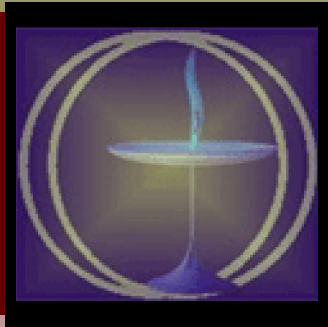


November 2010

www.uumidland.org



AN OASIS OF SPIRITUAL SEEKERS NURTURING OUR PLANET & COMMUNITY

UU Church of Midland

On the Journey with Jennifer

First, I invite everyone to extend a warm welcome to our new members, Nancy McGlasson and Sybil and Chris Wallace. Nancy is a recent Unitarian Universalist transplant from Florida. Chris and Sybil Wallace and their sons Colin and Bill previously were part of the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Kent, Ohio.

Second, I am happy to report on the Strategic Plan for 2010-2011. Mark Palmer of the Non-Profit Management Center helped the Board finalize the goals in October. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland will:

- 1) accomplish and maintain improvement of the building and grounds.
- 2) foster a strong overall ministry of the congregation.
- 3) nurture and sustain healthy relationships with visitors and members.



Reverend Jennifer Innis

- 4) communicate shared values internally and regionally.

Each goal includes a range of tasks. After the success of the building renovation, the new building and grounds goal brings a focus on landscaping and ways that everyone can contribute to keeping the church clean and tidy.

Strong overall ministry will include a system for personnel review and reflecting on the overall ministry of the congregation. This goal includes the effort to update our financial practices and keep good records of how we raise money as well as talk

about fundraising. Working on this goal will help prospective ministers understand how this church takes care of itself as a religious community.

Nurturing healthy relationships with members and visitors is a chance for us to live out our desire to be a welcoming presence in Midland. We will continue the efforts from the previous goals to be an emotionally safe place and offer a warm greeting to everyone who comes through our doors.

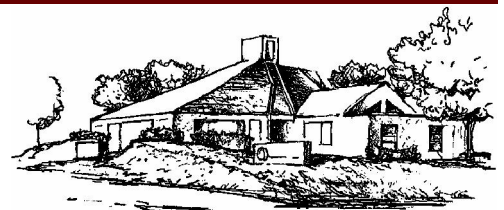
Finally, communicating our shared values will build our profile in the larger Midland-Odessa community.

The Board will review these goals at its monthly meeting. See me or a Board member for information.

Namaste,
Jennifer

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November 2010 At A Glance

November 7

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Spirit of Life: Come to Us* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis
11 a.m. Worship: *Margaret Fuller: Dedicated to the Sun* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis

November 14

10:30 am Forum and Worship *All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner and Service*
(See the sign up sheets in the foyer to contribute to the menu.)

November 21

9:30 a.m. Forum: *The News from Lake Woebegone, or A Report from the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Minneapolis* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis
11 a.m. Worship: *Gratitude Adjustment* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis

November 28

9:30 a.m. Forum: TED Video of Hans Rosling on Global Demographics led by the Program Committee
11 a.m. Worship: *Click the Send Icon* led by the Rev. Barbara Morgan

UU Children participate in religious education from 9:30 to 10:30 each Sunday morning.
At 11 a.m., children join the adults for the beginning of each service.
After a children's story, they engage in supervised projects or play through second hour.
Free childcare is available each Sunday.

A Gentle Reminder: Help us keep our new sanctuary carpet in good shape.
Please refrain from bringing any drinks or food into the sanctuary. Thanks!

November Calendar

Nov	3	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
Nov	5-9		Jennifer in Midland
Nov	6	10 am	Program Committee
Nov	8	7 pm	Board Meeting
Nov	13	2-4 pm	Quantum Dreamers
Nov	13	11:30 am	Religious Education Com. at Murray's
Nov	14	10:30 am	Thanksgiving Dinner and Service
Nov	14		Deadline for December Newsletter
Nov	17	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
Nov	19-23		Jennifer in Midland
Nov	27	2-4 pm	Quantum Dreamers

Sunday Highlights

On November 14, all are welcome to the **Thanksgiving Dinner and Service**. See the sign up sheets in the foyer for what to bring and how many will attend. Serving is family style, so please bring exactly what is asked for on the menu. See David or Alice White for questions.

On November 28, the Rev. Barbara Morgan will speak on prayer as our guest preacher. Barbara lives in Denton with her partner, Pat. This may be the last time Barbara will join us as she and Pat expect to move to Tacoma, Washington to be with family.

