

September 21, 2008
September 28, 2008

Established
in
1899



The Dallas Unitarian

The First Unitarian Church of Dallas

» committed to achieving racial and cultural diversity «

SUNDAY-MORNING WORSHIP

Services at 9:15 & 11:30

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Sermon: "The View from the Balcony"
Dr. Laurel Hallman

In our 2010 Strategic Planning, we used the book *Holy Conversations*. In it, the authors talked about a "Balcony Group."

On Sunday, I will tell you what that means and why it is important for you.

Music:

9:15 – Alan Dyer and a guest flutist will perform.

11:30 – The Sanctuary Choir and a guest flutist will perform.

~ ~ ~

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Sermon: "What Do We Need?"
Rev. Dr. Daniel C. Kanter

A sermon about needs and wants and what matters in life.

Music: Alan Dyer and a guest soloist will perform.

Our Fall Blood Drive will be this Sunday. See p. 4 for information on how to sign up.

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From the Minister **Rev. Dr. Daniel Chesney Kanter**

A colleague in Boston told me he was grateful that I was normal. I think he meant "not eccentric" rather than "average." It seemed to him that most ministers were a bit out of touch with reality, but that I had a reasonable grasp of the world. In his essay "Constructing Normalcy," Lennard J. Davis points out that the word 'normal' entered English usage only around 1840. Before that, "normal" meant "particular" rather than "not deviating from the standard."

Maybe when employing the terms "norm" and "normal" we tread in dangerous waters. Some people are certain they understand the "norm" of sexuality and gender identity. It's probably healthier to focus on freedom, love, and respect for all people when it comes to how we perceive basic human traits.

That is why this church has a long history of lifting up the value of Bi-Gay-Lesbian-Transgender (BGLT) folks and what they bring to our understanding of the world. Going back 500 years, we have stood with people of all sorts who were discriminated against, and we have stood by

BGLT folks when they were held back, ridiculed, or condemned by our society. We have consistently said that we celebrate diversity, including BGLT diversity, in honor of all of that which deconstructs prejudicial notions of what's "normal."

And that is why I am asking all church members to join me in our 'PRIDE' celebrations this month. We will have two opportunities to celebrate our participation in Dallas' annual Gay Pride Parade: at an all-church party on September 20th and at a blessing ceremony here on the 21st. The Saturday party will be at Margaux's restaurant (150 Turtle Creek Boulevard, Dallas 75207), at 6 p.m. **Everyone is welcome.** On Sunday, between the services, we will bless our participation in the Pride Parade. After worship, many of us will walk in the parade. I hope you will join us and take part in any or all of these important church events.

P.S. If you're coming to the party, please let us know by e-mailing

**GIVE LIVE
LOVE WELL**

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**GROW
HERE**



MUSIC NOTES

by Don Krehbiel



Fall Color

Though summer lingers on, autumn is nearly upon us, and that means tending your garden. It's about time to trim back the lantana and pull out the impatiens to make room for colorful pansies and ornamental kale. If you're planning to purchase either of these plants, I hope you'll do so through our Music Department. We'll be selling flats of pansies and gallon containers of kale at prices competitive with the large nurseries and still profitable for the church. A flat of 18 pansies will cost \$16.00 and a single kale in a gallon container will cost \$4.00

Volunteers will staff the Music table in Channing Hall on Sundays from September 21–October 5 to take your order. Plants will arrive at the church either on October 12 or 19, depending on the weather. Payment for all orders will be due when you place your order.

Centennial Quilt to Rest

You may have noticed that our wonderful Centennial quilt is not currently on display. Usually, after a summer of 'rest,' the quilt is installed in the Sanctuary for all to enjoy. Every fourth year is a complete year of 'rest' for the quilt, and 2008-2009 is such a year. Although we will miss the vibrant colors and the exquisite craftsmanship of our Centennial quilt created by Sue Benner, we know that next year it will again take its place of prominence in the Sanctuary as the four-year cycle begins anew.

FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

REV. DR. XOLANI KACELA

It's that time of the year, again. Vacations are coming to an end, school has begun, sports are up and running, Cowboys are back, RE is in high gear, and the Canvass is just around the corner. It's a busy time for everyone.

Busy-ness can interfere with your spiritual life if you aren't careful. It's easy to begin feeling overwhelmed by a lot of activity. Before you know it, there is no time left for spiritual practices (prayer, poetry, meditation, silence, worship, etc.).

As unspiritual as this may sound, a well-organized personal and professional life aids the spiritual life. Mental checklists may make you

feel like a Zen master, but tasks quickly accumulate and clutter your mind.

