

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter
May 2017

“Hats, Hats, Hurray” Hat Contest in Honor of Spring & Easter Shows Real Creativity

Nine church members participated in the “Hats, Hats, Hurray” Hat Contest which was coordinated by the Activities and Events Committee on Sunday, April 16. Members of the congregation voted for the best hats in several interesting categories including “tallest”, “funniest”, “widest” and “most manly”. Below are winners Julie Davis (“Widest” & “Grand Champion”) and Troy Fannin (“Most Manly”).



Mike Burkett relishes his dual win in the “Tallest” and “Funniest” Hat Categories.



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Check out our Facebook page

FROM YOUR MINISTER...

Rev Ja will be suspending office hours for the months of May and June. I will be in and out of the office but if you would like to sit down and chat for a bit, please call and arrange a time. I would love to talk to you.

With Gratitude, *Reverend Ja*

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill
Country Justice/Outreach Committee
Focuses on Rally Participation to Make
Needs Known to Legislators & Community



Texas 21 Indivisible, a non-partisan organization hosted the “Keep Our Hill Country Beautiful” rally on Wednesday, April 19 at the Kerr County Courthouse in Kerrville. After the rally, letters brought by participants were delivered to Lamar Smith’s office.

Featured above (from left to right) are church members June Hartley, Don Pyle and Baxter. See page 4 for a second photo to enjoy.



May Chalice Table Décor

Thank you to the following members
decorating the chalice table
on these Sundays:

7 - Linda & Chuck Smith

14 - Kay White

21 - Judy Ashcraft & Jerry Best

28 - Baxter & Don Pyle

For more information
about Chalice Table décor,
please contact Shari Gore 830.367-3142.



UBarU Camp & Retreat Center

Activities & Events Committee

UBarU Event

Saturday, May 20 ★ 10am - 4pm

Lunch will be provided. All are urged to bring drinks and dessert to share.

Some of the Planned Activities to Enjoy...

- ⊕ Nature Lectures and guided tours of the property by Kevin Hartley and Donnie Bunch
- ⊕ Visiting the Bee Hives
- ⊕ Swimming (weather permitting)
- ⊕ Walking the labyrinth

Bring your paints, camera, or binoculars or just relax and indulge in idle conversation as you rock on the porch.

Sign up is required for meal count & to arrange for car pool riding. Contact Marie Brown 830.895-5138/ marieuu34@gmail.com.

→UBarU is the only Unitarian Universalist camp and retreat center in the central United States south of Minnesota and is just twenty miles west of Kerrville. For directions or to register for the following events go to www.ubaru.org under the “events” tab:

⊕ May 26 - 28







Family Camp

⊕ June 11 - July 15

Summer Camps

May 2017 Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Calendar

Updates & Revisions to this calendar may be found on the Weekly Calendar Update which is emailed on Thursdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 CS: Church Sanctuary PA: Palmer Annex	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">1</div> Discussion of 3 UUA presidential candidates with Rev. Ja: 1-3pm - PA. PFLAG Meeting: 7pm-8:30pm - The Unity Church, (corner Tivy & Jefferson Streets). For more information about PFLAG, contact Curtis Overstreet 210.262-8859/ mrclo61@yahoo.com	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">2</div>	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">3</div>	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">4</div> Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change ④ Activities & Events Committee Meeting (open): 5:30pm - PA	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">5</div> Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ①	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">6</div>
<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">7</div> Speaker: Joan Wells & the San Antonio UU Church Celestial Celebration Circle - Talk: "“Being Pagan Now”. See page 4.	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">8</div> Lifespan Learning "Owning Your Religious Past" 5-week study led by Rev. Ja Rickard: 1-3pm - PA.	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">9</div>	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">10</div> Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All welcomed. Last day to sign up to participate in Circle Suppers	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">11</div> Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change. ④	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">12</div> Adult RE/Lifespan Learning Meeting: 1pm - PA  ← Circle Suppers →	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">13</div>
CAM Sunday ◻ <div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">14</div> Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: "Transformation By Putting Ourselves in Another's Shoes" 	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">15</div> Lifespan Learning "Owning Your Religious Past" 5-week study led by Rev. Ja Rickard: 1-3pm - PA.	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">16</div>	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">17</div>	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">18</div> Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change. ④ Last day to submit articles for next month's newsletter: communication@uuchc.org	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">19</div> Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ①	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">20</div> UBarU Event by Events & Activities committee: 10am-4pm. See page 2.
Hill Country Crisis Council ◻ <div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">21</div> Speaker: Andy Gerhart - Talk: "Boxing God" - the uncertain reverence of a year in seminary". See page 4.  Pot Luck Dinner after Service- PA	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">22</div> Lifespan Learning "Owning Your Religious Past" 5-week study led by Rev. Ja Rickard: 1-3pm - PA.	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">23</div>	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">24</div> Justice & Outreach Committee Meeting: 5:15pm - PA	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">25</div> Choir Practice: 3:30-5pm - CS - Subject to change ④	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">26</div> Ramadan begins at sundown	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">27</div>  Saturday Night at the Movies. See page 5.
CAM Sunday ◻ <div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">28</div> Service: Rev. Ja Rickard - Sermon: "Wally and the War".	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">29</div> 	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">30</div> Shavuot begins at sundown	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; width: 20px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center;">31</div>			

All Sunday church services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.

