



THE BIG GREEN PHROG

UUFW – Keep Waco Beautiful “Green Organization of the Year”

UUFW Core Values:

Compassion Inclusion Inquiry
Celebration Spiritual Growth



THE BIG KAHUNA:

Thinking Out Loud with Reverend Nathan L. Stone

It seemed like a good idea at the time. I'm talking about *freedom*. It was our Worship Team's suggestion that *freedom* be our worship theme for July.

Of course it was a good idea. A perfect holiday to suggest the theme: the 4th of July, Independence Day on a Sunday. I was all for the theme.

Then I began to really think about it. What a huge subject. And how does one break that up into 4 Sundays of sermons? Easier said than done.

Well --- to begin with I have invited my friend and clergy colleague, Rev. Ryan Valentine to speak to us on July 18. Ryan has spoken here before. I've always thought his style and presentation seem to reflect his Hollywood-sounding name. Ryan is Deputy Director of the Texas Freedom Network (TFN) in Austin. He is also a member of the American Baptist University Baptist Church. If he is not a closet UU he is certainly in sympathy with our core values.

He and TFN have been in the big middle of the Texas State School Board textbook controversy. The title of his July 18 sermon is, "Thomas Jefferson vs. the Texas State Board of Education."

The description of his topic is:

"The State Board of Education's recent revision to the state's social studies curriculum standards made

something very clear: the way Texas decides what our children learn in their public school classrooms is seriously flawed. The board's powerful faction of social conservatives made hundreds of ill-considered changes to standards originally prepared by teachers and scholars. Many of the new revisions were not based on accurate scholarship, but rather reflect the extreme ideological views of the current board's social conservatives, such as a new standard suggesting that separation of church and state isn't a key principle of our Constitution. It's time to fix this flawed system and ensure that public schools are focused on educating our children, not promoting the personal and political agendas of elected state board members."

He will also bring film footage of some of the high drama debate that took place around this topic at the board meetings.

Beyond Ryan's take on freedom I'll take on patriotism, our Unitarian Universalist core value of freedom of the pulpit and freedom of the pew, and finally, on July 25, I plan to deal with the subject of existential freedom and a quote from the Buddhist Thich Nhat Hanh.

Meanwhile, I leave you with some freedom quotes just to get your mind and spirit juices flowing:

(Continued on page 3)

Upcoming Sundays at a Glance

Jul 4 "Check My Flag: Confessions of a (Nearly) Born-Again Patriot" Nathan Stone

Jul 11 "Free Pulpit, Free Pew: A Strong Fundamental UU Core Value" Nathan Stone

Jul 18 "Thomas Jefferson vs. the Texas State Board of Education" Ryan Valentine

Jul 25 - "Existential Freedom: Hanh and Nemeth" Nathan Stone

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

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

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, middle column of this page)

Choir Practice:

Sundays, 10:00 am

(Occasionally on Fridays—see [Calendar](#) at uuwaco.org, or contact Music Director Jane Kittner at jane.kittner@uuwaco.org)

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.

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)

Contact Information

Children's RE (Religious Education):

tracy.villanueva@uuwaco.org

Youth Group: youthgroup@uuwaco.org

Phrog Editor: phrog@uuwaco.org

Right Relations:

ingrid.martine@uuwaco.org

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753-3995, nathan.stone@uuwaco.org

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President—Jane Derrick

jane.derrick@uuwaco.org

President-Elect—Joy Hayes

joy.hayes@uuwaco.org

Secretary—Kris Cervantes

kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org

Treasurer—Joe Ahlers

At-Large Director 1—Liz Turnage

At-Large Dir. 2—Claudia McLatcher

At-Large Director 3—Bruce Allen

At-Large Director 4—Anita Knight

Team Chairs

Care Team—Jim and Donna Myers

Finance—Joe Ahlers

Hospitality—Open (Contact

liz.turnage@uuwaco.org)

House & Grounds—Claudia McLatcher
claudia.mclatcher@uuwaco.org and
Fanny Rendtorff

Membership—Robyn Morrison

robyn.morrison@uuwaco.org

Ministry—Joy Hayes

Mission/Vision—Anita Knight

P.R.—April Hull and Brian Gates

R.E.—Tracy Villanueva

Right Relations—Ingrid Martine

Social Action—Becky Warren

Waldo's—Jane Kittner

jane.kittner@uuwaco.org

and David McLatcher

david.mclatcher@uuwaco.org

Worship Team—Becky Fox

For more: Church leaders see Leadership Roster on our website (log in first). Otherwise contact Membership for Members/Friends List.

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)

THE BIG KAHUNA (CONT).

- Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes. (Gandhi)
- I know but one freedom and that is the freedom of the mind. (Antoine de Saint-Exupery)
- Man is free at the moment he wishes to be. (Voltaire)
- While we are free to choose our actions, we are not free to choose the consequences of our actions. (Stephen R. Covey)
- The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion. (Albert Camus)
- We are driven by five genetic needs: survival, love and belonging, power, freedom, and fun. (William Glasser)
- Freedom is above all else freedom from being bound by our own concepts and notions. (Thich Nhat Hanh)

Good luck to me and to Ryan Valentine and to us all as we delve into the world of understanding freedom.

