



FIRST UU NEWS

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

Some thanks, and a confession

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse



I'm feeling grateful these days. First of all, I would like to thank Amanda Ray, chair of both the Fellowship Committee and the Capital Campaign Events Team. Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis, Erik Olson, and Mari Caballero partnered with Amanda to plan and execute a marvelous party for First UU's 60th anniversary. To the committees and chalice circles that volunteered to take a "decade room" and decorate it, to all the volunteers who worked to make it happen, I am grateful. Wasn't that a party, though? A. Party.

I'm also grateful to those of you who come to my office or call me when you have a question about how First UU is doing things, or why a certain decision was made. Recently, the tables were turned on me.

Kiya and I try to walk in the pool for an hour each afternoon. The time means a lot to us, and it keeps us stronger and healthier than we would be without it. We talk over how our days are going, help one another think through problems, and trade ideas on writing projects. We walk up and down in one lane,

doing laps, sometimes faster than the swimmers beside us, other times slower. In an open section of one side of the pool, there are no lanes, just open space for water exercises and for parents with little kids. One day a couple of weeks ago, we were walking, and an older white man came out to swim. There were no available lanes. A lifeguard waited until we were at the end of the lane and asked us if we would mind moving over into the children's section, since this man needed the lane.

I see how hard it is for a church member when you're hurt and mad and feeling run over and dismissed.

I told him we'd be finished in about half an hour, and then the man would be welcome to the lane. The lifeguard said, "These lanes are only for swimmers." I told him we were using the whole lane. "New instructions," he said.

"New instructions from whom?" I asked.

"The Aquatic Director."

We moved over, but our good

mood was gone. We were getting splashed by kids playing. We were getting hit with Styrofoam noodles. We were having to slow down and walk around parents and kids. This was their section. There was a reason other sections were cordoned off into lanes. We were MAD. We were going to QUIT this stupid place. We paid our money like everyone else, we shared a lane, we were moving at the same speed as the swimmers, and on and on. Until.

"Kiya, we're doing that thing!" She looked questioningly at me. "That thing I ask the people at church not to do! Get mad because of something they hear and stomp around talking to each other about it, just like we're doing. I ask them to come check it out with me.

Maybe they've misunderstood. I ask them to assume good will. I ask them to disagree from a position of curiosity and respect. Now I see how hard that is when you're hurt and mad and feeling run over and dismissed. I bet there's been a misunderstanding. I'm going to go ask this Aquatic Director about these new instructions."

continued on page 3

Talk with your Board of Trustees

Members of the Board of Trustees will be at a table in Howson Hall every Sunday in November to talk with the congregation. Look for their table and stop by before first service, between services or after second service.

We will also continue to be available on the first Wednesday of each month at F.R.E.D. Come by and enjoy a good meal and good conversation.

Save the Dates!

Pre-congregational meeting

Sunday, November 23,
Sanctuary
1:15-2:30 p.m.

Congregational meeting

Sunday, December 14,
Sanctuary
1:15-2:30 p.m.

Childcare provided for each.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

In the right place

by Carolyn Gremminger



On October 11, 2014, the Path to Membership class was held at First UU. It was thrilling to see the number of people present.

One of the duties of the board president is to provide a welcome speech to those attending. The experience is always enjoyable; I really appreciate hearing the spiritual backgrounds of people. Several people at my table shared similar histories. I never tire of meeting people and hearing their stories. Attending this class always reaffirms to me that I am in the "right place." I am grateful that the word is getting out about First UU and that people continue to join our community.

An interesting lecture was also provided by Richard Cleary, who discussed the history of Unitarianism and Universalism and provided information on the history of our congregation. Kelsey Caudebec provided useful particulars on the many ways to get involved at First UU.

Reverend Meg discussed the responsibilities of membership. One suggested responsibility is to "show up" for services and events. She explained that this is an excellent way to meet people and feel more involved here. She suggested that it is helpful to experience our church as a community of belonging, and to refrain from viewing our community from a consumeristic point of view.

One important place to show up is at the upcoming congregational meetings that will be held in November and December. I did not understand the importance of attending these meetings until I

became more involved with the church. Taking part in these meetings is one way to develop a "big picture" point of view of how the church community operates and is sustained.

Twice per year, we hold meetings of the congregation to make important decisions regarding the inner workings of the church. At the December meeting, among other things, we will be formally adopting a budget for the coming year. In November, we hold a pre-congregational meeting so that church members get the chance to review and discuss important topics ahead of time, before the December formal vote. There is an opportunity to provide feedback to leadership on the agenda items, in case any changes are needed before the actual congregational meeting is held.

What are the requirements to be able to cast a ballot at the congregational meeting?

Requirements for voting are found in our church bylaws:

"Requirements for voting: Individuals who have been members of the church for 30 days or more and who have (as an individual or part of a family unit) made a recorded financial contribution during the last 12 months and at least 30 days prior to the meeting, have the right to vote at all official church meetings."

