



FIRST UU NEWS

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

Chalice and Candles at the Coffee House Service

Worship comes to Howson Hall again

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse



First UU's soul is nourished by the people who come through our doors. First UU's life is also being transformed, as we hope ours are. Our challenge, as you are by now tired of hearing, is having enough room for everyone who wants to come to the second service. It is uncomfortable for visitors to come in and see the parking lot and the pews more than 80% full. This is the point, church studies say, at which they conclude "There is no room for me here" and they turn away. This is a challenge to First UU and its goal of being intentionally hospitable to all people of good will.

Sometimes we try little things to address big challenges. As a short-term solution, we have been having a satellite service in Howson Hall. We've been calling it the "Coffee House Service," because you and your children can eat bagels and drink juice or coffee while listening to the service. The Worship Ministry Team has been talking about how to make that service feel more welcoming, and they have added a chalice to that service. Starting on March 2, there will be a handsome screen holding votive candles so that

Coffee House Service participants may light candles of joy, sorrow and remembrance during the time of meditation. The discomfort left over by this arrangement is that the gallery and the courtyard are the only places for conversation during

Our challenge is to be awake to church newcomers, and to make room for them to be part of what we are doing here. It would be most comfortable to let this challenge pass us by, but comfort is not First UU's primary goal. Hospitality is.

the second service. As has been the case for the past several months, the Facilities Research Group is at work pricing alternative solutions for the next 60 years of the congregation's life.

Why do I say 60 years? Because 2014 is the 60th anniversary of the Unitarian Fellowship's being granted official status from the Unitarian Universalist Association. This is a year for celebrating our history in

Austin as we make the decisions that shape our future. Worshiping in Howson Hall brings this church full circle, as Howson Hall served as the sanctuary until the late '80's, when the new sanctuary was built. It is named for Emily Wheelock Howson, who left a bequest for the church with which it bought its current land and built Howson Hall. Her father, the Reverend Edwin Miller Wheelock, founded The Unitarian Society of Austin in 1892. He was a Harvard educated Civil War chaplain in the Union army who settled in Austin after the war. Between the war and the establishment of the Unitarian Society, Reverend Wheelock held several important positions: the State Commissioner of Education, Superintendent of the State School for the Blind, newspaper editor and Austin City Councilman. Wheelock served as minister until 1899. He died in 1901. The church had lain dormant for many years after his death until it was revived by a group of Unitarians in the early 50's.

First UU's Long Range Plan calls for us to grow to about 1,000 members

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Lead and Follow

by **Michael Kersey**

Leadership isn't simply about being in charge



Welcome to spring in Texas; a time for planting seeds, cultivating and nurturing, and tending to plants and trees that will blossom and grow into a future season's garden. Here at First UU, we're also planting seeds for our future by cultivating our leadership development.

Recently, the Leadership Development Team offered a "Find Your Wings Leadership Workshop" which explored leadership as an "evolving self-discovery." Last month at the request of the Nominating Committee, Donna Howard and Eric Stimmel shared inspiring testimonials in our Sunday service about their experiences serving as leaders in this community. Developing and re-invigorating people as leaders gives our church greater capacity to move towards its goals and fulfill its mission. Serving as a leader here is also one way to fulfill a promise in our Covenant of Healthy Relations to build and sustain our faith community by being generous with our time and talent.

I believe that we all have talents to share and potential to be leaders. After all, there are many definitions of leadership. Several years ago while preparing for a leadership seminar sponsored by

the Nominating Committee, I came across an article about "shared leadership" which described an understanding of leadership that emphasizes ethics, ownership, learning, and sharing as part of a process whereby a community of people discovers and becomes what it wants to be. The article continues to be a touchstone for me, especially these highlights:

- Leadership can be explored as a social process – something that happens between people. It is not so much what leaders do, but rather something that arises out of social relationships. As such it does not depend on one person, but on how people act together to make sense of the situations that face them.

- Leadership lies not so much in one person having a clear vision as in our capacity to work with others in creating one.

- As individuals we are part of the leadership process and, at times, receive the gift of being the leaders from others.

- The leadership process is part of our daily experience. We may lead others, ourselves, or be led. We play our part in relationships and groups where it is always around. Sometimes there is an obvious 'leader', often there isn't. Nor are there always obvious followers. The world is not neatly divided in this

respect. Part of our responsibility as partners in the process is to work so that those who may label themselves as followers come to see that they, too, are leaders.