November Mystery Member

An earth-centered Buddhist type, November's Mystery Member has been a UU and member since 2005. She loves languages and attended the Defense Language Institute in Monterey to learn Russian and then live in Germany. As a Russian Linguist for the Air Force, she met her husband to be, a Morse Code operator for the Navy, the day she arrived in Augsburg, Germany on New Year's. This led to what she considers her best achievement - their

I am continuing to seek ways to help traumatized children re-do their development, so they can grow up to be healthy adults.

great life together with such good kids, grandkids, and her dad who lives with them. She states, "All this could have changed in 1994 when we got divorced. But instead we decided to get back together. We told our friends the divorce just wasn't working out." They will celebrate 33 years together this year.

She says, "My family is a tapestry of characters, probably because my husband and I are both nuts." In front of their house is a Navy flag and an Air Force flag. During elections, there is a Democratic sign and a Republican sign. She's tall, he's short, She's thin, he's stout, She's light, he's dark. "During a family wedding, I look out over a sea of black hair and brown eyes, and everyone is at least four inches shorter than me. That's why I had children. I needed the company up there."

Her favorites include: To Kill a Mockingbird and The Color Purple; musicians Chris Williamson and Lionel Richie; food, chocolate chip cookies (which she doesn't make much because she eats at least one dozen when they are warm).

A little-known fact, this Mystery Member was Miss Lubbock in 1986.

With her husband out to sea for eighteen months without leave, she took up bodybuilding. He returned unannounced a few weeks before her big contest. "By the time I competed in that skimpy suit, I was three weeks pregnant with our son. He likes to point to my tummy in my bodybuilding photo and say 'I was there'."

Turn (or scroll) to the back page to learn our November Mystery Member.

Help Us Make Our Mark in the Arts

Help us be a permanent presence at the new Wagner-Noel Performing Arts Center. The Wagner-Noel Center will be a landmark for the arts and culture in the Permian Basin. This church can show our ongoing support of the arts by adding our name to this new venue. We already have \$550 in

contributions for the pavers campaign. The goal is \$1000 or even \$2500! The church name will be larger on the paver with each level of giving. For more information, see the campaign site: <http://www.wagnernoel.com/pavers.php>. Give your checks to Alice White by December 12.

UUCOM Board

Carol Kullman, President

Harry Nutter, President Elect

Emmy Ulmschneider, Programs

Linda McConathy, Membership

Kathryn Shelley, Secretary

Alice White, Treasurer

Open, Social Outreach

David White, Building & Grounds

Barbara Handley, Religious Ed. Rep.

Lisa Jebson, Religious Ed. Dir.

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Spirit of Life Forum Series Concludes Nov. 7

The last installment of our Forum Series will be November 7. Many thanks to everyone who participated. Thanks to Harry Nutter, Jane Hellinghausen, and Emmy Ulmschneider for leading several sessions. Spirit of Life

offers participants space, time, and community to explore the wide range of Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each workshop. If you would like to see the full curriculum, go to [http://](http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/spiritlife/index.shtml)

www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/spiritlife/index.shtml
See Rev. Jennifer for information or if you have comments that would help with other adult programs in the future.

New Church Video Added to Search for New Minister

We are ready to launch! As of this newsletter, the online information is ready to go in the Ministerial Settlement System. Check out the new video on the church website to see what we have to say to prospective ministers and to the world.

Many, many thanks to UU member Kathryn Shelley, who is lending her expertise as a liaison between the committee and the design and operation of the church website. She put in uncounted hours on

producing the video and crafting material to be seen by potential candidates.

Many thanks to the congregation for approving the recommended compensation and moving budgets at the congregational meeting on October 24. Current plans are to schedule a workshop session later this fall for the congregation on "Beyond Categorical Thinking" offered by the Transitions Office of the Unitarian Universalist

Association. Applications from interested candidates in the position are expected to begin arriving later this fall and continuing to early spring. Members of the Search Committee are Barbara Handley, John Kullman, Cristi Branum, Jane Hellinghausen, Alice White, and Tom Parks.

We're on our way!

Religious Education Program

Although I find it hard to believe, the holiday season is upon us. In addition to the conclusion of the "Toolbox of Faith" program, the RE Committee has some great projects in store for the youth as we head into the end of 2010.

First off, during one of the Sunday School lessons in November the kids will write cards to send to UU churches in New Orleans. After sorting and reorganizing the RE library, the committee decided that

sharing with our fellow UUs who are still recovering from Katrina would be a wonderful outreach project.

Which reminds me! The RE Library is now available. Stop by after any Sunday service and take advantage of this wonderful resource!

