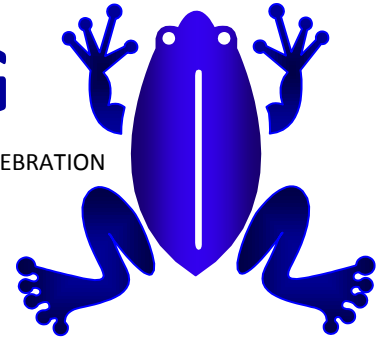




# THE BIG BLUE PHROG



**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)

I have been somewhat in a quandary on what should be the general focus of my *Phrog* column for some time. I decided to go back over some of the past. It is not at all that the past is one wants to write (unless, of which I am). But it does time and how it shifts very interesting to see how a look through past writings, and a look at the world within which we live can somehow come together and cross-inform each other.



I think I have now focused on what is of enough importance to periodically use these pages to say it. And in spite of the fact we are now beginning our annual pledge campaign and I might wax eloquent on the merits of generosity ... and it is meritorious ... honest ... but ... another time.

**Occupy Wall Street** is the manifestation of a screaming inequity. As the middle class moves ever closer to decimation, the poverty pool grows ever larger. When there are those who continue to benefit from an ever-increasing abundance, gleaned from others who are increasingly reduced to poverty, a poverty from which many if not most will likely never recover, as Unitarian Universalists we should be outraged. If this trend is allowed to continue, even all of us who read this column will become numbered among the impoverished because *we are not part of the reservoir* from which "trickle-down" begins. And if anyone thinks a thirst can be quenched on a trickle, just remember how many days we were over 100 degrees. When fictitious persons are rewarded at the expense of real persons, it is time bring that system to its knees ... and that is a formidable and risk-laden task, indeed.

The UU ministers of our cluster who live in the Austin area briefly participated in an **Occupy Austin** event. A worthy move. I, unfortunately, was not able to go. I think that move was necessary and laudable, but inadequate in the face of the economic deprivation being perpetrated upon not only the people of North America but upon people world-wide.

When one looks at recent events in **Oakland** and **Chicago** (and many other places as well) we should be sobered. The press has been excluded *BEFORE* the police actions began and then allowed to publish on the "trash" the demonstrators "left behind" when they were arrested and removed. If we sit quietly by, we sanction the suppression of these "confronters of inequity." And! The! Confronters! Are! Right! Not those who suppress them!

So it would appear *freedom of the press and freedom of peaceable assembly are no longer really necessary* if the demonstration (even for a just cause) adversely impacts business or generates any trash. This is the mentality of a developing police state being incrementally instated. We saw it in Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We have seen it throughout the globe in our lifetimes. We know from experience where this will ultimately go ... if we do not stand up and say **NO!**

I, personally, am outraged by this virtual lawlessness in the name of the rule of law. I am appalled by the unconscionable violation of the purposes and principles that are the foundation of Unitarian Universalism. I hope we are all sufficiently motivated to figure out how we can step forward and be counted in support of this movement. We're not just standing up for the jobless and the poor. We're standing up for ourselves.

Reverend Byron Miller, Interim Minister  
[Byron.Miller@uuwaco.org](mailto:Byron.Miller@uuwaco.org)

*All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.*  
**Thomas Jefferson**

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

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

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

Web Manager/Contact:  
[brian.gates@uuwaco.org](mailto: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, R.E. Children's and Youth Group, third column of this page)

Choir Practice:  
Sundays, 10:00 am  
(POC: [jane.kittner@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.kittner@uuwaco.org))

### Adult Programs

Reading Circle Covenant Group  
Second Mondays, 6:30 pm  
POC: [Cheryl.Foster@UUWaco.org](mailto: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 2nd, 6:30pm  
POC: Jane Derrick (753-6920)

Sisters On A Journey is on 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](mailto:president@uuwaco.org)

President-elect—Kris Cervantes  
[president.elect@uuwaco.org](mailto:president.elect@uuwaco.org)

