

The **VISION** of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin: As an inclusive religious and spiritual community, we support each individual's search for meaning and purpose, and join together to help create a world filled with compassion and love.

Tim Woolsey's 6th Annual Fundraiser



First UU church member, Tim Woolsey, will present his sixth annual piano recital/fundraiser on Saturday, January 26th at 8 PM in the sanctuary. These informal concerts include remarks by Tim about the music. This year's program includes 3 delightful sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti (a contemporary of J.S. Bach), the great Fantasy in C major op. 17 of Robert Schumann (one of the great masterpieces of 19th century piano music), the wild and crazy Fifth Sonata by the Russian mystic, Alexander Scriabin, and five preludes by Rachmaninoff. These benefit concerts have been well attended and well received in past years and have raised money that has been used to support special musical events at the church. Tim got his doctorate in piano from UT back in 1976 and is planning on retiring from his position as Professor of Piano, Department of Music, at Texas State University this coming spring after 33 rewarding years.

Split the Plate for January



On the first and third Sundays of each month we split our offertory plate with a non-profit organization that puts our common social-justice values into action.



On January 6, we will split the plate once again with the Capital Area Food Bank of Texas. More than 35,000 people in twenty one counties in Central Texas depend on the CAFB food supplies each week, and the food bank needs replenishing at this time of year. Nearly 98 percent of the resources that the Central Area Food Bank receives are put to work in the community. Texas has the highest percentage in the nation of households with food insecurity; this includes many of our neighbors in Central Texas.



On January 20, our split-the-plate program will benefit Front Steps, the non-profit organization that coordinates the local cold-weather shelter program (Freeze Nights), the sack lunch program, and cafeteria service for the homeless. Many members of our congregation are involved as volunteers in these efforts. Front Steps operates within the facility known as the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), providing year-round assistance downtown at 500 East Seventh Street, including 100 beds for the homeless, a year-round clothing closet, and the cafeteria.

Who Are All the Other UUs?



If you have never had the opportunity to attend the Southwestern UU District "summer camp" or one of the semi-annual conferences, you might not know many UUs other than the ones at our church. We have a rare chance to meet and greet some of our UU brothers and sisters from other congregations in April 2008.

First UU Church of Austin is hosting the Southwestern UU District Spring Conference, Friday-Sunday, April 25-27, 2008. Our church was invited to host the conference because "...others need to see our vibrant and creative congregation." We'll want to show off our best of course, so the word is already out to the committees to have something special for our visitors -- Gallery art, Forum, worship music, books for signing, Media, youth programs, Paradox Players and more.

We also need to make a good showing by attending. The Spring Conference Planning Committee will need lots of volunteers, but more importantly, we should have strong general presence as hosts. Please mark your calendars now to attend this important and fun meeting. There will be activities of all kinds to appeal to everyone. Registration will begin in February 2008.

Davidson's Lore

It always feels odd writing a column for the January newsletter in mid-December, when my mind's full of all the coming Christmas-related services and you're already through and starting the new year.

So I hope you had a rejuvenating holiday season as I get ready for mine, and that it reconnected you with that place that could give you a more direct connection to joy and hope, and rekindle that sense of life as a gift and a miracle.

Well, maybe this isn't so unusual after all. We're always trying to make that connection, recover that sense of spontaneity and joy, aren't we? And religions, it seems, are always trying to say, "It's right here – all around you. Nothing is hidden!" But it's often hard to believe. A great Buddhist teaching is about a sage who said, "All I do all day is sit by the river, selling river water." But that's another way of saying that, all day, people couldn't see the river that was right there – or perhaps couldn't or didn't want to recognize it as a river.

Good God, don't we all miss seeing or appreciating way too many of life's gifts? I don't think it's a flaw or a spiritual failing, as much as it is a kind of tunnel vision. We get so caught up in the stuff of life that we get trapped in the details, and hunger for a sense of the over-all patterns that has some grace to it. Get up, get the kids up, get them fed, dressed and to school, then start down the list of Things To Do Today. Go to work, take another shovelful out of what can feel like an endless mountain: Mt. Work. It can feel like Sisyphus pushing his rock up that hill. And when it does, the pretty assurances of religion can sound very, very hollow: "Oh, just remember all is Grace; God is Love; you're made of stardust, Jesus and the Buddha both love you..." and the rest of it.

Religion that can't speak honestly about the things in life that are really a drag, that drain and freeze us, isn't very realistic. But to get stuck in the critiques isn't very helpful.

It gives me a greater appreciation of the apostle Paul's poetic insight and faith, when he prayed not to be seduced by the things of this world, but instead to keep before himself an image of being beloved, whole, working out his salvation in the assurance that he is already accepted by God.

It's easy to see why people have usually gone to poetry for this, speaking of getting "a God's-eye view," or living "under the gaze of eternity," as the Romans said. It's remembering that "This too shall pass," but that Something endures.

What endures, I believe, is that spark of life in us, that spirit of engagement and investment in those things that give us life. This is one way to describe what honest religion is about: trying to see ourselves and our world honestly, while remaining grateful for the gift of life. But it isn't like a one-time vaccination; it's more like a weekly dose of vitamins.

