

The Austin Unitarian Universalist

One Church. Many Beliefs.

Published Semimonthly

January 15, 2003

Volume 52, No. 2

Sunday Worship Services: 9:30 am and 11:30 am — Sunday Night Live! at 5:20 pm

Sunday, January 19

9:30 am, 11:30 am and 5:20 pm

Being Good: Beyond Santa and the Ten Commandments

Rev. Art Severance

We rarely speak of a "Unitarian Universalist morality," but perhaps it's time we should. Since the Dalai Lama's book "Universal Ethics for the New Millennium" reached the best-seller list, we are poised to be spokespeople for Universal Ethics. In one of the chapters, "Why Be a Good Person," from his book "Letters to a Young Lawyer," Harvard law professor, Alan Dershowitz, says, "The truly moral person is the atheist that behaves well."

Rev. Art Severance has been minister of First UU Church of San Antonio since March of 1991. The church recently built a beautiful 500-seat sanctuary to handle growth. He has served on various San Antonio boards as well as the Southwest district board, chaired the extension committee, and recently was program director for the Southwest UU Summer Institute (SWUUSI). He has been married for nearly 30 years to his beautiful and talented Special Ed teacher wife, Cathie, and has three "almost grown" daughters. He is also a folk singer/songwriter with an album entitled "Art Severance: Searching..."

McLemore Avenue will be playing original groove-alicious funky soul at the 5:20 pm service.

Sunday, January 26

9:30 am, 11:30 am and 5:20 pm

Turning Points and the Challenge of Change

Rev. David Owen

We all struggle with decisions at one time or another. Many times we simply ignore the gnawing questions of the soul in order to hide from the decisions that would make us faithful. Bring your struggles, your decisions, or indecisions, and hear the call to move forward.

David Owen is the pastor at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Corpus Christi. He originally hails from the Pacific Northwest, graduating college in Portland, Oregon before working at Microsoft in the mid 90's. Rev. Owen graduated with a doctorate from Meadville/Lombard in 2000 and has been living in Texas since then.

One of Everything, our very own fabulous in-house band, will provide the music at the 5:20 pm service.

Vespers Services with Cathy Harrington: First Friday of Each Month

Friday, February 7

6:00 pm

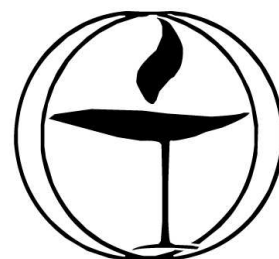
A simple meal of soup and bread in Howson Hall

7:00 pm

Vespers Services in the Sanctuary

8:00 pm

Spiritual Book-of-the-Month Club — details on page 7



New Website Feature: Liberal Religion Forum E-mail List

Rev. Loehr has started an email discussion list to explore liberal religion and liberal theology. Here is how he describes the purpose of the list:

"An open and challenging forum for ministers and members of Unitarian, Universalist, or "UU" churches to discuss and learn about the ancient and honorable tradition of liberal religion and liberal theology, without needing to be politically -- or theologically -- correct."

Sign up at www.austinuu.org/mailman/listinfo/liberalreligionforum_austinuu.org.

Directory Copies & Updates Available

Copies of updates to our new membership directory are now available. Copies of the membership directory are also still available for members who may not have received one.

Please stop by the table in the Gallery any Sunday through January to pick yours up. You may also call the office to arrange a time to come by during the week.

Newsletter Deadlines

Articles (due by 9:30 am)

Fri. Jan. 17 (for Feb. 1 issue)
Fri. Jan. 31 (for Feb. 15 issue)
Fri. Feb. 14 (for Mar. 1 issue)

Mailing Days

Thursday January 23
Thursday February 6
Thursday February 20

Contact Rita Rancken at 452-6168, x 13 or Rita@austinuu.org.

Davidson's Lore

T-shirts. I've been thinking about t-shirts this week. T-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts and churches.

It began in a discussion with a woman from the Northwest who has worked in the human resources segment of a manufacturing firm for years. Her company grew from 200 to over 1,000 employees, and did it by keeping smaller units within the larger company.

They found that people don't identify with the whole company; it's too big to grasp. But they do identify with their particular subgroups and activities. So the "assembly" people have a sense of pride in the assembly part; the shipping crew know each other and think of that part of the company as their real work-home, and so on.

I thought of all the subgroups here that seem to work that way. The choir, the VOYAGers, the parents' group, the Listening Ministry, the Paradox Players, the Seniors, and committees for facilities, finance, worship services and so on.

This woman said people would identify the company as the place they worked, but their hearts were really invested in the smaller groups, where they could know others and be known.

Isn't that what you'd say here? I think of the growing covenant groups, the periodic "reunions" of those who've taken part in an Evensong group. The really vibrant identities are these smaller associations.

A church like this provides so many ways for people to connect, but all those ways tend to be invisible and anonymous. Yet "the church" is a pretty abstract thing to identify with.

