

April 2008

The **VISION** of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin: As an inclusive religious and spiritual community, we support each individual's search for meaning and purpose, and join together to help create a world filled with compassion and love.



FIFTH ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER!

May 2-4, 2008: Rev. Meg Barnhouse



Meg Barnhouse is a singer-song writer with a sense of humor. ***Creativity*** is the theme of the Friday night and Saturday sessions. Friday evening, after a light supper, there will be a musical evening with Meg. Folk blues music and UU humor aim for an evening of relaxing fun. She will be accompanied by Kiya Heartwood, also a singer-songwriter.

Saturday continues the ***Creativity*** theme with an all day program, "Writing for Stories, Songs and Illumination." Not only is Meg Barnhouse a musician, she also is a writer of books, columns, media commentary, and she intends to impart some of those skills to us. One of her songs will be sung by the Y'All Come Choir.

On Sunday, Reverend Barnhouse will preach a sermon entitled "*The Rapture in America*" and its affect on national and international political decisions. What is it? Its history as a belief and present appearance is important to UUs.

A program with registration instructions and descriptive material has been sent to everyone on our mailing list. Registration can occur on line at our web site www.austinuu.org or at the Adult Religious Education table. Questions? contact distinguishedspeaker@austinuu.org.

Passover Seder Ritual April 19th

The Passover Seder will be held in Howson Hall at 6:30 on April 19th. It is a ritual retelling of the Passover story. It is a time to share this story with our children and celebrate freedom. Our Church Seder is a cooperative meal. We ask you to bring a salad, hot side dish, or dessert and make a donation of \$10 per adult in order for us to purchase the main dish and the ritual foods. If you prefer not to bring food, we welcome a donation of \$15 per adult. Children 5-12 are half price, under 5 is no charge. The Reverend Anoek Inbar will again lead the reading of the Haggadah.

Building Committee Reports

The general meeting held on March 9th was well attended, and a meeting to discuss Children's RE was held on March 16th. Join us at 1:30 on Sunday, April 6th, as we discuss the multi-use space that will be included in Phase I. Please remember that you can also share your thoughts by going to the church website (austinuu.org). See you on April 6th in Howson Hall.

Split the Plate for April

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

On April 6, half of the offering will go to **SafePlace of Austin**, which provides shelter and counseling to women, men, and children who suffer the harmful effects of sexual and domestic violence. Roughly 1,000 individuals receive shelter each year at SafePlace. The organization offers both crisis services and long-term support, including counseling, life-skill training, parenting classes, and housing placement. SafePlace also provides community education on sexual and domestic violence, reaching out especially to youth in schools.

On April 20, our split-the-plate beneficiary will be **Ecology Action of Texas**. This non-profit works to recycle much that cannot be recycled curbside in Austin. Only one-third of Ecology Action's operating cost is covered by material sales. With Earth Day coming up on April 22, First UU will make a timely statement as a "green" church in support of one of our congregation's highest values by sharing the Sunday offering with Ecology Action.



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No. 4

Davidson's Lore

One problem in a large group of people is providing some clear themes, some hand-holds to keep in touch with spiritual themes and life issues. At our annual five-day meeting of the Senior Ministers of Large UU Churches in Santa Barbara at the end of February, 45 ministers – my favorite clergy group – shared ideas and experiments that seem to offer promise, and one really struck me: the idea of rotating Themes for sermon topics.

Many Christian ministers have a form of this in their Lectionary system, a three-year cycle of chosen readings from the bible, on which hundreds of thousands of ministers all preach every Sunday. But that won't work for us, because we're not Bible-based, and you could never get a herd of liberal ministers to agree on the same readings.

But a variation on this is being tried in a couple UU churches, with some very good results. All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, seems way ahead of the pack on this, and I'm considering trying a variation on their model. They have 27 themes, one per month, September through May or October through June, so it's a three-year cycle just like the lectionary. But these themes are life-based rather than scripture-based, so they can be illustrated by stories and ideas from any religion or other tradition (poetry, history, movies, etc.). The themes Tulsa uses include things like: Forgiveness, Death, Faith, Hope, Justice, Love, Brokenness, Transformation/Resurrection, Transcendence, Vocation, Gratitude, Grace, Letting Go, Truth, Creation, God, Evil, Redemption, Mercy, etc. A couple other churches use slightly different themes, and we'll work out our own most comfortable list.

