

JUNE 2019

firstUU NEWS

*Together we nourish souls, transform lives, and
do justice to build the Beloved Community.*



Graphic Credit: The Grand Homecoming, Bear W. Qolezcua, 2019.

IN THIS ISSUE

Racism Unlearning Circle

Saturday, July 20
Please note that the June meeting has been canceled.
Rm. 15
10 a.m.–12 p.m.

This group is a place for white folks to discuss the creation and meaning of whiteness, white supremacy, racism, our role in perpetuating oppressive systems (intentionally or not), and how we can take accountable action to dismantle white supremacy and show up with minoritized peoples to demand an end to dehumanization. Meetings are third Saturday of every month. Check First UU Facebook events for more event info to prepare for meetings. Childcare RSVP: childcare@austinuu.org.

Info: racismunlearning@austinuu.org.

Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, June 12
Howson Hall
12 p.m.

Soup, salad and dessert will be served for \$5 and there is always an engaging program planned to bring community information. Please RSVP to Joyce Wilson: (512) 482-0998.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

JUNE 2

Homecoming & Building Dedication

WITH MR. BARB GREVE

The sermon will be delivered by special guest, Mr. Barb Greve, UUA Co-Moderator. He will be bringing congratulations and greetings from the Unitarian Universalist Association.

JUNE 9

Beauty Amongst the Thorns

WITH REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

Even in life's challenging and difficult times, we may still experience beauty; sometimes when it is least expected. And that, in turn, can help us through such times.

JUNE 16

Being a Blessing to the Children

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

How do you walk through this world being a blessing? How do you give your blessing to your children? How do you live as a blessing to your friends and your community? How do you increase your blessing power, your soul power?

JUNE 23

Stranger in a Strange Land

WITH LEE LEGAULT

Psychologist C.G. Jung developed a paradigm for psychological growth called individuation and believed it to be humanity's most important work. From a Jungian perspective, the Exodus account of Moses' early life becomes a map to freedom through the arduous inner work of individuation. Join ministerial intern, Lee Legault, in reflecting on what we gain when we leave the narrow straits of Egypt and lose our ego identities in the wilderness.

JUNE 30

Spiritual Autobiography

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Poet Adrienne Rich says in her poem Transcendental Etude, "no one ever told us we had to study our lives, make of our lives the study, as if learning natural history or music..." How might we go about studying our own lives?

Eclectic Folk Jam

Friday, June 14

Rm. 17

7-10 p.m.

An open jam session for singers and instrumentalists, held on the second Friday of every month. We have "Rise Up Singing" and "Rise Again" and music stands. Bring other songs if you like, as well as 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, June 22

*Friends Meeting House
(3701 E. MLK Blvd.)*

7-10 p.m.

Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing. Copies of "Rise Up Singing" and "Rise Again" are provided, but you may bring other songs. This is an alcohol-free event, round-robin format.

Contact Larry Vaughn at (512) 469-0029 or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or singalong@austinuu.org.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

SANCTUARY | SUNDAYS | NOON



JUNE 9

“The Texas Legislature: An Ongoing Narrative”

WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DONNA HOWARD

Representative Donna Howard will provide an insider's account of the challenges, activities, and accomplishments of the 2019 Legislative session. Rep. Howard was first elected to the Texas Legislature in 2006 and has served District 48 ever since. She was born in and grew up in Austin, graduated from Reagan High School, and earned a Bachelor's degree in nursing in 1974 and a Master's in Health Education in 1977 from University of Texas at Austin.

She worked as a critical care nurse at Brackenridge and Seton Hospitals, served as the first hospital-based Patient Education Coordinator in Austin, and helped get Seton Good Health School off the ground. She also served as President of the Texas Nurses Association (District 5) and served as a Health Education Instructor at U.T.

Representative Howard has always been a strong advocate for public education. She served on the Eanes ISD Board from 1996 to 1999

and is certified as a Master Trustee by the Texas Association of School Boards.

In her legislative work, Representative Howard has been committed to improving public health in Texas and to ensuring comprehensive health care and other needed services for women and children. She has also been a champion of strengthening and funding the Texas public school system. She is known for her willingness to stand up for her beliefs, despite political pressure, but also for her ability to form friendships and alliances across the aisle to secure needed compromises to get things done.

