



## 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.

Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Austin



## WELCOME OUR SUMMER MINISTER, Rev. Aaron White

The Rev. Aaron White (ordained at Live Oak Church on 11 May) will be working as our summer minister from mid-June through mid-August, and will preach his first sermon for us on 22 June, then the first three Sundays of both July and August. Come welcome Aaron and – if she can be here – his wife Kate!



## SHOES FOR DARFUR



Please don't throw away your used (but still wearable) sneakers, running shoes, and tennies. We'll be collecting your donated shoes (all sizes) from now until Labor Day.

The shoes will be shipped to the Canadian group, Sole Responsibility. They will then be sent to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees who will carry the shoes to Darfur. Since the shipping costs are quite high, we ask that you contribute \$2.00 along with each pair of shoes.

We are all aware that the first needs of those refugees in Darfur are food and water but it has been established that shoes give these people another essential...HOPE.

We will have a table in the Gallery on Sundays to receive your shoes. Or you may drop your shoes into the box in the Sanctuary foyer by the south entry doors.

Questions or comments? Contact Barbara Denny at [btodenny3@gmail.com](mailto:btodenny3@gmail.com) or 342-9767.

## Sing Along is Back!!

The monthly Sing-a-Long group has been reincarnated under a slightly different structure. Friend's Meeting of Austin (Quaker) has graciously offered us a meeting place at their new location on 3701 E. MLK. This was the old St. James Episcopal Church, east of Airport, across from the Morris Williams golf course. It's a beautiful building with plenty of space, a kitchen and a piano. The major changes are that we will bring snacks and finger foods rather than the heavier potlucks of our old meetings. This facilitates the clean up, which is our responsibility to do. They also frown on alcohol. The Quakers are friendly folks with some fine musicians. The next sing-a-long will be from 7:30 to 10:30 on **Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**. The fourth Saturday will be our default date for the near future. For information contact Larry Vaughn 469-0029 or email [lavest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lavest@sbcglobal.net). To be added to the UUSingalong email list, contact Mary Jane Ford at [mjaneford@grandecom.net](mailto:mjaneford@grandecom.net).

Volume 57

No. 6

June

2008



## Davidson's Lore



After Dina left in December, we had no one on staff with the time to recruit and schedule lay leaders for Sundays till fall. Since the service was already changing, I decided to experiment with other elements of the service that haven't seemed smooth.

Not many people have asked about this, but some have, so I want to give you all a fairly detailed history. The first redundancies in the services that have bothered me for eight years are the double beginning and double ending. First, someone has come up to light a flame and say some words, then I come up and begin the service with the Invocation. At the end, first someone comes up to read more words and put the flame out, then I give the Benediction to end the service. Other ministers, former ministers and other savvy visitors have been asking me for years why we have these double beginnings and endings, and each time it feels more noticeable and awkward. So I'm experimenting with just using the single more traditional beginning (Invocation) and ending (Benediction).

The second issue is the whole idea of a Communion chalice with a flame in it. It's quite a new ritual derived loosely from a symbol developed by an independent human rights organization in 1941. The Unitarian Service Committee (not a part of the Unitarian Association) was trying to help a lot of artists, intellectuals and dissidents escape the Nazis and get out of Europe, and many of them had had to leave in such a hurry that they didn't have the identification papers needed to cross borders. Those running the USC decided they could fake it if they had an official-looking seal for the new identification papers. So in 1941, they asked Hans Deutsch, an Austrian refugee artist, to create a convincing "seal." He made it up by drawing a chalice like the Catholic Communion chalice, then adding a flame in the middle of it. We don't know why he added the flame, or what it meant to him. That ad hoc chalice with the fire in it remained an obscure symbol of the USC for decades. It didn't have any connection with Unitarian Universalist churches until 35 years later, when it appeared on the title page of the 1976-77 UUA Directory. And the idea of using real flames and chalices, and actually lighting them in church, didn't become habitual until about twenty years ago. I've served UU churches since 1986, and don't think I've ever served any that lit that flame. So it seems to have come about as a kind of New Age thing, with no connection to any of our beliefs or religious history.

When I came here, the "flame" lit each week was a can of Sterno. Seriously. The flame was almost invisible. I had just done away with the "joys & concerns" from the Sunday services (this was before we put up the votive candles in the windows), and wasn't sure I could dispense with the flames at the same time. So I bought the glass oil lantern, and wrote the words that people recited, in the fall of 2000. Still, just what about this is religious or historically or theologically meaningful as an expression of liberal religion?

