



## Unitarian Fellowship of Longview March Programs:

### March 1 - Hollis Pugsley

"God, Truth or Dare." A discourse on the many reflections of UU flavors of the Divine Wow -- how the Universe is conspiring to shower you with blessings.

### March 8 - Megan Dalby Jones

"Evolution and Spirituality."

### March 15 - Neal Katz

To be announced

### March 22 - The Rev. Michael Thompson

- "What should I tell my Friends About My Church?" We UUs tend to be reticent when opportunities arise to share our liberal faith with others. That's a shame, as our liberal approach to religion, when presented positively, has a lot to offer.

### March 29 - Tina Rushing

"Reflections on Doubt, (and the Meryl Streep Movie.)"

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## 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

**March 29**

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

# Unitarian Fellowship

Longview Texas Unitarian Universalists Fellowship



March 20

## UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF LONGVIEW SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY

### SOCIAL ACTION MOVIE NIGHT

On February 19th, eleven UU's and guests gathered at our home for our first *mUUVie night*. Not only did we enjoy a very informative film but great Fellowship and a wide variety of vegetarian, vegan and organic foods. The film was "*Eating-The biggest cause of disease, disabilities and death in the U.S. today*". The film documented the indisputable connection between how and what we eat and the increase of cancer and epidemic health problems in today's society as well as the global impact on the environment. All dishes that were used during the evening were compostable and all utensils were reusable plastics. Several of the participants made pledges to change their eating habits after viewing the evenings movie. We hope to see even more attendees at the next *mUUVie night*, March 12th for the new film, *Religulous* by Bill Maher. Because we had such a wonderful turnout at our first event, the March *mUUVie* will be shown at the Fellowship.

Chip and Amanda



More pics can be viewed online!!

## NTAUUS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The Marketing and Communications Committee of NTAUUS, the North Texas Association of Unitarian Universalist Societies, is seeking volunteers to assist with the redesign and maintenance of its Web site; the creation of a multi-congregational electronic newsletter, advertising copy, and e-mail marketing campaigns; and a variety of other exciting and innovative activities to advance Unitarian Universalism in North Texas. Your participation, small or large, would be greatly appreciated. The webmaster position must be filled immediately and may offer payment, if desired. Please contact John Kent at [johndkent@mac.com](mailto:johndkent@mac.com) or (817) 337-9193 to express interest or to obtain additional information.

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### March Birthdays



Veronica Hummaddi..... 03-20-19--

Robert Marquez..... 03-20-01

Chip Koepke..... 03-23-1970

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## "Under God or Equality for All"

*By UU teen Madalyn Grissim*

Longview Texas Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



"The pledge of allegiance was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy. The words "Under God" were added in 1954 when President Eisenhower amended it. Francis Bellamy had thought of using the word "Equality" but decided against it in order to avoid antagonizing those who did not believe in equal rights for women and African Americans.

To be honest, I don't think the words "Under God" should be in the pledge of allegiance. Not everybody believes in God, which goes back to the separation of church and state. It DOES go against the constitution, there for it's right that it's not a requirement to say it. I don't say it. Not because I don't believe in God, but because the words "Under God" are in it, which goes against the constitution and my own personal beliefs. I don't think anyone should be required to say it period, regardless of the words "Under God". Seeing as this is America, a "Free country" shouldn't you have the choice to say it or not? Then again we do a lot of things that go against the constitution so who knows. I think we should take the words "Under God" out and replace them with "Equality" because we are all different people who believe different things. Not everyone believes in God, and God is different for everyone. I read an article arguing that it doesn't have any particular God referred to, there for its a "One word fits all situation" WRONG AGAIN! For those of us who believe in the Goddess, and those of us who believe in no God at all, a "One word fits all situation" is far, far from the truth here.

And who is God anyway? Once again, we all see God differently. Some see God as an uptight hard willed mean person who starts wars and makes it rain acid. Others see God as this unbelievably nice person who cures cancer patients at random and makes happy endings in movies become reality. Some see God as blond, others see brunette. Some believe God is in the sky, where as others see God in the earth and its people. Then there are people like me who see God everywhere in everything. God is a shapeshifter. I go by my personal Unitarian belief that God is the same person in many different forms

Unitarian belief that God is the same person in many different forms (in other words, the best secret agent EVER) and that all paths lead to the same place. So for me, God is neither blond nor brunette, but is this hippy rockstar with seven different hair colors and has a pastime of curing cancer patients and creating other such miracles. Then God has these mood swings, this is where natural disasters come from. Or maybe God just has a serious psychological problem and that's why so many good things and disastrous things happen at once. I don't see God as male or female, but a unisex ruler and creator of all that is. Some find that offensive while others find it right on, just another example of how we are all different. But tell me, who is God and why is this person in the constitution? Is God aware America is under him/her? Lets pray God doesn't shift in his/her seat! God must have a tiresome job, so much as sneeze and someone's demanding God to bless you. How ever you may see God, my way or your way or someone else's way, or perhaps if you see no God at all, one size, or word in this case, DOES NOT fit all. And as another thought...

So it's not okay to antagonize people about believing people with dark skin and women are property, but it IS okay to antagonize unreligious people? Good to see how the world is moving forward. If anything, considering this is 2009 and we are supposed to be all smart-like now, we should, once again, switch the words "Under God" to "Equality" because this is AMERICA and we are ALL EQUAL, right? It's pretty obvious to me that we are not all under God. God, this mystery stranger person with a funky name who is apparently a best selling author.

