



# The Oak Leaf

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF OAK CLIFF

August 2008

Sunday Services – 10 am

**August 3rd - The Past is Ever-Present** - A service of sympathy and confidence for the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church and for our UU Faith. Rev. Mark Walz will preach the sermon and a discussion of the sermon will follow in the Sanctuary.

**August 10th - In Good Company: Our Impatience For Justice-** Rev. Marcia Shannon will preach of the common links of old testament prophets and our modern day search for justice, integrity, and honor. Sermon Discussion with Marcia to follow.

**August 17th - The Children are Coming! The Children are Coming!** Don't look now but our church is growing. Rev. Mark Walz explores how the energy of children can bring life in new abundance and salvation to our journey. Sermon discussion with Mark will follow.

**August 24th - Mercy, Mercy, Mercy-** When perfect justice and perfect forgiveness are not available to us, what is left? Rev. Mark Walz preaches from the parable of the Prodigal Son and will facilitate an after service - discussion.

**August 31st - Good Witch, Bad Witch (or) The Red Shoes- a Gift to the Wicked Witch of the South-** Rev. Marcia Shannon and our RE children with help from The Wizard of Oz, explore how propaganda influences our thinking. You don't want to miss this!



**Coming in September-**

**Sept. 14th- The Truth About Noah-** Rev. Mark Walz

**Sept. 21st- The Bronze Muse of the 19th Century...and Beyond-** Actress Dorothy Mains Prince brings African-American Unitarian Frances Ellen Watkins Harper to life!

**Sept. 28th- My Heat is Changed: Finding Your Inner Lion's Roar-** Rev. Marcia Shannon

## *Welcome Visitors!*

We hope you find our services, programs, and groups stimulating and interesting. We extend a warm invitation to you to come often, and hope you will help us get acquainted with you!

Please feel free to contact our minister, Mark Walz at (214) 337-2429 with any questions you may have.

SEE THE CALENDAR FOR MORE

## Upcoming Events

**August 13**

**Coordinating Council Meeting  
7PM**

**August 19**

**Board Meeting  
7PM**

**August 23**

**Labyrinth Walk Coffeehouse  
8PM**

**Vaudeville Night  
A night of music, comedy, dance, and more !**

see page 6 for details

**Coming in September**

**Sept. 7th-** In-Gathering Sunday & Annual Water Communion Ceremony. Pot Luck Lunch & Pretty Good Raffle see page 4



## Mark's Trail

*Please join me on the journey...*

I had an opportunity recently to see a favorite film of mine starring one of my favorite actresses, Rosalind Russell. It wasn't His Girl Friday, with Cary Grant, although I love that one too. It was Auntie Mame. Her version of the Patrick Dennis novel came in 1958, before the musical versions starring Angela Lansbury or Lucille Ball which were called simply Mame.

Because it had no song and dance numbers of the later films, it focused on the original intent of the book. And Russell was magnificent as a woman who embodied eccentric, enthusiastic, bombastic appetites. She was truly larger than life. To her character, Auntie Mame, "life is a banquet, and most poor souls are starving to death!".

Although I eschew conspicuous consumption, I have a real sympathetic feeling for people who appreciate the life they are given and are determined to live it to the fullest. To sample every food, join every conversation, try on every hat or scarf, and dance as though no one is looking. She welcomed every unique, arty, flamboyant, courageous, or silly soul into her circle. She referred to them as her family.

But Auntie Mame has very little real family of her own. Only a brother, and the brother's son. When her brother

dies, the son is sent to live with his only surviving relative- his 'crazy' aunt in New York City.

This is the part of the story I really want to talk about, the part of the story that ultimately matters. Here at her doorstep stands a young ten-year-old waif in blazer and short pants with no one but his Auntie to turn to. He's not sure if he wants her, and for a moment she's not sure she wants him. But then she stops and looks deeply into his questioning eyes, and is suddenly struck by an intense sense of love and responsibility that she had never felt before. In an instant we can see that she is transformed into a woman who will be an instrument of peace and protection for this child forever.

She swoops him into her life and by the time the film is over, through good times and through bad, she has shown him the ends of the earth and guided him into a manhood of substance and character. Great film.

There are children showing up at the door of our church. They are not alone. They are coming with their parents (sigh of relief). But like the child in Auntie Mame, they are showing up with questioning faces. They are unsure of what they will find here. They are unsure of whether they want to be here.

Will they fit in? Will they find friends? Will they feel loved?

