

August 2012

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUSTIN

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

UU ASSOCIATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

Perspectives on Justice and Immigration

Nine members of our congregation were fortunate to experience the UUA General Assembly this June: Peggy Morton, Gillian Redfearn, Judy Sadegh, Carolyn Gremminger, Margaret Borden, Michael LeBurkien, Chelsea Blake, and John and Karen Franks. They shared in many of the events together but also made different selections from the many education and preparation sessions offered. Following are their reflections on this amazing UU event.

John Franks

In Phoenix this year there were 3,714 UUs representing all 50 states. Of the three General Assemblies I've attended, Phoenix had the most personal impact of them all. This year's GA focused on Social Justice, and all events at the convention center related to that topic. I learned much about the difficulties that undocumented immigrants face and that the term "illegal alien" is a slur. Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel aptly said, "No human being is illegal." This year's Ware Lecture by Maria Hinojosa of NPR was the best I have heard. The lecture is online at <http://www.uua.org/immigration/re/ga/208868.shtml>. It's worth your time to watch it.

Locally we have a serious problem with "Secure Communities." This is a program that was started by George W. Bush in 2008. Unfortunately, under the Obama administration, it has been greatly expanded. Its declared purpose was to deport any undocumented residents who were criminals. That is definitely a worthy goal. Unfortunately, it's being used to sweep up and deport almost anyone who doesn't have his or her "papers." Travis County led all counties with the highest percentage of deported non-criminals, the immigration advocacy groups reported. The program has even mistakenly deported about 3,000 U.S. citizens. This program certainly disrupts all families affected and causes these communities to live in fear.

I'm so glad I went to GA this year!



(left to right) Margaret Borden, Peggy Morton and Judy Sadegh rally at the Phoenix General Assembly to protest the horrible conditions in which immigrants are detained.

Judy Sadegh

Writing about the GA experience is almost as challenging as trying to decide one's schedule from all the programs offered from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Worship services were inspiring and the music was wonderful.

Every day we heard stories from members of the partner organizations in Phoenix about the hardships people suffer there. We heard of children afraid parents would not be able to pick them up from school; of a parent detained because of a burned-out tail light and deported as a result; of a teen remaining in the U.S. whose mother missed her high school graduation; of that same teen fearing that her older brother, brought to the US as an infant, would also be deported; of his wife pregnant and with a young child fearing the loss of husband and father.

Business sessions included choosing a new Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2012-2016, about which we will be hearing more in the coming years. The issue chosen for study is "Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling." The delegates also approved a "Responsive Resolution" in which they repudiated "the Doctrine of Discovery as a relic of colonialism, feudalism, and of religious, cultural, and racial biases..."

More perspectives on pages 2 and 3

Sharing Suppers

Aug. 18
kamargo72@att.net for time/location

Attending these casual adult dinners is a great way to meet lots of newcomers and long-time UUs. Groups of 6-10 people gather on the third Saturday of each month in various participants' homes, and everyone contributes to the dinner. The dinners are open to anyone in the church, new or established, couples or singles, and you need not be a member to participate. Sign up for one dinner at a time; no long-term commitment. Participants take turns hosting or helping co-host in another's home. The signup deadline is Aug. 12. More info: 512-832-6379. Monthly reminders: sharingsupper-subscribe@yahoo.com.

GA PERSPECTIVES (CONT. FROM COVER)

Gillian Redfearn

I have always been pro-immigrant, but four years ago, I realized there was more to it than just saying it. My dear friend's daughter was arrested at her high school for a crime that she did not commit. It was quickly resolved, but she was held long enough for it to be established that she was undocumented, as her own documented parents didn't realize that she needed her own papers upon turning 18 years old.

For the next three months, she sat in three different detention centers without a book to read or a television to watch or an exercise bicycle to ride AND it was the first time in her life she was separated from her parents. There were days that her parents didn't even know where she was. My friend's daughter, an above average student who spoke three languages and who was deciding what university to attend, never returned to high school or to her parents' home here in Austin. Had her parents not had the resources they did, it is very possible that their daughter would have been detained and locked up for many more months to come or even for years. This experience woke me up to these many injustices against Latinos.