Representative Howard currently serves as Vice Chair for the House Administration Committee and sits on the Appropriations and Higher Education Committees. She is married to attorney Derek Howard, a mother of three, and grandmother of four. Both Rep. Howard and her husband are long time members of First UU Austin and have served in leadership roles in the church.

JUNE 23

“The Quality of Texas Public School Education: The Texas Legislature and the Texas Education Agency”

WITH STEVE SWANSON

Steve Swanson is a structural engineer by training and profession, a retired business executive, and former vice president of American Constructors, Inc. His concern about the current state of education in the state of Texas both as a parent and grandparent led him to found ImproveTexasSchools.org. He focuses on ensuring that ALL students are provided with optimal conditions for meaningful learning-learning that boosts achievement levels-by improving the governance of education at both the state and local levels. He also wants to make certain that all education resources are used wisely.

His topic, “The Quality of Texas Public School Education,” will address how the Texas Legislature and Texas Education Agency have contributed to the current state of affairs, whether or not current proposals before the Texas Legislature will improve public school, and what must change.

BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY



JUNE 30

“We Need It All: Climate Solutions Back to 350ppm and Below”

WITH BOB HENDRICKS

Bob is a full-time volunteer climate change activist. He is a Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) Group Leader, CCL Congressional Liaison, and CCL co-leader for the national CCL Progressive Outreach Action Team. He is also a Sierra Club activist serving on the Austin Executive Committee and as co-chair of both the Austin area and Texas state Climate Change Committees. Bob was a founding member of 350 Austin and on its steering committee from its formation in 2016 until 2018.

First UU is a very welcoming congregation that understands the alienation felt by members of the LGBTQ+ community in other church organizations, but you might not know that unless you got to know us. What a dilemma!

Unitarian Universalists have been welcoming LGBTQ+ folks into their congregations for decades before other churches found it fashionable to do so. Our historic faith whose unambiguous principles are basically what this country was founded upon rarely receives the attention it's due.

So, how do we get that message out there so that people can find us? Our wise Rev. Meg Barnhouse addressed this by recording a YouTube video explaining to our LGBTQ+ friends what we are all about – or as much of what we are all about as can be covered in a short, 5 minute video! Below is a short link you can post to appropriate online venues where people marginalized by small thinking can hear a positive message about our long-established, liberal faith.

<http://bit.ly/LGBTWelcome>
(Case Sensitive Web Address)

SCHOOL'S BACK IN SESSION



Hey, First UU... We have some pretty wonderful news! Beginning on June 1, our church will become the home of Huntington Surrey, who will be leasing classroom and office space. They are a local private school with students from grades 7 through 12. Their focus is on college and life preparation, helping their students not only graduate with advantages as they move on to university but also giving them the skills to navigate life after high school.

They have one of the smallest student-teacher ratios of any private school in Austin with no more than 8:1 in core classes and 3:1 in their

unique Oxford Tutorial style literature classes.

What does this mean for room availability? The administration and teachers of Huntington Surrey will be in the building over the summer preparing for the students to return in August. Once students arrive, our classrooms will only be available during the week in the evening and on regular scheduled hours for the weekend.

Let's be sure to give a warm welcome to Huntington Surrey! We look forward to a long, mutually beneficial relationship!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Lifespan Religious Education Program Plan

Rev. Meg Barnhouse
Senior Minister



For many years we have worked under the model of a single Director of Faith Development who coordinates teachers, volunteers, curriculum, events, OWL, Coming of Age, Adult Education, classroom equipment and maintenance, and everything else as required. With a congregation as large and active as ours, this has proved too big a job for one individual.

With our current DLFD moving on, we have the opportunity to experiment with a different model for this role by adopting a team approach. We will be able to bring together the complementary skills of different people to meet the various needs of our programs and reduce the weight placed on any one person.

For the next period of time we will work with this model, supported by outside consultants who will help steer us through the interim process, while we discuss what it is we want in our RE program and how best to work with 21st century family life.

There will be a part time coordinator who will organize systems, communicate with families, teachers, and volunteers, and collaborate with the Sr. Minister on shaping the

program.

Our faith and UU identity content will be created by an RE Chaplain.

Sunday morning RE classes for Kindergarten through 5th Grade will be led by paid teachers and assisted by church volunteer teachers.

Our middle school and high school youth groups will continue to be facilitated by a team of five advisors each, running their own thought-provoking and group-building curricula.

