



The Oak Leaf

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF OAK CLIFF

February
2011

Kathy Grey, Editor
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February Sunday Services

Worship: 10am – 11am • Religious Education: 11:15am – noon

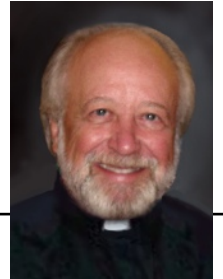
Feb. 6 – **Strong Enough to Care** – Rev. Mark Walz

Feb. 13 – **It Gets Better** – Rev. Marcia Shannon

Feb. 20 – **What Calls Us** – Rev. Walz

Feb. 27 – **Music Hath Charms** – Rev. Walz

See you Sunday! – Mark



EXCITING HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH!

SPECIAL VALENTINE'S SERVICE

**“Standing on the Side of Love
with LGBT Teens”**

Our Gifts of Story will be videotaped
in support of the **“It Gets Better”**
Project. See p. 2 for details.

VESPERS BEGIN ON MARCH 2

6:30pm - Ingathering
(with refreshments)

7:00-8:00pm - The Moveable Feast
(Affinity, Covenant, RE, etc!)

8:30-9pm – Vespers Service

ves·pers *noun pl but
singular or pl in constr,
often capitalized* \ˈves-pərz\
a service of evening worship

Origin of VESPERS

Anglo-French *vespres*, from
Medieval Latin *vesperae*, from
Latin, plural of *vespera* evening;
akin to Latin *vesper* evening star

Adult Religious Education IMMIGRATION

What are the myths surrounding the immigration debate?

Who benefits from the propagation of these myths?

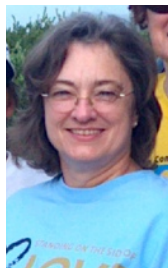
What is the reality?

These are not academic questions. What we believe to be true when
it comes to immigration has real consequences for real people, people
who live in our community and throughout the country.

A new group at UUCOC will address these and other questions,
putting immigration into a proper historical context and taking action to
lead our community and our country toward a more rational, humane
and just immigration policy.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Anita Mills at
anita1836@earthlink.net or Marcus Oladell at mafcocinco@gmail.com.

Our first meeting will be Wednesday, March 2 at 7pm in the sanctuary
and we'll continue meeting for 12 weeks.



Facilitators Anita and Marcus

Emphasis will be placed on U.S. history
surrounding immigration, the realities of
our current immigration policy, and
brainstorming about what we can do to
help here in Oak Cliff.

We hope to see you on the 16th!

An Important Gift of Story

IT DOES GET BETTER!

By Rev. Marcia Shannon

Do you have a personal experience about overcoming bias/discrimination, based on your identity as a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered person? Could sharing your story inspire HOPE in teens/youth/young adults struggling with sexual identity issues and/or corresponding discrimination/bias? Are you willing to share your narrative story of liberation in a Worship Service on **Feb.13th** at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Oak Cliff, TX? If you have a narrative gift to offer up this Valentine's Day, consider "**Standing on the Side of Love**" with me. We plan to record the gifts of story* and make the subsequent tape available to teens/youth/young adults, in an effort to reinforce the message that they are not alone and their current circumstances are not permanent. Phone or text me at **(214) 929-2094**, email me at **uucoclifspanre@gmail.com** or leave a private message in my Facebook mailbox if you would like to participate in this Worship/Oral History Ritual!



*Note: There is no requirement that you be videotaped. If you'd rather share your story only with the congregation, just let me know.

The community is also invited to share their "It Gets Better" stories, which will be recorded, edited, and posted online. Join us in supporting gay and lesbian youth and affirm the "It Gets Better" pledge to speak up to provide hope for bullied teens.

February 13th and 20th, 2011

After the Special 10am Worship Service on Feb. 13, we will continue videotaping in the Teen Room, with additional videotaping on February 20 at 12:30pm.

Help spread the word!

Standing on the Side of Love with LGBT Teens

in honor of the

"It Gets Better" Project

and all those who stand against hatred and injustice

This campaign was started in response to the many suicides of gay teenagers who had been bullied and mistreated.

Visit www.itgetsbetter.org for more information, and www.oakcliffuu.org for directions.

