

# The Austin Unitarian Universalist

*One Church. Many Beliefs.*

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

## Sunday, June 1

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

### ***The Prodigal Son's Soliloquy***

**Davidson Loehr**

I started writing soliloquies for the four characters in this parable nearly fifteen years ago, but stopped after writing the soliloquies for the Older Brother and the Fatted Calf. In good stories, each character plays a different role and has a different perspective, just as in life. I was surprised while writing the first two, to notice that each character quickly developed its own style and integrity, and I found myself following the characters rather than leading them. On May 25th I did the Father's Soliloquy, this will finish the quartet.

**Shadow Box** provides world fusion music for the 5:20 service.

## Sunday, June 8

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

### ***The Last Duet***

**Davidson Loehr and Cathy Harrington**

We thought it might be interesting to look back over this year of Cathy's ministerial internship, at her experience and at mine. We did an impromptu version of this in January at her seminary in Berkeley, covering the anticipation, initiation and conclusion of the intern experience, but thought it might be useful for all of us if we tried to make an expanded version into a sermon, our final duet together (Cathy will be preaching several more times in June and July before she leaves).

Music for the 5:20 service **to be announced**. Check our website at [www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org) for an update.

## **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.

## **Vespers Services with Cathy Harrington**

**New Day and Time: Wednesday, June 18**

**Potluck: 6:00 pm**

**Vespers: 7:00 pm**

**Spiritual Book Club: 7:30 pm (details on page 7)**

The new day for Vespers is an experiment to try a mid-week time during the summer that might be suitable to more folks. The potluck supper begins at 6:00, and everyone is invited. Bring a dish to share if you can, and, if you can't, you are invited to join us anyway. Worship will be from 7:00-7:30. A simple service of music, meditation, candle lighting, and prayer. A special time for rest and renewal. Anyone wishing to participate in providing music for the service, please contact Cathy Harrington at 452-2560. **Children are invited** to attend the worship service. Childcare will be available by reservation only by contacting Jessica Porter at [jessica@austinuu.org](mailto:jessica@austinuu.org).

## **Well Done! Congratulations to:**

FUUCA bookkeeper **Lyndsay Bowen** on her graduation from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies.

FUUCA YPC assistant **Carrie Evans-Gonzalez** on her graduation from the University of Texas at Austin with a Master of Arts degree in English—Creative Writing.



### **Holiday Office Closing**

The church office will be closed for **Independence Day on Friday, July 4**. Please check with the contact people for events on that day to see which ones will meet and which may be rescheduled.

### **Newsletter Deadlines**

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

Fri. May 30 (for June 15 issue)

Fri. June 13 (for July 1 issue)

**Thu. July 3 (for July 15 issue)**

#### **Mailing Days**

Thursday May 22

Thursday June 19

Thursday July 10

Contact Rita Rancken at 452-6168, x 13 or [Rita@austinuu.org](mailto:Rita@austinuu.org).

## **Davidson's Lore**

Religion and politics are two of the three things I was told as a child that should never be discussed in polite conversation. Since the late 19th century, however, American Unitarians have been involved in political action, virtually always actions representing liberal political values. They carried the banner for the "social gospel" movement that thought religious beliefs should help mold society into a more just and compassionate world.

Liberal religious beliefs have always stressed the importance of individual freedom and autonomy to become empowered in our pursuit of happiness and a meaningful life. Here, they still overlap with many libertarians. For many, the extension into politics was obvious and necessary. If we value our own individual freedom, then we must also value the freedom and autonomy of others, and must try to create a society in which all others have the same degree of autonomy. This requires fair pay, the chance for leisure time and the enjoyment of the subtle arts and endeavors that add so much humanity to existence.

In the nearly 30 years I've been involved with Unitarian churches (my tradition is Unitarian, not Universalist), this has defined the culture of most Unitarian churches I've known: a fierce interest in individual freedom and autonomy, usually paired with equally fierce commitment to help shape the laws of our society so that all others may enjoy the same freedoms. This has usually taken the form of liberal politics, and sometimes the politics seems to be controlling the religion, rather than the other way around — as the minority of politically conservative Unitarians keeps pointing out.

How is the tension to be resolved between wanting a religion that encourages us to take our beliefs into the streets, and the danger of letting "religion" simply be defined by political ideology? I think for many Unitarians, their most important beliefs are political rather than religious. I can't imagine many Unitarians taking to the streets over the issue of the Trinity or transubstantiation, but they go in fair numbers to protest wars and laws or economic policies they consider unjust.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## **Please Join us for a Farewell Reception for Andrea Lerner**

Andrea has accepted a position as the Lifespan Religious Education Coordinator for the Metro District in New York City. Her last Sunday with us will be on June 15. We want to recognize the many contributions she has made to our religious education program and thank her for her service to our church community. Please plan to attend a reception after each of the morning services on Sunday June 15 in Howson Hall. We'll have refreshments and the opportunity to share our thanks and best wishes with Andrea.