Adult RE will be coordinated by our RE Coordinator. The RE Chaplain, ministers, and Student Intern Minister will provide content and teaching.

This plan will free up funds to put back into the classrooms, spruce up the classroom hall, and allow for other projects.

Here is what we will have in our Religious Education Department:

- A sturdy program that is locally sourced
- A nimble program, flexible enough to change as we learn

- Fun activities that engage our children's bodies and hearts in "sacred play" - which involves using our Principles, Values, and Lessons in the creation of activities, so that we may pass on our UU identity.
- Relationship building among teachers, parents and children
- Clear and consistent communication
- A growing RE program for adults
- A growing Family Fellowship program
- OWL classes

Our Part-time RE Coordinator will be Kelly Stokes. She will be the hub, the point person for the program. She has a background as a teacher, a librarian, a communications person, an organizer and a volunteer coordinator.

Our RE Chaplain will be Bear W. Qolezcua. Bear will continue to create the First UU Alive "Weekly Faith Connections" email each Monday, as well as other content regarding values, UU history, theology, and identity. He has a degree in Theological

YOUR FIRST UU BOARD



Happy New First UU Year, Now What Do You Want!?

Tomas Medina

President
Board of Trustees

continued from previous page

Studies from Austin Seminary where he focused on pastoral care and chaplaincy. He also carries experience as a mentor, tutor, and teacher for students with special needs. He will continue as the Director of Communications for First UU while blending his new duties with the ones he currently fulfills.

Three paid teachers have been hired to lead our Sunday morning children's classes. They are experienced in engaging children in learning through play and will provide a new kind of energy and consistency for the children. The children will do a lot of "sacred play," learning our values and building character while moving and having fun. Our teachers are sensitive to the ways we embrace diversity and have hundreds of games in their repertoire that reinforce our values.

Our new Lead Teacher is Tim Amerson. Tim coordinates the YMCA after-school program, and works as a substitute teacher at the Discovery School.

UU adult volunteer teachers will assist in the classes with activities that teach UU identity, covenantal behavior and the growth of character.

Until I joined First UU's Board of Trustees, I didn't give much thought to when the year began and ended for UU churches. Since we come from and belong to many faith traditions or no faith tradition, I didn't think our faith had an annual "start" and "end" date. But, as I've served on the board, I've come to realize that an important aspect of our faith is that it is self-governing. In fact, it's right there in our 5th principle in which we affirm, "...the use of the democratic process within our congregations."

At First UU, we use the democratic process to elect a board, which, through policy based governance, helps ensure that we, collectively as a church, are effectively living out our mission (which you can find at: <http://austinuu.org/wp2013/about-us/values-mission/>). It follows then that one way to measure a First UU year is by the beginning and ending of the board year. And, since the board year begins in June, I'd like to wish you a Happy New First UU Year!

The beginning of the year is a great time to think about what you'd like to accomplish in the upcoming 12 months. In preparing for the annual Board retreat, which takes place this month, I had to think about this question for the Board. One of my main goals for the Board is that we give you, our congregants, the real owners of this church, an opportunity

to make your voices heard. We have gone through a lot of change recently, we have adopted a fantastic new mission statement, we have gone through months of renovation to expand and upgrade our facilities, and we brought on a fabulous new director of Lifespan Faith Development, who is sadly leaving us. There is no better time to think about what you would like from your church. And it is important that you tell us.

I'm still relatively new to the whole UU thing, but one thing I know is that we are not only a self-governing faith, we are also each responsible for our own search for truth and meaning (see our 4th principle). But, as members of First UU, we are not in this alone. We not only support each other's individual journeys but we also find meaning in being part of the "we" that make up First UU. Ultimately, what this church is and what it does, is up to each and all of us. The board will be asking for your input throughout the year on topics such as living out our ends (which you can find at: <http://austinuu.org/wp2013/about-us/values-mission/>), our Religious Education program and potential adoption of the 8th Principle (which you can find at: <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>).

Please be as generous with your thoughts as possible. You might find yourself being nourished and transformed in the process!

JULES' DESKTOP

I Wish You More

Jules Jaramillo

Director
Lifespan Faith Development

As I am getting ready to leave First UU, I realized that I would not have the opportunity to share a last Story for All Ages with you before I go. Since I cannot say it to you in person, I shall leave it here.

