



FIRST UU NEWS

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

What's happening?

by **Rev. Meg Barnhouse**



What is the plan for Rev. Mari?

Rev. Mari has been at First UU for three years now. She was first hired as the interim RE Director, then was made DRE. After being ordained, her title changed to Assistant Minister for RE. She has been active in building the anti-racism training in our congregation, and has been publicly visible both in Austin and nationally in social justice work as a Latina UU minister.

An Assistant Minister is hired by the Senior Minister, and serves at the Senior Minister's discretion. An Associate Minister is called by the congregation, and serves at the discretion of the congregation. An Assistant Minister is called (and let go, if the fit is not good) in the same way the Senior Minister is, by vote of the congregation. To call an Associate Minister takes at least an 85% vote of the congregation. If the vote does not reach 85%, the candidate is given a one-year terminal contract, during which they go into search for another call.

We are getting ready to go

through the "hire-to-call" process with Mari. She has indicated her interest and willingness to serve the congregation as one of its called ministers, so now the congregation will be asked, at its December Congregational Meeting, if it would like to call Rev. Mari as its settled Associate Minister. In the fall, we will host a UUA-sponsored workshop called "Beyond Categorical Thinking," which invites church members to think through patterns and issues which present difficulties when preparing to call a minister of color.

She is emerging as an up-and-coming star in the UU denomination, and has been asked to speak this summer at General Assembly. Our congregation is growing a reputation for anti-racism work because of the work she and many of our members are doing together. We are proud to have her on staff here, and it's time we took the next step of voting on her call to serve this congregation.

How do we do things around here?

Victoria Valadez, our Communications Coordinator, is at work on a procedures manual, for which she is interviewing all chairs of committees, teams and ministries at First UU. When she is finished, you will have a guide to running whichever group you have agreed to head up. We will have a system delineated by which First UU does social action, caring, grounds work, Green Sanctuary, the auction, fellowship, and more. This will be a great support to our new leaders.

When she calls or emails you for your group description, please make time to do it. You will be strengthening the church's infrastructure and making a difference in how First UU serves its members and friends.

Intentional Hospitality

One of the goals of First UU is to be intentionally hospitable to the people of good will who come through its doors. We have several members who are trans-folk,

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Austin Presence Group

May 7 & 21
Rm. 13B
6:30-8 p.m.

Each week, we'll start with several meditations from Mark Nepo's "Book of Awakening." Then we'll spend some time on Eckert Tolle's "Uncourse" and also tune in to Eckhart Tolle TV. A \$5 donation is requested in order to support the church.

Come light another candle to illuminate your understanding along the spiritual path called life. Contact: Joe Linsalata, (512) 327-5000 or Linsalata@austin.rr.com.

Constant Readers, Open Minds, and New Voices Invited

Religion and Worldviews Book Group

Every Sunday
South Portable
9-10:30 a.m.

Do you enjoy reading and exploring interesting ideas? Our book group wants you! Our lively discussions cover a wide, inclusive range of fiction and nonfiction titles, all nominated and voted on by regular participants. If you see in the weekly bulletin that we're reading a favorite title, drop in to discuss it and bring your copy with you. Contact: Peter Tighe, religionwordviews@austinuu.org.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Coming full circle

by Carolyn Gremminger



Our annual Spring Congregational meeting will be held on May 3 at 1:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will be voting on the new board of trustees and Nominating Committee members. You can find interesting bios of the slate of new trustees on pages 10-11. Reverend Meg will also deliver information on the "state of the church" and will provide an update on the progress of the Building Team and the latest figures from the capital campaign.

My term of service as your board of trustees president comes to an end this month. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving on the board for the past three years, so many opportunities for growth through training and experiences. I have enjoyed making a practice of taking on a perspective of the big picture of the church, with an orientation toward the future. This practice has made my experience much deeper and more rewarding. I have a renewed commitment to the future of Unitarian Universalism. I can honestly say I have the honor of experiencing an ever-deepening "saving faith," which I love to share.

I have enjoyed getting to serve with my fellow board members. I now have some new friends and I will keep the lessons learned from their life experi-

ences in my heart and mind. I also wish to express gratitude for all the trust and support I have received from the congregation during my term.

I have confidence that our incoming board will carry on the governance of the church in a proactive, productive, and healthy manner. As I transition off the board, I aspire to continue to contribute to our church's healthy future. I now look forward to serving on the Nominating Committee.

As is noted in the well-known T.S. Eliot Quote, "we shall not cease from our exploration and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." I realize that I have indeed come full circle in terms of my service to the church: I served on the Nominating Committee about twelve years ago. My board experience has hopefully empowered and enabled me to make a stronger contribution on this important committee, in the nomination process of future board members.

