

September
2007

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.

Let me
Introduce Myself!!



Dina Claussen, First UU's New Intern

I was brought up in a small town in Southern California; educated in Environmental Biology at the University of California at Santa Barbara; trained and worked in Medical Technology (hospital lab work) in Santa Barbara, Boston and San Francisco; educated (San Francisco) and worked in Landscape Design and Gardening (Portland, OR); and now educated in UU ministry at the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley CA (with classes added from Starr King School for the Ministry). I have also spent two summers in chaplaincy training: San Diego Urban Ministries (an Episcopalian ministry program) and the VA in San Francisco (under the direction of the University of California, SF Medical School).

I have been single by choice, so far. I have never had any children but have had opportunities to be 'Auntie Dina' and have enjoyed it tremendously. I love music, movement and storytelling (have been active in a group called Interplay), art (do a bit of collage and pastel work), museums, gardening, nature, the ocean, community, walking, green places, rain, solitude, movies, mysteries, history, reading, pets (have done house sitting), ritual, celebrations, sharing of deep places and urban areas with the kind of incredible abundance that San Francisco and Austin share. I am from a small congregation in Portland and have been going to a much larger congregation in Berkeley, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, I am very excited to begin my ministerial internship in the Austin congregation under the direction of Dr. Loehr.



Let's Get Connected!!

Sunday, September 9! Ever wondered what goes on in the UU United Nations office? Ever asked yourself, "Just how many book studies ARE there at First Unitarian?" Ever said to your significant other, "We just have *too much* spare time!" Ever wondered how you can get involved and meet new people at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin? Join us for the Connections Fair, Sunday, September 9, from 10:45 to 1:00 in Howson Hall! Meet the teams that make First UU special! Learn about the dozens of events we host every month! Win a free dinner—door prizes every hour! Visitors, members and friends—this is a great chance to tour the groups and communities that are the lifeblood of the church—AND it's the perfect Sunday to invite a friend to First Unitarian! Contact Jacob Williamson (jvw@io.com) if you still want a table in the fair.

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 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 9, and we need all church members and friends to make their financial pledges for 2008 so we can continue and expand our quality *programs and activities*.

This year the stewardship campaign will center around pot luck events in church members' homes. Please watch your mail for your invitation. When it arrives, promptly let your host know you plan to attend and the part of the meal you will provide. In addition to the opportunity to make your 2008 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! **Margaret Roberts**, Stewardship Campaign Chair

First Unitarian
Universalist Church
of Austin

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Davidson's Loehr

The sabbatical of this past year did what it was supposed to do. It was renewing, rewarding and educational, and it made me very eager to return to work! I did more reading than I can fit into a year's worth of sermons, so my head runneth over.

This fall and coming year are exciting and historic times in the history of this church. Making the transition to a liberal church with an empowering and commanding sense of Center will take at least a year, probably more like three years, but should be engaging and challenging for us all. We've asked for outside help on this. Our District Executive, **Susan Smith**, will spend a weekend with us September 7-9, and will preach for us on the 9th. And **Stefan Jonasson**, the IIA's consultant to large congregations, will spend a weekend with us in October. All of this is to help church members identify the ideals that are actually high and commanding for them, and to help us become more aware of the responsibilities and opportunities that are more present and pressing for larger churches.

The September sermons explore some of these empowering and commanding ideals through looking at the three levels of "being human religiously" that are present in many different religions, and are important whether you call yourself religious, spiritual, or just serious about learning to live more wisely and well. In the sermon blurbs above, I switch between Christian and Buddhist terms for this, but the Buddhist terms are probably my favorite. Their "trinity" was Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. For them, "Buddha" meant the teachings and model of the historical Buddha and centuries' worth of commentary on them by other great Buddhist teachers; Dharma meant the personal work each of us must do in moving toward those ideals in our own lives; and the Sangha was that rarest of places, where these high aspirations were seen as holy and commanding. Christians say a very similar thing in talking about their Trinitarian need of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

To turn this into ordinary language, "God" or "Buddha" refer to a source, a center, of wisdom to live by: wisdom seen as both empowering and commanding. While the contents aren't the same for everyone, it must be both empowering and commanding: honest belief demands something of us.

That "something" is our personal work (Dharma), our striving to "incarnate" this wisdom in our daily lives. That's one way liberal theologians explain what it means to be a Son or Daughter of God, and Buddhists explain by saying Dharma is the work we do to nurture our innate Buddha-seed.

It is so seldom in life that we find a place – even in most friendships – where these ideals and goals are elevated to a holy, a commanding, status. When they are, you have the makings of a Sangha, or a healthy church. And speaking of healthy churches, it's great to be back — see you in church!

Davidson



Paradox Players



September concludes one season – the 2007 productions in Howson Hall and begins another – Readers' Theater in Room 13.

We are pleased to present the Austin premiere of *Avow*, a thought provoking, powerful play by Bill C. Davis. Two gay men ask their liberal priest to witness and bless their vows to each other. This catalytic request triggers a series of separate yet linked spiritual journeys and re-examinations of life decisions, as characters seek to balance passion, commitment and faith. Suitable for mature audiences, this comedy/drama is directed by Charles Hill (from last fall's *Sleuth*), and features several actors who will be familiar to past audiences – including our own **Lisa Foster** and **Gary Payne**.

