



FIRST UU NEWS

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

Greetings from GA!

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse



As I write this I am at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Portland. It is the annual gathering of our denomination. Thousands of Unitarian Universalists gather for worship, education, fellowship, and to do the business of our denomination.

The weather in Portland today is overcast and cool. I revel in this hair. To come outside whenever I can. It is good to see my colleagues from the northeast and from the south.

I sit in worship services listening to other ministers, and tell myself that it feels great to be in the congregation and listen to someone else lead the worship. That is kind of a lie, but I am going to say it until it's true. I have gotten to play with tiny babies that I had not seen in person yet, but only on Facebook. That has been a treat. I got to have lunch with a colleague who told me she has spent the best part of

her ministry for the past several years supporting the parking lot committee of her congregation as they wrestle about how or whether to pave the parking lot. I am always grateful for you all and for the way that we do church together. Since we have a board which visions and strategizes for the future, I feel that I am able to spend my time within a context of welcome and hospitality where the skills I spent years honing and the gifts I've been given have ample opportunity to be exercised.

Before I left, I found out something important that is going to make for a course correction. In conversation with the board, and with some of the people who wrote the most recent version of the bylaws, I found that our congregation does not have a provision in its governance structure for calling an associate minister. This congregation will have one called minister, the senior min-

ister. What this means is that we will not have a vote next December on whether to call Reverend Mari as our associate minister. We will find other ways with which to honor her ministry with us. I am very excited about hearing the talk she has been asked to give on Saturday afternoon. She is a rising star in our movement, as Chris is and will be.

Our building team continues work, with the interviewing of architectural firms seeing the next step. The congregation will be brought in to the process in late August or early September, for conversations with the architect about what we need the building to be. I am looking forward to hearing from you about that.

We are representing Austin to the best of our ability, and I have to say that I am missing you all already. After GA I will be out of the office until August 7, please contact the office in my absence. ■

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

How do you define sanctuary?

by **Angela Smith**



Last month my husband Charles and I celebrated 44 years of marriage, or, as I refer to our relationship, 44 years of happy incompatibility. In more ways than not my beloved spouse and I are total opposites. He's a vegetarian and health nut; I'm the meat-loving Cheeto Queen. I love to travel and be on the move; he'd rather stay home and meditate. He rarely watches TV, goes to movies or reads fiction; I can't live without them. With few exceptions, his musical tastes are strictly classical; mine are a bit more eclectic – I appreciate anything from boot-scooting country to Swedish death metal. For many years Charles was a conservative Republican who always cancelled out my vote. After suffering through the first term of George W, he switched his political allegiance, and I now can sleep with him on election nights.

But despite our differences over more than four decades, I love this man because I know if I need him, he'll be there. Throughout the years we've been together, he's been my safe place – my sanctuary.

Pride is supposed to be one of

the seven deadly sins. Well I've been unabashedly committing that sin with no shame since First UU Austin took the courageous step a few weeks ago to become a sanctuary church for an LGBT activist from Guatemala. In her May 24 sermon, Meg said that decision came about following the board's discussion of the pros and cons of the situation. The deal was sealed for her when a wise board member said, "If we do not do this, then what *do* we do?"

Over the next several weeks your board and staff will consider having this church become a permanent sanctuary for others who seek asylum. We will, of course, proceed with caution and due diligence. We want to make certain what we do is right and in keeping with our mission to nourish souls, transform lives and do justice.

My good friend Merriam Webster defines "sanctuary" as a place where someone or something is protected or given shelter, the protection that is provided by a safe place; and the room inside a church, synagogue, etc., where religious services are held.

To me sanctuary has always been more a state of mind than a place. I'm thankful for the sanctuary that my husband Charles provides me; my wish is that everyone has someone in his/her life who provides that same feeling of protection and safety. I'm glad our Guatemalan friend who sought asylum is finding sanctuary here, and I hope her temporary First UU home will provide her a safe place and bring her some peace of mind as she continues her battle to fight deportation.

