

The Austin Unitarian Universalist

One Church. Many Beliefs.

www.AustinUU.org

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Volume 52, No. 9

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

Sunday, May 4

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

The Goat in the Tree, and Other Miracles

Cathy Harrington

Everyday miracles, that can make life worth living, happen all around us in every moment. There's a wonderful greeting card about the humdrum of life (for those of us who sleep with our cats and can TOTALLY relate,) that says something like this, "Some days it's just not worth taking the cat off your face." We've all had days like that! But then, there are those other days. Days when we are awake and our eyes are wide open, and we make the choice to SEE the beauty in even a blade of grass, or we make the time to experience the joy of laughing with a friend, old or new, or stopping to look at the wonder of a goat in a tree! Waking up to everyday small miracles can make those days when some of us might prefer a face full of fur to facing the world, fewer and farther between.

African Drumming Ensemble **Umoya** will provide the music for the 5:20 service.

Sunday, May 11 — Mother's Day

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

Science, Religion and Life

Dr. Davidson Loehr

During April, I led four classes on science and religion. Few, it seems to me, understand the difference, where each has authority, and where each does not have authority. We live in an age when we trust sciences for the answers, but live with religious questions that sciences are not equipped to answer. As I tried to do with the other two eight-hour adult education classes I've done (The Jesus Seminar, and 2500 Years of Liberal Religion), I'll try here: summing it up in a sermon.

Special musical offering at the morning services. See page 3 for details.

Those groove-a-licious funky soulsters, **McLemore Avenue**, return to play music at the 5:20 service.

Vespers Services with Cathy Harrington

Friday, May 2 at 7:00 pm

Join us for a simple meal of soup and bread at 6:00 pm in Howson Hall followed by Vespers Services in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm. The Spiritual Book-of-the-Month Club meets at 8:00 pm in Room 9.

Special Sunday Sanctuary Times

The Sanctuary is open for prayer, silent meditation and candle lighting between morning services from 10:45 to 11:15 every Sunday. This will be ongoing until further notice.

**Come One...
Come All!**

**Spring
Congregational
Meeting**

Sunday, May 4

**Lunch at 12:30
\$5.00 Donation
Requested**

**Meeting
1:00 to 4:00**

**Childcare available by
reservation. Contact
Jessica Porter at
jessica@austinuu.org**

Holiday Office Closing

The church office will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 26. Please check with the contact people for events on that day to see which ones will meet and which may be rescheduled. Thank you.

Newsletter Deadlines

Articles (due by 9:30 am)

Fri. May 2 (for May 15 issue)
Fri. May 16 (for June 1 issue)
Fri. May 30 (for June 15 issue)

Mailing Days

Thursday May 8
Thursday May 22
Thursday June 5

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

Davidson's Lore

For me, the single most frustrating aspect of our new series of wars is that the administration and media have successfully, though wrongly, managed to package the war as a partisan event: Republicans are (presumably) for it, Democrats are (presumably) against it. During the past couple months I've done five hours of radio interviews with a retired surgeon in California who defines himself (as his listeners also do) as "a right-wing evangelical Christian." He's also a Republican, with little good to say about Democrats.

Yet in five hours, we found that we agreed on almost every issue involved in this administration's manipulation of 9-11 (along the lines of the Reichstag fire of 1933), the draining of our economy to benefit only the very rich, the use of NAFTA to drain Mexico's economy to the same end, the economic greed driving the imperialism that is really the motive behind the series of invasions of Iraq, Syria, Iran and others. We belong to different political parties, religions, have diametrically opposed opinions on most of the day's important social issues, yet we — and almost every listener who called in — agreed on virtually everything about the destruction of democracy, the rise of fascism and the lies and deceptions behind our invasion of another sovereign nation and slaughter of thousands of its innocent people.

Yet in the society at large, these discussions seem nearly impossible across political or religious party lines. Nobody is asking any of the questions necessary to explore the motives behind the wars. Those are not partisan issues; they're questions that all Americans should be discussing, regardless of political orientation. And there is plenty of information available for discussing them.

One topic would be the morality of pre-emptive, or preventive, war. We are being led to believe it's in keeping with America's ideals to declare preventive war, to invade and replace the regimes of countries which have never attacked us, but which have economic or military resources and locations that we covet. Here is a different perspective from two significant American leaders from half a century ago:

"All of us have heard this term 'preventive war' since the earliest days of Hitler. I recall that is about the first time I heard it. In this day and time...I don't believe there is such a thing; and, frankly, I wouldn't even listen to anyone seriously that came in and talked about such a thing." --President Dwight Eisenhower, 1953, upon being presented with plans to wage preventive war to disarm Stalin's Soviet Union. Eisenhower had been the five-star general in charge of all allied forces that won WWII.

