



The COMMUNITY News

Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano

March 2010

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**CommunityUU
Church.org**

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Typical Sunday

- **9:15 a.m.**
Inquirer's Class
(1st Sunday of each month)
- **10:30 - 11:45 a.m.**
Worship
Religious Education for Youth; Nursery Childcare

Inside this issue:

- Patrick's Ponderings **2**
- The President's Corner **3**
- UU Hong Kong **4**
- Annual Budget Drive **5**
- REactions Religious Education at CUUC **6**
- Harvest Garden **7**
- Women's Alliance **8**
- Adult Religious Education **9**

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS, MARCH 14TH, SET CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR!

On **March 28, 2010, Justice Sunday**, we will stand up with Unitarian Universalist congregations nationwide to respond to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's call to advance the cause of economic justice. Each year, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) encourages congregations to dedicate a day to consider a particular theme or need. This year's theme is economic justice, a topic deeply affecting people around the globe and even here in Collin County. How can we put our UU principles into action and move the world closer to justice?

The UUSC is a social justice organization that is financially independent from the UUA and the federal government. It focuses on areas of significant need, providing education, support and advocacy to people and organizations around the world and focusing support primarily on the most vulnerable of communities.

As of February 15, the UUSC reported having received a remarkable \$988,369 in donations toward the relief fund for victims of earthquake in Haiti. Many thanks to those of you who already donated to that effort. Also, many thanks to those who donated toward the UUSC's *Guest at Your Table* program which we offered earlier in the year. I am relieved to know that there is an organization on the frontline of justice that embodies my ethics and beliefs and, for me, maintaining my membership to the UUSC is an important part of how I live out my own faith.

On March 28, at our Justice Sunday service, we will not collect a second offering. The focus instead will be on increasing our awareness and finding out how this theme connects to us. In lieu of a second offering, I take this moment to encourage you to consider joining me in becoming a member of the UUSC. I have been very inspired by the many workers for justice at Community and I would love to see that dedication toward justice exemplified in the congregation's increased membership to the UUSC. Individual memberships to the UUSC are \$40 (Student \$10 and Seniors \$20). Member contributions make up about 60% of UUSC's annual budget. Congregations with strong membership in the UUSC receive banners at different levels. With increased UUSC

(continued on page 3)

March Sunday Services

March 7, 2010 - "So, Tell Me About the God You Don't Believe In", Rev. Patrick Price. *Child Dedication and New Member Recognition Ceremonies.*

March 14, 2010 - "How Do We Know What is So?", Rev. Patrick Price. Daylight Savings Time Begins... Spring Forward One Hour.

March 21, 2010 - "Springing Forth in the Way of Transformation: the Via Transformativa", Rev. Patrick Price

March 28, 2010 - "The Cries of Economic Justice", Pamela Wat, ministerial intern.

Staff**Minister**

Rev. Patrick Price
Office: 972.424.8989
revpprice@
CommunityUUChurch.org

Ministerial Intern

Pamela Wat
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Director of Religious Education

VACANT
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Director of Music

Kelley Poche Rodriquez
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Church Secretary

Connie Meints
Office: 972.424.8989
cuuc-office@
CommunityUUChurch.org

Church Bookkeeper

Brandy Nabors
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@communityuuchurch.org

Special Email Addresses**Board of Trustees**

board@
CommunityUUChurch.org

Strategic Planning Committee

planning@
CommunityUUChurch.org

Patrick's Ponderings

Even as I anticipate the turning of the wheel of the year, taking us from winter to spring, I realize that many of us are still dealing with difficult issues and life situations. Part of the church's role is to help us through such times, by direct support and by being a caring and trustworthy community. With so many new and returning guests, friends and members, it is time to offer a review of how we take care of each other as a community and how to access these resources.