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See you in church! - - *Davidson*

Sharing Suppers January 19th!

This month's Sharing Suppers will take place on January 19th (always the third Saturday). Come share supper and lively conversation with a small group of others from FUUC. It is a wonderful way to meet new people and deepen relationships. Various participants sign up to host in their homes, and everyone contributes to the dinner. Sharing Suppers are open to anyone in the church, new or established, couples or singles, and you need not be a member to participate. Sign up for one dinner at a time; no long term commitment. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, January 13. Sign up on the sheet posted outside Davidson's office or call or email Sheri Overton for more information

(sherioverton@hotmail.com or phone 512-847-2685). If you'd like to be put on an email list for Sharing Suppers, so you will be notified of the next suppers, just send an email to sharingsuppers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



Sunday Worship Services 9:45 and 11:30

6 January "Graceful Stories" Davidson Loehr Most of life's lessons, it seems are learned "the hard way." At least that's how we usually tell our stories of the tough lessons learned. But not always. Once in awhile, you hear of someone who was able to do something tough so gracefully it brings a warm smile to our face. These are some of those stories, from many sources: a gentle beginning to the new year.

13 January: "Thank God for Evolution!" Rev. Michael Dowd and his wife are true evangelists for the role of science in religion -- particularly Darwin and evolution. His new book (same title) has been endorsed by five Nobel laureates and 120 other scientific, religious, and cultural luminaries. In addition to preaching at both our morning services, he will be leading a class at 7 pm Sunday evening, open to all.

20 January: "On Feeding the Hungry Ghosts" Rev. Diana Heath, AIM Every congregation has its ghosts - ghosts of reverends past, spirits caught up in 'we've always done it this way', and those that hang around, hoping they'll keep morphing from one generation to the next. Whether we see these as positives or negatives, the message is "Can we acknowledge those ghosts of churches and fellowships, and help them move on?" Rev. Diana has served both as a parish minister and a professional church consultant and accredited interim minister for 10 of our UU churches. She has served four settled ministries, is a clinical pastoral counselor, and French cooking teacher in her spare time.

27 January: "Best Kept Secrets" Aaron White, Intern, Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, The liberal tradition of Unitarian Universalism calls us to live this life in a manner affirming that truth is yet to be found, revelation is not sealed, and things are not always as they seem. Many times in our human interactions it becomes too easy to understand others, and even ourselves, with only a brief glance. Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, " Let us treat men and women well: treat them as if they were real: perhaps they are." What might it look like to practice this reality? What would it mean for us also to treat our religious tradition of Unitarian Universalism and its possibilities for change in the world as if they were real? Perhaps they are.

Public Affairs Forum: Sundays: 11:30 am Howson Hall

6 January: "Social Computing: How Peer-to-Peer Networks will eclipse Institutional Power. David Kobierowski. Senior Account Manager, Forrester Research Inc. will discuss the concept of Social Computing and how technology will continue to have a dramatic impact on the lives of individuals, businesses, and society.

13 January: "Meeting Face to Face: The Iraq-US Labor Solidarity Tour, Film and Discussion by USLAW: A film and discussion about the war in Iraq by Austin Texas Labor Against the War union members, offering the perspective of working people, American and Iraq, on the war. This is a moving film chronicling the first tour of Iraqi Labor leaders telling their stories to American union members. The film takes 26 minutes leaving time for discussion.

20 January: "The Emotionally Unavailable Man: Does it Take Two to Tango?" Patty Henry, Psychotherapist., Ms Henry specializes in working with relationships in distress. Her landmark book, "The Emotionally Unavailable Man: A Blueprint for Healing," is taught in many university counseling courses across the country. Noqww is your chance to hear from and talk to the author directly.

27 January: "The Peace Alliance working for a U.S. Department of Peace." Leslie McCulloch will speak about the history and current status of efforts to create a U. S. Department of Peace on the Cabinet level. Find out what is happening in Congress, what actions can be taken locally and what efforts are being made around the world to create similar governments entities to further peaceful solutions to conflict.

Reader's Theater

Readers' Theater continues reading one-acts on Monday, January 14, at 7:30 in Room 13. Consider joining this lively group who read a wide range of plays, unrehearsed, the participants taking on wildly diverse roles at each meeting.

Orientation Evenings

Orientation with Davidson Loehr, the third Wednesday of the month (Jan. 16th) from 7 to 8:30 pm in Room 13, is open to everyone. The setting is informal - a great place to meet folks who are interested in becoming part of our church. Have your questions answered.

Dina's Corner: A Sad Good Bye



There comes a time when things don't work out as you planned and you have to punt. Fortunately, that inevitably opens other doors and, sometimes surprising ones at that. I have finally come to understand that the difficult relationship I have with Davidson is not something that can be changed. It is just plain not a match and it was making both of us miserable and perhaps that effected how we were with others as well. So I have agreed to resign as of Dec 31st from the internship. You don't need to worry about me. I am already in contact with the many people that I know in the San Francisco Bay area to get things set up for my next steps in my ministry journey. It's one of the areas that is rich in opportunities! Meanwhile, I am sad that I will be missing out on plans here and opportunities to meet with everyone, especially in RE which was my next more here. Thank you all for your warmth and generosity. If you missed my sermon on Dec 23rd, check it out on the web site! There are more good thoughts for everyone in it, because this has been a great community experience for me.



