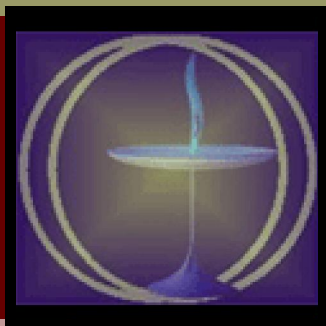


September 2010

www.uumidland.org



AN OASIS OF SPIRITUAL SEEKERS NURTURING OUR PLANET & COMMUNITY

UU Church of Midland

On the Journey with Jennifer

Did you know that visitors enter our doors every Sunday? As summer turns to fall, many people seek a new community. A visitor's first impression happens within seconds of entering the building. How we greet those who come in the door is one of the most important expressions of our values and beliefs. The Rev. Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, writes about hospitality in his pamphlet, *Religious Hospitality: A Spiritual Practice for Congregations*. He notes:

Hospitality, true hospitality, is emotionally powerful. It touches something very deep in us—our profound human longing to feel accepted, to belong, to be loved, to feel safe, to be valued and respected.

Hospitality is not something to be proclaimed; it



Reverend Jennifer Innis

must be lived. Hospitality is both a spiritual discipline and an expression of spiritual health. If I feel angry, hurt, unloved, or alienated I cannot offer a warm welcome. Conversely, if I am at peace, filled with joy at being alive, aware of those around me with compassion in my heart, then hospitality flows naturally and inevitably from the depths of my being.

What is true of an individual is also true of a community. A congregation in which people do not genuinely love each other is not likely to exude warmth. A congregation that is self-absorbed and

disconnected from its community cannot offer religious hospitality. Hospitality is love in action.

He goes on to point out that there are a thousand ways to practice hospitality, beginning with those we already know. I encourage all of us to practice an open welcome with our friends as well as with guests. What if we greeted one another as if we had not seen each other for years? What would we find with a fresh look and new eyes? The practice of a fresh look can help all of us as the congregation addresses developments in membership development and the search for a new minister. Much is in process. Let us ask each other anew about our hopes, fears, and dreams for this congregation. Namaste, Jennifer

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
September Schedule	2
September Mystery Member	3
Revival 2010	5
Association Sunday, Oct. 3	6
Read to Feed	6
Religious Education	7



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September 2010 At A Glance

September 5

9:30 a.m. Forum: *A History of Work* video presented by the Program Committee
 11 a.m. Worship: *Reflections on Labor Day* led by the Program Committee

September 12

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Spirit of Life*, session 1 led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis
 11 a.m. Worship: *Called? Or Waiting?* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis

September 19

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Spirit of Life*, session 2 led by the Program Committee
 11 a.m. Worship: *If These Sanctuary Walls Could Speak* led by Christina Branum-Martin

September 26

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Spirit of Life*, session 3 led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis
 11 a.m. Worship: *Freedom of Religion: Anywhere You Want It?*
 led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis

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.

September Calendar

Sept	1	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
Sept	10-14		Jennifer in Midland
Sept	11	10:00 am	Program Committee
Sept	11	11:30 am	Religious Education Committee
Sept	11	2-4 pm	Quantum Dreamers
Sept	13	7pm	Board Meeting
Sept	15	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
Sept	TBA		Circle Supper
Sept	24	6:30pm	Fourth Friday Fun
Sept	24-29		Jennifer in Midland
Sept	25	2-4 pm	Quantum Dreamers

Featured Sunday

On September 12, join us for the start of the Spirit of Life forum series. Spirit of Life is a chance for spiritual reflection based on the hymn by Carolyn McDade. Rev. Jennifer will lead the forum on Sept. 12 and 26. On September 19, Christina Branum-Martin returns as a guest preacher. Christina is a 7th generation Unitarian Universalist with family in West Texas. She lives in Houston with her spouse and their daughter while continuing her formation as a minister.

