



# April Newsletter

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin 2012

*We gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives,  
and do justice.*



Before last weekend I might have written something like “This first year at First UU has been quite a ride,” but now I have been to the rodeo. We sampled BBQ at the BBQ cook-off, listened to kids squealing on the tilt-a-whirl, admired boots and hats, and walked past the freak show. Luridly colored pictures advertised a two-headed snake and the

shrunken head of a missionary, “The victim of his last sermon.” I felt a little chill, and resolved to stay away from stew pots. The main event was the rodeo itself. The bleachers were slowly filling up while the clown had fun with the crowd and the announcer. Cowgirls rode at full gallop around the ring carrying the flags of the event sponsors. Then they let the first bucking horse loose. I saw what I thought was a rag doll strapped to its back, being flung this way and that say, neck flopping wildly like it wasn’t connected by bones. When I realized it was a real guy, I was shocked. I felt as if I were watching a car wreck! He got off and walked away, but slowly. The guys who helped him off were brave too, riding up right next to the still-bucking horse, and their horses were brave, and I kept being impressed with every rider after that.

Now, instead of saying, “it’s been quite a ride,” I’ll just say that this first year has been wonderful, and full of changes. Chicago newspaper columnist Sydney J. Harris described his take on change: “Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better.”

This year the church changed its governance structure to “Policy Governance,” which just means that we steer by goals and policies. One of the first goals mentioned in the “Ends Statements” is that we want to be an intentionally

welcoming place. The building where the offices and classrooms are was dimly lit, without a discernible main entrance, so we’re changing the entrance to be more open, well-lit, and staffed by a volunteer church host who answers the phone when people call and who welcomes folks who walk in. At this point the Welcome Center is awaiting the arrival of specialists. This is a good experiment for us, to see what construction is like, as it is likely that we will be building in the future. There is always something that comes up that delays the process. In our case it’s being unable to remove old carpet from the linoleum tile without pulling up bits of the tile. The tile from that era always has a bit of asbestos in it, so we called in the experts, who, on Monday, April 16, will come seal the area and safely remove the asbestos. It shouldn’t cause too much inconvenience, as the office is closed on Mondays. Former President of the congregation, Don Smith, has helped us pick out the colors for the wall, one of which is appropriately called “Zeus.”

We have expanded the “Chalice Circle” program so members can get to know one another on a deeper level in small groups. We’ve begun having child care and supper every Wednesday evening at 6, and offering Adult Religious Education classes or movies and discussions after dinner. We’re following the Covenant of Healthy Relations, and will be featuring it more and more. We were able to make a connection with Occupy Austin, inviting them to dinner and talking to them about our common ground. The church is “leaving the building” now and then to go protest for marriage equality, school funding, women’s health. The energy around the church is rising and hopeful. We’ll try to keep the changes well-paced so no one feels like screaming, and no one has to stagger around getting their bearings like the kids and the cowboys! -*The Rev. Meg Barnhouse*

## **April Fuels Day: Alternative Vehicle Fair. Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012**

10 a.m. to noon open to the congregation only and noon to 2 p.m. open to the general public!  
Come, See, Touch and Explore all kinds of energy efficient, marvelous vehicles.

**This April Fuels Day, Alternative Vehicle Fair is a rare chance to have your hands on electric, plug-ins, hybrids, bio-diesel, bikes, scooters and MORE.** Activities for young and all: slow bike races, model solar car sorties, games and goodies. It's Free, Fun and a Fair!

Contact: Beki or Richard Halpin 288-4080 or [green@austinuu.org](mailto:green@austinuu.org)

## Sunday Worship

Join us in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

**April 1: “How Many UU’s Does it Take to Change a Light Bulb?” with Rev. Meg Barnhouse.** What do UU jokes tell us about ourselves? How true are they? Some sting: a UU family moves into a new neighborhood. Their little girl finds a new playmate, and they are happily getting to know each other. One day, the playmate says, "We're Episcopalians, what are you?" The UU child thinks for a minute and says, "I'm not sure, but I think we're League of Women Voters." Let's laugh and think together!

**April 8: Easter Sunday: “Quartet For the End of Time” with Rev. Meg Barnhouse.** The quartet, “Quartet For the End of Time,” was premiered in Stalag VIII-A in Görlitz, Germany (currently Zgorzelec, Poland) on January 15, 1941, to an audience of about four hundred fellow prisoners of war and prison guards. Composer Olivier Messiaen, an inmate of the camp, later recalled of the occasion, "Never was I listened to with such rapt attention and comprehension." The story of this music is an inspirational example of freedom and beauty rising in the midst of death and destruction, a fitting story for Easter Sunday. A live quartet will play excerpts from the piece intertwined with the words of the sermon.

**April 15: “Grasshoppers in the Glittering Net” with Rev. Meg Barnhouse** Our seventh principle is that we affirm and promote “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” An image from Hinduism is “Indra’s Net,” a web connecting the whole, where each part also contains the whole. What does it mean to respect that web, to be a part of it?

**April 22 Earth Day: “The Gaia Psalms”:**

**Composer: Kiya Heartwood.**

**Words: by Meg Barnhouse and Kiya Heartwood**

**Narration: by Meg Barnhouse.** The Gaia Psalms are eight pieces written to be part of a special Unitarian Universalist Earth Day Service. The concept of this work is to create an interactive multi-generational multi-media worship experience that is both moving and simple. Artists are creating altars for the four directions. Children and adults are encouraged to come dressed as a part of the great web: animal, bird, fish, tree, flower...

