



# The Big Blue Phrog



## UUFW Core Values:

Compassion Inclusion Spiritual Growth Inquiry Celebration

### The Big Kahuna— Thinking Out Loud with Reverend Nathan L. Stone

The following reflection is attributed to my colleague and friend and former minister of First Jefferson UU Church in Fort Worth. I keep it close by to remind me that every member of UUFW is a minister and I am so lucky that I get to minister with you:

*I am honored and privileged to be your parish minister, your pastor. But even though I am the only minister formally called, I'm not the only minister. My ministry may be the most visible, but it is by no means the only ministry.*

*Every member of this congregation is a minister.*

*Every time you discourage discrimination; every time you discourage hatred; every time you discourage cynicism; you are a minister of this church.*

*Every time you affirm the legitimacy of doubt; every time you value and respect someone that society at large despises; every time you affirm the right of someone to reach a different conclusion than the majority; you are a minister of this church.*

*Every time you extend yourself in word or deed to another; every time you vote or call your elected representative; every time you object to a racist or homophobic joke; every time you speak the truth in love; every time you dare to speak truth to power; you are a minister of this church. (Courier; the newsletter of First Jefferson UU; 10/23/06; No.213)*

I repeat: I keep it close by to remind me that every

member of UUFW is a minister and I am so lucky that I get to minister with you.

And speaking of ministry, here are two concrete ways to enhance your ministry abilities and skills:

➤ Building Our Future Together; UUFW Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and led by professional consultant and friend, Joe Sullivan. (Some will be asked to attend a facilitator training session on Friday evening from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.) I'm hoping for a 100% turnout. Thank you.

➤ As a member of our Southwestern UU Minister's Alliance it is my turn to serve as Adult Program Director for SWUUSI (our Southwestern UU Summer Institute), August 1-6, 2010 at Western Hills Guest Ranch in Wagoner, Oklahoma.

Since I am the Adult Program Director I assure you it will be great—ahem! I am also vain enough to want many, many of MY congregants and fellow-"ministers" to attend. Yes—I want to show you off! What's so wrong with that?

If you want to see a knock-your-socks-off video of SWUUSI 2009, go to [www.swuuc.org/swuusi](http://www.swuuc.org/swuusi) or visit our website [www.uuwaco.org](http://www.uuwaco.org) and click on "SWUUSI Video" listed on the left side of our home page. Please don't just think about it. Do it.

Your Colleague in Ministry,

*Nathan*

### Upcoming Sundays at a Glance

**February 7 - "What Exactly is God?" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

**February 14 - "On Marrying the Person You Love" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

[GAYT - Guest at Your Table boxes, coins, currency, checks, and UUSC membership forms will be gathered at this service]

**February 21 - "Reflections on Ash Wednesday" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

**February 28 - "Speaking of Human Trafficking" - Dianna Anderson, Baylor University**

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

4209 N. 27th Street  
Waco, TX 76708  
254-754-0599

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

Web Manager/Contact:  
[brian.gates@uuwaco.org](mailto:brian.gates@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

Youth and Children's RE:  
Approx. 11:20am-12pm

Choir Practice:  
Sundays, 10:00 am

## Contact Information

Phrog Editor:

[phrog@uuwaco.com](mailto:phrog@uuwaco.com)

For Board Member and Committee Chair contact information, please request the most up-to-date membership list from Robyn Morrison.

## 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)

## Staff

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

Web Manager—  
Brian Gates  
[brian.gates@uuwaco.org](mailto:brian.gates@uuwaco.org)

## Board Members

President—Jane Derrick  
President-Elect—Joy Hayes  
Secretary—Kris Cervantes  
Treasurer—Joe Ahlers  
At-Large Director<sup>1</sup>— Anita Knight  
At-Large Director<sup>2</sup>—Claudia McLatcher  
At-Large Director<sup>3</sup>—Bruce Allen  
At-Large Director<sup>4</sup>— open

## Committee Chairs

Care Team—Judy Hendry  
Finance—Joe Ahlers  
Hospitality—Terri Jo Ryan  
House & Grounds—Claudia McLatcher and Fanny Rendtorff  
Membership—Robyn Morrison  
Ministry—Jane Derrick  
P.R.—April Hull and Brian Gates  
R.E.—Tracey Villanueva  
Social Action—Becky Warren  
Strategic Planning—Anita Knight  
Waldo's—Jane Kittner and David McLatcher

## Our Affirmation



*Love is the doctrine of this Fellowship, the quest for truth is its sacrament and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve others in community to the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with creation, thus do we covenant with each other.*

## 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 the UUFW Congregation 05/31/09)

## From Your Board President

The major accomplishments of our outgoing Board in 2009, led by Bruce Allen, include the development of our Core Values and our Covenant of Right Relations. These were both crafted from information shared by you at the Big Event in the Fall of 2008.

