



The Vision

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin is 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.



Yeah FUUCA Graduates!

We have two high school graduates. Emily Withers graduated from Language Arts and Science Academy (LASA). She was active in Music and Theatre. Emily has a scholarship and will attend Texas State University in San Marcos. She will be majoring in vocal performance. Patrick McVeety-Mill, our 2007-2008 Youth Board Member graduated from McCallum High School. He was involved in band and student government while in high school. Next year he will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. We wish them successful college careers.

Solar Energy! We reached our Goal

The fundraising for our photovoltaic system was successful and we have reached our goal. The Board of Trustees authorized making the down payment on the solar panels, which take six weeks to arrive, so we'll be ready to go sometime in August. Thank you all for your generosity and interest in our facility, and your generous contribution which led us to this success. Thanks also to the Green Sanctuary Committee for all their great work: Pat and Don Bulla, Don Smith, Richard and Jesse Fralin, and Linda Taylor.



The 2008 Connection Fair



Save Sunday, September 14th for the second Connection Fair, sponsored by the Membership Committee. Representatives from the many programs at FUUCA will be in Howston Hall following the first service until well after the second service. The Connection Fair is an opportunity to talk with representatives from the diverse groups about the possibilities for and rewards of engagement at FUUCA. Whether your interests lie in social action, church maintenance, or personal growth, small groups offer opportunities for many levels of commitment and wide interests. Participation, available at the Church, provides opportunities for personal growth and connections within the Church. The Connection Fair also is an opportunity to start a new group. For example, FUUCTAA, the thriving new young adults group formed after the 2007 Connection Fair. The Membership Committee will be contacting current group leaders and hope that representatives will participate in the 2008 Fair as a way of publicizing your group and recruiting new members. The Connection Fair follows a week after the 2009 Stewardship Campaign opens, and the Membership Committee hopes that highlighting the many groups in the Church will complement the annual campaign

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No. 6

July
2008



Davidson's Lore: Awakening Our Sleeping Spirits

Awakening our sleeping spirits. Every once in awhile, it's worth reminding everyone here that almost all of the most exciting and enduring ideas and activities in this church come not from the board or the staff, but from individual members whose spirits come alive. We are all here to make a positive difference in the lives of our adults, youth, and the larger community on behalf of honest and courageous religion, and you're invited into these ongoing acts of creation.

To help awaken your sleeping (or watching or waiting) spirit, here are just a few of the church activities that began that way:

- Religious Education (in the 1950s)
- The Forum
- Paradox Players
- The music program, with organ (donated) two grand pianos (donated) and the UT music professor who worked as the first Music Director for several decades – free.
- Helping Hands
- Listening Ministry
- Voyagers
- Parents' Group
- Mommy Meals
- Housing/feeding homeless men on Freeze Nights
- The All-Ages Playground
- Converting our grounds to a natural wildlife center
- All the work done toward our planned massive building campaign (which went to the congregation for funding, but which began with members)
- New Members' Dinners
- Hogwarts Camp (the member who started it moved to Phoenix, but is flying back next month to run it again!)
- Adult Religious Education
- Annual Distinguished Speakers Series
- Split-the-Plate (begun by church members about 1999)
- All book discussion groups

Some of you can double or triple the length of this list. But we all know that we're here to make a positive difference in the lives of our adults, youth, and the greater community. We're here to be blessings to ourselves and the world around us. You too. So as you begin to feel this spirit stirring within you, here's what not to do, and what to do.

Do not bring your idea to the board or staff as something for others to do, or something requiring much funding to get going. We're striving to catch up with the good ideas already going. Do be innovative, find some like-minded folks who are inspired by the same kind of spirit, and try it out. Bring others into it and see if it catches on. This is a church where we gather to try and become more alive in ways that make more of a positive difference, and you're also invited to become more alive in ways that make more of a positive difference. While the board and staff work to sail The Good Ship FUUCA, you are the primary energy and passion that can make this church grow into its greatest calling.

So as one way of having your sleeping, watching, waiting spirits awaken, I'd suggest this slight paraphrase of words from theologian Howard Thurman: "Don't ask what the church needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the church needs is people who have come alive."

I won't be in the pulpit again until the end of August. But even if I don't see you in church very often this summer, I'm looking forward to feeling your spirits come alive here.