September Mystery Member

Described as “one of the most dependable, genuine people you’ll ever meet,” those traits are enjoyed by so many groups who have benefited from this active community volunteer. She currently serves on the boards of Keep Midland Beautiful and Midland Arts Association. In years past, the Arts Association of Midland and the Museum of the Southwest boards have also garnered her participation as well as tutoring for Midland Need to Read. Humbly, September’s Mystery Member states, “I did not belong to any groups like girl scouts as a child, so I am getting all my volunteer hours in my later life.”

When asked about her obvious interest in the arts, she says, “I never played an instrument or considered myself an artist (okay maybe with eye makeup), but I love color, fashion, advertising, the arts in general. I have always enjoyed looking at art and understanding art history. Maybe the creators and appreciators of art have driven me to volunteer with art organizations.”

Born in Richmond, this Texas native grew up in that general area, mostly in Sugar Land, Texas. In 1979, on a whim, she moved to Midland with a friend and her parents. That same year, she joined the UUCOM. “I feel it is important that Midland and West Texas have a UU presence and it is important

to me that our church can serve as the oasis we are to liberal religion.”

This member loves to travel. Her favorite travel destinations so far are Mallorca (Majorca), Spain and Bali, Indonesia. She says, “Recently, I have thought about going to somewhere that has gained much popularity that I have not traveled to - Las Vegas. Not so much for the gambling but for the visual and dining experiences. “ This mystery person seems to be shaking up the norm in several areas of her life, having recently changed jobs after thirty years with one company. “My new job has the freedom to complete tasks without being micromanaged and employees that are respectful to one another. I can see a world of difference; it is a new level of appreciation for people. I notice that same feeling here at church with the respectfulness that is being created for one another. “

This next clue might reveal our Mystery Member. She and her husband were married in at the UUCOM almost 23 years ago. That event is one of my favorite 'old' church memories.

Scroll (or turn) to the newsletter back page to name our Mystery Member.

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.

UUCOM Staff

Rev. Jennifer Innis

(972) 639-7900 cell

revjinnis@earthlink.net

minister@uumidland.org

Ginny Lang, Church Administrator

(432) 694-4308

Office hours: Tues and Thurs

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Email: office@uumidland.org

Fourth Friday Fun

Join us for game night at the church Friday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 pm. You'll find friends, fun and food. Pizza provided. \$5 per person suggested donation. Feel free to pay only what you can. Bring your beverage of choice, especially if you have kids. Childcare provided.

Spirit of Life Series Begins September 12

Join us for our fall forum series on spiritual reflection. Spirit of Life is a new adult program created by the Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway based on lines of the hymn, Spirit of Life. Spirit of Life workshops offer participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Like the song, the workshops are designed to be welcoming to Unitarian Universalists of many spiritual and theological persuasions. Participants are invited to claim an inclusive definition of spirituality and recognize the spiritual aspects of their lives. Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each workshop. This series will be adapted to fit our forum time. If you

would like to see the full curriculum, go to <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/spiritlife/index.shtml> Spirit of Life is expected to run on consecutive Sundays from Sept. 12 through Nov. 7. See Rev. Jennifer for information or if you would like to assist with leading the program.

Theme Based Ministry

For the past few years, Rev. Jennifer has used a schedule of theological themes as a way to cover a wide range of spiritual and moral topics. For September, the theological theme of vocation will be covered on September 12. The schedule of themes is adapted

from those used by All Souls' Unitarian Church in Tulsa, OK and from Westshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Cleveland, OH. For more information on the theological themes, go to www.themebasedministry.org or as Rev. Jennifer.

Calendar of Worship Themes
August - Unity
September - Vocation and Calling
October - Reason
November - Gratitude
December - Peace
January - Grace
Feb. - Prayer & Spiritual Practice
March - Letting Go
April - Salvation
May – Truth

UUSC, UUA Launch Pakistan Flood Relief Fund

The massive flooding in Pakistan continues to worsen, compelling UUSC and the Unitarian Universalist Association to launch the UUSC-UUA Joint Pakistan Flood Relief Fund. The floodwaters are overwhelming relief efforts, and the number of affected people is estimated at 17.2 million and climbing — nearly one-fifth of the country's population. The sheer force of the floodwaters is sweeping away everything in its path.