Finally, we need your help with an upcoming project. On December 12, we will have a Christmas

pageant as part of the service. The youth will be singing "Deck the Halls" and "Jingle Bells" as part of that. We will practice during second hour however, if you could take a few moments over the next weeks to practice at home, that would be very helpful. We hope to see you soon at UUCOM!

Peace, Lisa Jebesen
RE Director

BYOP

The Building Your Own Philosophy (BYOP) book discussion group meets at the church on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. All are invited to participate.

Upcoming readings are listed below. On November 17, the group will begin discussion of selections in the next book titled Great Conversations 2 which can be ordered from The Great Books Foundation. <http://store.greatbooks.org/> The complete table of contents for this book is listed in the October newsletter on the church website www.uumidland.org.

Upcoming schedule:

November 3 Boys and Girls by Alice Munro

November 17 The Story of Samson (Judges 13-16) [in new book]

December 1 Selected Poems by John Donne

December 15 Meditations 1 and 2 by Rene Descartes

January 5 The Nose by Nikolai Gogol

January 19 The Grand Inquisitor by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Come to Choir

The choir is up and singing. If you would like participate, contact Beverly Wise at 686-2791 for more information.

Quantum Dreamers

Quantum Dreamers examines the many levels and possibilities of existence, including understanding our dreams, using our dreams to live a full life, and examining the quantum influences that affect us. Our new book is *Lucid Dreaming: Gateway to the Inner Self* by Robert Waggoner. " Lucid dreaming provides a path to greater creativity, self understanding, and exploration.--- It is a unique psychological tool with which to consciously investigate dreaming and the subconscious." ---From the Acknowledgments and Preface of [Lucid Dreaming: Gateway to the Inner Self](#) by Robert Waggoner.

We will be meeting on our regular schedule in November, the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 2-4 p.m. Contact Alicia Gardner if you have any questions at 570-0703.

Fall Leadership Training

The Southwestern Conference is sponsoring its fall leadership training on November 12-14, 2010 at Glen Lakes Retreat Center, Glen Rose TX. The theme is: Living Our Faith: Unitarian Universalism at Work. Participants will have 14 hours of training in one of four tracks.

The tracks are:

1. Curriculum Development
Renaissance Module (Gaia Brown, Pat Kahn)

Program Committee

Join us for the next meeting of the Program Committee at 10 am on November 6. Our forums and lay led worship services make UUCOM the UUnique place it is.

We are looking for a new chairman of the program committee, a special person to follow Jane and continue her long tradition of new people and ideas. The committee meets each month. No experience necessary, if you are interested in making a difference to our church, contact Emmy Ulmschneider or a member of the program committee.

Joys & Sorrows

If you or someone you know in the church could use a friendly call or a visit, please contact Rev. Jennifer.

2. Examining Whiteness - an 3. ARAOMC training (Carrie Stewart, Jennifer Nichols)
4. Small Group Ministry (Diana Dorroh, Helen Zidowecki)
- Conflict Engagement (Margaret Borden)

Check www.swuuc.org for information.

Mystery Member Revealed

Her husband calls her “Big” which is short for “Big Sal.” Our November Mystery Member is none other than



Sally Flores.

A degreed counselor, she is accepting clients while completing her hours as an intern. She's volunteered for five camps that target helping

families with severely disturbed children. Because her salary is so low, she likes to say she does volunteer social work and receives a stipend. “We are not paid according to our education or dependent upon the good we do. It's like the ranking that Texas has (compared to the rest of the US) regarding the priority of children's services. We have been floating between 47 and 50.”

Our Mission and Covenant

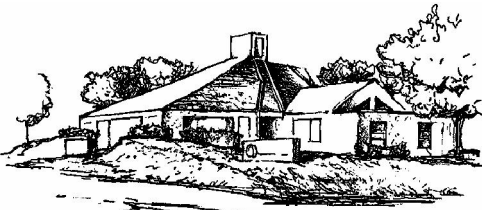
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland is an oasis of liberal religion empowering people to pursue spiritual growth and work toward a just, equitable, sustainable society. As a congregation, we covenant together before the wonder and mystery of life to provide a welcoming, safe, and tolerant religious community that both nurtures and challenges us in our diverse and yet shared journeys. Striving together in the spirit of love, we will listen and respond to the ethical and spiritual concerns of one another, seeking to foster a deeper sense of fellowship that strengthens us each in service to life.

- *adopted 2003*

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- o the inherent worth and dignity of every person
- o justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- o acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- o a free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- o the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- o the goal of world community with peace liberty, justice for all
- o respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Membership in our church is open to all who wish to covenant in the free, responsible search for truth and meaning. Contact the church office for more information.



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