



OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter

April 2017

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Enjoys Spring in Louise Hays Park on Saturday, March 18



Karen Burkett blows bubbles (above) and Curtis Overstreet & Mike Burkett fly helicopters (below) and glider planes (right)



A happy crowd of 30 Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country members, friends and their families enjoyed the beginning of spring at Louise Hays Park by flying kites, toy planes, helicopters and glider planes. Low winds didn't deter the merrymaking.



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FROM YOUR MINISTER...

Our History

There are many historical records from our church and they are scattered all over the place. Recently Joyce (Randle) was cleaning her home office and found records which she brought to me. Linda Smith was kind enough to donate a filing cabinet and I am now in the process of organizing. I thought I would share just a few juicy tidbits from our past.

→By the way, if you have any old church records or documents lying around; please bring them to me. If they are electronic documents please email them to minister@uuchc.org.

OK, so now for the fun part. Did you know?

- ⊕ October 1, 1995 Bob Randle called to order the first meeting of the Board of Directors at Schreiner College. Present were Ann Galland, Bob and Joyce Randle and P.M. Robinson. In that same meeting, Joyce announced that the "Bizarre Women" would meet in the next couple of weeks to work on a church bazaar.
- ⊕ February 2, 1997 discussion was begun on buying the building we now know as the Palmer Annex.
- ⊕ November 1, 1998 a \$1000.00 grant from the District Chalice Lighters fund was requested and they suggested we ask for more.
- ⊕ August 5, 2001 Bill Gibson presented the final draft of the proposed new by-laws. (Creating by-laws is a never ending, constantly evolving process).
- ⊕ February 3, 2002 Selma Gibson presented a copy of survey results from what 17 members believe the direction of the church should go. The survey is dated 2000 but not reported until 2002. Several of the questions are interesting and the results, more so. One question asked was, "Have you ever considered leaving UUism and why?" The most checked answer was "congregational conflict". Another question was, "What is the most important challenge facing your congregation?" with the most checked answer being, "the pressures of growth".

This February, 2002 questionnaire struck a note with me. We have been struggling with the same issues for the past 15 years. Hopefully, this year we can resolve these and the answers to these two questions may be changed to, "I have never considered leaving UUism" and "We are happy that we are growing".

If you are interested in reading some of our history please let me know and we can meet at the Annex and spend some time wandering through history.

With Gratitude,

Reverend Ja



April Chalice Table Décor

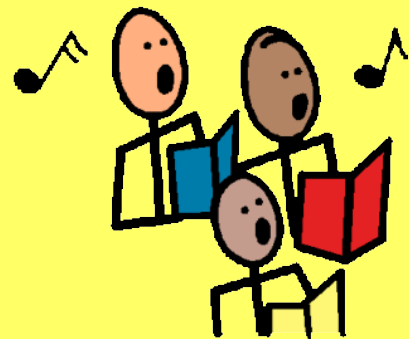
Thank you to the following members decorating the chalice table on these Sundays:

- 2 - Carolyn Osborne
- 9 - Curtis Overstreet
- 16 - Andy & Laurie Pesez
- 23 - Joyce Randle
- 30 - Donna Schloss

For more information about Chalice Table décor, please contact Shari Gore 830.367-3142.

Lifespan Learning: "Sukhavati" Two-part Video Series Monday, April 3 & 10 - 1-3pm in the Palmer Annex

Church member, Mary Jones will lead this two part screening of "Sukhavati", a video which presents excerpts from the finest lectures given by the world-renowned mythologist Joseph Campbell (1904-1987). Campbell showcases ancient myths and sagas originated around the world which continue to shape the story of humankind. He encourages viewers to shed fear of our rapidly changing world so we may follow our bliss. The word, "Sukhavati" translates from Sanskrit to English as "land of bliss".



One of the Church choir books is missing. If you have seen it somewhere other than on the choir chairs, please let Meredith Hensley, the Church Music Director know 830.522-0802/
pmeredithc@yahoo.com

April 2017 Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Calendar

Updates & Revisions to this calendar may be found on the Weekly Calendar Update which is emailed on Thursdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CS: Church Sanctuary PA: Palmer Annex						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Speaker: Steve Brooks, Singer/Songwriter - Topic: "The Crack in Everything: The Theology of Leonard Cohen". See page 4.	Lifespan Learning "Joseph Campbell" 1- 3pm - PA. See page 2. PFLAG Meeting: 7pm- 8:30pm - The Unity Church, (corner Tivy & Jefferson Streets). For more information about PFLAG, contact Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/ mrclo61@yahoo.com			Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change ④ Activities & Events Committee Meeting (open): 5:30pm - PA	Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ①	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
CAM Sunday ② Speaker: Rev. Alan Conley - Sermon: "Society & Transgender Persons". See page 4. 	Lifespan Learning "Joseph Campbell" 1- 3pm - PA. See page 2. Passover (begins at sundown)		Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed. Last day to sign up to participate in Circle Suppers	Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change ④	Good Friday ← Circle Suppers →	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Hill Country Crisis Center ③ Easter Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: "What is the True Meaning of Easter?" Pot Luck Dinner after Service - PA		Last day to submit articles for next month's newsletter - communicatio n@uuchc.org		Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change. ④	Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ①	 Saturday Night at the Movies. See page 5. Earth Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
CAM Sunday ② Speaker: Rev. Emily Melcher - Sermon: "'Compassion's Near Enemy". See page 4.	Lifespan Learning - Single session book study, <u>Behind Closed Doors</u> 1-3pm - PA. See page 4.			Justice & Outreach Committee Meeting: 2:30pm - PA Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change ④		
30						
"Donate the Plate"-see pg. 6 Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: TBA	All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.					