From the Building Committee: We Have Selected Our Architect!

At the December Congregational Meeting the Board of Trustees was authorized to enter into an agreement with an architect for Schematic Design of Phase I of the Master Plan. The Building Committee has been conducting a search for several months and has made a selection. The architect will be introduced to the congregation in January, assuming our negotiations can be concluded. Out of twelve firms who responded to our initial Request for Qualifications the Building Committee interviewed six. (The RFQ was only sent to thirteen firms, so the reply rate was 92%.) Of those six, we conducted second interviews and checked references on three. We requested sets of construction documents for review and then visited multiple built projects. We were very encouraged by the level of excitement displayed by all of the architects and it was not an easy decision for us to make. Keep your eyes and ears open to learn about opportunities to have input into the design our new RE Wing/Community Building.



Green Sanctuary Committee

Now that you've had your Christmas tree converted to mulch and taken down all those Christmas lights, start to think of the easy ways that you can save electricity in 2008. Remember that anything that's plugged-in is drawing current. Get yourself in the habit of unplugging countertop appliances when they're not in use or purchase a power strip that can be switched off and plug them into it (and turn it off unless you're using one of the appliances!). If you use your microwave oven for less than seven minutes a day you're using more electricity to run the clock than you are for cooking. Look around your house and ask yourself whether you **really** need all the clocks that are constantly there, sucking up electricity. We'd probably all be better off if we were less aware of the time. If any new appliance or electronics are on your to-buy list, look for the Energy Star symbol. And last but not least, when you leave a room, turn off the light.

Social Action Invited to Lunch & Learn Tour by Peoples Community Clinic

PCC has invited us to their next Lunch and Learn Tour on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. While we enjoy lunch, clinic doctors and administrators will talk about the history and mission of the Clinic, the medical problems the patients face and programs they offer in response, and they will show us around. Space is limited.

Please contact Sheri Overton 512-847-2685 or (sherioverton@hotmail.com) for more information or to sign up for either of the above.

All Council Meeting Jan. 13th

QUARTERLY MEETING: The 3rd quarterly Board All Council Meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 13, 2008, at 1:30-3:30 p.m. in Howson Hall. A chance for Committee chairs and Board members to work together by communicating about what we are doing, supporting each others' efforts, scheduling, and sharing ideas. Others are also welcome to attend. Please call Sheila Gladstone, Board Vice President, with any questions, at 372.8900.

Memorial Trees Added to FUUCA Grounds



Thanks to the generous contributions of several families, the FUUCA grounds have taken a new turn: the flower bed immediately to your left as you enter the church now contains two new memorial trees, and the design provides space for future memorial plantings along the east property line. The red-berried Possumhaw Holly is planted in memory of Andrew Delaney, stepfather of **Bill Edwards**, and a long-time UU from Houston. Look for springtime blooms from the Eve's Necklace, planted in memory of Elizabeth Ann, daughter of **Roseanne Graham**. And finally, a Texas Redbud planted behind the church sign will remind us over the years as it grows and matures of the parents of **Cathy Nordstrom**—Helen Erna Toepfer and Hans Philp Simke. Additional information about the individuals we are memorializing is posted on the bulletin board.

Social Action Continues with Info Packs

Help us prepare informational packets for patients AT PCC. We have done this several times at church, and many of you have participated. Now, in February, we have a chance to send a group to PCC we'd like to spare them the trouble of preparing and delivering to materials to us. Their need is tremendous, so if this works out, we'd like to send a group each month.



Committed Couples 101:



Committed Couples 101: A Secular Program for Marriage Education (ALL couples welcome) Mondays 6-9 p.m. Per couple: \$75. . Presented by Michelle Bohls, Marriage Counselor Register at <http://www.marriagedividend.com> or 512. 577-3371

January 7th Learn about you and your partner's preferences to be loved and express love and learn the one most basic communication skill for making someone feel heard, seen, and loved.

January 14th Communication Skills Learn to express appreciation and work through difficult topics. (Be at class by 5:45 p.m. to learn skill #1 if this is your first class)

January 21st Your Lived Experience of Love. We will explore your past lived experience of love and how it can creep unwelcome into your present relationship.

January 28th Commitment. This is about ways couples "leave the relationship" in both big and small ways.

February 4th Repair, Forgive and Connect We will explore some ways of repairing the relationship



Seniors' Luncheon

Tues. January 8th
Noon in Howson Hall
Soup, Salad & Dessert

Cost: \$5.00

RSVP Alice Cashman 837-0988

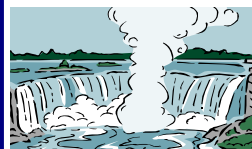
alicedllas@aol.com



The New Austin Polk Band...

one of the premier polka bands playing from the Little German Band Book in all of Austin. Yes, we have sheet music and music stands. Even the drummer.