The idea is that each month, one Sunday (say, the second Sunday) is organized around this theme: sermon, readings, children's story, etc. This can grow to providing some suggestions for discussion questions related to the themes, for families to discuss at their dinner tables, or movies, books, other sources, and so on. The idea is to give our members some monthly spiritual focus points that are grounded in our common life experiences rather than in the teachings of a single religious tradition: things they can use with their children, at work and in their personal lives away from church. Lara and I will be talking about this, looking at themes, though one of the beauties of this approach is that it can be gradual. Themes can start influencing only the sermon, then other elements can be added as they're ready. The themes would only have to affect nine Sundays a year. All the other Sundays would remain independent of the themes, though some themes might be provocative enough to dwell on more than one Sunday.

It's an experiment, to see how it fits us. I'll start trying it on 27 April, when I'll preach on "Salvation." If that were one of the themes we chose among our 27-36 themes, it would mean that once every three years there would be another sermon on that topic, from another perspective. I'll try it one Sunday in April, May and June, then see about instituting it for a three-year trial this fall. (The Tulsa church has been doing this for six years, has now been through all their themes twice, and reports that people are finding it spiritually deepening to revisit a subject three years later.) Let's see how this works, as part of the other changes we'll be going through.

See you in church!

Davidson

Spring Hands on Housing Bluebonnet Blitz April 19

Hands On Housing is a city-wide event sponsored by Austin Area Interreligious Ministries. We at First UU will join with UUs from Live Oak, Wildflower, the Fellowship, and the Georgetown to make repairs and paint a home in Pflugerville. There are Saturday shifts from 9 am to 1 pm, 1 pm to 4 pm, 4 to 7 pm. and a clean-up shift on Sunday from 9 am to 12 pm.

We'll be painting the exterior of the house, building ramps in front and back, replacing a chain link fence gate and tile around the bathtub, and repairing broken and missing lumber. Hands On Housing is a family-friendly event, so bring your kids to help. There will be a special activity for kids. We take the group picture about 12:45 p.m., so try to be there for the photo shoot. To sign up, contact Beverly Donoghue at 971-5402 or beverlydonoghue@yahoo.com

Sunday Worship Services 9:45 and 11:30

April 6:

The Most Dangerous Fundamentalism on Earth, Part IV: Davidson Loehr. Fourth in the series of sermons inspired by Naomi Klein's difficult and important book, The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism.

April 13:

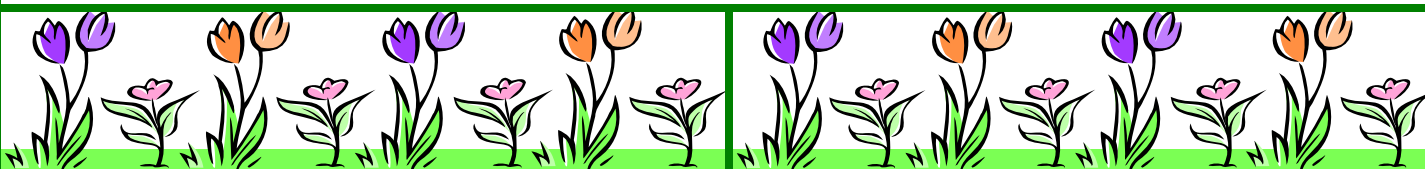
The Most Dangerous Fundamentalism on Earth, Part V: Davidson Loehr. Fifth and final in the series of sermons inspired by Naomi Klein's difficult and important book, The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism.

April 20:

Churches With Souls: Michael Durall. Paul Wilkes is author of the book, Excellent Protestant Congregations, and writes about churches that have souls. What do you suppose this means? What kind of people attend these congregations? Are they any different than we? We'll take a look at some churches that have souls, some that do not, and what this means for us as individual congregants. Along the way, I'll throw in a heresy or two, to keep things interesting.

April 27:

Salvation: Davidson Loehr. This is a first experiment for me in the discipline of "theme-based" sermons (see this month's column).



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

April 6: Global Warming. Dr. Camille Parmesan, U.T. Associate Professor of Biology. Dr. Parmesan's work is included in current impacts of climate change in the 20th century on wildlife. Her work has been featured in many scientific and popular press reports. She is renowned for her climate change expertise, giving seminars for the White House, government agencies and non-governmental organizations, and serving as a lead author of the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize jointly with Al Gore.

April 13: Hutto: America's Family Prison. Activist Bob Libal from Grassroots Leadership UT filmmaker, Matt Gossage, will show the short documentary film, "Hutto: America's Family Prison" followed by discussion about the current status of this former private prison which is now a detention center for immigrant families whose legal status is under review. Find out what is currently being done to protest this Penal model for detention of families with children and what you can do.

