



PROGRAM GUIDE — SPRING 2005

The Adult Religious Education Program of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas is designed to foster the enrichment of our spiritual and intellectual lives and strengthen our sense of community. Participation is open to our members, friends and guests.

Register for classes after worship on Sundays at the Adult RE table in Channing Hall, call the Adult RE office during the week at 214-528-3990, ext. 116, or email cmcmullen@dallasuu.org. Child-care, *by advance reservation only*, is available for many of the classes. Scholarships are available for all courses and events; contact Charles McMullen, Director of Adult Religious Education, for information and details.

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY & CULTURAL HISTORY

Tainted Legacy

9/11 and the Ruin of Human Rights

Dr. William Schulz

Executive Director, Amnesty International USA

Sunday, February 6, 7:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary

Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20.00 at the door, \$10.00 Students

Available at the Adult RE Table in Channing Hall on Sunday mornings
or email programs@dallasuu.org

Dr. Schulz uses reasoned arguments, moving stories and surprising statistics to encourage debate about the fate of human rights in an era of terrorism. Since 9/11, the "war on terror" has prioritized security at the expense of human rights. Few have questioned the price of these

initiatives and fewer still have presented any other viable solutions.

Advocating an end to absolutes, Schulz explores the relationship between human rights violations and terrorism and how a disregard for human rights harms the US – at home and abroad.

Schulz's *Tainted Legacy* takes on both activists and administration...

William Schulz's new book will provoke almost everyone who reads it — and that certainly is one of its many strengths.

Paul Rosenzweig, *The Hill*

Dr. William F. Schulz, *Executive Director of Amnesty International USA, ordained UU minister and President of the UUA from 1985-1993. Dr. Schulz has been involved in a wide variety of international and social justice causes; outspoken in his opposition to the death penalty and his support of women's rights, gay and lesbian rights and racial justice.*

This program is co-sponsored by Adult RE, the Social Action Clearinghouse and the North Texas Association of Unitarian-Universalist Societies (NTAUUS).



Spiritual Conversations

Sundays (except second Sunday of the month)
 10:30 – 11:15 a.m., Raible Chapel
 No registration required. No charge.

This group uses poetry and other sacred writings to initiate a time of reflection and conversation about personal spiritual experiences. Copies of the morning's reading are provided. Readings will be announced in the *Dallas Unitarian*.

For further details about *Spiritual Conversations*, contact **Charles McMullen** at 214-528-3990 ext. 116.

[The Social Action Issues Forum meets in Raible Chapel on the second Sunday of each month.]

Sunday Adult Discussion-Group

Sundays, 9:15 – 10:00 a.m. OR 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
 Parish House
 No registration required. No charge.

Two separate groups meet every Sunday morning – the same topic is covered in both sessions. Participants exchange information, share knowledge and express personal views in spontaneous group discussions on a variety of religious, spiritual and ethical issues. Handouts are provided each week to spark discussion. Watch the *Dallas Unitarian* for discussion topics.

For further information about the group, contact **Lou Ann King** at 972-713-0283.

Adult Forum

Sundays, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. - Library
 No registration. No charge.

Thirty-minute video-lecture followed by facilitated discussion.

The Great Figures of the New Testament

In this series Dr. Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University Divinity School leads us in looking at *The Great Figures of the New Testament*, their historical context and the stories that came to be told about them. Dr. Levine helps us understand how New Testament protagonists connect to ancient Hebrew traditions then merge with Greek and Roman cultures to create the new religious milieu that became Christianity.

- Jan. 2 Mary Magdalene
- Jan. 9 Pharisees and Sadducees
- Jan. 16 The Herodians
- Jan. 23 Judas Iscariot
- Jan. 30 Pontius Pilate
- Feb. 6 James
- Feb. 13 Stephen
- Feb. 20 Philip
- Feb. 27 The Centurions
- Mar. 6 Paul, the Hero of Acts
- Mar. 13 Paul, the Epistolary Evangelist
- Mar. 20 Jesus of Nazareth
- Mar. 27 The Christ of Faith

The Quest for Meaning: Value, Ethics, and the Modern Experience

Dr. Robert Kane of the University of Texas at Austin tells the story of how the modern era of Western civilization experienced a loss of moral innocence which has led us to a period of confusion and disagreements about values. Dr. Kane describes how major thinkers since the sixteenth century have attempted to formulate new theories of ethics and values. He leads us toward finding the wisdom and meaning embodied in the philosophical and religious traditions of the past even in the reality of our times.