We play for churches, retirement centers and civic events. Super efficient, we combine our performances with rehearsals. The result is an enthusiastic, fresh, not over-rehearsed sound. Our normal instrumentation includes clarinet, sax, trumpet, euphonium, trombone, tuba and percussion. No accordion, no banjo. You will hear polkas, waltzes, marches, and, if the planets are favorably aligned, a schottische. This is our third or fourth gig at the senior luncheon at FUUCA enjoy it very much. Dancing is encouraged. Hope to see you there on the second Tuesday of January 2008.



UU Niagara Experience

Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls! July 20-23, 2008. Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich historical and natural wonders around the Falls. For information visit our web site : <http://www.uunex.net/> Email : uunex@yahoo.com Telephone : (716) 745-7149 or (716) 791-4453



Thanks to UUs One and All



Garden Elves



The grounds of most churches in Austin have landscape designed for low maintenance. You typically see lots of monoculture turf grass and a few foundations plantings around the front door. In contrast, the grounds of First UU are designed to model and reflect our 7th principle: the interconnected web of life. These native plants require a bit more care, but in return they provide native habitat and beauty. The grounds committee would like to recognize several elves who have recently contributed to upkeep: **Luther Elmore** trims our prolific trees and bushes; **Barb Denny** cares for the blue container at the north Sanctuary entrance; **Nina Marlow** uses her professional gardening skills to tame the perennial shrubbery, and **Richard Mauldin** has installed and cared for several plants around the

Social Action ThankUUs: Packet Prep for PCC



Social Action is involved in many projects. These thank yous go to the group of folks who free People's Community Clinic staff to do the work of health and healing. We are hoping to have a regular group go to PCC each month. Thank UUs to the folks who did the work.

Marilyn Wilson, Nora Hughes, Alice Cashman, Sheri Overton, Wendy Miller, Mary Lehmann, Bonnie Voss, Mike Voss, Trish Taylor, Dennis Chitty, and Mary Ann Stafford.



Thank UUs who served dinner at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless: **JH Webber, Elaine Carpenter, Linda Gravatti, Lisa Henderson, Jane Hall, Barb and George Denny.** This is part of the City of Austin's 10-year plan to end homelessness. We need 4 folks the first Sunday of each month, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. to set the tables and serve dinner to 100 men who are spending the night at ARCH. Please contact: Karen Franks 670 2221 or Mary Ann Copp 830 693 5920, if you wish



Thank UUs: Usher/Greeter



Applause for our Lay Leaders: **Linda Taylor, Amber Andrews, and Don Smith.** Next, Cheers for the Ushers and Greeters: **Ruth Marie, Rosie and Alcyr Coelho, Sharon Finlely, Clare Wolf, Alice Cashman, Dana Copp, Mary Ann Copp, Sandra Ries, Colin McIntyre, Jim Bowie, and Lynn Westbrook, Kitty Traylor, Luther Elmore, David Leibson.**

Paradox Players Thanks UUs



There are many people to be thanked for the 2007 season. Special thanks for All the **Front of House Volunteers**, our **Season Ticket Holders**, and the **Choir** for leading their voices to Avow. . Special thanks go to Ed Nichols, Bill Reid, Stefan Windsor, Ron Turner, Audrey Baker, Jim Scott, Dotti Sizer, Linda Taylor, and John Sanders. A very special thanks to Sue and Bob Bethke for the black curtains.

Membership Committee Thanks UUs



Janette Swenson, the new Membership Chairperson, is a long time Unitarian who served in many capacities at First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon. She was actively involved in the changes needed to go from a small church to a large church. We welcome her and thank her for taking on this job. The long time members of the committee also deserve a round of applause: **Kathryn Govier, Barbara Weeks, Wendy Kuo, Kitty Traylor, Joyce Wilson, Jacob Williamson, Alice Cashman, and Linda Taylor.** Three new folks have joined the committee and we send thanks to them for their committment: **Genie Barnes, Linda Buelhman, and Tom Bodine.** The Board liaison for this crew is **Beverly Donohue**; thanks to her as well.

Sharing Supper's Hosts/Hostesses Thank UUs

Sharing Suppers is one of the greatest ways to get to know other folks in the church. These gatherings would not happen if the hosts and hostesses did not volunteer their homes. We give a hearty thanks to these generous members from November and December suppers: **Bill and Judy Harries, Eve Gilbert, Paul Fisher and Lucy Wait, Rich and Laurie Sommer.**



Membership Matters

622 Members

10 Youth Members

282 Associate Members

January etc. Birthdays

The following is a list that was generated by our computer when we asked for the January Birthdays. It appears that some of you did NOT give us your birthday and the computer decided that you were born on January first. In the interest of being inclusive I decided to list you all. So Happy Birthday to the January folks and also to the others who will have a birthday sometime this year!