I suggest a low-tech way of keeping it together. Write down chores, activities, and to-dos on a single pad. Then, check 'em off as you go. Also, keep your email inbox empty. Start at zero each day. You'll be surprised how clear your mind becomes in a short period.

As you master organization, you'll feel balance and peace in your spirit!

Blessings,

The Ministry of Pastoral Care invites you to participate in our Elder Care Survey. The survey can be accessed by clicking the link found in the middle of our church homepage (www.dallasuu.org) under "Coming Events". The survey will take from two to four minutes of your time to complete. Results will be used in Elder Care Team planning and development. Once we have a better understanding of your needs and interests, we will set out to develop protocols and organize teams of church volunteers.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Guided Tour at Museum of Modern Art of Fort Worth

Join us on **Sunday afternoon, September 28th**, for a tour of the Kara Walker exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art of Ft Worth (MMA). Our guide will be church member Larry Claman, a docent at the museum. **Carpools will leave the church at 1:00 p.m.** We will lunch at the MMA or the Kimbell, then meet at 2:00 p.m. in the MMA lobby. Tickets for the exhibit are \$10.

The exhibit ranges from Walker's signature silhouettes to film animations to works on paper. "My Com-

plement, My Enemy, My Oppressor, My Love" explores the terrain of race, class and sex. Warning: difficult images of subjugation and violence are included.

This event is sponsored by the Senior Men's Fellowship and the Journey Toward Wholeness. For more info, contact Mary Lou Hoffman (mlhoffman3@sbcglobal.net) or Phil McClure (pmcc06@yahoo.com), or see Mary Lou at the Social Action Table after church on Sundays.

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Update from the Board of Trustees Regarding the 2008-2009 Ministerial Transition

Dear Members and Friends of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas,

Among the many blessings that Dr. Laurel Hallman has given to us over the last twenty-two years, one of the greatest has been a great deal of lead-time in order to prepare for her eventual departure. This update from the Board of Trustees provides some details about the ministerial transition process that this lead-time has allowed us to craft, and the attending celebrations planned for this and next year as Laurel finishes her time with us and Rev. Dr. Daniel Kanter steps into his role as our Senior Minister.

As you know, Laurel will step down as Senior Minister on January 11, 2009, the day that Daniel is installed as our new Senior Minister. To provide an overlap between the two ministers, Laurel will remain a minister of our church through June 30, 2009. We also expect, that by July 2009, a new second minister will join Daniel to help lead the church.

Laurel will continue to pursue her candidacy for President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations during that time. Our church has enthusiastically embraced her candidacy. One of our Chart & Compass goals is to contribute to the greater UUA and expand our outreach both as a church and as a denomination. During her campaign for the presidency, Laurel will travel throughout the country and reach out to the UUA on our behalf. She will bring back stories, insights, and news from a national perspective as she preaches to us in 2009. The Board believes that Laurel's candidacy will bring about meaningful advances to the denomination and will continue to build on the history of our church as a leadership congregation within the denomination. By being out in the larger world, Laurel will enlarge our lives and circle of influence.

In order to clearly enunciate Laurel's position during this transition period (January 1 to June 30), the Board and Ministers have been reflecting and seeking counsel from several sources over these last few years. As a result of this long process, at its August 21st meeting the Board approved a plan to formalize Laurel's title, responsibilities, calendar, and compensation for the period between January 1 and June 30, 2009:

- Between January 11 and June 30, 2009, Laurel will be our "Minister at Large."
- She will be available as an advisor to Daniel and will assist with other tasks at his request.
- The current plans for her schedule will include a monthly sermon at our church on the following dates for the remainder of 2008: September 14 & 21; October 5; November 2, 9 & 23; December 7, 21 & 24 (Christmas Eve). For 2009: January 4; February 1; March 8 & 15 (attendance at the annual Memorial Concert in the evening only on that day); April 5; May 10 and June 7 (with her last Sunday with us being June 14, 2009).
- And, as noted above, she will also continue her campaign for the presidency of the UUA, taking the work of our church to the greater denomination and bringing word of the denomination back to us.

At its August meeting the Board also created a "Leaving Well Task Force." This task force has been charged with planning and implementing events from September '08 through May '09, to celebrate Laurel's ministry at First Unitarian Church of Dallas.

The Leaving Well Task Force will assist Laurel in planning "historical" events to recall the accomplishments and difficulties of specific periods of time during her ministry. The task force will call on those of us who led the church during these times and organize reunions as appropriate. The task force will also provide individuals and groups opportunities for leave-taking events. The goal is for everyone in the church to have sufficient time for summing-up, closure, and, most of all, celebration of our time together.