Secretary—Michael Davis  
[secretary@uuwaco.org](mailto:secretary@uuwaco.org)

Treasurer—Marty Van Wagner  
[treasurer@uuwaco.org](mailto:treasurer@uuwaco.org)

At-Large Director 1—Liz Turnage  
[atlargedirector1@uuwaco.org](mailto:atlargedirector1@uuwaco.org)

At-Large Dir. 2—Vacant/Phasing out

At-Large Director 3—Bruce Allen  
[atlargedirector3@uuwaco.org](mailto:atlargedirector3@uuwaco.org)

At-Large Director 4—April Hull  
[atlargedirector4@uuwaco.org](mailto:atlargedirector4@uuwaco.org)

### Team Chair or Contact

Care Team—Kris Cervantes  
[kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org](mailto:kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org)

Choir—Jane Kittner  
[jane.kittner@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.kittner@uuwaco.org)

Finance—Marty Van Wagner (pro tem)  
[marty.vanwagner@uuwaco.org](mailto:marty.vanwagner@uuwaco.org)

Hospitality—Carolyn Foster  
[carolyn.foster@uuwaco.org](mailto:carolyn.foster@uuwaco.org)

House & Grounds—Rob Cervantes  
[rob.cervantes@uuwaco.org](mailto:rob.cervantes@uuwaco.org)

Membership—Kris Cervantes (pro tem)  
[kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org](mailto:kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org)

Ministry—Joy Hayes  
[joy.hayes@uuwaco.org](mailto:joy.hayes@uuwaco.org)

P.R.—Brian Gates  
[brian.gates@uuwaco.org](mailto:brian.gates@uuwaco.org)

R. E. Adult Programs—Bruce Allen  
[bruce.allen@uuwaco.org](mailto:bruce.allen@uuwaco.org)

R.E. Children's—Tracey Villanueva  
[tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org](mailto:tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org)

Right Relations—Executive Team  
[joy.hayes@uuwaco.org](mailto:joy.hayes@uuwaco.org)

Social Action—Becky Warren,  
[becky.warren@uuwaco.org](mailto:becky.warren@uuwaco.org)

Worship Team—Becky Fox  
[becky.fox@uuwaco.org](mailto:becky.fox@uuwaco.org)

Youth Group—  
[youthgroup@uuwaco.org](mailto:youthgroup@uuwaco.org)

For more: Church leaders see Leadership Roster on website (log in first) or contact Membership for current list.

## Community Race Relations Coalition 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fund Raiser

**CLASSIE BALLOU & OLDIES TOO!  
DANCE & SILENT AUCTION**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12th, 7 - 10 PM  
AT THE BELLMEAD CIVIC CENTER  
3900 Parish in Waco**

Enjoy great music by Classie Ballou  
(a Waco legend, well worth a listen anytime.)  
dancing, door prizes, fun & lots of wonderful food  
(the best dishes from many good cooks)

Silent auction (with items for all ages)  
BYOB/Set-ups available \$\$

Tickets \$20 per person or \$140 for table of 8  
Fun for the Whole Family

(Children under 13 are free when accompanied by  
parent or grandparent. Youth under 18 must be  
accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult.)

Buy your tickets from Jane Derrick or Jose Villanueva

**THE COMMUNITY RACE RELATIONS COALITION  
THANKS THE UUFW FOR BEING A SILVER SPONSOR**

The CRRC continues to feel lucky that Classie Ballou  
agrees to play year after year at this event.

**About the CRRC:** The Community Race Relations  
Coalition is a diverse group of citizens and organizations  
whose mission is to promote racial and cultural  
awareness and acceptance through dynamic outreach  
to strengthen our community. Members of the UUFW  
were instrumental in the creation of the organization  
and the UUFW has traditionally had good  
representation at this event. Jose Villanueva, April Hull  
and Jane Derrick are on the CRRC Board.

