



FIRST UU NEWS

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

Building Something That Matters

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse



Dear Ones,

This letter is to you, all of the people who come through the doors of First UU to be part of this community, a part of the nourishment of souls, the transformation of lives, a part of doing justice. Some of you have been here all your lives, and others found First UU at a time of tumult and transition in your lives. Do you remember what it first felt like to find a place where you could be nourished and challenged, where you could belong?

We never stop becoming the people we're meant to be. For its best life, First UU must never stop becoming the church it is meant to be. The values this church embraces are:

- Transcendence – To connect with wonder and awe of the unity of life
- Community – To connect with joy, sorrow, and service with those whose lives we touch
- Compassion – To treat ourselves and others with love
- Courage – To live lives of honesty, vulnerability, and beauty
- Transformation – To pursue the growth that changes our lives and

heals our world.

My friends, our building is the vehicle for the expression of our values, the container for the living out of our mission. One of the times we are at our best is when the church leaves the building, doing justice in the community, being a voice for fairness here in the Texas capital.

Our building is the vehicle for the expression of our values, the container for the living out of our mission.

We have many ministries here, but we need to do more. Our mission of nourishing souls, transforming lives, and doing justice is what is most important. This building campaign is about more than bricks and mortar. We are building a place of welcome, not a place of insufficiency. We are building a place where hospitality encompasses the strangers we've not yet met, the people moving to Austin who are not yet part of this community, who

will bring us new life, fresh ideas, the delight of watching others blossom and grow here. We are building a place where our children can learn and play safely, in a space that speaks to them of being valued and precious.

It's going to take six million dollars to do just the basics of what is needed: A worship space where we can experience moments of transcendence together, be comforted and challenged, meditate, light candles and sing, a kitchen that works well and is up to code, bathrooms that those of us who use wheelchairs can actually use, meeting spaces that allow our arts activities while speaking wordlessly to members and guests about how we feel about this church.

This is not up to someone else. It is we who are here at this moment in the long history of this church. This is the 60th anniversary of First UU's certification as a church in the denomination. We are proud of what was done by those who were here in the past. Let's do something those who come after us can be proud of. Let's build something that matters! ■

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Get to know this year's new board president

by Carolyn Gremminger



My name is Carolyn Gremminger and I am First UU's board president for the coming year. One of the duties of the board president is to contribute a column to this newsletter each month. I hope to make this column interesting and informative.

I have been a member of this church for about 13 years. I have served on the Board of Trustees for the past two years and am now serving as the board president until June 2015.

Since joining the church, I have served on the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Ministries, and the Worship Associates. I also served as chair of the Intern Committee for Jack Harris Bonham. I have attended the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience and General Assembly (GA) in Phoenix, Arizona in 2012. I have been in Covenant groups, Chalice Circles and taken part in Sharing Suppers. I have also volunteered with Paradox Players and the Alternative Space Gallery. I plan on attending GA in Rhode Island this summer. As you can see from my experience, there are many ways to get involved in the life of this community.

Becoming involved in First UU

has added so much to my life. My understanding of being in a faith community has been expanded. I have received training and practical experience about healthy systems. My leadership skills have been enhanced. And on an emotional level, the love and support I have received here have carried me through some serious life challenges.

Board work has also made me aware of our denomination and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), which has resources available on a regional and national level. It has also taught me to look at the values, mission and ends of the church, and to see how we can all work together to bring those about, no matter what our background or interests are. I have enjoyed being on the board because of the new friendships I have made, and it has deepened my faith journey in my everyday life.

The Board of Trustees is a group of nine people who have been selected by the Nominating Committee and voted in by the congregation. We meet once a month every third Tuesday at the church. Our role is informed by a system of governance that is called "policy-based governance."

Our job overall is to represent the

interests of the congregation. The ultimate authority of the church rests with our individual congregation, instead of dictates coming down from the UUA.

