

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, OCTOBER 5  
COMMITMENT SUNDAY**

**Sermon:** "The Measure of Our Lives?"  
**Dr. Laurel Hallman**

This Sunday I will preach about measuring our worth, not in assets, nor even in accomplishments. What would be a true measure of our worth?

**Music:** Oboist Willa Henigman and pianist Alan Dyer will play.

*This will be the last Sunday to buy fall flowers from the Music Department—stop by their table in Channing to place your order.*

~ ~ ~

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12**

**Sermon:** "The Perils of Doubt"  
**Rev. Dr. Daniel C. Kanter**

A recent UU campaign in *Time* magazine proclaimed, "When in doubt, pray, when in prayer, doubt!" What are the benefits and perils of doubt today?

**Music:**

9:15—The Sanctuary Choir will sing.  
11:30—Kindred Voices will sing.

*October's First Sunday Collection takes place this Sunday. Read more on p. 3.*

~ ~ ~

**From the Senior Minister  
Dr. Laurel Hallman**

Well, that was exciting! If you missed it, on Sunday, September 14, I invited my (boyfriend? partner? friend?) Larry Ladd to make an announcement during church. He announced that he had asked me to marry him and I had said "yes." No one knew we were going to make the announcement that day. Even I, who had said "yes" before that weekend, did not know he would arrive in town with the engagement ring on the Friday before the announcement of our engagement.

We were honored and excited by the exuberant response in both services. So many of you have told me how pleased you are for us, and given us your good wishes. It means a lot. We plan to marry sometime in the fall of 2009, after the UUA Presidential election is over. Needless to say, I will move to Boston no matter what, since that is where Larry lives.

As some of you know, Larry is a life-long Unitarian Universalist. He has three grown children living in Washington, Boston and Chicago. His daughter-in-law, Nancy McDonald Ladd, is a Unitarian Universalist minister in Virginia. She and her husband, Jonathan Ladd, who teaches at Georgetown, are expecting their first child. Elka Ladd is a student at Meadville Lombard Theological School, studying for the UU ministry. Sarah Ladd is in graduate school in education. Larry works for Grant Thornton, an auditing and consulting

firm, as head of its national higher education and non-profit practice.

I come to this pledge season at the church with a fresh view of what it means to make a commitment! I have often said, "You know it's a commitment if you're feeling anxious!" I still hold to that sentiment. But now I can add, "You know it's a commitment when you have a deep sense of confidence about it."

The commitment to the church is actually right up there with a commitment to be married. It's life long. It reflects your values, yearnings, and life-shaping decisions. It involves your family and friends. It changes you. The commitment deepens as the years go by. It requires all that you have and then some. Saying "I do" and signing the church's Book of Names may not seem like comparable gestures, but they are both significant. Just ask anyone who has been married or a member of our church over many years.

I know that many of you (as I have been for the last 36 years) are unmarried. What I say is not prescriptive for everyone who is single. That said, what I say does hold for anyone who makes commitments, whether to a person, a congregation, a job, a child, a friend, or a ministry or cause. Make it for the long term. Don't be frugal with your affection or your resources. Say "yes!"

*Laurel*



**JTW Movie-Night**  
**Friday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00 p.m. in the Library**



"Traces of the Trade: A Story From the Deep North" will take Journey Toward Wholeness moviegoers to New England, Ghana and Cuba on the infamous and profitable (25% return) triangle trade of slaves and rum/molasses. The film was shown at the 2008 Sundance Festival and on Point of View (POV) on public television.

The DeWolf family, of Bristol, Rhode Island, were for three generations the biggest slave-traders in the US (the north dominated the trade), continuing long after New England had outlawed the trade. In the company of several relatives, film director Katrina Browne, descendent of the DeWolf family, leads a journey which retraces the path of the triangle trade. Afterwards, the relatives meet again to talk about their experiences and reactions. Ms. Brown and a cousin go on to meet with black scholars to explore the idea of reparations, then approach the Bristol Episcopal church and a regional denominational meeting to ask the family and church for acknowledgment of responsibility for the trafficking. The documentary is 90 minutes, in English.

Journey Toward Wholeness Movie Nights (monthly, on the second Friday) explore issues of race and class. Whether documentary or fiction, the films are intriguing and interesting. Lively discussion follows each screening. Movies are free and open to all interested members and friends of the church.

