



The Big Blue Phrog



“BOND OF UNION: The purpose of this Fellowship is to bring religious liberals into closer acquaintance and cooperation for the study and practice of religion, and for the diffusion of the knowledge of Unitarianism and Universalism and the furthering of their principles.”

-- From UUFW Bylaws, Section II



The Big Kahuna—

Thinking Out Loud with Rev. Nathan L. Stone

Well—they say that confession is good for the soul. So here it is: I have not attended an Al-Anon meeting for at least 6 months maybe 8. I’ve sorta lost track.

The only explanation I’ll make is that I meet with my sponsor once a week and work the Steps. In the world of Al-Anon that’s a good thing but it does not make up for not going to meetings.

Beyond that I have no explanations. Besides, I still maintain as true that one should never make explanations. Your friends don’t need them and your enemies won’t believe them anyway.

I was doing pretty well with my non-attendance until a good program friend gently brought me up short. “Nathan, of course your attendance would be of benefit to you. But if you’re not into attendance just now at least think of it this way: there are people in the meetings that need you. They need your comments. Some of them are encouraged just by your being there. Remember one of our basic Al-Anon promises? I will at least suit up and show up.”

Yes I remember that. And I must say that I was thinking more in terms of my life and my schedule and my needs. I hadn’t given that much thought to what my being there would mean to the group.

So let’s talk about church attendance. And I know this could be read as some attempt at making folks feel

guilty or some kind of manipulation. Please know that that is not my intent here.

I will admit that when I stand up to speak at church and look around and see maybe 30 folks in attendance it troubles me. Is part of it my ego and I’d like to believe that I usually have something to say? Of course it is.

But there is a much, much bigger matter at stake here. Having larger numbers in attendance on a Sunday morning speaks volumes to our visitors and to those members who are in attendance.

What triggered my thinking about this to the point of wanting to write about it is a conversation I had with several who have visited UUFW in recent months. They spoke independently, of course, but they asked me the same kind of question.

“I/we really enjoyed the service today. The music was inspirational, the sharing was personal and real, and the words spoken were provocative and refreshing.” But here is the question that brought me up short: “Is this (30 of us in a Sanctuary that seats nearly 100) a pretty representative group,” they asked? “More or less,” I said. And then I added, “Oh well I guess it really depends on many things but we do have many more people than were here this morning.”

“Oh, I see,” said the visitors. I’m not sure they were convinced.

(See *Kahuna*, continued on page 3)

Upcoming Sundays at a Glance

June 7 – “Transcendentalism: How Open Are You Really?” – Rev. Nathan L. Stone

June 14 – “Shall We Pray? One Minister’s Status Report” – Rev. Nathan L. Stone

June 21 – “What God Is Not” – David Schleicher

June 28 – “The Transformational Journey: Where Are You?” – Rev. Nathan L. Stone

UU Fellowship of Waco
4209 N. 27th Street
Waco, TX 76708

254-754-0599

uufw@sbcglobal.net
www.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)

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

Choir Practice:
Sundays, 10:00 am

**For Board Member and
Committee Chair contact
information, please request the
most up-to-date membership
list from Kay H. Wilson:**

uufw@sbcglobal.net

Staff

Minister—
Rev. Nathan L. Stone, 753-3995
natpat@grandecom.net

Web Manager—
Kay H. Wilson, 756-7223
uufw@sbcglobal.net

R.E. Director—(Vacancy—
Contact R.E. Chair Liz Turnage)

Senior Youth Advisor—
Brian Tankersley, 723-0109
demandtruth@gmail.com

Covenant Groups

INTERESTED IN MAKING CONNECTIONS?

Join a Covenant Group!

“Exploring Spiritual Pathways”

Bruce Allen (776-3036)

3rd Tuesdays

“Humanism Interest Group”

Jane Derrick (753-6920)

Every Four Weeks on Wednesday — Next meeting June 3rd, 6:30 pm.

“Let’s Go To the Movies”

John Nobis (756-4653)

3rd Wednesdays

“Reading Circle”

Kris Cervantes (kris.cervantes@gmail.com)

Second Mondays, 6:30 pm.

Board Members

President—Bruce Allen

President-Elect—Jane Derrick

Secretary—Terri Jo Ryan

Treasurer—Joe Ahlers

At-Large Director—Kay H. Wilson

At-Large Director—Becky Fox

At-Large Director—Claudia McLatcher

At-Large Director—vacancy

Feel free to send the editor
articles, thoughts, ideas or
other contributions:

**Phrog Editor—
Brian Gates**

bluephrog@yahoo.com

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)**

Committee Chairs

Care Team—Judy Hendry

Finance—Joe Ahlers

Hospitality—Terri Jo Ryan

House & Grounds—Mark Pantle

Membership—Robyn Morrison

Ministry—Vacant/Being Reassessed

P.R.—Kris Cervantes

R.E.—Liz Turnage

Social Action—Becky Warren

Strategic Planning—Jane Derrick

Waldo's—Jane Kittner

Worship Team—Joy Hayes

(Kahuna, continued from page 1)

That's when I remembered my conversation with my wise Al-Anon friend who wanted me to see something but was not trying to guilt-me: "Nathan, of course your attendance would be of benefit to you. But if you're not into attendance just now at least think of it this way: there are people in the meetings that need you. They need your comments. Some of them are encouraged just by your being there. Remember one of our basic Al-Anon promises? I will at least suit up and show up."