In freedom,

Nathan

Rev. Nathan L. Stone, minister

SPEAKING OF SERVICE

Friday, July 23, the UUFW and the Community Race Relations Coalition are co-sponsoring:

"Overcoming Divisions Among Four Cultures" by David Albert.

Mr. Albert is a father, husband, author, magazine columnist and storyteller and lives in Washington state. He will be sharing stories of his service in four different countries.

The event will take place at the UU Fellowship, 7-9pm. This is free and open to the public but you must reserve a space by calling 836-4599. Light refreshments will be served.

FROM YOUR BOARD PRESIDENT

I am pleased with the progress of the Fellowship in accomplishing our Covenants of Right Relations regarding engaging newcomers and creating clearly-defined policies and procedures.

Many of our newcomers are actively engaged in and even leading Fellowship activities. Our religious education program has grown with the addition of new children and newcomer adults are teaching religious education classes. Hogwarts Camp this June involved many of our new folks.

With Social Action, Suzie Siebel and Carla Carr are leading a worm composting workshop on July 10 and Cheryl Foster coordinates the Wednesday, Meals on Wheels crew. Michael Davis coordinates the 4th Sunday Hospitality Team; Cheryl Babers Hagar leads a Yoga class; Lee and Marty Van Wagner organized a musical jam session; and Dustin Morrow is substitute editor of the PHROG this month.

Newcomer adults and youth participated in the Mission/Vision workshop, from which the Board crafted our new Mission and Vision Statements.

Now, grounded in our Core Values, Covenant of Right Relations, and Mission and Vision Statements, your Board, with input from the teams, is enhancing our policies and procedures. Your teams are also developing handbooks for their areas, so that their knowledge and processes can be passed on to new leaders. We are aiming to have these completed by the end of this year in addition to having a high level Strategic Plan to set the direction of the Fellowship for the next 3 – 5 years. We are doing well!

Remember the joy!

Jane Derrick, UUFW President

FAN CLUB FOR CARITAS

This past month, UUFW members donated money to supply fans for the needy through Caritas. These fans will go to Caritas clients who would otherwise have no means to stave off the summer heat. This is the second summer that UUFW has participated in this annual event. Social Action Committee also donated funds to the "Fan Club." Contributions are on-going, so join the club. Thanks!

Becky Warren, Social Action Chair

LET'S ALL PLAY: "Name That Library!"

The House & Grounds Team announces a "Name That Library!" contest being kicked off on Sunday, June 27. H&G invites all members and friends to submit your ideas for a library name, nominating famous Unitarian Universalists – current and past – as we have done with our fellowship's *Julia Child Kitchen*, our *P.T. Barnum Fellowship Hall*, and our *Oliver Wendell Holmes Board Room*.

"Name That Library!" will help complete the library's total makeover that took place this past spring. Volunteers led by Fanny Rendtorff and Claudia McLatcher – team leaders of the H&G Team - scrubbed, sanded, painted, laid new flooring, and refurbished the furniture in the room, totally transforming it into the lovely and peaceful place it is today. In addition, the Book Club members culled and refined the library's selection of books. It is now a very fine place indeed!

All that's missing is a name. What UU do you know, whose life and career are synonymous with the scholarly nature of a library? H&G wants your ideas! Enter your ideas into the "Name That Library!" contest.

And, to make the contest more enriching, H&G is asking \$1 for every submission (or more if you can afford it), to begin saving up to renovate the Fellowship's sofa room – the next big H&G project.

All nominations for "Name That Library!" must be received by August 1st. Include a brief description of why the UU being nominated is a perfect match for a library. Submit as many nominations (and \$1 per) as you wish, to either:

Fanny Rendtorff Claudia McLatcher
9519 Oak Springs Dr. or 3037 Chimney Hill Dr.
Woodway, TX 76712-6401 Waco, TX 76708-2385

... Or drop your nominations into the H&G "Name That Library!" contest mailbox, which soon will be placed in the main foyer.

All nominations will be kept completely secret, until the winner is announced at a *Library Dedication Ceremony* being planned for August. Details coming soon.

Anita Knight,
At-Large Director

Treasurer's Report

We had budgeted for a deficit of \$ 5,300 through May and we were not disappointed since the actual deficit is \$ 6,300.

Receipts are right on the budget at \$ 34,800 and expenses are over the budget by about \$ 1,000.

All the budgeted expenses are pretty much in line so the excess is due to the non-budget item of Mission Vision expenses.

We had budgeted for what we knew about at budget time which was \$ 900 and the actual is \$ 3,100.

We have almost \$ 48,000 in the cash accounts.

Joe Ahlers,
Treasurer

UU'S SAID IT:

"In a world where there is so much to be done, I felt strongly impressed that there must be something for me to do."

