

May 2012

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUSTIN

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



APRIL FUELS DAY

Alternative Vehicle Fair Revs Up

Saving the green in a smarter, cooler machine is another gear shift in saving the planet. More with less says it best, and The First Universalist Unitarian Church April Fuels Day Alternative Vehicle Fair had the best in green transportation on display. Nearly 200 attendees enjoyed the games and cool energy-saving car, bike and scooter showcase.

Our Green Sanctuary Committee worked like protons in an electric Prius with the sun-roof open. Twenty church volunteers, several from the Chalice Circle community, formed the can-do posse that helped make it all happen. People could climb around in the vehicles and see themselves riding down a carbon foot-print-less highway in a sweet plug-in, natural gas coupe, bio-diesel beauty, or a hill toppin' hybrid. Riders swooped around on recumbent bikes and hip electric scooters. Lots of questions were answered on smart auto energy, saving money, lower carbon footprints and cleaner air and water results.

Our Texas Health Credit Union neighbors came out with us, neighborly offering their parking lot to accommodate visitors. Visiting with them, we discovered more green news—our church members are eligible for the credit union's no-cost checking and savings accounts.

The Dirigibles provided music that set all toes to tapping as the attendees envisioned themselves as future drivers of these fine vehicles. Quite a few likely imagined themselves driving into the sunset in the sweet silver Tesla convertible one generous owner brought to share.

After the event, some attendees stopped dreaming about owning one of these money-, fuel- and planet-saving vehicles and ended up buying one.

— **Beki and Richard Halpin**, co-chairs, Green Sanctuary Committee

(top) Green Sanctuary members Pat Bulla and Richard Halpin welcomed nearly 200 attendees to check out (clockwise from top) a variety of bikes and scooters, a silver Tesla convertible, various hybrids, and a natural-gas-powered Honda Civic, among other vehicles.

**General
Assembly of
the Unitarian
Universalist
Association**

**June 20-24
Phoenix, Ariz.**

Some members of First UU have already registered and made travel and accommodation arrangements. Why don't you make plans to join us and thousands of other UUs from around the U.S. and the world?

More info: The Denominational Affairs bulletin board across from Meg's office or www.uua.org/ga

Highlights include:

- Preparatory presentations and workshops, followed by the National Day of Witness and Service
- Business meetings (Plenaries)
- Service of the Living Tradition
- Ware Lecture
- Celebrations and worship services
- Regional In-Gatherings
- Youth and Young Adult programs
- Choir

MEG BARNHOUSE

Change is Good, Painful and Exciting



All change is difficult, even good change. Last month I had to replace my beloved nine-year-old car. "Time to move on," the mechanic said. The new car is gorgeous, smaller than the old one because I no longer carry my very tall boys in the back seat. They drive their own cars. I like it, and I'm trying to be happy about it all the time, but I still miss my familiar car with its bumper torn from a run-in with a New Jersey snow bank left by the street plows at the end of the driveway.

I miss knowing that, any minute, something old and dear could roll out from under the seat, a lacrosse ball or an enormous sock; there won't be scratches on this dashboard from the shoes of a relaxing teenager. That car went more than 225,000 miles with me, and was sturdy and reliable to the end. This month Kiya and I are going back east for our boy Ned's graduation from the University of South Carolina. We'll get to throw our arms around him, his beautiful fiancée Emily, his older brother Sam, finishing his third year of med school, and Sam's wife Emily, who is going to have a baby girl in June. That old car got us from middle school to here.

You all have had a lot of changes here in the past few years. Many of you were here during the interim ministries, having self-reflective and hopeful discussions about what this church is and what you wish it were. Just this year we tried out a whole new Sunday morning schedule, worked out with **Ed Brock**. You were going to try it for six months, and then we were going to talk about it. We had that meeting last winter and most of you were pretty happy with it. The choir has been bearing a lot of the hardship, having to report in for Sunday morning practice at 7:45 a.m. They asked if we could move everything back

just a little bit, and the Public Affairs Forum group said they could go from noon to 1 p.m. instead of 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. With gratitude to the Forum for its flexibility and gratitude to the choir for its early call this year, the Management Team (me, Sean, Brent, and Barbara) decided to move everything back 15 minutes when we start the program year next September. The first service will be at 9:15 a.m., the second service at 10:45 a.m., and Forum will be at noon.

The Welcome Center April will be finished as this goes to press. Our little taste of construction taught us that

**Expanding the building to
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**Expanding our outreach
is another.**

it always takes longer than you think it will, something unexpected always happens, and change is both good and difficult. Now there is one definite, well-lit entrance to the building. It is staffed much of the time with knowledgeable and friendly volunteers who are a welcoming presence to visitors and people who call us on the phone. This moves us a step towards one of the church's goals, which is to be intentionally welcoming. What else would make us more welcoming? We've added about 70 members this year, and they are wonderful people. We're going to need to think together about how to make more room so we can welcome all of the other folks

who need this church. We have made arrangements with neighbors to use their space on Sunday mornings, and that will give us a little more breathing room. You can bet some more construction will be coming down the road, though. That will also be a painful and exciting change.

Expanding the building to welcome those who need us is one task. Expanding our outreach is another. We will be beginning a discussion about a congregation-wide outreach project with a theme every year. One year it might be homelessness, one year hunger, one year teen suicide, one year health care. Wendy Erisman, one of our new members, headed up the congregation-wide projects at her former UU congregation, River Road UU in Bethesda, Md. She has stepped forward to be a leader in this congregation as well, helping us overlay our current social justice projects with a focused effort that involves as much of the congregation as it can.

