



FIRST UU NEWS

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

From the top down, or from the grassroots up?

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse



How do things happen at First UU? Things happen both ways.

One of the things that sometimes happens in UU churches that choose Policy-Based Governance, and with churches that are growing larger is that longtime members begin feeling that they don't have as much "say" as they used to have. Large churches have 550 members and above, and First UU now has 555 active members, which means each one is supporting First UU as they are able, financially and with their good will and energy.

Why don't some folks feel they have as much "say" as they used to? I think it's because opportunities for input are offered differently from the way they used to be. One reason is that, under Policy-Based Governance, which First UU voted to implement the year before I arrived, the congregation speaks to the board as their representatives about what kind of church they'd like to become. The board then sets the Ends, or the goals, which will make that picture a reality. The minister is then tasked with moving the church toward those goals. Decisions that used to be made by the whole congregation (as they still

are in very small churches) are now made by the minister and those she hires as her staff. The board continues to listen to the congregation and monitor the minister and her staff

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to make sure they are doing things the way the board asked to do them. Opportunities for congregational input are many: the board sets up a table at coffee hour and listens to church members at various times during the year. There is a "Visitors Forum" at each monthly board meeting that is available to anyone who wishes to speak to the board about a matter of importance to them. The minister is available for meetings every day but Mondays (her day off) and Fridays (sermon-writing day.)

It used to be that the structure of

the church's ministries and committees was more casual than it is now. One of the good things about a casual organization is that people have ideas and make them happen. It's fun, and it can be empowering. Among the weaknesses of that system is that there isn't anyone holding the "big picture," shaping the church's energies to pull in one direction. "Silos" can form, where folks are only interested in their one area, and they aren't as aware of the church as a whole community. Staff isn't necessarily involved in the things that happen, and people can burn out without that support. Now the infrastructure of First UU is growing more formal, with activities gathered under the aegis of one of the departments: Ministry, RE, Church Life, Finance and Operations or Music. Rooms have to be booked, there are forms to fill out and staff questions to answer. Once you're the head of a committee/ ministry, though, you have a lot of latitude in how you want to do things. Our new member who has agreed to take on the Sunday flow-

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Guiding our growth

by **Michael Kersey**

How do we not get in our own way of realizing our church's potential?



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin is celebrating its 60th anniversary as a church this year. In the early 1950s a group of eleven people in six families created the Unitarian Fellowship of Austin. In 1954, having already grown to 81 members, they submitted an application to the national Unitarian organization (the AUA at the time) to be formally recognized as a church, this church. For sixty years we've been a presence in Austin promoting Unitarian (and since the Unitarian and Universalist merger in 1961) Universalist principles. Your Board of Trustees is intent on ensuring that we survive and flourish for the next sixty years and beyond.

In sixty years we've grown from a fellowship to a large, thriving, congregation and we've had to adapt, evolve, and learn as we've gone along. One of the questions we've had to grapple with is, "How do we not get in our own way of realizing our full potential?"

Several years ago we realized that as we've become a larger and more complex organization, it didn't make sense for a governing board of volunteers to be directly involved in day-to-day operations. To address this, in 2010 we moved to adopt

Policy-Based Governance as our practice of governance.

Policy-Based Governance is a structure of governance developed for use in nonprofits. It encourages organizational trustees to stay in touch with the people they serve, while focusing on the long-range vision of the organization. It also entrusts a single competent executive to make the vision a reality.

First UU of Austin is not the only organization you may know that has adopted Policy-Based Governance. Our national denominational association, the UUA, has adopted it; so too have other thriving UU churches like Unity Universalist in St. Paul, Minnesota. In a non-church setting, our community neighbor Wheatville Co-op has recently realized a goal of expanding to second location since adopting Policy-Based Governance.

Policy-Based Governance focuses board members on strategic questions of purpose and mission, and relies upon one employee, an executive, to achieve operational goals. In our case the Board's one employee and competent executive is our multi-talented and dynamic Senior Minister, Rev. Meg

Barnhouse. The Board makes clear its expectations through written policies for itself and the Senior Minister. Together we agree upon reasonable interpretations of those expectations with a plan for proving that the expectations are being met. In this framework, from the Board's perspective Rev. Meg is the person who makes things happen around here. She's not alone though. First UU of Austin is a community of beautiful souls held together in covenant, powered by mission and guided by our values to do great things together.

At the same time, as Unitarian Universalists we have also remained true to our Congregationalist heritage; in which, each congregation is self-governing through forming its own by-laws, electing its own representatives to serve on a governing board, approving its own budget, and calling its own ministers. Our next all Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4. The primary agenda item will be to vote on the slate of nominees to serve on the Nominating Committee and Board of Trustees. In advance of the congregational meeting, the Board of Trustees will also be hosting a Pre-Congregational Meeting on

"Guiding our growth" from page 2

April 6th as a forum to hear from congregants.

I hope to see you at both the pre-congregational and congregational meetings. ■

"From the top down" from page 1

ers is changing the way we do flower donations, and you can read about it elsewhere in this newsletter.