April 20: Nepal: A Beautiful, Land-Locked Country of High Mountains and Deep Poverty. Bill and Suzy Reid. Did you know that Nepal has eight of the ten tallest mountains in the world, including Mt. Everest? That Nepal is the home of the world-renowned fierce warriors, the Gurkhas? That Nepal is the world's only country where the official religion is Hindu? Neither did Bill and Suzy Reid until they visited FUUCA member, Wilda Campbell in Kathmandu in 2007. They will show photographs and discuss the geography, history, religion and politics of one of the poorest countries in the world. They will touch on agriculture, education, languages, signs of foreign aid, and Nepal's place in the world, squeezed between two giants, China and India.

April 27: Ronnie Earle, District Attorney of Travis County. Ronnie Earle has been Travis County's District Attorney since 1976. He will speak about his many experiences as District Attorney of Travis County. Don't miss it this great opportunity to hear him.

Seniors' Luncheon

Tues, Apr. 10th
Howson Hall Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP Alice Cashman 837-0988



Kathleen Lawson will read the short story, "A Gravestone Made of Wheat," a story of "love conquers all." In the story, Olaf Vordik, a Norwegian bachelor farmer, comes to America, buys land and starts his own farm in Minnesota. In 1918, he sends for Inge Altenberg, a young German girl, introduced to him in letters from his parents in Norway, where they remained. These were the paranoid and nationalistic days following the First World War. Their life together is a story of tackling obstacles laid out for them by the government, the church and the community. Kathleen Lawson is an Austin Actress, who has performed in theaters in and around Austin for 20 years, including several productions for Paradox Players at FUUCA.

Special Friend of Spring Conference and FUUCA

Our friend, the owner and manager of Casa Chapala Cantina and Grill, Guadalupe "Lupe" Barragan, is indeed a special friend. He allowed a significant discount when he agreed to cater the Mexican Fiesta dinner on Saturday, April 27, as a part of the Southwestern UU District Spring Conference. His generosity made this special "taste of Tex-Mex" dinner affordable for the FUUCA planning committee's budget. Lupe is committed to being a part of the Austin community, and he takes his social action volunteer work seriously. While owner/manager of the family's restaurant in Kennewick, Washington, his crew built the "World's Largest Burrito" in May 1999, breaking the Guinness record of the time. It weighed in at 9460 lbs. and measured 4289 feet. But Lupe's more serious purpose for the event was raising funds for local children's charities. Lupe, his wife Lucina, and their eight children, moved to Austin and opened Casa Chapala in May 2006. Since then he has become an involved member of the North Austin Rotary Club and the North Austin Kiwanis Club.

The Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has named his business their "Small Business of the Year." At one of the Spring Conference planning meetings with him, he mentioned being out of town in Mexico, in fact, helping to build a church and school with friends from Redeemer Lutheran Church. He also works charitable events for his own home church, St. Louis Catholic, along with nearby Methodist and Episcopal churches. Lupe also finds time to work with several elementary and high schools in their fundraising efforts. It has been a pleasure getting to know Lupe. His mission at Casa Chapala is to "provide customers with good authentic Mexican food at a good price with the best customer service." He further believes that everyone involved in his business "deserves total respect" and memorable work experiences every day. We are fortunate to have Lupe and his crew at Spring Conference. Visit online at www.casachapala.com for services available and party planning. See him in person at 3010 W. Anderson Lane, Suite D, and tell him you're from First UU.

HOUSESITTER FOR SUMMER

(The dates are flexible.) A Long-time (30 yr.) member of Baton Rouge UU church, retired

librarian/teacher, seeks to be near her young grandson and family, here in Austin for summer. Contact Susan or Christine 512.773.1010 email: KeeKeeOT@aol.com.

Flinging into Spring with Paradox Players

Audience or actor, ticket seller or props person – we have a place for you, whatever your interest may be. April brings a bundle of opportunities to play with us, so as you read this article, consider which kind of fun appeals to you and contact us soon, so we can match you to the best role!

Auditions for Eve Ensler's *Necessary Targets*, opening in June, run April 5 and 7 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Chris Jimmerson, director, at chris_jimmerson@mac.com, for further information. Rehearsals will begin late April. Don't want to play on stage? If you'd prefer an offstage role in this production, contact Kathryn Govier, our talent scout and volunteer coordinator, at kgb@io.com. If you enjoy cruising second hand shops for props, sewing costumes, working backstage, researching the Balkans, or selling tickets and concessions, you have a role to play here.

Readers' Theater continues to welcome newcomers. Join us April 14 at 7:30 in room 13 to read a couple of one-act plays, unrehearsed. The SW District Spring Conference will include a workshop led by Paradox Players, featuring some material from Readers' Theater. Contact Ann Edwards at annann@austin.rr.com if you'd like to help prepare for that workshop, held April 26.