One of the foundational spiritual tasks of a person and a church is to expand, not its building, not its outreach, even, but the sense of “us.” It’s easy to embrace the new members, who become instantly part of “us.” Give some thought to those you think of as “them.” We help “them,” or we do battle politically with “them,” or we flee from the pain of being with “them” into the joy of being with “us.” I think there will always be a “them,” but it is my aim for that group to grow smaller and smaller as I think of more and more people as “us.” Expanding our sense of “us” is about the best work we can do to make this world the one we dream of. The community with the most life in it is always welcoming new people of good will with open arms. Beloved theologian Howard Thurman wrote: “Community cannot for long feed on itself; it can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered sisters and brothers.”

The current “us” is dear and comfortable. It carries our lives, our assumptions, our actions faithfully. But eventually it breaks down and has to be replaced. That’s the way of it. With our community, we can be reassured that something old and dear will from time to time be rolling out from under the seat.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

A healthy financial picture

Your church had a net income of more than \$6,000 last year. That is to say, our income exceeded our expenses.

Overall, we ended the year with one and a half months of money in the operating fund (analogous to the family checking account). This is a good cushion that should allow us to manage variations in cash flow during the year.

For 2012, your church has its second consecutive year without a budget deficit! We owe a great debt (figuratively, not literally) to the canvass by your Stewardship Committee and a strong outpouring of financial commitment from many members. Some families have even made pledges that go beyond generous to sacrificial.

Your Membership Committee, and the path to membership process it has initiated, have also impacted the church’s financial health: not only do we have more people joining the church, but a significantly higher percentage of them is pledging.

We feel grateful to all who have contributed generously with their time, treasure, and talent.

To receive a full copy of the Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Report or if you have any questions, please contact director of Finance and Operations, **Sean Hale** (sean@aubstuu.org). — *Sean Hale*

A LOOK AT FINANCES

Net income: \$6,000+

No deficit for 2nd year in row

Higher percentage of pledgers

Southwest UU Summer Institute Tahlequah, OK July 22-27

Save the date for this UU family summer camp. Info: Denominational Affairs bulletin board and at: <http://swuuc.org/pages/services/camps/swuusi.php>

Attention Attendees Keep in touch

Whether attending GA, SWUUC or other regional events, please e-mail denom@aubstuu.org and let us know. Sharing contact info helps us communicate, meet up and share travel and accommodations.

Auction and Masquerade Ball Sept. 22

Calling all dreamers, doubters, jugglers, nay-sayers, number-crunchers, sales-people, chefs, artists, brainiacs, fools, belly-dancers, fire-eaters, stilt-walkers, engineers and imagineers! Sign up at the table in the Gallery after the May 20 service. Organizational meeting (and free dinner) on May 23 at 6 p.m. More info: Kiya@Kiya-Heartwood.com.

Congregational Meeting and Voting Eligibility

May 20,
1:30 p.m.

Save the date for our semi-annual congregational meeting. The agenda will include a vote on next year's new trustees.

In order to be eligible to vote, please be sure to have done the following:

1. Joined the church, including signing the membership book, by April 20. Contact Rev. **Meg Barnhouse** to do this.
2. Made a gift of record between May 20, 2011 and April 20, 2012. Any gift will do (cash, check, stock, etc.), provided that we have received it within the date range and that we can connect it to you. Child-care provided. More info: **Sean Hale**, director of Finance and Operations, sean@austinuu.org, 512-452-6168 x 308.

CHRIS' CORNER

Meet the Board of Trustee Nominees



On May 20th at 1:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary, we will hold our annual spring congregational meeting. At the meeting, the congregation will vote on new Board of Trustees members and officers, as well as for a new member of the nominating committee.

An agenda and more information about the meeting will be posted in the mailroom and on the church website soon, if they have not been already.

Unitarian Universalists are Congregationalists, meaning that each congregation is self-governing through electing its own representatives to serve on the Board of Trustees, approving its own budget, calling its own minister, etc. Our spring congregational meetings serve the important function of electing the board for the next year, so I hope

you will join us.

For more information on voting requirements and the nominations and elections process, you can access the church bylaws at http://austinuu.org/wp2011/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/FUUCA_Bylaws-2011-FINAL.pdf

May will be my last month facilitating the congregational meetings and serving as president of the Board of Trustees. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve this wonderful community.

Vote at the Congregational Meeting

May 20, 1:30 p.m.

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominees to lead our congregation into the future:



2012-2014 BOT NOMINEE PRESIDENT *Susan Thomson*

Susan has been a Unitarian Universalist for over 30 years and has been involved with First UU since moving to Austin in 1996. She has taught children's Religious Education, chaired the Adult RE committee, facilitated sessions of Harvest the Power leadership program, served as president-elect and vice president of the board of trustees, and participated in the Policy Governance Task Force. Her professional career was in social work administration, during which she led the statewide implementation of a set of guiding principles for her agency. Goals for next year include "continuing our transition to policy based governance and working as a congregation to live our vision, mission and ends."



2012-2014 BOT NOMINEE
VICE PRESIDENT *Bruce Barker*

Bruce grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, and got an Economics degree from the University of Virginia. After graduation, he was a ski bum for four years in Vail, Colorado, where he met and married Jeanne. They both went back to school to get computer science degrees from UT-Austin. After working at IBM for 20 years, he got a Masters degree and started his current job as a professor of graduate engineering classes. Bruce was raised as a Roman Catholic and became a Presbyterian after getting married. About four years ago, he and Jeanne decided to try Unitarian Universalism, which attracted them due to the diversity of beliefs. Before joining First UU, he was a member of the San Gabriel UU Fellowship in Georgetown, Texas, where he served as president in 2010.