I WISH YOU MORE

Amy Krouse Rosenthal & Tom Lichtenheld

I wish you more ups than downs
I wish you more give than take
I wish you more tippy-toes than deep
I wish you more we than me
I wish you more hugs than ughs
I wish you more WOO-HOO! Than WHOA!
I wish you more will than hill
I wish you more can than knot
I wish you more snowflakes than tongue
I wish you more pause than fast-forward
I wish you more umbrella than rain
I wish you more bubbles than bath
I wish you more treasure than pockets
I wish you more stories than stars.

I wish all more because...

You are a beautiful congregation. It has been an honor to be your religious educator. Remember, you are the holder of the dreams you have for yourselves, your children, and youth. Thank you for sharing your dear hearts with me over this last year.

May all your wishes come true.

love, love, and more love~
Jules

You can find I Wish You More Here: bit.ly/iwishyoumore (Case Sensitive Web Address)

ADVENTURES IN INTERNING



Kami Cornell

Our Behind-the-Scenes Dynamo

Lee Legault
Ministerial Intern

If you've had coffee or food at church, thank Kami Cornell. She serves as the church kitchen manager and sexton. Kami came to First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin fourteen years ago looking for a moral community in which to ground her daughter, Shanti. Kami has been a fixture in the church ever since.

When she arrived, Kami jumped in as a volunteer religious education teacher for third through fifth grades. Still, she felt like she was here for her daughter primarily. One day, reading the business-style cards on UU beliefs outside the sanctuary, she realized she wasn't just raising a Unitarian Universalist; she was one herself.

Kami transitioned from RE to working in the kitchen. She took to cooking for a crowd. You know this if you've enjoyed her soups after

second service on the first Sunday of the month or attended the senior lunches that she caters on the second Wednesday of most months. Cooking for a crowd is not hard, she says. It just involves a lot of multiplication.

Better you than me with the math and the cooking, Kami! I once tried to double a slow-cooker recipe that involved cream of mushroom soup. Let's just say it went badly, and gray. It went badly gray, you might say.

Something I noticed right away about Kami is her upbeat energy and capacity to juggle things and people. She'll be chatting with my eight year old, Dara, during coffee hour about Dara's school and activities, and Kami will somehow also manage to hand me a cup of tea and notice that something on the buffet needs refilling. Kami says she is like the cruise director of church. She makes sure everything is

okay, people are having a good time, and there's enough coffee.

She's quick to point out that the church takes good care of her too. When she broke her hip this past November, many from the church reached out to her with calls, cards, and emails. People anticipated her needs with thoughtful gifts, like a shower bench and a sock sliding device. Kami calls the people of the church her family.

Kami's eighteen-year old daughter, Shanti, spoke at the youth bridging service on a recent Sunday. Shanti talked about the church as being instrumental in who she has become. Kami cried. She reflected during our conversation that she came to the church for Shanti, but it has been instrumental in her own becoming as well. ·

STEWARDSHIP

Video Testimonial

Meet friend and fellow congregant, Julie. She has been a member of our congregation for nearly seven years and has been on the Board and the Nominating Committee. She has also participated in Stewardship, Chalice Circles, Wellspring, White Allies, and Transformation Through Service.

See her video interview on First UU's YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNH0sxbLLi4>

Auction

Thank you to everyone who bid at our annual auction! Not only will our church be richer for the soon-to-be-shared experiences, the auction raised \$13,105. Stay tuned for photos of the various experiences that were on auction. And special thanks to Kirsten Anderson and MarrGwen Dickson who organized this year's auction.

2019 Stewardship Drive Reveals Our Congregation's Generosity

As a congregation, we are financially responsible our church's annual operating budget which allows us to nourish souls, transform lives and do justice to build the Beloved Community. Some of that money comes from Sunday plate offerings, special gifts/grants, rentals, as well as committee and event income. The vast majority of our annual operating budget comes from pledges.

The past two years of construction has unquestionably disrupted our church life. It has also significantly impacted both church attendance and the number of families that pledge. Despite the drop in total number of pledges, over the last two years our members and friends rallied to increase their individual pledges by almost 20%! This increase doesn't include the generosity of all those who are contributing to the capital campaign.

Thank you for your generosity and your support of our church's mission!

