



# The Big Blue Phrog



*UUFW Core Values:*

*Compassion Inclusion Spiritual Growth Inquiry Celebration*



## The Big Kahuna—

Thinking Out Loud with Reverend Nathan L. Stone

I'm getting ready to give you a calendar date. Please get out your calendar. I'll wait.

[WAITING]

The dates are **March 19 and 20—Friday and Saturday.**

These are the dates for our **Really Big Event 2010**. It is time for us to create a mission and a vision for ourselves. We did this 5 or 6 years ago. This is a new day.

Now it's time for a fresh look—a new dream—a clear vision and a solid mission.

The Board and various teams have worked tirelessly to set the groundwork. The entire congregation has played a part in establishing our *Core Values* and our *Covenant of Right Relations*. We are working on a *Safe Church Policy*.

So many things are now in place. UUFW has never been more poised and ready for a Mission/Vision Event. I tell you—we are on the verge of re-inventing and re-defining ourselves.

We have, once again, contracted with our friend and professional consultant, Joe Sullivan of Houston. He will train facilitators on Friday, March 19 and then work with the entire congregation on Saturday, March 20.

Stay tuned for greater detail.

But for now—please (I'm being polite and gentle!!):

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:  
MARCH 19 - 20, 2010.**

I expect success and great results. We will dream ourselves into 2010 and beyond. But the Mission/Vision Event will only be a success if every single member attends and participates.

The UUFW ship is launching, folks. We need everyone on board.

Did I mention how important it is to mark your calendar? Stay tuned for more details on the web ([www.uuwaco.org](http://www.uuwaco.org)), in the Phrog, from the pulpit, and on our many bulletin boards.

This cannot happen without YOU. Period.

You are all courageous heroes and I believe in you. Life is good.

*Nathan*

## Upcoming Sundays at a Glance

**January 3 - "Happy New Year . . . Whenever" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

**January 10 - "Where Hope is Hard to Find" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

**January 17 - "Waging Peace" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

**January 24 - "Immigration as a Moral Issue" - Rev. Nathan L. Stone**

**January 31 - "Moral Decision-Making: How Should We Do It?" - Dr. Robert Baird, Professor, Department of Philosophy, 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:

[bluephrog@yahoo.com](mailto:bluephrog@yahoo.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>— Kay H. Wilson

## 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;
- 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 the Prez

In preparation for cooking up a great year for the UUFW, I have been reading *Instructions to the Cook: A Zen Master's Lessons in Living a Life That Matters*, by Bernard Glassman & Rick Fields, and have been finding it enlightening.

According to the principles of the Zen cook, the supreme meal of life always consists of five main "courses" or aspects of life:

- 1) spirituality;
- 2) study and learning;
- 3) livelihood;
- 4) social action or change; and
- 5) relationship and community.

And according to the Zen cook, all of the courses are an essential part of the supreme meal. The first course, spirituality, helps us to realize the oneness of life and provides a still point at the center of all our activities. The second course, study, provides sharpness and intelligence. The third course, livelihood, sustains us in the physical world. The fourth course, social action, grows out of the courses of spirituality and livelihood.

Once we begin to take care of our own basic needs, we become more aware of the needs of the people around us. The last course, relationship and community, brings all the seemingly separate parts of our life together into a harmonious whole. It's the course that turns all the other courses into a joyous feast.

It occurs to me that four of the Zen courses correspond to our five UUFW core values:

- 1) spirituality = spiritual growth;
- 2) study and learning = inquiry;
- 4) social action or change = compassion; and
- 5) relationship and community = inclusion and celebration.

In order for us to serve up this UU meal of life, however, we must sustain it with financial support or "livelihood." So it is my hope that we find it in our hearts to make financial support of our core values a course in our UU meal of life and hence be able to serve up a joyous feast this year.

Remember the joy!

Jane Derrick,  
Board President

## 2010 Team Line-up

We have had a very successful team sign-up. A big THANK YOU to our outgoing team leaders for a great job last year. And another big THANK YOU to our incoming and continuing team leaders for 2010. Here are the teams for 2010. If you are not listed on a team that you would like to join or are listed on a team that you do not want to be on, please contact the team chair.