2012-2013 BOT NOMINEE
SECRETARY *John Franks*

John joined FUUCA in 2002. In 2011, John was elected to the Board of Trustees for a 3-year term. He served on the Settled Minister Search Committee in 2010-2011. Additional church contributions include membership on the Denominational Affairs Committee and Web and Media Committees, participation in the men's breakfast group, UBarU men's retreats, Hands-on Housing, and other activities in the church. John served in the U.S. Air Force and has had a career in the computer industry as a troubleshooter and Headquarters support engineer for Control Data Corporation and Amdahl Corporation.



2012-2013 BOT NOMINEE
TREASURER *Mike LeBurkien*

Mike went to 40 different schools as an Army brat and graduated from John Adams HS of South Bend, Ind. before attending Indiana University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa Cum Laude in Political Science. He was ROTC and rose to 1st Lt. US ARMY INF, receiving an award from the Sorbonne as Excellent Eleve. He taught International Relations at the University of Wisconsin before attending Hebrew Union College Seminary. He attended South Texas College of Law and served as Assistant D.A. in Brazoria County and also as Assistant Attorney General appointed by Gov. Mark White. He is Rabbi Emeritus of Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism. Mike studied at the School of Advanced International Studies/Johns Hopkins in Bologna and at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

SWUUC
Summer
Camps
July 1-21

The Southwest Unitarian Universalist Conference will offer three separate summer camps at U-Bar-U for ages 8-19 in July.

July 1-7
 rising 3-6 graders
 SWUUC Junior Camp

July 8-14
 rising 7-9 graders
 SWUUC Senior Camp

July 15-21
 rising 9-12 graders and
 19-year olds who have
 just graduated
 Register: <http://fd8.formdesk.com/swuuc1/camps12/>

UU Media
UU Magazine

Keep up on immigrant and refugee issues in UU World magazine or here: <http://www.uuworld.org/current-issue.shtml>

Side of Love

Go to www.standingonthesideoflove.com to learn other ways you can help bring about social justice and equality together with other UUs and denominations.

UUA Prez Blog

Follow the blog of Rev. Peter Morale for his thoughts on various topics of the day. <http://president.blogs.uua.org/>

MEET THE BOT NOMINEES (CONTINUED FROM PG. 5)

Senior's Luncheon
May 8, noon
Howson Hall

UU Young at Heart Poets **"Jazz" Jaeschke, Herman Nelson, John Berry, Jill Wiggins** and **Jane Parsons** will provide the entertainment. RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988. You are welcome to "jazz" it up if you like. Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5. More info: 451-7172

Sacred Cow Bar-B-Que
May 5, 2 p.m.
NW Field

Join the Fellowship Committee and Yew Grove for an afternoon of fun, frivolity and a little food for thought thrown in for good measure. \$5 per person. Please let us know whether you want a veggie or carnivore meal. For childcare, email childcare@austinuu.org. Meal reservations and childcare requests must be made by May 2. RSVP: Fellowship@austinuu.org.



2012-2015 TRUSTEE NOMINEE
Michael Kersey

Michael Kersey and his wife, Karen Cleary, have been attending our church since 1992. Their son, Evan, sings in the Youth Choir. Michael has coordinated Hands-On-Housing teams; volunteered in Lifespan Education; developed and presented a leadership skills seminar for the church; served on the interim minister's Transition Team; and most recently served as co-chair of the Ministerial Search Committee which presented Rev. Barnhouse to the congregation. Michael has a bachelor's degree in history and political science from the University of Tulsa and a master's degree in organizational leadership and ethics from St. Edward's University. In addition to family and church community, Michael enjoys running, reading, and gardening.



2012-2015 TRUSTEE NOMINEE
Russell Smith

Russell is a nonprofit leader with over twenty years of experience running nonprofit and governmental organizations in Houston and Austin, including five and a half years running a Head Start program in Houston that served over 1,100 children and their families. He has worked across the age spectrum, from early childhood to school reform to the Alzheimer's Association. He is currently the executive director of the Austin Child Guidance Center. Russell holds a Master's degree in Business from UT-Austin, as well as a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Houston. He inherited his passion for working in the public sector from his grandmother, Bert Kruger Smith, an Austin icon who was active in philanthropy for over 50 years. Russell has held many volunteer positions, from Runaway Hotline Volunteer to Management Consultant for the United Way to Chair of the Austin Local Advisory Board for First Book. He teaches a class at the graduate school of social work at UT on grant writing and fund development. He and his wife live in north Austin with eleven-year old twin daughters Abby and Alexis and daughter Kaileigh (21) lives in South Austin.



2012-2013 TRUSTEE NOMINEE
Ken Pfluger

Ken Pfluger grew up in Austin. He moved to Seattle for graduate school at the University of Washington, where he earned a masters degree in Urban Planning. After 20 years in Seattle, Ken, his wife Kay, and their two daughters returned to Austin. They have been members of FUUCA for five years. Ken says, "I want to do more for the church. My interests and abilities are in the areas of planning and policy work, which is a good fit with the policy-based governance approach."



2012-2013 TRUSTEE NOMINEE
Carolyn Gremminger

Carolyn is a lifelong Texan born in Weatherford who moved to Austin in 1981 for UT-Austin and never moved away. She received her Bachelors in Social Work in 1985, working as a licensed chemical dependency counselor before becoming an Adult Probation officer for Travis County in 1997, working on a specialized case load for substance abuse for her entire probation career. Having left Roman Catholicism in her teens, she now considers herself to be a Unitarian Buddhist. She has attended First UU since 2001. Her interests include film, art, cycling, yoga, hiking, swimming and organic gardening. Her main spiritual practice is mindfulness meditation.