Please mark your calendar for the fall pre-congregational meeting on November 23 at 1:15 p.m. in Howson Hall, and the congregational meeting

continued on next page

“Some thanks” from page 1

Next time we were at the end of the lane I asked the lifeguard what the name of the Aquatic Director was. He told me. When we were through walking, I went to her office. I didn't expect her to be there, since it was pretty late in the day, but there she was. I told her what had happened, and that I asked my church people to come check things out with me before they got mad and quit, so I wanted to do that in this situation. I told her we shared a lane, used the whole lane, took an hour, and didn't bother anybody. I told her it felt bad to be bumped so some other guy could swim. I told her I was sure there had been some misunderstanding, that she'd probably told

the lifeguards to move water aerobics people to the open section, people who were not using the whole lane, and that he had thought that she meant only swimmers could use the lane. That is exactly what happened, she said. She said she would go correct that impression, and as I left, she was headed out to the lifeguards.

I'm grateful to you all for behaving better than I did at first in that situation. I'm grateful to life for giving me a chance to practice what I preach. ■

“In the right place” from page 2

on December 14 at 1:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Childcare will be available for both meetings.

Do you have some feedback or

questions for the board?

Look for us on Sundays in November in Howson Hall and the gallery. Board members will be present to hear how you think we are progressing in realizing our values, mission and ends. You can also find us at the 6 p.m. F.R.E.D. dinner on the first Wednesday of the month. The monthly board meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month in the gallery.

Finally, thanks for your generous contributions to the Capital Campaign, and I hope you attended the 60th anniversary celebration on October 12 to celebrate our progress so far. I had a great time; thanks to the staff and volunteers for providing such a great shindig! ■



Music Matters

First UU celebrates the legacy of church founding member Janet McGaughey

On Nov. 23rd, the First UU Church Adult Choir will show their gratitude to the legacy of Janet McGaughey, one of the early church founding members and longtime music director. Her daughter Tina was generous enough to share with us a biography of her mother.

“Janet McLoud (Nov. 17, 1914-Dec. 8, 1999) grew up an only child in Springfield, Illinois. By the age of 4 she was aware she had absolute pitch, which contributed to her impeccable perception of musical content. She received her B.A. and M.A. in piano performance from the University of Michigan, and went on to teach music theory and

ear training at the UT College of Fine Arts in 1939. Virtually every music major took her classes and used her popular textbook on ear training.

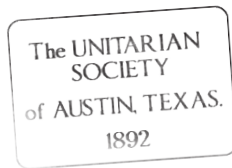
Janet married John McGaughey in 1940 and Janet moved with him to posts in Virginia Beach and San



Janet is shown here with her daughter Tina.

Diego, where Tina was born. She returned to Austin in 1950 after their divorce. Seeking a comfortable spiritual home, she found the Austin Unitarian Fellowship and joined the first Sunday she attended. She was among the dozen founding members in chartering the First Unitarian Church in 1954 and remained a calming and inspiring presence through the transition. She was also a foundational figure to the music program for forty-five years, serving as pianist, music director, and accompanist. One of her compositions, “O Light of Life” appears in our hymnbook, *Singing the Living Tradition*.”

FIRST UU IN PICTURES



“Back to the Future” thrills attendees through church’s 60 years

Capital Campaign achieves \$3 million

article by Amanda Ray

photos by Jon Montgomery, Jane S. Parsons, and Wayne Bockman



On October 12, First UU embarked on a sentimental journey through the church’s past six decades. At the end of each service, we began by celebrating our future with a presentation from Ann Edwards and Brenden Sterne, co-chairs of the Steering Committee. They announced the amount we had raised at that point in the Capital Campaign, which is now just over \$3 million! After the later service, our trip “Back to the Future” began, and each person was given a beautifully designed “passport” so they could collect stamps from each leg of the expedition.

Reverend Meg led us from the sanctuary to the south entrance of the RE wing, where we joined a 1950s sock hop. The Paradox Players called in some favors and were able to arrange a visit from Elvis, along with a beach babe who taught everyone how to hula hoop. Guests listened to records, flipped through Howdy Doody books, and snacked on Tootsie Pops and Tootsie Rolls.

Next was the ‘60s, where we made the transition from black and white to color. Special appearances were made by Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock, as well as a go-go dancer! The Social Action Committee promoted

peace, love, and brownies. (The regular kind, of course.)

The Green Sanctuary Committee put together a ‘70s Earth Day celebration to remember. We drank Tang, tossed around an earth ball and grooved to the tunes of the times. The happy face décor cheered everyone, demonstrated by the positive mood ring colors.

The next leg of the journey brought us to the First UU Choir’s arcade, circa the 1980s. Neon Pac Man figures pulsed to the beat of Flashdance on movie discs, and classic Atari games lit up screens. Totino’s pizza rolls were served, along with Count Chocula and other breakfast cereals from the era.

