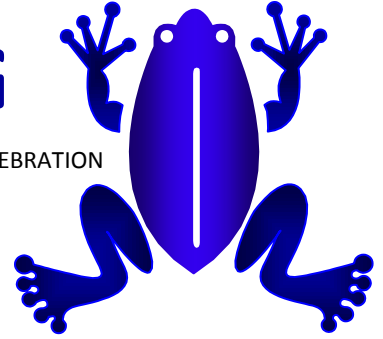




THE BIG BLUE PHROG



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 back to Illinois briefly to do a wedding and bring back the rest of what I “need” to live in a new space. The experience was rather interesting. I made many acquaintances along connection or other to this kind of experience because will remain for the rest

Grist from the Miller



have lived many places in my life and have the way who remain in some day. Illinois was a different we made friends there that of our lives.

But the brief return had an unexpected “edge” that was strange. I came to realize very quickly it was simply “no longer my space.” The friends were just as friendly and we all know we’ll be in regular contact for the remainder of our lives ... but it wasn’t my space. When I turned around and headed back to Waco I was fully conscious of the shift-of-center that defined the parameters of my life and its purposes. As a result, when I arrived in Waco, there was a sense of coming back home. I drove straight to the church and had the sense of “This is where I’m supposed to be.”

I have no idea how many times in my life I’ve had to go somewhere to do something I really didn’t want to do. But I had to do it. Yeah, I would. But I didn’t have to like it.

It doesn’t make much difference where we go or what we do in life. We’re going to have problems. Duh! Trivial observation. But what’s likely not trivial is that if you can love the problems the same as you love the good stuff, you’re in the right place. If you can’t love the problems you can’t solve them. It’s not your space. If you don’t love the good stuff there’s no reason at all to be there.

One can pretty well identify whether or not they’re on the right track if the circumstances within which they live and work give a sense of satisfaction and belonging even through the harder parts. Anyone can do the easy stuff.

The foundational reason it feels so good to be back here is because this place, this space, this people and their hopes and aspirations, this spectrum of possibilities is so very attractive. Attraction is the ability to develop a specific gravity in the congregation such that when people come within its field they are drawn in and “stick.” It exists here. Through the spectrum of experiences and the joys and struggles they represent, it is here.

It is important for us to recognize the little successes and milestones and achievements we bring to fruition. It is important to thank each other for the accomplishments. Thank those around you for the openness they represent and the welcome they offer to you. I don’t mean run around like puppets repeating a mantra. I mean offer words of both welcome and gratitude at the least provocation. Be thankful and pat yourself on the back for finding a spiritual center within which you can think, grow and thrive. Basically, do like most of us already do ... most of the time ... an aura of appreciation ... the opportunity to Be and to Serve. The rational dimensions that so clearly characterize us as a movement will always be present. Passing the “feel-goods” forward is equally important ... we can see it on our faces ... which is what made it feel so very good to return. Thank you for being who you are.

Reverend Byron Miller, Interim Minister
Byron.Miller@uuwaco.org

Sunday Services

- October 2:** "The 'Conscience' of Democracy"
-- Rev. Byron Miller
- October 9:** "Utopia" -- Rev. Byron Miller
- October 16, 23:** Guest Speakers
- October 30:** "Faith and Physics -- The Web"
-- Rev. Byron Miller

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of our dear UUFW member, Cindy Tooker. She died on September 9th and her memorial service was on Thursday, September 15th. Thank you to everyone who helped with the celebration of Cindy’s life.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco

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

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, R.E. Children's and Youth Group, third column of this page)

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

Adult Programs

Reading Circle Covenant Group
Second Mondays, 6:30 pm
POC: Cheryl.Foster@UUWaco.org

What are we reading? Find out at <http://www.uuwaco.org/index.php/community/reading-circle/400-reading-circle-august-2011--book-reviews>

Humanism Interest CG
Every 4 (±1-3) weeks, more or less
Next meeting October 5th, 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

President-elect—Kris Cervantes
president.elect@uuwaco.org

Secretary—Michael Davis
secretary@uuwaco.org

Treasurer—Marty Van Wagner
treasurer@uuwaco.org

At-Large Director 1—Liz Turnage
atlargedirector1@uuwaco.org

At-Large Dir. 2—Vacant/Phasing out

At-Large Director 3—Bruce Allen
atlargedirector3@uuwaco.org

At-Large Director 4—April Hull
atlargedirector4@uuwaco.org

Team Chair or Contact

Care Team—Kris Cervantes
kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org