### TIME FOR RETIREMENT...

It has been fun, challenging, and crazy at times, but it is time. I am retiring from my employee and contractor relationship with First UU effective immediately. I have enjoyed being part of the community. I walked into the church one Sunday in 2000 and heard a sermon by Davidson. I jumped in with both feet and played in many ponds... Membership and Evensong I enjoyed the most. I joined the office staff and got hooked into the Newsletter in 2004 with the office manager Dotti Sizer. When she left in 2008 I inherited it all. I decided to stay with the church through all the changes. If I had a goal it was to help bring us through to this new day as a more transparent community than we were before. Life goes on. I am looking forward to participating with the various groups in the church and am sure I will be volunteering here and there. I am grateful to my son, Lansing Bicknell, who jumped in 39 issues ago in February of 2009 to help make our newsletter look as good as it does. Anyone who would like to hear his parting thoughts on working on the newsletter with me for the past three years can write to him at [lansingbicknell@mac.com](mailto:lansingbicknell@mac.com). I have met with Steve Wilson who will be taking over all my accountabilities in regards to church communications and publications. Please support him with compassion and kindness as he transitions into his new role. Love, Linda



## The Forum

**Join us in the Sanctuary at 11:45 a.m. following the second service.**

**April 1: Dr. Bill Martin, “Drug abuse is a problem. Prohibition is not the solution.”** Few would dispute that illicit drug use and abuse is one of the most prominent and perplexing issues facing our society. In this discussion, Bill Martin will show that current U.S. drug policy ignores or contradicts the best statistical evidence we have regarding drug use and abuse and will discuss plausible alternatives for changing these policies. Dr. Martin is the Harry and Hazel Senior Fellow for Religion and Public Policy at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, where he also directs the program in Drug Policy.

**April 8: Easter, No Forum**

**April 15: Constable Bruce Elfant, "The Constable's Office within County Government: A Progressive Vision"** Bruce Elfant has served as Travis County Constable of Precinct Five since 1993. The primary mission of his office is to execute civil and criminal process in accordance with federal and state laws. They are on the front lines of law enforcement, patrol, security, investigations, and arrests. Constable Elfant, is helping develop innovative programs to divert veterans, non violent offenders, drug abusers, and persons with mental illness from jail to treatment and rehabilitation services. He has earned two Texas Association of Counties “Best Practices Awards” for Exceptional Delivery of Services. He is recognized at the state level and nationally for his progressive vision of the intersection of the criminal justice system with needed human services.

**April 22 Simone Wicha, “Our Blanton is the Heart of Art in Central Texas”** Simone Wicha is the Director of the Blanton Museum of Art. Ms. Wicha’s discussion touch the wide ranging influence of the Blanton. She will show pictures from the Blanton artists on the cutting edge of today’s social problems as well as the role of art in influencing the national and international dialogues dealing with these issues. Minority artists, African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and Asian Americans art will be shown. She will talk about the efforts of politicians to control the expression and exhibition of art that support and conflict with their agendas.

**April 29: Ricardo Ainslie Ph.D, “Understanding Mexico’s Drug War”** Ricardo Ainslie Ph.D. is a psychologist-psychoanalyst who uses books, documentary films, and photographic exhibits to highlight subjects of social and cultural importance. His books and films cover issues of race, violence, and social change, immigration, drug wars and kidnapping. His books include: No Dancin’ in Anson: An American Story of Race and Social Change (1995) and Long Dark Road: Bill King and the Murder in Jasper, Texas (2004), and The Savior of Juarez: Mexico at the Time of the Great Drug War (in press). A native of Mexico City, he is a Professor of Counseling Psychology at University of Texas and is becoming an acclaimed documentary film maker.



### Do you Drive?

The First UU Caring Ministry is looking for people to provide rides to church for people who live near them and can no longer drive. No long-term commitment is expected, and you do not have to provide rides every week--every other week or once a month is also appreciated. Please contact Vanessa MacDougal at 452-6168 extension 315 or [uuconcare@austinuu.org](mailto:uuconcare@austinuu.org) if you are interested.



# Social Action is Love in Action



**Hands on  
Housing:  
It's That Time  
Again!  
Volunteer and  
Join this  
Community**

Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> is our spring "Bluebonnet Blitz" Hands On Housing project. We recruit UU's from First UU, Live Oak, and other UU churches in the area to paint and repair a home owned by a low-income elderly or disabled family. Our "sweat equity" enables families living in poverty to stay in the homes they love.

Volunteers have a rewarding experience, living values, but we also have a great time together – enjoying and deepening UU friendships. There will be tasks for all skill levels – with volunteer shifts from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 to 4 p.m., and 4 to 7 p.m. To make the best use of our volunteers, we need more workers to sign up for the afternoon shifts. We also need volunteers to help with prep work, setting up supplies on Saturday morning, serving as shift leads. Hands On Housing is a family-friendly event: supervised children are welcome.

Between 12 and 1 p.m., we will provide lunch for all volunteers and also take a group picture. To sign up or get more information, contact:

[handsonhousing@austinuu.org](mailto:handsonhousing@austinuu.org). You can also sign up at the Social Action table in the Gallery between and after Sunday services. Join us!

