



The Austin Unitarian Universalist

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Volume 51, No. 4

One Church. Many Beliefs.

Sunday Worship Services

9:30 am 11:15 am

Contemporary Service 5:30 pm

February 17th

Rev. Chuck Freeman

"Jello Without a Mold"

With the proliferation of eastern religions in the U.S. it has become popular to sound religious by bashing the ego. Have these parrots considered what a human would be like without an ego?! In this full scale defense of the ego, Chuck will articulate why we need one, and its place in the spectrum of consciousness.

February 24th

Rev. Nathan L. Stone

"The Theory of Apocalypse: A Unitarian Universalist Response"

Nearly everywhere you look these days you will find people talking about the end of the world . . . doomsday . . . the judgment of God . . . and a thing called "apocalypse." What are we to make of this? One UU minister responds.

Sunday Forum

11:15 am

February 17th

Gay Family Law

Suzanne Bryant

Everyone knows that same-sex couples are not allowed to marry in Texas, but not everyone knows that many of the rights and privileges that the state and federal government grant to married couples can be extended through contract law for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender relationships. Ms Bryant is a private attorney who will discuss the legal issues involving gay family law, such as parental rights, health care, adoption, wills, and joint property. This forum is aimed at GLBT couples who are looking to start a family, those who are looking out to protect their family, or people who care about equal access to these rights for all our community.

February 24th

The State Budget Squeeze and What To Do About It

Dick Lavine

Center for Public Policy Priorities

Next year state revenue could fall \$5 billion short of the sum needed just to maintain current services. Key social programs, including state-paid health insurance for poor children, already are on the chopping block. Policy analyst Dick Lavine of the Center for Public Policy Priorities will explain the current budget crisis, the underlying unfairness and inadequacy of the state's tax structure, and the policy choices facing the Texas legislature.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| <i>Sunday Events</i> | 1,12 |
| <i>Davidson's Lore</i> | 2-3 |
| <i>Newsletter Deadlines</i> | 2 |
| <i>Worship & Ministry</i> | 3-4 |
| <i>Membership Info</i> | 5 |
| <i>Religious Education</i> | 6-7 |
| <i>Office News</i> | 8 |
| <i>Fun and Fellowship</i> | 9 |
| <i>Church News</i> | 10 |
| <i>Contact Info</i> | 11 |
| <i>Events at a Glance</i> | 11 |



Newsletter Schedule & Deadlines

First UU Austin's Newsletter prints two issues per month – a larger issue dated on the first of the month and an update issue dated the fifteenth of the month. We invite all to submit their monthly information for the first and larger issue each month, as the second issue will have updates and late-breaking news only.

Deadlines (Tue 9:30 am)
Tue Feb 19 (for Mar 1 issue)
Tue Mar 5 (for Mar 15 issue)

Folding Days
Mon Feb 26
Mon Mar 11

Davidson's Lore

Some reminiscences while I'm away. These come from some notes I've made toward a book of life stories:

The day religion became a bad thing.

I was through with religion when I was six. An evil Presbyterian demon witch lady tried to suck out my soul and I escaped to tell the story.

Before that day, Sunday School had been a nice place. The curriculum was simple, the surroundings comfortable, and the teacher warm and sweet. We had a color photo of Jesus on the pukey yellow cement block walls. He was pictured as a handsome well-groomed brown-haired blue-eyed man surrounded by kids about our age. Jesus loved the little children, our teacher loved the little children, and it was a good place to be once a week as she told us stories. All the stories were probably from the bible, though I can't remember any of them, just the safe and warm feeling of the room.

Then one day our sweet loving teacher was suddenly gone – with no explanation at all. Was she fired? Did she die? Move? Was she being incinerated somewhere for heresy or for liking kids or telling stories? Who could know? But the New Regime would have none of that. Not under the reign of the evil Presbyterian demon soul-sucking witch lady. She didn't like stories. She didn't like kids either. And her sole mission in life was to destroy forever any chance that one of her little victims would ever again take religion seriously.

What she was doing, I later realized, was trying to teach theology to a herd of six-year-olds. What it sounded like, though, was just the worst story we'd ever heard. Near as I could figure, it was the story of Trinadee, and it was two-thirds ok and one-third dumb.

First, there was this God who was an old man and lived in the sky. OK, that one's easy. Six-year-olds can juggle all sorts of gods, and everybody was always pointing up to "heaven," so it was a logical place for the Guy to live. Superman and Captain Marvel flew up there too, after all. They probably knew God, though I don't remember that part.

