



# FIRST UU NEWS

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

## Breaking On Through

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse

“What are you planning to call each other?” My colleague asked expectantly.

He was walking us through a tiny wedding service before he signed our wedding license. He is planning to marry his partner soon, so he understood a lot about the situation. We two brides looked at one another blankly. We had talked about this before, of course, over many years. I had said I didn’t like the word “wife.”

I hadn’t liked the word when I married a man. We were in our early twenties, graduate students in the heyday of that wave of feminism. Of course we had talked together about gender roles, deciding we would live as if we were both women, figuring out who did the laundry, the dishes, the social calendar, and the salary work without regard to our culture’s gender norms. It worked that way for about six months. We are all blind to our own blind spots, and my husband and I fell into cultural norms as easily as falling asleep. Making dates with our friends was just easier for me, as an extravert. Taking care of the children was easier for me because they were mama-oriented. Doing the laundry was not easier for me, so he did that. Sometimes. Neither of us liked to cook, so I did that. I won’t rehash the whole seventeen years, but suffice it to say that

the boys’ father and I did not live together like two women would. Whatever that means. Now that I am living with a woman, now that I know many same-sex couples living together, I know that the phrases “like a woman would” or “like a man would” have about as much meaning as saying “glah-blah-giraffe suitcase.” It’s all mostly nonsense.

Over the years, clues would come whizzing in from the surrounding culture. On hearing that I’d earned

**Language helps us live. It helps us make meaning out of what is happening to us. It makes certain things too easy and other things too hard. How do you do something for which there is no language?**

my black belt in karate, one man said to my husband, “Well, I guess you won’t be able to tell her what to do anymore.” As if my husband had some authority that was founded on his being able to subdue me physically. At the end of that marriage, the many timbres and tones in which I’d heard the words “You’re my wife” had worn that word out for me. Worn it out, stomped it flat, grown mold on it.

Kiya didn’t mind the word “wife”

or “partner,” but said “partner” didn’t really convey to her any promise, commitment or poetry. It sounded indistinguishable from a business arrangement. It was a pale and inadequate word with no wildness in it. “Girlfriend?” That sounded like a beginner’s word, as if we were still dating, still deciding where we were going. “Lover” carried so much sexuality; it reinforced the homophobic view that gayness is mostly about who you want to sleep with, when it is also about who you want to wake up with.

We looked back at my colleague and shrugged, bright-eyed with the adventure of what we were in the midst of doing. “We don’t know yet.”

We had ridden the train for two days to California to see our son and his wife in their new home and celebrate New Year’s together. We thought maybe while we were out there we would get legally married. I had to sneak up on myself sideways about this because I’d made a promise, years ago, in awful pain, never again to marry. It seemed to be an immovable obstacle. I couldn’t figure out a way around it. Then I realized suddenly, as if a wall had fallen down, that a promise born of despair doesn’t count, that it was the last of the



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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

# My Path to Spirituality

by **Michael Kersey**

## How did you become your spiritual self?

One aspect of the Path to Membership Class, attended by people interested in joining our church community, is that they're asked to share their spiritual path—how they've come to be here and how it is that they are who they are. Sharing our stories with each other is a way of developing and creating a more meaningful sense of community. I don't think the practice should be limited to just potential new members. As such, here is more about my spiritual path before and since joining First UU of Austin.

I start my story with nuns, because upon being born I was under the care of nuns for two weeks before being adopted to southwest Oklahoma. When I think about it, I realize that my Roman Catholic upbringing continues to deeply influence who I am. I was an altar boy for far too many years, although this being one of the eras of more progressive Catholicism, there were altar girls also. (Altar people? Acolytes?) Masses were folksy with simple songs and guitars. Lots of Cat Stevens is on my soundtrack for this era of my life—Peace Train, Morning Has Broken, etc. A refuge priest from Guatemala was particularly influential to me. As he was learning English he gave brief homilies about justice and creating the kingdom of God in the here and now and in this world.

There weren't many UU churches

in southwest Oklahoma at this time or I might have found Unitarian Universalism sooner. My parents, however, encouraged a sort of universalism. From my engineer and woodworking dad, I learned a love of science and facts and precision. From my mom trained as a schoolteacher, I learned a love of learning and tolerance. When I was growing up my mom kept a shelf of banned-books: D.H. Lawrence, James Joyce, Henry Miller, Norman Mailer, and others. She read them to see for herself what the fuss was all about. When I reminded her about this recently, she laughed and said, "Of course those books didn't deserve being banned." I am not the only one of their three children to have subsequently found a spiritual home in Unitarian Universalism.