As an attendee of UU churches for almost 40 years, I have always had some interest in attending General Assembly, something I had heard called "Mecca for UUs," but it was this year's theme of Justice and the promise to stand with the Latino people of Arizona that ultimately got me there. I was most drawn to those sessions devoted to any and



Mike LeBurkien, Judy Sadegh and Margaret Borden supporting justice for mistreated inmates in Tent City Jail.

all of the aspects of being an immigrant in the U.S., and what I heard and learned in the Phoenix Convention Center inspired me and scared me. People from every possible immigrants' rights group impressed me with their steadfast commitment and passion, so much so that I left Arizona anxious to live up to the call to action in the name of human justice. I am ready to talk to anybody who wants to listen, but I will keep talking, regardless.

Mike LeBurkien

Phoenix is a beautiful, culturally rich city. Bus tours and balloon rides abound. The surrounding desert is breathtakingly scenic and breathtakingly inimical to human survival. Hundreds of Mexicans, many of them children, lose their lives hoping to make it through the unforgiving landscape. Yet that is where Sheriff Arpaio keeps undocumented Americans in circus tent prisons exposed to the 125-degree heat. Little water, no AC (Arpaio's captured dogs are stored in AC houses), no heat on cold nights, little toilet paper or sanitary pads, insufficient food and separated from loved ones—moms, dads, kids, grandpas, grandmas. This is why I had to demonstrate against such inhumanity. Thousands of UUs from all over the U.S. and Canada attended classes on the moral and legal issues attached to this shameful situation in our country. We showed up in droves and sang and shouted our support to the pink stripe clad prisoners. They know they are not alone. The First UU flag was there.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, NOV. 11, 1:30 p.m. - Pre-congregational Meeting
 (to discuss the agenda of the December congregational meeting)

SUNDAY, DEC. 9, 1:30 p.m. - Congregational Meeting
 (to vote on the annual budget and more)

This notification of the congregational meeting will appear monthly, throughout the year, and will serve as an official notification of our semi-annual meetings. In order to save time and money, we will discontinue the practice of sending targeted mailings announcing these meetings.



Carolyn Gremminger

I am so glad that I attended the General Assembly in Phoenix this summer. I had no idea how it would expand my awareness of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. I really experienced the strength that comes from gathering together in community with fellow UUs from across the nation. I was very emotionally overwhelmed by the opening ceremony with the parade of the banners. Also, the Service of the Living Tradition was so beautiful. I found myself reflecting on the experience for days, especially the music. The individual sessions on Social Justice were very enlightening. In particular, the lecture by Rebecca Parker on Reclaiming Paradise has inspired me to purchase her book on the topic and to deepen my knowledge. I also really enjoyed Maria Hinojosa's Ware Lecture. I would recommend attending GA to everyone who wants to deepen his or her religious experience of being a UU.

Margaret Borden

How was I changed by Justice GA? My worldview was changed and my hopes for a less insular version of Unitarian Universalism were given a boost. I now believe we can better promote social justice by creating right relationships with those whose rights are denied them rather than focusing only on the denied rights. Rather than do "for" others, we would use our time and efforts to do "with" others. Rather than studying an issue and deciding what needs to be done, we would listen to and follow the lead of those whose rights have been violated, asking what they think needs to be done. Justice GA 2012 is an example of doing justice through right relations. Instead of boycotting Phoenix, the UUA followed the advice of Arizona UUs and their partner organizations to create Justice GA. Acts of witness were decided not by the UUA, but by our partners: National Day Laborer Organizing Network, Mi Familia Vota, Los Comités de Defensa del Barrio, Puente, Somos America, and Borderlinks.



Gillian Redfearn, Lyman Labry, Peggy Morton, Margaret Borden and John Franks join 1,500 UUs boarding the bus to Tent City Jail for a candlelight vigil.

Karen Franks

My mind is filled with wondrous images from my time at Justice GA: images of almost 4,000 UUs singing together in worship and learning together in plenary; of perhaps a couple thousand UUs (the buses could not take all of us) at the candlelight vigil to bear witness in support of just and humane treatment of undocumented

immigrants at Sheriff Arpaio's tent city; of the families lining the sidewalks at tent city who came to thank us for standing beside them in their struggle ... and letting us know that those inside the tents need cold water to drink; of Maria Hinojosa's factual and moving Ware Lecture; of outstanding educational sessions on justice issues and actions that we can take home to be of help in our own communities; of photos of undocumented immigrants in tent city dressed in demeaning black and white striped prison garb and pink underwear and socks; of fathers, mothers, families standing up to speak to thousands of us about unspeakable injustices they and their loved ones bear; of beautiful partnerships the UUA formed with Puente, Somos America, Borderlinks, National Day Laborer Organizing Network, and other organizations to assist with our training and witness opportunity for human rights.

