



The Oak Leaf

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF OAK CLIFF

MAY 2010



*Faith development is all we do.
Unitarian Universalism is all we teach.
The congregation is the curriculum.*

Sunday Services

Worship Service is 10am – 11am
Religious Education follows, from 11:15am to noon

May 2nd – *Come Dream a Dream with Me*

“True religion is the life we lead, not the creed we profess.”
(Louis Nizer) To become the church I envision will require great risk. But great change always does. Rev. Mark Walz will preach the sermon.

May 9th – *Mother's Day Service* – Special Music and a Special Message in appreciation of the feminine in our lives. Rituals will abound! Rev. Marcia Shannon and Rev. Mark Walz will share the pulpit.

May 16th – *A People So Bold* – It takes tremendous courage to seek out a new church and a new way of being religious. Rev. Marcia Shannon leads a lay-supplied sampling of sermonettes from members of our own congregation.

May 23rd – *Appreciative Inquiry* – As we celebrate the beginning of our church's 50th year, let us begin the exploration of the next half century. What will we be known for? Rev. Mark Walz will preach the sermon. **Pot luck lunch and Parish Meeting follow.**

May 30th – *Stories from the Front Lines* – We fed them pancakes yesterday morning, and now we will share from the conversations with the men and women who stand guard in our community and respond first to the tragedies in our lives. Rev. Mark Walz will preach the sermon.

See you Sunday!

Mark



Door Prizes

Silent Auction

50s

May 22, 2010
7-10pm
\$15 Single
\$25 Couple

Benefiting the Family Place

Featuring ELVIS impersonator **Carleton Hurdle**
www.thekingrocks.com

Music by **The Lost Serenaders**
www.steveleachmusic.com

* Prize for best 50's costume! *

Purchase tickets at the door or in advance through PayPal
at www.labyrinthwalkcoffeehouse.com

Childcare available (\$10)

Labyrinth Walk Coffee House
3839 W. Kiest • Dallas • www.labyrinthwalkcoffeehouse.com

RE SERVICE PROJECT: Our teens, newly certified in babysitting, first aid, and CPR, will help provide childcare for this event.

MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



The five graduates of the Infant & Child First Aid/CPR and Babysitting Certification Class April 19—still smiling after a LONG day

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Rituals, New Teachers, Service Projects & more!

The **Children's Class** (ages 5-8) will continue to explore spring rituals, including making and flying kites. We welcome new teacher Faye Dunaway (and her experience as a Dallas first grade teacher) to the class.

The **Youth Class** (ages 9-12) will dabble in seasonal rituals and/or create their own unique community ritual. Stephanie Smith joins Kathy KinKaid in the youth class. Ms. Smith will soon be studying to be a pastry chef and we have already enjoyed very nice baked goods in RE, thanks to her generosity.

The **Teen Class** (ages 13-17) will spend the next four weeks creating a music video on what it means to be a UU. New teachers Allisha Hosley and Mitchell Baker bring solid support and exciting new energy to the teen group, while Rev. Walz and Rev. Shannon will continue as visitors/supporters.

MAY RE ACTIVITIES — Mark your calendar!

- 5/2 – Mother's Day & Build-Your-Own Ritual
- 5/8 – RE Teachers' Meeting
- 5/9 – Kite-Making Ritual
- 5/16 – Kite-Flying Ritual—All parents invited!
- 5/19 – Planned Parenthood Service Project*
- 5/22 – Sock Hop Babysitting Service Project*
- 5/29 – Pancake Breakfast Service Project*
- 5/30 – Memorial Day Ritual

* See the separate articles about these special events

NEW CLASS FORMING SOON: A break-out "tween" group, focusing on the needs of our youth 12, 13, and 14 years old, will be created as soon as a teaching team can be identified.

Don't miss a very special service June 6

Thandeka

Thandeka is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and theologian. She is the founder of Affect Theology, which investigates the links between religion and emotions using insights from affective neuroscience.

The author of *The Embodied Self: Friedrich Schleiermacher's Solution to Kant's Problem of the Empirical Self*, and *Learning to be White: Money, Race and God in America*, and contributor to books including *The Cambridge Companion to Schleiermacher* and *The Oxford Handbook on Feminist Theology and Globalization (forthcoming)*, Thandeka's current book project is *The Liberal Religious Brain: From Paul to Obama*. Thandeka's numerous publications in journals include essays in *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, *The International Journal of Practical Theology*, *Harvard Theological Review*, *Process Studies*, and *Tikkun*.