— Davidson



Sunday Worship Services 9:45 and 11:30

July 6: A Prophet's Authority. Rev. Aaron White. A question often asked by religious leaders and people of faith (especially UU's and religious liberals) is "What gives me the right to speak?" In a society where one particular religious ideology is so dominant, it is more important than ever that we in this living tradition raise our voices high in the American religious landscape. How might we in our congregational and individual lives find that place from which we can speak, our own prophet's authority?

July 13: Honest Religion: One More Honest Adult. Rev. Aaron White. An advertisement for FUUCA includes the simple phrase, "Honest Religion." Our religious ancestors attempted to live in this same spirit by rejecting rituals that made no sense to them and creeds that might limit their minds. This sentiment was once again voiced in an interview 20 years ago when the television icon and Presbyterian minister, Fred Rogers, stated, "The best thing that you can do for anybody...is just to offer one more honest adult in their lives." How are we succeeding as a community in offering this to the world? How do we live our honest religion?

July 20: Responsibility: Responsible or Easy Religion? Rev. Aaron White. In this theme sermon for the month, I will be exploring the idea of responsibility. Within Unitarian Universalist communities of faith, individuals have a tremendous amount of freedom in our religious lives. It is we, then, and not some church structure that bear the responsibility for the integrity, vitality, and future of our tradition and its values. In the contexts of this great freedom and our modern world, we as religious liberals have plenty of chances to practice **easy religion**. What might **responsible religion** look like?

July 27: The Sometimes Strange Science of Us. Jim Checkley. The expressions "know thyself" and "to thine own self be true" are ancient bits of wisdom that feel so familiar they are virtually cliché. But these interconnected commands are as interesting and challenging today as ever. Just what does it mean to "know thyself" here in our 21st century world of neurobiology and evolutionary psychology? And even if we do know ourselves, then what does being true to thine own self entail in a world of incredible complexity, tricky and multi-faceted relationships, and, perhaps best of all, WWJD, WWXD, and WWBD wristbands?

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

**Hear Ye!
Hear Ye!**



**Next Forum
August 31st!**



July Split the Plate



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

On July 6, we will split the plate with **Trinity Center**, which operates programs to improve the well-being of the homeless living on the streets or in shelters in downtown Austin, with special emphasis on services for women and children. The center helps these homeless neighbors of ours with myriad immediate and long-term needs, including aid in securing employment and housing, financial assistance for obtaining identification documents, covering transportation costs, and securing prescription medications. Staff and volunteers provide individualized support, information, and referral to social-service resources.

On July 20, the split-the-plate beneficiary will be our **Feketehalom partner church in Romania**. This small church near Brasov has been our partner church since 1992, sharing a building and minister with two other churches. First UU works through the UU Partner Church Office to assist this church. Reverend Sandor Mathe has twice visited First UU. Some of our members have visited Feketehalom. First UU donations are used for the church's ongoing expenses.



President's Corner

The new "board year" has gotten off to a fast-paced start. Since beginning my 2008-2009 term as President of First UU's Board of Trustees on June 1st, we have had a board dinner retreat, an all-day retreat for the board and committee chairs, and the first monthly meeting of the new board. A few clear themes for the upcoming year have emerged out of all these discussions. They all come down to a genuine desire to serve the highest ideals and visions of the church.

The Executive Director Search Committee is working hard to recruit an executive-level professional to join our staff in the next few months. The upcoming hiring of the church's first executive director has generated a lot of excitement and discussion about what we as a board can do to help ensure that person's success, and about what the board might be able to accomplish as a result. We believe that bringing in a full-time professional to run the administrative side of the church will result in better service to our members and will free up church leaders to focus on the "big issues," rather than the minutia involved in day to day matters. We as board members want to spend our time working on defining and expanding the mission and vision of our church. As one trustee put it, we would like to focus our energy and emotion on creating a home and family for our members, not on divisive and often trivial concerns.

This change in focus entails a move from being a "managing" board to being a "policy governance" board, meaning that the board defines the "ends," and the staff finds the "means" to make it happen. We need to learn how to both empower our staff and to hold them accountable. During the June board meeting, we appointed a task force of veteran church leaders to study different forms of church governance and to recommend to the board a model that would work best here.

