



The Vision

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.



Please...Remember food for Caritas...Thanks

A reminder to all for more food donations during the Sunday Services. Because of increasing food prices, more and more people are using the services of Caritas and local food pantries. More food is needed. Please remember to bring your donations of canned and dry goods to church on Sunday! **Joan Forbes, Elaine Carpenter, Ann Travis, Barbara Owens** The Food Delivery Crew.

VOYAGers and FUUCYAA Join Forces

Join **VOYAGers** (people born in the 60s and 70s) and **FUUCYAA** (young adults) for our upcoming **Pushing Our Boundaries Retreat, May 9-11 in Bastrop**. We encourage you to try something challenging or that you've never done before! We'll be at the Barracks at Bastrop State Park. The cost is \$50 per adult and \$10 per child under 18 and includes food, lodging (air conditioned), activities (for adults and children), and periodic childcare. Activities include: a bike ride, a run, prayers, guided meditation, debates, campfire, songs, fire spinning, crafts, and MORE. Retreat planners and participants (Matt Harvey, Chris Heidel, Jenna Opperman, Monica Smoot and Brendan Sterne among others) will be available to receive payments and answer questions at the church between and after services prior to the retreat. For more information, contact Matt Harvey (VOYAGers): mnh@austin.rr.com or Brendan Sterne (FUUCYAA) brendansterne@yahoo.com.

Chances to Volunteer for PCC Social Action Projects.

There are three opportunities in May to help out the People's Community Clinic. First, PCC is giving a fund raising luncheon on May 12th, and they need help with set-up and event logistics. Volunteers will work in two shifts, 9-11 am or 11-1:30 pm, at the Renaissance Austin Hotel at the Arboretum. If you can help, let Abby Williamson know please at abbyw@austinpcc.org.

Second, on Tuesday, May 13, from 10-12:30 pm, we will again send a team to compile packets for patients. This work takes a big load off their health educators, and our team has had fun working together. If you can help out with this team, whether one time or on a continuing basis, please contact Sheri Overton, 512-847-2685 or sherioverton@hotmail.com.

Third, we are looking for two volunteers who will make photocopies once each month at PCC from 5:30-7:30 pm. The date can be flexible. If you can help, please let Sheri know.

Our Youth do Social Action Projects at Rally!

The FUUCA YRUU group attended the 2008 North Texas rally held at Community UU Plano church the weekend of April 4-6. The rally was attended by 130 youth from across the district. There were workshops and worship services as well as a dance. Daniel Kanter from First Dallas spoke on UU identity.

The youth do a social action service project at each rally; over 100 youth can accomplish a lot in a few hours! This year one group cleaned up a nearby park, another visited a local nursing home, and several of our youth wielded axes and picks removing non-native invasive plants (trees, really!) from the church property. A good time was had by all. Rallies are a way for the youth to meet their peers from around the district, reinforce their peers from around the district, reinforce their UU identity, and to gain leadership skills by planning and carrying out an event.

Davidson's Lore

Recently, I've been hearing rumors that I am retiring! I don't know where they come from, but as usual I'm the last to hear. I guess I should have been more clear about my thoughts about retirement! Perhaps I thought that once I'd said it once, I didn't need to say it again. And during my Candidating Week here in May of 2000, I told the parents in the congregation that I would still be here when their babies graduated from high school. I'm still planning to stay a minimum of about eighteen years – a minimum of ten more years. If I'm still feeling strong, and feeling like I can preach well and do the duties of a senior minister well, I may go on as long as my faculties hold out and it's still rewarding.

During this next ten years, we should be able to stabilize as a large church and grow into that more demanding calling to serve both our members and the larger community better, add a second minister and probably a paid membership coordinator and some major building programs.

The move to add a new Executive Director in July is a long overdue move that should make the staff and board functions work much more smoothly, and more fulfilling and fun. It's a change with a steep learning curve – mostly for the board, but also for the staff. It'll probably be awkward and chunky for a year or so.

On June 22nd, our summer minister, the Rev. Aaron White, will preach his first sermon. I strongly suggest making it a point to be at the Sunday services this summer! Aaron will be preaching June 22nd, the first three Sundays of July and the first three Sundays of August. I met an old friend at the UUA's Large Church Conference in Louisville in mid-March, a colleague I hadn't seen in over a decade. We shared a cab to the hotel, and I learned that she's the District Executive in the Massachusetts Bay District. She asked what we were doing that was new and exciting, and I said well, we'd hired a young summer minister who I thought was the most gifted young minister I'd ever seen. She said, "Oh, you mean Aaron White." I asked her how on earth she knew. She said, "Oh, I spotted him as soon as he got to Harvard. Everybody did." I don't want to build him up so much that nobody could live up to the billing, but I do think it's a treat to experience one of the rare young superstars in any profession, including this one. Be there on those seven Sundays – you might remember it for a long time.

