Newsletter - March 31, 2017
Welcome to the Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship!

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   - Hope: A Dimension of the Spirit by Rev. Addae Ama Kraba (brief) - January 1, 2017
   - In Gratitude by Rev. Addae Ama Kraba - November 13, 2016
   - Psychology of Religion by Minnie Venable - March 5, 2017

Sunday Worship - 9:30 & 11 AM

April 2, 2017
Rev. Addae speaks on Celebrating Spring. In the natural world Spring represents new beginnings. Let's celebrate the season with a service of music and prose.

April 9, 2017
Rev. Addae speaks on Striking the Right Chord. Many individuals view life as a process of all or nothing; you are either with them on the same page or not. What does it take to balance and strike the right chord?

April 16, 2017
Nina Stein speaks on Turning Ghosts into Ancestors. This Easter message is about our UU diversity and our unity—and about the need to heal our past, to turn our religious ghosts of the past into ancestors. Ours is a living religion; but with baggage holding us down, it is hard to live well in the present. Let us live in a house of hope.

Upcoming Events:
Adult Religious Education

Please join us at 10 AM each Sunday. All are welcome. No advance reading is necessary and no test will be given.

We continue the series on Archaeology: An Introduction to the World’s Greatest Sites.

Apr. 2: How Are Artifacts Dated and Preserved?
Apr. 9: The Terracotta Army, Sutton Hoo, and Otzi
Apr. 16: Discovering the Maya
Apr. 23: The Nazca Lines, Sipan, and Machu Picchu
Apr. 30: Archaeology in North America

Rev. Addae Office Hours
10 AM – 2 PM Tues. & Thurs.

Rev. Addae Kraba holds office hours in the Fellowship on Tuesday and Thursday each week from 10 AM to 2 PM, or by appointment if necessary. Home visits are made upon request.
Youth Religious Education

Our Youth Religious Education program is divided into three groups by age. In YRE, which meets each Sunday at 11 AM, we challenge our children with interactive studies. Youth Religious Education at the Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will focus on teaching and practicing morals, values, and ethics for all ages.

Our Nursery and Early Childhood classroom will be learning about UU principles through reading moral stories from around the world.

Our Elementary classroom will be following the Tapestries of Faith curriculum Moral Tales, encompassing the values of forgiveness, generosity, courage, and acceptance.

Our Junior High and High School classroom will be discussing Tapestries of Faith curriculum Virtue Ethics, directed at making ethical decisions. This classroom will also pull from the Tapestries of Faith curriculum Amazing Grace, aimed at understanding right and wrong and making good decisions.

Youth RE has its own Facebook page with more specific topics and activities outlined. See their page at AUUF Youth RE News.

Contact: Lydia Miller, Coordinator of YRE

Yoga with Maggie Taylor

Each Monday and Wednesday, 5:30 PM Maggie Taylor has practiced yoga for seventeen years and has taught classes for two. Bring your mat and join the others in the hour-long class. There is a fee of $8 per person per session. Learn more about the class and Maggie here.

Note: AUUF is only allowing this event to be held at our facility. AUUF is not responsible for the event or its content.

Path to Membership Gathering

Mark your calendar! If you are interested in joining our beloved community in the Fellowship, attending the Path to Membership meeting is a must. If you are thinking about joining but want to know more about Unitarian Universalism and our Fellowship in particular, this would seem tailor-made for you. The officers and other members of the congregation conduct a very informative and enjoyable series of sessions. Refreshments are provided. Childcare is available upon request. To RSVP or to arrange childcare, please contact the Fellowship office by April 4 at 806-355-9351 or email the office.

Meet the Artist - Keralee Clay

Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 PM Meet the Artist presents the extraordinary vocalizations of Keralee Clay, accompanied by Neal Nossaman on piano. Keralee graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Music/Vocal Performance and has performed in opera, musical theater, stage, and film. While living in New York, she played the role of "struggling artist" for nine years and wouldn’t trade the lessons learned and friends made for anything. Learn more details here.

She currently works for the Amarillo Area Foundation as the Director of Operations. Her favorite role is "Mom" to Liam and Eliza. Refreshments will be provided and the public is invited free of charge. Donations will be accepted for Amarillo Housing First. Bring your friends with you to hear mellifluous melodies at the Fellowship!
Due to the consistent decline in participation, the 2nd Friday Family Fun Night will no longer be a monthly activity at the Fellowship. Rosalie and Ceolio Falcon and Janda and Lyle Raker have worked diligently to provide entertaining family gatherings and deserve our heart-felt appreciation for their efforts.