My favorite part of the worship service has always been when we are reminded of the spark of the divine in each of us. I always look around and smile when those words are spoken. On that May Sunday when our Guatemalan friend seeking refuge was introduced and everyone stood and applauded her, I saw what happens when all those sparks come together for a common good. That's how I perceive what some call God – not some bearded judgmental entity in the sky – but the sparks of divinity in all of us igniting together in one magnificent blaze for love and justice. ■

SPECIAL UPDATES

Welcome Sulma to the First UU community!

Welcoming Sulma to First UU Potluck Lunch! July 5, Howson Hall 12 p.m.

After second service, join us along with University Leadership Initiative to officially welcome our new friend Sulma Franco into the First UU community. Bring a dish and show our guest your hospitality!

Come say hi to Sulma!

Our church guest welcomes visitors per appointment from Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is to ensure volunteers or staff will be available to guide visitors to her. If visitors want to schedule a time during other hours, please call the church first to let us check with her. Here is the link to sign up for visits: <http://bit.ly/LetSulmaStay>.

Still settling in

Sulma has expressed a need for home-cooked meals, paper towels and napkins, plastic utensils, and paper plates/cups.

See pictures of Sulma's recent press conference on page 6.



Music Matters

by Brent Baldwin, music director

First UU Choir Benefit Variety Show, July 25 Sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Please join us presenting for an evening of fun and entertainment, all for a worthy cause. The char-

ity selected for this year's show is People's Community Clinic, which provides high-quality, affordable healthcare to Austin's uninsured and underserved.

Performances will be provided by choir members, as well as a few of

our regular musical guests.

We will collect free-will donations at the door. There is no required amount; donate whatever amount is comfortable for you. We hope to see you there!

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lifespan RE highlights

by Rev. Marisol Caballero, Assistant Minister


First Sunday Seminars continue during summer months!
July 5, Howson Hall, 1-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday night F.R.E.D. is on summer hiatus, but First Sunday Seminars will continue, taking 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!

Faith Formation Track: “Exploring Immigration as a Moral Issue”

The 2013 General Assembly of UU Congregations voted to declare “Immigration as a Moral Issue,” a UU Statement of Conscience. As we embark on the journey of offering sanctuary, let’s learn more about how this work fits in with the work of the larger UU movement and how it informs our faith as Unitarian Universalists.

Back by popular demand! 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!
July 7 at 6 p.m.; July 21 at 6:15 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! 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 at 6:30 p.m. 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!

Ramadan Fast-Breaking Iftar Dinner
July 7, Howson Hall, 7 p.m.

The Dialogue Institute of the Southwest will prepare and bring an iftar dinner to share with the congregation. Ramadan this year starts around June 18 and ends around July 17. Fast breaking time is at sunset, which is around 8:30 p.m. The program will begin around 7-7:30 p.m. so that the participants have a chance to get to know each other and have conversation before dinner is served. RSVP at the Lifespan RE table in the gallery or by emailing marisol.caballero@austinuu.org.

Also: The Dialogue Institute is extending an invitation to members of our congregation and their families to be the guests in the home of a local Muslim family for a fast-breaking dinner in the month of Ramadan. If you are interested, visit www.dialogueatx.org/familydinners and fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

Alphabet Soup Social Club

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. For more info and for meeting dates and times, please contact Hannah Barfoot at alphabetsoup@austinuu.org.

Announcing Summer Curricula!