Choir—Jane Kittner
jane.kittner@uuwaco.org

Finance—Marty Van Wagner (pro tem)
marty.vanwagner@uuwaco.org

Hospitality—Carolyn Foster
carolyn.foster@uuwaco.org

House & Grounds—Rob Cervantes
rob.cervantes@uuwaco.org

Membership—Kris Cervantes (pro tem)
kris.cervantes@uuwaco.org

Ministry—Joy Hayes
joy.hayes@uuwaco.org

P.R.—Brian Gates
brian.gates@uuwaco.org

R. E. Adult Programs—Bruce Allen
bruce.allen@uuwaco.org

R.E. Children's—Tracey Villanueva
tracey.villanueva@uuwaco.org

Right Relations—Executive Team
joy.hayes@uuwaco.org

Social Action—Becky Warren,
becky.warren@uuwaco.org

Worship Team—Becky Fox
becky.fox@uuwaco.org

Youth Group—
youthgroup@uuwaco.org

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

Bylaws Changes (Reprint)

The 2011 UUFW Board would like to submit the following changes to our Bylaws for a Congregational vote at the October 2011 meeting. Please read "ALD" as "At-Large Director."

1. Dissolve the position of ALD 2, which oversees the House and Grounds and Finance Teams.
2. Rename ALD 3 (which oversees the Religious Education, Adult Programs and Worship Teams) as ALD 2.
3. Rename ALD 4 (which currently oversees Social Action, Waldo's and PR/Communications) as ALD 3.
4. Change the designation of House & Grounds and Finance Teams to Ad-hoc Teams, so that they report directly to the Board on an as-needed basis. (This plan of action was modeled during the current year and has worked well.)
5. Waldo's will become a sub-committee of the Social Action team (much as the Memorial Garden Sub-committee functions within the House & Grounds team).
6. The Care Team (currently under the aegis of ALD 1) will be moved to ALD 3's responsibilities.

(The Hospitality and Membership teams have proven to take an intense commitment, and the Board believes those two teams will be plenty for ALD 1 to commit to.)

The results of the proposed changes will create a Board that looks like this:

President

President-elect

Secretary

Treasurer

At-Large Director 1 (Hospitality, Membership) (begins a 2-year term in even-numbered years)

At-Large Director 2 (Religious Education, Adult Programs, Worship Team) (begins a 2-year term in even-numbered years)

At-Large Director 3 (PR/Communications, Social Action, Care Team) (begins a 2-year term in odd -numbered years)

Minister (ex officio)

Past President (ex officio)

For the exact wording of the changed Bylaws or with questions regarding the proposed organizational changes, please email Kris.Cervantes@UUWaco.org.

Kris Cervantes, President-elect,
Kris.Cervantes@UUWaco.org

Social Action is Love in Action (Reprint)

"We are a religion based upon what we DO!"

- Rev. Byron Miller, 8-14-11

Here in Waco, we have the opportunity to make a difference in our community as well as internationally. This month marks the beginning of **Guest At Your Table**, the annual fundraising event for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee promoting human rights issues. This event has been moved from January to just prior to Thanksgiving, as with most UU communities.

By celebrating Guest at Your Table, you are helping nurture a spirit of gratitude and "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." Guest at Your Table fosters understanding and awareness of UUSC's human-rights work. In this annual tradition, congregation members take home a box featuring people that UUSC has worked with recently. These people are your 'guests,' and you are asked to share your blessings with them each meal by putting your spare change in the box.

The following list is a sample of the many ways in which UUSC translates GAYT donations into tangible projects to advance human rights. For more information, go to www.uusc.org/guest.

- **\$30** pays for part of a multilingual brochure for Boston residents about the [Color of Water campaign](#), which aims to adopt a human right to water in Boston, Mass.
- **\$40** buys materials for a woman in Northern Uganda to make her own groundnut sheller. A groundnut sheller helps to reduce women's workload and generate needed income for families, as residents return home after more than 20 years of war.
- **\$65** pays for a small business loan for a displaced woman in Kenya. Kakamega Grassroots Initiative organizes women displaced by the 2008 electoral violence into groups of 20 and provides them with training and small business loans.

Locally, UUFW can contribute to ending hunger by participating in the annual **Crop Walk Against Hunger**. Proceeds from this walk benefit Caritas as well as national organizations fighting hunger issues. Please see the article by Sarah Connelly and plan to participate in this year's Crop Walk on October 9th. And don't forget our monthly **Cereal Sundays**.