Avow opens Sept 21 with a Gala Reception after the play. Tickets are on sale Sundays in the Gallery, and online at paradoxplayers.org. Reservations can be made by calling 744-1495. Season ticket holders make reservations to ensure preferred seating in the front rows.



Happy Birthday September Folks



Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you!
May all of you have a great day too!

Mary MacGregor, Alice Kandik, Jane Laessle, Ted Corin, Jean Wyllys, Phyllis Schenkkan, Dan Wilson, Alan Ferguson, Patricia Wightman, Susan Barry, Charla Hathaway, Lissa Anderson, David Triplett, Thomas Caponi, Kay Planting, Vicky Linsalata, Larry Kolodzey, Wendy Stresau, Dana Hendrix, Denis Thompson, Michael Clinkscales, Ramona Brush, Paulette Rodriguez, Susan Rittereiser, Sarah Eckhardt, Lorena DeLaDruz Blackard, Ian Forslund, Tom Bohman, Kathy Fox, Sandra Ries, Jenny Booth, Michael Sweet, Tom Morris, Emily Tietz, Karen Soul, Keith Savage, Misty Adair, Jasmine Bartz, Effie Conway, Angela Stacey, Erin Walter, Kevin Chamness, Coleen Robinson, Katherine Bourne, Joan Loomis-Norris, Scott Daniels, Allison Portnot, Meredi Wagner-Hoehn, and Anna Kilpatrick.



Sunday Worship Services 9:45 and 11:30

September 2: “A Life Worth Living” Dina Claussen’s first sermon

What does our tradition have to say about making an ordinary life into one that is deeply satisfying? This is one woman's story of how that could be done, as our intern shares her perspectives in her first sermon with us.

September 9: “Growing Our Vision” Rev. Susan Smith

Rev. Smith is our District Executive, and will be focusing some of the work done with the members who attended her weekend workshop with us, to help identify and articulate the ideals and goals that members of this church actually hold to be high and commanding. She'll also talk about what comes next.

September 16: “What’s the Difference Between a Church and Disneyland?” — Davidson Loehr

How many differences can you think up? Much of our focus this year will be on exploring, articulating and embodying what it means to be a church rather than just a social or political gathering of mostly like-minded liberal people. You could see this sermon and those of the next two weeks as exploring legitimate heirs to traditional notions of the Christian trinity. Or, if that language is too loaded for you, as talking about everyday versions of the Buddhist “trinity” of Buddha, Dharma and Sangha.

September 23: “Religion is about Transformation, not Information” — Davidson Loehr

In the “liberal trinity” scheme, this is about an honest and everyday understanding of what it would mean to be a Son or Daughter of God – or in Buddhist terms, asking what is your Dharma, the holy and personal work that can be transformative in healthy and life-giving ways.

September 30: “The Spirit that is Holy” — Davidson Loehr

When I was about six, I thought the “Holy Ghost” was a truly dumb idea. Now it is, at times, the most magical and powerful of the Western trinity of God, Child of God, and Holy Spirit. The Buddhists could say that the place where that spirit is given its home as an honored guest is your Sangha. I'd say if a church isn't a Sangha, it isn't a church. See what this has to do with you and your life, no matter what your personal beliefs are.



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

September 2: Religion and Labor Network of Austin — Michael Murphy: As co-chair of the Religion and Labor Network of Austin and a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Michael will talk about the values that have inspired diverse faith, labor, and community leaders to come together under the banner of the RLNA to bring new visibility and vitality to an array of local worker-justice campaigns.

September 9: Connection Fair: All church event. Join us from 10:45 to 1:00 in Howson Hall! Meet the teams that make First UU special, learn about the dozens of events we host every month, and maybe win a free dinner—door prizes every hour! This gives old members and new members a chance to jump in and take part!

September 16: Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo will discuss his first 2 months as City of Austin's police chief. We'll learn who our chief is, his background, and what the City of Austin Police Department has planned for Austin's future!

September 23: The Power of Independent Media . Christy Pipkin (from the Nobelity movie project); **Linda Litowsky** and/or **Stefan Wray**, Public Access Community Television; and **Tim Mahoney** and **David Kobierowski**, KOOP Radio hosts, join together in a panel discussion to explore how each of us has the opportunity to make the media a reflection of our own expressions.

September 30: Charles Polacheck was born 93 years ago in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His mother, Hilda Polacheck, was active with Chicago's Hull House and is the author of the critically acclaimed book, “I came a Stranger.” Charles studied theater and acting in Chicago; during WWII he worked with America's International short wave radio. He worked for CBS televising in 1946. He produced and directed “Captain video” for the defunct Dumont network, was the producer for NBC's “Voice of Firestone” and has the distinction of producing the first color television broadcast on “Wide Wide World” with Louis Armstrong. Later he became the producer of the long running soap opera, “The Edge of Night.” Charles sang with Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger in the Almanac Singers of Greenwich village and maintains a correspondence with Studs Turkle.

President's Call: come one, come all! It's your turn at bat!

