

# The Austin Unitarian Universalist

*One Church. Many Beliefs.*

Published Semimonthly

February 15, 2003

Volume 52, No. 4

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

## Sunday, February 16

9:30 am and 11:30 am

### ***Rethinking the Idea of God***

**Rev. Davidson Loehr**

I recently read British author Philip Pullman's fantasy trilogy *His Dark Materials*. It's written, it seems, for teens, and has sold over four million copies. What's unusual is that the books are anti-theistic. Pullman believes the worst thing to happen to Western civilization was the invention of God, which he considers a secondary figure and calls "The Authority" (an impotent old figure carried around in a glass case while the Church speaks for him). The answer, he says, is reclaiming our power, responsibility and pride. Though I hate to be controversial, I think Pullman is right.

5:20 pm

**TBA** (check our website at [www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org))

**Cathy Harrington**

Cathy Harrington could not get a computer connection in Nicaragua to send her sermon information, but she will probably be sharing some of the insights and experiences from her ten-day visit to Nicaragua with the Faithful Fools Ministry of San Francisco.

**Elizabeth McQueen and the Firebrands** will be playing **alternative country** at the 5:20 pm service.

## Sunday, February 23

9:30 am and 11:30 am

### ***The Legitimate Heir to Salvation***

**Rev. Davidson Loehr**

I'd be happy just calling for a redefinition of "salvation" along its original meanings of health or wholeness. But maybe it's more provocative to suggest that we try and say what we mean more clearly. In an honest religion, what is the aim of life? What are we after? This is meant as the final of the series of four sermons on the true story of an honest, or liberal, religious approach to life.

5:20 pm

**TBA** (check our website at [www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org))

**Cathy Harrington**

Cathy Harrington could not get a computer connection in Nicaragua to send her sermon information, but she will probably be sharing some of the insights and experiences from her ten-day visit to Nicaragua with the Faithful Fools Ministry of San Francisco.

Music at the 5:20 pm service **TBA**. Check our website at [www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org).

## ***Vespers Services with Cathy Harrington First Friday of Each Month***

**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 page 7)

## **Thank You to Our Sunday Ushers and Greeters**

We wish to acknowledge and express our appreciation to all the ushers and greeters who assist on Sundays.

In January, 2003 our ushers and greeters included:

Chris Heidel, Drew Bridges, Paula Wiesner-Ferguson, Alan Ferguson, Sue Rimel, Warden Rimel, Dianne Duncan, Helen Siders, Katie Winter, Susan Reid, Bill Reid, Betty Bowie, Jim Bowie, Dana Lehman, Doris Hug, Kae McLaughlin, Marian Maxwell, Greg Ormiston, Anne Black, Nell Newton, Henry Newton, Mark Williams, Ryan Hill, Kristen Freeman, David Sprengel-meyer, Tom Bohman.

**We couldn't  
have done it  
without you!**

## **Newsletter Deadlines**

### **Articles (due by 9:30 am)**

Fri. Feb. 14 (for Mar. 1 issue)

Fri. Feb. 28 (for Mar. 15 issue)

Fri. Mar. 21 (for Apr. 1 issue)

### **Mailing Days**

Thursday February 20

Thursday March 6

Thursday March 27

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

## **Davidson's Lore**

My initial radio interview with Dr. Stan Monteith, an evangelical Christian from Santa Cruz, California, went well, and led to two more. (The "Dr." is because he is a retired orthopedic surgeon). He does four programs, each to a different audience, and asked me to be a regular for awhile.

I did another hour during my week in Berkeley, and the third on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. I don't know how the third one will go (I'm writing this on the 2<sup>nd</sup>), but the second one was both educational and humbling, and I want to share it — I still don't understand it.

He asked me to tell the listeners about the 80-page report on preparing America's defenses for domination of the world, and asked who prepared the report. I said "It was a right-wing group headed by William Kristol."

Dr. Stan politely but quickly said he needed to correct me. "I'm a right-wing Christian," he said. "I've read many of William Kristol's pieces, and heard him a couple of times, and he is not right-wing." What he is, said Dr. Stan, is someone who is advocating an authoritarian form of government that would rob Americans of their traditional freedoms and their democracy.

Color me ignorant, but that's what I thought "right-wing" meant! I didn't get it, but didn't press it. We talked about the administration's deceptions, the rush to an unprovoked war for reasons that have absolutely nothing to do with 9/11, with propaganda, a brutal economy, and so on. Later in the program, he took calls. People called in from a couple states and Canada. But the call that confused me most was a man who said he wanted to tell the guest (me) that he was a right-wing Christian — then he modified it to say he was a far right-wing Christian — and added "I'd be proud to stand by both you gentlemen on everything you've said."

I suddenly realized that, in conversations with evangelical Christians who consider themselves right-wing (proudly) and are talking about their fears of the coming changes in government (which I identified as fascism in the service of plutocracy) — I have absolutely no idea what they mean by "right-wing"!

