



FIRST UU NEWS

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

Fire Drill! Party! Spaceship Catapult! Raise Your Voice!

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse



Let's talk. The Facilities Research Group has given me and the board its recommendation. What did they say? That we can best fulfill our Long Range Plan by building here, on site. The location is paid for, and the site is underdeveloped for an urban church. Our location is prime, and visibility is possible these days through social media as much as with a building that is on a well-traveled road. The real estate market is so hot in Austin that things don't stay for sale long enough for us to study them to see whether they would make a good location for us. There are no large buildings sitting empty and unused, waiting for a church to move in and renovate them as the site for that church's new life. We will continue to make our home here.

The Long Range Plan calls for a 500-seat sanctuary so that, with two services, we can grow to be a thousand-member congregation. As Austin grows, more people who need us will be able to have a seat at "the welcome table" at First UU. Why this size? So we can grow UUism by starting healthy new congregations in underserved

areas of Austin. We plan to send two hundred people, a minister, a staff person, and some money into another part of town and spread what First UU has going on! Those new members will bring their kids,

Our joy and our challenge is to make space for our children, for our children's friends, to make space for those friends of ours we think would enjoy this congregation, to make space for the couple just moving to Austin from another town who need this community.

so we'll need more RE space, and we want it to be the kind of space our kids will remember with affection and joy as they grow up and start their own families.

What would this look like here? What kind of money can we raise? How important is hospitality? What kind of spaces would be most hospitable?

Theologian Howard Thurman wrote: "Community cannot for long

feed on itself; it can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers [and sisters]."

Our joy and our challenge is to make space for our children, for our children's friends, to make space for those friends of ours we think would enjoy this congregation, to make space for the couple just moving to Austin from another town who need this community.

During May, we will be having 12 to 15 "Raise Your Voice!" meetings to hear from you what you would like to see this congregation build. This is First UU's 60th anniversary, and we're taking a look at what we have been and what we hope to become. We are shaping up to be a flagship congregation within this denomination, and we would like to be able to make space for everyone who wants to be part of our story. We have asked Chris Jimmerson, who graduates May 18 from Meadville Lombard in Chicago, to be our consultant for this project; from focus groups, through the capital campaign we hope to begin as the focus groups let us know how far we might

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Moving forward

by **Michael Kersey**

It's time for us to create the First UU community we dream of.



On May 4th at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, we will hold our annual spring Congregational Meeting. At the meeting, the congregation will vote on new Board of Trustees members, as well as for new members of the Nominating Committee. Attending and participating in Semi-Annual Congregational Meetings is another way for members to be engaged with this church community. More information about the Board of Trustees candidates is available elsewhere in this newsletter.

Immediately following the Congregational Meeting on May 4th, everyone is invited to attend a focus group meeting about how we want to manifest our future at 4700 Grover. This will be the first of several focus group meetings scheduled for the month of May to gather community input and ideas from as many people as possible. These focus groups are a follow-up to the Facilities Research Group's recommendation to build our future in our current location and the first steps in making it happen. There's also more information about these focus groups elsewhere in the this newsletter.

Last month the Facilities

Research Group completed several months of inquiry and research about the shortcomings and benefits of our current location. To support us in our mission, they recommended to Rev. Barnhouse and the Board of Trustees that the church stay where we are and take the next step in living out our Long Range Plan here. The Board of Trustees endorsed their decision and is grateful to all of the members of the Facilities Research Group for their efforts and dedication to our church and its mission. We now know where we will be taking our next steps in reaching our ends and fulfilling our mission.

Our church's Long Range Plan presented last year (which has been a draft pending the decision whether to stay or move) begins with a vision of our church in the future:

By 2019, First UU Church of Austin will have much better visibility locally and in the denomination, for being a church in whose life and worship the arts are prominent, for a major impact on a signature social justice issue, and for growing our faith. We will

build upon our current strengths and strive towards the highest aspirations of our members, as articulated in the church's mission and vision.

We envision First UU Church of Austin as a true "mother church," growing UUism in the Austin area. Every person of good will who wants to participate should find room at the table and a warm welcome.

Having decided where we will work towards this vision, all of us can bring our creativity and skills and talents and resources together to make this vision reality.