There is another meaning assigned to the flaming chalice – it's one I first heard in graduate school, and I liked it instantly. A century before Martin Luther, there was a radical Catholic priest named Jan Hus. He believed the wine goblet should be shared with all (even today, only the Catholic priest drinks from that goblet), and he began practicing open Communion that way in his church, and preaching in Czech rather than Latin, so his people could understand the sermons. For this, the Church burned him at the stake. So, I was told, the chalice – predating the Unitarians completely – was the symbol for an open communion. And the flame? That symbolized the fire in which Father Hus was burned alive. Now this is a poignant story, and a true and religious one. But wait – then what on earth are we doing rehearsing the ritual by lighting the fire that burned the priest to death? This puts us on exactly the wrong side of the ritual! So this story, much as I like it, makes for a completely confused symbol, almost impossible to explain to visitors.

Worse, I've been told by better UU historians than I am, that there is absolutely no evidence that this symbol had anything to do with Hus, or that it went back further than 1941. (When I went to the UU World and searched for "Jan Hus," there were no hits from any issue of the UU World.)

Until I came here in 2000, I had never served a UU church that lit a flame in a chalice on Sunday mornings. All Souls Unitarian in Tulsa and the Church of the River in Memphis come to mind as two in our district that don't. There's an article on this in the May/June 2001 UU World ("Wartime origins of the flaming chalice" by Dan Hotchkiss (<http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/2442.shtml>)), if you're interested.

So far I like the more streamlined service, and having some extra time to bring back the third hymn after the sermon. My assumption is that most people who come on Sundays won't care too much about this, but that a few will, if they've become accustomed to it. If this issue matters to you – either way – let me know what you think? [Davidson@austinuu.org](mailto:Davidson@austinuu.org).

See you in the ever-evolving church!

— Davidson

## Sunday Worship Services 9:45 and 11:30



**1 June: Is Evangelicalism (Gasp!) Dying?** **Davidson Loehr** That's what Christine Wicker says in her new and provocative book, The Fall of the Evangelical Nation: the Surprising Crisis Inside the Church. I had lunch with her last month when she came to town to do a program at the First Baptist Church, enjoyed her book – and her last book (on vampires!). This is mostly a music Sunday, with a major choral work, but I can share some of Christine's well-researched and titillating news – she says we've been duped.

**8 June: The Youth of First Unitarian Universalist have prepared a special Sunday service.** The theme for this year's Youth Service is "Finding Things in Unexpected Places." For those of you not expecting to find much in a youth service, this is the Sunday for YOU! There will be beautiful music composed or arranged by the youth. Four youth will offer homilies on the theme.

**15 June: Brokenness** **Davidson Loehr** This is the third Theme service, done on a one-word theme taken from life.

**22 June: Life Passed Through the Fire of Thought** **Aaron White** For hundreds of years, the tradition behind Unitarian Universalism and liberal religion has called individuals to express with courage the forces that move them toward justice, commitment, and love. Emerson asserted that the 'true preacher' could be known by offering to the world their 'life passed through the fire of thought.' The same might be said for the true religious community or the true person of faith. What does your life say to the world? When passed through the fire of thought, is there something that only our community could deliver a world in need? If given only one chance, what gospel would you offer?

**29 June: Should I?** **Emily Tietz** From the time we're born we take in messages about how we should behave, what we should like, who we should be, and how to apply these standards to other people or situations. What effects do these messages have on our lives and souls? What might our lives be like if we examined the choices presented to us by our "shoulds"?

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

**1 June: Palestinian Rights: Speakers: Bernice Hecker and Rizk Ikhrais, Interfaith Community on Palestinian Rights.** Rizk Ikhrais is a Palestinian born peace activist who will be speaking about his family's history in Palestine before and after 1948. Bernice Hecker is a Jewish supporter of Palestinian Rights who will speak about her personal journey from living in a kibbutz in Israel to supporting the Palestinian struggle. Both are members of ICPR dedicated to promoting peace with justice for Palestinians; they seek to educate the community about injustices imposed on the Palestinian people and demand legal rights of Palestinians within international law and U.N. resolutions.

**8 June: Rep. Eddie Rodriquez**

**15 June: Gardening for Wildlife Neighborhood Habitats: Speaker: Alice Nance, Director, Wildlife Austin**

**22 June: The Honey Bee: Colony Collapse Disorder. Speaker: Richard Sommer, US Dept. of Agriculture and Beekeeper:** Sommer spent 20 years as beekeeper providing pollination and honey production services. He is the former President of Nebraska Honey Producers and Chair of Nebraska Environmental Quality Council. Now he is a Geographic Information Specialist for US Dept. of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, in the Plant Protection and Quarantine Division.