If not the Texas heat, at least the summer is behind us, and exciting opportunities lie ahead for all in our First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin community.

As discussed in last month's newsletter, First UU is entering a season chock full of chances for each of us to help shape our future together as a community, grow our collective vision and realize our dreams for our church, our community and ourselves.

This month, First UU will be host to **Susan Smith**, district executive of the Southwestern UU Conference. She will lead participants in exploring First UU and its inner core, helping us to determine together who we are as a community, develop an identity and self-differentiate in the greater community. Collectively, we can help each other dig deeply to find answers.

So, your church community needs you there; bring your thoughts and ideas and share them. The first session is scheduled for 7-9 p.m. Friday, September 7, in Howson Hall, and the second at 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, September 8, in Room 17. Susan will conclude her visit Sunday, September 9, after delivering the sermons.

She plans to be back at First UU a month later, on the weekend of Oct. 12-13, when Stefan Jonasson — UUA director of large congregations — returns to our church. Following up on his spring visit, he will continue helping us better understand and deal with changes and challenges that occur in churches, across most denominations, as they grow in membership.

First UU certainly has been facing growing pains as we've evolved, becoming the third-largest UU congregation in the district — after All Souls in Tulsa, Okla., and First UU Dallas. Our hope is that, with Susan and Stefan's assistance, we can realize who we are as a community, develop an identity and self-differentiate in the greater community. Their sessions with us provide a foundation for the work ahead to make First UU what we, as a congregation, want it to be, while remaining true to the values of liberal religion.

All of this, however, requires each of us to act to ensure the future and vitality of our church community. As our annual Stewardship Campaign begins this month, I share with you some thoughts I wrote for one of our campaigns a few years ago. For me, they still ring true to this day:

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin is more than a building or place to gather Sundays; it's a community. Ours is a church committed not only to its members but also to the world around us. Together, we help each other travel our own individual spiritual paths while striving to make the world a better place for all. Our hopes and dreams for the community, the church, our loved ones and ourselves are as big as our hearts. In our hands, we hold the power to improve our community, create the First UU we envision, and nurture this vibrant spiritual home for liberal religion that we are building.

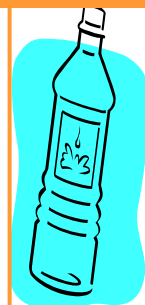
The church derives 80 percent of its annual budget from the pledges of members and donations of friends. Your tax-deductible contribution enables the support of our minister and programs. The more you give, the more you receive. Ask yourself, what is the value of the church and its programs to you? Do you, like others, embrace wants and wishes for First UU but see them go unfunded due to a lack of money? How much more can you afford so that the church can afford to become what you envision?

What we make of First UU rests with us. Together, we can build a better future for our community.

Join your community in growing its vision. **Mark Kilpatrick**, President

The Problem with Bottled Water!

If you drink bottled water on a regular basis, consider these facts. According to an August 1 *New York Times* article, 1.5MM barrels of oil—enough to fuel 100,000 cars for a year—are used annually just to produce the plastic bottles used by the bottled water industry. Those bottles are then shipped around the country, using even more energy. And most of those bottles end up in the landfills. The testing requirements for public water systems far exceed those for the bottled water industry, and most bottled water is simply filtered tap water anyway. Consider investing in a water filtration system for your home and fill your own bottles to carry with you. You'll save yourself money and help the planet in the process. **Don Smith**, Green Sanctuary Chair



**Community Forum
with
Mayor Will Wynn**
You're invited....

Please join us for a presentation
of the City of Austin's
Climate Protection Plan
by Mayor Will Wynn.



Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2007

7:00-8:00 p.m.

In the Sanctuary

This is a free event and is open to the public. A question and answer session with **Mayor Wynn** and Council Member **Lee Leffingwell** will follow the presentation.

**Men's
Breakfast
In the
Gallery
September
8th**

All are welcome
7:30 ish in the
morning! Please
come and join us.
The food is good
and the comrade-
rie is superb vit-
tles!



**Seniors'
Luncheon**

**Tues. Sept. 10th
Noon in Howson Hall
Soup, Salad &
Dessert \$5**

RSVP Alice Cashman
837-0988
alicedllas@aol.com



Paradox Players will present a scene from the play **AVOW**, which opens in Howson Hall on Sept 21st. Charles R. Hill directs this cast of actors who will be familiar to those who've seen recent productions. Charles will be on hand to answer questions about this contemporary play for mature audiences.

Reader's Theater

Reader's Theater resumes Monday, September 10th at 7:30 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** welcome.



Wednesday Eat and Meet

Sorry, everyone, we will not be starting until October this year, but, starting October 3rd, we will have Eat and Meet every Wednesday following the public school calendar (if school is in session, we will have Eat and Meet). Everyone is welcome.
6:00- 7:00 Dinner in Howson Hall. \$5/adult, \$3/child, \$12/family. Dinners include vegetarian and kid-friendly options.
6:30-7:30 Childcare. No additional charge.
6:45-7 or so **Joys and Concerns Service** in the Sanctuary.
New this season: Sustainable Meals, hosted monthly by the Social Action Group! Highchairs and booster chairs! The return of the monthly birthday cake!