① There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. Contact: Steve Galland 830.634-7668/sgalland143@gmail.com

② CAM (Christian Assistance Ministry) Sundays are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. On the 2nd Sunday, the collection focuses on food and the 4th Sunday; on personal/cleaning items. Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ susan@lipphealth.com

③ Hill Country Crisis Center Sundays are held on 3rd Sundays, monthly with a focus on paper products: toilet and facial tissue, paper towels, women's sanitary products, plus large bottles of baby shampoo. Contact Carolyn Dreyer 830.496-3094/ brightredmimi@gmail.com

④ Contact: Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com



Adult RE program - Book Discussion
Behind the Kitchen Door
by Saru Jayaraman
(Cornell University Press, 2013)
Monday, April 24 - 1-3pm
In the Palmer Annex

This book uncovers what is often invisible by inviting restaurant patrons to consider the low wages and poor working conditions of those who prepare and serve meals. It asks people to consider not only the origin and goodness of the food they eat, but also the on well-being of those who serve it, many of whom support not only themselves, but also children and dependent elders. Engaging the reader by telling the stories of ten restaurant workers from cities across the United States, Jayaraman invites us all to consider the political, moral, and economic implications of eating out. For more information contact Reverend Ja Rickard (262.237-0634/minister@uuchc.org) or Karen Burkett (830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net).

“Our Church Life” - More Material on Sunday Services...

- 2 **Speaker - Steve Brooks - Topic: “The Crack in Everything: The Theology of Leonard Cohen”.** Of the great songwriters of our time, Leonard Cohen was perhaps the most spiritual, melding his Jewish roots with five years in a Zen monastery. His songs are cryptic koans, about the contradictions of seeking light, love and justice in a dark and fallen world, while holding onto humor and hope. Brooks sings and unravels some of his favorites while he explores their lessons for surviving the New Dark Age.
- 9 **Rev. Alan Conley** is a retired Episcopal priest. He and previous Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country minister Rev. Mark Skrabacz co-founded PFLAG for this area. Conley has spoken at our church numerous times and has led a series on a study of the Bible.

20 Reverend Emily Melcher is a Unitarian Universalist Accredited Interim Minister, singer, song-writer, and the daughter of UUCHC friend, Cornelia Ryon. She has served congregations in Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut and Washington State. Melcher is currently enjoying a gap year between interim ministries, and pursuing a D.Min. in Spiritual Renewal, Contemplative Practice and Strategic Leadership at Claremont School of Theology in California. Sermon; “Compassion’s Near Enemy”. The Buddhist concept of “near enemies” refers to unhealthy psycho-spiritual states that masquerade as healthy or desirable ones: pity masquerades as compassion; attachment as love; indifference as equanimity. The popular Canadian author Louise Penny employs this concept in her detective novel, The Cruellest Month, where it provides Inspector Gamache with essential clues in a murder case. This sermon explores compassion’s “near enemy” through the lens of Penny’s novel and the Rev. Melcher’s experiences with the culture and literature of Sweden. Spoiler alert: The identity of the murderer will be revealed in the sermon!



Discussion of the candidates for the upcoming UUA Presidential Election

Monday, May 1 - 1pm - Palmer Annex: Reverend Ja Rickard will lead this single session discussion.

“Owning Your Religious Past”

This five week spiritual growth workshop, will be offered **Monday, May 8, 15, 22, 29, and June 5 - 1pm - Palmer Annex** by Reverend Ja Rickard.

Editor's Note: Sunday, March 26 was "Justice Sunday". Due to time constraints, Karen Burkett did not share her report. Below is an edited version of it.

Transportation Planning Council Progress Update

As many of you know, several years ago a series of guest speakers hosted at the church informed us of the missions of their social service organizations in Kerr County. In the process, we were surprised to learn that every one of them had clients who were unable to get to them for their services because of lack of transportation.

An informal study group (UUCHC Transportation Study Group) started investigating the transportation options that existed in Kerrville and Kerr County.

We attended meetings of the newly developed Interagency Partners, non-profits, churches and some government agencies. We learned transportation was a strong and widespread concern. Over time, some of those folks began to attend our meetings.

Our consistent group included several UUCHC members, people from BCFS Health and Human Services, Dietert Community Center, Family Endeavors and the Homeless Coalition, and St. Vincent de Paul. Other transit systems in small cities in the area and across the country were investigated as well as communities with working transit systems.

