



FIRST UU NEWS

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

At the whim of St. Anthony and the gremlins

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse



There is great rejoicing in the land today because my phone, which was lost, has now been found.

It could only have been in one of two places: the campsite or the car. I'd been taking pictures coming down the mountain toward the campground, and then I'd hopped out of the car to claim the site while my beloved went to register us. I'd been reading Rumpole of the Bailey stories from an actual paper book while I waited for her. We set up camp and got back in the car to go on an adventure. I looked around for my phone, because more beauty was coming and I wanted to be ready.

"I must have had it over by the tent," I said, and went to look. It was a fairly simple campsite, and easy to search. The phone was nowhere. Over the course of the next few days, we took the car apart, took the bins full of clothes and gear apart, took the campsite apart. It was in picking up the tent sack to feel to see whether my phone was in there that I met a huge tarantula. Fortunately we were both pretty laid back, and the enormous spider had an adventure that day as a lesson for some Mennonite homeschoolers before being set gently back in

the dry scrub. I will tell that story another day.

We were in my Civic because the keys to our camping van had disappeared ten minutes before we were supposed to leave town. My love looked everywhere. Three times. They'd vanished. This kind of thing happens to us enough that we call it "gremlins." We look in the usual places, over and over. Most people who believe in the laws of thermo-

It's easy to see how people can start thinking magically when matter occasionally persists in behaving—well—magically.

dynamics would look once, eliminate that place, and go on to the next one. Five or six times, though, we've had the experience of looking in an obvious place just one more time and there it is, big as life and looking casual, the thing that was lost. The gremlins have put it back, and they're giggling or doing a jig or whatever it is gremlins do. We still believe in the laws of thermodynamics, of course. They work so often.

I'm sure there are scientific explanations for each time something lost has popped up in plain sight in a place that's already been scoured. It's easy to see, however, how people can start thinking magically when matter persists occasionally in behaving—well—magically. My faith is in science, but I try to keep an open mind.

When something is lost I pray to St. Anthony, the patron saint of lost things. I started this when I was Presbyterian, although Presbyterians don't believe in saints. I do not believe that prayer is begging the Divine to do something s/he/it/they would not ordinarily do, as if someone were sitting "up there," arms crossed, waiting for you to ask before help was given, and then only if you asked in just the right way. I do not believe that prayer is only for the person praying, either. I think it's a kind of energy not yet understood. I do not think it's always harmless, as people pray sometimes instead of doing something sensible they might otherwise do, were they not waiting on the Divine to act. I don't really even believe in praying to St. Anthony. All that said, we prayed to St. Anthony

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Learning from our wealth of resources

by Carolyn Gremminger



James Luther Adams was a 20th century theologian and Unitarian minister. In his essay, "The Five Smooth Stones of Liberalism," he discusses five hallmarks of liberal faith. One of these "smooth stones" asserts that, "Resources (divine and human) are available to us," and "...this justifies an attitude of ultimate optimism."

Unitarian Universalist conferences and leadership seminars that I have attended since becoming a board member are resources that have provided me with hope and confidence in our faith community.

In 2012, I attended the General Assembly (GA) in Phoenix, Arizona and this summer I attended GA in Providence, Rhode Island. Both conferences energized me and broadened my understanding of Unitarian Universalism on a national level.

GA provides a wonderful opportunity to gather with a diverse multitude of UUs from across the country. The banner parade that opens the festivities is a visual depiction of the various congregations in the United States. Attending the Service of the Living Tradition and the Ware Lecture in a sports arena filled with thousands of cheering UUs was revitalizing. Attending smaller workshops on

Buddhism, Universalism and living your purpose was informative and inspirational. My soul was nourished by attending a Vespers service at the First Universalist Church of Providence with Tom and Susan Thomson. The church building dates back to 1823 and affirmed of our historic roots.

Moreover, meeting strangers from various congregations and

Attending General Assembly events in a sports arena filled with thousands of cheering UUs was revitalizing.

experiencing spontaneous kinship was a heartwarming experience. We might have different beliefs, but common values and interests were found quickly as we conversed. I learned there are many places at our community table, whether we are humanist, theist, pagans, etc. It was very encouraging to witness so many individuals from throughout the United States and beyond, all endeavoring to form Beloved Community together.