Seasoned Seekers on Sept. 8th

Season Seekers, Born in the '40's and '50's Group will be having a potluck dinner with a "Whatever Ya Can Put Togetha, Bub" theme on Saturday, September 8 at 6:30 pm help set up time, 7:00 pm dinner, and 7:30 pm movie. The movie is about an Academy Award winning gangster's moll getting some smarts from an Academy Award winning journalist in 1950. Oh yeah, the gangster is also an Academy Award winner. Please stay to help clean up. Suggested donation \$5.00. Discussion about "The Halloween Party for Gr-r-roan Ups" will be held.

Hands on Housing

will be on

Saturday, October 13th.

Save the Date!

House will be selected in mid-September.



FUUCA Volunteers Facilitate Immunization Clinic

A second successful year! On August 18th, 46 members of our church community helped the People's Community Clinic conduct a Back-to-School Immunization Clinic. By the time the day was over, 245 children had been immunized. Our volunteers were organized into three teams, ably led by **Beth Davis, Heather Palmer, and Michael West. Ron Phares** organized a youth group. We did everything from signing in and feeding volunteers; providing information, coloring books, water, and goodie bags to children and their families; managing the facility's upkeep; processing immunization records; and facilitating the flow of people. Despite the hard work and summer heat, we had fun and got to know one another better, we gave visibility to Unitarian Universalism and our church, and we provided an important service to the Austin Community. Look for pictures on the Social Action bulletin board. Kudos to: **Sally Aslan, Edward Balaguer, Eugene Balaguer, June Beach, Nancy Bene, Helen Bland, Drew Bridges, Wesley Browner, Clark Boykin, John Carey, Elaine Carpenter, Dyanne Cortez, George Cortez, Emily Craighead, Connie Good, Elizabeth Gray, Jane Hall, Nora Hughes, Carol Jordan, Mary Lehmann, Evangelina Mangino, Michael, Mathis, Patrick McVeety, Becky Moon, Clare Morter, Nancy Neavel, Ed Nichols, Sheri Overton, Marilee Phillips, Cindy Raab, Rose Ann Reeser, Mila Saddler, Judy Sadegh, Maria Salas, Juanita Salinas, Mae Scheib, Teri Schlueter, Megan Seaholm, Linda Taylor, Trish Taylor, Barb Tuttle, and Barbara Weeks.**



Save Money! Save Energy! Save the Planet!



Eat 'n Meet is a social dinner served in Howson Hall every Wednesday night at 6 pm, following the AISD school calendar (no school, no dinner). Starting in October, the Social Action Committee will be preparing a **delicious Sustainable Meal** on the third Wed. of the month for Eat 'N Meet. (10/24, 11/28, 12/19)

After enjoying our **local, organic, and/or vegetarian meal**, there will be a study group where we will work through the "Zero Carbon Diet" book (approx. \$10). "Low Carbon Diet" is an extension of the ideas communicated in "An Inconvenient Truth". It has practical, measurable things a person can do to reduce his/her carbon footprint. This group will meet from 6:30 until 7:30. Childcare will be provided.

Please Join Us! Call/email Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis, Social Action Chair corinna@austin.rr.com (371-3253) to learn more and sign up. It will be fun, you will make new friends, and you will put your UU values into action! An email list will be formed for ease of communication.

**October 19th and 20th
Campout
at**

Krause Springs

Waterfall into great Swimming Hole

Shady, kid-friendly grounds

Dark skies and telescope views

Musical toys for kids of all ages

Saturday night potluck,

campfire & musical jam

Bring food to share, lawn chairs and

flashlights (no dogs please)

More information: Vince 385-8862

vharrison1@grandecom.net

Krause Springs 830-693-4181

Directions: West on 71 through Bee Caves, 5 miles past Pedernales River, right Exxon Station to Spicewood, 2nd right at sign. 35 miles. Gates close at 8 pm. Pay at house: \$7/each, \$3/child

MEMBERSHIP

MATTERS

MEMBERS

608

ASSOCIATE

MEMBERS

305



Sharing Suppers September 15

Would you like to get to know other UUs in a more personal, informal setting? On September 15, groups of people will gather for food, conversation, and laughter in various participants' homes. Everyone contributes something to the dinner. These suppers are open to anyone in the church, new or established; you need not be a member to participate. The deadline for signing up is September 9. 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 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 sheroverton@hotmail.com)

Evensong I Begins September 19th

Evensong is an opportunity to examine concepts that are standard fare in many religions and then to map them on to your own life. A small group of people meet together, follow an order of service, intently and nonjudgementally listen in silence to one another, and grow as a community and as individuals. Class begins September 19th at 7 pm in Room 17. Sign up in the Gallery after services or call 452 6168 ext.10 Linda.

Below are quotes from people who have attended the course:

"In a large UU church like ours, it's important to create opportunities for small groups to get to know each other well and to share their spiritual journeys. We have facilitated four Evensong 1 and 2 classes; the relationships we formed are precious and lasting." **Sharon and Brian Moore**

"We listen to one another, not in order to respond, "Oh, that reminds me of..."but to deeply hear. ...Evensong is one of my most treasured resources." Vail Weller, Minister of UU People's Church of Ludington, Michigan.