## 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 cranking, and the Canvass is coming up. 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 in-box 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,

## Update From Dallas Area Interfaith

Dallas Area Interfaith is supporting the Parkland Hospital bond issue on the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. Support of the issue is a tangible and meaningful first step in improving healthcare in Dallas County, and we are working incrementally toward improved access and coverage for all. Our "Get Out the Vote" efforts will allow us to connect with voters and show our support for a very important issue and build relationships inside and outside Dallas Area Interfaith and our member institutions.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, DAI leaders will walk the neighborhood around Bryan Adams High School to talk with residents about the Parkland bond issue and urge them to vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>. During the week of October 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be staffing phone banks to call potential voters

to urge them to vote early and to support the bond.

On Sunday, September 14, Mr. Alan Walne, a member of the Parkland Hospital Board and a former Dallas City Council member spoke at the Social Action Forum about the upcoming Parkland bond issue and answered questions from church members. He was very informative and he provided literature about Parkland's plans. If you want more information about the bond, please stop by the DAI table in Channing Hall.

If you are interested in joining us or would like more information about DAI events or activities, please contact Alan or Gwen Lummus (972-733-4141, alan@bkmts.com) or Mary Lou Hoffman (mlhoffman3@sbcglobal.net, 972-231-3816), or stop by the DAI table in Channing Hall.

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## Brunch in Community on October 5<sup>th</sup>

The Coming of Age class invites you to its Harvest-themed Brunch in Community the first Sunday of October. We will be serving assorted Egg Casseroles, Muffins, Caramel Apple Slices, and assorted beverages. All proceeds benefit the Youth Department and help Coming of Age youth attain their goal: the annual Boston Heritage Trip!



Requested donations for brunch:  
\$7.00 per adult  
\$3.00 per child under 12

Thank you to everyone who came out to September's YRUU Pancake Breakfast! The brunch had record sales and we received generous donations to the Youth department. Thank you for supporting our youth!



## PMT Spotlight On... Outdoor Adventures

Outdoor Adventures has two scheduled campouts each year and various day trips throughout the year. Each spring we go to Tyler State Park in east Texas. In the fall, we go to Beavers Bend Park, on Broken Bow Lake, in southeastern Oklahoma. This year's dates are October 24 – 26. These three-day outings provide opportunities for UU families and friends to gather in a relaxed atmosphere while enjoying the outdoors. This is an intergenerational experience, with something for all ages and energy levels. Well-behaved dogs are also welcome. The old-timers organize things pretty well, so don't worry if you don't feel like a pioneer. You can do it! Dig out that tent or put your name down for a shelter or cabin. Actual dates are posted well in advance of each outing, with a sign-up sheet in Channing Hall.

## CAMPAIGN CORNER

### LAUREL HALLMAN FOR UUA PRESIDENT

#### How can I support Laurel in her bid to be the UUA President?

Here are four key ways to show your support:

**LEND YOUR NAME** - Sign up with a HALLMAN CAMPAIGN volunteer on Sundays, giving us your name (printed clearly), city/state and signature authorizing us to post your name on the campaign website.

**PROVIDE TESTIMONY** - Short endorsement statements which highlight the leadership attributes of Dr. Hallman are always welcome!

**GET ONLINE** - At the campaign website—[www.LaurelHallman.com](http://www.LaurelHallman.com) or [www.HallmanForUUAPresident.com](http://www.HallmanForUUAPresident.com)—you can read through the platform statements, look at the list of supporters, read the personal endorsements, and watch the videos (especially the ones from GA!). You can complete a JOIN US form there, too.

**GIVE FUNDS** - Campaigns are expensive: there are campaign materials, websites, advertisements in the *UU World*, presence at GA and other conferences, shipping, and travel expenses. You can donate either online (by credit card, through PayPal) or by check or cash (see details on the website).

I value your support because YOU are the most important part of UUA.

## First Sunday Collection to Benefit UU-United Nations

On Sunday, October 12, Bruce Knotts, Executive Director of the UU United Nations Office (UU-UNO) will report on the work of the UU-UNO, particularly the first- ever inclusion of LGBT human rights as an agenda item (at the instigation of the UU-UNO) at a UN-sponsored conference, as well as his upcoming trip to Ghana with Bill Sinkford, President of the UUA.

The UU-UNO promotes the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, as reflected in the United Nations Charter. Through targeted education, advocacy, and outreach, the UU-UNO engages with

Unitarian Universalists to support international cooperation and the work of the United Nations. With its own board, budget, and programs, the UU-UNO speaks, acts, and bears witness on behalf of UUs at the United Nations and within the governments of Canada and the US. First Church members Mary Overton and Susan Hunter have served as UU-UNO Board members; Kari Strickland and Elizabeth Overton have served as interns.

