

March
2008

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.



Free Lunch! Kick-Off Meeting with the Architect March 9th

The Kick-Off Meeting with our architect, Hurt Partners, is scheduled for Sunday, March 9. Please join us for this informative and exciting community forum. A schedule of the various focus-group meetings and open forums will be presented, and the architect will be available to hear your thoughts on what our new facility should be. Free lunch will be served in Howson Hall after the second service and the meeting will begin at 1:30 in the sanctuary. Child care will be provided with reservations: lara@austinuu.org. Here are some questions to ponder in preparation for this meeting:

- How do we want to be perceived in the community at large, and how will this building convey who we are?
- What shared values should this building express?
- What changes would you most like to see in the existing facility?

WE HAVE A SUMMER MINISTER! At the board meeting on Feb. 19, we agreed to hire **Aaron White** as our summer minister. Aaron is Live Oak UU Church's intern this year, a Texas native and has his M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School. Those who heard him preach on Jan. 27 got to experience what Davidson has described as "the most naturally gifted young preacher I've heard in my 23 years in the ministry." Aaron finishes his internship with Live Oak at the end of May, and will be ordained by them, becoming the **Rev. Aaron White**. Dates and details are being worked out, but he'll be with us from about mid-June to about mid-August, in the pulpit all but about two Sundays. Aaron will also work with us to help us improve our whole internship program, and will be an exciting transition to this fall, when we bring our equally exciting new ministerial intern, **Brian Ferguson**.



First Unitarian
Universalist Church
of Austin



It's Time to Get on Board!!
Early registration closes Monday, March 31st

Brochures for the Southwest District Spring Conference are out! You can find the details online at our website (www.austinuu.org) or copies are available in the church office. Information for our visitors, workshop descriptions, keynote speakers' bios, schedules, and all extras are included, along with a registration form and youth permission form. You'll see many topics on the theme of "What the World Needs from Religious Liberals."

Worship is planned for Friday evening (Djembabes drummers), Saturday morning, and the two Sunday services (First UU choir). Entertainment for both evenings has been planned, and caterers for meals hired. We are fortunate to have all local providers for meals -- supper on Friday from NeWorld Deli, lunch on Saturday by Do Yourself a Flavor! Catering, and dinner on Saturday, a complete Tex-Mex buffet from Casa Chapala Mexican Grill and Cantina.

Youth activities at U-Bar-U promise to include a workshop, a service project, and lots of fun. The District Board of Trustees will meet on Friday, and they will hold the Annual District Meeting on Saturday afternoon. There'll be plenty of social time for visiting with other UUs and looking around in Austin.

Early registration closes on Monday, March 31. Your Spring Conference Planning Committee (*Lara Douglass, Mary Jane Ford, Gary and Amy Bennett, Rose Ann Reeser, Henry and Doris Hug, Davidson Loehr, and Nancy Groblewski*) want to see you there !!



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No. 3

Davidson's Lore

Many of you who are relatively new to the church community may not know about the "Spiritual Movie Nights" we have at 7 pm on the third Fridays of each month (21 March, 18 April, 16 May & 20 June). These are good films you'll almost never see in regular theaters because they wouldn't draw big numbers. Sometimes I'll show two or three short films (15-45 minutes each), sometimes just one full-length film – usually about 90-120 minutes total. But they're all exploring what I would call the two central "spiritual" questions: "Who are we?" and "How should we live?" The March and April movies are for adults – their topics would probably not be very engaging for kids.

After the movie, there's time for comments and discussion – sometimes quite animated. I choose these from more than a hundred such films that I have previewed from the "Spiritual Cinema Circle" offerings (to which we subscribe). There is no admission charge.

In order to tell you about them here, I've settled on the movies for March and April – both full-length features. I'll give you previews of the May and June films in the May newsletter.

On 21 March, we'll show "The Man From Earth." The film blurb says, "When John Oldman retires after 10 years as a college history professor, his colleagues show up at his house to say goodbye as he packs up his belongings. Friendly goodbyes soon turn into a prolonged interrogation, until finally John Oldman tells a tale that few can swallow. One of the most thought-provoking films we've seen, it raises questions for all of us." Questions about how life and religion might look to someone who has been around quite awhile. I'm still thinking about some of the film's metaphors and insights, and think they'll linger for you too.

On April 18th, we'll show one of the very few that once did have a (small) commercial run – back in 1998. It's the film "Déjà vu" with Vanessa Redgrave (playing an Aphrodite-like character) and a cast of unknown but good actors who explore, in engaging ways, questions of which you value more in a relationship: grown-up compatibility and stability, or the kind of once-in-a-lifetime magic that has given birth to so many love stories. The characters don't agree, and neither will all of you. But I can't think of another film that has raised all these issues so well. Come see.

I'll be out of state on two trips close together. 25-29 February, I'll be in Santa Barbara for the annual meeting of the Senior Ministers of Large UU Churches – about 45 are expected this year. We're wonderful resources for each other, since the problems of all larger churches are so very similar – and so different from the problems in small and medium-sized churches. They're my favorite group of colleagues. Then from 14-16 March, our Director of Religious Education Lara Douglass and I will attend the UUA's once-every-three-year "Large Church Conference." Between us, we'll cover most of the workshops, and have an important chance to network again with those facing and solving similar issues.