## **April's Special Offering for 1st UU's Hands On Housing**

On Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> UU's own Hands On Housing program will be our monthly special offering recipient at both services. Hands On Housing volunteer teams repair and revitalize the homes of low-income elderly and disabled homeowners who cannot afford to pay for these repairs. Our UU team recruits volunteers from 1<sup>st</sup> UU, Live Oak, Wildflower, San Marcos, the UU Fellowship, Georgetown, and even UUs visiting from other states. Our work helps these individuals and families remain in the homes they love. At the same time, UU volunteers have a very rewarding experience, helping others in need while enjoying UU friendships. There are two Hands On Housing projects each year – April's spring Bluebonnet Blitz and October's Raise the Roof event.

First UU has been involved with Hands On Housing since at least 1991 – and perhaps even earlier. Thanks to the leadership of Jon Montgomery, aka "Mr. Hands On Housing," UU teams have been going strong ever since. Since the early 2000s, our UU team has usually been the largest volunteer team in the city. Many members and friends of our congregation have been actively involved with Hands On Housing – from toddlers to folks in their 70s, from novices to expert carpenters and contractors. Our team is responsible for purchasing the painting and construction supplies for our projects. We also provide lunch for our hard-working volunteers. You are encouraged to give generously to the Special Offering on April 1<sup>st</sup> and help First UU's Hands On Housing program continue to thrive. For more information, contact [handsonhousing@austinuu.org](mailto:handsonhousing@austinuu.org)



**Two smart car owners.** On April 1<sup>st</sup>, you adults can check out even smarter and bigger rides for you!" April Fuels Day from 10 to 2! See electric, plugins, hybrids, bio-diesel, bikes, scooters and MORE. Activities for young and all: slow bike races, model solar car sorties, games and goodies. It's Free, Fun and a Fair!



## Delicious Organic, Local Vegetables!

Our church will once again serve as a delivery hub for Tecolote Farm, a local organic farm. Subscribe for the 2012 growing season (late March – early August) and pick up a weekly basket of amazingly fresh, high-

quality, tasty vegetables. Contact Katie at [tecolotefarm@gmail.com](mailto:tecolotefarm@gmail.com) for more details. Info also available at the Social Action table in the gallery. Brought to you by the Green Sanctuary committee!

## Heads Up! North Central Caregivers is having a Garage Sale in May!



Start cleaning out your attics, closets, garages and cabinets—the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual North Central Caregivers & First Cumberland Presbyterian Church joint Garage Sale will be held

again this May. Last year's Garage Sale was a great success and a lot of fun, too. Recycle your gently used and unwanted clothing and household goods, and help support senior support services in north central Austin at the same time. Contact: Board Member, Bob 423-8482 or the office 453 2273 Friday, May 18th. Call the office at: 453-2273

We will be baking up a storm to raise funds by selling homemade baked goods. We ran out of bakery items so quickly last year; we will be sure to have even more available this year.

Remember, your junk is someone's treasure. We all love a bargain! Thank you for your continued support of North Central Caregivers and seniors in Austin.



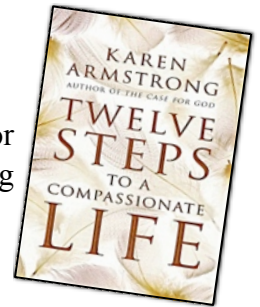
## *i*ACT Events: Interfaith Action of Central Texas

**Spirituality Book Club:** Interfaith exploration of classic and contemporary books addressing the intersections of faith and public life.

**Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

Book to discuss: “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life” by Karen Armstrong

Book People, 603 North Lamar, For more information, contact Rev. Greg McDonnell 572-2445



**Future Spirituality Book Club meetings:**

- *Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> - Practicing Peace - A Devotional Walk through the Quaker Tradition*
- *Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> - The Gnostic Gospels*



## The Red Bench™ Interfaith Conversations that Matter

**Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 8:00 pm Topic:**  
“Enoughness”

We focus on issues that are addressed by all of the great wisdom traditions. In our first year topics like forgiveness, compassion and gratitude. Recently we have addressed “topical” subjects like the fear of Islam and have explored faith teachings about difficult topics like shame.



*Brent Baldwin  
Music Director*

# MUSIC MATTERS

*Nourishing Souls and Transforming Lives Through Music*

## A NIGHT OF MUSIC, FUN, SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP

A fundraising variety show for Suzette Emberton & Manoj Panicker

Hosted by the First UUA Choir

Thursday, April 5 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Come join us for an evening of entertainment and fellowship, as we help out our choir member, Suzette, and her husband, Manoj, who are recovering from a car accident from last November (see March's newsletter.) We have a great mix of acts scheduled with some of your favorite performers from our congregation, as well as some you haven't seen featured before! If your taste in music includes pop, rock, country, jazz, blues, Broadway, classical, instrumental, original pieces by singer/songwriters... well, we've got a bit of all that – and some comedy to boot!

**Starting at 6pm, join us in Howson Hall for a pre-show mingle.**

Please bring an appetizer for our “finger-food potluck.”

We'll have a few items available for silent auction and an appearance by that fabulous foreteller of fortunes, Madame Faux-Nee! We'll enjoy food again during intermission.

The show starts at 7pm in the Sanctuary, with admission by free-will donation (a \$10 minimum is suggested, but please give as you are able - everyone will be admitted.)