- Apr. 3 Values and Modernity
- Apr. 10 An Ancient Quest, a Modern Challenge
- Apr. 17 Pluralism, Religion and Alien Cultures
- Apr. 24 Are Values Subjective?
- May 1 From Experience to Worth
- May 8 Hume and the Challenge of Relativism
- May 15 Cultural Diversity, Human Nature and the Social Sciences
- May 22 Kant's Appeal to Reason
- May 29 Bentham, Mill and the Appeal to Utility

Roots: An Exploration of the Free-Church Tradition

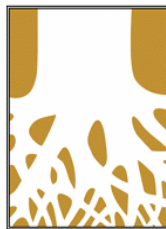
Wednesdays, January 12, 19 & 26 - Raible Chapel
Tuesdays, March 1, 8 & 15 - Library
OR Thursdays, April 28, May 5 & 12 - Parish House
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Registration required. No charge.

Ninety percent of people active in Unitarian Universalists congregations come from other religious traditions, and more and more of us come from no faith tradition at all. Each of us is asked to shape a personal faith out of our unique life experience and individual reflection. This makes our congregations rich in variety of spiritual expression and also somewhat confusing to newcomers and long-time participants alike. Roots may not answer all your questions about our shared experience in this endeavor but we will cover the basics of the history of Unitarian Universalism and the significance of the Free-Church tradition. We will describe the concept of a covenanted community, the meaning of church citizenship, and the importance of active participation in our shared spiritual life. Our goal is to help you feel more welcome here – whether you're brand new or have been here for years.

Dr. Laurel Hallman, *Senior Minister of First Church, has an extensive background in church history, theology, and spiritual direction.*

Rev. Daniel Chesney Kanter, *Minister of First Church, is a lifelong UU; he served in the ministry at King's Chapel in Boston before coming to Dallas.*

Charles McMullen *serves as Director of Adult Religious Education and has studied theology and church history.*



Roots II: Discerning our Theology, Articulating Our Faith

Tuesdays, March 22 & 29, and April 5 & 12
RE Room 204
OR Thursdays, May 19 & 26, and June 2 & 9
Library
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Registration required. No charge.

Developed from the work of Dr. Rebecca Parker, this series provides an opportunity for participants to explore the theological underpinnings of our faith tradition, examine the elements of personal and communal theology, discuss how we practice that faith in community, and witnesses to that faith in the larger society.

[Suggested pre-requisite: *Roots: An Exploration of the Free-Church Tradition.*]

Charles McMullen *serves as Director of Adult Religious Education and has studied theology and church history.*

The Women in Jesus' Life

Wednesdays, March 23 & 30 and April 6
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. - RE Room 204
Registration required. Charge \$15.

Was Jesus a feminist? Was Mary Magdala his financial patron? His wife? What did Jesus' mother really think about his ministry?

Rona Mears leads us in study and discussion of the women who played key roles in the life of the historical Jesus: Mary, his mother, Mary of Magdala, and others. Selected reading materials will help us evaluate current historical scholarship and discern the nature of these relationships. We will analyze how the early Church fathers may have altered the stories of these important women and thereby altered the role of women in the church for centuries thereafter.

Sign up early so we can send you the reading list!

Rona Mears *After a successful career as a corporate attorney in international law, Rona now crafts her study around her personal interests. Recently attracted to the work of the Jesus Seminar and its search for the historical Jesus, she's ready to lead us in a study of the women important to Jesus.*

The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith

Wednesdays, February 2, 9, 16 & 23 and March 2
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Library
Registration required. Charge \$15.