Second, this God up in the sky had a kid named Jesus. Well, this is OK too – after all, we had his kid's photo on the wall, and we already knew he loved the little children. A God in the sky has a neat clean brown-haired blue-eyed son who loves kids. What's not to like?

What's not to like was this stupid ghost. A ghost! Give me a break! I could imagine an old man in the clouds, and we had that photo of his boy, but the only mental image I had of a ghost was Casper. Casper, the friendly ghost. What a stupid picture! Not that the story had been all that good in the first place, but this ruined it completely. You can't sell that stuff to six-year-olds. They have standards.

When she finished this suddenly-weird story, she asked us if we understood. Understood? What kind of question is this? Stories aren't for understanding, you idiot. They're for crawling into, rummaging around in. They're for making a little home in, at least for a few minutes. They let you see yourself and everything in a new way; they show you pictures that can transform your world. They offer you a whole cast of characters to play with, and you can try them all on for size. If they're good stories, you can go back to them later when something about one of those characters can help you get through life's narrows with style and verve. Good stories are a vehicle for your spirit and the salvation of your soul. You don't "understand" good stories, you become them!

Davidson's Lore

Demon witch lady was new, she was an adult, she was bigger than me, I tried to be nice. "The story is pretty good," I lied, "but next time you tell it, leave out the ghost."

Who could have known she'd blow a gasket? Her face changed color, smoke came out of her ears, her nostrils flared and her horns popped up. "This is not a story, you little brat! This is true, every single word of it, and your salvation depends on your learning and believing it – do you understand?"

"Ma'am" (this was the South, after all) "it isn't a bad story, though it isn't as good as the story we heard last week. But Casper the Friendly Ghost is stupid and you should take him out next time you tell this."

Mind you, I was still trying to be helpful, though I was getting a little more honest about how boring this story really was. But the bit about the ghost – she should have listened to that, I thought.

You know, of course, that she didn't. "Jesus doesn't like little boys who call this a story! He died for you, and now you want to call it a story?!"

He died? When did this happen? Why hadn't somebody told us about this? It was confusing. He certainly didn't die for me; I liked him sitting there telling stories to the little kids. He died? I'm real sorry, but don't pin it on me.

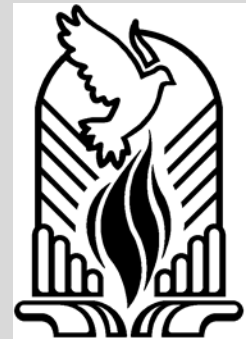
After that news, the morning became kind of a blur. She pressured the other kids to say that they didn't think this was a story, that they "believed" it, just like they believed that Jesus had died for them. It was my first experience of bad theology. It was fifteen years before I cared about religion again. But back when I was six and religion had just died, I would never have believed that thirty years later I'd start graduate schooling to become a minister!

See you all March 3rd.

David-

Listening Ministry

Sometimes just having someone to talk to can make all the difference. We have nearly twenty trained listening ministers now, who have completed summer internships and are available to be with church members who could use an ear. If you could use about three visits or less with someone who can just listen without judging, call 452-6168, ext. 18 and leave your name and number on the confidential voice mail box. If you would like to give someone one of our nice yellow brochures, pick some up in the Church Office.



Worship Committee

The Worship Service Committee is requesting written proposals for Lay Led services for Spring/Summer-beginning in March. Contact Sally Scott for more information at 453-2289.



Final Notice: Please Pick Up Ordered Sermons

Everyone who has ordered a sermon, either tape or paper copy, please pick them up between Sunday services. Those unclaimed after Sunday, February 24th will be recycled. Thank you!!!!

Our Worship Services

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| | Jan 27 | Feb 3 |
| Worship Leader: | Rev. Gail Marriner | Rev. Davidson Loehr |
| Lay Leaders: | Eve Gilbert | Mickey Moore |
| Flowers: | Bill Kristin and Mary Ann Stafford | |
| Greeters: | Doris and Henry Hug | |
| Ushers: | Emily Hall, Jim and Betty Bowie, Sheldon Williams, Mickey Moore | Helen Nelson, Margaret Burnette, Cheryl Bucklew, Ryan Hill |
| Attendance Worship Service | Jan 27 | Feb 3 |
| 9:30 am | 150 | 179 |
| 11:15 am | 209 | 357 |
| 5:30 pm | 63 | 45 |
| Forum | 80 | 32 |
| RE | 92 | 106 |

Helping Hands & Hearts



invites you to write your joy or concern in the book located across from the tile wall. By doing so, you make it possible for the church community to respond to you.