First UU is trying to create a structure strong enough to grow on, professional enough to make the day-to-day run smoothly and intelligently. I think we need more opportunities for communication, though. What would you suggest? Dinner with the

minister once a month? A lunch after the second service once a month with board members? A suggestion box? How would you like to share your thoughts, your questions, needs, hopes, concerns and encouragement? Feel free to let me know at meg.barnhouse@austinuu.org. I would like to hear from you.

Late-breaking news!

Two important pieces of information: 1.) Since I wrote this, we've learned we're saying goodbye to Sean Hale, with whom I've had the pleasure to work for the past almost three years. We will miss him. Carol Drennan, an experienced Interim from the Greenlights organization, will be coming on board for the next four or five months. She will interview board members and other church leaders,

and will look at all of our systems with an eye toward making recommendations for improvements. She has been Interim CEO of Habitat for Humanity, and for a nearby branch of the Children's Advocacy Center, among other agencies. We will get to know her better in the next newsletter.

2.) Chris Jimmerson, a former president of the congregation who is graduating in May from Meadville-Lombard, is coming on board as our second Assistant Minister, and his portfolio will include much of what Sean was covering for First UU. In this way, the finance and operations areas will be covered with a pastoral and theological underpinning. Chris, before he went to seminary, ran the American Gateways organization. ■



Music Matters

by Brent Baldwin

Brent and renowned composers raise (the works of) the dead at upcoming performance!

First UU of Austin is proud to announce that its Director of Music, Brent Baldwin, will participate in one of Austin's largest-scale community performances of 2014.

On April 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the French Legation Museum (802 San Marcos St.), Brent will lead the 200 musicians of the Texas Choral Consort in the Texas Performing Arts/Fusebox Festival production, "Mozart Requiem Undead."

"Mozart Requiem Undead" is an enormous collaboration where ten unique composers, ranging from this year's Pulitzer Prize winning

composer to the drummer from Wilco, were each commissioned to rework a movement of Mozart's Requiem Mass, which was left incomplete at the composer's death. The only catch is that the composers have to keep what Mozart wrote down before he died. Anything else

goes!

Composers will include: Glenn Kotche (Wilco), Caroline Shaw (2013 Pulitzer Prize winning composer), Todd Reynolds (violinist of choice for Steve Reich, Meredith Monk, Bang on a Can), Adrian Quesada (Grammy Award winning bandleader of Grupo Fantasma), Petra Hayden, Kate Moore (collaborator with Alarm Will Sound and Bang on a Can), Justin Sherburn (Okkervil River), and Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky (New York DJ and multimedia artist), and the Golden Hornet Project's Peter Stopschinski and Graham Reynolds.

"Mozart Requiem Undead" is free and open to the public. Find it on Facebook: <http://bit.ly/MozUndead>.



"Mozart Requiem Undead" directors Brent Baldwin, Peter Stopschinski and Graham Reynolds. Photo: Greg Colman, LensPortraits Photography

Heritage Book Group

There will be no April meeting of the Heritage Club, due to many of the members being out of town.

The next meeting will be Sunday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m. The book is "The Monuments Men," by Robert Edsel. The place will be at Frances Morey's, The RBJ tower, 21 Waller St., Austin. We will start with a potluck, followed by the discussion. Everyone is welcome.

For further info, call Sally Scott: (512) 453-2289.

Fellowship Committee meeting

Tues, April 22
Rm. 15
7 p.m.

This meeting is open to anyone who is interested. We will have childcare available. For further information, please contact Sally Scott: (512) 453-2289.

LEGALIZE HUMAN

Call for Artists, Authors, and Performers

Arts, Advocacy, Education—and Fun!

by **Cavan Ó Raghallaigh**

Legalize Human and its Gender Diversity Project are involved in cultural advocacy, as well as the more usual legislative and educational approaches. We're looking forward to the International Transgender Day of Visibility (March 31st), and we're planning a couple events that week. Our Being Trans*Visible in Texas event will be held March 31st, and A Queerly Trans*Cultural Evening is April 3. Both will be held at First UU from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Legalize Human invites you to share your work with the community either in person or digitally, and if you'd like, to perform or present work during A Queerly Trans*Cultural Evening, April 3rd. Performance work including readings is encouraged!

There will be tables available for you to show and sell some of your work and distribute flyers about upcoming exhibits, performances, etc. Though there's no charge for tables, Legalize

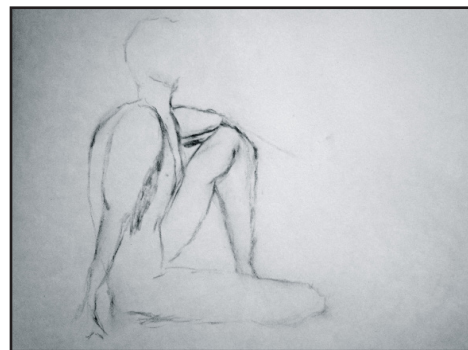
Human will gratefully accept any donations you care to offer.

If you'd like to contribute images of your work to be included in a slideshow during the events, or copies of your creative writing to share with attendees, please get in touch! The work might be stills from a performance or other event, as well as images of visual work. You need not be present to have these contributions included.