Bill Moyers produced this five part series for PBS in 1996 and said of its subject, "America's religious landscape is changing before our eyes and no one has done more to prepare us for the new religious reality than Huston Smith." One of the most respected and beloved authorities on world religions, Smith talks with Bill Moyers about six of the world's most influential faith traditions, how they differ, what they hold in common and seeks to understand their hold on the human heart and imagination. Join us for this five week video and discussion that includes: Hinduism & Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity & Judaism, Islam, and A Personal Philosophy.

Mark Evens, Charles McMullen and Warren Williamson share the facilitation of discussions following the video presentations.

The Embodied Mind: Metaphor and the Meanings of Life

Tuesdays, April 19 & 26 and May 3
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. - RE Room 204
Registration requested. \$15 charge.

Mark Evens, Ministerial Intern, leads us in a study of the work of George Lakoff, a distinguished linguist at the University of California at Berkeley who works closely with cognitive scientists and philosophers. Lakoff's book *Philosophy in the Flesh*, co-authored with Mark Johnson, lays out an intriguing theory which holds that the mind is inherently embodied, and thinking is largely metaphorical and, of necessity, emotionally engaged. This class will be an introduction to this theory.

We will become familiar with some historic ways of understanding metaphor and the mind, look at evidence from cognitive science supporting the theory, and analyze the metaphoric content of some everyday expressions. We will conclude by exploring the possible benefits of this mind/body theory for the integration of theology and science. This class will take place over three 90 minute sessions. Because of the nature of the material attendance at all three sessions and, ideally, reading material provided from the book is strongly encouraged.

Mark Evens, Ministerial Intern, graduates this Spring with a M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry. Before entering the seminary Mark served for years as a devoted UU lay leader in Oakland, Berkeley, and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Hitler's Jewish Soldiers: The Untold Story of Nazi Racial Laws and Men of Jewish Descent in the German Military Book Forum with the Author, Bryan Mark Rigg Tuesday, February 22 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Library Registration requested. No charge.

Bryan Rigg introduces us to the men in the German armed forces who came to be classified as "Jews" or "partial Jews" under the 1935 Nuremberg laws. After hundreds of years of assimilation, soldiers who considered themselves devoted patriots were labeled *Mischlinge* under Hitler's racial laws. Their reactions to the classification and the removals or exemptions that followed speak of the contradiction and confusion within the German military.

Rigg's poignant stories of individual human experience in the face of extreme prejudice, the cruelty of inconsistency and the danger of complacency have been featured on Dateline, Fox News, CSPAN and in *The New York Times*. Through this unique study of history Rigg points out how race and religion influence identity and how we adjust our identity to fit our times and circumstance leading us to the basic questions of "Who am I?" and "Where does my identity come from?"

Bryan Mark Rigg, is a Yale graduate with his Ph.D. from Cambridge. Bryan is a full professor of history at American Military University, an adjunct professor at SMU and regularly attends First Church.



February Conversation
moved to 2nd Sunday,
February 13

Campbell Conversations

First Sunday of every month except February.
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Library
No registration required. No charge.

The group gathers for monthly discussions around the writings of Joseph Campbell, an American teacher and philosopher best known for his work in comparative mythology. No prior knowledge or advanced study of Campbell's work is needed.

For further information about Campbell Conversations, contact **Charles McMullen** at 214-528-3990 ext. 116 or email programs@dallasuu.org.



Finding Hope and Healing in Loss and Grief

6 Thursdays, April 7 - May 12
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. - Library
Registration required. Charge: \$20.

Grieving is a universal experience; it is also an extremely personal one. No two people navigate the mourning process in quite the same way; neither does any one individual mourn different losses in the same way. This six-week series will enable participants to better understand the grief journey and learn that they are not alone. Together with the facilitator, the passage will become a partnership for grief expression, understanding and healing.

Sarah Bryant-Kovich, MEd, *a member of First Church, is a Licensed Professional Counselor with 15 years of counseling experience in private practice with couples, adults and adolescents. She is President of Provision Consulting, Mental Health Specialists.*

Buddha Purnima

Saturday, May 21
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Channing Hall & Raible Chapel
Registration required.
Charge: \$20 [includes meals].



