



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

Kaleidoscope

May 2009

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Sunday, May 3 | 10:00 a.m. The Sunday School Gang continues the series <i>No Excuses: Existentialism and the Meaning of Life</i> , with "Sartre's Phenomenology." led by Naren Jackson |
| | 11:00 a.m. Bob Ray Sanders, Star-Telegram, speaks |
| | 12:30 p.m. Finance Committee led by Larry Heath |
| Saturday, May 9 | 10:00 a.m. Adult Literacy Project First Training Session at the church - see Page 2 for details |
| Saturday, May 9 | 6:30 p.m. Emerald Dragon Full Moon Ritual at the church |
| Sunday, May 10 | 10:00 a.m. Larry Heath leads a discussion on "Conservatives Live in a Different Moral Universe - And Here's Why It Matters," by Tom Jacobs, Miller-McCune.com |
| | 11:00 a.m. [Arlington Women's Shelter collection] Mother's Day Celebration |
| | 12:30 p.m. Board Meeting led by John Blair |
| Sunday, May 17 | 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 speaks on "What Matters" |
| | 12:30 p.m. Social Justice Committee led by Larry Heath |
| Tuesday, May 19 | 7:00 p.m. Vigil at the church in solidarity with Amnesty International USA to ask clemency for Troy Davis, about to be executed in Georgia because of the "Law of Parties." |
| Sunday, May 24 | 10:00 a.m. Discussion of "Non-Denial, Engagement and Hedonism," led by Gregory Ellis |
| | 11:00 a.m. Gregory Ellis speaks on "The Neo/Emerging Non-Dualism" |

Church Calendar continued on Page 2

Sunday, May 31

10:00 a.m. Fifth Sunday UU Basics
11:00 a.m. Lester Robbins speaks
12:30 p.m. Monthly Potluck - all are invited
1:00 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 7

10:00 a.m. The Sunday School Gang continues with "Sartre on 'Bad Faith'," led by Naren Jackson
11:00 a.m. Joe Tesoro introduces Emerald Dragon

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

New and Improved

Welcome to the first major format change for the Kaleidoscope in five years! You will now be able to print out copies without having to find 8.5 x 14-inch paper or using the "Scale to fit" feature on your printer. We can also fit more information on activities at the church and news about church members and friends, as well as more photos and other artwork. Because our newsletter is now on our church website, and most of our newsletter distribution is by e-mail, we ask that printed copies be reserved for members and friends who do not have access to the Internet. This will cut production costs for the church and save trees at the same time! We will be adding new features as we proceed

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 32 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 about nine volunteers from our church family, and the first training session will be held at the church on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please contact Patsy or call the Blairs at 817-265-3429 if you can participate in this very worthwhile community outreach project. Classes are scheduled to start in September.

Yard Sale Season

Our friends in the Emerald Dragon Wiccan Circle

are holding a yard sale May 8 and 9, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 2009 Shepherds Glen Lane, Arlington, TX 16010, Call Joe or Tu at 817-881-6327 for info.

Full Moon Ritual

The Emerald Dragon Wiccan Circle will celebrate a full Moon Ritual at the church on Saturday, May 9, 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 or Tu at 817-881-6327 for more information.

Vigil to End the Death Penalty

May 19, 7:00 p.m., meet at the church in solidarity with Amnesty International to ask clemency for Troy Davis, about to be executed in Georgia because of the "Law of Parties." UUA Action of Immediate Witness, declared December 11, 2000.

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 Thomas Starr King



Credited by many at the Civil War's start with saving California for the Union, Thomas Starr King, 1824-1864, was a Universalist and a Unitarian minister, lecturer and orator who has been honored by a statue in the United States Capitol, two statues in San Francisco,

and two mountains named for him, one in New Hampshire, another in California's Sierra Nevada. King was barely five feet tall, but his energy and magnetism quickly impressed any who met him. "Though I weigh only 120 pounds," he remarked late in life, "when I am mad I weigh a ton!" Son of a Universalist minister, King grew up in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. A precocious child, he delighted his parents by early proclaiming his desire to be a minister like his father. But his father's death when Starr was only 15 made it impossible for him to attend college. Instead he provided for his mother and siblings by going to work. The job he liked best was as bookkeeper in the Charlestown Navy Yard, where he earned enough to support the family. The hours of work allowed him to attend lectures at Harvard College, where he heard good preaching and studied on his own. Though he never completed a degree program, his independent study ultimately qualified him for professional ministry. In 1846, a 21-year-old Starr King accepted a call from the Charlestown Universalist Church, his late father's church. Then, in 1848, he accepted an offer from the Hollis Street Unitarian Church. It seemed to many that King was changing denominations and deserting his old faith, but his embrace of a broad ecumenical religion included Unitarians without repudiation of Universalism. Asked about this, King responded with the intelligence and humor that marked his ministry. "The one

[Universalist] thinks God is too good to damn them forever, the other [Unitarian] thinks they are too good to be damned forever." According to King, the only reason Unitarians and Universalists had not already joined was that they were "too near of kin to be married." Newly married, and soon a father of two, Starr also continued to support his mother and brother. His \$3,000 yearly salary would not stretch far enough, so he added income from lecturing. By the 1850s he was one of the most respected and popular platform speakers. In a ministry of 11 years King helped the Hollis Street Church grow to five times its former size. He was both a beloved pastor and a brilliant preacher. Theodore Parker called him the best preacher in Boston. Toward the end of his pastorate, King expressed his vision for the church "as the interpreter of Christianity," using the metaphor of the building of a great organ "to pour out some essential sentiment with nobler volume, or richer melody, in response to the glory of God." In 1859 King sought a better-paying position. From several offers he chose San Francisco. In California, beginning in April 1860, King had several ministries: one to his congregation of Unitarians, another to Christians in the San Francisco area, and yet another to the people of the entire state. In his sermon, "Spiritual Christianity," he described Christianity not as a creed or an institution, but as a spirit, a "secret agency" or force underlying many specific outward expressions. He thought that God's spirit was to be found both inside and outside the church, in works of secular art and in private lives, finding more unity and truth in shared public expression than in the speculation of dogma and theology. "Only those elements of the faith and life of every church . . . which can be set to music, are worthy and enduring elements." He had a millennial vision of the emergence of a unified and liberal, Christianity: "Our mission is to hasten the time when the church in general shall modify her creeds and grant more freedom

to thought and organize more charity, and receive again into fellowship the needful forces, which her narrowness has spurned." King was soon drawn into politics and advocated preservation of the Union. He campaigned for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, preaching from his own pulpit and in the mining towns of the California interior. In 1861 he launched a lecture campaign and, after the capture of Fort Sumter, gave all his energy to preserving the Union. He helped elect a Republican governor and a

pro-Union coalition to the legislature. He also organized fundraising for the United States Sanitary Commission, to which ultimately California donated one quarter of the money received. Exhausted from his labors for church and country, King died of pneumonia March 4, 1864.

Adapted from an article by Celeste DeRoche and Peter Hughes:
www25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/thomasstarking.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 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.*