



First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio

A Beacon on the Hill

Vol. 63, Issue #9, June 1, 2007

IN THE INTERIM, BY REV. ERIC POSA, INTERIM MINISTER

Thank you, FUUCSA: I'm writing this column from Fort Worth, less than 48 hours before my wedding (which will already have taken place, by the time you read this). My fiancée Suzi and I wish once again to express our thanks to this congregation for the lovely reception following service on May 13, and the generous gift from a previous week's special collection. The gift has enabled us not only to cover our remaining wedding expenses, but also to stay for the two nights following the ceremony at a nice bed and breakfast as well—a mini-honeymoon we may not otherwise have had. We greatly appreciate your generous spirit in giving us this gift. Also, my mother, Retha Posa, has asked me to pass on her thanks to all of you for making her feel so welcome that day, during her visit to this church.

Preaching and Presence: For my final two months with you, my preaching schedule will be somewhat reduced, but I won't be away from the pulpit for extended periods of time. I'll preach at First UU Church San Antonio a total of four more times: twice in June (the 10th and 17th), and twice in July. In addition, we will have a pulpit exchange on July 1st with First UU Church in Austin—I'll preach there that Sunday, and our pulpit will be filled by Jack Bonham-Harris, the Sabbatical Preacher for their church. (I know Jack from seminary; I think you'll appreciate what he offers in worship). Our other dates for June are filled, and the Worship committee is looking at options for quality worship services for the other two Sundays in July. The only other times I expect to be away from the church will be weekend trips to College Station (finding a new home in the place I've been called to ministry for next year), plus the week of the UUA's General Assembly in Portland, Oregon (June 18-24), and the week of SWUUSI, the district Summer Institute at Lake Murray, Oklahoma (July 22-27). (Registration forms for SWUUSI are available in our sanctuary foyer.) See you in church!

- June 3: Guest speaker on environmental justice
(Annalisa Peace, Executive Director, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance)
- June 10: A Broken Hallelujah
- June 17: Songs for Our Fathers (begin Silent Joys and Sorrows)
- June 24: Youth Sunday

Changing Joys and Sorrows

A few months ago, the Worship committee responded to concerns from some members by experimenting with the order of service. The time for Words for All Ages was moved later in the service, to allow children more time in the worship service (among other reasons). This change was enacted on a temporary basis at first; after a few weeks, the Worship committee evaluated the change, determined it was working well, and chose to make it permanent.

I mention this, because the committee has decided to make another temporary change (which may or may not become permanent, depending on how well it meets our worship needs). Some concerns have been noted regarding the way Candles of Joys and Sorrows fit into our worship service. Most everyone (so far as I know) agrees that our worship is enriched by a time for personal expression of life transitions and profound events. However, many have found our current practice of individuals speaking during this time, while another person lights a candle, occasionally problematic, and have wondered if another mode or method for such sharing may better serve our growing worship services.

So starting June 17th, we will experiment with a new way to express our Joys and Sorrows—silently. Rather than come forward to speak your concern or joy while someone else lights a candle, a table with several candles will be placed in the front of the sanctuary floor. We will have a time of musical meditation, during which time you may come forward, light a candle yourself, and reflect in silence on your sorrow or joy. This practice is working well at the worship services of other Unitarian Universalist churches—I've personally seen it at First UU in Austin and Second Unitarian in Chicago, and others have told me of other churches with similar successful times in worship. Of course, we still need time in worship to honor major life events. Thus we will also offer slips of paper for people to write significant events (such as births, deaths, and major illnesses). These can be placed in a basket near the candles (but not too near, for fire safety!); I (or a lay worship leader) will note these following the candle-lighting time. We will continue this for a few weeks to see how well it meets our needs, then the Worship committee will decide whether to continue this way, or to return to our previous way of noting Joys and Sorrows in worship. Your input will help to make that decision; please let us know how you've experienced this change.

Pridefest:

This year's Pridefest will be Saturday, June 16, noon to 9 p.m. at Hemisfair Plaza at Alamo Street. For years First UU has had a booth with information on our church and assurance that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are welcome at First UU. To help communicate the scope of our pluralistic perspectives, we have also had at our booth an assortment of books and stickers from Emerson Bookshop as well as some t-shirts with rainbow Texas embroidered design. If you want to help staff our Pridefest booth, contact Carol, [cac68 @ aolUU, com](mailto:cac68@aolUU.com) or leave a phone message at SeePrint.

Our next two-part New UU Orientation Class will be Thursday, June 7 from 7:00-9:00 pm (Part 1: Explorations) and Sunday, June 10 from 12:30-1:30 pm (Part 2: Connections).The

Explorations class is for anyone who wants to learn more about our church, either for "intellectual curiosity" or to fulfill the requirement for membership. All are welcome. The Connections session is for those who have recently filled out a membership form and are ready to get involved. Childcare is available on request. Sign up at Welcome Table in the Sanctuary Foyer.

Interweave, UUs for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender concerns, will meet Friday, June 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Jefferson Building. We'll have social time and consider future activities. For more information, contact Carol, [cac68 @ aolUU, com](mailto:cac68@aolUU.com) or phone SeePrint.

Member Care

Bob Terrell died on May 25th after a long illness. Please send your condolences to Arline Terrell and family at 9511 Callaghan Road, SAT 78230. She is supported by her two children who are here for a period of time. Her phone number is SeePrint.

Rev. Vester Vanstrom

Van Vanstrom who celebrated his 90th birthday on May 16th died on May 25th. Cause of death was related to heart problems. Van and Millie Vanstrom were long time members of this church. Prior to moving to San Antonio, Van had been the minister at Corpus Christi UU Church. His sons Keith & David Vanstrom survive him. Please send condolences to 2221 Murphy Drive #2115, Bedford, TX 76SeePrint

Let us all give these two fine members of our congregation our support and condolences at this time of stress.