Then in September Brian Ferguson begins his internship. He'll be moving here with his wife, Natalie, and their 5-year-old daughter, Isla. Brian and Natalie will be visiting Austin from Thursday 29 May through Monday 2 June, to find an apartment and a school for their daughter. His seminary contacted me a month ago, saying they believed it was very important and a source of some anxiety for them, finding a school for their girl's first school, and a place to live here. So the seminary decided this was a strong human need, and offered to pay half the cost of flying them here, then asked me if we would pay the other half. I'm proud to report that our board voted unanimously to find the money and pay up to \$500, which should cover half the couple's air fare and meals. The board will have a private dinner for them on Saturday night, 31 May, and I'll introduce them in the service on Sunday, 1 June. As I mentioned earlier, Brian spent his first 23 years in Scotland, and has a bit of a brogue. And at six foot six, he'll stand out in most crowds, so he'll be easy to find and meet.

There are a lot of exciting things going on this summer and fall –
See you in church!

— Davidson



Sharing Suppers



Would you like to get to know other UUs in a more personal, informal setting? On May 17th groups of 6-10 people will gather for food, conversation, and laughter in various participants' homes. Everyone contributes something to the dinner. Sharing Suppers are open to anyone in the and you need not be a member to participate. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, May 11th. Call or email Sheri Overton (512-847-2685 or sherioverton@hotmail.com) or sign up on the sheet posted outside Davidson's office.

Fifth Annual Distinguished Speaker Event

May 2-4, 2008

Reverend Meg Barnhouse of Spartanburg, South Carolina Come and enjoy a weekend of music, fun, and creativity. Register on line austinuu.org/distinguishedspeaker or at the ARE table on Sundays.

If you have questions e-mail distinguishedspeaker@austinuu.org. Or call the office 452 6168 ext. 12, 10 or 13.





Sunday Worship Services 9:45 and 11:30

4 May: The Rapture in America

Meg Barnhouse

How have beliefs about the End of Time affected national and international political decisions? What is the history of these beliefs? What is "The Rapture"? Why is it important to UU's?

11 May: Forgiveness

Davidson Loehr

This is the second of the monthly "themes" I'm experimenting with. The idea – which I think we'll adopt – is to have one theme for each month of the year in a three-year cycle: 36 themes in all. The themes will be life-based rather than based on any scripture or particular religious tradition. One sermon per month will be centered on that theme. We'll work to have the children's story focus on the theme – and will try to find stories from the Bible for that Sunday. **First UU Children's Choir will sing for both morning services!**

18 May: Life as a Work

Davidson Loehr

This sermon comes from the book of the same name by Thomas Moore (author of *Care of the Soul*). He uses the ancient art of alchemy as a metaphor for the transmutation of the coarse materials within us into fine and golden materials. It's about making your life a work of special creation, an art. **Today's music will feature members of the Texas New Music Co-op.**

25 May: Understanding Evangelical Christians Eric Hepburn

Drawing on my own experiences as a born-again Christian in a Freewill Pentecostal Church, I will invite you to spend a little time looking at the world through the eyes of an Evangelical Christian. Through this process I hope to raise the bar for how we, as religious liberals, deal with members of the religious right. I also hope to cultivate some newfound respect and compassion for Evangelicals and to acknowledge that we, as members of a religious community, share much in common with those who we often tend to consider our adversaries. **The FUUCA Choir will sing "Hymn to Freedom" by the late jazz great Oscar Peterson.**

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

4 May: No Forum this week.

11 May: City of Austin Single Stream Recycling Program Jill Mayfield

Jill Mayfield will speak on the exciting upcoming changes to our recycling program that will affect all City of Austin residents. The City of Austin is going through a much needed and anticipated overhaul of its recycling process.

18 May: "Swim Against the Current Even Dead Fish Go with Flo" Jim Hightower Born in Denison, Texas, a graduate of the University of North Texas, twice elected Texas Agriculture Commissioner, Jim Hightower has spent three decades battling the Powers That Be on behalf of the Powers That Ought To Be, and all the while keeps his Texas humor up front, exemplifying an old east European proverb, "you can fight the gods and still have fun." In that spirit he wrote seven books as well, and will be joined by coauthor, Susan DeMarco, to tell us about their new book, [Swim Against The Current: Even A Dead Fish Can Go With The Flow](#). What's great is that along with the fun, Jim Hightower makes us think.