You can read the article 'Shared leadership' for yourself at the Encyclopedia of Informal Education: bit.ly/sharedleadership

Another thought-provoking take on leadership is Derek Sivers's TED Talk, "Leadership Lessons of Dancing Guy." In his talk, Sivers shows an example of starting a movement in under 3 minutes. He points out that followers, especially the first follower, "transforms a lone nut into a leader." It takes both leaders and follower to create and sustain a movement. You can watch the video here: bit.ly/1stfollower

I am also reminded of a sermon that Rev. Meg once gave here comparing UU Theology to jazz. I think that jazz is also an apt metaphor for leadership. We are creating something together around a common theme and sometimes we have the opportunity to hear a solo or a smaller grouping that really keeps the music swinging. Our mission to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice; our identified values of transcendence, community, compassion, courage, and transformation; and our goals of being intentionally hospitable,

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nourishing souls and transforming lives, and being witnesses to justice in our personal lives and beyond—all keep us playing together like theme, key, and tempo provide the structure for making music together.

A simple way to learn about getting more involved here is to talk to our Membership Coordinator, Kelsey Caudebec. Or if you are interested in learning more about serving on our Board of Trustees, talk to one of the Board Members or one of the members of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying candidates to serve on the Board of Trustees and presenting the candidates for approval at our May Congregational Meeting.

The Board of Trustees meets this month on March 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the Gallery. The meetings are open and anyone with interest is invited to attend. ■

“Chalice and Candles” from page 1

and then begin planting new 200-member UU congregations to serve other areas of Austin. Austin is a boom town, and people are pouring in. Many of those are looking for a faith community just like First UU. Our challenge is to be awake to this group of people, and to make room for them to be part of what we are doing here. It would be most comfortable to let this challenge pass us by, but comfort is not First UU’s primary goal. Hospitality is.

Hospitality is a spiritual path practiced by most of the peoples of the earth. Our mission is “to gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.” How much are we willing for the life of this church to be transformed? How badly do we want to nourish souls in our community? How broadly are we willing to define “our” and “community?” Our forbears here at First UU started this conversation, and look what they built. They look to us now to see what we will do to with what they have given us. ■

Church Use Training Session

**Sunday, March 23
Location TBA
12:30-1:30 p.m.**

Do you use the church facilities for your meetings or events? If you are the chair of a committee or you are the one who oversees church use, we want to make sure you are equipped with the knowledge to make your event a success!

Please plan on attending even if your group has been using the church for years, so that all groups can learn the inner workings of sharing this space. Our new office administrator Andrea Sosa will be leading the training and she looks forward to meeting everyone!

Please RSVP (including any specific questions/topics that you would like to have covered) to Andrea at andrea.sosa@austinuu.org by Wednesday, March 19. If you need childcare, please let Andrea know by Sunday, March 16.

MARCH ART EXHIBITION

Science fiction dreams of a colorful robotic future

Reception: Sat. March 8, Gallery 6-8 p.m.

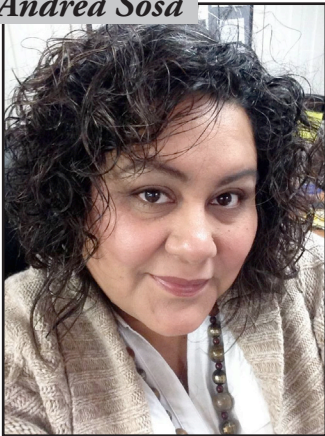
Since graduating from the University of Texas in 1981 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, Dan Gremminger has balanced a career in advertising with a variety of eclectic and accomplished endeavors in the art world. “Robots and Rayguns” is a celebration of childhood imaginings inspired by the “space race” and the great science fiction of the 1960s. These exuberant pieces combine the naïveté and wonder of the artist’s



inner child with the distinctive pop art that permeated the comic book and film landscape at the time. They reflect the promise of a “cool” tomorrow, where the line between science fiction and science fact was rendered nearly invisible by a wide-eyed generation of young dreamers.

Say hello to the new First UU staff!

Andrea Sosa



Andrea B. Sosa is the new Office Administrator at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin.

In her spare time, she is also the owner/decorator of Bee-utiful Weddings & More! which allows her to put her love of crafting, decorating and design to great use creating bee-utiful events for family and friends.

Andrea has a B.S. in Applied Sociology from Texas State University and hopes to complete her M.S. degree

in the near future. Her past work experiences include administrative support and office management at the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce, Velocity Credit Union, Texas State University and Stephen F. Austin State University.

Andrea was born and raised in Austin, Texas. She just celebrated her third anniversary to her husband Mauricio, and has two very spoiled dogs, Marley and Kayla.

Kelsey Caudebec



Kelsey Caudebec is our new Membership Coordinator. She moved to Austin from the Seattle area last September. Kelsey has a B.A. in linguistics and has been a volunteer coordinator at two nonprofits.

Kelsey has lots of interests! Her past volunteer pursuits include film festivals, tutoring ESL, AmeriCorps, zoo-keeping in Guatemala, and helping out at an art gallery. Currently, she volunteers at a local civil rights organization and is a server/bartender at a local restaurant.

