



Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church

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

Kaleidoscope

June 2009

Saturday	June 6	6:30 pm	Emerald Dragon Full Moon Ritual at the church
Sunday	June 7	10:00 a.m.	The Sunday School Gang discusses "Sartre's <i>Being for Others</i> and <i>No Exit</i> ," led by Naren Jackson
		11:00 a.m.	Joe Tesoro introduces the Emerald Dragon Wiccan Circle
		12:30 p.m.	Finance Committee led by Larry Heath
Sunday	June 14	10:00 a.m.	Discussion of the article "A Religion for Hard Times," led by John Blair
		11:00 a.m.	Larry Heath reviews <i>Jesus, Interrupted - Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible (and Why We Don't Know About Them)</i> , by Bart D. Ehrman
		12:30 p.m.	Board Meeting led by John Blair
Saturday	June 20	4:00 p.m.	Litha, a celebration of the Summer Solstice, by Emerald Dragon Wiccan Circle
Sunday	June 21	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
		12:30 p.m.	Social Justice Committee led by Larry Heath
Sunday	June 28	10:00 a.m.	The Gaia Hypothesis and what it means for you, led by Gregory Ellis
		11:00 a.m.	Gregory Ellis speaks on <i>Waking Up in Time: Finding Inner Peace in Times of Accelerating Change</i> , by Peter Russell
		12:30 p.m.	Monthly Potluck - all are invited
Sunday	July 5	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Gang led by Naren Jackson
		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.*

2009 Congregational Meeting

On May 31 at the Annual Congregational Meeting, all members of the Board of Trustees were re-elected to office for the next year: President, John Blair; Vice President, Larry Heath; Secretary, Daralyn Jackson; Treasurer, Joyce Rury; Past President, Lea Worcester; Members at Large: Clara Blair, Faiza Rizkalla, Steve Bush.

Adult Literacy Project

Patsy Rosen is leading volunteers from our church in an initiative supported by the Arlington Public Library. The Library has a waiting list of adults who want help in improving their reading skills. Screened by the Library to determine their current ability to benefit from the program, these clients will be matched with trained volunteers to work together or in very small groups in libraries around Arlington using materials provided by the Library system. Patsy has already been approached by nine volunteers from our church family, and the first training session was held at the church on Saturday, May 9. Please contact Patsy or call the Blairs at 817-265-3429 if you want to participate in this very worthwhile community outreach project. Classes are scheduled to start in September.

Full Moon Ritual

The Emerald Dragon Wiccan Circle celebrates a full Moon Ritual at the church on Saturday, June 6, starting at 6:30 p.m. This event is both a celebration and a study session.

Summer Solstice Ritual

Litha, a celebration of the Summer Solstice, will be held by Emerald Dragon at the church Saturday, June 20, beginning at 4:00 p.m.



Stonehenge at Summer Solstice

If you are interested in Wicca or Pagan beliefs in general, you are welcome to attend. Call Joe or Tu 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 Maria Louise Baldwin



"I dare not fail," said the distinguished educator Maria Louise Baldwin. She did not fail. For four decades she dedicated her mind and her voice to education. The oldest daughter of Peter L. and Mary E. Baldwin, Maria was born in 1856, in Cambridge, MA, one year after the

Massachusetts legislature passed the 1855 act desegregating all public schools in the state. She graduated from Cambridge High School in 1874, and from the Cambridge Training School for Teachers in 1881. Her first teaching experience was two years in Chestertown, MD, where she did excellent work. Several African-American citizens of Cambridge who knew of Baldwin's excellent scholastic record and her futile attempts to secure a teaching position in Cambridge formed a committee to urge the school board to appoint her to a teaching position. As a result, Baldwin was appointed in 1887 as an elementary school teacher of all seven grades in the interracial Agassiz Grammar School. A competent scholar and excellent disciplinarian, Baldwin was selected in 1889 as principal of the school. At the Agassiz School, Baldwin directed the work of a dozen white teachers who taught more than 500 students, most of whom were white and many of whose parents were on the faculty of Harvard University. In 1916, at her urging, a new school building was built. Her position was elevated to "master," one of two women in the Cambridge school system and the only African-American in New England to hold such a position, which she held with great distinction and efficiency for the remainder of her life. To keep up with her field she took courses at Harvard and other institutions, and she in turn taught in the summer normal courses for teachers held at Hampton Institute in Virginia and the Institute for Colored Youth in Cheyney, PA. She organized the first Parent-Teacher group in the Cambridge Public Schools,

