



FIRST UU NEWS

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

Kiss the Joy as it Flies

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse



The last time we saw the pig figures was Valentine's Day, months ago. There are three of them, made of plastic I suppose, and they are displayed in the front yard of a neighbor a couple of blocks over. A red, egg-shaped cage with an open front holds a shiny yellow bench. It looks like it might have come from a carnival ride or a ski lift in a cartoon town. You can see the black handle on the top of the egg by which it must have been attached to some machinery. The cage and bench are big enough for a person to sit in, but we've only ever seen the three pigs there. Last summer they sat in a row in striped 1920's bathing suits, with goggles on and snorkels sticking jauntily up past their little ears. One wore blue, one yellow, and the third pink. They looked pleased with themselves, insouciant. It made us smile every time we drove past. One time we stopped in front of the house, feeling a little self-conscious, and took a picture. When the seasons change, the pigs disappear for a week or two, and we drive past, anticipating their next appearance.

Last Christmas the pigs were not on their bench. Dressed in sumptuous robes, crowned in splendor, they walked in a rapt row on top of

their red egg-shaped ski lift, carrying gold, frankincense and myrrh, focused on the enormous tin foil star which was held far ahead of them at the end of a fishing pole. The display was lit beautifully. We rejoiced.

We tried to imagine what the artist was like. We never saw anyone in the yard or the driveway. The house is a small ranch, ordinary in most ways except for its front door, which looks like beaten copper with a soft verdigris finish. We felt the

Opening up to more people is exciting and it's stressful. We may have to "kiss the joy" of how things used to be as it flies past us.

artist's joy through the three pigs.

On Valentine's Day, the pigs worried us. Two of them lay on the floor of the egg. Each eye was a big black X. They were splashed with blood red paint. One had an arrow protruding from its chest. The third pig was standing on the back of the bench wearing white wings, holding a bow, gazing at the two dead ones.

Since that display came down,

the yellow bench has been bare for months. We've stopped driving past with anticipation or delight. Now we drive past and look at each other sadly. Something is wrong. Something took the artist's joy. It looks to have been Cupid. It feels like a broken heart.*

Three weeks ago I saw a man in the driveway. He was moving some things, a tarp, a few metal poles. I hit the brakes and backed up the street, rolling down the car window. Austin has a deep tolerance for eccentricity, so his face was welcoming when I said hello. "I just wanted to tell you how much we enjoy the pigs," I said. "I don't know if you knew that people wait for what you're going to do next." He smiled.

"I guess I need to get going on them, then," he said.

"I wanted you to know what a difference you're making for us in the neighborhood."

He was grinning and shaking his head as I waved goodbye. I heard him say "That's great," in a happy voice.

It's been three weeks since then,

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*Disclaimer: I don't know this man, and so this column is about my imagination rather than about his life.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Taking the wake-up call

by **Carolyn Gremminger**



One of my favorite spiritual teachers is the American Buddhist nun Pema Chodron. In her book, “Always Maintain a Joyful Mind,” she highlights the importance of being grateful to everything, because all circumstances can provide opportunities “to wake up.”

I had a startling wake-up call on May 28, 2014. There I was, driving eastbound on Hwy. 71, minding my own business on the way to work. I was lost in my thoughts and daily worries as usual, when I noticed a truck piled high with pieces of lumber in the lane beside me. I remember thinking, “that load does not look very secure!”

I then exited the highway, and *blammo*, a piece of lumber comes sailing down from where the truck was still above me on the interstate. It nailed my Ford Escape windshield, knocking the whole thing in, glass flying everywhere! I drove very slowly the rest of way to work, not physically hurt, but very shaken.

Suddenly, the cares that had been preoccupying my mind did not matter that much anymore. A weird kind of peace eventually settled over me, as I realized how fortunate I was to not be hurt. In the end, the windshield was replaced that day in my work parking lot and I was not hurt at all physically.

Most importantly, life was put into perspective and I was able to see the big picture for a while. I allowed myself to bask in the glow of how precious life is.

