

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country
Newsletter

March 2022



Misty Kothe, executive director of Families & Literacy (far left), welcomes a gift of \$918 from the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country's 5th Sunday Donate the Plate program. Presenting the check are UUCHC members and longtime F&L volunteer instructors June Hartley and Ellen Jackson (far right) with one of their star students, Petra Mendez, who over several years, went from studying basic ESL to gaining full US citizenship all with the help of F&L programs.

(And a lot of hard work!)

Each 5th Sunday of the year, the UUCHC designates a local non-profit organization that exemplifies UU values to receive that day's special collection. Recent recipients have included Kerr Konnect and the Hill Country Crisis Council. (For information contact Carolyn Dreyer: 619.417-4968 brightredmimi@gmail.com)

Below is a wonderful photo Gregg Bellman of the San Antonio Astronomy Club took using the UBarU telescope recently. Messier 81 (below) is a grand design spiral galaxy about 12 million light-years away, with a diameter of 90,000 light years, in the constellation Ursa Major. Due to its proximity to our galaxy, large size, and active galactic nucleus, Messier 81 has been studied extensively by professional astronomers. UUCHC Reverend Schulman's sermon scheduled for Sunday, March 13, "Science Informed Religion & Spirituality" will look to the cosmos in a unique way.



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Check out our Facebook page



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PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...

Astronomy Infused Spirituality

President's Day weekend saw me part of the volunteer work crew at UBarU Camp and Retreat Center. In addition to a good workout, I enjoyed the company of UU women from various UU congregations there for a fiber artist retreat. And before you receive this newsletter; our congregation will have had its Midwinter Gathering there too. If you attended, I bet you have pleasant memories and stories to share.

One of the things I've appreciated most visiting UBarU in years past was the spiritual high gained laying on my back in my sleeping bag drinking in the night sky. The effect of seeing so many stars gave me waves of awe and peace.

Now UBarU has a powerful telescope, and a skilled instructor. With his laser light in hand, our very own Donnie Bunch leads UUs and friends on celestial tours. The facts he shares are guaranteed to take us into another realm. First stop was Orion's Belt. Next he pointed out Polaris, the North Star. Then came the "winter triangle." Any good tour guide shares exciting travel facts. Donnie tells the distance in light years from one end of the galaxy to the other. I'm looking a little more each time I get to go to another star party.

Facts and theories of the night sky are an example of how science can fuel and jazz up spirituality. Science findings can inspire us and feed our spiritual growth. On Sunday March 13th, I will ask us how to bring more science into our congregation's religious life.

"Science Infused Spirituality" will be a partner sermon to one I gave a few months back, "Life is Art." In it, I challenged us to increase the amount of artistic expression in our shared religious life. This time, let's brainstorm how to have more "moments of science" in our worship service. Using art and science, we will co-create spiritually rich experiences of liberal religion!

Instead of (or in addition to) "Amen," could I get a "Zowie" or just "Wow!"?

Alive in the Ministry of this faith,
Reverend Phillip Schulman
 UU Church of the Hill Country

"Our Church Life" - More Material on Sunday Services in Chronological Date Order...

- 6 **Speaker:** Sarah Derosseau, Executive Director of the Hill Country Arts Foundation (Janet Belden, Service Associate) - **Service:** "The Importance of Art in the Community".

Born and mostly raised in Colorado, Sarah Derosseau got to Texas as quickly as she could. She graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Theatre with an emphasis in directing and from Schreiner University with an MBA. The day after graduating with her theatre degree, she moved to Texas and secured an internship at the Point Theatre her first day here. Since that first day, she has been in love with the Hill Country Arts Foundation. In 2014, Sarah became the Director of Theatre and is now the Executive Director. Sarah lives with her husband in Kerrville.



Stonehenge II at the Hill Country Arts Foundation

- 13 **Rev. Phillip Schulman** (Pat Kobe, Service Associate) - **Sermon:** "Science Informed Religion & Spirituality" - Last fall I asked the congregation how much art and creative expression we could have infusing our services, our UU spirituality and our religious life together. This service is the Yang to that Yin. It asks how much science our religion can stand. If we are so pro-science why have we seen so little of it in our services, liturgy and religious literature? More importantly how do we change course to use more science for inspiration in our religious life together?

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March 2022 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 most Thursdays.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PA: Wilma Palmer Annex (964 Barnett) CS: Church Sanctuary</p> <p>All listed meetings are open and all are welcomed. Church Friends may serve on committees. Sunday church Services are held at 10am in the Church Sanctuary.</p>						
		Mardi Gras  1	Ash Wednesday 2	World Wildlife Day 3		
Speaker: Sarah Drousseau, Executive Director of the Hill Country Arts Foundation - Topic: "The Importance of Art in the Community" - see page 2			Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA - All are welcomed.			
Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: "Science Informed Religion & Spirituality" - see page 2 Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Ahead)		Last day to submit articles for the April newsletter - communication@uuchc.org		St. Patrick's Day 		
Speaker: David A. Schulman - Topic: "Lawyers and Criminal Law; Common Misconceptions & Misperceptions" - see page 4  Equinox - First Day of Spring		World Water Day 				
Rev. Phillip Schulman - Sermon: "Meditation in a Theologically Diverse Congregation" - see page 4						

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“Our Church Life” - More Material on Sunday Services in Chronological Date Order...