We will also be presenting a gift to Andrea and invite those of you who wish to contribute to send your donations to the church office with a notation for "Andrea's gift."

Andrea leaves us with an organized and dynamic religious education program—a program that provides the kind of rich experiences that support the development of thinking, loving, responsible young people as well as adults. We are truly better because of the gifts we have received from Andrea.

So, let's give Andrea a big ol' Texas thank you. **Join us on Sunday, June 15.**

## **Membership Matters**

### **Please Welcome Some of Our Newest Members!**

**Sarah and Tom Morris** joined the church looking for an open environment that will support and stimulate them as they develop and define their personal spiritual beliefs. Both are employed by Motorola, Sarah as a marketing analyst dealing with intellectual properties and Tom as manager of EBusiness Programs. Sarah is into reading and gardening. Tom enjoys cooking, landscaping, and serving the community as an instructor on the subject of financial literacy.

### **Your Membership Committee at Work:**

#### **Spreading the Word -- Visitor and New Member Information Packets**

How do visitors and new members get their first information about First UU? In any number of ways, of course. But for many people, the first information they get comes from the Visitor Packet and/or the New Member Information Packet. These packets are put together by several devoted members of the membership committee, who get to spend lots of time copying and collating papers and stuffing envelopes

The Visitor Packet includes some church history, a message from the minister, and instructions on how to join the church. Although it's impossible to include everything we'd like people to know, we try to share as many details as possible. The packet is handed out to visitors and is also available in the brochure rack in the foyer next to the sanctuary.

The New Member Information Packet is made up by the same method with the same items as above, in case the new member hasn't seen a Visitor Packet. The new members are asked to complete forms with demographic and personal information for inclusion in the church's membership database. A pledge card is included so that the new member can make a decision about how they can support the church financially.

Example of these packets are available at the membership information table in the Gallery after either of the Sunday morning services.

### **Orientation Evenings**

Orientation Evenings take place on the third Wednesday of every month. Join **Dr. Davidson Loehr** on **June 18** 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, June 22. We encourage all new or prospective members to attend one of the monthly Orientation Evenings as well as one of the New U Classes, offered several times a year.

## **Romanian Partner Church**

Joyce and Dan Wilson plan to visit our Feketehalom partner church in June while touring Romania with the choir of the First Unitarian Church in Houston. Sandor Mathe, the minister who conducts monthly services there and who visited us in November, has indicated that he will meet them and arrange for the visit.

## **Tea Time with Cathy Harrington**

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

## **A Liberal View**

Watch *A Liberal View* on ACTV, Cable Channel 11, at 6:00 pm each Wednesday.

## **Memorial/Endowment Fund**

From time to time, church friends and members tell us they would like to remember First UU in their wills. If we can help you with such a question, call Marian Maxwell, 454-1931, Chair of the Memorial/Endowment Fund Committee.

## **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.

## **UUADP Update**

Stays have been granted to three of the men originally scheduled for execution in April and May. For one, there was an issue of inadequate defense; for the other two, there are allegations of mental retardation. The US Supreme Court has determined that the execution of persons with mental retardation is unconstitutional. Bills pending in the Texas legislature deal with the determination of mental retardation. The execution of Bruce Jacobs on May 15 brought to 15 the number of men executed in Texas this year.

## **Committee on Ministries**

The Committee on Ministries serves as an information channel between those providing ministry and the congregation. The committee will meet again on Thursday, June 26 at 6:30 pm. If you have questions or comments about the ministries of the church that you wish the committee to be aware of, please contact Barbara Tuttle at 794-2972 or Derek Howard at 327-2090.

## **From the Facilities/ Grounds Committee**

We're sure you've noticed the construction next door at the Credit Union. They are building a new building on the back of their property. During construction they are using our driveway to allow their customers access to the drive-up banking window. This was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Some trees will be removed as a result of the construction project. The trees are Hackberry and non-native Ligustrum and Chinaberry, all of which are considered trash trees.

When it is all finished native trees will be planted and we will get to use their expanded parking lot on Sundays. It's a win-win situation.

## **What a Voyage!**

VOYAGers (Very Old Young Adult Group) is a FUUCA group for anyone born in the 60s or 70s. What I like best about the group is that there is a great mixture of single people, married people, and parents. We have a wide variety of events and several sub-groups. So, there should be something that strikes your fancy. Interested in wine tasting, tubing, potlucks, laser tag, bike riding, hiking, parties, remodeling, covenant groups, games, running, beading, retreats, or camping? Then you should be able to find something that interests you!