This month also marks the end of my term of service as president of the First UU Board of Trustees. It has been a great honor to serve such a wonderful, dynamic, thriving community. I am also very grateful for the wisdom, insight, and camaraderie of my fellow board members. I have confidence in the incoming board president and new board members. I am also looking forward to serving on the Nominating Committee, wearing a plain old nametag for the first time in a while, and seeing everyone in church. ■

“Raise your voice!” from page 1

be able to spring forward. The first focus group will follow the congregational meeting on May 4th. That is going to be a big day, with a fire drill that will take us out to the parking lot. In the parking lot we’ll have a “May the Fourth Be With You” themed potluck cook-out (grilled Han-burgers, meat and veggie and

saber-dogs provided by First UU) with games. For ideas, visit Pinterest Star Wars food boards. One of the games will be a raw-egg-in-a-spaceship catapult challenge. Build a “spaceship” in which to send a raw egg flying into the air—a space sturdy enough to keep the egg from breaking as it lands! The catapult is being engineered and built by new

member Steve Kreuger. After the party, we’ll have the congregational meeting at 1:30 p.m. and then the first focus group where first-draft sketches of one possibility for the new building will be presented. Please see Chris Jimmerson’s article in this newsletter for the rest of the scheduled “Raise Your Voice!” focus groups. ■

Raise Your Voice!

Here’s your chance to shape First UU’s future.

by Chris Jimmerson

Let’s talk about what we need to live out our mission in the future, and to fulfill our goal of being an intentionally welcoming congregation. Austin is growing and there are many people who will want to join us in the years to come.

What resources will we need to welcome them? What we will need to do? What will we need to build? Let’s gather to discuss who we are, who we’ve been, and who we will become.

Please plan to join us at one of our many planned discussions. Find a time that works for you on the

calendar below.

While reservations are not required, please help us plan by sending an email to Chris Jimmerson at chris.jimmerson@austinuu.org to let us know which session you would like to attend. You may also contact Chris if you have any questions or would like further information. ■

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
May 2014				1	2	3
4 2:45 p.m.	5	6	7 6:45 p.m.	8	9	10
11 1:15 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.	12	13	14 6:45 p.m.	15	16 6:00 p.m.	17
18 1:15 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.	19	20	21 6:45 p.m.	22	23 6:00 p.m.	24
25 1:15 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.	26	27	28 6:45 p.m.	29	30	31

Meet the new team members that will guide First UU through transition

Carol Drennan



First UU approached Greenlights, an organization dedicated to supporting nonprofits in efficiency, best practices, and finding the best ways to live their missions, to fill Sean Hale's job with an interim. We were seeking someone who would not only do many of the things Sean was doing, but who would help First UU examine its systems and processes and give us

a diagnostic which will help us see ways we may want to improve. They matched us with Carol Drennan, and we felt the fit was excellent.

Carol Drennan considers herself a change agent for nonprofit transitions. She has served as Interim Executive Director of Austin Habitat for Humanity, Habitat Texas, Children's Advocacy Center of Bastrop, and NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, and she has served on the boards of a number of organizations, including the YMCA of Greater Austin. She has worked with nascent organizations, established groups with multi-million dollar budgets, and many organizations in between. In addition to her professional work in nonprofits, she is a graduate of both Leadership Texas and Leadership Austin's Essential program, and she has worked in the telecommunications field and the United States' Foreign Service. As an interim director, she enjoys working as a partner with the board and staff to provide stable leadership and organizational efficiency.

Jim Collins



Who is Jim Collins? I am a results-driven professional with extensive experience in consulting, operations, sales and marketing. This experience has evolved during a prior history of entrepreneurship, managing stores for a large retail store chain, then through consultative management within the direct marketing industry while achieving

perspective from both the client and vendor side.

Throughout my business career, I have strived to maintain both a spiritually and ethically grounded attitude while bringing success to my clients through new and improved revenue generating programs; to my companies in the form of new and increased revenues while driving higher profits; to me in the form of constantly improving my life, dedication to family and a win for all.

Most recently, I was blessed with an opportunity to serve as a campaign director for JD Klote & Associates, Inc. where I have utilized many of my skill sets while

strengthening my spiritual journey. This position includes consulting, advising and facilitating capital stewardship campaigns for churches of various denominations with different financial needs throughout the United States.

Success is now realized through church families I serve by helping them achieve more spiritual and financial goals; to my company by increasing its reach to aid many more church families; to me by assisting church families to move forward at a more rapid pace. As important, I meet hundreds of new people through this position allowing me an opportunity to strengthen my spiritual walk while traveling many more diverse avenues.