This also means that I lose the chance to communicate with these "right-wing" people because I don't know the vocabulary that is important to them.

I suspect it also means that there is a new kind of "silent majority" in our country, made of people from both "wings" who are frightened by the loss of freedoms, restrictions on individual rights, the rush to an indefensible and murderous war, the specter of democracy being replaced by an American form of fascism in the service of plutocracy, and the rest of it.

Most people I've met would consider me very "left-wing," maybe unforgivably or naively so. Yet I found more informed agreement with these "right-wing" folks than I can find among UU clergy. Something's wrong

*(Continued on page 5)*

## **VOLUNTEER FAIR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16**

Come to Howson Hall after both morning services and learn about the many ways you can meet new friends, have fun and build First UU into an ever-better church community. **Your involvement makes all the difference!**

## Membership Matters

### Please Welcome Some of Our Newest Members!

**Laura Shankland.** A Colorado native, Laura offsets her (presumably) sedentary job as an editor with more physical pursuits—such as swimming, hiking, and soccer—as well as photography. “I’ve been attending First UU for 2½ years and finally felt ready to sign the book. I look forward to getting to know, and getting involved in, the larger community.” Laura has been active in TARAL and is looking forward to “spiritual guidance and challenges, social action opportunities, and intellectual stimulation” as a member of the church.

**Hanneke Portier-Cox and Sam Cox.** The Coxes joined the church in search of community, a spiritual home, and a broad cultural and religious background for their children. Hanneke, who moved here from the Netherlands in the mid-80’s, works as a technology facilitator for AISD; her interests include video/film and literature. Sam, a teacher and writer, tells us that he has worked in the comedy industry for many years. “I have written for Jay Leno and many others. I teach comedy writing at Cap City Comedy Club and have produced shows for 17 years. I am glad to have found a spiritual home that includes teaching from many religions and is comfortable for a liberal.”

**Arianne Barnhill Brown and Michael Alan Brown.** Arianne and Michael moved to Austin from New Mexico about 5 years ago and are the parents of two young children. Ari is a graphic designer for UT-Austin; her outside interests center around computers and graphic arts. Michael, a librarian at the Texas State Library, lists woodwork, guitar and acting as prime interests. Both are looking for a sense of community and spiritual connectedness for their family.

### Orientation Evenings

Orientation Evenings now take place on 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 p.m.** 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.

## Honor Someone Special

Honor someone special, someone in the Church who has served long and faithfully. I am honoring Emilia Martin with a gift to the Memorial/Endowment Fund. She was treasurer for eight years during the 1980’s. It is through the efforts of many devoted members like Emilia that our Church goes forward.

—Marian Maxwell

## Watch A Liberal View

On ACTV, Cable Channel 11 Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Check [www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org) for listings.

## 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).

## 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.

## February in the Gallery

In February the Gallery is presenting the unique work of Lauritz Williams. His medium is watercolor, and his style is bright, bold and passionate.

PARADOX

**PP**

PLAYERS

## Season of Letters and Events

Just one weekend left to catch the last performances of "**Love Letters**," the beloved play by A.R. Gurney. Each of three different casts is creating a show uniquely different from the other two! Tickets are \$10, and you can use your ticket stub for a \$2 discount on a subsequent performance. The last show will be a matinee on Sunday, February 23 at 3:00. Ticket reservation line is 989-9985.

Opportunity awaits anyone eager to join the fun of Paradox Players – find our table at the Volunteer Fair on February 16. We will have information about what we do and how to participate. Learn about Sunday Shorts, Readers' Theater, and the surprising off-stage talents you may be able to share with us – like webmaster, business management, marketing, and more.

Readers' Theater will continue on Monday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. in Howson Hall. Come join us even if you missed the January meeting. We will be taking turns reading the second act of a contemporary play that explores racial politics among students and faculty on a small liberal arts college campus. All are welcome, no prior experience necessary.

## Split-the-Plate for the Assistance League of Austin

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 February 16 is the Assistance League of Austin. This organization addresses a variety of specific needs in the Austin community.

Through "Operation School Bell" new clothing is provided to underprivileged children. Games and books are distributed to young patients by "Toy Cart at Children's Hospital." "Bus With Us" is a program of fun trips for seniors. New clothing to wear home from the hospital is provided through "ASK (Assault Survivors Kit)." "Occupational/Technical Scholarships" is a financial assistance program for Austin Community College students. Assistance League of Austin operates a second hand store called "Thrift House," to raise money for its programs. Thrift House accepts donations of good used clothing, household items, toys, books, office supplies, computers, furniture, etc. 98% of the funds raised by Thrift House and special events go back into the community.

