



# The Oak Leaf

APRIL 2014

Kathy Grey, Editor  
newsletter@oakcliffuu.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF OAK CLIFF

*We, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff, facilitate individual spiritual growth and manifest our shared values through action with the greater community.*

## SUNDAY SERVICES

10am – 11am

11:15am – noon:

Youth Religious Education  
Adult Religious Education  
Choir Rehearsal  
Meet & Greet



## UUCOC Covenant of Right Relations:

We honor each individual's spiritual journey.

We celebrate life's abundance in service to each other, our community, and the world.

We connect with each other in love, respect and acceptance.

Thus do we covenant together.



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**Deadline for submissions for May newsletter: April 24**

## APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

### Re-Creation

Twelve years ago we took a bold step by changing the name of our congregation from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Dallas to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff. "Bold" because it required us to leave the comfort of the Fellowship movement, accept the more formal responsibilities inherent in the name "Church," and seek a stronger presence in the religious conversation of North Texas. The intervening years gave witness to our transformation. Together we have achieved a *Fearless Spirituality*. Today we stand confident in our ability to embrace our neighbors and welcome their journeys into ours.



#### April 6 – *Love Your Enemy*

Every great religious tradition has proffered some version of 'Love Your Neighbor As Yourself' but some have demanded that we love our enemy, too. It is easier to love our spouse or mate, our family and friends, but can we really extend ourselves all the way? Is it in our interest to try? Rev. Mark Walz will preach the sermon.

#### April 13 – *Primordial Trust*

When the world is turned upside down – via negativa – when the chaos strikes and most people run and hide, uncertain of what to do next, the Warriors, Prophets, Mystics, and Lovers withstand the pain and the chaos. They trust themselves, stay, and engage this life and the justice we crave. They stay and defend the life they love. Who and what do you trust? Rev. Mark Walz will preach the sermon.

#### April 20 – *Called to New Life*

Easter is a celebration that crosses most all religious boundaries, gathering the world up in its festival of resurrection, rebirth, and re-creation. It reconciles our relationship with the Universe and with each other. It provides the promise of a wiser, deeper covenant for us all. Rev. Mark Walz will preach the sermon.

#### April 27 – *Balance of the Human Spirit*

Just like in the Avatar ("Last Airbender") world, there is a need for balance in our world and in ourselves. The sermon will speak about how we need Adaptability (Water), Passion (Fire), Stability (Earth), and Ideals (Air) to bring forth change in ourselves and in the world around us. The service will be very kid-centric, but should appeal to adults as well. Trenton Ladler, of our Worship Ministry, will be in the pulpit.

**SHARING THE PLATE** On the second **Sunday of each month, non-designated cash** in the baskets is donated to a local charity. Checks may also be written to UUCOC *with a notation of the charity's name* so that it can be passed along. This month's beneficiary will be the **North Oak Cliff Branch Library**, and the collection will be **April 13**. See page 4 for information.

For money intended as pledge fulfillment, just write "pledge" in the subject line on your check, or on the envelopes provided for cash. Only cash or checks NOT designated for the church will be donated to the charity.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

It appears that we may have an actual “Opinion Page” in the works! Last month, Larry Brumfield submitted an article that prompted a response from fellow member Jan Brubaker. (Missed Larry’s first guest editorial? See [www.oakcliffuu.org/newsletters/OakLeaf\\_March2014.pdf](http://www.oakcliffuu.org/newsletters/OakLeaf_March2014.pdf) for last month’s newsletter.)

Do *you* have thoughts to share? Email your Oak Leaf editor: [newsletter@oakcliffuu.org](mailto:newsletter@oakcliffuu.org)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



### My Thoughts on Services – Jan Brubaker

Larry Brumfield wrote passionately last month that worship too often is an excuse to escape the rest of the world—instead of engage with it. His analogy dovetailed nicely: Disneyland’s banning the sale of crisis-hungry newspapers to visitors, and churchgoers filling the pews to “forget their troubles for a while and just get fed.” So, THAT’s why some megachurches resemble beige Disneyland castles.