To sum up, I would like to share a sentiment and aspiration expressed in a recent board president's cluster meeting: we are all in this together and we are all doing the best we can, in our covenantal community. ■

“What’s happening?” from page 1

transitioning from one gender presentation to the presentation of their true self. Where do they go to the bathroom when they are at church? To be kind and hospitable to our trans friends, we are changing the women’s and the men’s rooms in the

office hallway to all-gender bathrooms. One of those trans folks is an RE parent who has been generous with our OWL classes in sharing her story. If you have questions or comments about this, please call or write Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Rev. Mari

Caballero, Rev. Chris Jimmerson, or you may talk to the RE parent as well, who has indicated her willingness to have a conversation with you. Email Meg, Mari or Chris for her contact information. The signs are scheduled to go up June 1. ■

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Deep in the Heart Women’s Retreat, May 2-4 UBarU Retreat & Conference Center, Kerrville, TX

Recharge your spirit in the fellowship of Unitarian Universalist women. No responsibilities other than to be your own true, beautiful, authentic self. Deepen your relationship with old friends and build new friendships. Sing, meditate, dance, walk the labyrinth or the hill country, do what your spirit needs. Free from workshops and classes. Don’t miss it! Registration and details at www.ubaru.org under “Events.”

Heart of Texas Men’s Retreat, May 15-17 UBarU Retreat & Conference Center, Kerrville, TX

Enjoy fellowship in the Texas Hill Country with men from across central Texas. Rest, relax, enjoy delicious meals and use the time as a break from your normal routines and schedules. Rev. Mark Skrabacz will guide participants in a thematic inquiry and processes of introspection to deepen life’s path and build community among fellow UU men. More info at

www.ubaru.org under “Events.”

UBarU Summer Camps for 2015

June 14-19: Family Camp
June 28-July 4: Elementary Camp
July 5-11: Junior Camp
July 12-18: Senior Camp
July 26-Aug 1: UBarU Bridgers Young Adult (adults 19-25)

General Assembly 2015 June 24-28, Portland, OR

Another exciting, educational, inspirational General Assembly will take place in Portland, OR, this June. GA is the annual meeting of Unitarian Universalist Association congregations. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the UUA. The theme for GA 2014 is “Building a New Way.” GA is a multi-generational experience that is accessible and welcoming to families with children.

Early registration ends April 30. Registration and more information at www.uua.org/ga. Scholarship money is available to attend GA. Send requests for scholarship information to denom@austinuu.org.

If you are planning to attend

GA, please send an email with your name and cell phone contact to denom@austinuu.org. We will provide you a list of First UU Austin attendees to enable you to gather together once you arrive.

What Would A UU Vacation Look Like? July 19-24 Southwest UU Summer Institute, Fort Gibson Lake, OK

Plan now to find out! Join the fun on the lake, golf course, and trails complemented by spiritual growth with theme speaker Rev. John Gibb Millspough, speaking on “Just Good Food,” and artist in residence Chef Jesse Bloom. Video at <http://bit.ly/swuusi>, more info and link to register at uuasouthernregion.org/events.html.

Save the Date!

Aug 9-14: Dwight Brown Leadership Experience, Denton, TX

Carpool Opportunities

Looking to carpool to a UU event outside Austin? Email us at denom@austinuu.org and Margaret Borden will attempt to pair you with someone to share the ride.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lifespan RE highlights

by Rev. Marisol Caballero, Assistant Minister



Bon Voyage to the First UU Pirate Ship! May 31, 12 p.m. sharp

“We had friends, we had fun, we had seasons in the sun...” After being loved to the point of disrepair and impending danger, the much-beloved playground pirate ship

will be sent on its final voyage to the big playground in the sky. After fallen fragments of the vessel (see below), rusty screws and all, have been found in the hands of more than one fast-moving tiny matey’s hands, we must declare it unfit for the high seas. Please join us in this short farewell gathering for her on May 31. We will have a farewell prayer, maybe a goodbye song or two, photo opps, and we will break a champagne piñata on her bough. She will be demolished soon after.



Many loose pieces of the ship pose a threat to our young buccaneers.

Alphabet Soup Social Club Thursday, May 28, 7 p.m.

This new group is for any and all persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, queer,

questioning, intersexual, pansexual, or asexual. The goal is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for us to gather in community and nourish our souls. While the primary intent will be friendship and fellowship, we will also be identifying the needs of our members and creating a vision for the group. If you are a heterosexual ally we welcome your support but ask that you refrain from attending this meeting.

Teacher Appreciation End-of-Year Picnic! May 31, 12:30 p.m.

Attention RE volunteers from the 2014-15 children and youth RE school year: we will be holding a big picnic in honor of all of your hard work and dedication to the religious formation of our kids. We’ll meet at the picnic tables behind the playground. We will have food and drinks and loads of fun. Please plan on attending! Childcare will be provided.