This reflection on wake-up calls informs my leadership role at First UU. I know many in our community are concerned about all the changes coming with the Capitol Campaign and building project. I was encouraged that so many people came and “raised their voices” in the focus groups. In those meetings, I heard some of my own concerns echoed: “What is going to happen?” “What will the changes be like?” “Will I like the changes?” “Will the ministries I am invested in get proper attention?” “What about all the disruption it will cause?” “Will I still feel at home here?”

We can utilize our values, mission and ends to serve as a continual wake-up calls during this time. These tools can serve as constant reminders about our community’s ultimate concerns—what really matters to us. I am glad they are gentle and compassionate reminders!

As I am guided by our values, mission and ends, I sense my worries calming down, and I am grounded in the present moment. I remember as long as we stay together as a community, as we communicate,

allow differences and disagreements to emerge and approach them from a place of curiosity and respect, and resolve conflicts through the Healthy Relations Covenant, we will have success that we could not have dreamed to be possible.

My hope for the church this year is a steady moving forward in the envisioning and enactment of a more suitable and sustainable container for our Beloved Community. I hope that we are able to start planning and bringing about a facility that reflects our values and aspirations and allows us to carry out our mission.

The board will provide ongoing leadership as we continue to engage in long-term visioning and two-way conversation with the congregation. The board will not be involved in day-to-day decision making, but we will be kept in the loop and will be informed of the progress. We will monitor Reverend Meg as she continues to work with the Steering Committee for the Capitol Campaign. We will keep the Long Range Plan in mind and ensure that the congregation is heard and that our values are reflected by the building project. What a thrilling time to be a member and leader at First UU! ■

Photo by Jane Parsons.

"Kiss the Joy" from page 1

though, and still no pigs. Two coffee travel mugs sit on the bench now. Bland and sad.

Can strangers plead with an artist for his art? Can strangers give an artist back his joy? We talk about inviting him over, but that feels too forward. We talk about blowing up the picture we took of the pigs in their happy bathing suits and taping it onto the bench. We fear that would be putting too much pressure on him. We can't stand in his yard with candles, singing a pig song. That's just over the top.

William Blake wrote:

"He who binds to himself a joy
Does the winged life destroy;

But he who kisses the joy as it flies
Lives in eternity's sun rise."

I guess we've been trying to bind to ourselves the joy of the pigs. Maybe we should just let them go. Some people would say "just make your own art, express your own joy." Well, yeah, we both do that. It's not the same as being surprised by someone else's artistic expression, delighted by someone else being brave enough to just throw it out there. Art isn't even controllable when it's your own, much less when it's someone else's. I'll just kiss the joy as it flies. Kiss those pig memories as they fly by. Live in eternity's sun rise. Oh, who am I kidding? I'll drive by there tomorrow to see if they're there. I'll kiss the joy as it flies, but that doesn't mean I'm not going to drive around

looking for it to fly by again.

At First UU, we are expressing ourselves by adding on to our space, in order to add to the joy of more people. Folks come here to find their joy again, or to have a sense of belonging and connection, to remember to have fun, and to get a chance to serve as part of a community. Opening up to more people is exciting and it's stressful. We may have to "kiss the joy" of how things used to be as it flies past us. If we try to "bind to ourselves" the way things were when we first felt at home here, we hurt the "winged life," the dynamic and evolving life of First UU. I plan on doing a little grumbling, though, because I don't like change that much. It's okay if you do a little as well. ■



Music Matters

Awards go to Brent Baldwin and Texas Choral Consort!

Brent and Texas Choral Consort receive Best Choral Performance of the Year Award

At their annual awards show on June 2nd, the Austin Critics' Table presented First UU Director of Music Brent Baldwin with the award for Best Choral Performance of the year. The accolade was given in recognition for Brent's collaborative "Mozart Requiem Undead" performance with Texas Choral Consort, Golden Hornet Project, Texas Performing Arts, and Fusebox Festival.

"Mozart Requiem Undead" featured reinterpretations of the

iconic choral work by a wide variety of composers, including Pulitzer Prize-winner Caroline Shaw, Wilco's Glenn Kotche, Graham Reynolds and Peter Stoopschinski (of Golden Hornet Project) and many more. Brent conducted the 200 singers and instrumentalists for the performance, which was presented for a capacity



Brent conducting at "Undead." Photo: Austin American Statesman

festival crowd (estimated at 1,700 people, with a line around the block) at the French Legation on April 16th.