"Our position is that whatever grievances a nation may have, however objectionable it finds the status quo, aggressive warfare is an illegal means for settling those grievances or for altering those conditions." --Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, the American prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials, in declaring these tactics of Nazi Germany to be war crimes.

When I preached about the "New American Century" project last September, and its plan to use our lone superpower status to seize economic and military domination of the world, some thought it seemed a far-left-wing, extremely unlikely view. But now William Kristol, the chair of this project, has appeared on national radio and television programs, calmly saying that yes, this has been the plan, yes, we intend to control both Syria and Iran next, and, yes, this is indeed the plan that the Bush administration has followed since 2000. So it's not partisan to suggest such a thing; it's

(Continued on page 4)

Membership Matters

Please Welcome Some of Our Newest Members!

Catherine Weaver writes, "I returned to Texas in 2000 after many years away and intend to settle in Austin after I complete my Master's in counseling. I joined because of the energy, courage, and dedication displayed at every level of this congregation – I feel at home."

Jacqueline Rixen is an attorney (business law; real estate) who enjoys reading, gardening, travel, and exercise, and is interested in an open-minded exploration of spirituality and theology.

Cate Bergman tells us that she is an outdoor-oriented person, busy doing field botany for her Master's degree, teaching entomology, gardening next door at Sunshine Gardens, and loving Austin for all its green open spaces. "I look forward to meeting lots of new and fascinating UU's."

Noelle Davis, an Outreach Coordinator for the Drug Policy Forum of Texas, moved here a couple of years ago from Fort Wayne, Indiana. She's been active with the League of Women Voters, and her interests include singing, dancing, and taekwondo.

Vangie and David Gardner: David is a technical writer with an interest in filmmaking; Vangie is a Music Specialist for Lake Pointe Elementary School who enjoys making jewelry in addition to music. You may also find David and Vangie out on their bikes enjoying Austin and all its beauties!

"New U" Class

Ready to find out what a UU really is and if/why you may have always been one? Join other new and prospective members for a four-session class exploring UU history, participants' individual spiritual journeys, First Church history and decision-making process, and the programs, groups, and committees that keep us functioning.

Clinton Hopper will facilitate this class, which is scheduled for four consecutive Saturday mornings, May 3, 10, 17, and 24, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Class size is limited, so register early! You can sign up at the Membership Table in the Gallery after services.

(Continued on page 9)

The First UU Choir Presents:

FERN HILL

by John Corigliano

Sunday, May 11 at the 9:30 and 11:30 am services

Experience John Corigliano's 16-minute musical setting of Dylan Thomas' celebrated poem. The Choir will be joined by a chamber orchestra comprising musicians from the Austin Symphony Orchestra, Barbwire Music Project, Tosca, and David Byrne's band.

New York composer John Corigliano was recently awarded the 2001 Pulitzer Prize in Music for his *Symphony No. 2* and received an Oscar in 2000 for his film score, "The Red Violin." He is internationally celebrated as one of the leading composers of his generation.

Tea Time with Cathy Harrington

Please stop by for a cup of tea with Cathy Harrington any Tuesday in May from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in Room 9.



Have you Given to the Memorial Endowment Fund?

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!

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 Listening Ministry member will try to return your call within a day.

A Liberal View

Watch *A Liberal View* on ACTV, Cable Channel 11, at 6:00 pm each Wednesday. Check listings at www.austinuu.org.

UU Garage Sale – Donate Now

The UU Parents Group is requesting donations for the **UU Garage Sale**, which will take place on **Saturday, May 17**. We will be accepting **all items for donation** including clothes, furniture, household goods, etc. **Drop off times** are on **Sunday, May 4 and Sunday, May 11** after each service, including SNL. You may also bring items to the Congregational meeting on May 4. We will provide each donor a tax receipt. Thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information contact Nancy Reiter at 452-3550 or nreiter@texas.net.

All-Church Going Away Party for Cathy Harrington!!!

All are invited to Saturday Night Live on Saturday, July 26, at 7:00 pm in Howson Hall. Please bring either an appetizer or a dessert to share and your own drinks. Cathy has cooked for a lot of us; now it's our turn to cook for her! We invite all church musicians to bring instruments and perform for Cathy. You can even wear your Texas duds and give her a big, fun going away celebration. We have loved having her among us. To help with this party, call Sharon Moore at 349-2318.

All Young Adults

The Young Adult Religious Network (Y.A.R.N.) invites young adults (old enough to vote!) to meet with us on Wednesday evenings at the church from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. If you can't come on Wednesdays, get on our telephone or e-list! For more information contact Rev. Kathleen Ellis, facilitator, at revktellis@aol.com or 447-3053.