It is not a crime to be undocumented in this country; immigration cases are handled in civil, not criminal courts. My heart is filled with love and compassion for people I do not know but with whom we are one. I know our congregation, if it decides to, can join UU congregations across the U.S. and Canada by "doing justice" for undocumented immigrants in our own community. We can support the on-going work of our potential community partners; they are asking for our help.

GA from the Young Adult Point of View:

Chelsea Blake

I wanted to attend this GA because immigration is such a relevant issue for us in Texas. The workshops furthered my knowledge and understanding of issues like the intersection of oppressive homophobic and anti-immigrant legislation, and the way the structure of our economy encourages the existence of an underpaid workforce with no rights or bargaining power. I found it helpful to look at how current immigration policies have arisen out of a long history of institutionalized racism and xenophobia encapsulated by the "Doctrine of Discovery." I left GA feeling hopeful, and convinced that there really is a "religious left" in the U.S. that is passionate enough to have a meaningful voice in public consciousness and politics.

Fellowship Committee Meeting

Aug. 28
6:30 p.m.

Pizza will be served and everyone interested in being on this committee is welcome. Please call Sally Scott 453-2289 to RSVP. There will be a social/check in time, followed by a short meeting to plan upcoming events.

Operation FreshenUU: Paint the Gallery Party

Aug. 6, 3 p.m.

Other FreshenUU activities planned for August include tasks in Howson Hall and the sanctuary. Interested in helping? Contact Vicki Almstrum at FreshenUU@ austinuu.org

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Now's the Time to Evaluate Ourselves



By the time this newsletter edition reaches you our summer will be two thirds over. I hope you have been enjoying a summer that has not produced as many weather challenges for us as the previous one. For those of you who are recent "converts" to Texas, a mere 10 or even 20 days of 100-degree weather is just kind of normal. I also hope you have scheduled some time for fun and relaxation, whatever that looks like to you.

Meg was able to spend much of July as her study month, giving her time to reflect on and plan the wonderful sermons she gives us during the year. August is her well-deserved vacation month. We look forward to her return to our pulpit in September.

Meanwhile your Board of Trustees continues to meet. Unlike boards of some UU congregations, we meet monthly year round. We held our annual planning retreat in June, and for the first time developed an annual meeting agenda, which is a calendar that schedules major agenda items and board workgroup activities for the next 12 months. It incorporates the monitoring schedule we adopted last fall. Every month we monitor compliance with a set of board policies, such as our financial policies, or progress toward achieving our Ends (or goals). As a reminder, the Ends are as follows: First UU of Austin is an intentionally hospitable community, nourishes souls and transforms lives and witnesses to justice in our personal lives and beyond.

During this first phase of monitoring we are concentrating on receiving interpreta-

tions of the various policies and ends from Meg. These interpretations further define the "what", "how" and "why" of our monitoring, i.e., what Meg will be doing to demonstrate compliance or progress, how we will measure compliance and progress and the rationale for doing so. In July, because Meg

was away, we monitored ourselves! We have a set of policies we have named Governance Process. These policies have to do with how our board

functions, what the work of the board should be and how we get this work done.

During this year we will be moving from the interpretation to the evaluation phase of monitoring through which we will be examining actual data and other measures of compliance and progress. If you are interested in reading the board policies, you can find them on our church website at this link: <http://austinuu.org/wp2011/category/board-documents/policies-and-procedures/>

We also welcome your attendance to observe our board meetings. We meet the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the church. See you there!

— Susan Thomson

We will be moving from interpretation to evaluation in the monitoring process that measures our progress.

NEW TOBACCO POLICY: WE CAN HELP

To our beloved church members who can no longer smoke on First UU's campus: We are offering to help you get set up with an e-cigarette kit, a realistic-looking cigarette that delivers nicotine without creating smoke. This is not an ideal substitute, but it's a way to let you know that you are cherished. First UU only wants to ban tobacco, it does not in any way want to ban you! If this is a solution that has some appeal, just call Sean Hale 452-6168 x308 or email him at Sean@austinuu.org.

LETTER FROM SOCIAL ACTION CHAIR PEGGY MORTON

REKINDLING THE FIRE OF LOVE AT HOME

Let's face it, I'm following the Queen of Social Action Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis in my new leadership role at Austin First UU. Corinna not only helped me coordinate Freeze Nights for the homeless but also seven other project coordinators who organize UUs to provide health care, shelter and food for the



UUs rally at Travis County Sheriff Hamilton's office.

homeless, poor and sick. She's also taken our church into the Standing on the Side of Love ministry to rally for equal rights for everyone from immigrants to Occupiers to GLBTs.