Among the promises we made in the Covenant are to:

- 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

During 2009, your Board also refined and developed new organizational policies that will support these covenants and many other aspects of our congregation. We will all be learning and implementing these important policies throughout 2010.

We now have a new Conflict Resolution Policy and a Conflict Resolution Team to ensure that we resolve conflicts – should they occur – in a timely manner, and with compassion, dignity, and empathy. The team consists of Ingrid Martine, team chair, Joy Hayes-Gates, and Tracey Villanueva with our minister Nathan Stone as an ex-officio member.

Your new Board has already met in a daylong planning session. We have set many ambitious goals, among them to communicate more effectively through the use of Gmail and our wonderful new web site. The Board and team chairs have received Gmail training.

We also are committed to completing a new UUFW Mission and Vision, followed by a Strategic Planning process later in the year.

And we plan to establish a new Ministerial Letter of Agreement with Nathan, for whom this task is long past-due and recommended by the UUA. This negotiation will be spearheaded by Joy Hayes-Gates, chair of our Ministerial Relations Team, with team members Bruce Allen and Ingrid Martine. They will work closely with Nathan and present their plan for approval at the April Congregational Meeting.

Your At-Large Directors are already hard at work, as well. They will be meeting with team chairs on Saturday, February 6, to share board goals and philosophy and leadership skills and ideas.

On March 20, we want all members to join us for an important, and hopefully interesting and fun Mission/Vision planning process. A seasoned planning team led by Anita Knight has already begun meeting. Team members include JP DeMeritt and Joy Hayes-Gates, who will be aided by our friend and UU consultant, Joe Sullivan.

So we are off and running for the new year. I encourage all members to check out our new policies on the web site ([uuwaco.org](http://uuwaco.org)) under the Administrative menu.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions about what is happening or would like to offer suggestions, feel free to call me or email me at my new Gmail web address, [jane.derrick@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.derrick@uuwaco.org). I am looking forward to an exciting new year!

Remember the joy!

Jane Derrick,  
Board President

## WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!

### From UUFW's Membership Team

The 2010 Membership Team is comprised of the following Members: Lois Crook, Paul Derrick, John Hendry, Robyn Morrison, and Anita Knight, Board Director.

Thank you so much to all of you for volunteering to be a part of this team this year.

If anyone wishes to become a part of the UUFW's Membership Team, please let me or any team member know. We would love to have you become a part of our team!

Please help me welcome some of our newest visitors/guests, Dan and Vivian Capps, and Ron and Cheryl Hagar. I want to let them and all of our new visitors/guests know how honored we are you have chosen to visit UUFW. We are looking forward to getting to know you better.

I hope all of you have a lovely Valentine's Day!!!

Robyn Morrison,  
Membership Chair

**HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO DREAM  
DREAMS AND ARE READY TO PAY  
THE PRICE TO MAKE THEM COME  
TRUE.**

—LEON J. SUENES

## MLK Vigil

Photo Credit:  
Becky Warren



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### Covenant Groups

#### INTERESTED IN MAKING CONNECTIONS?

*Join a Covenant Group!*

“Reading Circle”

Kris Cervantes

[kris.cervantes@gmail.com](mailto:kris.cervantes@gmail.com)

Second Mondays, 6:30 pm

“Let’s Go To the Movies”

John Nobis (756-4653)

3rd Wednesdays

“Humanism Interest Group”

Jane Derrick (753-6920)

Every 3 or 5 Weeks, more or less

Next meeting Mar. 3rd, 6:30pm

Check out <http://uuworld.org/>.

For “Computers as household gods”  
and other current UU blog entries, see  
<http://www.uuworld.org/about/blogs.shtml>



### UUFW Calendar 2010

See [Calendar](#) at [UUWaco.org](http://UUWaco.org) for most up-to-date calendar and to schedule events.

#### Area UU Upcoming Events

SWUUC Spring Conference and Annual Meeting: **April 23 - April 25**

SWUUSI (Southwestern UU Summer Institute), **August 1-6** at Western Hills Guest Ranch in Wagoner, Oklahoma

Save the date!



**Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, Children’s RE Bake Sale** for a good cause!

Held right after the Sunday service.



Contact Tracy Villanueva [tracy.villanueva@uuwaco.org](mailto:tracy.villanueva@uuwaco.org) for more details.

### 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.