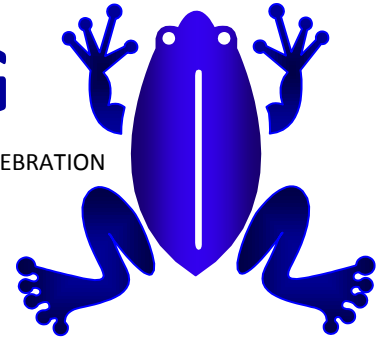




THE BIG BLUE PHROG



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)

There are *certain human acts* that virtually all of the world's religions condemn. One of these is killing. Some religions forbid it in relation to all species and humans. But all condemn the Note I used the word directly or indirectly the taking of one life so



Life feeds on life and that's why there is what is known as the "food chain." I suppose I'm more conscious of that when I gnaw on a pork rib than when I bite off the flower of a broccoli. In actuality, we rarely think about any of those sorts of things these days. The food production and distribution industries have isolated us away from that stage of the acquisition process. When we go hunting and food gathering, we are armed with our trusty pocket books, wallets and shopping lists as the weapons of choice.

I am reminded of what was told to me many years ago, concerning an alleged "old Jewish prayer" spoken at the end of meals. Addressed to God, it said "Thank you for that which has given its life that we may sustain ours." I've never been able to substantiate that reference but I recognize its sentiment as valid. Why?!

In 2009 James Cameron released the film *Avatar*. In one of the early scenes there is the killing of wolf-like creatures, thwarted from a violent attack that would inevitably have led to the death of one of the main protagonists in the story. His rescuer is angered by his wanton carelessness that led to those unnecessary deaths. But before her anger was expressed, she spoke a prayer over their forms to acknowledge their lives and its ... its *sacredness*.

In a time when religiously or *theologically loaded* terminology can so easily gain swift dismissal by those who would otherwise not use such language, I nonetheless think that term carries significance and must be *relieved of that load* so that its real significance can be liberated. The two loads it should not be required to carry includes 1—false dichotomies that tend to contaminate its intent by pairing it with the terms secular or profane, and also includes 2—its accrued meanings as a result of thinking it is the sole property of one "religious" movement or another.

Sacredness has to do with an *aura of respect and dignity* granted to *something of ultimate significance* to all sentient beings. It has to do with the recognition that *Life is one of those ultimately significant expressions* of nature. We are *not* speaking of something being sacred because it is somehow imbued with a Presence we impute as sacred. *It is rather sacred because it is intrinsically so.*

As with Life, so with the rest of the world. The universalized divisions of sacred and secular or sacred and profane are fallacious bifurcations, based on theological assumptions that are ultimately incapable of carrying the weight of that universalization. On the other hand, UUs recognize *inherent worth and dignity* not only in human life but life in all of nature as part of the *web of all existence*.

Peter Mayer's lyric "Everything is Holy now" underscores that recognition that allows us to understand more deeply what it means when we say "Love is the doctrine of this Fellowship ..." Ultimately, Love is sacred as well. So be it.

Reverend Byron Miller, Interim Minister
Byron.Miller@uuwaco.org

Upcoming Events at UUWaco

- Wed, Nov 30 & Jan 11 - Humanist Covenant Group
POC: jane.derrick@uuwaco.org
- Fri, Dec 11 - Wrapped Angel Tree Gifts Due!
- Mon, Dec 12 - Reading Circle
POC: cheryl.foster@uuwaco.org
- Sat, Dec 17 - * UUFW Christmas Party! *
POC: liz.turnage@uuwaco.org
- Sun, Dec 18 - Caroling through the Halls, 5:30pm

December Services *Cereal Sunday December 4th!*

- Dec. 4th "UUs and M&Ms" -- Rev. Miller (+New Mem. Recog.)
- Dec. 11th "Time and Vision" -- Reverend Miller
- Dec. 18th Christmas Music Program (+Caroling at 5:30pm)
- Dec. 25th "Winter Festivals of Faith--Hope Springs Eternal"
-- Reverend Miller

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

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

uuwaco.org

Web Manager/Contact:

cheryl.foster@uuwaco.org

Email List:

kris.cervantes@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

Reading Circle Covenant Group
Second Mondays, 6:30 pm
POC: Cheryl.Foster@UUWaco.org

What are we reading and doing?
Find out at
<http://uuwaco.org/index.php/community/reading-circle>

Humanism Interest CG
Every 4 (±1-3) weeks, more or less
Next meeting November 30th, 6:30p
After that: January 11th, 6:30pm
POC: Jane Derrick (753-6920)