(Continued from page 2)

Davidson's Lore – continued

factual.

Yet these revelations change the entire story, it seems to me. And the change between the official story and the real one remind me of another well-known story — and an epilogue to it you may never have heard.

The story is *Hansel and Gretel* from the Grimm Brothers' fairy tales. It's a simple story of an innocent young boy and girl, captured by an evil witch who was going to eat them, until they managed to push her into one of her own ovens and escape. There's no subtlety here, no question of who was good and who was evil. Witches are bad, innocent children are good. Justice prevailed. The End.

In 1964 or 1965, however, a very unusual book was published in Germany — still not translated into English — called Die Wahrheit Über Hansel und Gretel ("The Truth about Hansel and Gretel"). It turns out that the story wasn't what it seemed to be. It was, amazingly, a true story in disguise.

Hansel and Gretel, for starters, weren't children. They were Hans and Greta Metzger, the founders of Germany's famous Lebkuchen Company, which still exists (you can buy Lebkuchen in boxes shaped like gingerbread houses). And the "witch" wasn't a witch at all, but a competitor. She was a young woman who baked better cookies from her place in the Hexenwelder, or "Witch's Woods," not far from Frankfurt.

The Metzgers tried to buy her recipe to put her out of business, but she refused. Next, they brought charges of witchcraft against her. The book's author reproduced the trial transcripts from the early 1700s. They even showed an artist's drawing of her house, with cooling racks constructed around it making it look like a house of cookies, and three large commercial baking ovens in front. She made fools of the Metzgers, and the charges were thrown out. End of case.

Except that the Lebkuchen recipe didn't change, meaning the Metzgers didn't get it from her. What happened to the witch/baker? The author excavated one of the three hills in the "Witch's Woods," where he unearthed the woman's cabin — with its front door torn off the hinges. He also found three baking ovens in front. Inside one of them was the long-dead body of a young woman who died, apparently, either of strangulation or a broken neck, and was then stuffed into a warm oven, apparently murdered by or at the direction of Hans and Greta Metzger.

In a cellar, behind a loose rock, he found a very old cookie recipe. When he had commercial bakers make it, using materials comparable to those of the early 18th century, the cookies tasted like Lebkuchen — but distinctly better.

So the innocent person was the "witch" after all, and the evil characters were the "children."

Isn't that something? Learn just a few new facts, and the whole nature of a story can change, as well as the picture of just where, and with whom, resided the good and evil.

Davidson



Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

A Harry Potter book release party has been scheduled for the morning of Saturday, June 21st.

More details will be announced closer to the date.

Internal Reflections

ATTENTION EVERYONE! A VERY IMPORTANT DAY IS APPROACHING!

Mother's Day is May 11. What a great idea, Mother's Day. I was curious about the history of Mother's Day, so I looked on the Internet and here is what I found.

"The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. During the 1600's, England celebrated a day called "Mothering Sunday". Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent (the 40 day period leading up to Easter*), "Mothering Sunday" honored the mothers of England. During this time many of the England's poor worked as servants for the wealthy. As most jobs were located far from their homes, the servants would live at the houses of their employers. On Mothering Sunday the servants would have the day off and were encouraged to return home and spend the day with their mothers."

Davidson jokes that I am the "slave" around here, so guess what? This "servant" is going to have Mother's Day off! And, this will be a very special Mother's Day for me, indeed! I am flying to South Carolina to gather with my family, honor my mother, and to attend my youngest child's college graduation. (Pardon me while I brag a little) Leslie will graduate from the University of Georgia with a B.A. in Philosophy. Three for three. My oldest son, (oh my goodness, he's thirty-three,) Paul, has a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Clemson University, and he is working on an M.B.A. My son, Andy (age twenty-nine,) has a B.A. in Music from Lander University, and is beginning a master's degree in the fall. This has been my hope and dream for each of my children, that they would have the chance to go to college.

I have been a mother all of my adult life. Well, actually, even before that. I was hardly an adult when that beautiful redheaded baby boy was placed in my arms twelve days after my eighteenth birthday. I was a mere child. A terrified child. I remember lying awake all night watching him

(Continued on page 8)

New Books in the Church Library

Hey, everybody! Y'all will really want to get down to the Church Library to see all the new books. Remember, it's in Room 11.

