



The Latitudinarian

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

**JANUARY
2010**

Mark Your Calendars!

- Sun., Jan. 3, 12:00pm—RE Committee Meeting
- Thurs., Jan. 7, 7:00pm—Social Justice Committee Meeting
- Sat., Jan. 9, 12:00pm—Chick Flicks
- Sat., Jan. 9, 7:00pm—Conradance
- Sun., Jan. 10, 12:00pm—Worship Committee Meeting
- Wed., Jan. 13, 7:00pm—UU Drum Circle
- Thurs., Jan. 14, 7:00pm—UUCBV Board Meeting
- Sun., Jan. 17, 12:00pm—UUWF Meeting/Luncheon
- Thurs., Jan. 21, 7:00pm—Finance Committee Meeting

REFLECTIONS BY REV. ERIC POSA

Monthly Theme—January Transformation

We covenant to encourage spiritual and intellectual growth in our children, youth, and adults. (from church Covenant statement)

We, as a community of faith, seek to make a difference in empowering every person, young and old, to serve others in daily acts great and small, to sustain the world and make it whole. (from church Vision statement)

There is value in spending time with a friend who knows you well, but engages the world in different ways than you do. Suzi and I recently traveled to Denton, where I had lived for many years, to visit an old friend. (I'll call him Steve.) After several hours of discussing politics (by "discussing," I mean ranting), my conversation with him turned to a deeper subject. Just a year or two before my own divorce, Steve also went through a difficult divorce from his wife of many years. Discussing the pain we each experienced during those tough times was cathartic for us both. Even more meaningful, though, was sharing how we each had changed in the 5 or 6 years since our marriages had ended, and observing those changes in each other - especially now that we each are in much happier relationships than we were several years ago.

Here at UUCBV, our theme for this month is transformation. I am convinced that transformation is central to the religious life, and a key spiritual value as well. Indeed, my favorite definition of religion, by the late UU religious scholar Frederick Streng, is "the means to transform life ultimately." These transformations can be gradual ("spiritual and intellectual growth"), or immediate (attaining sudden enlightenment for Zen Buddhists, "accepting Jesus in your heart" for evangelical Christians, etc.). Also, they can happen at the individual level, such as the examples just mentioned, or on a societal or global scale: bringing about "the repair of the world" (tikkun olam) for liberal Jews, or "the kingdom of God on earth" for progressive Christians.

We undergo many changes throughout our lives, be they caused by painful events like divorce, or joyous and fulfilling experiences and actions. I invite you this month, as we enter the new year, to consider which kinds of transformation you seek in your own life, and in the world in which you are part. The better sense we each have of the growth and change we seek, the better able we are to engage the "daily acts great and small" that can change the world, and ourselves, for the better.

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

January 3	"New Beginnings ... Again" (by Carolyn Clark)
January 10	"A Change is Gonna Come"
January 17	"Make of Our Lives a Study"
January 24	"The Right of Conscience"
January 31	Hymn Sing

9:30 am Religious Education

10:30am Service · Join Us for Coffee Hour After Service

MINISTRY'S 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 Mind Practices:

Jan. 3: NO CLASS MEETING

Jan. 10: The Mystic and the Scientist

Jan. 17: What Fascinates You?

Jan. 24: The Mind and the Religious Journey

Jan. 31: Where Are We Now?

Split-the-Plate: On the second Sunday of the month, January 10, we will once again Split the Plate, sharing our offering with a worthy charity in our Brazos Valley community. This month, we will split or plate with Planned Parenthood. Please come and give generously.

UUA Board Meets in Texas: The Board of Trustees for the national Unitarian Universalist Association will meet in San Antonio January 13 - 17. In the words of Donna Harrison, our Southwestern Conference trustee to the UUA Board, "One of the primary responsibilities of the Board of Trustees under policy governance is linkage with our sources of authority and accountability – in this case the called and elected leadership of our member congregations. The UUA Board of Trustees is extending an invitation to leaders from nearby congregations in the Southwestern Conference to participate in a linkage event with us on Saturday, January 16...at First UU Church San Antonio."

Rev. Eric Posa will attend, and hopes that a few of our lay leaders can join him for this important opportunity to engage the work of our religious movement at a larger level. Please contact Rev. Posa if you can make a day trip to San Antonio on Jan. 16 for any of these events:

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. *Social Witness event: Immigration Forum at First UU Church*

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. *Linkage Discussion with the UUA Board and congregational leaders*

5:15 - 5:45 p.m. *Vespers Service for the Board and guests*

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. *First UU San Antonio is hosting a party - Fiesta in January!*

Religious Education Forum: 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, in the late morning and early afternoon. (Details TBA; see the February newsletter for more info.) Please mark your calendars now, and plan to 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.