A related topic of discussion revolves around the need to continue developing the church's Ends Statement, and then figure out how to measure whether we have been successful in achieving those ends. With membership topping 900 individuals, how do we best keep the lines of communication open? What kind of system must be in place to know how we are serving the congregation? How do WE understand the "will of the congregation," especially a congregation as diverse in its views as ours is? How do we create a sense of unity by finding the thread that weaves us all together? Concrete action (*not* just talk talk talk!) to deal with these questions will be a priority for this upcoming board year.

In upcoming newsletter articles, I plan to use this forum to communicate with the congregation about what business the board addressed that month. At the June monthly board meeting, we discussed all of these ends/means/goals issues, as well as church business such as approving an updated and more relevant contract for the Minister, approving entering into a contract to order photovoltaic panels for our move toward becoming a solar powered church, providing feedback to the Minister on the move away from chalice lighting at Sunday services, and, most important of all, who will be bringing snacks to upcoming board meetings.

As part of our goal toward better connections between the board and the rest of the congregation, we would love you to come to the Board of Trustees monthly meetings. We might even share our snacks with you! The board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Gallery. Meetings begin with a visitor's forum, if you would like to informally address the board. You are also welcome to simply stay and listen. If you would like to present a discussion or action item, please let me or Shannon Vyff (board secretary) know by the first Tuesday of the month, so that we may address it in our executive committee meetings and get it on the agenda.

Sheila Gladstone



Planning for 2009

The International Convocation of UU Women is sponsoring a first international gathering of UU women and progressive women of faith and action-oriented multi-national organizations. The Convocation will focus on education, faith and transformation as these improve women's lives world-wide. The convocation will be held in Houston, Texas from Thursday, February 26 through Sunday, March 1, 2009. For more information, see www.icuuw.com.



Sing a long



July 26th

Auditions and More



As the curtain falls on June's production of *Necessary Targets*, we are starting to prepare for the final production of our season - Wendy Wasserstein's *Third* – opening in September. Director Karen Jambon will hold auditions Monday and Tuesday, July 28 and 29. Roles are open for three females, ages 20's to 60's and two males, ages 20's to 80's (a college student and a professor's father). Please contact Ann Edwards for audition times and script information annann@Austin.rr.com. Paradox Players recently purchased "directors' chairs" to elevate audience members sitting in the back rows. We'd love to hear from anyone who used these chairs at the last production. Did they help you see the stage better? Were they comfortable?

Readers' Theater is on vacation till September 8 while we research more scripts to read aloud at our meetings. Watch this column for announcements of the next season of meetings, on the second Mondays of the month.

This month's Sing-a-Long will be held on the fourth Saturday, July 26, from 7:30 to 10:30 pm at the Friend's Meeting House on 3701 E. MLK Blvd. Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing with the group. For more information contact Larry Vaughn 469-0029 or email lavest@sbcglobal.net. To be added to the email list, contact Mary Jane Ford at mjane-ford@grandecom.net.

ॐ Mystical Hindusim ॐ

Mystical Hinduism, a six weeks course on Saturdays, 2:30-4pm, in Room 15 will continue until July 26th. The Instructor is SWAMI JI.

You are invited to attend the six week course on Hindu beliefs, both religious and mystical. Did you know that you have always been a Vedantin and therefore, Hindu? Suggested donation is \$20 every six weeks. You can register for this course in the church Gallery on Sunday morning, at the World Peace Meditation on Saturday mornings or JUST COME! All are welcome! Please call (512) 459-5261 for more information.

Denominational UUpdates

We are between denominational events (our locally hosted District Conference in April and General Assembly in June); SWUUSI is in July, and the next big event is the Fall Conference in November. so here are a few words about the state of UUs regionally.

UUs are a small presence in Texas (and most other places outside New England), with 49 congregations and 6000+ members, they seem to be growing faster than most other religious groups (three times as fast as Southern Baptists in the 1990s, according to the Texas Almanac). Disproportionately they are in the Houston/San Antonio/Metroplex triangle. Apparently this makes us much healthier than UUs in New England, where the denomination apparently suffers from not being considered heretical.