25 May: No Forum this week. Volunteer Brunch in Howson Hall

Congregational Meeting

Lunch at 12:30-Meeting at 1:30

All First UU members are invited to attend the spring Congregational Meeting on May 4th. The youth will provide lunch at 12:30 p.m. for a donation. The meeting agenda includes voting to approve the Nominating Committee's slate of Board of Trustees officers, new Board members, committee chairpersons, and members of the Nominating Committee and Committee on Ministries. The agenda also includes a second vote to change the Financial Assets Management Policy to establish a Permanent Endowment Fund and a carbon neutral resolution from the Green Sanctuary Committee. Written reports will also be provided by church staff and leaders.

Come and participate!

Seniors' Luncheon

Tues. May 13th Noon

Howson Hall

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP Alice Cashman 837-0988



Living in Harmony

Mary Jane Ford, Mark Skrabacz, and David Leibson will present a program titled LIVING in Harmony. This is a set of Mary Jane's original songs featuring Mary Jane on guitar and vocals, Mark on harmonica and vocals, and David on the bass fiddle. It honors the spirit of Earth Day, and includes a narrative composed by Mark and Mary Jane. The songs are all about some aspect of nature, providing musical harmony to the harmony of nature.



PARADOX

 PLAYERS

Austin Premiere:

Opens

June 13th

PARADOX

 PLAYERS

Eve Ensler's *Necessary Targets* brings us a drama of resiliency, change and personal discovery set in NYC and Bosnia. Two American women travel to Bosnia to help women refugees confront their memories of war. All seven women emerge deeply changed as they explore their fears and share their humanity. Based on interviews conducted by Eve Ensler with numerous women who survived the civil war in the former Yugoslavia, this play is filled with both humor and poignancy. It is a timely reminder of how we in America struggle to define our relationship to the rest of the world. First UU member Chris Jimmerson will direct a talented cast in this moving and uplifting drama. As the New York Times wrote, it "...bristles with enough tantalizing topics to fuel a year's worth of symposiums." You'll want to talk about this play with everyone you know! Tickets go on sale late May, so start planning now to invite your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors. Free childcare will be available at the first matinee, on June 15.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Open Minds Covenant Group Opening: JOIN

A new covenant group is opening up, please join us! A covenant group is a small group within the church whose members come together to more deeply explore a particular topic or idea in a safe place where members commit to honoring one or more "covenants" or agreements. Members of the Open Minds group will covenant to explore new intellectual and spiritual thoughts and ideas from a position of abundance instead of scarcity. Members will also covenant to honor the larger church community through participation, volunteering, and pledging. We will meet on Sunday mornings during the first service. We will meet in room 11. Our first meeting will be on May 4, 2008. We will be open to new members at least through the end of May. If you are interested in joining us, come to one of our meetings through the end of May or contact Carol Ramsey at carolramsey@gmail.com or Chris Heidel at chris@chrisandtoby.com.



Split the Plate



On May 4, we will share our offertory plate with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Austin. NAMI Austin is a non-profit volunteer network of families, mental health consumers, and professionals dedicated to improving the quality of life for people affected by severe mental disorders. NAMI Austin provides support, education and advocacy in the Austin area. NAMI Austin assists families via educational programs at monthly meetings, Family-to-Family and Visions for Tomorrow Classes, and family support groups. A current goal is to increase programs for consumers through Peer-to-Peer groups. Our split-the-plate Sunday for NAMI Austin coincides with the national observance of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, May 4-10.

Our split-the-plate beneficiary for May 18 is Tree Folks, a local non-profit dedicated to growing the urban forest of Central Texas through tree planting, education, and community partnerships. Tree Folks invites businesses, schools, government, community groups, and individuals to join this effort to create a healthier environment and to enhance the quality of urban life. A recurring split-the-plate recipient, Tree Folks furthers First UU's "green" commitment.



RUN FOR THE MONEY



Have you ever wondered where money to run the church comes from, how it is decided where the money will be spent, or why it seems we need so much? Are you curious about your part in the process? The Stewardship Committee wants you to be part of the process of making a statement that defines the church's programs, summarizes the philosophy underlying the programs, and indicates how programs are related to society and its changing needs.

Your answers to the questions will give the Stewardship Committee the valuable input from the congregation that it needs. The ideas brought forth will be used to develop brochures and other campaign materials.

Please answer the questions below and either turn them in to the church office or email them to Margaret Roberts: margaretroberts@austin.rr.com. The questions will also be included in the Sunday Bulletin and E Announcements also. If you provide handwritten answers, you do not have to write the question, just the number. Submit by May 31st please.

Please make the effort to complete these questions so your words will be counted.

Mary Jane Ford, Treasurer and Stewardship Committee member, Margaret Roberts, Stewardship Committee Chair
Mark Skrabacz, Stewardship Committee Co-Chair.

