

OUR CHURCH LIFE

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Newsletter
August 2022



"The Point" brings UUs Together for Fellowship & More at UBarU

From dinner Sunday, July 24 to closing worship on Friday morning, July 29 UUs from Houston, DFW, San Antonio, and Kerrville lived, ate, song, reflected, rested, and played together at UBarU. I'm happy to share some highlights.

A moving worship was led Wednesday morning by teens. They offered a simple playful ritual and some music. We each named shared a one sentence appreciation and threw a yarn ball. The web we created was a symbol for what we were creating together, UU community, a sweet container where we could share and enjoy our diversity. The final hymn "Blue Boat Home," was sung robustly by all!

With chalice extinguished, people started to get up to leave. The mom of one of the teens said "Wait!" I thought she was asking to take a picture or video to share with Dad at home. The teen didn't seem to be pleased by the request! After some mumbled negotiation, the teens started playing their ukuleles, guitar and singing. Their sweet younger voices brought several of us to tears...

Each day after his shift at HEB in Kerrville, a young adult named Yannis who "grew up at UBarU" drove back to us to provide some youth activities and to join the community. I assured him that there is a UU congregation here that will enjoy the gift of his presence.

Helen Sherwood provided a wonderful "Soul Collage" workshop. Wow! Please ask her about this!

Donnie was his usual info-taining self as our Star Party host. I gave a sunset talk, a grief workshop and informally facilitated some intergenerational deep listening.

What was the recipe for quality UU connection? Was it the discussions on controversial topics? The shared values expressed in different ways by young and old alike? Spiritual Practices? Outlets for creativity? Doing one simple thing after another with good company? Healthy tasty food? Talents shared and received?

Yes! In our tradition, the congregation is the curriculum, and love is the best lesson!



Alive in the Ministry of this faith,

Rev. Phillip Schulman
UU Church of the Hill Country

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Check out our Facebook page



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PASTORAL REFLECTIONS...

Business of Denomination

I've been reading and listening to reports from the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I'm eager for more. GA is where the business of our denomination occurs. It's also where new trends fizzle or sizzle. Besides politics this includes worship arts, which has always been a highlight for me.

This GA was intentionally planned as multi-platform. Far less people were on site and far more participated from home via streaming, and virtual events. I believe that online participation enabled new, different and greater access to UUA decision making. Get this! Evidence of a different procedure and quality of engagement can be seen in the abandonment of Robert's Rules of Order!

From all reports it was not business as usual. A business resolution asking GA to endorse the board's plan to do a comprehensive rewrite of the UUA bylaws to remove overly complicated and inefficient governance passed. Maybe this all sounds pretty dry. However, I think it is going to result in some enormous changes for us. The review of the bylaws is being done with expressed intent to build upon the grassroots organizing of the 8th Principle Project.

The 8th Principle is a grassroots project that began in 2013 to articulate a commitment to dismantle racism and other forms of oppressions within the covenants made between and within the member congregations of the UUA. The text of the 8th Principle says "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse and multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

As I said in my sermon on July 24, building beloved community has become the central vision and framework of our faith tradition. We are increasingly understanding that beloved community includes being accountable to each other, regarding our actions that we do the work of anti-racism and anti-oppression as an inextricable part of our Unitarian Universalist faith. To date several hundred congregations have adopted the 8th principle as part of their congregation's covenant.

I share this report in hopes of encouraging conversation in UUCHC regarding the work of "8th Principle Project," and what it might mean to and for us locally. I look forward to hearing "congregation responds" to this report!

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...