Member Comment

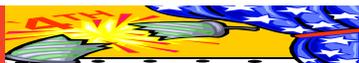


Member Comments: If you have something you want to say let us know. We are trying a new space in the newsletter In the order of service of December 31, 2000, Marian Maxwell wanted to note this Chalice Lighting reading, attributed to Albert Schweitzer. Her thought is that this is a basis for reinstituting the lighting of the chalice on a regular basis.

At times our own light goes out
 And is rekindled by a spark from another person
 Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those
 Who have lighted the flame within us.



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



July Birthdays!!

When you see these folks out and about wish them a happy MONTH. The following are our July Birthdays. If you were born in July and are not [here](#)...call the office and we will get you on the list! (452 6168) Or any oother month of course! **Marilyn Wilson, Margaret Kashdan, Wm. McIlvain, Margaret Harrison, Joe Gunn, Grace Amborski, Jean McDermott, Chris Cunningham, Nancy Neavel, Linda Taylor, Chris Walters, Charles Alexander, Gary Bennett, Margaret Borden, Peter Tighe, Victor Landry, Edward Cervenka, Cathy Harrington, Carolyn Swinnea, Reba Saxon-Scharf, Lynn Adams, Katherine Bomer, Carol Olewin, Margaret Roberts, Randy Boomer, Laurie Seremetis, Kuruvil Mani, Jeffrey Hutchens, Robin Fremin, Jill Smith, Heather Fulkerson, Sara Dethlefsen, Diane Coleman, Clare Wolkf, Heather McLeod, Laura Dean, Amber Andrews, Howard Blake, Laine Young, and Randi Jones.**

Spiral Scouts: Plans for July



Spiral Scouts have a full month planned; however, there will be no meeting on the first Sunday in celebration of the 4th of July. On July 13th the scouts will start working on their art badge by making Tie Dye tee shirts. Scouts should bring white prewashed tees. The 20th of July we will continue to work on the art badge in preparation for a trip to the Blanton Museum of Art on Sunday the 27th of July. There is an admission fee of \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for youth from 13-23, all younger children are free. The group will meet in front at 1:00 pm. If you have any question please call Amber at 512 750-9689.

Yew Grove Monthly Meeting

Yew Grove Monthly Meeting is Tuesday, July 1st at 7:30 pm in Room 13. The topic for the meeting will be "Creating Invocations and Spells." This is a participatory workshop, so please bring an image (a computer printout is fine) of a Deity you feel some connection to, and also something to write with. Also, please bring some rough notes on the qualities that you associate with this Deity. Be prepared to be challenged and have fun! For those who are Atheists or seekers, your interest in the Deity can be strictly academic if you prefer.

Executive Director Search Continues

Committee Update. We have posted the job listing in numerous appropriate locations and are beginning to get resumes. Candidates will go through a multi-step process, including phone interview with the committee and then in-person interviews for the "final four." Ministry and board reps will participate in the final interviews. Candidates must also pass a criminal background check and a credit check (since they will be responsible for bank accounts!).

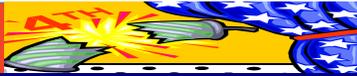


Sharing Suppers

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, new or established, couples or single, 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, it is difficult to accept cancellations after you sign up, so please remember to mark it on your calendar. Then you just show up with your dish and enjoy the great food and conversation. Call or email Sheri Overton (512-847-2685 or sherioverton@hotmail.com) or sign up on the sheet posted outside Davidson's office. If you'd like 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 [sharing-](#)

Metaphysical Salon

The Metaphysical Salon will be Friday, July 11th. We aspire to be a forum for discussion of philosophy, current events and social action, with the occasional social gathering. Our goal is to define parameters through discussion and then; when possible, put our wisdom into manifest form through social action. In Gathering 7:15 pm, Discussion begins at 7:30 pm, Room 11. Join our e-list for announcements of upcoming topics and meeting reminders at: hill-woman@yahoo.com.