"Why have I taken it three times now? Because it provided me with a connection to the others with a similar desire to journey beyond casual conversation in discovering ourselves." **Judith Gostisha**

How About a READ IN!

Adult Religious Education is thinking of sponsoring a "READ IN" for the entire church community next year. Everyone would read the same book by a certain date and discussions would take place about the book at events designed for that purpose such as a tea, wine tasting, or other gathering. Please stop at the Adult Religious Education table in the gallery and make a suggestion for a book to be read [fiction or non-fiction]... but in this extended and saturated political season we prefer no political books.



Orientation Evening With Davidson Loehr

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, **September 19th**. This is open to everyone. A great place to meet people who are interested in becoming part of our church. Meet with the minister for an introduction to the church. Bring your questions.



Laughter Yoga!

Beginning September 9th from 11 to 11:30 am at the All Ages Playground join Dallas for Laughter Yogo – promoting joy, better health and world peace with Dallas Norvell. Everyone give it a try!
alobar21a@hotmail.com

Thank UU Lay Leaders Ushers/Greeters



Let's give a round of applause to our Lay Leaders: **Ruth Marie, Luther Elmore, Kim Akinhead,** and **Nancy Groblewski**. Joining these folks, we cheer our Ushers and Greeters: **Clare Wolf, David Leibson, Becky Reedy, Alice Cashman, Julie Mani, Kuruvila Mani, Dwayne Windham, Alcyr Coelho, Carol Ginn, Ruth Marie, Joe Linsalata, Doug Ginn, Kay Planting, Ken Pfluger, Geri Mosher, Mary Lehmann, Gary and Amy Bennett, Kitty Traylor, Luther Elmore, Juanita Salinas, Lorena DeLaCruz-Blackard, Trish Clifford,** and **Melanie**.

DEMONSTRATION DAY

September 16th at 12:30 pm in Howson Hall. Open to everyone. A fast-paced "demo" of Tai Chi, Yoga and Folk Dancing activities at First UU. Instructors and class members will "show and tell" and the audience can ask questions and sign-up to participate at the most reasonable costs in Austin. For more information - Marianne Foley foleyinitiative@msn.com

Choir Practice

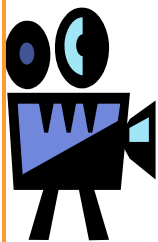
every Wednesday at 7:30 pm. This season will be filled with fun and great music as usual. If this sounds like something you would like to do. Come. Join Us. The only requirement is the desire to make music.

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION continues at 7 pm Room 13 on **Sept. 9** Chapters 9 & 10 and on **Sept. 10** Chapters 11 & 12. A discussion with practice based on Marshall Rosenberg's "*Non-Violent Communication: a Language of Life*". **Becky Moon** at beckyms@yahoo.com.



CHURCH EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

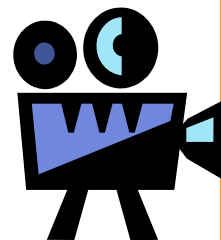
Sep 1	Sat	9:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH	Sep 8	Sat	7:15	Men's Breakfast, Gallery
		10:30	CUUPS Meditation Group, Rm 11			9:00	Susan Smith Workshop, Rms 15 & 17
Sep 2	Sun	9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13B			10:00	Women's Spirituality, Rm 13
		9:30	Philosophical Discussion, L			10:30	CUUPS Meditation Group, Rm 11
		9:45	Worship Service			7:00	Seasoned Seekers, HH
		11:30	Worship Service			7:00	YRUU Lock In, Rms 11 & 13
		11:30	Public Affairs Forum, HH	Sep 9	Sun	9:00	Yoga Laughs, All Ages Playground
		1:00	Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17			9:30	Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B
		5:30	VOYAGers, Rm 15			9:30	Philosophical Discussion Group, L
		6:00	YRUU, Rm 11			9:45	Worship Service, Susan Smith
Sep 3	Mon		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED			10:30	Connecting Fair, HH
		6:30	Sack Lunch Program, Kitchen			11:30	Worship Service, Susan Smith
		7:00	Village International Dance, HH			1:00	Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17
Sep 4	Tues	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13			2:00	Writer's Workshop, Rm 13
		7:00	Mayor Winn, Sanctuary			4:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17			5:30	VOYAGers Movie Night, Rm 15
		7:30	Executive Committee	Sep 10	Mon	6:30	Sack Lunch Program, Kitchen
Sep 5	Wed	12:00	Philosophical Discussion Group, Rm 13			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17
		6:30	CPC Meeting, Rm 9			7:00	Readers Theatre, Rm 13
		6:30	Potluck Facilitators Training, HH			7:00	Rise Up & Call Her Name, Rm 15
		7:00	Men's Group, L			7:00	Village International Dance, HH
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 17	Sep 11	Tues	10:00	Art Studio, Rm 13
		7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15			12:00	Senior Luncheon, HH
		7:30	Choir Practice, Sanctuary			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
Sep 6	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH	Sep 12	Wed	12:00	Philosophical Discussion Group, Rm 13
		7:00	CUUPS Meeting, Rm 13			7:30	Choir Practice, Sanctuary
		7:00	Randall Opening, Gallery			6:30	Compassionate Communication, Rm 13
		7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, Rm 11			7:00	Building Committee, Office
		7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH			7:00	Men's Group, Library
Sep 7	Fri	7:00	Susan Smith, UU Dist. Exec, HH			7:00	Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH
		7:00	CUUPS, Tarot Mysteries, Rm 13			7:00	Tai Chi, Rm 15
				Sep 13	Thu	5:30	Yoga, HH
						7:00	Adult RE Meeting, Rm 9
						7:00	Paradox Player Rehearsal, Rm 17
						7:30	Scandinavian Dancing, HH
				Sep 14	Fri	7:00	CUUPS Metaphysical Salon, Rm 11
						7:00	English Country Dance, HH