Can’t make it to F.R.E.D. nights on Wednesdays? Try Sunday Seminars! May 3, Howson Hall, 1-2:30 p.m.

Sunday Seminars take place on the first Sunday each month. This multi-track adult Religious Ed. experience has options in areas such as leadership development, spiritual practices, and UU identity development. No prior registration required. A simple lunch will be available in Howson Hall from noon-1 p.m. for \$5 (available to-go for Forum attendees) and childcare will be provided. Please check each monthly newsletter for detailed information on Sunday Seminars!

Spiritual Practices Track: “Improv as a Spiritual Practice” facilitated by members of Austin Playback Theatre

“Life is improvisation. Saying yes allows you to move forward.” (Tina Fey) Austin Playback Theatre is an im-

provisational troupe that will “play back” the stories of audience members, allowing new insights and uncovered emotions to arise for all involved. Join members of this local theatre troupe as they lead a workshop in integrating improve skills and techniques as a rewarding spiritual practice.

UU Identity Development Track: “Long Strange Trip,” film screening and discussion, facilitated by Luther Elmore

“Long Strange Trip” is a six-part video series by Ron Cordes that explores the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the early, liberal strands in faith at the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism. (uua.org)

Faith Formation Track: “Neuroscience for Your Daily Life,” facilitated by Bruce Naylor

Much progress has been made in understanding how brains work thanks to a worldwide community of 100,000 neuroscience researchers. As a consequence, a major paradigm shift is underway in our understanding of human nature. This five-session course will give a very broad, accessible tour of neuroscience with a focus on improving your understanding of yourself and others from a very different perspective.

**People of Color, Latina/o, Multiracial Gathering at First UU!
May 5 & 19, 6:15-7:45 p.m.**

If you identify as a person of color, Latina/o, bi-cultural, or multi-cultural (non-white) you are invited to join this fledgling group of UUs to support one another in a predominantly white denomination! Many such groups meet in every corner of the UU map, but this is the first of its kind in Central Texas! If you are a white-identified person and would like to demonstrate your support of this group and of anti-racism and multiculturalism in general, please refrain from attending this meeting, but please do attend the White Allies meeting these same nights. You may also email Rev. Chris at chris.jimmerson@austinuu.org or Rev. Mari at marisol.caballero@austinuu.org for several ideas on ways you can be an ally!

**F.RE.D. Nights
Every Wednesday, dinner 6-7 p.m. (\$6)**

Join us for F.RE.D. (Fellowship, Religious Education, and Dinner) every Wednesday.

**Conversation with UU Service Committee’s
Pamela Sparr, May 6**

Join Pamela Sparr, Associate Director for Justice Building at UUSC, who will be showing a short video about the 75-year history of UUSC. She will also discuss our visions for the future for the next 75 years of justice-making in our congregations, nationally and globally. Her visit to our congregation is part of an effort to work with activists, volunteers, congregations, and ministers to strengthen and innovate new forms of justice and human rights work in our communities, nationally and internationally.

Film screening and discussion, “10 Questions for the Dalai Lama,” May 13

“This fascinating documentary blends an interview with the Dalai Lama with a look back at the spiritual leader’s history and exile.” (Netflix.com)

Film screening and discussion, “Is the Man Who Is Tall Happy?: An Animated Conversation with Noam Chomsky,” May 20

“Director Michel Gondry uses lively animations to illustrate conversations with activist Noam Chomsky as he holds court on his theories, life and work.” (Netflix.com)

Film screening and discussion, “God Loves Uganda,” May 27

“This powerful documentary examines the evangelical campaign to spread the values of America’s Christian Right in Uganda.” (Netflix.com) ■

FIRST UU IN PICTURES

Spring Into Action 2015 celebrates “April Fuels Day”

photos courtesy of Lynn Adams



HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

Advice from Covenant Corner

Dear Covenant:

I read the question from “Feeling Uncomfortable” a few months ago about compliments. I’m not sure I agree with your reply that focusing on behaviors makes a compliment a good thing. I recently lost weight due to an illness and any comments about my weight loss are hurtful and unwelcome. I don’t want to say compliments are bad, but people need to think before they make any comments about a person’s looks.

– *Not Complimented*

Dear Not Complimented:

Thanks for pointing out where we went wrong. It takes courage to speak out when silence would inhibit progress or learning. You did so in a respectful, covenantal way and we thank you.

Compliments are complicated. They seem like a good thing, but as you pointed out, they can be hurtful. We usually think that compliments are about the person who receives them. In reality, compliments are usually a reflection of the person who gives them. Problems arise when the giver makes incorrect assumptions about what the receiver values. This is especially true about appearance-based compliments. Don’t panic, though. If you know your compliment will be well received, give it! If you’re unsure, we’d like to offer another option.