- 7 Service featuring Earth Connections (Trudy Boardman, Service Associate & Chalice Table) - Talk: "Calling in Nature"; Awe-inspiring Encounters" - We all love the portion of our services where we get the opportunity to share about our observations of nature in our everyday lives. This entire service will be centered on sharing our awe-inspiring encounters with nature. These might be unique, once in a lifetime moments, or everyday "I am in awe of nature" moments. Come ready to share about your most touching or awe-inspiring moments with wildlife, your animal companions, or with Mother Earth.**
- 14 UUCHC Reverend Phillip Schulman (Mike Burkett, Service Associate; Judy Ashcraft, Chalice Table) - Sermon: "Fear & Excitement, the Unknown & Immortality" - We will discuss several teachings regarding fear; Buddha, Churchill, Nachman and more. No final answers will be given. Good odds of novelty, shifting, play, inspiration and challenge as we become curious about fear, how it operates, reflexes, choices and how these will influence us.**
- 21 Speaker: Hal Robinson (Janet Belden, Service Associate & Chalice Table) - Talk: "Relationships"**
- Hal Robinson, MRC, is a teacher, author and public speaker. He earned a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling (M.R.C.) and is a certified Gestalt Psychotherapist. He is in**

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August 2022 Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Calendar

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 	3	4	5 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ①	6
7 Earth Connections - Talk: "Calling in Nature" - see page 2	8	9	10 Board Meeting: 6:30pm - PA	11	12	13 
14 Rev. Phillip Schulman (Trudy Boardman, Service Associate & Chalice Table) - Service: "Fear & Excitement, the Unknown & Immortality" - see page 2	15	16	17	18	19 Men's Fellowship Lunch: 11:30am - PA ①	20
21 Speaker: Hal Robinson (Janet Belden, Service Associate & Chalice Table) - Talk: "Relationships" - see page 2 & 4	22 Last day to submit articles for Sept.'s newsletter: communications@uuchc.org	23	24	25	26	27 
28 Speaker: Michael Wurth (Helen Sherwood, Service Associate; Chalice Table, Karen & Mike Burkett) - Talk: "Reflections on the 134th Annual UU Gun and Knife Show" - see page 4	29	30 	31	① There will be news, views, and thought provoking discussion. Guys bring your sandwich or gourmet repast as you wish. Contact: Bryan Bristol 214.392-4823/bryan.bristol@yahoo.com		

All listed meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. Church Friends may serve on committees.

CS: Church Sanctuary

PA: Wilma Palmer Annex

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

partnership with a Holistic Family Physician at the Healing Arts Center in Kerrville, Texas. The Medicine Way used and taught is aboriginal from the Americas. Hal has been in practice for over 40 years is an ordained minister in the Circle of the Sacred Earth Church and is a Sun Dancer. His last Teacher in the physical was Germaine Sitting Crow.

28 Speaker: Michael Wurth (Helen Sherwood, Service Associate; Chalice Table, Karen & Mike Burkett) - **Talk: "Reflections on the 134th Annual UU Gun and Knife Show"** - In this talk Wurth (I) will discuss the plight of being Unitarian Universalist in the age of the January 6 hearings. Not the plight of an aggrieved and presumably progressive citizen who has strong opinions and a penchant for turtlenecks; but those of a liberal faith who encounter in this public spectacle the deadly certainty of the true believer. Just the pitting of these two forces against each other is difficult enough. But being a UU comes with taking our own principles seriously. That's a whole 'nother level of thinking, right? We ain't the guys who are just religious on Sundays, we're spiritual every day. We are not confined by Judeo-Christian restrictions on women and other oppressed classes - our best minds confront our own congregations (looking at you, Ralph Waldo) in part to keep us from being tired fossils of ancient mores that litter our television coverage. We are not so shallow! This ethical 'comfort' we wear with our superior insight is what rescues us; what allows us to know we are not so laden with the effort to turn control into tradition. So naturally, Wurth knows that as a Unitarian Universalist, he can only embrace the 7th Principle of our church by respecting that these Dolts, these Cavemen and their Craven appetites, these Nincompoops; these Jack wagons (please don't cancel me; it takes a lot to express this ire) are also an ineluctable part of the interdependent web of our existence. So, crap. I have to find a way to respect these people. What do I do now?