2012-2013 NOM. COMMITTEE
Philip A. Hastings

Philip moved to Austin in 2005 and joined the church the same year. He started the Potluck Playdays, then served as chair of Children's Programming. He started the wHoops basketball group as well as the monthly bocce outing, and helped build the rustic bocce court at UbarU ranch. Phil was appointed to the board in 2006, where he led the task force to plan and fund an executive director. After his three-year board term, Phil took some time off from leadership; he's now helping on the minister's transition team. Phil, who has a PhD in Industrial Psychology from the University of Houston, owns Far Harbor LLC, a statistical consultancy focusing on public policy and health research. His wife Lisa is a doctor of chiropractic and owns Clear Point Wellness; their son Kai will be an 8th grader this fall at O. Henry Middle School.

Game Night

May 18,
6:30 p.m.
room 15

Everyone is welcome, including children, bring your own drink and a snack to share (and your own special game). Otherwise come and play one of ours. Hope to see you there.

North Central Caregivers Garage Sale

May 19,
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Recycle your gently used and unwanted clothing and household goods, and help Senior Support Services in North Central Austin at the same time. We will be baking up a storm to raise funds by selling homemade baked goods. Remember, your junk is someone's treasure. We all love a bargain! More info: Board Member Bob, 423-8482 or 453-2273

Singalong

May 26,
7:30-10:30 p.m.
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. More info: **Larry Vaughn**, 469-0029. Contact **Mary Jane Ford** at singalong@austinuu.org to add someone to the e-mail list.

Readers' Theater

May 14, 7:30 p.m.
the Gallery

This will be our next-to-last meeting before the summer break. Read aloud an assortment of one-acts. We welcome newcomers, no theatre experience required.

MUSIC MATTERS

Choir Raises Voices, Funds for Members

In early April, the adult choir held an event to benefit members Suzette Emberton and Manoj Panicker, who are recovering from injuries incurred during a serious accident last November. We had a great turnout and were treated to a wide variety of music and comedy, as well as a grand finale of everyone singing "With a Little Help From My Friends." Thanks to everyone who helped put together this fun and powerful event.



The adult choir holds a benefit to help the recovery of Suzette Emberton and Manoj Panicker.

BALDWIN PERFORMS IN ALL-STAR SXSW SHOW

In mid-March, First UU Music Director Brent Baldwin collaborated with Peter Buck (R.E.M.), M. Ward, Mitch Easter (Let's Active), Chris Stamey (The dBs), Pat Sansone (Wilco), Tommy Stinson (The Replacements/Guns N' Roses), The Posies, Jody Stephens (Big Star) and Tosca String Quartet in a live

orchestral rendering of *Big Star's Third*. The performance, held at the Paramount Theater during the South By Southwest festival, was a celebration of the new documentary *Big Star: Nothing Can Hurt Me*, which focuses on the immensely influential band led by the late Alex Chilton.



(left) Jody Stephens of Big Star and Brent Baldwin at a performance (right) for a documentary about the band.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Paullette MacDougal's Curtain Call

Paullette, we wish you well! Since answering our UU minister's call for thespians in 1999, Paullette has provided the artistic guidance and nurturing that has grown us into one of Austin's solid community theatre companies. It all started with Sunday Shorts, minister-approved scenes or readings offered occasionally during worship services. UU values? Paullette has intentionally chosen (or written) plays that illustrate one or more of our Seven Principles. And she has insisted that we treat one another with kindness, re-

spect and compassion. Artistic excellence? Paullette has gathered and mentored skilled directors who've attracted talented cast and crew to produce our shows. Community outreach? It was Paullette's idea from the start to offer one performance of each production to a non-profit in town, so they could raise funds for their agency while enjoying an evening of theatre. Readers' Theater? Again, Paullette's brain child—an opportunity for folks to simply enjoy reading plays aloud. Fun? That's what keeps us going!



Paullette MacDougal Retirement Party

May 20, 5 p.m.
the Gallery

Come and honor **Paullette MacDougal** and the cast and crew of *Sisters under the Skin*, Paullette's latest play for the Paradox Players. Light refreshments, fond farewells, and a welcome to **Gary Payne**, Paullette's successor as Artistic Director of Paradox Players.

Call for Volunteers Paradox Players Backstage Crew

No previous experience needed for help on *Sisters Under the Skin*, running May 4-6/11-13/18-20 from 8 to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 3 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. More info: joboe1@hotmail.com or 517-7760

AN INTERVIEW WITH PAULLETTE

Where do you get your inspiration?

My best work has been inspired by history. My father was an amateur historian in Wisconsin, specializing in American Civil War. We lived with artifacts and moth-bitten military uniforms that eventually ended up in the historical museum my Dad started.

How many plays have you done for UU?

I directed many of our early plays. As for writing plays specifically for Paradox productions, I staged only four of my own full-length plays, plus some scenes for Sunday Shorts. Of our more than 30 main stage productions, the great majority are by other playwrights.

What are your favorite Paradox moments?

There were too many beautiful moments to list. When we produced our first offering on a Sunday morning, a shortened musical version

of *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* with 25 UUs in the cast, the response was overwhelming. We knew it had to continue. Ann Edwards, without whom this theater would not exist, and I greatly enjoyed the creation of intentional community—The Paradox Players Family, we called it.

