



The Oak Leaf

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF OAK CLIFF

Oct. 2012

Kathy Grey, Editor
kmgrey2@tx.rr.com

We, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff, facilitate individual spiritual growth and manifest our shared values through action with the greater community.

SUNDAY SERVICES

10am – 11am

11:15am – noon:

Youth & Adult Religious Education
Choir Rehearsal
Meet & Greet

Childcare is available 10am-noon

Vespers

Wednesdays 8-8:30pm

Preceded by Spanish Class
at 7pm

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Festival Planning Meeting

Thursday, October 11 (p.2)

Wine and Cheese

Friday, October 12 (p.2)

Grounds Clean-Up

Saturday, October 20 (p.2)

Jazz Under the Stars:

Freddie Jones

Saturday, October 27 (p.2)

Fall Festival & Chili Cook-Off

November 3 (p.5)

First Tuesday Film: Reel Injuns

November 6 (p.6)

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OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVICES

Architects of Faith

Our year continues with a reminder that our theologies are not handed to us like creeds. They come from our unique journeys and are highly personal. But build them we must if we are to design a significant presence in the world for the religion we now share. Our theologies must drive our commitment to the Unitarian Universalist Religion, and our religion must compel us to the creation of a welcoming and justice-seeking Beloved Community. We are the Architects of our Faith and our future.

October 7 – Change – From or In Your Pocketbooks? – This Service will be designed and presented by Geoff Pool and our Ministry of Worship. Look for details in coming Orders of Worship and our October e-Blasts. Rev. Walz is preaching in Arkansas.

October 14 – Blessing of the Animals – Our annual tribute to the Unitarian Universalist Covenantal Statement, *We affirm and promote the Interconnected Web of Life, of which We are a Part.* Our service is dedicated to celebrating the Inherent Worth and Dignity of every living thing, especially the magnificent creatures we share our lives with. Please feel free to bring your well-behaved and well-managed pets to church. We also welcome pictures and mementos of pets that are dear to us to decorate our altar. Blessing to follow in the Gazebo after the service. Rev. Mark Walz will preach the sermon.

October 21 – Ministry of Worship – TBA – This service will be designed and presented by our Ministry of Worship. Details to be announced. Look for them in coming Orders of Worship and our October e-Blasts!

October 28 – The iChurch – Referring to Ralph Waldo Emerson's dicta: "men are less together than alone," and "men descend to meet," Conrad Wright argues that our UU churches are made up of atomic and unrelated individuals. If real community is painfully constructed by people who have struggled to learn how to live together, how are we doing at building Beloved Community? Having studied Fred Muir's 2012 Berry Street Lecture, Rev. Mark Walz will preach the sermon.

EDITOR'S CORNER *Kathy Grey*

Apologies from your newsletter editor for the lack of a September Oak Leaf. Just too much going on, and something had to give! I tried to make sure September e-blasts included the time-sensitive information. (If you do not regularly receive church emails, please email Scott at webmaster@oakcliffuu.org)

The theme of this newsletter should be "Save the Date" — lots of activities coming up this month and next. Hope you can join us for some fun community-building!

UUCOC FALL FESTIVAL is November 3!

Planning continues, but activities so far include a Chili Cook-Off, Día de los Muertos Celebration, bounce house, and face painting. Want to be part of the planning? All are welcome at the next planning meeting:

FALL FESTIVAL MEETING

October 11, 2012 • 7pm

**We are looking for volunteers, suggestions,
and ideas! If interested please contact
Gary Brown at gary4145@att.net**

Labyrinth Walk Coffee House



FREDDIE JONES RETURNS to Jazz Under the Stars

October 27, 7:30pm

Freddie put on a fantastic show when he was here in June! (Have you ever seen anyone play TWO horns at the same time?) So grab a lawn chair or blanket and picnic basket and come on out to the Gazebo for an evening of great jazz.

Tickets are only \$10 for UUCOC members (and students with ID), \$12 in advance*/\$15 at the door for all others.

*Order online at www.LabyrinthWalkCoffeeHouse.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



See <http://www.ntaus.org/photos15.shtml> for more photos.

ANOTHER Pride Parade!

The NTAUUS float will roll again in the Ft. Worth Pride Parade **Saturday, October 6**. Staging is from 9-11am, with the parade stepping off at noon. The street festival runs noon to 6pm.

This is a much smaller event than the Dallas parade, but still a lively celebration of GLBT pride and support. See <http://www.tcgpwa.org/index.html> for details.

Wine and Cheese

Make room on your calendar for **Friday, October 12 at 7pm**. UUCOC is having it's inaugural wine and cheese gathering. Board members will provide wine, sparkling non-alcoholic beverages, cheese and crackers. If anyone has a favorite they'd like to share they are welcome to bring it along.