If you can't make it to the 'dedicated' arts evening on April 3rd, please feel free to bring your work to the art preview that will be part of the Being Trans*Visible event on March 31st.

It's one thing to get laws changed, and quite another to actually create an environment of acceptance in society. The arts have an enormous role in helping create an environment where we can all be our own sort of human. As artists and event attendees we are visibly participating in our communities, visible to each other and visible to those not usually involved in our communities. These events are a positive way for others to develop some connection and empathy with communities they rarely meet. So, share you work and experience, and come play with us!

Looking forward to hearing from you! Contact: cavan@legalizehuman.org.



FIRST UU IN PICTURES

First UU finds out why people migrate

**Photos by Arielle Lewis-Zavala
Description from Peggy Morton**



The Social Action Committee's Immigration Symposium, "Why Do People Migrate?" took place Saturday, March 1. In the bottom photo, the group of about 50 attendees formed a circle to discuss the issues they learned about when visiting six information stations. The

top left photo shows three of the stations, presenting information digitally and in print. At these stations they could also meet immigrants and hear the many reasons they migrate, like Miguel Rodriquez in the top right, who shared his story of immigrating

from El Salvador.

While many people migrate for economic reasons caused by the North American Free Trade Agreement, these days the majority are immigrating because of extreme violence in their home countries. ■

Save the Dates

Please note the date change!

Pre-congregational meeting

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

Congregational meeting

Sunday, May 4, 2014, 1:30
p.m.

Childcare will be provided for each.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Onward thru' the fog...

by Carol Edwards

In spite of the early morning fog, seventeen intrepid volunteers met at the church March 1st to work on the grounds. Our thanks go to: Lynn Adams, new member Amanda Armatta, Dale and Pat Bulla, Carol Edwards, Luther Elmore, Elizabeth Gray, Joseph Hunt, Wayne Kesterson, Felicia Kongable, new members Michael and Sarah Mayo, Jim McCall, new member Jim Sackrider, Elizabeth Stehl, Bill Walters and Michael West. (I don't think I left anyone off the list; if I did so I'm very sorry! Please be sure to sign in next time!)

A couple of weeks before the March 1 clean up, Cathy Nordstrom, a First UU member and professional landscaper, brought a landscape crew from her San Souci Gardens and worked several hours trimming overgrown native grasses and shrubs, and cleaning some beds in back. Likewise, since he could not

stay long on the work day, Dale Bulla came earlier in the week and cut back a giant sprawling cactus that had frozen and split, and also trimmed shrubs and Inland sea oats nipped by this winter's hard freezes. After weeding, trimming and digging out invasive Bermuda grass, the workers mulched parts of the cleaned areas to prepare for a hot, dry summer.

So that everyone had plenty of energy to work, we started the morning with coffee, breakfast tacos, and coffee cake. And about half of us celebrated our hard work and new friendships at Pinthouse Pizza after we finished.

Despite everyone's efforts, we didn't get to a few beds south of the classrooms and a bit in the patio. So you too can have some outdoor fun and make new friends in a month or so. Watch for a Grounds Work Day announcement next quarter.

Wish good luck to Sean Hale!

After five and a half years of service to this community, Sean Hale, our Director of Finance and Operations, will be changing his role here. He has taken a new job with a nonprofit supporting sustainable development in Kenya. Nonetheless, he looks forward to the fall when he can do something he couldn't do well as a staff person: attending Sunday services with his daughter.

Please join us between services on April 6th to say "thank you" to Sean for helping this community to accomplish the spectacular changes we've enjoyed over the past five years.

Make a reminder for upcoming Dementia Support meetings

Recently there have been ever greater numbers of people suffering from dementia, be it Alzheimer's, mild cognitive impairment, or other forms. With today's modern diagnostic techniques, people are discovering they have this disease while they're still in the workforce. These folks and their loved ones would like to find emotional support, but they may find that such support is difficult to find where they can still earn a living.

Tom Bodine has started a Dementia Support group to serve this need. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at First UU in room 15. The group is primarily for those with mild cognitive impairment or early stage Alzheimer's, but all are welcome. The group is facilitated by Tom and Dr. John P. Godferey, Ph.D. of Psychology. The group has now met twice, composed of

friendly people all looking for help and support.

Join us at our upcoming meetings, where we will watch a movie from the Alzheimer's Association and discuss.

April 10 - The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease

May 8 - Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's Disease

(Summer break)

Sep 11 - Living with Alzheimer's for People with Alzheimer's

Oct 9 - Living with Alzheimer's: For Caregivers: Early Stage

Nov 13 - Living with Alzheimer's: For Caregivers: Middle Stage

Dec 11 - Living with Alzheimer's: For Caregivers: Late Stage

Looking forward to seeing you.
Contact: Tom Bodine, tom@tommythegeek.com.

Women's Spirituality Group

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

On April 5 we will have an introduction to Conversational Tarot (no prior experience required). Then on April 19 we will watch the movie "Signs Out of Time," about the life and work of world-renowned archaeologist Dr. Marija Gimbutas, who uncovered the life-affirming and goddess-worshipping civilizations of pre-historic Europe.