My husband Toby and I have been part of VOYAGers for about five years now. As our needs have changed over the years (we now have a 1 year old), we have always been able to find VOYAGers activities that work for us. We're party animals though, so parties continue to be our favorite type of activity, especially if that means a round or two of Mexican Train dominoes. Oh, and by the way, I always get to keep score! I also love retreats. We have about two retreats per year, and our next retreat is coming up at the end of July. Retreats are a great way to get connected with VOYAGers, and we'd love to have you.

If you would like more information about VOYAGers, contact our Navigators at [voyagers@austinuu.org](mailto:voyagers@austinuu.org). To receive announcements about upcoming events, including retreats, send a COMPLETELY BLANK email to: [voyagers-announce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:voyagers-announce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Hope to see you soon,  
**Chris Heidel**  
VOYAGer Emeritus

*(Continued from page 2)*

## **Davidson's Lore – continued**

For myself, I have always tried to stay focused on religious values — which include wanting laws that treat all people as our brothers and sisters rather than as owners and servants, privileged and powerless. But it has always seemed obvious to me that both political parties serve the interests — the “special interests” — that control their purse strings. This seems much truer now than it did 30 years ago, or maybe I'm just more aware of it. But it has always seemed important, even necessary, to try and hold whatever political party currently has power up against our highest ideals rather than political compromises. I think all political parties should have to justify their policies as serving the interests of the vast majority rather than a privileged minority — and both Republicans and Democrats have their privileged minorities.

I believe that all laws and political platforms should be held accountable to standards of the kind of equal justice and empowerment that American democracy has, at its best, been about. While some self-correction exists within political parties, I think it's the duty of all citizens to insist that the laws of the land serve our highest and most compassionate ideals, and that the business of government be done in the open, with full disclosure of the real motives behind laws, policies, and wars. And I think one role of a church is to try and stir all its members and friends to a similar passion, no matter whether they express this in the voting booth as Republicans, Democrats, Green Party, or independents, or take it to the streets to serve the values by which they are most proud to be defined.

But it's odd, I think, that I've never seen a Unitarian church host open public discussions to explore how different political platforms do or don't serve our highest values. Why is this? Is it because we're not sure they do? Is it because we're afraid to explore our sincere differences? I've put out feelers in the past, to see if there's any interest in this or that idea, so here is another one. I wonder if there is interest in hosting a public panel discussion with articulate representatives of several political and non-political perspectives on some political or economic issues that affect us all? It couldn't be one-sided; we would need proud and qualified representatives of several political persuasions. Can this be done? Can “religion” ask “politics” to present its arguments in an atmosphere where we are all expected to serve only the highest values? Or are the ideals of religion and the practice of politics really incompatible after all? Any suggestions?

*Davidson*

## Internal Reflections

It's hard to believe that ten months have passed and I have actually completed my internship. As of June 1, I take on the new title of "summer minister." It has been a wonderful experience serving as this church's intern. Looking back, I can say that I have been very fortunate indeed. I wonder sometimes if you realize fully the wealth of gifts in this church community? Healthy vibrant churches don't happen by accident. They are the result of hard work and nurture, commitment and shared dreams.

Teaching churches take on a huge responsibility as well as tremendous risk, when they invite a student minister into their midst, especially into their pulpit. Talk about a "leap of faith!" Davidson and John Buehrens (whose preaching class became the catalyst for my seeking this internship,) have both emphasized again and again the sacredness of the pulpit and the responsibility that accompanies the privilege of entering that sacred space of a congregation. How lucky am I to have had these two men as teachers?

I have learned so much in the past year, and as I observe the normal processes of church life at First UU, I can't help but wonder about serving my own church, and as I think on these things, I try to imagine how I will handle some of the challenges that come up, because, as we know all too well, challenges are an everyday reality for churches. The UUA Commission on Appraisal has compiled several reports with great insights and information pertaining to the growth and development of healthy thriving churches. I found some wisdom there to share with you.

G. Peter Fleck, expresses it so well in his book, *The Blessing of Imperfection*.

Well, let's be frank and admit that the church has its aggravations. The eternal and oh-so necessary concern about finances, the annually recurring problems of balancing a budget, of finding money for repainting the vestibule, repairing the boiler, and tuning the organ, the ongoing criticism of the minister's sermons, which are too liberal for some and too orthodox for others, too pedantic for some and too colloquial for others, the endless committee meetings about the Sunday School curriculum and about the propriety of social action, the persistent shortage of tenors in the choir. Who wants it? Who needs it?