March is also a month with a lot of UU ministers doing things. On 2 March, I'll preach in the morning, then at 4:00 our church will host the Installation service for Eliza Galaher, the new minister at Wildflower Church. On 9 March, in San Antonio, Rev. Bret Lortie will have his installation as the new minister of the First UU Church of San Antonio. On 16 March, while I'm in Louisville at the Large Church Conference, Rev. Eric Posa will preach here. He's the new minister of the UU church in College Station. And on 30 March, the always-popular Rev. Nathan Stone will preach here, and I'll swap pulpits with him by preaching in Waco. Pretty churchy month.

See you in church!

Davidson

May 4th

Congregational Meeting

If you would like to propose an agenda item for the Congregational Meeting, please e-mail

Beverly Donoghue by

Tuesday, March 11th

so we can add your proposed item to the

March Board Meeting Agenda.



Discussion Group for Public Affairs Forum!

We have added an on-line discussion group for the public affairs forum. Join us! To join, send a blank email to publicaforum-subscribe@egroups.com. View at:

publicaforum@yahoogroups.com

Sunday Worship Services 9:45 and 11:30

2 March: The Most Dangerous Fundamentalism On Earth, Part I. Davidson Loehr. This month, I'll share a series of three sermons derived mostly from Naomi Klein's new, good, long and disturbing book [The Shock Doctrine: the Rise of Disaster Capitalism](#). It's an eye-opening study of the immense and continuing damage done from 1972 to the present by the "fundamentalist capitalism" of Milton Friedman and the University of Chicago School of Economics. From Chile to Iraq, behind all the misleading spin, country after country has been opened to almost unrestrained looting, leaving millions dead or destitute as the necessary means of effecting this robbery and piracy. The series is looking at the deep values — the de facto religious values — that have shaped and mis-shaped our world — including our country. This series is also meant to supplement the church-wide book discussion on Frances Moore Lappe's book [Getting a Grip](#), which deals with many of the same issues in simpler terms.

9 March: The Most Dangerous Fundamentalism on Earth, Part II. Davidson Loehr. Part II in this series is a look at how the fundamentalist capitalism has required torture, violence, murder and the systematic — and very well planned — robbery and disempowerment of workers and "leftists" (we know them better as liberals).

16 March: Living by Covenants. Rev. Eric Posa. An examination of what it can mean for us as religious liberals to live in covenant with one another. Rev. Posa is the newly installed minister at the UU Church in College Station.

23 March: Thoughts on Coming Back to Life. Davidson Loehr. This is Part III of "The Most Dangerous Fundamentalism on Earth." The numbing trail of destruction left in the wake of Chicago School economics over the past 36 years to Iraq and our own country, to the rise of what Naomi Klein calls "Disaster Capitalism" is a modern version of the "crucifixion" of so much that is fragile and holy. Klein also describes some hopeful signs of rebirth, and there are some hopeful suggestions for coming back to life. I think anyone interested in this complex and vital area will be informed and challenged by Klein's well-researched book. I spent over fifteen hours typing about 19,000 words of excerpts from the book which I'll be glad to share — just send an e-mail to Davidson@austinuu.org with "Klein book excerpts" in the subject line.

30 March: Learning to Die. Rev. Nathan Stone. My wife and I went to see the movie "Bucket List." We thought it was simply going to be a film about Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman doing silly things together. Wrong. There are much deeper meanings in this film about two men who are facing that thing some call, "kicking the bucket." It made us wonder about questions like, how will I die and how shall I die and how will I live before I die? (Rev. Stone has been a very popular preacher here before. He's the minister of the UU church in Waco, where Davidson will be preaching this morning.).

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

2 March: City of Austin Issues Forum. We've invited our existing Austin City Council Members and candidates for our May 08' City of Austin Council election to help showcase our City's top challenges and opportunities. We look forward to hearing solutions and plans on how to tackle these challenges and "opportunities".

9 March: Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County Commissioner, Precinct 2, will speak about the issues confronting Travis County, the successes we have achieved thus far during her time in office, the challenges we presently see and how we're going to tackle these areas going forward. Some of the issues include dealing with growth and transportation

19 March: Mohammed Al-Bedaiwi: A lecture on an "Introduction to Islam". Islam is the second largest religion in the world with over 1.6 Billion Muslims; yet, in the USA, Islam is a very much misunderstood religion. This 'Introduction to Islam' presentation will shed the light on the fundamentals of the faith and the beliefs of the Muslims from the view point of a practicing Muslim. The presentation will cover different topics such as 'who is Allah?', 'Do Muslims believe in Jesus?'...etc., to some current and contemporary issues like Jihad and Terrorism. The presentation includes a question and answer session to address specific questions from the audience.

23 March: NO FORUM – EASTER.

30 March: Dave McNeely, Co-Author of "Bob Bullock: God Bless Texas". Dave will speak about The Man Behind the Museum in his recently released book "Bob Bullock: God Bless Texas". McNeely is an expert on Texas politics and presently Dean of the Texas Capitol Press Corps. McNeely also writes a weekly column on Texas politics for two dozen Texas newspapers.

Wednesday Connections!

