



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.

September
2008

Unitarian Universalist
Church of Austin



**Connection Fair
September 14th**



Did you know that there are more than sixty groups, teams, circles, committees, classes and societies at First UU Church? It's true! There are groups for new mommies, folk dancers, artists, book-lovers and movie-lovers, and communities for every member of our lunchbag-filling, home-building, environmentally-minded, philosophically-minded, twenty-thirty-forty-fifty-sixty somethings church family. And they'll all be at the Connections Fair, Sunday, September 14! Come on down to Howson Hall between 10:30 and 1:30 and see what our church is about—everything!

Time to get Connected!



**Meet Sean Hale!
Executive Director of
First UU**

The Search Committee is pleased to announce that Sean Hale has been selected as Executive Director for the Church. His first day will be September 2nd. Please join us in welcoming him to our church community! Previously, he served as Deputy Director for the Foundation for Self-Sufficiency. Sean has a strong background in non-profit management, and a real connection to the values of our Church community. He even got married at First UU, and soon a new little Hale will be entering the world and joining with our children here. Please join in welcoming Sean to our church.

**Welcome to
Brian Ferguson & Family
First UU's Intern**



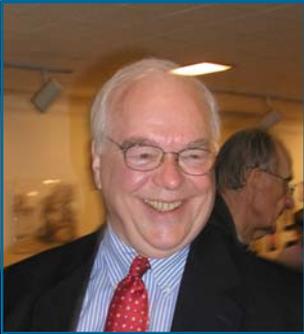
Brian, Natalie, and their 5 year old daughter, Isla, have moved from the San Francisco area where they lived for the last 15 years. They are coming to Austin after spending a month in Scotland. Welcome!

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Davidson's Lore:



I've been instructed by The Goddesses of the Office that this needs to be short. All right. We have some exciting new things happening. On 1 September, both our new ministerial intern (Brian Ferguson) and our new Executive Director (Sean Hale) join us. We're making a fair number of fairly big (and some smaller) changes in the structure of our worship services, that I think almost all of you will find refreshing and good. They'll also include more people, especially families, in some parts of the services. One new theme this fall – from both Brian Ferguson and me – will be helping us all gain a more solid and useful understanding of our religious tradition, as liberals, as Protestants, and from the Unitarian Christians and Christian Universalists. We'll be covering the three Unitarian thinkers that all UU ministry students are required to read (yes, just three, the most recent from 1841), both in fall sermons and in the adult education class Brian will be offering this fall on Monday evenings. Those are the headlines....

– see you in church!

You don't mess with goddesses.

— *Davidson*

Newest from the Green Sanctuary Committee

The photovoltaic panels for our solar system are in Austin and installation should be underway by the time you read this. Thanks to all of you who made this project possible. Among other things, the Green Sanctuary Committee is currently investigating rain water collection for the church. Keep eyes and ears open for more information as we have it.

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As the dog days of summer continue it's tempting to over-water our lawns. Remember that lawns are kept healthy by infrequent but deep watering. Over-watering the lawn discourages deep root growth and actually makes plants more susceptible to disease. Also remember that all the water you put on your lawn has been pumped and purified, using lots of energy (and creating lots of greenhouse gases) in the process. Know your watering schedule and keep to it. We'll all be better off as a result.

Volunteers for Eyes Wide Open Project

FUUCA Social Action Committee is a sponsor for the "Eyes Wide Open" Exhibit being held from 7 to 7, September 12, 13, & 14 at Auditorium Shores. Over 400 pairs of empty combat boots, tagged with the names of Texas soldiers who have died in the Iraq war will be displayed, along with a visual representation of Iraqi civilians who have died in the conflict. There will be a special candlelight remembrance on Sat., September 13 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

As a sponsor we have committed to provide a number of volunteers. Volunteers are needed throughout the exhibit for set up and closing down the exhibit each day and for various tasks during the exhibit. To sign up to volunteer go to the website, <http://eyeswideopenaustin2008.org> or call 512-857-0080 and please note that you are with the FUUCA Social Action group.

News from the Building Committee



The Schematic Design for the New Religious Education Building is complete. Members of the Building Committee are reviewing the drawings and discussing them with church members to gather input for the architects. The input will be used to fine-tune the design during the Design Development stage of the architect's services. Please plan to spend some time looking at the drawings during the Connections Fair or arrange to meet with one of the Building Committee members. The members are **Don Smith, Tom Martin, Christy Seals, Jeff Hutchens, Melita Cantu** (who's really busy being a new mom right now—congratulations Melita and Javier!) and **Brian Moore**.