I can't stand the way society has built a box in which you have to fit in. How its assumed we all believe in God (Often, the same God) and anyone with an offbeat belief, view, or even appearance is immediately labeled "Outcast". This is America, a country filled with all types of different people. And that's okay, because it's a free country, right? One



# "Under God or Equality Cont.."

by Madalyn Grimm

Longview Texas Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



. And that's okay, because it's a free country, right?  
One word will NEVER fit all."

Yours truly,  
Madalyn Grimm



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**Dear Friends and Members:**

We have such an interesting and widely traveled congregation... If you have a tidbit to share, a note or letter, a visit with someone that you think the rest of us might enjoy, please send it in for inclusion in the next newsletter!

Here is a wonderful tidbit from the journeys of our friend Bob Cargill...

Dear Sky and Huey,  
Jan, 27 2009

I was having breakfast yesterday morning at the Residence Inn in Cambridge, MA. At the next table sat a couple and a gimmie cap rested on the table. It had a UU logo and emblazoned there was UU University. I couldn't resist intruding. The couple were Bill and Maria Sinkford. He is the President of the UUA of America, so they told me. We had a pleasant, if brief, visit. Was this a result of my finishing reading *The Invention of Air* by Steven Johnson, a biography of Joseph Priestley? Priestley was in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century one of the most famous scientists in the world, a close friend of B. Franklin's and later of T. Jefferson. He was also an ordained minister of our persuasion and it was he and Theophilus Lindsey who founded the first Unitarian Church in England. Further, he was a noted political philosopher. The credit for the discovery of oxygen has been debated. Was it Priestley, Antoine

Lavosier, or Carl Scheele? Actually, it was all three, and at the same time in about 1784. Priestley's neighbors burned his home and his church and drove him to emigrate to Northumberland, PA in 1794. Of all the men named in the Jefferson – Adams correspondence, Priestley was named more than ten times as often as the next, G Washington. I could go on...

Yours,  
Bob Cargill

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## Jeff & Celeste Fisher



Jeff & Celeste have been happily married and living here in East Texas since 2000. They have 2 wonderful boys, Quentin who is 8 years old, and Matthew, who is 7.

Jeff is employed by Marshall ISD as a School Nurse. He has been in the nursing profession since 1995. Celeste is employed as a Hospice nurse. Jeff, who is a Buddhist, quotes one of his teachers who wrote:

A friend who always lends a hand,  
A friend in both sorrow and joy,  
A friend who sympathize too.  
These are true friends;  
One who is wise will always cherish and serve such friends.

These are qualities Jeff says he sees in everyone here.

Celeste grew up in a fundamental Christian environment, Southern Baptist and Seventh Day Adventist. She can't remember ever believing with



conviction that a person would be damned to an everlasting Hell because of their beliefs, lifestyle, etc. She just couldn't believe a loving God would cause such sorrow. Her liberal moral beliefs and political opinions deviate from mainstream East Texas standards. Last year she decided that she didn't want their children to grow up thinking that it's okay to hate a person for being gay, or of another race or religion, or of another political creed different from their own. She could not believe that her amazing Buddhist husband and father of their children would be damned just because he isn't a Christian.

[Warm Welcome to Jeff, Celeste, Quentin and Matthew! We are delighted to have you join us.](#)

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### If Your New To Our Fellowship

Our congregation is ethnically and racially diverse, and it is unlikely that anyone would have a reason to feel uncomfortable. We have had visitors and speakers from many cultures and faith traditions. Some of our members are from the LGBT communities also. All are welcome and encouraged to actively participate in sharing their ideas and views.

We have refreshments and an informal fellowship time before and after the service. One of our unique traditions at the Fellowship is the talkback period following the service, where you can ask follow-up questions of the speaker, and engage the congregation in discussion of alternative views. We love to talk! We are a friendly group, but we are not "pushy"; your right to independent thought is important to us.

Like most Unitarian Universalist congregations, the UU Fellowship of Longview is a spiritually diverse community. Our members have roots in Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Pagan, Humanist, agnostic, atheist and other beliefs. At UFL, you can count on respect for your religious beliefs, whatever they are.

### Using our UUA Resources

Once you get to the UUA website (UUA.org) go to the sitemap, from there you can navigate to where you want to go. You can find the sitemap button down at the bottom of the page on a bluebar next to the copyright, and privacy policy links.

My first recommendation is to check out the Social Justice Action Center. The action center has clear and concise directions on month by month activities we can join in as a group to make changes in the world with our UU values. When we step up together real change happens.

The social justice action for March is

### **Sexuality Education Call-In Days March 23 and 24: Ask Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) views sexuality education as an issue of justice. It is our religious faiths and values that compel us to support justice and equity for people of all genders, races, backgrounds, income levels, abilities, and sexual orientations. We support age-appropriate, medically accurate, and fully inclusive sexuality education in schools and communities and congregations.

### **Call Your Members of Congress and Ask Them to Get REAL!**

Support the interfaith delegation at the Sexuality Education Advocacy Training (SEAT) March 21st - 24th as Unitarian Universalist youth and adults lobby their representatives in Washington, DC, to pass the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act, soon to be introduced into the 111th Congress. REAL will provide funding to states for medically accurate, age appropriate, comprehensive sexuality education in public schools that includes information about abstinence *and* contraception from both values-based and public health perspectives.

### **Create a buzz about sexuality education on Capitol Hill.**