The Helping Hands folks have been hearing from members of all ages about their desire to connect with others of another generation. Many of the members of our church community are transplants to Austin who when they moved, left an extended family behind. They also lost regular contact with others of their parents' generation whom they had grown over the years to look to for friendship, wisdom, and inspiration. They miss that contact.

Other members, especially our elders, are cut off from many of the church activities because physical limitations restrict mobility. They, too, miss the camaraderie that regular contact can provide. The Helping Hands and Hearts folks have learned that sometimes a third party can facilitate connections between people when we know in a general way what we want, but not how to make the specific contact. So if you would like to get together for friendly conversation with another member of the church for the purposes described here, and would like a suggestion as to how to do that, phone Caroline Hadley at 347-9987

**Helping Hands
and Hearts Committee
will meet February 26
in the Gallery**

Community Mentoring Network

A Match Made in Heaven

How many of you would like a match made in heaven? Well, when an 11-year-old boy, found guilty of the destruction of property, was paired up with an AAIM volunteer one year ago, he didn't realize it would be a match made in heaven. At that time his life seemed out of control. His mother, a single parent working two jobs, had little time to give to her five children. Her main priority was to feed, shelter and clothe her family. When her son was arrested she reached out to Austin Area Interreligious Ministries for help.

Now this boy is going to school every day, he is making good grades and he has had no further problems with the law. He thinks his volunteer is an angel and that his is a match made in heaven. AAIM offers children and youth, involved in the criminal justice system, mentors from the faith community.

For one year you are asked to take a young person under your wing and give him or her two hours of your time each week. As a mentor you let a young person know that someone cares about him or her, and you help by offering the youth guidance, hope and support.

For the last two years in a row AAIM volunteers have mentored over 200 young people with a 96 % non-recidivism rate! Very few programs can boast this kind of success. We want to expand our program in 2002 by recruiting over 100 new volunteers from the faith community. For a young person in trouble with the law, your willingness to show concern can make all the difference in the world.



Won't you please be a match made in heaven for a child in trouble?

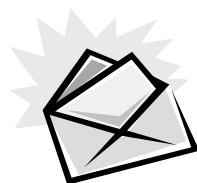
If you are interested in volunteering, call Elliott at Austin Area Interreligious Ministries at 472-7627, ext 14. You will have staff available all throughout your volunteer experience to train, teach and support you in your work.

And don't forget that on February 28th, at the Austin Children's Museum, our youth will be showing their Life Stories video. If you are unable to volunteer you can help support this program by making the donation of a silent auction item or a financial donation of support. Won't you please be an angel and take a young person under your wing?

Thank you.

Susan Wills, Executive Director

Caring Cards



We would like to send church members a caring card acknowledging a meaningful life event, such as illness, death, marriage, milestone birthday or anniversary, new baby or other occasion. Please let the church know of your event - or those of a church friend - by calling the office, or leave a message on Ext 18. It works best if we know by Thursday of each week.

Committee On Ministries

Ministries Matter: Taking Our Pulse Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 3!

The Committee on Ministries is sponsoring a 30 minute "listening" meeting after each service to discuss "This Church: Your Last Neighborhood?" Come take this opportunity to share your thoughts on how we can create an inviting community where we build strong relationships and make a positive difference in the lives of our members and their children.

UUADP Update

UUs Against the Death Penalty will continue to participate in protest vigils during the hours of scheduled executions: Thomas Miller-El on Feb 21, Monty Delk on Feb 28. Meet at 5:30 pm across from the Governor's mansion on Lavaca St, between 10th and 11th Sts. For possible changes in schedule, check www.tdcj.state.tx.us.

Everyone is invited to come to a presentation on Capital Punishment in Texas, Monday, Feb 25 at 7 pm at the LCRA Board Room at 3700 Austin Blvd., sponsored by the Austin Area League of Women Voters as part of a state-wide study. A criminal defense lawyer and a lawyer from the Texas Appleseed Project (which has made a study of indigent defense) will participate. Plenty of parking, no charge.

Membership Matters

Orientation Evening

New? Curious? Still have some questions about First Church? Join **Dr. Davidson Loehr**, on Thursday, February 28, from 7-8:30 pm, in room 13 for an informative discussion about our church history, faith journey and programs. Bring your questions! Future meeting dates are posted in the Membership Information display case in the foyer. Registration is not required. Call Doris Hug, Membership Chair at 794-9282, for more information.

Are You Ready to Join First Church?