The board has a "balcony perspective" on the goings-on at the church, and we are focused on the future as opposed to the past.

We are placed in a trusted position to do what we can to make sure we are leading the congregation in accomplishing our ends (goals). In other words: who are we as a congregation? What do we want to become? And what difference do we want to make in the world?

Because our governance is policy based, the board doesn't get involved in the daily operations of the church. Reverend Meg is in charge of the means: of making our values, mission and ends come about. She is not alone in the day-to-day operations though; she has a staff and volunteers working together to make it all happen.

So what does a policy-based board do? Per our church bylaws, the board provides direction, oversight and supervision of the senior minister by adopting written policies providing limitations on the minister, holding the minister accountable for acting within the limitations, and

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monitoring progress toward ends.

The board is also charged with listening to the congregation to ensure that our ends continue to be reflective of the desires

of the congregation. Linkage events—or structured times of intentional listening—help to see if the congregation thinks the ends continue to be a reflection of the desires of the church. The ends are not set in stone. Neither is the

mission statement. All are a dynamic process, set up for evolution and revision, decided on by future processes of inquiry.

I look forward to my year of serving this congregation as board president. ■



Music Matters

Come out for the third annual Choir Benefit Variety Show

by Kit Christie

When: Sat. July 26 at 7 p.m.

Where: Sanctuary, First UU

Benefit recipient: Texas Council on Family Violence

Beat the summertime heat and join the First UU Choir for a night of entertainment and fellowship for a good cause!

Here are the show details:

- Free will donations will be taken at the door.
- The Intergenerational Choir will get the evening rolling, followed

by a variety of acts by the adult choir. Lots of music, of course, but some comedy, too!

- Childcare will be provided. Complimentary coffee, tea and cookies will be served during intermission.

Hope to see you there!

About the Texas Council on Family Violence

The Texas Council on Family Violence promotes safe and healthy

relationships by supporting service providers, facilitating strategic prevention efforts, and creating opportunities for freedom from domestic violence. For more information, visit their website: www.tcfv.org. ■



A New Event for Religious Liberals: The Servetus Tour

This special UU vacation tour is not just as a chance to enjoy a holiday traveling around Western Europe and some of its most beautiful cities—it is also a spiritual pilgrimage following Michael Servetus’ steps as his religious thought and scientific mind were evolving and taking shape, until his terrible death at the stake. Features include a monument tour throughout western EU, excellent accommodations, expert guides and free days in Barcelona and Paris.

The first tours are scheduled for next September and October. On-demand tours are also available. Visit their website: www.servetustour.info.

June Seniors Luncheon

Wednesday, June 11
Howson Hall
12 p.m.

Join us as Gary Payne and the Paradox Players perform a scene from their upcoming show, "Radium Girls." Soup, salad, and dessert will be served for \$5. Please RSVP to Alice Cashman: (512) 837-0988.

The Seniors Luncheon will be off through the summer and will resume September 10.

Texas UU Justice Ministry

Help fellow UUs support social justice statewide

by Peggy Morton

While we live in a politically progressive island in Austin, many fellow UUs across Texas feel alone in ultra-conservative areas when they want to work toward the same social justice issues we want. That's why I support the Texas UU Justice Ministry.

TXUUJM has recently received its 501(c)3 nonprofit status, retroactive to 2012 when we first incorporated. It's the only group working across our huge state to organize like-minded UUs to advocate our values publicly, and I'm honored to be part of the steering committee. We work in coalition with great groups like Texas Freedom Network, Texas Impact and Planned Parenthood.

When our local progressive legislators pursue good issues, it will help us pass good public policy with UUs around the state visiting their own legislators to echo the same faith-based goals. The more legislators from different areas hear similar demands for change, the better chance we have of making a real impact.

TXUUJM is planning a UU Lobby Day for early January 2015 to bring Texas UUs to the Capitol to reach out to legislators, and I hope fellow UUs from Austin will join us in helping to make this happen.