She likes the usual stuff like movies, art, reading and traveling, and also running and learning about social justice issues. Having spent seven years as a barista, she is known to have identified as a coffee nerd.

Having come from the rainy ol' Pacific Northwest, she is crazy about all this Texas sunshine (though she has heard rumors about Texas summers)! Kelsey is excited to continue to get to know Austin, and the congregation here at First UU!

Darcy Nolan



Hi, my name is Darcy Nolan and I am so excited to be your new Childcare Coordinator. I recently relocated to Austin from Boston, MA, with my husband, Jordan. I have been working in early childhood education for over seven years, as a teacher of infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and as an administrator. I love working with children of all ages, but infants and young toddlers hold a special place in my heart; I love witnessing them discover the world

around them through their play.

Jordan and I arrived in Texas with a fabulously furry cat, Teddy, and we have now added to our family with a loveable senior dog named Pumpkin, whom we recently rescued from the city shelter. In my free time I enjoy volunteering at Austin Pets Alive!, playing golf with my husband and cooking for my family.

I look forward to getting to know all of you and your families!

FIRST UU IN PICTURES

Visit our church from over 40 years ago

Photos and description by David Howe

My father, Charles Howe (now deceased), was the minister of this church from 1966 to 1970. I was in elementary/middle school at the time and spent a lot of time at the church, including printing my junior high school's underground newspaper on the church's mimeo machine! It was a time of great activity and ferment in Austin and at the church.

The bottom right photo was taken at the installation of my father as minister of the church in Nov. 1966. From left to right: Malcolm Sutherland, the President of Meadville-Lombard Theological Seminary in Chicago, where my father

earned his Bachelor's of Divinity; my father; and David B. Parke, minister at that time for the UU church of Germantown, PA, and who gave "the charge" to my father. Dave, who is still living, was a very close friend of my father and influenced his decision to enter the ministry. I particularly like the clothing—very "Mad Men."

The top black & white photos were taken at the groundbreaking for the R.E. wing in January 1968. Scans of the back of the photos show the names of those included. Maybe one of you will recognize a name! In the right photo

I'm the boy on the right (white chinos—very cool at the time). Note the lack of anything near the church. Perhaps it is still like that, but I doubt it.

The bottom left photo is noted on the back as "Laughton wedding ca. 1969," performed by my father. Mainly of interest for the clothing, the appearance of the sanctuary, and the style of wedding at that time. There were many hippie-style outdoor weddings at that time as well; my father was extremely flexible in accommodating people. Those were very interesting times!



Peter Block & David Howe

*Lou Maysol, Kitty Clark, Harriette Parker, Tom Moriarty
J.W. Etkner, Bd. Pres
& Chas. Howe, Minister*



Save the Dates!**Pre-congregational meeting**

Sunday, April 6, 2014,
1:30 p.m.

Congregational meeting

Sunday, May 11, 2014,
1:30 p.m.

Childcare will be provided for each.


Youth Group Talent Show & Silent Art Auction

Sunday, March 2
Howson Hall
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The Sr. High School Youth Group will be holding their talent show, along with a silent art auction after both Sunday services. Live music and poetry readings by the youth will be on the Howson stage after second service. Lunch will be served by the youth during the performance. All proceeds go towards refurbishing the youth room.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE**It's Leadership Time of Year!**

During February and early March services, we enjoyed a series of brief "Leadership Moments," presented by a number of current and former leaders. Many thanks to Donna Howard, Kit Christie, and Eric Stimmel for sharing their inspiring stories.

As you recall, those stories were not about what these folks accomplished for our community—too much to fit into a few minutes—but rather how their leadership activities have positively impacted their own lives.

The Leadership Moments invite us all to consider how the act of leading enables us to grow as individuals while making new connections with fellow members. It's no coincidence that we share these stories right at the time when the church needs new leaders to step up and fill critical positions on the board and various committees.

We on the Nominating Committee are responsible for identifying new board candidates and nominating the President-Elect. We are seeking candidates for five board positions that open up in May. The congregation trusts

our board members with shaping the overall direction of our church—that's why these lay leaders are aptly named 'Trustees.'

The Executive Team (including the Minister) is charged with finding talented people to serve in church committees such as Social Action, Religious Education, and Fellowship. There are plenty of opportunities for everyone.

Do you feel the pull of leadership? Do you have some special talents that you'd like to offer? There are many ways to lead within our community, and it's easy to learn what that entails! Visit the gallery leadership table after services through March 9th to discover large and small opportunities to lend a hand. You can talk to any member of the Nominating Committee or Executive Team to express an interest. Or simply shoot us an email: nomcom@austinuu.org. Someone will get back to you promptly.

Let us help you find a place within our community so you can start your own leadership story!

Mark your calendars!