As the minister I have a unique pastoral relationship with the members of this religious community, however I am not the only, or even first pastoral or caring relationship available. We are blessed by many dedicated members who make up our Caring Committee's supportive ministry. From our website:

Pastoral care should be a core value in any religious community, and that is especially true when the church defines itself as a community of its members and supporting each other is an important way we support the church. The Reverend Price's many responsibilities include pastoral duties such as visiting congregants in the hospital and counseling church members. However, pastoral concerns often need continuing or longer-term attention. The Caring Committee supports and supplements the minister's efforts, occasionally providing transportation, running errands or preparing a meal. Mostly, however, our volunteers provide a cheerful voice and a sympathetic ear. The Caring Committee is an important ministry of Community UU Church. They would love to have your help. Contact them at caring@communityuuchurch.org or call the church office.

In addition to the Caring Committee's resources, I have a fund of money available through the Minister's Discretionary Account to provide minor financial assistance to members and friends of the church as well as people in the broader community. Please contact me for further information for yourself or someone else.

Overall, the most important thing we can all do to ensure the care we may each need, is to communicate with each other. If the church staff and volunteers do not know about a need or concern, it can not be addressed. The fact is that the grapevine just doesn't work as well as we suppose it does in getting vital information where it needs to go. Dropping a word to someone in the midst of a busy Sunday morning or a passing comment in the hall is not a very certain way to get the message out. So please intentionally call or e-mail me, the Caring Committee and/or the church office with important and/or timely information about needs and concerns for yourself or another. Together we are stronger than we are alone.

Have a great month and see you in church. Blessings, Patrick

Editorial Policy: In order to be included in our publications an event must be church-initiated, or at the very least officially co-sponsored by an established church committee or organization. Events run by individual members or by other organizations in which individual members play prominent roles, do not qualify.

The President's Corner

Sarah Reiling

What an interesting winter we had this year with colder than usual temperatures and plenty of rain. Just as it looked like spring was almost here, we had a record setting snowfall for North Texas! One thing you can always count on though, after winter it is always spring.

To celebrate spring's arrival, Earthspirit is sponsoring a Spring Festival for the entire family. The festival is March 27 from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. Dress to have fun; save the new spring duds for Easter Sunday. Parents should attend with their children. Volunteers to help with the fun and games are needed. Contact Cheri Remily or Nancy Steed to offer your help at earthspirit@communityuuchurch.org.

Our Annual Budget Drive is wrapping up soon. The programs and activities of Community Church depend on your contributions of time, talent and treasure. We also want you to tell us how Community Church is doing and ways we can improve your church experience. If you have not had a Visiting Steward contact you about the annual Budget Drive, please contact the Stewardship Committee at [\\$\\$@communityuuchurch.org](mailto:$$@communityuuchurch.org).

Remember that the Spring Leadership Conference will be held at our church on April 23 through 25. Check out the brochure on our website for more details on the conference.

You may have noticed that throughout this article there are special email addresses. These email addresses are the best way to email church staff, leaders, committees and groups. They are kept up to date and link to the most current email boxes for everyone. For example, if you want to contact me on church business use president@communityuuchurch.org. You can find these email addresses on our website and in the newsletter. These special email addresses enable you to communicate with the knowledge that your email is being delivered to the current email box of the current job owner.

Peace and justice,
Sarah

(continued from front page)

members, Community could receive a banner for the church depending on the percentage of membership in our congregation. They include: Creating Justice 25-49%, Vision of Justice 50-74%, Beacon of Justice 75-99%, and Spirit of Justice Chalice Society with 100% UUSC membership.

Membership information, along with a wealth of information about different ways to support justice in our community and abroad, is available at the UUSC website: <http://www.uusc.org/>. **Pamela Wat**

Elected Officers

President

Sarah Reiling ('11)
president@communityuuchurch.org

Vice President Programs

Denise Dittmar ('10)

Treasurer

Grace Morrison ('10)

Secretary

Donna Bening

Facilities

Dick Hildenbrand ('11)
facilities
@communityuuchurch.org

Communications

Ian Rule ('10)

Personnel

Sandy Farlow ('10)

Past President

Leslie Harper ('10)

E-mail entire Board

board@CommunityUUChurch.org

Community UU Board of Trustees meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Founders Hall. Members, friends and visitors are always welcome.

