



The Latitudinarian

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

REFLECTIONS BY REV. ERIC POSA

SEPTEMBER 2010

Mark Your Calendars!

- Thurs., Sept. 2, 7:00pm— Social Justice Committee Meeting
- Fri., Sept. 3, 7:00pm— Contradance
- Sun., Sept. 5, 12:00pm— RE Committee Mtg/Potluck Luncheon
- Wed., Sept. 8, 7:00pm—UU Drum Circle
- Thurs., Sept. 9, 7:00pm— UUCBV Board Meeting
- Sat., Sept. 11, 12:00pm— Chick Flicks
- Sun., Sept. 12, 8:30am— Potluck Welcome Breakfast
- Sun., Sept. 12, 12:00pm— Worship Committee Mtg
- Fri., Sept. 17, 6:00pm— Faith of the Abomination
- Sat., Sept. 18, 9:30am— Church Pantry
- Sun., Sept. 19, 12:00pm— UUWF Meeting/Luncheon
- Tues., Sept. 21, 7:00pm— Events Committee Meeting
- Thurs., Sept. 23, 7:00pm— Finance Committee Meeting
- Sat., Sept. 25, 9:00am— BBA one day event

Monthly Theme: Humility

This is a busy month, and a month of changes, here at the UUCBV. Due of so much happening - and because of space limitations in our newsletter - I will forgo this month's Reflections column, and jump right into the Ministry Notes.

Preaching Change - One of the critiques that often is leveled against Unitarian Universalism - one which I fear is *sometimes* accurate - is that we offer spiritual breadth...to the exclusion of spiritual depth. When we emphasize *only* that we draw from many sources of inspiration, we run the risk of taking an overly-simplified view of all those sources. This year, I hope to ward off that potential pitfall, by going deeper into a handful of the traditions that most inspire us. I preach three sermons per month; starting in September, I will preach one each, from three sources. Once a month, I will preach from the Bible: specifically, the Gospels. Also, I'll preach from the best-known Eastern scripture - the *Tao Te Ching* - once per month. And, once each month, I will preach from an explicitly Unitarian Universalist source - Emerson, John Murray, etc. For the congregation, this is an opportunity to explore each of these three traditions in some depth over the course of the year, understanding how each approaches the monthly theme, and how they offer different but valuable frames for making meaning.

Worship for All Ages - Qwo-Li, our new DRE, mentioned in his column (p. 4) that we will have different kinds of activities on different Sundays of the month. Once a month, as part of this, the children will have a worship experience: some months it will be a Children's Chapel in their RE classrooms, and some months we will all join together in our sanctuary for Worship for All Ages. Thus we will have more of these **Worships for All Ages** than in recent years: we will start with one every other month, the first one on **Sunday, October 3**. The order of service will differ on these days from our usual. The main difference: the sermon will be divided into three sections, spread throughout the worship service, to engage people with shorter attention spans (of all ages!). This will also allow teachers to be present in worship alongside students in worship on a semi-regular basis.

Special Worship Services - Both of the first two Sundays in September will be special worship services. On **Sept. 5th**, we will celebrate an annual UU ritual: **Water Communion**. People are invited to bring water to church, and we will provide symbolic water. The Worship Committee is looking to shift the focus of this worship service: rather than water being tied to a physical place, we invite you to use water that celebrates a deeply meaningful experience that

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

- September 5..... Water Communion (and Sign Dedication)
- September 12“Nothing on My Tounge but Hallelujah” (w/breakfast)
- September 19 “The Way of Humility ”
- September 26 “Hair, Healing, and Solidarity ”

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

REFLECTIONS BY REV. ERIC POSA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

you have encountered over the past year. We will also **welcome new members** into our church, and will conclude the service by gathering outside, to **dedicate our new church sign** by blessing it with our UU Holy Water.

On **Sept. 12th**, in addition to starting the RE year, Rev. Posa will preach the **Auction Sermon**. At our church auction earlier this year, the “choose a sermon topic of your choice” item was won by Kathi Appelt. Sept. 12 is the day – it will be a **UU Revival!** And it will be based, in part, upon an excellent (if surprising) text – Leonard Cohen’s song, “Hallelujah.” Also, please join us before worship, starting at **9:00 AM on Sun., Sept. 12** for a special **“Breakfast in the Breezeway,”** to welcome UUs (and especially all of our UU Aggies) new and returning.

Small Group Ministry – The preparations for starting a Small Group Ministry program at our church have begun in earnest. We have just secured commitments from our first set of small group leaders, so we are (at this writing) scheduling our initial planning meeting. We hope to begin sign-ups by the end of this month, with the first small group meetings to occur in October. As soon as details have been established, we will spread the word to the congregation.