I drifted from Catholicism because I found the emphasis on dogma and doctrine too narrow for my sense of divine mystery. Even though I went to college in Tulsa, which has one of the largest UU churches in this nation, I did not attend All Souls. I got involved with a Canterbury Center, a protestant campus ministry known for being liberal and ecumenical. It had a poster on the wall, a piece of marketing from the Episcopalians that read, "There's a difference between being baptized and being brain-washed," to which I could say "Amen." I first came across



UU-ism there by reading some the teaching materials about Central America created by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Somewhere I still have a copy of the UUSC book, "The Busy Person's Guide to Social Justice." I also met people actively engaged in striving for a better and more just human community, many of whom were UUs.

Not knowing exactly what I wanted to do with my life after college, I spent a year with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, helping inner-city residents of Baltimore find work and living in intentional community with other volunteers. I wasn't very good at intentional community, as I was depressed and homesick and found that I probably needed job counseling far more than the people I was there to serve. What I did discover was an even greater appreciation for community-created religious services and experiences.

At the end of my year of LVC service, I moved to Austin sight unseen to take advantage of the opportunities here, and because my future spouse had a lead on a very cheap place to live in Hyde Park. We started attending this church in the fall of 1991 as our neighborhood UU church, and have been attending ever since. I have found it to be a lively and supportive community where I

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can be honest about my beliefs and my doubts. During the years, I have been more or less involved in church activities. I have found that the more involved I become, the more meaningful the community becomes for me. I hope that others may find a church home here and that we may continue to grow and flourish as a community.

This month the church Board of Trustees meets on February 18, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. The board’s meetings are regularly scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month. The board will be receiving and reviewing monitoring reports related to our financial planning and financial condition governing policies.

Also please note that we have updated Governance portion of our church website to increase emphasis on our “Mission and Ends” and “Covenant of Healthy Relations.” Hopefully these updates also make it easier to find important documents like our Church Bylaws and Governance Policies. Check it out when you have an opportunity. If you have any issues with the updates, feel free to contact [news@austinuu.org](mailto:news@austinuu.org).

Thanks to everyone who helped make Meg and Kiya’s wedding reception a success last month. And finally, many thanks go out to our Religious Education staff and volunteers who keep our R.E. programs going strong. ■

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destructive consequences (there were many good ones) of that marriage, the last control it had over my life.

That night on the beach in L.A., with our younger son and his wife there, our older son and his wife attending by video call, Kiya’s dear friend and first band mate from eighth grade holding the space for us with her guardian energy and fierce affection, we listened to poetry and songs, we spoke poetry and promises. The waves reached the shore with a satisfied sigh in the gathering dusk. Our fire burned, colorful and fragrant, anchoring our little group of humans in the enormous night. It was New Year’s Eve. Many fires dotted the beach anchoring many groups of friends and families on the surface of this planet. Fireworks scattered themselves into the sky.

Language helps us live. It helps us make meaning out of what is happening to us. It makes certain things too easy and other things too hard. How do you do something for which there is no language? How do you signal your intentions to love someone as long as you can, as well as you can? How do you communicate to friends, family and strangers the level of commitment you have made to your beloved? How do you feel when the language of your people demands that you fit into the mold of how it’s been done in the past, or exist in a blank space without context or

culture to even recognize much less support what you are doing and who you are?

We will count on the rings we wear to let people know that we have made promises, read poetry, invited family, expressed commitment, built a fire and said vows, cried, wiped tears from one another’s faces by the ocean and rubbed one another’s hands like lucky pennies for the courage to do what we’ve done and move on to all that is to come.

Later that night on the boardwalk at Venice Beach, we listened to a Doors cover band keeping Jim Morrison’s memory alive as best they could. Old school punk kids with spikes in their mohawks accompanied by patient dogs on rope leashes bragged and bantered, ignoring the folks trying to get some sleep on the benches. Life at midnight on the edge of a continent eddied around us, the L.A. women, the riders on the storm and those of us breaking on through to the other side.

We came home to delighted congratulations and a party where we were surrounded by church folks, dancing and great food. We are both grateful for the support of First UU and hopeful that we can all be instrumental in bringing the day when marriage equality will be the law in Texas. ■

**Save the Dates!**

**Pre-congregational meeting**

Sunday, April 6, 2014,  
1:30 p.m.