The scale of the disaster has caused enormous complications for the global humanitarian response. Millions of people have no access to

safe drinking water or sanitation, and desperately need food, emergency shelter, and basic health services. The current aid response cannot meet the vast needs of the survivors, of whom nearly half are children.

Two of UUSC's partners are responding to the crisis in Pakistan, with a specific focus on the needs of women and unaccompanied children. Donations to the UUSC-UUA Joint Pakistan Flood Relief Fund will support their work.

* Bedari, which partnered with UUSC in response to the 2005

South Asia earthquake, is working to protect women and children displaced by the floods.

* Barakat, a UUSC partner in Afghanistan that also works in Pakistan, is helping refugee families who have fled to the district of Attock, Punjab — a town of Afghan refugees.

For more information about the UUSC-UUA Joint Pakistan Flood Relief Fund and the work of partner organizations go to www.uusc.org. Your support can make a big difference.

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 September, the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 2-4 p.m. Contact Alicia Gardner if you have any questions at 570-0703.

Come to Choir

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

Program Committee

Ever wonder how all those great services and forums mysteriously appear every Sunday? Find out more on September 11 at 10am.

Building Your Own Philosophy

The Building Your Own Philosophy book group (BYOP) is reading *Great Conversations 1*, an anthology from the Great Books Foundation. Through discussions, participants examine beliefs in the light of a rich, thought-provoking text.

BYOP meets 7:30 - 9:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. The group will meet at the church since renovations are completed. In September, the group will discuss:

- *The Theory of the Leisure Class*

(selection) by Thorstein Veblen
- *The Stages of Life* by Carl Jung
The selection of the next book will take place at the Sept. 1 meeting so bring your suggestions. Please watch for a googlegroup email in early September with details. The deadline to order with the group is October 6.

The group is open to all. Contact Linda McConathy at 687-5221 for information and directions.

Revival 2010

Rediscovering Jesus and Communities of Hope is the theme of the annual revival retreat hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship (UUCF). This retreat will run Thursday, October 14 - Sunday, October 17, 2010 at Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church Carrollton, TX in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metropolitan Area.

Come be a part of our spiritually uplifting, community forming, personally deepening, Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship Revival Retreat. Revival transforms our lives and our movement. This will be our ninth such gathering since the first in New Orleans in 1999. Keynote lectures will be presented by Dr. Bernard Brandon Scott of the Jesus Seminar and the Rev. John Buehrens, former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. All are welcome. For more information, see www.uuchristian.org/revival.

Kudos and Thanks

To the many hands helping with setting up and cleaning up after big meetings and meals. Thank you for your effort to keep our new space looking neat and fresh.

Joys & Sorrows

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

Heifer International “Read to Feed” Program



Summer's about over, and the children's fund raiser for Heifer International is coming to a close. If you signed on to be a sponsor for one or more children, you will soon be receiving a list of the books read and the amount of pledge due from each one. The deadline to turn in pledges is **Sunday, Sept. 12th**. Please make your check out to **Heifer International** and place it in the offertory basket or give it directly to Lisa Jebesen or Barbara

Handley. If you did not have the opportunity to make a pledge and wish to support this worthy cause, you are invited to turn in a contribution by September 12th.

On September 19th, the kids will know the total amount raised and will decide how to "spend" it with Heifer to help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant. You can see the Gift Catalog they will use by going online to www.Heifer.org.

Sunday, September 26th, the children will announce their decision to the congregation during the service. We are very proud of

the efforts made by the children who thoughtfully and deliberately spent time during their vacation to help others by reading. Everyone touched by this project truly wins! Please come and show your support and appreciation of their efforts.



Association Sunday, October 10

As we come together in this annual service to affirm our common bonds and purposes, we have something special to celebrate this year—the 50th anniversary of our Association of Congregations! The theme of Association Sunday 2010 is Celebrating 50 Years and the Future of Our Faith.