In 2012, I also attended the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience (DBLE) in Denton,

Texas with other leaders from the Southern Region. I was thoroughly immersed in leadership training, which included applying systems theory to congregational challenges, learning about the history of Unitarian Universalism, enjoying chapel services, Chalice Circles and spiritual practices every day, and of course, meeting new friends from around the region.

And finally, on July 11-13 of this year, I attended the Presidents' Convocation in Dallas, with other UU board presidents and members from our region. We were assigned to present chapters from the book, "More than Numbers: The Way Churches Grow," by Loren Mead. We learned about the different kinds of growth that happens in congregations: numerical, maturational, organic, and incarnational. To describe each of these:

- Numerical growth involves adding new members while maintaining the current congregation.
- Maturational growth involves the ability of the congregation to challenge, support and encourage members to grow in maturity and to deepen their spiritual roots. A question we can ask about our maturational growth is: "How can I

“At the whim” from page 1

to help us find the keys, but they would not be found. We had looked everywhere.

Finally we transferred all the gear to the Civic, packed it to the gills, and took off for West Texas. The next day, getting towels from a tub that had been searched twice, we heard the keys jingling. There they were. “Gremlins,” we said to each other.

Then, the way one does, we thought aloud that maybe there was a reason we needed to know we could camp just as well in the Civic as in the van. This is another place where my day-to-day behavior is a bit at odds with my theology. I don’t believe that everything happens for a reason. I can’t hold on to a belief that would sound abhorrent if it were spoken in a refugee camp in front of a child whose parents had been killed by the Janjaweed. In a multi-layered mind, though, one’s theology may not be strictly held by every layer of that mind. Some of my layers persist in wondering about the reason things happen.

Most of us use our phones for everything: email, music, home library

and research portal, camera, social media, and calendar. We drove home without listening to my favorite music. I felt the loss of the photos I’d taken of the desert mountains. Coming back to the world, I felt its lack keenly. What was on my schedule for the day? Who knew. Was I free October 25th to speak at a colleague’s installation or was I doing a wedding that day? Good question. No answer. My office computer hadn’t backed up my calendar the way I thought it would. I didn’t pray to St. Anthony about my phone. I think I was still sulking about the keys.

Now an unbeliever, I went to the phone store at lunchtime to replace the thing, but I got so annoyed at the wait and the speed at which the staff were moving that I left. After work that afternoon I went to a different store, got out of the car, and said waspishly, “St. Anthony, this is your last chance to talk to those gremlins and give me back my phone. I would really like that as I hate setting up a new phone, and I love my phone, and I don’t really have time for this.” I decided

to look one more time under the passenger seat where I’d been sitting while taking those last pictures before the phone went missing. I’d looked under there twice before and so had my beloved. I reached my hand to pat around under there, and my fingers closed around the cool smooth face of my phone.

O gremlins! O St. Anthony! Yes, I will be your playmate.

I wondered what the lesson was here, even though my theology says this life is not a school and there isn’t necessarily a lesson in everything. Laughing to myself and shaking my head, I sing hymns of gratitude to the mysterious, mischievous multiverse.

I am gone this month, and I hope you all are here feeling gratitude for our church community, for the possibilities awaiting us, and for the people who will join our community this upcoming year. I look forward to hearing your thoughts, your ideas, your concerns and your hopes for First UU. And may you find whatever it is that you have been looking for. ■

“Learning” from page 2

be a better UU a year from now, how would I know, and what would it look like?

- In regard to incarnational growth, we can ask ourselves: “What would our neighbors say about First UU Austin? How are we living our values? Are we exporting them from our life into the life of the world around us?” The goal is to take our faith outside the walls and affect our community and our world.

- Organic growth involves the

structure and infrastructure of the church and developing practices and processes that result in a stable network of human relationships and systems that will support our growth.

According to our instructor Rev. Susan Smith, Congregational Life Staff with the Southern Region of the UUA, all four of these forms of growth are important, but UUs are typically most comfortable with numerical and organic growth.

I also started making connections

with board members from other UU congregations who live in the area. It was exciting to start planning how we can form lateral relationships to strengthen our congregations together.