The full moon in May marks the most important day of the Buddhist Calendar – the day of Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death. As Buddhists around the world gather in temples to release doves and offer prayers, we will gather in our own way to honor the teachings and influence of this religious leader.

Rev. Daniel Kanter and the weekly UU Buddhist Meditation Group host this morning of meditation, fellowship and celebration. Breakfast in community begins at 9:00 a.m., in Channing Hall, followed by a morning of meditation and teaching. The celebration culminates with lunch together.

Rev. Daniel Chesney Kanter, *minister at First Church since 2001, spent six months in 1989 living and studying among Burmese, Japanese, and Tibetan monks in Bodhi Gaya, India, the birthplace of Buddhism. Once back in the United States, Daniel continued to study Tibetan 'Bardo life transitions' teachings and Zen practice; he is inspired by Buddhism as a practical guide to living.*

UU Buddhist Meditation Group

Every Monday - Raible Chapel
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

No registration required. No charge.

The UU Buddhist Meditation Group meets for an hour each week. The gathering includes an inspirational reading, meditation, tea, and fellowship. Nurture your soul with fellow UUs in this calming and inspiring Buddhist practice. You can subscribe to the group's announcement list at: FirstChurchMeditation-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Sacred Sexuality

Friday, February 11,
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. - Library

Registration required. Charge: \$15

"The discovery of deeper meaning within outer forms brings us closer to our centre and to the sacred traditions which are so undervalued in our modern world."

AT Mann & Jane Lyle, *Sacred Sexuality*

American society seems to carry an assumed but unwarranted antagonism between sexuality and spirituality. Cultural, religious and familial barriers can impair our experience of sexuality as a transcendent merger that mirrors and parallels spiritual union with the divine. In this one-session forum Dr Robert Hemfelt shares his insightful exploration of the ancient and contemporary spiritual traditions that celebrate the harmony and synergy of our romantic, sexual and spiritual nature.

Dr. Robert Hemfelt, Ed.D., P.C., *is a psychologist and marriage and family therapist in practice in North Dallas. He has co-authored several best-sellers and is a popular presenter on radio, TV and in local churches. Dr. Hemfelt led us on a Spiritual Journey through Modern Cinema last fall.*

Spiritual Circle

3rd Thursday of the Month

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. - Parish House Living Room
Registration requested. No charge.

This group provides grounding for our spiritual lives together, offers a space to sit in communal silence, and affords us the opportunity to share aspects of our spiritual journeys. Readings, ritual, meditation, and journaling are shared. Regular attendance is encouraged, but no registration is required.

Anne Norvell, *a long-time member of First Church, is an artist with studios in Dallas and Las Vegas, New Mexico. She has long been interested in meditation and spiritual growth and looks forward to sharing her interest with members of the church community.*

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Spirituality Book-Discussion Group

Last Monday of the Month (except December)

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. - RE Room 205

No registration required. No charge.

The Spirituality Book-Discussion Group gathers to discuss books which explore the history and current influences of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Eastern religious beliefs, books which encourage spiritual enlightenment and exploration, and books which help us understand the role religion plays in the contemporary culture. The facilitated discussions center on how the concepts in the books apply to our lives as Unitarian Universalists. The evenings open with the lighting of the chalice, and the atmosphere is informal and supportive.

Jan. 31 *Why God Won't Go Away* by Andrew Newbert, Eugene D'Aquili and Vince Rause

Feb. 28 *Out of the Flames* by Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone

Mar. 28 *The Art of Happiness* by the Dalai Lama and Howard Cutler

Apr. 25 *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope* by Joan Chittister

May 30 *Lost Christianities: the Battle for Scriptures and the Faiths We Never Knew* by Bart Ehrman

Elizabeth Fairchild is a certified nurse-midwife who works at Parkland Hospital. She pursues her interest in spiritual practice and belief as a member of First Church and as an oblate of St. Benedict Center, an ecumenical monastery in Madison, Wisconsin.

Janice Groeneman coordinates the Senior Adult Education Program at Brookhaven College. A member of First Church, Janice has particular interest in the Women's Evening Alliance, Sunday school classes for adults, and the Book-Discussion Group.