Most importantly, bring your family and friends! We promise you a great time!

**See you on April 5<sup>th</sup>!**

### **Message from Wildflower UU**

The memorial service for Wildflower member Sara Barker will be held March 31, 4:00 pm, at Wildflower Church/Faith Presbyterian Church, at 1314 E. Oltorf. All are invited and encouraged to attend. To ensure access, we request that those who are able to please park across the street at Travis High School. This will help those who need closer parking, and those not as familiar with our campus. Deep peace and thanks to all, Eliza.

### **Thank You!**

As most of you know each month we have a Special Offering on the second Sunday. At the end of the year we will divide all the money equally between the twelve recipients so that no one organization is negatively impacted by reduced attendance due to weather, marathons, etc. Our Offering in March was AGE Austin Group for the Elderly. We collected **\$965**. Our organization for April is Hands in Housing (see more on page 4).



## Passover Seder at First UU will be Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

The Sign up table will be in the Gallery on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Howson Hall. Folks should bring a side dish. If you have questions please contact Michael LeBurkien at 512-921-5657.

Seder is a Jewish ritual feast that marks the beginning of Passover. It is conducted on the evenings of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar and on the 15<sup>th</sup> by traditionally observant Jews living outside Israel. This corresponds to late March or April. Rev. Meg Barnhouse and the Director of Religious Education, Barbara Stoddard, will lead the ritual. This is a First UU tradition. Contact Barbara Stoddard at [barbara@austinnuu.org](mailto:barbara@austinnuu.org) and join the Seder Dinner.



## Matzo Ball Making

Looking for some fun on the school holiday Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>? Come make matzo balls for the Seder soup with Geri, Paige, and David. We'll meet in the kitchen at 11:00 a.m. Matzo ball making will only take about an hour so there will be plenty of time for lunch and playing afterwards.



### CANNED FOOD DRIVE FOR EASTER with proceeds donated to Caritas.

Lifespan religious education requests that you bring in your canned food products through April 8<sup>th</sup> so that we may use them in this year's "CANNED GOODS HUNT", to be held on Easter Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. (See page 7 "Cans for Candy")

Reminder - you can put your canned goods in the Caritas boxes located outside the sanctuary.



You should see my Mom & Dad's smart car!

April Fuels Day: 10 to 2

Games, Yummies, and all kinds of Energy Efficient transportation!

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin April 2012 NEWSLETTER

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## Annual Camp at Krause Spring April 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>

Please join us for a weekend of camping at a privately held campground near Spicewood. Some people arrive on Friday night and others on Saturday to camp. Bring food for Friday and Saturday nights plus breakfast and lunches. There's a swimming hole and a waterfall and you can hike to Lake Travis. There's a potluck meal on Saturday night and a campfire and musical jam. You don't have to camp. You can just spend the day-it's just 35 miles from Austin. On Sunday morning we fix a communal breakfast.

**Bring:** Musical instruments, food and drinks to share, lawn chairs and water for cooking, washing up and drinking. Tents, bedding, camping equipment and flashlights if you are staying overnight. No dogs are allowed. **Information:** Lynn Vaughan at 989-5701 or 587-8221 or Krause Springs at (830) 693-4181.



**Chris' Corner** Over the past couple of months, I have had the chance to meet some of the terrific folks who founded this church and kept it going and growing over the years. Meg held a luncheon for all of our past board presidents. There were people at the lunch who had served this church through every decade of its existence, including the board president that led the transition from being a fellowship to becoming a church, as well as the president who eliminated drinking wine at the very beginning of board meetings. She made them wait until the midpoint break. It was controversial.

Then, after the service on the last Sunday of February, another founding member of the church introduced herself to me and we talked for a while. The stories of love for this church – this community and the values for which it stands are heartwarming and span generations and decades.

We often speak of our obligation to those who will come after us. Lately, I have been thinking a lot about our obligation to those who have come before. We have a long religious history in Unitarianism and Universalism. People literally gave their lives for the beliefs upon which our current movement was founded.

We have a wonderful group of folks who created and nourished First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, some of whom went on to help found other local UU churches. We owe them a debt of gratitude for the soil in which we are planted and the strong branches that hold us up. Let us take seriously our obligation to wisely steward and advance what they began. -Chris Jimmerson, *President of the Board of Trustees*



Come join with other folks and families for Game Night in Room 13 A&B 6:30 to 8:30.

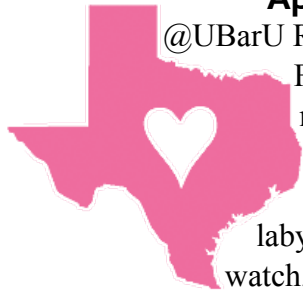
Fellowship will sponsor another games night on **Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**. Bring your own drink and a snack to share. Also your favorite game, for more information contact Geri Neemidge at 512-310-7863.





# Denominational Affairs

## Heart of Texas Women's Retreat! April 20-22, 2012



@UBarU Retreat & Conference Center

For music, connecting, nurturing selves and others, creative activities, ritual, and free time to explore the labyrinth, meditate, hike, bird-watch, swim, sunbathe and share

concerns woman to woman in spontaneous discussion groups, see:

<http://www.ubaru.org/home/News/HeartofTexasWomensRetreatApril2022/tabid/1417/Default.aspx>



Message for all of us from the UUA!

**THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT JUSTICE General Assembly**

- Our children will be engaged in UU community
- Our older children will be involved in a Justice Day Camp
- Our youth & young adults

will be leading and working on every aspect of Justice GA

- Our elders will be providing counsel
- Our ministers will be providing care
- Our lay leaders will be resolved
- Our local partners will be supported, and
- Our interfaith partners will be inspired.

**Everyone is welcome at Justice GA: first-timers, GA veterans, free-thinkers, leaders, introverts, scooter-users, skeptics, humanists, singers, families, delegates, and vegans.**

June 20-24, 2012

Register now! [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)



There is still time to register for the **SWUUC Spring Conference** coming up this month on **April 27-29, 2012**, hosted by Emerson UU church in Houston. Details at [www.swuuc.org](http://www.swuuc.org) and on the Denominational Affairs bulletin board across from Meg's office. The **SWUUC Annual Business Meeting** is held in conjunction with this conference so let me know if you plan to attend. We have the

credentials for ten lay delegates for voting representation. "We are going to Phoenix, not just to ask others to change, but to be changed – as individuals, as congregations and as a religious movement. As we prepare to go to Phoenix, we are called to reflect on our past efforts to bend the arc of the universe toward justice – both the successes and stumbles. We are once again drawn into a community where many of us are ill-prepared to speak the language or understand the culture, and yet we are called to come and bear witness to the deepest values of our faith – universal human dignity and the power of love to overcome oppression and fear. *This is at the deepest core of our religious tradition, but it is congregations, founded on the transformation of our own hearts. Our actions in Phoenix will draw attention to our movement and our congregations, which will lead some to seek us out and explore the possibility of joining our congregations.* The best way to honor those who have come before and been turned away at our doors is to prepare now for those yet to come. Come, learn and prepare for this watershed event in our journey – the beginning of our second 50 years as Unitarian Universalists."

Rev. Peter Morales, President UUA

Gini Courter, Moderator UUA

Rev. Dr. Walt Wieder, Chair, GA Planning Committee

Rev. Leslie Takahashi Morris, Accountability Group

Rev. Susan Fredrick-Gray, AZ Immigration Ministry

If you would like to follow or contribute to the **UUA blog,**

**Cooking Together – Recipes for Immigration Justice**

Work, see: <http://immigrationjustice.blogs.uua.org/>

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## Esalen/Trager Massage Weekend led by Carl Nelson

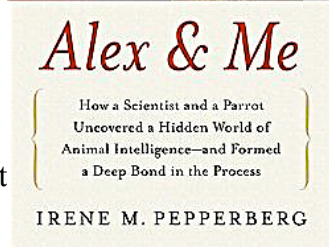
April 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>

at U-Bar-U near Kerrville. Carl was trained at the famous Esalen Institute in California. Cost is \$100 which includes Friday night supper, 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. All massage lessons are free. Other activities include: meditation, writing, labyrinth walking, and more. Children are invited to come and receive a massage. To sign up and get more information: call Carl at 512 346-5263 or Marilyn at 512-644-1814 Pay online at: Ubaru.org.

**Singalong:** April 28<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Friend's Meeting House, 3701 E. MLK Blvd. Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing. Copies of "Rise Up Singing" will be available. Please do not bring alcohol, since this is not a custom of the Quakers. For more information contact Larry Vaughn 469-0029. If you want to add somebody to the email list, contact Mary Jane Ford at [singalong@austinuu.com](mailto:singalong@austinuu.com).

## Heritage Book Club

meets on April 13<sup>th</sup>, Friday night for a pot luck and discussion. We will be meeting at 7:00p.m at the home of Sally Scott. 4906 Beverly Hills dr. 78731 ( phone 453-2289) The book is "Alex and Me" by Irene Pepperberg. This book is about an amazing parrot. If you are reading ahead the next short book is "Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" by Helen Simonson.



**Mind and Meaning Book Club:** Meets every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. to discuss an assigned reading in science or philosophy. "Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge" by Edward O. Wilson. For further information contact June Beach, [mindmeaning@austinuu.org](mailto:mindmeaning@austinuu.org).



## Austin Presence Group

For the month of April, the Austin Presence Group will continue viewing and discussing **Eckhart Tolle's Maui Retreat** from November, 2011. Meetings run from 7:00 to 8:30 PM every Thursday and include silent meditation, video presentation and open discussion. Prior attendance isn't necessary; anyone can drop in anytime and experience something new.

A donation of \$5.00 per person is requested.  
100% of all donations will be given to First UU.