Church Members Working Together!! We Thank UU

As a part of the Adopt A PeninsUULa program, we have 35 church members and families watering native plants that will beautify the church parking lot. These "parking peninsulas" are small flower beds scattered throughout the parking lot, all recently planted with a variety of native flowers, shrubs, and trees. These church members bring jugs of water to the church at least once a month, and collaborate with others who have adopted the same small area to care for. On the North side of the church (Credit Union) these people are helping: **Ruth Marie, Joan Ivey, Wendy Kuo and Klondike Steadman, Gordon Chara, Cathy Weaver, Susan Thomson, Barb and George Denny, Judith Gostisha, and Richard Mauldin.** On the East side of the church (on your left as you drive in) look for these members providing stewardship to our grounds: **Ian Reed, Karen Saadeh, Gary and Amy Bennett, Fritz Hensay, Phyllis Read, Monty Newton, Mary Ann Stafford, and Roseann Graham.** Next month we'll list the South-side adopters. It promises to be a long, hot summer, and we can always use more people. Contact **Elizabeth Gray** at egray88@hotmail.com, or 476-1861 if you would like to help.



Thank UUs . . . For Ushers and

Cheers and Applause for our Ushers and Greeters: **Russell Eskew, Sharon Finley, Ruth Marie, Mary Ann Copp, Dana Copp, Barbara Denny, Alice Cashman, Joe Lisnsalata, Doug Ginn, Genie Barnes, Maudie Kadas, Mary Lehmann Anne Van Nort, Shannon Mahoney, Valerie Quarles, Kitty Traylor, Thomas Doughtie, Mike Voss, Bonnie Voss, Annie Smoth, Lynn Westbrook, Collin McIntyre, Carol Olewin, Fredi Dockery, and Courtney King.**



Yeah



Mary McGregor!

Thanks Mary for the books you donated to the Religious Education Library. 

Thank UUs For PLAYGROUND WORK DAY!

Thanks to **Monty Newton, George Denny, Bob Porter, Linda and Malachi Taylor, and Bill and Spencer Douglass,** who braved the heat to help on the playground work-day on June 7.

Thank UU Youth for the Wonderful Sunday Services on June 8th

Youth who prepared and presented the youth service on June 8, the congregation thanks you for a job well done. **Sierra Tothero, Lauren Tothero, Patrick McVeety-Mill, Edward Balaguer, Patrick Balaguer, Josh Mayes, Aaron Osmer, Michael Mathis, Natalie Houchins, Ann Northcutt, and Shannon Mahoney.**

The Youth Advisors must also be acknowledged, Chris Cusack and Ron Phares. The piano accompanist, **Brian Uecker,** deserves a hearty applause as well.

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. 

Members... 923

We are Not Meeting this Summer

Orientation Eve - Senior Lunches

Reader's Theater

Wednesday Connection



WEEKLY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

July 1	Tues	5:30	Art Studio, Rm 13	July 12	Sat	8:00am	Men's Breakfast, G
		7:00	Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith Mtg, Rm 13			10:00	Yew Grove, G
July 2	Wed	1:00	Spiritual Expl. & Phil. Group, Rm 13			10:30	World Meditation, L
		7:00	Building Com., G	July 13	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B
		7:00	CPC Mtg, Rm 9			9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L
		7:00	FUUCYAA Mtg, Rm 9			9:45	Worship Service, S
		7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15			11:30	Worship Service, S
July 3	Thurs	9:00	Yoga (Becky Ballou, HH)			1:00	Camp UU Mtg, Rm 17
		7:30	Scandinavian Dance, HH			1:00	Media Tech Committee, HH
		1:30	CPC Meeting, Rm 19			1:00	Spiral Scouts, Rm 15
July 4	Fri	No Activities				6:00	YRUU, Rm 11
July 5	Sat	10:00	Women's Spirituality Group	July 14	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K
		10:30	World Peace Meditation, L			6:30	Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23
July 6	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B			7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH
		9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L	July 15	Tues	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13
		9:45	Worship Service, S			6:00	Board Meeting, G
		11:30	Worship Service, S	July 16	Wed	10:00	Philosophical Dis. Gr. Rm 13
		1:00	Camp UU Mtg Rm 17			7:00	Building Committee. G
		1:00	Media Tech Com Mtg., HH			7:00	Facilities Committee
		5:30	Voyagers Monthly Mtg, Rm 13			7:00	Tai Chi Chuan, Rm 15
		6:00	YRUU	July 17	Thurs	5:30	Yoga, HH
July 7	Mon	12:00	Philosophical Discussion Group, Rm 13			7:00	FUUCYAA Mtg. Rm 13
		6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K			7:30	Scandinavian Dance, HH
		6:30	Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23	July 18	Fri		
		7:00	Village Int'l Country Dance, HH	July 19	Sat	10:00	Women's Spirituality. Rm 13
		7:00	Green Sanctuary Mtg. Rm 13			10:30	Art Workshop, Rm 15
July 8	Tues	7:30	Executive Committee Mtg, Min.			10:30	World Peace Meditation, Rm 7
July 9	Wed	7:00	Tai Chi Chuan, Rm 15				
Jul 10	Thurs	5:30	Yoga, HH				
		7:00	Adult RE Mtg, Rm 9				
		7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH				
Jul 11	Fri	7:00	English Country Dance, HH				
		7:00	Metaphysical Salon, Rm 11				