Aka Eat and Meet

Join us on Wednesdays for great food and community. We can always use volunteers to set up and clean up and most importantly COOK! The meal begins promptly at 6 pm. Adults: \$5, Children: \$3, Family: \$10. The meals for March are:

- March 5th: FUUCYAA Group serving fajitas.
- March 12th: Spring Break. No meal this week.
- March 19th: Soup Peddler
- March 26th: Baked Salmon

The Adult Religious Education Committee

Presents

Meg Barnhouse

One of the extraordinary talents of our Unitarian Ministry

May
2-4



Save
the
Dates

Orientation Evening

With

Davidson Loehr

On March 19th, from 7 to 8:30, in Room 13 join the minister in an informal setting. Great place to meet others. Bring your questions and prepare to be fascinated!

*New Job? No Job?
Call the Listening Ministry
452 6168 ext. 18*

**Next Sharing Suppers
March 15**

Come meet other UUs!

Call Sheri Overton, 512-847-2685

E-mail sherioverton@hotmail.com

Sign up sheet is outside Davidson's office

Join email list: sharingsuppers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

55 Tons of CO₂ ???



The Green Sanctuary Committee has been working to determine the church's carbon footprint—the amount of carbon dioxide we produce through our use of electricity, water and gas.

We've also determined how much carbon dioxide is produced by various service contractors as a result of their travel to and from the church campus, including the custodial service, lawn care service and trash/recycling service. Ready for a shocker? We're producing about **55 tons** of carbon dioxide a year, even after all that has been done to reduce our carbon footprint (xeriscaping the grounds, changing out lighting fixtures and lamps, improving the mechanical systems, etc.). Now the committee is working on solutions, including consideration of a photovoltaic system to be mounted on the roof of the sanctuary, and rainwater collection. Want to find out more? Come to a Green Sanctuary Committee meeting. We meet the first Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 13.

Denominational UUpdates

Check out the new Southwestern UU Conference website when you get the chance: <http://www.swuuc.org/>. It is one of our major connections to other churches in the denomination. The SWUUC includes most of Texas and Oklahoma, all of Louisiana and Arkansas, and parts of Missouri, Tennessee and Mexico (yes, Old Mexico).

We are told that it is the largest district in the UUA (that is, in terms of the numbers of UUs served; the Mountain West district is larger geographically). Perhaps we are supposed to enjoy the bragging rights of being the largest, but the fact that it spans such large distances unnecessarily is not a plus; districts are supposed to be relatively compact units that are convenient for driving to conferences (our previous experience was with the Joseph Priestly District, which seldom required more than two hours of travel). The boundaries may have made sense in 1940, when Unitarians and Universalists barely extended beyond New England and its colonies, but they should be recreated for today's denomination.

Upcoming events:

Friday April 25 - Sunday April 27: Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference Spring Meeting, Austin, Texas (wherever that is)

Wednesday June 25 - Sunday June 29: Unitarian Universalist General Assembly: Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Gary Bennett

Hunger Walk March 1-2

It's not too late to join or sponsor the First UU team for the annual Austin Hunger Walk on Saturday & Sunday, March 1-2! This largest multi-faith gathering of the year in Austin raises funds for hunger relief and development of sustainable resources. A fourth of the proceeds will help feed the hungry here in Austin, the rest goes for global aid programs. The Hunger Walk is sponsored by Austin Area Interreligious Ministries (AAIM) and spearheaded by Church World Service/CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty). You can sign up to walk or to co-sponsor our First UU team by contacting Eric Hartman at 469-9894, or har-toftex@aol.com. Or you can stop by the Social Action table in the Gallery on Sunday morning, March 2, to donate or sign up for the Sunday afternoon walk.

Split the Plate for March

On the first and third Sundays offering plate is split with a non-profit organization that puts our social-justice values into action.

On March 2, we will split the plate with **YouthLaunch**, a local organization that provides empowering service experiences for young people. For more than 14 years, these programs have given young people, ages 12-24, the chance to change their lives by changing their communities. The programs include: No Kidding (parents talk with middle and high school students about the realities of being a teen parent), Urban Roots (East Austin urban farm where high school students learn about sustainability, organic farming, healthy eating, and then donate their harvest to hunger relief), and Youth Partnership for Change (young people take the lead in fighting under age alcohol use).

On March 16, our beneficiary will be **JustWorks Camps**, a program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee that enables participants, including youth from our congregation, to work directly with people in communities involved in social-justice struggles. Recent activities have included several Hurricane Katrina rebuilding/repair projects, a "Return to Earth" camp in Oklahoma working on a Native American burial site, and "Freedom Summer: A Civil Rights Journey," traveling across the South to explore the lessons of the voting-rights struggles of the 1960s. Another Freedom Summer journey is planned for 2008, as well as an alternative spring break in New Orleans working to repair Katrina-damaged homes.

Seniors' Luncheon

Tues. March 11th
Noon in Howson Hall
Soup, Salad & Dessert
Cost: \$5.00



RSVP: Alice Cashman, 837-0988

"Down Under with No Worries" Hear Veryan and Greg Thompson talk about and show pictures of their travels in Australia — including Great Barrier Reef, Great Ocean Road and Kangaroo Island — as well as New Zealand, the land of four million people and 40,000,000 sheep. "Down under" is the name for that area, and "No worries" is a common Aussie expression meaning something like "Everything will be alright" or "Okay."