North Texas Association of Unitarian Universalist Societies (NTAUUS)

CUUC Representatives

Anne Smith

Worship Programs*worship@**communityuuchurch.org*

Tom Reid

Sunday Services

Elena Westbrook

Ushers Coordinator

Ian Rule

Interior Arts

Sandy Farlow

Caring Committee*Caring**@communityuuchurch.org*

Cyn Blanco

Partnership Update for the March newsletter

At our January 24, 2010 multigenerational, multicultural worship service, we celebrated our partnership with Unitarian Universalists Hong Kong (UUHK) with an early celebration of the Chinese New Year. The service drew record attendance and raised approximately \$300 to support future partnership efforts. The service included performances of traditional Chinese instruments (Guzheng and Ehru), a Chinese vocalist who sang the original Chinese lyrics of a tune from our Unitarian Universalist hymnal, Chinese music on recorder from our own Rosemarie Petrich, a story about a Wishing Tree in Hong Kong, and information about traditions of the Chinese New Year and about UUHK. Children received lucky red envelopes each containing a Chinese coin. The service culminated with a joyful postlude of younger children entering the sanctuary with drums that they decorated and with older children entering with lion dancing. After the service, attendees enjoyed a Kung Fu demonstration with swords and a delicious Chinese lunch. It was truly a celebration! We shared pictures and video of our celebration with UUHK who celebrated our partnership on February 6th. We look forward to sharing pictures of their celebration as well.

UUHK has even more reason to celebrate! UUHK founder and president, Alex Szeto, and his wife Flora are new parents! Flora gave birth to a healthy boy on February 8th, 2010. The boy weighs 3.12 kg (6.96 lbs). Alex and Flora named the baby Ryan Szeto, with a Chinese name: /仁 (Ren). /仁 is a key concept in Confucianism, which can be translated as “humanness, benevolence, and kindness.”

A partnership committee has been formed at Community and is working to find ways to deepen our relationship and our experience with UUHK. In order to help increase access to one another, the committee has created a special partnership webpage. See pictures and learn more about the partnership and our partner church by visiting our website: <http://communityuuchurch.org/pages/HongKong>. Another way to access the page is to go to communityuuchurch.org and go to the Faith in Action page (under Ministries) where there is a link to the Hong Kong partnership page. There is also a link to <http://uuhk.org/> which is UU Hong Kong’s site.

If you are interested in joining the efforts of the partnership committee, please contact Jian Li or Pamela Wat (minintern@communityuuchurch.org).

Literary Ladies Book Club

On **March 9th** we will discuss the life of Eleanor Roosevelt. You are invited to choose any biography to read and share.

We will meet at **7 p.m.** at the home of Pam Reinke-Walter. **Contact Pam by Mar. 5 if you plan to attend.**

This group meets the second Tuesday of each month and welcomes women members and friends of Community UU Church. The April selection is Night Train to Lisbon by Pascal Mercier. Mercier’s third novel is richly detailed. It is full of surprises and paradoxes as it incorporates a vivid rendering of the Portuguese resistance to Salazar.

Faith in Action

Community Outreach

Response to our ongoing food drive for **God’s Pantry** has been wonderful. Please continue to leave your non-perishable food donations in the grocery cart next to the front door of the church. Community UU also helps support God’s Pantry by paying recent electric bills to enable them to keep the doors open.

We continue to support the **Samaritan Inn** by serving dinner to residents on the third Saturday evening each month. Thanks to the Simple Living Circle for serving in January! If your group would like to participate in the near future, please contact Nelah McComsey. (Your team won’t be asked to provide the food, only to help serve the meal.)

The first quarter **Oak Point Park Cleanup** has been rescheduled to **Saturday afternoon, March 27**. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the park and help keep it clean. Contact Nelah McComsey for more information.