The Austin Critics' Table consists of the leading arts writers and critics for the Austin American Statesman and the Austin Chronicle. Fellow nominees for Best Choral Performance included the all-professional Ensemble 8 and Grammy-nominated Conspirare. "Mozart Requiem Undead" soloist (and Grammy Award-winning) Cameron Beauchamp also took home Best Vocalist of the Year for his work on the project.

Congratulations to Brent, TCC and all of the "Mozart Requiem Undead" collaborators!

FIRST UU IN PICTURES

Capital Campaign gets a stellar start at Kick-Off Breakfast



Over \$1.3 million has already been raised for renovations

The turnout for our Capital Campaign All-Church Kick-Off Breakfast completely exceeded our expectations! Over 200 churchgoers came out at 9 a.m. for waffles, breakfast tacos, fresh fruit, and fellowship while hearing the latest news of the campaign.

After an opening meditation, Steering Committee co-chairs Brendan Sterne and Ann Edwards reflected on this church's history of former campaigns. One thing we were excited to learn is how many current members had been around for campaigns in decades past. These folks know better than any of us that many people have come before us to build what we currently enjoy. Eventually the time comes where it is our turn to take the torch to build for upcoming generations of UUs.

Brendan and Ann then informed attendees of the campaign stages and future building process. We have now

entered phase two of the campaign, the public phase, where home visits will continue with all member families. To speak to many members' anticipation on groundbreaking, Brendan and Ann informed the crowd that renovations can start sooner than the six-year span of the campaign—in fact, they could even start by the end of this year.

After a brief recognition of the Steering Committee, church member Valerie Sterne (partner of Steering Committee Co-Chair Brendan Sterne) presented a home movie made by the Sternes as a visual postcard for First UU, back from when they lived abroad in London. In the heartwarming video, Brendan and Valerie with their two daughters showed signs of all the things they missed and cherish about First UU, alongside iconic London sights. Valerie then announced they will be collecting footage of

First UU members doing the same thing, speaking towards what they love about this church, for a special Capital Campaign video. We look forward to seeing your input!

Then we heard the testimonials of three different church members about how they came to this community and what they value here. We heard from member Amanda Ray her appreciation of the good action of the church, the breadth of activities available here for her and her two sons. Board and church member Dwayne Windham echoed the same appreciation, as well as the opportunity to challenge himself in his own spiritual and personal growth. Finally, member Donna Howard emphasized that we are a healthy organization and have done well in healing from our previous times of trouble, but we still need to stay proactive—with as much growth as we've had, our



building is already bursting at the seams! Many thanks go to these three for sharing their sentiments. More of these kinds of testimonials will be made in upcoming Sunday services.

Finally, the moment we all were waiting for arrived. Advance Gifts Chair Bill Edwards announced the grand total that had been raised for the Capital Campaign thus far. To date, we have raised \$1,377,360! Enormous thanks goes to those donors that helped us kick off to a great start!

We are deeply thankful to

Amanda Ray and Kami Cornell and everyone that organized the breakfast, as well as the whole Steering Committee, and you, our active and engaged community, for helping us make this happen. It's a significant sign of progress when we can see our members centered on the congregation as a whole, and on its future life together. Engage! Make it so! ■



Women's Spirituality Group

*1st and 3rd Saturdays
Rm. 13
12 p.m.*

On Saturday, July 5, the Women's Spirituality Group will meet to plan our topic and activities for the next few weeks or months.

This is a great time to start attending if you have been thinking about it. All ideas are welcome at the planning meeting!

This group is for women who are high school age and older. We meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month. We are open to new members at all times, and we invite you to join us.

Contact: women@austinuu.org.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

RSVP to First UU's Path to Membership Class

**Saturday, July 12
Howson Hall
9 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Interested friends of the church are invited to join our next quarterly "Path to Membership" class. This class is designed for people who are interested in becoming members. Events include a welcome from board members; sharing spiritual journeys with other prospective members (optional); a Unitarian Universalism "history lesson;" a discussion of the responsibilities of

membership by Reverend Meg; and, of course, breakfast! Childcare is provided. At the end of the class, if you feel ready, you can fill out the new member paperwork and sign the membership book!