Corinna has dedicated both her life and her family's to justice work in our church for six years, and she's earned a sabbatical.

In addition to getting schooled by Corinna to continue her legacy, I went to GA in the Phoenix heat to learn more about justice work. We learned about Sheriff Arpaio's Tent City Jail firsthand, the place where undocumented workers now live without cold water as they sweat in tents as hot as 145 degrees inside. They wear pink underwear and socks under their striped black and white prison clothes and aren't given human rights such as a phone call or an attorney.

In fact, the weekend we joined 1,500 fellow UUs from around the nation for a candle light vigil outside the jail, the Sheriff out of spite cancelled all family visitations for the

weekend. We learned about children, who were born here as U.S. citizens and live in fear because they know friends who've been torn from parents who are incarcerated for minor traffic violations. I'm appalled to think some of the inhumanity the Nazis waged on Jews is going on today not only in

Arizona, but here in Travis County as we have one of the highest deportation rates of non-criminal undocumented workers.

After organizing at GA, UUs from our three Austin UU congregations joined local immigrant rights and day labor groups in July outside of Travis County Sheriff Greg Hamilton's office to rally and conduct a press conference imploring him to quit giving Immigration Customs Enforcement 24-7 access to our county jails, where they harrass immigrants who have not been convicted of any crimes. We want trust renewed between our police force and immigrant community.

I left the Arizona heat and returned to our Texas Summer inspired to rekindle more fire to make room for a new world where all people recognize each others' dignity and worth and find love stronger than hate.

If you're interested in our Social Action Ministry, email socialaction@austinuu.org.

— Peggy Morton

Social Justice Project Ideas
Due by Aug. 31

We need your input for next spring's church-wide outreach project. This project will include educational and volunteer activities centered around a specific social justice issue. Which social justice issue should we choose? Suggestions so far include homelessness, literacy, and immigration, but we want to hear your ideas! Please send suggestions to churchwideproject@austinuu.org.

People's Community Clinic Collate Group

Aug. 14, 9:30 a.m.
At the PCC

Arrive anytime a and leave when you need—we always finish by noon.
More info: pcc@austinuu.org.

ARCH Lunch Preparation
Mondays
6 p.m., kitchen

For 2nd Monday off-site location, email lyndawest@earthlink.net

PASTORAL CARE PROGRAM ARRIVES THIS FALL

Beginning Sept. 5, our church, in partnership with Threads of Hope, will host an eight-week Pastoral Care Associate Certification Program to enhance congregational caregiving. Participants must attend all sessions to become certified as a PC Associate. From there, they may apply for specialist certification: four sessions of giving another person direct pastoral care under professional supervision.

The training program will be led by Barry Click, D.Min., Diplomat Supervisor Ameri-

can Association of Pastoral Counselors; Sam Riccobene, graduate of Austin Presbyterian Seminary and a retired Pastor in the PCUSA and Meg Barnhouse, M.Div., Fellow, AAPC.

PASTORAL CARE CERTIFICATION
Wednesdays, room 15, 6:45-8 p.m.
Course fee: \$80, payable first day of class
Registration deadline: Aug. 15
More info: maptrick@gmail.com

Singalong

Aug. 25
7:30-10:30 p.m.
3701 E. MLK
Blvd.

As usual, we meet on the fourth Saturday. 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.

Eclectic Folk Jam

Aug. 10, 7-10 p.m.
Howson Hall

Gather on second Fridays for an open jam session with singers and instrumentalists. Genres include 1960s folk, bluegrass, gospel, blues, protest songs, Irish, Scottish, Appalachian, Dixieland, and more. Potluck and snacks are encouraged. More info: singalong@austinuu.org; Mary Jane Ford, 926-4122; or Pete and Kim Akenhead, 834-0188. Next month's session: Sept. 14.