You get my point? Your presence in worship is a present. Not only does it provide a certain human energy, it also provides one more voice to be heard singing or reading. It says both to the visitor and to the neophyte UU that there is something very special about this liberal religion. These people really value being together. To say the least your presence is an inspiration to the community gathered for worship.

And I would be lying if I didn't also say: your presence is a real inspiration to me or whomever is speaking and to the choir and maybe even to the guy who so faithfully reads the children's story.

Take from this what you will. But be sure to take from this the fact that your presence at Sunday morning worship is a present to the entire worshipping community. Your presence is a visible, concrete witness to Unitarian Universalism in Waco and to the noble idea and needed public statement that liberal religion is valid, valuable, vital, and meaningful.

Sometimes it's like going to the gym. The hardest part is putting on your shoes. I respectfully ask you to suit up and show up. I think that has everything to do with our potency and positive effect in Waco and the surrounding areas.

In honesty and in faith,

Nathan

Treasurer's Report

April was so much better than March. Income exceeded expenses for the month by \$1,300. For the 4 months so far this year our deficit is \$900 and that is \$500 better than the budget anticipated at that point.

Pledge receipts are only \$700 below budget and the other income items are close to the budget.

All expense items are also close to the budget. Our bank and savings balance is \$60,000 at the end of April.

Joe Ahlers, Treasurer

Is there an "easy button" around here somewhere?

I am looking forward to getting a UUFW Covenant of Right Relations passed in the near future. That way we can put them up on a poster in the fellowship and on the website and forget about them. Just kidding!

Seriously, after they are adopted, we will just use our "easy button" to make them jump from words on a piece of paper into the center of everything we do. Wait, I am still just kidding.

What is really going to happen next after we have both a set of core values and covenant of right relations adopted? My answer: a lot of reflection, a lot of mindfulness, a lot of creativity and a lot of dialogue to make sure that we consciously live out our values and covenants in ways that help us grow both individually and as a beloved community of liberal faith. Admittedly, some of our core values and covenants of right relations will be more challenging than others. For example, I won't need an "easy button" for the one that says "engage newcomers, youth and young adults in the life of congregation." I already do that by inviting our many youthful newcomers to snack time after service and sharing interesting stories about my sciatica, prostate problems, excessive flatulence and other middle age maladies.

Come to think of it, maybe we will have to put a little more thought into that one.

Even though we have not formally adopted the covenant of "communicate clearly about leadership activities and decisions," I will try my hand at it here. So what is the board up to? The board is definitely not taking a summer break. Our first task is just to keep up with how things are going in the fellowship in terms of ministry, financial matters, our facility and the great work that our committees are doing. We will spend the summer dialoguing (with each other, committee chairs and anyone else who wants weigh in) about how to live our values and covenants more consciously and more deeply.

In May and June, we are reviewing and updating our by-laws to help the fellowship function more effectively (this is as exciting and as necessary as changing the oil in a car). Any changes will be voted on by the board and then put up for a congregational vote in our October congregational meeting. We do not anticipate changing the part of the by-laws that require us to review them every year! In June, Jane Derrick and I will spend time with the At Large Directors to find ways to refine that role so that we can strengthen communication and collaboration between the board and our committees. We are looking forward to hearing from the covenant group facilitators about new ways of approaching covenant groups. We are discussing new ideas about raising the profile of UUFW in the community and ways to engage newcomers, youth, and young adults in the congregation.

The task that I wish we did not have to do is to find a new At Large Director to replace David McLatcher, who has decided to step down. David has been a stalwart leader, supporter, and volunteer for this fellowship for quite a while. We will miss having the benefit of his unique perspective on the board. Finally, I just want to remind the members, guests, and friends of this fellowship that you are encouraged to bring any concerns or ideas that you have to the board for our consideration.

Yours in Beloved Community, Bruce Allen, Board President

UUFW's Time with Friends

Let's Eat, Drink, and Be Merry—Together!

Hello, to all UUFW Members, Friends, and Newcomers!

UUFW's next Time with Friends is scheduled **Friday, June 12, 2009**, from 5:30 – 7:00 in the Social Hall of the UU Fellowship of Waco. Time with Friends is a scheduled time when everyone of UUFW interested in doing so may get together for Dinner or Happy Hour.