Michael Wurth was raised as a UU who was first exposed to Buddhism in the UU Religious Education curriculum "The Church Across the Street" in the late 1970s. He has since embraced Buddhist principles as part of his growing spirituality and in his counseling work. He is a Licensed Professional

Counselor with a Masters from the University of Texas, San Antonio (and has almost recovered from being a screenwriter and film producer, director, and editor.) He has worked with youth, mindfulness and meditation, addiction, the blind, and specializes in counseling for men who find it difficult to seek help. He has been selected to serve as the San Antonio Director of Clinical Outpatient Services for a Hill Country rehabilitation center beginning in January. He has a soft spot for UUs in Kerrville as he was married under the big tree in the front yard at the UU Fellowship, participated in his brother's commitment ceremony in 2009, and held his son's naming ceremony in 2012, both here at the UU Church of the Hill Country. He and his wife Shelagh reside in San Antonio with two teenagers and a four-year-old, a golden retriever, and a giant cat who is not impressed with his counseling skills. Check out MichaelWurth.com for more information.



Covid Act Now Alerts
<www.covidactnow.org>

Covid Act Now provides a 3-color Covid community risk level score for every state, county, and metro in the U.S. The scoring is informed by 3 key metrics: weekly, new reported COVID cases, weekly COVID hospital admissions and the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID patients. **The UUCHC Board uses these alerts to determine whether our church needs to change its mask wearing/singing stance.**

The framework is based on the CDC's Community Level framework.

For those who sign up to receive alerts, they are only emailed on Tuesday and Friday, and only to locations where the community risk level has changed. For the most up-to-date community risk level assessments, check out the real-time metrics on the site.

Summary of Wednesday, April 13, 2022 Board Meeting

Board President Vicki Luther called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. A quorum was present.

Present: Board President Vicki Luther; Vice-President Janet Belden; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Member-at-Large Don Pyle; Ex-President Jerry Best; Secretary Sarah Johanson; Rev Phillip; Bryan Bristol.

Welcome: After a short meet & greet, Janet moved and Judy seconded a motion to approve board minutes from March 8, 2022.

Financials: Judy reported that the financials are good. Also 2 members have donated a memorial for Steve Galland. Board requested to include next income in report, Jerry advised it's going to vary due to pledge amounts.

Tax I.D Letter: Vicki handed out tax exemption forms and Janet agreed to do some research to see if some church purchases are not tax exempt.

Webmaster: Audra Arr spends a couple of hours with Rev Phillip, but is just getting started.

Phone Number: Is now in directory and on website and the Jewish community has access.


Little Library: Don advised it needs repainting and will ask Zeke for assistance.


CCC: A postcard for visitors have been created. David Gross is co-chair Social Justice. Carolyn Dreyer is co-chair Outreach. Janet motion, Don approved.


A.R.E.: Information about any faith is welcome.

New Business: Jerry reported our 2 headset microphones are both in the shop, motherboards were fried so he's waiting for new motherboards, supply chain issues.


Minister's Report:


 **Pastoral Care** - it's at the grass roots stage, high volume, starting and ongoing.

 **Seasonal Gatherings with a Ritual Component** - Helen and Dave Sherwood starting with Beltane service.

 **Earth Connections Group** - Earth Spirituality, Rev Phillip is trying to get it coordinated.

 **Evening Discovery Partnerships group** - bring people together.

 Rev Phillip is doing minister stuff.

 **Parsonage:** Needs a microwave. Rev Phillip will buy, Jerry will install, under cabinet mount. Closer doors need to be sanded and repainted and bathroom needs painting, maybe volunteers?

Meeting Adjourned at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Johanson, Secretary



Karen Mattox, Community Navigator for the Doyle Community Center, was the UUCHC speaker on July 17. She informed about the myriad programs offered by the Doyle Center: a food pantry and home delivery; medical clinic; a transportation service modeled after our own KerrKonnnect; tutoring/mentoring; the 32-bed Glory Garden and monthly community events like the annual Juneteenth and Cinco de Mayo celebrations. The chalice table decorations (below) by Carolyn Dreyer, symbolize Doyle's 110 years of nourishing minds and bodies - from the 1912 Colored School to today's vibrant center.