When giving a compliment, your intention is usually to express appreciation, as we promise to do in our church’s covenant. Compliments are one way to do so. Another is a simple “thank you,” which is often forgotten.

A third way to express appreciation is to share how you feel or how you were affected by the other person. Example: “When you took time to listen to my problem, I felt like I mattered. And, I was able to see things in a new light. Both were invaluable to me. Thank you.” Using such “I” statements makes it explicit that your statement is about you and what you value, and has the added benefit of making no assumptions about what the other person values.

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

Sincerely,

Healthy Relations Covenant

How’s the Capital Campaign doing?

The Capital Campaign team thanks the congregation again for its ongoing and generous participation in the campaign. As you know, over three million dollars had been pledged so far toward our building expansion and renovation project. Church members who have joined recently will be

asked to participate as we do the fall stewardship drive.

The Building Team (Brian Moore, Richard Cleary, Sylvia Pope, Julie Lipton, Ethan Love, Rev. Chris Jimmerson, and Rev. Meg Barnhouse) has been meeting regularly. They have put together the packet (Request For

Qualifications) which is being sent to the fifteen architects selected by the team. The team is excited to see the ideas these firms will present in late May. Input from the congregation will be sought in the fall during the design phase of the project.

ECLECTIC FOLK JAM

Special event remembers Pete Seeger through song, featuring Jim Scott

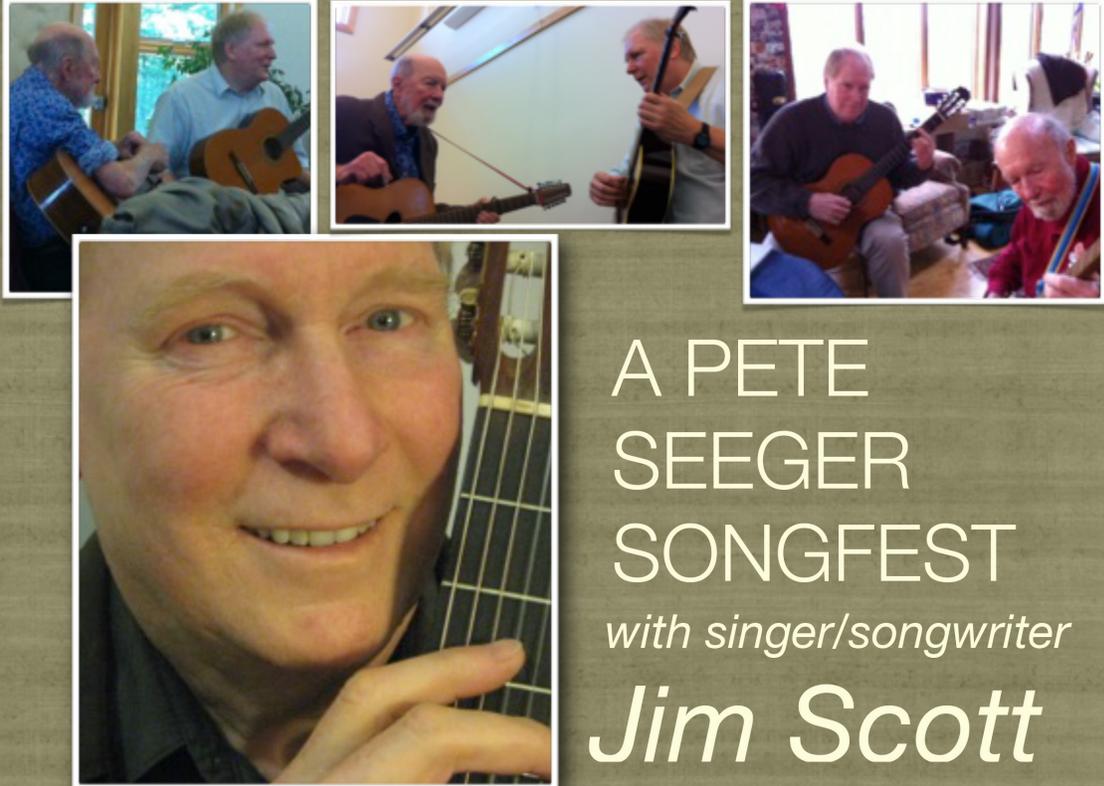
Friday, May 15
Sanctuary
7 p.m.

We'll honor Pete Seeger, singing many of his well-loved songs such as, "If I Had a Hammer," "Turn, Turn, Turn," "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," and many others. All interested singers welcome, no experience necessary. Concert led by composer/guitarist Jim Scott, who knew Pete well and collaborated on many projects with the folk legend. We'll raise our voices for the causes Pete championed, and remember the

great contributions to our American heritage Pete made in his 94 years of life. We have lost an icon, but not his legacy of poetry and song to guide and inspire us. Suggested donation is \$15.