What play of yours best exemplifies the UU principles?

The current one – *Sisters Under The Skin* – I think it embodies most if not all seven.

What will you be up to now?

I want to take the “Sisters” story to a wider audience. In a national competition this play won a place at the Great Plains Theatre Conference where it will be critiqued and read by professional actors in Omaha, Nebraska in late May.



MAY 4-20, BETHKE STAGE

Sisters Under the Skin

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 19th century gospel music. This historically true espionage story is the final play of our 2012 Stub Season. Tickets available by phone, 744-1495; at paradoxplayers.org; and in the Gallery on Sundays.

Help Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed

This year volunteer cancellations have come earlier than usual. Consider volunteering. More info: www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org/volunteer/current-needs

PCC Volunteer Collate Group May 8, 9:30 a.m. At the PCC

Additional volunteers are needed for the Second Tuesday Collate Group at People's Community Clinic to collate and stuff patient information packets. We have taken on additional responsibilities and need more help. Arrive anytime after 9:30 am and leave when you need—we always finish by noon. You don't need to participate each month, just as you can. More info: Sheri Overton at pcc@austinuu.org.

Affordable Housing Heroes May 1, 6 p.m. Four Seasons

Fundraiser for iACT's Hands on Housing. More info: www.interfaithtexas.org

SOCIAL ACTION

Bluebonnet Blitz Team Revitalizes Home

Energetic UUs came together for the Spring Hands On Housing workday, a.k.a. "Bluebonnet Blitz," on a Saturday in mid-April. Fifty-nine volunteers from First UU, Live Oak UU, and Wildflower Church worked shifts from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to paint and repair the home owned by Ms. Rosa Taylor. She is thrilled with her "new" house and very grateful for our team's hard work and friendship.



(left) The team worked all day to restore the house. (center) Karen Franks paints with a helper. (right) John Linnet, Pat Laird, Michael West and Tim Buckley take on a wall. More pics: <http://tinyurl.com/6u555qp>

Volunteers caulked, painted, sheetrocked, chainsawed, weeded, dug, added compost, planted, and lugged unwanted items to the curb. Thanks so much to our fantastic team: First UU's Shandy Smith; Leah and John Linnet; Liz and Wayne Kesterson; Bruce and Jeanne Barker; Monty Newton; Ray and Michael Easterlin; Joe Linsalata; Tony Romero; Michael West; Audrey Lewis and Dale Whitaker-Lewis; Tom Bodine; Ethan Love; Gillian Redfearn; Jason Neeley; Steve Long; Peter Schneider; Kelly Ward; Seafy Peg Frey; Karen and John Franks; John, Geri, Paige, and David Neemidge; Maria Person and Maya and Anita Iyer; Meg Kimberland; Jon Montgomery; Veryan Thompson; Liz, Mark, and Maddie Rogers; Luther Elmore; Justin and Caelen Pillette; Lindsay Orlando; Mia, Ken, Alex, and Benjamin Burton; Eric Hartman; Hanneke Portier; and Lashanna Martin; Live Oak's Mike Spalding, John Phelps, Tim Buckley, and Sharon and Dave Fitzpatrick; and Wildflower's Pat Laird, Naomi Schwinghamer, and Jeffery Shelton.

Special thanks to:

- Jacob Williamson for lending his cooler
- Bill Walters for letting us raid the Grounds Committee's tool shed

- Jason Neeley for taking and returning a truckload of stuff from the church and for constructing a solid frame for the backyard garden
- Michael Spalding and Shandy Smith for helping with set-up
- Jeanne and Bruce Barker, Monty Newton, Ethan Love, and Justin Pillette—the awesome sheetrock crew
- Bruce and Jeanne for taking down the large dead tree, bush, and stumps in the yard and for their generous donation of the sheetrock supplies
- John Phelps for being the a.m. shift lead and taking the group picture
- Karen Franks and Mia and Ken Burton for bringing snacks
- Dale Whitaker-Lewis and Veryan Thompson for cleaning the paint brushes
- Luther Elmore for being the p.m. shift lead
- Tom Bodine for bringing a wheelbarrow
- Everyone who brought ladders and tools
- Jon Montgomery for arranging for donated Chick-fil-A sandwiches
- Monty for delivering one dozen eggs, fresh from the Newton coop, to Ms. Taylor at the end of the day.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Search Committee Forms for New Director

First UU has officially started its search for a new permanent Director of Lifespan Religious Education. A DLRE search committee has been tasked by Rev. Meg Barnhouse with searching, screening and interviewing viable candidates for the position. Rev. Meg Barnhouse will work directly with the committee in this process and will ultimately choose the final candidate under our policy governance process.

The Committee has been given a robust set of tools to guide them in the search process. They will follow a comprehensive guide, provided by the UUA, titled *The Search for Religious Education Leadership. Best Practices for Unitarian Universalist Congregations*, edited and revised by Pat Ellenwood, former president of the Liberal Religious Educators' Association, and Rev. Beth Williams, former Religious Education Credentialing director. Our former interim DLRE, Rev. Lena Breen, also contributed extensively to this detailed guide. In addition to this resource, the Committee will also draw on the materials and expertise obtained by our own Ministerial Search Committee used to select our current minister.

The process of finding a new DLRE is a lengthy one, at about 15 months, with the goal of having a new permanent DLRE installed by August 2013. Our current Interim DLRE, Barbara Stoddard, will assist the com-

mittee in a supporting role, in addition to her vibrant and dedicated work at the helm of our ever-growing Lifespan Religious Education Department.

