



unitarian universalist fellowship of waco

*love is the doctrine of this fellowship*

## THE BIG BLUE PHROG NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 20, 2023

**SATURDAY, JAN. 21 – 12:00 PM**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR, VEGANS!**

The Waco Vegans and Vegetarians will have its first Potluck Luncheon of the new year this Saturday at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waco, 4209 N. 27th St, Waco, TX.

Doors will open at noon for people to bring their dishes and get everything set up. We plan to begin serving at 12:30 and hope to be finished by 1:30. At this year's inaugural meeting, group leaders Cherie Rogers and Ramona McKeown (co-chairs) hope to hear your thoughts on making this group a memorable one. How would you define its success? What do you want it to be? Bring your ideas along with a vegan dish to share! If you are new to veganism and don't have a dish to share, come anyway! Perhaps you will be inspired by the delicious food prepared by others in the group. We are happy to welcome you!

~ Ramona McKeown ~

**SUNDAY, JAN. 22 – 11:00 AM**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**



Kim Obenoskey, Ph.D. will be speaking on *"Finding Meaning IN Life."* Celebrant will be Becky Warren. Dr. Obenoskey has been a frequent speaker at UUFW, and we always walk about from her messages with new understanding and a few new quips.

As a businesswoman, Kim currently owns and operates independent senior living apartments. She has also coached, counseled, and volunteered with organizations supporting children and adolescents in CPS care, domestic abuse survivors, juvenile boys in residential treatment, as well as individuals and families navigating the complexities of life.

For entertainment Kim raises chickens and donates the eggs to a local food pantry. Kim agrees with Lena Horne who famously said, "It's not the load that breaks you down, it's the way you carry it."

**MONDAY, JAN. 23 – 6 PM**

**WORSHIP TEAM MEETING**

The Small but Mighty Worship Team welcomes all interested parties to join us via *Google Meet* to help us plot future programs. Contact Team Lead Sara Hudson @ [sara.hudson@uuwaco.org](mailto:sara.hudson@uuwaco.org), 254-679-9471.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25**

**MEDITATION -- NOON**

Take time out once a week for self-care. We meet in the Sofa Room for meditation, gentle stretching, and relaxation with friends. Questions? Our Leader Becky Warren can help you with that @ [rebeccajwarren4@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccajwarren4@gmail.com), 254-715-1388.

**WOMEN'S GROUP ZOOM – 7:30 PM**

Link in with us at 7:30 PM for a Women's Zoom get-together. Link is provided on the UU Women's Facebook page. Talk with Jane Kittner @ [jane.kittner@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.kittner@uuwaco.org), 254-722-7180, if you'd like to join this fun group but need assistance. New folks are always welcomed!

## SUNDAY, JAN. 29 – 12:30 PM

### SAFE CONGREGATION TEAM MEETING

## FEBRUARY (DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

### “BECOMING UU” NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you're contemplating becoming a member of the *UU Fellowship of Waco*, you won't want to miss this half-day opportunity to learn about our faith, our history, and each other. Contact Jane Kittner @ [jane.kittner@uuwaco.org](mailto:jane.kittner@uuwaco.org), 254-722-7180 to discuss.

## SUNDAY, FEB. 5 – 12:30 PM

### HOUSE & GROUNDS TEAM MEETING

Join our team to plan improvements, repairs, and general upkeep of our building and grounds. Marty VanWagner is Team Lead, who'll answer any questions you might have @ [marty.vanwagner@uuwaco.org](mailto:marty.vanwagner@uuwaco.org), 254-498-7200. Participate once or longer-term. We'd love to have you! Skill, talent or experience not necessarily important (but helpful, of course).

## SUNDAY, FEB. 12

### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 12, immediately after the service, we will have our annual Souper Bowl Fundraiser for Caritas. So, be thinking about a soup, dessert, or side dish you would like to bring and don't forget to bring some money for a donation too. This is one of our best food events each year! Even if you're not a big football fan, join us for great food and family festivities.



## MARCH 3-5, 2023

### SOUTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



SWUWCon is an annual weekend designed just for UUs! Fun, informative, entertaining activities await all women and our “maiden” daughters, too. Have you never been to a women's conference? Register at <https://swuuw.org/register/> (place your cursor on the URL, hold the CTRL key, press ENTER), and receive a *special discount*. You'll see why so many return year after year to reconnect and renew! See Becky Warren for additional information.

### **OUR MONEY MATTERS**

**RAMONA MCKEOWN, TREASURER**

Our January “Share the Plate” partner is Planned Parenthood. We have just two more Sundays this month to support them through our Share the Plate program. Planned Parenthood's mission is to provide evidence based sexual health care and education while advocating for reproductive justice, care without judgment, and access to health care for all. Dig deep and help support this important organization.

### **OUR PLEDGES ALSO MATTER**

Pledge cards for the 2023 fiscal year are available on the table in the foyer of the sanctuary. Take a card in a stamped envelope if you want to mail it in. Or take a card and an unstamped envelope if you intend to drop it in the offering basket. We appreciate your pledges and support!

## A WORD FROM DISTANT FRIENDS

Carol Schmidhauser <[schmidhauser@juno.com](mailto:schmidhauser@juno.com)> wrote: Dutch & I still miss Waco, the UU church & all our friends! Providence is a really nice city & we are living in a very nice senior place overlooking a river & woods (with coyotes.) Our son & family live nearby - the reason for our move! But we still miss Waco & you all! If you ever head North, come see us-there are guest rooms usually available!

## UU'ers MARCH FOR DR. KING



Hundreds listen to speakers at MLK Park in Waco. Jane. Kittner. Vanessa Wilcox. and Anita Knight. Bruce Allen.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Peace March and Observance – *“BANNER FOR CHANGE”* – was held after a two-year hiatus in Indian Springs Park in downtown Waco. Four of our members proudly carried our UU Fellowship of Waco banner on this perfect weather day and marched alongside hundreds of others – including many friends from the Community Race Relations Coalition – to commemorate the life and profound teachings of this great leader.

## UUFW NEW MEMBER PROFILES

### NEW MEMBER OF UU FELLOWSHIP OF WACO

#### LESLIE HOWARD HOGUE



Please make welcome – Leslie Howard

Leslie, like several members of our congregation, is a breast cancer survivor. Wow. So much to unpack in those three words. Every year in October, she and a group of fellow survivors get together for a retreat to share the difficult, hopeful terrain on the road they didn't choose. It's a relatively new (2019) path for her life, which includes being a writer, a personal nanny, a photographer, and a retired police officer.

She hasn't been a stranger to rocky paths – she had a hard upbringing with narcissistic parents, and a long difficult first marriage. But for the past ten years or so she has been on “a journey of personal development and healing” and has used her experiences to help others. During that time, she married her current husband, Robert. They now reside in Dawson, about 38 miles away.

Born and raised in Dallas, Leslie started questioning conventional religions early, as a teen. She found UUFW late last year. When asked to describe her perfect day, she said, “A perfect day for me would begin with coffee, journaling and meditation. Then I would work on one of my many projects: writing books, paper crafts, gardening, painting, refurbishing a vintage camper trailer or planning for the yearly October retreat.” Her musical tastes run the gamut of classical, country, '80s hip hop, post grunge alternative rock to yacht rock. “If I like it, I like it!” she says.

We're glad you found us, Leslie – welcome!

~ Megan Miller ~