**29 June: Writing systems: History and Issues: Toward a science of Scriptology. Steve Bett, Ph.D. and Adam Blatner, M.D.** Writing is arguably mankind's most important invention, so astounding that the ancients attributed the invention to the gods. Preliterates found it so magical that they attributed special powers to those who could read and write. We no longer do that but we still view our orthography as something more than a technology. People are more likely to switch religions than to switch orthographies. Both presenters are retired college professors. Dr. Blatner was also a practicing psychotherapist and the author of several books in that field. He has a website on Scriptology. Dr. Bett is the moderator of a discussion group on linguistics: Saundspel-the Phonolgy Forum. He has been invited to present at the International Association of Applied Linguistics in Germany and will also give a lecture on English orthography at the University of Coventry in June. The following questions will be addressed: Can any spoken language be represented with any orthography? Can spoken English be represented in a Spanish orthography?

## Seniors' Luncheon

Tues. June 10th Noon  
Howson Hall

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5  
RSVP Alice Cashman 837-0988



Program from Paradox Players includes a short scene from *Necessary Targets*, opening June 13. This drama by Eve Ensler explores what happens when two American women travel to help Bosnian refugees. Consultants to the production will facilitate discussion.



TICKETS FOR  
AUSTIN PREMIERE,  
JUNE 13-29



This is sure to be the Talk of the Town – Eve Ensler's latest drama *Necessary Targets*, directed by our own Chris Jimmeron! An opportunity to discuss the play with a consortium of actors, director, and special consultant on Bosnia will follow each performance. As the NY Times has noted, this play about American professional women helping Bosnian refugees "...bristles with enough tantalizing topics to fuel a year's worth of symposiums..."

Tickets can be purchased or reserved several ways: Sundays in the Gallery; by phone at 744-1495; or online at paradoxplayers.org. Paradox Players Pals, our season ticket subscribers, will still need to make reservations. Performances are at 8 pm Fridays and Saturdays, 3 pm Sundays. Prices are still \$15 (seniors \$10); Opening Gala on June 13 is \$20. **FREE CHILDCARE** is again available for the first matinee, June 15; please reserve in advance by June 7, at childcare@austinuu.org. New seating at this performance! Comfortable directors' chairs to elevate those seated in the back row!

## Reader's Theater June 9th

Final meeting before summer break! Join us at 7:30 pm in room 13 to read a mélange of short plays – lots of roles for everyone. Newcomers welcome.



## Green Sanctuary!

We're just over half way in raising the \$36,000.00 needed to purchase a solar electric system for the church. Many thanks to those of you have donated to this effort. If you

haven't yet made a donation, please stop by the Green Sanctuary table in the gallery after any service and make your contribution. (Or call the Office 452 6168). By installing this system, we'll save the church over \$2,500.00 per year for the next twenty-five years and reduce our carbon footprint by 15.5 tons. Please give as generously as you can. We want this to be an all-church project—we want 100% participation from members.



## Split the Plate: June 1st and June 15th!

On June 1st, our Split-the-Plate program will benefit the Campaign to End the Death Penalty. The Campaign is an anti-death-penalty group dedicated to grass-roots organizing, particularly with Death Row inmates, family members of Death Row inmates, and exonerated inmates. Last summer the group was in the forefront of the fight to save Kenneth Foster, Jr., whose sentence was commuted. Part of that fight included bringing Kenneth's family members to this church, where they received very generous financial support that was instrumental in saving his life. Operating on a small budget, the Campaign uses funds only for what will take the movement forward—fliers for events, educational events, sound equipment for protests, travel and honorariums for speakers, etc.

On June 15th, our Split-the-Plate beneficiary will be Animal Trustees of Austin, a local, volunteer-run organization for the health and well-being of animals. Its goals are to rescue animals from being euthanized at the Town Lake Animal Center ("the pound") and to provide temporary home care and an adoption program for these animals. The ATA also educates the public about being responsible pet owners. ATA operates a low-cost spay-neuter clinic for dogs and cats in the effort to end the pet overpopulation crisis. The clinic also provides low-cost shots and city registration. This organization's work dovetails with the goals of the Unitarian Universalists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. ATA has been a split-the-plate recipient for several years.

**Books for Peoples Community Clinic**

In conjunction with the First UU partnership with Peoples' Community Clinic, the Flying Circus Horizon Club (the high school level Camp Fire club at the church) is holding an ongoing book drive, for children's and youth books, for Peoples' Community Clinic. In order to promote literacy amongst its client families, Peoples' Community Clinic, instead of handing out candy or toys to the children and teens in its waiting room, gives each child or youth a book to take home and keep. Abby Williamson, the Clinic Volunteer Coordinator, says they could use as many as 300 books per month! So far this spring our club has probably been able to provide about 50-75 books per month. We need to do better than that! We will be placing a box at the church for book donations.