1. Our Chosen Faith - An Introduction to Unitarian-Universalism. By John Buhrens and F. Forrester Church.
2. Protestants and Catholics - Do They Now Agree? By John Ankerberg and John Weldon.
3. Gods of This Age, or God of the Ages. By Carl F. H. Henry.
4. God in America - Religion and Politics in the U.S. By Furio Colombo.
5. The American Religion. By Harold Bloom.
6. The Scripture of Truth. By George and Charolette Syme.
7. Protestant Christianity. By John Dillenberger and Claude Welch.
8. Who Speaks for God? - An Alternative to the Religious Right. By Jim Welles.
9. Counterfeit Revival. By Hank Hanergraaff.
10. The Sunday School Manifesto - In the Image of Her?? By Elizabeth Dobson Gray.
11. Spirit Moves - Six Generations of Native Women. By Loree Boyd.
12. The Hero Within - Six Archetypes We Live By. By Carol S. Pearson.

Jean McDermott, Librarian
441-5754 or pjmcd@texas.net

New Talent Recognized at Old Settlers Music Festival

Congratulations to I-B Kids, winners of the second youth talent competition at the 2003 Old Settler's Music festival. Kathleen, Mignon, and Will Isaacs-Bryant sang three wonderful songs a cappella on the festival's Bluebonnet stage April 19. The contest, judged by three local folk entertainers, featured six highly talented ensembles and solo performers. The first prize award allowed the I-B kids to perform on the festival's main stage just before the Del McCrory Band, plus they received a \$200 gift certificate and professional feedback from the judges. Congratulations also to their parents, Mary K. and Martin, for helping to nurture their children's talents!

Spread the Word! Get a T-shirt.

Sunday Night Live! Wants to help any group in the church who would like to get T-shirts. Each group's shirt will be unique, but all of the T-shirts will be a similar style and say the same thing on the back. Contact Chris Heidel at 694-5870 or chris@chrisandtoby.com for more information.

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 452-6168, ext. 18 (Helping Hands/Hearts).

Children's Program Committee Meeting

Second Tuesdays
May 13 6:30 pm
Room 11

Childcare by reservation only

Youth Program Committee Meeting

Room 9
Next meeting to be announced

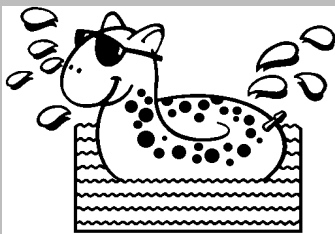
YRUU

Youth Group for 14-19 year olds
Meets most Sundays at
6:30pm, Room 11

Looking Ahead



May 3 - Curriculum Planning
May 18 - All-Church Picnic
and SPLASH DAY!!!



Aug 4-8 - Camp UU&Me



You Can Help Select Next Year's Curricula

Please consider being part of the group that will meet in retreat on **May 3, from 9am - 2pm**. We will review the past years' programs, look at what things we consider essential for our children and youth to learn and plan for our next programming year. If you are interested, please contact Phyllis Barron, PhyllisBarron@austin.rr.com or 301-9045.

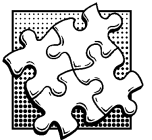
Child Dedication



Our minister is planning a child dedication service for Mother's Day, May 11, 2003. This voluntary Child Dedication is the formal introduction of children to the larger church family. In the ceremony the children are named before the faith community, acknowledging them as individuals and as an integral part of the church. If your children have not been dedicated in our church, please contact Andrea or Davidson to have them included!!

Family Fun Night - Saturday, May 10, 5-8pm

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. Childcare for toddlers by reservation. RSVP to Phyllis Barron (see above)



"Camp UU&Me" Summer Plans

As you make plans for your summer, remember that Camp UU and Me will be held **August 4-8, 2003**, for children entering 1st through 6th grades. Registration form available at church. If you have any questions or suggestions, or if you would like to help with the camp, please contact Nahdiah Hoang at nahdiah@hotmail.com or 458-3680.

YPC RE-Cruitment - We Need You!!

Our Youth Program Committee is made up of youth and adults working together to oversee youth programming - both religious education and social programming. This year this group spearheaded the popular book sale - raising funds toward a heritage trip to Boston. Next year, we'll plan the trip, along with other great youth programming!

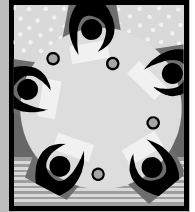
Two youth and one parent are selected by YRUU and also by the middle school youth. A YRUU advisor is selected by YRUU, and a middle school teacher and a high school teacher are chosen by the teaching teams. The DRE selects 3 at-large High School youth and a High School parent. These positions are your chance to make a difference for the youth programming. Please make your wish to be part of this vibrant group known to the DRE or appropriate group for consideration for YPC membership beginning in May.