Back to the Northwest. Every time they built another building to expand into another division, this woman said, she would be looking to see whether they were starting to jell, to find a sense of meaning there.

"How could you tell?" I asked.

"T-shirts," she said. "When some small group came to me and asked if they could get t-shirts made for members of their sub-group, I knew they had found a home. Now we have a whole bunch of different t-shirts, polo shirts and sweat shirts, each with its own design, slogan, sometimes artwork, their own sense of humor. The company name is on the back, and the group that felt like their home was on the front. We made a medium-sized company of a thousand workers feel like home by recognizing all the subgroups where our people had found their real homes here."

T-shirts. This afternoon I got an advertising e-mail from Star Screen Printing at 2004 W. Koenig Lane (323-5151) about a sale they're having on custom-designed sweatshirts, in quantities as few as just ten. I'm sure there are a dozen other places in town doing the same thing. Very inexpensive.

(Continued on page 4)

A Liberal View

on ACTV, Cable Channel 11 — Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

Jan. 22 *Theism* — "The Nature of God" & "God in the World"

Jan. 29 *Theism* — "God in Humans" & "The God Beyond Religion"

Membership Matters

Orientation Evenings Have Changed ...

... to the third Wednesday of every month. Join **Dr. Davidson Loehr** on **February 19** for an informative discussion of our church history, faith journey, and programs. Bring your questions and prepare to be fascinated!

Meetings take place from **7-8:30 pm** in room 13, and registration is not required. Future orientation dates are posted in the Membership Information display case in the foyer. For more information, contact Nancy Groblewski, Membership Chair, at 458-6797 or nangrob@cs.com.

Visitor Information Cards

For visitors who would like to obtain more information about the church, sign up for the newsletter, share their interests, or request a call from the membership committee, we provide visitor information cards. Take an information card from the back of one of the benches in the sanctuary, fill it out, and leave it in the collection plate or in the Visitor Information Drop Box, located at the Membership display case in the foyer.

Are You Ready to Become a Member?

The only requirement for membership in this church is signing the Membership Record Book. If you are ready to join First UU Church, you can sign the book on the fourth Sunday of any month. Enrollment takes place immediately following each of the three church services at the Membership Table in the gallery. (You will be asked to complete a new-member information form before signing.)

We look forward to having you join us. The next new member signing will take place after services on Sunday, February 23.

We encourage all new or prospective members to attend one of the monthly Orientation Evenings with the minister (see above) as well as one of the New U Classes, which are offered every three months.

Congratulations Barbara Coeyman!!

Barbara wrote: I am pleased to announce that on December 5, 2002 I passed my interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in an exam held in Berkeley, California. This means I am now a credentialed UU minister, eligible to search for a ministry position through the UUA and serve as a parish minister. The 'pass' feels particularly sweet since I passed at the highest level, with a grade of 'one.'

For now, I am continuing my life as a UU circuit preacher (no, not on horseback) to congregations in the central Texas area and as an officiant for weddings and memorials.

Blessings to all,
Barbara Coeyman
(not yet officially 'Rev.' until I'm ordained, but getting close)
453-2026, bcoeyman@uuma.org

Listening Ministry

New in town, feeling blue, ending a relationship or lost a job? Coping with illness, loss of a loved one, parenting, aging or career change? Life can be full of stressful situations, and sometimes just having someone to talk to can make all the difference. The Listening Ministry is for church members going through times of transition. If you would like the emotional support of someone trained in listening skills, call 452-6168, ext. 18. A member of the Listening Ministry will try to return your call within a day.

Have you Given to the Memorial Endowment Fund Yet?

Your annual pledge helps us to run the church in the annual budget. AND, your contribution to the Memorial Endowment Fund helps us build a future – whether a new space, or a special need, the Fund is our source of supply. If you can write one more check to add to that resource, the Church will appreciate it and be better able to serve YOUR needs as we grow. Thank you!

Caring Cards

We would like to send church members and friends a caring card acknowledging a life event such as illness, death, marriage, birthday, anniversary, new baby or other occasion. Let the church office know of your occasion or that of someone else in the church family or call ext. 18 and follow the directions given on that line (Helping Hands/Hearts).

The Grapevine

The church family extends sincere sympathies to Neva Biggs, whose brother died recently.

Correction: Thank you Fred Beasley!

Oops! The credit for the beautiful painting on the Caritas Food Donation Box should really go to Fred Beasley, an Austin graphic design artist and long-time FUUCA member. He did all the calligraphy and decorative details that adorn our once-ordinary blue Caritas Box. Thank you, Fred!

2003 Sunday Flower Sign-up

The Sunday services flower sign-up calendar is now available outside the minister's office for those who wish to provide flowers in honor of a specific event. Questions? Contact Margaret Burnette at 458-6127.