**Congregational meeting**

Sunday, May 11, 2014,  
1:30 p.m.

*Childcare will be provided for each.*

**Church Grounds Work Day**

**March 1 and March 8  
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

The Grounds Committee is sponsoring a grounds work day on March 1, with a rain date of March 8. The bad drought followed by this winter's bad freezes has left the church property in sad shape. Join us to help with trimming, raking, and perhaps some digging. Breakfast tacos & coffee will be served to keep up your energy. March 8 is the rain date or a second work day if you have so much fun you want more! Contact Carol Edwards at [ceebird2@gmail.com](mailto:ceebird2@gmail.com).

# Rise up for women this February


**One Billion Rising—Rise against violence towards women!**

On February 14, all across the globe women, girls, men, and boys will take to the streets to protest the sexual and physical violence perpetrated against one in three women and girls on our earth—that's one billion. First UU will again be present this Valentine's Day in front of the State Capitol, wearing our "Standing On The Side of Love" t-shirts and carrying our banner. We'll carpool from church at 10:30 a.m. Contact Mary Ann Stafford: [mas1038166@aol.com](mailto:mas1038166@aol.com).

**Try out for "The Vagina Monologues" Audition!**

The Vagina Monologues is a play written by Eve Ensler who started the One Billion Rising movement, which battles violence towards women worldwide. The play is a fundraiser for One Billion Rising. First UU will have the play March 28 at 7:30 p.m. Auditions are on February 22 at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Sign up to audition and/or provide refreshments for the reception following the play. Contact Mary Ann Stafford: [mas1038166@aol.com](mailto:mas1038166@aol.com).





**Thank you, First UU blood donors!**

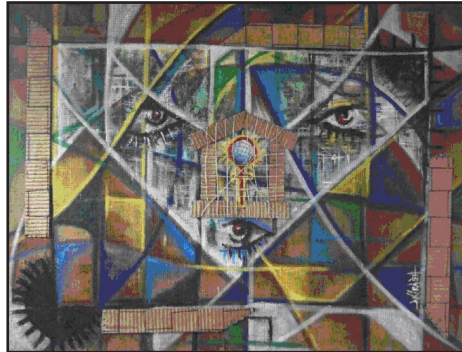
We recently received word from the Blood Center of Central Texas that a total of 82 units of blood were donated last year in the name of our church. What great news! Thanks to all of those who donated to support the lives of others!

## February art exhibition from Akirash gives unique “Insight”

The February art exhibition, “Oju Inu/Insight,” featuring the paintings of Olaniyi R. Akindiya (aka Akirash) will run Feb. 1-27 in the gallery. The reception will be Feb. 13 from 5-8 p.m.

Native to Nigeria and resident of Benin, Akirash is a multiple award-winning interdisciplinary artist. His mixed media works are “often marked by an exploration of rural/urban life, namely the accelerated pace of development and social infrastructure.”

See his website at [www.artwithakirash.com](http://www.artwithakirash.com).



*Photo from Tomas Rodriguez*

### Heritage Book Club

Join us on Feb. 9 at 5 p.m. at Libby Raach’s home (4125 Gazley Lane, in Steiner Ranch). The book under discussion is “Killing Jesus” by Bill O’Reilly. The March reading is a novel called “Room” by Emma Donoghue. Remember, all meetings start with a potluck and socializing. Everyone is welcome. If you need a ride or further information, call Sally Scott at 512-453-2289.

### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

## Hear migration experiences at Immigrant Symposium

**March 1, Howson Hall  
4-7 p.m.**

To hear the stories about why people immigrate, the Social Action Committee has invited individuals to share their personal experiences on the road to U.S. citizenship for our Immigration Symposium.

A minister from Mexico will tell stories of his work running a refuge camp on the Mexican train route toward the U.S., and other individuals will share their stories of arriving here without

documents and what it took or is taking for them to receive political asylum.

Members of the local Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition, Grassroots Leadership, Texans United for Families and Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera have helped many of these individuals seeking U.S. citizenship and will help them bring their stories to life.

The symposium is free and open to everyone. For more info, contact Social Action Chair Peggy Morton at [socialaction@austinuu.org](mailto:socialaction@austinuu.org).

### Yew Grove Moon Circle

**Thursday, Feb. 13  
Gallery  
7:30 p.m.**

Join us to help bring in a season of love as we honor the Moon in February. So on Thursday the 13th wear red, and bring chocolate or other lovely treats.

## MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING

# Casa Marianella: Supporting Our Families and Neighbors

by Molly Costigan

Moving to a new place is hard for everyone. In the last six years I have moved five times, and each move brought with it an endless checklist of apartments to find, boxes to unpack, grocery stores to locate, and people to meet. I was fortunate that, even in a new place, there was always an academic advisor who helped me get a bus pass, a friend of a friend who showed me around town, or a new co-worker who opened her home to me while I looked for my own place.

Not everyone is lucky enough to have so much support when they move to the United States. That is why Casa Marianella, the recipient of February's special offering, is such an important organization. Casa Marianella serves recent immigrants, refugees, and asylees in Austin. Their main shelter provides emergency transitional housing for people who have become homeless, and their second shelter, Posada Esperanza, is a place to stay for women and children who are escaping domestic violence. Each shelter is made up of three houses in East Austin, but temporary housing is only the beginning of the services that they provide. Your contribution to the special offering will go a long way in enabling them to continue to support current and future residents.

A big part of what makes Casa Marianella such an important organization is its ability to meet the specific needs of members in the immigrant community facing these issues. Their shelters offer legal services, English classes, shared meals, and assistance in finding a job or new home. In the two years that I've been volunteering, I have prepared dinner, helped kids with homework, driven families to farmers' markets, swept floors, carved pumpkins, and offered cooking demos. Other volunteers come in to teach yoga, to help residents navigate the bus system, to deliver food, to proofread resumes, and much more.

These services are particularly important at Casa Marianella because of the extra obstacles that the residents face being new to the United States. Some residents received advanced degrees in other countries, but they are not accepted in the United States. When I drive residents to a farmers' market, they find fruits and vegetables that they have never cooked before. And many of the students working on homework find that they are not only learning third-grade language arts, but also an entirely new language. Because the staff, volunteers, and residents all work together and support each other,

they also foster a strong sense of community that is hard to imagine given that most residents only stay for about three months.

Moving to a new place is always hard, but it is harder when you do not have time to prepare. Moving is harder when there are unexpected obstacles to getting the appropriate paperwork, and even harder when you do not know the language or culture. And moving may be hardest when you do not have a support system in your new city.

Casa Marianella is nourishing souls and transforming lives every single day by helping develop that support system. It happens when the residents share their stories with one another, when someone arrives directly from an immigration detention center and is unsure of what her next steps should be, when someone moves into his own place, and when people come back to visit. This congregation has supported Casa Marianella's work in the past through special offerings, as well as with direct volunteer work during last April's Spring Into Action month on immigration. Please consider a donation to support this great work, and visit their website at [www.casamarianella.org](http://www.casamarianella.org) to find out how you can stay involved throughout the year.



## “Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks” Opens February 7

by Gary Payne, creative director

This two-character comedy, written by Richard Alfieri and directed by Matthew Burnett, opens with a formidable and still active senior citizen welcoming an eccentric and prickly dance instructor into her Florida condo. Sparks soon fly between this gay man and Southern Baptist minister's widow. But with each lesson, as they trade barbs and share secrets along with the dance steps, they forge a deeply intimate friendship.

Performances will run through February 7-23, 2014. Fridays and Saturday showings are at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m.

Friday, February 7 is a Gala opening with special refreshments after the show, and Friday, February 14 is a Valentine's

Day Gala with champagne and chocolates at intermission.

Make reservations and see specific ticket information at [paradoxplayers.org](http://paradoxplayers.org), or call 512-744-1495.

Plus: Free Childcare! With our February show, we are expanding a unique benefit we provide to our patrons who are parents of small children. Free childcare will be available at four of our performances: Saturday, February 8 and 15, and Sunday, February 9 and 16. And here's maybe the best part—no reservations for childcare are required! That's right, just arrive with the kids, knowing that you can sit back and enjoy the show while they are being cared for.

See you at the show! ■

### Women's Spirituality Group

**1st & 3rd Saturdays  
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Rm. 13**

The Women's Spirituality Group continues our focus on “Explorations of Spiritual Practices.” On February 1 we will celebrate Brigid's Day and learn about Everyday Magick. Then on February 15 we will practice spiritual journaling.

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](mailto:women@austinuu.org).



**Drive a Senior**

### Save the Date

Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014

7:30 p.m.

A Special performance by the Paradox Players  
presenting “Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks”  
First UU Church of Austin, 4700 Grover Ave.  
Refreshments provided.

