



The Latitudinarian

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley

REFLECTIONS BY REV. ERIC POSA

AUGUST 2010

Mark Your Calendars!

- Sun., Aug. 1, 12:00pm—RE Committee Mtg
- Thurs., Aug. 5, 7:00pm—Social Justice Committee Meeting
- Sat., Aug. 7, 7:00pm, Con-
tradance
- Sun., Aug. 8, 12:00pm—
Worship Committee Meeting
- Wed., Aug. 11, 7:00pm—UU
Drum Circle
- Sat., Aug. 14, 12:00pm—
Chick Flicks
- Tues., Aug. 17, 7:00pm—
Events Committee Meeting
- Thurs., Aug. 19, 7:00pm—
UUCBV Board Meeting
- Sat., Aug. 21, 9:30am—
Church Pantry
- Sun., Aug. 22, 12:00pm—
UUWF Lunch/Retreat Plan-
ning
- Thurs., Aug. 26, 7:00pm—
Finance Committee Meeting
- Sat., Aug. 28, 1:00pm—
Board of Trustees Retreat

Monthly Theme: **HOSPITALITY**

We know and value ourselves for our radically inclusive hospitality, offering hope and affirmation for all people. (from church Vision statement)

I'm thinking about shaving my head. What do you think?

I should point out this is not a fashion statement, at least not in a traditional sense. Actually, it would be for a good cause. That may sound strange, but it's true. The good cause is called St. Baldrick's Foundation. As their website notes, "St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising event for childhood cancer research." It started just 10 years ago, on St. Patrick's Day, when a few executives at an industry party brought in a barber to attend the event and shave their heads, so they could show solidarity with children who lose their hair during cancer treatment. They also solicited donations from friends, family, and others. In the decade since that first event, as the website notes, "At Foundation events all throughout the year, brave volunteers shave their heads, raising funds for childhood cancer research. Like runners in a marathon, "shavees" collect donations from friends, family and associates." Tens of millions of dollars have been raised at over a thousand similar events worldwide, by people willing to shave their heads for children with cancer.

One such event is coming to Houston, on Saturday, Sept. 11. It's being organized

by UU seminary student Joanna Crawford, who guest preached at our church earlier this year. I will be there, along with many other people who support increased research for treating, preventing, and eliminating cancer in children – a field that generally goes woefully underfunded, in comparison with research into other forms of cancer. I'll be at the Houston event, and may just shave my head, too.

But I'll leave that choice up to you. I will be soliciting donations every Sunday, from now through Labor Day weekend. You can vote with your donations: on your check or donation envelope, write "Shave" or "Don't Shave" to indicate whether or not you want me to shave my head. Whichever gets the most dollars, that's what I'll do. If you can't make it to church, please mail your donation care of the church office:

St. Baldrick's
c/o UUCBV
305 Wellborn Road
College Station, TX 77840

...and remember to write "Shave" or "Don't Shave" on the check. All money, from both groups, will be donated on Sept. 11 to St. Baldrick's Foundation, in person, by me.

And to find out whether I leave my hair in Houston...well, you'll just have to come to church on Sept. 12 to see that.

See you in church!

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

August 1.....	"The Interdependent WWW"
August 8.....	"Signs and Wonders"
August 15	"Where Two or More are Gathered"
August 22.....	TBA
August 29.....	Hymn Sing

9:30am—Spiritual Conversations
10:30am Service · Join Us for Coffee Hour After Service

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN BY HARRIET VARDIMAN SMTH

Report on our Public Broadcasting Underwriting Initiative

Back in the spring, several UUC-BV members made generous donations to launch a new public relations initiative for the church, with the dual purpose of making our church's name and mission more widely known in the community, while at the same time supporting public broadcasting. For members who make regular donations to public broadcasting anyway, this is a great way to make those dollars do double duty!

For an underwriting donation of \$800, KAMU radio (90.9 FM) underwriting spots are running from June 7 through September 30. Those spots are scheduled to air weekly in connection with **Morning Edition**, **All Things Considered**, or **Fresh Air**; once per month in connection with **Prairie Home Companion**, **Wait Wait Don't Tell Me**, or **To the Best of Our Knowledge**; and two extra "Run of Schedule" (aka random) spots per month.