Pre-K (3 and 4 year olds)

“Chalice Children” delves deep into our Unitarian Universalist faith. It strives not just to teach about our faith, but also to provide experiences around the strength of community, the wonder and awe that transcend everyday understanding, and life issues we all share. Early childhood (the years between ages 2 and 5) is filled with curiosity and wonder. In a group setting with loving adult guides, young children can engage in spiritual seeking, develop their openness to sharing, and experience the benefit of a supportive community. Their time in Chalice Children can set a pattern for the rest of

their lives and bring lasting benefits. (uua.org)

K-5th

This summer, beginning June 14, K-5 will be doing “The Awesome Stuff Summer Institute!,” based on the book, “The Kids Book of Awesome Stuff!” by Charlene Brotman. We used this curriculum in 2012, and I believe the kids really took to it. It is all about evolution, ecology, and the earth sciences. The storybooks that go along with it are seriously stellar (pun intended)! If you are interested in helping out this summer, please contact Helen at: helen.demore@austinuu.org. This will be very friendly to the rough and tumble, hands-on kind of kid, as there are as many of those activities as there are of stories and crafts! All registered participants will receive an “Awesome Stuff First UU of Austin” t-shirt.

Jr. and Sr. High Youth Groups

Youth groups will continue to meet each Sunday during the 10:45 a.m. service. They will plan the upcoming school year’s activities, hold youth worship services and discussions of current events and topics of interest to our young UUs, engage in social justice projects and team building activities. ■



Helen DeMore says farewell to First UU

Dear UU friends,

For the past two years, it has been my honor to serve as your Religious Education Program assistant. How lucky I have been to do work I believe in, with inspired and inspiring people, each and every day! Working here has helped me to realize my path, and I have decided to take the next big step in my life: pursuing a degree in Social Work at UT Arlington.

I want to thank Rev. Meg and Rev. Chris for their kind support, and especially Rev. Mari who has been an amazing boss and mentor to me – as well as all of

my sweet coworkers here at First UU. I will miss you so much! Also, a huge thank you to this beautiful church community and all of the lovely friends I’ve made – in particular the dedicated volunteers I worked with, who made my job a pleasure. I am so very proud to have been a part of this amazing place and will take a little piece of each of you away with me in my heart!

I will be heading up to DFW in mid-July to prepare for the fall semester and spend time with family. I would love for my UU family to join me on Sunday, July 12 for my going-away reception. I’ll try not to cry too much!

FIRST UU IN PICTURES

First UU declares sanctuary for activist Sulma Franco

photos by Shannon Posern & Victoria Valadez



“Fighting for the rights of the LGBT community is not a crime. It is a right that we all have.”

- Sulma Franco



Check out <http://atxne.ws/1NkwCM9> for the Austin American-Statesman’s coverage.



“Queso Blanco” breaks all records!

by Gary Payne

We are grateful to all the First UU members who attended Queso Blanco and made it such a smashing success. We had full houses for almost every performance. Audience response was just phenomenal. Though we didn't charge admission for this production, your generous donations were truly appreciated.

Many of you were attending your first Paradox show and we really appreciate that. We will soon announce our new season and hope you will continue to support our efforts to produce live theater equal to any in Austin.

We always need volunteers to make each production run smoothly and successfully. Besides actors, we need backstage and front-of-house people, as well as specialists in promotion and advertising. You'll meet and work with fellow First UUs, and feel a real sense of accomplishment when you see the

finished product. And each production culminates with a terrific cast and crew party after the last performance. Contact me at capcitymystery@swbell.net if you would like to learn more.

Thanks again for your generous support. We look forward to seeing you at our fall show.



“Path to Membership” class

Saturday, July 18
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Howson Hall

Breakfast and childcare are provided for this quarterly class designed for those interested in becoming members. Learn about the responsibilities of membership from Rev. Barnhouse; learn about UU history and the history of this church; share faith stories with other prospective members (optional); hear about ways to connect in the church; and sign the membership book and fill out New Member paperwork, if you feel ready! Please RSVP to membership@austinuu.org as soon as possible or with Shannon at the visitor table, so we can get an accurate headcount for food and childcare.

Connections Fair

Sunday, September 20
After worship services

Save the date! The annual Connections Fair is a great opportunity to learn more about First UU groups and ministries. More details will be posted closer to the event date. Please email Shannon Posern at membership@austinuu.org to learn more about this event.

Pride Committee forming!

Calling all LGBT and straight allies who would like to help with First UU's entry into the Austin Pride festival and parade! For more info and for meetings dates and times, contact Hannah Barfoot at alphabetsoup@austinuu.org.