All proceeds benefit Drive a Senior-North Central Austin  
(formerly North Central Caregivers)

Tickets: \$25; \$15 for 60+

## LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

# Lifespan RE highlights

by **Rev. Marisol Caballero**



## **F.RE.D. Night Happenings**

No reservation required to the hottest spot in town on Wednesday nights! All are welcome to join us for an always delicious dinner at 6 p.m. (\$6/person, kids under 12 eat free), followed by mind-blowing classes and workshops! In February, we are

offering the following:

### **What the Bible Really Says**

Rev. Meg has had several requests for a Bible study class. In these three meetings we will talk about how we read the Bible, how we can approach its history, poetry and prophecy, and we will view the whole sweep of the story of generations and events presented by the Jewish and Christian scripture. Join us on Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and 26, from 7-8:30 p.m.

**“Building the World We Dream About” continues, facilitated by Rev. Marisol Caballero & Vic Cornell Rm. 13, 7-9 p.m**

In an effort to become an intentionally anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural and radically hospitable congregation, First UU is embarking on a two-year workshop series, “Building the World We Dream About,” by Dr. Mark Hicks, the Angus MacLean Professor of Religious Education at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Join us in this journey to realize the Beloved Community.

“Building the World We Dream About is a 24-workshop curriculum to support Unitarian Universalists and our congregations in building the multicultural Beloved Community we want to embody. It seeks to disrupt the workings of racism and transform how we relate across racial, ethnic, and cultural differences, in our congregations and beyond. Participants develop their anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural habits and skills and prepare to nurture a multiculturally competent, actively anti-racist congregation.” (uua.org)

### **Our Whole Lives (OWL), 7-9th grade**

We will be proudly offering OWL (Our Whole

Lives), a comprehensive and progressive sex education curriculum, to children in grades 7-9 this semester. The class will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning Feb. 19th and ending June 4th, as well as two lock-ins (dates TBD). More information on registration and the class itself will be published in upcoming newsletters. Registration forms are on the RE table in the gallery, alongside a flyer for the course. Registration fee is \$30, which will cover the cost of food for the lock-ins. Scholarships available.

### **Alzheimer’s and Mild Cognitive Impairment Support Group Feb. 13th, 7 p.m.**

Do you or a loved one live with Alzheimer’s or MCI? A group is forming to address concerns about Frontal Lobe Dementia, Old Timers, or “where did I put that thing and what was it” disease. This will be a combined group for the afflicted and their caregivers. It will be a place to discuss concerns, find information and get support. Come to our first meeting! If you are interested in getting involved or getting more info, please talk to Tom Bodine at coffee hour, email him at [tom@tommythegeek.com](mailto:tom@tommythegeek.com), or call him at home 512-701-4835.

### **Be a 2014 Surprise Pal!**

Consider becoming a Surprise Pal this year! Surprise Pals is an annual project that provides opportunities for the development of intergenerational connections. Here’s how it works: interested adult church members submit to a background check and are paired with a child in our congregation to exchange letters and small, meaningful gifts over the course of several weeks. The adult “surprise pal” and the parents of the child are aware of the pairing, but the identity of their “surprise pal” is not revealed to the kid until a party that ends the project and allows for face-to-face conversation and laughs! This project introduces the children of our congregation to trusted adults within their church community whom they might not otherwise meet. The project will run from Feb. 16 to March 23 this year. If you are an adult interested in being a child’s “surprise pal,” visit the Lifespan RE table in the gallery to sign up.



## **Spring Curricula, Children and Youth**

See weekly order of services for times of RE sessions!

### **Chalice Children, Pre-K (3 and 4-year-olds)**

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 finger plays.

### **Creating Home, K-1st**

The sessions include stories from Unitarian Universalist and other traditions, hands-on activities to make learning accessible to individuals with various learning styles, and structured opportunities for questioning, reflecting, and self-expression. The program introduces children to the Unitarian Universalist heritage, including rituals, songs, and traditions of our faith, and stories about Unitarian Universalists whose words, songs, and deeds have helped to shape the faith home that participants share. This class will also integrate lessons from Picture Book World Religions, which introduces UU kids to wisdom from world religions through story books.

### **Signs of Our Faith: Being UU Every Day, 2nd-3rd**

“Signs of Our Faith” guides children to do their best to live faithful lives every day. It presents fourteen traits or values that Unitarian Universalist practice, including the quest for knowledge, reverence for life, supporting one another on our faith journeys, and public witness. Children examine how their lives can and do exhibit these traits and values, and come to understand that their faith is a living faith whose histories and teachings are fortifications for living faithfully in a complex world.