From there, we entered the ‘90s, the decade of personal computers and The Internet, brought to us by the Fellowship Committee. The “Blue Screen of Death” dominated one wall while clips from *The Simpsons*, *The Matrix* and *Vanilla Ice* played. We munched on Fruit by the Foot and read the timeline for this decade, one of which was displayed in each room describing what happened both in the church and in the world.

And finally, congregants got a taste of the hipster lifestyle of the

‘00s, sponsored by the handsomely mustached Young Adult group. We sampled kombucha from mason jars with paper straws and listened to music (before it was cool) on iPods.

As we emerged from the past, we walked to the Gallery to satisfy the hunger of the present with a Mexican taco buffet, virgin strawberry daiquiris, and margaritas! And then we were finally Back to the Future in Howson Hall and on the patio, dining at banquet tables adorned with personal-sized robots and surrounded by robot figures. Live music was provided by the Dirgibles and Chris Larson, and we were invited to write and draw on the table coverings what we hope to see in the years to come at First UU.

Attendees learned more about our collective history as we trekked through the years, reading newspaper articles about church happenings, old orders of service and newsletters, and seeing photos from church events. We reflected on those who have come before us, who have outrun “times past and times present, in visions of growth and progress.” And we look forward to continuing that growth, as we make room in our building and in our hearts. ■



Explore our beautiful Hill Country with fellow UUs

November 7-9 Near Spicewood, TX

The Fall UU Campout will be Friday, Nov. 7 through Sunday, Nov. 9. Please join us for a week-end of camping at a privately held camp ground near Spicewood, just 35 miles from Austin. Some people arrive around 4:00 p.m. on Friday night and others arrive on Saturday. No need to make a reservation as one has already been made for the group. Bring food for Friday and Saturday nights, plus breakfast and lunches. There's a swimming hole and a waterfall, and you can hike to Lake Travis. You don't have to camp

but can just spend the day. There are restroom and shower facilities nearby.

There will be a group potluck meal at around 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. Afterwards we'll have a campfire (if it's allowed) and musical jam. On Sunday morning we fix a communal breakfast. Bring musical instruments, food and drinks to share, lawn chairs flashlight, and water for cooking, washing up and drinking. No dogs are allowed. Also bring tents, bedding, camping equipment and flashlights if you are spending the night

Directions: Go west on Hwy 71 through Bee Caves, go 5 miles past the Pedernales river, and then take

a right at the Exxon station/store to Spicewood. Take the second right at the County Road 404 sign. The road into Krause Springs will be on the left after crossing a creek. Drive to the house where you pay. Entry is \$14 for adults and \$6 for children (4-11) per night, or adults \$7 and children \$5 if you're just spending the day. Tell them that you're with the Unitarians. We usually camp close by the house. If you need additional information call Lynn Vaughan at (512) 587-8221 or Lynn@Lynnspetsitting.com or Krause Springs at (830) 693-4181. ■

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Fall Harvest Training, Nov 7-9 Glen Lake Conference Center Glen Rose, TX

This conference will feature workshops such as:

- Introduction to Leadership as a Spiritual Practice
- Congregational Stewardship with UUA Consultant Bill Clontz
- Creating Vibrant and Meaningful Young Adult Ministry
- Renaissance Module: Youth Ministry
- The Ongoing March to Selma with the Regional Right Relations Specialists

- RETURNING: Children's EvolUUtion Camp for Children ages 5 to 14

- INTRODUCING: Infant and Toddler Childcare!

A family-friendly opportunity for expert lay leader training with only a weekend of time commitment. Classes for children to age 14. Older youth are welcome and encouraged to join the adults! Plus time to enjoy the beautiful fall countryside.

Links to brochure and registration at <http://bit.ly/UUAsouthfall2014>. Scholarship information available by emailing denom@austinuu.org.

Facing Race National Conference

November 13-15: Facing Race National Conference, presented by Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation, Dallas, TX

Save The Date!

November 14-16: Men's Retreat, UBarU near Kerrville, TX

Carpool Opportunities

Looking to carpool to a UU event outside Austin? Email us at denom@austinuu.org and Margaret Borden will attempt to pair you with someone to share the ride.

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING

Austin Child Guidance Center

*Supporting the minds of children and their families***by Russell Smith**

For over 63 years, the Austin Child Guidance Center (ACGC) has worked tirelessly 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 the treatment of children and families experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges, 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, local schools, and several high-need childcare centers. The full range of clinical services are available on a sliding fee scale; no one is denied services if unable to pay. Every year, approximately 87% of clients are low-income families (i.e., living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level).