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.

April art exhibition: Art from life

For the month of April we'll be featuring the work of the following, showcasing their various mediums: Marcus Barnes, photography; Nancy Charbeneau, watercolors; and Margaret Flaniken, oil painting.

Contact Tomas Rodriguez at gallery@austinuu.org.

Shown on the left: Charbeneau, "Water Lily Reflections" (charbeneaudeesigns.weebly.com).



MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING

Spring Into Action 2014

Reproductive Justice: Access to Birth Control and Abortion

by **Eric & Christie Drescher Hepburn**
Spring into Action Co-Chairs

Every April, First UU engages in a month-long “Spring into Action” campaign, where sermons, public affairs forums, and special events are all coordinated to heighten the church community’s engagement on and awareness of a select social justice issue. This year’s topic is Reproductive Justice: Access to Birth Control & Abortion. This topic couldn’t be more timely. The UUA has selected Reproductive Justice as their Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) for 2012-2016, and it stood out as a clear favorite in our own congregational poll in December.

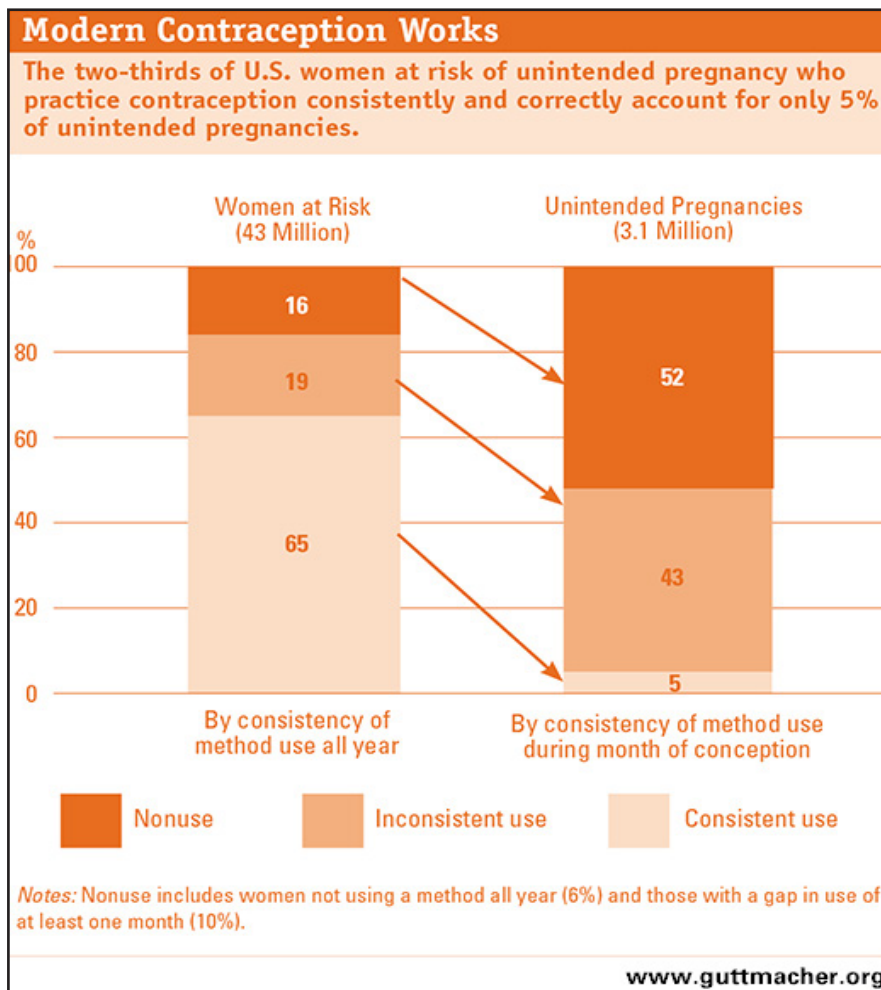
Family Planning: Access to Birth Control Information and Contraception Technology

There are two inextricable parts to family planning: the first is access to accurate information about human reproduction and contraception, and the second is access to appropriate and effective contraceptive technologies. According to a 2013 study by the Guttmacher Institute, the 16% of women at risk for unintended pregnancy who do not practice contraception are responsible for 52% of unintended pregnancies, while the 19% who inconsistently practice contraception contribute another 43%, meaning that

the 65% of women at risk who consistently use contraception are responsible for only 5% of unintended pregnancies. The proportion of women at risk who are not using contraception is highest among women aged 15-19 (18%) and lowest among women

40-44 (9%).

Given these realities, the need for accurate, fact-based sex education for teenagers, and the potential impact of such strategies, is clear. In addition, the youngest women at risk are also those with the fewest financial resources, making access



to funding for contraception just as important as access to information. Consider this: the average American woman wants two children, meaning that if she is sexually active with a male partner she will need to spend approximately 30 of her childbearing years on birth control of some kind in order to achieve that goal.