We hope you will attend church on Split-the-Plate Sunday and make a larger than usual contribution in the knowledge that the Assistance League of Austin will receive half of the plate contributions. Your checks should be payable to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. For further information about the Assistance League of Austin, contact Betty Howard of our church at (512) 342-9635 or by email at BettyTex@flash.net.

## A Big Thank You from Animal Trustees of Austin

Last December, the Split-the-Plate candidate was Animal Trustees of Austin (ATA), a local, volunteer-run organization that strives to better the health and well-being of animals in Austin. You generously gave \$1,127.84!!! Missy McCullough, Executive Director of ATA, wanted the Social Action Committee to relay her deepest gratitude to all the UU's who contributed so that our feline and canine friends could have better lives.

## Gather in the Pagan Spirit

### Explore the Goddesses AND the Gods

Delve into the world of mysteries, magic, feminine and masculine, the seasons, and the many faces of the divine. Join other Pagans\* and curious folk in forming a CUUPS chapter at First UU Austin. Contact Kelley at 479-8020 or fotla@io.com. Everyone Welcome!

"The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, Inc. ("CUUPS") exists for the purposes of promoting the practice and understanding of Pagan and Earth-centered spirituality within the UU Association, enabling networking among Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalists, providing for the outreach of Unitarian Universalism to the broader Pagan community, providing educational materials on Paganism and Earth-centered spirituality for Unitarian Universalist congregations and for the general public, promoting interfaith dialogue, encouraging the development of theological and liturgical materials based on Pagan and Earth-centered religious and spiritual perspectives, encouraging greater use of music, dance, visual arts, poetry, story, and creative ritual in Unitarian Universalist worship and celebration, providing a place or places for gathering and for worship, and fostering healing relationships with the Earth and all the Earth's children." To learn more visit [www.cuups.org](http://www.cuups.org).

(\*a member of a polytheistic nature religion, indigenous folk and tribal religions, including, but not limited to Native Americans, Rosicrucians, Wiccans, Faery, Druids, Golden Dawn, Goddess Worship, Shamanism, OTO, VooDoo and others)

## **Bring a Friend to Sunday Night Live!**

Looking for the perfect time to invite a friend to SNL? Well, the 3rd Sunday of each month is designed just for that purpose. Davidson will be preaching, the music will rock, and Movable Feast is always conveniently located at Central Market. Just three easy steps:

1. Bring your friend and introduce them to a few people.
2. Have them fill out a visitor info card in the Visitors Rock! packet.
3. Invite them to Movable Feast.

Can't think of anyone to bring? Invite someone who hasn't come to church in a while. At the very least, be sure to introduce yourself to visitors. Why? 80% of people attending a church for the first time do so because a friend, co-worker, or family member invited them.

## **Sunday Night Live! Think Tank**

Sunday Night Live! is a unique experience for anyone looking for an interactive, child friendly community with great music and an open-hearted understanding of spirituality. The SNL Think Tank is open to anyone who would like to help with planning for the future success of this service. We meet on the third Thursday of every month in Davidson's office at 6:30 P.M.

Inspiration - Rev. Davidson Loehr

Inspiration Intern - Cathy Harrington

The Man Who Gets the Bands - Brent Baldwin

Hosts - Audrey Maker, David Smith, Drew Bridges, and Becky Harding

Usher/Greeter Recruiter/Motivator - Kristen Freeman

Getting Us Out There - Chris Heidel, David Kenner, and Sheldon Williams

Picking Up the Slack - Lisa Sutton

Queen Bee in Charge- Kellena Page

## **Spread the Word Around Austin! Get a T-shirt.**

Interested in getting matching t-shirts for your special church group? Sunday Night Live! has taken on the task of coordinating services to help any group in the church who would like to get T-shirts. Each group's shirt will be unique in many ways, but all of the T-shirts will be a similar style and say the same thing on the back. If you are interested in T-shirts for your group or would like to help with this project, contact Chris Heidel at [chris@chrisandtoby.com](mailto:chris@chrisandtoby.com) or 694-5870.

*(Continued from page 2)*

## **Davidson's Lore** □ □ on □ in □ ed

here. I'm missing something, I'm misunderstanding something here.

And one reason I think it's so important to find out what their meaning for these powerful terms is (like "right-wing") is because, in the new social and political climate, liberals will need to become part of a much bigger base, if we hope to have any real influence. Maybe that base is already here, hiding behind a label ("right-wing") that we simply don't understand.

I'll ask Dr. Stan about this tomorrow morning. It would be interesting to do a few programs with him on the role of religion and the perceived differences between "liberal" and "conservative" (or evangelical) religions in America. But it feels kind of embarrassing to have to ask the meaning of such key terms this far along in the game.

That's it: no wisdom, no insights, just a confession to share. If I begin to get wiser, I'll try to share that, too. Meanwhile, see you in church!