Community UU will again be one of the supporters of the **Collin County CROP Hunger Walk**, which is scheduled for **Sunday afternoon, May 16**. This event supports local and international hunger relief efforts. For more information, contact Gary or Vicky Sharpsteen.

Green Team

In January, four members from Community UU attended the **Faith-Based Green Team Training** program presented by the City of Plano (and moderated by our own Deb Bliss!). We heard a lot of creative ideas for saving water and energy in church buildings and grounds. To follow up on this program and to share information about living green, we are forming a **Green Team** for Community UU. If you are interested in being part of the Green Team, please contact Linda Frank or Nelah McComsey.

Social Justice

One of the UUA’s Congregational Study/Action Issues for 2008-2012 is **Ethical Eating**, an examination of food and environmental justice issues. We are planning a program soon to share ideas and experiences on this subject. Stay tuned!

Connecting To Community With Commitment

On **February 7**, we kicked off the **2010 Annual Budget Drive** with our proverbial “free (Souper Bowl) lunch.” Now the real work begins. You should be hearing from a Visiting Steward to schedule a stewardship visit and to accept your 2010-2011 financial commitment. Welcome them, work with them and help make this a successful drive. Please reflect on what this church community means in your life and give generously and joyfully. The giving decisions we make now will dictate our budget for the coming fiscal year. Together we can create abundance and do good work.

Please contact June Bruns if you have any questions or if you have not yet had a contact from a Stewardship representative.

June Bruns, Stewardship Chair

Faith in Action Programs

UUInAction@communityUUChurch.org

Dan Dodd
Linda Frank
Co-Chairs

Community Harvest Garden

Samaritan Inn (Monthly dinner)

Plano Make a Difference Day

Plano Food Pantries

CROP Walk

MLK Celebration

Hong Kong Partner Church

Dallas Area Interfaith

Chalice Circle Facilitator

Simple Living
simpleliving@communityuuchurch.org
Ona Tannehill

Religious Education**Interim Director of Religious Education**VACANT
dre@

CommunityUUChurch.org

Religious Education Board

reboard@

CommunityUUChurch.org

Chairperson

Amy Dessert (11)

John Gallant

Anne Smith

Alex Coulonge

Wendy Hanenburg

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

yruu@

communityuuchurch.org

Coordinator

Alex and Robin Coulonge

Cindy Erhart

REactions!!**Updates - Announcements - News
What's Going On For Children & Youth****Farewell from Your Interim Director of Religious Education**

I have news that is both happy and sad. I have accepted a fulltime position as the Program Director for Journey of Hope Grief Support Center and I have resigned my position as Interim Director of Religious Education effective Feb. 28th. It has been a pleasure working with you and for you. I'm grateful for the relationships formed and experience gained, which have been a valuable part of my personal and professional growth. I intend to remain a member of this church although I will be taking a break from attendance for a while. After your new Director of Religious Education has joined you, I'll be returning into a different relationship with you as a member rather than your DRE. I hope you will continue to support ministry to our children and youth as Community UU Church moves into a new phase of growth with its first **fulltime** Director of Religious Education. Great things are on the horizon!

Warm Regards,
Carla Leslie**A Letter from Your Religious Education Board President**

As the Chair of the RE Board, I would like to express my appreciation for the time Carla has spent with us as our Interim Director of Religious Education. It has been a great pleasure to work with her. She started as Interim DRE in June 2008 knowing that we would be hiring a permanent DRE in a year or two. She hit the ground running and helped us implement the Spirit Play curriculum for young elementary children. She enabled us to try out the new Tapestry of Faith UU curriculum. She met with other DREs, took training classes, and spent many hours writing prospectuses, checking out curricula, recruiting teachers, writing newsletter articles, and finding substitutes at the last minute.

Because Carla's departure was planned from the start, a DRE Search committee was formed last summer to work through the process of hiring a permanent DRE. This committee recently interviewed five prospective DREs, and several of these are very strong candidates. The search committee will soon be making its final selection and expects to introduce the church's first full-time DRE to the congregation in May.