The answer to this question is that we...want it, because WE NEED IT. The answer is that the church, and I am speaking now of the liberal church, in spite of its shortcomings, the imperfection that characterizes everything made by humans, is better, INFINITELY BETTER, than NO CHURCH. Maybe I should not have said, "in spite of its shortcomings" but "because of its shortcomings." For isn't it true that in our churches, in these communities of the spirit, we have more resources than outside of our churches to accept each other's imperfections, to reconcile our differences, to forgive and be forgiven, to comfort and be comforted, to love and to be loved? Isn't that what church is all about—because that is what life is all about.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer suggests, in his book, *Life Together*, that it is imperative for a church to come face to face with its disillusionment in order to realize the "promise that is given to it." He refers to our unrealistic hopes for the perfect community as a "human wish dream" and warns that it is a "hindrance to genuine community and must be banished if genuine community is to survive."

Bonhoeffer warns that to love the "dream of the community more than the community itself" will ultimately be destructive. The good intentions and sacrifice of loyal church members can destroy rather than create.

The leaders of this church have recognized this danger. Again and again, I have witnessed patience, tolerance, and forgiveness. The democratic process in liberal churches will always produce disagreements and disappointments. But it can also give birth to a Beloved Community where people can grow, learn, and flourish, and fill their lives to overflowing. And then, and only then, a church community can take this bountiful overflow of goodness and mercy into the world to make a difference.

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## A Book Worth Sharing

In the belief that sharing perceptions as well as values needs to be part of the Unitarian vision of our connection with one another and the real world, Mary Lehmann is making an \$18 book, *THE PARTY'S OVER*, available to one and all for \$12. It's about our shrinking supply of available energy, and one man's perception of what choices we have and what is likely to happen. If you would like a book, she will have a table full of them Sunday, June 1 at 10:30 am between services.

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

You're invited to Saturday Night Live on Saturday, July 12 at 7:00 pm in Howson Hall. Bring an appetizer or 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. **Child care is available by reservation only by contacting Jessica Porter at [jessica@austinuu.org](mailto:jessica@austinuu.org).**

A collection is being taken up to purchase a robe for Cathy as a gift from our church. Please send your donations to the church office marked "Cathy gift". We have loved having her among us. To help with this party, call Sharon Moore at 349-2318.

## 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

June 10 6:30 pm

Room 11 - Second Tuesdays  
Childcare by reservation only

## Youth Program Committee Meeting

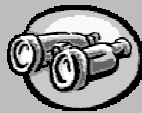
June 8, 1pm, Room 11

We concentrate on the needs of youth from middle school into college, for religious education, social programming and coming of age transitions.

## YRUU

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

## Looking Ahead



June 1 - Playground Day!!  
Summer Teacher Orientation  
June 8 - Summer RE Starts  
Aug 4-8 - Camp UU&Me  
**REGISTER NOW!!**  
Aug 16 - Teacher Orientation  
Aug 24 - RE Brunch & Display  
Aug 31 - RE-Create Day!  
Sept 7 - Fall RE Starts



## Summer RE - KEEPERS OF THE EARTH

Our summer program is a companion to the book, *Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children* by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac. This environmental classic teaches children respect and stewardship for the Earth and all living things. Beginning with Native American stories, we will engage in an abundance of hands-on activities that will inspire children to understand and appreciate Native American cultures and the Earth.

For this program, which runs from June 8 - August 24, we'd like to staff with three teachers - one PreK-K and two 1-5th grade - also two parent helpers - in each class. Allowing for vacations and such, we'd like 12 teaching volunteers for the summer - four PreK-K and eight 1-5th grade. MORE IS ALWAYS BETTER!

## Teacher RE-Cruitment - We Need You!!

Please contact Phyllis Barron regarding Summer or Fall teaching opportunities! PhyllisBarron@austin.rr.com or 301-9045. Our Fall Program will focus on Social Justice.

## "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 ages 5-12. 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.

## DRE Search Committee Progress

Our DRE Search Committee has narrowed the search to a few candidates - and is on target for presenting a selection to the board in June.

## Turn in Your "Old" Curricula!!

In a recent inventory of our religious education materials, we discovered several missing copies of RE curricula. Please check your bookshelves and return any materials you might have as soon as possible. THANKS!

## Please use this E-Mail for Andrea!!

In order to make sure the new DRE has a full picture of our program, Andrea would like to have all E-mails logged into our Outlook system. Please direct all E-mails to [Andrea@AustinUU.org](mailto:Andrea@AustinUU.org). Her alternate AOL address will be discontinued.

## Youth Art on Display!!

During June the gallery will feature art by the church's youth. The exhibit will include paintings, sculpture, photography, and charcoal illustrations by various teens, including Elizabeth Anderson, Kat Checkley, Beth Cortez-Neavel, Celeste Pendrey, and Lauren Salinas.

## Congratulations to our High School Graduates!

We want to acknowledge these fine young women - and wish them well! They were honored in our May 18 11:30am worship service.

Elizabeth Anderson  
Katy Burnette-Huges  
Celeste Pendry

Lisa Fredin  
Geneva Martin

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

#### **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.

#### **Toning Class - Beginner Level**

**Thursdays, June 19, 26, July 10, 17, 7-9pm, Room 17** - with Kowecha Street  
See details in the insert to this newsletter.