*Davidson*

## **Kent Kennan**

The January 31 issue of the Austin Chronicle featured an article on Kent Kennan, one of the founding members of our church and a significant person in music. Mr. Kennan recently was honored by the Austin Symphony for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The article is a fitting tribute to this incredible man in our midst. You can read it online at [www.austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2003-01-31/arts\\_feature.html](http://www.austinchronicle.com/issues/dispatch/2003-01-31/arts_feature.html).

## **Pathfinder Covenant Group**

**NEW!**

The Pathfinder Covenant Group is a "landing pad" group, serving as an entry point into the church for visitors and newer members looking to meet each other and learn about UU. The group also welcomes veteran church members who want to help integrate new members into the church or who wish to experience what a covenant group is like. This group will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am in Room 9. Katie Winter and Mickey Moore will be facilitating the group initially. Contact Mickey at [mgmoore@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:mgmoore@mail.utexas.edu) or 779-7234 or visit our website at [www.austinuu.org/members/covenantgroups.htm](http://www.austinuu.org/members/covenantgroups.htm) for information on covenant groups, including existing groups, resources available for small groups, and opportunities to expand our Covenant Group program.

## **UU Banners**

Two colorful hand-made banners are available for your use in proudly representing our church at public events. Contact Barbara Lightheart in the church office to sign them out.

## Children's Program Committee Meeting

Second Tuesdays

**March 11 6:30pm**

**Room 13**

Childcare by reservation only

## Youth Program Committee Meeting

Fourth Sundays

**February 23 1pm**

**Room 9**

## YRUU

Youth Group for those  
14-19 years old

Meets most Sundays at

**6:30pm, Room 11**

## Looking Ahead



**Feb 16** - Surprise Pals Party

**Feb 16** - Volunteer Fair

**Feb 23** - YPC Mtg

**Feb 28-Mar 1** - YRUU Rally

**March 1** - CROP Walk

**March 6** - Adult RE Mtg

**March 9** - RE-Create Day

**March 11** - CPC Mtg

**March 30** - Youth & Young  
Adult Sunday

**April 4-5** - Middle School Rally

**April 20** - Easter Celebration

**May 3** - Curriculum Planning

**May 18** - All-Church Picnic

## Support Our Local Youth? Why?

Why in the world would you want to give up a few hours of sleep on the weekend of Feb 28-March 2? 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 Midnight Sat - it still promises to be really inspirational), planning meals and buying groceries (do you know how much food 125 kids and sponsors 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, 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 for a first-hand look at YRUU in action. You'll be amazed!!

anDREa



## Spork vs. Foon!!

**Feb 28 - March 2**

**Spork vs. Foon?? What?!!?**

**That's the name of our annual YRUU rally!!**

We will be rocking the church from 8pm Friday through 9am Sunday. About 100 of the UU southwest district's most exciting, energetic, and community-building youth will be congregating at our Church! An awesome youth workshop is planned for 12pm Saturday night. And **YOU** can help!! (see below)

**Thank you, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin members** for supporting our youth and enabling this rally. For more information, please contact Katy Burnette-Hughes at [lyrica9@hotmail.com](mailto:lyrica9@hotmail.com) or Sylvia Pope at [aquadog@jump.net](mailto:aquadog@jump.net) or 452-1081.

## Rally Rover Training

**Sunday February 23, 12:45pm**

Do you miss the excitement of staying up all night, dancing, singing and playing games? Well, you can join in on the fun by volunteering to be a rally rover for a few hours. A rover is an adult who helps provide a safe, supportive environment for our youth guests and allows our guest advisors to get some sleep before the long drive home. **Look for a sign-up table** in the Gallery after services on Sundays. A rover training meeting will take place on Sunday, **February 23 from 12:45 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Room 11**. Snacks will be provided. Training can be provided on the fly if you can't attend the meeting. Come check it out and meet the youth of our church and district!! For more information, please contact Sylvia Pope at [aquadog@jump.net](mailto:aquadog@jump.net) or 452-1081.

## Winter Adult RE

**SIGN UP FOR CLASSES in the gallery after service!!**

### 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

**Mondays, 7pm, Room 11**

Cool People, Cool Books, Cool Conversation!! Join Clinton Hopper for great books, starting with *Zen Keys* by Tich Nhat Hanh. Camus00@hotmail.com or 418-0928.

### Yoga

Dan Brown is the instructor for this yoga series on Monday evenings, beginning March 3

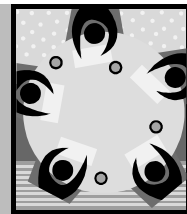
### Evensong II

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.