How church families can help: Clean out your outgrown books--as your youngest kids grow older, you will have an accumulation of outgrown books. Make room for new books by putting the outgrown ones in a box and bringing them to the church. Ask friends, relatives, and neighbors if they have any extra children's and youth books. If you find yourself at yard sales and garage sales, keep an eye out for bargains. Sometimes you can find whole boxes of these types of books for a song. Questions? Call **Jackson Pritchett** (age 16) at 345-4895 or **Mina Loomis**, Club Advisor, at 454-1237. Thanks!

**PCC Social Action Project**



Last month in its e-newsletter, Peoples' Community Clinic recognized FUUCA's numerous contributions through its article on our PCC Social Action Project coordinator, Sheri Overton. This article pointed out that over 75 members of FUUCA have volunteered in our church-wide project, preparing patient education packets, staffing the immunization clinics, and helping with public relations events. Countless others of us have gathered baby supplies for new mothers, donated items to Season for Caring, collected children's books for the Clinic's waiting room, and donated to PCC through Split the Plate Sunday. Our efforts are amply rewarded in the knowledge that we are contributing to our community and in the fellowship we receive in working together. In addition, this recognition of our church's service helps to inform the Austin community of our presence and our shared values.

On Tuesday, June 10, from 10 am-12:30 pm, we will again send a team to PCC to compile packets for patients. For each of the past several months, from four to eight individuals have turned out to help, and it has been both fun and a great help to PCC. We have also just started sending volunteers one evening each month to make photocopies at PCC. Thanks go to **Sally Aslan, June Beach, Michele Caponi, Elaine Carpenter, Nora Hughes, Wendy Miller, Nancy Neavel, Sheri Overton, Heather Palmer, Cindy Raab, Rose Ann Reeser, Suzy Reid, Megan Seaholm, Lori Sommer, Mary Ann Stafford, and Veryan Thompson**. If you can help out with either of these teams, whether one time or on a continuing basis, please contact Sheri Overton, 512-847-2685 or sherioverton@hotmail.com.

**Open Minds  
Covenant Group**



We've had a great turnout for our Open Minds Covenant Group! We plan to close to new members once we reach 8-10 people; if you are interested, please come to one of our meetings in June or contact Chris Heidel at [chris@chrisandtoby.com](mailto:chris@chrisandtoby.com) or Carol Ramsey at [carolramsey@gmail.com](mailto:carolramsey@gmail.com). A covenant group 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. Open Minds members covenant to explore intellectual and spiritual thoughts and ideas from a position of abundance instead of scarcity. Members also covenant to honor the larger church community through participation, volunteering, and pledging. We meet in Room 11 on Sunday mornings during the first service after the kids go to R.E.

**Report from Search Committee for  
Executive Director**

The group has organized and hit the road running. After studying the amazing work product of the ED Task Force, the search committee has appointed a chair (Karen Neeley) and set up its meeting schedule. The ED job description has been finalized, and the recruiting ad is being developed. Following the lead of the task force, the search committee concluded that membership in UU is not a requirement for this administrative position and that the search will be conducted outside the congregation. Stay tuned for further developments.

**Orientation Evening**

Orientation Evenings are held 3rd Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm in room 13 . This month, join **Davidson Loehr, June 18th**, to discuss our church, faith journey, and programs. If you are new to the church, bring your questions and prepare to be fascinated!

## A Norfolk Pine is Missing!



Has anyone seen our Solstice Tree? When last seen it was in room 13, and decorated with ornaments which had pictures of Egyptian Gods and Goddesses on one side, and a description of the deity on the reverse. It is a small (about 3 ft high) potted Norfolk pine.

We honor this little tree as a symbol of the growth of understanding and support it represents between Yew Grove and this congregation. We would like to use it during the Summer Solstice Ritual in mid-June, so let us know if you've seen it! Please call Stephanie at 512-291-3106 if you know its whereabouts.

## Harry Potter Camp Update Summer 08

Much magic is brewing in the air...muggles may not yet have noticed, but witches and wizards have descended upon our First Unitarian Universalist Church. They are planning to teach our youth how to defend against the dark arts around them, how to care for magical creatures including live mandrakes, how to divine the future, arts to help them in the wizarding world-- along with field trips to see muggle lands.

If you have not yet registered your youth for this magical summer event, now you can download the forms from FUUCA's website, print and mail them in. Or pick them up from the Harry Potter Camp display across from the R.E. office.