Sunday Worship Services 9:45 and 11:30

- 7 September: Covenant Davidson Loehr**
 “Covenant” is one of the thirty-six themes we’ll be using in a three-year cycle, addressing different aspects of it once every three years, the way a lot of Christian churches use the readings in their lectionary. I’ve always thought of a covenant as a personal contract in which we’ve invested our souls. In traditional God-talk, it was called worshiping God with heart, mind and soul. That kind of commitment can bring great life and strength – or it can drain and demean us. It depends on the quality of the “gods” with which we make our covenants – and whether we think in terms of gods or not, almost all of us have such covenants.
- 14 September: Stereotypes Brian Ferguson**
 Our society has become simultaneously more diverse and in many ways more separated by race, class, political views, and religious backgrounds. Stereotypes of other people are a method we use to seemingly understand those who on the surface seem different from us. The conscious and unconscious stereotypes we have of others can limit human connections and propagate prejudices in our society. This sermon will explore how religious liberals can and need to overcome the stereotypes we have of others and others have of us.
- 21 September: Unitarian Christianity Davidson Loehr**
 It is sobering to realize that there are only three essays by Unitarian thinkers that all UU ministry students are required to read – and the newest one is from 1841! I’ve never heard of any of the three being taught in divinity schools, meaning that most religion scholars don’t rank them with works by the real giants of religious thought, which is true. And there are ways in which we’ve grown a long way away from them, especially Channing. But on the other hand, there is a certain kind of spirit, faith and courage present in all three of them that mark them as “singing in the same key” – and it’s a key that still resonates deeply with many religious liberals, and nearly all who attend UU churches. We’ll visit the other two in October and November, but American Unitarianism really started with a piece called “Unitarian Christianity,” delivered by the Congregationalist minister Rev. William Ellery Channing in 1819. At the time, many regarded him as the best preacher in America.
- 28 September: An Elevator Speech for Families Davidson Loehr**
 You attend a church that has no creed, where no one is permitted to speak for your beliefs on any subjects at all. Then your more orthodox friends ask you – or their children ask your children – “What do you people believe?” You get this at work, socializing, from your families, your kids get it at school. What do you say, without just going down a list of things you don’t believe, lapsing into a de facto creed, or mouthing somebody else’s words? I’ll share my responses to conservative ministers. Hopefully, they’ll prompt you to find words that express your own deepest faith – the ideals with which you’ve made a covenant.

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

- 7 September: Our Energy Future, Speaker: Dr. Michael E. Webber.**
 Associate Director, Center for International Energy & Environmental Policy, LBJ School of Public Affairs. Which energy choice is best for our future? There are a growing number of options, from wind to solar to nuclear and even algae, among many others. Is there a silver bullet in our future, and are the measures we are currently taking going to have enough of an impact?
- 14 September: No Forum, Connection Fair in Howson Hall 10:30 to 1:30**
- 21 September: Native American Indian Culture-Then and Now. Speaker: Dr. Maria D. Wade** of the UT Department of Anthropology will give her views on the status of the Native American Indian Culture at the present and in the past.
- 28 September: Editorial Cartoons, Speaker: Ben Sargent**, a sixth generation Texan, has been drawing editorial cartoons for the Austin American-Statesman since 1974! Join us for a fascinating presentation as Sargent shares the highlights from his career and entertains us with his unique talent as an editorial cartoonist!



President's Corner

By now, most of you have heard the exciting news that the Church has hired Sean Hale as our new Executive Director, to start at the beginning of September! Sean's arrival is the culmination of a several year process to bring executive leadership and new vision to the Church in the administrative and financial arena. At the same time, our new summer intern, Brian Ferguson, will be starting, along with his family. Welcome to these new valuable additions to our staff.

The Board of Trustee's meeting on August 20, 2008 was eventful. We said "goodbye and thank you" to Aaron White, our first summer minister, for the gift of a wonderful and inspiring July and August. One of the justifications for spending the money to bring on a quality summer minister was to keep up the energy and attendance (and plate collections) during the normally slow summer months. The final numbers haven't come in yet, but when I was trying to find a place to sit during Aaron's last sermon, I could have sworn it was Easter in August!