### In the Community

#### 2nd Annual "Bach's" Lunch Series

**Every Friday during Lent March 3 thru April 7 12:05 PM at Various Churches**

Bring a "box" lunch and some friends with you. Each program begins promptly at 12:05 PM with a 25-minute organ recital. The host church will provide tea, coffee and a place to eat. You'll have plenty of time to get (Bach) back to work by 1:00 PM. The series is sponsored by the Amarillo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. (J. S. Bach's 332nd birthday will fall on Tuesday, March 21, 2017). The remaining schedule includes:

- **Mar. 31:** First Baptist Church, David Lowe, organist
- **Apr. 7:** St. Thomas Catholic Church, Jim Gardner, organist

For more information, visit the [Facebook page](http://facebook.com) or call 806.654.3239 or ask Neal Nossaman.

#### AISD School Board Candidates Forum

**Saturday, April 8, 10:00 AM, Downtown Library**

The NAACP, in conjunction with PBS, will host an AISD School Board Candidate Forum on Saturday, April 8th, from 10:00-11:00 AM at the Downtown Public Library. Karen Welch, of PBS, will act as moderator, asking questions centering on diversity in AISD schools. This is a public meeting free of charge and an excellent format for gathering information in preparation to vote.

#### Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, April 23, following 11 AM service at the Fellowship**

Mark your calendar! The next Congregational Meeting is scheduled for April 23. Bruce Fielder will submit a new slate of officers and committee chairs as well as seek approval of the 2017-18 Budget.

#### Newsletter and Website Submissions

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#### Earth Day Film Fundraiser

**Saturday, April 22, 7:00 PM**

On Earth Day come to the Fellowship for a fundraiser benefiting Wildcat Bluff and Wild West Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. We shall be screening the film *Racing Extinction* (94 min.), followed by a talk by Stephanie Oravetz. Also featured will be the animal ambassadors, Stinkers and Penny.

Utilizing state-of-the-art equipment, Oscar-winner Louie Psihoyos (The Cove) assembles a team of artists and activists intent on showing the world never-before-seen images that expose issues of endangered species and mass extinction. You can watch a brief trailer of the film by [Clicking Here](http://clickinghere.com).

AUUF is only allowing this event to use our facility. AUUF is not responsible for the event or its content.

"Let's all take a breath together. Take a moment from the perpetual scroll of overwhelm and breathe.........."

I had become silenced by overwhelm, and I just tapped into the truth of it this early morning. Everything is moving quickly, with high intensity. The unravelling, that is. There is no denying it. We are all feeling it within our bodies, hearts and minds, and we are reading its evidence all over our news feed and witnessing it in our lives. From the perpetual oil-addicted industry disregarding the voices of the indigenous peoples and all of life on planet Earth, to the violent disintegration of Syria, attacks in Israel and Palestine, mass incarceration, the planet surpassing the 1.5 degree Celsius warming mark earlier this year. We are living in a time of chaos, heartbreak and unraveling. And if we don't ADMIT that we are all feeling it, then we are doing a disservice to ourselves and our world. We are the embodied consciousness of the Earth. Please, as best we can, let us be her witness."

-Jen Myzel Swanson

#### New Southern Region Lead

I'm pleased to share that we have a new Regional Lead for our Southern Region. The Reverend Andy Burnette will join the team this summer and replaces the Reverend Kenn Hurto who has generously and faithfully served our region for eleven years, first as the District Executive for Florida and now as Regional Lead.

Andy is a minister of sixteen years and currently serves our congregation in Chandler, Arizona. He has led at numerous levels of our association from executive teams of UUMA chapters to our UUA board. Before the ministry, he worked in journalism. Before becoming a UU minister, he served in the evangelical tradition. His commitment to justice extends from leadership and allyship at the local level to recently receiving a Doctor of Ministry that focused on social class.

I am grateful for the many personal gifts Andy brings to the work. He has a humble, steady and generous style of leadership. His understanding of successful leadership involves midwifing the leadership of the team and the congregations he serves. I admire the way he combines professionalism, an open heart and the mind of a theologian. Perhaps, more importantly, I was moved by his clear and deeply-felt personal theology.

Andy joins the team at a time when we all realize there is a lot of work to be done. The political environment demands that we harness our collective power and expand our understanding of sanctuary. The changing religious landscape asks us to lean into institutional and congregational re-invention. Today's call of racial justice requires not only bold prophetic witness but also the bravery to admit where we've fallen short and the willingness to begin again.

