



## Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church

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# Kaleidoscope

## March 2014

Saturday	Mar 1	3:00 p.m.	Memorial Service for Jason Ellis (see page 3)
Sunday	Mar 2	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Gang: The Dead Sea Scrolls #7: "The Emergence of the Rabbinic System"
		11:00 a.m.	"A UU Leap Of Faith" sermon by Rev. Daniel O'Connell, First UU Church of Houston (video)
		12:00 p.m.	Finance Committee meeting - all are welcome
Tuesday	Mar 4	7:00 p.m.	Arlington Noetic Science Meeting (see page 2)
Sunday	Mar 9	10:00 a.m.	Adult Forum: History of UU DVD series
		11:00 a.m.	Gayle W. Hanson speaks on "The History of Blacks in Tarrant County" (see page 2)
		12:20 p.m.	Board Meeting - Patsy Rosen
Wednesday	Mar 12	7:00 p.m.	Movie Night: <i>Bottle Shock</i> (see page 4)
Sunday	Mar 16	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School Gang: The History of Christianity: "The Diversity of Early Christianity"
		11:00 a.m.	"Should the Death Penalty Be Abolished?" from the CD series <i>Moral Decision Making: How to Approach Everyday Ethics</i> ; presenter Patsy Rosen
Saturday	Mar 22	8:00 a.m.	Early Bird Tai Chi Chuan and Qi Gong
Sunday	Mar 23	7:30 a.m.	Early Bird Tai Chi Chuan and Qi Gong
		8:30 a.m.	Breakfast Club
		10:00 a.m.	Adult Forum: Greg Ellis: "Spectrum of Consciousness"
		11:00 a.m.	Greg Ellis: "The Real Purpose of Life"
		12:20 P.M.	Spring Equinox celebration for children (see page 3 article for more information)
Saturday	Mar 29	8:00 a.m.	Early Bird Tai Chi Chuan and Qi Gong
Sunday	Mar 30	10:00 a.m.	"Voices of a Liberal Faith" video for discussion
		11:00 a.m.	Julia Burgen from the Arlington Conservation Council speaks (see page 4 for more information)
		12:30 p.m.	Monthly potluck lunch

*Pledging: It costs \$43 per pledging unit per month to sustain the Arlington UU Church.*

### Genealogy Success Story: Gayle W. Hanson

Gayle Hanson began her library research in regard to the community life of the Como Community in 1990, while researching her family history. She wanted to tell her children the story of her life and the lives of their ancestors. Early in her research process, she was told that there were very few documented sources in regard to African American community life in Tarrant County. After her initial search and collecting of family records, Gayle headed for the Genealogy, Local History and Archives Unit at the Fort Worth Public Library. Some of the first records used were the vertical files on the early history of Arlington Heights and the Como communities and the Sanborn maps. The city directories provided valuable information on the early settlers of the Como community. The Tarrant County Black Historical Society's collection of local black history held such gems as obituaries and funeral programs, the *Lake Como Weekly* newspapers, and photographs of community life in Fort Worth. The Society's collection also included newspaper clippings, magazines, pamphlets, booklets, and biosketches on various aspects of black community life. The Works Project Administration (WPA) *Ex-Slave Narratives of Tarrant County* provided oral history information on several Como residents. Gayle has made many discoveries which will help preserve her family history, as well as the community history of her childhood.



### Breakfast Club

The Arlington UU Breakfast Club meets from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. the last two Sundays of the month. Locations will vary. We meet at church and carpool to a restaurant nearby.

### Early Bird Tai Chi Chuan and Qi Gong

The last two Saturdays and Sundays of each month we meet at the Arlington UU Church at 2001 California Lane. Practice runs from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Saturdays and 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Sundays. We'll be practicing Standing Qi Gong (Chi Kung) followed by moving Qi Gong in the form of Closet and Traveling Tai Chi and the First Section of the 108 Long Form. These are fundamental to the entirety of traditional Yang Clan Tai Chi Chuan. Both beginners and invested students benefit.

