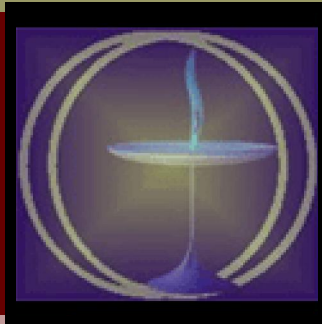


May 2010

www.uumidland.org



AN OASIS OF SPIRITUAL SEEKERS NURTURING OUR PLANET & COMMUNITY

UU Church of Midland

A Gentle Reminder

The Google group is a great way to learn about events related to the church or timely updates about members. The Sharing of Candles of Joy and Sorrow in worship is a time to add a brief personal success or distress to our circle of

care. In our sharing in worship or on email, let us keep in mind the wide range of political views found among us. Please limit the announcements and use of the Google group to information directly related to members and friends, to the church's ministries,

and to Unitarian Universalism at large. If you have a question about how to share an announcement, see Barbara Handley or Rev. Jennifer Innis.

On the Journey with Jennifer

Do you know the essential role this congregation plays in offering a liberal religious voice in West Texas? On any given day, I receive calls from places such as Lamesa and San Angelo, as well as Odessa and Midland. Requests range from performing a wedding or memorial service, to finding someone who can pray with a person in hospice who is not Christian, and to being



Reverend Jennifer Innis

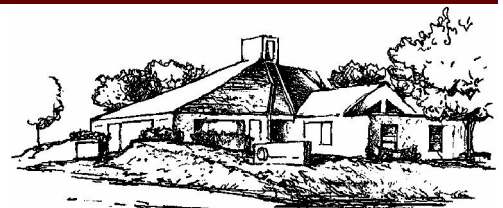
a listening ear when there is no one else around for miles. Right now, this church is the only Unitarian Universalist church in Texas west of Kerrville served by a Unitarian Universalist minister. This

congregation understands the value of professional leadership in ministry and has the resources to be a place of hope for far more people than any of us really knows. As we meet on May 16 to determine the budget for next year and enter the search for full-time ministry, may we remember the deep need for a place such as this and offer our time, treasure, and talent for its good works.

Namaste, Jennifer

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May 2010 At A Glance

May 2

9:30 a.m. Forum: TED Video by the Rev. Rick Warren, led by the Program Committee
11 a.m. Worship: *The UU Glue* - led by the Rev. Mark Skrabacz

May 9

9:30 a.m. Forum: "Midland Education: A Status Report" led by Hugh Franks, MHS Chrm. Social Studies
11 a.m. Worship: *Will You Be My Mother?* led by the Program Committee and Friends

May 16

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Articulating Your Faith* led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis
11 a.m. Worship: *On the Rise* - led by the Rev. Jennifer Innis,
followed by Congregational Meeting

May 23

9:30 a.m. Forum: TED Video Response to Rick Warren by Dan Bennett, led by the Program Committee
11 a.m. Worship: *The Cathedral of the World* by the Rev. Forrest Church, A Video Sermon

May 30

9:30 a.m. Forum: *Honoring Older Americans* led by Jane Hellinghausen
11 a.m. Worship: *Flower Communion for All Ages* 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.

May Calendar

April 30	6:30pm	Garage Sale Preview Party
May 1	8am-2pm	Garage Sale
May 3	7 pm	Board Meeting
May 5	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
May 8	11 am	Religious Education Committee Meeting
May 14-18		Jennifer in Midland
May 15	10 am	Program Committee Meeting
May 16	12:15pm	Congregational Meeting & Benefit Potluck Lunch
May 19	7:30 pm	BYOP/Building Your Own Philosophy
May 23		Deadline for June/July Newsletter
May 28-June 1		Jennifer in Midland

All are invited to bring cut flowers (local if possible) for the Flower Communion on May 30.

Featured Speaker

Our guest minister for May is the Rev. Mark Skrabacz. Mark is a native of Midland, who grew up Catholic and was educated in parochial schools including St. Ann's School in Midland and the University of Notre Dame. It was while studying at Notre Dame that Mark first started attending the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland, when it was located on North A Street. Mark was ordained as a minister on October 4, 2009 and installed as called and settled minister for his home church, the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country in Kerrville. He is very happy to return to Midland and lead worship at this church.