IT GETS BETTER PROJECT
WWW.ITGETSBETTER.ORG

The Pledge:

*Everyone deserves to
be respected for
who they are.*

*I pledge to spread this
message to my friends,
family and neighbors.*

*I'll speak up against
hate and intolerance
whenever I see it, at
school and at work.*

*I'll provide hope for
lesbian, gay, bi,
trans and other
bullied teens
by letting them
know that
"It Gets Better."*

A Special Film Screening March 1

(rescheduled from February due to inclement weather)

Members of the Burmese Karen Refugee community in Dallas will be joining us!

As many of you may know, several members of our congregation have been actively supporting a community of Burmese Karen Refugees in Dallas. We have also been running a very successful clothing drive over the holidays for this group of refugees.

The First Tuesday Film Festival is showing a free screening of the documentary *Moving to Mars*. This film follows two refugee families from Burma over the course of a year that will change their lives completely. Forced from their homeland by the repressive military junta, they have lived in a Thai refugee camp for many years. A resettlement plan offers them the chance of a new life, but their new home, in the British city of Sheffield, will be different to everything they have ever known.

This film depicts the families' moving and sometimes humorous struggles with 21st century Britain. Their stories give us a unique insight into the experiences of displaced people throughout the UK, whilst showing the human consequences of Burma's political unrest.

FREE! 1st Tuesday
**Social Action
Films**

March 1 • 7pm

MOVING TO MARS
A MILLION MILES FROM BURMA



OOPS How could we overlook thanking Aaron Mitschke and his Karen friends for replacing the doors on the “dumpster corral.” Not only were the old doors falling apart, but they’d sported graffiti for some time. How’s this for ‘before’ and “after”?



SPECIAL THEATER OUTING

Echo Theater presents *The Executioner's Sons*, starring our very own Paul Williams and son Stuart Williams!

Discount tickets for the Saturday, Feb. 12 matinee are available for \$10. Please call or e-mail Kimberlyn to be added to the group (you can pay at the theater) so we have an accurate count to make reservations. Curtain is at 2:00pm, please arrive at the Bath House Cultural Center between 1:30 and 1:45pm. Find details about the play at <http://www.echotheatre.org/>

SAVE THE DATE! March 4 – 6

**Southwest District
UU Women's Conference**

Holiday Inn Select 2645 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX
(same location as 2010)

Celebrate 25 Years with us!

“Generation NEXXT”

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Tamara Lebak
Associate Minister

All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa, OK

For more information please contact co-conveners
Carol Currie & Joy Hayes at conference@swuuw.org

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women
www.swuuw.org

**Partial scholarships are available,
but you must apply by Feb. 9**

Registration ends Feb. 26

SWUUC Summer Offerings

www.SWUUC.org

**April 29 - May 1
Spring Conference
and Annual Meeting**

**Summer Training,
June 2-5, DFW area**

OWL Training (K-12),

Multicultural RE,

Non-Violent

Communication

(more information soon)

U BAR U Camps

Primary (July 3-9),

Junior (July 10-16)

Senior (July 17-23)

Register or Reserve

NOW!

SWUUSI

(July 24-29) at Western
Hills in NE Oklahoma

**Dwight Brown
Leadership Experience**

August 7-12 at TWU in
Denton, TX

Please remember the Chalice Lighters Call

Chalice Lighters is a program of the Southwest UU District. Members who sign up as Chalice Lighters agree to contribute \$10 or more three times a year to be given to a church in the district with special needs.

The current call will benefit the UU Fellowship of Hidalgo County, in San Juan, Texas, which needs a new building to allow for increased attendance. In spite of its small size, this group assists many community groups such as Adult Children of Alcoholics and People for Peace and Justice.

Elaine Wildman will forward your contributions (please include your name and address) or you can mail your check to: **Chalice Lighters, UU Southwest District, 6720 Brentwood Stair Road, Ft. Worth, TX 76112-3310**



NTAUUS NEWS (www.NTAUUS.org)

Seven UUCOC members attended the 2011 NTAUUS Awards Luncheon January 29th. Grants totaling over \$99,000 were awarded to 12 of the 13 member churches. UUCOC received a \$6,000 grant for DRLE salary support. For info on the awards and grants, see <http://www.ntauus.org/awards.shtml>.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

June 4, 2011 • 8:30 am-5pm

ONLY \$25 Community UU – Plano

Keynote speaker: Rev. Meg Riley

Luncheon Speaker: Rev. Susan Smith

Includes sessions on Social Networking & Media,
Meeting Planning, Grant-Writing, and more!



Celtic meets Country?