LifeLine Screening Reminder

An opportunity to be screened for the warning signs and risk factors associated with stroke will be offered by LifeLine Screening here at the church on Thursday, January 16 for a small fee. Fliers will be posted on the church bulletin board across from the office or can be picked up at the Adult Ed table on Sunday. Please direct questions to or schedule appointments with Jennifer Allen of LifeLine Screening at 800-897-9177, ext. 752.

Lost and Found List

If you have lost any of the following items, please contact the church office to claim them.

- ❖ Tortoise shell-rimmed tri-focal glasses
- ❖ Small, light blue, denim bag
- ❖ Dark blue Girl Scouts handkerchief
- ❖ Child's cream-colored headband
- ❖ Pair of light-up, white, red and black tennis shoes with the initials "CG" on the heels.
- ❖ Superman cape, size 4/5
- ❖ Gray and red fleece jesters hat
- ❖ Tan and blue horizontal-striped sweater, small
- ❖ Child's hooded, zippered, gray, fleece jacket with snowflake logo
- ❖ Turquoise and white travel brush
- ❖ Black travel wallet (empty)
- ❖ Book, I Ching, by Sam Reifler
- ❖ Child's "Gap" jean jacket
- ❖ Lady's black fleece glove
- ❖ Dolphin earring
- ❖ Sterling silver loop earring

Items are kept in the office for a reasonable amount of time, after which they are donated to outside organizations. Please come and claim your items before the end of January. Thanks.

(Continued from page 2)

Davidson's Lore

I have this mental picture of a dozen or more different t-shirt designs, with pictures or clever names and slogans for the groups you're a part of that give you a sense of belonging here. The back of the t-shirts could just say something like "First UU Church of Austin — www.AustinUU.org — One church. Many beliefs." But the front of the t-shirt, polo shirt, sweatshirt, whatever the group chooses, could be devised by the members of your group. It could be a subtle kind of witty competition. The T-Shirt Challenge, the Polo Shirt Slam, you know?

The groups would need to buy their own t-shirts, but if the set-up charge is a problem I can advance it, to be made up later from shirt sales.

That's it: t-shirts. For the first of the year, it's the best I can do toward having an idea. I do think it would be nice to standardize the short message on the back, but the fronts could be as clever and distinctive as each group wants. Maybe there are also some artistic types in the church who would like to donate their creative talents to help design a couple shirts? Imagine several hundred people wearing their t-shirts around town with their clever group name on front, and the church message on the back. If you're interested in this, talk amongst your group selves, and let me know? In the meantime, see you in church!

— Davidson

Internal Reflections

In a few short days, I will be on my way to Nicaragua for ten days with the Faithful Fools Street Ministry from San Francisco. The Faithful Fools Street Ministry works to bridge the gaps created by social and economic oppression by encouraging people to encounter one another on the most human level: by simply being willing to be present with one another and to know one another, and therefore ourselves, more fully.

Sr. Carmen Barsody returned to San Francisco in 1997, having spent a total of seven years living and working in the barrios of Managua, Nicaragua. Through a mutual friend, she was introduced to the Rev. Kay Jorgensen, and through their meeting of heart and mind the Faithful Fools Street Ministry was founded. The two have traveled together to Nicaragua twice, and on their most recent trip plans and practical methods of connection became solidified. The Global Relations Project of the Faithful Fools Street Ministry is beginning this year as a natural outgrowth of the work done for the past four years in the Tenderloin of San Francisco, and of Sr. Barsody's seven years with the Franciscan Sisters in Nicaragua.

The goal of this trip is to gain a global picture of economic injustice by connecting people in the United States and people in Nicaragua through the experience of living and working with those most affected by unjust economic policies. Only those people who participated in the four-day street retreat last March in San Francisco are invited to go along on this trip. Thanks to a grant from my school and a gift I received in December, I am able to participate. I am grateful that the First UU Board and Davidson have agreed that I can take this time off from work to expand my understanding of oppression.

The required reading for the trip is a book called *Dismantling Privilege* by Mary Elizabeth Hobgood. She addresses the problems of oppression and she emphasizes the interdependent nature of all creation. Her belief is that "social transformation is not a utopian ideal but a viable and necessary moral project.

"The political task at hand, one that is essential to create a moral and secure society, is to fashion a social world that amplifies benefits and diminishes burdens. It is to fashion a society that can not only feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and provide reasonable life chances for everyone, but can also bring community to the lonely, provide meaningful work and play, nurture human creativity, and sustain diverse forms of species life, both in the human community and in the ecosystem."

Sounds unrealistic, but that is why I am going to Nicaragua, I am truly hopeful. It is my desire to gain a better understanding of the problem of poverty, inequity, and oppression. I want to learn all I can from both sides of the coin. By being willing to step outside of my comfort zone, I hope to gain insights that will be helpful in my future ministry.

The Faithful Fools are promoting a model of engagement with social change that starts with developing personal relationships with issues and the people most impacted by our consumption, our public policies, and the economic realities of the world. Through this engagement, they believe that activism can be developed that is well-informed, authentic, and filled with spiritual and practical depth that cannot be achieved through abstract understanding alone. Minds and hearts need to change before that moral and secure society can become a reality.

