



Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church  
2001 California Lane  
Arlington, Texas 76015  
817-460-6481  
arlington-tx-uu.org

## Kaleidoscope

### January 2010

Sunday	Jan 3	10:00 a.m. The Sunday School Gang continues <i>The Passions: Philosophy and the Intelligence of Emotions</i> , with "Lessons of Love — Plato's Symposium"
		11:00 a.m. David Tripp speaks on "Turning the Page"
		12:30 p.m. Finance Committee led by Larry Heath
Sunday	Jan 10	10:00 a.m. Ken Sambell leads a discussion on "Projects for Unitarians & the UUA, Outsize & Outrageous" — several will be suggested; please suggest yours
		11:00 a.m. [Safe Haven collection] John Reed speaks on "Meditation"
		12:30 p.m. Board Meeting led by John Blair
Wednesday	Jan 13	7:30 p.m. AUUC Movie Night returns tonight, featuring "I [Heart] Huckabees" — see Page 2 for details
Saturday	Jan 16	6:30 p.m. Emerald Dragon Imbolg/New Moon ritual at the church — see Page 2 for details
Sunday	Jan 17	10:00 a.m. Sunday School Gang — David Tripp continues a series of discussions on the literary works of Paul Tillich
		11:00 a.m. [We begin taking a monthly collection for a Social Justice project] Gregory Ellis speaks for the Social Justice Committee on "Some Problems in Our Local Jail"
		12:30 p.m. Social Justice Committee led by Larry Heath
Sunday	Jan 24	9:00 a.m. Early Bird Special: Tai Chi and Qi Gong
		10:00 a.m. Sara Horsfall and Gregory Ellis co-host discussion of "The Spectrum of Consciousness — The Living Matrix"
		11:00 a.m. Daniel Melendez speaks on "Twelve Steps to Freedom"

*Church Calendar continues on Page 2*

**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.

Sunday	Jan 31	10:00 a.m.	UU Basics
		11:00 a.m.	Lester Robbins speaks on "Feminine Authorship in the Old Testament"
		12:30 p.m.	Monthly Potluck — all are invited
		1:00 p.m.	Midwinter Meeting — see below for details
Sunday	Feb 7	1:00 a.m.	The Sunday School Gang continues <i>The Passions: Philosophy and the Intelligence of Emotions</i> , with "We Are Not Alone — Compassion and Empathy" led by Naren Jackson
		11:00 a.m.	David Tripp speaks on "Speaking of God in the 21st Century"
		12:30 p.m.	Finance Committee led by Larry Heath

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

**Annual Midwinter Meeting**

Our Annual Midwinter Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, following the monthly Potluck Luncheon. The main business of this meeting is the election of a three-member Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of nominees for the Board of Trustees to be elected by voting members at the Annual Meeting on the last Sunday in May. According to our By-Laws, Active (voting) members must make a financial contribution of record during the year prior to, and be on the membership roster at least 60 days prior to, any congregational business meeting at which they wish to vote.

**Movie Night Revived!**

We're reviving our old Movie Night at the church. To kick off what appears to be a very ambitious set of movie nights, we are showing "I [Heart] Huckabees," an existential comedy with an all-star cast featuring Lily Tomlin and Dustin Hoffman as a married couple running an Existential Detective Agency. (It is rated R for language and adult subject matter.) This is a pot-luck snack/hors d'oeuvres event, so bring what you like to munch and sip on.

**New Moon and Imbolg January 16**



Emerald Dragon Wiccan Circle celebrates Imbolg and New Moon Ritual at the church on Saturday, January 16, starting at 6:30 p.m. Imbolg, also called St. Brigid's Day, is a celebration of the hearth and home, the lengthening days and the early signs of spring. If you are interested in Wicca or Pagan beliefs in general, you are welcome to attend. Call 817-277-4277 for more information.

**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

## Meet Lydia Maria Child



Lydia Maria Child (1802-1880), novelist, editor, journalist, scholar, produced a body of work remarkable for brilliance, originality and variety, inspired by her strong sense of justice and love of freedom.

Remembered today mostly for writing

"Over the River and Through the Woods," she was a famously radical abolitionist and student of world religions with extraordinary breadth of vision and understanding. Sister of Unitarian minister Convers Francis, Maria grew up studious and open-minded. "I am more in danger of wrecking on the rocks of skepticism than of stranding on the shoals of fanaticism.... I wish I could find some religion in which my heart and understanding could unite." In 1824 Maria published *Hobomok: A Tale of Early Times*, the first historical novel in the United States, which gave for the era an unusually sympathetic picture of Native Americans. She won instant celebrity and continued to write, also editing a popular children's magazine. Marrying David Child, an idealistic, impecunious, lawyer and journalist in 1828, the following year Maria published *The Frugal Housewife*, describing her ingenious methods of making do with little. In 1831 abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison founded the *Liberator*. Maria later recalled Garrison "got hold of the strings of my conscience, and pulled me into reforms." She threw her support to Garrison and the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society, writing *An Appeal in Favor of that Class of Americans Called Africans*, 1833. Outspokenly condemning slavery, she pointed out that it contradicted Christian teachings, describing the moral and physical degradation of slaves and owners, and giving the North its share of responsibility. The public was not ready for her then-extreme views. Book sales fell off, publishers refused to accept new books, she lost her magazine job.