### **Windows and Mirrors, 4th-5th**

This program nurtures children’s ability to acknowledge their own experiences and perspectives, and to seek out, care about and respect those of others. Sessions unpack topics that lend themselves to diverse experiences and perspectives—for example, faith heritage, public service, anti-racism and prayer. Underlying the program is the lesson that there are always multiple viewpoints.

### **Popcorn Theology, Jr. Youth Group**

This curriculum uses clips from both recent and classic Hollywood movies to discuss theological and ethical issues with middle schoolers, while relating the material to UU identity and community involvement. Themes include: personal ethical agency, oppression, power and responsibility, and fear.

### **Our Name is Earl, Sr. Youth Group**

Youth are invited to explore religious concepts through the life of Earl Hickey as he goes on a spiritual quest to be a better person. Based on the television series “My Name is Earl,” youth will learn about our Unitarian Universalist values and principles and define their ideas about the afterlife, sin, covenant, and many other important concepts that become part of our personal credos.

## **Annual Valentine-Making Party, Feb. 9th Howson Hall**

Time to get your craft on! This multigenerational event is a ton of fun. Everyone gets involved, and you don’t have to be an artist either! Howson Hall will be a card-making factory during coffee hour. There will be every kind of art supply you can imagine. You may use any or all of them to create beautiful, unique cards, and then you may give them to your loved ones or you may drop them in the basket which we will take to patients at Dell Children’s Hospital. Last year was the first year we did this and the little patients were so happy to know that people were thinking about them and wishing them well! We will have sweet treats, as well as our usual coffee hour fare. See you there!

## **Goodbye, Mr. Nathan!**

We are sad to say goodbye to Nathan Brumbaugh, who has been the Childcare Coordinator since August. Nathan’s warm, gentle personality quickly won the hearts of staff, parents, and our littlest UUs alike. He is sad to leave us, but his work as a professionally-trained dancer, yoga instructor, and certified labor doula have left his plate too full to continue his work as Childcare Coordinator. We celebrate his success and wish him well! ■

## Action for Justice meeting

**Monday, Feb. 17**  
**Howson Hall**  
**7 p.m.**

*(The church will be open on President's Day for this class only!)*

Interested in getting involved in politics? Want to advocate for UU values at the city, state, and federal levels?

Join us for a training session to learn how to be a better community organizer!

Training will be led by an organizer from Austin Interfaith. Questions? Email [justice@austinuu.org](mailto:justice@austinuu.org).

## February Seniors Luncheon

**Wednesday, Feb. 12**  
**Howson Hall**  
**12 p.m.**

Paradox Players will present a scene from the Feb. 7-23 show, "Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks" starring Cynthia Schiebel and Kirk Kelso, and directed by Matt Burnett. (See preview on page 9 for a description of the play.)

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

## People's Community Clinic: serving the underserved for over 40 years

People's Community Clinic is one of several worthy social organizations that are sponsored by our Social Action Committee. The clinic's purpose is to improve the health of medically underserved central Texans.

The clinic started over 40 years ago serving mostly young, uninsured students near the UT campus. Today PCC has an outreach clinic for homeless youth, and services have only expanded. They've developed specialized programs to meet specific needs: GOALS, which provides developmental and behavioral care; TANDEM, providing medical, mental, educational, vocational and social support to pregnant and parenting teens; and the Center for Adolescent Health providing specialized, interdisciplinary care for teens and young adults.

These programs, along with Women's Health, Pediatrics and Adult Medicine

are at the heart of PCC's work in our community. For more information about the clinic, its work in the community, and opportunities for volunteers, please check out PCC's website at [www.austinpcc.org](http://www.austinpcc.org). You can contact PCC's volunteer coordinator through the website for information on any volunteer opportunities that you would be comfortable helping with.

You are also welcome to join some friends and members of the church on Tuesday morning, February 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the clinic, 2909 North IH35 in the second floor conference room for our Tuesday Collating Group. We do good work for the clinic while visiting. We are usually done by noon and some go to lunch together afterwards. No long term commitment is required. Come join us! For more information, contact [pcc@austinuu.org](mailto:pcc@austinuu.org).

## Public Forum presentations to be broadcast on ChannelAustin

The following Public Affairs Forums have been scheduled for broadcast during the month of February. Each talk will be broadcast at 6 p.m. every Sunday on ChannelAustin, channel 10-10. You can also watch it online at [channelaustin.org/watch/streaming10](http://channelaustin.org/watch/streaming10).