It can take weeks, months, even years for adults to find their way into a new church. Imagine how tough it can be for children. But if we are patient and loving they will find their way also.

There is an opportunity in these events for us to become Auntie Mames or Uncle Bobs to a new generation of Unitarian Universalists. There is an opportunity here to share with these young families and their children the power and mystical wonder of a loving faith. There is an opportunity here to become the instruments of peace and protection to them all.

Let's do it. Let's help them find their way in. Let's call them 'family'.

See you Sunday-

Mark



### A Letter from Tom and Beverly



Dear Friends,

Thank you to all who prepared and participated in the lovely reception before we moved. Special thanks to the many of you who prepared foods and beverages, Peggy Hookey who selected the gift from all of you, and to those who attended.

Thanks again to those who opened their homes through the years whether for

just us, for Dinners for Six or Eight, for pool parties and brunches, for Mystery Dinners, for In-gatherings, etc.

We learned a lot, cried together some, laughed a lot, ate a lot, and brought the good memories with us to this vacation/retirement village. Our neighbors are welcoming as are those at the Unitarian/Universalist Village Church ([uuvv.org](http://uuvv.org)) where we are attending classes this summer. The Professor in June talked about Moral Values and the dilemma when these values conflict. This month another Professor is presenting studies about mythology through the years.

We attend on Tuesday evenings instead of Sundays. This has given us opportunities to visit a Methodist church and an Episcopal church. The UUVV September through May schedule includes a speaker on alternate Sundays and Discussion on the other Sundays. They meet in a large meeting room at the Coronado Community Center so vacationers and retirees have no maintenance or cleaning responsibilities. Someone does make coffee, of course, and fills pitchers with ice and water.

We promise to answer all letters whether snail mail or e-mail. Our e-mail addresses remain the same.

Gratefully,  
Tom and Beverly Henderson

6 Lopez Circle  
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

## Thoughts From the President

The tragedy in Knoxville last Sunday has shocked and saddened all of us. The unthinkable happened. A man came to a UU church, knowing it would be filled with children and their families. He turned his frustration and anger into shooting at innocent people, killing two and seriously injuring others. The emotional injury to the survivors, including the children, will be part of the rest of their lives.

Liberal religion does have its martyrs. Trying to do good by supporting the rights of all members of society and encouraging basic American freedoms somehow made that UU church a symbol of all that was wrong in one man's world and made the church a target for violence. In the weeks and months ahead, they - and we - will be trying to understand and reach out to their grief. By Monday evening, Mary Leggitt had left a message of condolence on the TVUUC website, and Mike Ellsberry of NTAUUS, who was president of the Denton UU congregation, had written a letter that you can read on our own website. We must also try to understand, as best we can, how individual pain, loss and frustration can become fertile ground for crazy ideas and actions with terrible consequences. We may never know, but I can't help wondering whether the angry man had reached for help somewhere in his world and been rebuffed, or someone saw his pain and turned away from it.

This is not, however, a time to give in to panic or fear at our own church. As you already know, awareness and calm are the best protections in any kind of emergency. The board is already reviewing all of our safety procedures. We are making sure our volunteers, especially those who work with our children, are aware of them. If we find that additional or different things need to be done, we will do them. We don't want to frighten our children or each other. We don't want to lose the inner strength we have that comes from believing and acting on the principle that every person has inherent dignity and worth.



On the budget front, Kimberlyn reports that contributions actually made still lag a bit behind the pledges we gave last fall and winter. And our operational costs still exceed revenues. But as a congregation, we are steadily improving. More members are using direct withdrawal for their pledge gifts. That adds greatly to the predictability of meeting the budget, and makes life easier for those of us who can never remember where we last saw our checkbooks. And it's something you can sign up for anytime - just contact Kimberlyn

Mary Leggitt's brainstorming session turned up lots of new and old and workable ideas for closing the budget gap. Some of you may remember the soup-and-salad lunches that brought the congregation together after Sunday services every month or so, and raised some money. They are again on the near horizon - and will likely include Pretty Good Raffles. Look for them to start up in the fall. We hope to make the Fall Festival not only a grand time to get together and celebrate the cooling of our local climate but a way to support our church in material ways. We'll hear more from Gene Dailey and others on that subject. Other brainstormed ideas were movie-and-supper nights at the church, for kids and for whole families. More to come on that front also. And I have noticed that several people have already adopted Claudia Klipp's thrifty suggestion to turn the thermostat up and wear shorts to church.