The visit to Nicaragua will include:

- two full days of educational programming (orientation) provided by Global Education;

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Change in January and February Tea Time with Cathy

Cathy Harrington will be out of the office for the remainder of January and the first week of February. Tea time will resume on Tuesday, February 11 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in Room 9.



Quarterly Social Action Meeting!

If you are interested in the future of Social Action in this church, we will be meeting on Sunday, January 19 at 1:00 pm in Room 9. Questions? Contact Clare Tilson at 420-8667 or trit-trot@earthlink.net.

UUADP Update

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice has already scheduled executions during the first four months of 2003 and more may be added. Those for January are now scheduled for the 14, 15, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30. We expect to continue holding protest vigils across from the governor's mansion during the hour of each execution--from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The next session of the Texas Legislature will convene on January 14, 2003 and several bills dealing with death penalty matters have already been filed.

Children's Program Committee Meeting

Second Tuesdays
February 11 6:30pm
Room 13
Childcare by reservation only

Youth Program Committee Meeting

Usually the Fourth Sundays, but
the next meeting will be on
February 2 1pm
Room 9

YRUU

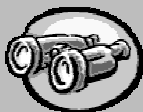
Youth Group for those
14-19 years old
Meets most Sundays at
6:30pm, Room 11

Please RE-gister your Children!!



Make sure we have
all your important in-
formation. Pick up a
form from the table
outside the RE Office.

Looking Ahead



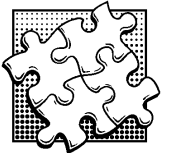
Jan 17 - Family Fun Night
Jan 18 - Middle School Lock-in
Jan 20 - MLK Walk
Feb 2 - YPC Mtg
Feb 6 - Adult RE Mtg
Feb 11 - CPC Mtg
Feb 16 - Surprise Pals Revealed
Feb 28-Mar 1 - YRUU Rally
March 1 - CROP Walk
April 4-5 - Middle School Rally

Surprise Pals - It's Not Too Late!

This is a great chance for children and adults in our congregation to make a new friend! Each adult volunteer is matched with a child and commits to correspond with them for a few weeks through our Surprise Pals mailbox system. Both children and adults make long-lasting church friends. Identities will be revealed at our February 16th celebration. Forms are available at church or contact Karen Langsley at klangsley@austin.rr.com or 894-4411.

Family Fun Night January 17, 6-9pm

Join us for a night of fun and activities! Bring your favorite potluck dish to share! We'll play some games and watch a movie. We'll start with dinner in Room 13. RSVP to Phyllis Barron PhyllisBarron@austin.rr.com 301-9045



Guest at Your Table - Return Your Box Now!

Thanks to those of you who participated in this holiday program. Families who donate a total of \$60 or more will have their donation matched by the UU Shelter Rock Congregation. Please return your donation as soon as possible to the church office.

THANKS!!! - We Appreciate Our Donors

Our recent fundraising efforts were very successful, all due to you - our wonderful donors. The Youth Book Sale raised **\$2341.80** toward a heritage trip to Boston, and the RE Gift Tree resulted in donations of **\$2412.61** for replacement of RE furnishings and toys needed after the All Austin Co-op Preschool moved.

Middle School Lock-in January 18

As part of our goal of having a cluster rally in the spring, when middle-school students from the surrounding churches will visit, we are having our second planning lock-in on January 18, starting at 6pm.

The youth will stay overnight, do some planning, have fun, and get some sleep (really!). They should bring nice clothes, as the middle school group will be visiting another church as part of their "Neighboring Faiths" curriculum. You can pick your kids up their field trip on Sunday the 19th.

MLK MARCH January 20 - Let's Join In

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March And Rally will begin at 9am at Huston-Tillotson College, located at 900 Chicon St, and end on the south steps of the Capitol. We'd like to arrange some carpools so that we can join in with our neighbors in celebrating this American hero. Parking and shuttle information are available at http://www.mlkday.com/celebration_index.html. Contact Andrea if you and your family would like to attend.

We're Wishing for a Sectional Sofa

If your New Year plans include redecorating, and you are replacing a sectional sofa in good condition, our youth would like you consider donating it for use in Room 11. Their old brown sofa, which they found at a garage sale and CARRIED to church is on its last legs.



Winter Adult RE

SIGN UP FOR CLASSES in the gallery after service!!

International Folk Dancing

Tuesdays January 7-28, 7-9pm, Howson Hall. Led by Jo Soto and Bruce Bostwick. Put this on your calendar!! Adults only, singles welcome. jo.soto@mail.utexas.edu

Spiritual Book-of-the-Month Club

First Fridays, following Vespers, 8pm, Room 9

Our first book will be *The Gospel According to Jesus*, by Stephen Mitchell. For more details, or to suggest other books, contact our intern Cathy Harrington.