The May & June Board Meeting Minutes to come!

Summary of Wednesday, July 13, 2022 Board Meeting

Board President Vicki Luther called the meeting to order at 630pm. A quorum was present.

Present: President Vicki Luther; Vice-President Janet Belden; Treasurer Judy Bunch; Member-at-Large Don Pyle; Ex-President Jerry Best; Secretary Sarah Johanson.

Reverend Phillip evaluation was discussed.

Financial Report: Judy advised it is fine. Don moved to accept, Janet seconded.

CCC: Mike and Jan joined the Activities and Events Committee. Cable connecting both buildings installed. Jill is working on a brochure.

R.E.: Janet and Bryan have got the room in annex ready for children during church services. They also have turned front room into a meeting room and back room into a visitor meeting room. Also have organized and arranged closets and cabinets.

Music: Desiree's boyfriend can record more hymns, board said we can use the music budget.

Earth Connections: Community garden at our church in the back parking lot. We have 2 plots at Doyle Glory Garden.

Car Park: Church neighbor can park his truck and trailer in church parking lot on Sundays in back lot for the coming year. Jerry motioned to approve and Janet seconded.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:48pm

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Johanson, Secretary



Desiree Ewing (to the right of Board President, Vicki Luther) and Ed & Sylvia Reaves (to the right of member, Helen Sherwood) became the newest members of UUCHC at a special ceremony held on Sunday, July 17, 2022

Counselor with a Masters from the University of Texas, San Antonio (and has almost recovered from being a screenwriter and film producer, director, and editor.) He has worked with youth, mindfulness and meditation, addiction, the blind, and specializes in counseling for men who find it difficult to seek help. He has been selected to serve as the San Antonio Director of Clinical Outpatient Services for a Hill Country rehabilitation center beginning in January. He has a soft spot for UUs in Kerrville as he was married under the big tree in the front yard at the UU Fellowship, participated in his brother's commitment ceremony in 2009, and held his son's naming ceremony in 2012, both here at the UU Church of the Hill Country. He and his wife Shelagh reside in San Antonio with two teenagers and a four-year-old, a golden retriever, and a giant cat who is not impressed with his counseling skills. Check out MichaelWurth.com for more information.

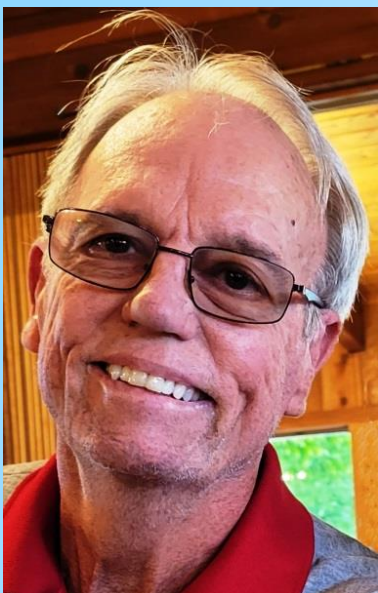


New members Ed and Sylvia Reaves with Helen Sherwood (left) and Reverend Phillip Schulman (right) on Sunday, July 17, 2022



PLEASE LOCK UP!

For each use of either the church sanctuary or Wilma Palmer Annex someone needs to be made specifically responsible for locking up. It would be best if an additional person would follow and check. Both folks need to be clear about their respective responsibilities.



UUCHC Church member, Gary Ray Payne loved his family and friends, theater and golf. Gary stayed in close touch with his family, including aunts, uncles and cousins, as well as with friends from across the years, throughout his life. He left this life peacefully on July 21, 2022, after a four-year battle with Parkinson's. He was 73.