From 1841 to 1843 Child edited the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*. In her first editorial she wrote "Such as I am, I am here, ready to work according to my conscience and my ability; providing nothing but diligence and fidelity, refusing the shadow of a fetter on my free expression of opinion, from any man, or body of men and equally careful to respect the freedom of others, whether as individuals or societies." Resigning the post after two years, she stayed on in New York, continuing to write. She published *Letters from New York*, 1843 and 1845, popular collections of her columns in the *Standard*. Returning to her native Massachusetts, she completed the three-volume set *The Progress of Religious Ideas Through Successive Ages*, 1854, intending to remove "superstitious rubbish from the sublime morality of Christ" and give respectful attention to other world religions. Meanwhile her abolitionist spirit stayed hot. When war broke out, she gathered supplies for slaves who fled for safety to Union lines and compiled her *Freedmen's Book*, a reading primer for former slaves. After the war Maria supported suffrage, helping found the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association, and renewed her work on behalf of Native Americans, deploring Cherokee eviction from tribal lands and upholding the right of native people to their own language and religion. When the Unitarian Free Religious Association was founded in 1867, Maria liked their viewpoint and attended meetings when in Boston. In 1878 she published an "eclectic Bible" of quotations from world religions, *Aspirations of the World*, hoping "to do all I can to enlarge and strengthen the hand of human brotherhood." At her funeral in 1880, Wendell Phillips said she was "ready to die for a principle and starve for an idea . . . we felt that neither fame, nor gain, nor danger, nor calumny had any weight with her." References: *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1911; [www25-temp.uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/lydiamariachild.html](http://www25-temp.uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/lydiamariachild.html)

## Same Old Same Old

In the *Kaleidoscope*, we usually limit the UU biography article to one page. This month, however, our subject is a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Unitarian who worked vigorously for the rights of American Indians as well as for women's rights and the abolition of slavery. A recent column by Bob Ray Sanders, "The trail of broken promises continues," reminds us how current Maria Child's concerns remain, especially here in Texas. Sanders' column begins with a quote from Tecumseh of the Shawnee: "Where today are the Pequot? Where are the Narragansett, the Mohican, the Pokanoket, and many other once powerful tribes of our people? They have vanished before the avarice and the oppression of the White Man, as snow before a summer sun." Child asks about the Wyandot and Miami on the shores of Lake Erie, and the Cherokee tribe in Georgia, who "are never secure in possession of their lands." While Child makes an eloquent plea for indigenous peoples who were systematically robbed of their rights and property, Sanders reminds us of government measures taken against the American Indian in the name of our country's "manifest destiny." Last year the federal government agreed to pay about \$3 billion in settlement of claims including \$47 billion for leases the Interior Department administered since 1887. An interesting note for Texans is that the Alabama-Coushatta tribe of East Texas will have no benefit from the settlement because they were not among the

original "recognized" tribes, since trusteeship of their lands was relinquished by the federal government to the state of Texas in 1954, but in 1987 they were reinstated as a federally recognized tribe. Texas has prohibited them and one other tribe, both of which have been plagued by poverty and unemployment, from operating gambling casinos. The Alabama-Coushatta are still waiting for Congress to act on a federal judge's recommendation of seven years ago that would have paid the tribe \$270.6 million for reparations dating back to 1845. We should all spend more time meditating on the virtue of justice.

Child, L. Maria: *An Appeal For the Indians* (pamphlet), New York, Wm. P. Tomlinson, 1868.

[etext.virginia.edu/railton/roughingit/map/indchild.html](http://etext.virginia.edu/railton/roughingit/map/indchild.html)  
Sanders, Bob Ray: "The trail of broken promises continues" (column), Fort Worth, *Star-Telegram*, December 29, 2009. [star-telegram.com/news/columnists/bob\\_ray\\_sanders/story/1858428.html](http://star-telegram.com/news/columnists/bob_ray_sanders/story/1858428.html)

## Adult Literacy Project

Our Adult Literacy Project, led by Patsy Rosen, continues on Wednesday evenings at the church. Volunteers from our church help adults who want help in improving their reading skills in an initiative supported by the Arlington Public Library. To participate in this very worthwhile community outreach project, please contact Patsy or call the Blairs at 817-265-3429.

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 our members who are trying to get their lives straightened out or to search for just plain stress relief, we have organized a support group that meets at the church every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact John Reed, our dedicated problem-solver.

Side Porch Counseling: Arlington UU Church is sponsoring 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)