Monday Night Philosophy & Theology Book Group (Please help us rename this group!)

Mondays, 7pm, Room 11

Cool People, Cool Books, Cool Conversation!! Join Clinton Hopper for the first in a series of great books: *Zen Keys* by Tich Nhat Hanh. This work is an excellent introduction to Zen and this monk's vision of Zen. Please contact Clinton with questions, Camus00@hotmail.com or 418-0928.

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time

Sundays, January 12-March 31, 3:30pm, Room 13. Join David Smith for a discussion of the book, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time : Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally*, by Marcus Borg. Many mistakenly believe there are no choices other than fundamentalism or simply rejecting the Bible.

Answering this modern dilemma, the author shows you how to read the Bible as it should be examined, in an approach the author calls "historical-metaphorical." Borg explores what the Scriptures meant to the ancient communities that produced and lived by them. He then helps us to discover the meaning of these stories, providing the knowledge and perspective to make the wisdom of the Bible an essential part of our modern lives. David_Smith@unforgettable.com or d459-8270

Adult RE-Minders

Spiritual Exploration & Philosophical Inquiry

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

Book Discussion Groups Sundays, 9:30-10:30am in Rooms 13-A&B

Both groups ask that you keep current with the readings to participate.

Room 13B Book Group - *J.B.* by Archibald MacLeish. Call Jim Burson 794-1086 or jeburson@aol.com for more info.

Mind & Meaning Book Group - Room 13A - *The Selfish Gene* by Richard Dawkins. For more info, PollyR6934@aol.com or 371-3257.

Mindfulness Through Meditation

On hiatus

If you are interested in arranging alternative times for this class, please contact Margaret Borden 458-4502, margaretborden@alumni.utexas.net

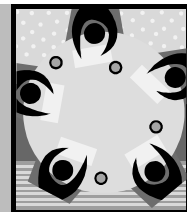
Tai Chi

Explore this graceful martial arts practice in Howson Hall Sunday and Thursday evenings at 7pm. \$25 for six weeks. For info, call Nell at 458-4903 or enewton@hoovers.com

World Religions in Your Car!

Lectures on tape available from the DRE. Five sets are available on Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and the religions of China and India. \$25 deposit.

Adult RE Committee Mtg



****NO JANUARY MTG****

**Thursday, February 6
7:00pm Room 13**

This is a fun, interesting committee! We interview prospective class facilitators and schedule classes. For more info, contact Sharon Moore 349-2318 spumonhighhollow@msn.com

Coming this Spring!



Crying

Join Barbara Denny Sunday mornings, February 2-23, 10:35-11:25am, Room 11, for a book discussion of *The Natural and Cultural History of Tears* by Tom Lutz. We have the book for sale.

Tarot

Larry Gilstrap will facilitate an investigation of the tarot, 10:40-11:25am Sunday mornings February 2-23, room 15.

Dream Drama

A reprise of last fall's program with Katya Walter. Monday evenings, February 3-24, room 13. \$25 per person

Living on Purpose

Chas Schreiber's new class will meet on Thursdays February 6-27. The cost is \$50 per person.

Yoga

Join Dan Brown for this yoga series on Monday evenings, beginning March 3

Evensong II

Cathy Harrington will lead this 8 week program on Wednesdays, March 5-April 23, room 9. This class is for those who have taken Evensong I, and there is no fee.

Science and Religion

7pm Thursdays, April 3-24 with Davidson Loehr in the Sanctuary.

PARADOX



PLAYERS

**Readers'
Theater
Resumes**

Howson Hall at 7:30 on Monday evening, January 27 is the place to be! Paullette MacDougal will be directing the evening, as everyone takes a turn at reading from a play that will be recommended by Ed Farrell.

A new goal this year is to share leadership of Readers' Theater. For those who attend the January meeting, there will be an opportunity to offer your talents in this venture, and to express your preference for how frequently we meet. All are welcome, no acting experience needed, just the love of reading aloud.

Mark your calendars for the February full production of Gurney's **Love Letters**, playing for two weekends opening on Valentine's Day. Three different couples have been cast to perform on different dates: Nancy Groblewski and Ed Farrell; Adrienne Harrell and Ed Nichols; Kathleen Lawson and George Denny.

If you would like to get involved in the production of this play (stage manager, set design, tech, tickets, ushers, concessions), please contact production manager Nancy Bene (nancy.a.bene@aexp.com).

Audiences will be encouraged by way of ticket discounts to attend more than one performance! More details in the next newsletter.

Split-the-Plate for the Faith Home

Once a month, on the third Sunday of the month, our church shares its offertory plate collection with a charitable organization. The designated organization for January 19 is the Faith Home. The Faith Home is the only licensed, 24-hour care family group home for HIV/AIDS babies and children in Central Texas. Services provided include health education/risk reduction; HIV/STD prevention education; HIV/STD community presentations; case management for HIV/AIDS; clinical treatment HIV/AIDS; nurse on-site; pharmacy/medication program; support groups; nutrition services; transportation; volunteer services; residential care; and hospice/respite care.