This is truly an exciting time for religious education here at First UU. As we embark on this search, we commit to a clear sense of purpose and attempt to stay true to the mission of our church as a whole, that is, to select a DLRE who, in joining our community, enables us to nourish souls, transform lives and do justice.

You can assist us with the process by filling out our short survey. Look for the paper surveys by finding the director's chair in Howson Hall or the Welcome Center area. Or, simply follow the link below to fill out the survey online. <http://austinuu.org/dresearch>

If you have any questions or concerns about this truly important and exciting search process, please contact us at austinuu-dre-search@googlegroups.com.

DLRE Search Committee Meet the Members

Geri Neemidge has attended First UU for two years. She is the mother of two big kids, 10 and 11 years old. She is a member of the Children and Youth Programming Committee, Fellowship Committee, and Library Committee.

Dwayne Windham has attended First UU for six years, along with his wife Andi, and their daughter Evie. Dwayne is a Youth Advisor for the YRUU group, part of the Worship Committee, and has been part of Dell technical support for the past 14 years.

Ryland Trahan has attended First UU for three years. He is a Youth Advisor for the YRUU group and a special ed teacher in Austin ISD.

Cyndi Stein has attended First UU since 2006. She is the happily married mother of an amazing seven year old boy. She has worked as the Children Programming Assistant, under our former DRE, from 2007 to 2010. She also sat on the Children's Programming Committee for a number of years. Her passions are cooking, gardening and travel.



MAY 5, MAY 19; 10:30 A.M.-NOON Women's Spirituality Group

We'll focus on African goddesses in May and June as part of the UU Women's Federation curriculum written by Elizabeth Fisher.

May 5: Egyptian goddesses Isis and Maat.

May 19: stories of the Yoruban orishas Yemaya, Oya, and Oshun.

This group is for women high school age and older and always open to new members. More info: Linda Webster, women@austinuu.org



Heritage Book Club

May 11, 7 p.m.
4308 Ave. D

This is a pot luck followed by a discussion of the book *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson. For those reading ahead, next up is *Conscience of a Conservative* by David Brock.

Mind and Meaning Book Club

Sundays
10:30 a.m.

Millennial Momentum: How a New Generation is Remaking America, by Morley Winograd and Michael Hais. More info: mindmeaning@austinuu.org

The Sunday Book Group

Sundays
10:30 a.m.

Thich Nhat Hanh: Essential Writings. More info: James Burson, 794-1086

LIFESPAN CALENDAR

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

MAY 12 AND 26

Esalen/Trager Massage Instruction and Exchange Group

9:30 A.M.–NOON, LED BY CARL W. NELSON

Verbal and hands-on instruction of Esalen/Trager Massage by Carl W. Nelson, trained at the world-renowned Esalen Institute in Big Sur, Calif. Learn how to integrate body-work into your life for optimal health and vitality. Experience the easiest way to reach the meditative relaxed state through massage movements that lull the recipient into a dreamy, altered and even spiritual/mystical consciousness. Wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothing, dressing lightly as possible, and also bring a swimsuit and bathrobe. Donations to the Adult Religious Education Committee are accepted. Children accompanied by parents are welcome to our sessions as well. More info: Jane at 346-5263 or e-mail barbara@austinuu.org or birthright-uuc@yahoo.com

THROUGH MAY 20

Immigration as a Moral Issue

SUNDAYS, 1–2:30 P.M.

FACILITATED BY SALLY SCOTT & ROB FEENEY

Folks attending GA (including high school youth) are encouraged to attend. You can see the course online at <http://uaa.org/immigration/re/moral/guide/index.shtml>. Please register in the Gallery on Sundays for the class and childcare if needed. You do not have to attend all sessions. Topics:

- **April 29:** Economics of (Im)migration
- **May 6:** Security, Enforcement, and Human Rights
- **May 13:** Who Benefits from a Broken System?
- **May 20:** Seeking Solutions

MAY 2 & 9

Welcoming Wednesdays

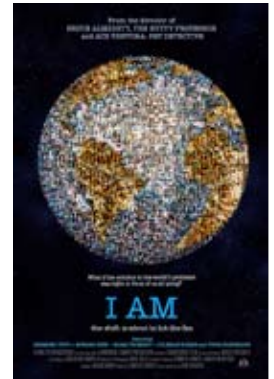
5:45–6:30 P.M. INTER-GENERATIONAL DINNER

6:45–8:15 P.M. ADULT PROGRAM: MOVIE SCREENING—*I AM*

6:45–8:15 P.M. CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM: SING-A-LONG

6:30–8:15 P.M. CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

Welcoming Wednesday continues through May 9th and then breaks for the summer months to pick up again in September. “Eat and Meet” Wednesdays will no longer occur. Special thanks to all our amazing committees for some wonderful dinners and gatherings over the last several months.



Adult program: Re-showing *I AM* in two consecutive halves. In his latest project, director Tom Shadyac asks some of today's most profound thinkers two questions: What's wrong with our world, and what can we do about it? The result is a fresh, energetic and life-affirming film that challenges our preconceptions about human behavior while celebrating the indomitable human spirit. For a preview, visit: www.iamthedoc.com.

Children and Youth Program: Singing and Storytelling with Barbara Stoddard.

THURSDAYS IN MAY

The Presence Group

7–8:30 P.M., ROOM 13

Silent meditation, video presentation and open discussion. Requested donation: \$5 (all donations go to First UU). More info: Joe Linsalata, 327-5000, or Amanda Winters, 423-6529

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Advisors for Jr. High Youth Group

We are looking for motivated adults for our youth advisor team. More info: Andrew Young at andrew@austinuu.org.

