



The Latitudinarian

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

REFLECTIONS BY REV. ERIC POSA

**FEBRUARY
2010**

Mark Your Calendars!

- Tues., Feb. 2, 6:00pm—Property Committee Meeting
- Thurs., Feb. 4, 7:00pm— Social Justice Committee Mtg
- Sun., Feb. 6, 10:00am— Conversation on RE
- Sat., Feb. 6, 7:00pm— Contradance
- Sun., Feb. 7, 12:00pm— RE Committee Mtg
- Sun., Feb. 7, 12:00pm—Harmony: A Celebration of Peace
- Wed., Feb. 10, 7:00pm— UU Drum Circle
- Thurs., Feb. 11, 7:00pm— UUCBV Board Mtg
- Sat., Feb. 13, 12:00pm—Chick Flicks
- Sun., Feb. 14, 12:00pm— Worship Committee Mtg
- Thurs., Feb. 18, 7:00pm—Finance Committee Meeting
- Sun., Feb. 20, 9:30am—Church Pantry
- Sun., Feb. 20, 10:00am—Canvass Training Workshop
- Sun., Feb. 21, 12:00pm—UUWF Meeting & Potluck Luncheon
- Mon., Feb. 22, 7:00pm—Canvass Training Workshop
- Sat., Feb. 27, 10:00am—Exploring Leadership

Monthly Theme: Love

We value ourselves, and are valued, for our love, warmth and compassion, celebrating life's joys and offering comfort for its sorrows. (from UUCBV Vision statement)

In the novel *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, the famous young wizard worries about why Professor Dumbledore, the headmaster of his school, has been avoiding him all year, despite their once-close relationship. As the book ends, Dumbledore finally explains to Harry that he had been shielding himself from Harry, and from the teen's strange connection to the evil wizard, Voldemort, to protect Harry from further danger. Dumbledore apologizes, telling Harry: "I cared about you too much.... I cared more for your happiness than your knowing the truth.... In other words, I acted exactly as Voldemort expects we fools who love to act."

Of course, only evil fictional characters truly believe that everyone who loves is a fool. Yet many of us can think of times that we've seen someone (perhaps ourselves) be motivated to foolish acts out of the love they feel for another, be it romantic love, familial love, love of friends, etc. When our feelings of love for another are not tempered with "enough sense to come in out of the rain" (as my mother has long said), we sometimes are moved to act foolishly, out of strong emotions that are not balanced by other concerns.

Perhaps the problem is how we look at love. Our culture encourages us to view love as a

simple-but-strong sentiment, an intense emotion experienced as we think about, see, and relate (in various ways) with our beloved. (This same contemporary culture strives to convince us that love is best expressed through buying chocolate, flowers, cards, etc. – especially on Valentine's Day.) But I think all of this misses the mark. If we focused just on how another person makes us feel, then we're focusing more on ourselves than on them, and we turn the other person into an object to use for our own satisfaction.

Yes, the feeling we call love is real – I'm not suggesting we ignore such feelings – but love is also far more than just a feeling. Love is not just a noun to describe an emotion, it's also a verb: it's something we *do*. It involves not just relating with intimacy to another person, but also valuing that person as important – with inherent worth and dignity – and also expressing genuine acts of care for them

When Dumbledore avoided Harry to protect him from Voldemort, he may have felt better about himself, but he wasn't treating Harry the way Harry needed – he was valuing his feelings for Harry over Harry's real needs, which caused his acts of care to be misdirected. But when we not only relate intimately to other people, but value them deeply, then we are more likely to express care for them genuinely – in other words, we love them well.

See you in church!

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

- February 7 "With Body and Spirit United"
- February 14 "You Are Loved" (guest sermon by Joanna Crawford)
- February 21 "The Paramount Principles of UU: First and Last"
..... (preaching exchange with Lenni Lissberger)
- February 28 "Hold On to the Good, Change for the Better"

**9:30 am Religious Education
10:30am Service · Join Us for Coffee Hour After Service**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY ROB MCGEACHIN

The Board and I at our last meeting discussed and planned a great way for those of us that love and donate to public broadcasting to double the benefit of our donations in support of it. Public broadcasting seeks groups to underwrite the programming and in return give brief on air "credit" in recognition with descriptive messages about the underwriters. So if many of us that regularly contribute to any of the local public broadcasting stations, KAMU-FM, KAMU-TV and/or KEOS-FM would donate the money to the new UUCBV Public Broadcasting Underwriting Fund instead we could get double the benefit. The money would still be going to public broadcasting and would get publicity on the air for the Church too. You can still designate which of the three stations you want it to benefit or if you are like me and give to all three you can do that too. We would like to raise as much as we can during the month of February but if you have already given for this year to public broadcasting we will take your donations at any time you are ready to make them.