We hope you will attend church on January 19 and make a larger than usual contribution in the knowledge that the Faith Home will receive half of the plate contributions on that date. Your checks should be payable to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. For more information about the Faith Home, contact Hy Traurig of the organization at 512-302-4101 or Joyce Messina-Garrison at 512-918-1819 or jhg@acm.org or Laura Wood at 458-4805 or lauraerniewood@earthlink.net.

Cold Weather Shelter Update and Report

Freeze night Report for January 2, 2003

The third cold weather shelter of the season for the First UU Church was held in Howson Hall and the church kitchen on Thursday, January 2, 2003. We had 42 homeless guests and 24 volunteers who helped with various tasks as follows:

Calling and Organizing: Lesley Hays (ARCH), Mary Jane Ford
Overnight (10:00 pm to 7:00am): Martin Bryant, Jon Soul, Mark McPhearson
Service, Hospitality (6:30pm to 10:00pm): Ed Sledge; Tasha Ponczek; Mark Kilpatrick, Barbara Owens, Susan Barry, Russell Eskew, and Mary Jane Ford. Also, observers who helped: Mr. & Mrs. Jay Cooper from the Westlake United Methodist Church.

Prepared Food : Camille Hemlock - salad , turkey soup; Barb Owens - salad; Belle Hutton - stew, German potato salad; Susan Barry - spaghetti and meat sauce; Leslie Smart - bean and cheese casserole; Melissa Smith - bean and beef stew, turkey soup; Jamie Blackwell - fried chicken, Deborah Helstrom - vegetable casserole

Breakfast food or general supplies:

Matt Ellsworth - hard boiled eggs; Gillian Reed and Vanessa Smith - fresh fruit; Some Good Samaritan - 40 sandwiches

This was another "on call" freeze night. We have been successfully using email to mobilize the volunteers in all of the previous freeze nights. At some point during the cold weather season we will not have advance notice, and will be called to do the shelter on the day of the event. In this case, the telephone will be the primary instrument of communication. Thanks to all who participated, including the church staff. We especially appreciate the efforts of Nell Newton and the Tai Chi Group who have always been willing to move to another room so that the freeze night may take place in Howson Hall. We would appreciate hearing from other church groups who might have the hall scheduled during the winter, but who would be willing to cooperate with the freeze night.

If you want to know if and where a freeze night is happening (it could be at another church), you can call Leslie Hays of ARCH at 476-4396, or, if the church is hosting the shelter, call the organizer, Mary Jane Ford at 926-4122 or the office at 452-6168.

Astronomy Retreat Weekend at U Bar U

A Weekend of Communing with the Heavens Scientifically and Spiritually with astronomers Sheila Kannappan, Doug Mar, Glenn McIntosh, Paul Derrick and Chris Sneden

Program:

- 5 short daytime sessions on a variety of astronomical topics, including stars, galaxies, gravity and cosmology, building a scale-model solar system, and using planispheres and telescopes
- Night sky observing outdoors (near a heated building) under some of the darkest skies in the U.S., including shared telescopes and binoculars and guided naked-eye sky tours
- A creative arts center with materials to stimulate creative expression on astronomical themes (collage, poetry, etc.)
- And lots more! (campfire sing-alongs, Milky Way appreciation hike Friday, Sunday morning service created by participants...)

Who's Invited: UU's and friends; children welcome but see note below

When: Friday night to Sunday morning (arrival Saturday morning okay) January 24 to 26; rain date January 31 to February 2 (participants should keep both weekends open in case)

Where: U Bar U retreat center, about 2 hours from Austin near Kerrville -- a rustic property far from city lights with a heated lodge and plenty of space to ramble

Children: Night sky observing is fun for all ages. Daytime sessions will include interactive, hands-on learning with no background assumed, but aimed at adults/older kids (jr. high and up). However, even the littlest kids will enjoy the scale-model solar system and the creative arts center. Parents of young children be prepared to share childcare with other parents.

SIGN-UP FORM (space is limited; please reserve early)

Names (all): _____

Ages of kids: _____

Contact email address & phone #: _____

Cost worksheet: ("older kids" = old enough to be in daytime sessions)

1. WORKSHOP MATERIALS

___ # adults/older kids attending daytime sessions X \$15 = _____

2. LODGING

___ # people sleeping on floor (BYO cot/sleeping bag) X \$ 5 = + _____

___ # people sleeping in bunks (reserved for adults) X \$15 = + _____

3. FOOD

___ # adults/older kids eating X \$20 = + _____

___ # younger kids eating (infant! s/toddlers free) X \$15 = + _____

___ # discount if arriving late (after b'fast Sat.) X \$ 5 = - _____

TOTAL = _____

Please write check for full amount to "U Bar U" and mail with form to Sheila Kannappan, 7120 Dagon Drive, Austin, TX 78754. Address questions to uastro@yahoo.com, or call Sheila and Doug (512-278-0452), Glenn (512-257-0450), or Paul (254-753-6920). Directions and further program details will be sent to participants in mid-January.