Luther Elmore has officially begun as the Church's new treasurer, after Mary Jane Ford graciously agreed to continue her role for a couple of month's while Luther completed his work with the incredibly hard-working Executive Director search committee. Luther will be working with Sean Hale to reformat the Church's financial statements to make them more "user friendly" to those of us without accounting backgrounds. The idea is to make Church finances as transparent and understandable as possible. As a financial lay person, I look forward feeling smarter as I review the finances.

The Board also voted to purchase a heart defibrillator for our building. Barbara Denny brought the importance and life-saving potential of having a defibrillator available to our members and visitors. This was an unbudgeted item, so don't be surprised if you see an extra "split the plate" snuck in this fall to help ameliorate the negative affect this will have on the deficit.

Several of the Trustees plan to attend a seminar, at their own expense, called "What Excellent Boards Do." Those attending will report back to the Board any beneficial information they got from the seminar. We all want to be "excellent," it's just sometimes hard to focus on what gets us there.

Please feel free to visit the Board of Trustee's meeting at 6:30 on the third Tuesday of each month in the Gallery.

Sheila Gladstone

Support a Winning Cause

What is the value to you of Austin's First Unitarian Universalist Church? Is it the sense of community you find among other like-minded members of this congregation? Is it the stimulating classes, book discussion groups and forum lectures? The worthy projects our social action committee organizes? The connections you make in covenant groups you have joined and parties you've attended? Perhaps it's the eclectic range of music incorporated into our weekly worship services. Or maybe the enriching experiences available to our children, such as the Harry Potter camp that has been offered during recent summers.

Whatever draws you to our unique church, now is the time to show your support. This year's annual stewardship campaign begins on Sunday, September 7, and we need all church members and friends to make their financial pledges for 2009 so we can continue and expand our quality programs and activities. This year, the Stewardship Committee will host two soup-and-salad dinners in Howson Hall. The dates are Saturday, September 13, and Saturday, October 18. Both dinners will begin at 6:00 p.m. Check your calendar now so you can plan which of these parties you wish to attend. In addition to the opportunity to make your 2009 pledge to our church, you'll be informed of upcoming events, as well as enjoy the company of First UU members.

Together, let's start a rewarding new church year with a stewardship campaign that's successful and fun!





Sing a long

The Sing-a-Long is on Saturday, September 27, from 7:30 to 10:30 at the Friend's Meeting House on 3701 E. MLK Blvd. Please bring snacks, finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing with the group. For more info contact Larry Vaughn 469-0029 or lavest@sbcglobal.net. To be added to the email list, contact Mary Jane Ford at mjaneford@grandecom.net. The fourth Sat. is the regular default date. We use Rise up Singing as our standard song-book and copies of this are available. Solos, original songs, and your personal favorites are welcomed.



Denominational UUpdates



Nothing reminds us of our connections to the larger Unitarian Universalist denomination like tragedy, specifically (as I write this) the hate-motivated attack on a Tennessee Valley congregation during worship service. For the values we share with other UUs, the attack could as easily have been against us here. For all that, the dangers attached to being Unitarian or Universalist are far fewer these days than they were throughout most of history (in particular, read of the horrifying persecutions in Europe during the Reformation/Counter-reformation). From the SWUUC calendar: the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience (which was held during August) is featuring a cruise in late September for program grads. The Fall Conference will be in Glen Rose, November 14-16.

Paradox Players Presents Another Premiere!



Opening September 19 is the final play of our 2008 season – *Third*, written by the late Pulitzer-winning Wendy Wasserstein and directed by Karen Jambon. The publisher has informed us that since it received control of the manuscript, we are the first theater company in Texas to be awarded the rights to perform this final play of Wendy Wasserstein's career!

A significant choice for this fall's election season, *Third* challenges liberal orthodoxy on a college campus. As tensions mount between a feminist Shakespearean scholar and her unusual student named Third, Wasserstein (a most liberal playwright herself) questions liberal assumptions with tender humor. You won't want to miss this provocative new play. Tickets are available on our website, paradoxplayers.org, and on Sundays in the Gallery. Reservations can be made by calling 744-1495.



Readers' Theater

Readers' Theater resumes Monday, September 9th at 7:30 p.m. in Room 13, and continues the second Monday of every month. This is your opportunity to star without rehearsing or memorizing lines! Simply come prepared to volunteer for whatever role appeals to you, in plays we'll read that evening. No prior experience needed, just the pleasure of reading aloud. Newcomers are always welcome.

New Camp Fire Groups Forming at First UU

Starting in September, the Little Stars and Starflight group (Pre-K thru 2nd grade) will be moving their meetings to Saturday at 10am in room 15. This will allow us more space and it will be a better time for most of our parents, many of whom have kids who are starting school this year.