#### **Experience Joy - Two Classes**

**Thursdays, May 22 and 29, 7-9pm, Room 13**

"No Worries, Mate!" Thursday, May 22 from 7-9pm \$25 per person. You get your money back if your worries are not gone after the class!

"Face to Face" Thursday, May 29 from 7-9pm. \$25 per person. Learn how to communicate more effectively with, and gain a greater understanding of every person you know, including yourself.

#### **Watch for the return of Dream Drama in October!**

**Mondays, Oct 6-27, 7-9pm, Room 13.** With Dr. Katya Walter. Cost will be \$25 per person.

#### **Myers-Briggs Seminar**

**Saturdays, September 20 & October 18, 2003, from 10am to 3pm, Gallery.**

Bring your own lunch. The cost is \$60. per person. Each person will receive a Myers-Briggs questionnaire and answer sheet in a mailing envelope. These will be filled out and scored. Each person will receive a copy of *A Matter of Preferences: A Book About the Myers Briggs Type Indicator* and other handouts. The course instructor is Marthanne Luzader of Luzader and Co.

#### **Your Class Could Appear Here!!**

Attend the next meeting of the Adult RE Committee to propose it!

## 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** - *Terror and Liberalism* by Paul Berman Room 13A - Please call Polly Robertus 371-3257 for more info.

#### **Tai Chi**

**We regret Tai Chi is no longer being offered at the church**

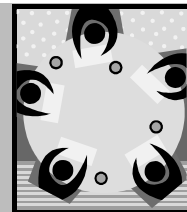
For info on other venues, call Nell at 458-4903 or enewton@hoovers.com

#### **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 taught by Jo Soto and Bruce Bostwick. The cost is \$2 per lesson. Join us!

## 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 *FREE* classes each year 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, June 5  
7:00pm Room 13**

This is a fun, interesting committee! For more info, contact Sharon Moore 349-2318 spumonhighhollow@msn.com  
**Moving to 2nd Thurs in July**

## **CONTINUING...**

### **Spiritual Book Club**

**Third Wednesdays, after Vespers, 8pm, Rm 9** Cathy Harrington Book - *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*

### **Evensong I**

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



## June in the Gallery

During June the Gallery will feature art by the church's youth. The exhibit will include paintings, sculpture, photography, and charcoal illustrations by various members of YRUU, including Elizabeth Anderson, Kat Checkley, Beth Cortez-Neavel, Celeste Pendrey, and Lauren Salinas.

## Camp Fire: Can You Canoe?

Adventurous, water-loving novice paddlers wanted! The local Camp Fire Council is sponsoring a canoe club that will kick off in late August with a two-part Fundamentals of Canoeing class, taught by certified, very experienced American Red Cross instructors. We'll have canoe trips in the fall and spring, to Caddo Lake, the Lower Colorado River, and the San Marcos River. Next year, we plan to continue the skills progression and fun with kayaking, white water canoeing, and more.

Children 12 and over and adults are invited to sign up; you do not have to be in a Camp Fire Club to participate. Cost is very reasonable. If you have a canoe you are willing to lend us, please let us know. We promise to return it clean and shiny! For more information check the Camp Fire web site at [www.main.org/campfire](http://www.main.org/campfire), or contact Elizabeth Gray at [egrays88@hotmail.com](mailto:egrays88@hotmail.com). Registration deadline is Tuesday, July 1.

## Live Oak UU Needs Your Help in Moving

On Sunday, June 1, Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church is moving to its new home at 3315 El Salido Parkway, less than a mile from its current location.

Live Oak will have its last worship service on Sunday, June 1 at 12310 RR 620, just a few blocks West of Lakeline Mall, followed by an afternoon of packing and moving. If you'd like to help, come by the "old" Live Oak UU for a free lunch at 1:00 pm, and wear your work clothes. Contact Martin Bryant at [MBryant@io.com](mailto:MBryant@io.com) or 731-1044 for more information.

## For WOMEN Only

**Ladies, girls, women, females, the fair sex,  
le femmes -- Attention! Attention!!**



If you feel the need to gather with others of the feminine gender, here's your chance to offer your ideas about how you'd like for a women's group to work in our church. There are so many possibilities -- a women's breakfast (to take after the Men's Breakfast idea)? a support group? single (never married) women? or newly divorced women? or women juggling work and family? women in the sandwich generation? younger women who want to learn from older women? a women's club with programs relating to women's issues? Something new? Something different? So, what do you think? Sounds like there could be lots of ideas, maybe lots of different groups. Let us know.