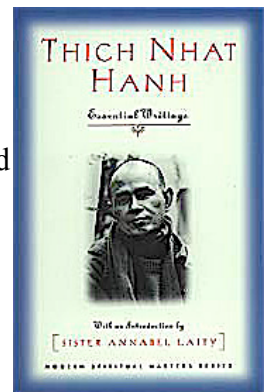
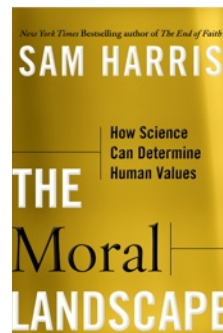


Eckhart Tolle is a spiritual teacher and author who was born in Germany and educated at the Universities of London and Cambridge. He is the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller, **The Power of Now** and the highly acclaimed follow-up **A New Earth**, which are

widely regarded as two of the most influential spiritual books of our time. Eckhart's profound, yet simple teachings have already helped countless people throughout the world find inner peace and greater fulfillment in their lives. Should you have any questions contact Joe Linsalata 512-327-5000

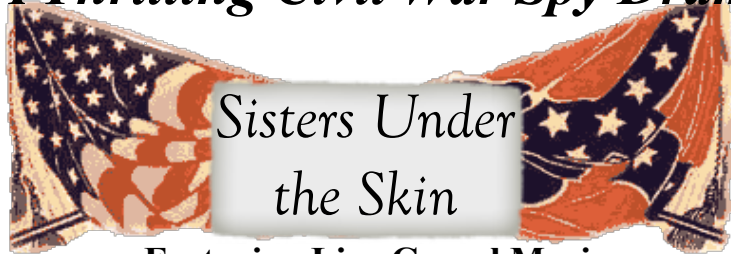
## Sunday Morning Book Group:

"The Moral Landscape" by Sam Harris, and following is "Essential Writings" of Thich Nhat Hanh. We take our time and discuss the books in depth. Our only expert authority is the author him/herself. It is required that each participant read the book. We meet every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Join our group!





## A Thrilling Civil War Spy Drama



### Featuring Live Gospel Music

PARADOX



PLAYERS

**SISTERS UNDER THE SKIN** opens May 4<sup>th</sup> on the Bethke stage in Howson Hall. Artistic Director Paullette MacDougal has expanded her one-act *CRAZY BET*, a Best-of-Show winner at Frontera Fest 2011, into a full-length play with 19<sup>th</sup> century gospel music. New characters

include Bet's educated slave Mary Bowser and Mary's sometime-employer Mrs Jefferson Davis. Pretending to be dull-witted and illiterate, Bowser reports what she sees and hears in the Confederate White House to her owner Crazy Bet, who then sends the information through the lines to Lincoln and Grant. At a time when women were not allowed to speak in public, the slave, the spy and The First Lady of the Confederacy each defy convention to give a "forbidden" speech in which they portray courageous death-defying work, complicated relationships, and divergent beliefs about the morality of slavery.

This historically true espionage story, running May 4<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, is the final play of our 2012 Stub Season. Individual tickets to *SISTERS UNDER THE SKIN* are available by phone, 744-1495, on our website [paradoxplayers.org](http://paradoxplayers.org), and in the Gallery on Sundays. Our 2012/2013 Season will be announced soon, and will run Oct through June.

## Senior's Luncheon

Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues.)

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

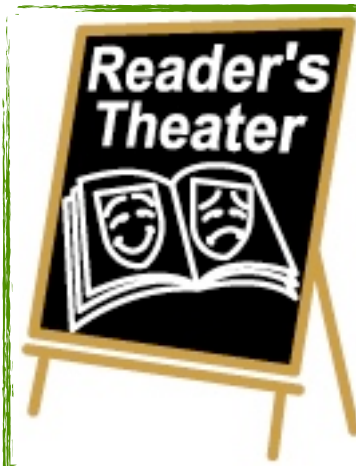
RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

**Program:** Don Fried, the author of "Getting Betta" recently presented in Howson Hall, has been a playwright for 6 years after retiring from 20 years in Europe as a businessman. His plays have won numerous awards in the U.S. the U.K. and Canada. Don and two colleagues will **read** from his **Sr. Moments** collection of short plays, followed by Q&A:

**THE CODE:** Two people in their 70's meet in a coffee shop on a blind date they've arranged over the Internet. Each is surprised with whom they encounter.

**THE DEBATE:** Charles Darwin's protege, Thomas Huxley, comes to tell the great man about the famous Oxford Debate on relativity. The two scientists end up engaging in a strange debate of their own.

**THE AMBASSADORS:** An American businessman boards a taxi in Milan. He doesn't speak a word of Italian, and the driver doesn't speak a word of English, but they engage in a surprisingly understandable verbal battle.



Readers' Theater meets Monday evening, April 8, to read aloud a selection of one-act plays. We meet at 7:30 in the Gallery on the second Monday of every month, Sept-June. No memorization or previous experience needed, everyone welcome!

Come and enjoy nature before it gets hot. Join us to commune with the Full Moon on April 5th at 7:30 pm under the oaks to the south of the sanctuary. Please confirm date and time by checking our calendar at [www.austinuu.org/viewgrove](http://www.austinuu.org/viewgrove).





# Lifespan Religious Education

## THE FUTURE OF LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT FIRST UU AUSTIN

On Saturday, March 10 close to 20 people gathered to consider our strengths, growing edges and the future of religious education at First UU. The program was facilitated by Jennifer Nichols, Director of Lifespan Faith Development for the District. Jennifer gave a brief outline of the study entitled, "Faith Formation 2020." <http://www.lifelongfaith.com/faith-formation-2020.html>. The study looks at the trends facing the many generations that are a part of church life across many denominations and the findings are



relevant to the future of Unitarian Universalist churches. One of the most important findings of this study is the fact that younger generations are seeking more spirituality in their lives as opposed to any "organized religion." This fact needs to be taken into account as we plan how we "do" faith development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The group identified several strengths about First UU including: Our new minister, the development of our mission, values and covenant and how programming at First UU is mission focused. The Music program and our commitment to Social Action are both great strengths. This group also stated that the new Welcome Center is a wonderful leap forward.