PARADOX PLAYERS

THE BEST MAN NEEDS YOUR 1960S STUFF

The October Paradox show is Gore Vidal's biting satire, *The Best Man*, set circa 1960. It's *Mad Men* meets presidential politics. Contact Gary Payne at 799-5872 if you have any of the following items (1960 vintage if possible) that we can borrow:

- Small sofa or love seat
- Matching small cushioned chair
- A second small cushioned chair
- Coffee table
- End table
- Small lamps
- Small desk with chair
- TV
- TV stand or cabinet
- Bar trolley
- Bar accessories
- Small bed with headboard (twin or full)
- Two pillows
- Two bedspreads
- Night stand
- Dresser with mirror
- Hotel luggage rack
- Folded up rollaway bed
- Two press cameras with flash attachment
- Four suitcases
- Pictures for wall hanging

THE NEW SEASON

October 5-21

The Best Man. Follow a race to the presidency as two front-runners vie for their party's nomination in the midst of back stabbing, double-crossing, dirty-dealing and all the games politicians play. It makes you wish that Vidal were writing the dialogue for this year's presidential debates.

February 8-24

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged. We bring you a Valentine bouquet with this irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's playbook. Join three madcap men in tights as they weave their wicked way through ALL of Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies in one wild ride.

June 14-30

Next Fall. Luke believes in God. Adam believes in everything else. The ups and downs of this unlikely couple's five-year relationship is portrayed with sharp humor and unflinching honesty. It paints a beautiful and funny portrait of modern romance, asking the hard questions about commitment, love, and faith.

EQUINOX AUCTION AND MASQUERADE BALL

EQUINOX: IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

With a congregation as talented, willing, and fortunate as ours, the possibilities are almost limitless for what you could contribute now to the Equinox Auction and Masquerade Ball, to be held at the church on Sept. 22 from 6 to 10 p.m.! How about a handmade quilt, a gently used leather jacket, a themed dinner party for six, a coin collection, or a landscaping consultation? Any item or personal service you donate could start a lively little bidding war, all for the benefit of important First UU programs. The only



requirements are that a) the item be in excellent condition and b) the item or service be worth at least \$25. Fill out your donation form at the Goods & Services Committee's table in the gallery on Sundays, or fill it out online at the equinoxauction.org website. The deadline for donations is September 1. Let's see, a telescope in nearly new condition, home-grown house plants in a beautiful pot, a matted and framed nature photo you took, yard work, piano lessons ...

CONGREGATION
CHALICE CIRCLES

Last fall, Meg gave a rousing sermon about small group ministry (SGM) programs and how effective they are at building community and relationships within a church. Over 80 people clamored to learn more about



better understanding of ourselves, our fellow human beings, and our world.

“One of the best experiences I have had since coming to the church.”

Chalice Circles, First UU’s SGM program, with 68 signing up for one of our winter/spring session circles. The surveys and low drop-out rate indicate the program exceeded expectations. Here are a few of the comments it received:

“I found the Chalice Circle a strong vehicle for getting to know others in the church on a deeper, more intimate level. It’s also wonderful for self-reflection and development.”

“[This is] a very important way to connect to our church members and to better understand the values and mission of the UUs and our church. The topics were pertinent to our

deepen and expand the ministry of a congregation. Their purpose is to help build community and provide opportunities for deeper relationships and deeper spiritual exploration and search for meaning. Groups of eight to ten individuals led by co-facilitators typically meet every other week for an hour and a half. Our second session will begin in early September and groups will meet for eight sessions. There will be sign-up tables in the gallery starting in mid-August. Stop by to learn more about these sessions and sign up for what has been a rewarding experience for many.

Chalice Circles are intentional lay-led small groups that

**Celebrate
Hogwarts Style
Aug. 5**

From July 30 through Aug. 3, our church corridors and classrooms have been filled with children, teens, and adults learning about and enjoying activities in the spirit of the Harry Potter stories. We invite everyone to help celebrate a successful week of CampUU/Hogwarts during and after the worship service.

**Women’s
Spirituality
Group
Aug. 4 & 18
10:30 a.m.
room 13**

Aug. 4: focus on Shakti and Kali Ma, Goddesses from India.
Aug. 18 and Sept. 1: Tara and Kuan Yin from China. We meet on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month. This group is for women high school age and older. We are open to new members at all times. We hope you’ll join us. More info: Linda Webster, women@austinuu.org.

MEMBERSHIP

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WANTS YOU!

The Membership Committee needs your help in welcoming visitors. There are several things you can do before and after services to make sure no visitor goes unwelcomed:

- First of all, WEAR YOUR NAME TAG—



it helps everyone distinguish between visitors and members. If you’ve ordered a new nametag please pick it up at the table just inside the south door into the foyer. If you need a new one order it at the same table.