If you are ready to become a member of this congregation, you are invited to pick up a **Membership Enrollment Kit** at the Membership Information display in the foyer any Sunday after services, and then complete the enrollment forms at home. Everything you need is in the kit! Then gather on the fourth Sunday of the month for our *New Member Enrollment* held at the Membership Table in the gallery. Enrollment will take place immediately following both morning services. We look forward to having you join us.

Visitor Information Cards

You will find these cards in the foyer. They may also be found in holders on the back of the seating benches in the sanctuary. Visitors are invited to fill one out and either drop it into the collection plate or deposit it into the Visitor Information Drop Box at the Membership Display case in the foyer. The card lets visitors obtain information about the church, sign up for the newsletter, express their areas of interest and request a call by the membership committee to answer questions.

The Membership Committee would like to thank Pat Livingston, Public Relations Committee Chair for designing the cards.



Calling all UUs 18-35 years of age!

As the VOYAGers are growing older (and older) there is room for a more traditional young adult group at FUUCA. Have you been meeting? Where can I find you? Please call Michelle Bohls at 467-7460 or email me at mbohls@austin.rr.com right away if you are between 18 and 35 but not currently a VOY-AGer. I need to speak with you and soon!



Printer Cartridge Recycling Program Being Started

Do you have Hewlett Packard Printers at your home or office? If so, don't throw away those empty ink cartridges. A recycling program has been set up here at the church. All monies raised will go to UU Friends Retreat. The following cartridges can be recycled:

HP51626A
HP51629A
HP51645A

See Don Smith for details, between and after Sunday morning services.

LIFESPAN

Religious Education for February

THANKS!!

Thanks to everyone who worked to make RE Sunday a success.

STUDENTS

TEACHERS

MUSICIANS

ARTISTS

AND YOU!!



OWL Alert

K-1st Grade OWL - 8 Sessions Sunday Mornings

Mandatory Parent/Child Mtg
Feb 17, 2:00-4:30pm
Classes begin: 9:30am Feb 24
It is probable that all of these classes will be held here at First UU.

5-6th Grade OWL - 8 Sessions Sunday Mornings

Classes begin: 9:30am Feb 17
Pre-registration is required.
Half of the classes will be held here, half at Live Oak UU.

Please Register your children for RE!

Thanks for your cooperation!

Looking Ahead

March 1-3

YRUU Rally
here at FUUCA

March 10 - RE-Create Day
(no Grade-level classes)

March 28 - Passover Seder

March 31 - Easter Brunch
(no Grade-level classes)



Support Your Local Youth? Why?

Why in the world would you want to give up a few hours of sleep on the weekend of March 1-3? What could those district youth be doing in the wee hours of the morning that warrants your attention?

Well, I'll tell you! Our local youth, along with over 100 youth from all over the district, will be busily putting "the five components of balanced youth programming" into decidedly creative, exciting and probably noisy practice. These five components are the cornerstone of inclusive and healthy youth programming - Community Building, Learning, Social Action, Worship and Leadership Development.

Planning and hosting a district rally calls for all these skills, though it is clearly a time for those developing leadership skills to really get a workout. Our youth have been busy planning worship (okay, so it's at 2 am - it promises to be really inspirational), planning meals and buying groceries (do you know how much food 150 kids can eat?), distributing lots of registration forms and entering the info into a database (the better to make the "mug book" directory of all the participants), choosing a social action project for the rally (All Ages Playground? Caritas?), organizing interesting workshops and small "touchgroups" (to assure that everyone learns something and feels connected to the larger group), and even designing a rally T-Shirt (You know you want one!)

So join me on March 1st or 2nd for a first-hand look at YRUU in action. You'll be amazed!!

anDREa

YRUU Rally News

An Austin Rally???

Really???

"Don't Dream It, Be It!"

March 1-3

Rallies are a wonderful spiritual/social experience for youth from our churches in the Southwest District.

We are requesting your participation too!

Would you like to volunteer to come to church for about two hours on this weekend (night owls particularly welcome) to be a "rover" or chaperone for the up to 150 terrific law-abiding youth whom we expect to attend?

Look for sign up sheets to appear soon.

Adult volunteer orientation session will be held

February 24, 12:30-1:00 in Room 11

It will be an experience you will never forget!



Bird Watching with Zosia—Ducks Galore!

Thursday, February 28, join us at 9:30am for a class at church followed by a field trip to Hornsby Bend (by Bergstrom Airport). We will have lunch and be back to church by early afternoon. BRING YOUR BINOCULARS! Call Zosia Hunt to sign up at 349-0825 (Limit 10 people.)