Everyone brings their own food and beverages. (See Guidelines below for more details.)

Please know you are welcome to come even if you need to arrive later or leave earlier than the schedule. If anyone is interested staying a little later or playing board games afterward, that may be scheduled from 7:00 to 8:00 (and sometimes then some.)

This event is for EVERYONE of UUFW including Members, Friends of the Fellowship, Newcomers, children, adults, all marital statuses, those with children, those without children, and so on.

The goal is to keep it simple and fun for all involved. So, a few "simple and fun" guidelines were decided upon.

1. All participating will bring their own food and beverages for Dinner or Happy Hour.
2. Before leaving, all adult participants will be responsible for their own, as well as their children's, set up and clean up, including trash and floors.
3. A designated UUFW Member will ensure all lights are off, security system is activated, and all doors are locked.
4. **OPTIONAL:** This is not planned as a pot-luck style meal. However, to add to a sense of community and fun, anyone interested in doing so may bring something of their choice to share. (Please come whether or not you want to participate in #4.)

Evening's Schedule:

- **5:30 - 5:45 Arrive and Set Up (Or earlier if preferred)**
- **5:45 - 6:45 Dinner and Happy Hour**
- **6:45 - 7:00 Completion of Any Pending Clean Up**
- **7:00 - 8:00 Games - We may decide on a time-to-time basis to add this to the schedule if enough participants are interested in staying a little longer to play games (board games, cards, dominos, etc...)** If you are interested in this activity and have a board game for a group you would like to offer for the evening, please bring it with you. If more than one is offered, those interested in this activity may decide together which one to play.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please feel free to contact me, rmorrison3@hot.rr.com, or Joy Hayes-Gates at joy.uuwaco@yahoo.com.

Thank you!

Robyn Morrison

UU Parenting and Parenting UUs

The next UU Parenting and Parenting UU's meeting is scheduled **Sunday, June 7, 2009**. The meeting will begin 15 minutes after Circle Time and is scheduled for 30 minutes and held in the nursery.

The discussion topic is "**How to help your children respond to religious discussions with their peers.**" The content of these discussions is dynamic and broad to allow for many ideas to come forth. The past meetings have been very successful with much interest and active participation.

UU Parenting and Parenting UUs was founded with the intention of having informal discussions among UUFW parents to give us different ideas for approaches of how to guide our UUFW children as Unitarian Universalists.

The hope is as many UUFW parents as possible will participate, including those whose children are young or grown and whether or not their children were raised as UUs.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, rmorrison3@hot.rr.com, or Brian Tankersly, demandtruth@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Robyn Morrison



Did you notice the small blue and white sign on the window at our main entrance? This symbol is the new, internationally recognized symbol for breastfeeding. The purpose of this breastfeeding symbol is to increase public awareness of breastfeeding and to designate breastfeeding and family friendly facilities in public. The overwhelming majority of research has shown that breast milk is best for human babies and has countless advantages over formula. However, in our country, stigma remains about a woman choosing to nurse her baby in a public place, causing some women to become uncomfortable, nurse their children in restrooms, or to be asked to leave altogether. By displaying this symbol at our entrance, we demonstrate that we value, support, and accept breastfeeding mothers and their children. We value inclusion, and all are welcome here.

If you would like to raise awareness by displaying this breastfeeding symbol at your place of business or you know someone who would, they can be purchased at www.mothering.com.

Thanks for your support,

Becky Fox

News From Around the Web

The Summer issue of *UU World* is now online: <http://www.uuworld.org/currentissue.shtml>.

If you're not signed up for the weekly *UU World* email updates, you may not be aware of the comprehensive UU blogs page: <http://www.uuworld.org/about/blogs.shtml>

June is the National Religious Campaign Against Torture's Torture Awareness Month:

http://www.nrcat.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=298&Itemid=219

On a related note, *Beliefnet* wonders why so many Christians support torture (according to a recent CNN poll):

<http://blog.beliefnet.com/stevenwaldman/2009/05/why-christians-support-torture.html>

On a lighter note, Jesus has miraculously appeared again in the form of a Cheeto in Dallas, Texas. ABC News video: <http://news.search.yahoo.com/search/news?ei=UTF-8&p=jesus+cheeto&c=av> or you can Google "Cheesus" for many more such stories of cheesy goodness.

WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! From UUFW's Membership Committee

Hello, to all UUFW Members, Friends, and Newcomers!

When you have a chance, please stop and take a look at the bulletin board presenting Members' pictures in the RE hallway. We have John Hendry to thank for this beautiful presentation. John has spent countless hours coordinating and taking these photographs and putting together and hanging the bulletin board.

John has also been very generous by giving his time as photographer at different UUFW related events. John, on behalf of all of us at UUFW, thank you for offering your time, talent, and dedication to these projects.