Kitty Clark, Carl Happel, Mary Berry, Norman Martin, Eve Gilbert, Fred Beasley, Barbara Carson, Genell Happel, Jerry Frazee, Robert Cranshaw, Rick Duiker, Larry Korts, Velma Elliott, Betty Kortx, Donald Stone, George Denny, John Berry, Sue, Cassel, Annette Stone, Dick Fralin, Robert Sechler, Helen Siders, Kitty Traylor, Jay, Cassel, Emily Puckett-Notley, Nanette Sechler, Catie Deans, Edward Sledge, Jim Deans, Kelly Ward, Judith Gostisha, Fred Higgins, Jan Fredin, Thomas Marquardt, Lynda West, Marsha Sharp, Davelyn Forrest, Dale Bulla, Slade Cutter, Barbara Marquardt, Thomas Martin, J. Karen Ollmann, Beverly Donoghue, Linda Websstreer, Kim Akenhead, Dianne Duncan, Gene Martin, Derek, Howard, Jim Bayliss, Janice Hansel, Vic Kinney, Angela Smith, Melanie Walter-Mahoney, Pam Clift, Larry Vaughn, Magdeline Werner, Michael West, Beth Priem, Lynn Vaughan, Don Catterson, Donna Kinney, Tim Mahoney, Tom Priem, Barrik Van Winkle, Wade Wilcox, Polly Turner Strong, Elizabeth McVeety, Dan Kkowalski, Burgess Cole, Elizabeth Day, Mark Kilpatrick, Robert Norris, Lynn Westbrook, Martha Withers, Steve Rothstein, Vicki McDonald, Kim Peterson, Bill Douglass, Ann Travis, Elizabeth Maxim, Celia Beth Neavel, Jeff Reed, Theresa Frazee, Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis, Teresa Stoker, Leslie McCulloch, Donna Beckett, Julia Ragsdale, Barbara Owens, Daniel Welch, Mike Currens, Christopher Summers, Camille Clark, John Davis, Leslie Currens, Tayron Tolley Cutter, Karen James, Clare Tilson, Robert Dole, BEckett Gilchrist, Roger Tilson, Dale Whiteaker-Lewis, Rob Kientz, Craig Gilchrist, Michelle Boohls, Wendy Kuo, Harold Daniel, Tracy Daniel, Lisa Losasso, Klondike Steadman, Johnathan Ryner, Catherine Meiners, Sally Strudell, Clara Bradbury, Katie Malinski, Nance L. Mohn Barnard, Elizabeth Davis, Ashley Gaar, John Holmes Dean, Laura Giammona, Eric Withers, Evan Kilpatrick, Stephanie Hamlin, Geneva Martin, Kristin Freeman, Laura and Thomas Peterson/Leisering, Kevin Shaffer, Nathan Rhodes Gerrow, Lauren Rhoades, Sean Stevens, and Emily Withers.

Denominational UU Updates



Time to think again about the UU Service Committee. Because the UUSC is politically activist (though of course non-partisan), it remains independent, with no direct funding from the the domination. Standard ways for supporting the committee are Guest at Your Table contributions, other special collections and purchases from the UUSC Online Store (including "Drumbeat for Darfur" t-shirts, holiday cards, DVDs about the committee's work, canvas bags and UUSC logo jewelry). Unrestricted contributions of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the UU congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, New York. The UUSC is guided in its mission by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its four program areas are: advancing economic justice; defending civil liberties and access to democratic processes; promoting environmental justice; and protecting rights in humanitarian camps. Go online to find more details and think about donating.

The exciting work that FUUCA is doing to get ready for hosting the Southwest Conference District Conference from April 25-27 is described elsewhere in this newsletter.



Paradox Players

January opens new opportunities to join Paradox Players: lend us furniture or work on a set. For the February opening of *The Rainmaker*, we're in need of a round pedestal table, 5 chairs, daybed, sideboard and trunk or cedar chest. Set building and painting will take place on Saturday, Jan 12 and 19. If you can contribute, please contact or Charles Hill at chasnrice@

swbell.net or Barbara Weeks at blyfordweeks@aol.com

Paradox Pal 2008 Season tickets will be sold in the Gallery every Sunday in January, and at each performance for the duration of the February production. Paradox Pals save 25% off the regular single ticket price for Opening Nights, get a listing in the program and preferred seating PLUS two extra tickets to bring friends along!

The Rainmaker, a classic romantic comedy set in a Kansas drought when hopes for rain and marriage prospects become intertwined, opens the season on February 8. Our June production will be *Inventing Van Gogh*, a haunting drama about the obsession to create, and the fine line that separates truth from myth. September holds a surprise – we are exploring options for a new and exciting play, continuing our tradition of bringing quality theater to Howson Hall.