Rev. Mark Walz will facilitate a conversation among all attending about our spiritual beliefs. Bring a friend or guest if you wish and join Mark for some lively discussion.

Grounds Clean-Up

Saturday, October 20 has been designated "clean-up day" for our church grounds. This is in preparation for **Jazz Under the Stars** and the **Fall Festival**. We'll start at 9am and should be finished no later than noon. There will be donuts and hot coffee available for all volunteers.

Thanksgiving at UUCOC?

We're talking about doing this again—essentially, a holiday-themed potluck. Look for the sign-up sheet in the lobby to indicate your interest. And watch for more information!



Supporting Our Church — Submitted by Ed Stofko

Vision

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff envisions a community where we celebrate our spirituality through teaching, learning, laughter, song, dance and love. We reinvent our community by sharing our gifts of energy, time, food, talent and wealth. We inspire justice and responsibility through championing civil, economic and environmental justice in our community and the world. We challenge ourselves to extend our loving community beyond the bounds of our congregation by affirming fair and responsible treatment of every living thing.

Mission

“We, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff, facilitate individual spiritual growth and manifest our shared values through action with the greater community.”

We are a church that believes in...

- The sanctity of conscience
- The teaching of tolerance
- The obligation of compassion
- The expression of gratitude
- The excitement of curiosity
- The joy of hospitality
- The nurturing of children

UUCOC's financial goal for 2012-2013 builds upon our solid foundation of 50 years being the beacon of informed enlightenment in Oak Cliff. The new financial goal reaffirms our principal areas of operation that have anchored UUCOC's contribution to the community since 1961.

Principal areas of operation that contribute to our spiritual growth and our participation as informed good neighbors within our external community located in southwest Dallas County:

- Sunday Services
- Religious Education — both Child and Adult
- Childcare for church-sponsored activities and events
- Vespers Services
- Affiliations with the UUA and SWUUC
- Social Justice
 - ESL Program, Gay Rights Parade, Earth Day, 1st Tuesday Films, etc)
- Facility Maintenance
- Repair of an aging infrastructure
- Grounds Upkeep (including The Memorial Garden and the Labyrinth)

Each of these areas require our time, talent and treasure in order to maintain the ideals on which the UUCOC was predicated. These ideals demand that we act as a community versus as an individual to insure the continuation of our existence and the furthering of our vision and mission.

The board and ministry chairs pledge their commitment to being the trusted servants chosen by you the congregation who will work towards promoting these financial goals.

Join in with your fellow members by contributing your time and resources to extend our foundation another 50 years.

RECAP OF BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 28, 2012

Anita Mills, UUCOC President

Insurance claim: The Board received a check from Church Mutual for \$2400 as compensation for our burglary claim. It was decided that we would honor the commitment to purchase a security camera for Hope/Charity to be funded out of the claim check; the rest will reside in the savings account pending advice from the Finance Ministry as to how it should be allocated.

Grant application: Green Mountain Energy has put out a request for applications from non-profits for installation of a solar array; the Board approved our submitting an application.

Religious Education: The sum of \$200 was allocated as a revolving petty cash fund for use by the RE Team to fund supplies, etc. for RE activities.

Talkback: A date of October 14, 2012 was set as the re-scheduled Congregational Talkback, to be held during the RE hour. The previous Talkback (in April) was valuable in providing feedback to the Board and ministries for moving the church forward within our Mission/Vision.

Leadership Development: A charge was issued to the Leadership Development Committee for nominees for Trustee, Treasurer and NTAUUS Rep for consideration at the September Board meeting. We are also looking for a Coordinator for the November Fall Festival.

Finances: July's income was \$5864.15. Expenses were \$8170.46, for a deficit of \$2306.31. It was announced that the Finance Ministry will be preparing reports for the congregation relative to the budget passed at the last Parish Meeting, as well as actual and anticipated income and expenses for the fiscal year.



[Additional details and Registration information can be found on the First Church Website.](#)

CHALICE LIGHTERS CALL

Chalice Lighters is a program through which congregations in the Southwest District help each other. Congregants are asked to make a contribution of \$10 or more three times a year toward special needs. Several years ago we received a substantial amount for our Memorial Garden. The current call is raising money for the San Marcos Fellowship, (www.SMUUF.org) which has doubled its membership using rented space in an Episcopal Church.

There are three ways to contribute—
Go to the Southwest District Website:

<http://swuuc.org/pages/stewardship/support.php>

Or mail your donation to:

SWUUC Chalice Lighters
P.O. Box 560246
Orlando, FL 32856-0246

Or give it to **Elaine Wildman** along with your address and she will send it in for you.

RENT THIS SPACE!