We will donate \$375 to KEOS radio (89.1 FM), with underwriting spots scheduled to begin in August and continue through November, running three times a week in connection with **BBC News Hour**, **BBC The World**, and Sunday evening music programming. If you haven't listened to **Sunday Girl** or **Sounds of the Beatles...Expanded** at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. on

Sundays, you are missing local, volunteer music programming that's a real treat!

For another donation of \$600, KAMU-TV underwriting spots will begin running daily from September 1 through October 22. That will just about deplete the funds that have been donated for this purpose to date.

If you would like to see us continue this public relations initiative, please make a donation to the UU Church-Brazos Valley, and specify that it's for the Public Broadcasting Underwriting Initiative. If you have a preference, you can let us know whether you want to support underwriting on KAMU-FM, KAMU-TV, or KEOS-FM.

For underwriting in public broadcasting venues, pretty strict (if somewhat confusing) FCC guidelines regulate when underwriters can be mentioned (only between programs) and limit what the underwriting blurbs can say. We cannot use "comparative, qualitative, or otherwise overtly promotional descriptions". The statement we are using for our underwriting spots in all three venues is as follows, incorporating language from our Mission Statement.

This portion of today's programming is brought to you in part by the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley, a church that seeks to make meaning, make connections and a make a difference. Located at 305 Wellborn Road, just south of A&M Campus or online at www.brazosUU.org.

BOARD LEADERSHIP

Board of Trustees:

Harriet Smith (harriet@deancode.com).....President
Sue Bloomfield (sbloom52@gmail.com)President Elect
Rob McGeachin (rmcgeach@lib-gw.tamu.edu) Past President
Joe Collins (uucbvwebmaster@gmail.com) Secretary
Gaye Webb (angels@hal-pc.org) Treasurer

At-Large Trustees:

- Martha Scott (mlrscott@aol.com) • Steve Wikse (bonniewikse@verizon.net)
- Kathy Wheeler (khmwdvm@aol.com) • Pat Childress (pachildress@verizon.net)

CELEBRATIONS AND MEMORIALS BY GAYE WEBB

Many thanks to the following persons for **their** generous contribution:

- Ken and Kathi Appelt, to the music fund, in celebration of Kathi's birthday
- Davis Fahlquist, in honor of his birthday

Congratulations on achieving these important milestones, and thank you for including your church in your recognition of these very special occasions.

BOARD BRIEFS BY JOE COLLINS

At its regular monthly meeting, the Board of Trustees took the following official actions:

- The Board activated a strategic planning team consisting of Katy Womack, Mark Abel, John Ivy, Angela Bies, and Eric Posa to develop a strategic plan during this fiscal year.
- Re-designated David Pate as the church agent, the point of contact with the State of Texas for our status as a nonprofit incorporated entity.

Other business discussed by the Board included:

- Developing a schedule with Social Justice for future split the plate offerings.

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- Future child care coordination as Lucy Deckard will be stepping down this August.
- Organizing a board work party to clean and organize the church kitchen.
- Placing church documents such as the bylaws and personnel forms on the church website.
- Creating official Church e-mail addresses for church staff and standing committees.
- Planning the Board Meet and Greet event to take place on November 21.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Mary Ellen Pate (mepatenp@hotmail.com)Chair, Caring Committee
Trish Ponder (Spydurhllw@aol.com)Chair, Finance Committee
Katie Womack (kwomack@tamu.edu)Chair, Membership Committee
Kathy Wheeler (khmwdvm@aol.com)Chair, Committee on Ministry
Ken Appelt (klappelt@verizon.net).....Chair, Property Committee
Marcia Bastian (savanah_happy@yahoo.com)Chair, Religious Education Committee
Mark Abel (mrabel97@yahoo.com)Chair, Social Justice Committee
Carolyn Clark (cclark@tamu.edu)Chair, Worship Committee
Martha Scott (mlrscott@aol.com)President, UU Women's Federation

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS BY THE CARING COMMITTEE

Summer may bring us quieter days but our lives continue to be a mix of everyday events, moments of celebration, and times of concern and sorrow, and this past month is no different.

We'll begin with the joys:

David Pate is recovering well from his surgery at M. D. Anderson for prostate cancer on June 30th and we hope he'll be back among us soon. He won't receive the pathology report until his follow-up appointment in mid August and we are hoping for good news.