Plan to roll up your sleeves in November to help with the annual **Interfaith Build for Habitat for Humanity**. You can pick from either of two Saturday mornings to work with your fellow UUers in providing a home for a Waco family. Volunteer coordinator Emily Fau will provide more info at our October 23rd service. More DOing to come!

Becky Warren, Social Action Chair,
Becky.Warren@UUWaco.org

Social Action Updates (Reprint)

This fall, UUFW will have many opportunities to pray! Please join us as we begin **Guest At Your Table** this month. This program provides funds for the UUSC and their projects to help others around the globe. For more information, go to www.uusc.org.

Crop Walk to combat hunger is set for Sunday afternoon, Oct. 9th. Come out for a stroll or jog around the beautiful Brazos; bring your friends, bring your dog.

The Community Race Relations Coalition (CRRCC) will have its annual fundraising event in October.

www.crrcwaco.org

Habitat for Humanity will give us two opportunities to help build a home this November. Then our year ends with **Angel Tree**, providing gifts for the children of Talitha Koum Nurture Center in South Waco.

www.talithakoum.org

Do you have a favorite project that you pray will get noticed? Please see:

Becky Warren,
Social Action Chair,
becky.warren@uuwaco.org.

Nominees for October Congregational Meeting (Reprint)

The following people have agreed to be nominated for the board and will be voted on in our October Congregational meeting:

President-Elect Kris Cervantes as President.
Secretary Michael Davis as President-elect.
Mary Cunningham as Secretary.
Marty Van Wagner as Treasurer.
John Moody as At-Large Director 1 (Hospitality and Membership), and
Rachel Crawford as At-Large Director 3 (Religious Education, Adult Programs and Worship Teams) which is due to be renamed ALD 2 at the same congregational meeting.

Thank you for your willingness to serve, everyone!
What a great bunch of volunteers!

Joy Hayes,
Board President,
president@uuwaco.org

Upcoming Events at UUWaco

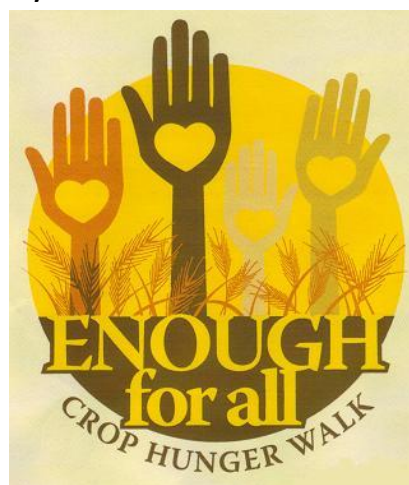
Sun, Oct 9 - Crop Walk to End Hunger, 3 p.m., Indian Springs Park. POC: sa@uuwaco.org.

Sun, Oct 23 - Pledge Drive Kickoff!

Fri-Sun, Nov. 4-6 - Ft. Parker Weekend Retreat. POC: [Paul Derrick](mailto:PaulDerrick).

More Social Action... (Reprint)

Cereal Sunday is October 2nd



Ending Hunger One Step at a Time

The Annual CROP Hunger Walk that will be held on Sunday October 9th at 2:30pm. The walk begins at Bledsoe-Miller Recreation Center and will take place along the Brazos River. There will be fun and live music for everyone!

The CROP Hunger walk is an awesome event. 25% of the funds raised will go towards local McLennan County relief agencies. This community wide event is an opportunity for UU Waco to show that we really care about fighting hunger and poverty. CROP Walking will also help families in places like Kenya tap into new sources of clean water, assist refugees from Burma as they struggle to survive in camps along the Thai/Burma border, and enable families in Guatemala to grow more and better food.

Participants in the CROP Hunger Walk recruit friends, neighbors and of course other UUs. There will also be fun prizes awarded to various walkers. We are asking our UU walkers to donate \$25 to the cause to walk with us as a team. If you can't participate in the walk, please consider sponsoring a walker! Last year, UU had a good showing among the other faith communities by the amount of members participating and in the amount of donations raised. Let's do that again!

Now we can also "Walk on the Web"! It is easy and user-friendly. All you have to do to get started is to go to www.cropwalkonline.org click on "Texas" and then on "Waco" to get started. This is a great option for those of us that know people throughout the world that would be willing to donate to the cause!