Legacy Leaders Lunch

First UU is starting a tradition of honoring those who have gone above and beyond by including the church in their estate plan. We invite all who have remembered our church in their estate plan through the Wake Now Our Vision campaign or otherwise, as well as those who are considering such a gift to join us on Saturday, June 29th, at noon in Howson Hall.

Please RSVP to stewardship@austinuu.org.

Our featured speaker will be Rev. Chuck Freeman, Executive Director of the Texas UU Justice Ministry, who will share an update on the recently completed legislative session from a UU perspective.

Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Rev. Chris Jimmerson, and members of the Board of Trustees will be on hand to welcome attendees.

Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP for childcare by June 20th and include the ages of your children.

FROM OUR YOUTH



Youth Sunday Poem

Sage Hirschfeld

If I could take every word I've ever written and ask them what this is all about
I think it might sound something like all the pots and pans in my kitchen falling out from every
overstuffed cabinet and onto the tile floor in a single moment
It would sound like every great and terrible symphony warm up
Like cacophony of chaos already ensued
A ruckus of all things sacred in their hardness
Colliding
Greeting each other
Shaking hands with shock waves strong enough to rip through plaster and wood and flesh and
bone
To stir something somewhere you never knew was sleeping till you felt it wake up
To punctuate a period with an exclamation point and then another period.
But that's not where it would end
It would sound like a collective exhale of everything daring to move
It would sound like doors creaking open throughout the house
Like footsteps down narrow hallways drawing near
Like my father's voice calling in every shade of compassion
It would sound like hands outstretched in beaconing beyond intrinsic
Beyond first thoughts or old habits or logiced ways
Simply reaching out without truly knowing what for
But reaching nonetheless

THE BLOTTER

The Art of UnBreaking Glass

Bear W. Qolezcua

Religious Education Chaplain
Director of Communications

Growing up, there was always a bag of broken glass somewhere on a shelf in my Grandmother's house. It was important glass. It was glass that taught a lesson - of history, of good times and bad times, of sorrow and of joy to come. The shards inside were from 1948, made the day my grandparents got married.

Amidst the Mazal Tovs (Good Luck) coming from their family and friends, my grandparents stood atop a crimson velvet bag of glass they just stomped on with all the vigour a newlywed couple could muster. Inside were the remains of a chalice made specifically for that ceremony and that purpose. The glass had been blown by a friend of the family and it was a treasure to be kept. So they kept it along with the lessons it taught.

The practice of breaking a glass in a Jewish wedding is, pretty much like every other single facet of Jewish life, highly symbolic. You see, glass, when broken, can never be returned to its original condition. *This is shocking brand new information, I know.*

Glass can be repaired and it can resemble what it previously was but... it will never be the vessel it once had been. Ever.

Glue, prayer - really any straw that one could grasp - could never fix it. And THAT was the lesson.

In Sunday school, or whenever we got our impromptu rabbinical lectures, we were taught that the glass reminds us that sorrow can still exist

among joy, and historically, it was a way to scare off any demons who might be visiting the holy occasion. So, ya know, it wasn't all sadness and change.

Sometimes, the breaking happens where we don't realize something so fragile existed within us or within others until the first crack is made.

It's a lesson that even a single thoughtless act can permanently destroy what once was - be it a chalice, trust, friendship, a heart... any number of things. You can try to repair it but it never will be the same. It may fit back together but it is irreversibly changed.

Does the meaning, the beauty of what it once was, and in some ways still is, cease to exist simply because the form has changed?

When we see something that is broken we may ignore it, toss it aside, let it go from our lives. We may think it has no purpose, no further use to us. Sometimes that is true. There are some broken things' lost purposes that aren't a great upheaval and destruction of something fundamental in our lives... so we can safely toss or recycle it. But then there are some things, like a broken chalice of glass, that carry such strong wisdom, blessings, morals, and memories that even in their broken state, their loss would be devastating.

One of my favourite metaphors for many aspects of our human lives is a cup. "My cup runneth over," we say. We may burble and churn and

pour out upon the soil of the lives surrounding us. Our cup may dry, leaving not a drop for others, let alone one for ourselves. And sometimes we may discover that our cup is cracked, unable to hold onto what we have sufficiently, or at all.

Though we are not glass, humans are very fragile and we are too quick to assume that means that we are weak. Like tungsten, we have a brittle strength and beauty, the depth of both could carry us for a lifetime but, when struck at the right angle or with the right tool, may be shattered.