Emily is one of the over 3,500 lives ACGC touches each year (over 130,000 since we opened our doors):

"Emily, a 7-year-old girl was exhibit-

ing extreme anxiety and severe behavioral problems daily, both at home and at school. Her mother had been asked to remove her from after school care. She would often sit in the corner and cry. Emily felt sad because her father was not in her life and thought this made her different from other children. The therapist worked closely with the child, her mother, and the school to reduce Emily's anxiety and symptoms of ADHD and increase functioning. Unfortunately, during therapy Emily was abused by a family friend. This increased her anxiety and she began having nightmares. The therapist used a combination of methods of treatment such as trauma focused cognitive-behavioral therapy (TF-CBT), and worked with the mother on parenting a child with ADHD. In therapy, Emily learned skills to help her relax and reduce her anxiety. She also learned coping skills to help her process this significant trauma. At the end of treatment, Emily was earning all A's in school, her behavior had improved, she was able to make and sustain healthy friendships, and was well liked by her classmates and teachers. Emily was teaching students in her class many of the techniques and skills she learned in sessions with her therapist." ■

All groups supported by Monthly Special Offerings will receive a check at the end of the year, when the total of the 12 monthly donations will be divided equally.

Thanks, NAMI supporters!

A big THANK YOU to all the walkers and those who donated money to the NAMI Walk last month. The UUUniques raised \$1,245 toward the goal of \$250,000, the majority of which stays in Austin to help those suffering from mental illness.

From Kathryn Govier and Karl Weston, co-captains of UUUniques.

The personal side of immigration

**Friday, Nov. 7
Wildflower UU
(1314 Oltorf)
7 p.m.**

Join fellow UUs to watch a screening of "Which Way Home," a film that shows the personal side of immigration through the eyes of children making their way to the US.

After the film, panelists from Austin Interfaith, Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera, Grass Roots Leadership, and more will conduct a Q&A session to discuss the way forward.

While the film will be shown for free, donations to help immigrants will be accepted.

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING**Eclectic Folk Jam***Friday, November 14**Rm. 17**7-10 p.m.*

The Eclectic Folk Jam, an open jam session for singers and instrumentalists, is held on the second Friday of every month. We have “Rise Up Singing” song books, and some people like to bring copies of their favorite songs to pass out. Bring drinks and snacks to share.

Contact Pete and Kim Akenhead at (512) 834-0188, or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or singalong@austinuu.org.

UU/Quaker Singalong*Saturday, November 22**Friends Meeting House
3701 E. MLK Blvd.**7:30-10:30 p.m.*

Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing. Copies of “Rise Up Singing” are provided. This is an alcohol-free event, round-robin format, held on the fourth Saturday of every month.

Contact Larry Vaughn at (512) 469-0029 or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or singalong@austinuu.org.

Our social justice nonprofits still need your financial support

First UU members and visitors still have time to increase our financial support to elected social justice nonprofits in 2014.

Maintaining our current monthly donation levels, we project to give about \$1,500 to each group in December, but we can increase that by submitting checks anytime made out to First UU Monthly Special Offerings, or by contributing extra money during the special collections Sunday Nov. 9 and Dec. 14, when we focus on Austin Child Guidance Center and Safe Place, respectively.

We collect money all year and divide the total collections by 12 to support worthy causes, which in 2014 include:

- Jan. 12 – Girls Rock Austin

- Feb. 9 – Casa Marianella
- March 9 – Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- April 13 – Texas Freedom Network
- May 11 – People’s Community Clinic
- June 8 – Drive a Senior
- July 13 – U-Bar-U
- August 10 – Planned Parenthood
- September 14 – Hands On Housing
- October 12 – Front Steps
- November 9 – Austin Child Guidance Center
- December 14 – Safe Place

Write a check now to First UU Monthly Special Offerings to help us give more to the nonprofit groups, which support UU values throughout the Austin community.

GREEN SANCTUARY

See climate change occur in stunning real time

*Friday, November 7**Howson Hall**7 p.m.*

Please join Green Sanctuary for a showing of the 2012 documentary, “Chasing Ice.” This film chronicles the efforts of nature photographer, James Balog, and his Extreme Ice Survey to publicize the effects of climate change. Using time-lapse photography across

various parts of the arctic, the crew records stunning visual scenes of ancient glaciers eroding, calving and disappearing. The plot of the movie follows the crew as they grapple with physical and technical problems to get the images they aspire to. The music is lovely and the movie is full of fabulous scenery. The movie is free and open to the public. Popcorn will be served.

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING

Make your picks of favorite nonprofits for 2015

It's almost time to nominate your favorite social justice nonprofit organization as one of our recipients for monthly special collections in 2015. Church members may submit nominations from Sunday, Nov. 23 at our fall pre-congregational meeting until Sunday, Dec. 7.

As a nominator, church members will commit to:

- 1) Fill out a detailed nomination form
- 2) Testify to the congregation about this organization when the plate is passed
- 3) Write an article for the newsletter and an announcement for the weekly order of service about the organization
- 4) Invite a representative of the organization to visit congregants in the gallery on the day of the offering to provide further information, and
- 5) Provide proof of 501(c)3 status.

Detailed nomination forms, which will be available starting Sunday, Nov. 23 at the Social Action table in the gallery, will give nominators space to explain: how the organization promotes and advocates our UU values; the nominator's relationship with the organization; and what volunteer opportunities the organization currently offers or could offer our congregation.

To receive a nomination form electronically or to help administer the voting process, contact Social Action Chair Peggy Morton at socialaction@ustinuu.org.

