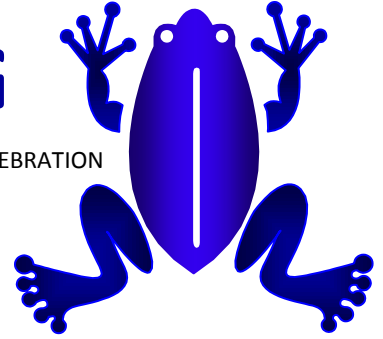




THE BIG BLUE PHROG



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)

This is my first time to write for the *Phrog*. In fact, almost everything I'm doing right now in Waco is for the first time. New beginnings are most always exciting and fun times. This one has been no exception. I am most pleased with the events that have taken place thus far and the fine people with whom Carla and I have had the opportunity to meet and to share.



We all will have challenges ahead, but I suspicion that ultimately we will also have the wisdom and the stamina to see them through. That doesn't mean it will always be easy. But if "easy" is all we want we can all go buy a chair. Before this column hits the printed page I will have gone to Minneapolis to the Interim Minister's Training week and returned to serve as minister through this year. Interim Ministry is not, in many respects, like permanent settlements. For one thing, we all know the date at which it will come to an end. Interim ministries are for a period of one to two years. During that time a congregation goes through a series of stages as they transition from what has been to what shall be. One thing that is absolutely guaranteed: Whomever we've been we will be no more. It also means whomever we shall become is not yet.

In generic terms, we shall look over our history and come to an understanding of both our story and the meanings and significances of that story. In the process we will inevitably transform ourselves into something we have not been before but have needed to become. We shall then assess who we are in the present in order to seriously and carefully determine what we need to grow and prosper as individuals, families, groups and as a congregation. We will also tune into the directions we hope will manifest themselves as we step carefully but boldly into the future. The process will lead us to the selection of a Search Committee and wish them well on the arduous task they will take on to ultimately choose who will lead and minister to this congregation as its future into the fruition of the present.

All we ever have is the present. We live in the present. The past has irretrievably perished. It is gone. It cannot be changed. Only remembered. The only way we can be certain it ever happened is because of the artifacts it has left us that survive in this present where we live—like footprints in the sand from a previous stroll of an unknown walker.

The future does not exist either. It is ever and always "not yet." But how we live in the present, the attitudes we take, the visions we conjure, the hopes to which we aspire and the dreams we strive to bring to fruition, all of these things will contribute to what it is we will create as we work, play, laugh and cry together.

We are sentient and conscious nodes of energy, striving for balance and equilibrium as we flow into a future built out of that which fills our minds and hearts with hope, and, in the aura of energy that hope represents. We strive toward a synergy that creates something more than any of us could ever become from the mere sum of the parts that make us up. Throughout this process we are and continue to be a spiritual center and a beacon of light to the community around us. I am reminded of the poem by Edwin Markham, not because it is such magnificent poetry or because it is gender neutral, but because it is a magnificent sentiment:

He drew a circle that shut me out
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout
But love and I had the wit to win;
We drew a circle that took him in.

The overlapping circles within which our Flaming Chalice shines its Light is the sacred symbol of who we are as Unitarian Universalists. The common area of the circles is the Mandorla—that common ground within which we become seekers and finders of both our personal best and the best our futures have to offer. The flame lights our ways to the center. Let's all meet there.

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

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

September Speakers:

4th Rev. Byron Miller
11th Water Communion
18th Al Siddiq
28th Rev. Byron Miller

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 summer 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

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

"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. There is a very high rate of repayment and the first group of recipients is now on their second loan.

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

Nobody's Fool event a success!

Many thanks to the UUs participating in the Aug. 3rd Nobody's Fool event. Volunteers included Joy Hayes Gates, Becky Fox, Jane Derrick, Cheryl Foster, Donna and Jim Meyer, Suzie Seibel and Becky Warren. (Apologies if you were there but I didn't see you!) Also, thanks to all who took home yard signs to show support for Planned Parenthood and this important event. From Annie Norman, volunteer coordinator:

"Congratulations everyone! We did it! The 22nd Annual Nobody's Fool event was a huge success. The parents of 235 youth cared enough to send their children to Nobody's Fool, providing them with comprehensive sexuality education to help keep them safe and healthy!

"I deeply appreciate all of the work that each and every one of you put into your duties at Nobody's Fool. This event would not be possible without such a great team of volunteers. 😊"

"So, thank you!"

Thanks for the Fans!