He had played golf with his late father and with his brother, Doug, since childhood and loved the game. Only with the onset of Parkinson's did he stop playing. His life in theater also began in his youth, and he put his whole self into a production, whether he was producing, directing or performing (sometimes all three), and whether it was a theatrical production, a comedy murder mystery, or his occasional movie and TV appearances. His final series of performances was a 90-minute one-man show about Clarence Darrow, which he presented in Austin, Amarillo, Fort Worth, Kerrville and San Antonio.

Gary Ray Payne was born in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1948, to the late Rayford Payne and Alice Ann (Box) Payne. He is survived by his brother, Edward Douglas Payne and wife, Sharon Reynolds Payne, his nephew Raef Payne and wife Nicole Payne and their son Ruckus West Payne. He is also survived by his aunts Mary Campbell, Edwina Garrison and Nancy McIntyre Box, as well as many cousins and his other "family," the Caesar siblings. He is also survived by his wife of 26 years, Gillian (Jill) Wiggins and her family, as well as many friends in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Austin, Kerrville and elsewhere. He had many friends in his church communities, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country.

Gary graduated from Arlington High School in 1967 and received a B.S. and an M.B.A. in marketing from the University of Texas at Arlington. He has played and watched golf all around the country, including qualifying for the California pro-am in the 1970s. After a long career in sales with Motorola, Gary bravely turned away from corporate life and started a murder mystery business in Austin, the Capital City Mystery Players, which entertained thousands in restaurants, hotels, on the Austin steam train, and at private events for 25 years.

After retiring the business, Gary became artistic director of Paradox Players in Austin and produced, directed or performed in many productions, including his own adaptation of "Casablanca," called "Queso Blanco," in which Texas had seceded, and confusion and merriment ensued.

He was loved by all who worked with him in theater and with whom he played golf. He was meticulous but fair and patient with his casts, and always played by the rules. He was kind, thoughtful, and enjoyed life.

He and his wife, Jill, enjoyed travel to Canada, England, France, New Zealand, Argentina and Uruguay, as well as many locations around the U.S. They enjoyed the outdoors together, hiking in state and national parks, including the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Rocky Mountain, Waimea Canyon, Hawaii, and visits to New York, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Diego, and much of the southern U.S. They loved the Texas Gulf Coast beaches, especially Rockport and Port Aransas. They also shared a love of art, jazz and live music, theater, movies and playing Gary's own invention, "Trivial Charades" with friends.

Services will be planned at a future date. A gathering of friends and family in the Arlington area will also be held in the future.

Jill's and Gary's families wish to thank staff at Peterson Hospital, Peterson Hospice, and Hilltop Village Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, for their dedicated care.

Those who wish to make a memorial donation please consider the Parkinson's Foundation, the Davis Phinney Foundation, or other Parkinson's charities.



Thanks to all who participate in the important duties that keep our church running smoothly. Interested in helping out? Please reach out to the Board Members listed to the right or those folks mentioned below.

In the past Service Associates and Chalice Table Participants for Sunday Services were listed in a table found in this area of the newsletter. You may now find them listed next to the specific Sunday they are handling under "More Material on Sunday Services" listed on pages 2 and 4 of this newsletter.

Service Associates are handled by the Sunday Services Chair, Janet Belden and Chalice Table Decoration is handled by Pat Kobe 830.955-1139/
kobepat313@gmail.com.

A special **THANK YOU** goes to Jim McMahon who is providing Sunday coffee to the congregation once again!



Pat Kobe decorated the Chalice table on Sunday, July 31. It celebrated UGRA as recipient of the 5th Sunday "Donate the Plate" Program.

This Church program was reestablished in July 2016. On the fifth Sunday of every month with a fifth Sunday, all moneys in the collection plate not designated for the church are donated to a worthy non-profit organization.



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country Board Members for 2022

President ~ Vicki Luther
Vice President ~ Janet Belden
Secretary - Sarah Johanson
Treasurer ~ Judy Bunch
Member at Large - Don Pyle

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

Outreach/Social Justice Committee Co-Chairs:
Carolyn Dreyer & David 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