End-of-Month Party

For about a million years, the EOM party has been faithfully observed at First UU Church on the last Saturday of each month. Now it's time for outreach to the wider UU community. It's a relaxed way to meet new friends and greet old friends. Traditionally, you bring a snack to share and your drink; you come for a few minutes or a few hours and leave the happier for having come.

The next party will be held on Saturday, January 25 at Alana Rosshirt's house, 3413 Foothill Terrace. Call 458-3718 for directions. Starting time is 8:00 pm. Coordinators for this event are Kelly Teese (927-2292) and Jean Wyllys (926-6353). We always need hosts, so call if you'd like to be one.

Y'All Come Sing Returns!!!

MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO ADD A JOYFUL NOISE TO YOUR LIFE!

Back by popular demand, the First UU music department is hosting a winter edition of this musical fun fest. The choir will be opening its ranks to anyone who ever wanted to try singing but never quite got around to it. Simply show up at 8:40 am before the first service on either January 19 or 26, rehearse a quickly and easily-learned song with the choir, and sing it for the morning services. Contact Brent Baldwin, Director of Music, at 452-6168, ext. 16.

Church Grounds Need a Few Good People

Your Grounds chair and the three slightly past middle age committee members could really use your help! We've scheduled a work session for Saturday, January 25 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather on the 25th, we will work on the following Saturday, February 1 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. PLEASE mark your calendar and plan to join us to beautify our outdoor sanctuary, aka the church grounds. Lots to do and many hands will make it easier. Questions? Contact Barb Denny at 259-1596 or btdenny@flash.net. If you can't make it on Saturday and would like to help, we have a wish list of jobs posted on the Grounds bulletin board near the office. Did I mention that we could really use your help?!

Make a Difference to Those with a Serious Illness

The Interfaith Care Alliance (ICA) will be conducting a six-hour training program for people to be on the "Care Team," a group of individuals who provide compassionate care and support of persons living with serious illnesses, such as AIDS or cancer. Training will be held at Unity Center, 9603 Dessau Rd., on Tuesday, January 28 and Thursday, January 30. Each evening begins at 6:00 pm with a complimentary supper and ends at 9:30 pm. For more information contact the ICA at 459-5883 or visit their website at www.interfaithcarealliance.org.

Barbara's Briefing A Year to Celebrate, and a Year to Grow!

Tuesday January 14 is the first anniversary of my first day as the first staff in the role of Director of Administration for First UU. It has offered me challenges and moments of terror at my initial lack of knowledge as the job expanded, and expanded... It has also brought me fulfillment, joy, and the satisfaction of seeing the church running more smoothly. My thanks to those who sent letters and cards of appreciation over the holidays!

As those who visit here know, our office is greatly under-staffed for a church of this size. We are funded for a 10-hour assistant, and Clare Tilson is temporarily in that role, already making us wonder how we ever got along without her! When her baby is due, Clare will have trained the new assistant we'll hire in early February.

The UUs I've met deeply impress me with your energy and intelligence. I look forward to getting to know more of you, and am sorry that my over-full days prevent my having a social hour like Cathy's tea. When you plan to stop by the church, please call me and I'll make time for a visit.

My 2003 goals include developing volunteer jobs and building leadership teams. Former leaders, current chairs and people seeking active involvement at First UU will hear from me as the year goes by. Readers who fit the description just given, call me! Let's go have lunch and talk about you.

Special thanks to one such up-and-comer, Karen Langsley, who answered the call for a person to help with an Insurance Review of the church. What skilled members we have!

New faces are volunteering about the office: Linda Eller on Mondays, Nancy Reiter on Tuesdays, Joan Schenker on Wednesdays, and Constance Good on Fridays, in different tasks from our faithful Sue Rimel (Ms. Elvis to us). Each of these new folks is every-other-week, so if you want to join the fun, make us an offer! Thursdays are still available -- "Call Now!"

Barbara Lighthouse
Director of Administration
452-6168, ext. 10

(Continued from page 5)

Internal Reflections

- four days living with families in a barrio of Managua, many of whom are themselves sweat shop workers;
- four days living with and learning from those working in the campos, or fields, producing coffee for export to the United States and other parts of the world.

This is a wonderful opportunity and I admit, I am a little nervous about the trip, but I expect it to be fruitful and look forward to sharing my experiences with you when I return.