Sandy McFeeley, UUCOC President

## Ongoing Activities

**Covenant and Activity Groups are a great way to meet people who share a common interest.**

**Women's Birthday Dinner**  
**Out** - Second Tuesday of every month at 7pm. Contact Mary K. at (214) 335-0346.

**Out to Lunch Bunch**  
Everyone is invited to gather for lunch at a local restaurant following Sunday service.

**Games Night** - Second Saturday of each month. 6:30pm, Barbara Kalley's home. Bring healthy snacks. RSVP to (972) 572-7445.

**A Course in Miracles** - Meets every Monday at 7:30pm in the Faith lobby. Contact Dee Lewis at (214) 337-3946 for information.

**UUCOC Singers** - All are welcome. For more information, call Glorian at (214) 372-2892.

**Social Action/Social Justice Ministry** - Meets 2nd Sunday of the month after RE.

# Dee's Green Tip

I can't believe how many stories I saw this month about the environment! I decided to scrap the tips for now—too many **very important** items to discuss. I'm going to touch on each briefly:

First of all, there was a G-8 Summit in Toyako, Japan (this isn't a misprint) on July 7th. For those of you who aren't "in the know", the G-8 Summit is a meeting of the leaders of the top 8 leading industrial nations held once a year to discuss global issues. The first Summit was held in 1975 with only 6 members. It quickly became 7 in 1976; and when Russia was asked to join in 1991, it became 8. This year the G-8 endorsed halving global emissions by 2050. Of course, it's easy to "talk the talk". Now we have to see if they're willing to "walk the walk". Many environmentalists still feel this falls far short of what is needed. The communique did not set a base year from which emissions would be cut. Many argue that the 50% reduction is insufficient and 2050 too far in the future.

Back at home in the good old U.S.A., on July 8<sup>th</sup>, Senator Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat who chairs the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, accused the Bush Administration, and V.P. Dick Cheney specifically, of a "cover-up" aimed at stopping the Environmental Protection Agency from tackling greenhouse emissions. According to Jason Burnett of the EPA, the White House pressured him to retract an e-mail in which he detailed some findings that "greenhouse gases

may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public welfare."

Lastly, on July 17<sup>th</sup>, former V.P. Al Gore challenged Americans "to commit to producing 100 percent of our electricity from renewable energy and truly clean, carbon-free sources within 10 years." Gore spoke from Constitution Hall in Washington D.C. He called the proposal, "achievable, affordable and transformative. It represents a challenge to all Americans in every walk of life, to our political leaders, entrepreneurs, our innovators, our engineers, and to every citizen."

Become informed citizens. Go to [www.GreenDallas.net](http://www.GreenDallas.net) to find out



what you can do to jump on the Green Bandwagon in your City and help SAVE THE PLANET.

## August Birthdays

- 1 Robin Potts
- 2 Linda Shelly  
Don Fielding
- 3 Connie Fountain  
Jeff Parker
- 4 Keith Grampp  
Octavia Hansen
- 5 Jenna Guman
- 14 Agatha Ulibarri
- 18 David Biehl
- 24 Lily Enzmann
- 28 Zavier Spencer
- 29 Tom Henderson
- 31 Mary Kappes



## Women's Birthday Dinner Out

August 12

**La Calla Doce** (House on Twelfth Street)

415 West 12th Street, Dallas;  
phone 214-941-4304  
(This is in Oak Cliff)

Seafood specialties and other extraordinary Hispanic cuisine  
**6:30 PM**

**Call Mary Kappes at 214-335-0346** to RSVP

Check out the birthday list to see who will be there !



## Friends, Food, and the winning ticket is..... Don't miss In-gathering September 7th

Immediately following the worship service, we will set up for our first Potluck Lunch of the fall season. There will be no charge for the lunch, but donations will be warmly welcomed in the Close-the-Budget-Gap Jar.

We have had a couple of VERY GENEROUS offers to assist with the kitchen chores of this all-church gathering. And more would, of course, be welcome.

And it wouldn't be a real potluck if we didn't have a Pretty Good Raffle that might feature some new and wonderful items. Think, maybe, a \$50 gasoline card!

So get ready. Be thinking. Tag something to donate for the auction. And decide which perfect recipe you can whip up for welcoming everybody back from summer.