Heart of Texas Men's Retreat

Friday-Sunday, April 4-6, 2014

Every fall and spring, men from UU churches across Texas gather for a weekend retreat at UBarU Retreat & Conference near Kerrville. Come and enjoy fellowship in the Texas Hill Country. Rest, relax, enjoy delicious meals and use the time as a break from your normal routines and schedules. Rev. Mark Skrabacz will facilitate the retreat. Mark will guide us in a thematic inquiry and processes of introspection to deepen our life's path and build community among our fellow UU men.

We will begin gathering Friday afternoon to share an evening meal and end mid-morning Sunday. There is plenty of bunkhouse room, or bring a tent if you want. All buildings are heated and air-conditioned. Bring your own towel, sheets, blanket/sleeping bag, and pillow, as well as any snacks and libations you would enjoy. Activities may include poker playing, volunteer projects, music, hiking around UBarU's beautiful rugged 142 acres, and fellowship. As anyone who has attended one of these retreats during the past decade will tell you, the

event offers a pleasant, relaxing time to unwind and just get away for a couple of days while enjoying fellowship with other UU men. If you can't make it for two nights you are welcome for just one. We encourage participation from all UU men across Texas. Please spread the word!

Sign up now and put it on your calendar. The cost which covers lodging and meals is \$110 if received by Friday, March 21; after early registration ends that day, the cost goes up to \$125. Send a check, payable to Mark Kilpatrick, to:

Mark Kilpatrick
1618 Westlake Dr.
Austin, TX 78746

For those in Austin, checks also can be brought to the next Men's Fellowship Breakfast Group gathering, scheduled for 7-9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 8, at First UU. Men's Breakfast is held the second Saturday of each month.

Find directions to UBarU at their website, www.ubaru.org. For more information, please contact Mark Kilpatrick at texanmkk17@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Yew Grove Moon Circle

Sunday, March 16
Butler Park
7:30 p.m.

Join Yew Grove for our March Moon Circle at the labyrinth in Butler Park, just across the river due east of the Dougherty Arts Center. We'll celebrate the advent of spring out in the greenery with a beautiful view of the lake and city skyline.

The March and April Moon Circles will be at Butler Park, on the opposite side of Dawson St. from the Dougherty Arts Center. The address for the Dougherty is 1110 Barton Springs Rd.

The labyrinth is paved and so it handi-accessible, as are the park restrooms nearby. There's parking along Dawson, so please be a good neighbor and don't park in the Dougherty's lot. Contact: yewgrove@austinuu.org.

Take a Wine Country Holiday!

The UUs of Napa, California proudly announce the ninth season of their Wine Country Excursions. They offer several options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There is much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma valleys, e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco by car or ferry.

The program runs from April through October. Fees are well below market rate for comparable services and all proceeds go to their small fellowship. For complete details contact: Iris Barrie at 707.363.7552 or barrie001@comcast.net.

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING

**Women's
Spirituality Group**

**1st & 3rd Saturdays
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Rm. 13**

The Women's Spirituality Group continues our focus on "Explorations of Spiritual Practices." On March 1 we will have an introduction to meditation through drawing using a Zentangle®-inspired technique. Then on March 15 we will celebrate Ostara, the Spring Equinox, and try a movement meditation.

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. For more information please contact: women@austinuu.org.



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Advancing human rights worldwide

by Judy Sadegh

Our focus on March 9 will be Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, one of the nonprofit groups which the congregation selected for our monthly special offerings. Our contributions to the UUSC help people in 15 countries throughout the globe to foster social justice work toward a world free from oppression.

These donations will help the efforts of the courageous people working to create a more just and compassionate world. People like Christine Milimu, a teacher in Nairobi who chose to work in a Kibera slum rather than teach in an elite school. She helped found Rock Women Group, one of UUSC's partners in Kenya, which provides desperate families with the vocational and life tools to escape crushing poverty and the ever-present threats of child labor, forced prostitution and human trafficking.

Or Teklu, a torture survivor from Eritrea, who, against all odds, managed to reach the US only to be re-traumatized by abusive immigration practices which echoed the terrible treatment he had already endured. Today, Teklu works with one of UUSC's partners, the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC), to make sure other torture survivors escape the sort of trauma he went through upon entering the US.

Or "Mama Hawa" Mohamed, who is

leading the fight against female genital mutilation in Somalia and, thanks to support from UUSC, is helping displaced and deeply traumatized girls make peace with their past and build new lives for themselves.

One of the newer endeavors of UUSC is the collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Association in establishing the UU College of Social Justice. With a broad range of trips and programs for current leaders and future activists of any age, UUCSJ increases the capacity of UUs to create justice. They are currently offering service opportunities in Haiti, India, on the U.S. Mexico border and in the U.S.

UUSC's innovative approaches and measurable impact are grounded in the moral belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights. UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.