I visited with UUs from around the state last summer, who were pleased to join us on their visit to the Capitol in support of women's reproductive justice.

The TXUUJM advisory committee, which thus far includes representatives from 18 Texas UU churches, is currently focusing on studying needed changes for women's reproductive justice, Medicaid expansion, and economic justice laws.

Additional UU churches have said they will join TXUUJM now that it has received its nonprofit status, and together we'll increase our political power.

Like other Texas UUs, members of First UU's Austin's Action for Justice team pursue issues that resonate with our congregation such as TXUUJM's current issues and education, environment, immigration, prison reform, LGBTQ rights and voting access.

All are welcome to join First UU Action for Justice, which meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. to get a better perspective on what we're doing locally. For more info, contact co-coordinators Wendy Eriseman and Chloe Sikes at justice@austinuu.org.

Individuals may also go directly to the website at www.txuujm.org for both more info and to donate financially to growing our network, which specifically works to organize UUs to seek better public policy on a variety of good social justice issues. TXUUJM is prepared to attack several issues with support from UUs across Texas.

FIRST UU IN PICTURES

First UU congregation raised their voices in capital campaign focus groups

Photos by Jon Montgomery

The First UU capital campaign has wrapped up its focus group sessions, and is very satisfied with the results. In thirteen focus groups, the capital campaign intended to reach out to at least half of the giving family units of this congregation, and they're proud to announce they well exceeded that goal.

Participants in the focus groups learned about the logistics of the campaign and what changes it will mean for the church. They were also invited to give their opinions and concerns about the proposed strategy and implementation. The campaign organizers were pleased with the unique variety of suggestions and thought-provoking questions posed during these meetings.

What were the focus groups' findings? Be sure not to miss the special Sunday service on June 29th to hear all about it, and to see what comes next for the campaign!



Heritage Book Club update

**Sunday, June 8
5:30 p.m.**

The next meeting and potluck will be held at the home of Sally Scott, 4906 Beverly Hills Drive, 78731.

Due to summer vacations and small attendance, we are changing the meeting format. We are asking you to share a book you are currently reading and have enjoyed, and discuss it with us so we can get some ideas for our own summer reading. We plan to go back to the original format in September.

Please RSVP if you can come. It is nice to get to know one another over dinner. Contact: Sally Scott, sallyscott33@gmail.com.

Hogwarts is coming— spots still remain!

July 28-August 1 is this year's Hogwarts summer camp for children entering grades 1-6. Registration continues for campers, as well as for prefects (counselors, i.e. students entering grades 7 through college). Each camp day begins at 8:30 a.m. and half-day campers are picked up at 12:30 p.m. while full-day campers are picked up at 4:30 p.m. After a morning enjoying 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, August 1st from 1-3 p.m, families are invited to join The Great Feast for fine food and entertainment from the campers.

We are still seeking adult volunteers to help with the camp. Volunteers 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 with questions or for more information. For costs and registration, please visit <http://bit.ly/UUHogwarts>.

June Art Gallery Exhibition

Dos Hermanas - Art of Two Sisters

Two

Dos

Belia Leal Hahn - Anna Lisa Leal

Opening Event - Saturday June 7, 2014 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m

Alternative Space Gallery - First Unitarian Universalist - 4700 Grover Avenue - Austin, TX - 78756

Don't miss the art of *dos hermanas* (two sisters), Belia Leal Hahn and Anna Lisa Leal, at the Alternative Space Gallery. See more of their work at www.annalisaleal.com. Contact: Tomas Rodriguez, galleria@austinuu.org.

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS



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

Another exciting, educational, inspirational General Assembly (GA) 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

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>. More details in the coming months.

Save The Date!

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

Carpool Opportunities

Looking to carpool to a UU event outside Austin? Email Denominational Connections at denom@austinuu.org. Margaret Borden will attempt to put you together with someone to share the ride.