## Adult RE Committee Mtg



**Thursday, March 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

## CONTINUING.....

### Crying

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

### Tarot

**Sunday mornings February 2-23, 10:40-11:25am, Room 15.** Larry Gilstrap is facilitating an investigation of the tarot.

### Dream Drama

**Monday evenings, February 3-24, 7-9:30 pm, Room 13.** A reprise of last fall's program with Katya Walter. Find out what part dreams play in your life. \$25 per person

### 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.*

### Living on Purpose

**Thursdays February 6-27, 7-9pm, Room 15.** Are you consciously creating your life - or merely living by default? By the end of this program, you will have a clear picture of the real you, your life purpose and how to create a life you love! Join Chas Schreiber for this fun, life-altering experience. \$50 per participant, limit 20.

## 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** - *Ethics for the New Millennium* by The Dalai Lama. 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

**Sundays and Thursdays, 7pm in Howson Hall**

Explore this graceful martial art, \$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.

## Children's Homeschool Class at First UU

Two Austin Area Homeschool parents are leading a 4 week Holocaust Awareness class beginning in late March, using materials on loan from the Houston Holocaust Museum. There will be a K-3rd grade class and a 4th-6th grade class. All materials are age/stage sensitive. The cost of the class is \$5.00 to cover copies, snacks and room rental. Income-sensitive families may take the class for free. For more information, please email Illysa Foster at illysa@ev1.net call 443-7364.

## ***In the Library***

Come see the new books in the church library...

*The Trinitarian Controversy*  
by Wm. Busch  
*Dying Church, Living God*  
by Chuck Meyer  
*Unplanned Parenthood*  
by Liz Carpenter  
*In Pursuit of Joy*  
by Donald Wheat  
(Unitarian Minister)

...and many more.

Jean McDermott  
Librarian

## ***Update on U Bar U***

Thirty two people enjoyed the Tree House Building weekend over the holidays. Under the supervision of several take-charge carpenters, children and adults worked on a tree house, actually finishing the platform, barrier railings, and a ladder. Other children and youth created an attractive access trail to the tree house, and additional workers marked and cleared a separate nature trail along the creek bed. This shady path is sure to be a favorite during the hot days of summer. Thanks to Vince Harrison, the Walter-Mahoneys, Gray-Balaguers, Martins, Loomis-Norris, Lerner, and Isaac-Bryants families for their energy and enthusiasm. Mina Loomis and Dana Morrison kept all the workers well and happily fed.

Pat and Dale Bulla continue their unflinching service as habitat stewards for our community. They planted several native species of plants, trees, and bushes in areas around the U Bar U meeting house. Upcoming events include a star gazing weekend, and an orienteering/outdoor education weekend in Spring.

## ***Intranet Additions at www.austinuu.org/intranet***

The Austin Unitarian Universalist, our semi-monthly newsletter, is now available to download from the intranet for registered users. The newsletter is in PDF format, which means that you will need to download a copy of Adobe Acrobat reader. Because of our quota for disk space on our hosting account, each newsletter will be automatically deleted 45 days after being uploaded. If you need a newsletter which is no longer available online, please contact Rita in the church office.

Other items which have been uploaded include the 2003 Budget, the approved minutes of the December 2002 board of trustees meeting, and an essay by Rev. Kathleen Ellis that was published in the Bryan/College Station Eagle about the execution of Granville Riddle, the son of a member in the Waco congregation where she used to be a minister.

You'll need to register in order to access many of these messages.

## ***Are you a VOYAGER?***

VOYAGERS is a community of members and friends of FUUCA born in the 60's and 70's. OUR MISSION: We come together in loving companionship to celebrate life, encourage spiritual growth and share our gifts with others. Subscribe to our list-serve newsgroup by sending an email to voyagers-announce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, or for more information email the Quorum (VOYAGERS leadership) at voyagers@austinuu.org, call Kristen at 451-5370 or meet Carolyn in the Gallery after the 11:30 service.

## ***Living With Soul: "What Will UU Do With Jesus?"***

Chuck Freeman, minister of Live Oak UU Church, and James Hamilton will host a four-week discussion at the Live Oak sanctuary from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Sundays, February 16 to March 9. Questions? Contact Chuck Freeman at chuck@soultalkradio.com.

**Week 1** — Christianity, past and present, in our UU movement

**Week 2** — Defining current theological diversity in Christianity

**Week 3** — The appropriate use of humor in relation to Christianity

**Week 4** — Creating a church that welcomes UU's enlivened by Jesus' teachings

## ***SWUW Women's Conference in Austin***

***Feb. 28-March 2, 2003***

The Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women (SWUW) annual conference is in Austin this year at the Renaissance Arboretum Hotel from Friday evening, February 28 to Sunday morning, March 2. The theme is "Becoming Wonder Women: Weaving Wonder in Our Lives." This annual conference has been held since 1987, sponsored by a different church in the district each year. This year Live Oak Church is the conference sponsor, with assistance from women at First UU and Wildflower churches.