More info is available at uusdc.org or by visiting UUSC Coordinator Judy Sadegh at the Social Action Gallery Table Sunday, March 9.

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.

PARADOX**PLAYERS**

Paradox Players Brings Granny D to First UU!

by Gary Payne, creative director

Touting “You’re never too old to raise a little hell,” ninety-year-old Doris “Granny D” Haddock in 2000 blazed a 3,200-mile trail across America for campaign finance reform, precipitating the passage of the McCain-Feingold Act.

Currently touring nationwide, actress Barbara Bates Smith and musician Jeff Sebens will present “Go, Granny D!” on Friday, March 7, at 8 p.m. in Howson Hall. Paradox Players is proud to sponsor this one-woman show with musical accompaniment. Admission is free; voluntary donations to the church will be accepted. No reservations required.

Granny D. continued her bipartisan reform efforts in countrywide voter registration drives, issuing her final challenge in 2010 at age 100: “Democracy is a running game. You huddle and you go back in. You keep going.” Here’s the late Molly Ivins’ take on Granny: <http://bit.ly/grannyd>.

“This show totally rocks!” said Quaker Pastor Philip Raines of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Blog reviewer Michelle Grasty wrote, “This show will make you laugh and think and beg for more.” Sponsor Felecia Shelor said, “A full house of Liberals and Conservatives all loved the play.”



“Granny D” at her one-woman performance.

Bring out the hidden thespian inside you! All are welcome on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 for Paradox Player’s Reader’s Theater. If you would like more information go to paradoxplayers.org/contact-us. ■

The Vagina Monologues

Friday, March 28
Howson Hall
8 p.m.

This classic play explores the spectrum of female experience as told through a series of unforgettable monologues.

The auditions for our First UU performance were wonderful, and seven actresses were selected by Gary Payne. Please sign up to donate finger food, wine and to help set up or clean up. If you guys are too shy to attend the play, you can help set up or bring food or wine. Contact Mary Ann Stafford at mas1038166@aol.com.

From Natalie Freeburg: many thanks to the First UU community!

I wanted to thank each of you for the fare-thee-well party you threw for me on Sunday February 16. I was literally speechless (rare for me) with the outpouring of gratitude and kindness that you shared with me. I read the sentiments in the cards and the book with tears in my eyes, and I am so very grateful for the gifts of cash, chalice necklace, and the cakes! Throughout my five years serving you at First UU, I was impressed with the integrity and dedication that I saw exhibited in the name of community, spirituality and justice. A person is blessed if they get to work with a handful of fine people in their lifetime—think how blessed I feel working with 500+ of you! I treasure each of our conversations, no matter how short or long, and I look forward to working with you again in a new capacity. See you later!

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lifespan RE highlights

by Rev. Marisol Caballero



F.RE.D. Night Thrives!

More exciting activities await you and your family on Wednesday nights! Come for Kami's amazing dinners at 6 p.m. (\$6/person, kids under 12 eat free), and stay for the new and ongoing classes and workshops! Here's what our March

programming has to offer:

“Building the World We Dream About” continues March 5th and March 19th! Facilitated by Rev. Marisol Caballero & Vic Cornell; Rm. 13, 7-9 p.m.

In an effort to become an intentionally anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural and radically hospitable congregation, First UU is embarking on a two-year workshop series, “Building the World We Dream About,” by Dr. Mark Hicks, the Angus MacLean Professor of Religious Education at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Join us in this journey to realize the Beloved Community.

“Building the World We Dream About is a 24-workshop curriculum to support Unitarian Universalists and our congregations in building the multicultural Beloved Community we want to embody. It seeks to disrupt the workings of racism and transform how we relate across racial, ethnic, and cultural differences, in our congregations and beyond. Participants develop their anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural habits and skills and prepare to nurture a multiculturally competent, actively anti-racist congregation.” (uua.org)

(Registration for this course has been closed.)

Film and Discussion, “The Waiting Room” March 12th, 7 p.m.

“Director Peter Nicks examines the complexities of healthcare in the United States by focusing on the ER waiting room of a public hospital in Oakland, CA, where a diverse and largely uninsured collection of patients seek care.” (Netflix.com)

“Understanding the Enneagram,” facilitated by Kathryn Ehlert; March 26th, 7 p.m.

The Enneagram is a tool for understanding ourselves and others, as well as providing a map for personal growth and spiritual transformation. This personality typology describes nine personalities, and explores with great specificity how our personality can limit us. It shows us a map for growth, where real fulfillment can be found. By knowing ourselves we can understand our fears and desires, strengths and weaknesses, defenses and anxieties, how we react to frustration and disappointment, and what our truest capacities and greatest strengths are. Because the Enneagram predicts the healthy, transcendent qualities that we can expect to attain, it helps us to have the courage to let go of old outmoded habits. Please come join us in this adventure.