1. What is the internal mission of our congregation, to our members and friends?
2. What is the external mission of our congregation, to the outside community?
3. How does the operating budget support or help to implement the mission of the congregation?
4. Which programs or activities of our congregation are most important to you or your family?
5. What is your understanding of where the funds to operate the programs of our congregation come from?
6. What is the relationship between your pledge and the programs available for your family's participation?
7. How will improvement in our programming affect our ability to better serve our members or reach out to our community.
8. What new programs or activities will we be able to add as a result of a successful stewardship campaign? What types of programs would you like to see?
9. What aspects of our congregation make you most proud?
10. Why do you personally support the annual operating budget of our congregation?
11. Why do you think other people in our congregation will support this year's stewardship campaign?

The Austin Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship Communion Service

Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith Monthly Meeting

The Austin Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship will hold a small-group communion service on May 18, 2008, in Room 103 at Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido Parkway, Cedar Park. Service will begin after 1:00 pm to accommodate a Live Oak congregational meeting. All are welcome, whether or not you are Christian, UUs, theists, agnostics, atheists, seeking, just curious, or members any other church. Children are welcome to participate in the service (childcare not available). For questions please, email Katharine Marvin at kamarvin@earthlink.net.

Join us on Tuesday, May 6th at Central Market (4001 N. Lamar) at 7:30 pm. We're going to have a Meet N' Greet so that new folks can get to know us old folks better, and long-time members can socialize and catch up. If you are new, you will be able to find us because we're the ones wearing the purple ribbons. See you there for an evening of fun and camaraderie.

Our lives begin to end the moment we
Become silent about the
Things that matter....Martin Luther King Jr.

Adopt-A-PeninsUUla: Year Two

Ten minutes once a month to water native plants around our parking areas...that's what "Adopt A PeninsUUla" is about. Last summer, members helped to cultivate flowers, shrubs and trees to fill in the areas between the parking spaces and along our property line. This beautifies the church, while providing additional native habitat. And we need to keep it going one more summer to make sure everything is well established. Each area is assigned to multiple individuals or families, making it easy, quick, and you can even meet some new members. Last summer we had 45 different church members and families adopting various areas, such as the Electric Pole Bed (over by the kitchen entrance), the Bike Rack bed (guess where that one is located), and the Redbud Peninsula across from the RE wing. You select the area closest to where you normally park, and then once a month remember to bring a few milk jugs or soda bottles full of water to pour on the new plants in your adopted area. Others do the same thing, and before you know it, we have something alive where all there was before was...dirt. This is a great family activity. Look for sign ups in the Gallery, or contact Elizabeth Gray at egray88@hotmail.com or 476-1861. All returning adoptive parents are welcome; I know some of you have established a relationship with your peninsula.



Full Moon Ritual and Potluck

Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith will have our ritual work focusing on the purifying qualities of flame and asking for the guidance of fire in candle wax scrying. You will be given a chance to seek your own personal source of courage and strength. If you wish to keep this private that is perfectly fine; however, sharing with the group is an opportunity to receive support. With the midpoint of the year, you may be needing a moment to pause and reconnect with the intention you created at the beginning of the year. Another possibility is to be in a sacred place to find encouragement and to refuel your personal power.



We will also engage in a Community Activity: The summer is coming and there are many in our community who are without the proper tools to battle the heat. We will be running a fan drive for the elderly. Also, there will be a canned food drive for the Capital Area Food Bank for those who are unable to afford bigger ticket items. As always, donation is not required to attend the event. A Potluck will follow the ritual and will be as scrumptious as you make it. Please reserve childcare by Sun, May 18th, by calling Stephanie at 512-291-3106. 7:00pm, in Room 17, or under the oaks (SE corner of the property), if the weather is fine.

Deal of a Lifetime!

Be With and Support the
High School Youth
Of our Church

During the second service once a month!

Interested? Curious? Contact Ron Phares

By email: anaremix@hotmail.com

Denominational UUpdates

By the time you read this, the Spring Conference will be history; and kudos to all of the people in First Church who helped to make it historic as well. We should be ready to do this again in, oh, about 20-30 years.

General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations: June 25-29, 2008. Fort Lauderdale, Florida, "Common Threads"
Registration and Housing Reservations (beginning March 1): Notify Gary or Amy Bennett (gbennett12@austin.rr.com; 219-6120) or any Board Member if you are interested in being a delegate representing FUUCA. Denominational connections begin near to home. When we were contemplating moving to Austin from the Northeast, people in our congregation asked if we were sure a Wild West place like Austin actually had any UUs. Our metro area has now sprouted its sixth(!) congregation: welcome to San Gabriel UU Gathering, Georgetown. To find congregations around the world, by the way, go to <http://www.uua.org/aboutus/findcongregation/index.php>. We are looking for people with experience and/or interest in Denominational Affairs. Contact Gary or Amy (contact info above).