Your donations for fans really comes at a good time. We've been a little short on funds for that purpose and needed to obtain more fans for our clients! Thanks very, very much!! - Buddy (Buddy Edwards, Caritas Executive Director)

Service Is Our Prayer

(excerpted from Peter Morales, 2010 Fall UU World)

I have always been intrigued by the notion of service as prayer. When I was young, I was taught that prayer was words - words that expressed gratitude, contrition, and requests for blessing, healing, wisdom, and strength. Yet, if prayer is the word we use to describe connecting to what is sacred, I think service may be the best form of prayer. And if the purpose of a spiritual practice is spiritual growth, service is a powerful spiritual discipline.

When we serve, we become more compassionate, more sensitive, more understanding, and more aware. We are reminded of how precious and fragile life is.

When we serve, we experience what love can do.

Sometimes in our congregations, we speak of spirituality and social action as though they are opposites. Spirituality and service are two sides of the same coin.

Deep spirituality, a loving nature, expresses itself in action. And action that springs from love deepens us and makes us more loving. Love and action cannot be separated.

We Unitarian Universalists have always been a faith that seeks to bring healing to a broken world. We heal the world and grow our souls when we join hands and take action. May service always be our prayer.

Social Action Updates (Continued)

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 (CRRC) 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.

Hospitality Update

The hospitality team is excited to announce Rebecca Alderman has agreed to be the leader of the team. She has some great ideas, as well as a great understanding of how important hospitality is in our fellowship. Enjoy her energy and contributions, and don't forget to say thanks for all she's doing! She'll be looking at the Sunday teams and hospitality and bringing some fresh perspective for that and the rest of the team. Let her know if you want to help or have any ideas. Sadly, we only get to keep her and her family around for a few more weeks. She and her family are moving to South Africa this fall. Muchas gracias, Rebecca!

Liz Turnage,
At-Large Director,
president@uuwaco.org

Treasurer's Report

Friends, here is the financial report for July:

Income: \$6322.31 (includes \$1172.50 COA income)
Expenses: \$6683.28
Assets: \$42,945.17 (currently \$38,635.02--the decrease due mostly to COA expenses so far in August)
Now that COA income and expenses are over, things should stabilize somewhat.

Shine on!
Marty Van Wagner,
Treasurer, treasurer@uuwaco.org

Nominees for October Congregational Meeting

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, Sept 11 - Interfaith Candlelight Vigil in Remembrance of 9/11, Islamic Center of Waco.

POC: Byron.Miller@uuwaco.org.

Further Down the Line at UUWaco

Sun, Sept 25 - Harvest Home Ritual, 12:15 in the Sanctuary. Celebrate the equinox & harvest; all welcome.

POC: [Jan.Snyder](mailto:Jan.Snyder@uuwaco.org).

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:Paul.Derrick@uuwaco.org).

Local Events/Opportunities

Sun, Sept 11 - Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build ceremony, 2 p.m. [Click for more info.](#)

Th, Sept 22 - CRRC Quarterly Meeting: "Report on the 'Church Swap.'" 10th & Washington, 5:30 p.m.

As you are shopping for back to school supplies please consider buying an item or 2 for RE. We could use:

- Markers (Ours always dry up)
- glue sticks/glue (again ours dry up)
- Copy paper, card stock, Sharpies
- electric pencil sharpeners for upstairs
- posterboard, notebook paper, Folders w/ brads
- multi-Colored construction paper
- Large plastic storage bins
- plastic storage containers with drawers (see the type in the RE classroom with the sink)

Thanks so much!!

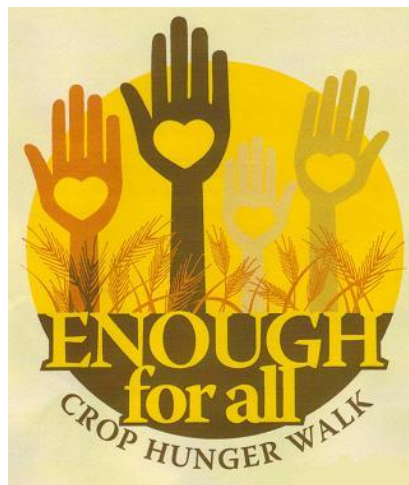
Tracey Villanueva, RE, Tracey.Villanueva@UUWaco.org

More Social Action Updates...

Cereal Sunday is October 2nd

UUs donated 23 pounds of cereal in August, up from 16 in July. THANK YOU! Caritas staff always make a point of saying how very much they appreciate our cereal donations!

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



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

**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

**Commemorating 9/11 - A Ceremony
of Remembrance and Hope**

hosted by Waco Habitat for
Humanity and the Greater Waco
Interfaith Conference
Sunday, September 11
2:00 p.m.

1914 McKenzie Avenue
site of the Interfaith Build

Construction of the Interfaith Build
will begin in September and
continue through the fall. To
volunteer, contact Waco Habitat at
254-756-7575 or
volunteer@wacohabitat.org

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)

UUFW Event Scheduling:

Email building.use@uuwaco.org to
schedule events at UUFW facilities.

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.