Caitlin Collins has two teeth now and is almost "ready to run"—watch out, Melissa and Joe!

We were happy to see former members, Bruce Ngo and Tanya Gustafson, on July 18th, along with their handsome son, Alex.

Shannon Smith, former member and daughter of deceased member, Edna Smith, is recovering well from her emergency appendectomy in Washington, DC.

Sylvia Harmon-Jones was hospitalized this month for complications from her diabetes and had her gall bladder and appendix removed. We're happy to report that she's recovering well and we're hoping to see her back at church soon.

Katie Womack's brother is also making a good recovery after being hospitalized, and Katie continues to visit him in Athens, TX, on weekends to provide support.

And sorrows:

Ken Appelt's friend, who was a great support to Ken's brother during his treatments for cancer, has been diagnosed with lung cancer himself.

Lisa Peterson's aunt Debbie, who lives in California, has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Carolyn Clark's beloved oldest cat, Abbey, was diagnosed with advanced cancer recently—Carolyn would appreciate your prayers for both of them.

Tamra Shipman asked us to remember her friend in Argentina, Maria-Eugenia Brisson, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and is facing bilateral mastectomies.

We are one community and the joys and concerns of each are shared by all. If we missed anyone, please forgive our oversight. Our thoughts are with all UU members and friends who are dealing with illness and loss among those they love. Please let us know how we can be of help.

The Caring Committee:

Mary Ellen Pate (Chair), 696-6142

Rev. Eric Posa, 209-4019

Pat Childress, 690-8613

Carolyn Clark, 823-0676

Sonja Allbritton, 693-7584

Lauralee Phillips, 220-5645

Joe Castiglioni, 690-0640

Carole Johnson, 690-6561

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) TEACHER RECRUITMENT

Yes, it's that time again! RE teacher recruitment. The RE Committee is developing an exciting year fresh with ideas and energy and we need YOU to help make it a reality. For more information on serving as an RE teacher please contact one of the following people: Marcia Bastian (savanah_happy@yahoo.com), Molly Ward (mollyward@gmail.com), Harriet Smith (harriet@deancode.com), or Bonnie Wikse (bonniewikse@verizon.net).

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE BY MARK ABEL

We're really pleased that so many were able to take advantage of our Equal Exchange "Sizzling Summer Sale". Last month we offered our coffee and chocolate at reduced prices; and I've got to say that a large number took advantage of those great deals. More importantly, thank you for your continuing support of organic, fair trade foods and Social Justice.

We need to really thank Lauralee Phillips, Martha Scott and Gaye Webb for being our first-ever volunteers for a Sunday with Pastor Lenni Lissberger and Pilgrims in the Park. In keeping with our principles and mission, we are glad to help support Pastor Lenni's ministry to our homeless neighbors, brothers and sisters in Bryan/College Station. Talk to Lauralee, Martha or Gaye about their rewarding experience and consider volunteering the first Sunday of every odd (we're U-U's after all) month at Pilgrims in the Park. Also, thank you, as this would not be possible with your generous donations to Social Justice's "Change for Change" fund.

Social Justice is also pleased to announce that, once again, our church is a member of the Brazos Valley Coalition for the Homeless. Visit their website at www.bvch.org. Using "Change for Change" monies, we shall be helping with their annual, "Point in Time Count". This is their annual census, taken in January, of the homeless population in the entire Brazos Valley. The "Count" helps guide planning and resource utilization through the year. This is something we're glad to again be apart of.

Emily Burgess will be leading the charge for exploring the reinstatement of a "Green Sanctuary" Committee. While not only absorbing the 121 page UUA manual, Emily will be looking at the congregation's interest in greener habits and ways in which we might be able to engage in more sustainable practices. First, she plans to do an energy

audit. Next she would like input from each committee. Social Justice looks forward to at least laying down some good stepping stones towards becoming a "Green Sanctuary" accredited congregation in the near future.

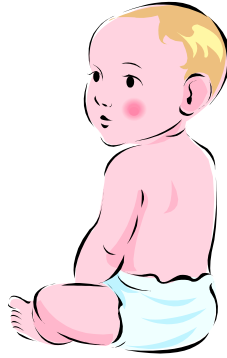
Lisa Peterson volunteered to be our UUA "Standing on the Side of Love" Coordinator. Standing on the Side of Love, "is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and all are welcomed to join." Thanks to a generous donation by Jerry Wagnon, we've acquired a resource packet from them for the church's use. Whether it is immigration reform or issues of equality, we look forward to you joining us in "Standing on the Side of Love". Please visit their website: www.standingonthesideoflove.org.