This year our children can vote on their favorite field trip--the winners will be announced in 3 weeks. Just log into the UUCamp yahoo group to vote in the 'Which Muggle Site Would You Like To See?' Poll. The poll will close in 3 weeks. (If you are not a member, here is the link to the group:

[//groups.yahoo.com/group/CampUU/?yguid=69174212](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CampUU/?yguid=69174212))

The notes from our last meeting on May 18th are available to read at the UUCamp yahoo group, the witches and wizards are coming up with great lessons, they know that kids coming back must be challenged with new activities, no one needs a third crystal ball! If you would like to volunteer, or already have-- then please come to our next meeting on June 1st at 1:00 pm in room 15. Please watch for our announcements, as even if you are not volunteering

## Cyclone Nargis UUSC/UUA Humanitarian Relief

On Saturday, May 3, 2008, Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar (formerly Burma) with wind speeds of up to 120 miles per hour, devastating coastal and inland regions. Restrictions on the movement of international aid agencies have delayed a complete assessment and relief operations. In seven of the worst affected deltas, communities are reporting 90-95 percent damage. UN estimates are that the number of dead may be 60,000 to 100,000. Tens of thousands are missing, and millions more have been left homeless.

Transportation in Myanmar is expensive and insufficient for most of the population. People in isolated rural areas will not have a way to leave except on foot. Most water pumps are powered by electricity, and because the lines are down, people will not have access to running water.

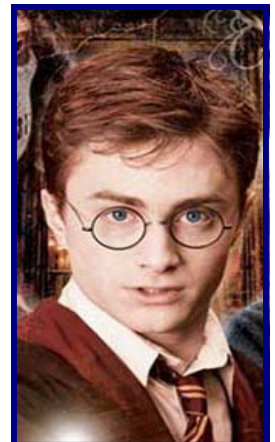
USC and the Unitarian Universalist Association have joined to launch a humanitarian relief fund to help cyclone survivors in Myanmar (formerly Burma).

With your generous support, we will provide humanitarian relief through groups in the affected region to help survivors, particularly those at risk of being overlooked by mainstream relief. Please donate to the UUSC-UUA Cyclone Nargis Relief fund. [http://www.uusc.org/info/support\\_cyclonenargis.html](http://www.uusc.org/info/support_cyclonenargis.html). Or mail donations to: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, UUSC-UUA Cyclone Nargis Relief Fund, P.O. Box 845259, Boston, MA 02284-5259.

we need specialty items donated, like unicorn horns ;-).

Avnia Xander, Defense Against The Dark Arts Teacher (muggle cover name Shannon Vyff, FUUCA Harry Potter Camp Coordinator)

A Message From Dumbledore to Hogwart's Students (please relay to your attending youth) about Hogwart's Newest Defense of the Dark Arts Professor, Avnia Xander --"We were lucky to get her in from 5 years of teaching at Beauxbatons, she will be taking over as head of the Ravenclaw house from professor Flitwick and will be teaching your children how to deal with the varied, ever-changing and eternal...unfixed, mutating, indestructible dark arts being practiced around us."



## Thank UUs For Ushers, Greeters & Lay Leaders!



**Applause** for our Lay Leaders: Mark Kilpatrick and Susan Thomson. **Cheers** for our Ushers and Greeters: Sharon Finley, Rosie and Alcyr Coelho, Alice Cashman, Barbara Denny, Mary Ann and Dana Copp, Joe Linsalata, Star Maddox, Eric Hartman, Doug Ginn, Genie Barnes, Geri Mosher, Betty and Jim Bowie, Kitty Traylor, Luther Elmore, Annie and Mateer Smith, Patrick McVeety-Mill, Carol Ellison, Shannon Mahoney, Melanie Walter-Mahoney, and Anne Van Nort.

## Thank UUs and Others from Dell Children's Medical Center



At the March Yew Grove Moon Ritual, we collected coloring books, crayons, and other activity supplies to donate to children who are patients at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. We also made decorative paper flowers and filled them with healing energy for the kids.

We received a lovely letter from Dell, thanking us for our donation. Please take a moment and read it, it is posted on the Yew Grove bulletin board in the R.E. hallway. ..Namaste, Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith



## June Birthdays

We wish a very happy birthday to Cecil Hale, Ronya Kozmetsky, Patricia Spurr, Art Elliott, John Sanders, Jim Reed, Caroline Reynolds, Tina McGaughey, Ann Edwards, Donna Alexander, Mary Ann Copp, Dana Morrison, Susan Thomson, Amy Bennett, David Kendrick, Martha Marie, Terrie Lynn Bach, Joy Cunningham, Monty Newton, Vicki Bailey, Amanda Zappler, Nada Boyt, Gillian Redfearn, Joseph Rank, Nalini Mohan, Julie Mani, Sean McAfee, Trish Clifford, Cuileann McKenzie, Alessandra Beavers, Becky Moon, Jennifer Dillon, Jennifer Felion, Adriana DeLa Rosa, Stacy Phillips, Kim McKnight, Shannon Vyff, Christopher Barnard, Brian Garr, Star Maddox, Ian Grayson, Joshua West, Sharon Lewis, Matthew Holloway, Neil Zimmerman, Lynn Samerigo & John Samerigo.