Teaching Team Members

- Substitute Lead Teachers
- Greeters and Classroom Managers
- Teaching Assistants

We need at least four volunteers on each classroom team. (K-2), (3-5) and (6-8). Will coordinate schedule with lead teachers. A minimum of six months at First UU is required to be a classroom volunteer. Exceptions will be made for folks involved in other UU churches—references required. The DRE will make the final determination.

RE Office Coordinators for Sundays

Ensure each class is fully staffed and has all supplies needed. Help answer questions about the program. General oversight of Sunday RE Program. All volunteers need to complete an application and background check. Forms available in the RE office.

Volunteer and Staff Training

June 2, 9 a.m.-noon

All volunteers and staff must attend Volunteer and Staff Training. If unable to attend, you can make alternate training arrangements with the DRE. Training will include understanding child development; classroom management guidelines; and ministry with children, including story telling techniques, song leading, games and fun. Sign up in the Gallery in May or contact **Liz Cook**, Liz@austinuu.org.

COMING THIS SUMMER

Hour-Long Children/Youth Group Programming

STARTING JUNE 3, 10-11 A.M.

JUNE 3-AUG. 26 NO STORY TIME AT SERVICE

This summer, children and youth will go directly to their hour-long classes, grouped as K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, 9th-12th. Rising 6th-8th graders will participate in our new Jr. Youth Group, while rising 9th-12th graders continue their YRUU programming. Note: All children/youth will participate according to the grade level they will be in September 2012. Children age four and under will enjoy playtime in room 19.

Jr. High Youth Group Forming

(6TH—8TH GRADES)

This summer, the Jr. High class will reflect the structure of the Sr. High group (whose members will mentor the Jr. High group). The Jr. High group will focus on six components: Worship, Learning, Team Building, Social Action, Leadership and Youth/Adult partnership. It will be youth-led with two elected leaders and a team of four adult youth advisors. This new model will continue in the fall during the second service time. As part of this change, Jr. High youth will participate in more events at the church.

COMING THIS FALL

Our Whole Lives

2ND AND 4TH WELCOMING WEDNESDAYS

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS (YOUNG ADULT)

We will offer two levels of Our Whole Lives (OWL), our sexuality education curriculum. The Sr. High OWL (grades 10-12) will be taught during Welcoming Wednesdays. The Young Adult OWL (young adults 18 to 35) will be taught on 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. More info: **Andrew Young**, andrew@austinuu.org.

Jr. and Sr. High Youth Program Info Meeting

May 6

noon-2 p.m.

Informational Meeting for Parents, Youth and Advisors. Lunch included.

K-5th Class Raising Funds for ARCH

Through May

The ARCH program serves homeless men and women by providing a pathway home through shelter, affordable housing and awareness. Donate at the container set up on the RE table at 9 a.m. on Sundays in the Gallery. "Help the world by helping the homeless."—Kaitlyn, age 9.

Youth Go on Shower Strike B.O. for a Cause

The Sr. High Youth and First UU Young Adults groups are joining in Shower Strike 2012, a fundraiser to build wells for drinking water in Kenya. Volunteers vow to not take a shower until they reach their goal. Donate here <http://showerstrike.com/firstUUAustin>. Whew! For the sake of everyone's noses – Donate! More info: andrew@austinuu.org.

Take a Spot on the Flower Calendar

Please consider filling an empty spot on the Flower Calendar. You can honor or memorialize a special person or date, or just provide flowers to warm your own heart! You may sign up in the hallway across from the office. More info: Barbara Denny, flowers@austinUU.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SANCTUARY 9 A.M. AND 10:30 A.M.

MAY 6
Does Our Name Mean Anything to Us Today?

WITH BRIAN FERGUSON

Many of us identify as Unitarian Universalists, but do we mean the same or even similar things when we identify as such? Or is our biggest commonality our doubt about having any centralizing religious concept that pulls us to together as a religious movement? Something—or the lack of something—keeps inviting us back to be part of our religious community. This worship service explores what that central theme might be or perhaps what it could be.

MAY 13
What I Learned From My Mother

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Mama had a particular view of the world, shaped by her strong Christian faith, her love for children, her growing up as a missionary kid in India. Spiders in the house's windows? No problem. Twelve cats? Fine. Missing a tithe payment to the church? Very Dangerous!

MAY 20
Individualism vs. the Social Contract

LED BY THE SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP

The Sr. High Youth Group holds its annual youth service and performs bridging during the second service. Bridging is a rite of passage celebrating the movement of our high school seniors into adulthood. We will also bridge current 8th graders into the Sr. High Youth group and current 5th graders into the Jr. High Youth group during the second service. If you are a youth or the parent of a youth, RSVP at Andrew@austinuu.org.

MAY 27
Flower Communion

WITH REV. KIM BEACH

All are asked to bring flowers, to be contributed to a common floral display, and to be distributed to all for the Flower Communion. The ritual originated with Rev. Norbert Capek in Prague, where he founded the Unitarian Church in 1930. Capek was executed by the Nazis at Dachau in 1942. His liberal faith lives on.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MAY
Austin Child Guidance Center



The mission of ACGC is to improve the mental health of children and their families through early intervention, diagnosis and treatment to help them develop the emotional skills for meeting life's challenges. A multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and counselors provides individual, family, and group therapy; psychological assessments; psychiatric evaluations and medical consultations; parent education; community presentations and consultations; and training to current and future mental health professionals. Setting the standard for over 60 years, ACGC offers a full continuum of mental health services from a central location as well as throughout the community, including the juvenile justice center, community health clinics, the local school district, and eight local childcare centers. The center operates on a sliding fee scale—no one is denied services if unable to pay. Every year, approximately 87 percent of clients are low-income families (i.e., living at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level).