My career accomplishments were aided by loving parents, the opportunity for higher education at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, and my loving wife Mary, Special Events Manager for Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA. Mary has stuck with me following our vow, "until death do us part" ...so far, for 36 years. The credit for my successes goes to all of the above but most importantly, the glory goes to God for love and much undeserved grace.

We have two wonderful children and eight grandchildren. My wife and I reside in Chesapeake, VA, empty nesters now but free to enjoy life from many new perspectives. ■

FIRST UU IN PICTURES

Easter Celebration and Canned Food Drive!

Photos by Helen DeMore



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Get to know your board candidates

Dottie Roark

Dottie and her husband, Tom, have been Unitarians for more than 30 years. They joined First UU in 2002, returning to the first UU church they visited in 1981 when they were students at UT. Their positive experience at First UU led them to join the Tyler UU Fellowship following graduation. Job moves took them to Dallas in 1991 and then to Houston in

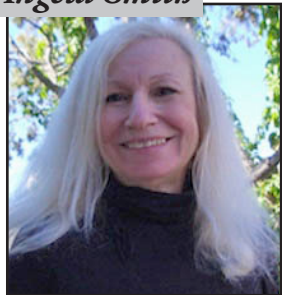
1999, where they were members of local UU churches until returning to Austin.

At First UU Church, they have participated in the

78746 FUUN Potluck group, and Dottie has attended the two Sunday book groups. Since her recent retirement, she has enjoyed volunteering weekly at the Welcome Center desk and is currently coordinating that effort.

Dottie has a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's in English. She worked more than 17 years in corporate communications and media relations and taught English and journalism for eight years.

Through all of their moves, they feel that the UU community has been there for them, providing spiritual support, growth and friendship. Now that she has time to "give back," she is happy to serve as a trustee to ensure that First UU of Austin remains a healthy, thriving congregation.

Angela Smith

Angela Smith has been a member of First UU of Austin since 1991. She became interested in Unitarian Universalism as a college student when she regularly attended First Unitarian in Dallas. When she married her husband Charles in 1971, she became active in a liberal Christian

church where he was organist and where her embrace of UU principles and values was accepted.

At First UU she has participated in the music program, in Paradox Players, and as a greeter on Sunday mornings. Her church activities in Austin were curtailed when her husband Charles accepted a development position with a large church in California and she began commuting there on a regular basis. Now that he's based in Austin, she is looking forward to being more involved and giving back to the church that has given her so much spiritually and personally over the years.

Angela has extensive experience in nonprofit management and communications. She has been a consultant to nonprofits across the country and is Executive Director Emeritus of the Writers' League of Texas. While serving as executive director of the Writers' League from 1989 to 1999, the organization grew from a small local group to the second largest regional writing

association in the nation with over 2,200 members.

Currently, Angela has her own consulting business, and is also a freelance writer/editor. She is the author of "Steel Drums and Steelbands: A History," published in 2012, and "Women Drummers: A History From Rock and Jazz To Blues and Country," which will be released internationally on April 16, 2014.

A native Texan and first generation American, Angela graduated with honors from the University of North Texas where she studied journalism and music. She is a former reporter for the Associated Press and was a member of the Capitol Press Corps. After leaving the AP she worked as a public information officer for the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, public relations director for St. Edward's University, and communications director for the Texas Association of School Boards and the Educational Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin.

Among her many interests, Angela is a political activist for human rights. She serves on numerous boards and has traveled all over the world in leadership roles for Zonta International, a service organization dedicated to the advancement of women. She is currently President of Press Women of Texas, an organization dedicated to the practice of ethical journalism and preservation of First Amendment rights.

Angela is an avid amateur astronomer, and along with the steel drum, she plays cello and piano.

Sean Ramsey

Sean Ramsey is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. Raised in the Church of the River in Memphis, TN, Sean became an active member and leader of the church's YRUU youth group, as well as serving on the national YRUU Youth Council and Steering Committee. In 1992, Sean was selected as an YRUU Programs Specialist and moved from Memphis to Boston to work and serve at the UUA Headquarters in the RE Department. After achieving an undergraduate degree at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Sean relocated to Austin in 1996.

He has been a member of First UU for over 10 years. In that time he has served on the Stewardship Committee and helped form a Covenant Group with other young adults. One of the core tenants of the Covenant Group was to actively serve the church by selecting an annual project to

give back to the church. During this time, Sean met and married his wife, Carol Ramsey, who was also a member of the church. They have three children, two of which can be spotted on any given Sunday smearing strawberry cream cheese over a bagel in Howson Hall or hamming it up on the dance floor during one of our church-wide events.