Jim Scott brings a warmth and authenticity that turns any size audience into an intimate gathering. His lyrical melodies, well-crafted words, guitar mastery and humorous surprises moved Pete Seeger to call him "some kind of a magician." Known to many as guitarist with the Paul Winter consort and co-composer of

their celebrated "Missa Gaia / Earth Mass," Jim is a prolific composer in his own right. Jim's visited more than 600 UU churches over three decades of travels. His much loved "Gather the Spirit" and other songs are in the UU hymnbooks. He has also become a student of the movement for peace and justice in song, compiling and arranging the "Earth and Spirit Songbook," a collection of over 100 songs of earth and peace by many contemporary composers, including Pete Seeger. He will do some of his own songs during this concert. Come and lend your voice.



A PETE
 SEEGER
 SONGFEST
with singer/songwriter
Jim Scott



Free admission for “Queso Blanco!”

**Paradox Players presents
“Queso Blanco,” adapted and
directed by Gary Payne**

**May 8-24, 2015
Howson Hall
Fri & Sat at 8 p.m.
Sun at 3 p.m.**

In celebration of 15 years of producing top quality live theater, and appreciation for the years of support from our loyal patrons, Paradox Players is announcing that admission to all performances of Queso Blanco will be absolutely free! (You read that right!)

It doesn't matter whether you are a long-time supporter, or have always been curious but never attended one of our shows. Come one, come all. Tell your friends. Spread the word about this

extraordinary offer. We want as many people as possible to see this world premier play.

Here's a description of the show: set in a dystopian Second Republic of Texas, Queso Blanco has danger, intrigue, romance, liberals on the run, and really cheesy jokes. Set a spell at Rick's Bar and Cleaners and take in a wacky cautionary tale of love, loss and Lone Star lunacy. Secession never tasted so good!

We still recommend you make reservations; call (512) 744-1495 or visit www.paradoxplayers.org. Free childcare is available May 10 and 17, reservations for childcare not required.

“Secede or not secede, that is the queso.” – Billy Bob Shakespeare

Women's Spirituality Group

**May 2 & 16
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Rm. 13.**

If you have been curious about the Women's Spirituality Group, then May is a great month to come check us out. On May 2 we will celebrate Beltane, the season of the maiden and an abundance of new growth. Then on May 16 we will begin our exploration of the book, “The Toltec Book of Transformation,” by Austin author HeatherAsh Amara. Come join us!

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

Save the Date!

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 3
Sanctuary
1:15-2:30 p.m.

Childcare provided.

“We Gather: Another Kind of Worship” continues May 24, 6:30 p.m.

“We Gather” services are something new for us at First UU. It will be its own format, different than on Sunday mornings. Pizza and drinks will follow! Please email childcare@austinuu.org to reserve childcare; however, children are very welcome throughout the entire service. We will have a carpeted

area and coloring materials in Howson Hall.

We hope this additional afternoon service, which will once per month to start, will give current members and visitors more unique chances to fit worship into their diverse, busy lives. Please share the news and bring friends!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meet your upcoming board candidates

Marsha Sharp

Marsha began her journey as a UU as a teenager attending the UU fellowship in Victoria, TX with her mother. She has been a member of First UU Church of Austin since 1986. She has co-taught the women's religious education workshop, "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven," and served

as deposit supervisor for the second Sunday service. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees and volunteers at the Welcome Center desk on Tuesday mornings. Marsha also volunteers her time with cancer patients at an oncology infusion room and serves on the Board of Directors of her townhouse council.

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

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

Marsha is honored to be nominated as president-elect for First UU Church of Austin.

Jill Wiggins

Jill suspected she was a UU before moving to Austin in 1982, and soon found First UU. Late music director Janet McGaughey welcomed her and encouraged her to join the choir. She's been singing in church ever since. She and Gary Payne were married in the sanctuary in 1996.

Other activities have included serving on the Search Committee that selected music director Brent Baldwin, and on the committee that selected Rev. Meg Barnhouse. She and Gary co-chaired the Membership Committee following Meg's arrival. Jill currently participates in a Chalice Circle.

Born in England, Jill grew up in Ohio and has lived all over the U.S. She has a B.A. in art from St. Edward's

University. She retired from the state of Texas after a communications career at the Department of Agriculture and the Texas Medical Board.

Her active retirement includes writing two blogs: "Radical Retirement," and an art blog, "Jillybeans." Her art passion is making and exchanging postcards with other artists around the world. She writes and publishes poetry and serves in a communications capacity on her homeowners' association board.