The conference features opening and closing rituals, a variety of workshops on Saturday, Saturday night banquet entertainment by the Therapy Sisters, and special workshops and celebrations for young women (Maidens). The cost is \$125, which includes four meals. Registration brochures can be downloaded from the Live Oak Church Website at <http://www.liveoakuu.org/swuww.htm>. There are also brochures at First UU Church on the Women's Spirituality bulletin board, as well as articles about the conference in the SWWIRL Newsletter in the Gallery.



## **Parents' Group Happy Hour**

All UU Families are invited to the February Parents' Group Happy Hour at the home of Lyn Dean, 9901 Richelieu Road, on Saturday, February 22 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Bring some food to share; drinks and paper goods will be provided.

From intersection of MoPac and Hwy 183, take Hwy 183 North to Anderson Mill Road. Turn left on Anderson Mill Road to Olson (first stop light). Turn left on Olson. Olson dead-ends into Spicewood Parkway at a 3-way stop sign. Turn right on Spicewood Parkway. At first stop sign (another 3-way stop), turn right on Spicewood Club Drive. Go past golf course/ tennis courts about 1/4 to 1/2 mile. Turn left on Brandywine Circle (I think this is the third right off Spicewood Club Drive). Take immediate right turn onto Richelieu Road. The house is towards the end of the street on the right-hand side. Phone is 336-2553.

## **End-of-Month Party**

**Date and time:** Saturday, February 22, at 8 pm.

**Hosts:** Suzy and Bill Reid, 1104 Wayside. From Mopac, take the Enfield exit and go west. At the first light (Exposition) turn left. After one long block turn left on West 12th. Wayside is the second on the right, and 1104 is RIGHT THERE. When lost, call 474-2696.

**For:** Everyone, intergenerational UU's and friends.

**The why of it:** EOM parties stretch back into the mists of time and are a pleasant way of meeting new and old friends in a relaxed atmosphere.

**Bring:** A snack to share and your drink.

**Hosts are needed for future parties**, which are held on the last Saturday of the month. Your duties as host: lay in some disposable plates, cups and napkins, sweep the floor if you want, and turn your porch light on. To offer your home, call Kelly Teese at 927-2292 or Jean Wyllys at 926-6353.

## **International Folk Dancing**

Starting in March, on the first Monday of the month Jo Soto and Bruce Bostwick will facilitate a program in International Folk Dancing. The program will feature dances from many countries, with the focus on dance as village ritual. Dance has been a part of village life and the passing of the seasons for thousands of years. Modern choreographers have built on these age-old rituals and added modern innovations resulting in a blend of harmony and history that is rooted in the ancient dances.

The time is 7 to 9 pm. The cost is \$2. The place is Howson Hall. You do not need dance experience or a partner to come, teaching will be provided! For information contact Jo at jo.soto@mail.utexas.edu or 836-7974.

## **Wildflower Lunch Group**

The Wildflower lunch group has been expanded to include UU's from all over town. To keep it simple, it has been decided that we will meet for lunch at 12:30 pm at the same place every Sunday. The place where we will meet is the dining area at Central Market south. The emphasis will not be on how fancy the food will be but how we can enjoy a social time together. Feel free to order food from the cafe, buy it at the store, or bring your own lunch.

This will help visitors and friends know that there is always a place where they can drop by after church (at any of the 4 congregations in town) and have lunch with fellow UU's and their friends. Reservations not necessary; just show up!

## **Help Get the Good Times Rolling!**

Calling all party people! Come share your ideas for a spring all-church event at the Fellowship Committee planning meeting on Sunday, February 23 at 4:00 pm in Room 17. Contact people: Robert Dole, 916-8828, rdole@texas.net, and Jennifer Loehlin, 454-6196, jloehlin@hotmail.com.

## **Heritage Club**

Heritage Club, our lively book discussion group, will gather at the home of Kitty Clark at 8:00 pm Friday, February 14 (yes, Valentine's Day)! We'll discuss EMPIRE FALLS, by Richard Russo. This entertaining and rich novel will provoke a lot of discussion. Bring a snack and a drink to share and join us! For those who read ahead, our March book will be THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER AND CLAY by Michael Chabon.

## **Senior Luncheon**

The next meeting of the Senior Luncheon group is at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, March 11 in Howson Hall. Reservations are helpful for cooks, but, if you forget, come anyway.

## **Springtime Camp-outs and Sing-alongs**

**March 20-23 at U-bar-U** — Kerrville retreat center – Food supplied; indoor bunks available; yoga and work projects. Dogs allowed. If bad weather, we move inside. Phone early to reserve bunks: 385-8862 (Vince Harrison)

**April 18-20 at Krause Springs** -- It's beautiful, fun and easy. Best of all, it's only 35 miles. Skip the Easter crowd and relax in nature's own spiritual space.

## **UUADP Update**

There are five executions scheduled in Huntsville during February, on the 4th, 6th, 18th, 25th, and 26th of the month. Texas had 33 executions in 2002, nearly half of the US total of 71. Texas was the only state to execute juvenile offenders last year. Despite international protests, Texas executed 3 inmates who were under 18 at the time of the offense for which they were convicted. All were black. Executions occurred almost exclusively in the South, and Texas had three times as many as the total in the West, Midwest, and Northeast states combined.