What are Association Sundays? Association Sundays are a request by the UUA for all congregations to recognize and support, both spiritually and materially, the national work of the Association.

We envision a day – an “Association Sunday” - during which thousands of Unitarian Universalists across the nation are simultaneously celebrating our shared commitment to Unitarian Universalism. Like Ministry Sunday in 1995, (which was a request to support the financial needs of ministers and seminary students) and Mind the Gap Sunday in 2002 (which was focused on supporting Youth and Young Adult Ministries), each Association Sunday includes a worship service based on a

particular theme and congregations are asked to host a special collection to support the Association of Congregations.

We will celebrate Association Sunday and take a special collection during the worship on October 10. See Rev. Jennifer Innis for information.

Religious Education Program

Dear members and friends:

What do duct tape, a hardhat, sandpaper and a magnifying glass have to do with religious education? They are some of the real tools that we will use in the "Toolbox of Faith" program as symbols of the tools we use to be Unitarian Universalists. For example, we will use duct tape to reflect on being flexible in our faith; we will use a hardhat to represent being resilient in our faith and we will use sandpaper to illustrate how to smooth out rough spots with humor in our faith. Welcome to the "Toolbox of Faith" program!

In "Toolbox of Faith," we may learn how to play the Cloak and Dagger game, how to make a compass and a duct tape lunch bag and what Athenian ostracism meant in classical Greece. (It's like being "voted off the island" 4000 years ago!). We will share intriguing, thought-provoking stories about some of the important qualities of

our faith and have discussions to reflect on how we live our Unitarian Universalist faith in our everyday lives.

We will need a few of each of the following tools to use during our sessions. Please let us know if your family can loan any of the following items.

Toolbox (1 very large!)
Magnifying Glass
Compass
Duct Tape
Mirror
Paintbrush
Chalk
Hammer
Canteen
Saddlebags (i.e. bike panniers or backpacks)
Listening tool (i.e. auto mechanic's listening tool, stethoscope, large seashell or spy listening toy)
Sandpaper
Gloves
Flashlight

Level
Hardhat

If you can help with any of these, please contact me ASAP. Thanks for your help and we look forward to sharing the "Toolbox of Faith" program with you!

Lisa Jebson
Director of Religious Education
LJebson@aol.com 528.5359

Circle Supper

A Circle Supper is a gathering of about 8-10 people at someone's home or for a Dutch treat at a restaurant. These dinners are a great way to meet people at the church for a longer conversation and to partake of good cooking. If you would like to be a host or be added to the list future events, see Carol Kullman.

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:

Curriculum Development
Renaissance Module (Gaia Brown, Pat Kahn)
Examining Whiteness - an ARAOMC training (Carrie Stewart, Jennifer Nichols)
Small Group Ministry (Diana Dorroh, Helen Zidowecki)

Conflict Engagement (Margaret Borden)

Check www.swucc.org for information.

Mystery Member Revealed

At the top of the list of volunteerism is the fact that this September's Mystery



Member is the UUCOM current board president, **Carol Kullman**. She has served three times President and well as Treasurer. When asked what her current

dream is for the UUCOM, she says, "To be the liberal religion church in West Texas that people can gather to safely worship and to grow spiritually." West Texas' good fortune, Carol is a vital participant in this community and in our church.

Our Mission and Covenant

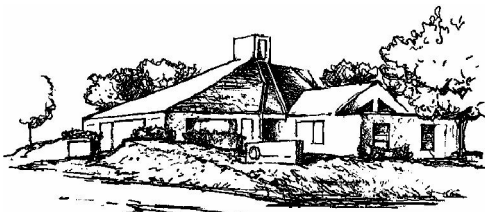
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland is an oasis of liberal religion empowering people to pursue spiritual growth and work toward a just, equitable, sustainable society. As a congregation, we covenant together before the wonder and mystery of life to provide a welcoming, safe, and tolerant religious 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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