If you want to discuss your idea right away, contact Katie Winter (450-1950 or [kwinter@austin.rr.com](mailto:kwinter@austin.rr.com)) or Dana Lehmann (try to catch up with her between Sunday morning services: she's the one with red hair and the sign that says, "Wanna Women's Group?")

And please plan to join other women at a Brainstorming Session on Monday, June 9, 7 p.m. in Room 13 to see if your idea will float. Or maybe you want to champion one of the ideas above. Or come, even if you don't have any ideas. Dana Lehmann will facilitate the meeting and check the pulse of what women want/need from the church.

Yes, there are Women's Spirituality groups in the church. If that's what you are looking for, you are invited to attend their meetings on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm and/or Saturdays at 10:30 am. Contacts are Linda Webster (458-1852 or [lwebster@bga.com](mailto:lwebster@bga.com)) and Helen Siders (799-6985 or [xlartemis@austin.rr.com](mailto:xlartemis@austin.rr.com)).

(Continued from page 5)

## Internal Reflections — continued

This is the gift that this church has to offer to you and to the world. It is a rare and precious gift that requires loyal tending and endless hard work, loving and forgiving, listening and speaking the truth.

Henry Nelson Wieman, Unitarian process theologian, referred to religion and faith as more than "ultimate concern." He believed that religion and faith are "ultimate commitment" and through this we find meaning and fulfillment in our lives. But the road can be rocky at times and the going WILL be tough, but worth it. Oh, so worth it. The beautiful poetry of Saint Paul in I Corinthians can serve as the standard and reminder of what's needed to achieve that "ultimate commitment" of maintaining and enhancing the life of this church and the lives of its members.

And little by little, the world can begin to drink from the trickle of life flowing from our fullness and soon it will grow into a rushing, streaming river of healing love.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

"The Blessing of Imperfection" is the gift of learning together, growing together, giving and receiving love, and making mistakes and learning from them. As Fleck writes, "After all, isn't this what church is about—because it is what life is about."

In Faith,  
*Cathy Harrington*

**Register Now for  
Camp UU & Me 2003  
Let Your Little Light Shine**



Registration has begun for Camp UU & Me 2003, a fun summer camp exploring the little light in us all. The camp is for all children from **ages 5 to 12** (as of August 1, 2003). Teenagers are welcome to participate as volunteers. The camp will be held at the church **August 4-8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, with an optional overnight stay on August 7-8. Before and after care is available by special arrangement. Registration fees are \$25 per child or \$40 per family. Scholarships are available upon request. **Registration forms are available in the Gallery.** Space is limited! To volunteer to help with the camp, please contact Nahdiah Hoang at [nahdiah@hotmail.com](mailto:nahdiah@hotmail.com) or 784-1809.

### **June Sharing Suppers**

A special invitation to newcomers -- come and join other recent and long-term UUs at one of our Sharing Suppers. Participants take turns as guests and hosts at these adult potlucks, which add delightful evenings to our calendars on the third Saturday of every month. Usually we have 2-5 events scheduled. Dinners are sit-down or buffet, for @ 6-12. This month they will be held Saturday, June 21. Sign up now on the list next to Davidson's office, or contact coordinator Barbara Tuttle, 794-2972 ([hrtyutl@onr.com](mailto:hrtyutl@onr.com)). Your host will call you early in the week of the supper. To present participants: if you haven't hosted yet, this is a great time to start! Or share your hosting talents at someone else's home, as a co-host. Many of us have made our large church feel more comfortable and friendly by participating in these wonderful evenings. We look forward to sharing them with you!

### **Social Action News**

**The SPLIT-THE-PLATE program needs a facilitator.** You would be responsible for placing a notice in the FUUCA newsletter each month about the next organization to be sponsored, and you would also organize the process by which the next round of receiving organizations are chosen and scheduled. The time required by this position is low, but the results of your work will be the tangible evidence of money being placed into the hands of those Austin area organizations that need support to do their good work.

**The GREEN SANCTUARY program needs a chairperson.** You are interested in environmental activism and working to lessen the footprint you leave on the planet. You are looking for a larger, farther-reaching way to make a difference in the struggle to build a sustainable society. Then the leadership of the GREEN SANCTUARY program is perfect for you. You will be concerned to see that every action taken by our church in relation to the facilities, the grounds and our affect on the environment as an institution is as environmentally sensitive as possible. This position offers you the challenge of being concerned about the environmental approach of an entire organization. Your success will come in the form of the knowledge that you have made an enormous difference in FUUCA's environmental impact and also in the eventual certification of our church as a Green Sanctuary.

**Calling all Social Action sub-chairs, facilitators, leaders, movers and shakers.** In an attempt to build a detailed calendar of ongoing and upcoming Social Action events, I request that you contact me with any information you feel should be placed into a calendar that will be distributed among FUUCA membership. This will also help me to be aware of your program for support and publicity purposes.