According to the FBI's annual report, the South in 2001 again had the highest murder rate of the four regions of the country. Texas had an increase in its murder rate in 2001. States with the death penalty have consistently had a higher murder rate than states without it.

## **Invitation From the Intern Committee**

Your Intern Committee has been meeting regularly with Cathy Harrington and invites your feedback about her time here with us. We prepare evaluations of her ministry at mid-term and again in April. You may contact Sharon Moore, Chair, Caroline Hadley, Drew Bridges, Mary MacGregor or Clinton Hopper while you're here on Sunday mornings or you may contact Sharon at 349-2318 or spumonhighhol-low@msn.com. Thank you.

## **Tea Time with Cathy**

She's back from Nicaragua! Please stop by for a cup of tea with Cathy Harrington any Tuesday in February from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in Room 9.

## **Cold Weather Shelter Update and Report**

### **Freeze night Report for January 18, 2003**

The fourth cold weather shelter of the season for the First UU Church was held in Howson Hall and the church kitchen on Saturday, January 18, 2003. This was a VOYAGER staffed freeze night, coordinated by Chris Ford. Thanks to the VOYAGERS and Chris for doing this one. We had 30 homeless guests and 17 volunteers for the various tasks as follows:

Calling and Organizing: Leslie Hays (ARCH), Chris Ford

Overnight (10:00 pm to 7:00 am): Chris Ford, Alex Smallwood, Mark McPhearson, Sarah Palmer

Morning clean-up (6:00 am): Lyn Dean

Food, Service and hospitality: Michelle Bohls, Katie Malinski, Travis Coulhoun, Mary Jane Ford, Jason Kemp and Faith Librach, Chris Ford, Mark Kilpatrick, Rebecca Darr, Russell Eskew, Dan Goemans, Kari Ramachosloa, Satheesh

### **Freeze night Report for January 23, 2003**

The fifth cold weather shelter of the season for the First UU Church was held in Howson Hall and the church kitchen on Thursday, January 23, 2003. We had 50 homeless guests and 31 volunteers who helped with various tasks as follows:

Calling and Organizing: Leslie Hays (ARCH), Mary Jane Ford

Overnight (10:00 pm to 7:00 am): Bland Robinson, Laura Watters, Vince Harrison and Chris Peake

Morning clean-up (5:30 am): Eric Hartman and Charla Hathaway

Service and hospitality (6:30 pm to 10:00 pm): Mary Jane Ford, Bob Porter, Gretchen Paulig, Joy Cunningham, Phil & Molly Rodgers, Russell Eskew, Linda Gravotti, and Carolyn Grimminger

Food:

Nan Sechler: Ham tetrazini casserole for 12

Pete & Kim Akenhead: Beef stew for 20

Marilyn Wilson: Ground turkey spaghetti for 30

Betty Gross: 5 qts. chili with beans & 2 loaves bread

Marjorie Loehlin: Sloppy Joe's for 20

Leslie Smart: Bean & cheese casserole & tortillas for 10

Diane Bohman: Vegetarian chili for 10

Eric and Alane Kay: Raw broccoli and French bread

Joy Cunningham & Gretchen Paulig: Tangerines

Laura Wood & Upper Crust Bakery's donation: a big box of bread and rolls

Camille Hemlock: 36 Hard-boiled eggs & cornbread

Barbara Owens: 24 Hard-boiled eggs

Gail Daniels: 25 apples

Vanessa Smith: 25 apples

Emilia Martin: 1 gallon milk and cold drink cups

We are finally rid of the boxes of used blankets that were stored in the kitchen. They have been donated to a local animal shelter. ARCH will deliver blankets as needed in the future. Special thanks go out to Upper Crust Bakery for donating a big box of various breads and to Laura Wood for delivering them.

For information on the cold weather sheltering program on a city wide basis, call Leslie Hays of ARCH at 476-4396. To learn about our church's participation, call Mary Jane Ford at 926-4122 or the office at 452-6168.