Do you have a truck or generator?

The First UU Pride Committee is planning our entry into the Austin Pride Parade and is looking for help with a few things. Most importantly we need a truck to pull the float and we would also like to find a generator to power up some lights and/or music. Please contact Hannah Barfoot at alphabetsoup@austinuu.org.

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

UBarU Summer Camps for 2015

July 5-11: Junior Camp

July 12-18: Senior Camp

July 26-Aug 1: UBarU Bridgers Young Adult (adults 19-25)

“Mass Moral Monday” Voting Rights March and Rally, July 12-13 Winston-Salem, NC

On July 13, the Federal Court begins the trial of the historic lawsuit, N.C. NAACP v. McCrory, the voting rights case against Governor McCrory and North Carolina's voter suppression law. This law is the first and worst since the U.S Supreme Court's Shelby v. Holder decision, which gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the outcome will impact voting rights across the nation.

UUA President Rev. Peter Morales has accepted the invitation of NAACP to come to Winston-Salem to speak at the rally and join the march in support of the most fundamental right of our democracy, the right to vote. Let us stand on the side of love, and on the side of justice, with the NAACP of NC and all who value voting rights.

Join us for a day of teach-ins and activities that culminates in a March for Voting Rights through downtown Winston-Salem, just like the marches in Selma 50 years ago. Find more info and RSVP at www.wuasouthernregion.org/ncvotingmarch.html.

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 Millspaugh, 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 www.uasouthernregion.org/events.html.

Save the Date!

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

Astronomy Weekend at UBarU! Aug. 14-16

Stargazers of all ages can enjoy the beautiful dark skies at UBarU. A new moon will set the stage for brilliant views of Saturn, deep-sky objects, and the late-night display of the Perseid meteor shower, one of the best meteor showers each year.

UBarU will provide and operate telescopes and binoculars for the star parties. Attendees are welcome to bring their own scopes to use (and share) if they wish. Cost, details and registration at www.ubaru.org under “Events.”

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.



Susan Gore honored with Mark DeWolfe Award

by **Kathleen Robbins, D.Min. for Interweave Continental**

(abridged; originally released at <http://interweavecontinental.ning.com>)

First UU member Susan Gore has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 Mark DeWolfe Award. Each year, Interweave Continental confers the Mark DeWolfe Award on a UU who has contributed substantially to improving the lives of LGBTQ people in a UU setting or in the wider community.

Growing up Southern Baptist in suburban Atlanta in the 1960s, Susan Gore read the Bible cover-to-cover (two chapters a night), spent summers at Baptist girls camp, hosted Young Life in her family's home, and regularly participated in Thursday morning "God Squad" prayer meetings before the start of her high school classes. She also took on the All-American Soap Box Derby, writing in 1961 to protest its exclusion of girls. The Soap Box Derby general manager's response hangs on her office wall, alongside a State of Texas legislative resolution declaring October 11, 1996 National Coming Out Day in Dallas, when Susan was co-chair.

In the intervening thirty-five years, Susan earned a Ph.D. in psychology and helped found the APA Division on the Psychological Study of LGBT Issues, as well as the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), Leadership Lambda (to train future LGBT organizational leaders), and Lambda Toastmasters, the world's first

LGBT-chartered club. Susan eventually became executive director of the NWSA. As National Coordinator of the Association for Women in Psychology, Susan convened a group of feminist therapists and obtained funding for them to present their report, "A Feminist Mental Health Agenda," at the UN Decade for Women World Conference of 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya.

In 1992, Susan established The Mentor Group, a consulting firm committed to leveraging employee diversity and inclusion. One of her first contracts came in response to an incident involving a gay employee at a multinational telecommunications company. At the end of day after a training she created for the company's human resource leaders, a participant approached Susan and told her that although she was very good at what she did, he felt compelled, as an evangelical Christian, to let her know she was going to burn in hell because of her lesbian lifestyle. The experience planted a seed that germinated for more than twenty years.