Best wishes, Carla!

Regards,
Amy Dessert**YRUU News – Youth Rally**

A youth rally will be held on the weekend of April 9th at First Unitarian Church of Dallas. Youth who would like to help in the planning process may attend the next planning meeting at a youth lockin at First Church on Friday, March 26 through 27th.

Rally registration forms will be available online as well as in the Senior High room. They should be filled out, signed by parents, and signed by Rev. Price. See the youth ministries section of the SW UU District (SWUUC) webpage <http://swuuc.org/pages/lifespan-faith-development/youth-ministry.php> to get details and download registration forms.

(continued on page 7)

REactions!! *(continued from page 6)***Games Day!**

Twice a year, RE holds a "Games Day" for the children instead of having a class. Did you know we have lots of board games and other fun games for all ages at our church? The next Games Day is on March 14th. We would appreciate a little help. All you need to do is show up that morning and help the children with the games. Contact an RE Board member (reboard@communityuuchurch.org) if you'd like to make Games Day a fun experience.

Children's Chapel

Our children participate in **Children's Chapel** once a month (usually the 3rd Sunday) instead of beginning the day in the sanctuary. Our next Children's Chapel takes place on March 21st.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mar. 14th: Games Day

Mar. 21st: Children's Chapel in Founders Hall

Mar. 26-27: North Texas Rally Planning Lockin in Dallas

Apr. 9 – 11: North Texas YRUU Rally in Dallas

For more information about any Religious Education activities, please contact an RE board member: RE Board: email reboard@communityuuchurch.org

**Social Interest
Committees****Bridge Group**

bridge@communityuuchurch.org

Denise Dittmar

Circle Suppers

circlesuppers@communityuuchurch.org

Sandra Brackmann

Friday Flicks

flicks@communityuuchurch.org

Alice Mayo

First Friday Folksingers

folksingers@communityuuchurch.org

Charlie Battista

Friends and Family

friendsfamily@communityuuchurch.org

Julie Hlad

Outdoor Adventure

outdooradventure@communityuuchurch.org

Dick Hildenbrand

Community Harvest Garden

Thanks to YOU! Your purchase of our cookbook has provided funds to expand our gardens with 6 more raised beds.

We welcome nine community gardeners who have joined these members and friends of CUUC: **Amy Dessert, Anne House, Carrie Dubberley, Cyn Blanco, Dawn Graham, Emil Kirberg, Helena Stroberger, Jeff Hagerhorst, Jim Gary, Jo Howser, Judith Boyle, Rachel Salavon, and Valerie Gomes.** We will raise fresh organic produce to share with local food pantries and the gardeners' families. The funds received through **Chuck Laenger's** memorial service will begin our fruit orchard: peach, pear, apple, plum, and fig. The blackberry canes Chuck planted for us will be put on a trellis to promote growth and facilitate harvesting. Thank you to **Jay Dowling** who plans to provide a bench for resting and meditation in honor of gardener **Darlene Smith.** We send a huge THANK YOU to **Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse** at 5001 Central Expressway for providing a discount on framing materials and delivery. The next time you stop in, let them know we appreciate their support.

Bushels of thanks are sent to **Michael and Max Stroberger** for building a screech owl nesting box to help us control our vole population in an ecologically-friendly way. We invite you to visit the gardens. Hunt for toads, listen for birds, watch for butterflies, and enjoy the fragrance in our community herb gardens.

Program Board

*programs@
communityuuchurch.org*

**Vice President–
Programs**

Denise Dittmar (10)

Religious Education

Amy Dessert (11)

Membership

Anita VanOuwkerk
(11)

Worship

Tom Reid (11)

Faith in Action

Dan Dodd (10)
Linda Frank

Fellowship

Alison Holland (10)

Adult Enrichment

Clifton Rule (10)

Adult Enrichment**Adult Education**

*adultre@
communityuuchurch.org*
Celeste Kennedy

EarthSpirit

*earthspirit@
communityuuchurch.org*
Cheri Remily
Nancy Steed

Men's Fellowship

*men@
communityuuchurch.org*
Michael Holland

Women's Alliance

*women@
communityuuchurch.org*
Arlene Burleson

Friday Flicks: Films start at 7:00 pm in founders hall.