To give you an idea of what it takes to underwrite, at KAMU-FM it is \$10 to \$15 per credit depending on time of day you want it aired and \$150 to get underwriting credit for a full day of broadcasting. For KAMU-TV it is \$35 to \$50 per credit depending on non-prime or prime time airing of the credit. At KEOS it is \$100 to \$120 for 8 credits in a month, the equivalent of \$12.50 to \$15 per on air credit.

I know that often the on air fund drives give "premiums" in return for contributions and mention donor names on the air, but I would rather get the premium of publicity for the Church and the mention of its name, location, and activities so we can make connections with the local community. But for those who would like a premium, Kathi Appelt has graciously offered a signed copy of one of her books, such as The Underneath, for a donation of \$50 or more while supplies last.

BOARD BRIEFS BY LISA PETERSON, BOARD SECRETARY

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

- No official actions were taken this month.

Other business discussed by the Board included:

- A request to support Cindy Harmon-Jones in her proposed application for the UUA's Music Leadership Credentialing program.

Participation in the certification process will entail attending the next three annual UU Musicians' Network and associated certification workshops. The board will discuss this request further at its next meeting.

- Finding ways to better keep up with visitors and members.

CELEBRATIONS AND MEMORIALS BY GAYE WEBB

Many thanks to the following person for his generous contribution:

- Robert McGeachin, donation to the Capital Improvement Fund in honor of his 31st wedding anniversary and his wife's birthday.

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

MINISTRY NOTES

Adult Religious Education: We continue the Spirit in Practice curriculum at our 9:30 AM Sunday Adult RE sessions in the church's Jesse Coon Room. You need not have attended previous sessions to join us. This month we focus on Body Practices:
Feb. 7: The Story of Mind Meets Body
Feb. 14: Varieties of Body Practices
Feb. 21: Yoga as a Spiritual Practice
Feb. 28: Mindful Eating

Split-the-Plate: On the second Sunday of the month, February 14, we will once again Split the Plate, sharing our offering with a worthy charity in our Brazos Valley community. This month, in honor of African-American History Month, we will split or plate with the Brazos Valley African-American Museum. Please come and give generously.

Conversation on Religious Education: This year we are going through a transition in our religious education program. We have had our Interim DRE, Mary K. Isaacs, with us for several months, and will begin the search this spring for her successor, who we hope to have in place by the end of May (when Mary K.'s year with us ends). But what do we need from our DRE? More importantly, what do we envision for the future of religious education in our church? These are questions for the entire church to consider, including (but not limited to) parents, RE teachers, students, and lay leaders.

So we will have a forum in our church sanctuary, on Saturday, February 6, 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM. Please join us that day to add your input, and hear from others, in an open and healthy discussion on the future of religious education at UUCBV.

Gearing Up for Stewardship: As always, March is our Stewardship month, when we ask our members to explore their commitment to the church, and make their financial commitment for the upcoming year. This year, we are officially starting March a day early! Please join us in worship on Sunday, Feb. 28, as we explore the value of our church, and how to support the best of it, while always striving to make it even better. We invite members to sign up for a canvass dinner; watch our weekly e-cast and Sunday announcements for more details. If you've signed up to be a canvasser, please join us for canvasser training on EITHER:

Sat., Feb. 20 @ 10:00 AM – Noon

Mon., Feb. 22, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Exploring Leadership: Are you interested in leadership? Interested on becoming more of a leader: in our church, at work, elsewhere? What are some qualities for effective leaders, esp. qualities consistent with Unitarian Universalist values? Come join us at church, on Saturday, Feb. 27, 10:00 AM – Noon, for a workshop on Exploring Leadership. All church leaders, prospective leaders, and interested members & friends are welcome; contact Rev. Eric Posa for more information.