\* \* \*

From an October 14<sup>th</sup> Email to CRRC Members:

Friends, plans continue to go well for our Classie Ballou  
and Oldies Too! fundraiser on November 12 at the  
Bellmead Civic Center, 7-10pm. We have fundraising  
committee members in charge of various areas such as  
food, decorations, and silent auction. **We are now in  
need of volunteers to work in these areas at different  
times.** A document spelling out the needs is available  
on request from Jane Derrick ([pjderrick@aol.com](mailto:pjderrick@aol.com) or  
254-753-6920). If you are able to help in some way,  
please look over the specific needs and let us know  
where you can help by calling Jo Welter at 836-4599 or  
emailing [Jowelter@egm-tech.com](mailto:Jowelter@egm-tech.com). We thank you for  
your kind consideration and willingness to be of service.

Jo Welter, CRRC

## Sunday, November 20

**Thanksgiving Potluck  
after Sunday services.**

POC: [Hospitality@UUWaco.org](mailto:Hospitality@UUWaco.org)

**AND**

**Becoming UU  
Newcomers Class,  
1-4 p.m.**

POC: [Membership@UUWaco.org](mailto:Membership@UUWaco.org).

### From the President:

It's time to have our annual committee (team) sign ups!  
On page 2 of this newsletter is a list of all the  
committees. We also plan to get a list of volunteer tasks out.  
(like Meals on Wheels, watering the plants, taking out the  
trash, etc.) We depend on volunteers to keep our building  
and grounds AND our ministries up and running.

Please see any board member or Rev. Byron if you have  
any questions.

Peace!

Joy Hayes,

[president@uuwaco.org](mailto:president@uuwaco.org)

### Treasurer's Report

Hello members, members-elect, and friends of UUFW.  
Last Sunday was our congregational meeting to bring  
everyone up to date on finance matters and vote on the 2012  
budget (among other things.) We are all so excited about the  
events of the end of this year and the vision for next year.

As of the end of September, we have taken in \$72,589.51  
and spent \$72,973.61, which is pretty good, don't you think?  
We do have expenses coming up so please continue to fulfill  
your pledges for this year faithfully and timely. We have  
dipped into reserves for the past few years, and now have  
about \$27,000.00 available with about \$20,000.00 in  
additional designated accounts.

We had fun kicking off the 2012 pledge drive. Let's all  
work together to grow and spread our vision. The new  
budget calls for increasing our minister to 5/8 time in January  
and 3/4 in July, and beginning to rebuild our reserves by  
\$3000.00 a year for a while. If you missed the meeting,  
please see me for a copy of the new budget. It's a good one!

Your treasurer,

Marty Van Wagner

[treasurer@uuwaco.org](mailto:treasurer@uuwaco.org)

## History of Guest At Your Table

Guest at Your Table has been an important part of UUSC and UU culture since 1975, when it first began.

The program made its UUSC debut following a trip made by Warren Salinger, then UUSC institutional advancement director, to the Netherlands. While there, he was inspired by an organization's program Gast aan Tafel, which educated supporters about the organization's work, while raising vital funds. The program used colorful boxes that the whole family could enjoy. Salinger immediately began working with UUSC staff to adapt the idea for use in UU homes nationwide — and even worldwide!

Involvement in Guest at Your Table has continued to grow, strengthening UU connections to our shared principles and helping to challenge injustice throughout the world.

Today, nearly every UU congregation in the United States, and some around the world, participate in this important tradition. Together, members of these congregations help raise more funds and memberships each year to support UUSC's mission than any other initiative.

**Our annual GAYT campaign continues through Nov. 20, when UUFW celebrates Thanksgiving with its annual potluck dinner. Pick up your GAYT box today!**

Becky Warren, Social Action Chair,  
[Becky.Warren@UUWaco.org](mailto:Becky.Warren@UUWaco.org)

## INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17  
7:00 PM

7<sup>TH</sup> & JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH, 602 JAMES AVE.