All congregants will have an opportunity to vote for their ten favorite worthy nonprofits by filling out a ballot in person on Sunday, Dec. 14, either after one of the worship services or at our fall congregational meeting.

Women's Spirituality Group

*First and third Saturdays
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.*

Rm. 13

In tribute to our 30th anniversary at First UU, the Women's Spirituality Group is reading and discussing the book that launched our group to becoming what it is today: "Dreaming the Dark" by Starhawk. We have covered the first three chapters so far. Anyone are welcome to join us at any time, and it's ok to show up without having read the book.

This group is for women who are high school age and older. We are open to new members at all times, and we invite you to join us. Contact: women@ustinuu.org.

Austin Presence Group update

The Austin Presence Group will be starting back up on Thursday, Nov. 6th. If you're new to our group, here are a few details about our meetings.

- Our group will be meeting the first and third Thursdays from 6:30-8 p.m. at First UU, usually in room 13B.
- Each week, we'll start with five to ten minutes of silent meditation.
- We are currently exploring several different spiritual paths including Eckhart Tolle's "Uncourse" and Mark Nepo's

"Book of Awakening," in hopes of deciding on a course of action for 2015.

- A \$5 donation is requested in order to support the church.

We welcome input from anyone who is considering attending our meetings. Come light another candle to illuminate your understanding along the spiritual path called life.

Should you have any questions, contact Joe Linsalata: (512) 327-5000 or Linsalata@austin.rr.com.

Wanna go out on Saturday?

Join fellow UU's from our congregation and neighboring UU fellowships for dinner, adult conversation and fun through MeetUp.com. Join the Unitarian Universalist's Saturday Night Social group today, or contact Amanda Hatch at amandahatchlcs@gmail.com for more information.

HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

**Art Mission:
Wednesday Night
Kids' Project!****Every Wednesday night
7-9:30 p.m.****Rm. 15B**

Want to make movies, write plays, do flash mobs, dance numbers, do nothing, sit around and talk, or draw cartoons and comic books? Join this multi-age kids' project, totally kid driven and based on UU values. The project will be all-inclusive and made by consensus, facilitated by Kiya Heartwood and other supportive adults. All kids welcome, ages 5-18. Starts first Wednesday in November. Bring your creativity and your ideas.

**“Getting to Know
UU” class****Sunday, December 7
12:15-1:15 p.m.****Rm. 15**

This class is a basic introduction to Unitarian Universalist history, as well as the history of First UU of Austin. You will also have opportunities to ask questions and share faith histories with other attendees. Childcare is provided.

Advice from Covenant Corner

Dear Covenant:

I'm in charge of a small group of other volunteers at church, and I don't get why they won't do our assigned tasks the way I know is the best way. My experience should count since I'm the supervisor, right? It's at the point now that we argue a lot, and I don't know how to make them understand that I know what I'm talking about.

— *Really Miffed*

Dear Miffed:

Supervising other people can be tricky, especially when you have a difference of opinion. In our church, how we relate to one another is more important than how the task gets done, however.

Our covenant calls us to disagree from a place of curiosity. You might say, “Help me understand how your way works, I'm really curious.” Then let them show you, don't argue or criticize. You both might end up learning something new. If their way doesn't cause problems, let them continue.

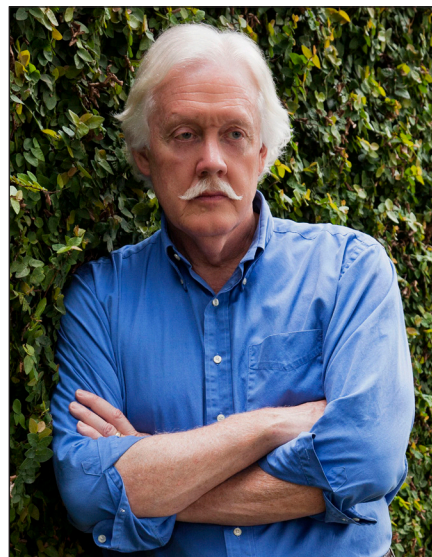
The Healthy Relations Ministry is available to you as a resource if you need help with a difficult situation here at church. It includes Margaret Borden, Ann Edwards, and Sandra Ries and can be reached at healthyrelations@austinuu.org.

Sincerely,

*Healthy Relations Covenant***First UU member comes out
with a new work of fiction**

Longtime First UU member Ernie Wood, a journalist, advertising writer and author of a number of non-fiction books, now has a novel coming out. “One Red Thread,” a tale of time travel into the past and the effect that discovering generations of family secrets has on people and relationships in the present, will be published by Tyrus Books/F+W Media on November 3.

“One Red Thread” will be available at online and physical outlets, including BookPeople, where Ernie will have a reading and signing event on January 5. For more information, visit the publisher's website, www.tyrusbooks.com or the author's website, erniewood.com.



“One Red Thread” is Ernie Wood's first novel.