Religious Education Town Hall Meeting for Parents of Children and Teens March 16th, 12:15 p.m.

If your child is registered in our Religious Ed program (Sunday school or youth groups), please plan on attending this meeting. We will discuss what the children are learning and upcoming curricula, as well as update parents on upcoming events and RE news and answer questions. Parents will be called upon to help in the future visioning of the RE program at this meeting—every voice matters!

Surprise Pals Reveal Party! March 23rd, 12:15 p.m.

Surprise Pals is an annual project that provides opportunities for the development of intergenerational connections. This project introduces the children of our congregation to trusted adults within their church community whom they might not otherwise meet. For those who have participated in this year's Surprise Pals pen-pal/mentor program, make sure to be at the party to meet your pal! We will have snacks and fun games to help you get to know your pal face-to-face! ■

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

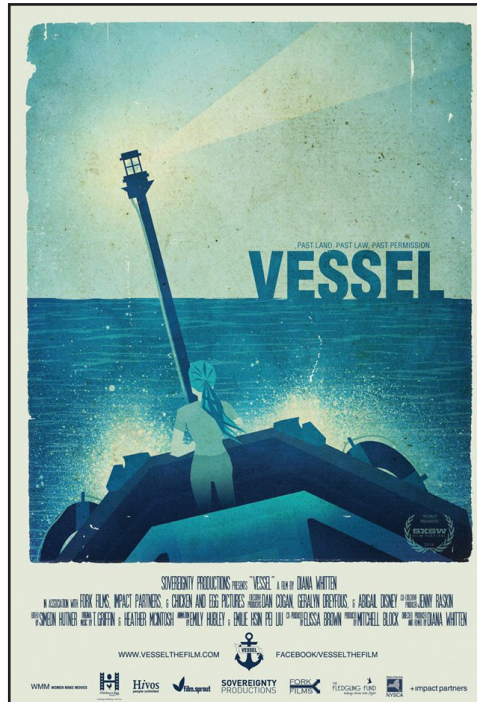
See exclusive showing
of “Vessel”

**Thurs. March 13, Howson Hall
7:30 p.m.**

While the SXSW film festival takes place in Austin, UUs and Quakers will co-host a screening of a film that is premiering at the festival. “Vessel” is about the Women on Waves ship, a boat that sails to international waters surrounding nations where abortion is totally illegal and provides medical abortions to women onboard.

We will engage people of faith with a screening of the film and a conversation about women’s reproductive justice. Quaker Gulielma Leonard Fager and UU Social Action Chair Peggy Morton will facilitate the group discussion after the film.

This is a private screening and will only be publicized in the First UU and Quaker Meeting newsletters.



Get more info on the film’s Facebook page:
[facebook.com/VesseltheFilm](https://www.facebook.com/VesseltheFilm)

**Get fresh organic
vegetables
straight from the
farm at First UU!**

Beginning in late March, First UU will team up with Tecolote Farms, a local organic farm, to have organic vegetables grown right here in Austin delivered to the church on Fridays, just hours after harvest by the farmer who grew them. The cost is \$33 per week for an 18-week season. To sign up for this delicious opportunity or for more information, contact Tecolote Farms at (512) 276-7008, tecolotefarm@gmail.com or via their website at www.tecolotefarm.net.

Come hang out with Young Adults Group!

All UU folks ages 22-35 are invited to join for fascinating, fun fellowship programming this spring and summer! Each gathering includes a potluck, so bring a meal to share.

Thursday, March 6:

We’ll have a discussion focusing on excerpts from the Qur’an.

Thursday, March 20:

We’ll carpool over to Inside Books Project to volunteer (insidebooksproject.org).

Thursday, April 3:

We’ll have a documentary screening at the church.

Thursday, February 23:

Come for an Easter-themed activity at the church.

Look for more activities in upcoming announcements or order of services! Email youngadults@austinuu.org for more information, or check out our Facebook page on bit.ly/UUyoungadults.

Being Trans* Visibility, Presence, Participation

**Monday, March 31
Howson Hall
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

March 31st is International Day of Transgender Visibility—a day made necessary by the frequent cultural, social, and legal repudiation and erasure of transgender people. Please join Legalize Human and special guests Omar Narváez (Lambda Legal) and Joe Anderson (Mahogany Project) for a discussion of the current situation of transgender people in Texas. Contact: legalize.human@gmail.com.

March Seniors Luncheon

**Wednesday, March 12
Howson Hall
12 p.m.**

Betty Wood, a First UU member and volunteer, as well as former high school English teacher, volunteered with Global Volunteers for 20 years teaching English internationally. She will give an overview of the program with an emphasis on her volunteering in Ghana.