Join us for an Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration with a program that will include songs, readings and prayers, offered by various religious traditions.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to offer to the "Food for Families" Food Bank Drive. (For more details, please visit [http://www.kwtx.com/10cares/bigheadlines/Food\\_For\\_Families.html](http://www.kwtx.com/10cares/bigheadlines/Food_For_Families.html) )

The Greater Waco Interfaith Conference (GWIC) is sponsoring this Thanksgiving Celebration again this year. The GWIC is committed to dialogue and understanding among the Baha'i, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Unitarian Universalist traditions.

Let us share our faiths, in a spirit of thanksgiving.

Jeff Fisher,  
St. Alban's Episcopal

## Coffee Talk

I don't remember what year it was when I heard John Alexander, from Habitat for Humanity, speak about his experience of serving as a missionary on the coffee plantations. I remember him telling us the plantation workers were paid a dollar per day, one meal per day, and all the coffee they wanted AFTER the major harvest for the coffee companies. He told of asking one of the boys of the village what he ate for supper the night before. The boy replied "oh, it wasn't my turn to eat." John started a program of selling the coffee collected by the families to visiting summer church groups at market prices.

It is a similar idea that drives the Fair Trade coffee at Equal Exchange. We, as a congregation, have the opportunity to help small farmers around the world get fair market prices for their coffee, tea, and chocolate. As small, family farms they recognize the value of sustainable methods. As a congregation, we have the Fair Trade coffee available in the Fellowship Hall. Look for the display case.

The coffee is wonderful! Being one of those particular people that loves coffee when it is a very certain blend, texture, taste and strength, I was apprehensive to try something new. My fears were put to rest with the first cup. I started giving bags of Fair Trade coffee as holiday gifts. My son's Christmas stocking was stuffed with Equal Exchange Fair Trade French Roast Coffee. My son was equally sold. It is our coffee of choice.

We proudly serve Fair Trade coffee in our coffee urns at the Fellowship. We have a display with a couple different varieties. If you do not see what attracts you, email me at [goberculp@yahoo.com](mailto:goberculp@yahoo.com) and I will put it in the next order. You can peruse the different varieties at <http://www.equalexchange.coop/>

Randy Culp  
[goberculp@yahoo.com](mailto:goberculp@yahoo.com)

### Upcoming Events at UUWaco

Fri-Sun, Nov. 4-6 - Ft. Parker Weekend Retreat.

POC: [Paul Derrick](mailto:Paul.Derrick@UUWaco.org).

Nov. 12 & 19 - Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build.

POC: [SA@UUWaco.org](mailto:SA@UUWaco.org).

Sun, Nov. 20 - Thanksgiving Potluck after Sunday services. POC: [Hospitality@UUWaco.org](mailto:Hospitality@UUWaco.org).

Sun, Nov. 20 - Becoming UU Newcomers Class, 1-4 p.m. POC: [Membership@UUWaco.org](mailto:Membership@UUWaco.org).

Sat, Dec 10 - UUFW Christmas Party. POC: [liz.turnage@uuwaco.org](mailto:liz.turnage@uuwaco.org)

### Big News from the Big UUs

Nov. 11-13 - SWUUC Fall Leadership Training, Glen Rose, TX. For more information, visit

<http://swuuc.org/pages/services/conferences/fall-leadership-training.php>

## From Madness to Gladness

The holiday season is upon us. Some of us have broken free of the Christmas machine and some of us still participate in "the madness." For those of us that choose the latter path, yet yearn for that-which-is-more-meaningful, I offer an option.

Carol and Dutch Schmidhauser's grandson, Max, asked for his Christmas presents and birthday presents to be in the form of money. He wanted to fund a water well in Ethiopia. He was successful in garnering enough money to fund the well. The village women would make multiple daily trips to the water source (forty-five minutes there with empty containers) to carry water back for the village. The girls began at age nine helping. Girls did not go to school. With the introduction of the water well, girls were able to attend school, in addition to the village having a ready source of clean water.