Legislative Action Day set for Texas UUs to visit Capitol Jan. 20

by **Peggy Morton**

Plan now to join fellow UUs from across Texas as we gather at the Capitol for our first Texas UU Justice Ministry Legislative Action Day on Tuesday, Jan. 20 to promote our main issues: women's reproductive justice, Medicaid expansion, and economic justice.

We'll start the day from 8:30-10:30 a.m. with supportive legislators, who'll teach us about the legislative process and their views about the upcoming session. We'll also get briefed on how to handle legislative meetings from First UU member Karen Neeley, who has worked as a lobbyist for community banks for about 25 years.

From there, we'll visit legislators from the districts where each of us lives, and we'll do that in teams because numbers

talk and the more people from an area sign the book, the better. We'll arrange 20-minute meetings at specific times to meet with Austin area representatives and senators from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan 20.

Finally, we'll reconvene as a big group from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to debrief our day.

Those planning to arrive Monday, Jan. 19 will have the option of a special tour of the Capitol by Karen Neeley, who will show us the shortcuts, back stairways, and other secret spaces most people never discover, along with sharing a few juicy stories.

For more info about joining us for the tour and/or Legislative Action Day, email Peggy at socialaction@austinuu.org.

Host out-of-town UUs advocating our values

If you have an extra room and wouldn't mind offering a bed to a UU coming to Austin for the Texas UU Justice Ministry Legislative Action Day Tuesday, Jan. 20, we want to hear from you.

They may want to stay the night before or after our action day and would come to us as active social justice leaders from a variety of UU congregations around the state. To express interest or get more info, email Peggy at socialaction@austinuu.org.

Fall New Member Potluck—open to everyone!

**Saturday, November 8
6-8 p.m.**

Howson Hall

RSVP by November 5, please! Since our last potluck in April, we've had 55 new members join. Come to the potluck to meet some new members and catch up with friends!

RSVP to Kelsey at membership@austinuu.org. Free childcare provided (please let us know in your RSVP if you will need childcare).

The Annual Stewardship Campaign 2015 continues!

The Steering Committee is wrapping a successful \$3 million Capital Campaign. Thanks to everyone that has supported through the process! We also thanks those who have made their Annual Stewardship pledge during the campaign! We will continue to contact those with no pledge of record for Annual Stewardship 2015. Expect a call from a Steering Committee member—or even better, go by the Stewardship table to show your support.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lifespan RE highlights

by Rev. Marisol Caballero, Assistant Minister

**Guest at Your Table 2014!**

For a number of years, First UU has participated in the UU Service Committee (UUSC) program, **Guest at Your Table**. This educational fundraising program supports the work that UUSC does to promote human rights around

the globe. In the past, a small box was given to each participating household to set on their dinner table. With each meal, as if there were a guest to feed, the family would place a donation in the Guest at Your Table box. This year, with the theme of food sustainability, the UUSC is encouraging participants to host an actual meal that focuses its conversation and activities on human rights as a fundraising effort. Resources, such as printable placemats, discussion guides, recipes, and videos are available at: uus.org/planning-a-guest-at-your-table-meal. Beginning Nov. 9, pamphlets and envelopes for donations will be available at the Lifespan RE table. Please return your envelopes by Dec. 28.

Sunday Seminars, Dec. 7, 1-2:30 p.m.

Sunday Seminars take place on the first Sunday each month. Our seminars will focus on topics such as leadership development, spiritual practices, UU identity development, and spiritual practices. No prior registration required. A simple lunch will be available in Howson Hall from noon-1 p.m. for \$5 (available to-go for Forum attendees) and childcare will be provided. Please check each monthly newsletter for detailed information on Sunday Seminars!

Spiritual Practices Track: “Mandala Meditation” facilitated by Sandra Ries

Mandalas are intricate designs found in rituals within Buddhism and Hinduism. Carve out some time for peace and tranquility in your busy week, as you meditatively color these ancient patterns.

Faith Formation Track: “Long Strange Trip” film screening and discussion, facilitated by Luther Elmore

““Long Strange Trip” is a six-part video series by Ron Cordes that explores the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the early, liberal strands in faith at the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism.” (uuu.org)

**F.RE.D Nights
Every Wednesday, dinner 6-7 p.m. (\$6)**

Join us for F.RE.D. (Fellowship, Religious Education, and Dinner) every Wednesday. (In observance of Thanksgiving, F.RE.D. is cancelled on Wed., November 26.)

**“What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists,” facilitated by Dr. Andy Gerhart
Alternating Wednesdays, Nov. 12****(no class on Nov. 26)****7-9 p.m. \$15 registration fee**

We are regularly faced with moral choices, big and small. How should we respond to a tricky family or relationship situation? What is the right thing to do when faced with a dilemma at work? What is the most ethical course for a community, state, or nation to follow, and how much am I prepared to invest in advocating for that course? How does morality or ethics enter my food and eating choices? How should morality or ethics enter my consumer decisions? How do we treat others? What must I do to follow the values of my Unitarian Universalist faith tradition? (www.uuu.org) Childcare provided. ■

PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC

PCC Profile: New church member, new volunteer

We are very lucky to have talented, caring, and knowledgeable volunteers who help us fill some of the many needs of People's Community Clinic. We have introduced a few to you, but in this newsletter we would like to highlight a new church member who has answered the call of PCC.