Yew Grove Moon Circle

**Friday, June 13
7:30 p.m.**

Join us to talk about ancient sacrificial gods, and honor the moon. Bring snacks for afterward if you choose. We'll meet under the oaks if the weather is fine, otherwise in the Art Gallery. Namaste, Brooks Lewis (yewgrove@austinuu.org).

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING

Can you give us a seat?

First UU is looking for a gently used wheelchair we can keep in the foyer in case visitors need it when they're at church. If you have one you would be willing to give, please let Andrea Sosa know: andrea.sosa@austinuu.org. Thank you!

Drive A Senior

*One person helping another,
one ride at a time*

by Tina Prikryl

Drive a Senior-North Central Austin (a.k.a. North Central Caregivers), a member of the Faith-in-Action network, is a nonprofit organization serving the needs of homebound, senior residents 60 and over in the North Central Austin area. Since 1989, NCC/Drive a Senior volunteers—including many from our congregations—have provided free transportation to their member recipients for vital trips such as doctor or dentist appointments, pharmacy, and grocery needs.

The needs of Drive a Senior are expanding as Austin's elderly homebound population increases and operational costs increases. There are so many people in our community who

do not have friends or relatives to help them with their most basic living needs. Each one is a real face of need for our ministry—one person helping another, one at a time. The service actions provided are coordinated through the Drive a Senior office.

The funding for Drive a Senior comes from various donors including supporting church congregations, individual donors and partial grants. First UU of Austin has been very generous over the years and we are requesting your support this year so we may continue to provide services to the elderly of our area. For more info, contact ncc@austinuu.org.



Drive a Senior

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 presents a powerful Austin premier!

by Gary Payne, creative director

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.

Opening night of Radium Girls is Friday, June 13. Won't you help us get lucky on this Friday the 13th and attend opening night, which includes a champagne reception with the cast after the show? The evening is electric and the reception menu, planned and prepared by Laraine Altun, is always top notch.

If you can't join us on opening night, never fear. The show runs Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. through June 29. Reservations can be made by calling 512-744-1495, visiting paradoxplayers.org, or dropping by the Paradox Players table in the gallery on any Sunday.

Free Childcare!

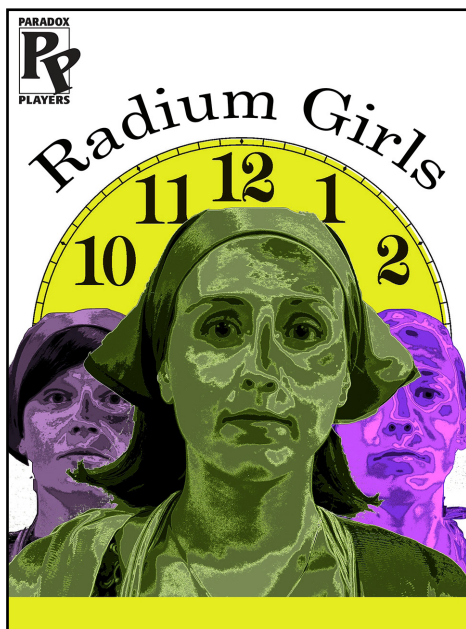
Free childcare will be available at four of our performances: Saturday, June 14 and 21, and Sunday, June 15 and 22. And here's maybe the best part—no reservations for childcare required! That's right, just arrive with the kids, knowing that you can sit back and enjoy the show while they are being cared for.

Women's Spirituality Group

**First & third Saturdays
Room 13
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

On June 7 we will watch the movie "Signs Out of Time," about the life and work of world-renowned archaeologist Dr. Marija Gimbutas who uncovered the life-affirming and goddess-worshipping civilizations of pre-historic "Old Europe." Then on June 21 we will celebrate the Summer Solstice.

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



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lifespan RE highlights

by **Rev. Marisol Caballero**



Summertime Children and Youth Program

School is out and the swimming pools are in! We will again use a one-room schoolhouse approach for our summer K-5th program. When the weather is nice, all ages will be spending lots of time playing outdoors, so please pile on the sunscreen before heading to church. We hope you will join us in the fun!