Sean brings a unique perspective to First UU, having grown up in the Austin "start-up" environment as a technical project and product manager. He has been a founder and partner in a small start-up, giving him a unique background of sales, marketing, and development experience. He is currently the Director of Product Management at the LIVESTRONG Foundation, working on building out a platform of tools and services to help people affected by cancer.

Sean is very excited about the opportunity to serve the First UU community in this new capacity and looks forward to hearing from the community as we usher in a new era of the church and face new opportunities for growth.

Glenn Williams

Glenn Williams joined First UU in 1987. Throughout the years he has been involved with Heritage, the Public Forum, Adult Religious Education, Children's Religious Education, and various special projects. One of those was a task force that

developed policies to ensure the safety of our children and the integrity of our RE teachers. As a longtime regional attorney for the Children Protective Services division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, he was particularly suited for that task force. Glenn is skilled at analyzing complex problems, focusing on the core issues, and able to avoid getting distracted by side issues.

Martha Sharp

Marsha began her journey as a UU when she was a teenager attending the UU Fellowship in Victoria, TX, with her mother. She has been a member of First UU Church of Austin since the mid 1980s. Since joining First UU, she has served on the Board of Trustees for a brief period of time, co-taught the women's religious education workshop "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven,"

served as Deposit Supervisor for the second Sunday service, and currently volunteers at the Welcome Center desk on Tuesday mornings.

After 29 years, she retired from teaching/counseling in Austin and Round Rock in 1998. During that time she

served as President of the Austin Federation of Teachers, and on the state board of the Texas Federation of Teachers. As a teacher and counselor she learned to work with a variety of students, parents, and colleagues. She went on to serve as an education specialist at the LBJ Library and Museum for another 13+ years. She was the first educator at the Library and designed the education program from scratch. She developed workshops and activities for educators, developed activities for students in K-16, worked with student teachers on the UT campus, and wrote curriculum aligned with the K-12 Texas education standards. She also conducted collaborative workshops with education specialists from other presidential libraries, and conducted presentations for national education conferences.

Marsha is honored to be nominated as a Trustee for First UU. ■

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING



People's Community Clinic

Everyone benefits from a healthier community

by Nancy Stout

More than 40 years ago, a group of medical professionals began providing free services one night a week in the basement of a church near the University of Texas. People lined up around the block to get needed care. This clinic over time evolved into the People's Community Clinic (PCC), a major provider of services to the working poor, the uninsured, the underinsured, and other medically underserved persons in Central Texas.

On May 11, Dr. Celia Neavel, a longtime member of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, will tell the congregation more about the clinic as we focus on PCC as one of the 12 nonprofit social justice organizations designated by congregational vote to share in this year's Monthly Service Offering.

Dr. Neavel, a graduate of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and trained in family, adolescent, and developmental medicine, directs the Center for Adolescent Health (CAH) at PCC, which she helped start over 18 years ago.

Through CAH, Dr. Neavel supervises two offsite clinics embedded within non-medical, youth-serving agencies. She also

initiated and directs GOALS, a developmental/ behavioral/primary care program at PCC for ages 4-19. Both CAH and GOALS utilize social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, medical assistants, health educators, pediatric residents, and nurse practitioners to diagnose, treat, and support the often complex health needs of patients and their families within a medical home.

PCC's uniqueness stems from its approach of treating the whole person with dignity and respect. The clinic focuses on not only improving its patients' physical health but also supporting their emotional and family needs. The clinic offers a broad array of healthcare and wellness services. In addition to the clinic itself at 2909 N. IH 35, there is an array of offsite, specialized and collaborative programs that run the gamut of nutritional education to chronic disease control and legal consultation. In 2012, PCC staff provided 34,000 medical encounters with 10,000 individuals—an encompassing effort to make the lives of our neighbors better.

On May 11, you will hear from a dedicated, caring woman why our support is so important to this community. For more

information about the clinic, the services it provides, and how to volunteer, go to www.austinpcc.org. For information about First UU volunteer efforts with PCC, send an email to pcc@austinuu.org. Over the last year, approximately 30 members and friends of First UU volunteered with PCC. Some of these volunteers will be in the gallery after each service on May 11 to discuss with you how you too can contribute your time and talents to this community effort.