Meet a lovely lady named Robin Gary. Robin and her husband Jim moved to Austin in June of 2013, and shortly after the truck pulled out, they were at the church's door! They are the parents of two daughters: 17-year-old Mary Emma is active in our YRUU and a dean for UBarU; and 14-year-old Melina practices her spirituality on a more personal level.

The family moved here from Plano by way of Maryland. Robin, a native of Los Angeles and graduate in mathematics from UCLA, moved around in her discipline as a software developer which landed her in Maryland. She met Jim at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab. There they married and Mary Emma was born. Soon fate had them moving back to Jim's birth state, Texas, and a life in Plano where Melina was born.

The family lived in Plano for 13 years and were active members of the Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano. Robin says they

joined the church when they found that the religious community in Plano was pressuring Mary Emma and they wanted to find a more tolerant church family. Fate struck again when a job opportunity for Jim as Director of Information for the UT Systems brought them to Austin and our church. Robin claims she used to go to church for the social aspect, now she comes because she loves the community, Rev. Meg, and the "message."

When in Plano the day came that Robin decided to get back to art, her first love. She started working on pottery, sculpture, and glass fusing and casting. To share her love of the arts, she taught at the local Parks and Recreation Centers. She claims the girls think she is a happier artist than she was a software developer. Now that the family is more settled, she is back doing her art which can be seen on etsy.com/shop/SmilingRobin.

When we made a plea for volunteers for PCC, Robin stepped up and answered. She came to the collating group, and then for one of the special needs requests she brought both daughters to help write addresses and stuff envelopes. But, knowing she had other skills to offer along with the ability to read Spanish, she went further and did the short course required for reading to the children

when they attend the clinic. Robin says the approximately four-hour course was terrific. It made her see the need and reasons behind the clinic's desire to encourage the reading program and using it as outreach to families who don't have the means or abilities to promote a reading foundation.

As things would have it, the clinic needed her help more in the offices where she ended up helping with some computer and other fairly simple office tasks. She helped a few hours a week for several months and now is on call as office helper and "go-fer." She claims for now that suits her just fine.

As Robin's story points out, PCC has lots of places for people of varying talents and abilities to pitch in. If you would be interested in finding out more you can check out PCC's web site at www.austinpcc.org. For information about First UU volunteer efforts with PCC, send an e-mail to pcc@austinuu.org.

Our collating group will be back at 2909 IH-35, 9:30 a.m. until about noon in the second floor conference room on November 11th. We are always happy to have you, no long-term commitment necessary. If you join us, plan to go to lunch with a group afterwards.

Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, Nov. 12
Howson Hall
12 p.m.

This month will be a program of Broadway songs from the '40s and '50s, presented by Charles Palmer, baritone, and Kathryn Govier, piano. We will have song sheets and invite all to sing along with us.

Soup, salad and dessert will be served for \$5. Please RSVP to Alice Cashman: (512) 837-0988.

Town Hall Meetings for Building Expansion: Be a part of our growth!

Fri., Nov. 14, 6 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 15, 10:30 a.m.
Sun., Nov. 16, 1:15 p.m.
Howson Hall

We invite the congregation to provide input into the process of setting building priorities at our first series of Town Hall meetings. What is most important? Where are the most urgent "pain points?" What shall we do first? How shall we think about quality of building materials? Environmental impact of our building? What should the look and tone of it be, as it will be a non-verbal witness to our character and our values? Join us on one of our multiple meetings.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

NOVEMBER 2**The Ancestors' Ways**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

How do we honor those who came before us? How do we keep the stories as true as we can, cherishing the things they did that were right and acknowledging, then forgiving the things they did that were wrong? How do we claim where we came from and still understand our power to choose who we are now? Jacob Hodges (marimba), Joseph Hodges (piano), and Elizabeth Lee (cello) will share their music for morning services.

NOVEMBER 9**Keep the Home Fires Burning**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

This year marks the 100th anniversary of World War I. How did it change our world? How might we hold in our hearts some of its lessons? Service music will feature songs from the WWI era.

NOVEMBER 16**The Problem of Evil**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Why bad things happen to good people is a basic question for humanity, no matter what your view of the world. Service music will feature classic rock 'n roll compositions by Jagger and Richards.

NOVEMBER 23**Gratitude**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

The sermon will be on gratitude, and the First UU Church Adult Choir will show their gratitude to the 100-year legacy of Janet McGaughey, one of the early church founding members and longtime music director.

NOVEMBER 30**Building a New Way**

REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

December 1 is World AIDS Day. As the world pauses each year to remember the losses and to recommit to the struggle against the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), it is important to also remember what community responses to HIV can teach us about working for social change. How do we sustain such work over the long run? Can doing justice also nourish our souls?

THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

NOVEMBER 2

Standing up for Ordinary People: The Work of Public Citizen in Texas

WITH TOM "SMITTY" SMITH

Tom "Smitty" Smith, Executive Director of Public Citizen in Texas, will discuss his organization's work on environmental enforcement policies, global warming, promoting renewable/clean energy, product safety, nuclear safety, health and occupational safety, and campaign finance/ethics reform in Texas. His agency serves as a watchdog and advocate for improvement in state government agency operations. Smitty will describe how Public Citizen challenges corporate interests that threaten our public health, and some of the victories his group has achieved. He has long been involved in pushing for safe disposal of nuclear and industrial waste and in stopping the use of coal for fuel.

Tom "Smitty" Smith has served as the director of Public Citizen's Texas Office since 1985. He has testified over 1,000 times on energy and other issues before the Texas Legislature and the U.S. Congress. His primary goal now is to combat global warming. He has won over a dozen awards for his work, including the Heinz Award and was recently recognized by Politico Magazine as one of the 25 most influential Democrats in Texas. Earlier in his life, he developed and directed food banks in the Southern U.S. and he became addicted to Texas politics when he served as a legislative aide to Texas State Representative Al Price from 1982 to 1985. He earned a B.A. from Valparaiso University in Indiana in 1974 but became a Texan by choice shortly thereafter.

NOVEMBER 9

What Can We Do To Make Austin Affordable?

WITH BRIGID SHEA

Brigid Shea, former Austin City Councilwoman and environmental consultant, will discuss affordability issues facing Austin's citizens. She will discuss ways of trying to reform our Travis County tax appraisal system to reduce

the burden on small businesses and homeowners and to ensure that large-scale businesses pay their fair share. She will describe her efforts to develop economic incentives for businesses that don't waste taxpayers' dollars. She will advocate for ways of creating more affordable housing within our community. She will also describe initiatives for new water conservation techniques.

Brigid Shea came to Austin in 1988 and launched the first Texas Chapter of Clean Water Action. She had previously been an award-winning journalist at NPR stations in Minnesota and Philadelphia. She served on the Austin City Council from 1993 to 1996 and championed consumer, electoral, and environmental reforms. She was also a co-wfounder of the Save Our Springs Alliance and worked diligently to protect our local environment. In recent years she has served as an advisor to LCRA, Seton, SDC Communities, Vignette, Green Mountain Energy, and many corporate and nonprofit organizations on environmental policy and community issues.

NOVEMBER 16

Capitalism vs. Christianity: A Tale of Two Cults

WITH BOB JENSEN

Challenging the conventional wisdom of many secular and religious people, Robert Jensen argues that faith in the "Cult of Capitalism" is irrational, and a commitment to a reformulated "Cult of Christianity" (along with other religious traditions) is rational as we face up to the corrosive effects of modern life on human nature and the destructive effects of modern life on nature. As inequality and ecological collapse intensify, where do we look for values based on solidarity and sustainability?

Robert Jensen is a professor in the School of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin and board member of the Third Coast Activist Resource Center in Austin. He is a film producer and the author of many books, including most recently "Arguing for Our Lives: A User's Guide to Constructive Dialogue," and "All My Bones Shake: Seeking a Progressive Path to the Prophetic Voice." His articles can be found online at www.robert-wjensen.org.

**First Unitarian
Universalist
Church of Austin**

(512) 452-6168

www.austinuu.org

Senior Minister

Rev. Meg Barnhouse

Office Administrator

Andrea B. Sosa

Assistant Minister

Rev. Marisol Caballero

Assistant Minister

Chris Jimmerson

Director of Music

Brent Baldwin

Membership Coordinator

Kelsey Caudebec

Communications Coordinator

Victoria Valadez

Board President

Carolyn Gremminger

**First Unitarian
Universalist
Church of Austin**

4700 Grover Ave.

Austin, TX 78756

THE FORUM, *continued*

NOVEMBER 23

**Entomophagy: How
Educating Americans to
Eat Bugs Can Help Feed
the World and Save the
Planet**

WITH ROBERT NATHAN ALLEN

With demand for meat rising around the world, and many nations facing starvation and food deficiencies, we know we have to change the way we view food. Current farming practices are ravaging the environment, polluting the water and air, causing deforestation, overfishing, and contributing to the rise in infectious diseases.

Cultivating insects as food addresses each of these problems. But in North

America and in Europe, we have the hurdle of the taboo against them. Eighty percent of the world views them as normal food; it's only nations in Europe, Canada, and the USA who balk at the idea.

Robert Nathan Allen is the founder of Little Herds, an Austin-based non-profit that is changing that perception. They are using children's education and public events, as well as working with chefs, bakers, farmers, and businesses, to make this a viable market as well as promoting healthy eating and sustainable farming.

NOVEMBER 30

**THANKSGIVING
HOLIDAY BREAK ■**