When we break we may find ourselves staring down at the floor, remarking at the tiny slivers and flecks and sharp edges that surround us. Our work becomes gathering up the pieces to see if we can reconstruct them or if we might only keep them safely together.

Heartbreakingly, not all of us believe we are worth salvaging. We might think the job of putting ourselves back together is too big a task to accomplish on our own. We aren't wrong in this supposition. We are a very big puzzle and in more cases than not, when we look inside the box we find that instead of five hundred pieces there are five million.

Here is how I see it: sometimes we can be reassembled, sometimes we cannot, and in either case no one ever said we had to try doing it on our own, only that we may as well try.

We might use all of our strength

PARADOX PLAYERS

All the World's a Stage presents...
Theatre for Movement



and patience trying to bind the cup of our beings back into its original shape only to find, in the end, we may have to allow a new form of ourselves into our lives and let go of the pieces of who we once were. There are times when we must look at the pieces, gather them up into our hands, grieve them, and let them go bit by bit until a new us is revealed from underneath. It won't be the same us that emerges - there will be soft parts and some bends, there will be markers of the tear before the growth, places where the faintest mote may still come off and disappear forever.

Sometimes things have to fall apart for them to fall together, and sometimes they have to be broken. See others' shards. See your own. Know that they are not any less beautiful as you seek their meaning through awe at the tragedy and beauty of this human life.

Our broken hearts will still sting along the scars that will never fully heal. That friendship may continue but there will always be an unspoken air of caution. Even trust can be restored after much work and forgiveness but it will never have the depth it once did.

Looking at one another, we might not all see the effort it takes for others to hold themselves together so it is important for us to recognize that there are always unseen edges, rough spots, and yet missing pieces of those around us.

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." - Plato

The next session of All the World's a Stage on June 19 from 7 - 9pm will be led by Peggy Lamb, an Austin based Dancer, Improv Artist, and Massage Therapist.

Peggy has been practicing massage since 1986 and is nationally certified. She received her initial training at the New Mexico Academy of Massage and Advanced Healing Arts in Santa Fe and at Wellness Skills, Inc. in Dallas. She taught Clinical Anatomy and Physiology, Trigger Point Therapy and Swedish Technique at Wellness Skills, Inc. and is now on the faculty of Texas Healing Arts Institute in Austin. Peggy holds a Master's Degree in Dance from American University in Washington, D.C. She also teaches dance and yoga and is a personal trainer. She brings her eclectic and extensive background into her teaching for an interesting and enlightening learning experience.

All the world's a Stage is an on-going workshop offering an evening of dramatic writing, and performance practices utilizing theatre games, acting, theatre and improvisation techniques in order to explore the role of theatre as a social change agent, and support participants to enhance their vocal and physical expression, and dramatic and character development in their

writing and performance expressions.

Leaders of these workshops will include professionals in theatre, performance, writing and movement. Maybe you are preparing a speech or writing a story that requires character development, this meet-up provides an environment where you can explore, experiment and expand.

Each two-hour session, meeting monthly, will provide time for theatre and warmup games, theatre instruction in acting, writing, movement and directing with the final hour open for the exploration and feedback of participant presentations. Come to learn, come to grow, come prepared to practice, or simply to witness.

All the World's a Stage Classes will be held on the third Wednesday of each month. June 28 has been set aside for a showcase for anyone who wants to present their pieces to a live audience. June 26 will be the rehearsal.

Class instruction will be provided by the following instructors:

- June 19 - Peggy Lamb (Movement),
- TBA - Kiya Heartwood (Delivering a Song)

Call 518-429-0074 for more information.

MONTHLY SERVICE OFFERING

This Month's MSO: YOUTH RISE TEXAS

Kymberlie Quong Charles
Deputy Director
Youth Rise Texas



Launched in 2015, Youth Rise Texas uplifts the voices of young people harmed by criminalization and deportation so that they may heal, take action, and cultivate compassionate communities. Youth Rise Texas has three goals:

- Facilitate space for community-building and transformational healing
- Cultivate directly-impacted youth as long-term leaders for justice by facilitating creative change work around criminalization and deportation
- Change public opinion about target issues and win local campaigns to make Texas a safer place for all families

Youth Rise Texas was initially envisioned as a community organizing project but, through the leadership of youth in the organization, has become much more. Today, Youth Rise Texas' work is equally about the originally-envisioned "organizing for change" as well as about "healing justice" that is supporting youth in healing from the multiple traumas of having a parent forcibly removed by the state while also growing up in an inequitable society.