① There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. Contact: Steve Galland 830.634-7668/sgalland143@gmail.com

② CAM (Christian Assistance Ministry) Sundays are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. On the 2nd Sunday, the collection focuses on food and the 4th Sunday; on personal/cleaning items. Contact Susan Lipp 619.248-0669/ susan@lipphealth.com

③ Hill Country Crisis Center Sundays are held on 3rd Sundays, monthly with a focus on paper products: toilet and facial tissue, paper towels, women's sanitary products, plus large bottles of baby shampoo. Contact Carolyn Dreyer 830.496-3094/ brightredmimi@gmail.com

④ Contact: Meredith Hensley 830.522-0802/ pmeredithc@yahoo.com

“Our Church Life” - More Material on Sunday Services...

7 **Speaker - Joan Wells & the San Antonio UU Church Celestial Celebration Circle.** The Celestial Celebrations Circle (CCC) serves the First UU Church (of San Antonio) community by presenting worship services, earth-centered spiritual perspectives and making donations to the church. CCC participates in the continental UU conferences and offers monthly sabbat rituals and labyrinth walks. The CCC’s purpose is to provide opportunities to explore earth-centered spirituality for both interested UUs and Pagans. On May 1, Pagans observe Beltane (aka May Day) which is the midpoint between Spring Equinox and Summer Solstice. Traditionally this is a time for lovers to celebrate and get together. All dance around a Maypole, weaving ribbons and leap over the Beltane fire for fertility, creativity, love and healing.



21 **Andy Gerhart** is a UU seminarian at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where he lives with his wife Erin. Growing up in Texas and Colorado, he has worked for a number of environmental organizations, having studied environmental science and history in college and graduate school.



Discussion of the candidates for the upcoming UUA Presidential Election

Monday, May 1 - 1pm - Palmer Annex: Reverend Ja Rickard will lead this single session discussion about the three candidates who will be voted on by the UUA membership during General Assembly.

“Owning Your Religious Past”

This five week spiritual growth workshop, will be led by Reverend Ja Rickard and offered **Monday, May 8, 15, 22 and June 5 & 12** from 1-3pm in the Palmer Annex.



June Hartley (left) and Carolyn Dreyer (right) posing with “Lamar Smith” at the “Keep Our Hill Country Beautiful” rally on Wednesday, April 19.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU Profiles of Our Church Family

From a 2017 Interview with
Meredith Henslev

Linda and her husband Chuck were married in Jackson, Mississippi; an occasion she describes in the words to Johnny Cash and June Carter's song, "Jackson"; "We got married in a fever, hotter than a pepper sprout..."

Linda met Chuck in the Federal Building in Enid, Oklahoma where Linda worked for the Postal Inspector and Chuck was the Commander of Defense Investigative Service for The Air Force in that area. She smiles and relates that in her part-time job as a GS-4 she made \$2.33 an hour, which was a considerable step above the 54¢ an hour she made at the snack bar in the dormitory at Oklahoma State University (where she attended, studying Business Administration). She completed her education at Phillips University.

Although Linda considers Enid, Oklahoma to be her hometown, she was born in Shoemaker, California. Her father was in the Navy and when she was six months old he retired and the family moved to Enid where he worked for the post office. Her mother was a professional seamstress and also an interior decorator for Sears. Linda describes her childhood as ideal; her parents, wonderful. Though she was brought up in the Methodist church, her parents were very liberal. She believes they were really 'closet UU's'. She had one sibling; a brother who passed away last December.

Linda's first marriage was to her high school sweetheart. Her daughter, Audra now lives in Kerrville with her husband and daughter and her son, Michael Wurth, lives in San Antonio with his wife and children. Michael is much beloved by our congregation and has spoken to us on many occasions.

After Chuck was transferred to Jackson, MS by the Air Force, they married and began attending the UU Church there. This was 1974 and Linda relates that the church was the first in Jackson to open their facilities to Head Start, an act that resulted in the previous minister being shot and leaving Mississippi. A part-time minister was recruited who also worked at the EEOC, providing the church with a continued connection to the Civil Rights movement.

In 1976, Chuck was transferred to Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, Alaska, where they again attended UU Church. Linda describes the church building as a log cabin, and the part-time minister as a Professor of Religion at the University of Alaska.

Linda and Chuck's family is a blended one. Along with Linda's two children, Chuck brought three children into their marriage: Betty, Kelly and Michael. Subsequently, there were three Michaels: Linda's Michael Edward,

Chuck's Michael Patrick and Michael Earl, who came home with Michael Edward when they were teens and stayed to become part of the family. Michael Patrick lives in Austin, and Michael Earl lives with his husband in Atlanta. Several years ago, Rev. Mark Skrabacz officiated at a commitment ceremony for Michael Earl.