Adult Art Offerings

In collaboration Adult RE and the Gallery committees, will hold a brief meeting in between first and second services, Sunday, February, 24. If you would like to take a watercolor class, bookmaking class, or teach a craft or mingle with other UU artists, this will be the place to be.

E-mail spumonhighhollow@msn.com, RE committee Chair Sharon Moore OR Judith Gostisha, Gallery Chair gostishart@aol.com

Evensong I

Join us for eight Wednesday night sessions beginning on March 6 at 7 pm. We will share what we value most, our ideas of God or ultimate concern, our religious and spiritual experiences. You may expect a structured worship service: a time to be quiet mid-week, listen to others and share. This is for long-time members and people who are checking UUism out! For more information, or to sign up, contact Linda Taylor at 476-4909, lin-dataylor@aol.com, or Elinor Master at 478-8929, birchbark@yahoo.com.

Wash Your Dogma

Six Sundays at 7pm, beginning Feb 17 in the Gallery with Kevin Roberts. For more info, contact Kevin at Kevin@somaZen.com

Adult RE-Minders

Socrates Cafe

Wednesdays 7-9 pm - Bring your questions for group exploration based on the Socratic Dialogue Method. Don Smith, Facilitator, smith78751@hotmail.com or 302-5481.

Spiritual Exploration & Philosophical Inquiry

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am in the Library. All are welcome to join this free and open discussion group. Facilitation rotates among group participants.

Book Discussion Group

We meet Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am in Rooms 9 & 11.

Mindfulness Through Meditation

Sundays, 11:15-12:15 am in the Library. This ongoing class in the Soto Zen Buddhist Tradition is open to all, even those with no experience in meditation.

Tai Chi

Explore this graceful martial arts practice each week on Sunday and Thursday evenings. For more info, call Nell at 458-4903 or enewton@hoovers.com

Evensong 2

All who have taken Evensong I are invited to join us every Wednesday evening from 7-9pm for a quiet mid-week spiritual refresher. Please call Sharon & Brian Moore to say you'll join us at 349-2318 or spumonhighhollow@msn.com.

Sacred Dance: A Beginners Class

1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm - Sacred Dance, also called Gurdjieff Movements, do not require special abilities or previous dancing or gymnastic experience. For more info: Kevin@somaZen.com.

God at 2000

Video & Discussion Group
Tuesdays until March 26
7 - 8:30 pm in room 11

This group is gathering to view and discuss the various presentations made by internationally-known speakers at the God at 2000 Conference. The conference was held at Oregon State University in February 2000. The presenters are Marcus Borg, Diana Eck, Lawrence Kushner, Seved Hossien Nasr, Desmond Tutu, Karen Armstrong and Joan Chittister. They were asked to respond to the question "Given your lifetime of study, experience and reflection, how do you see the sacred?" The final session will feature a video of the panel discussion held at the end of the conference. For more information, call Thedra Baldwin (250-8131).



Women's Group

"The Hero Within"

Tuesdays, March 5 - April 9
7 - 8:30 pm in room 9

Join other women as we explore the power of six heroic archetypes defined by Carol S. Pearson in her book *The Hero Within*. Discover how these archetypes are active in our lives and how they can be used in problem solving, finding our hidden gifts and transforming our lives. A new adult RE class facilitated by Ann Gardner and Gail Bradbury will be meeting six Tuesday evenings starting March 4th from 7-8:30 pm. The group is limited to 12 women. Pre-registration and reading required. Please call Gail at 467-7467.

HEB/Central Market Scrip Fundraiser

Make those dollars for groceries benefit the church without costing you a cent!

Purchase HEB Scrip !!!

(it looks like a plastic credit card) at the church and use it like a debit card at HEB. The cards come in three amounts - \$25, \$50 and \$100.

We are currently receiving 3% of the proceeds for the church, but we may be able to earn more if we can increase our level of involvement.

Scrip will continue to be available each Sunday or in the church office during the week. Please call ahead to confirm a pickup time.



**Remember to pick
up your Scrip!!**

Barbara's Briefing

Hello again. I've been way busy these past three weeks, meeting as many of you as possible while learning the ropes, files, phones, teams and traditions of First UU. What a great, active community you have going here!

In the midst of learning, I am also seeing needs that must be met at once: we've bought a new collection plate and two Reserved seat signs to make sure our ushers can sit where they need to be. Committee chairs are receiving questions from me about their regular meeting times, so I can visit and meet all these teams.