### Sunday, February 2:

Jeff Crunk, volunteer for the Sierra Club. His topic was "Will Austin Move Beyond Coal in 2014?"

### Sunday, February 9:

Niyanta Spelman, founder of

Rainforest Partnership. Her topic was "Tropical Rainforests and Why They Matter."

### Sunday, February 16:

Bob Gedert, Director of Austin Resource Recovery. He discussed "Getting to Zero Waste in the City of Austin."

### Sunday, February 23:

Tiffany Dowling, J.D. She discussed "The Texas Center for Actual Innocence: Who We Are and What We Do."

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

# Check out these upcoming UU events!

## Southwest UU Women's Conference

**February 21-23, Tulsa, OK**

"Tell me a fact and I'll learn. Tell me a truth and I'll believe. But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever." The Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women's 2014 Annual Conference will celebrate individual stories with tours, workshops and the community we build by our time together. Our theme, "The Power of Story" will be amplified by keynote speaker Kelli McLoud-Schingen. Click on the "Read More" link at [www.swuuw.org](http://www.swuuw.org) for information.

## What Would A UU Vacation Look Like?

**July 20-25, Fort Gibson Lake, OK**

Plan now and find out at the

Southwest UU Summer Institute. SWUUSI will celebrate its 75th year with keynote speaker, Rev. Meg Barnhouse. Come for the education, faith development, entertainment, recreation, and fun with fellow UUs from infants to octogenarians at a price you can't match elsewhere. More details in the coming months.

### Save The Date!

**Apr 4-6** – UBarU Men's Retreat, Kerrville, TX.

**Apr 25-27** – SWUUC Spring Conference & Annual Meeting, First Unitarian Church, Dallas.

**May 2-4** – UBarU Deep in the Heart Women's Retreat, Kerrville, TX. More info at [www.ubaru.org](http://www.ubaru.org), under "Events."

## Great Decisions Book Group begins soon!

**Every Sunday, starting Feb. 9th  
Rm. 13  
3:30-5 p.m.**

Books to be discussed are now available for \$20 at the Social Action Table in the gallery. Come by and sign up if you have not already.

Topics for discussion this year include defense technology, Israel and the U.S., energy independence, and many more! Please contact Judy Sadegh at [uuuno@austinuu.org](mailto:uuuno@austinuu.org) for more information or to reserve a book and sign up.

# Don't miss Art Mission's Ransom Note Poetry Workshop

**Tuesday, Feb. 25  
6:30-8:30 pm**

Do you like to write poetry or just want to try something new? Do you like to do visual art? Or feeling like just goofing around? Award-winning poet and songwriter Kiya Heartwood leads a fun collage-meets-thrift store madness workshop where we will each make a Ransom Note style piece of visual art. No experience is necessary. All ages welcome (under 10 please bring an adult

along). Please bring old newspapers or magazines that can be cut up. \$10 suggested donation, but no one is turned away for inability to pay. All donations go to future Art Mission activities. Maximum of 20 attendants. Write [kiya@kiyaheartwood.com](mailto:kiya@kiyaheartwood.com) to reserve your spot. This workshop repeats March 18th.

Art Mission is an all-volunteer multi-generational creativity outreach program that offers workshops, art actions and events that use creativity to transform lives, build community and do justice.

**Eclectic Folk Jam**

**Friday, Feb. 14**  
**Rm. 17**  
**7-10 p.m.**

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

For more information contact Pete and Kim Akenhead at (512) 834-0188, or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or [singalong@austinuu.org](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org).

**UU/Quaker Singalong**

**Saturday, Feb. 22**  
**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.

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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

**FEBRUARY 2****Animal Blessing Service**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Bring your sociable, house-trained animals to an intergenerational animal blessing service! Rev. Meg will preach about animal companions, and the First UU Intergenerational Choir will serenade our animal friends with a variety of songs. There is room for one horse to stand in the garden, so make your reservation early. Cats in carriers please, likewise with chickens and snapping turtles.

**FEBRUARY 9****What We Are  
Worshiping, We Are  
Becoming**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

We'll begin our series on the Ten Commandments, visiting one a month, with the first one. From Rumi to Emerson, we'll talk about a UU understanding of the truth and usefulness of the commandments.

**FEBRUARY 16****Failure is Impossible**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

February 15 is Susan B. Anthony's birthday. This Sunday we will reflect on the important work and legacy of this Unitarian and Quaker. The First UU Youth Choir will share their music during both services.