Please let your friends and neighbors know about the availability of our facilities for rental. Of course, we do this for income, but also as a service to our community.

Check out our updated Rental Information page. You'll find FAQs in English and Spanish: https://www.oakcliffuu.org/rentals_faqs.shtml

Have questions for our Rental Coordinators, Jay & Mari Vega?

Email rentals@oakcliffuu.org, or call or text (214) 659-1866.



NATIVE AMERICAN SMOKE CEREMONY

On the first Saturday of each month, weather permitting, a group meets on our campus to conduct Native American rituals.

Interested? Contact organizer Fritz Kuehn, fritz@dreamlab.com or 469-939-2031 for more information.

ADVERTISING OUR MANY FINE ACTIVITIES: UUCOC PRESS RELEASES

Submitted by Judy Watkins

For press releases, please contact Judy Watkins by e-mail at judannwat@sbcglobal.net or call 972-291-2710 or hand it to me on Sundays or whenever. If you have any suggestions for sites, let me know.

Deadlines for press releases: Four weeks should be the goal as some sites have several weeks lead time. It is possible to post some things later on other sites, but please no later than one week.

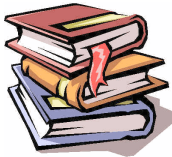
If you are comfortable writing your own copy, please do so. Do not be concerned about how long it may be. It may have to be edited down for some sites having word or character limits.

Whether you write your own copy or not, please provide the following information:

What _____ When _____ (Date & Time)
Where _____ Who _____
Price, if any _____ Any relevant website _____
Age suitability _____ If providing photo, identify location _____ (No .bmp files, please)
Contact information and whether or not it should be included for publication _____
Any other information you think is necessary or interesting.

I have found six Spanish publications and two radio stations. If someone who can read Spanish would like to volunteer to look at these sites to:

- 1) get submission information, if any;
- 2) see if the site accepts releases not specifically aimed at the Latino community;
- 3) if they accept/publish English releases;
- 4) if an account is needed; and
- 5) if they refer to other sites for events (one seems to just refer to Guide Live), I would be grateful. Let me know. I can e-mail you what I have or print it off for you.



A GOOD READ by Judy Watkins

Reviews of books relevant to our lives as UUs

If you order books online from Amazon.com through our website, a percentage of your purchases will be remitted to the Church. See <http://www.oakcliffuu.org/readings.shtml>.

Outliers: The Story of Success, by Malcolm Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell argues in **Outliers** that many factors contribute to the success of individuals and their undertakings. While not discounting innate ability and tenacity, he also factors in opportunity, culture, and support systems.

Gladwell starts his investigation with Canadian hockey stars, a majority of whom were born in early January, February and March. Why? The cutoff date for starting hockey is January 1 so those born after have to wait almost a full year to sign up. By then, they are bigger and more coordinated than their younger team mates. Thus, they receive more opportunity to play and advance to higher level leagues.

One interesting story involves the Korean airline which had a dismal accident rate. Gladwell explains how they turned that around to become one of the safest airlines simply by addressing the underlying cultural causes of the accidents.

Read the back stories of Bill Gates, Albert Einstein, The Beatles, et al. and how they achieved their fame and fortune as well as the story of Chris Langan, a genius you probably never heard of. And read the author's theory about why Asian children are better at math — are western children not as bright or is western math simply hard to learn? Find out how Jewish lawyers became so successful in New York.

Although the subject matter seems somewhat didactic, Gladwell has produced an interesting, easy read sure to be thought-provoking. Available through Amazon, complete with over 1,400 reviews.

Drift, by Rachel Maddow

How did we become a nation at war, a nation that glorifies war, a nation constantly prepared for another war? The US went from Thomas Jefferson's opposition to ". . . a standing army in a time of peace" to having "a legal right and a moral duty" to help resist communism in our hemisphere, as pronounced by President Ronald Reagan, and an army, air force, navy, and marine corps that is continuously standing and too often fighting on foreign soil.

We drifted there, explains Rachel Maddow in **Drift, The Unmooring of American Military Power**, an easy to read history of how our country became involved in wars "big, small, hot, cold, air sea, or ground – and against real enemies. Sometimes they'd attacked us, and sometimes we'd gone out of our way to find them."

Not only have we ignored Jefferson's idea that we should never have an unnecessary soldier, but we have privatized much of the military's former responsibilities, from logistics to intelligence gathering and even actual combat. And how did that happen?

Maddow makes the case that we should heed the warning given by Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 2007-2011: "If the military drifts away from its people in this country, that is a catastrophic outcome we as a county can't tolerate."

And with her usual lighthearted twist, the book is dedicated to Dick Cheney with a plea, "Please let me interview you."



Calling All Chili Cooks!