Thank UUs . . . for
Usher, Greeter and Lay Leaders



Thank UUs . . . For
Toil and Fellowship!



Applause for our Lay Leaders: Melita Noel Cantu, Jeanette Swenson, Davidson Loehr. **Cheers** for our Ushers and Greeters: Sharon Finley, Tom & Beth Priem, Carol Ginn, Carrie Evans, Sarah Stevens, Ruth Marie, Alice Cashman, Genie Barnes, Dana & Mary Copp, Jim Patterson, Peter Langlois, Cathy Weaver, Dwayne Windham, Tom Doughtie, Carol Ellison, Tara Nichols, Doug Ginn, Geri Mosher, Joe Linsalata, Linda Buehlmann, Lisa Losasso, Eric Hartman, Betty Bowie, Jim Bowie, Gene Rumann, Anne Archer, Kitty Traylor, Luther Elmore, Anne Smith and Mateer, Patrick McVeety-Mill. Shannon Mahoney, Melanie Walter-Mahoney, Anne Van Nort, John Cary, Courtney King, Lynn Westbrook, Colin McIntyre and Carol Olewin.

Several church members pitched in during a lovely Spring day to tidy up the church grounds. **Veryan Thompson, Rich Sommers, Stefan Windsor and Elizabeth Gray** cleaned up the East fence line along the driveway. This is the area people first see when they enter the church grounds--first impressions are important! A special thanks to **Kate Windsor**, who worked very hard planting around the church sign and entrance area. While we worked in front, the **Spiral Scouts** weeded our pretty buffalo grass out back. And **Sara Holland** donated numerous plants that will go into various areas around the parking lot--later planted by **Nina Marlow**. Thanks to the efforts of our members, FUUCA has church grounds with native plants (not just boring, monoculture grass) that demonstrate our commitment to respect for the interdependent web of life.

May Birthdays

Joys and Concerns

Charles Holt, Stan Hutchison, Philip Forsyth, Sterling Heraty, Ward Rimel, Thomas Moriarty, Nancy Roll, Pat Bulla, Donna Pauler, Jeanette Swenson, Jim Tracy, Jill Wiggins, Jack Harris-Bonham, David Matthis, Bob Bollinger, Donna Fox, Cyndi Loudon, Hanneke Portier-Cox, Dottie Roark, Mike Shaw, Mark Gunn, Cheryl Swanson, Lori Hawkins, Kevin Korfanta, Maia Thomas, Heather Hardin, Christy Seals, Allison Sallee, Holly Webber, Kay Klumpp, John Adair, Amelia Kraehe, Michelle Fajkus, Kathryn Van Winkle, Clay Eads, Ian Reed, Nicole Edwards and Steven Matthis.

Please share your Joys and Concerns with the rest of the folks here. You can call the office (452 6168) and let the congregation know or let news@austinuu.org know, so we can see it in the Announcements. There is another way to share and that is to write a note in the book provided for that purpose on the credenza in the foyer outside the Sanctuary. Please take a minute when you are leaving the Sunday Service or anytime you find yourself in the foyer to read the notations in the book to share news from your church friends.



Lots of thanks to
Anna Maxwell
For donating her time and effort to making the flower arrangements used on Sundays when Flowers have not been donated.

Also ...Lets thank all the folks who have contributed flowers to our services on Sundays this year: **Amber & Kurt Andrews, Don Smith, Dan & Joyce Wilson, Nina Marlow & David Bryant, Elizabeth McVeety, Kathy & Keith Savage, and Cathy Weaver.** Sign up for Flower Contribution for Sunday in the Hall outside Davidsons's Office. **We need Flowers!**




Members... 914

Orientation Meeting

Orientation Evenings are held on the third Wednesday each month at 7:00 in Room 17. Open to everyone. If you want to meet people and find out more about the church, meet with **Davidson Loehr**, our minister, for an introduction to the church. Bring your questions.