Mystery Member

Each month we will spotlight the “super” characteristics of one UU member. After reading a descriptive article, you will be asked to name that member! To check your answer, you will be directed to scroll (or turn) to the last page of the newsletter where you will find his or her true identity. Fun!

UUCOM members are busy helping others, have fascinating work (volunteer or paid), interesting hobbies, and do many behind the scenes tasks for our church. If you'd like to nominate someone as a featured spotlight, email KathrynShelley@yahoo.com.

May Mystery Member

There is a brave resourcefulness that has been with this month's Mystery Member all of his life. He has always done what needed to be done. If you are new to church, you probably do not know that he was typically the first to arrive each Sunday morning to start the coffee brewing, to make sure the plants were watered each week, to quietly do deeds that make a difference.

Born in Nebraska, childhood was difficult. In a family of five children during the Great Depression with parents unable to provide for him, this wise young man became a shirt-tail kid who went to work and live on a different family's farm. When asked what he is proudest of, he reveals, “Getting through high school as the head of my class. It earned me a university scholarship.” He worked for meals as a bus boy in a Lincoln Nebraska hotel while earning a degree in geology from the University of Nebraska.

After college he joined the US Army and was stationed at Camp Robinson, located in North Little

Rock, Arkansas, one of the largest state-owned training sites in the US. He served four years in the Pacific Islands delivering food to Japanese camps and as an airplane mechanic working on B-29 planes toward the end of WWII.

After the army, he returned to the University of Nebraska for one year, joined the National Guard and received more education as a geologist. With Lincoln Nebraska a hub distribution center for the US Postal Service, his careers have included the US Postal Service, National Guard and ultimately a move to Lubbock where he worked as a geologist logging wells.

Continuing a family lineage, he carries on the liberal bent of his grandfather who was a Congregational minister. Congregational churches were a seedbed from which American liberal religion and society arose. Always an avid reader, this self-made man has found religion in science, decade after decade turning to scientific journals for

UUCOM Board

Barbara Handley, President
Carol Kullman, President Elect
Richard Davis, Programs
Linda McConathy, Membership
Kathryn Shelley, Secretary
Alice White, Treasurer
Michael Wright, Social Outreach
David White, Building & Grounds
Amber Scott, Religious Ed Rep.

UUCOM Staff

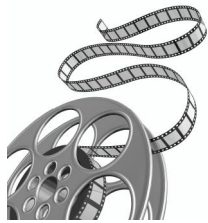
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inspiration, education and an integrity between his spiritual life and work life.

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

Arts and Film Festival Begins June 6



Our Summer Arts and Film Festival will run from June 6 through August 8. We gather at 9:30am for a

welcome, sharing candles, and the collection before beginning the program and discussion. Michael Wright and Harry Nutter are creating another diverse menu of engaging and inspiring films and presentations. Given the expected

building renovations over the summer, the exact program dates may change. Harry and Michael will do their best to keep everyone informed of the schedule. Nursery care is available every Sunday, and the older children have a summer program as well. The list of events will be available by the end of May. If you would like to host coffee and snacks on a given Sunday, please see Harry or Michael.

Program Committee

Ever wonder how all those great services and forums mysteriously appear every Sunday? Find out more on May 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Joys & Sorrows

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

Green Sanctuary Statement Needs Your Vote

Participants in the forum on April 18 drafted the congregational statement needed to complete the Green Sanctuary application with the Unitarian Universalist Association. (Many thanks to Emmy Ulmschneider for leading the forum.) The final statement will be in the packet of information about the congregational meeting and will be voted on at the meeting on May

16. Niki Widmayer is finishing the final touches of the application and welcomes stories of the “green” changes in your life over the course of this three-year process. If you have any questions or contributions, see Niki at nwidmayer@suddenlinkmail.com.

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. We began a new book *The Self-Aware Universe* by Amit Goswami on April 24th. We will not meet in May, but will be back in June.