Pre-K (3 and 4-year-olds), Rm. 23 “Chalice Children”

Pre-K will continue with lessons from Chalice Children, but our teachers always make sure that they have a good amount of free playtime to practice the values that they are learning. Based on the premise that children learn best through experience, this program helps nurture spiritual growth, creativity and a sense of community through imaginative activities and rituals such as rhymes and fingerplays.

Summer K-5th Curriculum, Rm. 15 “Dr. Seuss Changed My Life”

This multi-age curriculum is filled with lively discussion topics and fun games and activities. Each lesson centers around one of Dr. Seuss’ beloved stories, including “And to Think I Saw it on Mulberry Street,” “Horton Hears a Who,” and “The Lorax,” along with some lesser known works, such as “The Butter Battle Book” and “On Beyond Zebra.”

Junior Youth Group, 10:45 a.m.-noon 2nd and 4th Sundays

The junior youth group will meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday this summer. They will gather for fun teambuilding games, field trips, service projects, and discussion-based workshops on UU identity formation. Youth should come prepared with fun ideas to help steer

the group in the direction they would like to go in each of the above categories.

Senior Youth Group, 10:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

The senior youth group will complete the “Our Name is Earl” workshop series, spruce up room 11, engage in teambuilding activities and field trips, and begin to think about next year’s vision and schedule.

Playground Picnic Playdate June 22nd, 12-1 p.m.

Do you have a child in the Sunday school program and wish you knew other parents of kids in their class? Do you wish that you could put names to faces of the friends they talk about each week? Or, do you have established friendships with other parents and would like to be able to spend time with them or meet new friends while your kids play? Come to the Playground Playdate! We will provide breakfast tacos and juice for you all to nosh on, and you may bring other picnic snacks to share as well. Hang out and let the kids run wild!

Film Series, “Africans in America” Screening and Discussion June 19th, 6-8 p.m.

Join us in screening part one of this four-part Peabody-award winning series which “explores the impact of slavery on Americans—white and black—from the first English settlement in 1607 to the brink of civil war in 1861. In this installment, The Terrible Transformation (1607-1750), “The English colonies bring opportunities for European settlers, including indentured servants, but for Africans—abducted from their homelands—the new land brings hard labor and a system of race-based slavery, enforced and protected by law.” (www.pbs.org) This film series is co-hosted by participants and facilitators of the RE course “Building the World We Dream About.” Childcare will be offered per request. ■

HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

Advice from Covenant Corner

Dear Covenant:

During coffee hour last Sunday I heard a member talking about all the problems caused by illegal aliens. I was shocked! I couldn't think of anything to say! Thank heavens, because it was difficult to stop myself from correcting all the misinformation I heard, beginning with the fact that people are not "illegal" and the correct term is undocumented immigrants. How can I disagree from a place of curiosity and respect when someone is so misinformed and states opinions as facts?

— *Outraged*

Dear Outraged:

It's easy to be outraged when we hear opinions that are not only misinformed but support an unjust world. Yet arguing with another will not change anyone's mind. To increase the likelihood of becoming allies and working together for a better world, we must first understand the positions of those with whom we differ. We can do that only by asking questions with respect and curiosity. We do this not to gain ammunition to debate, but in the hope of understanding the values and fears that underlie those positions. In this case, a possible beginning

might be, "My information about undocumented immigrants is different. Help me understand how you came to your conclusions."

Remember, 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

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Attack of the Beggar's Lice!

by Carol Edwards

On an overcast and gray morning of April 26, seven hearty individuals met at the church for a First UU Grounds Committee work day. As it turned out the occasional mist and cloudy sky kept us cool while we cut, weeded, dug, raked, hauled and mulched.