Please make a special note to bring your checkbook to church Sunday, May 11, and donate generously to People's Community Clinic. Help the uninsured and underinsured get medical care. We all benefit from a healthy community.

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 needs you!

by **Gary Payne, creative director**

Our Box Office
Manger Amy
Bennett has her

hands full, and after years of going it
alone could sure use some help. Here are
the specifics:

The first is help with monitoring the
Paradox Players phone line and entering
reservations into the reservations
database. The requirements are having
some free time during the day and early
evening to return phone calls, and access
to a computer.

The second is assisting with delivering
reservations lists on play performance
days. This involves using the reservations
database to export reservations from the
database and format them into a list for
the house managers and ticket takers.
It requires access to a computer, basic
skills with a spreadsheet program such
as Excel, and free time between 5 and 6
p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 12-1
p.m. on Sundays.

It would be nice to have more than
one person for each of these jobs, so we

have some backup and depth.

For both of these jobs, we have a
very good training guide with step by
step directions, and Amy will happily
provide training. You can contact Amy
at amybennett@austin.rr.com.

It would be great if we could provide
Amy some assistance for our next show,
Radium Girls, set for a June 13 opening.
Here's a sneak preview:

In 1926, radium was a miracle
cure, Madame Curie an international
celebrity, and luminous watches the
latest rage—until the girls who painted
them with radium began to fall ill.
Inspired by a true story, Radium Girls
traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial
painter, as she fights for her day in court.
Grace finds herself battling not just with
the U.S. Radium Corporation, but with
her own family and friends, who fear
that her campaign for justice is hopeless.
Written with warmth and humor, as well
as pathos, Radium Girls promises to be a
riveting evening of theater.

Facilities Announcement

Attention key-holders!
If you have a key to the
church building, please
email [andrea.sosa@](mailto:andrea.sosa@austinuu.org)
austinuu.org to let her
know you have it.

Also, make sure you know
the alarm code. She'll be
happy to give it to you
when you ask.

Save the Dates

*Please note the date
change!*

Congregational meeting

Sunday, May 4, 2014,
1:30 p.m.

*Childcare will be provided
for each.*

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lifespan RE highlights

by **Rev. Marisol Caballero**



Lifespan Religious Education Update

We have been having a blast with Religious Education this spring! The Understanding the Enneagram class has had great attendance, and the new Transformational Men's Covenant Group is having hugely

engaging discussions. The younger members of our community have had many opportunities to participate in church life, as well—our Young Adult Group (ages 18-35) holds meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 7-9:30 p.m., as well as the UU Dungeons and Dragons class (info. below) on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 8-10 p.m. Our Senior High Youth Group has been working hard, preparing for May 18th, when they are in charge of leading Sunday service in the sanctuary. It will be one not to miss! Many of our Junior High youth have been enjoying having all of their questions answered in OWL (Our Whole Lives), our comprehensive sex-ed course that is currently under way, and our Sunday School kids had the best Easter ever with games and prizes out on the playground!

The RE department cannot wait to combine all generations for the two big all-church, multi-generational events happening in May: the “May the Fourth Be With You” cookout and festival, and the annual Flower Communion service, on May 25th. See you all there!

Dungeons and Dragons, UU Young Adult-Style

The Young Adult ministry (ages 18-35) is currently piloting an RE curriculum based on the role-playing game Dungeons and Dragons, created by our very own Sean Briscoe! This is a class for those that have always

wanted to learn, have always wanted to play, or don't yet know they want to play Dungeons & Dragons. What is unique about this “D&D” game is the Unitarian Universalist perspective that permeates the adventure. Knowing the Seven UU Principles and the Five UU Sources isn't the only trial these young adult adventurers are facing in the dungeon, but by the end of this adventure, players will be as quick with UU knowledge and history as they are with their imaginary sword! Some people take to this playacting naturally and easily; others find it more of a challenge. All young adults who would like to try it out while enjoying friendship and engaging in their Unitarian Universalism are welcome to join. CD with books and information and a set of D&D dice will be provided for participants who register early. Childcare is provided upon request. Email sean.briscoe@austinuu.org to join in the fun!