introduced new methods of teaching mathematics, began art classes, and inspired the beginning of a science program within the school system. Under her leadership, the Agassiz became the only public school in Cambridge (and perhaps anywhere in the U.S.) to establish an "open-air" classroom (then thought to be good for frailty and pulmonary ills and a wise measure for healthy children as well). She was also the first to introduce the practice of hiring a school nurse. Baldwin's concern for children's wellbeing is legendary. She was an inspiration to generations of students, parents, educators and community members, not just in the public schools, but beyond. She belonged to numerous civic and educational organizations, lecturing widely. Her home on Prospect Street was headquarters for various literary activities. There, for years, she held a weekly reading class for African-American students attending Harvard University, which counted among its regulars W.E.B. DuBois. DuBois remembered her reverently and honored her in 1917 as "Man of the Month" in the NAACP journal, *The Crisis*, writing of her: "The school [Agassiz], composed of kindergartners and eight grades, is one of the best in the city and is attended by children of Harvard professors and many of the old Cambridge families. The teachers under Miss Baldwin, numbering twelve, and the 410 children are all white. Miss Baldwin thus, without a doubt, occupies the most distinguished position achieved by a person of Negro descent in the teaching world of America, outside cities where there are segregated schools." Another of Baldwin's students, the poet e.e. cummings, related that his father enrolled him at the Agassiz in 1904 because of Miss Baldwin's reputation. In his book *Six Nonlectures*, he wrote of her: "Miss Baldwin, the dark lady mentioned in my first nonlecture (and a lady if ever a lady existed) was blessed with a delicious voice, charming manners, and a deep understanding of children. Never did any semidevine dictator more gracefully and

easily rule a more unruly and less graceful populace. Her very presence emanated an honour and a glory From her I marvellingly learned that the truest power is gentleness." Baldwin enjoyed the friendship and wise counsel of numerous African-Americans whose views she shared, such as William Monroe Trotter (publisher and editor of *The Boston Guardian*), and Archibald Grimké, Harvard Law School graduate and editor of *The Hub* newspaper in Boston. She opposed all forms of racial discrimination and praised the achievements of African-Americans. Perhaps no teacher has inspired as many or been loved more. Upon her death in 1922, Baldwin was greatly mourned. Funeral services were held at the Arlington Street Unitarian Church. Her friends, pupils and colleagues at the school established a scholarship for Agassiz pupils and named the school's auditorium in her memory. The 1916 Agassiz School building was torn down in 1993 and replaced with a new building dedicated in 1995. Architectural elements from the auditorium

were retained in the new building and may be seen in the library media center. Following a campaign by a group that included students from the school, the principal, and parents, on May 21, 2002, the Cambridge School Committee unanimously voted to rename the Agassiz School the Maria L. Baldwin School. For a video about the school today go to: <http://www.ctvcambridge.org/node/2035>



Maria L. Baldwin School by HMFH Architects, Inc.

Adapted from articles at:

- http://www.blackseek.com/bh/2001/46_MBaldwin.htm
- <http://www.peaceworkmagazine.org/pwork/0204/020420.htm>
- <http://www.aaregistry.com/detail.php?id=1144>
- <http://www.agassiz.org/ANCNeighborhoodNotables.asp>



Details from stained glass windows at Maria Baldwin School by Nancy Gutkin O'Neil



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