## Joys and Concerns

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.



## Membership Count for First UU

# 917

## Sharing Suppers Join us June 21st!

Would you like to get to know other UUs in a more personal, informal setting? On June 21 (the third Saturday of each month), 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 church, and you need not be a member to participate. The deadline for signing up is the Sunday before the suppers, June 15. Then the hosts will call you on Monday or Tuesday with directions and the time and a dish/part of the meal to bring. Because of the way that the hosts coordinate the dishes into a meal, cancellations are difficult, so please remember to mark it on your calendar. Just show up with your dish and enjoy the great food and conversation. Contact Sheri Overton (512-847-2685 or sherioverton @ hotmail.com) or sign up on the sheet posted outside Davidson's office. To be put on an email list for Sharing Suppers, so you will be notified of the time and place, just send an email to [sharingsuppers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sharingsuppers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## WEEKLY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Jun 1	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & B	Jun 8	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & B
		9:30	Philosophical Discussion, L			9:30	Philosophical Discussion, L
		9:45	Worship Service, S			9:45	Worship Service, S
		11:30	Worship Service, S			9:45	Open Mind Covenant, Rm 11
		11:30	Forum, HH			11:30	Worship Service, S
		1:00	Media Tech Committee Mtg, HH			11:30	Forum, HH
		5:30	VOYAGers Mtg, Rm 13			1:00	Media Tech Committee Mtg, 13
		6:00	YRUU, Rm 11			1:00	Spiral Scouts, Rm 15 & 17
Jun 2	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K	Jun 9	Mon	6:00	YRUU, Rm 11
		6:30	Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23			6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K
		7:00	Green Sanctuary Mtg, Rm 13			6:30	Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23
		7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, Rm 15			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH			7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, 15
Jun 3	Tue	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13	Jun 10	Tue	5:00	Campfire Horizon, Rm 11
		5:00	Campfire Horizon, Rm 11			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH			7:30	Executive Committee Mtg, M
		7:00	Yew Grove Pagan Mtg, Rm 13	Jun 11	Wed	1:00	Philosophical Discussion, Rm 13
Jun 4	Wed	1:00	Philosophical Discussion, Rm 13			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
		6:00	Wednesday Connections, HH			7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15
		7:00	Building Committee Mtg, G	Jun 12	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH
		7:00	CPC Mtg, Rm 9			7:00	Adult RE Mtg, Rm 9
		7:00	Fuucyaa Mtg, Rm 13			7:00	Listening Ministry Training, Rm 23
		7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15			7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, Rm 13
		7:30	PP Rehearsal, HH			8:00	Paradox Players Benefit, HH
Jun 5	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH	Jun 13	Fri	8:00	CPC Retreat, G
		7:00	Listening Ministry Training, Rm 23			7:00	Metaphysical Salon, Rm 11
		7:00	PP Rehearsal, HH			8:00	Paradox Players Performance, HH
		7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, Rm 13	Jun 14	Sat	8:00	Men's Breakfast, G
Jun 6	Fri	7:00	Tarot Mysteries Group, Rm 13			10:30	World Peace Meditation, L
Jun 7	Sat	9:00	Board/Council Retreat, Rm 13			2:30	Intro to Hinduism, Rm 15
		9:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH			4:00	Breathworks, Rm 15
		10:00	Women's Spirituality, Rm 13			8:00	Paradox Players Performance, HH
		10:30	World Peace Meditation, L				
		1:30	CPC Mtg, Rms 19, 23				
		2:30	Introduction to Hinduism, Rm 15				
		4:00	Breathworks, Rm 15				



