this summer with \$468 in donations to go toward fans. Caritas will use the donation to purchase fans to help their clients get through these hot summer months. Imagine these 100-degree days with NO fans, much less air conditioning! Thanks again for you participation this year!

### SAVE THE DATES! Fall into Social Action this Fall!

**8/3: Nobody's Fool.** This annual Planned Parenthood sponsored event will encourage abstinence, promote parent-child communication, and give medically accurate and age-appropriate information about sexuality to children from 5th through 9th grade. For more information and to register your child, go to <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/ppwaco/nobodys-fool-28735.htm>.

**9/21: Kickoff for annual Guest At Your Table.** This annual donation helps the national UU Service Committee in its many projects. This date has changed to the fall from January. UU Waco was recognized as a "Creating Justice Banner Society" for its donations in 2010.

**10/9: Crop Walk Against Hunger.** This will be our 2nd year to participate in this Interfaith event. A percentage of our donations will go to a local organization dedicated to ending hunger in our community. Put on your walking shoes for a fun time with fellow UUs and other people of faith. Social Action Team is looking for a member to attend monthly meetings (Tuesday @ 5:30). If you are interested, please contact Becky Warren, [becky.warren@uuwaco.org](mailto:becky.warren@uuwaco.org).

**11/4-6: Fort Parker.** Our annual get away also heralds the beginning of our Angel Tree season. Angel ornaments will be decorated at Ft. Parker. Names will be added to the ornaments in time for "Black Friday" shopping. Members will then choose a child from Talitha Koum Nurture Center in South Waco to purchase gifts for Christmas. Participants should plan to spend \$30-\$50 per child and may team up with another member to sponsor a child. Angel Tree will run through Sunday, Dec. 11th.

**11/12 and 11/19 a.m.: Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build.** Once again, UUs will demonstrate our faith in action to help build homes for Habitat. This year, we will have the opportunity to work two consecutive Saturday mornings. Each shift can have only 10 volunteer workers, so check your calendar and pick your shift. Mary Cunningham is our contact person for this event. More information to follow in the next Phrog.

**9/4, 10/2, 11/6, 12/4: Cereal Sundays!** Bring a box of cereal the first Sunday of each month for donation to Caritas Food Pantry in Waco. This is an easy way to stay involved in social action to benefit our community every month!

Becky Warren,  
Social Action, [becky.warren@uuwaco.org](mailto:becky.warren@uuwaco.org)

**Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waco, Texas**

4209 N. 27th Street  
Waco, TX 76708

Phone: (254) 307-2001

Email: [information@uuwaco.org](mailto:information@uuwaco.org)

Website: <http://uuwaco.org/>



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

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**CRRC (Community Race Relations Coalition)** at its quarterly meeting on **July 28th** will be looking at "Disproportionality in Health Care." The program will be presented by the Health Care Disproportionality Office from the Department of Health and Human Services. Dinner will be served from 5:15 to 5:50pm with the presentation beginning at 6. The location is the Texas Life Annex Building at 1000 Washington Ave. The event is free and open to the public. **Please RSVP to [info@crrcwaco.org](mailto:info@crrcwaco.org) or call 772-8226.**

**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)**

**Waco Community Event: HIP-HOP 2 HEALTH set for Sat. Aug 13**

Hip-Hop to Health is the first annual Waco family health event, featuring fun activities, bounce houses, school supplies, along with free immunizations and health screenings. Held from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Waco Convention Center, the event is sponsored by the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District, McLennan County Immunization Coalition, the Family Health Center, and Teen Safe, among other organizations. Health information is targeted for ages 4-18. To receive immunizations, parents must bring the child with their shot record. For more information, contact Jacqueline Walker at [jacquelinew@ci.waco.tx.us](mailto:jacquelinew@ci.waco.tx.us) or call her at 254-750-5461.

**UUFW Scheduling**

Email [building.use@uuwaco.org](mailto:building.use@uuwaco.org) to schedule events at UUFW facilities.

**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.