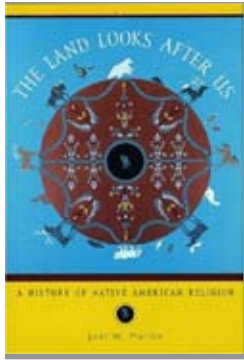
- Introduce yourself to any unfamiliar face or to people wearing RED OR BLUE BORDERED stick on nametags—this signifies a visitor. Make a point of doing this BEFORE

you talk to a fellow member.

- Go out of your way to greet visitors around you in the welcoming portion of the church service itself.

As you know, we created a team of floating greeters to supplement

Kitty Traylor’s ushers and greeters a year ago, and it’s made a huge difference. The floater’s job is to try and make everyone attending First UU feel welcome. We inevitably miss welcoming some visitors because we have so many and ... WE NEED MORE FLOATING GREETERS! If you can help, contact Gary Payne at 799-5872.



The Sunday Book Group
8-9:45 a.m.
Sundays

The Land Looks After Us by Joel W. Martin.
More info: James Burson, 794-1086

Mind and Meaning Book Club
11:15 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sundays

Starting Aug. 12:
The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion by Jonathan Haidt. More info: Donna Pauler, mindmeaning@austinuu.org

Heritage Book Club
heritage@austinuu.org

Pot luck dinner followed by a discussion of a book at members' homes.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING

THIS SUMMER Multigenerational Service
AUG. 5

Youth and CampUU/Hogwarts campers will attend a multigenerational service in the Sanctuary. All other children go to their RE classes during service. A reception will follow the service to celebrate the magic of Harry Potter. All are invited!

Awesome UU Kids (K-5): Summer of Conservation
AUG. 26

This summer, the youth and Green Sanctuary are inviting the entire congregation to draw our attention to how we, as individuals and as a church community, relate to and act toward conservation efforts. The recommended reading is *Low Carbon Diet* by David Gershon. We hope to see everyone at our end of summer celebration after the service in Howson Hall! The Fellowship Committee will provide the beginnings of a light lunch and refreshments, but any and all food contributions are most welcome!

Jr. High Youth Group (GRADES 6-8)
Sr. High Youth Group (GRADES 9-12)

Both groups will focus on the six components of community building: Worship, Learning, Team Building, Social Action, Leadership and Youth/Adult Partnership. Come be a part of the future this summer and beyond.

Children/Youth 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 classrooms for an hour of worship, learning and fun. All ages will participate with the age group/grade that they will be in the fall. Children who will be age four and under in September will enjoy playtime in room 19 and 21. Sept. 2 all ages in sanctuary.

Fall Children and Youth RE Registration

THROUGH AUGUST

In the month of August, be on the lookout for children & youth RE registration forms! This year, the form will include children's choir sign-up, as well.

O.W.L. (Our Whole Lives) Training

Last month, several of our esteemed RE teachers and youth advisors attended training at Live Oak UU in Cedar Park, becoming certified O.W.L. teachers! Our Whole Lives is a series of sexuality education curricula for six age groups (from K-adult). O.W.L. helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. (more info: uua.org/re/owl/)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Deepen and grow your connection to this church community. Increase the level of joy in your life. Renew your sense of spiritual exploration. Have fun while getting to know our kids!

BECOME A LEAD TEACHER FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAM FALL SEMESTER

Beginning Sept. 9

- All ages and grade levels (see next page for class groupings), during first OR second service
 - Prepare and lead lesson from provided curriculum (and gather supplies as needed)
 - Provide guidance to classroom assistants
- apply to: mari@austinuu.org

MEET MARISOL CABALLERO, NEW INTERIM DRE



Hello First UU. The news of Barbara Stoddard's resignation from her position as Interim DRE and my coming on to help First UU through this transition during these summer months is still reaching many

of you. This was not expected by many and this congregation will certainly miss her. I was happy that I found myself in a position where I am able to come in on such short notice and ensure that everything RE carries on as it should.

My name is Marisol Caballero, but everyone calls me Mari, for short, (rhymes with "gaudy"). I am a native Texan and lifelong UU. I am currently in the final stage of ministerial preparation and anticipate being ordained within the year. You may have seen me in the First UU pulpit as guest minister once or twice. In fact, it is a true labor of love to step into this role and serve First UU in

this way, for it was as a nurtured member of this congregation in 2000 that I received my call to UU ministry!

My background is in both parish ministry and chaplaincy, but I have quite extensive experience working with kids, both in and out of the classroom. In fact, for the past two years, my "day job" has been as a substitute teacher for AISD. I have also taught several adult RE courses at UU congregations in New York and California and will be teaching a four-part workshop here, at First UU, in September on anti-racism/anti-oppression/multiculturalism (look for more info. to come in the weekly announcements).