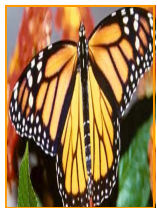




## WEEKLY CHURCH ACTIVITIES



Jun 15	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & B	Jun 22	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & B
		9:30	Philosophical Discussion, L			9:30	Philosophical Discussion, L
		9:45	Worship Service, S			9:45	Worship Service, S
		9:45	Open Mind Covenant, Rm 11			9:45	Open Mind Covenant, Rm 11
		11:30	Worship Service, S			11:30	Worship Service, S
		11:30	Forum, HH			11:30	Forum, HH
		1:00	Social Action Mtg, Rm 13			1:00	Spiral Scouts, Rm 15 & 17
		3:00	Paradox Players Performance, HH			3:00	Paradox Players Performance, HH
		6:00	YRUU, Rm 11			6:00	YRUU, Rm 11
Jun 16	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K	Jun 23	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	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH
Jun 17	Tue	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13	Jun 24	Tues	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13
		5:00	Campfire Horizon, Rm 11	Jun 25	Wed	1:00	Philosophical Discussion, Rm 13
		6:30	Board Mtg, G			7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15
Jun 18	Wed	1:00	Philosophical Discussion, Rm 13	Jun 26	Thurs	5:30	Yoga, HH
		6:45	Forum Committee Mtg, G			6:30	Committee on Ministries Mtg., Rm 13
		7:00	Building Committee Mtg, Rm 17			7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH
		7:00	Facilities Committee Mtg, O	Jun 27	Fri	8:00	Paradox Players Performance, HH
		7:00	Orientation with Dr. Loehr, Rm 13	Jun 28	Sat	10:30	World Peace Meditation, L
		7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15			2:30	Intro to Hinduism, Rm 15
Jun 19	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH			4:00	Breathworks, Rm 15
		7:00	Fuucyaa Mtg, Rm 13			8:00	Paradox Players Performance, HH
		7:00	Listening Ministry Training, Rm 23	Jun 29	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & B
		7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH			9:30	Philosophical Discussion, L
Jun 20	Fri	7:00	Meditation Retreat, Rm 15			9:45	Worship Service, S
		8:00	Paradox Players Performance, HH			9:45	Open Mind Covenant Grp, Rm 11
Jun 21	Sat	8:00	Meditation Retreat, Rm 15			11:30	Worship Service, S
		10:00	Women's Spirituality, Rm 13			11:30	Forum, HH
		10:30	World Peace Meditation, L			1:00	Spiral Scouts Rm 15 & 17
		12:00	Summer Solstice Ritual, Rm 13			3:00	Paradox Players Performance, HH
		2:30	Intro to Hinduism, Rm 15			6:00	YRUU, Rm 11
		4:00	Breathworks, Rm 15	Jun 30		6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K
		8:00	Paradox Players Performance, HH			6:30	Campfire Little Stars, 23
						7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH





## REflections from the Director of Religious Education



The summer we are doing something revolutionary in RE. We are going to have children's religious education classes at both services! In the past we have only offered children's classes at the 9:45 service.

The children's RE classes will be using the In Our Hands curriculum. The Middle School will also be using this curriculum. Grades Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet in room 15. The class will begin with a sharing circle, chalice lighting, and story. The children will then break up into K to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade on one side of the room and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade on the other side of the room.

Middle School and High School kids will continue to have their classes at 11:30 only. YRUU will continue to meet on Sunday nights at 6:30 in room 11.

The children and youth are working on a summer recycling project. Please stay tuned for further developments as the children and youth finalize their joint effort.

Adult RE offered the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Speaker Event from May 2- May 4. The featured speaker was Meg Barnhouse, who sang and worked with us on our own writing and creativity. Unfortunately, the registration for the event was very low. While we do not plan these special events to be fundraisers, it is disappointing to not break even. Please see the Adult RE courses for the summer elsewhere in the newsletter. They will stay pretty consistent.

See you in church,

*Lara*



## Sweet Innocence of Youth



June Bridges mailed Lara an article by Dave Weber from the newsletter of the UU Church of Palo Alto. This is the church June and Cecil attend when they are in California. The article is an account of one person's adventures in volunteering for Children's RE. I hope you will read the article. We really need volunteer teachers. If you would like to discuss this possibility, you can call me at 452-6168, ext. 12. Here is the article:

"Okay, it's been a hard week. You're stressed out with work, bills, and traffic. What can you do to feel better about life? How about teaching about love and self-worth? How about learning about and sharing with young interested minds the inspiring ideas and amazing lives of famous UU's? How about celebrating special Christian, Jewish, and pagan festivals with fun rituals and food. There is nothing so wonderful as having a sweet innocent five-year-old run up to you and put their arms around you and call you silly.

Teach Children's Religious Education, and in the course of a year, you'll witness amazing growth in their interpersonal skills and friendship formation, in their self-confidence and ability and in your own capabilities as a teacher. What a feeling to know you had a part in making this happen. I especially love the little ones – they may be shy and have short attention spans, but there is no sarcasm or prejudice. Special needs and hyperactive kids feel no bitterness toward life and are accepted freely by the others. How I wish we could sustain this and project it into the world at large. But we can do our small part to reinforce it here.

Teaching makes me feel part of a caring community, and isn't that one of the main reasons we're all here? After an hour, which goes very quickly and connects me to the child within (I do the crafts along with the kids and nobody laughs at my stick figure drawings), I feel better about myself and my contribution to making the world a little less insane. Teaching Children's RE is a gift, not just to the children, but also to me."