I want to welcome all of our guests who visit our services and different activities. We appreciate you choosing to spend time with us and hope you'll give us a chance to get to know you better. I hope everyone enjoys their summer!

Robyn Morrison,
Membership Chair

6 p.m. June 20 at UUFW -- A Summer Solstice Soiree!!

Members, friends and guests of UU Fellowship of Waco are invited to participate in a potluck BBQ cookout to celebrate the arrival of summer. We'll start grilling about 6 p.m. (or earlier) on the slab outback, BYOB (Bring Your Own Barbecue meat); and have the long table inside to park your potluck dishes to share.

I am asking the Fellowship's pagan interest group to craft a short, seeker-friendly ritual to welcome summer. The ceremony would take place outdoors, between the meal and the dessert/games course.

Sign-up sheets will be going around in coming weeks.

Can folks with portable grills be so kind as to let this hostess know if you are coming? And if you have room to share the cooking surface with others, I'd appreciate the heads up.

If any volunteers want to help organize some outdoors fun for the younger set, I will be most grateful. Perhaps some grown-ups want to put up a volleyball net? (Lawn darts, anyone? Some forbidden fun . . .)

Terri Jo
H. 867-6488



Note: The reference to lawn darts is not meant to be taken seriously. UUFW does not endorse or in any way condone the use of deadly projectiles as "summer fun" family entertainment.

2009 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

The Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce will host the 2009 Juneteenth Celebration from 9 a.m. June 19 until midnight June 20 at Indian Springs Park.

COME & ENJOY a wide variety of entertainment, foods, merchandise & fun for the whole family downtown at Indian Springs as we celebrate the theme, "Unity in the Community."

Festivities will kick off with a parade that begins in front of Quinn Campus at Elm Ave. and Garrison St. at 9 a.m. The Juneteenth Parade is representative of the diversity of African American culture and a celebration with music, dance and entertainment.

Marching bands, steppers, dancers, civic, business, fraternal and religious organizations are invited to join the festivities. For a parade participant application and vendor space, contact Laveda Brown at 254-235-3204.

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 third Monday of every month from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. For more information or to be added to the list, contact Jane Derrick, pjderrick@aol.com.

UU Birders is a group of bird watching enthusiasts who meet from 4:30 - 6:30 pm on the 4th Sunday of the month. We gather at the UU Fellowship at 4:30 pm and carpool to a birding spot in the Waco area. For more information or to be added to the contact list, contact Jane Derrick, pjderrick@aol.com.



HOGWARTS SCHOOL of WITCHCRAFT and WIZARDRY

A Magical Summer Camp for Children
Presented by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

UUFW's Children's Religious Education Department and many generous and willing volunteers are presenting UUFW's first children's summer camp. The theme of the camp is based on the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling.

When: Monday, June 15, through Thursday, June 18, 2009

Where: The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

Time: 5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. each day

Age: children ages 6 - 12

Cost: The camp fee is \$30 per child.

The camp is not only for UUFW children. It is being advertised for all children in Waco and surrounding areas.

The camp will be filled with many fun and magical activities such as shopping for school supplies in Diagon Alley, Feasts, being Sorted into Houses, attending 7 different classes, Quidditch Matches, and even House Cup Awards.

For registration information or questions:

Joy Hayes-Gates
joy.uuwaco@yahoo.com
254-366-6336

Registration forms and camp fees should be mailed to:

Joy Hayes-Gates
P.O. Box 241
Mount Calm, TX 76673
Deadline for receiving these items is June 12, 2009.

If you are interested in assisting with the camp in any way, please contact the **Camp Coordinator, Tracey Villanueva**, traceyvillanueva@grandecom.net.

On behalf of us assisting with camp coordination, I want to thank all of you who have been so willing to offer your time and talents to assist with the camp.

Robyn Morrison

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Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waco, Texas

4209 N. 27th Street
Waco, TX 76708

Phone: 254-754-0599
Email: uufw@sbcglobal.net
uuwaco.org

Put mailing label here

♪ **Calling All Songbirds!** ♪

If you love to sing and make music, consider singing with the choir!

We have a lot of fun, and would love to add more voices to our group, especially men.

Feel free to talk to any of us before or after service, or contact Becky Fox at 836.1142.



“Don't flatter yourself that friendship authorizes you to say disagreeable things to your intimates. The nearer you come into relation with a person, the more necessary do tact and courtesy become.”

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

“The world is wide, and I will not waste my life in friction when it could be turned into momentum.”

—Frances Willard, temperance activist and 1st female college president in US



SWUUC Upcoming Events

June 5-7—Our Whole Lives
June 24-28—General Assembly
June 28-30—SWUUC Primary Camp
July 1-3—SWUUC Primary Camp

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.