RE Teacher Happy Hours

First UU Church of Austin has a team of talented, dedicated volunteer Sunday School teachers and Youth Group advisors. You may wonder what keeps these good folks coming back for more. Yes, it is an enormously enjoyable spiritual practice to engage in religious exploration with young UUs. Yes, the young UUs at First UU Church of Austin are exceptionally awesome people. But, one major factor is the community that's formed among this incredible group of people, in part due to the new practice of having monthly RE Teacher Happy Hour at neighboring Pinthouse Pizza! Every 3rd Thursday, we meet for pizza, drinks, and good fellowship from 6:30-8 p.m. Pinthouse Pizza generously gives us two large pizzas and two pitchers of beer. Childcare is provided. If you are interested in becoming an RE classroom volunteer, please contact Sean Briscoe: sean.briscoe@austinuu.org. ■

HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

Advice from Covenant Corner

Dear Covenant:

There's a person on my committee who's very knowledgeable and self-confident. At our last meeting he convinced everyone else that we should adopt a certain course of action. I'm convinced this is a bad idea and will backfire, but I felt too outnumbered to say anything. Now I don't know what to do; can you help?

— *Distressed committee member*

Dear Distressed:

It's understandable to hesitate

about speaking your mind when you feel in a minority. But just think—it could be that others share your reservations, or that nobody else has thought of them! Our covenant calls us to speak “when silence would inhibit progress.” Your situation is a prime example of why this promise is so important! Speaking up could prevent bad consequences. If your committee is meeting again before they take action, you can still voice your concerns. If not, you could talk directly to the leader of your

committee as soon as possible. It's best to talk in person, second best to talk by phone. Please avoid email, however.

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

Sincerely,

Healthy Relations Covenant

First UU's Volunteer Deputy Registrar training makes spectacular strides

Travis County Voter Registrar Bruce Elfant trained the 3,000th Deputy Registrar in Howson Hall Saturday, April 5, because First UU volunteer Mary Patrick first thought to ask permission a year ago to start hosting weekly trainings to get out the vote.

Since last September, more than 1,500 civic-minded citizens of all political stripes from Travis and surrounding counties have been trained at First UU and taken the oath to volunteer as Deputy Voter Registrars. To put that in context:

There are about 6,700 Volunteer Deputy Registrars in the state of Texas. Of those, over 3,000 of them are in Travis County, and nearly 1,500 of them have been trained at

our church in the weekly Saturday training session. That's a lot of VDRs!

Mary first envisioned offering such trainings at church to register fellow UUs, but she's grown the program and personally welcomes visitors to



Photo from Peggy Morton

the training in Howson Hall every Saturday from 10-11 a.m. She's quick to compliment Elfant, who offers the training on his day off, not mentioning the number of volunteer

hours she works before, during and after the sessions.

“Getting 3000 deputies trained in Travis County during a non-presidential year is unprecedented,” Elfant said. We at First UU are grateful to both Mary and the Social Action Committee for sponsoring this weekly event.

Disclaimer: Churches are allowed to be politically active in this way. As long as we do not endorse one particular candidate, we are allowed to encourage to people to vote, to talk about issues that are consonant with our mission, and to offer space for the training of registrars.

To attend a Saturday deputy registrar training, email Mary at maptrick@gmail.com.

Hogwarts is coming!

Be part of the magic!

July 28 - August 1 is this year's Hogwarts summer camp for children



*Camper Brodie crafts his own magic wand.
Photo: Jane Parsons*

entering grades 1-6. Registration is underway for campers, as well as for prefects (camp assistants) entering grades 7 through college.

Each camp day begins at 8:30 a.m. Half-day campers are picked up at 12:30 p.m. and full-day campers are picked up at 4:30 p.m. After a morning enjoying the fun costumes and activities inspired by ideas from the Harry Potter books, students spend the afternoon doing service projects and activities such as movies, games, skating, and swimming.

On Friday afternoon, families are invited to join The Great Feast for fine food and entertainment from

the campers, ending at 3 p.m. To register, please visit austinuu.org/camper for campers, and austinuu.org/prefect for prefects.

We are also seeking adult volunteers to help with the camp. Volunteers can serve as coaches for wizard sports, professors for morning classes, house elves to help with various tasks, as well as other roles. Please contact Headmistress Esmirelda McGonagall (a.k.a. Vicki Almstrum) at campuu@austinuu.org to ask questions or get more information.

For costs and registration, please visit austinuu.org/campuu.

“Vagina Monologues” captivates First UU

by Peggy Morton

Wanting to help stop the abuse of women, Mary Ann Stafford staged the play “Vagina Monologues” at First UU and earned almost \$1,000 to send to GenAustin, which guides young girls to make wise choices as they navigate the unique pressures of girlhood.