Pot Luck Easter Brunch!



Join us for the Easter Brunch, Sunday, March 23. It will be served in the Gallery with seating in Howson Hall. We will have a lovely assortment of pastries, egg dishes, cold cuts, and vegetarian selections. **Potlucks are welcome.** If you prefer not to bring a potluck, the suggested donation is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 10 and under, and \$14 per family. If it is warm, please feel free to picnic with your family on the grounds. No RSVP needed. Volunteers needed to help in the kitchen, set up, and clean up. Connie Good at (512) 491-0895 or constanceuu@sbcglobal.net. Volunteering is a great way to become acquainted with others.



Happy March Birthday to You!

Robert Schenkkan, Alfred Kandik, Jeanie Forsyth, Georgia Corin, Jean Davison, Wendy Miller, Barbara Weeks, Bonnie

Voss, William Forbes, Stephen Grimes, Mary Jane Ford, Doris Hug, Rose Ann Reeser, Barry Wright, Constance Good, Greg Ormiston, Ed Travis, Don Smith, Rhonda Gudewich, Rebecca Campbell, Nancy Reed, Ellen Pokorny Roberts, Sandra Bruce, Martin Cormier, Mark Beavers, Susan Hightower, Cindy Raab, Robin Sisco, Brittny Bethke, Adrienne Lane, Kevin Prince, Craig Reed, Jacob Williamson, Twyla Olmeda, Jennifer Sosa, Amber Walter, Sunny McMillan, Christina Loy, Melissa Phares, John-Michael Cortez, Sally Miculek, William Greeson, Marina Lewis, Elizabeth Paparella, Elizabeth Houchins, Emily Grayson, Elizabeth Anderson, Lisa Fredin, Jeff Sneed, Alexandra Roberts, and Michael Fredin,



Sack Lunch ThankUUs



Since May 2006, the sack lunch program has been making 30 lunches for the working homeless every Monday evening. We partner with Frontsteps and the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless. The lunches are delivered to ARCH. The job sites are frequently in isolated places with no convenient stores or restaurants; the homeless do not have kitchen facilities for the storage of food or preparation of lunches. Our lunches are much appreciated by those who receive them. In addition, working on the lunch making teams is a satisfying and community building experience for our volunteers. 1st Monday team: **Roseanne Graham, Mary Jane Ford, Nancy Groblewski, David Leibson, Ruth Marie, Kitty Traylor, Kathleen Lawson.** 2nd Monday team: **Rose Ann Reeser, Gretchen Paulig, Cathy Weaver, Melanie Walter Mahoney, Joan Schenker.** 3rd Monday team: **Jeanette Swenson, Andrea Archer, Elizabeth Gray, Eric Hartman, Melanie Haupt, Jennifer Loehlin, Sally Miculek, Wendy Miller.** 4th Monday team: **Judy Parken, Thomas Bodine, Carrie Evans, Mary Ann Stafford, Sarah Stevens, Christy Seals.** 5th Monday team: **Joan and Bill Forbes, Zosia and Joseph Hunt, Barbara Tuttle and Sterling Heraty.**

PCC Project Needs UUs!!

The People's Community Clinic (PCC) Social Action Project is preparing informational packets for patients each month at PCC. We have done this several times at church, and many of you have participated. Their need for these materials is so tremendous, that we'd like to send a team to PCC each month in addition to the work that we sometimes bring to church.

The next date is Tuesday, March 11 from 10 am to 12:30 pm. You need not commit to every month to help. Please contact Sheri Overton 512-287-2685 (sherioverton@hotmail.com). Thanks go to our February team: **Michele Caponi, Wendy Miller, Mary Ann Stafford, Nancy Neavel, & Sheri Overton.**



Garden Elves Play in the Mud

It is winter, so the January grounds workday turned out to be a rainy, muddy romp. **Dale Bulla** and **Luther Elmore** helped trim back the undesirable row of ligustrums along the Credit Union property line. This created room for **Nina Marlow, Dick Fralin, Tomas Rodriguez,** and **Monty Newton** to plant several yaupon hollies, and relocate some other plants. **Rich** and **Lorrie Sommer** found their calling as stone-masons to create a new path between the two parking lots. And then **Elizabeth Gray** and **Travis Jordan** followed up by installing a new bench in the memorial garden along the east side (left hand) church entry, where it was secured by Rich Sommer. Thanks to all who help in ways large and small to keep our exceptional landscape healthy. Want to get involved? (NO meetings!) Stay tuned for information on workdays in April to prepare the grounds for the SWUU Conference.
Elizabeth Grey

There are Angels Amongst Us!!!

These angels have taken me to and from church countless times. They have ushered me to Luby's and other eateries more than can be dieted. They helped me not only shop for an electric blanket, but installed it! These angels got my large painting of the "Capital on a Rainy Night" prominently displayed in our members art exhibit, THEN got it safely home.

Thanks to these angels, I now have a tiny but efficient refrigerator in my nursing-home room—it has even been stocked with rice milk. This is just part of what they have done. It goes on and on. You may think I'm seeing things but you can see 'em too. They look exactly like Bill and Lara Douglass!



