



# DENTON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

<http://www.dentonuuf.org>

September 2010 Newsletter

## Just Sayin'



Dear Members and Friends,

I suspect that every President promotes or inherits a particular issue during his stint on the Board. By now many of you may know that I want to give membership a lot of attention in the coming year. One member joked that I scolded attendees at the Congregational Meeting in May for our low membership numbers – ok, sorry. Unfortunately, some do cringe at the sound of words and phrases like “recruiting” or “growth” or “increasing membership” because they connote something akin to fraternity rush or recruiting Amway distributors. Perhaps others reject growth fearing we will lose some of the intimacy and closeness that characterizes many “family size” Fellowships (defined as congregations of less than 50 people). While I understand these concerns, I personally believe the alternatives to growth are much more unattractive for our Fellowship as well as Unitarian Universalism.

Why grow? Some reasons for growth can sound superficial and crass, others more thoughtful and convincing. It can depend on how you frame the reason. Of course, additional “pledge paying, service volunteering members” will give us a financial boost and more bodies to help with committee tasks. In case you’re wondering, that’s the superficial and crass reason. Framed differently, real growth enhances our ability to help people inside and outside the Fellowship. In this case, help can mean a lot of different things – to give meaning, to solve problems, or to bring relief.

I once suggested a retreat topic to the Board – UU Evangelism. Nobody knew what I meant by the phrase. At the time, I probably wondered myself. Evangelism is largely the practice of relaying information about a particular set of beliefs. Generally, the term refers to the Christian practice of spreading the Gospel. Assuming we UUs have a message to spread, we could certainly appropriate the use of term. We could become Evangelical in our words and actions. If we UUs do give meaning, if we do solve problems, and if we do bring relief, that is our “good news.” In my heart of hearts, I know there are people in our community who want or need to hear our good news. If so, then I say “Why not grow so we can spread it around?”

In Faith,  
Mark Davis  
Congregational President

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## Pam's Presence



Greetings! I am delighted to be joining you this month as your minister! As we enter into a new church/school year, more than ever it feels to me like a time of new beginnings. In addition to starting as your minister, I have had a whirlwind summer that included receiving ministerial fellowship in June at our annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations that took place in Minneapolis. In July I married my love, Jeff Harris. We were married at Texas Woman's University's Little Chapel-in-the-Woods by Rev. Tony Lorenzen of Pathways Unitarian Universalist Church in Southlake. On September 26th I will be ordained by Pathways with many distinguished colleagues, friends and family supporting my call to ministry. I hope that many of you will join me for this milestone in my life.

At the Denton UU Fellowship, we also have new beginnings in the congregation. I understand that much is already in full gear for a new year of religious education programming. During our service on September 12th, we will recognize new members who have joined the Fellowship in May through August. We have also been acquiring additional copies of the newer Singing the Journey hymnal supplement and our skilled music leaders will be introducing some beautiful and inspiring new songs to the congregation throughout the year.

What an exciting time to be a part of Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship! As I get to know the Fellowship as a whole, I also hope to get to know many of you as individuals. Please introduce yourself to me and help me to know who you are. In addition to being at the Fellowship as often as I can on Sunday mornings, I am available by appointment. Please feel free to send me an e-mail at [minister@dentonuuf.org](mailto:minister@dentonuuf.org) or call the office at (940) 566-1286 to arrange a time to get together.

In the midst of our new beginnings, may each of us find in our fellowship together a community that supports, strengthens, challenges and inspires us always.

In Faith,  
Pam Wat  
Consultant Minister

## UU History

### Our Symbol: the Flaming Chalice

A flame within a chalice (a wide-lipped stemmed cup), represents the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and is a symbol of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) faith.

*"At the opening of Unitarian Universalist worship services, many congregations light a flame inside a chalice. This flaming chalice has become a well-known symbol of our denomination. It unites our members in worship and symbolizes the spirit of our work." -Dan Hotchkiss*



Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, first brought together the chalice and the flame as a Unitarian symbol during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. To Deutsch, the image had connotations of sacrifice and love. Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the image. To many, the cup represents religious community, while the flame represents ideas including the sacrificial flame, the flame of the spirit, and more.