Larry ended his column, “If you go to church looking for an escape, someone needs to give you a newspaper instead of a bulletin.” Depends on what you’re escaping from, and to.

Let’s glance over my (coffee-stained) March 16 UUCOC bulletin. Rev. Mark’s sermon topic: “It Takes a Village.” On the back: trauma-sensitive yoga, weight loss challenge, Spring Equinox celebration, our booth at Oak Cliff Earth Day. I’d rather read this to engage with the world than our local bastion of fair and balanced journalism: The Dallas Morning News. Bet you a nickel, too, that in the foyer you’ll hear members discussing not just the weather, but the latest Stop XL Pipeline petition, or strategies to overcome Texas’ Voter ID law.

The UU emphasis on engagement with the world attracts many to 3839 W. Kiest week after week. It’s a philosophy Rev. Mark speaks of often: we’re not a creed faith employing a specific belief “formula.” Instead, what you believe is less important than how those beliefs help you participate in the world.

Engagement with social justice and a respect for thinking differently keeps me coming back—though membership in a “church” was the last thing on my mind in 2011. Four years ago, I was seeking an Oak Cliff site for Texas ACLU Executive Director Terri Burke to speak about our Texas Board of Education. (That august body was notorious for censoring textbooks: excising line drawings of breast self-exams, for example, because, well, the drawing showed a breast.) Duncanville Library turned me down flat; UUCOC said yes.

A year later I signed the membership book. Quite a step for this dyed-in-the-wool skeptic, who still finds it easier to say “services” than “church” and (akin to many a Southerner) has been on the receiving end of many calluses launched by Bible-swinging Baptists.

I had discovered the pastor teared up about injustice. The BS level was low. The respect for difference high. The hugs rang true. The coffee strong and fair trade. Best of all: the members discussed, and often followed through with, action that made our corner of the world better.

I often struggle explaining to folks what UU’s “believe.” So I carry a Webster’s Collegiate (MY Bible) definition in my wallet: “A denomination that stresses individual freedom of belief, the free use of reason in religion, a united world community, and liberal social action.”

Guess what I’m trying to say is, Larry my friend, you’re preaching to the choir. And I’m so glad you’re right there with us on Sundays!

## GUEST EDITORIAL



### Servant-Leadership – Larry Brumfield

During my seminary studies, I had the pleasure of being introduced to the Greenleaf Center for Servant-Leadership. The center was named after Robert Greenleaf, a renaissance thinker, corporate executive, pastor, pacifist and developer of paradigm-changing strategies on leadership. He believed there was a deep hunger in our society for a world where people truly care for one another, where people are treated humanely and helped in their personal growth, where workers and customers are treated fairly, and where our leaders can be trusted to serve the needs of the many rather than the few.

Of Servant-Leadership, Robert Greenleaf wrote: “It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. The difference manifests itself in the care taken by the servant to make sure that other peoples highest priority needs are being served.” The best test is: Do those served grow as persons; do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely to themselves to become servants? It is not a quick fix approach. At its core, servant-leadership is a long-term, transformational approach to life and work, a method that has the potential of creating positive change.