## Open Body    Open Mind

Another program has developed as a result of our showcasing meditation practices earlier this year. There are two opportunities in this Meditation Retreat which begins on Friday evening, June 20th from 6:30 to 10 pm in Room 15. At this time Donna and Tony Godwin will facilitate Hindu Kirtans. The retreat will continue on Saturday June 20th from 8:30 am to 11:00 am in Room 15. This segment will be led by Mark Skrabacz. If you are interested please sign up in the Gallery on Sundays at the Adult Religious Education table.



**Heritage Book Club**

Our book for 8:00 Friday, June 14th, is Lawrence Wright's "Looming Tower: al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11." We will meet at **Lucia Ogbourn's** home, 4906 Beverly Hills Dr. 78731. Tel: 454-4315. The July book is "Disgrace" by J.M. Coetzee.

**Mind & Meaning Book Club**

We meet on Sundays at 9:30 am in Rm 13A every Sunday. We are now reading "The Science of Good and Evil" by Michael Shermer. Contact June Beach [junem-beach@aol.com](mailto:junem-beach@aol.com) (h) 382-7551 for info.



**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.

**Spiral Scouts Plans for June**

The Sapiral Scouts will meet at Regents Park on June 1st to attend the "Green Tips from Great Kids" party. On the following Sunday they will meet here at church to learn more green tips and tricks. There will be no meeting on Fathers Day (June 15th) > Happy Father's Day to all! There will be a discussion about native animals on the 22nd with plans for the trip to the nature center on June 29th. For more information or if you have any questions please call Amber 750 9689.

**Challenged by Teens? Lisening Ministry**

**Middle School Transition**

Joy Cunningham, who has been teaching the Middle School class here at First Church for the last year, is resigning, effective June 1. Joy reports that she loves the youth and the class, but needs to spend more time with her family. Amber Andrews will be the new Middle School Teacher. Amber is an experienced teacher, the mother of three little ones, and she is the oldest of 7 children. Within our church, Amber facilitates the Spiral Scouts Program, serves as a member of the Children's Programming Committee, and volunteers with all ages in the Sunday RE programs. Please join me in thanking Joy for her time and effort and welcoming Amber to the teaching staff. *Lara Douglass*

**Adult Religious Education June Happenings!**



**Tai Chi.** Classic form of safe exercise practiced slowly for increased balance strength and flexibility taught by Jim Williams Wed. at 7 pm in Rm 15.



**Scandinavian Dance.** No partners necessary, experienced dancers welcome and beginners too. Wear non-stick soled shoes. Meets every Thursday 7:30 in Howson Hall.



**World Peace Meditation.** This group has a brief spiritual discussion followed by silent meditation. Sat. at 10:30 in the Library



**Hatha Yoga.** Form with breathing, flexibility, posture and energy uniting mind & body. Thurs. at 5:30 in Howson Hall.



**English Country Dance.** We welcome newcomers and old timers alike. Join us the 2nd Friday 7:30 pm in Howson Hall.



**Intro. To Hindu Thinking** Description of Hindu Systems of Belief. Four paths of enlightenment and much more. Sat. 2:30 in Rm 15.



**Art Studio.** Aspiring artists work, share ideas, techniques, and learn from each other. Tues. at 10 am in Room 13.



**International Village.** Blended dance of village life from many countries. 1st, 3rd, & 5th Mon., 7:30 in Howson Hall. All are welcome!

**Spiritual Exploration and Philosophical Inquiry.** Meets in Library on Sunday at 9:30 and at 1 in Room 13 on Wednesday.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF AUSTIN  
4700 Grover Avenue  
Austin, TX 78756

*One Church. Many Beliefs.*

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Newsletter Deadline

June 15th

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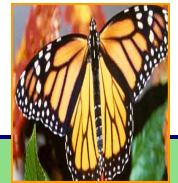
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## Please Welcome Some Our Newest Members



**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.

**David Kobierowski** (zip code 78759) is in the real estate business. He's active in affordable housing and the ACLU; other interests include interfaith and public affairs. David moved here about eight years ago from Boston and writes, "I'm very involved in the Austin community and am proud to be a member of First UU Austin."

**Maria G. Salas** (78754), a bilingual editor, moved here from Mexico City 27 years ago. She walks and reads for fun and volunteers at CASA and hospice. Describing her religious background as "disappointed Catholic," Maria is looking for enlightenment, knowledge, friendship, and hope for our kids' futures.

**Michael P. LeBurkien** and **Blossom Zanger, M.D.** (78731) moved here from Houston about two years ago. Blossom is a hematologist/oncologist who taught and practiced for many years in Houston and currently volunteers as such at the Peoples' Community Clinic. Michael is or has been a rabbi, a lawyer, an assistant DA in Angleton, Texas, a Texas assistant attorney general for environmental issues, and an infantry officer. Michael's interests include the Spanish and French languages, international relations, and religions such as Judaism and Islam; he also enjoys volunteering at the PCC.