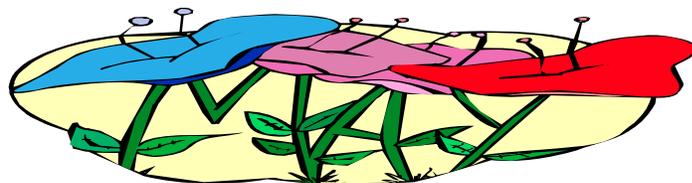


WEEKLY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

May 1	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH	May 7	Wed	7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17			7:30	Choir Practice, S
		7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH	May 8	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH
May 2	Fri	6:00	5th Annual Distinguished Speaker Series			7:00	Adult RE Meeting, Rm 9
		7:00	Tarot Mysteries, Rm 13			7:00	Paradox Players, Rm 17
May 3	Sat	9:00	5th Annual Distinguished Speaker Series			7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH
		10:00	Women's Spirituality Group	May 9	Fri	7:00	English Country Dancing, HH
		10:30	World Peace Meditation, L			7:00	Metaphysical Salon, Rm 11
		12:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17			7:00	Village Int'l Country Dance, Rm 15
		1:30	CPC Meeting, Rm 19	May 10	Sat	9:00	Paradox Players Set Building, HH
May 4	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B			10:30	World Meditation, L
		9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L			2:30	Intro to Hinduism, Rm 15
		9:45	Worship Service, S	May 11	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B
		10:00	Paradox Players Board Meeting, M			9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L
		11:30	Worship Service, S			9:45	Worship Service, S
		1:00	Yew Grove Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17			11:30	Worship Service, S
		1:00	Media Committee Meeting, Rm 13			11:30	Public Affairs Forum, HH
		1:30	Congregational Meeting, HH			1:00	Media Committee Meeting, HH
		5:30	Voyagers Monthly Meeting, Rm 13			6:00	YRUU
		6:00	YRUU, Rm 11	May 12	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K
May 5	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K			6:30	Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23
		6:30	Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23			7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH
		7:00	Green Sanctuary Committee Mtg, Rm 13			7:30	Paradox Players Reader's
		7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH	May 13	Tue	12:00	Senior Luncheon, HH
May 6	Tue	5:00	Campfire Horizon, Rm 11			5:00	Campfire Horizon, Rm 11
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
		7:00	UUADP Movie, HH			7:30	Executive Committee Meeting, M
		7:00	Yew Grove Monthly Meeting, Rm 13	May 14	Wed	12:00	Philosophical Discussion Rm 13
May 7	Wed	12:00	Philosophical Discussion Group, Rm 13			6:00	Wednesday Connections, HH
		6:00	Wednesday Connections, HH			7:00	Building Committee Meeting, G
		7:00	CPC Meeting, Rm 9			7:00	Paradox Players Rm 17
		7:00	FUUCYAA Meeting, Rm 13			7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, G			7:30	Choir Practice, S
				May 15	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH
						7:00	Paradox Players, Rm 17

WEEKLY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

May 15 Thu	7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH	May 24 Sat	9:00	Intro to World Religion, S
	7:00	Paradox Players, Rm 17		10:30	Women's Spirituality, Rm 13
May 16 Fri	7:00	Spiritual Movies, HH		2:30	Intro to Hinduism, Rm 15
May 17 Sat	9:00	Paradox Players Set Building, HH		4:00	Breathworks, Rm 15
	10:30	Women's Spirituality, Rm 13	May 25 Sun	9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L
	10:30	World Peace Meditation, L		9:45	Worship Service, S
	2:30	Intro to Hinduism, Rm 15		10:45	Volunteer Brunch, HH
	4:00	Breathworks, Rm 15		11:30	Worship Service, S
	6:30	NAMI Film, HH		1:00	Yew Grove Spiral Scouts, Rms 15-17
May 18 Sun	9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L		1:00	Media Committee Meeting, Rm 13
	9:45	Worship Service, S		6:00	YRUU, Rm 11
	11:30	Worship Service, S	May 26 Mon	OFFICE CLOSED for MEMORIAL DAY	
	11:30	Public Affairs Forum, HH		6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K
	1:00	Yew Grove Spiral Scouts, Rms 15-17		7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH
	1:00	Media Committee Meeting, HH	May 27 Tue	5:00	Campfire Horizon, Rm 11
	1:00	Social Action Committee, Rm 13		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
	6:00	YRUU, Rm 11	May 28 Wed	12:00	Philosophical Discussion, Rm 13
May 19 Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K		6:00	Wednesday Connections, HH
	6:30	Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23		7:00	Building Committee Meeting, G
	7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17
May 20 Tue	5:00	Campfire Horizon, Rm 11		7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15
	6:30	Board Meeting, G		7:30	Choir Practice, S
	7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH	May 29 Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH
May 21 Wed	12:00	Philosophical Discussion, Rm 13		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17
	6:00	Wednesday Connections, HH		7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH
	7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15	May 31 Sat	9:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
	7:00	Facilities Committee Meeting, O		10:00	Yew Grove Meeting, G
	7:00	Orientation with Dr. Loehr, Rm 17		10:30	World Peace Meditation, L
	7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, G		11:30	Choir Practice, S
	7:30	Tai Chi, Rm 15		2:30	Intro to Hinduism, Rm 15
May 22 Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH		4:00	Breathworks, Rm 15
	6:30	Committee On Ministries Rm 17			
	7:00	FUUCYAA Meeting, Rm 13			
	7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, G			
	7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH			





REflections from the Director of Religious Education

Spring is finally here and the children are completing their beta-test of the new UUA Curricula. Overall, we have been pleased with the individual curricula, but the teachers are sending weekly survey and comments to the UUA, which we think will improve the curricula when it is finalized.