Meet Emily

Emily Withers works in the kitchen every Sunday morning making the coffee, keeping the snacks moving and doing the dishes. She has been coming to First UU since she was a little girl and is now a senior at LBJ High School. She has just finished applying and auditioning for college.

In the past few months, she traveled around Texas to sing for six different schools. When asked about her future plans, she answered, "I am going to be a Vocal Performance Major. Ultimately what I plan to do is sing opera." Next time you are passing by the kitchen stop by and introduce yourself to Emily.



Garden Workday Saturday April 12



We want our church grounds to look beautiful for the SWUU district conference—it will be held at our church the last weekend in April. Please come the morning of Saturday, April 12, for a garden workday from 9:00-Noon.

Join other UU gardeners for fellowship and spiritual fulfillment. We'll have a few things to plant, trees to trim, and lots of weeding, raking, and general clean up. For those needing exercise, we have several yaupon holly trees to dig holes for and plant. Bring gloves, buckets, and (if you have them) rakes, loppers, or shovels. Men attending the breakfast that morning—here's your chance to work off some of that great meal you've just finished. Contact Elizabeth Gray at egray88@hotmail.com or 476-1861 for more information. Our native landscape makes our church unique, and it takes the willing collaboration of many individuals to keep it looking its best.

People's Community Clinic: New project needs volunteers.

For those of you that work days but would like to help, we have determined another need that can only be met at night. We need several volunteers who will make copies in the evening at PCC. We will try to do this at least once each month, but it does not need to be the same team each time, so please help as you are able. If you can help make copies on Thurs., April 17 or Mon., April 21, please let us know. Sheri Overton, 512 847 2685 or sherioverton@hotmail.com.

April Gallery Artist



Bill Oakey will be the featured artist in the Gallery for the month of April. Come and enjoy his color photography.

Hackberries: A (Good) Part of the Web of Life.



You don't have to live in Texas very long before you hear the complaints about hackberries: they are ugly, a nuisance, weak wood, a trash tree. But UUs seek the truth, right? So think about hackberries another way. That "ugly" bark can also be seen as interesting watted texture that gains character as it ages. Any tree will grow big and potentially fall on your house; if you shape and prune the hackberry, it will be as attractive and shade providing as any other tree. The bright green foliage in the Spring is an eye catcher. Those fertile berries that turn into unwanted saplings have a very high lipid content that makes them very valuable to wildlife. In fact, one of the forgotten common names for hackberry is sugarberry, because people used to eat the berries, which are pretty sweet, though mostly seed. The east and south perimeter of the church property is composed of mostly hackberries. Now see if you can look at them with a different perspective!

Tuesday, April 1st Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith Meeting Topic: The Divine Fool. We couldn't resist this topic for April Fool's Day. Bring some thoughts, or poetry, or quotes for discussion on the concept of the Divine Fool. Mythology is filled with examples of the foolish character who is the wisest one of all. In some faiths, there is a trickster aspect to characters such as Jack or the Youngest Son in Fairy Tales, The Fool card in Tarot, and even religious figures such as Buddha, Jesus, and the Native American Contraries. Let's talk about the Fool within each of us, and what he has to teach us. In Room 13, at 7:30 pm.

Yew Grove Monthly Meeting

Full Moon Ritual and Pot Luck

Tuesday, April 22nd: Yew Grove will hold our Full Moon Ritual in Room 13 beginning at 7 pm. Canned food drive for Caritas. Open Mike night. Attendees are encouraged to bring an inspirations or enlightening reading, quote, or short reading (about 3 minutes), picture, object that has inspired them on their path, changed the way they think about something. If you feel inspired, please talk a little about your selection. You do not need to bring something in order to enjoy the ritual. Have you ever wondered what Pagans do to celebrate the ever changing Moon? Come join us and find out! Go to our website at www.YewGrove.org for more details and childcare reservations. In Room 13, In Gathering at 7:00pm, ritual begins promptly at 7:30 pm.



905

Members



Orientation Evenings



Orientation Evenings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from **7:00 to 8:30 pm** in room 13. This month, join **Davidson Loehr** on Wednesday, **April 16th** to discuss our church, faith journey, and programs. If you are new to the church, bring your questions and prepare to be fascinated.

STARTING THE CONVERSATION: What is Single Payer Health Insurance?

Healthcare for All Texas is sponsoring an educational seminar on Saturday, March 29th, 2:30 pm-4:30 pm at First United Methodist Church on this subject. Portions of the movie "SICKO" will be shown followed by discussion and Q & A with a panel of doctors and other healthcare professionals. The seminar will be held in the Family Life Center, 13th and Lavaca St. Parking is available in the garage at 13th and Lavaca and on the street. A donation of \$5 is appreciated, but not required. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information, email gkopas@msn.com.