Jane Derrick, Board President

### Dir. 1 Teams (Anita Knight)

#### CARE TEAM

Judy Hendry, Chair  
Carla Carr  
Carol Schmidhauser  
John Nobis

#### HOSPITALITY

Terri Jo Ryan, Chair  
John Nobis  
Fanny Rendtorff

#### MEMBERSHIP

Robyn Morrison, Chair  
John Hendry  
Paul Derrick  
Terri Jo Ryan  
Lois Crook

### Dir. 2 Teams (Claudia McLatcher)

#### FINANCE

Joe Ahlers, Chair  
Dutch Schmidhauser  
Jim Spencer

#### HOUSE & GROUNDS

Claudia McLatcher, Co-Chair  
Fanny Rendtorff, Co-Chair  
Rob Cervantes  
Jim Spencer  
James Jones  
Jaymi Furniss  
Mark Pantle  
Susan Pantle  
Anita Knight

### Dir. 3 Teams (Bruce Allen)

#### MINISTERIAL RELATIONS

Executive Team

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Tracey Villanueva, Chair  
Myron Morrison  
Jan Snyder  
Kylie Murray  
Stacey Morrow  
Liz Turnage

### WORSHIP/MUSIC

Becky Fox, Chair  
Jane Kittner  
Joy Hayes-Gates  
Terri Jo Ryan  
J.P. DeMeritt  
Claudia McLatcher

### Dir. 4 Teams (Kay H Wilson)

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

April Hull, Co-Chair  
Brian Gates, Co-Chair  
Cheryl Foster  
John Hendry  
Dustin Morrow

#### SOCIAL ACTION

Becky Warren, Chair  
Suzie Seibel  
Pat Stone  
Carla Carr  
April Hull  
Linda Martan

#### WALDO's

Jane Kittner, Co-Chair  
David McLatcher, Co-Chair  
Carla Carr  
Tracey Villanueva  
Rob Cervantes  
Paul Derrick  
Richard Wilson

#### Other

#### STRATEGIC PLANNING

#### (Reports to Executive Team)

Mission/Vision Team  
Jane Derrick, Ex Officio  
Anita Knight, Team Leader  
J.P. DeMeritt  
Kay Wilson  
Joy Hayes-Gates

## ***Have you made your pledge yet?***

***It takes everyone to make this a safe haven for liberal religion in Waco.***

***Please contact Joe Ahlers [joe@ahlerssoftware.com](mailto:joe@ahlerssoftware.com) or by phone at 254.932.6745***

### **Worship Report**

Being Worship Team chair is a lot like being an umpire or referee at a ball game. If you make a call, there's a chance that 50% of the people will like it, and 50% will not. Sometimes it's more than 50% either direction.

The past two years of being worship chair have been great—mostly great. I really like and appreciate the way our worship services have evolved... more or less.

There are some who don't like or appreciate the changes we've made. There are some who probably would like for things to be the way they "used to be." And there are some who welcome change. ALL are good people. ALL are loved and have worth and dignity. We are Unitarian Universalists, after all.

You just can't imagine how difficult it must be for UU ministers around the world to come up with topics for their Sunday morning sermons... or maybe you can imagine. Imagine the diversity of beliefs... philosophies... Atheists, Buddhists, Agnostics, Mystics, Earth-centered Pagans, Jews, Christians, Humanists, Seekers, Searchers, All of the above and None of the above. Can you imagine trying to please everyone with such diversity?

INCLUSION is one of our new core values. It probably is something to strive for, knowing we might not live up to it every minute of the day. I bring up INCLUSION because it has been heavy on my mind the past year. In the days leading up to the '08 election, this place was not very friendly for someone who wanted to keep their politics personal. There were many hurt feelings by words spoken. I believe that many people just assume that everyone shares the same politics. We do not. There is nothing wrong with that. We cannot make assumptions about people just because they have a bumper sticker on their vehicle.

We are a diverse people with diverse beliefs, opinions, experiences and feelings. This makes our faith strong, and a little complicated.

To clear up some confusion and questions, our minister, Nathan and I decided to remove "talk-back" (sometimes called "dialogue" or "congregation response") from our worship services for several reasons. One reason is that our minister has the job of designing our worship services—that is what we pay him for. We trust him to guide our worship experiences. Another reason is that I received several concerns about the politics being discussed during this talk-back time and milestone/millstone time. Yes, there were some people offended deeply. We were not being successful at achieving INCLUSION and COMPASSION during these parts of our services. Nathan and I felt removing the congregation response would help us be more inclusive. It did not fix the problem, I know. I'm hoping that during our mission and vision process, we can evaluate and rethink these things. We can also explore some better ways to discuss the sermon topics after the service.

It has been my honor to serve as Worship Team chair and I look forward to remaining a member of the committee and training up more celebrants for the worship services. I am committed to this congregation and the good work we do in the Waco area and in the world.

Thank you and Blessed Be.

Joy Hayes, '09 Worship Chair, '10 President-Elect [joy.hayes@uuwaco.org](mailto:joy.hayes@uuwaco.org)

### **Choir Appreciation**

Thanks to everyone for the hard work on our holiday music program! Next rehearsals with Beth Ullman are January 15 and January 22, 5:30-6:30. New members are always welcome, just show up ready to sing!

