

# The Community Spirit

Newsletter of the Northwest Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston

Vol. 10 Issue 2 February 2004

Services are held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.  
at 5920 Highway 6 North  
just south of West Little York, behind the Casa Ole  
in Houston, Texas.  
For further information call 281-550-8884  
or check our web site at  
[www.nwcuuc.org](http://www.nwcuuc.org)

## Upcoming Services



February 1

### "Doing Covenant - Shaping our World"

by Joe Sullivan

We know covenant as a cornerstone of our liberal faith. Stepping beyond the cherished words of covenants, what actions characterize our commitment to and process of living in right relationship? What difference can it make to our personal lives, to our churches and Unitarian Universalist movement, and to the world, if we fully engage in our covenants? Joe Sullivan is a charter member and past-president of the Henry David Thoreau UU Congregation. He currently serves as vice-president of the Southwest UU Conference board and as a congregational consultant for the SW District.

February 8

### "What Does Inherent Worth and Dignity Really Mean?"

by Dr. Barbara Coeyman

I have heard a few naysayers reject the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, arguing that the principles are so general as to be ineffective. I see them as just the opposite: in their generalness, they keep themselves open to ever new layers of interpretation, as new life experiences come our way. Our first principle--we promote the 'inherent worth and dignity of all people'--has long been one of my favorite principles. I thought I 'understood' its meaning and intent, but in the past few months I have found several new implications. As we celebrate diversity by recognizing Black History Month, let us think what 'inherent worth and dignity' really means? Do you show 'inherent worth and dignity' to all people? How do you live out our first principle?

February 15

### "Peace and Justice in Palestine"

by Ibrahim Ashrawi

How can the 7 Unitarian Universalist Principles help us interpret the situation in Palestine? Is it a cycle of religious conflict, or is there more at work? Ibrahim Ashrawi, born and raised in Jerusalem, will talk about mindsets of occupier and occupied, and suggest a Unitarian Universalist response that can help to build peace and justice.



## Ministerial Musings



I recently read a touching story in the newspaper. It concerned a man named 'Bo.' Realizing a lifelong dream, Bo has just started to take voice lessons. Bo is 83 years young. The newspaper reporter caught Bo in the act of practicing his 'lee-lah-lah-loh-loo' with his teacher. A retired political reporter (back in 1963, Bo reported from Dallas the day President Kennedy was shot), Bo studies with a 27-year-old member of his church choir. They work together in the music room of their Presbyterian church. Bo's goal: to develop his voice strongly enough to sing a solo some Sunday morning. He doesn't read music, but he has a good ear, and he also has drive and desire to sing. So singing he is ... with gusto!

I was moved by the story about Bo. His entire life, he wanted to sing, but responsibilities of job and family claimed priority. And without lessons and encouragement from a teacher, Bo never had the guts to try out for the choirs in the various churches he belonged to. But he didn't let go of his dream, and now in his ninth decade of life, when some of those other responsibilities are no longer pressing, he's decided to take lessons.

Bo has a goal and he intends to reach it. He knows it will take hard work and commitment, but I somehow have a feeling that in the not too distant future, the Sunday morning service bulletin of that Presbyterian church will list his name, and next to his name, the word 'Soloist.' And when that happens, not only will Bo have achieved his musical goal, he will also have immensely enhanced his spiritual life as well.

Bo's story reminds us that it's never too late to pursue hopes and dreams. Yes, at some points in life, pragmatic responsibilities may command our attention, and the hopes and dreams must go on hold. But let's not forget about the hopes and dreams. Let's keep them out there, as goals, as visions, for where we want to go in the future, if not tomorrow, maybe next year, or in five years, or ten.

Is there a song that you'd like to learn? It's never too late to start singing.

See you in church.

Blessings,

Barbara Coeyman  
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## Get Oriented

ORIENTATION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM  
and to this congregation

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2004, 11:30-12:30

led by Dr. Barbara Coeyman & the Membership Committee

Meet at the church office

These one-hour classes are designed for anyone considering joining this congregation and also for recent new members who have not yet been through orientation. Also, any established members wanting a review of Unitarian Universalism's history and theology should feel free to attend. The first class will be led by Barbara Coeyman, the second by Ken Bielicki and other members of the membership committee.

Attendance at these orientation classes is strongly recommended before signing on for membership in this congregation. The next new-member signing ceremony will be on Sunday 14 March during the worship service. For more information about the classes or membership, or if you cannot attend orientation but want to become a member, please contact Barbara Coeyman, 512-453-2026 or barbrevbarb@aol.com. If you intend to sign the membership book on March 14, please inform Barbara or Ken Bielicki (Kenb1336@aol.com, 713-867-3395) no later than Friday, March 12th.

## Laissez Les Bon Temp Rouler!

Celebrate Mardi Gras  
On Sunday, February 15th,  
With the Children of NWCUCI



Children's RE will meet in an intergenerational lesson to learn about the Catholic holiday of Mardi Gras. We will learn the religious significance; enjoy Mardi Gras music; and eat King Cake! After we make our masks, we will parade through the church building led by our own carnival royalty.