Susan has written and spoken on a variety of other subjects, including AIDS as a women's issue, mentoring, career considerations for LGBT professionals, among others. She served as project leader and author of Excellence in Ministry, which contributed to congrega-

tional diversity within the UUA. In 2011, Susan along with the Reverend Keith Kron, the UUA Director of Ministerial Transitions, co-edited "Coming Out in Faith: Voices of LGBTQ Unitarian Universalists."

Examples of Susan's community engagement include serving twice as president of Interweave Continental: Unitarian Universalists for BGLT Concerns, as well as membership chair and as co-chair of National Coming Out Day-Dallas. In addition, she is a founding member of Celebration on the Lake Church, an interfaith welcoming congregation in rural east Texas that celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2012. Susan earned her Master of Theological Studies in 2014.

This year promises to be another big one for Susan. The seed that was planted in 1992 is finally coming to fruition with publication of "Gays, God and the Workplace: Not Mutually Exclusive." The book's purpose is to promote support and appreciation for LGBTQ and faith identities in the workplace. The book moves from the 1992 pronouncement of Susan's eternal damnation to end as the conversation really did, with the evangelical HR professional's recognition of Susan as a child of God for whom he would "go to the mat" to ensure her fair treatment in the workplace. ■

HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

Advice from Covenant Corner

Dear Covenant:

An acquaintance of mine delights in zingers. Some people can brush it off, but it's not so easy for me. I don't like being the recipient of her "humor" and I don't like watching her zing others. I don't know what to do so I avoid her at coffee hour. That means I avoid my friends as well, since they sit together.

– *Friendless*

Dear Friendless:

Our church family is a community and in every community there will always be people who make us uncomfortable. For the sake of this answer, we'll call that person Zingette. Since knowing a Zingette is inevitable, it's worthwhile considering how best to deal with her. If you know how you would like to behave and practice it, you will be better able to respond when a situation arises.

If you see Zingette disrespecting someone or targeting a specific group, we encourage you to speak up in the moment. Even if you feel awkward, stopping a hurtful interaction is vital to the health of our church family.

If Zingette is zinging you, it is

always appropriate to stop someone who is hurting you. Another possibility is to continue your current choice, that is, not to engage in the moment and to avoid Zingette in the future. As is often the case, you have found this to be an unsatisfactory option. At this point, how you behave impacts both your discomfort and your church community.

Before deciding what to do, we recommend first that you acknowledge your emotional reaction to the person and their behavior. Are you sad, mad, furious? Once you honor yourself this way, we recommend that you process your reaction. You can journal, talk to a friend, or meditate. Once in a constructive state of mind, it's time to consider the possibilities and their consequences.

Since you can't control another person, your options revolve around your own behavior. As you mentioned, you can avoid the person. This choice is not optimal, because you're also avoiding your friends. Another option is to talk to Zingette, which requires you to do something outside your comfort zone, i.e., express your concern. No matter which option you choose, chances are very good you're going

to be uncomfortable. The first option leaves you in discomfort for as long as you and Zingette both attend our church. The second option leaves you in discomfort before, and most likely during, your talk with Zingette. The latter is the option most likely to increase your, and others', long term happiness in our shared church family. Also, it fulfills our covenant to speak up when silence would inhibit progress. If you choose to take the difficult path and live our covenant, we recommend scheduling a face-to-face meeting, such as going out for coffee, rather than blindsiding Zingette at coffee hour.

Our church family is only as healthy and happy as its members. Instead of remaining in discomfort, we recommend that you get out of your comfort zone and speak up so that your silence doesn't equate to consent.

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

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Three cheers for new volunteers!

photo and article by **Carol Edwards**

Dale Bulla and Carol Edwards, longtime members of the First UU Grounds team, were joined by four new volunteers on the June 13 work day. Cheers for our new volunteers: John Archibald, Shannon Posern (staff member), Al Rogers, and Noel Smith. Likewise, a big hooray for returning “newish” volunteer Carl Willmann.