Need a **MOVIE**
FIX?
Spiritual Movies
returns

The Spiritual Movie Night on September 21st will feature the 94-minute film "Expiration Date." The film's teaser says "Charlie Silvercloud believes he has only 8 days to live because of the family curse that he has inherited: every Silvercloud male is killed by a milk truck on his 25th birthday. Should he face his impending death stoically, wrapping up the details of his life and saying his goodbyes? Or should he live like he's never lived before and fight for every last minute he has? A wonderfully funny dark comedy filled with love, laughter, dancing ... and milk trucks."

This is a movie that cleverly exposes one of our most powerful myths. Are we happier being awakened from this myth, or staying asleep within it? **Davidson** will facilitate a discussion for all following the film. All are welcome, and childcare will be provided.



CHURCH EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

<p>Sep 15 Sat 9:00 Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH 10:00 Women's Spirituality, Rm 13 10:30 CUUPS Meditation Group, Rm 11 5:00 Parent's Potluck, HH</p>	<p>Sep 23 Sun 9:30 Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13 B 9:30 Philosophical Discussion Group, L 9:45 Worship Service 11:30 Worship Service 11:30 Public Affairs Forum, HH 1:00 CUUPS Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17 2:00 Middle School OWL, Rm 11 3:00 Paradox Players Performance, HH 5:30 VOYAGers/CPC Pot Luck, Playground 6:00 YRUU, Rm 11</p>
<p>Sep 16 Sun 9:30 Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13B 9:30 Philosophical Discussion Group, L 9:45 Worship Service 11:30 Worship Service 11:30 Public Affairs Forum, HH 12:30 Demonstration Sunday, HH 1:00 Social Action Committee Mtg., Rm 13 1:00 CUUPS Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17 2:00 Middle School OWL, Rm 11 2:00 Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH 5:30 VOYAGers, Rm 15 6:00 YRUU, Rm 11</p>	<p>Sep 24 Mon 6:30 Sack Lunch Program, Kitchen 7:00 Rise Up & Call Her Name, Rm 15 7:00 Village International Dance, HH</p>
<p>Sep 17 Mon 6:00 Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH 6:30 Sack Lunch Program, Kitchen 7:00 Rise Up & Call Her Name, Rm 13 7:00 Village International Dance, Rm 15</p>	<p>Sep 25 Tues 10:00 Art Studio, Rm 13 8:00 Paradox Players Benefit, HH</p>
<p>Sep 18 Tues 10:00 Art Studio, Rm 13 6:00 Board Meeting, Gallery 6:00 Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH</p>	<p>Sep 26 Wed 12:00 Philosophical Discussion Group 6:30 Compassionate Communication, Rm 13 7:00 Evensong I, Rm 17 7:00 Building Committee, Office 7:00 Men's Group, Library 7:00 Tai Chi, Rm 15 7:30 Choir Practice, Sanctuary</p>
<p>Sep 19 Wed 12:00 Philosophical Discussion Group, Rm 13 6:00 Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH 7:00 Low Carbon Diet Book Group, L 7:00 Evensong I, Rm 17 7:00 Orientation with Dr. Loehr, Rm 13 7:00 Tai Chi, Rm 15 7:00 Men's Group, Library</p>	<p>Sep 27 Thu 5:30 Yoga, HH 7:30 Scandanavian Dance, HH</p>
<p>Sep 20 Thu 5:30 Yoga, Rm 15 6:00 Paradox Players Rehearsal, HH 7:00 UU Association, Gallery 7:30 Scandinavian Dancing, Rm 15</p>	<p>Sep 28 Fri 7:00 Tarot Mysteries Group, Rm 13 8:00 Paradox Players Performance, HH</p>
<p>Sep 21 Fri 7:30 CUUPS Tarot Mysteries Group, Rm 13 8:00 Paradox Players Performance, HH</p>	<p>Sep 29 Sat 9:00 New UU Class, Rm 15 9:00 Stewardship Canvas Training, HH 10:00 CUUPS Meditation Group, Rm 11 10:00 Women's Spirituality, Rm 13 Vody Mills Memorial 8:00 Paradox Players Performance, HH</p>
<p>Sep 22 Sat 10:00 CUUPS Meditation Group, Rm 11 10:00 Women's Spirituality, Rm 13 12:00 CUUPS Mabon Ritual, HH 8:00 Paradox Players Performance, HH</p>	<p>Sep 30 Sun 9:30 Book Groups, Rms 13A & 13B 9:30 Philosophical Discussion Group, L 9:45 Worship Service 11:30 Worship Service 11:30 Public Affairs Forum, HH 1:00 CUUPS Spiral Scouts, Rms 15 & 17 2:00 Middle School OWL, Rm 11 3:00 Paradox Players Performance, HH</p>

DAVIDSON'S WOODTURNING FOR SALE

The bowls are on sale at Austin Presence Gallery, 2785 Bee Cave. Several large fruit or salad bowls (\$195-\$395), and at least one set of three matched tea lite holders (\$149) are now on exhibit at this high-quality art gallery.