And we have hired Rita! The new smiling face in the front office is Rita Rancken, an experienced newsletter producer and all-around office pro. Come by and meet us both.

Some of my actions will affect some of you fairly soon.

***FIND KEYS or RE-KEY** was the first question, as our building security has been lax (three thefts in three weeks). This month, after two hours of work by a locksmith, we tossed out TWO POUNDS of keys that didn't fit any door here. We have lots of spare keys to some rooms, just one to others.

If you have a key to doors of the church, please call or send me an e-mail at Barbara@austinUU.org and tell me which ones you have, and the number stamped on your key. We are missing about 24 numbered keys and have no record of who was assigned them. To avoid the expense and hassle of a re-key of the whole church, please help me out. New key deposit and sign-out procedures will go into effect soon too.

***OUTGOING PHONE MESSAGES** are about to be re-recorded. Please call in after Wednesday and check that any message that concerns you is correct and complete. Send suggestions to the above e-mail.

That's all for now. In the months to come, I'll address how to recruit and maintain super teams of volunteers for all our exciting ministries. If you have questions sooner, call or e-mail and I'll be glad to help.

Barbara Lighthouse, Director of Administration

Split-the-Plate - Sustainable Food Center

On the third Sunday of each month, our church shares its offertory plate collection with a charitable organization.

The organization benefiting on Sunday, February 17 is the Sustainable Food Center. The Sustainable Food Center advocates growing food locally and eating fresh food. It has recently merged with our neighbor, the Austin Community Gardens. The organization's vision is for people to be healthy and for communities to grow, share and prepare more of our own food without depleting natural resources. Its mission is to create a food-secure community by improving access to local, healthy and affordable food for children and adults in Central Texas.

To combat hunger and diet-related health problems, the organization provides special programs including "La Cocina Alegre" (The Happy Kitchen); six community gardens; summer youth training projects to teach at-risk youth all aspects of running farmers' markets; and farm stands at clinics of the Women/Infants & Children Services program and other locations. For further information, contact Terri Buchanan of the organization at 236-0074 or Cathy Nordstrom of the church at 346-6797.



Valentine Opening for mUUses Play

mUUses Theater Company invites everyone to raise a toast with complimentary champagne, to be served at the February 14 Opening of "The Foreigner." Directed by our own award-winning playwright P. Paullette MacDougal, this comedy by Larry Shue has won two Obie Awards and two Outer Critics Circle Awards.

Six performances include two matinees, scheduled as follows:

Thursday, February 14, 8 pm (complimentary champagne at intermission)
Friday, February 15, 8 pm (Benefit for Austin Area Interreligious Ministries)
Saturday, February 16, 8 pm Sunday, February 17, 3 pm
Friday, February 22, 8 pm Saturday, February 23, 3 pm

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10, \$15 the night of February 15 (benefit for AAIM). Ticket reservations can be made by calling 926-6353. Advance tickets can be purchased Sundays at the church after services. Childcare will be available for a charge of \$4 per child, with advance notice. All performances are open to the public.

Andrea's 1st Anniversary Party

Sunday, February 17th Howson Hall
Between the morning Services

Andrea Lerner joined FUUCA as Director of Religious Education in January 2001. It's time to honor Andrea for all her efforts and get involved in the future of UU RE! Join Andrea and the RE Committees in Howson Hall after the First Service.

There is still time to show your support for the RE Department! Here are some ideas:

- Help in Sunday School classes once or twice this Spring.
- Bring food or help decorate for Andrea's Party.
- Try an RE Class as a student.
- Thank Andrea and the Teachers in your own way.

Please sign up in Howson Hall or contact Emily Wethington at 323-0055.

Tim Woolsey Piano Recital

February 17 at 3pm

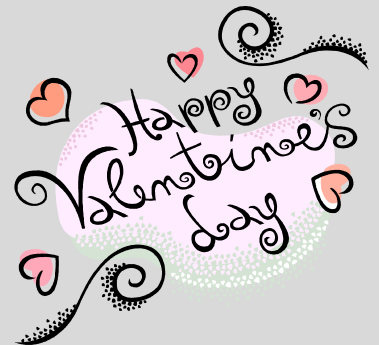
Timothy Woolsey will present a concert of the music of Liszt, Haydn, Fauré, Debussy and William Bolcom. Woolsey is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his master's and doctorate degrees. He is a professor of piano at Southwest Texas State University and has taught there since 1975. He has played more than 100 recitals and master classes in the past several years. This spring he will perform at Northern College in Aberdeen, Scotland, and at a music festival in Lima, Peru.