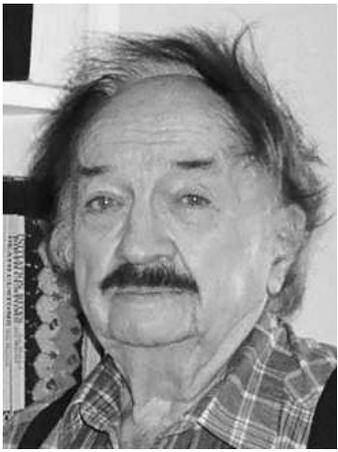


### Noetics Group: Tuesday March 4, 7 p.m.

The program for March 4 will be "School of Ageless Wisdom, presented by Gloria Crook. An overview of esoteric philosophy by a founder who is also a friend of Willis Harman of IONS. The School of Ageless Wisdom has been teaching the Natural Laws affecting every human being for over 35 years. Gloria Crook is Founding President of the School of Ageless Wisdom.

#### 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



### **Jason Ellis 1918-2014**

One of the founding members of the Arlington UU Church, Jason Ellis was a part of the congregation's "backbone" for many years. He served in many capacities, including board President. In recent years, even following the death of

his wife Kathryn, he still attended as often as possible. Jason's parents, Elmer Ellis and May Hull, met and married while proving up on land grants in South Dakota. So Jason was born on a farm in South Dakota in 1918. He grew up in Belle Fourche, which was the world's most productive center for training and shipping wild horses that were caught in Wyoming, Montana, and the Dakotas. Jason never rode a horse until he herded sheep (more than 2,000 adult sheep and about 500 lambs) in the mountains of Wyoming, and then only rode a half day every other day. (Horses do not do well for herding in such rugged terrain.) Jason got a degree in General Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and went to work for General Electric, mostly in their pioneer products testing lab. Drafted for World War II, he served in the Signal Corps, doing radio and radar repair and maintenance. Next was the Bureau of Standards, then in Washington, D.C. Jason went to the University of Iowa, studied mathematics and physics. He also worked at the Radiation Research Lab (biological), taught labs, and taught at Cornell College. He ran into Kathryn in the doorway of the science library. He was impressed by her composure, etc., and they got married. Kathryn had their first child about the same time she got her Ph.D. in Mathematics. It was nip and tuck as to which would be first, but Greg followed the doctorate by about a month. Jason received an M.S. in Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Physics. He taught at North Texas State College and then, after 1963, at what is now the University of Texas at Arlington. There he organized and directed two Summer Conferences on Relativity. Meanwhile, his and Kathryn's second child, Elaine, was born. Before and after retirement, Jason did various

consulting projects and was Vice President for Research and Development at Curtis Aerospace. Jason passed away February 1. He had been resident at an assisted living facility and had been ill for some time. Jason was 95. A memorial service will be held at the church Saturday March 1 at 3:00 p.m.



### **Spring Equinox Celebration for Children**

Spring has come once again. Day and night share equal time. This is the point of balance, the point when life begins to move rapidly. The birds sing merrily; soon there will be eggs in their nests. The balance of rain and sun causes life to surge anew into plants and trees. New life is nourished and springs from fallen seed. And our lives spring forward into new growth. We call to the Springtime Maiden Goddess and welcome her into life with a chant to call the elements - strong voices needed, chant workshop 15 minutes before circle - bubbles, seeds, and maybe plants for children and adults to plant in their gardens, or around the church, or in a fairy garden next to the old shed. When we plant in the spring we plant our hopes and wishes. As the year progresses we tend them with time spent watering, weeding, and hoping for a harvest. Come welcome the spring with us! This is a child-friendly event, age 1 and up. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children and supervise them to help them participate safely. Fruit juice and graham cracker refreshments.

Our Natural World - Some Springtime Texas Wildflowers, most of which can be seen on the AUUC church grounds:

**Mid-March:** Bluebonnets - A member of the legume (bean) plant family, Bluebonnets prosper on well-drained roadsides and fields. The Bluebonnet is the state flower of Texas. The Bluebonnet blossoms are on a spike with dark blue petals and a white tip. Indian Paintbrush - The intense scarlet to orange flowers that often nestle with the Bluebonnets are Indian Paintbrushes. They start emerging just after the Bluebonnets and continue blooming until May. They are a member of the snapdragon plant family.