– *continued next page*

## Servant-Leadership – continued

### Greenleaf's 10 Traits of Servant Leaders

1. **Listening** - The servant-leader seeks to identify the will of the group and helps clarify that will. He or She seeks to listen receptively to what is said (and NOT said).
2. **Empathy** - They assume the good intentions of the group and do not reject them as people even if one cannot accept their behavior or performance.
3. **Healing** - One strength of the servant-leaders is their potential for healing themselves and others. Many people have broken spirits and suffered emotional hurts. To communicate that the search for wholeness is something they share. This must be implicit in the relational compact.
4. **Awareness** - Making a commitment to foster awareness can be scary; you never know what you might discover! Awareness also aids in our understanding of issues involving ethics and values. It lends itself to viewing most situations from a more integrated, holistic position.
5. **Persuasion** - Servant-leaders rely upon persuasion, rather than positional authority, in making decisions. They seek to convince rather than coerce compliance. They are always trying to build consensus within groups.
6. **Conceptualization** - Servant-leaders nurture their abilities to dream. To think beyond day to day realities. Trustees need to be conceptual; staffs need to be operational. Servant-leaders seek balance.
7. **Foresight** - The ability to see the likely outcome is hard to define, but easy to identify. It enables one to see the lessons from the past and the realities of the present. Foresight is deeply rooted in intuition.
8. **Stewardship** - At its very basic it means "holding something in trust for another." It emphasizes the use of openness and persuasion rather than control.
9. **Commitment to the Growth of People** - A basic belief that people have an intrinsic value beyond their tangible contributions as workers, volunteers or group leaders. It includes "Assisting." "Supporting." and "Encouraging."
10. **Building Community** - We need to resolve that much has been lost in recent history as a result of the shift from local communities to large institutions as primary shapers of human lives. Servant-leaders identify means of building community on a local level in business, churches and institutions.

These principles are by no means revolutionary or exhaustive. However I share this with my UUOOC family as a reminder of the power and promise that servant-leadership offers to our UU fellowship as we move forward in building our community.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

Love has no borders. Love keeps families together.  
Love respects the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

Join UUs nationwide in the

**APRIL 5TH DAY OF ACTION**

**#NOT1MORE**

**Stop Deportation Now!**  
**Alto a las Deportaciones Ahora!**

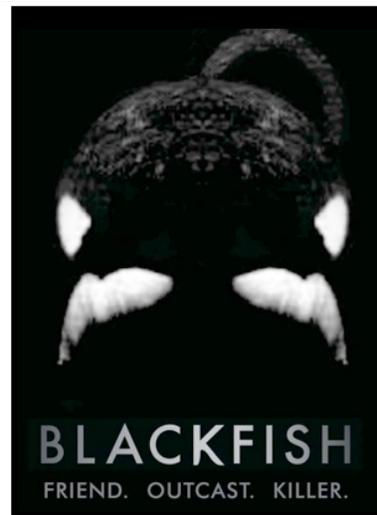
From [www.notonemoredeportation.com](http://www.notonemoredeportation.com):

"We will protest outside the jail, demand the local sheriff stop participating in S-Comm, demand that President Obama stop deportation, and we will have a press conference with people affected by deportations."

Organized by Pueblo Sin Fronteras & N. TX Immigration Coalition

Location: Sterrett North Tower Jail, 111 W Commerce, Dallas

See **Pat McAfee** for more info about participation –  
[president@OakCliffUU.org](mailto:president@OakCliffUU.org)



**FIRST  
TUESDAY  
SOCIAL  
JUSTICE  
FILM**

Cosponsored by the  
Dallas Peace Center

7pm

**May 6, 2014**

UUCOC Sanctuary

Director-producer Gabriela Cowperthwaite combines shocking footage and emotional interviews in an exploration of the events surrounding Tilikum, a killer whale involved in the death of several people while in captivity. *Blackfish* explores the killer whales' extraordinary nature, the species' cruel treatment in captivity, and the lives and losses of the trainers, as well as the pressures brought to bear by the multi-billion dollar sea-park industry. [www.blackfishmovie.com](http://www.blackfishmovie.com)