The workers who helped

included: Dale Bulla, Carol Edwards, Kathryn Ehlert, Elizabeth Gray, Beki Halpin, Jim McCall,



and Sylvia Pope. Thanks, gang!

For a small group of workers, we got a lot done! We cleared beggar's lice, velcro weed and other invasive plants along the fence line on Grover at the entrance to church property. We were also able to clear most of the weeds and unwanted grasses from the parking strip on the north side of the building by the credit union. We added mulch to both areas to cut down on future weed growth and to hold moisture in the soil.

If you don't know such fun weeds as beggar's lice or velcro weed, join us for a work day and we'll teach you. Fortunately the "lice" were not

yet mature so they did not stick to everything they touched, and the Velcro weed is easy to unwind from your gloves. However, in the end, the beggar's lice won, as we were not able to get to all of it on the property. But we called for reinforcements, and the church's Clean Air Lawn Maintenance Service assisted clearing it on the south side of the property.

Unfortunately, we often run out of time and energy before we finish all we hope to get done; but we make good friends, tell seedy and weedy stories, and go for pizza when we finish. Join us for outdoor fun next time on June 21st.

New co-coordinators lead Action for Justice project

by Peggy Morton

When Samantha Fredrickson took a job with Planned Parenthood in Nevada to live closer to her mom, who has been diagnosed with a serious illness, she knew who should succeed her at the helm of our First UU Action for Justice project.

Both Wendy Erisman and Chloe Sikes accepted the invitation to co-coordinate UU political activists, a group of 30 First UU members whom Samantha had organized over the past year and a half.

Chloe Sikes joined First UU in January 2014, having grown up as a lifelong UU in Plano. Her grandfather was a UU minister in Massachusetts, which leads her to say Unitarian Universalism “is in my blood.”

The UU faith attracts Chloe because of its concern for social justice and community impact. “I am drawn to being UU not only because these values are of high importance,” she said, “but because UUs also practice advocacy and action versus passive observance.”

Wendy Erisman has attended First UU since 2010 and said as a cultural anthropologist, she recognizes that religion serves many social needs. It connects people through shared values and beliefs, it allows us to think about the big issues everyone faces in their lives, and it uses ritual to mark the turning of the seasons and the

progression through a lifespan.

Despite this knowledge, it took a long time for Wendy to find a place for religion in her life. “Growing up, my family was nominally Christian, but we rarely attended church and religion wasn’t a priority in our home. Attending Catholic school left me a committed atheist and a skeptic about the value of organized religion.”

Action for Justice meets every third Monday of the month and all are welcome.

Eventually, Wendy said she began to feel the lack of a community of shared values in her life. “I tried to find meaning by throwing myself into political activism but didn’t find it fully met my needs,” she said. “Over the years, many people suggested I try UU, but I rejected the idea of belonging to a church.”

When Wendy finally went to a UU service in Bethesda, Maryland in 2005, she said she immediately felt at home. Finding that the seven UU principles clearly expressed how she was already trying to live her life, she recognized that she could live those values in fellowship with like-minded people, and it became a defining moment in her life.

Wendy and Chloe will kick off a Listening Campaign for the Action for Justice team in June

and July to hear what social justice issues most affect church members as individuals and families. The campaign will lead into the November elections and the 2015 Legislative session.

Chloe said she’s excited to help direct the Listening Campaign because it’s a way to build connections between church members, activate and energize the congregation by learning what matters to them, and mobilize First UU as a powerful institution for social action.

Wendy is attracted to the community organizing approach they’ve been learning through Austin Interfaith because it gets at what our community cares about, not just what “I as an activist care about,” Wendy says. “I want to contribute to First UU’s mission of nourishing souls, transforming lives, and doing justice by understanding and promoting action on the issues that matter to our congregation.”

Meanwhile, Samantha Fredrickson has left her legacy in her brief two years in Texas. As the Public Affairs Manager at Planned Parenthood for Southern Nevada, she said it’s fun working for social justice in her hometown. When she hears people complain about Nevada politics, she refrains from laughing after what she’s seen in Texas.