If you are interested in attending the class or have any questions, please RSVP with Kelsey Caudebec, our Membership Coordinator, as soon as possible. You can email her at membership@austinuu.org; call her at 512-452-6168; or find her at the Visitors' Table on Sundays.

Introduce yourself at New Member Recognition Ceremony

**Sunday, July 20
Sanctuary**

The quarterly New Member Recognition ceremony is coming up at both Sunday services on July 20th. If you signed the membership book this year and haven't been able to participate in a New Member Recognition ceremony yet, this would be a nice way for you to be introduced to and received by the congregation.

Participation is simple and of course optional. During this ceremony you will be asked to come forward and join Reverend Meg at the front of the church, where you will briefly introduce yourselves to the congregation, and a short litany is read.

If you would like to participate, just show up! Wear your "New Member" ribbon (extras may be found on the name-tag table).

ALTERNATIVE SPACE GALLERY

Folding Table Productions presents “The Unseen” for July exhibition

Reception: July 12, 7 p.m.
Gallery exhibit: July 3-26

What do you see? What don't you see?

Folding Table Productions, a local arts nonprofit based in Austin, will be the guest of the Alternative Space Gallery for its upcoming July exhibition. With the simple vision “Art is for Everyone,” Folding Table’s mission is to create public forums to initiate and support inclusive discussions, via the medium of art.

Through community art shows featuring submissions from local artists, lectures and educational outreach, Folding Table involve diverse populations in the arts and engaging discourse, where they may not otherwise be included.

The new community art show “The Unseen” asks church members and the public, “What is seen and unseen? What aren't you seeing?” It will explore the boundaries between the seen and unseen world; inviting people of all ages and backgrounds to create works based on their take of “the unseen,” or to come out and see for themselves what they might be missing. “The Unseen” will bring to light ‘unseen’ works of art; unappreciated, forgotten, or overlooked art, or artists underrepresented in any way. Anticipate a multi-sensory and interactive exhibition experience, complete with food, drink, fine art as well as interactive pieces, live music and performance.

Folding Table Productions is the work of First UU Communications Coordinator Victoria Valadez and her nonprofit partner, Andy Tang. Their first project together, “Pythagoras (and Austinites) Discovering

the Musical Intervals” premiered in Austin in September 2012. Besides featuring a variety of new and well-seasoned Austin artists, the show also included music from local DJs. The show had over 100 people in attendance and fundraising from local sponsors totaled over \$2,000.

The theme of the first show was based on co-founder Andy Tang’s Master’s thesis about the narrative of Pythagoras’s musical discovery at the blacksmiths’ workshop. Curious about the lack of substantial commentary on the story, Tang soon fell into a rabbit hole of research about the story’s history. He learned how influential the narrative had been to history, now long faded, and wanted to put together a community art show that connected all sorts of people to this tradition. After the Pythagoras show, the founders desired to continue sharing relevant but underexposed topics to the greater public. Thus, Folding Table Productions was born. “The Unseen” is the first community art exhibit under the official masthead of Folding Table Productions.

“The Unseen” show is for all ages and free to the public. Questions and comments, as well as requests for special guided tours can be sent to unseen@foldingtableproductions.com.

THE UNSEEN

A FOLDING TABLE PRODUCTION
COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION

First UU Gallery Showing July 3-26
foldingtableproductions.org

Opening Reception July 12 7-11 pm
facebook.com/FoldingTableProductions

austin creative alliance Cultural Arts Division

This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Economic Development Department/Cultural Arts Division believing an investment in the Arts is an investment in Austin's future. Visit Austin at NowPlayingAustin.com.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Build it and they will come!

Grounds Committee nurture native birds by maintaining nature

by **Carol Edwards**

The Grounds Committee recently had two Saturday work days, and we got a lot done both days! On June 21, the first day of summer, eight intrepid volunteers showed up and really worked hard. Amazingly, it was overcast and not as hot as expected.

The hard-working crew consisted of Bruce and Jeanne Barker, Dale Bulla, Carol Edwards, Luther Elmore, Joseph Hunt, Liz Kesterson, and Sylvia Pope. Most of the group gathered at Pinthouse Pizza afterward for fellowship, pizza, and cold drinks. Besides having a lot of fun, your Grounds Chair learned some new things from this crew!