Several of the regular volunteers were out of town, while other longtime volunteers have said they can no longer help with the grounds, so without new help there would have been only two workers for an enormous task. Thus we extend a big welcome and thank you for the additional help.

We were able to weed, trim, cut overgrown limbs and saplings, and sweep the entire north side of the property adjacent to the credit union. Afterward, some of us celebrated over



Our new and seasoned volunteers ready for grounds work.

pizza and cold beverages! Cheers again!

Where does trash go when you throw it “away”? What do you do if you have two giant piles of organic debris: cut limbs, saplings, weeds, leaves, and vines? We can’t put it in the dumpster as it would fill 4-5 dumpsters and the church would have no place for their trash. Much of it is far too big to stuff in paper lawn bags. We can’t put it in the blue recycling bins, because it is organic, and the city only picks up big piles of bulk waste once or twice a year.

Organic debris used to be a huge problem for the Grounds team. Compost piles were made at the back of the property and they became an eyesore because they took too long to break down. A few times several of us made numerous trips hauling it home in cans and sacks to recycle.

Now, we make huge piles on large tarps and our Clean Air Lawn Care staff haul it to Round Rock in a large flat bed trailer where it is made into compost for your flowerbeds. Cheers for our lawn care service team going the extra mile. It solved a big problem for us! And now we know where trash goes when we “throw it away.”

Austin Presence Group Update

The group will be taking a break for July and August. Plan to reconvene on September 17 when we’ll have Stephen Summers speak, who has a lot of personal contact with Eckert Tolle. After that we plan to go back to first and third Thursday meetings, and will start studying “The Power of Now.”

Contact: Joe Linsalata, (512) 327-5000 or Linsalata@austin.rr.com.

July Art Gallery Reception

**Friday, July 3
Gallery
6 p.m.**

Rio Grande Valley artist Turgu Rojare will be showing paintings and drawings inspired from his studies in Florence and South Texas. Please join us for the First UU border artist reception.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Chant Down the Walls!

Tuesday, July 7
Travis County Jail
7-8:30 p.m.

Join fellow UUs and community immigrants for an action to “Chant Down the Walls” that lead to deporting neighbors and breaking up families. Meet for this kid-friendly event in front of the Travis County Jail at 500 W 10th St. at 7 p.m. For more info, contact Peggy at insideamigos@austinuu.org.

Show love and solidarity to detained families

Tuesday, July 11
Grassroots Leadership
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Attend an orientation session to join fellow UUs who visit immigrant women and/or children detained in for-profit prisons, to show them they have friends in the U.S. We need people who speak Spanish, French or Mandarin. Sign up at www.grassrootsleadership.org, and note the listing on the top right-hand corner of the webpage. The training will take place at the Grassroots office at 2301 East Cesar Chavez St. and you must pre-register.

Come hang out this summer!

Join the young adults (ages 18-35) for the following summer meetings. Email youngadults@austinuu.org for more details or information on the group. We'll also be organizing monthly brunches after the second service, so email us or watch the orders of service for more info on those! Meetings are typically from 7-9 pm with some adjustments based on event time for outings.

Thurs, July 2: Happy Hour and Discussion

Wed, July 15 at 7 pm: Sound and Cinema screens Ghostbusters at the

Long Center (music starts around 7:30 with movie around 9)

Thurs, Aug. 6 from 7-9 pm: Trivia at in.gredients

Wed, Aug. 19: Swimming at Barton Springs

Thurs, Sept. 3 from 7-9 pm: Potluck at First UU, followed by volunteering at Inside Books (www.insidebooksproject.org)

Wed, Sept. 16 from 7-9 pm: Potluck at First UU, planning for fall, and game night.

FIRST UU IN PICTURES

RE Splash Days make a splash with the kids!



photos by Helen DeMore

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING

Lifespan RE selects Undoing Racism Austin

Once a year in the monthly service offering schedule, the Lifespan RE program at the church chooses a nonprofit to benefit from our church's giving. This year, Lifespan RE has selected Undoing Racism Austin.