The flaming chalice image has changed many times over the years. There is no single interpretation of today's flaming chalice symbol. Modern chalice designs often incorporate two overlapping circles which, for many people, represent our Unitarian and Universalist heritages. Other images include additional elements, some of which are merely decorative and others which are very meaningful. (adapted: UU Historical Society <http://www25.uua.org/uuhs/index.html>)

# Religious Education 2010-2011 Curriculum Review

## Kids Clubhouse



RE is excited about a new curriculum in the Kids Clubhouse. Written by Kate Tweedie Covey, from Boulder Valley UU Fellowship and released in April of 2009, *The Picture Book Unitarian Universalists* is based on the 36 best picture books for teaching young children about the love, reason, tolerance and good works that make up our faith. Geared toward Kindergarten through 2nd graders, this year long curriculum teaches our younger UUs the art of self-expression, to value individuality, to



think for themselves and simplify their lives, and to understand that everything is connected – in fact, radically related. They will hear about people whose novel ideas and discoveries helped to transform our faith – people like Maria Mitchell, Henry David Thoreau, and Fannie Farmer.

This curriculum will be used from September 2010 through May 2011 – and include books on major holidays such as Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Winter Solstice, MLK Day, Valentine’s Day, Earth Day, and Summer Solstice. There are books referring to the Bible, such as, “Psalm Twenty-Three” and “The Golden Rule” and books explaining evolution such as “The Everything Seed” and “From Lava to Life: The Universe Tells our Earth’s Story”. There are also the classic/must reads that many UU parents recognize – “Old Turtle”, “Miss Rumphius” and the tear-jerker – “Love You Forever”.

## Tweens

The Tweens RE Class will be continuing *The Questing Year*

Written for 6th graders; suitable for individual grades 6 through 8 and for combined groups with 5th graders and up. *The Questing Year* engages participants in four quests designed to help them seek and develop their own answers to deep life questions about human faith and the web of all existence. Connected through social action and spiritual search, the Mystery Quest, the Inner Quest, the Action Quest and the UU Quest are all challenging and fun. The class uses music and meditation to experience religious mystery, creates personal aliens and mirror boards for exploring self, runs a social action project to help others outside the church, and explores the lives of outstanding Unitarian Universalists.



**Curriculum Review continued next page.**

## Stay Connected - Subscribe to Yahoo! Groups

**DUUF News** - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DUUF-L/>  
**DUUF Youth News** - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DUUFUYouth/>

Curriculum Review continued from previous page.

## Teens

The Teen Class will be continuing with a variety of discussion topics from the following UUA curriculum

*Sacred Threads* by Jeff Liebmann helps youth identify unique elements of modern Asian religions and recognize characteristics that these religions share with each other and with Unitarian Universalism. It helps youth explore how attributes of these other religions have relevance to their own spiritual journeys. *Sacred Threads* also helps youth understand the nature of religion in human society, both as it influences their own lives as well as the relations among communities and nations.

*Paradigms Lost* by Jeff Liebmann teaches youth basic life skills by identifying one's core mission, prioritizing goals, evaluating performance, and keeping balance in one's life and uses a variety of fun and challenging approaches to help youth explore themselves and their relationships with others.



## RE FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE GOING CAMPING!

Join RE on **September 25** for a campout at Ray Roberts Isle Du Bois State Park group campsite. This family outing is being organized by the folks in RE, but everyone is welcome. In addition to hanging out by the fire and telling lies, there is sure to be excellent food, lessons in "Spider Sniffing", a "Snipe Hunt for Non-Believers," and S'MORES!



Gerry Veeder has promised that the worship committee will not plan an interesting service for September 26. However, if you want to attend the service that Sunday, Barry Watson has agreed to provide a wake up call when he pops out of his tent for his 4:30 am yoga. Late sleepers are welcome to be enlightened by Danielle Jacobson's breakfast campfire homily tentatively entitled, "**Bacon by the fire: the flavor of the sacred.**" The reading will be from Exodus 29:18.



**IMPORTANT NOTE: There will be no RE classes at DUUF on September 26!**

Contact Cindy and Jake at [jake.cindy@verizon.net](mailto:jake.cindy@verizon.net) for more camp information.