Hopes for the future include: offering Sunday lunches as a way of building community, more lighting on the property at night, a stronger young adult ministry, Support groups or support for the various life issues and transitions that we all face; creating a more "multigenerational" community – which can be FUN!



This last comment leads to the question of what does it mean to build a more multigenerational community. Think about what that phrase may mean to you. I'll share some of my thoughts in the May newsletter about what it means to build a multi-generational community. In the meantime keep listening and sharing your thoughts with the staff, the Children and Youth

Programming Committee, the Adult RE committee and the Minister's DRE Search Advisory Committee.



We come together to sing, to dance, and to play; to share, to love, and to say what we need to say...so – come join us on the journey...Just a Thought! Barbara



## Cans for Candy.....

CANNED FOOD DRIVE FOR EASTER with proceeds donated to Caritas.

Lifespan religious education requests that you bring in your canned food products through April 8<sup>th</sup> so that we may use them in this year's "CANNED GOODS HUNT", to be held on Easter Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Children and youth will participate in an "Egg Hunt" except this year - they'll be hunting for all that canned food that we'll hide

around the playground. They will be able to turn their canned goods into our "Candy Central" location for some good ole fashion easter candy. Come share with others, and enjoy the ambience of a community caring for others while reaping sweet rewards for their kindness. Reminder - you can put your canned goods in the Caritas boxes located outside the sanctuary.



## **NEW** → **IMMIGRATION AS A MORAL ISSUE:**

**Sundays, April 15 - May 20, 1:00 - 2:30 pm.**

This is a 6-Week Course on Sundays beginning April 15. Facilitated by Sally Scott and Rob Feeny. Folks attending GA (including high school youth) are encouraged to attend. Please register in the Gallery on Sundays for the class and childcare if needed. Delegates at the 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN selected "Immigration as a Moral Issue" to be the 2010—2014 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA). See <http://uua.org/immigration/re/moral/guide/index.shtml> for more information.



- Week One:  
**Understanding the Causes of Migration**
- Week Two:  
**History of Immigration in the U.S.**
- Week Three:  
**Economics of (Im)migration**
- Week Four:  
**Security, Enforcement, and Human Rights**
- Week Five:  
**Who Benefits from a Broken System?**
- Week Six:  
**Seeking Solutions**

# Children and Youth Faith Programming

You are Part of a Wonderful WEB of LIFE! And now...A Sneak Peak at Summer Happenings...  
Sumer is a cumin' in – loudly sing cuckoo – and loudly will we be singing the language of the Lorax at 1st UU.

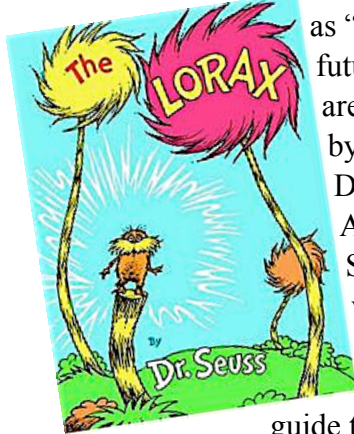
“UNLESS someone like you cares a whole lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

On April 15, the CYPC will kick off its Spring Volunteer Recruitment drive for summer, fall and winter volunteers. We'll need teaching assistants, Jr. Youth Group advisors (a new category of adult volunteers), project assistants and Sunday RE Office assistance. We'll also have copies of our complete prospectus of the summer program. For now – here's a wee peek at what we'll be doing...

On June 3 we move to one service for the summer at 10:00 AM. There will be no “Time for All Ages” from June 3 – August 26. It will start back up again on Sunday, September 2, 2012

Childcare and loving, cheerful playtime will be provided by Ms. Karyn and friends for our infants and children up to age 4.

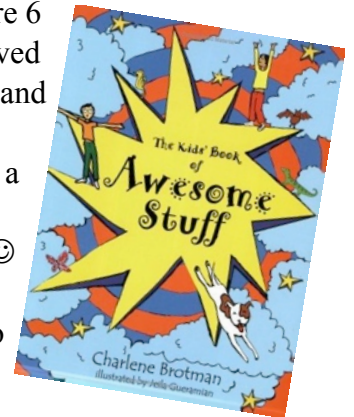
Children that will be in Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall will gather for a summer of thinking about why we must consider not only ourselves but others who live on this planet? Through stories such as “The Lorax”, we'll consider the “seeds that we may plant” to make the world better in the future. We'll also use the “Kids Book of Awesome Stuff” to explore 6 areas of awesomeness: 1. You're Made of Star Stuff, 2. You're Saved by Something Green, 3. The Awesome Thing about Poop and Pee and Dead Stuff that Rots, 4. If there were no Bugs to Bug you, 5. The Ancestor of All Your Ancestors Was Invisible, and 6. You live on a Speck in a Spinning Spiral. We'll let you know the exact dates we'll be talking poop so you can be sure to volunteer that day. ☺



**New Jr. High Youth Group Forming to begin June 3<sup>rd</sup> – for rising 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders.** We need a team of loving adults to guide this group in the 5 Steps to Building Community: 1. Bonding; 2.

Opening Up; 3. Affirming; 4. Stretching; and 5. Deeper Sharing and Goal Setting.