Denominational UUpdates

Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference Annual Meeting and Spring Conference: Friday April 25 - Sunday April 27 in Austin, Texas: "What the World Needs from Religious Liberals" Registration form online: <http://www.austinu.org/site/index.php?page=sec-southwest-spring-conference-2008> Join many of your UU co-religionists from six states and Mexico, all without leaving the comforts of home. Listen to UU speakers of note; learn things about your own church you never knew.

General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations: June 25-29, 2008 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida: "Common Threads" gistration and Housing Reservations (beginning March 1): <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/registrationhousing/housing/index.shtml>. Notify Gary & Amy Bennett or any Board Trustee if you are interested in being a delegate representing FUUCA.

Sharing Suppers

Would you like to get to know other UUs in a more personal, informal setting? On April 19th (third Saturday), groups of 6-10 people will gather for food (all contribute to the dinner, conversation, and laughter in participants' homes. Sharing Suppers are open to anyone in the church: new or established, couples or single, members or nonmembers. All may participate. The deadline for signing up is April 13th (Sunday before the suppers). The hosts will call on Monday or Tuesday with directions, the time and a dish/part of the meal to bring. Because of the way 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 sharingsuppers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Serving the Homeless at ARCH



A special thanks to the UUs who served supper on the first Sunday of the month to the homeless men at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) located in downtown Austin. In FEBRUARY: **Carrie Evans, Sarah Stevens, John and Karen Franks**. In MARCH: **J.H. Webber, Lois Engintunca, Betty and John Wood**.

Four volunteers are needed the first Sunday of every month. Volunteers don't cook or clean but they do set the tables and serve food cafeteria style to 100 men from 5:30 to 8:00. Our efforts are a small part of the city of Austin's ten-year plan to end homelessness. To volunteer one time or many times, please contact **Karen Franks**:

kfranks46@yahoo.com, 670-2221 or **Mary Ann Copp**: mac624@tstar.net, 830-693-5920.

Heatsheets for the Homeless: They Thank UUs



The Emergency Survival Blanket exhibit received donations for ordering blankets. Our first thanks go to the **folks who made donations**, which allowed us to purchase Heatsheets Survival Blankets as gifts to "...warm a homeless friend around Austin."

We delivered the last of our blankets in early March, and met a few homeless who still have our blanket. One owner smilingly stated at the main library "I already have a blessed blanket" (referring to our Courtesy Card inserts: "A special gift from a friend who cares. Blessing you with warmth and New Year prayers.")

We distributed a total of 60 Heatsheets. The funds remaining will be used for the upcoming winter season, and Freezenight-Shelter miscellaneous needs. Once again your generosity, Blessings, and New Year prayers have been shared back to you by 'a homeless friend.' As the delivery team has experienced again and again – smiles, smiles, and "Thank you for your care."

Also a special 'Thank You' to **Mary Ann Stafford** and **Corinna Whitaker-Lewis** for encouraging this FreezeNight's subprogram, led by **Phillip Hemphill**; The rest of the Team Members deserve a round of applause as well: **Roseanne Graham, Ruth Marie, Russell Eskew, and Kitty Traylor**.

Thank UUs: Sharing Suppers Hosts!



We could never have Sharing Suppers if folks were not willing to open their homes and share their space with the rest of us. Thank you **Barbara Tuttle** and **Sterling Heraty** for hosting the February gathering. March groups were hosted by **Kathryn Govier**, and **Joan and Bill Forbes**. This is a great way to get to know a few more folks in the church.

Thank UUs: Ushers, Greeters, and Lay Leaders



Applause for our Lay Leaders: **Mary Jane Ford** and **Nancy Groblewski**. **Cheers** for the Ushers and Greeters: **Lisa Lasasso, Ruth Marie, Alcyr Coelho, Rosie Coehlo, Joyce Wilson, Dan Wilson, Barbara Denny, Alice Cashman, Mary Ann Copp, Dana Copp, Joe Linsalata, Lisa Lossaso, Linda Buehlmann, Star Maddox, Tara Nichols, Genie Barnes, Geri Mosher, Henry Hug, Doris Hug, Carol Olewin, John Carey, Ann Van Nort, and Patrick McVeety**.

People's Community Clinic Project: A Continuing Success! THANK UUs



For the past two months, our church has sent teams of volunteers to the People's Community Clinic to compile packets for patients. PCC is very appreciative of our church's efforts on their behalf, and this work in particular takes a big load off their health educators. We will go again on Tuesday, April 8, from 10 am -12:30 pm. If you can help, please contact **Sheri Overton**, 512-847-2685 or sherioverton@hotmail.com.