We are starting Adventure (3rd thru 5th grade) and Discovery (6th thru 8th grade) groups this year at the church. We have several families who have expressed interest in getting their older kids involved, but we need two or three volunteers who are willing to spend two or three hours a week preparing for and running the meetings for the new groups. The new groups will meet at the same time as the existing group. Lesson plans can be shared, and new groups can rely on the experience of the existing group as needed. If you think you would be interested in volunteering, or if you have kids who would like to come to our meetings, just let us know.

If you have questions about Camp Fire USA activities at the church, please feel free to contact Andrew Young (andrew@austinuu-campfire.org / 512-576-0840) or visit our website at <http://www.austinuu-campfire.org/>



Senior Lunch
September 9th
Noon: Howson Hall
Soup and Salad \$5
RSVP: 837-0988,
Alice Cashman



Actors will present a scene from Paradox Players' finale of the 2008 season, "Third." which opens September 19th. The final play of Wendy Wasserstein's career; this Texas premiere questions liberal assumptions on a college campus, and tenderly examines the effect of such assumptions on personal relationships. Director Karen Jambon, who brought us Dearly Beloved in Feb. of 2007, will be on hand for Q&A.

September Birthdays!!



Happy Birthday to you all! Take notice of these folks and wish them a Happy Month. **Mary MacGregor, Alice Kandik, Jane Laessle, Louisa Murray, Jean Wyllys, Phyllis Schenkken, Dan Wilson, Alan Ferguson, Patricia Wightman, Frances Greene, Susan Barry, Linda Buehlmann, Mike Voss, Lissa Anderson, Thomas Caponi, Kay Planting, David Bryant, Sarah Diafi, Richard Swanson, Dave Dysart, Lorena DeLaCruz-Blackard, Tom Bohman, Sandra Ries, Jenny Booth, Michael Sweet, Tom Morris, Emily Tietz, Jennifer Moon, Keith Savage, Misty Adair, Jasmine Bartz, Erin Walter, Kevin Chamness, Colleen Robinson, Katherine Bourne, Joan Loomis-Norris, Scott Daniels, Meredi Wagner-Hoehn, Samuel Holan & Megan Blau.**

Fall Hands on Housing Oct 19

Twice a year, UUs from the Austin area gather to repair a substandard home of an elderly or disabled person to help them continue living in their homes. This all-day intergenerational event involves work and activities for all ages and skill levels. We'll have more information in the October newsletter.

Split the Plate



On September 7, we will split the offertory plate with Islamic Relief, which provides both rapid relief and long-term development aid to the victims of natural and man-made disasters around the globe, from New Orleans to Somalia to southeast Asia. Islamic Relief is among the most efficient charities in the world, consistently earning top ratings from charity evaluators for holding administrative costs to a minimum and delivering nearly all of its revenue to people in need. Islamic Relief promotes sustainable economic and social development by working with local communities, regardless of race, religion, or gender. Its projects include education and training, water and sanitation, income generation, orphan support, health and nutrition, and emergency relief.

On September 21, our split-the-plate beneficiary will be the Alto Cayma (Peru) School Lunch Project. This new project seeks to provide children attending an elementary school in Alto Cayma, Peru, (a community of largely migrants from the Andes-the poorest of the poor) with a nutritious lunch five days a week for the ten-month school year. When a medical clinic was set up at the elementary school, it quickly became apparent that the children's complaints of headaches and stomach aches were due to inadequate nourishment. Most of the children in this community were eating only every other day. The start-up cost of the school-lunch program is roughly \$56,000.

Wisdom vs. Knowledge Metaphysical Salon

September 12th

What is the most useful in spiritual development, "Street Smarts" or "Book Learning"? Let's get together and see if we can figure it out. All are welcome as always. Join our e-list for announcements of upcoming topics and meeting reminders: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Metaphysical-Salon>. In Gathering 7:15 pm, Discussion begins at 7:30 pm, Rm 11.



Orientation Evening Sept. 17th

Meet with Davidson Loehr in Room 13 at 7 p.m. Setting is informal. Bring your thoughts and questions and be prepared to be fascinated. For those who are interested in knowing more about the church.



SERVING THE HOMELESS

Since October 2006, UUs have participated in the City of Austin's ten-year plan to END homelessness. FUUCA members volunteer to serve dinner (cafeteria-style) to the homeless on the 1st Sunday of each month.