Dorothea Dix (1802-1887) American Activist

A WORMS WORKSHOP

VERMICOMPOSTING FOR HEALTHY GARDENS

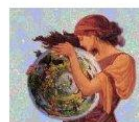


SATURDAY, JULY 10
UU FELLOWSHIP OF WACO
10 AM TO NOON

Vermicomposting is a clean, odor-free, environmentally-friendly way to produce good soil for growing better flowers and vegetables ... while getting rid of kitchen scraps. A fee of \$10, paid at the door, covers the cost of bins, worms and materials to maintain your own vermicompost system.

Appropriate for adults and supervised children.

Pre-registration required: WORMS@UUWACO.ORG



Helping Protect Our Good Earth!

THE UU FELLOWSHIP OF WACO
4209 N. 27TH STREET — JUST OFF PARK LAKE AND
HALFWAY BETWEEN LAKE SHORE DR. AND 19TH
WWW.UUWACO.ORG

BREAKING NEWS!!!

From the Desk of Nathan Stone:

It's all about SWUUSI 2010. I am here to confess that in my 10 years with you and our District I have not attended SWUUSI. Most years I have had excuses that seemed legitimate enough for me. People would report how much fun it was to attend SWUUSI. I ignored all that.

This year I couldn't ignore SWUUSI anymore. Our District Executive, Rev. Susan Smith, informed me that it was my turn in our Ministerial Association rotation to serve as Adult Program Director for SWUUSI. I moaned and groaned and made every excuse I could think of. Then she reminded me that part of our UU Minister's discipline is that "when a colleague asks you to do something the answer is always a quick yes." I said yes. And now that SWUUSI is about a month and a week away I am truly pumped and jazzed about it. One thing that helped is that on Memorial Day our team made a site visit to the Western Hills Guest Ranch, Sequoyah State Park in eastern Oklahoma --- a bit over an hour east of Tulsa. The lakes and trees and variety of housing options are incredible.

Here is the short version of SWUUSI:

The Southwest UU Summer Institute is our District's multigenerational summer camp experience, Aug 1-6. Western Hills Guest Ranch, Sequoyah State Park, OK (Eastern OK near Tahlequah; over 1 hour from Tulsa). THEME: Swimming in the Deep End (UU201); theme speakers: Rev. Susan Smith and Connie Goodbread (Florida); registration and details go to www.swuuc.org/swuusi; Artist-in-Residence, Nick Page of Boston; workshops include:

- UU Theology - Susan Smith
- What's on Your Plate (eating and our 7th Principle)
- Standing on the Side of Love for the Homeless
- Compassionate Conversations
- Big Church Websites for Small Church Budgets ([Rob Cervantes](#))
- Healthy Congregations (Systems thinking) - Connie Goodbread
- Spirituality and Popular Film
- Examining Whiteness
- Tents Optional: the Art of the UU Revival
- Well-behaved Women Rarely Make History: Herstory (Chuck Freeman, Live Oak UU, Austin)
- Golf, Dancing, On-Site Social Action and other fun-stuff

Why am I telling you all this?

1. After making the site visit I am blown away by the beauty of the lakes and those towering Sequoyah trees.
2. This huge state park has every conceivable kind of accommodation you can think of.
3. As I begin to hear about registration numbers I am hearing about churches having 15 and 25 members attending. That makes me envious. And I want to match those colleagues of mine whose people are responding like that. Actually I want to show you off. I am very proud of who you are!
4. Since I arranged the theme speakers and artist-in-residence and the various workshops --- I say, in all humility (of course) that this will be a very rich experience indeed.
5. Please check your calendars and consider this as a wise summer choice. Being with hundreds of UU adults, young adults, high-schoolers and children can only be inspirational. Especially for those of us who are isolated from the larger UU world here in Waco.

You're free to say yes --- and yes, I know --- you're also free to say no.

Nathan

UU Advertising Changes

As most of you folks know the UUFW has been struggling with budget shortfalls this year. Unfortunately due to this shortage of funds we will be pulling the UUFW Ad in the Waco Tribune Herald (hopefully only temporarily) and only advertising on NPR. The NPR ads sound great - check them out some time. They are on right before "Speaking of Faith @ 6am and at 2pm on Sundays. In addition, ads are played during morning and afternoon drive-time during the weekdays. We are hopeful that in the future we will be able to reinstate our Waco Tribune Herald Ad as funds become available.

April Hull, PR Team Co-Chair

Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waco, Texas

4209 N. 27th Street
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Phone: 254-754-0599
Email: brian.gates@uuwaco.org
Website: www.uuwaco.org



Put mailing label here

Covenant Groups

**INTERESTED IN MAKING
CONNECTIONS?**

Join a Covenant Group!

“Reading Circle”

Kris Cervantes

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 Jul. 14th, 6:30pm

uuwaco.org



UUFW Calendar 2010

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

Area UU Upcoming Events

SWUUSI (Southwestern UU Summer Institute),

August 1-6 at Western Hills Guest Ranch in Wagoner, Oklahoma

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

See Youtube clips of [Senator Al Franken addressing the UU General Assembly](#) (posted June 28th) and other GA coverage at <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/167331.shtml?n>

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.