CHURCH EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

Jan 1	Tue		OFFICE CLOSED	Jan 9	Wed	12:00	Spiritual/Philosophical Discussion, 13
Jan 2	Wed	12:00	Spiritual/Philosophical Discussion, 13			6:00	Eat 'n Meet, HH
		6:00	Eat 'n Meet, HH			7:00	Building Committee, G
		7:00	CPC Meeting, Rm 9			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17
		7:00	Fuucyaa, Rm 13			7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17			7:30	Choir Practice, S
		7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15			7:30	Interplay, HH
Jan 3	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH	Jan 10	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17			7:00	Adult RE Meeting, Rm 9
		7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17
Jan 4	Fri	7:00	Tarot Mysteries Group, Rm 13			7:00	Spiritual Progressives, Rm 13
Jan 5	Sat	10:30	Women's Spirituality			7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH
		10:30	World Peace Meditation, L	Jan 11	Fri	7:00	English Country Dancing, HH
Jan 6	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B			7:00	Metaphysical Salon, Rm 11
		9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L	Jan 12	Sat	8:00	Men's Breakfast, G
		9:45	Worship Service, Sanctuary			9:00	Paradox Players Set Building, HH
		11:30	Worship Service, Sanctuary			9:00	Worship Associate Training, Rm 11
		11:30	Public Affairs Forum, HH			10:30	World Peace Meditation, L
		1:00	Yew Grove Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17	Jan 13	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B
		6:30	YRUU, Rm 11			9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L
Jan 7	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K			9:45	Worship Service, Sanctuary
		7:00	Green Sanctuary Committee, Rm 13			11:30	Worship Service, Sanctuary
		7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH			11:30	Public Affairs Forum, HH
Jan 8	Tue	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13			1:00	Membership Committee Meeting, Rm 13
		12:00	Senior Luncheon, HH			1:00	Yew Grove Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17
		7:00	Camp Fire, Rm 11			6:00	YRUU
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17			6:30	Thank God for Evolution, by Michael Dowd
		7:00	Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith Mtg, Rm 13	Jan 14	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K
		7:30	Executive Committee Meeting, Min			7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH
						7:30	Paradox Players Readers Theater, Rm 13

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION January 2008

ART STUDIO: Tuesdays from 10 to 2:30 pm in Rm 13. Judith Gostisha judithgostisha@yahoo.com

WRITERS' WORKSHOP Constance Good Constanceuu@sbcglobal.net (H) 491-0895 2nd Sunday at 2 pm in RM 13.

TAI CHI Jim Williams. Meets every Wednesday at 7 pm in Rm 15. First session is free, then \$10/session

HATHA YOGA Becky Ballou bballou@hotmail.com Meets Thursdays 5:30 pm Howson Hall. \$10 per session.

FOLK DANCING: 3 different programs. Newcomers welcome. In Howson Hall. Request a donation.

English Country Dancing Ann McCracken (H) 266-9949 ann@mccr.org Second Friday at 7:30 pm \$6.

Scandinavian Dance Stephanie Files (H) 454-0598 jfiles@ix.netcom.com Thursday 7:30 pm Howson Hall \$3

International Village Dance Jo Soto 836-7974 every first, third and fifth Monday at 7:30 pm. Howson Hall \$2

World Peace Meditation with Swami Jee @459-5261 Saturdays 10:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Library. \$1.00.

CHURCH EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

Jan 15	Tue	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13	Jan 23	Wed	12:00	Spiritual Exploration & Philosophical, 13
		6:30	Board Meeting, G			6:00	Eat 'n Meet, HH
		7:00	Camp Fire, Rm 11			7:00	Building Committee, G
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17
Jan 16	Wed	12:00	Spiritual Exploration & Philosophical, 13			7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15
		6:00	Eat 'n Meet, HH			7:30	Interplay, HH
		7:00	Facilities Committee Meeting, Office	Jan 24	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17
		7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 17			7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH
		7:00	Interplay, HH	Jan 26	Sat	9:00	New UU Class, Rm 17
		7:30	Choir Practice, S			9:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
Jan 17	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH			10:30	World Peace Meditation, L
		7:00	Fuucyaa Meeting, Rm 13			7:00	Tim Woolsey Fundraiser, S
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17	Jan 27	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B
		7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH			9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L
Jan 18	Fri	7:00	Spiritual Movies, HH			9:45	Worship Service, Sanctuary
Jan 19	Sat	9:00	Paradox Players Set Building, HH			11:30	Worship Service, Sanctuary
		9:00	Usher/Greeter Training, G & S			11:30	Public Affairs Forum, HH
		10:30	Women's Spirituality, Rm 13			1:00	Yew Grove Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17
		10:30	World Peace Meditation, L			6:00	YRUU, Rm 11
Jan 20	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B	Jan 28	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K
		9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L			7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH
		9:45	Worship Service, Sanctuary	Jan 29	Tue	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13
		11:30	Worship Service, Sanctuary			7:00	Camp Fire, Rm 11
		11:30	Public Affairs Forum, HH			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
		1:00	Social Action Committee Meeting, Rm 13	Jan 30	Wed	12:00	Spiritual Exploration & Philosophical, 13
		1:00	Yew Grove Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17			6:00	Eat 'n Meet, HH
		6:00	YRUU, Rm 11			7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 17
Jan 21	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K			7:00	Interplay, Rm 15
		7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH			7:30	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
Jan 22	Tue	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13			7:30	Choir Practice, S
		7:00	Camp Fire, Rm 11	Jan 31	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
		7:00	Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith, Rm 13			7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, Rm 15

Spiritual Exploration and Philosophical Marcus Barnes aerodyne@prodigy.net (H) 338-1816.9:30 am in Library every Sunday.

Meditation Choices from Diverse Traditions: Learn about Meditation and its many cultural origins, from known guides with long and authentic experience.