BOARD LEADERSHIP

Board of Trustees:

Rob McGeachin (rmcgeach@lib-gw.tamu.edu) President

Harriet Smith (harriet@deancode.com).....President-elect

John Ivy (johnivy@tamu.edu)..... Past President

Lisa Peterson (lisaspeterson@gmail.com) Secretary

Gaye Webb (angels@hal-pc.org) Treasurer

At-Large Trustees:

- Martha Scott (mlrscott@aol.com) • Steve Wikse (bonniewikse@verizon.net)
- David Pate (tamuaviator@msn.com) • Pat Childress (pachildress@verizon.net)

STEWARDSHIP MATTERS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greetings! Your Finance Committee is hard at work these days, however it takes many hands to make sure that the steward's ship is afloat. This spring is turning into a busy one and we have a lot of opportunities for everyone to participate:

1. We're currently gearing up for the annual pledge campaign. For that, we still need a couple more canvassers. Canvassers will each attend a canvass workshop on either Saturday, Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon, or Monday, Feb. 22 from 7-9 p.m. After that, each canvasser will attend a potluck dinner and will be there to help answer questions about the budget and to collect pledges.

2. In February, we'll have a sign-up sheet for potluck dinner hosts. We need 10-12 hosts to offer their homes once during the month of March. Easy peasy.

3. SERVICE AUCTION. Last year, we included a line item in our budget that called for fund-raising of \$6500 in order to keep from running a deficit budget. To date, we've raised a little less than half of that amount. The Finance Committee

believes that a service auction could help close that gap. We haven't held a service auction in several years, but those of you who have been around for a while know how much fun they can be. If you're interested in serving on the service auction committee, please let us know. We'll need all hands on deck to make this a successful event. We've tentatively scheduled this for mid-April and will let you know the firm date ASAP.

4. Many, many thanks to Gary Hart who served on the Finance Committee for several years and has decided to retire. At the end of this fiscal year, Kathi Appelt will be stepping off of this committee too. That makes our crew mighty thin. We hope you'll consider joining this essential committee. It's a great way to serve the congregation and to make sure that we sail into the next decade with our financial sails fully furled.

If you're interested in serving in any or all of the above opportunities, please contact Kathi Appelt (kcappelt@verizon.net) or Kathy Wheeler (KHMWDVM@aol.com).

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Mary Ellen Pate (mepaten@hotmail.com)Chair, Caring Committee
Kathi Appelt (kcappelt@verizon.net)Chair, Finance Committee
Kathy Wheeler (khwmdvm@aol.com)Chair, Finance Committee
Katie Womack (kwomack@tamu.edu)Chair, Membership Committee
Sue Bloomfield (sbloom52@gmail.com)Chair, Committee on Ministry
Ken Appelt (klappelt@verizon.net).....Chair, Property Committee
Lisa Cairns (lcairns@alumni.uchicago.edu).....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

"I've learned...that love, not time, heals all wounds". Andy Rooney

Good words when we feel helpless in the face of devastating, earthquakes, war, economic downturns, sickness, hunger, and death the world over. Many people are running out of time. We can't give them time, but we can give them love; it's inexpensive; portable; and it doesn't take much time.

Following are concerns we have for some of our members who need our love:

Gaye Webb, our church, treasurer was taken to the hospital after a one car accident. She is home now, but is without transportation.

Little Caitlin Collins, daughter of Melissa and Joe Collins was in the hospital with her mother with an alarming respiratory illness. They are recovering at home now.

Bob Kenefick was also hospitalized. He is recovering at home.

Mary Ellen Pate's sister's father-in-law was diagnosed with leukemia and will have hospice care when he is discharged from the hospital.

Sue Bloomfield asks for our thoughts and prayers for her nephew, Allen, who is battling cancer.

Life, however bad it may seem, is not all gloom and doom. The sunshine comes out and gives us joys to celebrate:

Harriet Smith visited her sister who had suffered a terrible injury to her foot after a freak accident is doing much better.

Kenneth Appelt and his two brothers took their 90 year old mother to the Schulenberg Dance Hall to hear music. The hall has been refurbished to its previous glory and Wilma remembers dancing there as a high school teenager.

Sharon Boston had two wonderful joys. She was honored with induction into the National Multiple Sclerosis Hall of Fame on January 23 in a ceremony in Houston.

Sharon's Grandson, Atticus Andrew, was born to Jessica and Jon Kutner, her daughter and son-in-law.

Lucy Deckard, and her family are back home. We are so happy to have them back. Lucy has retired from the University and will be opening her own consulting office.

That's all for now folks, but please let us know if you need any help . Sometimes we miss your concerns, but we do want you to know that we love you. We are here to help.