Marjorie Adams
Lady of Texas

Thank UUs Ushers/Greeters/Lay Leaders

Applause for our Lay Leaders: **Luther Elmore, Eric Hepburn, Sheila Gladstone, Don Smith** and **Mark Scrabacz.** Cheers for the Ushers and Greeters: **Alycr Coehlo, Rosie Coehlo, Sharon Finley, Ruth Marie, Alice Cashman, Dana Copp, Mary Ann Copp, Joyce Wilson, Genie Barnes, Barbara Denny, Geri Masher, Doug Ginn, Andrea Archer, Gene Rumann, Betty Bowie, Jim Bowie, Kitty Traylor, Luther Elmore, David Liebson, Melanie Walter-Mahoney, Shannon Mahoney, Annie Smith, Lynn Westbrook,** and **Carol Olewin.**

Listening Ministers ThankUU

Dick Fralen, Kim Akenhead, John Carey, Jennifer Felon, Chris Ford, and **Mark Skrabacz** are our Listening Ministers. We appreciate the time they have taken to be trained and to serve us when we need them. Call 452 6168 ext. 18 anytime and they will call you back.

A Way to Serve: North Austin Caregivers!

You can put your spirit in action now. First UU Church of Austin is a member of the North Austin Caregivers. They need volunteers to: Provide transportation to medical appointments; Provide Social Contact to our neighborhood seniors; Run errands for an elderly person; Do small or minor household repairs. There are 200 neighborhood seniors in need of your time, but we only have 100 church volunteers. Call North Austin Caregivers at 453-2273 to find out what you can do to be in action. You and a whole lot of folks will be glad you did.

Membership Counts 906 members

Austin Chapter: UU Christian Fellowship Easter Vigil

On Saturday, March 22, the Austin Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship will hold an Easter Vigil service at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary at Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church. Aaron White has accepted our invitation to give the sermon. This service is adapted from the King's Chapel (Unitarian Universalist) liturgy and will include candlelighting and communion. It is a celebration of the emergence of light from darkness and the victory of life over death and love over hate. All are welcome, including children (but childcare is not available). For more information, contact Katharine Marvin (kamarvin@earthlink.net) or James Hamilton (jacobus1@sbcglobal.net).

Meditation:

Join Us Saturday Mornings

Would you feel comfortable boarding a jet with a pilot, who is still reading the manual for the first time? Then why would you allow yourself to die with no experience of where you are going and what to do to maximize the benefits there?

Regardless of our starting point, religious or not, meditation clearly has benefits not to be ignored; physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. One big help is to meditate in a group. That is where our group on Saturday mornings at 10:30 in the library can help.

We start by sending healing energy to people who are ill, whose names we have on a list. Then the same healing is sent to the whole world with peace and spiritual upliftment. Finally we stretch ourselves across the universe for an hour's silent meditation and then go to lunch! Of course! (-) . Although teachings can be given, if requested, we are essentially a "Practical, Doing group".

Real meditation begins only when the mind is still, no thoughts at all. Clearly, so called meditation techniques are concentrations to assist this stopping of the mind.

So come and practice doing absolutely nothing with us! It always feels good. 10:30 Saturday mornings in the Library.

Mommy Meals Ministry M³

The FUUCA Mommy Meals Ministry kicks off the New Year with 2 new families. Brendan, Valerie & Savannah (2.5 yrs) Sterne; and Scott, KLeigh & Harper (2 months) Forrell share their experiences with the program. They were very appreciative as you can read in the announcements and Sunday Bulletins. How about you?

We want to help you when your baby arrives... An important part of the church community is loving and caring for one another by ministering to the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our families. If you are a member or friend of FUUCA who is expecting a new child (or adopting, or fostering), M³ would like to help you by providing meals for your family as you arrive home. M³ is simple. Just notify us when your baby arrives and we'll make all the arrangements, enabling you to spend more time with your family. *Every child begins the world again.... ~Henry David Thoreau*

Here's what to do: Step 1: Advise us (via email) of your due date so we can get volunteers ready for you. Step 2: Have your baby. Step 3: Email the M³ Hotline: mrs.shillington@gmail.com You will need to answer a few basic questions (name, address, phone, allergies/dislikes & baby statistics). Step 4: Shortly upon your return home, you will be contacted by our volunteer team to arrange your meal deliveries.

We need your help! M³ operates completely on a volunteer basis and needs volunteers! If you are able to help by providing approximately one meal per month to assist new mothers and their families, please email the M³ hotline for information on how to become involved. M³ email hotline: mrs.shillington@gmail.com