In summation, I am grateful that there are planned opportunities and experiences through the UUA that provide a structure to support growth, both within myself and within our community. ■

Eclectic Folk Jam

Friday, August 8
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, August 23
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.

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING

Planned Parenthood

by Kae McLaughlin

On August 10th, congregants will have an opportunity to support our local Planned Parenthood health centers with our monthly special offering.

Texas has the highest number of uninsured residents in the nation. Most of Planned Parenthood’s clients are uninsured or underinsured, live paycheck to paycheck, and pay out of pocket for health care. For most of their clients, Planned Parenthood is their only source of health care.

Even before last summer’s attacks on women’s reproductive health and the historic filibuster at the Capitol, the Texas Legislature had targeted women’s health, slashed 2/3rds of funding for basic women’s health screenings and birth control, and dismantled a Women’s Health Medicaid program, putting more than 300,000 Texas women’s health at risk. At that time, Planned Parenthood’s East 7th Street health center lost all government funding that provided free health care. But the Governor and Texas Legislature’s efforts to block access to Planned Parenthood have only made the

local health centers stronger. Since then, the Austin community has continued to stand up and step in to provide funding and support for the patients at Planned Parenthood’s Austin health centers. Today, Planned Parenthood’s health centers have funding to provide no-cost long-acting birth control, as well as HIV tests and treatment for sexually transmitted infections for young Travis County residents.

In further support of UU values to provide health care without discrimination, Planned Parenthood is a trusted resource for confidential, non-judgmental health care and education within the LGBTQ community. Planned Parenthood partners with numerous communities, nonprofits and advocacy groups throughout Austin including Queerbomb, Gay Pride Festival, and World AIDS Day events.

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.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

UUs provide unescorted immigrant children with generous donations

by Peggy Morton

When Amanda Armatta read the announcement about a last-minute drive for clothes, shoes and hygiene products to help unescorted immigrant children at Lackland Air Force Base, she and her 4-year-old son William went shopping.

The Armattas and many other Austin First UUs joined San Antonio First UUs to do justice by collecting 40 bags of needed goods for 200 girls and 1,000 boys between the ages of 10 and 17 in a one-day donation drive on Sunday, July 13.



Social Action Committee member Judy Sadegh oversees the ample goods given in the donation drive. Photo: Peggy Morton

Other First UUs donated \$730 to contribute to the massive volunteer work taking place in the Rio Grande Valley to assist with the humanitarian crisis as refugees arrive from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Thus, on behalf of the Social Action Committee, First UU sent a \$730 check to the 501(c)3 Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, targeted specifically for the South Texas refugees.

Amanda admits it's somewhat complicated to relate the situation to a preschooler, but she and William have read several stories together, including one about life on the border called "Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote."

The Armattas bought two backpacks, filling one for a boy and one for a girl with a couple of outfits, toys, writing tools and toiletries. Amanda said it was fun watching her son because "he got into it." Suggesting a boy and a girl as the children they were helping "made our effort tangible and thought-provoking for him." ■

Volunteer with the Collating Group!

Tuesday, Aug. 12
People's Community Clinic
(2909 N. IH 35)
9:30 a.m.

The Collating Group will meet in the second floor conference room. All are welcome to participate. There is no long-term commitment. Just come as you are able. We assemble education packets for staff to use with patients, and when we are done, a group usually goes to lunch at a nearby restaurant.

If you are free on the 2nd Tuesday morning of most months, this is a great way to get to know others in the church while performing needed services for our neighbors. If you have questions about this group or other volunteer opportunities with PCC, e-mail pcc@austinuu.org.

HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

Advice from Covenant Corner

Dear Covenant:

I'm having a really hard time tolerating the chronic tardiness of one of my committee members who's always late to meetings. When I talked privately to her, she responded, "I'm a volunteer and this is the best I can do." I do value her participation and I don't want to come across as an intolerant nag, but being on time is very important to me. This tardiness is driving me nuts! What do you suggest?

— *Feeling Like a Nag*

Dear Nag:

It's possible that you are describ-

ing different expectations around time, especially since she did not mention a scheduling conflict when you talked to her privately. Does your committee have a covenant about expected behaviors (including punctuality) that you created together, and did she take part in that discussion? It might be time to refer back to your covenant, or create a new one if new members have joined the committee since the original one was written.