She and Gary love to travel and will soon visit some of Jill's English relatives at a family reunion in Florida. Jill has two adult daughters, one an eBay entrepreneur and mother of eight-year-old Chloe, the other a middle school English teacher and mother of 11-year-old Bryan.

Jill is grateful for the opportunity to serve this beloved community and considers title of trustee to be a significant honor.

Jairy Grisaffe

Jairy started his UU journey in 2005 at First Unitarian of Dallas. His wife Suzanne and he made First UU of Austin their church home in 2012 after moving to Austin in late 2011. He has been facilitating UU religious education classes since 2007, teaching exclusively in middle school

and high school. He has served as the lead adviser for our Senior High Youth Group since 2013 and is currently a facilitator for Junior High OWL. Last year he became a co-director for UBarU Senior High Summer Camp. He also served on the Canvassing Team in 2012, helping to plan fundraising events.

Jairy works as a consultant for a small software vendor in the energy sector. He enjoys live music, long distance running, watching soccer, woodworking, software programming, playing guitar, and crossword puzzles. Jairy and his wife found each other through the UU church. They welcomed their first child, Mena Alexana, into their lives last October and look forward to her growing up in our church.

Jairy has brought many great ideas to the youth groups that have increased attendance, enthusiasm, and fundraising. He frequently connects with UU leaders around the region and feels he can help bring the best ideas to our community. This church is very important to Jairy and his family. He looks forward to being a part of it and serving it for years to come.

Sarah Cleary

Sarah began attending UU services 15 years ago at a fellowship that met above a movie theatre in the small town of Ligonier, PA. After joining her husband Richard here in Austin, she began attending First UU and joined in 2013. She is happy to call First UU her spiritual home.

A native Midwesterner, Sarah has worked in the museum and archives field for over 35 years. Her experience ranges from curatorial and education work at a volunteer-staffed regional Michigan museum, to 16 years as curator of education at Frank Lloyd Wright's world-

famous Fallingwater in western Pennsylvania, where she led a staff of 50. Today she works with the Reference Services team at UT's Briscoe Center for American History. Throughout her career, she has been closely involved in strategic planning, program evaluation, museum interpretation, and understanding the visitor experience. She has served on boards for a small community center, and for a statewide museum agency.

Along with Richard, Sarah coordinates the Usher/Greeter program. On any Sunday you'll see both of them at the "front of house," helping services go smoothly. She also serves on the Membership Committee and is a Freeze Night volunteer. She is delighted and honored to be of service to the congregation as First UU continues to grow.

Nancy Dittmar-Stout

Nancy and her husband Max are relatively new to UUism. After spending over 20 years actively trying to find liberal religion in mainline Christian churches, they heard a lecture by former First UU minister Davidson Loehr. Intrigued, they visited and joined in October 2011 after

Rev. Meg arrived. They have ushered and participated in Chalice Circles, Sharing Suppers, and F.R.E.D. Currently Nancy co-coordinates the church's volunteer efforts with People's Community Clinic.

Nancy grew up in South Austin. She earned her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D from UT Austin, concentrating her studies in psychology, research methodology, and statistics, and

working in the Office of the Dean of Students. After UT, she worked at the Central Office of the Texas Department of MHMR doing research on the deinstitutionalization of persons with mental illness. This work led her to Denver University, where she served as principal investigator on a multi-state survey of board and care homes serving elderly and mentally disabled persons. Returning to Texas and MHMR in 1986, Nancy directed an effort to expand community-based services for specific populations, and successfully amended the Texas Medicaid program to fund case management and rehabilitative services. She retired in 1998, consulted for a few years, then gave it up in 2004 to travel with Max and babysit grandchildren.

Nancy brings to the board a long history of social systems policy development and quantitative analysis. She is honored to serve this congregation.

PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CLINIC

Congratulations, Dr. Neavel!



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Celia Neavel, a physician for People's Community Clinic, has been chosen for recognition by the

Texas Medical Association Foundation. She will be honored at the foundation's annual gala with a 2015 Health Leader Award on May 1.

Dr. Neavel and her husband, Dr. Jose Cortez – a urologist specializing in pediatrics – are members of the church and parents of three children. Last year, Celia gave a short presentation to the congregation on the work of People's Community Clinic at the Share the Plate Sunday.

Over 18 years ago Dr. Neavel helped start, and continues to direct the Center for Adolescent Health

(CAH) at People's Community Clinic. Through CAH, Dr. Neavel supervises two off-site clinics embedded within non-medical, youth-serving agencies. She also initiated and directs GOALS, a developmental/behavioral/primary care program at PCC for ages 4-19. Both CAH and GOALS utilize social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, medical assistants, health educators, pediatric residents, and nurse practitioners to diagnose, treat, and support often complex patients and their families within a medical home. In 2012 she was recognized for her expertise in adolescent medicine by U.S. News & World Report.