Access to Abortion in Texas

In July 2013, Governor Rick Perry signed into law House Bill 2, a TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) bill that outlawed abortions after 20 weeks and introduced a host of restrictions on abortion methods and providers, including the requirement that abortion providers have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. As of March 2014, these laws have already reduced the number of abortion

providers in the state of Texas from 44 in 2011, down to 20. Of those 20, only 6 currently meet all the new standards and are expected to continue operating past September of this year - an anticipated 86% reduction in access, with no access outside of the major metro areas of Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin.

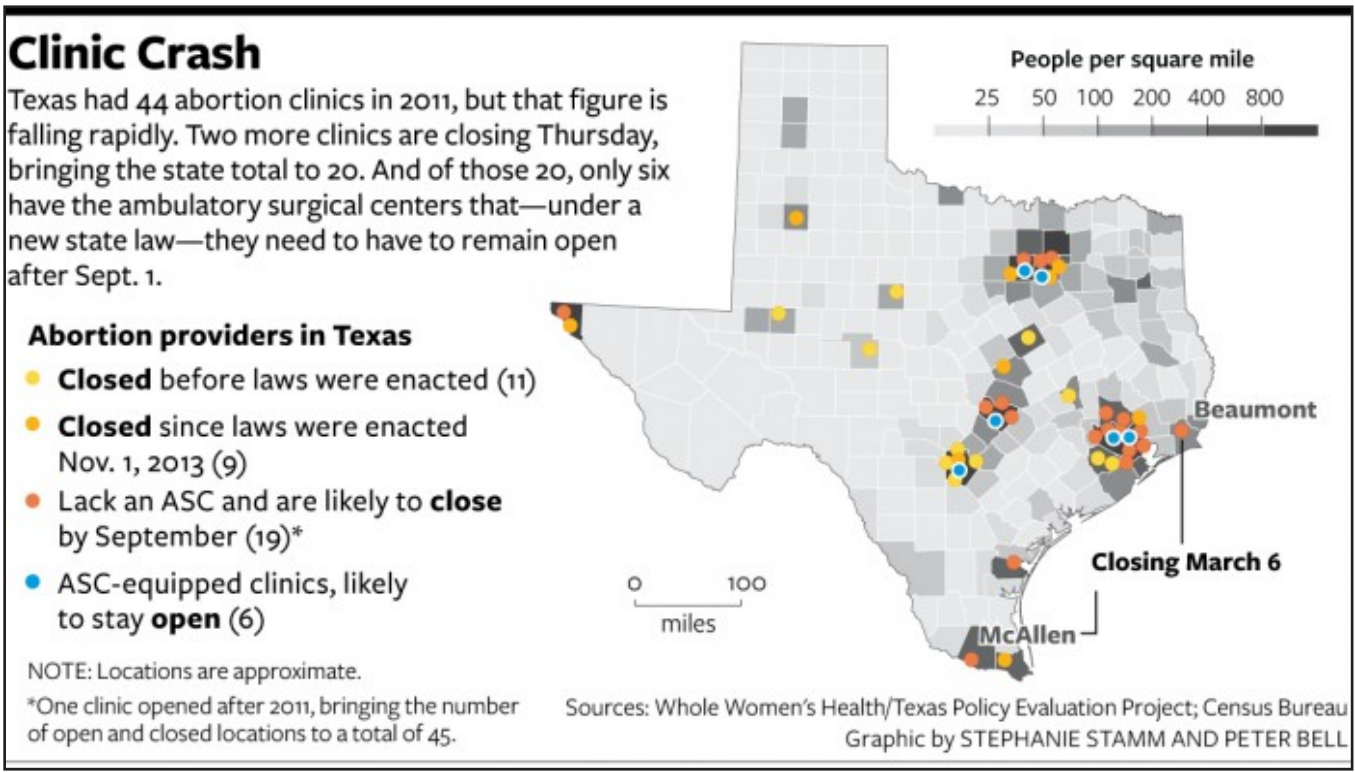
Spring Into Action

For our campaign this April we will be offering many opportunities for education, reflection and engagement on issues of reproductive justice, including sermons and forums, so keep an eye out in the weekly announcements for more details. For example, we will have two movie nights related to the theme: on Friday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in Howson Hall we'll be showing "Citizen Ruth," a satirical comedy warning of the dangers of

placing politics over compassion; and on Friday, April 25 at 7 p.m. in Howson Hall we'll screen "Vera Drake," a critically acclaimed drama set in 1950's England and a poignant reminder of the social and personal costs of illegal abortion.

We are also working on opportunities for training and engagement with clinic defense and as clinic escorts with Austin's remaining clinic(s). We are looking forward to the campaign and we invite you to email us at ericdhepburn@gmail.com if you have ideas or know of other opportunities with which you would like to see our congregation engage.

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.



LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lifespan RE highlights

by Rev. Marisol Caballero



Join the Transformational Men's Covenant Group, facilitated by Rob Feeney April 8-June 10, 7-9 p.m.