**YRUU (rising 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders)** – along with their advisors, will continue to use the six components of balanced youth ministry: 1. Worship; 2. Leadership; 3. Justice and Service; 4. Learning; 5. Community Building and 6. Youth-Adult Relations.



So...





# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin April 2012 NEWSLETTER

*We gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.*

## WELCOMING WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST UU AUSTIN

Come join us on Wednesday nights for dinner plus an adult education course with **childcare provided**.

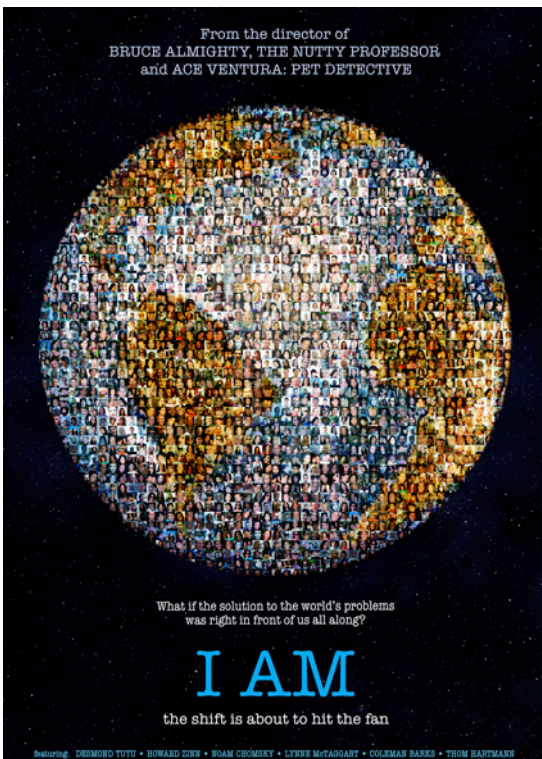
**NOTE: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays – we will hold our beloved “Meet and Eat” gatherings.**

### Wednesday evenings include:

- Dinner together –provided by Kami (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays) 5:45 – 6:30
- Everyone cleans up (6:30pm to 6:40pm)
- Childcare (6:30pm to 9:00pm)
- Class/program begins (6:45pm – 8:15pm)
- First UU Austin Choir Rehearsal (7:30pm – 9:00pm)

### Class/Program Schedule for April 2012

- April 4 – Enneagram Workshop presented by Roland Reese – One Night Only – Curious about the Enneagram, then come join us after dinner.
- April 11 - Third Enoughness Movie - “I Am,” the documentary “We started by asking what’s wrong with the world, and we ended by finding what’s right with it.”  
for a preview, go to: <http://www.iamthedoc.com/>
- April 18 – Meet and Eat
- April 25 - TBA



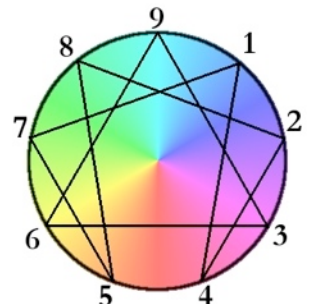
In his latest project, a documentary entitled *I AM*, Shadyac asks some of today’s most profound thinkers, two questions - **What’s wrong with our world, and what can we do about it?**

This moving, inspiring film won the Audience Choice Award and the Student Choice Award at the Mountain Film Festival in Telluride Colorado. Armed with nothing but his innate curiosity and a small crew to film his adventures, Shadyac set out on a twenty-first century quest for enlightenment. Meeting with a variety of thinkers and doers—remarkable men and women from the worlds of science, philosophy, academia, and faith—including such luminaries as David Suzuki, Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Lynne McTaggart, Ray Anderson, John Francis, Coleman Barks, and Marc Ian Barasch – Shadyac appears on-screen as character, commentator, guide, and even, at times, guinea pig. An irrepressible “Everyman” who asks tough questions, but offers no easy answers, he takes the audience to places it has never been before, and presents even familiar phenomena in completely new and different ways. The result is a fresh, energetic, and life-affirming film that challenges our preconceptions about human behavior while simultaneously celebrating the indomitable human spirit.

### ENNEAGRAM WORKSHOP - Wednesday, April 4 - One Night Only - 6:45 - 8:15 pm

April 4 – Enneagram Workshop presented by Roland Reese – One Night Only – Curious about Enneagrams, then come and join us after dinner. Evening will include an introduction to the e-gram with a brief description of the 9 primary ways that people go through life.

Topics covered include: 1. the necessity of self-knowledge; 2. our capacity to understand one another; 3. what one’s inner self, or true self, or higher self, or essence (pick your term) may be like; 4. The various e-gram teachers and their perspectives; and 5. Possibilities for inner work and transformation (if not transfiguration).



**First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin April 2012 NEWSLETTER**

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**First Unitarian Universalist**

**Church of Austin**

**4700 Grover Avenue**

**Austin, TX 78756**

***One Church. Many Beliefs.***

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**Rev. Meg Barnhouse ext 304**

**Director of Finance and Operations**

**Sean Hale ext 308**

**Interim Director Lifespan Religious**

**Education:**

**Barbara Stoddard ext 306**

**Director of Music: Brent Baldwin ext 314**

**Board President: Chris Jimmerson**

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

Church Web: [austinuu.org](http://austinuu.org)



Photos are by Jane Parsons & Margaret Roberts