The informal concert will include his introductory commentary to the music. The program is a fundraiser for the church's music program, and a suggested donation of \$10 will be accepted at the door.



February EOM Party

The February EOM Party will be hosted by Herman and Helen Nelson at their home, 2005 Delwood Court on Sat. Feb 23 @ 8:00 pm. Phone 928-0619. Delwood Court is off Rogge Lane in NE Austin. Bring a snack to share and your drink. All else provided. All UU members and friends are invited. To volunteer to host a party in March or May, please call Helen Nelson at 928-0619.



Gather the Spirit, Weaving Our Lives

February 22-24, 2002
Fort Worth, TX

This conference offers something for everyone. The keynote speaker is Cristina Biaggi, a writer, sculptor, and lecturer on the Great Goddess. The motivational speaker is Liza Ely, whose workshops focus on wellness, communication, humor and living intentionally. The conference brochure is available at church, or visit the conference Website at www.swuuw.org/2002.

Grounds Committee



The Women's Gardening Group will NOT meet on Feb. 14th and 21st. We WILL meet again on Feb. 28th.

Barbara Denny hopes that one day our church property will be a smoke-free zone. Meanwhile, we request that smokers please put their cigarette butts in appropriate ashtrays and not stub them out on the ground or flick them into the garden. Thanks for your cooperation.

We would like to add some benches to the patio and north Sanctuary entry area. If you would like to honor someone special by giving money for a bench please contact Barbara Denny at 259-1596.

Committee on End of Life Issues

You are invited to a brown bag lunch (coffee will be served) on **Tuesday, March 19 from 12-1:30 pm in Howson Hall.** We are planning a discussion about memorial services. We also invite you to read the book *Remembering Well* by Sara York. This book may help guide us in our discussion. You can find more information about the author and the book at www.sarahyork.com. If you have any questions please call Barbara Sell at 358-1696.

Our Committee will meet next month on **Tuesday, March 12 at 7 pm in the Library.**

Adult RE Meeting!

March 7 from 7-9 pm

Join us every first Thursday! We had 12 people at our last meeting - come see what all the excitement is about!

Board & Committee News

Social Action

No Social Action Committee meeting this month because we are starting the new Social Action Covenant Groups. We will meet next month, March 17 at 1:00 pm in Howson Hall.

Nominating News - What's Your Passion?

COME ONE! COME ALL! Tell us what you want to do at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin.

The Nominating Committee is now meeting on a weekly basis to talk to people interested in taking on new leadership roles at the Church. In case you didn't know it, it is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to provide a slate of candidates to the church at large for the Spring congregational meeting that includes officers for the Board of Trustees and chairs or co-chairs for standing committees.

For instance, do you like to party? Then Fellowship is the Committee Chair position for you! Fellowship plans an inter-generational party once a month, usually based on a seasonal theme. Right now, no one is serving in this capacity, and the possibilities are wide open.

We have started calling people, but anytime anyone wants to volunteer rather than be drafted, WE WANT TO KNOW. So, please, please, please consider where your interests and your talents lie and contact any member of the committee:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Maxine Hairston | mhairston@mail.utexas.edu | 473-2342 |
| Robert Norris | robert18norris@hotmail.com | 454-1237 |
| Mike West | MichaelW@txed.state.tx.us | 263-5498 |
| Tyler Anderson | txty@BGA.com | 451-4465 |
| Hillary Hutchinson | hillary_hutchinson@mail.utexas.edu | 371-3224 |

Memorial/Endowment Fund

Our Church is like a family; we need living expenses and we need something in the back to secure our future and help with capital expenses. The Canvass provides the Church's living expenses and our Memorial Endowment Fund is "money in the bank".

Spending from the Memorial Fund can occur only after two votes of the congregation, six months apart. If the congregation so votes, it can be used to help with major renovation or expansion of our building. Please consider building up this vital asset as you think about your annual giving or estate planning. Questions? Call Marian Maxwell, 454-1931.

Forum on your TV now!

Cris Cunningham, Chair of the Forum Committee, announces our Public Forum will now be available on Time Warner Public Access Cable Channel 10! Now you can get your Forum **Sundays at 6 pm**. Thanks to the newly-formed FUUCA Media Team for recording Forum and getting it on the air!