The Adult RE Committee has been busy with the planning of the 5th Annual Distinguished speaker series which is happening the first weekend in May. Please see the information in this newsletter for more information.

Beginning the first Sunday in June, we will start the summer curriculum, **In Our Hands**. Religious Education Classes for the youth will be held for each service this summer. For many years, during the summer, we have offered RE classes only at the early service. We are going to see how it goes this summer, staying on our normal schedule. The curriculum, In Our Hands gives the children the chance to explore peace and fairness through stories, discussions, and activities. Participants learn constructive ways of resolving conflict and promoting peace in their own lives. They learn to see their connections to the larger community, to the natural world, and to the Unitarian Universalist peace and justice heritage.

The classes will be divided into PreK, Room 23, and K to 5th grade, Room 15. In the K to 5th grade classes, the children will be begin in the same sharing circle and then break into K-2 and 3rd to 5th grade for more age-appropriate activities.

There will still be lots of choices for adult RE during the summer. Please contact me or see the Adult RE table in the gallery between services. See you in church,

Lara Douglass

Introduction to World Religions presented by Wildflower UU

The world, and our country, are becoming more diverse and multicultural. Each of us is more likely than ever to live near, work with and befriend people of different cultural backgrounds and faith traditions. What better way is there to try and understand others than to become familiar with their deeply held beliefs and spiritual practices? There will be a class co-sponsored by Wildflower UU and our Adult Religious Education Committee. The subject of the class is World Religions. It will be presented as a brief (two-hour) workshop on May 24, from 10 AM to 12 noon at First UU, in the Sanctuary. The workshop will cover the basics of the following religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Islam and the Baha'i Faith. Each faith will receive a quick overview of beliefs and history. The instructor is Farnaz Masumian.

Farnaz Masumian has a Master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Texas at Austin with emphasis in world religions. Her Master's research compared the eschatology (life after death teachings) of seven world religions and was published by One World Publications of Oxford, England as a book titled *Life after Death: A Study of the Afterlife in World Religions*. This book has been adopted as a religion textbook in several institutions of higher education. Farnaz taught World Religions at Austin Community College for 12 years and is currently teaching a class on world religions and social work at the University of Texas at Austin. Her primary research interest is in the area of world religions, and meditation. Her second book, *Divine Educators*, that she co-authored with her husband Bijan Masumian is an inter-faith book that focuses on common themes and patterns in the lives of the founders of great religions (Jesus, Moses, Muhammad, Buddha, Zoroaster, etc.). Over the past decade Farnaz has given a number of workshops at institutions of higher learning such as New Mexico State University and The University of Texas at Austin. She has also given lectures on world religions at churches, religious centers, and conferences.

You may sign up for the class at the ARE Table in the Gallery on Sunday or contact Lara Douglass at 452 6168

VOYAGers Voice Monthly Schedule

The contacts for VOYAGers are Effie Jarrett (effie@speer.geo.utexas.edu) and Chris Ford (cmonee@yahoo.com). Standing activities are as follows: **First Sunday** – discussion group, topics vary - 5:30 pm RM 13. **Second Sunday** – attend services with Moveable Feast after 2nd service. **Third Sunday** – Movie Night – 5:30 pm RM 13. **Fourth Sunday**—Pot Luck and Games Night — 5:30 p.m. in RM 13.

Heritage Book Club

Our book for 8:00 Friday, May 9 is Dai Sijie's "Balzac and the little Chinese Seamstress": a novel (nominated by Paula). We'll meet at **Sally Scott's** home, 4906 Beverly Hills Dr. 78731. Tel: 4353-2289. June book is Lawrence Wright's "Looming Tower: Al queda and the road to 9/11."



Mind & Meaning Book Club

9:30 am Rm 13A every Sunday. We are now reading "Consciousness Explained" by Daniel Dennett. The first discussion of our next read, "The Science of Good and Evil" by Michael Shermer, is scheduled for May 11th. Contact June Beach junem-beach@aol.com (h) 382-7551 for information or questions. In May, we meet at 8:30 am to view the Teaching Company.'s DVDs of The Brain a scientific balance to the various philosophies about consciousness, language; speech and thought recently read by the club.



Sunday Morning Book Club

This book club meets in 13B on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. The book we are currently reading is "The Reluctant Mr. Darwin" by David Quammen. If you have any questions, please contact **Jim Burson** 794-1086 for more information.