While clearing invasive vines, weeds and saplings from the back southeast corner of the property, we found a bird nest in a tree with four hungry babies with their mouths open for food. The birds did not have enough feathers for positive identification. Grackles were seen hanging around, but when we finished and moved away, two mockingbirds immediately came to the nest to feed and check on their chicks. If you build it they will come! Plant native plants and native birds will nest on your property.

Additionally, on May 17, the Chalice Circle groups scheduled a service day to clean the playground. For fear we might miss out on the fun, the Ground Committee scheduled an impromptu work day for the same date.

Thirteen Chalice members did a great job cleaning the playground while Kathryn Ehlert, Felicia Kongable and Carol Edwards worked outside the play area digging out small saplings, bindweed and the sticky beggar's lice.

Look for work days announcements later in summer and you too can join the fun. We will probably start at 7 a.m. and quit by 9:30 or 10 during the summer months.



Found baby birds! Photo: Carol Edwards

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

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)

Bring the whole family to see Rev. Meg Barnhouse at SWUUSI!

July 20-25, Fort Gibson Lake, OK

Have you made plans yet for SWUUSI? It's coming up fast! Plan now for July 20-25 at the Southwest UU Summer Institute at Fort Gibson Lake, OK, as SWUUSI celebrates its 75th year. The Institute has fun on the lake, a golf course, and trails, and our very own Rev. Meg Barnhouse will be the event's keynote speaker.

Come for the education, faith development, and fun with fellow UU's from infants to octogenarians.

Video at <http://bit.ly/swuusi>. Don't forget to register here: <http://bit.ly/swuusiregister>.

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.

More fun is coming soon 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. Childcare available upon request.

Thursday, July 3

Bring a dish to share and your favorite games for game night!

Wednesday, July 16

We'll volunteer with Inside Books Project (insidebooksproject.org).

Thursday, August 7

A guided discussion will be facilitated in the style of Chalice Circles (topic to be determined).

Wednesday, August 20

We'll discuss the Tao Te Ching. Bring a favorite passage from the text (available online).

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.

PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC

Creating employment and volunteer opportunities

Churchgoers who attended First UU on May 11th, our "Share the Plate" Sunday, heard Dr. Celia Neavel, a longtime member of First UU, describe the important role People's Community Clinic plays in meeting the healthcare needs of our neighbors in Central Texas. From pregnancies, to infant health, to adolescent concerns, to whole families' physical and mental health issues, the clinic works to offer healthcare with respect and dignity for all.

Because of that presentation, Suzette Emberton, who is in the process of changing careers from software engineering to medicine, contacted PCC to see if she



*Some of the PCC volunteers from their June gathering.
Photo: Jon Montgomery*

could volunteer or even work part time at the clinic.

Most organizations that have worthy causes also have great needs, and it is uplifting to hear of people who jump in at whatever level and/or ability they can to help. We are thankful to Dr. Neavel for her passion for service and her inspiring talk, as well as to the congregation for its extra donation that Sunday. We are also very happy and pleased that Suzette is starting a new career in medicine and a new volunteer effort with PCC.

If you are interested in helping the clinic, consider joining our Collating Group! We usually meet the second Tuesday morning of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the clinic's second floor conference room at 2909 North IH35. We would be delighted to have you. This month's meeting date will be July 8th. We are done by noon and some go to lunch together afterwards. Come once, or all the time, no need for a long-term commitment. For more information, contact pcc@austinuu.org.

For those who are interested in other volunteer efforts on behalf of the clinic, you may check out their website, www.austinpcc.org. They have needs for office help, people who can read to children in the waiting room, and other opportunities. Their website has applications and immunization requirements that are necessary for volunteers who work around patients.

ACTION FOR JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Speak up for social justice

The Listening Campaign continues, and Action for Justice UUs hope to hear from fellow church members soon.

We're available every Sunday throughout July and want to hear what social justice issues our church community cares about most. Find us in either Howson Hall or the Gallery after worship services and visit with us for 10-15 minute chats.