Cathy Harrington

Events at a Glance

Sun	9:30 AM	Sunday Service	Sun	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
Jan 19	11:30 AM	Sunday Service	Jan 26	11:30 AM	Sunday Service
	11:30 AM	No Public Affairs Forum Today		11:30 AM	Public Affairs Forum
	1:00 PM	Social Action Committee		3:30 PM	Reading the Bible Again
	3:30 PM	Reading the Bible Again		5:20 PM	Sunday Night Live!
	5:00 PM	Camp Fire Meeting		6:30 PM	YRUU
	5:20 PM	Sunday Night Live!		7:00 PM	Tai Chi
	6:30 PM	YRUU			
	7:00 PM	Tai Chi			
Mon	6:00 PM	New U Class	Mon	6:00 PM	New U Class
Jan 20	7:00 PM	Philo and Theo Book Group	Jan 27	7:00 PM	Philo and Theo Book Group
	7:00 PM	Open Covenant Group 1		7:00 PM	Readers' Theater
	7:00 PM	Finance Committee		7:00 PM	Helping Hands and Hearts
				7:00 PM	Open Covenant Group 1
Tue	9:30 AM	Deadline for 1/26 Order of Service	Tue	9:30 AM	Deadline for 2/2 Order of Service
Jan 21	3:00 PM	No Tea Time with Cathy Today	Jan 28	3:00 PM	No Tea Time with Cathy Today
	6:00 PM	Board of Trustees		7:00 PM	International Folk Dancing
	7:00 PM	International Folk Dancing		7:30 PM	Women's Spirituality
	7:00 PM	Listening Ministry			
	7:30 PM	Women's Spirituality			
Wed	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Wed	9:15 AM	Listening Ministry
Jan 22			Jan 29	7:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Thu	7:00 PM	Facilities Committee	Thu	7:00 PM	Tai Chi
Jan 23	7:00 PM	Tai Chi	Jan 30		
Fri	7:00 PM	Practice -- One of Everything	Fri	9:30 AM	Deadline for Feb. 15 Newsletter
Jan 24			Jan 31	7:00 PM	Practice -- One of Everything
Sat	9:00 AM	Project Transitions	Sat	10:30 AM	Women's Spirituality
Jan 25	10:30 AM	Women's Spirituality	Feb 1		
	8:00 PM	End of Month Party			

Join Sunday Sociables in the Afternoon...

Sociables is an informal brunch gathering each Sunday. All are invited. Folks start arriving around 1:15. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Larry Gilstrap (708-1226 or gilstrap@texas.net).

January 19 Waterloo Icehouse 1106 West 38th St. (26 Doors)

January 26 Sun Hing 2801 Guadalupe

...Come in the Evening for a Movable Feast!

All are invited to attend dinner with us after Sunday Night Live beginning at 7 pm. Check the poster board outside the office for details on Sunday evenings. If no host is listed that week, the Movable Feast can be considered cancelled. Also listen for an announcement by the lay leader during the service. If host or hostess is listed, give this name to the restaurant host in order to be shown to the correct table. Typically directions and a phone number will be posted as well.

**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
 CHURCH OF AUSTIN**
 4700 Grover Avenue
 Austin, TX 78756
One Church. Many Beliefs.

Minister: Dr. Davidson Loehr
Director of Religious Education:
 Andrea Lerner
Director of Administration:
 Barbara Lighthouse
Director of Music: Brent Baldwin
President, Board of Trustees:
 Donna Howard
Intern Minister: Cathy Harrington

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168
 Church Fax: (512) 453-5912
 E-Mail: info@AustinUU.org
 www.AustinUU.org

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Return Service Requested

Sunday Morning Religious Education

ADULT CLASSES

- Spiritual Exploration & Philosophical Inquiry Group**
 Room 9 9:30 am
- Book Discussion Groups:**
Sunday Book Group — Call Jim Burson (794-1086)
 Room 13A 9:30 am
- Mind & Meaning** — Call Polly Robertus (371-3257)
 Room 13B 9:30 am
- Meditation** — Call Margaret Borden (458-4502)
 Room 11 10:35 am

CHILDREN & YOUTH CLASSES

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

First Session: 9:30 am - 10:30 am
Second Session 11:30 am - 12:45 am
Grades 6-8 & 9-12 - 11:30 am only
Third Session: 5:40 pm - 6:30 pm
Third Session is Pre-K through Elementary only

INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Parents with infants may attend the service with their children, view the service through the quiet room window, watch the service on TV in room 21,

Public Forum “Live” Sundays at First UU Church of Austin

No Forum Today	January 19, 11:30 am Howson Hall
Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Roe v Wade - Will it Be Our Last? Kae McLaughlin, Executive Director of TARAL	January 26, 11:30 am Howson Hall
Kae McLaughlin, Executive Director of TARAL (Texas Abortion & Reproductive Rights Action League), will discuss the challenges to abortion, sexuality education, and access to contraceptives in the current environment as well as the upcoming legislative session in Texas, in Congress, and at the Supreme Court.	

Public Forum on Cable Access Channel 10 Sundays at 6 PM

January 19	Bob Jensen	The War on Terrorism: National Security vs. Our Security
January 26	Dan Thompson	Casa Marianella