DRE Search Committee Progress

Our DRE Search Committee has heard from several applicants. They would like to hear your thoughts about religious education leadership. The committee will be available on Sunday May 4, from 10:45-11:15 in Room 13.

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE RECRUITING!



IF:

- ◆ If you have an interest in what kinds of classes we offer at our church-
- ◆ If you've had experience in teaching or recruiting teachers-
- ◆ If you can come to one meeting per month on the first Thursday at 7pm-
- ◆ If you can staff the Adult RE table one Sunday per month after each morning service
- ◆ If you want to take as many classes each year *FOR FREE* as you like-
- ◆ If you enjoy meeting new people and encouraging them to take a class and get to know us better-

THEN: You just might like joining our committee for this next year. Our next meeting is....

Adult RE Committee Mtg

Thursday, May 1 7:00pm Room 13

This is a fun, interesting committee! For more info, contact Sharon Moore 349-2318 spumonhighhollow@msn.com

CONTINUING...

Spiritual Book Club

First Fridays, after Vespers, 8pm, Rm 9 Cathy Harrington

Evensong I

Wednesdays, 7-9pm, April 2 - May 21, Room 11



SIGN UP FOR CLASSES in the gallery after service!!

Beginning Quilting

Saturday, 9am-4pm, May 3, Gallery, Kae Mc Laughlin will teach. Cost is \$10 plus supplies. Please pick up a supply list at Adult RE table on Sundays.

America's Role in the World

Wednesday, 7-9pm, May 7, Room 13, Carrie Stewart would like to invite you to a forum/discussion group on Americans' Role in the World. She recently became involved with a project the LBJ Presidential Library & Museum, along with KLRU, is sponsoring in support of a national MacNeil/Lehrer production called By The People. PBS launched this nationwide discussion on America's foreign policy in January through a two-hour broadcast which brought a cross-section of several hundred citizens together to discuss this issue. The LBJ Library, along with other partner groups, now wants to replicate this discussion locally through smaller groups across central Texas. KLRU will hold a televised forum that also highlights this local initiative, and the Library will prepare a report on the results of these forums. Additionally, on May 22, there will be a follow-up program on the Lehrer NewsHour to be aired nationally.

If you would like to review the briefing materials prior to our forum, go to http://www.pbs.org/newshour/btp/role.html. This site will also tell you more about the national By the People project. The framework for the discussion is setup by the National Issues Forum, a nonpartisan research group which promotes deliberative forums on various national and local issues. (See http://www.nifi.org/) This forum will be limited to twelve participants. Please contact Carrie at 350-9030 or cls2001@swbell.net if you would like to participate.

Parlez-vous Francais?

All interested in meeting for free French conversation classes with Claudie Aguilar may e-mail her at frogca@ev1.net. She will ask you about your past experience with the language, how often and when you can meet, and how long the sessions should be. She will host sessions in her home off of St. John's or in a church classroom. Let her know ASAP if you are interested.

Watch for the return of Dream Drama in October!

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 - Why Religion Matters by Houston Smith. Call Jim Burson 794-1086 or jeburson@aol.com for more info.

Mind & Meaning Book Group - Room 13A - Please call Polly Robertus 371-3257 for information about the current book under discussion, as it has not been chosen at the time of this newsletter.

Tai Chi

We regret that is no longer being offered at the church

For info on other venues, call Nell at 458-4903 or enewton@hoovers.com

Folk Dancing

First Mondays, 7-9pm

Everyone is invited to the church's Howson Hall the first Monday of every month through August for International Folk dancing lessons. The cost is \$2 per lesson taught by Jo Soto and Bruce Bostwick. Join us!



Paradox Players Theater Call

You don't have to be an actor to be a "player." Paradox Players is busy refining the structural base of our theater group. Areas of current opportunity include just about every talent you can think of, from being friendly to being a generous cook. If you have organizational abilities, or web or computer or marketing or publicity or grant-writing skills, we'll give you a standing ovation! We want to strengthen our structure before launching into preparations for the fall production.

Please contact Paullette MacDougal, Artistic Director, (pmfm@aol.com, or 349-7405) ASAP with your area of interest **before** May 15, to discuss how you can participate. If you enjoy theater from either side of the floodlights, now is the time to step forward so that we can open the fall season with a solid structure in place.

Readers' Theater continues in the comedy vein on Monday, May 19 at 7:30 in Room 17. All are welcome, no experience necessary, just the shared pleasure of reading aloud.

May in the Gallery

Colors abound in watercolors and oils! Come see another side of UU Story for All Ages performer Lisa Sutton! This time, the show she's doing has nothing to do with our house band, One of Everything. She celebrates the essence of life with kooky critters. Her landscapes move viewers along paths capturing the energy of a moment. May 3 through June 4. Come talk to the artist and celebrate from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Saturday, May 17.