Church Events for March

1-Mar Sat.	10:30 Women's Spirituality, Rm 13 10:30 World Peace Meditation, L	9-Mar Sun.	9:30 Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B 9:30 Philosophical Discussion Group, L 9:45 Worship Service, S 11:30 Worship Service, S 11:30 Public Affairs Forum, HH 11:30 Middle School Class, Rm 13 11:30 High School Class, Rom 11 12:30 Building Committee Event Lunch, HH 1:00 Spiral Scout,s, Rms 15 & 17 1:30 Building Committee Event Meeting, S 4:00 Meditation Course, Rm 15 6:00 YRUU, Rm 11
2-Mar Sun.	9:30 Book Groups, Rm 13A & 13B 9:30 Philosophical Discussion Group, L 9:45 Worship Service, S 11:30 Worship Service, S 11:30 Public Affairs Forum, HH 11:30 Middle School Class, Rm 13 11:30 High School Class, Rm 11 1:00 Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17 3:00 Installation Service For Eliza Galaher, SS/HH 5:30 VOYAGers, Rm 13 6:00 YRUU, Rm 11	10-Mar Mon.	6:30 Sack Lunch Program, Leader's home 6:30 Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23 7:00 Village International Dance, HH 7:30 Readers Theatre, Rm 13
3-Mar Mon.	6:30 Sack Lunch Program, K 6:30 Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23 7:00 Green Sanctuary Committee, Rm 13 7:00 Village International Dance, HH	11-Mar Tue.	10:30 Art Studio, Rm 13 12:00 Senior Luncheon, HH 7:00 New Member Dinner, G 7:00 Great Decisions, Rm 17
4-Mar Tue.	10:30 Art Studio, Rm 13 7:00 Great Decisions, Rm 17 7:00 Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith Mtg Rm 13	12-Mar Wed.	12:00 Philosophical Discussion Group, Rm 13 6:00 Wed. Connections (eat/Meet), HH 7:30 Choir Practice, S 7:30 Building Committee, G 7:30 Campfire, Mina Loomis, Room 13
5-Mar Wed	12:00 Philosophical Discussion Group, Rm 13 6:00 WedConnections (eat/meet) HH 6:30 CPC Meeting, Rm 9 7:00 FUUCYAA Mtg. Rm 13 7:00 Tai Chi, Rm 15 7:30 Choir Practice, S	13-Mar Thu.	5:30 Yoga, HH 7:00 Adult RE Meeting, Rm 9 7:00 Evensong, Rm 17 7:30 Scandinavian Dance, HH
6-Mar Thu	5:30 Yoga, HH 7:00 Evensong I, Rm 17 7:00 Scandinavian Dancing, HH	14-Mar Fri.	7:00 English Country Dance, HH 7:00 Metaphysical Salon, Rm 11
7-Mar Fri.	7:00 Yew Grove Full Moon Ritual, Rm 13	15-Mar Sat.	10:00 World Peace Meditation, L
8-Mar Sat.	8:00 Men's Breakfast, G 10:30 World Peace Meditation, L 3:00 Read In Book Discussion, HH		



Church Events for March

16-Mar Sun.	9:30 Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B 9:30 Philosophical Discussion Group, L 9:45 Worship Service, S 11:30 Worship Service, S 11:30 Public Affairs Forum, HH 1:00 Social Action Committee Mtg., Rm 13 1:00 Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17 4:00 UU Short History, Rm 15 6:00 YRUU, Rm 11
17-Mar Mon.	6:00 Sack Lunch Program, K 6:30 Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23 7:00 Village International Dance, HH
18-Mar Tues.	10:00 No Art Studio 6:00 Board Meeting, G 7:00 Great Decisions, Rm 17
19-Mar Wed	12:00 Philosophical Discussion Group, Rm 13 6:00 Wed. Connections (eat/meet) HH 7:00 Orientation with Dr. Loehr, Rm 13 7:00 Tai Chi, Rm 15 7:00 Men's Group, L 7:30 Choir Practice, S 7:00 Campfire, Mina Loomis, Rm 13
20-Mar Thu.	5:30 Yoga, HH 7:00 Evensong, Rm 17 7:30 FUUCYAA Mtg. Rm 13 7:30 Scandinavian Dance, HH
21-Mar Fri.	7:00 Spiritual Movie, HH
22-Mar Sat.	10:30 World Peace Meditation, L 10:30 Women's Spirituality, Rm 13 11:30 Blessing of the Beasts, Outdoors

23-Mar Sun.	9:30 Book Groups, Rm 13 A & 13 B 9:45 Worship Service, S 9:45 Easter Egg Hunt in Courtyard 11:30 Worship Service, S 11:30 Easter Egg Hunt in Courtyard 1:00 Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17 6:00 YRUU, Rm 11
24-Mar Mon.	6:30 Sack Lunch Program, K 6:30 Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23 7:00 Village International Dance, HH
25-Mar Tues.	10:00 Artu Studio, Rm 13 7:00 Great Decisions, Rm 17
26-Mar Wed	12:00 Philosophical Discussion Group, Rm 13 6:00 Wednesday Connections (eat/meet) HH 7:00 Tai Chi, Rm 15 7:00 Building Committee, G 7:30 Choir Practice, S 7:30 Campfire, Mina Loomis, Rm 13
27-Mar Thu.	5:30 Yoga, HH 6:30 Committee on Ministries, Rm 13 7:00 Evensong, Rm 17
29-Mar Sat.	10:00 Green Friendly Cleaning Workshop, Rm 13 10:30 World Peace Meditation, L
30-Mar Sun.	9:30 Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B 9:30 Philosophical Discussion Group, L 9:45 Worship Service, S 11:30 Worship Service, S 11:30 Public Affairs Forum, HH 1:00 Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17 4:00 UU Short History, Rm 15 6:00 YRUU, Rm 11
31-Mar Mon.	6:30 Sack Lunch, K 6:30 Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23 7:00 Village International Dance, HH





Reflections from the Director of Religious Education



Egg hunt, Flower Communion/Celebration, and Easter Brunch! Easter is coming this month! On March 23, the children will hunt for their eggs during their class times. We need volunteer bunnies to hide the eggs and help the children find them. Please contact Cyndi@austinuu.org or Adriana@austinuu.org to volunteer.