Five volunteer actors wowed the audience for a standing ovation after the one-night only performance, which elicited both raucous laughter and anger about the way women are treated in society. Two First UU members Carol Ramsey and Laura

Rice were joined by community members Elizabeth Mangum-Sarach, Margaret Maxwell, and Cynthia Schiebel to act out a variety of monologues written by Eve Ensler.

Paradox Players Director Gary Payne volunteered to help with auditions, and Cynthia Schiebel helped direct her fellow actors for a couple of months of rehearsals before the performance.

“I’m glad Cynthia stepped up because I’ve never done anything like this,” Mary Ann said, “except in elementary school when I tried to act

and always forgot my lines.”

First UU member Hollyanna Melear created a poster to advertise the event, fellow member Angela Smith played her steel drum both before and after the performance, and the audience enjoyed yummy treats and drinks donated by several church members.

After coordinating volunteers and rehearsals for four months to make the play happen, Mary Ann said, “I’m pooped out, but knowing we earned that much money for GenAustin makes it all worth it.”

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Deep in the Heart Women's Retreat

Recharge your spirit in the fellowship of Unitarian Universalist women during the weekend of May 2-4 at UBarU Retreat and Conference Center near Kerrville, TX. No responsibilities other than to be your own true, beautiful, authentic self. Deepen your relationship with old friends and build new friendships. Sing, meditate, dance, walk the labyrinth or the Hill Country, do what your spirit needs. Free yourself from workshops and classes. Don't miss it! Registration and details at www.ubaru.org under Events.

General Assembly 2014 to be held June 25-29 in Rhode Island

Another exciting, educational, inspirational General Assembly will take place in Providence, RI this June. GA is the annual meeting of Unitarian Universalist Association congregations. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the UUA. They also have a lot of fun together!

The theme for GA 2014 is "Love Reaches Out." The goal is to help our association live into our future where our "love reaches out" to share our faith both within and beyond our congregations' walls.

GA is a multi-generational experience that is accessible and welcoming to families with children. Registration and more information at www.uua.org/ga. Come together in

Providence for five unforgettable days!

UBarU Summer Camps for 2014

Registration is open for summer camps at UBarU, near Kerrville, TX. Weeklong camps provide fun in a UU setting and include swimming, hiking, team-building, making new friends, and learning more about our faith. Find more information and register at www.ubaru.org under Events.

June 29-July 5: Primary (rising 3rd-6th grade)

July 6-12: Junior (rising 7th-9th grade)

July 13-19: Senior (rising 9th-just graduated from high school)

What Would A UU Vacation Look Like? Try Family Camp At SWUUSI!

July 20-25, Fort Gibson Lake, OK

Plan now to find out at Southwest Unitarian Universalist (SWUU) Summer Institute. 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. See the video at <http://bit.ly/swuusi>, and get more details at <http://bit.ly/swuusiregister>.

Save The Date!

August 3-8: Dwight Brown Leadership Experience, Denton, TX

Hands On Housing Spring Event

The semi-annual event is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to join the team to help with painting, minor repairs, landscaping and other related tasks for a needy homeowner in East Austin. Those interested can sign up in the gallery or email handsonhousing@austinuu.org.

May Seniors Luncheon

**Wednesday, May 14
Howson Hall
12 p.m.**

Longtime church member John Keohane will be speaking about famous UU authors and poets, and may even recite some of their works.

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



Eclectic Folk Jam

Friday, May 9
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.

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, May 24
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.

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

MAY 4**May the Force Be With You**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Does a concept like George Lucas’ “The Force” represent most Unitarian Universalists’ idea of the Divine? Where did it come from? Did Lucas mean to posit an alternative to religion or a mash-up of the best of all religions?

Listen for the fire drill toward the end of the second service! Ushers will tell us what to do and where to go. When we get there, we’ll have a cook-out. Here you will find the Steve Krueger-engineered catapult! From home, bring with you a raw egg nestled in its own strong little spaceship. If your egg survives its catapulting intact, you get a prize! Followed by the congregational meeting and the first Raise Your Voice! focus group, where we will hear about the first draft of a possibility for what we might build here, now that the decision has been made to stay put.

MAY 11**A Juicy Slice of UU History**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Michael Servetus was one of the martyrs of our faith. He lived during the Reformation, and wrote a pamphlet called “On the Errors of the Trinity.” The Children’s, Youth, and Adult Choirs will come together in song for morning services.