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|-----------|------------------|--|
| 2/17/02 | Lou Dubose | As We See It — Political Reporting With a Point of View |
| 2/24/2002 | Kenneth S. Apfel | Social Security: A Time of Crisis? |

Events at a Glance

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|-----------------------|---|---|
| Sun Feb 17 | 9:45 am 10:45 am 1:30 pm 2:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm | Religious Education Committee Andrea's 1st Anniversary Party mUUses OWL Timothy Woolsey Piano Recital mUUses Performance/"The Foreigner" Contemporary Service YRUU Tai Chi Exploring UU w/VOYAGers | Sun Feb 24 | 9:45 am 10:30 am 1:30 pm 4:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm | Religious Education Committee Gallery Committee mUUses 3rd Service Music Rehearsal Contemporary Service YRUU Tai Chi Exploring UU w/VOYAGers |
| Mon Feb 18 | 7:00 pm | Sacred Dance | Mon Feb 25 | 9:30 am | Newsletter Folding |
| Tue Feb 19 | 9:30 am 10:30 am 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm | Newsletter Deadline for 3/1/02 Chat and Craft God at 2000 Video Discussion Group Board of Trustees Women's Spirituality | Tue Feb 26 | 10:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm 7:30 pm | Chat and Craft Children and Youth RE Committee God at 2000 Video Discussion Group Women's Spirituality Helping Hands Committee |
| Wed Feb 20 | 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm | Choir Evensong II Socrates Cafe | Wed Feb 27 | 9:15 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm | Listening Ministry Choir Finance Committee Socrates Café Evensong II |
| Thu Feb 21 | 7:00 pm 7:00 pm | Membership Committee Tai Chi | Thu Feb 28 | 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm 7:30 pm | Tai Chi Facilities Membership Orientation Choir Listening Ministry |
| Fri Feb 22 | 6:30 pm 8:00 pm | mUUses mUUses Performance/"The Foreigner" | Fri Mar 1 | 4:30 pm | YRUU District Rally |
| Sat Feb 23 | 10:30 am 1:30 pm 3:00 pm | Women's Spirituality mUUses mUUses Performance/"The Foreigner" | Sat Mar 2 | ALL DAY | YRUU District Rally |

Green Tip

Our ocean waters are being depleted quickly of their once-bountiful fish populations. Have you noticed how the once-popular orange roughie has largely disappeared from restaurant menus and is harder to find or more expensive to purchase? There's a reason for that. Ask and purchase farm-raised fish whenever possible.

Contact Information

Our New Website address
Webmaster, David Smith

www.austinuu.org
webmaster@austinuu.org

Church Phone:
Director of Administration, Barbara Lighheart
Minister, Davidson Loehr
Director of Religious Education, Andrea Lerner
Administrative Assistant/Editor, Rita Rancken
Bookkeeper, Lyndsay Bowen
Pianist/Sexton, John Sanders
Building Services, James Maxwell
Helping Hands and Hearts, Listening Ministry
Music Director, Brent Baldwin
Service times and directions (recording only)

(512) 452-6168
Ext. 10
Ext. 11
Ext. 12
Ext. 13
Ext. 14
Ext. 15
Ext. 17
Ext. 18
Ext. 16
Ext. 19

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Austin, TX 78756

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Director of Religious Education:
Andrea Lerner
Director of Administration:
Barbara Lightheart
President, Board of Trustees:
Rose Ann Reeser
Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

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Check our web page!
www.austinuu.org

Sunday Morning Religious Education

ADULT CLASSES

**Spiritual Exploration
and Philosophical Inquiry Group**
Library.....9:30 am

Mindfulness through Meditation
Soto Zazen Buddhist Tradition.
Visitors may join any Sunday.
Library.....11:15 am

**Theological & Philosophical
Book Discussion Group**
Call Elaine Carpenter (345-1445) for info.
Rooms 9 and 11.....9:30 am

CHILDREN & YOUTH CLASSES

Children and youth K-8th grade attend the first part of the worship service with their families before they go to class.

First Session: 9:30 am - 10:45 am
Second Session 11:15 am - 12:30 am
Grades 6-8 & 9-12 - 11:15 am only

INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Parents with infants may choose to attend the service with their children, view the service through the quiet room window, watch the service on TV in room 21, or leave their children with our childcare staff in room 19.

Sunday Sociables

Sociables is an informal brunch gathering each Sunday. All are invited. People start arriving at 1:00 p.m. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Jim Shaffer (989-5701 or jjshaffer.net).

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---|
| February 17 | Jim's | 807 Camino La Costa (I-35 northbound frontage road, North of 290) |
| February 24 | China Palace | 6605 Airport Blvd. (Yellow Brick Road Shopping Center) |
| March 3 | Curra's | 6801 Burnet Rd. |