HELP US SAVE THE CHURCH MONEY

Over the last 6 to 8 weeks the Property Committee has been notified many times that the heating system was left on overnight, keeping the buildings at a toasty 74 degrees while the buildings were empty. This is a waste of natural resources AND a waste of our mutual financial resources. Lights in the buildings have also been left burning overnight; this also increases our electric utility bill.

The Property Committee asks that everyone be particularly careful when opening and closing the buildings. This negligent waste of energy and money must stop immediately. Our utility budget is based on the usage from previous years. This kind of waste is not included and will cause us to overspend our utilities budget.

Properly closing the buildings is important as well for the security of our common property.

If you ever open or close our church buildings and have any questions about the procedures, the thermostats, or the alarm system, we will be glad to review the process and provide any training that is required. Just give us a call.

Your Property Committee Co-chairmen,
Ken Appelt 450-3333
John Ivy 324-9834

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Mary Ellen Pate (mepatenp@hotmail.com)Chair, Caring Committee
Kathi Appelt (kcappelt@verizon.net)Chair, Finance Committee
Kathy Wheeler (khmwdvm@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

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE BY JUDY MCCOY

The Social Justice Committee is in the final stages of planning the Harmony Peace Concert to be held in February at the Hindu Temple just outside Navasota. We have been working with representatives of the Friends Congregation and the Hindu Temple. We expect this year's concert to be as rewarding as last year's, with a musical program of diverse styles and religious faiths.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our projects with your volunteer hours and your donations of goods and money. Sales of holiday cards, Guatemalan gifts, and coffee and

chocolate have been brisk throughout the month. The money from the holiday cards supports programs of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee; the Guatemalan crafts sales support a woman's collective in Guatemala; the chocolate and coffee sales give us funds to do work and make donations on behalf of persons and agencies in need. We will collect the Guest at Your Table donations at the end of January to be sent to the UUSC.

We wish everyone a safe and rewarding new year.

BOARD BRIEFS BY LISA PETERSON, BOARD SECRETARY

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

- No motions were passed at this meeting.

Other business discussed by the Board included:

- Future directions for pledge/stewardship drives; and
- Status of board priorities.

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)

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS BY CAROLYN CLARK

HAPPY NEW YEAR Everyone. The Caring Committee wishes you and yours good health, good friends, loving family, good thoughts, charitable acts, and most of all, PEACE.....

Joys of December:

Riley, grandson of Pat Childress, passed his EMT national exam and will begin Fireman Training January 11, 2010.

Aledo High School beat Brenham High School and won the 2A State Championship. The team's coach is Kathy and Mike Wheeler's son.

Kathi and Ken's son, Jacob, and his jazz trio came to town and played two gigs, on Friday at Luigi's and Saturday afternoon at Downtown Uncorked in Bryan.

Sue Bloomfield went to Korea to visit her daughter who is there teaching on a Fulbright.

Sally and Robert Koestler's son got a great report back from his doctor regarding his successful cancer treatment.

Lisa Peterson's uncle who lives in California is recovering from surgery for prostate cancer. Lisa plans a trip to California to visit family. The first time back home in two and one-half years.

Suzi Posa's mother visited Suzi and Eric and was here for Eric's birthday.

We received a wonderful email report from Wynne Clark about her husband, Russ, her daughter, Sydney, and herself. She is an amazing woman with courage and wisdom. She is overcoming a stroke, helping her husband with his illnesses and taking care of Sydney, her home and

animals, and maintaining her professional studies for counseling. I salute her and I quote here some of her wisdom for your New Year consideration; "it is what it is, and it's not what it's not".

Concerns for December:

Wayne Sadberry's daughter is awaiting a kidney transplant.

Mary Hohl's father died.

Sue Bloomfield's nephew and his wife received sad news that his cancer has spread.

Joe Collins has Shingles.

Linda Isakeit fell and bruised herself badly.

Judy Hart's mother fell and suffered a vertebral compression fracture.

If we've forgotten anyone in this missive, please know that we are always thinking of all of you. Let us know if you need anything.

Twenty Ten it's a portentous number, a positive one, a happy one .

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



JANUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30am-Service 12:00pm- RE Com Mtg 3:00pm-BBA 4:30-BBA Book Club	4 7:00pm- Brazos Bud- dhists Medita- tion, Reading and Chanting	5 10:00am-Bagel Break	6 5:30pm-Adult Choir Prac- tice 7:30pm-Book Club	7 7:00pm-Social Justice Meeting	8 6:00am-BBA	9 12:00pm-Chick Flicks 7:00pm-Contradance
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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.

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