Visit Our Native Gardens

Our church wildscape is an unusual treasure. Take a few minutes to stroll the beautiful paths and see the ever-changing display of native flowers and plants. Run barefoot through the thick buffalo grass, or sit quietly on one of the benches and watch the butterflies work. Please walk only on the paths, grass, stones, or cement. Avoid the flowerbeds where delicate plants and shrubs can be easily harmed by errant feet.



(Continued from page 5)

Internal Reflections—continued

sleep in the cradle, in complete awe and wonder at this tiny creature that was somehow a part of me. I didn't know that I could love anyone or anything that much. With that awareness came tremendous fear and a powerful mother instinct began to grow. Over the years I developed a lioness kind of protectiveness that was to fuel me through the trials and hardship of single parenting.

Thank God for my dear mother, whose gentle, loving and confident hands taught me how to be a mother. Goodness, when I think of what I put her through! Talk about the patience of Job. She was a hard act to follow. Impossible act to follow, so I gave up trying. And now, she is a great-grandmother. My children and my granddaughter ADORE her. I always imagined that when I became a grandmother, my mother would move up to the esteemed "Greatmother" title that we gave my grandmother when my children were born. But since I was away when Abby was born, she learned to call my mother "Grammie." So I was presented to her as another "Grammie" and it stuck. I am, and always will be, 'Nother Grammie. I have joked that if Mom and I were drowning in a lake, they would save her first. Yep. Fortunately, I'm a good swimmer.

I have simply accepted that I will always be a less-than-perfect mother, but in spite of it all, they have turned out pretty good. I just gave it my all and then when my baby went away to college, I discovered that there IS life after children! NO empty nest syndrome for me, I'll tell you. YAHOO, free at last, free at last.

Do I miss it? Maybe, every once in a while, when I see a young mother holding and rocking an infant, I remember. I can even still smell that sweet newborn scent that God/Nature must have put there on purpose, to trick us, so that mothers will commit to ANYTHING. Dirty diapers, baby barf, NO sleep, and not to mention the terrible twos! And then God, in Her infinite wisdom, made the teenage years so that when the time comes to let them go, we're ready. I have always loved the bumper sticker that reads, "Get revenge, live long enough to be a burden to your children."

But the truth is, my children raised me. They taught me patience, they taught me how to love, they taught me humility, and they made me strong and courageous. I am who I am today because of them. Children will bring out the worst in you at times, but they will force you to expand far beyond the normal boundaries of human potential. In spite of the fact that there were times when I longed for a band of gypsies to show up at my door and take them off my hands, I cherish my years of motherhood. All of it, and now I can look back and say, it is good...

and THANK GOD I'm finished!

Happy Mothers Day!
Cathy Harrington

A Bit of Chat & Craft Club History...

In 1966 Elizabeth Montgomery (not the actor) had some quilt tops and asked Lucy Shelton and Alice Zacco to make a quilt, which they did, with the cooperation of the Women's Alliance. In 1968 Catie Dean, Lucy and Alice started the Craft Club, which became known as Chat and Craft only last year. Stop by the Gallery on Tuesday, May 13 or May 27 from 10:00 am to noon to find out why this group is still going strong after 35 years! For more information call Carol Purdy at 926-3258.

May Sharing Suppers

You're invited! This month's event, on Saturday, May 17, will give you a chance to make new friends or renew acquaintances before the long hot summer arrives. These adult potlucks are held in UU homes the third Saturday of every month. Participants take turns as guests and hosts. Dinners are sit-down or buffet, for about 6 to 12 people. More information and the sign-up sheet are posted next to Davidson's office; or contact coordinator Barbara Tuttle, 794-2972 (hrtytutl@onr.com). Your host will call to invite you and to plan the meal, early in the week of the supper.

Is it your turn to host? Talk with Barbara or any other participant for ideas. Please, give it a try, to give your past host a night out. Or volunteer your hosting talents at someone else's home, as a co-host. You'll be glad you did! (Tips for all participants: if you sign up, we consider it a commitment, so please check the signup sheet and remove your name before the deadline if your plans change, to keep from disappointing your host!)

(Continued from page 3)

Membership Matters — continued

Orientation Evenings

Orientation Evenings take place on the third Wednesday of every month. Join **Dr. Davidson Loehr** on **May 21** 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, May 25.

We encourage all new or prospective members to attend one of the monthly Orientation Evenings as well as one of the New U Classes.

Senior Singles Group

If you are interested in helping start a singles group for seniors, please contact Nan Bracker at 928-9002.