My Sundays are booked solid with guest preaching gigs all over Texas and I may not get the chance to meet you all properly until Aug. 26th (when I will be in the First UU pulpit). However, I want to encourage everyone to contact me for any reason and to view me as committed to helping to maintain the level of excellence in RE here at First UU during the summer and to help in preparing for a great start in the fall!

In faith,

Mari, mari@austinuu.org, 512-452-6168 ext. 306

COMING THIS FALL Class Offerings

On Sept. 9, the fall schedule begins (see box on right). You will be asked to complete a new registration form in August and indicate which service and class your child will most likely attend to help us with planning. Classes will run 15 minutes past the service hour to allow children and youth to attend the beginning of each service and then an hour of community time in the classroom. This also gives parents the chance to get a cup of coffee before picking up their children. We want to build up the number of adults attending our first service, so please start thinking about the service you will attend if you have younger children. The curriculum will be the same at both services. Classes will be grouped in smaller age rang-

es—which are much better for all toward creating a nourishing, exciting community. NOTE: We also hope that our UU Choir Kids will consider joining us for classes during the second service as often as possible.

FALL SCHEDULE

9:15–10:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.–noon

Preschool (3 and 4 year olds)

Kindergarten–Grade 1

Grades 2–3

Grades 4–5

9:15–10:30 a.m. only

Two Children's Choirs (first service)

10:45 a.m.–noon only

Jr. Youth Group (Grades 6–8)

10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Sr. Youth Group (Grades 9–12)

First UU History Corner

This car graced the fenced playground at First UU from the 1970s until 2011. Legacy pictures courtesy of all Austin cooperative nursery school.



Flower Power Take a Spot on the 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

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin

4700 Grover
Austin, TX
78756

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Minister
Rev. Meg Barnhouse
ext 304

Director of Finance
and Operations
Sean Hale
ext 308

Interim Director of
Lifespan Religious Ed.
Marisol Caballero
ext 306

Director of Music
Brent Baldwin
ext 314

Board President
Susan Thomson
president@austinuu.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SUMMER SCHEDULE: SANCTUARY 10 A.M.

AUG. 5 The magic of "I am _____."

WITH DWAYNE WINDHAM

Given ten blanks and time to consider it, what words or phrases would you choose to complete the statement "I am _____"? The words we choose have a significant effect on our identity. In our youth, we go through the process of determining what words we will use to describe ourselves. However, as we mature – are those words and phrases still the best ones for us? When was the last time you took a good, hard look at that list? Inspired by the Harry Potter book series, this sermon delves into the pensieve of words we use to describe ourselves. Dwayne has been attending the church since 2006, and has been part of Toastmasters International as a public speaker since 2005.

AUG. 12 Inside the Words on the Wall

WITH NELL NEWTON

We have a lovely mission for our church and it is the result of a tremendous amount of work! Now that we've had it on our walls for a couple of years, let's take a deeper look at what these words say about who we are and what we believe. Longtime church member Nell Newton has finished her first year of seminary training at Meadville Lombard Theological School. She lives in central Austin with her husband, two teenagers, a mess of cats, a flock of chickens, and one sweet dog.

AUG. 19 The Least of Things

WITH CHRIS JIMMERSON

Sometimes we make things that are really not all that valuable more important than they really are. Paradoxically, sometimes we miss that the seemingly smallest of gestures can make all the difference. After spending this summer serving as chaplain at the largest level one trauma hospital in our area, these are among the many lessons I learned -- sometimes the hard way, and sometimes through the humor and amazing resilience of others. Chris Jimmerson will soon begin his second year of seminary at Meadville Lombard Theological School. He is a member of First UU, where he has served on the Board of Trustees and is currently serving as the Immediate Past President. He lives in Austin with his partner of 21 years and their two very spoiled Basenji dogs.

AUG. 26 Becoming An Ally

WITH MARISOL CABALLERO, M.Div.

There has been much dialogue within our congregations and within our movement about working to become a more welcoming and a more multicultural/multiethnic faith. This is both exciting and challenging work that grows the humanity of all those who venture to undertake it with an open mind and in humility. What will this work require of those of us who are already here, in order to better welcome those who we'd like to join us? What will we gain and what must we sacrifice? What does it truly mean to be an ally to those who live as members of less dominant groups? Join us as we explore these questions together. Mari is the interim director of Lifespan Religious Education at First UU (see page 9).