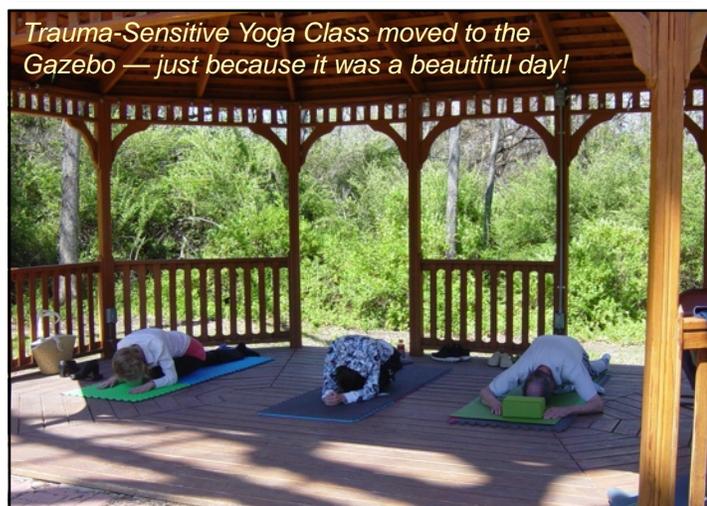
Go to [www.FirstTuesdayFilms.org](http://www.FirstTuesdayFilms.org)  
to view the trailer

### Sharing the Plate – April 13



Member Joe Montemayor suggested this month's Share the Plate beneficiary, **The North Oak Cliff Branch Library**, 302 W. 10th Street, for their numerous community programs.

*Is there an organization you would like to recognize and support with our Share the Plate collection? Give your idea to Renée or Elaine or any member of the Worship Ministry — or come to a meeting (1st and 3rd Sundays at 12:15pm in Hope).*



### Young Adult Dinner

Are you 18-35? Join us for food and fellowship every Monday at 7pm in the Faith Lobby. Questions? Contact Renée or Ian at [YoungAdults@OakCliffUU.org](mailto:YoungAdults@OakCliffUU.org)

### Calling all Easter Bunnies

April's big RE project will be our annual Easter Egg Hunt, which of course means contributions of plastic eggs and fillers. See page 6 for more information. And thank you in advance!

### Coming up in May

Our **Annual (Spring) Parish Meeting** will be held **May 18**. On the agenda: election of officers and voting on the budget.

**Taketina Meditation** returns with Michael Kenny, **May 4**, 3pm – 6pm in Faith, on a donation basis.

A **church yard sale** is set for **May 17**, 6am – 3pm. Check with Alicia for details.

**Fundraising Bowl-a-Thon** on **May 31** at Don Carter Lanes, Dallas, 2pm-4pm, \$20 per person.

### Pledge Drive Update!

A hearty thank you to all of those that brought food and participated in our Pot Luck on March 16th. Pledges now total \$29,580, so we're off and running — but we still have a long way to go. If you haven't already done so, please get your pledge in as quickly as possible. (Forms are available on the Greeter's Table in the Faith Lobby.)

– Your pledge committee



### Celebrate Earth Day!

*Like many Unitarian Universalists, I walk an environmental path. It is a path I have created through a love of nature and a concern for Earth and humanity. For me, it is a religious path.*

*From **Along the Greener Path – A Personal Statement on Nature**, by Carol Hepokoski*

That's a pretty good description of why we, a church, have a booth at the Oak Cliff Earth Day Festival. And it's not too late to sign up to help! We could still use a few more UUCOC folks to be friendly and hand out literature. See page 5 for more information.

– K. Grey, Green Sanctuary Co-Chair

### APRIL MEETINGS

Leadership meetings are open to everyone!

Coordinating Council Meeting  
Tuesday, April 8, 7pm • Hope Chapel

UUCOC Board Meeting  
Tuesday, April 22, 7pm • Hope Chapel

Worship Ministry Meetings  
Sunday, April 6 and 20, 12:15pm • Hope Chapel

*A note from your President, Pat McAfee:*

**PLEDGING**...it's not JUST about Treasure!

How are you building the church  
of your dreams with your  
Time and Talents?