Senior Luncheon

UU Senior Luncheon group meets at 12:00 noon Tuesday, May 13 in Howson Hall. Phone church to reserve, but if you forget, come anyway. \$3 donation. Discussion: Your Dreams/Your Nightmares.

Heritage Club

Heritage Club, our lively book discussion group that meets in various homes, will meet at 8:00 pm, Friday, May 9 at the home of Jean Davison, 9333 Notches Drive, in South Austin. For directions call 280-5313. We'll discuss *WEALTH AND DEMOCRACY* by Kevin Phillips. Bring a friend and a snack and drink to share. For those who read ahead, our June book will be the newly selected "Book for Austin," *HOLE*s, by Louis Sachar.

End-of-Month Party

Saturday, May 31 at 8:00 pm

Hosts: Kathleen Ellis and Jon Montgomery, 800 Theresa

For: Everyone, intergenerational UUs and friends

Bring: A snack and a drink to share

Directions: Going west on 6th Street, take exit for Loop 1 N, then at the Y fork, bear right to Theresa. Or call 472-8802.

HOSTS ARE NEEDED FOR FUTURE PARTIES, which are always held on the last Saturday of the month. Your duties as host are to lay in some disposable tableware and turn your porch light on.

To offer your house, home or hovel for a future month, contact Kelly Teese at 927-2292 or Jean Wyllys at 926-6353.

What's Your Vision for Religious Education?

Come share your thoughts on religious education leadership with the Director of Religious Education Search Committee Sunday, May 4 from 10:45 to 11:15 in Room 13.

All Invited to Forum Committee Meeting

The Public Affairs Forum Committee will meet Wednesday, May 14 at 7:30 pm in the church Gallery to plan the fall schedule. The meeting is open to the public. All persons with suggestions for speakers are welcome to present their ideas at the meeting (5 minutes per presentation), or submit ideas in writing by placing them in the forum committee box in the church office. Persons interested in joining the committee are definitely invited (only 2 meetings a year). For questions, contact Cris Cunningham, Committee Chair, at 451-7172.

SWUUSI July 20 to 25

The Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SWUUSI) is an annual extended family gathering at Lake Texoma State Park and Resort in Oklahoma, sponsored by the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Conference (SWUUC). This year's theme is "The Spirituality of Ecstasy: A New Theology for Unitarian Universalists."

There are opportunities for people of all ages and interests to develop or enrich their Unitarian Universalist identity. Do a lot or do a little; choose workshops and activities that suit your interests and energy level.

For more information pick up a booklet in the Gallery on Sundays or in the church office during the week or go to www.swuuc.org/swuusi.

President's Corner

We recently had the opportunity to hear from our UUA Southwest District president, Mark Westergard, when he made a visit to our church. Mark talked about many things, including the concept of the focus of our church's work being transformation rather than maintenance. He reminded us of our Unitarian Universalist covenant—one that is repeated every Sunday in some UU churches:

Love is the doctrine of this church,
The quest of truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve human need,
To the end that all souls shall grow into harmony with the Divine -
Thus do we covenant with each other and with God.

Though the words may seem foreign and antiquated to some, the idea of making a solemn agreement with one another that, together, we will seek truth and help one another is a covenant I embrace. I wanted to use this opportunity to remind myself of my relationship with each of you.

One of the ways we attempt to put our covenant into practice is to conduct the business of the church at our board meetings, ever mindful of why we come together. At the April board meeting we:

- ✓ approved a new Minister's Discretionary Fund policy
- ✓ appointed members of the DRE Search Committee
- ✓ adopted a new Personnel Policy Manual
- ✓ appointed two new members of the U Bar U Board
- ✓ adopted an updated list of Affiliated Organizations
- ✓ approved a proposed bylaws amendment changing terms of elected members of the Nominating Committee from one-year to staggered, three-year terms

Though the work of the board appears to be of the "maintenance" variety, I hope the process by which we conduct our business is reflective of our covenant, and that our sacred agreement about how we will work together becomes transformative.

Donna

Donna Howard
President, Board of Trustees

Lights, Camera...

Have you seen the UUA shows ("Public Affairs Forum" and "A Liberal View") on Austin's cable? You might notice the quality isn't great. You can help improve that!! The Media Committee is in the middle of a fundraiser trying to purchase a new camera kit. We have 19% of the \$5,500 needed to make drastic improvements in audio and video. You can make direct contributions to the Media Committee Restricted Fund, or contact the committee chair, Allen Irby, at alleni@mac.com for more information.



***** Join the Sunday Lunch Bunch *****

Sociables is an informal lunch gathering each Sunday. All are invited. Folks start arriving around 1:15. In the meantime, we're out to lunch.