**April** is the peak month of wildflower color with the early flowers still blooming and many additional wildflower plants adding their blooms. Engelmann's Daisy - This flower is a yellow, eight petaled daisy on a long spike. These flowers often are found in clumps along roadsides and neighboring meadows. Mealy Blue Sage - A member of the mint family, it particularly is found in limestone soils. The blossom is a stem of violet blue petals. Indian Blanket - The Indian Blanket or Firewheel adds both yellow and red with its pinwheel of bright petals.

Black-Eyed Susan - A member of the Sunflower family, its blooms arrive with the warming temperatures of April. These blooms are strong yellow petals surrounding a dark center.

**May:** Drummond Phlox - These flowers have red to pink blooms in a cluster of erect stems. Mexican Hat - The bloom has a pronounced cone with a fringe of drooping yellow and red petals. Moss Verbena - This flower is a brilliant cluster of small purple blooms. Showy Primrose - This flower is a large cupped, four petaled pink flower with a white interior and yellow center.

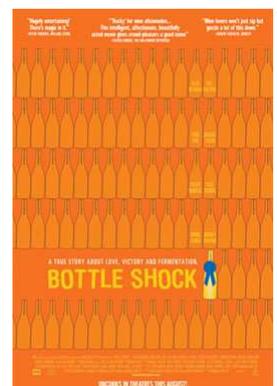
Julia Burgen Sunday March 30 11:00

Arlington resident and longtime environmental advocate Julia Burgen is a Past-President of the Arlington Conservation Council and former Arlington City Council member. She has received numerous awards for her work, and the Arlington park along Johnson Creek at Center Street is named for her.



Movie Night Wednesday March 12, 7:00 p.m.

The movie selection for March is *Bottle Shock*, a 2008 comedy/drama starring Alan Rickman and Bill Pullman. The plot focuses on a historic competition between wines from the Napa Valley in California and French wines that took place in 1976, with an astonishing win by an American Chardonnay that changed the world wine business. The story presents the American participation in this blind taste test as a comedy of errors with a triumphant result. Other actors include Chris Pine and Dennis Farina. The film was directed by Randall Miller who also co-wrote the script along with Jody Savin and Ross Schwartz. The movie premiered at the 2008 Sundance Festival. One reviewer commented that the movie is "a remarkable character study with a compelling enough story to keep a viewer interested."



## Meet Sylvia Plath



*UUism is a creedless religion — our deeds speak louder than our words — and so it may be easier to understand UUism as a living faith by noting the individuals who have been associated with UUism.*

Sylvia Plath (October 27, 1932-February 11, 1963) was a poet, literary critic, novelist, diarist, correspondent and sometime social activist. On the evidence of her intensely confessional poetry, Plath's personal theology was humanist, with a leaning toward nature mysticism. Throughout her short life she associated closely with the Unitarian church. After her suicide Plath was taken up as a martyr and heroine of the feminist movement. As a child in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, Sylvia attended the Unitarian church with her parents, Otto and Aurelia Plath. She went to a Methodist church when the family lived in Winthrop, Massachusetts, where there was no Unitarian congregation. After Otto died in 1940, Aurelia joined the Wellesley Unitarian Church, where she taught in the Sunday school. Sylvia joined the church youth group and attended a Star Island Unitarian youth conference in 1949. Concerned about the prospect of nuclear war, Sylvia and her friend Perry Norton wrote an anti-arms race essay, "A Youth's Plea for World Peace," which appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor* (March 1950). While a student at Smith College, Sylvia wrote her mother that she believed in "the impersonal laws of science as a God of sorts...." In a religion course she wrote a paper on Unitarianism and identified herself as an "agnostic humanist." Following her third year at Smith and a summer 1953 internship at *Mademoiselle* magazine, Sylvia became clinically depressed. After enduring a painful series of electroconvulsive shock treatments, she hid herself from her family and attempted an overdose of sleeping pills. Unitarian minister Max Gaebler and his wife, friends of the family, joined the local Unitarian minister, William Rice, who was already trying to console the family. Two days later Sylvia was discovered in the crawl space under the house. After psychiatric counseling, insulin therapy, and more shock