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE UPDATE
CONSIDER A WINTER VEGETABLE GARDEN

As Austin summers get hotter and drier, the winters are proving a great opportunity for providing heaps of delicious and nutritious vegetables for your family’s dinner table. Our family now looks forward to the winter so we can have spinach, lettuce, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, peas, snow peas, onions, chard, beets and turnips in our backyard.

Even if you only plant lettuce and spinach, you can have a fresh salad any time you want. We just clip the tops off the lettuce and spinach as they grow, just like giving them a haircut, and they will keep on growing until they need another haircut. Yum!

Besides having a direct connection to the food you eat, a winter garden will save you money at the grocery and save the energy

that would have been required to ship this food to you had you purchased it instead from the grocery store. It’s a big win for you and for Mama Earth. Here’s a link to an Austin planting calendar: <http://www.main.org/aog/plantcal.htm>

Also, if you have a vegetable garden or grow fruit here in Austin, the city is allowing you alternative watering opportunities like watering with a drip system or soaker hose or hand watering more frequently than is generally allowed for landscape vegetation. Information about this program can be found at <http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/Conservation/gardenpolicy%281%29.pdf>.

— Beki and Richard Halpin

MEET CARLA JO SCHAEFER, DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS

We are pleased to announce Carla Jo Schaefer will be joining our staff in the fall as director of membership and communications. It was your support that made this step possible. She will be a very good fit who will help us continue to become the hospitable and well-informed congregation we would like to be.

Carla Jo Schaefer brings more than 35 years of communications and nonprofit experience to the position. Most recently she was owner of Armadillo Advertising, a promotional marketing business in Austin. Prior to that Carla Jo was director of corporate communications for National Financial Partners, a financial services company headquartered in New York City, where she oversaw all of the strategic as well as day-to-day communications activities. She has also headed the communication department of several nonprofits in Austin, working closely with the membership director to plan and implement membership recruitment and retention campaigns. Carla Jo has been a freelance writer and editor for many years and has written articles, books, white papers and newsletter for several organizations.

Carla Jo also has been involved with several local organizations as a volunteer, having chaired the Travis County Adult Literacy Council board of directors and directed the organization’s communications efforts. She has also been a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, and the ARC of Travis County. She also helped organize BookFest, the annual book sale to help fund literacy programs of the TCALC.

Carla Jo is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin where she holds a bachelor of arts in English and Government. She is married to Richard Petty and has five grown children and two grandsons. She is a runner, avid gardener and a passionate reader. Help us welcome Carla Jo!



WEEKLY MEETS

Mindful Meditation Practice
Mondays
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Covenant Yoga Practice Group
Tuesdays
1:30 p.m.

Philosophical Discussion Group
Wednesdays
1-5 p.m.

The Presence Group
Thursdays
7-8:30 p.m.

EVERY-OTHER WEEK MEETS

Mighty Platypi Campfire
Saturdays
10-11 a.m.

Massage Group
Saturdays
9:30-12:30 p.m.

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Austin**

**One Church
Many Beliefs**
512-452-6168
austinuu.org

Photography
compliments of
Jane Parsons and
Margaret Roberts

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78756

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR AUGUST

SafePlace



Imagine that it is midnight. You have been assaulted by someone you trusted at one time. Home no longer feels safe. The street is terrifying. Where do you go? What do you do? Ten thousand times a year, calls come into the Hotline at SafePlace with these questions.

SafePlace helps victims of domestic and sexual violence who have found themselves in these circumstances begin new lives, lives of self reliance and freedom from violence. SafePlace offers a wide range of services including a 24-hour Hotline, hospital and legal advocacy, counseling, emergency shelter and transitional housing, and life skills classes for victims and their families. Additionally, they

work to prevent future violence through community education and dialogue, systems advocacy and work with APD, Travis County Sheriff's Department and Legal Aid. SafePlace exists to end sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing, prevention and social change. On Sunday, Aug. 12, SafePlace will be the focus of the special offering to support SafePlace in its mission, and we at First UU have an opportunity to practice our own mission of transforming lives and doing justice.

More info: www.safeplace.org

A NOTE ABOUT SPECIAL OFFERINGS

On the second Sunday of every month our church collects a special offering. Your generous donations at the worship service go to the First UU Justice Fund, which is divided among worthy organizations, thereby extending our church's mission into the greater community. Organizations are nominated and then approved by the congregation.