The clinic's website says it very well: "She has devoted her medical career to serving vulnerable populations, and deserves some time in the spotlight." We heartily agree. Con-

gratulations Celia!

The PCC Collating Group meets on the first Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the clinic at 2909 IH 35 North in the second floor conference room. All are welcome.

Additionally, the clinic is in need of volunteers for regular weekly administrative help at their offices in the St. David's building off 32nd St. They need help to assist in the Health Information offices, and in the Development Volunteer Department. The positions do not require immunization and parking is easily available.

If you are interested in the work of the clinic you may check their website at www.austinpcc.org. For more information about the church's volunteer program with the clinic contact pcc@austinuu.org.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Introduce yourself at New Member Recognition Ceremony

**Sunday, May 3
Sanctuary**

The quarterly New Member Recognition ceremony is coming up at both Sunday services on May 3. 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. (Bring a copy of that day's bulletin up with you so you can read the litany).

If you would like to participate, just show up! Wear your "New Member" ribbon (extras may be found at the visitor/membership table).

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING



Inside Books Project

Inside Books Project (IBP) is the only books-to-prisoners program in Texas, where over 140,000 people are incarcerated. This all-volunteer 501(c)3 organization has sent more than a quarter million free books to Texas prisoners since their founding in 1998.

Prisoners write to request books, and volunteers fill orders from the IBP library of donated books and magazines, including a personal note with each package. The books are often the only written materials prisoners receive from anyone; in fact, many prisoners say IBP letters are the only mail they get.

IBP receives an average of 1,200 requests per month (almost doubled since 2007) for over a hundred subject areas in their library. After dictionaries, the next most requested item is a resource guide that IBP publishes with go-to references for prisoner needs. Other popular subjects are fiction (especially westerns, fantasy, and sci-fi), graphic novels, GED study guides, books in Spanish, games and humor, yoga and body building, trade manuals, career skills like bookkeeping or how to run a business, art and drawing, GLBT subjects, and African American and Hispanic studies.

As the legislature continues to cut

funds for prison education, Inside Books' services become increasingly important. Last year, postage took over 86 percent of their budget of just over \$44,000.

Here are some reviews from satisfied customers, in their own words:

"What you guys do is a true blessing...right now I am getting my GED, so to get educational books is great and it is great to ask for a good fiction book too to get my mind out of this place. But I am one who likes to read and try to learn why I am in here and not just play games all the time."

"I was not sure what to expect when I wrote, but so blessed with the experience. The books sent to me - free of charge - from Inside Books Project have truly helped me exist beyond the empty chaos of being incarcerated."

"I am so very glad that scrap of paper with your address on it came to me. You brought light into a desperately dim and dingy world. Thank you and God bless you and your works."

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.

Yew Grove Full Moon Circle

**Monday, May 4
7 p.m.**

Join Yew Grove at the meditation benches south of the sanctuary, or if we're lucky enough to have rain, in Room 13A. We welcome all points of view, we just ask for some appreciation of nature and respect for differing points of view. Yummy snacks to follow. Questions? Contact: yewgrove@austinuu.org.

May Seniors Luncheon

**Wednesday, May 13
Howson Hall
12 p.m.**

Come and see a preview of what a dysfunctional Second Republic of Texas is all about! "Queso Blanco," adapted and directed by Gary Payne, will be our entertainment while we sit a spell at Rick's Bar and Cleaners and take in a wacky cautionary tale of love, loss and Lone Star lunacy.

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

Eclectic Folk Jam**Friday, May 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, May 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, held on the fourth Saturday of every month.

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****MAY 3****Choosing to Bless the World**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

From Rebecca Parker's poem that is the text for this sermon:

*The choice to bless the world is more than act of will
A moving forward into the world
With the intention to do good.
It is an act of recognition,
A confession of surprise,
A grateful acknowledgment
That in the midst of a broken world
Unspeakable beauty, grace and mystery abide.*

Jacob Hodges and Liz Lee will have marimba and cello offerings for the service. Don't forget the congregational meeting afterwards!

MAY 10**Inhospitality to Strangers**

REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

On this Mother's Day, not far from here, hundreds of immigrant mothers are being held in a detention facility, separated from their children and loved ones. Just a little farther away, immigrant women and their children, some as young as three, are also being held in detention, many of them for months at a time. How do we view this ethically and religiously, especially through the lens of our religious values and our mission? The First UU of Austin Intergenerational Choir and Band will lend their voices to the service.

MAY 17**Expressions of the Soul**REV. MARISOL CABALLERO
& THE SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Join our talented and insightful youth group as they lead us in pondering the various ways by which we choose to convey our soul's deepest aspects in our lives. We will also honor our graduating seniors with our annual Bridging Ceremony.