**Volunteers Drive Religious Education!  
Volunteer Today!  
Open Hearts! Open Minds!**

## Members and Friends in the Arts

Portraits of California:  
City Views, Landscapes and Flora  
Works by Alice Gibbons  
September 20 - October 17  
Gough Gallery  
The Center for the Visual Arts

Alice Gibbons is a graphic artist from San Francisco and sister-in-law of DUUF member Jackie Gibbons

## Lunch Bunch September

Sept 5: Jasmine  
Sept 12: Quickstir  
Sept 19: Luigis  
Sept 26: Roosters



## Tween RE Helpers Needed

Contact Linda Sagaribay to help on September 5 or September 19. You will not have to do any preparation--just show up at 9:30 and assist as directed. Mostly RE just needs a second adult in the room.

## RE Committee Meeting - DRIP

DRIP (DUUF RE Interest Party) will be celebrated Monday, September 13 at 6:00 PM at the Fellowship. Parents and anyone interested in RE are welcome to join us for Pizza and Discussion about our Religious Education program. Kids are welcome. Please RSVP to [jake.cindy@verizon.net](mailto:jake.cindy@verizon.net) so we know how much Pizza to order.

## Dallas 2010 Pride Parade

The 2010 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade  
~ The 27th Edition ~  
"One Heart, One World, One Pride"

**Sunday, September 19**

Parade begins at 2:00 pm  
Cedar Springs Rd from Wycliff Ave. to Lee Park

**Stand on the Side of Love**

**March with NTAUUS:** The North Texas  
Association of Unitarian Universalists

## Intermediate Pagan Practice

The fourth and final Intermediate Pagan Practice class, titled "Ritual, Spellcraft, and Energy Work", will be September 25 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Discussion will include the use of ritual and ceremony in both religious and secular settings. Casting, cleansing, warding, and similar techniques will be practiced. The CUUPS Fall Equinox ritual will be held the evening of September 25, giving participants the opportunity to put their learning into practice right away.

You need not have attended the previous sessions to participate in this class.

The class will be led by Cynthia Talbot, an anthropologist who's been a Wiccan high priestess for 20 years, and John Beckett, the Coordinating Officer of Denton CUUPS and a Druid in the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids.

An offering of \$10 for the class is requested, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. The class is "family friendly" and is appropriate for older children. Unfortunately, childcare is not available for this day.

If you have any questions, please contact John Beckett at [JohnFranc@aol.com](mailto:JohnFranc@aol.com) or 972-948-9211.

## UU Always Online

**Congregation**

[dentonuuf.org](http://dentonuuf.org)

**Cluster**

[ntaus.org](http://ntaus.org)

**District**

[swuuc.org](http://swuuc.org)

**Denomination**

[uua.org](http://uua.org)

## Who's Who at DUUF

Rev. Pamela Wat, Consultant Minister, hours by appt

[minister@dentonuuf.org](mailto:minister@dentonuuf.org)

Linda Sagaribay, Director of Religious Education

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Diana Forson, Parish Administrator

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Vacancy, Trustee (Even Year)

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Gerry Veeder, Trustee (Odd Year) and

Worship Committee Chair [trustee1@dentonuuf.org](mailto:trustee1@dentonuuf.org)

John Beckett, Past President

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## September Worship

Sept. 5 "So What Do YOU Do?" In honor of Labor Day, four DUUF members talk about their work.

Sept. 12 "Alone in a Pluralistic Faith" Rev. Pam Wat; first official sermon at DUUF.

Sept. 19 "Musings of an Editor" Mike Trimble, Denton Record Chronicle Opinion Editor. Mike will talk about writing his satiric editorials which make half of Denton scream with laughter and the other half scream with fury.

Sept. 26 "Reflections on Being Religious" Marisol Caballero

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

13 Kelly Evans

14 Jim Swan

26 Paula Blackshear

To include special dates please call Wendy Leung at 940-321-8961 or email [wleung50@hotmail.com](mailto:wleung50@hotmail.com).

## Concerns

Family of Millard Thorp

More at: [www.dentonuuf.org](http://www.dentonuuf.org) | Facebook | Blogger



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