Please give generously to ACGC on May 13. • For more on ACGC, see back cover • More info: www.austinchildguidance.org

THE FORUM

SANCTUARY 11:45 A.M. FOLLOWING SECOND SERVICE

MAY 6

Faith and Experience Make Me Pro-Choice

WITH ROBBIE AUSLEY

Robbie is chairperson of Annie's List and past president of Austin Planned Parenthood. Robbie believes in being pro-choice, and that options for women should remain open. She works to make that so. Married 48 years, a committed Methodist, she met her future husband when she was 14, at a Methodist church in Lubbock. They had four children in quick succession. Then contraception failed, and she chose abortion. This is a story of her faith and her experience, and what she, and you, can do to help.

MAY 13

Texas and the Gay March Toward Full Citizenship

WITH TOM DOYAL

Tom will speak about the long march of gay people in Texas towards full and equal citizenship. Tom has been involved, in one capacity or another, in the struggle for fuller civil liberties for lesbians and gay men for over 25. He was one of five plaintiffs in the unsuccessful state court challenge to the constitutionality of the Texas sodomy law, *Morales v. State of Texas*, in 1989. The State of Texas has played an important role in this struggle, especially since the US Supreme Court, in a Texas case (*Lawrence v. State of Texas*) finally declared the Texas sodomy law unconstitutional in June 2003. Tom is a retired lawyer and an past member of the State Bar of Texas.

MAY 20

The Austin NAACP: Current Concerns, Actions and Challenges

WITH NELSON LINDER

Nelson is president of the Austin branch of the NAACP. He will discuss the current activities of the Austin NAACP, including work with the City of Austin Charter Revision Committee and on initiatives geared to educational equity. He will also address perspectives on African American quality of life in Austin; work with the City of Austin Charter Revision Committee and on initiatives geared to educational equity; the need for community policing and police accountability; and involvement in upcoming local, state, and national elections. Nelson was born in central Georgia in 1958, served in the U.S. Army, and then moved to Austin in 1981. He graduated from Houston Tillotson College in 1984 and has been an insurance agent since 1985. He has been deeply involved in civic organizations for many years and has been president of the Austin NAACP since 2000.

MAY 27

The Role of the Police Monitor: History and Current Challenges

WITH MARGO FRASIER

Margo, Austin Police Monitor, will discuss the creation of the police monitor office and how her office works with law enforcement, the public, and city officials to help with police oversight and accountability. Margo has over 35 years of experience in law enforcement and correction agencies. From 1997 to 2004 she served as Sheriff of Travis County, the only woman to hold this office. She has been recognized for her leadership in implementing community policing and improving the jail system.

Henry Hug Memorial Service

**May 19,
10:30 a.m.**

Longtime faithful member of First UU Austin, **Henry Hug**, died on Saturday, April 14. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and lover of life, Henry served our church in many capacities through the years. We will miss him. Please join Doris and Henry's family for a celebration of Henry's life. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the church in Henry's memory. Donations may be designated for the First UU Austin Permanent Endowment Fund or toward the purchase of a butterfly for the memorial sculpture. If you wish to help with the reception, please contact Rose Ann Reeser at 327-7951 or rareeser@earthlink.net.

**First Unitarian
Universalist
Church of
Austin**

**4700 Grover
78756**

**One Church
Many Beliefs**

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austinuu.org

Minister

Rev. Meg Barnhouse

ext 304

Director of Finance
and Operations

Sean Hale

ext 308

Interim Director

Lifespan Religious Ed.

Barbara Stoddard

ext 306

Director of Music

Brent Baldwin

ext 314

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MAY

Austin Child Guidance Center



Celisse is one of the over 3,500 lives ACGC touches each year (over 130,000 since the center opened its doors).

The first thing you notice about Celisse is that she is small for a 12 year old, with a sense of sweetness and innocence about her. What was not visible on the surface were her struggles with adjusting to life as a pre-teen, the thick silence that had developed between Celisse and her mom, and the risky behavior she was exposing herself to.

She was getting into physical fights at school with other girls and befriending dangerous people online. Her mom felt like she had lost all connection with her daughter and was desperate to rebuild it. When things peaked for Celisse, her mom brought her to ACGC to have a safe place to explore some of her struggles. Celisse became comfortable opening up with her therapist about some of

the challenges at school and in her family.

With a protected space to sort her thoughts, Celisse discovered how to stand up for herself and make choices that moved her towards the type of life she wanted. She learned how to diffuse sticky situations. Celisse also decided for herself that she wanted to focus more on school, and not be distracted by boys and drama. The biggest success of therapy was helping Celisse get to a point where she was willing to reopen and restore communication with her mother. During her work at the center, Celisse was able to shed some of the heaviness she had been carrying on her small shoulders. This child regained not only the support and love of her mother, but the ability to love and value herself.

Please give generously to ACGC on May 13.

For more on ACGC, see pg. 14

More info: www.austinchildguidance.org

A NOTE ABOUT SPECIAL OFFERINGS

On the second Sunday of every month our church collects a special offering. Your generous donations (given during both services) go to a worthy organization, thereby extending our church's mission into the greater community. Organizations are nominated and then approved by the congregation. On May 13, church member Russell Smith will testify for the Austin Child Guidance Center—a fitting group for Mother's Day!

Please help us help them in their life-changing work.