We are very pleased to announce that the members of the Leaving Well Task Force include: *Paulette Mulry* (Co-Chair for events), *Julie Gregory* (Co-Chair for strategic ending), *Pat Davidson*, *Patricia Rose*, *John Payne*, and *Gil Rendle* (as consultant).

The Board has also created a Senior Minister Installation Committee, which has been charged with planning and implementing all of the events and celebrations around Daniel's installation as the Senior Minister on January 11, 2009. This will be a joyous time and an opportunity for the church to demonstrate its pride and excitement at this new beginning.

We are therefore also very pleased to announce that the members of the Senior Minister Installation Committee include: *Richard Anderson*, *Brad Ferst*, *Gary Garcia*, *Angie Sifferman*, and *Jenny Watson*.

These are important and defining times for our church. The upcoming nine months will be a time to reflect, recharge, look back, and look forward. By providing you with this information, we invite you join in the planning and the celebration of Laurel's concluding ministry and Daniel's emerging ministry. The task force and committee will welcome your ideas, energy, and contributions to these efforts.

~ The Board of Trustees



Are you new to Unitarian Universalism?

Do you still have questions even though you've been around for a while?

Watch for this logo - it marks a class, meeting, or event specifically designed for the UU-Curious, regardless of how long you've been around.

Blood Drive on Sept. 28th

The fall blood drive will take place on Sunday morning, September 28, at the church. Appointments are encouraged for your favored time, but walk-ins are welcome, too.

In addition to the usual perks for donating (free T-shirt and cholesterol check from Carter Bloodcare and free donut from our own LGUU table!), Carter Bloodcare will enter all September and October donors in weekly drawings for a pair of tickets to a Mavericks or Stars game. And the Grand Prize drawing for this fall's donors is a three-game packet to same.

For more information, stop by the Community Service table on Sundays or contact Sara Miskimins (972-271-6077, smisk@verizon.net).

Update From Dallas Area Interfaith

Dallas Area Interfaith is backing the Parkland Hospital bond issue on the November 4th ballot. Leaders will be calling potential voters and walking neighborhoods to urge Dallas County residents to vote for the bond issue.

Several DAI leaders will take part in the First Unitarian Social Action Council's voter-registration drive each Saturday in September. For information, stop by the Social Action Council / DAI table in Channing Hall.

This summer has seen the start of research into the state of citizens' access to affordable health care in Dallas and

SUNDAY MORNING

Adult Forum—10:30 a.m., in the Library "Power Over People"



September 21: "Hitler's Use of Power," Part 1

September 28: "Hitler's Use of Power," Part 2

Political systems must effectively attend to the relationship between the individual and society and address the essential and enduring questions about the nature of "good society," the source and function of legitimate political authority, and the values reflected by political institutions. This video-lecture series looks at the political thought that has shaped modern societies from the ancient Hindu and Greek through the 20th century. Perfect for an election season!

Spiritual Conversations—10:30 a.m., in Raible Chapel

September 21: "Mindful," by Mary Oliver, from *Why I Wake Early*

September 28: "I have wished I could rest..." by Adrienne Rich, from *Your Native Land, Your Life*

Spiritual Conversations meets weekly except on the second Sunday of the month. Each session opens with a reading, often a poem, and continues with a period of silent reflection. Conversation begins slowly as we share our reflections on the reading and the spiritual experience it inspires. Copies of the reading are provided.

Adult Discussion-Group—10:30 a.m., in the Parish House

September 21: "Ursula Goodenough"

September 28: "God is Not Great"

In spontaneous group discussions, participants exchange information, share knowledge, and express personal views on a variety of religious, spiritual, and ethical issues. Handouts are provided each week to spark discussion.

HUUMANIST Discussion-Group—11:30 a.m., in the Library

September 21: "Objectivity"

September 28: "Zoroaster"

The Group meets weekly to seek in-depth exploration of the intellectual, moral, and spiritual bases of both the long UU tradition of non-theist religious humanism and of the humanist content in the even longer traditions of the theist religions of our culture. Everyone is welcome!



Outdoor Adventures

Join us for the **annual fall camp-out, October 24–26**, at Beavers Bend Resort in lovely southeastern Oklahoma. Enjoy the fall colors, cooler temperatures, and the camaraderie of fellow UUs in the Ouachita Mountains. Space is limited to the first 100 campers. Registration is accepted with payment. Adults are \$50 each and children \$25 each which includes a cozy heated/cooled cabin and meals. To sign-up or get more information, contact Ron Nelson (214-942-4555, ronwnelson@tx.rr.com) or stop by the OA table in Channing Hall.



FROM ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

Dr. Laurel Hallman, our Senior Minister for over 20 years, is a significant leader in the Unitarian Universalist Association. Now she is a candidate for UUA President. Come hear her vision for the future of our liberal faith tradition.