In 2019, for the first time in the organization's history, Youth Rise Texas began delivering its brand of healing-centered, consciousness-raising programming in Austin high schools with student populations that are statistically likely to come from families in which law enforcement involvement, immigration detention and deportation are a pervasive threat or current reality. The launch of their high school model has allowed them to reach exponentially more young people in our community and advances the leadership and expertise of the senior Youth Organizers who are delivering this curriculum to their peers.

Mass incarceration and immigrant criminalization are two facets of the same issue, and the statistics are scary:

- The United States has 5% of the world's population and 25% of the world's incarcerated population
- Over 1.5 million people are currently incarcerated, and 53% of current prisoners are parents
- 7.5 million kids and teens have one or both parents incarcerated
- Texas holds 10% of the nation's currently incarcerated individuals, and Austin deports 19 people per week
- 4.5 million US citizens have an undocumented parent

The United States deports approximately 300,000 people per year, and over 25% are parents

Youth Rise Texas knows that when a child or teenager loses a parent to detention or deportation, they are put on a path towards a statistically bleak future. Depression, anxiety, and suicidal tendencies are common, as is self-medication with alcohol and drugs. Increased instability at home pairs with increased responsibility towards other siblings, and low educational attainment leads to long-term economic instability.

But the families and children that make up these numbers are not just unfortunate statistics. They are resilient, resourceful, and powerful. During the course of Youth Rise Texas existence, there have been countless moments of challenge and victory that have helped shape its vision. Raising up the voices of directly-impacted young people—in a state with some of the highest rates of incarceration, deportation, and detention—is extraordinarily powerful.

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 19 – 23, 2019 SPOKANE, WA

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Registration is now open at <https://www.uua.org/ga>. If you can't go in person, it is also possible to attend GA virtually as an off-site delegate.

If you have any questions about GA, would like information about scholarships for GA, or if you are planning to go, please contact David Overton at denom@austinuu.org. He is keeping a list of attendees so that we will be able to be in contact while we are there.

UUSC ACTION ON IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

The UU Service Committee is providing opportunities for activism on immigrant rights. Learn more and take action at <https://www.uusc.org/>.

UBARU SUMMER CAMPS

Fun and faith for youth in the Texas Hill Country. Programs tailored to each age group. More information and registration at <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>.

- Primary camp for kids ages 9-11 or rising grades 4-6th June 9-15
- Intermediate camp for kids age 12-14 or rising grades 7-9th June 16-22
- Senior camp/ Reeb camp for kids age 15-18 or rising grades 10th-2019 high school graduates June 23-29

Scholarships are available for Summer Camp. Contact David Overton at denom@austinuu.org for more information and a request form.

THE POINT 2019 JULY 21-26

LAKE MURRAY STATE PARK, OK

Spiritual deepening, fellowship and fun in a beautiful setting. The Point offers personal growth, faith renewal, learning opportunities, spiritual practices, community worship, music, excellent cuisine, sustainable practices, social events, outdoor activities, programming for all ages and interests, and an engaging theme speaker. Information and registration at <https://www.thepointuu.org/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions about denominational activities, to find out about available scholarships, or for carpooling to events, please email David Overton at denom@austinuu.org.



UBarU Camp & Retreat Center

There are some summer camps coming up at UBarU Camp & Retreat Center!

Primary (Rising Grades 4-6) - June 9-15.

Intermediate (Rising Grades 7-9) - June 16-22.

Senior (Rising 10th - 2019 Graduates) - June 23-29

Sky & Earth Youth Astronomy Camp (Ages 11-14) - July 28-Aug 3.

Human Sexuality Camp (Rising Grads 8-9) - Aug 4-10.

For more details and to register please go to www.ubaru.org.

If you want to rent a cottage for a quiet weekend not during a retreat, email Robyn at director@ubaru.org.



GREEN SANCTUARY

Our Green Sanctuary Ministry (GSM) has had a chance to partner with Climate Buddies and share its appreciation for our sacred earth this past month by speaking to Austin City Council members about two resolutions. The first was an analysis of the Green New Deal for use in Austin. The second enhances the Electrification of Transportation.

