



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

Kaleidoscope

July 2009

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| Sunday | July 5 | 10:00 a.m. The Sunday School Gang discusses <i>Existentialism and the Meaning of Life</i> , "Sartre on Sex and Love," led by Naren Jackson |
| | | 11:00 a.m. Lester Robbins speaks on "Will the Real Ten Commandments Please Stand Up" |
| | | 12:30 p.m. Finance Committee led by Larry Heath |
| Saturday | July 11 | 6:30 p.m. Emerald Dragon Full Moon Ritual at the church |
| Sunday | July 12 | 10:00 a.m. "Faith of Our Founding Fathers" led by Larry Heath |
| | | 11:00 a.m. Steve Bush speaks on "Tolerance: Why Nobody Likes It, but We Tolerate It Anyway" |
| | | 12:30 p.m. Board Meeting led by John Blair |
| Sunday | July 19 | 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. [Safe Haven collection] David Tripp speaks on "Whose Values?" |
| | | 12:30 p.m. Social Justice Committee led by Larry Heath |
| Sunday | July 26 | 9:00 a.m. Early Bird Special: Tai Chi and Qi Gong |
| | | 10:00 a.m. "The Spectrum of Consciousness and Expanding It" led by Gregory Ellis |
| | | 11:00 a.m. Gregory Ellis speaks on "What Every American Should Know About the Rest of the World" by M.L. Rossi |
| | | 12:30 p.m. Monthly Potluck - all are invited |
| Sunday | August 2 | 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Gang led by Naren Jackson discusses "From Existentialism to Postmodernism" |
| | | 11:00 a.m. TBA |

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

Adult Literacy Project

Patsy Rosen is leading volunteers from our church in an initiative supported by the Arlington Public Library to help adults who want help in improving their reading skills. Screened by the Library to determine their needs, these clients will be



matched with trained volunteers to work together or in very small groups in libraries around town using materials provided by the library system. To participate in this very worthwhile community outreach project, please contact Patsy or call the Blairs at 817-265-3429. Classes are scheduled to start in September.

Update on Troy Davis

A vigil was held at the church on May 19 to ask clemency for Troy Davis, about to be executed in Georgia under the "Law of Parties." The U.S. Supreme Court has delayed a decision on his appeal until September. For more information, go to amnestyusa.org/troy

Full Moon Ritual July 11



The Emerald Dragon Wiccan Circle celebrates a Full Moon Ritual at the church on Saturday, July 11, starting at 6:30 p.m. This event is both a celebration and a study session. If you are interested in Wicca or Pagan beliefs in general, you are welcome to attend. Call Joe Tesoro or Tu Le at 817-881-6327 for more information.

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

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 Buckminster Fuller



Richard Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983) was viewed by some as an impractical dreamer, but embraced by others as a visionary genius. Born in Milton, Massachusetts, grandson of a Unitarian minister, grand-nephew of transcendentalist Margaret Fuller, and himself a Unitarian, he

was a 20th-century inventor, mathematician, engineer, architect and futurist. Philosophically he was committed to technologically sophisticated and innovative solutions to everyday living, informed by a strong regard for renewable energy resources. His inventions were meant to achieve those goals by simplifying and improving human housing and the objects of daily life. "My philosophy," he wrote in *No More Secondhand Gods*, "requires of me that I convert not only my own experiences but whatever I can learn of other men's experiences into statements of evolutionary trending and concomitantly defined problem challenges and responses. My philosophy further requires that I at least attempt to solve the problems by inanimate invention." He also described himself as an "explorer in comprehensive anticipation design." One of his earliest design innovations, in 1927, was the Dymaxion House. Circular in plan to prevent heat loss and with a tiny heating unit and air-conditioning unit, the house, 50 feet in diameter, weighed 6,000 pounds. It could have been assembled from a 250-cubic-foot package transported anywhere. (In 1946 Beech Aircraft Corporation in Wichita, Kansas, built an actual prototype of this in the hope of developing a new product line for their peace-idled factory.) In 1933 Fuller followed with the three-wheel, front-wheel-drive Dymaxion Car. Built like an airplane body, it was air-conditioned, and could have traveled 120 miles per hour. In 1936 Phelps Dodge Corporation developed the Dymaxion Bathroom. The quart of water

necessary for a 10-minute bath would, in addition, provide an invigorating massage. The bathroom was free of sewage pipes, and waste material was stored for pickup and processing. In the late 1940s Fuller began developing his ideas on lightweight, sturdy geodesic domes (a concept originated 30 years previously by Dr. Walther Bauersfeld), using the tetrahedron of four triangular sides as a basic component, economic in material and needing no internal supports and thus of maximum efficiency. Fuller was awarded U.S. patents and is credited with popularizing this type of structure, of which hundreds of thousands have been built worldwide for all sorts of purposes. Fuller's later experiments were geared toward an understanding of the world's resources and their efficient utilization. Fuller was elected to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and held 28 U.S. patents.