We are a covenantal church, which means that we agree to ways of being together, in committee as well as in larger fellowship. Creating

a committee covenant is simple, and can turn into a bonding experience. If you're not certain how to start, the Healthy Relations Ministry has information to help.

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

What's new with the Capital Campaign?

DID YOU KNOW?

Often people ask about how their pledge to the annual stewardship campaign fits into the church budget including programs, salaries, facility upkeep and other bills.

Did you know that it costs **\$2,317.81 per day** to run our church this year?

Interested in learning more about the Capital Campaign/Annual Stewardship? Contact capitalcampaign@austinuu.org to schedule an enjoyable and informative visit at your convenience.

WE'RE NOW LIVE ONLINE!

You can check our weekly progress updates on the First UU website at <http://bit.ly/firstuucc14-19>, or click the Capital Campaign button on the First UU homepage. See the grand total thus far and the percentage of home visits made!

DON'T MISS THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL! SUNDAY, AUG. 17TH

Astronauts enjoy freeze-dried treats as they explore the final frontier. The Fellowship Committee invites you to celebrate First UU's progress in our "space mission" with fully-hydrated ice cream! After second

service we'll be serving up Amy's ice cream, dairy-free fruit ice, and lots of toppings while we get an update from the Steering Committee. First service attendees are encouraged to grab some lunch and come back to the church for dessert!

THE GRAND TOTAL THUS FAR...

Drum roll please! As of July 28th, the Capital Campaign has raised:

\$1,909,763

Huge thanks to all of those that have given thus far!

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

UU Multiracial Family Camp at UBarU Aug. 15-17

Meet other UU families whose members also don't seem to "match" each other at the inaugural UUMF! Camp at UBarU August 15-17. We hope to come together each summer to celebrate our Unitarian Universalist faith with others who share the common experiences that often follow multiracial families. More information at the link: <http://bit.ly/uumfcamp>

Wide Awake Worship

Red River UU Church in Denison, TX will host "Wide Awake Worship" presented by Dr. Christine Tata on Aug. 9. If you are searching for a fresher, deeper experience on Sunday morning, learn more at their website: <http://bit.ly/uuwaw>

Save The Date!

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

November 7-9: Fall Harvest, Glen Lake Conference Center; Glen Rose, TX

November 13-15: "Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation," Dallas

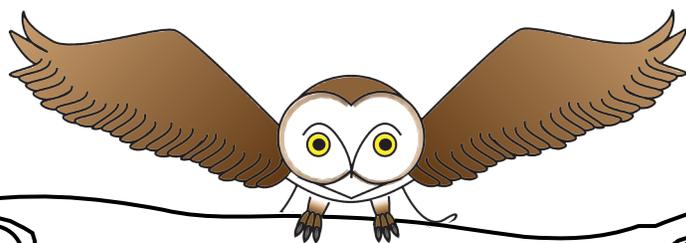
Carpool Opportunities

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.



Bring and take some magazines!

The First UU Bookstore now has a magazine exchange. Donate magazines you've finished reading, and take home one from the box. The big plastic box is located by the bookstore doors on Sundays and during the week.



Hogwarts Camp is here!

At the end of July, a magical group of children, teens, and adults will be gathering at our church to enjoy summer activities inspired in part by the fun of the Harry Potter books and movies and in part by our UU principles. Watch the September newsletter for an article about the camp, including the classes, the social action projects, and the special elements of the August 3rd church service.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lifespan RE highlights

by Rev. Marisol Caballero, Assistant Minister



Austin Pride-Join the fun! Wednesday, August 6th 6 p.m. at Pinthouse Pizza

Austin LGBTQ Pride is just around the corner, and First UU Church of Austin is planning to have a big presence at the festival and the parade. Come join the gaiety of the

planning committee over pizza as we contemplate how we can create a First UU float under the Pride theme of "Welcome to the Wonderful Land of Oz-tin!" There is no place like our church home. Contact: mari@austinuu.org for more info.