MAY 18**In Love With Love**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO
 & THE SENIOR HIGH YOUTH
 GROUP

Join us on May 18th for Youth Sunday when the Sr. High Youth Group invites you to share in the exploration of the topic of love. The service will include songs, stories, and mini-sermons about love, from the unique perspective with which teens are able to teach the rest of us. Singer/songwriter Phil Ajarapu will lend his voice to the services.

MAY 27**The Lessons of Flowers**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

It’s that time of year again! Time to pick the perfect flower, carry it with you to church, and join in this much-loved tradition of Flower Communion that celebrates beauty, diversity, and uniqueness in community. Last year, Mari dressed up as Rev. Norbert Capek of Prague, so who knows what surprises are in store this year! The Intergenerational Choir join in on this sermon tradition.

THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

MAY 4

The State of the City: Where We Are and Where We're Going

WITH AUSTIN MAYOR LEE LEFFINGWELL

Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell will give us an up-to-the-minute report on issues and challenges that Austin faces and will describe priorities for the city's economic future and overall well being. He will discuss all that is unique about Austin and his hopes for preserving our quality of life and our natural environment, given the realities of rapid population growth and a thriving local economy that is in the national spotlight. He will also present on plans for addressing the needs of all of Austin's citizens, including those who are economically and socially marginalized, via job creation, training opportunities, and human services and housing programs.

Mayor Lee Leffingwell is an Austin native who grew up in the Bouldin neighborhood of South Austin. He attended Austin public schools and the University of Texas at Austin where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering. After college, he became a naval officer and a pilot and served in the Vietnam War, achieving the rank of commander. After retiring from military service he worked as a pilot and captain for Delta Airlines for 31 years. He then returned to Austin and became deeply involved in work on environmental issues and was appointed to the City Environmental Board in 1999 and was elected chair. In 2005 he ran for and won the Place 1 seat on the Austin City Council, and was reelected in 2008. In 2009 he successfully ran for mayor and was reelected in 2012. Using the leadership skills he has developed over the years, he has overseen and managed tremendous population and economic growth in the city during his tenure as mayor.

Lee is married to Julie Byers, a registered nurse. They have a large extended family in the Austin area.

MAY 11

Mother's Day - No Forum

MAY 18

Drive Less, Live More While Advancing Clean Energy and Climate Security

WITH JOSEPH KOPSER

How do we solve the nation's energy crisis? This is a question that has been largely debated with few measurable results to show for it. Since the invention of the Ford Model T in 1908, the way we've used energy for travel in the last century has remained largely unchanged.

In "Drive Less, Live More," an article he wrote for the White House webpage, Joseph Kopser discussed his time in Iraq, helping with the Iraqi national elections of 2004. "There we were," he wrote, "Americans serving to protect American interests in the Middle East, but using precious energy in a very inefficient manner." Since then he says his goal has been to develop and improve our national energy security policy and energy ecosystem—starting with transportation, in public and defense energy usage.

One way Kopser says we can halt ineffective use of resources, such as oil, money and time, is to "reduce our dependency on foreign oil, by using less of it." We can do this by making more efficient use of the energy we have, and utilizing alternative modes of transportation through systems like RideScout, a startup he launched this past November in Washington, D.C.

Honored by the White House in November 2013 as a "Veteran Champion of Change: Advancing Clean Energy and Climate Security," Kopser will discuss what his experiences as an army officer taught him about effectively managing U.S. energy resources.

Kopser is the CEO and co-founder of RideScout, an Austin-based startup working to revolutionize how people view ground transportation. He is also co-chairman of the Defense Energy Summit. Before building RideScout, Joseph served for 20 years in the U.S. Army. In addition, he is a Next Generation Project Texas Fellow at the Strauss Center for International Security and Law at UT Austin, with a focus on Energy

see forum events continued on page 16

**First Unitarian
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THE FORUM, *continued*

Policy. He serves on the Board of Directors of the CleanTX Foundation and is a founding member of the Steering Committee for the Defense Energy Center of Excellence Initiative (DECEI). He lives in Austin with his wife and three daughters.

MAY 25

**Memorial Day Weekend
- No Forum ■**

Photo Directory coming soon!

Let's put a face to the name! By popular demand, a First UU photo directory will be coming soon! Keep an eye out in the next few weeks for instructions on how you can submit your photo (or have your picture taken) for it!