Pat McAfee photo



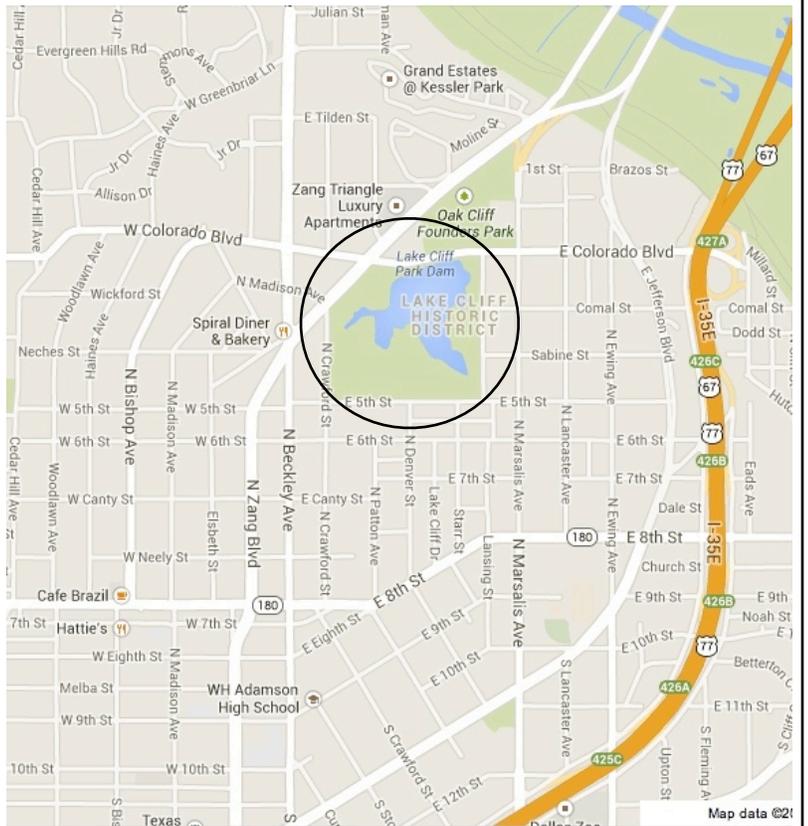
# OAK CLIFF EARTH DAY

**April 12, 2014**  
**Lake Cliff Park**

The event runs from NOON to 5pm. We'll begin setting up the UUCOC booth about 9am and break down promptly at 5. Want to help? Sign up in the lobby or email [greensanctuary@OakCliffUU.org](mailto:greensanctuary@OakCliffUU.org) We have lots of good UU literature to hand out, and the Traveling GloriChanters may even make an appearance.

If you can't help, come out anyway! The event website, [www.OakCliffEarthDay.org](http://www.OakCliffEarthDay.org), lists over 150 earth-friendly groups, artisans and food vendors, plus the following performance schedule.

- 12:00 PM Oak Cliff Earth Day Festival Begins
- Mutt Strut Registration – OCED Reg. Booth
- 12:30 PM OPENING CEREMONY
- 12:40 PM Meditation Eco Life Services
- 1:00 PM Raptor Bird Show
- 1:00 PM Geno Young - Neo Soul Artist
- 1:15 PM Ara'kan Dance Company - Latin Dance Group
- 1:30 PM St. Elizabeth Ensemble - Singers
- 1:45 PM GenYrationN - Live Youth Singing Group
- 2:00 PM Allegre Ballet - Ballet Folklorico Dance Group
- 2:15 PM Will Richey - Spoken Word
- 2:30 PM John and Friends Youth - Singing Group
- 2:45 PM Raptor Bird Show
- 2:45 PM W.E. Greiner Middle School Music Ensemble
- 3:00 PM Mayor Speaking
- 3:15 PM Scott Griggs Speaking
- 3:30 PM Mutt Strut Dog Parade
- 3:45 PM Karen Floyd Author/Divine Droppings
- 4:00 PM Willow and Her Giant Children's Entertainers
- 4:15 PM Moped Raffle Drawing/Raffle
- 4:30 PM Bandan Koro - African Drumming
- 5:00 PM CLOSING Ceremony



*Scenes from previous years*

## CHILDREN'S R.E. CORNER – Susan Ammons

UUCOC's children's Religious Education program is growing like crazy! Enthusiasm and joy abound. With the addition of two superbly talented parent/teachers, Tyler and Leah Pittman, we've had to move the Middle Agers to the Hope Chapel because of increasing class size. We could, however, use more help in our Nursery. Please see Susan Ammons or Pat McAfee if you are interested in lending a hand with the infants and toddlers.