Adult Religious Education May Happenings!

Art Studio – First, third and fourth Tuesdays from 10 am – 2:30 pm in Rm 15; aspiring artists work on their art projects, share techniques and ideas. Contact Judith Gostisha judithgostisha@yahoo.com. Special projects will begin in July.

Tai Chi (Traditional Chinese) Jim Williams teaches this very classic form of safe exercise practiced slowly and increasing balance, strength and flexibility. Meets every Wednesday at 7 pm in RM 15. First session is free, then \$10/session. Fourseasonstaichi@gmail.com

Hatha Yoga Becky Ballou ballou@hotmail.com A gentle form of Yoga in which breathing and flexibility, posture and energy are developed uniting body and mind. Meets Thursdays 5:30 pm Howson Hall. \$10 per session all participants.

English Country Dance Ann McCracken (H) 266-9949 ann@mccr.org meets Second Friday at 7:30 pm \$6 donation. We welcome newcomers to Howson Hall

Scandinavian Dance Stephanie Files (H) 454-0598 jfiles@ix.netcom.com . We welcome newcomers in Howson Hall. No partner necessary; please wear non-sticky soled shoes. Meets 7:30 pm every Thursday \$3 donation.

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

World Peace Meditation: Swami Ji 459 5261. Saturdays 10:30 to 12:30 in the Library– This meditation group consists of a brief spiritual discussion followed by silence. Suggested donation \$1.00.

Introduction to Hindu Thinking from Top to Bottom: Swaimi Ji @ 459-5261. Saturday May 10 – Saturday June 4 2:30-4 pm RM 15. A description of Hindu Systems of Belief and its essential ecumenism. Included will be the 4 paths of enlightenment, deities and mantras, chanting benefits, Yoga, study of texts and philosophy. Part I of II. Donation \$20.

Breathworks: Evangelina Mangino emangino@hotmail.com Saturday May 17 through Saturday June 21 in RM 15. Breathworks is one of the Meditation Choices recently introduced and now being offered as a series in order to more fully develop its practice and experience. Sign Up at Gallery table for Adult Religious Education.

Spiritual Exploration and Philosophical Inquiry. Marcus Barnes aerodyne@prodigy.net (H) 338-1816. A long running unstructured discussion group. 9:30 am in Library every Sunday.

Spiral Scouts May Hike

SpiralScouts' May 4th meeting will be Turkey Creek Hike at Emma Long Park. The scouts will meet in the parking lot at Emma Long City Park and begin the hike together. For directions, click here. For more information or if you have any questions please call Amber 512-750-9689. Check out the SpiralScouts website SalamanderCircle.org. 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Emma Long Park 1600 City Park Rd. Austin TX 78730



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

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www.AustinUU.org

Newsletter Deadline

June 15th

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Please Welcome Some Our Newest Members

Where do they live?? Who knows what great people might live down the block from you? In an effort to help neighbors become aware of each other, we list the zip codes of new members.

Rob and Kim Quarles (zip code 78660) met in 1985 in Fort Worth, Texas. After their marriage, they moved to Atlanta, GA, and then to Charleston, SC, where Rob was a U. S. swim coach and Kim taught 4th grade. After the birth of their son Daniel in 1991, they moved back to Texas, where their son Justin was born in 1996. After trying Presbyterian and Lutheran churches, they found a spiritual home at First UU. Rob currently teaches middle school science, Kim teaches elementary school, and sons Daniel (17) and Justin (11) are involved in swimming and violin.

Suzanne Quarles (78756) is a retired accountant who moved here from Southern California about five years ago. Her interests include reading, walking, and history; she also enjoys learning about other religious traditions and beliefs in our various workshops and classes.

Valerie K. Quarles (78756) is an administrative associate at UT Austin; her hobbies include writing, acting, and stand-up comedy. She writes, "I have been searching for a place of spiritual and intellectual enlightenment where all are welcomed and valued. I believe I have found that place here. I enjoy Dr. Loehr's ministry and am looking forward to learning more."

Phyllis Read (78756), retired with six grown children, just recently moved to Austin. A travel aficionado, she tells us, "I've been interested in meeting up with common peoples of the world -- schoolteachers, in homes, families -- and would like to share with others here who have similar interests. Backpacking was great!"

Cyndi Loudon (78726) moved here a year ago from Kennebunk, Maine, and is employed by the Texas Education Agency. She likes gardening and crafts, and at First UU she is interested in finding friends, community, intellectual activities, and social justice activities.

Leslie Edwards (78733) and her sons Nico and Milo are excited to join this community. "We've enjoyed the conversations and the lessons in the sermons and religious classes. If pressed, we identify as agnostic with a dedication to examining and enjoying our lives!"