Jerry Wagnon will be Social Justice's Chili Cook-Off Team Captain for the upcoming church event. Let me tell yah, he's already fired-up with a variety of organically grown chiles and free-range beef ready to go!

We're really pleased to report on July's Church Pantry volunteer experience. The U-U's were there first (is that a U-U first?); not only that but we were the largest volunteer group there. Go Team U-U! However, as was mentioned in last month's Social Justice Lat. article, at the Church Pantry, there is a desperate shortage of disposable diapers. So, with your help and generosity, Social Justice will be kicking off a month-long Diaper Drive in August. See the flyer below and don't forget the wipes!

DIAPER DRIVE

"Do Your Doody"



August 2010

To Benefit

The Brazos Church Pantry

Any Size, Any Brand, and Open

Packages Welcome!

Please pick up a package or two of disposable diapers and/or baby wipes next time you shop and bring them to church any Sunday in August. They will be delivered to the Brazos Church Pantry at the end of the month. Help those in need to care for their little ones.

Sponsored by the UU Social Justice Committee

For more info:

e-mail Marcia at savanah_happy@yahoo.com

or Lauralee at infoscout2000@aol.com

Thank You!

AUGUST 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am—Spiritual Conversations 10:30am—Service 12:00pm—RE Com Mtg 3:30pm—BBA meditation 4:30-BBA Book Club	2 7:00pm-BBA-Meditation, Reading and Chanting	3 10:00am-Bagel Break	4 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice	5 7:00pm—Social Justice Committee Mtg	6	7 7:00pm-Contradance
8 9:30am—Spiritual Conversations 10:30am— Service 12:00pm—Worship Com Mtg 3:30pm—BBA meditation 4:30-BBA Book Club	9 7:00pm-BBA-Meditation, Reading and Chanting	10 10:00am-Bagel Break	11 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm-UU Drum Circle	12	13	14 12:00pm-Chick Flicks
15 9:30am—Spiritual Conversations 10:30am—Service 3:30pm—BBA meditation 4:30-BBA Book Club	16 7:00pm-BBA-Meditation, Reading and Chanting	17 10:00am-Bagel Break 7:00pm—Events Com- mittee	18 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice	19 7:00pm-UUCBV Board Meeting	20	21 9:30am-Church Pantry
22 9:30am—Spiritual Conversations 10:30am— Service 12:00pm—UUF Lunch & Re- treat Planning 3:30pm—BBA meditation	23 7:00pm-BBA-Meditation, Reading and Chanting	24 10:00am-Bagel Break	25 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice	26 7:00pm-Finance Com- mittee Meeting	27	28 1:00pm—Board of Trustees Retreat
29 9:30am—Spiritual Conversations 10:30am-Service 3:30pm—BBA meditation 4:30-BBA Book Club	30 7:00pm-BBA-Meditation, Reading and Chanting	31 10:00am-Bagel Break				

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Unitarian Universalist Church of
the Brazos Valley**

305 Wellborn Rd.,
College Station, TX 77840
(979) 696-5285/brazosuu@verizon.net

UUCBV Office Hours:
Tuesday 9:30am-1:30pm
Wednesday & Thursday 12:00pm-4:00pm

Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday 10am - 2pm
and Thursday 2pm - 6pm
A&M Campus Hours: Monday 12pm - 4pm



Address Service Requested

UUCBV Covenant

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley, covenant with one another to:

- ...affirm and promote an open, safe, and respectful environment in which to come together for worship and fellowship,
- ...encourage spiritual and intellectual growth in our children, youth, and adults,
- ...respect one another's viewpoints and experiences,
- ...offer our individual talents and resources, to be honest about what we can and cannot do, and celebrate our connections to one another and the sacred circle of life.

Sermon Podcasts

Now you can hear recorded sermons from our church online! Go to:

http://www.brazosuu.org/articles/selected_sermons

...and click the link to choose which sermon you wish to hear!

(Also available through iTunes - see website for details)