ACTION FOR JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Tell us what issues most impact you as individuals or families

Starting with the upcoming November election, Austinites will elect our City Council members from individual districts. In preparation for this big change to how Austin is governed, the Action for Justice Committee is excited to announce the beginning of a Listening Campaign.

We want to hear about what matters to you! Look for Action for Justice members in the Gallery and/or Howson Hall every Sunday in June and July, and come speak with us about what issues you care about most.

We will also announce a “sit-in” discussion one Sunday in July (date TBA), where you can simply stay in

your seat after the service and have a larger group discussion on social justice and City of Austin issues.

In September, we will sponsor a Civic Academy (date TBA) to allow First UU members to learn about the 10 new City Council districts, their respective candidates, and how these candidates’ platforms align with the interests and concerns our congregation has expressed during the Listening Campaign.

While Action for Justice members will be available on Sundays, anyone wanting to schedule a specific interview may contact co-coordinator Chloe Sikes at justice@austinuu.org.

Grounds Work Day

**Saturday, June 21
9 a.m.-12 p.m.**

This is the first day of summer and it will be hot, so come prepared with water bottle, hat, sunscreen and your own gloves and hand tools. Come at 8 a.m. if you have a lot of energy and want to beat the heat. Meet on the patio on the south side of the church. We will have pizza, cold drinks and time to visit with friends afterwards! Contact: Carol Edwards, 512-560-8202.

The new copiers are here!

If you are a committee chair or group lead that is assigned a copy code, please plan on attending a special Church Use Training focused on helping you get started on making copies, sending emails and more! Copier training will be on Sunday, June 15. Due to limited space,

Andrea will be conducting 30-minute sessions in groups of five beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to Andrea at andrea.sosa@austinuu.org by Wednesday, June 11 to reserve a spot and Andrea will email you the time of your session.

Eclectic Folk Jam

Friday, June 13
Rm. 17
7-10 p.m.

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

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

UU/Quaker Singalong

Saturday, June 28
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.

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

JUNE 1**Rilke’s Swan**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

The Fourth Commandment is to rest. What do you do to rest? What might a “Sabbath” be in your life?

JUNE 8**The Cherokee Removal**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Did you know that the man who was chief of the Cherokee during the Trail of Tears was a Harvard graduate? Did you know there were missionaries living in Georgia amongst the Cherokee who vigorously protested their removal? Did you know what natural resource was at the root of the removal? Justice and politics in the nineteenth century.

JUNE 15**Honor Your Father**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

The Fifth Commandment talks about honoring our parents. What does that

mean? As the choir sings its big work using the words of one of the fathers of Unitarianism, Henry David Thoreau, we will reflect on the things we were taught that we should hold fast, and the things we were taught that we should let go.

The First UU Adult Choir will wrap up its season with choral treasures by Argento, Lauridsen and more. They will be joined by guest vocal soloists and instrumentalists from the Austin Symphony Orchestra.

JUNE 22**What Does it All Mean?**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

A recent article in the UU World magazine by Doug Muder, entitled, “I Don’t ‘Believe in’ the Seven Principles,” brought up the difference between a belief and a vision. This assertion has the potential to change the way we as UUs respond to the often-asked question, “What do Unitarian Universalists believe?” What about some of the other terms that we use casually to talk about our faith? What might they truly mean to us?

JUNE 29**Spiritual Growth**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

This is a special service with modified times! In place of a first service, we will gather at 9 a.m. for an all-church breakfast to hear how the capital campaign is going so far. Come feast on good food and good news. Then we’ll gather for a service to hear about spiritual growth. This is more important for First UU than numerical growth. What might that look like for UUs? How do we know if it’s happening?

THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

JUNE 1

Joseph Campbell, the “New Myth,” and the Sexual Liberation Movements

WITH TOBY JOHNSON

Toward the end of his life, the popular commentator on myth and religion Joseph Campbell was particularly interested in what the “new myth” will be now that human beings have evolved in perspective and psychological self-consciousness to understand the nature of myth as metaphor and symbol. Toby Johnson explains how this awareness itself gives rise to such a new myth, i.e., a way of understanding consciousness itself. The changes in how we understand sexuality and sexual identity—from the women’s movement to gay liberation, to transsexual rights to personal freedom from old-time conventions—arise from and propel this “new myth” by forcing us to be aware of the rules and stereotypes that have controlled sexual behaviors.

Toby Johnson Ph.D. is a former Catholic monk and comparative religions scholar turned psychotherapist, gay activist, bookseller, editor, book designer, novelist and gay cultural commentator.

JUNE 8

Bike Austin: Making Austin a World-Class Bicycling City

WITH TOM WALD

Tom Wald, executive director of Bike Austin since 2009, will speak on what bicycling has to offer Austin and how we can bring more people to bicycling.

Bicycling offers transportation options, public transit connectivity, traffic congestion mitigation, lower business costs, less expensive transportation costs for both taxpayers and individuals, safer streets for all road users, alleviation of childhood and adult obesity, cleaner air, cleaner water, global and Austin climate change mitigation, and an even more livable city. We can bring more people to bicycling by meeting the demand for

more comfortable bikeways. To accomplish this, the City of Austin is developing a plan for an all-ages-and-abilities bikeway network in Central Austin, and an urban trails master plan that includes all of Austin.

JUNE 15

Veterans Affairs: Chronic Scandals and Practical Solutions

WITH PAUL SULLIVAN

Paul Sullivan, advocate for veterans for over twenty years, will discuss current scandals in the offices of Veterans Affairs and problems of excessive delays and denials veterans face in seeking healthcare and disability benefits. Veterans have died while waiting for these benefits. He will discuss the causes of Veterans Affairs’ chronic crises and in some cases poor service, and will suggest reasonable, practical solutions. He will also discuss other new looming threats to veterans’ care and benefits.

Paul Sullivan served in the U.S. Army as a scout, including during the ground invasion of Iraq and Kuwait in 1991. He has frequently testified before Congress, has appeared on 60 Minutes, on CNN, and in the pages of the New York Times as an expert on veterans’ issues.

JUNE 22

Mobile Loaves & Fishes Community First! Village

WITH ALAN GRAHAM

Alan Graham will discuss the development of Community First! Village, a 27-acre master-planned community that will provide affordable, sustainable housing and a supportive community for the disabled, chronically homeless in Central Texas. The Community First! Village will radically transform and renew our community as the men and women living on the streets are lifted up into community and home.

Alan is the president, CEO and founder of Mobile Loaves & Fishes.

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**First Unitarian
Universalist
Church of Austin**

(512) 452-6168

www.austinuu.org

Senior Minister
Rev. Meg Barnhouse

Office Administrator
Andrea B. Sosa

Assistant Minister
Marisol Caballero

Director of Music
Brent Baldwin

Membership Coordinator
Kelsey Caudebec
membership@austinuu.org

Communications Coordinator
Victoria Valadez
news@austinuu.org

Board President
Michael Kersey
president@austinuu.org

**First Unitarian
Universalist
Church of Austin**

4700 Grover Ave.
Austin, TX 78756

THE FORUM, *continued*

JUNE 29

**Austin's Rail Plan,
Project Connect**

WITH JOHN-MICHAEL CORTEZ

Austin City officials and Project Connect have recommended the city pursue a \$1.38 billion urban rail network, running a 9.5-mile route from Highland Mall through

downtown and ending on East Riverside Boulevard.

The system will cross Lady Bird Lake via a \$175 million bridge and navigate under the existing Red Line train tracks near Hancock Plaza through a \$220 million tunnel.

John-Michael Cortez is the Community Involvement Manager of Cap-Metro in Austin. ■