WEEKLY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

July 20 Sun	9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L
	9:30	Book Groups, Rm 13 and 15
	9:45	Worship Service, S
	11:30	Worship Service, S
	1:00	Yew Grove Spiral Scouts, Rms15-17
	1:00	Camp UU meeting, Rm 17
	6:00	YRUU, Rm 11
July 21 Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K
	6:30	Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23
	7:00	Village International Dance, HH
July 22 Tue	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13
July 23 Wed	1:00	Philosophical Disc. Group, Rm 13
	7:00	Tai Chi Chuan, Rm 15
July 24 Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH
	6:30	Committee On Ministries Rm 17
	7:30	Scandinavian Dance, HH
July 25 Fri		no activities
July 26 Sat	10:30	World Peace Meditation
July 27 Sun	9:30	Philosophical Disc. Group, L
	9:30	Book Groups, Rm 13 and 15
	9:45	Worship Service, S
	11:30	Worship Service, S
	1:00	Spiral Scouts, Rms15-17
	1:00	Camp UU meeting, Rm 17
	1:00	Media Tech Committee, HH
July 28 Mon	6:00	YRUU, Rm 11
	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K
	6:30	Campfire Little Stars, Rm 23
	7:00	Village Intenational Dance, HH
July 29 Tue	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13
July 30 Wed	8:00	Hogwarts, Camp UU all rooms
	7:00	Tai Chi Chuan, Rm 15
July 31 Thu	8:00	Hogwarts, Camp UU all rooms
	5:30	Yoga, HH
	7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH

August Newsletter

Will be different

It will be a lead in to the

Connections Fair

On Sept. 14

The issue will be full of pictures of folks
participating with their

Groups

Committees

Classes

It is your time to check out the activities and see what
you want to get involved in and then ...

Sign up!

All the news of events and activities in August will be
contained in the

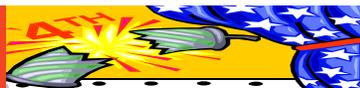
E Announcements

and the

Sunday Bulletin.

If you have information or events make sure to send
them to

news@austinuu.org



Reflections from the Director of Religious Education

On June 8, the congregation was presented with the annual Youth Service at both services. Rev. Loehr worked with the youth who wrote and presented their homilies. Aside from that sage and useful advice on the homilies, the youth and their advisors created and presented, what to me, was one of the most meaningful and enjoyable worship services I have ever attended

As a relatively new DRE, I had the pleasure and privilege of working intensely with these amazing youth for the first time. Their commitment and responsibility toward this worship service was fulfilled beyond my most expansive hopes.

The four youth, who presented their homilies, all began with the statement that they were either lifelong Unitarians or had felt a UU identify for more than half of their lives. The FUUCA youth who planned and presented this worship service are extraordinarily talented in most aspects of their lives. After the Saturday night, June 7 rehearsal, I asked some of the youth, "Is everyone in this youth program, gifted AND talented?" Two of the youth immediately responded, "No, we are just Unitarians!"

Rev. Loehr, who was present for worship service, incorporated parts of all the youth's homilies into his sermon on June 15. Good stuff!

See you in church,

Lara Douglass

Children's Summer Social Action Project Welcome to Summer in Children's RE at First UU!