# Who is a Liberal?

by Gary Shields

Last week, the deaths of two fellow U.U. worshipers in Knoxville, Tennessee brings up this question. The killer seemed to want to repress the " Liberalism" that was practiced and taught there. Why Liberalism? Why has that mode of thought been so demonized that such shocking behavior seems to be understood by a significant number of persons, though not in the mainstream of Americans? What is Liberalism? If understood, perhaps a repeat of such events will not occur.

Think of CHANGE: it is the key to understanding Liberalism. What is your approach to changes in your life, your government, your lifestyle or your faith? CHANGE, though inevitable, usually is not greeted with enthusiasm. If your approach is with a shrug and a hopeful expectation, you may be a liberal. If with anger and

resistance, you may be a conservative. Just think, if there were no CHANGE, we would not survive and we would not evolve. Daily life would be the same, day after day.

There is a difference in the degree in which we face CHANGE in our lives. Those of us who resist any changes, and wish that we return to the "good old days" have a point, but we forget that the "good old days" were fraught with turmoil. The only thing that made them good was that we survived them. Without CHANGE, most of us would be on the coast of Europe, wondering if the world was really flat. Slavery would still be a condition of life and superstition would still govern our treatment of illness. No, liberalism has its place, and we who espouse the view that change is necessary for growth, must continue in that faith.

The hatred that comes from others cannot defer the continual growth of our people. The accursed "Liberalism," as heard and seen on the nightly news and from the mouths of our elected officials, cannot be something we hide from. The attention we gather from our position only brings the issue to focus. The reason behind the hatred comes from the speaker's fear of the future. Know this, to resist CHANGE is foolish and non-productive. To want to return to a condition already experienced is silly and irrelevant. The best statement is " you cannot put toothpaste back in the tube." And it is true! Be wise and continue to progress, History is on your side.

*Submitted by UUCOC member out of love and sympathy for the members of TVUUC.*



## Religious Education Programming for August 2008

**August 3<sup>rd</sup> Repeating the Story.** The adult volunteer mentors will facilitate the children, youth and teens of the church in talking about their feelings, reactions and thoughts about the tragedy that occurred in Tennessee last Sunday. One of the basic needs of persons who are processing a trauma is the need to talk about the event over and over again. We will attempt to offer the children of our congregation a safe place to talk. *Please join the classroom discussions, especially if you want to monitor what your child hears.*

**August 10<sup>th</sup> Hello, my name is Jonah and I am an old testament prophet.** The children will be introduced to an old testament prophet who ran from a call to search for justice in his community. The lesson will focus on the humanness of Jonah, especially his anger at God. The lesson will affirm our ability to be angry (even at a higher power) and remain connected to that higher power.

**August 17<sup>th</sup> Understanding non-verbal communication.** The youth will continue to learn about how to *listen to one another*. Communication tools are being taught & practiced as a first step to an outreach project to older adults in the Oak Cliff community.

**August 31<sup>st</sup> Good Witch, Bad Witch.** The children will re-visit the classic film, The Wizard of Oz, with the goal of practicing how to be peace-makers.

Get in touch with your inner child...volunteer to spend time with the very young children during the worship service in the Crayon Corner (Mark's Office) or holding/ rocking the "wee-ones" in the nursery. Please contact Marcia Shannon (Cell: 214.399.6997), if you are interested in being a nurturing presence to our youngest visitors/members.

## August RE Calendar of Events

### Saturday, Aug. 2

TX Area Teacher Training at First Church

### Sunday, Aug. 3

Religious Education Teachers Meeting @ 1:00 PM (lunch--Hope)\*

### Sunday, Aug. 17

RE Parent/Teacher Meeting @ 1:00 PM (snacks--Hope)\*

### Wednesday, Aug. 6, 10, 17

Youth Group Garage & Bake Sale Planning Meeting @ 7:00 PM (Hope bldg.)\*

### Sunday, Aug. 10, 17, 24

*Good Witch, Bad Witch* rehearsal @ 9:00 AM (snacks--Hope)\*

### Sunday, Aug. 31

Final Rehearsal of *Good Witch, Bad Witch* @ 9:00 AM\*

\* an e-mail and confirmation will be sent for this event



# Labyrinth Walk Coffee House

AN EVENING OF  
MUSIC, COMEDY & MOIRE!