Andy and I talked about these challenges. He spoke first of the need for humility and the opportunity to take the time to listen to those in the South who are leading already. He then talked about the importance of vulnerability. And finally he smiled and spoke of the joy that arises from challenging and sacred work.
As always, we are eager to publish information regarding committees, boards, Adult RE, CRE, events, and services, but we need your help. The website and Facebook page can be updated daily, but the newsletter cannot. New information needs to be submitted (submissions@uuamarillo.org) by noon Wednesday if you want it to appear in the Friday morning newsletter. If you need an event placed on the website calendar, you may submit that request with description, image (or we can provide one), starting and approximate ending time, specific location, date (or dates for a recurring event), and name of contact person. Help us help you get your message out in a timely manner.

PLEASE, EVERYONE CAN MAKE ALL THESE COMMUNICATIONS MORE EFFECTIVE BY READING THEM EACH WEEK—ESPECIALLY THE WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER!

Welcome

We invite you to explore our Fellowship, a place of belonging where you are welcome regardless of who you are, what you believe, your background, or whom you love.

Worship

Join us every Sunday at 4901 Cornell St. for either the 9:30 or 11 AM service.

Childcare is provided during both services; school-age Children’s Religious Education is provided during the 11 AM service only.

With welcoming arms for all, The AUUF Beloved Community

Our Mission

To be an inclusive progressive community for spiritual, intellectual and social transformation.

Our Vision

A world without borders where all are valued and supported.

In addition to the events described in this newsletter, you can find a complete listing by clicking on the Calendar icon above.

Want more detail? Check both the News and the Events sections of our website, uuamarillo.org

Heart to Heart

Aging Gracefully through Seasons of Beauty

We tend to associate youth with beauty, but the truth is that beauty transcends every age. Just as deciduous trees are stunning in all stages from full leafy green in the summer to naked skeleton during winter and everything in between, human beings are beautiful throughout their life spans. The

Just Saying

"We make ourselves right or we make ourselves wrong, every day, every week, every month and year of our lives. We feel that we have to be right so that we can feel good. We don’t want to be wrong because then we'll feel bad. But we could be more compassionate toward all these parts of ourselves. When we feel right, we can look at that.

Feeling right can feel good; we can be completely sure of how right we are and have a lot of people agreeing with us about how right we are. But suppose someone does not agree with us? Then what happens? Do we find ourselves getting angry and aggressive? If we look into the very moment of anger or aggression, we might see that this is what wars are made of. This is what race riots are made of: feeling that we have to be right, being thrown off and righteously indignant when someone disagrees with us. On the other hand, when we find ourselves feeling wrong, convinced that we're wrong, getting solid about being wrong, we could also look at that. The whole right and wrong business closes us down and makes our world smaller. Wanting situations and relationships to be solid, permanent, and graspable obscures the pith of the matter, which is that things are fundamentally groundless.

"Instead of making others right or wrong, or bottling up right and wrong in ourselves, there's a middle way, a very powerful middle way. We could see it as sitting on the razor's edge, not falling off to the right or the left. This middle way involves not hanging on to our version so tightly. It involves keeping our hearts and minds open enough to entertain the idea that when we make things wrong, we do it out of a desire to obtain some kind of ground or security. Equally, when we make things right, we are still trying to obtain some kind of ground or security. Could our minds and our hearts be big enough just to hang out in that space where we’re not entirely certain about who’s right and who’s wrong? Could we have no agenda when we walk into a room with another person, not know what to say, not make that person wrong or right? Could we see, hear, feel other people as they really are? It is powerful to practice this way, because we’ll find ourselves continually rushing around to try to feel secure again-to make ourselves or them either right or wrong. But true communication can happen only in that open space.

"Whether it’s ourselves, our lovers, bosses, children, local Scrooge, or the political situation, it’s more daring and real not to shut anyone out of our hearts and not to make the other into an enemy. If we begin to live like this, we'll find that we actually can’t make things completely right or completely wrong anymore, because things are a lot more slippery and playful than that. Everything is ambiguous; everything is always shifting and changing, and there are as many different takes on any given situation as there are people involved. Trying to find absolute rights and wrongs is a trick we play on ourselves to feel secure and comfortable.”


In faith,
Rev. Scott Tayler, Director of Congregational Life at our UUA
Also on our website, you can learn more about our Fellowship and our faith, Unitarian Universalism.

All events are held at the Fellowship, 4901 Cornell St., unless otherwise noted.

If you are unsure how to reach any of the individuals named as contacts, please email the AUUF office or call our Office Administrator, April Myers, at 806.355.9351 and leave a message. She will return your call during her office hours, which are Tuesday - Friday from 9 AM to noon.

From My Heart to Yours,
Rev. Addae Ama Kraba

Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
4901 Cornell St.
Amarillo, TX 79109
806.355.9351

uuamarillo.org