Sisters On A Journey is on a 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

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 Director 2—Bruce Allen

atlargedirector2@uuwaco.org

At-Large Director 3—April Hull

atlargedirector3@uuwaco.org

Team Chair or Contact

Care Team—Kris Cervantes

kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org

Choir—Jane Kittner

jane.kittner@uuwaco.org

Finance—Jane Kittner

jane.kittner@uuwaco.org

Hospitality—Liz Turnage

liz.turnage@uuwaco.org

House & Grounds—Claudia McLatcher

claudia.mclatcher@uuwaco.org

Membership—Kris Cervantes (pro tem)

kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org

Ministry—Joy Hayes

joy.hayes@uuwaco.org

P.R.—Cheryl Foster

cheryl.foster@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

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) or contact Membership for current list.

Another Successful Habitat For Humanity Interfaith Build!



Pictured, Left to Right: Richard Ferguson, Paige Davis, Mary Cunningham, Becky Fox's Hair, John Nobis demonstrating the "Vulcan Death Grip," and Joe Cunningham ruminating over pizza.

Angel Tree Kick-Off

The 2011 Angel Tree kicked off after the Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner this year for shoppers to take advantage of "Black Friday." UUFW has supported Talitha Koum Nurture Center for many years through our annual Angel Tree gift project. Talitha Koum works with impoverished families in the South Waco area to help with breaking the cycle of poverty through education. Baylor School of Social Work students also contribute to this outstanding project. Talitha Koum means "my child, get up" in Aramaic. For more information, go to <http://www.talithakoum.org/wacotoday1.html>.

To choose your angel child, look at the decorated angels on the board in the Fellowship foyer and pick one (or two!). **Indicate your child choice on the sign-up sheet.** Plan to spend between \$30-\$50 per child. The child's clothing sizes and wishes are listed on the angel ornament. You may go in with a friend to purchase gifts for your chosen child. If you want to donate, but do not want to shop, please see Becky Warren soon! We have designated angel shoppers available. Wrapped gifts are due to the Fellowship on **Sunday, Dec. 11th.**

Guest At Your Table Completed for 2011

The 2011 Guest At Your Table program ended Nov. 20th. We have heard the "Stories of Hope" each week leading up to our annual Thanksgiving celebration. We shared our blessings with our UU "missionaries" in the field through the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee projects around the world. If you forgot your GAYT box, please bring it to the Fellowship as soon as possible. **THANK YOU for your participation in this annual project. UUFW**

is a Creating Justice Banner Society.

And don't forget:

Cereal Sunday is December 4th!

Becky Warren, Social Action Chair,

Becky.Warren@UUWaco.org

From the President:

It's my last month to be president of the board. The past 2 years have demonstrated the roller coaster of change almost exactly. I feel like our congregation is on the upswing and continuing to roll on the path to healing. When congregations experience conflict and loss, it takes a long time to recover. What seems to help me the most is working with our children and celebrations, potlucks, and other social gatherings. I'm grateful to Rev. Bonnie and Rev. Byron for the ministerial leadership they have provided us. The board members I have served with have been incredibly brave, strong and compassionate. (Jane Derrick, Kris Cervantes, Bruce Allen, Liz Turnage, Claudia McLatcher, Michael Davis, Marty VanWagner and April Hull)

Peace! Love! Let's celebrate!!!

Joy Hayes, president@uuwaco.org

Meals on Wheels Fundraiser:

The ladies at the Central United Methodist Church are sewing up doggie scarves for your four-legged children. The scarves come in three sizes (S, M & L). Holiday and regular scarves are \$3, team and school scarves are \$5. \$2 from each scarf will go to Meals on Wheels. If you'd like to order some, contact Cheryl Foster at cheryl.foster@uuwaco.org.

Cheryl Foster

Treasurer's Report

Greetings members and friends:

We are doing pretty well so far this year. As of Oct. 31 our total income for the year was \$77,704.92, and expenses were \$76,651.76. We do, however, have some substantial expenses coming up in Nov. and Dec, and UUFW is relying on all outstanding pledge amounts for 2011 to roll right in. Thank you all so much for your support. I am proud to be a member of this wonderful fellowship of kind and generous people.

Assets as of 10/31 were \$42,575.51 with about \$17,000 of that in designated accounts.

Shine on!

Marty Van Wagner

treasurer@uuwaco.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waco, Texas**

4209 N. 27th Street
Waco, TX 76708

Phone: (254) 307-2001

Email: information@uuwaco.org

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



uuwaco.org

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.