

# Unitarian Fellowship

Longview Texas Unitarian Universalists Fellowship April 2009



## Unitarian Fellowship of Longview April Programs:

### April 5 - Jerry Kircus

- "The Case Against Faith" How do we deal with those whose faith is so strong even in the faith of overwhelming evidence to the contrary? How do we live in the same world?

### April 12 - Megan Dalby Jones

Easter Sunday (Western tradition)

### April 19 - Eric Best

"Real Community Creation." Building an intentional community in East Texas.

### April 26 - Ruth Semrau

"The Man Who Planted Trees" an Earth Day presentation.

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"Unitarian Universalists are often asked where they stand. The only true answer to give to this question is that we do not stand at all, we move."

L.B. Fisher

## Where You Can Find Us:

2301 Alpine St  
Longview, TX 75601  
(903) 297-0228

## What's Going on:

Sundays

Open discussion group 9:30 to 10:30 am

Coffee, Tea and Snacks 10:30 am

Service 11 am

Talk back 12 noon to 12:45 pm



## BOARD MEETING

1:00 pm

2nd Sunday

of each month

## Pot Luck Sunday

**April 26**

Following Talk Back

Bring your favorite dish to share.

Enjoy a relaxing meal and some good conversation.

Child Care Zoe Koepke

11:00 am - 12:45 pm Sunday Service

The inherent worth and dignity of every person  
Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

The right of conscience and the use of the

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## Join UUs from around the country in Niagara Falls, July 19-22, 2009

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit our web site :

<http://www.uunex.net/>

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## April Birthdays



Carol Cox..... 04-17-1940

Gelene Grim..... 04-08-

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## Notes from your UFL President:

I am coordinating requests for volunteers. If you need help to get something done around the Fellowship, please let me know what you need and I will put it in the Announcements to be read by the Lay Leader each Sunday at the beginning of our Service. Ongoing requests for help can also be posted in the monthly newsletter or sent out to the congregation by email. You can talk to me at the Fellowship on Sunday mornings, or reach me by phone or email.

Blessings,  
Don Eakin

[avarissa@aol.com](mailto:avarissa@aol.com)

903-926-2958

## Sunday Coffee and Clean up

You have probably already received the first of my quarterly reminders about opportunities to help with Sunday coffee, snacks and clean-up which also offered the possibility of simply making a donation to pay for the food. It works like this: You sign up for a Sunday, give me your donation (minimum of \$15), and I will bake, shop, make the coffee, and do the clean-up for you on the Sunday you chose.

I was pleasantly surprised by one of the responses I received. It was from John and Karen Pantzer, who used to live in Longview and attend our Fellowship. They moved to Richardson (in the Dallas area) several months ago. In his email John said, "..... we haven't attended the UUFL for about two years, but we do like to be on the email distribution to be informed of how things are going there. I'll put a check in the mail and send it to UUFL to your attention. You can fill in two Sundays that way, from Karen and John Pantzer. \$40 coming your way."

What a wonderful surprise! Thank you so much to the Pantzer's for their continued support of the Fellowship!

And I would very much appreciate your help and support with our Sunday Coffee, Snacks, and Clean-Up. The sign-up calendar is ready and waiting for your signature!!

Lisa Sanders



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## Happenings of importance.....

### UUA General Assembly June 24-28 2009

The UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY will be held in Salt Lake City on June 24 -28, 2009. Our Fellowship is a member of this group also. There is a large brochure on the table in the lobby you can browse through for more information. This years Assembly will vote to adopt a new Statement of Conscience, Peacemaking. You can also go online to get all the information. The path to follow is: [uua.org /events /general assembly](http://uua.org/events/general-assembly).

Jay says : It is a wonderful experience to attend this type of event because you get to see a much bigger picture of who we are, there are workshops to attend, and there is practically nonstop socializing opportunities!

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### SWUUC Annual Spring Conference

The Southwestern UU Conference (SWUUC) will be holding its Annual Spring Conference April 24 through the 26th in Memphis, Tennessee. The UUFL is a member society. Therefore, if you would like to attend, you can! The focus of this session is "Breaking Barriers." If you are curious what this is all about, there is a brochure on the table in the lobby. You can also obtain information and forms online also.