Men begin receiving various messages from society of what it means to be a "good man" before they can even speak. The Transformational Men's Covenant Group will explore what it means to be a "good man" and what can make a man "better." The group will use David Deida's book, "The Way of the Superior Man," as a starting point for critical reflection and inspiration. This group will not only focus on discussion, but will be intentionally active in making personal changes in their lives and gently holding each other accountable to stated goals. We will meet once a week on Tuesdays.

Discover Yourself with the Enneagram, facilitated by Kathryn Ehlert March 26, April 9 and 23, May 7; 7-9 p.m.

Come to this continuing session as part of F.R.E.D. Night! The Enneagram is a tool for understanding ourselves and others, as well as providing a map for personal growth and spiritual transformation. This personality typology describes nine personalities, and explores with great specificity how our personality can limit us. It shows us a map for growth, where real fulfillment can be found. By knowing ourselves we can understand our fears and desires, strengths and weaknesses, defenses and anxieties, how we react to frustration and disappointment, and what our truest capacities and greatest strengths are. Because the Enneagram predicts the healthy, transcendent qualities that we can expect to attain, it helps us to have the courage to let go of old outmoded habits. Please come join us in this adventure of self-discovery.

Religious Education Town Hall Meeting for Parents of Children and Teens Rescheduled for April 6, 12:15 p.m.

If your child is registered in our Religious Ed program (Sunday school or youth groups), please plan on attending this meeting. We will discuss what the children are learning and upcoming curricula, as well as update parents on upcoming events and RE news and answer questions. Parents will be called upon to help in the future visioning of the RE program at this meeting—every voice matters!

UU Passover Seder Potluck April 18, 6-8 p.m.

This beloved tradition of our community returns once again! Join us as we tell the story of the Jewish people's Exodus from Egypt. We will eat until we are almost too stuffed to sing, and then we will sing anyway! Please sign up for this family-friendly party at the RE table and indicate what dish you will bring. We will have traditional recipe ideas on hand, but we also suggest a quick "Passover recipes" search online for tasty suggestions. If you would like to help in setup or cleanup, please contact Mari at marisol.caballero@austinuu.org. RSVP required.

Easter Canned Food Drive!

For the third year, our Sunday School kids will be huntin' for non-perishable goods for the hungry, rather than Easter eggs. They then redeem their armloads of cans for goodie bags filled with toys and treats. This year, we will also enjoy many more outdoor games and other sorts of rowdy fun! Please help us out by bringing food donations each Sunday, from now until April 20th, to the RE sign-in table in the church foyer. All food will be donated to the Capital Area Food Bank. ■

HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

Advice from Covenant Corner

Dear Covenant Corner:

Every week when I walk into my meeting room it's a mess! The previous group is never anywhere around so I have to clean up. I'm tired of it. What should I do?

Frustrated at First UU

Dear Frustrated:

It sounds like you're ready to take the bull by the horns! As a reminder, different places have different expectations. Acceptable ways of acting at a rock concert differ from acceptable ways of acting at Thanksgiving dinner. First UU's Covenant of Healthy Relations is our promise to each other of how we will interact while at church or while engaged in church activities.

Back to your question about the messy meeting room. Find out who had that room previously, and speak directly to the leader of that group. A face-to-

face conversation is best. A phone call is second best. Please avoid email. Explain the condition of the room when you arrived, and the resulting inconvenience to your own time and energy. It's likely that they simply didn't think of the consequences of leaving the room messy. By talking directly in the spirit of compassion and good will, you will have made them aware of how their actions affected you and avoided the bad feelings that accompany accusations and resentment.

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. We can be reached at healthyrelations@austinuu.org.

Sincerely,

Your Healthy Relations Covenant

Texas State Conference on the Environment

**Saturday, April 5
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sanctuary & Howson Hall**

Public Citizen along with the First UU Church of Austin would like to invite you to a Policy Priorities Conference. This event will bring together a select group of experts and advocates from across Texas. We will endeavor to find consensus positions across partisan lines on eminent domain, climate change, hydraulic fracturing, water supply, electricity needs, and chemical safety issues to develop a list of priorities for the 2015 legislative session.

Here are the guest speakers confirmed so far, with more to be added later:

Cyrus Reed, Sierra Club
Sharon Wilson, fracking advocate/activist

Julia Trigg Crawford of Keystone Pipeline fighting fame

Alyssa Burgin, Texas Drought Project

Please join us. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. RSVP to Matt Haertner at mhaertner@citizen.org.

“Surprise Pals” delighted with many surprises

by Victoria Valadez

The Surprise Pals program wrapped up recently on March 23, with a big party at the church to meet face-to-face and celebrate our newly made friends.

The RE department paired up adults and children to be Surprise Pals, with the goal to facilitate a friendly relationship within the church that may not have been made otherwise. Participants spent over a month exchanging letters with their pre-selected pen pals, leaving letters for each other in big red felt envelopes labeled with the child's name on the RE wing wall. Adult pals also left small goodies for their little pals.

I truly cherished the opportunity to meet Jayden Ray, to learn about her love for Harry Potter, roller coasters, and marine animals. During spring break when she left with her family and wasn't present to leave a letter, I was surprised to find how bummed I was to not hear from her! Finally, once we met at the party I was surprised to see she was recovering from surgery on both legs, but nevertheless was in considerably high spirits. I was very proud of her in the face of adversity, and was surprised to find myself learning from her bravery.