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

People's Community Clinic: Busy Volunteers

Frances (Fran) Greene is one of PCC's volunteer stars. Fran organizes and keeps track of the educational materials that the clinic disperses, which are collated by the Tuesday volunteers. She has a degree in Biology from Rice University and a nursing degree from Montgomery College in Maryland. Using this background, Fran takes pains to see that the information the clinic disperses is clinically up-to-date and relevant. About 8,000 packets created per year inform PCC clients on topics such as child and infant care, immunizations, pregnancy, diabetes, and other healthcare subjects.

Fran took over this responsibility in the mid-2000's from another of the PCC's volunteer stars, Martha Northington. Martha, along with Grace Ambroski, were the original organizers of the PCC effort to gather, organize, and help the clinic disseminate the materials to the clients. Fran's nephew, Dr. Lewis Appel who is Medical Director and Head of Pediatrics at the clinic, fueled her interest in the causes of PCC.

In 2007 Fran came to Austin after being in Houston for 27 years, where she first attended the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston and later the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston. Fran's husband Julian passed away in 2004. Her move to Austin was to be closer to her son David, an Environmental Engineer with the City of Austin Water Department, and his wife Dr. Deborah Palmer, an Associate Professor at UT in

the Bilingual Department, and their extended family. Grandchildren Ellie and Jacob sing in our children's choir, and David is a member of our adult choir.

Besides being a whirlwind of competence at PCC, another of Fran's volunteer efforts is as Lead Farmer for the Cherrywood Farm Cooperative in the Urban Patchwork Group, which was founded by our church member, Paige Hill Oliveria. When you are at church, look for the dynamic woman with a constant smile and a friendly word for all...that's our Fran!

We look forward to seeing anyone who is interested in joining the collating group, which gathers at the clinic usually on the second Tuesday of each month from about 9:30 a.m. until noon. Lunch afterwards is optional. You can contact pcc@austinuu.org for information.

Also, a new volunteer is needed to help with a series of nutrition-based cooking classes from March through October. The class is designed to teach low-income, at-risk participants how to eat healthy on a budget. You would be assisting during class with set-up, food prep, clean up, and nutrition activities with young children. A commitment to help one or two mornings each week from 9am-12pm is necessary, along with immunization requirements. For more information please contact Gayla Stock, Volunteer Coordinator, by email at gaylas@austinpcc.org.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Represent UU across Texas and beyond!

Delegates Needed

First UU Austin needs delegates to represent our congregation during the annual business meeting for our district held this year at First Unitarian Church of Dallas, April 25-27. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Margaret Borden at denom@austinuu.org.

What Would A UU Vacation Look Like?

July 20-25, Fort Gibson Lake, OK

Southwest Unitarian Universalist (SWUU) Summer Institute will celebrate its 75th year with fun on the lake, golf course, and trails, complemented by spiritual growth with

theme speaker Rev. Meg Barnhouse. Come for the education, faith development, entertainment, recreation, and fun with fellow UUs from infants to octogenarians. More details in the coming months.

Save The Date!

Apr 25-27 – SWUU Spring Conference & Annual Meeting, First Unitarian Church of Dallas.

May 2-4 – UBarU Deep in the Heart Women's Retreat, Kerrville, TX. More info at www.ubaru.org, under "Events."

Jun 25-29 – Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, Providence, RI. 2014 theme is Love Reaches Out.

Great Decisions Book Group

*Sundays thru March 30
3:30-5 p.m.*

Rm. 13

It's not too late to join this year's discussion group. They are called Great Decisions because the issues are so challenging.

Topics for discussion in March are: Energy Independence, Food and Climate, China's foreign policy, U.S. trade policy, and Defense Technology.

Please contact Judy Sadeh at uuuno@austinuu.org or 512-496-5771 for more information, or join us for a discussion which interests you.

Join the First UU Team at the Austin CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, March 23
Camp Mabry (2200 W. 35th St.)
2:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Interfaith Action of Central Texas, this annual walk is the largest interfaith activity of the year. CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.

Last year's walk drew more than 1,200 walkers and raised more than \$95,000 for the global fight against hunger and

poverty. Dozens of First UU members of all ages took part in the 2013 walk, raising more than \$1,000. Many more First UU members donated to support the walkers from our congregation.

This year we plan to carpool to the walk after church services at 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit the Social Action table in the gallery or contact Eric Hartman at 512-469-9894 or at cropwalk@austinuu.org. Visit austincrophungerwalk.org.

Eclectic Folk Jam**Friday, March 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. This is close to St. Patrick’s Day, so bring Irish songs if you so desire. Bring drinks and snacks to share.

For more information 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, March 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. Irish songs are welcomed. Copies of “Rise Up Singing” are provided. This is an alcohol free event, round-robin format.

For more information, contact Larry Vaughn at (512) 469-0029 or Mary Jane Ford at singalong@austinuu.org.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

S A N C T U A R Y 9 : 1 5 A M A N D 1 0 : 4 5 A M

MARCH 2**Gossip (Heard it Through the Grapevine)**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Is gossip always a bad thing, or can it be community-building? What does it indicate about our state of mind? Could it have to do with learning social intelligence?