The Fellowship committee, along with RE is once again coordinating the Easter Brunch. This Brunch will be held between services and after the second service. Please volunteer to help with this event to constanceuu@sbcglobal.net.

Also, on Easter Sunday, March 23, the most widely celebrated UU tradition, the Flower Communion will be held during both services. Norbert Capek, the founder of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia, initiated the Flower Communion in 1923. He saw the need to unite the diverse congregants of his church, from varying Protestant, Catholic and Jewish backgrounds, without alienating those who had left these traditions. For this reason he rejected the Eucharist, but wanted to retain a ritual of communion. Bring a flower from your garden (or other place) to contribute to our community bouquet. Take a different flower home to symbolize the unique gifts we give and receive each time we gather together. Flowers left over after the last service will be taken by the high school kids and other volunteers to some of our members who are not able to attend regular church services. To volunteer to help with the Flower Communion, please contact lara@austinuu.org. See you in church,

Lara



Having trouble juggling it all? Call Listening Ministry 452 6168 ext. 18

Hogwarts is Returning to First UU!!

The Ministry of Magic has proclaimed that the Hogwarts Summer session will take place again at First UU 28 July to 1 August. Please mark your calendars and keep watching for registration materials for your elementary student to participate in this fun, week-long camp. Middle-and High-school students will also be encouraged to apply as Prefects. Please contact Professor MacGonagall who is returning from sabbatical from the Order of the Phoenix with questions or if you are interested in volunteering/joining the yahoo group, get up-to-the-minute updates!

Melissa.Snowden@unforgettable.com

Also, as you participate in any spring cleaning between now and then, please retain any of the following items that we will need to make the magic happen!

- *Baby food jars with lids
- *Coffee cans
- *Paper grocery sacks
- *Clothes hangers (wire ones from the cleaners are fine!)
- *Muggle devices that can be disassembled (VCRs, TV remotes, telephones, toasters, vacuum cleaners, coffee makers)

Read In

The all Church Reading Experience for

*Getting a Grip:
Clarity, Creativity and Courage
in a*

World Gone Mad

by Frances Moore Lappe.

Saturday, March 8 from 3-5 pm in Howson Hall.

Jean Davison (friend of the author) and Marianne Foley will be the discussants. Refreshments will be served!

Questions to Marianne Foley at foleyinitiative@msn.com.



UUs: A Short History

Taught by **Luther Elmore**, American history teacher and Chair of Adult Religious Education. **Sundays 4-6 pm RM 15 on March 16, March 30, April 6, April 13 & April 20.** Suggested donation \$5.00. This is a five week, ten hour overview of Unitarian Universalist history taught by Luther Elmore, history teacher, and Chair of Adult Religious Education. The course will cover the separate and distinct origins of Unitarians and Universalists from their European roots to the present. Emphasis will be placed on theological controversies and distinctions as well as the dynamic leaders who have played a significant part in this shared history. *Sign Up at Adult Religious Education in Gallery.*



Heritage Book Club

Time: Friday, March 14, 8:00PM
 Hostess: Kitty Clark, 4308 Avenue D,
 {Hyde Park} Phone: 453-6246.
 March Book: *A Thousand Splendid
 Suns*, by Khaled Hosseini
 April Book: *Last Child In
 The Woods: saving Our
 Children from Nature-
 Deficit Disorder* By Rich-
 ard Louv. Everyone is
 welcome. Bring your own
 drink and a snack to share.



Mind and Meaning Book Group

Meets in room 13A at 9:30. Now
 reading *Consciousness Explained* by
 Daniel Dennett. For fur-
 ther information contact
 June Beach 382-7551 or
 email [junem-
 beach@aol.com](mailto:junem-beach@aol.com)



The Sunday Book Group

Meets in Room 13B at 9:30. We
 are currently reading Sigmund
 Freud's *Civilization
 and Its' Discontent*. If
 you have any questions
 please contact Jim Bur-
 son at 794-1086.



Ongoing Adult Religious Education Offerings

March 23rd

Easter
Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg hunt will be held on
 Sunday, March 23 during both services at
 First UU. If you child will be participat-
 ing, please bring 1 dozen colored, hard
 boiled eggs per child. Also, please make
 sure your child brings a basket to collect
 their eggs from the hunt.

If your child is attending the 9:45 ser-
 vice, please have your eggs in the kitchen
 no later than 9:30. If your child is attend-
 ing the 11:30 service, please have your
 eggs in the kitchen no later than 11:15.

The toddlers will have a separate egg
 hunt on the toddler playground. Toddler
 parents do NOT need to bring eggs. The
 nursery staff will prepare and hide plastic
 eggs. Toddlers, please bring a basket for
 egg collection!

The Pre-K class will have their egg
 hunt on the little kids playground, right
 outside room 23. Pre-Ks will need to
 bring their boiled and colored eggs, as
 well as baskets, for the hunt.



Also, the church is
 having a potluck Easter
 Brunch/Lunch immedi-
 ately after each ser-
 vice. We hope you will
 join us for this great fel-
 lowship opportunity!

