



## Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church

2001 California Lane  
Arlington, Texas 76015  
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# Kaleidoscope

February 2009

|        |        |            |  |
|--------|--------|------------|--|
| Sunday | Feb 1  | 10:00 a.m. | The Sunday School Gang continues the series <i>No Excuses: Existentialism and the Meaning of Life</i> , with "Heidegger on Authenticity," led by Naren Jackson |
|        |        | 11:00 a.m. | John Smotherman, of Applied Consciousness Systems, speaks on "The Consciousness Revolution"  |
|        |        | 12:30 p.m. | Finance Committee led by Larry Heath   |
| Sunday | Feb 8  | 10:00 a.m. | A review of Barack Obama's <i>Dreams From My Father</i> , by John Blair  |
|        |        | 11:00 a.m. | Sue Matkin, from United Way of Tarrant County, speaks on "Adult Literacy and Teaching English as a Second Language"  |
|        |        | 12:30 p.m. | Board Meeting led by John Blair  |
| Sunday | Feb 15 | 10:00 a.m. | "Sunday School Gang" - David Tripp continues to lead a study of Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay, <i>The American Scholar</i>                                       |
|        |        | 11:00 a.m. | David Tripp presents "A Soulful Farewell to our Unitarian Andrew Wyeth"  |
| Sunday | Feb 22 | 10:00 a.m. | Gregory Ellis speaks on "What do we know really? (or The Awakening of Non-dualistic Awareness)"  |
|        |        | 11:00 a.m. | John Leonard, of the Bahá'í Community of Arlington, speaks on "The Bahá'í Faith and Religious Intolerance"   |
|        |        | 12:30 p.m. | Monthly Potluck - all are invited  |
| Sunday | Mar 1  | 10:00 a.m. | The Sunday School Gang continues the series <i>No Excuses: Existentialism and the Meaning of Life</i> , with "Jean-Paul Sartre at War," led by Naren Jackson   |
|        |        | 11:00 a.m. | TBA  |
|        |        | 12:30 p.m. | Finance Committee led by Larry Heath   |

*Support Group led by John Reed Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m.  
Nursery provided at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday.*

At the Midwinter Meeting, January 25, in accordance with AUUC Bylaws, voting members in attendance duly elected Frank Jacquez, Barry Hansen and Patsy Rosen to serve on the Nominating Committee to propose a slate of candidates to be elected to the Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting in May.

**AUUC Mission Statement** -- Our mission is to provide a nourishing environment:

- In which liberal religious thought and spiritual growth are encouraged; where doubt is welcome and free choice is the rule
- In which we will be motivated to contribute to the betterment of all life
- In which we will teach and promote all of the other Unitarian Universalist values, embodied in the Seven Principles

*Pledging: It costs in excess of \$55 per pledging unit per month to sustain the Arlington UU Church. Please give what you can. If you choose to make your contribution using the collection basket, use a special envelope or indicate "Pledge" on your check. Thank you for your support.*

## Meet Dorothea Dix



Dorothea Lynde Dix (1802-1887), teacher, author, international advocate for improved treatment of mental patients, was one of the most visible humanitarian reformers in the 19th century. Born in Maine, Dorothea ran away to Boston when she was 12. Unusually mature and