Action for Justice is a group of politically active First UUs and we want to represent the views of our church community as we speak up publicly before the Austin City Council and Texas Legislature. For more info, contact Wendy Erisman or Chloe Sikes at justice@austinuu.org.

Everyone is invited to attend our Monday, July 14, 7 p.m. meeting to join us as we advocate for UU values publicly, but the Listening Campaign is designed as an easier way for our busy church community to give us input and have their own voices heard.

Touch base soon and tell us what social justice issues you care about most.



Alexandra Neville helped kick off the Listening Campaign earlier last month. Photo: Karl Weston

Save the date for Lobby Day!

January 20, 2015
Texas Capitol

It's not too early to prepare for our Texas UU Justice Ministry Lobby Day! Fellow UUs from around Texas will visit Austin to lobby the Capitol on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.

TXUUJM is organizing the event, and Austin UUs

can get involved by joining Action for Justice to lobby our Austin legislators, offering to help provide food for our morning or afternoon gatherings at the Capitol, or providing a place for visitors to stay overnight while in town.

To help or learn more, contact Social Action Chair Peggy Morton at socialaction@austinuu.org. Join us to help bend Texas toward justice!

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lifespan RE highlights

by Rev. Marisol Caballero



Summertime Children and Youth Program continues!

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.

Film Series, “Africans in America” Screening and Discussion

Join us in screening parts two through four of this

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. Childcare will be offered per request. This film series is co-hosted by participants and facilitators of the RE course, “Building the World We Dream About.”

Part II- July 10th, 6-8:30 p.m.

In this installment, “Revolution” (1750-1805), “This is the story of two American revolutions: the fight for independence from Britain and the struggle of enslaved Africans for freedom. Despite its idealistic rhetoric, the new country refuses to reconcile the fact that it is a nation of liberty built on a foundation of slavery.” (All descriptions from www.pbs.org)

Part III- July 24th, 6-8:30 p.m.

In this installment, “Brotherly Love” (1781-1834), “As free blacks and fugitive slaves seek full participation in American democracy, a new African American leadership of entrepreneurs, preachers, and abolitionists emerges throughout the North and South. The successful revolution in Haiti inspires revolt and rebellion in the South.”

Part IV- August 7th, 6-8:30 p.m.

In this installment, “Judgment Day” (1831-1865), “As the country expands west, so does slavery, even as it is challenged as never before by black and white abolitionists. Tensions mount and a polarized nation moves toward civil war.”

PRIDE 2014 Planning Committee July 9th, 6-8 p.m. at Pinthouse Pizza

Austin’s 2014 LGBTQ Pride Celebration is September 20th and First UU Austin is again registered to have a booth at the festival during the day as well as a spot as a parade contingency later that night. Help make this year’s participation bigger and better (parade float, anyone?) by coming to our first planning meeting. Let’s show all of Austin what a welcoming congregation we are! If you cannot make it to the meeting but wish to be involved, please sign up at the Lifespan RE table in the gallery or email mari@austinuu.org. ■

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING

UBarU Retreat and Conference Center

*Providing a welcoming, peaceful place
for spiritual gathering*

by Rev. Marisol Caballero



UBarU is a Unitarian Universalist Retreat and Conference Center located on 142 rugged acres in the storied Hill Country near Kerrville, Texas. UBarU serves UU congregations and other groups consistent with the mission

for religious retreats and educational programs. Their mission “is to provide a welcoming, peaceful place to gather for spiritual, educational, and recreational purposes in harmony with our Unitarian Universalist Principles and The Land.” (ubaru.org) Each year dozens of folks from our church enjoy UBarU at various

retreats and camps, and its Board of Directors has been comprised of several First UU Austin members for many, many years. The Lifespan Religious Education Dept. is proud to sponsor UBarU as one of this year’s recipients of the monthly special offering!

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.

Multiracial families are invited to a unique UBarU camp

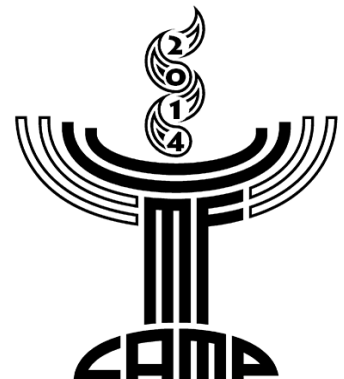
**August 15-17th
UBarU
Kerrville, TX**

UUMF! Camp 2014, the first annual Camp for Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Families, is soon approaching at UBarU.