Art Studio First, third and fourth Tuesday. 10 am – 2:30 pm in Rm 13. Art-
 ists and aspiring artists work on art projects, share techniques and ideas.

Contact Judith Gostisha judithgostisha@yahoo.com for special projects.

Tai Chi (Traditional Chinese) Jim Williams teaches this very classic form
 of safe exercise practiced slowly and increasing balance, strength and flexi-
 bility. Wednesday 7 pm in Rm 15. \$10 session, first session free.

Fourseasonstaichi@gmail.com

Hatha Yoga. Becky Ballou ballou@hotmail.com A gentle form of Yoga
 Breathing, flexibility, posture and energy.

**FOLK DANCING. 3 programs. All welcome newcomers, All meet in
 Howson Hall and request donations.**

English Country Dance Ann McCracken (H) 266-9949 2nd Friday at
 7:30 pm. \$6 donation ann@mccr.org

Scandinavian Dance. Stephanie Files (H) 454-0598 Every Thurs. How-
 son Hall 7:30 pm. No partner. Wear non-sticky soled shoes. \$3 donation.
jfiles@ix.netcom.com

International Village Dance. Jo Soto 836-7974 Beginning & intermedi-
 ate dancers welcome. Blended dance of village life from many countries.
 Meets every first, third and fifth Monday at 7:30 pm. \$2 donation.

Committed Couples: for information mbohls@austin.rr.com.

Spiritual Exploration and Philosophical Discussion Group. Marcus Bar-
 nes (aerodyne@prodigy.net) (H) 338-1816. A long running unstructured
 discussion group. 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 ex-
 perience. Two sessions remain in March, and the Review will include
 choices for future Meditation activities. 3/2-breathwork, 3/9-review. Sun-
 day 4-6 in Room 15. \$5 at the door.

Great Decisions: Foreign Policy discussions Tuesdays at 7 pm in Room
 17. \$20 for Council on US Foreign Policy Briefing Book. Contact Judy
 Sadegh at jsadegh@yahoo.com if you are interested in being a discussant
 for that topic. Sessions: U.S. Defense & Security Policy - 3/4. Latin Amer-
 ica: Shift to the Left? - 3/11. US-China Trade Policy - 3/18. Private Philan-
 thropy - 3/25.

Evensong: Meets in Room 17 at 7 pm on Thursday evenings. If you are
 interested, please contact Linda Taylor 452 6168 ext 10.

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
Church Phone: (512) 452-6168
Church Fax: (512) 453-5912
E-Mail: info@AustinUU.org
www.AustinUU.org
Newsletter Deadline: March 15th

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Return Service Requested

Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith "Blessing of the Beasts" Celebration & Potluck

Our pets bless us in so many ways, isn't it time we returned the favor? Bring your pets or their photos so they can be blessed for the coming year, and drop by the table from the Animal Trustees to make a donation to support their animal fostering and low cost spay and neuter programs. And if you are so inclined, please bring a covered dish to share and stay to enjoy the potluck and socializing following the ritual. See our website at www.YewGrove.org for more details. In Gathering at 11:00 am. Ritual begins promptly at 11:30 am. Blessings continue until 2:00 pm. In the Northwest part of the church property, on the grass. (In case of inclement weather, call 512-291-3106 to verify.)

Please Welcome Some Our Newest Members

Annie Smith (zip code 78733) is an ESL middle-school teacher with 18 years of experience in the Austin and Houston school systems. She had never joined a church in her adult life, but has been in 12-step programs for years. Annie grew up in New England, where her father was an ordained UCC minister. She has an eight-year-old son and enjoys cycling, clogging, hiking, and antiquing.

Jim and Claudia Tracy (78731). Jim and Claudia retired in 2003 after spending 23 years in Saudi Arabia. They are glad to be in Austin, where their children and grandchildren reside. Claudia enjoys reading, needlework, and her grandchildren; Jim likes reading and crossword puzzles and involves himself with senior softball and women's soccer.

Bonnie and Mike Voss (78660). Bonnie writes (and Mike seconds) "My husband and I have been attending the church for about six months and have felt at home since our first week. We have appreciated learning about others in the church and always leave the services with new ideas and things to think about. We look forward to more participation in church activities."

Vicky Dill (78717). Vicky writes, "I am attracted to First UU because I seek to learn and grow in a community of learners. I appreciate the wholeness – seeing the unity of body and mind – I find here, and the universal recognition of faiths." Vicky is a manager at TEA and enjoys music, gardening, and the outdoors.

Courtney Wenmoth and John Martinez (78704). Courtney and John are both native Austinites and are interested in learning about the church's involvement in social justice. They plan to be married at our church in April 2009.

Grace Amborski ((78703) is a retired microbiologist from LSU Baton Rouge. She was an eight-year member of First UU Church in Houston, where she sang in the choir and served variously as board president, membership chair, chalice circle facilitator, and book discussion facilitator.

Sean McAfee and Jennifer Sosa (78745). Jennifer, a self-described "military brat" whose parents are from Austin, is a fitness instructor and also an assistant to her fiancé, John, in his business. Her community activities include volunteering in an after-school program. John is self-employed; his interests include painting, running, and reading books about different religions.