Thank you to our compilation teams to date: **Sally Aslan, June Beach, Michele Caponi, Wendy Miller, Nancy Neavel, Sheri Overton, Cindy Raab, Rose Ann Reeser, Suzy Reid, and Mary Ann Stafford**.

April Birthdays



Laura Zavalney, Sara B. White, Marian Maxwell, Palmer Wright, Jim Burson, Parry Jackson, Peter Roll, Sally Scott, Kathryn Govier, Paula Wiesner, Relia Mae Scheib, Susie Reid, Jon Flury, Rowena Caldwell, Thomas Forrest, Karen Franks, Tim Woolsey, Gary Ketler, Stephan Windsor, Karen Saadeh, Petty Morton, Phyllis Baron, Andrea Archer, Bethann Woods, Catherine Reynolds, David Smith, Joe Regan, Mary Beth Serff, Kristen Walsh, Candace Hutchens, Brett Chandler-Finch, Tara White, Mathew Garland, Allison Daniels, Logan Howard, Soly Long, Shane Howard, Anne Fruge, Claire Morter, Coralee Trigger, Leah Gonzalez, and Caris Longoria

Church Events for April



Apr 1	Tue.	7:00	Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith Monthly Meeting, Rm 13	Apr 8	Tue	12:00	Senior Luncheon, HH
						7:00	Paradox Players Callbacks, HH
Apr 2	Wed	12:00	Philosophical Discussion , Rm 13			7:30	Executive Committee Meeting, M
		6:00	Wed Connections (eat/meet) HH	Apr 9	Wed	12:00	Philosophical Discussion , Rm 13
		7:00	Fuucyaa Meeting, Rm 13			6:00	Wed Connections (eat/meet) HH
		7:00	CPC Meeting, Rm 9			7:00	Building Committee Meeting, G
		7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15			7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15
		7:30	Choir Practice, S			7:30	Choir Practice, S
		7:30	Campfire, Rm 17			7:30	Campfire, Rm 17
Apr 3	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH	Apr 10	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH
		7:00	Evensong, Rm 17			7:00	Adult RE Meeting, Rm 9
		7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH			7:00	Evensong, Rm 17
Apr 4	Fri	7:00	Tarot Mysteries Group, Rm 13			7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH
Apr 5	Sat	10:30	World Peace Meditation, L	Apr 11	Fri	7:00	English Country Dancing, HH
		1:00	Paradox Players Auditions, HH			7:00	Metaphysical Salon, Rm 11
Apr 6	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B	Apr 12	Sat	8:00	Men's Breakfast, G
		9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L			10:30	World Peace Meditation, L
		9:45	Worship Service, S	Apr 13	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B
		11:30	Worship Service, S			9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L
		11:30	Public Affairs Forum, HH			9:45	Worship Service, S
		1:00	Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17			11:30	Worship Service, S
		1:30	Building Shared Space Meeting, HH			11:30	Public Affairs Forum, HH
		4:00	Brief History of UU, Rm			1:00	Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17
		5:30	Voyagers Monthly Meeting, Rm 13			4:00	Brief History of UU
		6:00	YRUU			6:00	YRUU
Apr 7	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K	Apr 14	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, Leader's Hm
		6:30	Campfire, Rm 23			6:30	Campfire, Rm 23
		7:00	Green Sanctuary Committee Rm 13			7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH
		7:00	Paradox Players Callbacks, Rm 17			7:30	Paradox Play. Reader's Theater, 13
		7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH				