The coordinators would like to express a special thanks to the recent UU volunteers:

1st Sunday in August: **Wendy Kuo, Kristy Quigley, Melanie Garnett, Karen Franks**

For information and to volunteer, please contact: **Karen Franks** (kfranks46@yahoo.com, 670-2221) or **Mary Ann Copp** (mac624@tstar.net).



Sack Lunch Folks-Thank UU

Each week in the kitchen at church or in a home in South Austin UUs meet, chat, and put together lunches for the working homeless from ARCH. They then take them to ARCH to be distributed to the men who are going to work the next day and now have a lunch to eat; something that was not going to happen without the generosity of this great group of folks and others like them.

First Monday: **Mary Jane Ford, Roseanne Graham, David Leibson, Nancy Groblewski, Kitty Traylor, Effie Jarrett, Kathleen Lawson, Laurie Cummings.**

Second Monday: **Rose Ann Reeser, Gretchen, Julia Kate and Emi Paulig, Cathy Weaver, Joan Schenker, John Payne, Kelly, Matt and Kaya Rettig.** We are the team that meets in a South Austin home thus avoiding the evening commute up MoPac. Sometimes, we follow our lunch making with a potluck dinner. It's a great way to perform a good service for the community while having some fun and getting to know some other First UU members. If any South Austinites want to join the team, please ask them to call Roseann at 327-7951.

3rd Monday: **Jeannette Swenson, Eric Hartmann, Jennifer Loehlin, Melanie Haupt, Sally Macula, Wendy Miller, Andrea Archer**

4th Monday: **Tom Bodine, Mary Ann Stafford, Christy Seals, Elizabeth Gray, Judy Parken, Joseph and Zosia Hunt**

5th Monday: **Joan and Bill Forbes; Barbara Tuttle; Dick Heraty.**

To Join any of the teams contact the first person on the list for the Monday you are interested in joining.



Thank UUs For Ushers, Greeters and Lay Leaders



Cheers and Applause for our Ushers and Greeters during the end of July and August. **Melanie Walter-Mahoney, Grace Amborski, Courtney King, Mary Lehman, Sharon Finley, Fred Dockrey, Russell Eskew, Ruth Marie, Matthew Halloway, Val Quarles, Alice Cashman, Barbara Denny, Joe Linsalata, Linda Buehlmann, Dick Fralen, Maddie Kadas, Genie Barnes, Doug Ginn, Gene Rumann, Andrea Archer, Jim & Claudia Tracy, Kitty Traylor, Luther Elmore, Jim Burson, Catherine Reynolds, and Matthew.** **Appreciation** for our Lay Leaders too! **Bill Reid, TJ Checkly, Eric Hepburn, Nell Newton, and Brendan Sterne. Thank You All!**

Big Thank UUs for Hogwarts

After all was said and done, the magic lingers still in the hearts and minds of all who attended. Children, Prefects, Teachers, and Volunteers all have wonderful memories, have had great things to say about Hogwarts 08 and are looking forward to next year already! There was a review meeting and if you attended, your words were magically transcribed to the Camp UU archives so that next year's Hogwarts teachers can learn from you--but if you missed the meeting, and you'd still like to be heard, no fear-- just send your ideas to one of the camp coordinators. Allegra, Shannon or Mellisa or to CampUU's yahoo group (listed on FUUCA's main website under 'Community', 'Mailing Lists' if you are not already on it). Take care all you Witches, Wizards and those in training- keep up your studies and be safe-- Avnia Xander Defense Against the Dark Arts Teacher 08.