Help the UU United Nations Office continue its important work by contributing to its support at October's First Sunday collection.

## Nominations for 2009 First Sunday Collections

Great things happen in nonprofits! Celebrate that by nominating your favorite 501(c)(3) organization for a First Sunday Collection. We want to share your enthusiasm!

Nominations for January – June 2009 are due to the church office by November 1<sup>st</sup>. You can find nomination

forms at [www.dallasuu.org](http://www.dallasuu.org) and in the church office. Please submit a printed nomination and supporting documents to the office. You can also email the nomination to Janny Strickland ([janny@stricklandfamily.net](mailto:janny@stricklandfamily.net)).

We want to hear from you!



## Campbell Conversations Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m., in the Library

Through the study of comparative religions, mythological symbol, and sacred ritual, Campbell Conversations seeks to deepen our understanding of society's collective wisdom.

In October, Campbell Conversations, which normally meets on the first Sunday of the month, will utilize the film "Star Wars" in our discussion.

For more information, visit us on the web at [www.guiling.com/roundtable](http://www.guiling.com/roundtable).



## WOMEN'S EVENING ALLIANCE

On **October 14<sup>th</sup>**, our own Judge Lorraine Raggio will give us a "peek under the robe" as she describes her life on the bench and the campaign trail. Please join us for **conversation and refreshments at 6:00 p.m., in Channing Hall, followed by our potluck dinner at 6:30**—bring a dish to share. Judge Raggio will speak after a short **business meeting at 7:00**

**p.m.** We'll also raffle off two tickets to the upcoming King Tut exhibit. Bring a friend and join the fun!



## WOW Wine Tasting!

This WOW (Women's Outing) event is for First Church women in their 30s and 40s. On **Thursday, October 16, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**, we will enjoy a wine tasting at Stoney's Fine Wines, 2804 Greenville Avenue (next to The Grape).

**Advance payment and registration required.** Sign up at the Adult RE Table on October 5 and 12. The cost is \$20 per person. The event is limited to 25 people; registration closes October 12. Questions? Contact Queta Watson (214-922-1218, [QWatson@DallasMuseumofArt.org](mailto:QWatson@DallasMuseumofArt.org)).

## SUNDAY MORNING

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

*October 5:* "Gandhi's Use of Power," Part 1

*October 12:* "Gandhi'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 20<sup>th</sup> century. Perfect for an election season!



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

*October 5:* "Landscape," by Mary Oliver, from *Dream Work*

*October 12:* No Spiritual Conversations; Social Action Forum meets instead. 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

*October 5:* "Thomas Paine"

*October 12:* "Religion and Evolution"

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

*October 5:* "The Scope of Humanism"

*October 12:* "Postmodernism I"

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!

## Social Action Forum on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> "Change the World Before Those Other Guys Do"

Join us at **10:30 a.m., in Raible Chapel**, for this special presentation by Bruce Knotts, Executive Director of the UU United Nations Office (UU-UNO). We are not a missionary church, but Bruce Knotts calls on UUs to work for change in a world drifting in directions most UUs would abhor. His is a call to action on behalf of our UU principles. Director Knotts will talk about the work of his office and why we need a UU voice at the UN. Not to have one would be to abdicate our leadership role in the world and allow "those other guys" to change the world in

ways most of us deplore. Bruce Knotts became a diplomat with the U.S. State Department in 1984, and served in Europe, Africa, Asia and Central America. Within the State Department, he was a Desk Officer in the Office of Central American Affairs, Deputy Office Director in the Office of Directives Management and as the Senior Management Officer in the Office of International Conferences. Director Knotts retired from the State Department in 2007 and assumed his UU/UNO post in January 2008.



## Gay & Lesbian Human Rights and the United Nations

### Bruce Knotts

Director UU United Nations Office

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



### REV. DR. DANIEL KANTER

FAITH WINDOW: FOUR WAYS TO UU FAITH

TUESDAY EVENING ~ OCTOBER 21 ~ 7 PM IN THE LIBRARY

Are UU's people of faith? Yes, but how? We will explore the meaning of faith and a method through which individuals might look at their own life experience through the faith window. We will explore some of what UUs nationwide have said about their faith. Come ready for a conversation.