Church Events for April



Apr 15	Tue	6:30	Board Meeting, G	Apr 23	Wed	7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15
Apr 16	Wed	12:00	Philosophical Discussion Rm 13			7:30	Campfire, Rm 13
		6:00	Wed Connections (eat/meet) HH			7:30	Choir Practice, S
		7:00	Facilities Committee Meeting, O	Apr 24	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH
		7:00	Orientation:Dr. Loehr, Rm 13			6:30	Committee on Ministries Meeting, Rm 13
		7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15			7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH
		7:30	Campfire, Rm 13	Apr 25	Fri	4:00	SWUUD Spring Conference
		7:30	Choir Practice, S				Registration with Events continuing in the evening
Apr 17	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH	Apr 26	Sat	8:00	SWUUD Spring Conference
		7:00	Fuucayaa Meeting, Rm 13				Registration continues; Events & Workshops throughout the day
		7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH				
Apr 18	Fri	7:00	Spiritual Movies, HH			10:30	World Meditation, L
Apr 19	Sat	10:30	World Meditation, L				
		6:30	Seder, HH	Apr 27	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B
		7:00	Great Decisions, Rm 17			9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L
Apr 20	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B			9:45	Worship Service, S
		9:30	Philosophical Discussion, L			11:30	Worship Service, S
		9:45	Worship Service, S			11:30	Public Affairs Forum, HH
		11:30	Worship Service, S			1:00	Yew Grove Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17
		11:30	Public Affairs Forum, HH			6:00	YRUU, Rm 11
		1:00	Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17	Apr 28	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K
		1:15	Joint Membership & Stewardship Meeting, Rm 11			6:30	Campfire, Rm 23
		4:00	Brief History of UU			7:00	Finance Committee Meeting, Rm 13
		6:00	YRUU, Rm 11			7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH
Apr 21	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, K	Apr 29	Tue	7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
		6:30	Campfire, Rm 23	Apr 30	Wed	12:00	Philosophical Discussion Group, Rm 13
		7:00	Village Int'l Country Dancing, HH			6:00	Wed Connections (aka, eat/meet) HH
Apr 22	Tue	6:30	Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17
Apr 23	Wed	12:00	Philosophical Discussion, Rm 13			7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15
		6:00	Wed Connections (eat/meet) HH			7:30	Choir Practice, S
		7:00	Building Committee Meeting, G				



REflections from the Director of Religious Education

There are two key RE events going on in April. The reception for the Child and Adult Surprise Pals to meet each other will be on April 13. Our annual Passover Seder will be held in Howson Hall on April 19. Please see the other articles in the newsletter for more information on these events.

As many of you may know, my husband Bill has been very ill, requiring a prolonged hospital stay and lung surgery. I need to acknowledge the DRE assistants who stepped in and took over many of my responsibilities, while I was unable to be in church full time for a couple of weeks. Cyndi Stein, Adriana DeLaRosa, Marianne Foley and Ron Phares did such wonderful jobs, some people did not even know I was gone.

Thanks to the many friends who helped take care of Spencer and us. Bill is planning on returning to work on March 24.

See you in church,

Lara Douglass



Surprise Pals Revealed Party



The reception for the Surprise Pals to meet each other will be held between services on Sunday, April 16, in room 11, approximately 10:45 to 11:15. The whole family of the child and adult pals are invited.

For the reception, there will be a cake in Room 11, where the sofas will be conducive to personal visiting time. We will also have someone taking "portraits" (snapshots) of each child and their adult pal during the reception.

Spiral Scouts

Activities for April



Sunday at 1 pm in Rooms 15 and 17, SpiralScouts meets. April 6th and 13th SpiralScouts Topic – Gardening/Landscaping. April 20th SpiralScouts Topic – Earth Day Clean-Up. There will be no meeting the last Sunday in April. Please check the weekly announcements. For more information see our main website for calendar updates and more at: www.SalamanderCircle.org or call Amber at 750 9698 or email her atamber@SalamanderCircle.org.



Metaphysical Salon

Friday, April 11th Yew Grove Metaphysical Salon Topic - "Comparative Ethics of contacting entities or using the Supernatural?" Please subscribe for updates on topics and location –or– join our Yahoo group at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Metaphysical-Salon>. This Yahoo group is where we have our topic polls, so if there's a topic you'd like to see discussed, sign on and make your voice heard. In Gathering at 7:15 pm, Discussion begins at 7:30 pm.



Wednesday Connections It's a Family Affair!



Come one and all and join in the Wednesday Connection. This month we will start off with **FUUCA's fajita feast**. It will be **April 2nd** at 6 pm in Howson Hall. The second Wednesday, **April 9th, a Pasta Dinner** will be the fare. The third Wednesday in April will be the **Soup Peddler's spread** with salad, bread and dessert (**April 16th**) This meal is presented by the Membership Committee. The donation is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and \$12 for a family. The last two Wednesdays in April are not planned. Will YOU volunteer to be the cook and surprise the folks with your offering. If you are interested or if you have menu ideas please contact Nahdiah Hoang: Nahdia@hotmail.com.

This is a great opportunity, to be part of the community. If you attend a function on Wednesday night at the church, come early and have supper together. Supper begins at 6 pm. If you come early and volunteer to set up or stay late to help clear and clean up, supper is free. Join Us!

Sunday April 20th
Joint Membership Stewardship
Meeting
Room 11 at 1:15 pm



Heritage Book Club

When: Friday, April 11th, 8:00 pm.

Hostess: **Sally Scott, 4906 Beverly Hills Drive, 453 2289**

Book: The book adopted for April 11 is "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder" by Richard Louv. All are welcome; bring your own drink and a snack to share.