MAY 24**Goldilocks and the Three Bears**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Is this story about sharing? Manners? Entitlement? Home invasion? How welcoming are we called to be? How fierce are we to be with our boundaries? Are we Goldilocks or are we the bears? The First UU of Austin Adult Choir and Orchestra will present works by Randall Thompson.

MAY 31**Whistling with a Shoe Full of Slush**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

Spring has arrived after a wild 12-month ride. Bring a flower to share and join us in our annual flower communion service, celebrating stubborn hope and new life despite all odds! The First UU of Austin Intergenerational Choir will make a joyful racket.

THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

MAY 3

Lessons Learned from the Peacemakers

WITH CHRISTI PIPKIN

As the executive director of the Nobelist Project, Christy Pipkin has had the great fortune of working with Nobel Laureates and other advocates for social justice reforms around the world. Join her as she shares some of the insights that have inspired the work and films of the Nobelist Project, and informs their dedication to an education for all.

The Nobelist Project is a global education nonprofit organization bridging gaps in education in communities around the globe. Founded by Christy and Turk Pipkin in 2005, the Nobelist Project partners with schools in Kenya, Honduras, and the U.S. to work toward three major goals: increase access to school, improve quality of education, and foster global citizenship. Christy Pipkin works to bring the nonprofit's initiatives to fruition—creating motivating documentaries and short films, helping educational outreach in the U.S. and abroad, and maintaining oversight on development projects around the world.

MAY 10

Just Say Know: a Medical Cannabis Forum

WITH CC CASTANEDA-WILLIAMS & AMY KING

This forum will offer education about the benefits of medical cannabis from both a patient and advocate perspective. After struggling for many years with various symptoms, CC Castaneda-Williams and her family tragically discovered after a genetic test in 2014 that she has Huntington's disease, a debilitating illness that is terminal within ten years of diagnosis. Scientific research suggests that medical cannabis has many therapeutic effects that may delay the progression of her disease.

CC is a Unitarian Universalist, a former DRE of San Marcos UU Fellowship, a former member of this church, and the mother of current First UU members Lexi and Mira Liedecke. She is an award-winning investigative writer, patient advocate, medical cannabis legislative activist and founder of Texas Cannabis Patient Warriors, an organization advocating for safe access to medical cannabis for all patients in her home state.

Amy King, educated by Americans for Safe Access, is a staunch medical cannabis patient advocate, and actively legislates in her home state of Texas and in Pennsylvania for the legalization of whole plant medical cannabis. She is a cannabis patient and considers herself a refugee from the archaic laws that would imprison her for the use of a botanical for her medical condition in Texas; she currently resides in Yucatan, Mexico.

MAY 17

The Mayor's Report

WITH STEVE ADLER

Steve Adler was elected mayor of Austin in December 2014. He takes over the helm of the new 10-1 "citizens' council" government amid challenges of traffic, affordability, and energy. Adler will discuss what the new city government is accomplishing. Come get the mayor's report, and have an opportunity to ask him questions.

Prior to his public service, Mayor Adler was a managing partner at a successful law firm specializing in eminent domain law. He has been deeply involved in civic nonprofits including Ballet Austin, the Texas Tribune, and the Anti-Defamation League. He is married to Diane Land and they have three wonderful daughters.

MAY 24

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - NO FORUM

see final forum listing on page 16

**First Unitarian
Universalist
Church of Austin**

(512) 452-6168

www.austinuu.org

Senior Minister

Rev. Meg Barnhouse

Assistant Minister

Rev. Marisol Caballero

Assistant Minister

Rev. Chris Jimmerson

Director of Music

Brent Baldwin

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Victoria M. Valadez

Board President

Carolyn Gremminger

**First Unitarian
Universalist
Church of Austin**

4700 Grover Ave.

Austin, TX 78756

THE FORUM, *continued*

MAY 31

How Our City Council Can Invest in a More Equitable, Green Future

WITH GREG CASAR

The City of Austin is recognized as a national leader when it comes to green initiatives and combating climate change. The purpose of this presentation is to expand on how we can connect these initiatives to our local economy by creating jobs, while investing in a clean energy future. Whether this is through weatherization for low-income households, establishing quality infrastructure that creates green space in neglected areas, or solar installation

and green building construction with high labor standards to encourage the labor movement's growth—the Austin City Council has a unique opportunity to shape policies that address the environmental and economic needs in our community.

Gregorio “Greg” Casar is a native Texan, the son of Mexican immigrants, and a newly elected Austin City Council member representing District 4. Greg was formerly the political director at Workers Defense Project, where he spearheaded campaigns that won major policy reforms to improve wages, education, and workplace safety across Austin. Greg was elected to the City Council in 2014 by a landslide. At age 25, he is the youngest council member in Austin's history and the new District 4's first-ever direct representative. ■