May 4	Austin Diner	5408 Burnet Rd.
May 11	Chop Sticks	6929 Airport Blvd.

**New Sociables
Coordinator Needed**

Join Us Sunday Evening for a Movable Feast!

All are invited to attend dinner with us after Sunday Night Live beginning at 7:00 pm. Check the poster board outside the office for details on Sunday evenings. If no host is listed that week, the Movable Feast will be held at Central Market 4001 North Lamar Blvd. 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.

Events at a Glance

<p>Sun May 4</p> <p>9:00 AM Small Business Owners Covenant Group 9:30 AM Sunday Service 10:45 AM DRE Leadership Meeting 11:30 AM Sunday Service 11:30 AM Public Affairs Forum 12:30 PM Lunch before Congregational Meeting 1:00 PM Spring Congregational Meeting 5:20 PM Sunday Night Live! 5:30 PM Camp Fire 6:30 PM RE/YRUU 7:00 PM Tai Chi</p> <p>Mon May 5</p> <p>7:00 PM Open Covenant Group 7:00 PM International Folk Dancing</p> <p>Tue May 6</p> <p>9:30 AM Deadline for May 11 Order of Service 3:00 PM Tea Time with Cathy Harrington 6:00 PM Executive Committee 6:30 PM Strategic Planning Committee 7:30 PM Women's Spirituality</p> <p>Wed May 7</p> <p>9:15 AM Listening Ministry 6:45 PM Worship Services Committee 7:00 PM Evensong 1 7:00 PM Americans' Role in the World 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Y.A.R.N. (Young Adult Religious Network)</p> <p>Thu May 8</p> <p>9:30 AM Newsletter Mailing 6:30 PM Membership Committee 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Intern Supervision Committee 7:00 PM Tai Chi</p> <p>Fri May 9</p> <p>8:00 PM Heritage Club</p> <p>Sat May 10</p> <p>8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM New U Class 10:30 AM Women's Spirituality 5:00 PM Family Fun Night</p>	<p>Sun May 11</p> <p>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 AM Sunday Service 10:30 AM Parents Group 11:30 AM Sunday Service 11:30 AM Public Affairs Forum 4:00 PM VOYAGers Navigators 5:20 PM Sunday Night Live! 5:30 PM Camp Fire 6:30 PM RE/YRUU 7:00 PM Tai Chi</p> <p>Mon May 12</p> <p>7:00 PM International Folk Dancing</p> <p>Tue May 13</p> <p>9:30 AM Deadline for May 18 Order of Service 10:30 AM Chat and Craft 12:00 PM Senior Luncheon 3:00 PM Tea Time with Cathy Harrington 6:30 PM RE/CPC Committee 7:30 PM Women's Spirituality</p> <p>Wed May 14</p> <p>6:30 PM Evensong 1 7:00 PM Stewardship Committee 7:30 PM Forum Committee 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Young Adult Religious Network</p> <p>Thu May 15</p> <p>6:30 PM SNL Think Tank 7:00 PM Tai Chi</p> <p>Fri May 16</p> <p>9:30 AM Deadline for June 1 Newsletter</p> <p>Sat May 17</p> <p>PARENTS GROUP ANNUAL GARAGE SALE SHARING SUPPERS 10:00 AM New U Class 10:30 AM Women's Spirituality 7:00 PM Gallery Art Reception</p>
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**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

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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

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 on TV in room 21, or leave their children with our childcare staff in room 19.

Public Forum "Live" Sundays - Howson Hall at First UU Church of Austin

- Elevate Austin!** **May 4, 11:30 am**
Michael Dibrino, Founder Austin Monorail Project
 If you want to lighten your load, you don't add more weight. Hear why the Austin Monorail Project believes the solution to our traffic problems is elevated monorail, and rejects the idea of adding dozens of 100,000-pound "light rail" vehicles to Austin streets. Monorail can be constructed for the same dollars, does not cause businesses to close, can be constructed at the rate of a mile per month, and has many other advantages.
- Results** **May 11, 11:30 am**
Mark Coats and Eloise Sutherland
 Mark Coats and Eloise Sutherland of RESULTS will share powerful strategies for ending hunger and the worst aspects of poverty in the world. RESULTS' key strategy is to generate the political will for the U.S. and other countries to allocate sufficient resources to combat the global pandemics of AIDS and tuberculosis.

Public Forum on Cable Access Channel 10 Sundays at 6 PM

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|--------|----------------------------|---|
| May 4 | Will Harrell | An ACLU Perspective on the 78th Texas Legislature |
| May 11 | Alan Pogue & D'Ann Johnson | Scenes from Iraq |