Adult RE – As many of you have heard, we are changing our Religious Education (RE) time to occur during worship this year, starting Sept. 12. All children (ages 5 and up) will begin worship in the sanctuary with their families. After about 15 minutes, we will sing the children, not to play-time, but to their RE classes. But this means that we will have neither Children’s RE before worship, nor formal Adult RE. However, an adult discussion group has been meeting during the summer, and they intend to continue meeting at 9:30 AM Sunday in the library. Also, in addition to the Small Group Ministry program, I will begin offering a series of brief Adult RE curricula on weeknights. We begin this month, with a 4-

session version of the **New UU** class. If you want to learn more about the basics of Unitarian Universalism – whether you are new to our church or not – join us on **Wednesdays, starting Sept. 8, from 7:00-8:30 PM** in the Jesse Coon room, and continuing through the last Wednesday in September. Please contact Rev. Eric Posa if you would like to reserve childcare during this time.

Change in Minister’s Office Hours – To accommodate requests for additional evening office hours, and to make room for renewed staff meetings (with the hire of our new DRE, and transitioning to a more established role for our volunteer music director), Rev. Posa is shifting his office hours starting this month, and continuing for the foreseeable future. Rev. Posa will now be available in the **church office** from **11:00 AM – 3:00 PM on Tuesdays**, and from **3:00 PM – 7:00 PM on Thursdays**. Also, Rev. Posa will still be available to meet on the **Texas A&M** campus on **Mondays**, but those times also will change slightly: **11:00 AM – 2:30 PM** will be the new times, which still include his 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM shift in the chaplain’s office of All Faiths Chapel, as part of the Campus Ministry Association.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN BY HARRIET VARDIMAN SMTH

Why is “organized religion” so difficult?

Dan Hotchkiss is a UU minister who consults with churches on strategic and financial planning, congregational governance, clergy leadership, and social justice ministries. I've been reading his recent book *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* – and want to share an excerpt that's a great description of the unique challenges of leadership in a liberal church.

Religion transforms people; no one touches holy ground and stays the same. Religious leaders stir the pot by pointing to the contrast between life as it is and life as it should be, and urging us to close the gap. Religious insights provide the handhold that people need to criticize injustice, rise above self-interest, and take risks to achieve healing in a wounded world. Religion at its best is no friend to the status quo.

Organization, on the other hand, conserves. Institutions capture, schematize, and codify persistent patterns of activity. People sometimes say, “Institutions are conservative,” and smile as if they had said something clever. But conservation is what institutions do. A well-ordered congregation lays down schedules, puts policies on paper, places people in positions, and generally brings order out of chaos. Organizations can be flexible, creative, and iconoclastic, but only by resisting some of their most basic instincts.

No wonder “organized religion” is so difficult! Congregations create sanctuaries where people can nurture and inspire each other – with results

no one can predict. The stability of a religious institution is a necessary precondition to the instability religious transformation brings. The need to balance both sides of this paradox – the transforming power of religion and the stabilizing power of organization – makes leading congregations a unique challenge.

Hotchkiss, J. (2009). *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute.

I encourage other board members and committee leaders to read Hotchkiss' book. It's a fascinating and even entertaining read!

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Introduction

'siyo>Hello! My name is Qwo-Li Driskill, and I'm the new Director of Religious Education at the UU Church of the Brazos Valley. I'm currently an Assistant Professor of rhetoric and writing in the Department of English at TAMU. I'm also an activist, poet, and performer whose work in both education and the arts focuses on social transformation.. I'm delighted to be welcomed into this community and am looking forward to helping design, implement, and facilitate our RE curriculum this year.

This Year's RE Curriculum

This year we'll be using the UU Association of Congregations' "Tapestry of Faith" curriculum, which is designed to "nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love." For the next several months we will be using the "Tapestry of Faith" curriculums that focus on issues of home and family. You can learn more about "Tapestry of Faith" at the link listed at the end of this column. We will also begin working with a RE model which will involve rotating Sundays for RE. Some Sundays will be our regular RE classes, once a month we will be facilitating a social justice-focused activity, and we are working with the Worship Committee and Rev. Eric Posa to begin having a few All Ages Workshops throughout the year.

We Need Teachers

We are still in need of teachers. Because we are changing the structure of RE, teachers will not have to be in RE every Sunday each month. We need volunteers for both our regular RE classes as well as our Social Justice Sunday activities. If you are interested in being an RE teacher, please let me know. My email address is below. If you have already volunteered to teach this year, or if you are interested in teaching, please attend a potluck teacher's meeting on Sunday September 5th at 12:00 after our service. We will be discussing our curriculum and future teacher trainings.

I'm looking forward to a very exciting year for our RE program. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate in contacting me.