Thandeka has taught at San Francisco State University, Meadville Lombard Theological School, Williams College, Harvard Divinity School, and Brandeis University, and has been a Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center at Stanford University and a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Process Studies at Claremont School of Theology in Claremont California and Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Before receiving her doctorate in philosophy of religion and theology from the Claremont Graduate University, Thandeka was an Emmy award-winning television producer for sixteen years. She was given the IXhosa name Thandeka, which means "beloved," by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 1984.



Photo: Merrel D. Booker, Jr.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Tyna Culbertson	Craig Mayfield
Rick Tarin	Elaine Wildman
Vivian Walz	Dillon Watts
Alissa Schmassmann	Eric Schmassmann

UPDATE TO APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST

Happy Birthday to Mick Thomas Laxson
Born at 4:44pm, April 28, 2010

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

PLANNED PARENTHOOD VOLUNTEER NIGHT

On **Wednesday, May 19 from 7 to 8:30 pm**, please join us for Planned Parenthood Volunteer Night at UUCOC. We will be stuffing bags that they distribute at workshops, seminars, etc. This will be an intergenerational service project to show our support for this important non-profit healthcare provider. Contact Amy at (214) 946-4770 for more information.

A few Planned Parenthood of North Texas Facts:

The majority of patients are 20-29 years old, earn less than \$300 per week and have no health insurance.

PPNT does more cervical cancer screenings than any other healthcare provider in Texas.

PPNT serves men as well as women.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

UUCOC will treat local police, firefighters and EMTs to a pancake breakfast on **Saturday, May 29**, starting at 7am. This year, *everyone* is invited. Breakfast is free for First Responders—\$5 for everybody else.

Dallas Smith is back at the griddle, and we have room for many more helpers! Yes, it's an early start to a Saturday, but it's great community outreach, very much appreciated, and fun! Please see Gene Dailey to volunteer.

CHURCH GARAGE SALE BIG SUCCESS!

A big thank you to everyone who donated time, energy, and STUFF—and to the shoppers! We made \$1412! A special thank you goes to Claudia Klipp for all her hard work in making this happen. We're \$1412 closer to a new roof for Hope.

Oak Cliff Earth Day 2010

Cold and wet, but still a success
Thank you to all the volunteers who made it possible!



BOARD BRIEFS

A Very Short Summary of Board Activities

Kathy Grey, Board Secretary

SPECIAL MEETING of BOARD and ENDOWMENT FUND MANAGERS – 3/12/2010

Concerns: Financial shortfall remains from 2009; we need \$6600 to pay our association dues, which are due June 30; we are facing the expense of replacing the roof of Hope, plus other needed repairs/improvements

Motion passed to authorize the board to pursue a combination of loans, capital campaigns, and grants to create a fund that will pay back the endowment, take care of the necessary physical needs we have, cover the shortfall, and give us a good shot at doubling the church. Mark will organize cottage meetings to begin a dialogue with church members.

APRIL BOARD MEETING – 3/27/2010

Discussion continued regarding payment of association dues. Why do we pay dues? Kimberlyn will prepare an article (*included in this newsletter—please read*) to answer this question. In recognition of the importance of remaining a fair share contributor, the board agreed that we must pay the dues.

Mark presented an **energy audit** prepared by Hoyt West. This information will be shared with the congregation to fuel discussion of construction and maintenance issues that impact our carbon footprint and our bottom line.

Cottage Meetings: May 6, 9, 13, and 20.

Next board meeting: May 18

MAY AT UUCOC

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SATURDAY
						Tap Dance Class 1 11:00am- 1:00pm Saturday Night at the Movies 7:00pm
Choir Rehearsal 9:00am 2 Worship Service 10:00am RE 11:15am Common Threads 11:15am Theater Outing 2:00pm	3 A Course in Miracles 7:30pm	4 Social Action Film Festival 7:00pm GARBAGE!	5 Sacred Text Study Group: The Bible 7:00pm	COTTAGE MEETING 6 7:30pm Choir 7:15pm	7 RE Teacher Meeting 8 Time TBA Tap Dance Class 11:00am- 1:00pm Games Night 6:30pm	
9 Worship Service 10:00am RE 11:15am Common Threads 11:15am COTTAGE MEETING 1:00pm	10 A Course in Miracles 7:30pm	11 Women's Birthday Dinner 6:30pm	12 Sacred Text Study Group: The Bible 7:00pm	COTTAGE MEETING 13 7:30pm Choir 7:15pm	14 15 Tap Dance Class 11:00am- 1:00pm	
Worship Service 10:00 16 (String Group performs) RE 11:15am Common Threads 11:15am Social Justice 12:15pm	17 A Course in Miracles 7:30pm	18 Coordinating Council Meeting 6:30pm Board Meeting 7:30pm	19 Planned Parenthood Volunteer Night 7:00-8:30pm	COTTAGE MEETING 20 7:30pm	21 Deadline for June newsletter submissions	NTAUUS Board Mtg 22 at UUCOC 10:30am FAMILY PLACE BENEFIT 50s Sock Hop! 7:00pm RE Service Project: Child Care During Sock Hop
Choir Rehearsal 9:00am 23 Worship Service 10:00 NO RE today Pot Luck Lunch 11:30am followed by ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	24 A Course in Miracles 7:30pm	25 26 Sacred Text Study Group: The Bible 7:00pm	27 Choir 7:15pm	28 29 POLICE, FIRE and EMT PANCAKE BREAKFAST All invited! 7:00am		
Worship Service 10:00 – 11:00am 30 Religious Education 11:15am – noon Common Threads 11:15am	31 A Course in Miracles 7:30pm	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: May 23, after Pot Luck Lunch Includes election of 2010/11 officers and voting on budget Newsletter Submissions: Please email your June info by May 21 to kmgrey2@tx.rr.com				