Reflections from the DRE Fall is coming and Religious Education is switching into overdrive!

Please stop by the Children's and Youth Classes on Sunday, Sept. 2, to meet the teachers and check out the curricula. Children's classes are offered at both the 9:45 and 11:30 services. The High School is meeting again on Sunday morning at 11:30 and Middle School gets back into the groove with their 11:30 class. Children and Youth are beginning the Fall session with two returning lead teachers and two new teachers. Erin Campbell returns as the lead teacher for the Preschool classes and Kami Cornell returns as the lead teacher for Grades 3-5.

Shannon Vyff-Trice is our new Kindergarten to Grade 2 teacher. Shannon is the mother to Avianna, Avryn, and Ava-lyse Vyff. She recently had her first book published (*21st Century Kids!*). Joining us in Middle School as the lead teacher is Joy Cunningham. Joy has a diverse career in the arts, as well as in middle and high school education. She is the mother of Julia Kate and Emmy. Joy is also a touring artist with the Texas Commission on the Arts. Ron Phares continues in his position as Youth Assistant working with the high schools kids and their families. Ron has begun his journey towards the ministry at Meadville Lombard in the modified residency program.

Adult Religious Education is offering many classes, some are perennial favorites such as Yoga, Tai Chi and the Sunday Book Groups. New offerings include Laughter Yoga and Compassionate Communication. Some are highlighted in the newsletter or stop by the Adult RE table on Sunday morning to pick up a flyer on some of these amazing courses.

Children's Religious Education is trying to locate some small CLEAN area rugs for the children's circle on Sunday morning. If you have a rug you would like to donate, please contact Lara, lara@austinuu.org. Please remember the new DRE Office hours are Wednesday and Friday, 10 am to 2pm. Stop by for a visit or make an appointment anytime.

See you in church!

Lara



VOYAGers Voice

VOYAGers (for those born in the 60s & 70s). For more info/updates, join the Yahoo! Group by sending a blank email to: voyagers-announce-subscribe@yahoo.com. All events are parental discretion requested & subject to change/cancellation.

1st Sunday (Sept. 2)--Discussion Group/Moveable Feast Cancelled due to holiday.

2nd Sunday (Sept. 9)--Attend coffee hours before & after 11:30 service (visit VOYAGer Howson Hall table as part of the Connections Fair), attend the 11:30 service. Moveable Feast & Navigator's Meeting to follow @ 1 pm, Host (TBD), Location: La Madeline, 3418 N. Lamar (we have half of the meeting room reserved).

3rd Sunday (Sept. 16)-- Book Club: The Kindness of Strangers, Genuine Joe's, 2001 W. Anderson, 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Host: Nahdiah Hoang. • Movie Night/Brown Bag (bring your own food), Room 15, 5:30 pm. Hosts: Michael Kersey & Karen Cleary. Kid-friendly movie

4th Sunday (Sept. 23)—Family-Friendly Potluck & Games Night w/ the Children's Programming Committee. We are joining forces with CPC for a great event. We'll be out by the playground area. 5:30 – 8:30 pm, Host: Chris Heidel. Bring outdoor games, a lawn chair, & food to share.

5th Sunday (Sept. 30)—No plans.

Family Potluck!



Hosted by the Childrens' Programming Committee and the VOYAGers, a Family Potluck will be held on Sunday, Sept. 23rd, 5:30 -8:30 PM. Please bring your family, a lawnchair, and a dish to share with your UU friends. We will be on the lawn by the back playground. Info: Gillian Redfearn at 784-4241 or gillian.redfearn@simonandschuster.com



Middle School OWL

Religious Education will be sponsoring the human sexuality program "Our Whole Lives" (OWL) this Fall for Middle School-aged youth. OWL is a life-span curriculum developed by the Unitarian-Universalist denomination in partnership with the United Church of Christ. It is an inclusive, fact-based program designed to encourage discussion about many different aspects of our sexual development.

Classes will meet Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4, with a snack break. A lock-in early in September will also be held. Classes are currently scheduled to run from Sept. 9 to December 9, for a total of 13 classes.

Cost will be \$40 per student, with waivers provided as needed. Students must be registered and have parental support

A MANDATORY parent orientation will be held a week before classes start. For more information, contact Bill Douglass, bdouglass@austinisd.org (779-6642).

**Heritage
Book Club**

Meet Sept. 14th at 8 pm at the home of Libby Raach, 4125 Gazley Lane (Steiner Ranch), 266 3626. We will be reading Marjane Satrapei, "Persepolis." Next: Marjorie Adam's "Bird Witch" (purchase from Marjorie).