Kudos, Applause and Thanks

Thank you to everyone who created a great stewardship dinner on April 10. **Carol Kullman** organized the big event. **David White** cooked up fabulous food. **Cristi Branum** and **Kathryn Shelley** set up and set the tables. **Emmy Ulmschneider** brought a gift of flowers. The **choir** graced us with song. Many hands made light work of the clean-up.

Thank you to everyone who supported the first Fair Trade Gift Fair on April 18. **Kathryn Shelley** assisted with publicity. **Harry Nutter** and **Michael Wright** helped with set-up and clean-up, and **Michael** sold our fair trade coffee and chocolate all day.

Thank you to everyone who completed the church improvement survey. The UU-COM Renovation Committee appreciates your feedback as they round out the proposals to be presented to the congregation in May.

Garage Sale, May 1

Need a place to put all the results of your spring cleaning? Look no further! The annual garage sale will be on May 1 from 8am-2pm. Donations can be dropped off at the church starting on Sunday afternoon, April 25. The ever-popular preview party will be open on Friday night at 6:30pm, April 30. Helpers

are needed for sorting and selling before and during the big day. Large items such as furniture are especially welcome. See Barbara Handley or Carol Kullman for information.



Julie & Julia Movie And A Dinner

There is still time to sign up for David White's auction item – Dinner and a Movie on Saturday, May 29th. The movie will be “Julie & Julia” and the meal will prepared by David utilizing the recipes of Julia Child. Tickets are \$40 per person. This should be a great evening of food and entertainment. Contact David White if you want to find out more.

Thousands of UU's to Meet in Minneapolis

This year's General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is in Minneapolis, MN for June 23-27. Come hear great sermons, learn about new ideas for our faith and our churches, and visit with several Unitarian Universalists from all over the world. Go to www.uua.org for more information.

Building Your Own Philosophy

The Building Your Own Philosophy book group (BYOP) is reading Great Conversations 1, an anthology from the Great Books Foundation.

Discussions are lively and friendly; participants examine beliefs in the light of a rich, thought-provoking text. The group is open to all. BYOP meets 7:30 - 9:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at the church.

In May, the group will discuss *Of Friendship and Of Solitude* by Michel de Montaigne and *Pensees* (a selection) by Blaise Pascal.

Each Great Conversations selection is a stand-alone reading. New readers and visitors are welcome at any meeting. Contact Linda McConathy at 687-5221 for information on ordering a new book.

Benefit Lunch Success

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the potluck benefit for Keep Midland Beautiful on April 18. And thank you to David White for the unexpected gift of homemade gourmet pizza. We raised \$200. The fourth and final benefit potluck for the year will be on May 16. Donations will go to the Sibley Nature Center. From the website: “The Sibley Nature Center celebrates the southern Llano Estacado and the region surrounding it within 150 miles. Through programs given at its site of 49 acres in Hogan Park in Midland, and throughout the region, the Sibley Nature Center seeks to encourage the region's citizens to be knowledgeable about the flora, fauna, and history of the region.”

Go to www.sibleynaturecenter.org for information on this great resource in Midland.

Come to Choir

The choir is up and singing. They expect to meet after the service on most Sundays. If you would like participate, meet at the piano after worship or contact Beverly Wise.

*Without the abundance of the heart
nothing great can happen.*

Paul Tillich

Annual Meeting and Benefit Potluck Lunch, May 16

Potluck Lunch to benefit Sibley Learning Center will begin at 12:15pm, and the meeting will start immediately afterward. This Annual Meeting on May 16 is great chance to be part of the future of the church. New items include discussion and vote on the plans for building renovations and approving the Green Sanctuary congregational statement for the final application in that process. We will hear about the next steps in the search for a full-time minister for 2011 and how everyone can participate in the

search. Also, the agenda includes voting on the slate of officers for 2010-2011, approving the annual budget, reviewing progress on the strategic plan and the new playground proposal. See the mailing in early May for notice of the meeting and for details. For questions or to let us know you will be there for lunch, see Barbara Handley. Childcare is available upon request.

*The ideal society is not a choir
singing in unison, but a
symphony playing
in harmony.*

PETER GAY

Membership Matters

Membership in the church is required for voting at the annual meeting. If you are considering becoming a member, speak to Linda McConathy, Rev. Jennifer, or other Board members by May 1.