Wado/Thank You,

Qwo-Li Driskill
dre@brazosuu.org

More Information

Tapestry of Faith:
<http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/index.shtml>

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:

- Linda and Eric Isakeit, in celebration of Eric's birthday.
- Mary Ellen and David Pate, in celebration of both their birthdays.
- Sue Bloomfield, in celebration of her birthday.
- Steve and Bonnie Wikse, to the property enhancement fund, in celebration of their anniversary.



BOARD BRIEFS BY JOE COLLINS

During a special meeting, the Board of Trustees took the following official action:

- Moved that we hire Qwo Li Driskill as the Director of Religious Education.

At it's regular monthly meeting, the Board of Trustees took the following official action:

- Moved that UUCBV become a "Friend" of the Brazos Valley farmers market; and
- Moved that we host the documentary "Faith of the Abomination".



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)Co-Chair, Religious Education Committee
- Molly Ward (mollyward@gmail.com)Co-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

VOLUNTEER WORK SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

So many people contribute to the work and ministry of our church - esp. on Sunday morning - and we want to start highlighting you! Below is a chart listing the ushers and lay leaders for each of the Sundays in September. Church leaders, if you have another role or task where you want to note an area of church service, and who is working together to fill that role each Sunday, please contact Rev. Posa and/or newsletter editor (& church administrator) Valerie Holstead. Let us know which role to add - along with the names of who is filling that role each Sunday for the coming month - and we will be glad to add this info to the chart starting in next month's newsletter.

Date	Ushers	Lay Leader
September 5	Eleanor F. Marcia B.	Ken A.
September 12	Trish P. Rob M.	Harriet S.
September 19	Gaye W. Rob M.	Sue B.
September 26	Gaye W. Eleanor F.	Kathi A.

FAITH OF THE ABOMINATION

Friday, September 17, 7:30pm

Exclusive Screening of "Faith of the Abomination". A revealing experiment. An Astonishing documentary. Anti-Gay Church Punk'd by Lesbian Ministers. Rejected as lesbian ministers in the Evangelical Organization, would the SAME two women be accepted in the SAME Organization as man and wife? Filmmakers will attend, and lead discussion following showing.

For more info, contact Mark Abel (mrabel97@yahoo.com) or Teri Massengale (terimass3@yahoo.com), or call 979-777-3096.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS BY THE CARING COMMITTEE

As the summer wears on, the intense heat and humidity never seem to change, but our lives change every day. Joys and concerns, sorrows and transitions, cause us to celebrate and find comfort together.

Joys:

We were delighted to see a dear old friend, Anita van Ouwerkerk who stopped by one Sunday to visit. It was good to see Tavis McGeachin, who grew up in our church, visiting us with his wife, Megan.

Hooray! David Pate Sr. received good news. He does not need any more treatment for prostate cancer except to follow his PSA number. We are thrilled that the report is good.

David Pate, Jr. graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in Sociology and will attend Sam Houston State University for his master's degree in Sociology.

Congratulations to Bonnie and Steve Wikse who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

Christian Schmidt will marry Kristin, who will be the new UU minister at King's Chapel in Boston.

Transitions:

Cooper Appelt, son of Kathi and Ken, moved across the country to California.

Little Caitlin Collins was promoted up a class level in daycare

Sorrows and Concerns:

Carolyn Clark's favorite aunt, Josephine Clarke from New York, passed away and will be missed greatly by Carolyn and the rest of her family. Carolyn also lost her treasured cat, Abbey, and will always miss her. Our hearts are with you.

Lisa Cairns' father was in the hospital very seriously ill. Lisa traveled to be with him for about a week. We send Lisa our warmest wishes and comfort and hope that her father is doing well.

Joe Collins had pneumonia but, thankfully, is doing well now.

Molly Ward's sister is receiving a new treatment for rheumatoid arthritis and the family hopes it will help her to feel better.

Ken Appelt's brother had surgery to remove a spot on his liver.

Bob Kenefick fell and broke his neck. Fortunately, no damage was done to his spine and he is recovering at home.

Gaye Webb's good friend in Houston was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer.

Kathy Wheeler has concern for ex son-in-law who is seriously ill; he is the father of Kathy's dear grandson.

Pat Childress lost her beloved dog, Jake. He was her sweet companion and he will be missed.

Ken Appelt's friend, local music icon Willie Bennett passed away from pancreatic cancer.

Please know that you are all important to us and please let the Caring Committee know if you have a Joy that we may celebrate or a need that we can help with. If we have left anyone or anything out of this column, please let us know so that we can include it in our next issue.