UUCOC Chili Cook-Off • Nov. 3

Judging will be for Chili and Showmanship.*
If you are up for the challenge, please contact Gene Dailey (Gene.Dailey@hanson.biz) or Berry Chastain (wbchstn@yahoo.com) for entry forms.

Guidelines will be the CASI rules with some exceptions. Veggie chili will compete with regular chili unless there are sufficient entries to judge them separately. You will need to identify your chili when you fill out the entry form.

Entry fee will be \$10. Cooking starts at **8:00am** but you can start setting up at 7:00am. **Judging starts at noon** for both Showmanship and Chili.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies will be given for each category.

What is Showmanship, you ask?

It can be anything from decorations to performance art! In past years, it has ranged, um, shall we say, "from the sublime to the ridiculous"? It's not required that chili cooks also compete in Showmanship — it's just fun when they do!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

New Adult RE

Watch for new classes to begin soon. In addition to the **Page Turners Book Club**, other planned monthly offerings include a conversational **Talk Back** led by Rev. Mark, a look at **UU History** subject, and Exploration of various topics.

RE ADVISORY TEAM MEETING Thursday, Oct. 4 Hope Chapel



Thank you to all who donated supplies to Youth RE during our back-to-school drive!

UUCOC's Page Turners Book Club meets regularly on the 4th Sunday of the month at 11:15 in Hope. Our mission is to enhance our knowledge and generate discussion through reading books on various cultures, spirituality and social justice issues—and an occasional “just for fun” book. All are invited.

OCTOBER: *The Ascent to Truth*, by Thomas Merton “...defines Christian mysticism... and offers the contemplative experience as an answer to the irreligion and barbarism of our times.”

“The mystical literature of John of the Cross is known for its literary beauty and spiritual profundity but it is not always accessible. ***The Ascent to Truth*** is a clear and reliable guide to understanding him. Merton's Catholic and monastic background together with his literary gifts makes him an excellent expositor of St John. . . . Besides John of the Cross, Merton also draws lessons from the other great spiritual teachers such as John Ruysbroek, Teresa of Avila, Gregory of Nyssa and others that have left us some signposts along the mystical path. . . “ (Review: [Donner C. S. Tan](#))

PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BOOKS:

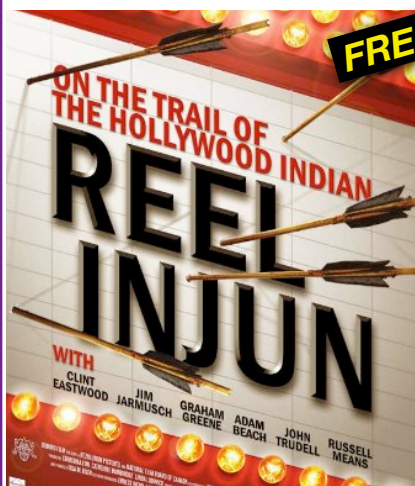
NOVEMBER: *Rebuild the Dream*, by Van Jones — “Part memoir, part manifesto, ...offers a moving, powerful game plan for restoring hope to American’s economy.”

JANUARY: *The Rich and the Rest of Us*, by Cornell West and Tavis Smiley
“... ending poverty is sure to emerge as the defining civil rights struggle of America’s 21st century.”

Suggestions on future books are welcome. Come join our discussion!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

FREE SCREENING



First Tuesday Social Justice Film Festival November 6 • UUCOC Sanctuary

“An entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through a century of cinema”

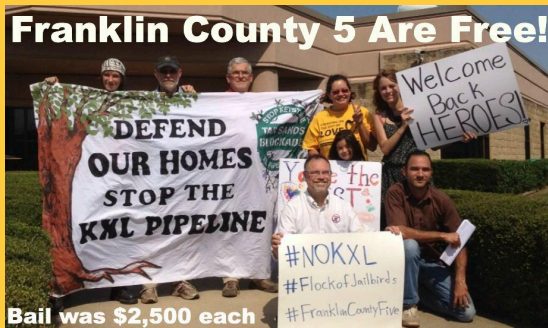
“Traveling through the heartland of America and into the Canadian North, Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond looks at how the myth of “the Injun” has influenced the world’s understanding – and misunderstanding – of Natives. With clips from hundreds of classic and recent films, and candid interviews with celebrated Native and non-Native directors, writers, actors, and activists including Clint Eastwood, Robbie Robertson, Graham Greene, Adam Beach, and Zacharias Kunuk, ***Reel Injun*** traces the evolution of cinema’s depiction of Native people from the silent film era to present day.”

- *The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television*

UUCOCers STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE: Peaceful protests and proud parading



Muslim Community Peace Vigil



Tar Sands Blockade



Dallas Pride Parade (Pat McAfee photo)