Teacher Training and Curriculum Orientation

Saturday August 30th, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Do you feel somewhat disconnected to your original sense of wonder and imagination? Do you want to be taught new ways of understanding your own spirituality, and different, more playful expressions of Unitarian Universalism? Become a Sunday School teacher or Youth Group advisor! Sign up for information at the RE table in the gallery or email sean.briscoe@austinuu.org to RSVP. Consider attending our training session on Aug. 30th to see if the spiritual practice of religious exploration with our youngest UU's is a good fit for you. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Goodbye, Darcy!

Darcy Nolan has been our Childcare Coordinator since only February, but she is returning to her home state of Massachusetts with her husband to be closer

to family. Darcy is sad to leave First UU and we are incredibly sad to see her go. Her professionalism and gentle spirit with both the nursery staff and parents, as well as our littlest UUs is something we won't forget. Bye, Darcy!

Hello, Karyn Machler!

We are happy to welcome Karyn Machler into our nursery as First UU's new Childcare Coordinator! Karyn is a lifelong UU who grew up in Clearwater, FL, where she ran the church nursery for a while and was involved in the RE program. She has many years of experience with leadership of SUUSI (Southeast UU Summer Institute), including serving as the camp's director. Currently, Karyn's day job is working as the Infant Center Manager and Infant Lead Teacher at Child's Day Child Development Center here in Austin. We are glad to have her! Please make it a point to stop by the nursery and give Karyn a First UU welcome!

Calling all Crocheters and Knitters!

Why should the Sr. High Youth group get the comfy sofas while the Jr. Youth group is made to languish on hard chairs each Sunday as if they were in school? If you have crochet or knitting skills, please join Rev. Mari in volunteering your time and talent to create comfy poufs for our younger youth to sit on during their meetings. Mari has quick, easy patterns to help the effort! Please contact: mari@austinuu.org.



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Join us for our big weekend workshop on anti-racism activism

Mark your calendars and join the movement! First UU Church of Austin is joining other anti-racism organizations in Austin in the movement to dismantle systems of oppression in our hometown. To continue in this effort in a big way, a weekend-long anti-racism activism intensive workshop will be held at First UU on Sept. 5-6th.

This will be a multi-media, interactive approach to introducing such concepts such as: power and privilege, interpersonal vs. institutional racism, histories of oppression, internalized racism, and next steps toward activism.

Presenters will include: Rev. Marisol Caballero, Assistant Minister; Vic Cornell, student at Meadville Lombard School for the Ministry; Chris Jimmerson, recent graduate of Meadville Lombard; and members of the “Building the World We Dream About,” Part I class.

The two-year long course, “Building the World We Dream About,” utilizes a UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum to create anti-racism activists and ambassadors within our congregation to help us lead the way toward becoming a truly multicultural church. This workshop intensive course is open to

all, but is a mandatory prerequisite for those wanting to register for Part II of “Building the World We Dream About.” Registration is \$40 and includes supplies, dinner on Friday, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Please email mari@austinuu.org for more information, or pick up a registration sheet on the Lifespan RE table in the gallery on Sundays.

Please join us for this challenging but life-changing work.



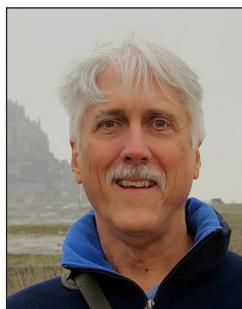
CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Caring Ministry transitioning in leadership

The Caring Ministry (more widely known as the Congregational Care Committee) consists of a group of people who have expressed an interest in helping other people in our congregation in times of need, hardships, or joy. To fulfill our mission of nourishing souls and transforming lives, our group may visit someone ill or in the hospital, provide an occasional meal, help with transportation, help around the home, or just promote the joys or concerns of everyday life. Please visit our updated First UU site at <http://bit.ly/caringministry> for more

detailed information.

We are pleased to announce that Jim Patterson has volunteered to lead this group. He will be working hand in hand with outgoing chair, Joseph Hunt, over the next few months for a smooth transition. The team will have more visibility



Jim is a UU recently returned to the First UU church community.

in hopes of setting up ride pools, getting more people to request help, and provide more services to the congregation. Please welcome Jim and if you have an interest in helping others in the congregation, contact him to be put on the email list to know when there is a need for help. (Please note he will be unavailable from August 3rd-11th.) You can contact Jim and the Caring Ministry by writing an email to caring@austinuu.org or by calling the church, 512-452-6168, ext. 315, to leave them a message.