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

Joe Castiglioni, 690-0640

Carole Johnson, 690-6561

Lauralee Phillips, 220-5645

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE BY MARK ABEL

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the diaper drive we held for the Food Pantry. An important service they provide is occasionally being able to dispense such necessities as diapers and other essential products required to maintain proper health and hygiene practice. Also, thank you to the volunteers who donated their time working at the Church Pantry this month.

At our monthly meeting, we were pleased to hear a presentation from John Borden of Community Fresh Brazos Valley. His organization has several community gardens, and anticipates adding others. Of particular interest to our group is the Edleraid Garden, whose produce is distributed to persons in need. His organization is recruiting volunteers to work in the garden and also to help with the organization's administrative work. John says this is a very critical need at this time. Social Justice Committee passes along this information for consideration by our congregation as a volunteer opportunity to anyone interested in helping with this important work. The organization is currently working on a pilot project gardening with raised beds, and our Committee donated a \$100.00 gift card at Lowe's for supplies to build the beds. Lauralee volunteered to donate lumber for the project. Thank you to those who donate to change for change at the Sunday offering for making this gift possible. For those interested in volunteering, donating, or just receiving more information concerning the organization and their work can contact John at: farmerjohn.cfbv@gmail.com.

Change for change money also allowed the Social Justice Committee to donate \$100 on behalf of the church to the annual Feast of Caring luncheon held at the Brazos Center to benefit the Brazos Valley Food Bank. I read somewhere that this year's Feast raised over \$34,000. Change for change will also fund a \$300 donation to the Coalition for the

Homeless to assist in their homeless census.

September will be our next month to provide simple breakfast food (donuts, hard boiled eggs, juice) for the Pilgrims in the Park worship service serving primarily homeless persons, but also welcoming anyone who is uncomfortable worshipping in a traditional church setting. Please go to the Social Justice table during coffee hour following the worship service to volunteer or to find more information. We need three people to commit to take food and stay through the service held at Neal Park in Bryan. People begin to congregate around 10:30, and Pastor Lenni begins worship about 10:45 or so, and worship lasts maybe 20 minutes or so. It's very informal but also inspiring to participate in those services. A weekly community potluck is held in that location at 1:00 p.m., so you don't have to worry with leftovers, and if you want, you can stay for the socializing at 1:00. Our music director, Cindy Harmon-Jones, will be working with Pastor Lenni to provide choir music at a future service.

Forthcoming activities to watch for are the Hunger Crop Walk and Chili Cook-off/Festival in October; a Welcoming Congregation refresher class sometime this fall; Guest at Your Table and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee membership drive through November and December; Information and possible T-Shirt sales from Standing on the Side of Love; tote bags publicizing our name and a brief message; and lots of other stuff in the works. Find out all about them and buy fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate at the Social Justice table after worship. It's a real Happening place!

SEPTEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:30am—Spiritual Conversations 10:30am— Service 12:00pm—RE Committee Mtg/ Potluck Luncheon 2:30pm—BBA meditation 4:30-BBA Book Club	6 7:00pm-BBA-Meditation, Reading and Chanting	7 10:00am-Bagel Break	8 12:00pm— BBA meditation 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm-UU Drum Circle 7:00pm-Adult RE Curricula— Basics of UU	9 7:00pm—UUCBV Board Meeting	10	11 12:00pm-Chick Flicks 12:00pm-A&M Game Day
12 8:30am—Breakfast in the Breezeway 9:30am—Spiritual Conversations 10:30am—Service 12:00pm—Worship Com Mtg 2:30pm—BBA meditation 4:30-BBA Book Club	13 7:00pm-BBA-Meditation, Reading and Chanting	14 10:00am-Bagel Break	15 12:00pm— BBA meditation 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice 7:30pm —Book Club 7:00pm-Adult RE Curricula— Basics of UU	16	17 6:00pm-Faith of the Abomination	18 9:30am-Church Pantry 12:00pm-A&M Game Day
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26 9:30am—Spiritual Conversations 10:30am-Service 2:30pm—BBA meditation 4:30-BBA Book Club	27 7:00pm-BBA-Meditation, Reading and Chanting	28 10:00am-Bagel Break	29 12:00pm— BBA meditation 5:30pm-Adult Choir Practice 7:00pm-Adult RE Curricula— Basics of UU	30		

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

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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 11am - 3pm
and Thursday 3pm - 7pm
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.

Water Communion

On Sun., Sept. 5th, you are invited to bring water that celebrates a deeply meaningful experience you encountered over the past year; and we will provide symbolic water.

Following service, we will also dedicate our new church sign by blessing it with our UU Holy Water.

Pancake Breakfast

Please join us before worship, starting at 9:00am on Sun., Sept. 12 for a special "Breakfast in the Breezeway," to welcome UUs (and especially all of our UU Aggies) new and returning.