In spite of the blinky weather, our trip to Larry Brumfield's ranch to see, learn about, and ride horses was awesome. Thanks to Larry, his daughter Erin, and all those who contributed time, talent, gasoline, carrots, and energy. Pat McAfee has some wonderful pictures of the event to share.

We are planning our annual Easter Egg Hunt for April 20, and are asking for contributions of plastic eggs and fillers. It has been our custom that the teens stuff and hide the eggs for the younger kids. It's always good fun and another "eggsellent" opportunity for picture-taking. While traditional egg-stuffers are appreciated, it would be nice to have stickers, coins, and other non-sugar-filled goodies as well.

### TENTATIVE APRIL CLASS SCHEDULE:

#### Middle-Agers

April 6 Yoga with Vivian Walz  
April 13 Palm Sunday/Earth Day  
April 20 Flower Communion/Easter – “Meet Jesus” from Spirit Play  
April 27 Francis David Story

#### Younger kids

April 6 Yoga with Vivian Walz  
April 13 Earth Day  
April 20 Flower Communion/Easter – Easter egg hunt  
April 27 All People Need a Vote – Blue Promise Story



Learning about Henry Bergh, founder of the ASPCA — did you know he was a Unitarian?



Thank you, Erin Blake, and Capriole School of Riding! (Above photos by Kathy Grey — Pat McAfee has MANY more to share!)

## You are invited to a FREE PUBLIC EVENT

The Perot Museum of Nature and Science is hosting a **Lunar Eclipse Night April 14-15**. Viewing starts at midnight and will go until 3am. (The eclipse will last until 5am, but viewing will wrap up after totality.)

Several telescopes will be available, and the portable planetarium will be running star shows all night. Feel free to bring a blanket, binoculars, snacks, and drinks (no alcohol). Plans are still being finalized — check the museum's Facebook page for updated information and to RSVP. If the weather is uncooperative, the call will be made at 11pm.

Questions? Contact Ian at [astronomy@oakcliffuu.org](mailto:astronomy@oakcliffuu.org).

The Perot Museum is located just off Woodall Rogers, at 2201 N. Field St, Dallas, TX 75201 (214) 428-5555



# LABYRINTH WALK COFFEE HOUSE EVENTS

## Jazz Under the Stars

returns with three  
May concerts!



### The E-Flat Porch Band

Sunday, May 11th, 2014 7:30pm

A great way to celebrate Mother's Day! The E-Flat Porch Band is named for the porch in McKinney, Texas where the members first practiced — it resonates to the key of E-Flat. Duane Brown and Rudy Littrell form the core of the band, entertaining with their unique blend of acoustic "porch music," including folk, Blues, early country, jazz and original tunes. As "angst-free" acoustic musicians, they play serious music without taking themselves too seriously.

Check out some of their music on their website: [www.e-flatters.com](http://www.e-flatters.com)



### Chilo & the High Energy Band

Sunday, May 18th 7:30pm

A classically trained artist, Chilo has adapted traditional Latin music, combining it with jazz, blues and flamenco. The result is a unique, energetic sound that is exclusively his.

### Lady Diamond

Sunday, May 25th 7:30pm

Kertrina Dauway (aka Lady Diamond) is an incredibly multi-talented woman whose vocal performance and Jazz style leaves her audience wanting more. Lady Diamond hails from a classically trained background and is a fusion of Jazz, Classic and Soul, with 10 years of Classical piano. One could arguably say her style is a mixture of Nancy Wilson, Ella Fitzgerald and Diane Krall. Most notably she was a requested performer at the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge Celebration, Fair Park Arts Festival, and Addison Worldfest.