bright, at 14 she started a series of successful private schools and eventually wrote several popular books for children and parents. Her best known, *Conversations on Common Things*, 1824, was designed to help parents answer children's basic questions. Her work was driven by deeply felt moral sensitivities, but for a time she struggled to find an appropriate religious context. By the early 1820s Dix had found her religious home among Unitarians, appreciating their emphasis on the goodness of God, purity of heart, openness to new knowledge and responsibility for the good of all society. She had a deep suspicion of doctrines and creeds, did not like theological abstractions and felt nearest to God when she was involved in specific actions that resulted in measurable good effects. In 1841 Dix was asked to teach a Sunday class in the East Cambridge jail. What she encountered shocked her and changed her life. The jail was unheated. Hardened criminals, feeble-minded children and the mentally ill all occupied the same quarters. Dix got a court order to provide heat and make other improvements. The experience made her check jail and almshouse conditions in other areas of Massachusetts. When she learned that the mentally ill were commonly housed with felons, she embarked on a mission of reform, calling for decent accommodations for those suffering from mental and emotional disease. At a time when women seldom traveled alone or attempted to influence legislation, funding, or the regulation of public institutions, Dix conducted one of the earliest social research and reform projects in the United States. She found the mentally ill chained in cellars, living in accumulations of their own excrement and often suffering from the cold. Based on her observations, she crafted a powerful memorial that was presented in 1843 to the

Massachusetts legislature, which then allocated funds for a large expansion of the State Mental Hospital at Worcester. A major victory for Dix and for the insane poor of Massachusetts, the act stimulated similar efforts in New York and New Jersey, then other states. Hospital after hospital was erected, and additions and improvements made to existing facilities. Dix insisted on a therapeutic setting for the curable insane and a humanely comfortable setting for the incurable. She hated custodialism, arguing strongly that the mentally ill should be provided therapy, books, music, recreation and, above all, meaningful work. From 1848 to 1854, she developed, then lobbied for, a plan to federally endow a program for the blind, deaf, mute and insane. The plan passed both the Senate and the House, but President Millard Fillmore failed to sign it before his term ended and the new President, Franklin Pierce, vetoed the bill. Discouraged, Dix traveled to Europe to rest, but once there, she soon learned of the great disparity between private hospitals for the wealthy and miserable public facilities for the insane poor in Europe. Again, she set out to investigate and agitate for reform. From 1854 to 1856, she traveled 14 countries and successfully instigated many changes. Back in the U.S. in 1856, Dix resumed her reform work, but now the country was torn over the slavery issue. In 1861, as the Civil War began, Dix volunteered and was named Superintendent of U.S. Army Nurses, organizing first aid stations, recruiting nurses, purchasing supplies and helping set up training facilities and field hospitals. After the war she helped trace missing soldiers, wrote letters to families concerning the status of their sons, and helped soldiers secure their pensions. Although much of the reform work Dix accomplished had to be redone by later generations because of the ravages of time on facilities and programs that were overwhelmed by massive immigration and inadequate budgets, her groundwork set a new, permanent standard by which to judge the way we treat the mentally ill.

Adapted from an article by Wayne Viney at [www25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/dorotheadix.html](http://www25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/dorotheadix.html)

**Cell phones** should be turned off during the service.

**Food in the Sanctuary:** So we can all enjoy a snack and fellowship afterwards, please do not bring food into the sanctuary during services and forums.

**Facilities Use Policy:** Permission must be obtained prior to use from the church board or, at minimum, the church president. The fee is \$15 per hour unless another rate or free use is agreed upon by the AUUC Board prior to use. Copies of the policy are available upon request.

**Support Group:** For those who are trying to get their lives straightened out or just searching for stress relief, we have a support group meeting at the church every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. For more info, contact John Reed, our dedicated problem-solver, at 817-277-1426 or on Wednesdays at 817-460-6481.

**Side Porch Counseling:** Arlington UU Church sponsors counseling services each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. For a moderate fee, Dr. John Reed, LPC, provides counseling for personal problems, stress management and relaxation. Call 817-460-6481 for more information or an appointment. Or just drop by.

**New Members Welcome:** Membership in the Arlington UU Church is open to everyone 12 or older who is in sympathy with our purpose and principles. If you wish to join us, you need only sign a membership form in the presence of an officer of the Church. Active (voting) members must additionally make a financial contribution of record during the year prior to, and be on the roster at least 60 days prior to, any congregational business meeting at which they wish to vote.

**Newsletter/Publicity:** Clara Blair, 817-265-3429, [blairbards@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blairbards@sbcglobal.net)

(02.2009)