Connection Fair

*Join in... Tell us what you want..
Sept. 14th in Howson Hall*



WEEKLY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sept 1 Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, Kitchen	Sept 10 Wed	1:00	Philosophical Dis. Gr., Rm 13
	7:00	Green Sanctuary Committee, Rm 13		7:00	PP Rehearsal, HH
	7:00	Village Int'l Country Dance, HH		7:00	Tai Chi Chuan, Rm 15
Sept 2 Tues	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13	Sept 11 Thurs	5:30	Yoga (Becky Ballou), HH
	7:00	Yoga for Seniors, Rm 15		7:00	Adult RE Meeting, Rm 09
	7:00	P Rehearsal, HH		7:00	PP Rehearsal, HH
	7:00	Yew Grove Monthly Mtg., Rm 13		7:30	Scandinavian Dance, Rm 13
Sept 3 Wed	1:00	Philosophical Discussion Gr., Rm 13	Sept 12 Fri	6:30	Meditation Retreat, Rm 13
	7:00	Building Committee, G		7:00	English Country Dance, HH
	7:00	FUUCYaa Meeting, Rm 13		7:00	Metaphysical Salon, Rm 11
	7:00	CPC Meeting, Rm 9	Sept 13 Sat	8:00	Meditation Retreat, Rm 13
	7:00	PP Rehearsal, HH		8:00	Men's Breakfast, G, K
	7:00	Tai Chi, Rm, 15		10:00	PP Rehearsal, HH
Sept 4 Thurs	5:30	Yoga (Becky Ballou), HH		10:00	Mighty Platypi Campfire, Rm 15
	7:00	PP Rehearsal, Rm 17		11:00	Paradox Players Mtg/Lunch, G K
	7:30	Scandanavian Dance, HH		5:30	Stewardship Dinner, HH
Sept 5 Fri	8:00	Youth Lock-In	Sept 14 Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B
Sept 6 Sat	10:00	Art Workshop, Rm 17		9:30	Philosophical Disc. Group
	10:00	PP Rehearsal, HH		9:45	Open Minds Covenant Gr., Rm 11
	10:00	Women's Spirituality, Rm 13		10:30	Connection Fair, HH
Sept 7 Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B		9:45	Worship Service, S
	9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group		11:30	Worship Service, S
	9:45	Open Mind Covenant, Rm 11		1:00	Media Tech Committee, Rm 13
	9:45	Worship Service, S		1:30	PP Rehearsal, HH, 15
	11:30	Worship Service, S		6:00	YRUU, Rm 11
	11:30	Forum, HH	Sept 15 Mon	6:00	Sack Lunch Program, K
	1:00	Media Tech Com Mtg., HH		7:00	Village Int'l Country Dance, R17
	1:00	Yew Grove Spiral Scouts, Rm 15 & 17		7:00	PP Rehearsal, 11, HH
	5:30	Voyagers Monthly Mtg, Rm 13	Sept 16 Tues	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13
	6:00	YRUU, Rm 11		1:00	Yoga for Seniors, Rm 15
Sept 8 Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K		6:30	Board Meeting, G
	7:00	PP Rehearsal, HH		7:00	Paradox Players, 11, HH
	7:30	Readers Theater, Rm 13			
Sept 9 Tues	12:00	Senior Lunch, HH			
	1:00	Yoga for Seniors, Rm 15			
	7:00	PP Rehearsal, HH			





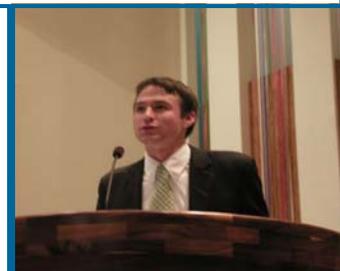
WEEKLY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sept 17 Wed	1:00	Philosophical Disc. Gr., Rm 13	Sept 25 Thurs	5:30	Yoga (Becky Ballou), HH
	7:00	Building Committee, G		6:30	Committee on Ministries, Rm 13
	7:00	Facilities Committee, Ofc		7:30	Scandinavian Dance, HH
	7:00	Orientation with Dr. Loehr, Rm 17	Sept 26 Fri	8:00	Paradox Performance, HH G
	7:00	PP Rehearsal, Rm 13, HH	Sept 27 Sat	10:30	Art Workshop, Rm 15
	7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15		10:00	Mighty Platypi campfire, Rm. 15
Sept 18 Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH		8:00	Paradox Performance, HH G
	7:00	FUUCYaa Mtg, Rm 13	Sept 28 Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rm 13 and 15
	7:00	PP Rehearsal, G, HH		9:30	Philosophical Disc. Gr., Rm 7
	7:30	Scandinavian Dance, Rm 17		9:45	Open Mind Covenant, Rm 11
Sept 19 Fri	8:00	Paradox Performance, HH, G		9:45	Worship Service, S
Sept 20 Sat	10:00	Women's Spirituality, Rm 13		11:30	Worship Service, S
	10:30	Art Workshop, Rm 17		3:00	Paradox Performance, HH, G
	10:00	Mighty Platypi Campfire, Rm 15		4:00	Intro to Judaism, S
	8:00	Paradox Performance, HH, G		6:00	YRUU, Rm 11
Sept 21 Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rm 13 and 15	Sept 29 Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K
	9:30	Philosophical Disc. Group		7:00	Village Intern'l Country Dance, HH
	9:45	Open Mind Covenant, Rm 11	Sept 30 Tues	1:00	Yoga for Seniors, Rm 15
	9:45	Worship Service, S		6:30	Adult OWL, Rm 13
	11:30	Worship Service, S			
	1:00	Social Action Mtg, Rm 13			
	3:00	Paradox Performance, HH, G			
	4:00	Intro to Judaism, S			
	6:00	YRUU, Rm 11			
Sept 22 Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K			
	7:00	Finance Committee Mtg, Rm 13			
Sept 23 Tue	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13			
	1:00	Yoga for Seniors, Rm 15			
	8:00	Paradox Performance, HH, G			
Sept 24 Wed	1:00	Philosophical Disc. Group, Rm 13			
	7:00	Tai Chi Chuan, Rm 15			
	7:00	Evensong, Rm 17			