Marian Swellander

Celestial Celebrations Circle will celebrate the Summer Solstice with a potluck and ritual beginning at 7:00PM on Saturday June 16th in the playground area adjacent to the Jefferson Bldg. The Summer Solstice is a time to celebrate the fullness of the light and the turning of the wheel to begin the journey back to the time of dark.

CCC events are open to interested adults and mature young persons.

More details will be available closer to the event at our web site [http://www.celestialcelebrationscircleUU, org](http://www.celestialcelebrationscircleUU.org). Or contact Maggi Joseph at [maggiJoseph @ gmailUU, com](mailto:maggiJoseph@gmailUU.com) or SeePrint

The Community Responsibility Endowment Fund (CREF) trustees wish to thank the congregation for their participation in this year's Flower Power Grant campaign. We received 8 nominations and \$3,044.00 in contributions, which was generously matched by Pizza Hut, making a total of \$6,088.00 to be added to the fund. Thank you for helping our church reach out into the community and help those who are helping others.

Pat & Bruce H. Beck
Tess Bobo
Robert W. Carnes
Alan & April Chase
Jeff & Jennifer Chiesa
Martha Cooley/Dave Minnich
Diane M. Duesterhoeft/Mike Phillips
Sally Dunlap/Bob Petit
Steven & Kathy Feinstein
Chris J Boyle/Robin Gara
Lee Hampton
Donna Harrison

Josefine M. Heim-Hall
June Henderson
Tracey Knouse
Peggy J. Lippert
Helen & Bryant Mauk
Dale Moore/Joan Wells
Luz Moreno/C. Akos Szabo
James D. (Jim) & Polly Noel
Lucy Norton
Janet Realini
Donna K & Jordan Reed
Jack & Laura G. Richmond

Keith K & Rowena Rodgers
R. Nevin & Susanne Rupp
Rev. Arthur & Cathie Severance
Nannette Sheaffer
Gretchen "Kathy" Sheridan
Bill & Marilyn Stavinoha
Kathy H. & Steven .Stechschulte
Charles & Jane Tuck
Jim & Betty D. Waldron
Tom C. & Jana Wascher
Nola May V. Westbrook

Congratulations!

Tess Bobo had a baby girl on Thursday May 17, 2007 via scheduled C/S. Sydney Isabella Fry weighed in at 7# 13 oz, and 18 inches long. Both are doing well at home. Tess plans to bring her to church in a few wks. Tess wanted to thank all the wonderful friends for bringing dinners over

THE UU PHILOSOPHY CLASS is completing their 2 year study of "Great Traditions in Ethics". We will be finishing by studying the great American philosopher, John Rawls in the next couple of classes. We will then continue our research into 'happiness' by studying Daniel Gilbert's book, "Stumbling on Happiness". Dr. Gilbert explains what the cognitive sciences tell us about our ability to find, predict, and obtain 'happiness'. This study will bridge us to our next topic on the Philosophy Of Mind and the difficult topic of Consciousness. This study will be based upon lectures of Prof. Daniel N. Robinson, Oxford University, by way of the Teaching Company. The class is lead by Bruce Beck, a local philosophy instructor. The course will be every other Sunday night beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary Classroom. The next class is _____ [please fill in the date each week] All are welcome. If you wish to attend or need more information, please contact **Bruce Beck (210) SeePrint or [brucebeck @ yahooUU, com](mailto:brucebeck@yahooUU.com)**.



Happy Birthday !!!!!

Randy Carroll-Bradd - 06/02; Jane B. Hernandez - 06/02; Mary Lucinda Maxwell - 06/02; Charlotte Asch - 06/05; Jim Waldron - 06/05; Tim Keene - 06/06; Danny J. Bussard - 06/08; Carol A. Collins - 06/08; Michael Carson - 06/09; Jean Daniels - 06/09; Bill Stavinoha - 06/11; Laura McKieran - 06/11; Jan Jackson - 06/13; Susan M. Jones - 06/15; Judy Christ - 06/23; Carolyn E. Croft-Foster - 06/23; Dale Moore - 06/24; Mara Jewell - 06/25; Pat Beck - 06/27; Don Swellander - 06/28; Nancy Pridgen - 06/29; Shawn Cayson - 06/30

The Olmos Ensemble
presents

Music from the Americas!

With guest artists:

*David Cho, piano, William James Ross, piano and
composer, Linda Poetschke, soprano*

And Olmos artists:

*Mark Ackerman, oboe, Jeff Garza, horn, Sharon Kuster, bassoon
Tal Perkes, flute and Ilya Shterenberg, clarinet*

Tuesday, June 5, 2007 7:30 PM

First Unitarian Universalist Church Sanctuary

7150 IH-10 West (on the access road just north of Crossroads Blvd)

Recommended Donation **\$10 adults, \$5 students and seniors**

Concert is suitable for adults and mature students only

For more information, call (210) SeePrint EMAIL: [Olmos @ 141UU, com](mailto:Olmos@141UU.com)

Duo, for flute and piano Aaron Copland

Songs of Stephen Foster Arranged by William James Ross

I Dream of Jeannie
Ah! May the Red Rose Live Always
Reverie on Beautiful Dreamer
Beautiful Dreamer

Intermission

Sonata for clarinet and piano Leonard Bernstein

Aires Tropicales Paquito D’Rivera
for wind quintet

1. Alborada
2. Son
3. Habanera
4. Vals Venezolano
5. Dizzyness
6. Contradanza
7. Afro

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