GO TO: <http://swuuc.org/>

SCROLL DOWN TO: SWUUC NEWS

CLICK ON: Spring Conference and Annual Meeting [brochure](#) and [registration forms](#).

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## UUFL Board Nominations Committee:

The annual Congregational Business meeting will be held after services one Sunday in May (the actual date has not yet been set). One point of business will be for the members to elect or re-elect members to the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and two At-Large members. If you would like information about what the positions require, please email Sky ([skysong@etex.net](mailto:skysong@etex.net)). You may volunteer for any position that you are interested in. Simply notify Chip ([chipkoepke@yahoo.com](mailto:chipkoepke@yahoo.com)) or Marolen ([Marolen@aol.com](mailto:Marolen@aol.com)) that you would like to serve on the Board and they will place your name on the slate. All members and friends are encouraged to attend the Congregational Meeting. Only members can vote. Only members can serve on the Board of Directors.

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## Fellowship Projects

There are three upcoming work projects at the Fellowship that you can volunteer to help with:

- (1) installation of laminate flooring in the Child Care room
- (2) Spring Cleaning and sprucing up of the flower beds
- (3) blowing insulation into the overhead

These are projects I have done in my own home and I can share the results of my experiences with you. So you don't need to already know how to do these things in order to volunteer. Just volunteer for one or more and then come and learn. As soon as I hear from a few people who would like to participate, we will set a date that is mutually convenient. ([chipkoepke@yahoo.com](mailto:chipkoepke@yahoo.com))

903--291-8203 [home]

903--746-2223 [cell]

Thanks, Chip



## White Knots in Support of Marriage Equality

WhiteKnot.org is the website for **White Knot for Equality**, a non-profit organization founded by Frank Voci in November 2008 in response to the passing of Proposition 8 in California and bans on same-sex marriage and denial of other civil rights for LGBT persons across the nation.

**White Knot for Equality strives to educate people on the importance of Marriage Equality, provoke dialogue, and show the wide-spread support Marriage Equality truly has.** Their website states that they believe in peaceful and conscientious displays of support wherever there is injustice. They support the work of other organizations by providing a tool for visibility and awareness to complement their activities.

The White Knot symbol takes two traditional symbols of marriage—white and tying the knot—and combines them. It is at once a proud display of a belief in basic human rights and an invitation to conversation. [White Knots](#) are now seen worn [in all 50 states and 14 countries](#).

White Knot for Equality offers the White Knot symbol royalty-free to any organization or individual advocating and working for Marriage Equality and other civil rights for gays and lesbians. White Knot for Equality does not necessarily endorse, support, or participate in the activities or views of any organization or individual using the White Knot symbol and all such activities and views are solely the responsibility of those organizations and individuals. White Knot for Equality is a 501-c(3) non-profit corporation under California and Federal law and as such serves primarily to educate and inform. White Knot for Equality has no political affiliation.

Congregation Member:

I came across this website and was impressed first by what they had to say on the frontpage. "The White Knot is the symbol for marriage equality. Wear it every day to show your support and to create conversation. Use it to [tell someone today](#) that equal rights are important to everyone. Share the White Knot and [spread the word](#) that all loving couples deserve the same legal rights, benefits, and respect that civil marriage bestows. Visibility is the goal. Whether you are gay, straight, or otherwise, please show your support by wearing the Knot and [telling people why you are wearing it](#). Wear your White Knot to work, to school, to your place of worship. Together, we will keep the topic at the top of people's minds and keep the conversation going." Please take a moment to check this website out.

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## UUA President Celebrates Iowa Marriage Ruling

UUA President William Sinkford rejoiced at the Supreme Court's recent unanimous decision to affirm the rights of same-sex couples to marry in Iowa. This ruling, based on the equal protection guarantee in the Iowa constitution, recognizes the necessity for equal treatment under the law of all citizens. This decision will strengthen committed same-sex couples and their families in Iowa, and bring us one step closer to full legal equality for all Americans. A few days ago Sweden became the fifth European country to recognize the rights of same-sex couples to marry.

You can read President Sinkford's address in full, with the story of the only legally married same-sex couple in Iowa at [UUA.org](#). If you have never explored the UUA website, I assure you that you are in for quite a treat.