Thanks for being here with us this summer, Aaron.

We will miss you. Come back anytime.

Rev. Aaron White, summer minister July & August.



Thanks for coming back for a visit!

Fred Wooden, past minister of First UU 1990-1994





REflections from the Director of Religious Education

All levels of Religious Education will be learning about Judaism this Fall. The youth from kindergarten through Middle School will be using the "Our Jewish Heritage" curricula. Adult RE will offer a six-week course by former congregational rabbi, Michael LeBurkein, "Introduction to Judaism."

On Saturday evening, October 12, we will have an intergenerational Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur observation. This potluck dinner and celebration will be a first for First Church.

Please see the amazing line-up of Adult RE offerings in the newsletter. New this month is an RE **Save the Date** calendar. We certainly do not want any of you to miss out!

On Monday, August 18, Rev. Loehr, Barbara Denny, Carol Ginn, Shannon Vyff and I attended a seminar on church safety and security. As a result of the information from this workshop, Barbara has agreed to chair a RE Safety and Security task force. She has already contacted Lt. Bustos, who heads up the Cyber Crimes Criminal investigation Division at the Attorney General's office, to do a presentation for our congregation. Barbara is also contacting the Austin Police Department to schedule a Security Assessment and a separate Threat Assessment for our church and children's programming.

At the strong recommendation of Major Mark Sawa of the Travis County Sheriff's department, RE has decided to restrict outside access to the three open doors in the RE Wing. Simply put, on Sunday morning, the two southwest doors will be locked and the main entrances to the RE Wing will be from the Sanctuary/Kitchen or Room 11 entrance. This will mean a change in some of our RE parking strategies, but will allow RE staff and volunteers to greet all adults and children who enter the RE Wing. Of course all doors will be open to exit the building,

Please give me a call or drop me an email if you have questions about this change in access to the RE Wing on Sundays.

See you in church,

Lara Douglass

YRUU Officers Elected

The 2008-2009 YRUU officers were elected at the most recent overnight lock-in. Congratulations to these officers:

Co-Deans: **Social Action Committee:**

Michael Matthis Sierra Tothero

Edward Balaguer Lauren Tothero

Secretary: Anne Van Nort

Lauren Tothero Shannon Mahoney

Treasurer: Dennis Chitty

Aaron Osmer

Youth Board Member: Sierra Tothero



Sept 7th Kinder/First Grade

OWL Organized



The Kindergarten – 1st Grade OWL class consists of eight sessions plus a parent meeting and parent/child orientation. This class is designed to support parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies, families and to promote dialogue between them. Parent consent and active participation are **REQUIRED**. The organizational meeting will be held Sept. 7 in Room 17 at 9:45. There is a requested donation of \$50 to cover materials and supplies. Please contact the Lara Douglass, DRE, if you need to discuss the fee or any other OWL related issues.

Fall Curriculum for Youth Begins

September 7, 2008

- 9:45a Grades 2-5, "Our Jewish Heritage"
 Kindergarten – First Grade, OWL
 Preschool – "We are Many, We are One"
- 11:30a Grades K-7 Our Jewish Heritage
 Preschool – "We are Many, We are One"
 High School RE
- 6:30p YRUU

September 27, 2008

October 11, 2008

October 22, 2008

October 26, 2008

November 1, 2008

Potluck Playdate

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Observance and potluck. 6pm to 8pm, Howson Hall, Kitchen and Gallery

Potluck Playdate

Day of Dead display opens to accept member submissions

Children's Halloween Party and Day of the Dead celebration



Heritage Book Club: Second Friday of the month at Members Homes: K. Clark (458 6246)

Mind & Meaning Book Club: 9:30 Sundays Rm 13 A check announcements for details

Sunday Morning Book Club: 9:30 Sundays Rm 13 B check announcements for details.