In 2012, we will begin a similar quest, at UUFW, to fund a water well in Ethiopia.

However, Christmas is coming. John and I have decided to follow the example of Max Schmidhauser and to give each other money normally spent on presents to fund a well in Ethiopia. I checked with Marty Van Wagner. She assured me there would be no problem writing a designated check to UUFW for the Ethiopia water well.

Of course, I went to thinking there might be others just like us that might want to do the same. It is completely separate from pledging... which keeps us here to do these sorts of projects, with the lights burning. If this sounds like something you would like to do contact or have your "Santa" contact Marty Van Wagner. We can provide a specially-designed certificate to give to your loved ones.

Randy Culp  
[goberculp@yahoo.com](mailto:goberculp@yahoo.com)

### Check out UUWorld for a great fall crop of articles.

#### FEATURED THIS WEEK:

"If it looks like a Universalist..."

**IDEAS: Popular evangelical Rob Bell makes the case for universal salvation.**

By Thom Belote, 10.24.11 (Fall 2011)

[http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/186464.shtml?utm\\_source=n](http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/186464.shtml?utm_source=n)

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES:

"Tricks and treats: Parenting and costume choices"

From UU World's "UU Parenting" blog.

By Michelle Richards, 10.18.10

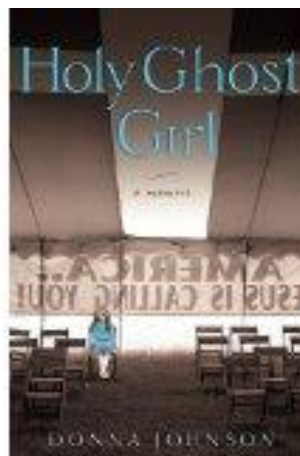
[http://blogs.uuworld.org/parenting/2010/10/18/tricks-and-treats-parenting-and-costume-choices/?utm\\_source=n](http://blogs.uuworld.org/parenting/2010/10/18/tricks-and-treats-parenting-and-costume-choices/?utm_source=n)



Several members of the Reading Circle Covenant Group attended the Texas Book Festival in Austin over the weekend of October 22nd & 23rd. A great time was had by all the bibliophiles. Over 240 authors such as Jim Lehrer, Juan Williams, Paula Deen, and Lisa Loeb were on hand to sign books and meet the attendees after their presentations. In addition to the author presentations, the music tent entertained everyone with the likes of Marcia Ball and a nighttime tour of the Texas State Cemetery drew more than 200 people. More information for next year's event can be found at [texasbookfestival.org](http://texasbookfestival.org).

\* \* \*

### Join the Reading Circle at Author Donna Johnson's Book Signing at Barnes & Noble, November 12th.



Donna Johnson, almost local author & friend to many at UUFW, will be at the Barnes & Noble on Waco Drive from 2pm to 4pm to present her memoir *Holy Ghost Girl*. After her book signing, Donna will join us at Pappa Rollo's for an after-signing party and pizza.

Barnes & Noble says "Holy Ghost Girl offers readers a rare inside look at life on the evangelical sawdust trail. With stories of faith and betrayal, Donna Johnson vividly depicts coming of age in this uniquely American story." So far, Amazon rates the book a 5-star read! After hearing Donna discuss the book's origins at the TX Book Festival, I know it is going to be a great read, and Donna is a delightful person.

Keep up-to-date on the event at <http://uuwaco.org/index.php/community/reading-circle>.

Cheryl Foster  
[cheryl.foster@uuwaco.org](mailto:cheryl.foster@uuwaco.org)  
 Reading Circle Covenant Group

**Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waco, Texas**

4209 N. 27th Street  
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Website: <http://uuwaco.org/>



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**UUFW Event Scheduling:**

Email

[building.use@uuwaco.org](mailto:building.use@uuwaco.org)

to schedule events  
at UUFW facilities.

**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)**

**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.