Dymaxion House mid 1940s, built near Wichita, Kansas, by Beech Aircraft



Dymaxion Car prototype, early 1930s

From 1959 until his death on July 1, 1983, Fuller was a research professor in design science and a professor emeritus at Southern Illinois University, as well as a popular lecturer. During his life, Fuller wrote 28 books. Fuller was concerned about sustainability and about human survival under the existing socio-economic system, yet remained optimistic about humanity's future. Defining wealth in terms of knowledge as the "technological ability to protect, nurture, support, and accommodate all growth needs of life," his analysis of the condition of "Spaceship Earth" (a term that he coined) led him to conclude that at a certain time in the 1970s, humanity had marked an unprecedented watershed. He was convinced that the accumulation of relevant knowledge, combined with the quantities of key recyclable resources that had already been extracted from the earth, had reached a critical level, such that competition for necessities was no longer necessary. Cooperation had become the optimum survival strategy. "Selfishness," he declared, "is unnecessary and henceforth unrationalizable.... War is obsolete." His technologically oriented point of view can also be taken as a metaphor for what it is to be human generally. In his 1970 book *I Seem*

To Be a Verb, he wrote: "I live on Earth at present, and I don't know what I am. I know that I am not a category. I am not a thing — a noun. I seem to be a verb, an evolutionary process — an integral function of the universe."

Quotes from Buckminster Fuller:

"Dictators never invent their own opportunities."

"Those who play with the devil's toys will be brought by degrees to wield his sword."

"Out of my general world-pattern-trend studies there now comes strong evidence that nothing is going to be quite so surprising and abrupt in the future history of man as the forward evolution in the educational process."

"What usually happens in the educational process is that the faculties are dulled, overloaded, stuffed and paralyzed so that by the time most people are mature they have lost their innate capabilities."

"Faith is much better than belief. Belief is when someone else does the thinking."

"Here is God's purpose — for God, to me, it seems, is a verb, not a noun, proper or improper."

Drawn from materials provided at <http://www.answers.com/topic/r-buckminster-fuller>



Eden Project geodesic dome environment, Cornwall, England, completed 2001

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

New UUA President Elected

On June 27, 2009, Rev. Peter Morales, senior minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado, was elected to be the eighth president of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) at the Association's General Assembly in Salt Lake City. Morales received a total of 2061 votes, 1020 of which were cast as absentee ballots. His opponent, Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman, formerly senior minister of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas, received a total of 1481 votes, 827 of which were absentee ballots. Morales' margin of victory was 580 votes. In percentages, Morales got 58% of the votes to 42% for Hallman. Speaking of his aspirations for Unitarian Universalism, Rev. Morales said, "I want to grow our faith, to reach all those people who are looking for non-dogmatic, liberal religious community. I look forward to working with partners in many other progressive and justice-seeking religious groups. There are tremendous issues that we'll be facing in the coming years and we're going to need one another." Rev. Morales, the first Latino leader of the UUA, was installed in a ceremony that concluded the General Assembly Sunday, June 28. Rev. Morales succeeds Rev. William G. Sinkford, who has served two four-year terms as President of the UUA.



A Letter from Peter Morales

Friends,

As you know, I have just been elected President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I have trouble expressing how profoundly I am touched by the confidence people have placed in me. I can only say, in the Spanish phrase, *mil gracias*, "a thousand thanks." I am humbled and grateful. The challenges before us are great. We continue to live in a world where fear and hatred cause suffering and violence. Greed and acquisitiveness threaten life on our planet. We are surrounded by millions of people seeking a spiritual home that is free and open. We face historic cultural and ethnic change in America. We must learn to express our love and values in new cultural contexts. We will build on the great achievement of President Bill Sinkford in social witness. Ours will be a presidency passionately engaged in the great moral issues of our time: economic justice, peace, and human rights. I would like to thank and praise the Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman, the other candidate for president, for her deep insights and inspiring contributions to our faith. Her concerns for spiritual depth, covenantal relationships and stewardship are values I share. To Laurel's supporters, I offer my warmest welcome. There are no divisions in our movement, only complementarities. Your call for spiritual depth has always been a call that leads us to work together to make a better world. Together, we are answering the same call heard by Servetus, Ballou, Channing, Parker and Susan B. Anthony — a call to leave behind what is outmoded and to let compassion guide us as we shape a future together. The challenges we face are great. However, together we have the passion, the spirit, the determination and love to face the tests of our times. Together, we can grow our faith and help heal the world. We can be, we must be, the religion for our time. Together we are beginning an exciting new chapter in Unitarian Universalism. We are on a journey of faith together.

— Peter Morales