Yew Grove Moon Circle

Sunday, Aug. 10

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Patio or Gallery

Please join us for the August Yew Grove Moon Circle on Sunday evening, August 10th. We will focus on meditation and breathwork, with a guided meditation relevant to our lamas (spiritual leaders).

We meet under the circle of trees and benches to the south of the sanctuary, or find us inside if it rains. Questions? Contact yewgrove@austinuu.org. See you there!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

AUGUST 3

The Choice is Yours, Choose Wisely

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

Join us as we celebrate the closing of another Camp UU year by looking to Harry Potter and the lot from Hogwarts to teach us life lessons. We will explore how the seventh principle might be understood to one of J.K. Rowling's witches or wizards!

AUGUST 10

When the Method is the Message

REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

Unitarian Universalism is a religion without creed. We do not have a prescribed set of beliefs with which we must all express agreement. So what is the basis then for how we practice our faith? How is it that we are bound together? We will explore some possible creative and transformative possibilities to be found within the covenantal and missional basis of our religious movement and our churches.

AUGUST 17

Facing Our Fears: A Spiritual Practice

ERIN WALTER

What are you so afraid of? And what can you do about it? Developing a conscious practice of facing your anxieties can have great spiritual benefits as well as practical, ethical, and political ones. On the other side of fear, we come alive!

AUGUST 24

Sacred Space

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

For every people on earth, there are places where power gathers. This mountain, this street, this tree. How can we participate in the recognition and creation of such places?

AUGUST 31

Playing Ball on Running Water

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

In Morita psychotherapy, mindfulness, daily practice, and habits of attention are the elements with which one works to achieve sturdiness and balance.

THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

After a summer break, the Public Affairs Forum returns on Labor Day weekend in August.

AUGUST 31

Defending Human Rights in the Workplace

WITH STEPHANIE GHARAKHANIAN

As the Public Affairs Forum series resumes on this Labor Day weekend, we will hear from Stephanie Gharakhanian, the research and policy director of the Workers Defense Project (Proyecto Defensa Laboral). The Austin-based Workers Defense Project is a statewide workers' rights organization that is winning better working conditions for Texans. WDP has spearheaded efforts to ensure safe and dignified jobs for the nearly 900,000 construction workers who labor in the state. The project's efforts have led to a federal investigation by OSHA into Texas' deadly construction industry, the passage of a statewide wage-theft law, and better, safer jobs for thousands of low-wage workers in Austin and

Travis County. The work of WDP has earned national acclaim and coverage from The New York Times, National Public Radio, Univision, and USA Today.

Stephanie Gharakhanian is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Northeastern University School of Law. She first joined WDP in 2013 as the Dallas area director. Passionate about the intersection between legal advocacy and community organizing, Stephanie worked as a law student with workers' centers and workers' rights organizations in El Paso, Boston, New Orleans, and Mexico City. Before attending law school, Stephanie served with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Portland, Maine, and in El Paso, then went on to live and work at a house of hospitality for migrants and refugees on the U.S.-Mexico border. As WDP's director of research and policy, Stephanie oversees WDP's research and publications, city and state-level policy work, and a Better Builder certification program.

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GREEN SANCTUARY

Hot green tips for summer saplings

by **Dale Bulla**

For those of you that planted some new trees last winter, the most difficult time for them is the next two years. Especially in the summer during a drought, they will need more water than a sprinkler can give them.

It is recommended that once a week you let a hose trickle slowly for 30 minutes or so for deep watering. If you notice the leaves wilting or turning brown, especially around the edges, give them extra water. You may also want to get a “tree gator” from the Austin Water Utility, TreeFolks or online.

The second biggest problem with these young trees is their vulnerability to line trimmers that scar their thin bark or tear it off. This allows insects and disease to invade the trunk and can even kill them. So, protect the trunk with a nice thick ring layer of mulch, but don't pile it up around the trunk. And keep that line trimmer away until they are several years old.

You can also plant some native plants around the base to provide color and habitat for hummingbirds and butterflies. The mulch will help hold the moisture. ■