**For information about FUUCA Social Action and any of the above items, please contact Clinton Hopper at 418-0928 or [chopper@austin.rr.com](mailto:chopper@austin.rr.com).**

### **Senior Luncheon**

UU Senior Luncheon group meets at 12:00 noon Tuesday, June 10 in Howson Hall. Phone the church (ext. 13) to reserve, but if you forget, come anyway. \$3.00 donation. Surprise program.

### **Chat and Craft**

Did you know that the Chat and Craft Club has a man in its membership? Come chat with Carl Nelson. During June the Chat and Craft Club will meet on the second Tuesday, June 10 and the fourth Tuesday, June 24 at 10:30 am in the Gallery. Contact Carol Purdy at 926-3258 for more information.

### **Heritage Club**

Heritage Club, our lively book discussion group that meets in people's homes, will meet at 8:00 pm, Friday, June 13 at the home of Kitty Clark, 4308 Avenue D, in Hyde Park. Call 453-6246 for directions. We'll discuss HOLES, by Louis Sachar, the well-acclaimed book that is the current book being read by all of Austin. For those who read ahead, the book for July is VITAL LIES, SIMPLE TRUTHS, by Daniel Goleman.

### **June End-of-the-Month Party**

**Saturday, June 28 at 8:00 pm**

**Host:** Sally Butts, 4506 Rosedale Avenue, 78756

**For:** Everyone. No need to call (unless you need directions)--just come.

**Bring:** Snack and drink to share  
**Directions:** One block west of Burnet Road, behind Upper Crust Bakery. Call Sally at 467-1598.

**For the future:** We've noticed that every venue attracts a somewhat different group: why not have one at your house and see who shows up? Call Kelly Teese (927-2292) or Jean Wyllys (926-6353).

## Austin Area Interreligious Ministries Youth Mentoring



Austin's youth need your help. With the end of the school year, and cuts in youth summer programs, a large number of young people will have time on their hands and will be searching for something to fill their days. The Austin Police Department fully expects to see a rise in juvenile crime; however, AAIM believes this can be prevented with your involvement in mentoring our youth at risk. Mentoring is a proven strategy for working with youth. It is effective in reversing antisocial behaviors by enhancing their feelings of self-esteem, self-confidence and instilling a sense of belonging.

Austin Area Interreligious Ministries' Community Mentoring Network (CMN) recruits, screens, trains, matches, and supports caring adults while they are involved in helping youth referred through the juvenile justice system. Mentors' roles include listening, guiding, coaching, teaching, and being a friend. CMN works with youth who are non-violent, live in our community, and are in need of learning opportunities to help prevent them from committing acts that will prolong their involvement with the juvenile justice system. You can help by volunteering to mentor a child throughout the summer months.

Please contact John Williams, Community Mentoring Network program director, at 386-9145, ext. 15 or [johnw@aaimaustin.org](mailto:johnw@aaimaustin.org), or visit [www.aaimaustin.org](http://www.aaimaustin.org) for more information on how you can help shape the future of our community and a child in need. Thank you.

## President's Corner

There's a delicate balance between reality and dreams. As a church, we are crafting a vision of who we wish to be and where we wish to go. Our vision is fueled by our passions, but the reality is that we must also be able to "pay at the pump." How do we nurture and encourage our dreams while also being mindful of the need for the necessary financial resources to make our dreams come true?

I believe we must ask ourselves some important questions: Why do we come to this church? Something brought us through these doors, and something has caused us to stay. Have we grown in spirit and faith since joining this church? What kind of people do we want to become? What kind of church do we want to become? What does our church challenge us to be become? Do we have something worthwhile to offer? Do we have a ministry?

Yes, I believe we have a ministry and that we are "called" to help make this place a better world. Sometimes this requires sacrifice and commitment. Sometimes this means sharing what we have to offer rather than selfishly keeping it to ourselves. To paraphrase our minister, our church is here to both comfort and challenge us. The powerful problems of our world require a powerful faith. I believe we have a powerful faith and a commitment to make this a better world for our having been here. Could we really do any less? Could we actually do any more?

I have been blessed by a wonderful group of people--my friends--who have served with me on the board over this past year. Thank you for the opportunity to put my faith into action by serving as your president.