March 12 - ELIZABETH. The story of Queen Elizabeth I, from her days as an innocent young woman to her coronation, up to the formation of her reputation as England's stern "Virgin Queen".

March 26 - AMADEUS. It is a cold winter evening and a houseman attempts to rouse his master, former glorified Viennese court composer Antonio Salieri. Being unsuccessful knocking, they force Salieri's bedroom door open and find him on the floor, bleeding from a knife wound to the neck. They carry him to a mental hospital, where his wound is bound up, and a priest comes to see him the next day. The priest attempts to get him to explain why he would try to take his own life and the movie flashes back, with Salieri narrating, to how he met Mozart and became insanely jealous of his talent. Amadeus is a work of fiction - not a biography.

Women's Alliance - Sunday March 28th

A trip to Richardson for Lunch and a Play "Noises Off":

Noises Off, based on a play by Michael Frayn, is a clever variation of the traditional British sex farce with lots of slamming doors, falling pants, double entendre, mistaken identities, and running gags - including a disappearing plate of sardines.

Read more about it at <http://www.communityuuchurch.org> under the COMMUNITY tab/Women's Alliance

Time Line:

12:45 p.m. Carpool from the church parking lot; **1:00 p.m. Lunch, (TBD, watch for the e-blast); 3:00 p.m.** Richardson Theatre Center, play "Noises Off". 2701 Custer Parkway, Suite 911, Richardson, TX 75080. **Price: \$20 per ticket, \$18 senior citizen (\$18 for everyone, if we have 15 attending).** **RSVP, Arlene Burleson at women@communityuuchurch.org.**

Directions to Richardson Theatre Centre from the Church: Head west on Parker Rd. to Custer Parkway, Turn left at Custer Pkwy, Destination will be on the right just South of Renner, 2701 Custer Parkway, suite 911, Richardson, TX 75080. *The Richardson Theatre Center is now located in the building that looks like an old castle on Custer

Simple Living Chalice Circle

Meeting time and place – The next meeting will be Saturday morning **March 13th, at 11:00, at Ona Tannehill's home.**

Theme/topic – Learning together to live deliberately. We are currently reading Voices of Insight, edited by Sharon Salzberg.

Facilitator – Ona Tannehill. Email simpleliving@communityuuchurch.org.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MONDAY

HARVEST THE POWER - LEADERSHIP TRAINING - Leslie Harper and Tom Reid. This session is full. If you are interested in the course, please contact adultre@communityuuchurch.org We hope to schedule another session in the near future.

INTRODUCTION TO INNER JOURNEYS - Clyde Grauke. Clyde says *"This class is particularly addressed to those who believe they have a Higher Self and would like to contact their Higher Self. This class could also be of interest to anyone with views that allow for transcendent, non-material realities. If you are interested in the areas of shamanic journeys, dreams, dreamwork, altered states of consciousness, inner journeys, contacting inner guides or inner guidance, visualizations and/or channeling, you might find this of interest."*

This course is offered on the second and fourth Monday of each month beginning In February.

VIPASSANA MEDITATION - Clifton Rule

WEDNESDAY

MYTHOLOGY - GREEK THEATER: THE TRAGEDIES - RACHAEL CLARK

This is a follow-up to Rachael's engaging and informative 2009 Mythology class. The legendary dramas bring all those Gods and DemiGods to vibrant life.