The Caring Committee
By Pat Childress

The Caring Committee:

Mary Ellen Pate (Chair), 696-6142

Rev. Eric Posa, 209-4019

Pat Childress, 690-8613

Carolyn Clark, 823-0676

Judy Hart, 764-7866

Sonja Allbritton, 693-7584

Lauralee Phillips, 220-5645

Joe Castiglioni, 690-0640

Carole Johnson, 690-6561

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE BY JUDY MCCOY

January 31st was the last day to turn in your Guest At Your Table donations. If you didn't turn them in by then, you can make your GAYT contributions online at www.uusc.org. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has a great website that is always interesting, informative and inspiring, as it describes the various national and international social justice campaigns and activities promulgated by our denomination. Currently, the home page has links to make contributions to GAYT as well as to Haiti relief.

Thank you to everyone who contributed gifts for Twin Cities Mission. Also to those who purchased Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate, which supports our committee's projects; items from the Guatemalan women's collective; and holiday cards from UUSC, which supports UUSC programs.

The Social Justice Committee is sponsoring several opportunities to attend and participate in several events and activities in February. Sunday, February 7th we present the Second Annual Harmony Concert for Peace. It will be held at the Hindu Temple just outside Navasota. Our committee has worked with members of the Hindu Temple as well as the Friends Congregational Justice and Missions Committee to present a concert of religious and cultural diversity. It will take place following our worship services. We invite everyone to come. The Temple is beautiful, as is the fellowship hall, where the concert will be performed.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for work at the Church Pantry in January. Our Saturday to volunteer in February is the 20th,

from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 Noon. Volunteers work in the front interviewing clients and updating their data in the computer. Or they work in the back sorting food and preparing and distributing bags for the clients. Sometimes whole families come and work together.

On Sunday, the 21st of February, Rev. Eric will conduct services for the homeless in Neal Park, and Judy McCoy will take breakfast for them. In a pulpit exchange, Lenni Lessberger, a minister of the Friends Congregational Church, who serves as pastor of that ministry, will preach here that morning. The story of how she came to be a minister for the homeless, and of her work meeting their spiritual needs is interesting and inspiring. The Social Justice Committee is paying half of her honorarium from the change for change donations.

People often thank us for our work, but as you can see from this and every other newsletter article we write, we are able to accomplish what we do only because our members are so generous with time and money and services. We are so grateful to you.

The next meeting of the Social Justice Committee will be held Thursday, February 4th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jesse Coon Room. Everyone with an interest in this committee is invited to attend

FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00pm-BBA Meditation, Reading and Chanting	2 10:00am-Bagel Break 6:00pm—Property Com- mittee Meeting	3 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm-Book Club	4 7:00pm-Social Justice Meeting	5	6 10:00am — Conversa- tion on RE 7:00pm-Contradance
7 9:30am-Religious Education 10:30am-Service 12:00pm-RE Com Mtg 3:00pm—BBA 4:30-BBA Book Club	8 7:00pm-BBA Meditation, Reading and Chanting	9 10:00am-Bagel Break	10 12:15pm-BBA Noon Medita- tion 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm—UU Drum Circle	11 7:00pm-UUCBV Board Meeting	12	13 12:00pm-Chick Flicks
14 9:30am-Religious Education 10:30am – Service 12:00pm-Worship Com Mtg 3:00pm—BBA 4:30-BBA Book Club	15 7:00pm-BBA- Meditation, Reading and Chanting	16 10:00am-Bagel Break	17 12:15pm-BBA Noon Medita- tion 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm-Book Club	18	19	20 9:30am-Church Pantry 10:00am-Canvass Training Workshop
21 9:30am-Religious Education 10:30am – Service 12:00pm-UUWF Meeting/ Luncheon 3:00pm—BBA 4:30-BBA Book Club	22 7:00pm-BBA- Meditation, Reading and Chanting 7:00pm- Canvass Train- ing Workshop	23 10:00am-Bagel Break	24 12:15pm-BBA Noon Medita- tion 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice	25	26	27 10:00am—Exploring Leadership
28 9:30am-Religious Education 10:30am – Service 3:00pm—BBA 4:30-BBA Book Club						

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

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College Station, TX 77840
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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.

Conversation on RE
Saturday, February 6, 2010
10:00am-2:30pm
Fellowship Sanctuary
Details on Page 3

Harmony:
A Celebration of Peace Through Music
Sunday, February 7, 2010
12:00 Noon—2:30pm
Location: Shri Omkarnath Temple
23300 State Hwy 6 S, Navasota, TX
For Information:
Phone: Ajay Verma 979-575-9355
Email: Lauralee Phillips infoscout2000@aol.com