LIFE SKILLS AND PERSONAL GROWTH

Turning Bad Situations into Amazing Outcomes: from Job Limbo to Career Fulfillment

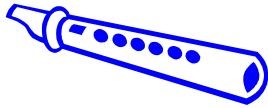
Saturdays, February 12 & 26

9:00 a.m. – Noon - RE Room 204

Registration required. Charge: \$15.

Michael McElhenie returns to expand upon the work he did with us a couple of years ago. With new exercises, more small group work, intensive reflection and self-study activities between the two sessions, this workshop will help you chart a course to an improved career. It takes more than just introspection: Recognizing your life and career passions, finding their connection to vocational reality, and taking the necessary steps to realize your dreams require the deepest commitment and self-understanding. "Know thyself" has never been truer. Join us as we learn the concepts that will help to accelerate this journey.

Michael McElhenie, PhD, a member of First Church, is a licensed psychologist with 20 years of consulting, counseling and life/wellness-coaching experience. He is a Senior Consultant with Teleos Leadership Institute. Michael's office is in the Lakewood area of Dallas.



Native American Flute Circle

1st Saturdays February – June
 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. - Parish House (*Flute House*)
No registration required. No charge.

The Native American flute is a wonderful tool for meditation and relaxation. We'd love to share our passion with you. It's easy to learn and in no time you'll be playing your own songs...music from your heart. You don't need a flute, we have some to share. We have people at every level of playing, from beginner to accomplished. If we know you are new to the flute there is always someone who will give you a private lesson to help you get started. We have no formal agenda other than a drawing for door prizes contributed by the members. Each person is asked to bring snacks and/or drinks for a common table that is available all evening. When you join us, please identify yourself to Bill Tucker or Suzy Hogue so we can introduce you to others and help you get started.

While there are no dues or fees, participants are given the opportunity to make a contribution to cover the use of the church facility.

*For more information, contact **Suzy Hogue** at 972-238-6019 (daytime) or shh8623@dcccd.edu*



Ikebana

[Demonstration – Friday, April 15
 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. - Channing Hall]

**Workshop - Saturday, April 16
 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Channing Hall**

**Registration required. Charge: \$20 [includes materials]
 Class limited to 20 participants**

The word *Ikebana* literally means “give life to flowers.” This art form, begun in the 11th century Japan when flowers were presented in shrines and temples, has become a contemporary expression of the profound sacredness in the world. Much more than merely arranging flowers, this practice mirrors the sacredness in the mind of the arranger both in the arrangement and in the experience of the observer. Through this art form, artists learn to open their perception to the harmony and natural order of our world. In this workshop, students will receive basic *Ikebana* instruction. Ample materials and opportunity for hands-on practice will be provided. Bring your own lunch and any special flowers or budding branches you'd like to use.

***Iris Ramos** began practicing Ikebana in 1990 at the Austin Shambhala Meditation Center. For ten years she was a senior student of Fumiyo Matsumoto, as master from the Sogetsu School of Ikebana in Japan. Upon the death of Mrs. Matsumoto, Iris was authorized to instruct students. Ms. Ramos is also an authorized Director of Shambhala Training and has been teaching secular meditation programs throughout Texas. She resides in Austin.*



Drum Circle

Saturdays, January 22, February 19, March 19,
 April 23, May 21 and June 18
 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. - Raible Chapel
No registration required. No charge.

Drumming is a form of expression which crosses all racial, gender and cultural boundaries. When we come together in percussion we are reminded of our common humanity and interrelatedness. Together participants learn about listening and about losing themselves in the magic of rhythm and sound. Occasionally drums are available to share, but it is preferable that you bring your own instrument. Other percussion toys are welcome as well. Although there is no charge for participation in the circle, participants are given the opportunity to make a contribution to cover the use of the church facility. Bring a snack or dessert to share.

*For more information, contact **Suzy Hogue** at 972-238-6019 or shh8623@dcccd.edu.*

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Check the website www.dallasuu.org for additions and changes to this schedule.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ~ SPRING 2005



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