Last summer we invited representatives of Peterson Health Services, Young People in Recovery, MHDD, First Presbyterian Church, the city and the county, and a retired educator and community leader to join us as members of the Transportation Planning Council. A community forum was held at the Dietert Center where we distributed a simple needs assessment survey. Later about 750 more detailed surveys were distributed to a broad sampling of the community. With 26% returns, we are proceeding with plans based on the information we received.

The following mission statement was adopted; "Connecting the Kerrville area community by providing safe and reliable transportation which will help people maintain independence and enhance quality of life."

We also completed an exercise that led us to identify key elements of our initial transit system.

- It will be a door to door service by volunteer drivers to riders in a ten mile radius, with donations for rides in the beginning.
- Structurally, our Council will become a Board of Directors, will choose a name for the system, find a location for an office, seek grants for start-up expenses, and start moving toward becoming a 501c3 non-profit.

- We will need volunteers: a grant writer, drivers, office assistants.

Observers at recent meetings have included the administrative assistant of Alamo Regional Transit and the new executive director of the Kerrville Economic Development Corporation.

Those interested in learning more and getting involved are urged to talk to Mike Burkett, Rev. Ja, or me and to attend our meetings which are held on the second Friday of the month, from 11:30am to 1pm at BCFS Community Resources Center on East Main Street.

--Karen Burkett; Outreach/Social Justice
Committee Chair



"Saturday Night at the Movies"

Saturday, April 22 - 6:30pm - Palmer Annex
"Moby Dick" (1956 - NR - 1hr 55m)

Movie night includes refreshments, prelude, movie, and church members, friends and guests are invited. Participants bring their favorite beverage and snack for themselves or to share. Popcorn is provided. 6:35pm prelude: 'The Vicar of Dibley' series; 7pm movie begins.

Gregory Peck triumphs in his starring role as the obsessed Capt. Ahab in this big screen version of Herman Melville's classic novel. Ahab longs to hunt down and kill Moby Dick, the great white whale who tore off Ahab's leg years ago. Unfortunately, his maniacal fixation spreads to the crew and ultimately leads to disaster. The legendary John Huston directed this faithful adaptation, which racked up numerous critics' awards.



'Getting to Know You' Profiles of our Church Family

Learn about our some of our church's present and past members! Longtime member and church musical director, Meredith Hensley has compiled interviews she has conducted through the years for review. They are contained in a teal colored binder in the back of the church sanctuary.



**April Sunday
Coffee Hour
Church Treats
brought to you by...**

**2 - Karen & Mike Burkett
9 - Julie Davis
23 - Susan Lipp
26 - Judy Ashcraft**

**Thanks for the Yummies
for our tummies!**



UBarU Camp & Retreat Center

UBarU is the only Unitarian Universalist camp and retreat center in the central United States south of Minnesota and is just twenty miles west of Kerrville. To register for the following events go to www.ubaru.org under the "events" tab:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| ⊕ March 31 - April 2 | Men's' Retreat |
| ⊕ April 28 - 30 | Women's Retreat |
| ⊕ May 26 - 28 | Family Camp |
| ⊕ June 11 - July 15 | Summer Camps |



"Donate the Plate" 5th Sunday

On the fifth Sunday of every month with a fifth Sunday (such as April), all moneys in the collection plate not designated for the church are donated to a worthy non-profit organization. **Habitat for Humanity**, a group the church has supported for many years will be the recipient on Sunday, April 30. Please note that Judy Ashcraft is the church liaison for Habitat for Humanity.

NOTE →If you wish to make a donation by check, please make your check out to UUCHC, then write "Donate the Plate" in the check's notation line.



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Board Members for 2017

President ~ Linda Smith
830.257-2529/ iwasparc1@gmail.com
Vice President ~ Mike Burkett
830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net
Secretary ~ Laurie Pesez
830.895-4764/ lpesez@stx.rr.com
Treasurer ~ Jim McMahon
830-377-9448/ jjm7125@hotmail.com
Minister ~ Reverend Ja Rickard
262.237-0634/ minister@uuchc.org

Spiritual Development Committee Chair: Mike Burkett

Lifespan Development, Free Speech Café, Wayside Pulpit, Coffee Set-Up, Music/Choir, Greeters, Order of Service, Chalice Table, Service Schedule/Associates

Membership Committee Chair: Curtis Overstreet
Congregational Care, Visitor Follow-Up, Exit Interviews, New Member Orientation, Emergency Phone Tree, Members/Friends List

Outreach/Social Justice Committee Chair: Karen Burkett

CAM, La Casa de Raices, TXUUJM, PFLAG, Hill Country Crisis Center, Habitat for Humanity, Transportation Planning Council, Texas IMPACT

Finance Committee Chair: Andy Pesez
Stewardship, Budget, Building/Grounds
Financial Management & Reports

Activities/Events Chair: Judy Ashcraft
Special Social Events, Recurring Events, Building Usage

Communications Chair: Joyce Randle
communication@uuchc.org

Electronic Media (Facebook & web site):
Judy Ashcraft

Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Child care is provided every Sunday with advance notice from 9:45-11:15am. Please contact Joyce Randle the Saturday before: 830.257-2346/ maofteacup@gmail.com