**Mind and Meaning
Book Club**

Room 13A at 9:30. A new book starting in September "The Fabric of the Cosmos" by Brian Greene, Info: **June Beach**, 382 7551 or jun-embede@aol.com



**Sunday Morning
Book Club**

Room 13 B at 9:30. "Critiques of god: Making the Case Against Belief in God" with essays by Freud, Eric Fromm, John Dewey, Bertrand Russell. Info: Jim Burson 794-1086



Camp Fire: Living the 7th Principle

The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness. -John Muir

UUs looking for a chance to connect with the outdoors and with others—especially families—have safe, challenging, varied options through Camp Fire, an affiliated church organization. Becky Moon leads the Elemental Phoenix, focused on older elementary and middle schoolers. Mina Loomis heads the Flying Circus, a high-school aged youth club. Sylvia Pope leads Camp Fire Family Paddles in the fall and spring, casual outings on Lady Bird Lake for anyone who wants to try out putting a paddle in the water. Elizabeth Gray leads the Paddle Program, offering a variety of paddle trips, from days to week-long canoe camping. Highlights this year include Boquillas Canyon-Rio Grande, South Llano River, and several day trips to the San Marcos River. Look for the Camp Fire table at the Connection Fair on Sept. 9, check the website at campfire-usabalcones.org or contact Elizabeth Gray at eggray88@hotmail.com for more information.



New UU Class Coming Soon

Saturday, September 29th and Saturday, October 6th from 9 am to 1 pm in Room 15. For new UU members and those wanting more information about Unitarian Universalism. We encourage questions and discussion. We will present beliefs, rituals, principles and history as well as explanations of affiliations, local governance and congregational committees. Individual Credos have proven an enlightening way to understand one's present beliefs. Luther Elmore – Chair of Adult Religious Education, Lara Douglass, Acting Director of Religious Education, and Marianne Foley- member, will give the classes. *Brunch and Child Care will be provided; please indicate need for child care.* Sign Up at Adult Religious Education in the Gallery or email foleyinitiative@msn.com.

Rise Up & Call Her Name Part I

This class begins Monday September 10 at 7 pm Room 15. Recall the Goddesses of ancient times, enjoy their variety, ability to change forms, adapt to cultural circumstances and envy how they wield power! Fee is \$15 for 8 sessions with handouts. Sign Up at Adult Religious Education table in Gallery or with Terrie Lynn Bach at catdancing13@yahoo.com

UU's and GLOBALIZATION

JEAN DAVISON, Ph.D., Member of First UU Church and author of "The Ostrich Wakes: Struggles for Change in Highland Kenya" will teach a timely course entitled **UU's and GLOBALIZATION** beginning Tuesday, **10/16/07** at 7:30 pm for 8 sessions. Economics, culture, digital, and social processes involved in globalization will be explored from a Unitarian Universalist perspective that honors our Covenant Principles. Fee \$5.00 for materials. A Reading List will be provided at registration – at Adult Religious Education in the Gallery. Class size is limited to 20 people

New Youth Music Program

Beginning this September, we will be starting up two children's choirs at FUUCA. Both the Primary (K-3) and Junior (3-6) Choirs will rehearse concurrently between Sunday services, starting September 16th in the RE wing. More details to follow, so watch for posted details around the church in the coming weeks.

For more information about this exciting new opportunity for our youth, please email Director of Music, Brent Baldwin at brent@austinuu.org.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CHURCH OF AUSTIN

4700 Grover Avenue

Austin, TX 78756

One Church. Many Beliefs.

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Acting Director of

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Lara Douglass

Director of Music: Brent Baldwin

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www.AustinUU.org

Newsletter Deadline

news@austinuu.org

August 15th

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Please Welcome Some of 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.

Chaz Simpson (zip code 78729), is eager to become involved in some community activities. An employee of Apple Computer, Chaz has both Methodist and Pagan religious backgrounds.

Andrew and Laine Young (78727). Andrew, a software engineer at ARM, Inc. and a linguistics student at UT, enjoys linguistics, history, and camping. Laine, a stay-at-home mom, enjoys arts & crafts, gardening, and reading. They are the parents of four-year-old Kaitlyn and are active in Spiral Scouts here at the church.

Jennifer J. Dillon (78626) works for the Veterans' Administration testing hearing and fitting hearing aids. She enjoys rollerblading, yoga, slam poetry, reading, and hiking, and is looking for community activity involvements. She is excited to be meeting people of all ages who "come together because they want to, not because they feel required to out of fear of punishment (hell, etc)".

William M. Greeson writes, "Hello, my name is Will. I enjoy your community and sense of connection combined with acceptance of different beliefs. I hope to get involved and love to help."

Velma and Art Elliott (78759) The Elliotts moved from Castro Valley, California, 11 years ago. They are both interested in reading, walking, and travel. Velma states, "We raised two sons and two grandsons. My career began as a teacher and ended as a Special Education School Administrator. Art had an "active career as a police officer, prison administrator, juvenile court clinic director, and co-founded the first licensed forensic psychiatric clinic in California." They are looking forward to activities and fellowship here at First UU.