LAUREL HALLMAN

Tuesday Evening
September 23, 2008
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Our Whole Lives for Adults

Five Thursday Evenings

Begins September 25th

7:00 p.m. in RE Room 204

Registration Required ~ \$20 Fee ~ Limited to 20 Participants

Join us for a comprehensive exploration of human sexuality. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for adults age 24 and up is not a "health class" that Ward & June Cleaver would recognize, but rather a frank and thorough look at all aspects of adult sexuality. OWL for Adults is an interactive program with plenty of opportunity for discussion, honest Q&A, and even role playing without vague meanings, coded language, or self-conscious snickers. This is the real thing for real adults.

The class curriculum honors adult sexuality as a valid expression of our *complete* lives and helps participants clarify values, build fulfilling relationships, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality and how these deeply held beliefs impact our feelings, sense of self-worth, and ability to build meaningful relationships. OWL also investigates how society reflects and is influenced by collective sexual values—especially as they relate to issues of respect and justice.

Gay & Lesbian Human Rights and the United Nations

Bruce Knotts

Director UU United Nations Office

7 p.m. • Friday, October 10
in Raible Chapel

To sign up for an ARE class or event, stop by the ARE Table on Sundays or email programs@dallasuu.org. Scholarships are always available—just ask!

PRE-PRIDE PARADE PARTY FOR LGBT & STRAIGHT FRIENDS

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 20, 2008

6 TO 8 P.M.

AT

MARGAUX'S

150 TURTLE CREEK BLVD
DALLAS, TEXAS 75207

CASUAL ATTIRE

Please RSVP by September 16
to Chris Denney

(cdenney@dallasuu.org, 214-884-1206)

WOMEN'S DAY ALLIANCE



The Women's Day Alliance invites all women of the church to its October General Meeting on **Tuesday, October 7th, in Raible Chapel**. Our guest speaker will be Robert Franklin, Professor of American Government at Collin College and Brookhaven Community College, who will talk about "Issues for the November Election." We'll have a brief **Business Meeting at 10:30 a.m.** before Professor Franklin's **talk at 11:00**. A **catered lunch will be served at noon**—please call Nelda Davis (972-717-4267) for reservations. The cost will be \$9.00. Feel free to bring a bag lunch.

The Bridge Group will meet **Tuesday, September 30th, at 10:30 a.m., in Channing Hall**. Mary Lou Hopkins (214-351-6721) will be hostess.



The LGUU Potluck Suppers are back after a summer hiatus. September's potluck will be held on **Sunday, September 28, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the home of Brian Mumey and Clinton Swingle (2674 Dorrington Drive, Dallas, 75228)**. Please join us!

CARING COMMUNITY

We rejoice with **Scott Sample and Amy Mittelstet** on their marriage August 30 in a ceremony conducted by Dr. Kanter.

Best wishes to **Elaine Villarreal and Geoffrey Bodle**, whose marriage Dr. Hallman blessed in a ceremony on September 13. May they enjoy a long, happy life together.

Louise Raggio has relocated; her new address is 5585 Caruth Haven Lane, Apt. #201, Dallas, TX, 75225. Her new phone number is 214-242-6129.

MarySue Foster is delighted to announce the birth of a healthy, happy grandson, **Oliver Loehr**, on August 14. Oliver's mother, **Leah Siegel**, has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer. MarySue and her family are hopeful about Leah's recovery.

Suzy Hogue is in our hearts as she awaits a heart procedure on October 17. She would welcome cards at that time but asks that people not visit.

We offer condolences to **John and Meg Schulman** and their son, **Nathan**, on the recent death of **Ralph Suffrage**, 81, John's step-father and Nathan's grandfather, in Florida.

With sadness we report the death of **Stephen Aldred**, last Sunday, in Fischer, Texas, where he and **Donna** had recently moved. Our sympathy goes to Donna and to **Leslie**, the Aldreds' daughter.

Dr. Kanter will conduct a memorial service for **Anita Jacobsen** on Saturday, September 13, at 1 p.m., in the Sanctuary.

KUDOS

...to **Robert L. Solender**, recently honored by Mayor Tom Leppert for all he has done for Dallas, especially raising money for the new bookmobile. September 1st was named Robert L. Solender Day.

UUs IN THE LIMELIGHT

Francis Fuselier is playing Doc in *West Side Story* for Lyric Stage, in Irving, September 5-14. The production features a 34-piece orchestra and a re-creation of the original Jerome Robbins choreography. Tickets and information are available at www.lyricstage.org.

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Mission Statement The First Unitarian Church of Dallas creates and nurtures a liberal religious community where all souls shall grow in harmony with the divine through worship, education, service, and fellowship.



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