MARCH 9**The Second Commandment**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

This one says humans make a mistake when they make idols, or when they worship something other than the One Spirit. What might be some of the idols of our culture? Physical beauty? Youth? Capitalism?

MARCH 16**Celtic Christianity/ Redemption**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

One of the winners of the “suggest a sermon topic” item in the Equinox Auction requested a sermon on redemption. What might redemption be? What are some of the views of the world’s religions about it? In honor of St. Patrick’s Day, we’ll look at how the Celts saw it differently from the more common Roman Christianity.

MARCH 23**Balance/Equinox**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

How do we keep our balance as life around us swirls? Is balance something to be desired, or should we just enjoy the roller coaster ride?

MARCH 30**A World of Pure Imagination**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

The way we speak about our beliefs is powerful. Language can either serve to connect or distance us from others, based on our emotional associations with the words chosen by others. We will explore the possibility of religious language as limitless metaphor and poetry.

THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

MARCH 2

Uncovering the Secrets of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations

WITH BOB CASH

Bob Cash will give a short history of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, along with the concerns of many about the agreement being presently negotiated in secret. This will include a short history of the free trade model and its results, including NAFTA, the entrance of China into the World Trade Organization, CAFTA and the Colombian, Korean and Panamanian free trade agreements.

For the last five years, Cash has been state director of the Texas Fair Trade Coalition, an affiliate of the Citizens Trade Campaign.

MARCH 9

Winning the Vote, Voting to Win: Political Women from Suffrage to Now

WITH NANCY BAKER JONES

Using the example of women in Texas politics, this presentation will touch on issues of democracy, equality, and the importance of women's history to all of us.

Nancy Baker Jones is an independent scholar and public historian in Austin. She is a founding board member of the Ruthe Winegarten Foundation for Texas Women's History, which produces with KUT the award-winning "Texas Women's History Moments" that are broadcast every day during March. Nancy has researched and edited many books on Texas women's history.

Bring a business card or write your name on a piece of paper to take part in a drawing for a copy of the book, *Capitol Women: Texas Female Legislators, 1923-1999*.

MARCH 16

Living and Dying in the Eagle Ford Shale: What Life in Karnes, TX Can Tell You About What's Coming to Bastrop County

WITH ALYSSA BURGIN

Hydraulic fracturing has brought both wealth and a wealth of problems to the Eagle Ford Shale, from unexplained illness to increases in crime. Now that same drilling activity is moving into Bastrop and Lee Counties—if not on Austin's doorstep, then on Austin's front porch. Alyssa Burgin, one of the winners of MoveOn's fracking fighters' grant, will share her observations and the latest research on what's coming to Central Texas.

Alyssa Burgin is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Texas Drought Project, a water-scarcity educational effort that was founded to address issues related to drought and climate change. Because of the environmental damage done by hydraulic fracturing, the TDP took up issues related to this controversial practice in early 2009. The Texas Drought Project is currently advising a new non-profit based in the shale area, which will organize residents and concerned citizens.

MARCH 23

A Progress Report on the Affordable Care Act

WITH MIMI GARCIA

Mimi Garcia, state director at Enroll America, will talk about her organization's work to ensure that eligible Texans sign up for benefits under the Affordable Care Act. As the initial sign-up deadline of March 31 nears, she will assess progress in implementing this major healthcare policy reform. Enroll America's mission is to help consumers get the facts about their new health insurance options and to maximize the number of Americans who enroll in and retain coverage.

see forum events continued on page 16

**First Unitarian
Universalist
Church of Austin**

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www.austinuu.org

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THE FORUM, *continued*

Garcia will discuss the particular challenges of implementing the Affordable Care Act in Texas, where the governor and other state leaders have done much to hinder application of this federal law.

MARCH 30 Here Come the Hummingbirds

WITH MARK KLYM

Texans enjoy a wealth of hummingbirds, and Austin is no exception. With a little care, people in Austin can provide a safe, welcoming home for these avian wonders that will result in a natural spectacle that can be enjoyed year round. Come and learn how to attract and support

these beautiful creatures with native landscaping and habitat protection.

Mark Klym is coordinator of the Texas Hummingbird Roundup and Texas Wildscapes programs at Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD). He grew up just across the international border in Canada where he developed a love for the outdoors, spending time fishing, birding and hiking. His special interest in hummingbirds developed early, when he found a male ruby-throated hummingbird exploring the plants in his grandfather's greenhouse.

Mark co-authored "Hummingbirds of Texas" by Texas A&M Press, editor of the Eye on Nature and Texas Hummer Newsletters, and author or editor of several booklets and publications from TPWD. ■