Sarah Connelly

Editorial Note: Apologies for using so many reprints. The past two months have been incredibly hectic personally and running reprints was the quickest option.

Brian Gates, Phrog Editor



2011 FT. PARKER WEEKEND!!

DATE: Nov. 4-6, 2011 (3 p.m. Friday to 11 a.m. Sunday)

PLACE: Ft. Parker State Park (Group Barracks) [On Hwy 14 between Mexia & Groesbeck, TX]

FACILITIES: Large recreation-dining hall-kitchen, 5 heated cabins (20 bunks each), rec. hall, indoor plumbing/hot showers, acres of beautiful outdoors – land, lake (w/ fishing pier). Bunk beds have mattresses – bring bedding & pillows. (Tents/campers/RVs are prohibited in the group camp area so plan to stay in a cabin or camp in the designated camping area.)

FOOD: Eating arrangements are handled by pooling. Bring food according to the following menus:

Fri supper: hot dogs and trimmings (or eat before you come)

Sat & Sun breakfast: usual stuff - cereal, sweet rolls, etc. / Sat lunch: casseroles (prepared at home and refrigerated there)

Sat supper: hamburgers and trimmings / Between meal snacks: goodies, junk food, beer, sodas, etc.

Everyone helps w/ preparations and clean-ups. No cooking or eating utensils are provided. Bring disposable eating utensils. A large stove and refrigerator/freezer are available. Those who prefer can grocery shop at nearby Mexia or Groesbeck.

COST: Cost of the facilities is divided among those present and will probably run about \$40/adult (no charge for children school-age and younger) for the weekend, \$25/adult for Saturday only. (Additional nominal park entry fees also apply – stop at the park headquarters.) **LET'S TURN OUT A BIG CROWD TO KEEP THE COST/PERSON DOWN.** (It's still the cheapest thrill around!) *[Two, possibly more, anonymous and confidential "scholarships" are available for those for whom the fee would preclude participation; contact Paul Derrick if this might apply to you.]*

ACTIVITIES: Usual unplanned activities include MUSIC (lots!), ping-pong, dominoes, cards, talking, group jig-saw puzzles, canoeing/boating, jogging, fishing, exploring nature, loafing, stargazing, visit to nearby reconstructed old Ft. Parker, and ghostly nighttime visit to the old Springfield Cemetery. Any with activities they wish to share are encouraged to do so. Over the years, we have had boat rides, magic shows, stained glass window making, peace ribbon making, treasure hunts and ghost stories. And, as usual, we'll probably be making paper angels for our annual Angel Tree.

YOUTH BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES: We ask that parents ensure their youth are aware of and adhere to the following guidelines for participant behavior: (1) no drugs, alcohol, firearms or fireworks, (2) no sex or patently sexual behavior, (3) children and teens must sleep in the same cabin with their parent(s) or other responsible adult.

CLEAN-UP & CHECK-OUT: By 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, the facilities must be cleaned and all items returned to their places – we must leave it as we found it. The buildings must be swept, the kitchen & bathrooms cleaned and mopped. Please plan to stay long enough to help with the clean-up. (Also, we must pay for any missing items or damages to property.)

GENERAL INFO: Reservations/advance notice not required. You are welcome to just show up! Although organized by members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco, it is not just for UUs or Wacoans, and it is not a "churchy" thing – it's just fun!

If you have questions, contact PAUL/JANE DERRICK, 918 N. 30th St., Waco 76707, 254/753-6920, or paulderrickwaco@aol.com. If you need a map that shows how to get there from any direction, go to www.stargazerpaul.com/fpmap.htm, or we can email one to you.

**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waco, Texas**

4209 N. 27th Street
Waco, TX 76708

Phone: (254) 307-2001

Email: information@uuwaco.org

Website: <http://uuwaco.org/>



uuwaco.org

**UUFW Event
Scheduling:**

Email

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

[@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)

Check out UUWorld for a great fall crop of articles. Recently featured:

"Shopping for God"

SPIRIT: However people first come to a Unitarian Universalist church, their questions often include something about god.

By Jane Rzepka, 9.12.11 (Fall 2011)

http://www.uuworld.org/spirit/articles/186551.shtml?utm_source=n

"The koan"

SPIRIT: The 'I' of me is a snapshot of something in motion.

By James Ishmael Ford, 9.12.11 (Fall 2011)

http://www.uuworld.org/spirit/articles/186435.shtml?utm_source=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.