Keep an eye out next year to see how you can take part in Surprise Pals!

April Seniors Luncheon

Wednesday, April 9
Howson Hall
12 p.m.

John Loehlin will read selections from his book, "Verses of a Young Man." Light verse on topics ranging from a bestiary, to time, and the weather. Listeners should find these verses accessible, entertaining, and occasionally even nostalgic.

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

Welcome Roger Grape, new head of sanctuary flowers

Is there such a thing as an unattractive flower? The beauty of a fresh arrangement can bring joy to all those who take it in. The purpose of our Sanctuary Flowers Ministry is to bring beauty to our chancel every Sunday. It also provides a way for church members to honor special occasions that they would like to share with the church. In memoriams, anniversaries, birthdays, or simply honoring any person or occasion you would like are appropriate reasons to provide flowers for our sanctuary.

Meet Roger Grape, who is taking leadership of the Sanctuary Flowers Ministry. He is the school librarian at Blackshear Elementary School, and moved here this year from First Unitarian of Dallas. He and his husband Steve Krueger joined First UU Austin last October. The new procedure for celebrating loved ones, birthdays, and events with flowers in the sanctuary will be:

1.) Sign up for your desired Sunday on the bulletin board in the hallway at the

end of the gallery.

2.) Members will contribute at least \$50 for the arrangement, and the Flowers Ministry will take care of ordering the arrangement.

3.) Give your check to our Membership Coordinator, Kelsey Caudebec, at the visitors' table in the foyer on Sunday.

4.) Once your check is in hand, Roger will contact you to ask about what your preference for an arrangement might be.

5.) The announcement of the person or event being honored will still appear in the order of service. You also have the option of sending a paragraph to news@austinuu.org if you want more information about your honoree in the order of service.

6.) Congregants are still welcome to bring arrangements of flowers from their yards, and decorate the credenza in the foyer or the welcome center desk with those arrangements.

These changes will take effect on June 1. Should you have any questions, please contact Roger Grape at roger_grape@mac.com, or (214) 502-7084. ■



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Memorial Service for Nancy Roll April 12, Sanctuary and Howson Hall, 3 p.m.



You are invited to attend a memorial service for Nancy Roll here at First UU. Nancy and her husband Peter have been church member since the 90's.

A reception will follow the service in Howson Hall. Gifts of finger foods (cookies, finger sandwiches, etc.) are most welcome. Please deliver food to the church kitchen by 2:45 p.m.

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Heart of Texas Men's Retreat

Enjoy fellowship in the Texas Hill Country with men from across Central Texas April 4-6 at the UBarU Retreat and Conference Center, Kerrville, TX. 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 information at www.ubaru.org under Events.

SWUUC Spring Conference

Our Southern Region will hold its first-ever simultaneous Annual Assemblies April 25-27, coming together collaboratively to reflect our connections across our region. UUA moderator Jim Key will give the keynote address to all four locations concurrently on Saturday morning via the internet, speaking to our shared theme, "Love Reaches Out." The SWUUC Spring Conference and Annual Meeting will be hosted by the First Unitarian Church of Dallas. Early registration ends April 11. Information and registration can be found at www.ntuuc.org/SWUUC2014.

Delegates Needed

First UU Austin needs delegates to represent our congregation during the annual business meeting for our district held this year at First Unitarian Church of Dallas, April 25-27. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Margaret Borden at denom@austinuu.org.

Deep in the Heart Women's Retreat

During the weekend of May 2-4 at UBarU Retreat and Conference Center near 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 yourself from workshops and classes. Don't miss it! Early registration ends April 7. Registration and details at www.ubaru.org under Events.

What Would A UU Vacation Look Like?

July 20-25, Fort Gibson Lake, OK

Southwest Unitarian Universalist (SWUU) Summer Institute will celebrate its 75th year with fun on the lake, golf course, and trails, complemented by spiritual growth with theme speaker Rev. Meg Barnhouse. Come for the education, faith development, entertainment, recreation, and fun with fellow UUs from infants to octogenarians. More details in the coming months.

Save The Date!

Jun 25-29 – Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, Providence, RI. 2014 theme is "Love Reaches Out."

Jun 29-Jul 5 – UBarU Elementary Camp

Jul 6-12 – UBarU Junior Camp

Jul 13-19 – UBarU Senior Camp

Aug 3-8 – Dwight Brown Leadership Experience, Denton, TX

People's Community Clinic Collating Group

**2909 North IH 35
9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Our monthly meeting in the second floor conference room is rescheduled to Monday, April 7th instead of our usual Tuesday. This change is due to a conflict in the conference room use.

We hope you can join us for a bit of work, a bit of visiting and perhaps lunch together afterwards. New and former members of the group are welcome.

For more information, please contact pcc@austinuu.org.

Eclectic Folk Jam

Friday, April 11
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.

UU/Quaker Singalong

Saturday, April 26
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.