Fifth Annual Distinguished Speaker May 2-4, 2008 May 2-4, 2008 Rev Meg Barnhouse of Spartanburg, South Carolina. A weekend of creativity and & spirituality with a Carolina NPR Commentator (Radio Free Bubba), musician, Unitarian humorist and Black Belt.

Reflections of the Director of Religious Education

Happy New Year! I have a feeling that 2008 is going to be an extraordinary year for our Congregation.

As most of you know, the Board voted to make me the settled DRE beginning January 1, 2008. This term, "Settled DRE" is one that the UUA uses to differentiate between interim and acting DREs. What this designation means for the congregation is that there will not be a search for a settled DRE and I will continue to perform and expand upon the DRE duties.

What this means to me personally is that I can start planning much further into the future. To do this longer term planning, I need input from all of you! Please stop by the RE office to see me on Wednesday or Friday morning, send me an email, or give me a call to plan a time for us TO talk.

The Adult RE Committee has many wonderful classes lined up for the Spring. These classes will supplement our old favorites, like Tai Chi and Yoga. Please see the Adult RE table in the gallery to review the class offerings.

Our church has been chosen to field test the first 3 curricula in the UUA's latest children's series of the Tapestry of Faith project. These Tapestry of Faith curricula are being developed to be offered, free of charge, on the internet. First Church will have the opportunity to make an impact on these curricula, as we will be testing them at all grade levels and will be providing week-by-week feedback to the UUA. The topics of these test classes are UU Identity and that is the topic we were planning to focus on for Spring, so it works out well for us all.

See you in church, *Lara*

Caregiver's Covenant Group

If you are currently providing primary care for an adult please contact lara@austinuu.org. Adult Religious Education is exploring the feasibility of forming a Caregiver's Covenant Group in the Spring of 2008.



Continuation of New Member Bios from page 12.

Lauren Brooke Tothero (78722) writes, "Hi! ... I have been coming to this church since I was very little and I am extremely excited to finally become a member." Lauren's interests include gymnastics, diving, cooking, and theater; she has worked at a summer camp and volunteered at the Trail of Lights.

Sierra Paige Tothero (78722) writes, "Hi ... I am very happy to be one of the newest youth members of this church. I hope to meet a lot of new people, so come up and say Hi!" Sierra's interests include diving, hiking, camping, rock climbing, gymnastics, and snowboarding. She has worked as a summer camp counselor.

Patrick Balaguer (78703) writes, "I have been going to this church for as long as I can remember, running up to the stage for story time, getting graham crackers, etc. Now I would like to finally be recognized as a full member of the church." Patrick's talents include the cello.

Edward Balaguer (78703) writes, "I have attended this church for my whole life, and have now officially joined. I am a junior at Anderson High School. I participate in the Robotics Club, Chess Club, and Business Club. I play the piano and am an avid reader."

Anne Van Nort (78704) enjoys soccer, reading, friends, and the theater at McCallum High School. She is active in the Girl Scouts, ANSCS, and the McCallum Theater, and has worked backstage with Paradox Players.

Aaron Osmer (78757) enjoys biking, singing, computer work, and robotics. He volunteers as a media technician for FUUCA and has run tech for Paradox Players. His reasons for joining the church include "community, friendship, and a view-changing experience."

Michael Matthis (78731), a sophomore at McCallum High School, is a competitive gymnast who works out 17 hours a week. At First UU he looks for "people that will accept me and take me in. A community that I will feel comfortable in."

Patrick McVeety-Mill (78745) says, "I'm a senior at McCallum High School, and after attending the church since I was little, I'm becoming a member. I play the tuba in band and want to go on to study industrial design in college." Patrick also enjoys drawing, robotics, and video games.

Dennis Chitty enjoys surfing and horseback riding; community involvements include babysitting and volunteering at Brentwood Elementary.

Emily Withers (78757) writes, "I am a senior at the Liberal Arts and Science Academy and have attended this church for eight years." Emily does Sunday morning kitchen duty at FUUCA; other activities/interests include singing, dancing, theater, and environmental issues. She is a member of YRUU and the National Honor Society.

Heritage Book Club

Our book for January is "When the Rivers Run Dry: Water, the defining crisis of the 21st century", by Fred Pearce. We'll meet at Kitty Clarke's at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 11th. Kitty's address is 4308 Avenue D, telephone number is 453-6246.



Mind and Meaning Book Club

Room 13A at 9:30. Currently reading "The First Word: The Search for the Origins of Language" by Christine [Kenneally](#). For further information contact June Beach 382-7551 or email junembeach@aol.com



Sunday Morning Book Club

The Sunday Book Group: meets in Room 13B at 9:30 am. We are reading "God: a Biography" by Jack Miles. This was the first book that the group read 11 years ago. If you have any questions, please *contact Jim Burson, 794-1086.*



Voyagers Book Club!

Yes, we discuss books... BUT It's not just for Voyagers....

All FUUCA members and friends are welcome. We meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month. For our January selection, we'll have a Beatnik-inspired event on January 20th from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. We'll be discussing *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac, and enjoying refreshments as well as engaging in spontaneous art. It's at Suzanne Perreault's home at 3801 Leaffield Drive, 78749. For more information, to get involved in book selection, or otherwise stay up-to-date on our bookish doings, please send an e-mail to voyagers-books-subscribe@yahoo.com

Great Decisions Discussions 2008!