### **Waldo's Coffeehouse**

**Waldo welcomes Big Wide Grin on Friday, January 8, 8-10 pm.**

Adults \$10, children \$5, child care and refreshments provided.

About the musicians: This bi-coastal trio of Elaine Dempsey, Lawrence Lambert & Karl Werne, from California and Virginia, bring diverse backgrounds of experience, music and theater together to form a rich, soulful blend of character and deep harmony. They have shared the stage, collectively, with such artists as Janis Ian, Harriett Schock, Lowen & Navarro, Richie Havens, and Bruce Hornsby, and toured with legendary blues man Keb' Mo'.

Quotes from the website: "Big Wide Grin ... Good singing. Great songs and the hardest working band in folk music." —Keb' Mo'

"Take three supremely talented performers, throw in a generous portion of intelligent and heartfelt songwriting, add a dash of wit and charm, then sit yourself down to a spellbinding evening of top-notch entertainment with Big Wide Grin ... guaranteed to put one on every face." —BJ Leiderman, theme composer, National Public Radio

Go to [www.bigwidegrin.com](http://www.bigwidegrin.com) for more info. This is one show you won't want to miss!

As always, please bring snacks to share with our guests. The Community Race Relations Coalition is the recipient of the donation for this performance.

Jane Kittner,  
UUFW Music Director  
Waldo's Co-Chair

## The Good Times Continue into 2010

Just because the calendar age has flipped from December to January doesn't mean the good times have to end. In fact, January marks merely the start of a New Year of fun and adventure at UU Fellowship of Waco, so y'all come! And don't forget to invite your friends along for a hoot.

\* Dec. 31 -- Family Games Night

Play out the old year and play in the new at UUFW's P.T. Barnum Social Hall. Starting at 7 p.m., we will have tables laden with snacks and games: Monopoly, Rummikub, Trivial Pursuit, Jenga, Michigan Rummy --you name it (you bring it, dig?)

We'll pause at 11 p.m. to watch the ball drop in New York, and plans are being whipped up for a Midnight ritual. Your hostess will stay as late as anyone can stay awake for.

\* Jan. 2, 2010 -- Collage "Visioning" Workshop.

Open to the entire family, this multi-generational event is to encourage folks to envision their year-to-come, where they have been and where they want to be -- and represent it in personalized art. A collage may include clippings from newspapers and magazines, ribbons or fabric scraps, bits of colored or hand-made papers, photographs, etc. Many magazines will be provided, but bring along some of your favorite bits of decorative debris and a pair of scissors.

We'll gather at 9:30 a.m. with morning munchies (a festive New Year's brunch) and then work on our collages for a few hours (wrapping up noon-ish).

Terri Jo Ryan, Hospitality Chair, 2010  
[TJ.Ryan@UUWaco.org](mailto:TJ.Ryan@UUWaco.org)

**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 7:00 - 9:00 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).

## Treasurer's Report

We had budgeted for an \$ 800 deficit in November but it came in closer to \$ 200. Not that receipts helped us out any as they were \$ 400 below the budget. Expenses, on the other hand, were \$ 1,000 below the budget for the month.

For the 11 months ended in November we are in a \$ 7,000 deficit position. Even without the \$ 1,500 air conditioner expense we have a pretty large deficit.

Receipts are \$ 6,000 below what we had budgeted while expenses are \$ 1,000 below the budget. And most of the receipts shortfall is in the Pledge category. I'm hoping our tardy pledgers catch it up in December.

Our bank balance is around \$ 55,000.

Joe Ahlers,  
Treasurer

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.



[www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com)  
43 Vermont Court  
Asheville, NC 28806  
828-281-3253

For more information, visit  
[www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com)  
or write to  
[info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com)

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream. For 31 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory: see [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) for an application. If you have questions, contact us at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com) or call 828-281-3253.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published once a year in April. For a copy of the 2010 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card, or send a check for \$25 and **your email address** to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waco, Texas

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



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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 Four Weeks on Wednesday

Next meeting Jan. 27th, 6:30pm

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

Has Garrison Keillor lost his mind  
or merely his UU audience? Find  
out at

[http://www.uuworld.org/news/2009\\_12\\_13\\_archive.php](http://www.uuworld.org/news/2009_12_13_archive.php)



### 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

Gulf Coast Rally for youth, Bay Area UUC, Houston: **January 15-17**

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

“Imaginary evil is romantic and varied; real evil is gloomy,  
monotonous, barren, boring. Imaginary good is boring; real good is  
always new, marvelous, intoxicating.”

—Simone Weil (Quoted in Gretchen Rubin’s *Happiness Project* blog).

### 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.