UUMF! Camp is a place to meet other UU families whose members also don’t appear to “match” each other. We hope to come together each summer to celebrate our Unitarian Universalist faith with others who share common experiences that often follow multiracial families. We will have a great time building this Beloved

Community during this weekend in the scenic Central Texas Hill Country. Come join us to enjoy beautiful sunsets, swimming, hiking, rousing campfire-singing, inspiring worship, fun crafts, and make some new friends!

For more information and to register for the camp, please visit: <http://uumfcamp.austinuu.org>. Deadline for registration is August 1st.



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

JULY 6

Say It Loud—I'm Austin UU and I'm Proud

ERIC HEPBURN

Let's talk about some of the many things about which we are justifiably proud. Let's talk about the quality of our A-game and when (and how) we bring it. How can we bring our A-game more often, more consistently, more reliably? What's the shame in our game? We're gonna talk about that, too.

JULY 13

The Death Penalty, Reluctant Soldiers, and Edward O. Wilson

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

They say "Thou Shalt Not Kill," but we kill all the time. Plants, animals, other humans. What does our biology tell us? What do our ethics tell us?

JULY 20

My Faith is in Science, But I Try to Keep an Open Mind

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

What is prayer for Unitarian Universalists? What good does it do? To whom do we pray? In what ways might we pray? Is it all magical thinking? Why do so many of us keep practicing things our mind doesn't quite support?

JULY 27

Hipster Misogyny and Gaga Feminism

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

When Theodore Parker said, "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe...but from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice," he never could have imagined the current landscape of dialogue around gender equality.

Explore sixty years of First UU's rich history!

Keep an eye out for First UU history lessons through the decades, presented in Sunday services in July and extending through August. We will begin with the 1950's until we find our way to current day. The respective order of service will have an insert for the decade's lesson—collect all six inserts for a chance to win a fabulous mystery prize!

THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

The Public Affairs Forum is off for the summer and will resume in August.

HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

Advice from Covenant Corner

Dear Covenant:

I want First UU to be an intentionally hospitable community. I know I need to do my part, but I'm an introvert. How do I walk up to a visitor and make them feel welcome? And what if they're a member of our congregation? Then I'd feel like a fool.

— *Hospitably Confused*

Dear Hospitably Confused:

I commend you on your willingness to get out of your comfort zone to live our covenant and make First UU an intentionally hospitable place! Especially with two services, it's hard to know if someone who isn't wearing a plastic

name tag is a member or a visitor. One possible greeting is, "Are you a member I haven't met yet or are you a visitor?" When asked with a smile, this is a great conversation starter. If your unknown person is a member, you can ask how long they've been a member and what part of their experience with our church has been the most meaningful to them. If your unknown person is a visitor, there are several things you can do: welcome them to First UU, ask how they found First UU, remind them about coffee in Howson Hall after the service, and take them to the membership table for a name-tag or information about UUism.

The color of the sticky name-

tags can also tell you if someone is a visitor. A gold border indicates a member who forgot their name tag. A red border indicates a first time visitor. A blue border indicates a returning visitor.

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

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GREEN SANCTUARY

Unitarians Go Fossil Fuel Free With Divestment Resolution

from **EcoWatch.com**

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) announced June 28th its resolution to divest from fossil fuels.

The faith-based organization of more than 1,000 congregations has about 2.9 percent of their \$175 million investment dollars in fossil fuel companies under their UUA Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF), according to the Providence Journal. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of divestment.

“We are encouraged that the UUA can continue its longstanding successes in shareholder advocacy while helping

to lead the divestment movement with the approval of today’s fossil fuel divestment resolution,” said David Stewart, co-chair of the UUA’s socially responsible investing committee. “We believe strongly that any effort that can change the current trajectory of climate change is a welcome improvement.”

According to the UUA, the organization has a long-standing history of activism in environmental justice. Most recently, the UUA has supported the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency limits on carbon emissions for new and existing power plants, as well as worked to increase transparency in the executive office of Chevron Corp.