Stewardship Campaign

The pledges are coming in for the 2010-2011 stewardship campaign. If you have not yet made a pledge, but would like to participate financially please complete a pledge card and return it to the church immediately. If you have questions, please contact Alice White, Barbara Handley or Carol Kullman.

Fourth Friday Fun

Join us for game night at the church Friday, May 28 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.

Summer 2010 Anthology Presented August 8

Don't forget to mark Sunday, August 8, on your calendar now for the annual meeting of authors who will be reading and commenting on their work in the 2010 edition of our UU anthology, a book published each year as part of the Summer Arts and Film Festival. Editor Tom

Parks reports that this year's edition is even bigger than the last and includes a fascinating array of poems, short stories, essays, songs, and commentaries by local authors, including entries by a Texas Poet Laureate. Plans are to

include not only readings and discussions by UU members and other local writers but also videos of songs and live performances by songwriters.

Religious Education for Children and Lesson Calendar for May

Our Religious Education program for children is led by dedicated volunteers committed to providing the tools for personal growth as well as experience in Unitarian Universalism. Lessons are at 9:30am concurrent with the adult forum. Children then attend the beginning of worship at 11 am. Usually after the Time for All Ages, the children leave worship for what we call the Second Hour. This time includes activities and play until worship ends around noon.

For our youngest children, infant through age 3, nursery care is available any time between 9:15am and 12:15 pm.

Religious Education Lesson Calendar for May

May 2 Flower Communion
May 9 Mother's Day
May 16 Father's Day
May 23 Let's Celebrate
May 30 Arts and Crafts

Summer Program for Children

As Unitarian Universalists we can learn so much from the many religions in the world. This summer in RE we will be creating "friends" from various regions of the world who will teach us about their own religions. Join us every Sunday as we create, sing, share, and learn so that we can live our UU principle of searching for truth and meaning. We know that truth has many sources. Let's explore together those sources in an action-packed summer!

1, 2, 3 Get Ready for: READ TO FEED



The boys and girls of our church are embarking on an exciting social outreach project to bring about real

change in the lives of others. Through Heifer International, they will participate in the **Read to Feed** program during the summer months. You can help by being a sponsor for one or more of the children. You will be invited to sign-up to contribute an amount set by you for each book read or, in the case of younger children, books that have been read to them. And you can set a maximum total

amount for each pledge. In the fall the children will collect your pledge; the monies will be pooled, and a selection will be made to "buy" through Heifer International. Will it be a goat? a sheep? or honey bees? The girls and boys will make the decision together and will announce it to us during a service. Not only will a family's life be lifted by the gift they receive, our children will benefit, too, from being an agent for change while enriching their own lives through reading. Please say "yes" to the children, if possible. This is our opportunity to interact with them for a common goal. Our support will nurture and empower them to become

responsible citizens in the world. Contact Linda McConathy (687-5221) or a member of the Religious Education committee with questions. Your interest is appreciated.



Mystery Member Revealed

Paul Suess, just one of the fascinating people you'll find at the UU Church of Midland, will turn 95 this May 11th. He states, "I am a good Unitarian. I used to hedge the question, but not any more. I am proud to be a Unitarian." Paul moved



to Midland during the eighties and promptly joined the UUCOM. These days you might find him enjoying a good game of baseball, football or basketball on television. This month, enjoying his favorite chocolate cake and vanilla ice cream. Happy 95th birthday our elder UU statesman!

Always an avid reader, this self-made man has found religion in science, decade after decade turning to scientific journals for inspiration ..."

Our Mission and Covenant

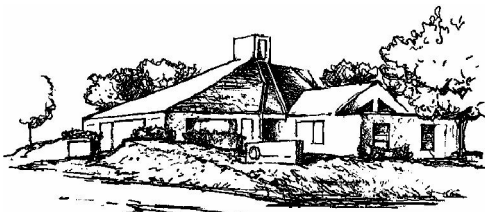
The Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland is an oasis of liberal religion empowering people to pursue spiritual growth and work toward a just, equitable, sustainable society. As a congregation, we covenant together before the wonder and mystery of life to provide a welcoming, safe, and tolerant religious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