The US Foreign Policy Council has issued a list of the **2008** topics in the order these will be published & discussed in the new Briefing Book (now on order). Topical discussions begin on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 7 pm in Room 13 and continue thru March 25. Cost: \$20 for Briefing Book. If you see a topic of particular interest to you or in which you have expertise, please contact Judy Sadegh at jsadegh@yahoo.com so you can be the discussant for that topic.
Iraq: End Game 2/5 U.S. Defense & Security Policy 3/4 European Union at 50 2/12 Latin America: Shift to the Left? 3/11 Talking to Our Enemies 2/19 US-China Trade Policy 3/18 Russia 2/26 Private Philanthropy 3/25

INTERPLAY

Interplay is the practice of simple forms of movement, tone of voice, and story-telling to promote ease and fun in community and as a spiritual practice. Begins Wednesday January 9 in Howson Hall at 7:30 pm and meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in January on the 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. Conducted by Dina Claussen dina@austinuu.org \$10 per session or \$40 for four sessions. Register with mfoleyinitiative@msn.com; make checks payable to First UU Church of Austin.

Art Studio Workshop



ART STUDIO WORKSHOP, "Decorative Wood Painting - Birdhouse, Serving Tray, Toy, Stool, etc." Tuesdays, Jan. 8, 15 & 22, from 10 am to 2:30 pm, with the Open Studio on Tuesday, Jan. 29 (Open Studio is a time for you to finish your project, play and do your own thing). Bring your oil & acrylic paints, brushes (flat & round) and clean up cloths. We will provide the work space table & table cover. We will sand out objects with very fine sandpaper, seal the wood with Gesso. We will help you draw a design on the the birdhouse/serving tray/toy/stool and begin to paint. The design can be as elaborate or as simple as you wish. The fee is \$15/person. We will provide some materials and guidance as needed. Call Judith (451-9915) or Susan (343-0827).



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CHURCH OF AUSTIN

4700 Grover Avenue

Austin, TX 78756

One Church. Many Beliefs.

Minister: Dr. Davidson Loehr

Director of Religious Education:

Lara Douglass

Director of Music: Brent Baldwin

President, Board of Trustees:

Mark Kilpatrick

Intern: Dina Claussen

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

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Newsletter Deadline: Jan. 15th

news@austinuu.org

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Please Welcome Some of Our Newest Members

Where do they live? In an effort to help neighbors become aware of each other, here's zip codes of new folks.

Regina (Genie) Mullen Barnes (78727) Genie and her husband David moved to Austin a year ago from Hong Kong. Genie is retired and enjoys reading, cooking, and volunteering at the library; she is also active in the Newcomers Club. She is looking for community and community involvement, spiritual encouragement, intellectual stimulation, and fellow searchers.

Christina Loy (78759) lists "all kinds of arts" and recycling as interests. Her involvements are currently limited to Yew Grove CUUPS, but she hopes to become more active in the future. Christina comes from a Pagan and Christian background, and writes that she would like to find "a loving and accepting community from whom I can learn, grow, and progress on my spiritual journey ... a group to give back to."

Martha Wright (78747) works in administration at Whole Foods and enjoys movies, reading, and cooking. She and her husband Allen are the parents of two-year old Ruby and are expecting another baby in April. Martha was formerly a member of First UU Church of Portland, Oregon; here she is hoping to find connection, community, and spiritual uplift.

Carol Olewin (78752) Carol writes that she is a native Austinite who has lived and worked in the Austin area all her life, and she likes the religious perspective of Unitarian philosophy. Carol works for the Texas Racing Commission and often serves on community boards and committees; she especially enjoys outdoor activities.

Heather Palmer (78759) enjoys writing, singing, dance, volunteering, and hanging out with the Yew Grove Interfaith Pagans. She writes "I look forward to learning, exploring, and becoming a member of the warm community at FUUCA. Thank you."

Carlene and Brian Townly (78669). Brian, a software engineer, and Carlene, a retail manager, are the parents of three young children. Brian enjoys computer games, home brewing, and religion; Carlene likes camping and reading. They are looking for community and suitable children's groups; Carlene writes, "I'm excited to join First UU to gather with like-minded people."

Andrea Archer and Denise (Gene) Rumann (78613). Gene tells us that "My life brought me to a place where many decisions needed to be made. My choices led me to relearn how to live life on life's terms and to stop thinking of me first. Along the way I learned about the real meaning of faith. That re-awoke a very long-lost spiritual life. I hope I have found a home outside my home, a true extension of my home here." Andrea works at a publishing services company and enjoys travel, cooking, reading, and gardening; Gene works at an educational publishing company and enjoys travel, fixing things herself, and eating.

Steven Orr writes "My first thoughts walking into this church were 'Am I in a dream?' I mean never before have I been in such a welcoming place." Steven's interests include art, poetry, and singing.

Shannon Mahoney (78704) enjoys community service, YRUU, hanging out with friends, and the Girl Scouts. She is looking for a community that's open and accepting.

New Member Bios are Continued on Page 10...