In 1979, Chuck was transferred to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio where he served as a Flight Commander at Officer Training School. During their 24 years in San Antonio, Linda started at Kelly Air Force Base as a GS-7 buying airplane parts and in 2002 she ended her career at Fort Sam Houston as a GS-15, where she was the Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting and advisor to the Army Surgeon General, overseeing seven contracting offices with 250 personnel co-located with Army Medical Centers in the United States and Germany.

Chuck retired from Civil Service in 1998. After Linda's retirement in 2002, they placed all their belongings in storage and went to Enid, OK to spend the last two years of Linda's father's life with him. After his death in late 2004, they returned to Texas.

After many years in San Antonio, Linda and Chuck decided they wanted to live in a quieter place and also near water, easier to get around in, still close to San Antonio, and hopefully with a UU church. When a friend recommended Kerrville, they discovered there were two UU churches, and thus, met all their requirements.

When Linda became part of the Kerrville community she looked forward to having time to pursue her interests, such as painting, refurbishing furniture, checking out Thrift Stores, and attending garage and estate sales. However, she began volunteering for the League of Women Voters and other groups. At the same time, anxious to be involved in a church again, Linda chose our congregation and began to take an active role. She served from 2007-9 as President, then as Past President until 2010. She worked with Joyce Randle in RE and served on several Committees. Of special importance to our congregation at this time, she is the current (and much appreciated) President.

Since 2012, Linda's days have also been filled with grandchildren. Five years ago, a surprise grandbaby was born to her son, Michael and his wife in San Antonio, and Linda took on the responsibility of caring for Aubrey several days a week. Three years ago, her daughter moved to Kerrville from Southern California, providing Linda with the opportunity to be with her very special granddaughter.

Together Linda and Chuck have 13 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Although they raised their children as UUs, they also raised them to be independent thinkers. In this vein, they did not all continue as UUs as adults and Linda and Chuck realize they must respect their choices. Linda advises, however, that they are all good people and believes that their UU values contributed to that.

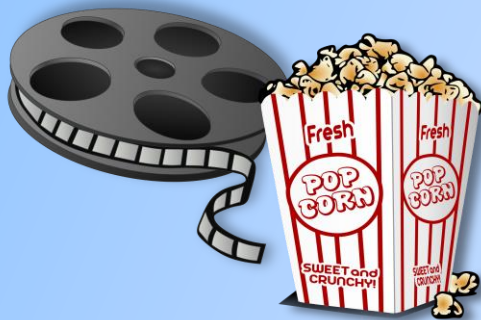
--Meredith Hensley



May Sunday
Coffee Hour
Church Treats
brought to you by...

7 - Julie Davis
14 - Judy Ashcraft
28 - Shari Gore

Thanks for the Yummies
for our tummies!



"Saturday Night at the Movies"
Saturday, May 27 - 6:30pm - Palmer Annex
"Calendar Girls" (2003 - PG13 - 1hr 48m)

Movie night includes refreshments, prelude, movie, and church members, friends and guests are invited. Participants bring their favorite beverage and snack for themselves or to share. Popcorn is provided. 6:35pm prelude: 'The Vicar of Dibley' series; 7pm movie begins.

May Movie Description: *The members of the Knapely Women's Institute of North Yorkshire are resourceful and refined and they're about to shock the residents of their little English town with a daringly bare philanthropy project. Cast: Helen Mirren, Julie Walters, Penelope Wilton, more...*

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Board Members for 2017

President ~ Linda Smith
830.257-2529/ ivasparc1@gmail.com
Vice President ~ Mike Burkett
830.895-7076/ m.k.burkett@att.net
Secretary ~ Open
Treasurer ~ Jim McMahon
830-377-9448/ jim7125@hotmail.com
Minister ~ Reverend Ja Rickard
262.237-0634/ minister@uuchc.org

Spiritual Development Committee Chair:
Mike Burkett

Lifespan Development, Free Speech Café,
Wayside Pulpit, Coffee Set-Up, Music/Choir, Greeters,
Order of Service, Chalice Table,
Service Schedule/Associates

Membership Committee Chair: Curtis Overstreet
Congregational Care, Visitor Follow-Up,
Exit Interviews, New Member Orientation, Emergency
Phone Tree, Members/Friends List

Outreach/Social Justice Committee Chair:
Karen Burkett

CAM, La Casa de Raices, TXUUJM, PFLAG,
Hill Country Crisis Center, Habitat for Humanity,
Transportation Planning Council, Texas IMPACT

Finance Committee Chair: Andy Pesez
Stewardship, Budget, Building/Grounds
Financial Management & Reports

Activities/Events Chair: Judy Ashcraft
Special Social Events, Recurring Events, Building Usage

Communications Chair: Joyce Randle
communication@uuchc.org

Electronic Media (Facebook & web site):
Judy Ashcraft

Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Child care is provided every Sunday with advance notice from 9:45-11:15am. Please contact Joyce Randle the Saturday before: 830.257-2346/ maofteacup@gmail.com