**FEBRUARY 23****Toward Becoming**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

Not much happens in February. It's after the holidays, before spring break. It's still pretty cold, but there are signs of spring beginning. This is an ideal time to consider all that is to come in what seems like an in-between time and to notice beauty in unexpected places.

# THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

## FEBRUARY 2

### **Reproductive Justice in Texas: How a Moment Became a Movement**

WITH BRITTANY YELVERTON

The national spotlight has focused on Texas as the Texas Legislature has shredded the healthcare safety net, blocked access to preventive screenings for uninsured Texans, and passed one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the United States. The “Stand With Texas Women” campaign launched when Governor Perry used special legislative sessions to pass extreme targeted regulations of abortion providers. The commitment by Texans at the Capitol last summer to fight back against these restrictions inspired women’s health advocates across the U.S. and sparked a movement. The will to fight for women’s health has never been stronger.

Brittany Yelverton is the Community Outreach Specialist for Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, serving more than 128,000 women, men and adolescents each year in Central and North Texas. Brittany pursued her undergraduate degree at Elon University where she earned a B.A. in Communications and English and minored in Women’s/Gender Studies. After graduating, Brittany was selected as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar and earned her graduate degree in Media Studies at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. Brittany was recently honored with a 2013 Reproductive Equity Award from the Lilith Fund for her leadership at the Capitol during the historic filibuster.

## FEBRUARY 9

### **A Sensible Approach to Green Homes & Remodeling: Seeing Beyond the Glare of “Eco-Bling”**

WITH PETER PFEIFFER

This is not a “Show and Tell” green building program. It will enlighten the audience about the principles of creating well-designed building projects – whether it be a remodeled kitchen or a stand-alone new home. Together

we will develop an understanding of the relevant laws of nature that will help you make thoughtful green building prioritization decisions on your own. Well-vetted green building techniques that are “builder relevant”—what worked and what hasn’t over the past four decades of the presenter’s experience—will be critiqued.

Peter Pfeiffer is an Architect, Property Manager and Building Scientist who was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 2004 for his lifelong achievements in developing practical high-performance green building strategies. He is a principal of the Austin-based Barley & Pfeiffer Architects. Their work has been published in such diverse venues as the Washington Post, Better Homes & Gardens and has been featured on NPR, The Discovery Channel, This Old House, and the HGTV network. In 2006 Residential Architect cited him as one of the ten most influential architects of past decade. In 2010 Peter was nominated for the prestigious Hanley Award for his meaningful efforts to advance green building in America.

## FEBRUARY 16

### **The County Judge and County Government: Past, Present, and Future Challenges**

WITH SARAH ECKHARDT, ANDY BROWN, AND MIKE MCNAMARA

This Forum is a panel discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the Travis County Judge and Travis County government in serving the public interest. What services does the county provide? How does the county coordinate services with the City of Austin? What state statutes empower and limit the activities of county government? With urbanization and rapid population growth, what are key issues and what new directions will the county take?

Three candidates for the office of Travis County Judge will participate in a panel discussion and share their visions of Travis County government: Sarah Eckhardt (D), an attorney and former Travis County Commissioner and the daughter of the late U.S.

*see forum events continued on page 16*

**First Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church of Austin**

(512) 452-6168  
[www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org)

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THE FORUM, *continued*

Congressman Bob Eckhardt; Andy Brown, (D), an attorney and former Chair of the Travis County Democratic Party; and Mike McNamara (R), a former manager in the Austin technology and defenses industries, and a Navy veteran. All three panelists have been active in community service and in their local and state political parties.

**FEBRUARY 23**  
**Detained for a Profit:  
Challenging Mass  
Incarceration and the  
Private Immigrant  
Detention System**

WITH BOB LIBAL

The United States is home to more incarcerated people than any country in

the world, and immigrants are among the fastest growing populations behind bars. More than 34,000 immigrants are detained on any given day in the United States in a network of more than 200 private prisons, county jails, and government-operated detention centers. Bob Libal will discuss advocacy responses to the crisis of immigration detention, private prisons, and mass incarceration. Bob will also discuss the organization's efforts to reduce reliance on detention and criminalization of migrants through strategy research, organizing, and legislative advocacy.

Bob Libal is the Executive Director of Grassroots Leadership, a 33-year-old southern-based social justice organization that works to stop the use of for-profit private prisons, jails, and immigrant detention centers. ■