treatment she returned to Smith. The expense of this treatment was borne by Unitarian novelist Olive Higgins Prouty, who had already underwritten Sylvia's college education and would remain her counselor, correspondent, and "literary mother" during the remainder of her life. In *The Bell Jar* (1963), a novel based upon these traumatic experiences, made into a film released in 1979, Plath portrayed her mother, Mrs. Prouty, and Rev. Rice unsympathetically. Plath later explained to her mother that she had fictionalized "to add color" and "to show how isolated a person feels when he is suffering a breakdown." She described her process of transforming life into art by saying, "I've tried to picture my world and the people in it as seen through the distorting lens of a bell jar." In 1956, while studying at Cambridge on a Fulbright scholarship, Plath married Ted Hughes, later British poet laureate. Although they were married privately by special license from the Archbishop of Canterbury, she planned a second, public, wedding ceremony in the Wellesley Unitarian Church (which did not, in the event, take place). While living in England she attended a parish church for a few months during the winter of 1961-62. Although she thought of herself as "a pagan-Unitarian at best," she enjoyed the ceremony and the music. She was driven away from the church by a sermon praising the hydrogen bomb as "the happy prospect of the Second Coming." When she read an American Unitarian sermon on fallout shelters it moved her to tears. She wrote her mother, "I'd really be a church-goer if I was back in Wellesley. . . .the Unitarian Church is my church. How I miss it! There is just no choice here." Plath and Ted Hughes separated in 1962. Though the pain of her marital problems may have been a factor, Plath's suicide in early 1963 was probably a consequence of her pre-existing depressive illness. Yet even while suffering acute distress, Plath continued to compose original poetry of a high order, including her October poems. These late works garnered mixed posthumous reviews, some calling them sick, while others lauded their nobility. The poet Irving Feldman concluded that her spirituality was mad, being "that religion of one—which cannot distinguish

between the self and the world." On the other hand, Stephen Spender rated them the feminine equivalent of Wilfrid Owen's war poems. Though her work had won several prizes and appeared in various magazines, only one volume of Plath's poetry, *The Colossus* (1960), was published during her lifetime. Since her death, three additional collections of her poetry have seen publication, as well as her diary and a collection of her letters. Her *Collected Poems* (1981) was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 1983. Much of Plath's poetry was published originally in periodicals, including *The New Yorker*, *Seventeen*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Mademoiselle*, *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *The Atlantic*, *Poetry*, and *London Magazine*. The collections of Plath's poetry are *The Colossus and Other Poems* (1962), *Ariel* (1966, Restored Edition edited by her daughter, Frieda Hughes, 2005), *Crossing the Water* (1971), and *Winter Trees* (1972). Her major work is contained in *The Collected Poems* (1981) and the novel *The Bell Jar* (1963, first published under the pseudonym Victoria Lucas).

Adapted from an article by Wesley Hromatko in *Dictionary of Unitarian & Universalist Biography* at <http://uudb.org/articles/sylviaplath.html>.



### UUA News: New UU Logo Introduced

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is making changes—changes to where we do our work, how we do our work, and how we tell the story of our Unitarian Universalist movement to the wider world. I am excited to share with you the Unitarian Universalist Association's new logo. Our random testing groups of UUs and non-UUs described emotions and images evoked by this logo with words such as brave, enlightening, warm, spiritual, energizing, having integrity, welcoming and determined. Our logo is the first innovation among many that the UUA plans to implement to better tell our story. This is the beginning of a transformative journey to tell the story of Unitarian Universalism and inspire individuals to join that journey.

In faith,  
 Rev. Peter Morales  
 President, Unitarian Universalist Association



**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 with one hour minimum, unless another rate or free use is agreed upon by the AUUC Board prior to use. Copies of the policy are available upon request.

**New Members Welcome:** Membership in the Arlington UU Church is open to everyone 16 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 or the Membership Chair. 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.

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