Adult Religious Education September Happenings



Adult Sexuality (OWL=Our Whole Lives)

Instructors are Barbara Tuttle and Michael West. This series of 14 workshops provides a comprehensive, life long overview of human sexuality's many aspects. The class will explore sexuality issues of interest to mature adults using values, respect and spirituality as starting points. It is expected that class members will attend all classes. Fee \$45.00 course.

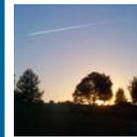
Rabbi Michael LeBurkien, a member of our congregation, will present a brief **course on Judaism**. Each one hour class will take place in the sanctuary on Sunday afternoons, Sept. 21, Sept. 28, and Oct. 5, at 4 p.m. You can send questions prior to the classes to Lara Douglass at Lara@austinuu.org or Rabbi LeBurkien at senechal18@aol.com.



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.



Evensong

Examine Religious or spiritual fare and then map them on to your own life or spiritual journey. Meets once a week beginning Sept 24 at 7:00 in Rm 17. Linda: 452 6168 ext 10 to sign up



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.

Meditation Retreat: 9/12&9/13

Mark Skrabacz. Combine Hatha-Kundalini Yoga. Fri. 7 pm Rm 15

Jim Williams. Qui Gong (Mat and Water) Sat. 9 am Rm 15



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



Coming Attractions

NEW UU Saturday November 8, 2008 from 9am – 2 pm in RM. 17. Led by Luther Elmore and Lara Douglas. For new members and others who want to know more about UUism and its history. Brunch will be served and child care provided if requested.

KENYA and the Aftermath of the 2007 Elections: Issues that Divide & Unite. Sunday October 12 – November 16 in RM 15 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. Fee \$10.00. Dr Jean Davison, anthropologist and author of three books on Kenya, will lead an interactive course on Kenya's election fall out.



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

One Church. Many Beliefs.

Minister: Dr. Davidson Loehr

Executive Director: Sean Hale

Director of Religious Education:

Lara Douglass

Director of Music: Brent Baldwin

Ministerial Intern: Brian Ferguson

President, Board of Trustees:

Sheila Gladstone

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

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Newsletter Deadline

September 15th

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Please Welcome Some Our Newest Members

Where do they live?? In an effort to help neighbors become aware of each other, we list the zip codes of new members. **Amber Yartz** (78664). Amber is new to Unitarian Universalism and excited to be learning about it and getting involved. She works as a sales manager in the hotel industry and serves on the board of the Austin Hospitality Association. In her spare time Amber enjoys motorcycling, hiking, biking, swimming, and reading.

Joshua Jacobs (78731) is a second-year master's student at UT; he moved here from Chicago in 2002. His interests include art, music, and Wikipedia. "Engaged myself in comparative spirituality study in the past; quite pleased to find a space with similar sensibilities."

Pam Quackenbush and **Brian Wittenbrook** (78757). Pam writes, "Brian is an avid writer who works for Dell. Pam is an engineer turned high-school physics teacher. We are looking to become more involved in our community." Pam enjoys gardening, writing, and drawing and is a Groceries-to-Go volunteer.

Sarah Fergusson-Royal (78703) is a long-time area resident who enjoys reading and political science reporting. Sarah is a former member of Washington All Souls UU who is looking forward to exploring community and life journeying with us.

Rachel and **Craig Reed** (78704). Rachel writes, "I am excited to be a member, as I have been coming here for almost two years with my husband. I am also excited to have a spiritual home for our daughter Charlotte, who is due to be born any day now!" Rachel enjoys running, animals, working out, yoga, and reading.

Leslie Walker (78751) is a UT student and lifelong Austin resident.

Autumn Barker (78746) is employed by Seton Southwest Hospital and enjoys the outdoors, science, and gardening. She is looking forward to experiencing open discussions at First UU.

Rachel Hull and **Michael Feferman** (78722). Rachel writes, "Michael and I are starting our life together and couldn't be more excited to share our future with such a wonderful community. We thank you for your welcome and look forward to getting to know you in the many years to come." Rachel works as a consultant and enjoys cooking, reading, and film. Michael: "We've been attending services here for a number of months and really enjoyed both the services themselves and the sense of community that permeates the congregation. We're looking forward to joining and contributing to that community." Michael is a digital director (C3 Presents) with interests in music and sports. Of his hopes for First UU, he writes "Make me think, make me act on my thinking. Ritual, reflection, community."