COVENANT AND ACTIVITY GROUPS –

A great way to get to know others with similar interests!

COMMON THREADS COVENANT GROUP

Explore the art, science, and therapeutic value of knitting and other fiber arts. Info: Kimberlyn commonthreads@oakcliffuu.org

A COURSE IN MIRACLES is a universal, self-study spiritual thought system. Faith lobby. For more info, contact Dee at (214) 870-8955.

STUDY OF SACRED TEXTS: The Bible
Myth? Historical document? Great poetry? Bad prose? All of the above? None of the above? Join us to read, discuss, debate. Hope Chapel. Contact: Mark at (214) 755-4355.

UU SINGERS REHEARSAL

Join the fun! More info from Music Director Glorian at (214) 372-2892.

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Hosted by Claudia and Jim, 945 Cannady Circle, Cedar Hill 75104 (972) 291-7102

TAP DANCE COVENANT GROUP

All you need is a pair of hard-soled shoes, and a cane, walking stick or broom stick. Every Saturday, except 4th Saturday of the month, 11:00am to 1:00pm. Glorian: (214) 372-2892.

GAMES NIGHT - Home of Barbara Kalley
RSVP to Barbara at 469-877-7321 or email her at another_uu@sbcglobal.net

WOMEN'S BIRTHDAY NIGHT OUT

Dinner out to celebrate birthdays that month. RSVP to Mary at (972) 891-2830.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Meets monthly to plan activities. Contact Rachel Betzen at (214) 274-7455 for info.

New Activity Group!

MIDWEEK MOVIE POSSE

Have time during the week to see films that might be "off the radar"? Contact Rev. Mark at (214) 755-4315 for more information.

UUCOC owes \$6600 in dues before June 30

WHY PAY ASSOCIATION DUES?

Each year, UUCOC pays Fair Share dues to three UU associations – local, regional, and national.



1) North Texas Association of Unitarian Universalist Societies (NTAUUS) www.ntauus.org

2009/10 Fair Share Contribution: \$7.00/member

Grants our church has received since 2004: \$54,526.00

NTAUUS promotes the exchange of information and ideas among local congregations and, with annual grants to member congregations, provides financial support to promote and grow UU congregations in a variety of ways including:

- Providing funds for mortgages for UU congregations
- Supplying emergency funding for UU societies facing external crises
- Making scholarships available to promote leadership
- Providing funds for Religious Education training programs
- Funding social justice efforts involving multiple congregations such as: co-housing, LGBT pride parades, and leadership training

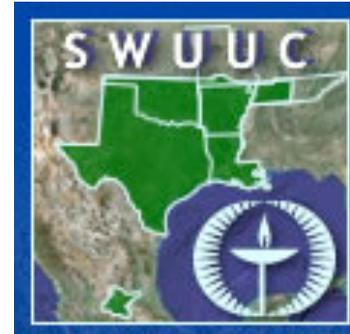


UUCOC Founding Member Elaine Wildman at the 2010 NTAUUS Awards Luncheon

NTAUUS provides technical assistance to its member congregations by identifying needs and locating the resources to meet such needs.

What has NTAUUS done for us lately?

NTAUUS scholarships continue to make it possible for many of our members to attend valuable leadership training programs. This year, **half** of the tuition to attend Dwight Brown will be provided by NTAUUS. Also this year, we received \$13,000 in grants to grow our RE Department and hire a consultant for mission/vision work.



2) Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference of the UUA (SWUUC) www.swuuc.org

2009/10 Fair Share Contribution: \$20/member

2009 Chalice Lighter Grant: \$12,478

SWUUC is charged with supporting member congregations and promoting liberal religion through our region, which includes all of Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, most of Texas (excluding El Paso), parts of Missouri and Tennessee, and the Republic of Mexico. The work of SWUUC is funded in part by the UUA Annual Program Fund and annual dues by member congregations.

Services provided to member congregations include:

- Annual Winter, Spring & Fall Leadership Conferences
- SWUUSI and U-Bar-U Summer Camps
- Annual Dwight Brown Leadership Experience – intensive 6-day program designed to teach and reinforce skills and abilities for leaders and leaders-to-be in UU congregations
- Chalice Lighter Program – Provides grants to member churches with innovative plans for growth and who are implementing programs and processes that historically create growth.
- Congregational Consultant services

What has SWUUC done for us lately?

UUCOC has taken advantage of each of the services listed above, and in the last few years has particularly benefitted from the Leadership Conferences and DBLE. As a direct result of the SWUUC Fall Conference, we are the beneficiary of being in the Champions of Change pilot program, with 18 months of stewardship coaching for FREE.

The Chalice Lighter Grant allowed us to move forward with our Memorial and Meditation Garden, which includes the beautiful gazebo you see through the sanctuary windows.



THE BOTTOM LINE

\$56,878 – Grants received since 2006 (includes 2010 DBLE NTAUUS scholarships)

\$22,298 – Dues paid since 2006 (to all three organizations)



3) Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) www.uua.org

2009/10 Fair Share Contribution: \$56/member

Each member congregation is expected to contribute its “fair share” of the UUA’s annual operating income, based on a per member requested contribution set by the UUA Board. To fulfill this expectation, it is important for the congregation to plan ahead in the annual budgeting process.

When you provide for your Fair Share contribution in your annual budget:

- You can take pride in doing your part to fund the work of Unitarian Universalism in congregations and in the wider world.
- You can take pride in doing your part to fund the Washington, DC office, which brings our liberal religious voice to the public discourse at the seat of our government.
- You can take pride in doing your part to fund the Beacon Press, a respected leader publishing books on a wide range of relevant and timely topics, and Skinner House, which publishes books and curricula resources of particular interest for UUs
- You can take pride in doing your part to fund the *UU WORLD* Magazine and the online UU World Weekly <http://www.uuworld.org/> which bring news and stories of congregations living our values into our UU homes and link us together.
- You can take pride in doing your part to fund the collective services of our congregations like those that develop curricula for our Religious Education programs, credential UU ministers and religious education professionals, and more.
- You can take pride in doing your part to fund the UUA website, including the online InterConnections resource library, e-mail lists, and stewardship information.
- You can take pride in doing your part to fund efforts promoting growth of UUism
- You can take pride in supporting your District by contributing to both Annual Program Fund and District Dues, since it relies on both sources of funding for its staff, programs, and consulting services.



Carrying banners from UUA with other NTAUUS churches at the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, 2009

In case you need more:

10 WAYS YOUR ANNUAL PROGRAM FUND “FAIR SHARE” CONTRIBUTION GROWS OUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FAITH

- 10.** You teach your congregation that we truly are called together as one association of congregations and that our greatest strength is not individual but communal. Together, we overcome fear, alienation, and loneliness, creating a better today and a more hopeful future.
- 9.** You encourage generosity by modeling generosity.
- 8.** You connect your congregation to great stories of our Unitarian Universalist living faith all around the world.
- 7.** Your congregation’s “fair share” gift models individual right relationship in expending our individual resources.
- 6.** You strengthen the connection between your congregation and our family of associated congregations – our Unitarian Universalist Association.
- 5.** When people see what our Unitarian Universalist faith is doing through their giving around the world, it encourages and develops their stewardship and their sense of making a difference.
- 4.** You are having the greatest effect on our home mission in planning new congregations, strengthening existing congregations and reaching people with the good news of Unitarian Universalism.
- 3.** When you give at the “fair share” level to our Association, you model your congregation living our values of interdependence, mutuality, cooperation, and hope.
- 2.** You strengthen the identity of your congregation as a mission- and service-focused people.
- 1.** Your gifts enable your congregation to expand our living faith values of love, reason, freedom and justice – healing and transforming our world here and now.

Adapted by Rev. Naomi King,
UUMA Liaison to APF and
Minister to The River of Grass UU Congregation, Plantation, Florida

***Why contribute to the Annual Program Fund?
Because we can be and do more together than we can be and do on our own.***