As listed on their website, "Undoing Racism Austin (URA) is a collaborative effort among people and groups from diverse segments of the Austin who are organizing for racial justice and equity. We are artists, lawyers, organizers, educators, neighborhood activists and more. When we can begin to talk about racism, and make it conscious and visible, we can interrupt and change the patterns and policies of oppression that create disproportionality and disparity." (www.undoingracismaustin.org)

URA hosts Undoing Racism trainings facilitated by trainers from the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, located in New Orleans. In their second year, URA has already trained members of over fifty local organizations, schools, and government agencies in anti-racism, including Rev. Mari, Rev. Chris, and some members of our congregation and staff. Lifespan RE is proud to have the opportunity to choose this organization, as we have been dedicating time in classrooms spanning ages three to adulthood on the topic of racism and diversity for several years.

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.

PSA: Keep First UU Tidy & Support Local Nonprofits!

Before dropping off donations at the church, please first contact whoever you expect to pick it up to make sure they need it. Or consider donating it to www.treasurecitythrift.org (2142 E. 7th St, Austin, TX 78702). This worker-run nonprofit store was founded to raise money for Inside Books, Casa Marianella, and many other organizations we love and support. Thank you very much!



Rev. Marisol Caballero and Communications Coordinator Victoria Valadez attended URA's Latino Challenges for Racial Equity training, held at First UU this past May. Photo: Maria Reinat-Pumarejo.

Eclectic Folk Jam*Friday, July 10**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, July 25**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.

WORSHIP SERVICES**SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM****JULY 5****Independence and Interdependence**

REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

“We hold these truths to be self-evident...” The beginning of our Declaration of Independence lays out a set of values to which we aspire but have not always fulfilled. As our “Standing on the Side of Love” campaign and the recent Supreme Court decision establishing marriage equality demonstrate, our Unitarian and Universalist religious traditions have always been and continue to be intertwined with our social mores and our political system.

JULY 12**There is No Present Like the Time**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

The dying give us many lessons and infinite wisdom about living. Rev. Marisol will bring stories from film, literature, and her experience as a chaplain in reflecting on this topic.

JULY 19**Sanctuary**

REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

First UU has become a sanctuary church for an immigrant facing deportation to a country where her life would be in danger should she be returned to it. We will explore the tradition and the current state of the sanctuary movement. We hope

that providing sanctuary might be transformative for the person who we have welcomed among us, as well as the larger immigration discussion. How might it transform our religious community?

JULY 19**We Gather: Another Kind of Worship**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

(4:30 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.

JULY 26**Being Safe**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

In many liberal activist circles, we hear the term “creating safe space” casually thrown about. Is “safe space” truly ever possible or is the notion a popular fiction of progressive rhetoric? Is being safe what will ultimately transform our world?

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

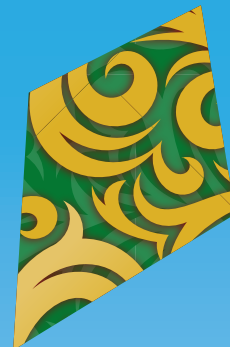
The Public Affairs Forum is off for the summer and will resume in August.

Potluck Picnic in the Park

Please join the Fellowship Committee for a fun summer potluck in the park!

**Saturday, July 11, 2015
4 - 7pm**

**Bartholomew Park
5201 Berkman Dr
Austin, TX 78723**



Bring:
a potluck dish
lawn chairs
picnic blankets
sunscreen

For more info contact:
the Fellowship Committee
at fellowship@austinuu.org

**The splashpad & pool will be
open for those who want to
cool down.**



**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

Office Administrator

Andrea B. Sosa

Membership Coordinator

Shannon Posern

Communications Coordinator

Victoria M. Valadez

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**First Unitarian
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4700 Grover Ave.

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still have our former name). Select it from the list that comes up, and you're done!

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