Each summer we ask our kids to do a 'social action' project over the summer Sunday School session starting in June through the end of August. This summer, 2008, the children of RE will be launching a recycling campaign here at the church for their social action project. The goals of the project are three-fold;

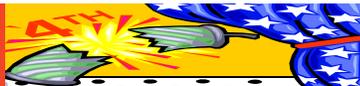
- 1. Educate our kids and ourselves about recycling.
- 2. Set up new recycling bins in the classrooms and church kitchen.
- 3. Fundraise to pay for 6 months of a recycling contract.

We plan to be able to recycle mixed paper, cardboard, plastic and aluminum cans. This is much more than the church currently is able to recycle. Although we collect cans and bottles in the kitchen we do not currently have a service to come pick them up. It is the good citizens of our congregation who take these items home to recycle, thoughtful, but not really the most efficient means of recycling.

The children's fundraising campaign will take place in the form of a weekly table in the Gallery with information and requests for donations. We will also be conducting monthly sale events at the table to raise funds. Look for the table in the gallery each Sunday and mark your calendars for the bake sale, July 20 and August 17.

The children need YOUR help to make this possible! We are asking for donations of baked goods (cookies, brownies, bread etc.) to be brought to the kitchen before church so the children can prepare them for selling in the Gallery. 100% of the money the children raise from the bake sale will go towards the new recycling contract and their project. If baking is not your strong point you can always help the recycling campaign with a cash donation. Help the children know that they can make a difference in their community!





Heritage Book Club

On Friday, July 11th at 8pm, we will discuss "Disgrace" by J. M. Coetzee. We'll meet at the RBJ Tower, 21 Waller. From IH-35 go east on Cesar Chavez to the 1st light. Turn right onto Waller; go several blocks, look for the 16-story building, and crossing Flores St., turn left into the RBJ parking lot. Enter from either north or south and you will see the "living room" meeting area. There is no kitchen. Frances Morey



472-1101, cell phone 517-3162. Our book for August is David Quammen's, "The Reluctant Mr. Darwin." Bring drink and a snack to share.

Mind & Meaning Book Club

The Mind and Meaning Book Group meets in room 13A at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Currently reading "The Mating Mind" by Geoffrey Miller. Contact June Beach jun-embeach@aol.com (h) 382-7551 for information or questions.



Sunday Morning Book Club

This book club meets in 13B on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For the first two Sundays of July we will be reading Thoreau's essay, "Nature." We will begin Tolstoy's "The Kingdom of God is Within You" on July 20th.

If you have any questions, please contact **Jim Burson** 794-1086 for more information.



Adult Religious Education May 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.



Introduction to Hindu Thinking

Description of Hindu Belief systems. Four paths of enlightenment and much more. Sat. 2:30 in Rm 15 until July 26 (\$20 donation for 6 sessions)

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



International Village Dancing

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 Group.

Meets in Library on Sunday at 9:30 and at 1 in Room 13 on Wednesday. Join us!



Coming in September

Returning !!

The next **Meditation Retreat** will be September 12 & 13. More information later in summer.

An **Adult Sexuality Course** will be taught beginning late September; information will be provided as it develops. This is curriculum from the UUA known as the OWL series, and taught by trained instructors from the congregation.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CHURCH OF AUSTIN

4700 Grover Avenue

Austin, TX 78756

One Church. Many Beliefs.

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Director of Religious Education:

Lara Douglass

Director of Music: Brent Baldwin

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Mark Kilpatrick

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Newsletter Deadline

June 15th

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Austin, Texas

Return Service Requested

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.

Sal E. Mendivil (78757) moved to Austin from Salt Lake City three years ago. Sal is employed by Central Market and enjoys running, biking, hiking, swimming, and reading; he and his wife Becki who is also a member, have a six-year-old daughter, Catalina (Catie).

Magdeline C. Werner writes "I come to church every Sunday. The communication with other kind members means a lot to me, and the sermons are inspiring." Magdeline is a retired teacher who enjoys reading and writing letters.

Miriam Gallus (78752) describes herself as a creative spirit and entrepreneur who enjoys writing, reading, and internet-based activities. Miriam arrived in Austin four months ago from San Diego.

Aleita and Steven White (78739) Aleita, currently busy at home with year-old baby Jayden, enjoys exercising, reading, and traveling (when she can!). Steven is a security consultant with interests in photography, computers, networking, and community activities such as charity walks and neighborhood events.