## Events at a Glance

<p><b>Sun</b>    <b>VOLUNTEER FAIR THIS MORNING</b></p> <p><b>Feb 16</b>    9:30 AM    Sunday Service            10:30 AM    <b>NEW!</b> Pathfinder Covenant Group            10:35 AM    Book Discussion: Tears/Crying            10:40 AM    Tarot Investigation            11:30 AM    Sunday Service            11:30 AM    No Public Affairs Forum Today            3:00 PM    <i>Love Letters</i> from Paradox Players            3:30 PM    Reading the Bible Again for the First Time            4:00 PM    VOYAGer Navigators            5:00 PM    Camp Fire Meeting            5:20 PM    Sunday Night Live!            6:30 PM    YRUU            7:00 PM    Tai Chi</p> <p><b>Mon</b>    6:30 PM    New U Class</p> <p><b>Feb 17</b>    7:00 PM    Dream Drama            7:00 PM    Philo and Theo Book Group            7:00 PM    Open Covenant Group 1</p> <p><b>Tue</b>    <b>9:30 AM</b>    <b>Deadline for 2/23 Order of Service</b></p> <p><b>Feb 18</b>    3:00 PM    Tea Time with Cathy Harrington            6:00 PM    Board of Trustees            7:30 PM    Women's Spirituality</p> <p><b>Wed</b>    7:00 PM    New Member Orientation</p> <p><b>Feb 19</b>    7:30 PM    Choir Rehearsal            7:30 PM    <b>NEW!</b> Young Adult Religious Network</p> <p><b>Thu</b>    9:30 AM    Newsletter Mailing Day</p> <p><b>Feb 20</b>    6:30 PM    <b>NEW!</b> SNL Think Tank -- You're Invited!            7:00 PM    Living on Purpose            7:00 PM    Tai Chi</p> <p><b>Fri</b>    6:00 PM    YRUU Lock-in</p> <p><b>Feb 21</b>    7:00 PM    Practice -- One of Everything            8:00 PM    <i>Love Letters</i> from Paradox Players</p> <p><b>Sat</b>    YRUU LOCK-IN CONTINUES</p> <p><b>Feb 22</b>    10:30 AM    Women's Spirituality            8:00 PM    <i>Love Letters</i> from Paradox Players</p>	<p><b>Sun</b>    9:30 AM    Sunday Service</p> <p><b>Feb 23</b>    10:30 AM    Pathfinder Covenant Group            10:35 AM    Book Discussion: Tears/Crying            10:40 AM    Tarot Investigation            11:30 AM    Sunday Service            11:30 AM    Public Affairs Forum            1:00 PM    YRUU Rally Rover Training            1:00 PM    YPC Meeting            3:00 PM    <i>Love Letters</i> from Paradox Players            3:30 PM    Reading the Bible Again for the First Time            4:00 PM    Fellowship Committee            5:20 PM    Sunday Night Live!            6:30 PM    YRUU            7:00 PM    Tai Chi</p> <p><b>Mon</b>    6:30 PM    New U Class</p> <p><b>Feb 24</b>    7:00 PM    Dream Drama            7:00 PM    Philo and Theo Book Group            7:00 PM    Helping Hands and Hearts            7:00 PM    Finance Committee            7:30 PM    Readers' Theater</p> <p><b>Tue</b>    <b>9:30 AM</b>    <b>Deadline for 3/2 Order of Service</b></p> <p><b>Feb 25</b>    3:00 PM    Tea Time with Cathy Harrington            7:30 PM    Women's Spirituality</p> <p><b>Wed</b>    9:15 AM    Listening Ministry</p> <p><b>Feb 26</b>    7:30 PM    Y.A.R.N. (Young Adult Religious Network)            7:30 PM    Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><b>Thu</b>    7:00 PM    Living on Purpose</p> <p><b>Feb 27</b>    7:00 PM    Facilities Committee            7:00 PM    Tai Chi</p> <p><b>Fri</b>    <b>9:30 AM</b>    <b>Deadline for March 15 Newsletter</b></p> <p><b>Feb 28</b>    6:00 PM    Committee on Ministries            8:00 PM    YRUU Rally            7:00 PM    Practice Cancelled for One of Everything</p> <p><b>Sat</b>    YRUU RALLY CONTINUES</p> <p><b>Mar 1</b>    10:30 AM    Women's Spirituality</p>
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### **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).

February 16	Chop Sticks	6929 Airport Blvd.
February 23	El Mercado	7414 Burnet Road

### **...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  
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[www.AustinUU.org](http://www.AustinUU.org)

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## ***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)  
 On hiatus — details on page 7.

***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***

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>No Forum Today</b>  | <b>February 16, 11:30 am</b>                       |
| <b><i>Interviewing Stars: A Growth Experience</i></b><br><b>Dr. Ronald Davis</b> | <b>February 23, 11:30 am</b><br><b>Howson Hall</b> |

Between 1972 and 1992, Dr. Davis, educator and author, conducted or supervised some 500 lengthy oral history sessions with performers and craftspeople in the performing arts for the SMU Oral History Project (since his retirement, renamed the Ronald L. Davis Oral History Collection). Dr. Davis will discuss the benefit of this research to future writers and historians, and the impact on him and his team of interviewers.

### ***Public Forum on Cable Access Channel 10 Sundays at 6 PM***

- |             |              |   |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| February 16 | Eric Hartman | Facing the Test: Public Education in Texas  |
| February 23 | Dawna Dukes  | Issues in the Next (79th) Texas Legislature |