### Recent Board Actions:

- Received a report from U-Bar-U board member, Jon Durbin:
  - Borrowed the total \$15,000 authorized by First UU to be repaid by June, 2006; \$5,000 has currently been repaid.
  - Anticipate conducting a capital campaign in the fall.
- Approved CUUPS (Covenant of UU Pagans) as church group, pending receipt of documentation.
- Acknowledged dissolution of End of Life and Telephone Committees.
- Approved fundraising and church management policies.
- Appointed George Denny to serve on new Paradox Players board.
- Financial report:
  - Income Year-to-Date = \$163,189.28 (31% of budget)
  - Expenses Year-to-Date = \$183,311.62 (32.5% of budget)

*Donna*

Donna Howard  
President, Board of Trustees

### **BOARD/COUNCIL RETREAT SATURDAY, JUNE 7**

The annual Board/Council Retreat will be held at U-Bar-U on Saturday, June 7. All members of the Board and Council and any other interested parties are encouraged to attend. This will be our kick-off for the coming church year. We'll go over "How the Church Works" and define concrete goals for the coming year that fulfill the Church's new Vision and Mission statements. Most importantly though, the retreat is a fellowship event - an opportunity for incoming and returning church leaders to meet and mingle.

Lunch provided. Anyone wishing to stay over Friday or Saturday night may do so (let Jim Burson know). If you would like help set up a carpool, or have questions, contact Bill Forbes at [forbes@worldpost.com](mailto:forbes@worldpost.com) or 420-0707.

**\*\*\* Join the Sociables Sunday Lunch Bunch \*\*\***

Sociables is an informal lunch gathering each Sunday. All are invited. Folks start arriving around 1:15.

June 1	Marimont Cafeteria	623 West 38th St.
June 8	Star of India	2900 West Anderson Lane, # 12

<p><b>New Sociables Coordinator Needed</b></p>
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**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**

Sun	9:30 AM	Sunday Service	Sun	9:30 AM	Sunday Service
June 1	11:30 AM	Sunday Service	June 8	10:30 AM	Parents Group
	11:30 AM	Public Affairs Forum		11:30 AM	Sunday Service
	5:20 PM	Sunday Night Live!		11:30 AM	Public Affairs Forum
	6:30 PM	RE/YRUU		1:00 PM	Harry Potter Party Planning Session
				1:00 PM	YPC Meeting
				4:00 PM	VOYAGers Navigators
				5:20 PM	Sunday Night Live!
				6:30 PM	RE/YRUU
Mon	7:00 PM	Open Covenant Group	Mon	6:30 PM	Women's Groups
June 2	7:00 PM	International Folk Dancing	June 9	7:00 PM	International Folk Dancing
				7:00 PM	Pathfinders Covenant Group
Tue	9:30 AM	Deadline for June 8 Order of Service	Tue	9:30 AM	Deadline for June 15 Order of Service
June 3	3:00 PM	Tea Time with Cathy Harrington	June 10	10:30 AM	Chat and Craft
	6:00 PM	Executive Committee		12:00 PM	Senior Luncheon
	7:30 PM	Women's Spirituality		3:00 PM	Tea Time with Cathy Harrington
				6:30 PM	RE/CPC Committee
				7:30 PM	Women's Spirituality
Wed	9:15 AM	Listening Ministry	Wed	7:00 PM	Stewardship Committee
June 4	6:45 PM	Worship Services Committee	June 11	7:30 PM	Y.A.R.N. (Young Adult Religious Network)
	7:30 PM	Y.A.R.N. (Young Adult Religious Network)			
Thu	9:30 AM	Newsletter Mailing	Thu	6:30 PM	Membership Committee
June 5	7:00 PM	Adult RE Committee	June 12	7:00 PM	Intern Supervision Committee
Fri			Fri	9:30 AM	Deadline for July 1 Newsletter
June 6			June 13	8:00 PM	Heritage Club
Sat	BOARD/COUNCIL RETREAT AT U BAR U		Sat	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast
June 7	10:30 AM	Women's Spirituality	June 14	10:30 AM	Women's Spirituality

**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
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**Director of Religious Education:**  
 Andrea Lerner  
**Director of Administration:**  
 Barbara Lighthouse  
**Director of Music: Brent Baldwin**  
**President, Board of Trustees:**  
 Donna Howard  
**Intern Minister: Cathy Harrington**

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168  
 Church Fax: (512) 453-5912  
 E-Mail: [info@AustinUU.org](mailto:info@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**

**Plugging Austin into Cleaner Energy** **June 1, 11:30 am**

**Peter Altman, Director, Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Coalition**  
 The SEED Coalition is an alliance of Texans dedicated to reducing pollution from power plants, refineries and cars and promoting clean energy jobs in energy efficiency, renewable energy and other advanced technologies. Mr. Altman will discuss how the SEED Coalition, Public Citizen and other Austin groups are organizing effective advocacy for Solar Energy in Austin and for other clean air policies.

**Eight Reasons Funeral Directors (almost) Always Have the Upper Hand** **June 8, 11:30 am**

**Daesene Willmann, Board member of AMBIS- Austin Memorial & Burial Information Society**  
 Death is inescapable. We love our families and friends and want to do everything possible to prepare them for this inevitable experience. The consequences of not preparing will be covered in this presentation.

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

Please check your TV listings for details on  
 upcoming programs or log on to [www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org).