Mind & Meaning Book Club

The Mind and Meaning book group meets on Sundays in Room 13A at 9:30 am. In April, the group will continue to read "Consciousness Explained" by Daniel Dennett. Please contact **June Beach, 382- 7551** or junembeach@aol.com for further information.



Sunday Morning Book Club



This book club meets in 13B on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. The book we are reading is "The Language of God" by Francis S. Collins. Following this, we will read essays by Charles Hartshorne.

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



Adult Religious Education Happenings in April

ART STUDIO First, third and fourth Tuesdays from 10 am – 2:30 pm in Rm 13. Artists and aspiring artists work on their art projects, share techniques and ideas. Contact Judith Gostisha judithgostisha@yahoo.com for special projects.

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

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

FOLK DANCING : 3 different programs that welcome newcomers, meet in Howson Hall and request a donation.

English Country Dance: Ann McCracken 266-9949 ann@mccr.org meets Second Friday at 7:30 pm \$6 donation

Scandinavian Dance: Stephanie Files 454-0598 jfiles@ix.netcom.com No partner necessary; please wear non-sticky soled shoes. Meets 7:30 pm every Thursday \$3 donation.

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

INTRODUCTION TO HINDU THINKING: Introduction to Hindu Thinking: Swami Jee Swami Jee @459-5261 Saturdays 10:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Library. This meditation group consists of a brief spiritual discussion followed by silence. Suggested donation \$1.00. An Introduction to Hindu will begin in May on Saturday afternoons.

BREATHWORKS – will begin in mid May on Saturday afternoons. More information will follow..

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION & PHILOSOPHICAL INQUIRY Marcus Barnes aerodyne@prodigy.net (H) 338-1816. A long running unstructured discussion group. 9:30 am in Library every Sunday.

UUs: A SHORT HISTORY : Taught by Luther Elmore, American history teacher and Chair of Adult Religious Education. Sundays 4-6 pm RM 15 on March 30, April 6, April 13 & April 20. Suggested donation \$5.00. This is a five week, ten hour overview of Unitarian Universalist history taught by Luther Elmore, history teacher, and Chair of Adult Religious Education.. The course will cover the separate and distinct origins of Unitarians and Universalists from their European roots to the formation of the Unitarian Universalist Association in 1961. Emphasis will be placed on theological controversies and distinctions as well as the dynamic leaders who have played a significant part in this shared history.

VOYAGERS VOICE - Contacts are Effie Jarrett (effie@speer.geo.utexas.edu) and Chris Ford (cmonee@yahoo.com).

First Sunday – discussion group, topics vary - 5:30 pm RM 13

Second Sunday – attend services with Moveable Feast after 2nd service

Third Sunday – Movie Night – 5:30 pm RM 13

Fourth Sunday- Potluck & Games Night – 5:30 pm RM 13



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF AUSTIN
4700 Grover Avenue
Austin, TX 78756
One Church. Many Beliefs.

Minister: Dr. Davidson Loehr
Director of Religious Education:
Lara Douglass
Director of Music: Brent Baldwin
President, Board of Trustees:
Mark Kilpatrick
Church Phone: (512) 452-6168
Church Fax: (512) 453-5912
E-Mail: info@AustinUU.org
www.AustinUU.org
Newsletter Deadline
May 15th

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Please Welcome Some Our Newest Members

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

Ian B. Reed (zip code 78759) writes, "I grew up in this church and I am proud to officially join as a member of this beautiful religious community." Ian's interests include music.

Catherine Reynolds tells us "I'm brand new to Austin and still fairly new to UU. I had the opportunity to visit the city, and this congregation, a couple of years ago and felt that I had found a place that I could call home. Now I intend to make that a reality." Catherine is employed by the Army National Guard and lists her interests as "baking, fabric crafts, and running (slowly)."

Maddie Kadas (78722) is an environmental attorney who has put in time as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala (1988-1991) and been involved with migrant farm worker, human rights, and political asylum issues. A long-time Austinite, she lists her interests as "cooking, reading, running, and my children."

Fredi Dockrey (78753) is a self-employed writer who also enjoys sculpture, reading, gardening, and animals. At First UU, Fredi hopes to find "friendship, intellectual interests, and an occasional 'uplifting sermon.'"

Amanda Pool (78728) had been living in Austin one whole week at the time of her signing! She works in Dell tech support and enjoys writing, reading, and bead work; back in Colorado she also volunteered in pre-school and after-school programs for low-income school districts. Amanda writes of First UU, "I hope to find a place where I can connect with people who share similar interests and goals. I'm excited to be a part of a support group with the opportunity to give and receive it."