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

APRIL 6**God Wants You to be Rich!**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

The Third Commandment forbids taking God’s name in vain. So many people say “God bless you!” to the poor but do not help to change the situation. So many politicians say “God bless America” at the end of their speeches, but what do they mean by that? Might using God’s name to make money, make war or manipulate people be taking that name in vain?

APRIL 13**Depression**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

So many people suffer from bouts of depression. What helps? How does one be a friend to someone who is depressed? What causes it? How is it different from sorrow?

Kiya Heartwood will share her music during morning services (www.kiyaheartwood.com).

APRIL 20**Easter/Baby Parade**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Who were the women in Rabbi Jesus’ family tree? What did their oddness say about him?

Plus: it’s time for the second Easter Baby Parade! All babies born since last Easter are invited to parade around the sanctuary with their families. If you have a baby who wasn’t able to be in last year’s parade, we won’t be too strict about the age range.

The First UU of Austin Intergenerational Choir will provide the service music.

APRIL 27**The Banality of Indifference**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

In 1963, philosopher Hannah Arendt introduced the phrase “the banality of evil” in her controversial report of her coverage of Nazi officer, Adolf Eichmann’s trial. The phrase has since come to refer to the manner in which evil can often be seen in the world wearing a fairly “normal” exterior. On this Holocaust Remembrance Day, we will explore the concepts of “evil,” “good,” and all of the gray area in between.

The First UU of Austin Jazz Combo will be joined by the critically acclaimed saxophonist Paul Klemperer (www.pksax.com).

THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

APRIL 6

Transforming Healthcare in Central Texas

WITH PATRICIA YOUNG-BROWN, GEORGE MILLER, AND DAVID LAMKIN

The CEOs from Central Health, CommUnityCare, and Sendero Health Plans will discuss how these publicly-funded partner organizations are working together to transform the way we deliver and access healthcare to various populations in Central Texas.

The discussion will include an update on progress since the passage of Proposition 1, the efforts to integrate our healthcare delivery system through the Community Care Collaborative, and the strategic focus on making Central Texas a model healthy community through improving access to healthcare, health coverage, health infrastructure and health promotion.

APRIL 13

Playing Defense or Scoring Good Policy? A Preview of the Legislative Interim Session and the 84th Texas Legislature

WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE DONNA HOWARD

The recent primary elections made one thing clear: we will be facing a very different Texas Legislature in 2015. Regardless of the electoral results in the race for Governor and Lt. Governor, the Tea Party and other self-styled conservative groups are emboldened and will have considerable influence on what happens in the Texas Legislature. They will press for continued cuts in funding for healthcare, human services, and education and for loosening of restrictions on gun ownership and business interests. They will most certainly oppose

access to needed reproductive services for women. Reduced investment in human services programs, our children, and our state's infrastructure, can jeopardize the economic future of our state and the well-being of our citizenry. It is essential that citizens who support progressive causes become engaged in political process and voice their support for policies that will ensure a better tomorrow for Texas. Representative Howard will discuss the outlook for the next legislative session and the importance of using the interim session to build a case for meaningful reforms.

State Representative Howard has represented District 48 since 2006. She is an Austin native and received her B.S. in Nursing and a Master of Health Education from the University of Texas. She has worked as a critical care nurse, and as the first hospital-based Patient Education Coordinator in Austin. She was also a Health Education Instructor at U.T. She is a Distinguished Alumna of the U.T. School of Nursing and the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education, and recently received a Texas Women's Health Champion Award from the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Donna has served on the Eanes ISD School Board and on many community boards, such as the Texas Freedom Network, Common Cause, and Austin Area Interreligious Ministries. In the Texas Legislature she is a member of the Higher Education and Appropriations Committee, is Vice Chair of House Administration, and is recognized as an education and health policy expert. She and her husband Derek have been members of First UU Church since the 1970s and have served on committees and boards that support the life of the church. Donna and Derek have three adult children living in Austin.

APRIL 20

Easter Sunday - No Forum

see forum events continued on page 16

**First Unitarian
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Church of Austin**

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www.austinuu.org

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THE FORUM, *continued*

APRIL 27

The University of Texas Solar Car Program

WITH GARY HALLOCK

The UT Solar Car Program develops electric vehicles that are powered only by the sun, using built-in solar panels. Power is very limited—about as much as a hair dryer—so the technical challenge of building a full-size vehicle capable of highway speeds is very large. University teams across the world develop these vehicles, and there are yearly competitions to showcase the technology. Hallock will discuss the design of these solar cars, and compare them to emerging commercial electric vehicles. One competition we'll discuss

is called the Formula Sun Grand Prix, a track race which is now being held at the Circuit of the Americas Formula 1 track in Austin. Another event is called the American Solar Challenge, which is a cross-country rally. ASC 2014 will start from the UT campus this July.

Gary A. Hallock is a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UT Austin, and holds the Archie W. Straiton Endowed Faculty Fellowship in Engineering. He is the faculty advisor of the UT Solar Vehicles Team, and has overseen the development of the group's last three solar cars. Professor Hallock's research interests include plasma diagnostics, wave phenomena, and solid-state plasmas. He received his Ph.D. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1982. ■