JUSTICE: WHAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO? - IAN RULE This lively 12-session course is fresh from a debut showing on public television. It will start with videos of Professor Michael Sandel's thought-provoking Harvard classes and proceed to provocative discussion questions. The topics include:

- The Moral Side of Murder
- The Case for Cannibalism
- For Sale: Motherhood
- What's a Fair Start?
- Debating Same-Sex Marriage

YOGA - TRACY ROSIPAL

\$5 per session

THURSDAY

THE NATURALISTS - Anita Van Ouwerkerk. Anita will be taking a look at the early American naturalists. Men such as Jefferson, Audubon, John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt. This could be seen as a "prequel" to the latest Ken Burns series as these men helped create the mindset that enabled us to save so many of our natural wonders.

ISLAM - REV. DON FIELDING. Don's video/discussion class will help you to understand doctrinal differences: what's a Sunni, what's a Shiite? Why does it matter? It also will focus on Islamic religious practice. And yes, you'll get to discuss the questions that are on all your minds.

There is more detailed information on our website. Pretty impressive, huh? We think so, too. So give us a try. You just might add a new treat or two to your weekly schedule.

Committee on Ministry

Chet Smith
Chair (10)
Gail Battista
Ona Tannehill

Nominating Committee

nomcom@communityuuchurch.org

Bill Snell - Chair (10)
Karen Roggenkamp (11)
Celeste Kennedy(11)
Robin Gary (10)

UU Website Links

**Community Unitarian
Universalist Church**
*CommunityUU-
Church.org*

**UUA—Unitarian
Universalist
Association**
www.uua.org

**UUSC—Unitarian
Universalist Service
Committee**
www.uusc.org

**SWUUC—Southwest
District**
www.swuuc.org

NTAUUS
www.ntauus.org

**Community Website
Links**

**Collin County
Interfaith**

*www.setonparish.org/
Outreach/pai.htm*

**Habitat for Humanity
South Collin County TX
(Habitat for Humanity
SCCTX)**

www.Habitat-scc.org

**Habitat ReStore of
SCCTX**

*www.restore.habitat-
scc.org*

Put Your Ear to the Ground

Ian Rule

If you listen closely, you can hear the sound of a gaggle of Birkenstocks and they're heading our way. Yes, I'm talking about the SWUUC (Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference) Spring Conference and Business meeting, April 23rd thru 25th.

By the time you read this, our snazzy brochure will be available. It's accessible on the website from our "Events" page.

Let me stop here and make two things clear:

1. This is a "leadership conference," not a mini-General Assembly. The sessions are geared for people who hold leadership positions or who aspire to do so.
2. The only people who get complimentary registration are the SWUUC Staff members and the Theme Speaker. Everyone else must pay his or her way.

We'll be recruiting many of you to help us make the participants feel welcome and the logistics run smoothly.

Can you get in on ANY of the fun? YES! Everyone is invited to come to the

Friday Flicks special presentation, Julia Sweeney's "Letting Go of God" and the Saturday Night coffeehouse featuring Iconic UU Troubadour, Lu Mitchell with special guest, blues/folk singer/guitarist and raconteur, Ron Shipman. For those of you with reasonably good memories, he owned Dallas' seminal coffeehouse, The Rubaiyat.

The Flick (actually a taped show) is both thought provoking and hilarious: perfect fare for UUs. It runs from 8:30 to 10:30 on Friday night. The Coffeehouse begins at 8:00 pm and ends at 10:00 pm on Saturday. The Flick is free, the coffeehouse has a "suggested donation" of \$8.

We hope you'll take a look at the program we've put together. It's the result of a lot of work from a superb committee. We're sorry we can't invite everyone. We have UUs coming from five states and there's a limit to the number we can comfortably accommodate; and we want (and expect) them to remember this conference for a long time.

UPDATE DIRECTORY

Barbara Kostreva

Jeff Hagerhorst

Finance Committee

The financial information below does not include any of the "Above & Beyond" fund.