Introduction: October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 1 pm in Raible Chapel (light lunch served at 12:45)

Series: third Thursdays (Oct. '08–June '09), begins October 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm in Raible Chapel  
\$25 fee includes workbook

\*Sign up at the Adult Education table on Sunday or email [programs@dallasuu.org](mailto:programs@dallasuu.org)\*



### White Rock Lake Second Saturday Shoreline Spruce-Up on October 11<sup>th</sup>

Come enjoy the shoreline at White Rock Lake this Fall while doing a good deed! Join other First Church members putting their beliefs into action. We meet at our designated shoreline on West Lawther between Fisher and Branchfield (boat launch parking lot) at 8:30 a.m. Supplies will be provided. Stop by For the

Love of the Lake offices starting at 8:00 a.m if you'd like complimentary Starbucks coffee and baked goodies. Thanks to our September volunteers: Christiane Baud, Julie Doucet, Donald Hilgemann, Chris Rambo, the Powell family, and James Thomas. For more information, visit the Community Service table in Channing Hall.



### Welcome, New Members!

September's book-signing brought 10 new members to our congregation. Look for their pictures at the Visitors Table or on the hall bulletin board by the Library.

- Megan Benanti
- Leoti Bennett
- Charles Fowler
- John Rutherford
- Emily Sharma
- Jonna Stout and Craig Patrick
- Tye Thomas
- Melissa and Michael Tole

The next opportunity to join will be October 12<sup>th</sup> after either service. A minister and members of the Membership Team will available to answer your questions at that time and if you are ready, you may sign the book.

Please feel free to contact Jenny or Mark Watson (214-821-8312, [watson.avalon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:watson.avalon@sbcglobal.net)), if you have questions.

### WOMEN'S DAY ALLIANCE



The WDA's October General Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, in Raible Chapel.**

Our guest speaker will be Robert Franklin, Professor of American Government at Collin College and Brookhaven College; he will discuss issues related to the November election. We'll begin with a **business meeting at 10:30 a.m., followed by Professor Franklin's program at 11:00, and a catered lunch at noon.** Please call Nelda Davis (972-717-4267) for reservations for lunch (\$9.00), or feel free to bring your own bag lunch.

The **Bridge Group will meet Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., in Channing Hall.** Kathy Calhoun (214-943-6738) will be hostess.

The **Friendship Group will meet Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at 10:30 a.m., in Channing Hall.** Sarah McGrath (214-352-3413) and Susan Kempthorne will cohost. Remember to bring your sandwich.

### SENIOR MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Senior Men's Fellowship, open to all men over 50, will meet **Thursday, October 9, at noon, in Channing Hall** for a brown-bag lunch.

**At 12:45, in the Library,** we will have a roundtable discussion on "Unconscious/Unstated Racism...Will it Affect the Election?". All church members and friends are welcome to join us for this program.

The articles on the following web pages may spark your interest in the discussion:

<http://atheism.about.com/b/2003/11/22/identifying-unconscious-racism.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unconscious\\_racism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unconscious_racism)



## CARING COMMUNITY

Congratulations to **Diana Bacon and Eric Bratton** and big sister **Ella** on the birth of **Jillian Hunter Bacon Bratton**, born on September 14. We wish great joy to all.

Best wishes to **Sara Gradual and Rob Vivona**, who were married September 27, in a family ceremony, in Florida.

It's good to report that **Pat Halford** is being discharged from Hospice care after receiving an improved prognosis.

We send get-well wishes to **Louise Raggio**, who has been hospitalized after being injured in a fall.

Caring thoughts go to **Dave and Gretchen Riehl** and Dave's parents, **Irene and Emil**, as Irene undergoes medical tests.

**Sally Jackman** is in our hearts as she mends from a broken kneecap and elbow.

We hold **Rhonda and Doug Schmidt** and their children close as Rhonda receives treatment for cancer.

Our condolences go to **Elizabeth Fairchild** and her family on the death of her brother **Brian**, on September 6, following a stroke.

## KUDOS

- to **Anne Norvelle**, whose works will be featured at Andelon Art Gallery, in an exhibit opening October 9. For more information, visit [andelonart.com](http://andelonart.com).
- to **Rev. Tamara Lebak**, on her Installation as Associate Minister on September 28. Dr. Hallman preached and took part in the Installation Tamara's pursuit of ministry has been supported in part by First Church of Dallas.

### Recycling Opportunity

The Visitors Table is accepting copies of *UU World* magazine to pass along to visitors. Please drop them off at the table on Sunday mornings. Thanks!

## First Unitarian Church of Dallas

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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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