20 Speaker: David A. Schulman (Mike Burkett, Service Associate) - **Service: “Lawyers and Criminal Law; Common Misconceptions and Misperceptions”** - David Schulman will question our assumptions about lawyers and criminal law. He draws on 35 years of practice in criminal and appellate law, as a provider of Lawyer clinics, a published educator of appeals, and as Counsel to people set to be executed by the state of Texas. Our guest invites us to bring critical thinking and questioning and hopes to inspire a lively discussion.

David A. Schulman is Board Certified in both Criminal Law and Criminal Appellate law. He was a member of the Court of Criminal Appeals' central staff in 1991-1993 and has been lead counsel in hundreds of direct appeals and habeas corpus proceedings. Primarily a criminal defense lawyer, David also represents the State in certain criminal matters in the appellate courts. He practices law throughout Texas and maintains a law office in Austin. More info at www.davidschulman.com.



27 Rev. Phillip Schulman (Pat Kobe, Service Associate) - **“Meditation in a Theologically Diverse Congregation”** - What is meditation? What do the different methods and schools have in common? Is there a belief system required to meditate? Why do so many people say that they “are not good at meditating,” or “can’t meditate? With an acknowledgment of its place on the religious landscape, Rev. Schulman hopes to present meditation as a tool for spiritual growth as well as increase its accessibility to anyone interested.



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. To register for the following events posted on the UbarU website from April through May, go to www.ubaru.org under the “events” tab:

- ⊕ **April 1-3, 2022: Men-Aligned Retreat**
- ⊕ **April 8-10: Women-Aligned Retreat**
- ⊕ **Saturday, April 30: Bioblitz at UBarU** - A bioblitz is a communal citizen-science effort to record as many species within a designated location and time period as possible. Bioblitzes are great ways to engage the public to connect to their environment while generating useful data for science and conservation. They are also an excuse for naturalists, scientists, and curious members of the public to meet in person in the great outdoors and are a lot of fun!” source- <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/bioblitz+guide>
- ⊕ **May 27-30: Summer Family Camp**



Dr. Terri Daniel
 Founder, *The Conference on Death, Grief and Belief*,
 End-of-Life Advisor, *Interfaith Chaplaincy, Bereavement and Trauma Support*

An important conference is being planned for this summer that will be of interest to many of you. It’s “The Conference on Death, Grief and Belief”, and it focuses on the impact of religious trauma and toxic beliefs on the experience of loss and grief.

The conference will be held live in Portland, Oregon from July 15 - 17, but if you can’t attend live, there will be recordings of all the presentations available for purchase.

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Since UUCHC returned to face to face services on Sunday, February 27, some of the following information was not updated in time for this newsletter. Hopefully, I will have it soon and will let everyone know in the Weekly Calendar Update distributed on most Thursdays.

Susan Lipp, Newsletter Editor

Sunday	Chalice Table	Coffee	Greeters
6	Sarah Johanson	Sarah Johanson	tba
13	Judy Ashcraft	tba	tba
20	Janet Belden	tba	tba
27	Vicki Luther	tba	tba

tba = to be announced

- ⊕ To be a Service Associate, contact Janet Belden.
- ⊕ Chalice Table Decoration is handled by Pat Kobe
830.955-1139/ kobepat313@gmail.com
- ⊕ Sign up to provide coffee on the sheet located on the table to the rear of the sanctuary.



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“The Conference on Death, Grief and Belief”

Interested parties may take advantage of a special discount code set up just for the UU community. When registering for the general admission ticket, please use promo code UU25 to get \$25 off.

For details, contact office@deathgriefandbelief.com
971-236-1541

A lunch billboard has been created so that everyone will know the selected place to eat after services on Sunday!



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Board Members for 2022

President ~ Vicki Luther

830.496-3205/ vbluther@twc.com

Vice President ~ Janet Belden

214.769-6878/ zjaybee@yahoo.com

Secretary - Sarah Johanson

830.257-2768/ sarahtjwee@windstresam.net

Treasurer ~ Judy Bunch

830.459-8509/ dbunch@stx.rr.com

Member at Large - Don Pyle

575.534-8259/ dtpyle@gmail.com

Sunday Services Chair: Janet Belden

Wayside Pulpit, Coffee Set-Up, Music/Choir, Greeters,
Order of Service, Chalice Table, Service Schedule/Associates

**Ex Officio Board Member (Past President):
Jerry Best**

Committee on Ministry (CoM) Chair: Linda Smith

Spiritual Development Chair: Janet Belden

Life Span Development (Adult and Children's Religious
Education), Free Speech Café, Forums

Membership Co-Chairs:

Bryan Bristol & Gary Payne

Congregational Care, Visitor Follow-Up, Exit Interviews,
New Member Orientation, Members/Friends List

Outreach/Social Justice Committee Co-Chairs:

Carolyn Dreyer & Stephanie Gross

TXUUJM, Donate the Plate

Finance Committee Chair: Mike Burkett

Stewardship, Budget, Financial Management & Reports

Facilities Chair: Zeke

Building/Grounds

Activities/Events Chair: Judy Ashcraft

Special Social Events, Recurring Events, Building Usage

Communications Chair: Jill Wiggins

communication@uuchc.org

Webmaster: (Contractor) Audra Arr

Facebook: Linda Smith

Newsletter/Weekly Calendar Update: Susan Lipp