PRESENTS

## THIRD ANNUAL VAUDEVILLE NIGHT

Saturday, August 23, 2008

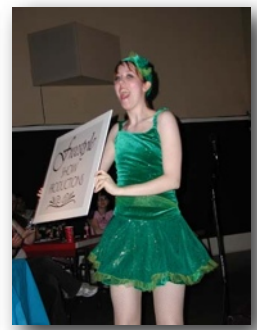
8 PM

Doors open at 7:30 PM

All Tickets  
\$ 10



The first two years of vaudeville night were standing room only, so get your tickets early. They can be purchased through the website and at the door. Sorry, no passes for this performance. The volunteer staff and many of the acts are members of our church. Thanks to their generous time and talents the show always delivers. Back by popular demand are the Gabettes, and Burns and Allen! So get your popcorn ready and prepare to be entertained!



### Have some FUN at Games Night



Barbara Kalley hosts games night on August 9 at 6:30PM. Participants range from 5 to 15 usually and may play several different games at once. Some groups just sit and get to know each other better. Either way its always a great time. Barbara requests an RSVP so she can have enough chairs ready. Check out Ongoing Activities on page 3 for more details.

### Plans for a Community Garden Grow



Five UUCOC members attended the June meeting of Community Gardens of Oak Cliff (CGOC), hosted by our church. We discussed our interest in a community garden on our grounds, and concerns about how to get started. The group surveyed our property and suggested we start with a small "demo" plot at the edge of the west parking lot next to the pile of wood chips. Starting small sounded smart! We plan to use the newspaper layer no-till method to prepare the ground, and straw bales as edging.\* The UUCOC Board approved the plans at its July meeting. Watch for notice of a garden work day soon! Please note: CGOC meetings are open to all. Next one: August 17, 5PM, Hope Bldg.

\*We're looking for a good deal on straw bales (or "spoiled" hay bales)? We'd like 15 to start. Please contact Vivian or Kathy if you know of a source.

### The Teens say "Thanks !"



Great job and great thanks to everyone who helped turn a storage room into a safe haven for our young men and women.

Gene Dailey and Nancy Johnstone came back from the OWL program and started the project. Many hours were put in by Kimberlyn Crowe, Stephen Betzen, Jim Wrightsman, Scott Grey, and Vivian Walz in helping the teens transform this room. Thank you Gay Revi and Ben Stahl along with their son Brian Howell who donated the floor tiles. Special thanks to Cheryl Johnson who facilitated the design and painting with Ian, Candace, Aria, Wesley, and Kyle. I urge everyone to come by and see the results.



**Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Oak Cliff**

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**Minister:** Rev. Mark Walz

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Roberts, and Mathias Schmassmann

**Newsletter Editor:** Rex Fountain

**Contributing Editors:** Sandy McFeeley and  
Kathy Grey

**Are you busy this Saturday?**

If you are a current Religious Education Mentor or have considered being a mentor in the future, then please consider joining Marcia Shannon and Mark Walz at the North Texas Area Training *this Saturday, August 2, 2008.*

**Times:** 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Optional: 1:00 – 4:30 PM

Place: First Unitarian Church of Dallas

**Program:** Gini Courter, a UUA Moderator since 2003, will share inspirational words of wisdom gleaned from many years of service to our free faith.

**Perks:** Continental breakfast at 8:30 AM. A catered Greek lunch will also be available at 12 Noon.



**Music Ministry News**



In case you haven't heard, the UUCOC SINGERS are beginning work in preparation for making a CD for sale in 2009 to celebrate the Holiday Seasons, uh... Christmas Season, uh... Winter Solstice Celebration, uh... Hanukkah, uh... Well, you get my drift.

The focus is to help small congregations prepare and be able to sing along with hymns that are appropriate for the season. "What shall we do this year?" is always a challenge that singers of UU congregations have to meet when selecting music for this time of year. To our knowledge, no one has made a CD that will support and give suggestions for this effort.

In addition, we want to focus on the special needs of the smaller congregations. We want this work to demonstrate what can be done with a few singers.

**CORRECTION!** Did I say few singers? Be alerted! We are hoping to have the children sing a few songs for the CD. We will draw from the many talented people in our congregation to participate in a few of the hymns. We have a plan for all the male voices in the congregation to sing a selected piece or two. (Have you listened to the men singing on Sunday? It sounds great!)

So be prepared. You might be tapped on the shoulder for something very special. It will only take small slice of your time.

Tune in next month for more info from the music ministry.

By the way. We welcome your feedback and if you have requests for certain hymns let us know. We can always give it a try.

Gloria Mulligan-Stratton  
Music Director