Income	Actual	Budgeted
Pledged Offering	\$24,243.15	\$18,000.00
Loose Offerings/Basket	1,195.40	1,333.33
New Pledges	<u>620.00</u>	<u>343.75</u>
Total Offerings Income	\$26,058.55	\$19,677.08

Please, if you have an **outstanding reimbursement request**, submit it for payment as quickly as you can. Seriously, we need to know ALL OUR EXPENSES to plot a realistic budget for 2010-2011.

June Bruns is leading our Annual Budget Drive and has 21 Visiting Stewards assisting her. When they call to make an appointment with you, please take the time to share your thoughts. We are "Connecting To Community With Commitment" as Visiting Stewards, but we need you to complete the connection. We have several contribution options: (1) monthly bank drafts, (2) monthly credit card charges, (3) depositing your check when you write it and put it in the offering plate or mail it, (4) donation of stocks, bonds, or securities, and (5) bill pay set up through your bank. It couldn't be easier to give your support to the church and strengthen your connection.

The Chalice Lighter program is another way to connect and support churches throughout our multi-state district. To be a Chalice Lighter, a minimum of three \$10 contributions per year is required. Of course, you can always contribute more when a call comes out. Right now the Huntsville UU Church is receiving assistance from all the Chalice Lighters. Our church might even submit a request for funding if we reached 20% of our 207 members (42 Chalice Lighters at Community UU Church.)

The offerings given during recent Memorial Services have been split at the request of the families to assist the Waldenstrom Foundation, The Heritage Farm Museum, our Memory Garden, and our Community Harvest Garden.

Grace Morrison, Treasurer

Finance

Finance Committee

finance@communityuuchurch.org

Grace Morrison - Chair

Linda Frank

June Bruns

Clifton Rule

Linda Frank

Gail Battista

Stewardship Committee

\$\$@

communityuuchurch.org

June Bruns, Chair

Charlie Battista

Paul Gandy

Gay Grauke

Judith Boyle

Rebecca Timmons

Investment Committee

investment@

communityuuchurch.org

Carol Wise ('10)

Grace Morrison ('11)

Nelah McComsey

First Annual NTAUUS Recognition Awards!

Mark your calendars and pass the word about the NTAUUS Luncheon on **March 27th, at First Unitarian of Dallas. Social time from 12:30-1 pm and luncheon and awards ceremony at 1 pm.** Not only will we be announcing the grants to congregations, we will be presenting the first-ever NTAUUS Recognition Awards! Our speaker will be the **Rev. Matt Tittle, minister of Bay Area UU Church in Houston**- this is a good chance to hear him before he heads off to another congregation this summer. He and his wife have written a UUA curriculum about developing lay leadership.

Tickets are just \$10 and can be purchased from Anne Smith.

Staff Office Hours• **Minister - *The Rev. Patrick Price***

Monday is the Minister's Sabbath (renewal time) available for emergencies only.

Tuesday — Thursday 12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM

Friday is for reflection, study and writing. Other times by appointment. Please contact Rev. Price for appointments and scheduling information.

• **Ministerial Intern - *Pamela Wat***

Tuesday—Thursday 12:00 Noon—4:00 PM

• **Director of Religious Education - VACANT**• **Music Director - *Kelley Poché Rodriguez***• **Church Secretary - *Connie Meints* Out of the office March 23rd thru the 26th**

[Church office closed on Monday]

Tuesday 9am - 3pm

Wednesday 9am - 2:30pm

Thursday 9am - 2:30pm

Friday 9am - Noon

Deadline for the April newsletter submissions: March 12th, 2010.

Submit to newsletter@CommunityUUChurch.org.

WEBSITE
CommunityUUChurch.org

The Community News

The Community News is distributed to Members and Friends of this church. Visitors who complete a visitor card receive issues for three months. To continue receiving issues, sign the "Welcome Back" book on each visit. Others may subscribe for an annual donation of \$25.00.

The editor encourages and appreciates submissions and on-time submissions are especially delightful. The Community News is published once a month.

Email articles to
newsletter@CommunityUUChurch.org

Please include your name on any news item submitted for The Community News.

Items may be edited for clarity and brevity.

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