**Bring a lawn chair or blanket and food and drink  
(nothing stronger than beer and wine, please)**

**Individual Concert Tickets: \$10**

**Special Offer! All Three May Shows for \$25**

**Advance tickets at [www.labyrinthwalkcoffeehouse.com](http://www.labyrinthwalkcoffeehouse.com)**



April 13, 5-7pm

Relax, sing along, and maybe even do a little dancing, either on your feet or in your seat. Bring your wine or beer and goodies to enjoy an evening of jazz!

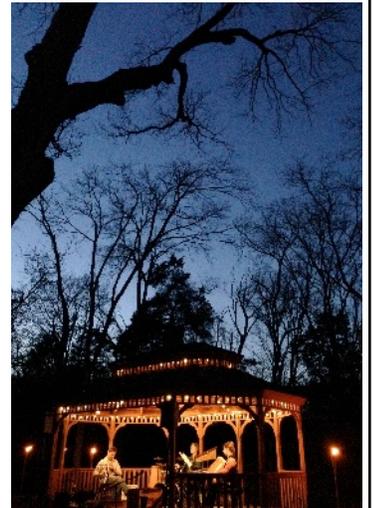
[www.LabyrinthWalkCoffeeHouse.com](http://www.LabyrinthWalkCoffeeHouse.com)

### Spring Equinox Celebration a hit!

On March 20, about 50 people welcomed the return of longer days and warmer weather, walking the glowing candle-lit labyrinth and decorating the Earth Loom. Tarot card readers, a medium, an astrologer, and a dream interpreter received positive responses by the many who had readings done.

*Sara Barnard photo*

*Sound Oasis (right)* performed a variety of ethereal musical selections with a few taiko drum pieces in the mix. The *Glori-Chanters* chanted our way to the labyrinth for the after-dark Spring Ritual, conducted by Rev. Karen Floyd. A time of rebirth and new growth was heralded by all.



*Berry Chastain photos*



# HOLLY NEAR

PEACE BECOMES YOU

IN CONCERT

April 26, 2014

7:30pm

First Unitarian  
Church of Dallas

4015 Normandy  
Dallas, TX 75205

Part of the  
SWUUC 2014 Conference

Concert tickets \$25

Conference registration  
of \$75 includes one ticket

More info at

[www.NTUUC.org/SWUUC2014](http://www.NTUUC.org/SWUUC2014)



[www.HollyNear.com](http://www.HollyNear.com)

SWUUC  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
DALLAS 2014



## Love Reaches Out

PLUGGED IN AND CONNECTED WITH THREE OTHER UUA DISTRICTS

April 25-27, 2014

First Unitarian • Dallas

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Jim Key**  
UUA Moderator



Live from afar



### Holly Near in person!

Speaking on Friday night *and* singing on Saturday

Concert tickets are \$25, but for just \$75, you can register for the entire conference (before April 11)



PHOTO: IRENE YOUNG

Visit [www.ntuuc.org/swuuc2014](http://www.ntuuc.org/swuuc2014) for more info and to register

### SWUUC Conference 2014 Love Reaching Out



#### Who wants a piece of pie?

Dessert on Saturday night will feature  
Mile-High Cream Pies™ from Norma's Diner!

Are you a cream puff?

Lemon, Coconut, Chocolate, or Chocolate-Peanut Butter

Or are you a fruit?

Apple, Cherry, or Strawberry

Help make sure everyone gets a piece of the pie!

Contributions to the Pie Dough will help support  
Jericho Road Dallas. Don't flake out on us!

Whether you serve up a wedge, a sliver, or a few crumbs,  
all donors' names will be listed on The Pie Chart.

Make the pie higher!

Giving \$25 means you'll be recognized as a BAKER.

Join the Upper Crust, and taste the Life of Pie.