February 26 • 8pm

Tickets \$10 - \$12 - \$15

HEADLINER

Curtis & Loretta

Heartfelt original acoustic songs, plus traditional music from the British Isles, America and beyond.



OPENER

Lenzi Lenaye & The Green Hands

Influenced by everything from Gospel to Pop to Rock, Lenzi found her calling in Red Dirt Country Music!

More info at www.LabyrinthWalkCoffeeHouse.com

Remember: It's only a full house at Coffee House performances that will allow us to donate to our 2011 Beneficiary, **Prospect Mountain Therapeutic Riding Center**



"Souper" Bowl Sunday

Canned Soup Drive Feb. 6

UUCOC is collecting canned soup to donate to a local food pantry. (Very local: the Church of Christ across the street!) Actually doesn't have to be soup—they will gladly take contributions of any non-perishable food. Thank you, Anita, for spearheading this effort!

Then enjoy the Super Bowl

with Jim and Craig and their big-screen TV. Contact Jim at (972) 679-1541 for info.

Games Night

All are invited to Barbara Kalley's home for Games Night on the second Saturday of every month. Feel free to bring a healthy snack. RSVP to Barbara at (469) 877-7321 or another_uu@sbcglobal.net.

No Movie Night this month!

Should return next month, weather permitting!

Choir Practice is now on Sunday at 11:10am. Contact Glorian for more information: (214) 372-2892.

Coordinating Council Meeting

Feb. 22, 7:00pm Hope Chapel

Who should attend? Ministry/committee leaders or anyone who wants to be!

UUCOC Board Meeting

Feb. 22, 8:15pm Hope Chapel

Board meetings are open to all, and the agenda includes time for member comments.

A gentle reminder from your Treasurer:

"We're halfway through the year, are you halfway through your pledge?"



Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff

3839 W. Kiest Blvd.

Dallas, TX 75233

One amazing Unitarian **Louise Raggio**

June 15, 1919 – January 23, 2011

“Every person has the ability to do something the world needs. You do not have to be talented, good looking, or smart. Success means you have found your niche and used your best efforts to try to solve the problems.” Louise Raggio



The woman known as the "Mother of Family Law in Texas" passed away Sunday from natural causes in Dallas, Texas, at the age of 91. To say that Raggio led a full life would be a gross understatement.

Growing up on a cotton farm in Central Texas, Raggio and her mother lived in Austin so Raggio could go to school in town during a time when a girl's education was not considered the best use of time. After graduating as the valedictorian of Austin High School, Louise went on to graduate from the University of Texas in Austin, magna cum laude, with a bachelor's degree and teacher's certificate. Before settling into teaching, Raggio took a fellowship at American University for nine months where she met her heroine, Eleanor Roosevelt, and her husband, Grier Raggio.

Returning to Dallas with her husband, she started taking night law school courses. What started as a want to learn enough law to teach classes, turned into a life-changing decision.

After graduating with a law degree in 1952, Raggio became the first women assistant district attorney of Dallas County. While there, she realized that married women in Texas had

fewer rights than single women. During this time, Texas women were required to get their husbands' signature each time she filed a legal document. Also, married women in Texas had little to no protection for themselves and their children if divorced. Frustrated by this, she became the major support and fighter for the Marital Property Act of 1967. The Marital Property Act of 1967 became the foundation for the current Texas Family Code protecting women in the event of a divorce. She and her husband had opened their private practice by then and had three sons. The law practice is still open today and run by the family.

As chair of the State Bar of Texas' Family Law Section, she spearheaded the Family Code project in 1979, making Texas the first state with a unified family code. For that effort, she received the State Bar of Texas' highest honor and was the first woman elected Director to the Board of Directors of the State Bar of Texas in its more than 100-year history. On the national level, she served in influential leadership positions with the American Bar Association and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Among her most recent honors include being selected as a 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 Texas SuperLawyer and receiving the Dallas Bar Association's Morris Harrell Lawyer of the Year Award.

Raggio is an inductee in the Texas Women's Hall of Fame and a recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the first recipient of the Dallas Bar Association Outstanding Trial Lawyers Award, the prestigious Margaret Brent Award from the American Bar Association, a listing in The Best Lawyers in America, as well as having Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas found a Lecture Series in her name.

From blog.thewomensmuseum.org

**Deadline for March newsletter submissions is February 24, 2011.
Email kmgrey2@tx.rr.com or call (972) 660-2443.**