We were also educating about our sacred earth at the Capital. These are the last days of this Texas Legislature so the push is on to get bills passed into law. Two bills we were learning about were: Texas Senate SB 1585 House version (HB 2771 passed out of the House of Representatives) would allow Texas energy businesses to receive a permit to put fracking waste effluent into Texas waterways.

The second Bill is SB 1993 "Save Free Speech!"

This Bill adds to the eminent domain powers oil and gas pipeline companies already have. It allows them to have protestors arrested, jailed, and prosecuted on felony charges and potentially incarcerated. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2397943093769617/>

You can follow up with Texas Public Citizen: <http://www.citizen.org/texas> or the Texas Sierra Club: <https://www.sierraclub.org/texas/alert-center>.

Several GSM Members have been working with our community partner 350 Austin to inspire the Austin Utility decision makers to decommission our cities 1/3rd ownership and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) 2/3rds ownership in the Fayette Coal Fired Power Plant. We meet on third Tuesdays @ 7PM in Howson Hall. Y'all come. For more information: green@austinuu.org.

EVERYDAY UU PROJECT

Dear First UU,

We are writing to you to invite you to submit stories for our collection, "The Every Day UU: Now and Then." As part the UU History Renaissance Module, we were required to create a final project that would connect with what we had learned in the course. It became evident to us that although we have numerous stories that document the achievements of some UUs, many voices are missing. In addition, we noted that there are certain famous UUs that attract our attention for the huge efforts they made. But we don't have a collection of stories about UUs, who in living their faith, make small differences every day. Moving forward we thought it would be great to begin this process of sharing stories about our congregants from the past and present.

What are we looking for?

Each submission should be between 300-500 words submitted as a Word Document. You may submit as many stories as you like. Please include details about the person and when and where the story took place.

The deadline for the initial collection of stories will be June 30, 2019. Depending on the interest in this project, additional collections may be requested in the future.

We envision this collection being used in several ways. Church committees may choose to read a story as inspiration at the beginning of a meeting. Religious Educators may find stories that would work for A Time for All Ages. Congregants might read a story each day as a spiritual practice.

Please send all stories and release forms to storiesforUU@gmail.com

We look forward to receiving your stories.

Sincerely,

Joanne Dingus, Director of Religious Education, Newport News, VA

Twinks Hastings, Children and Youth Ministries Director, Brewster, MA

Inside Music

*A piano recital
featuring works
based on written literature
by Prokofiev, Liszt, Brahms,
Debussy and Mishell*

by Emma Galbraith

June 8, 2019 at 12:30 pm

First Unitarian Universalist Church

4700 Grover Avenue

Austin, Texas

A junior at The Academy for Global Studies at Austin High School, Emma dedicates this concert to the cause of *Inside Books Project (IBP)*, a non-profit organization that provides free literature and educational materials to prisoners in Texas and raises awareness about their rights. The concert is free and Emma invites voluntary donation of funds and books to support IBP at the recital or online at <http://www.insidebooksproject.org>. Questions: 512-797-8374

“With no funds, no mail from the outside world and a long wait for educational classes, I requested educational books from Inside Books Project. They were useful, helpful, as well as educational. I thank Inside Books Project for helping me to become a better person through self-learning.”



— Miguel A, inmate in Texas

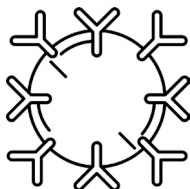


“I am so very glad that scrap of paper with your address on it came to me. You brought light into a desperately dim and dingy world. Thank you and God bless you and your works.”



— Kenneth J, inmate in Texas

FIRST SUNDAY SEMINAR



SCIENCE AND RELIGION SEMINAR JUNE 2, 2019 LED BY BRUCE NAYLOR

In this session, we will explore “Ecology as Theology” perspective on Climate Change as articulated by Rev. Michael Dowd, a Science and Religion author and advocate. The relative weakness of the Ecology perspective on the world, in favor of Consumerism, appears to be a prime cause of the current collapsing of our planet’s biosphere. We will examine and discuss this critical topic.

INSIDE AMIGOS

¿HABLA ESPAÑOL?

It’s challenging to work in solidarity with Spanish speaking friends without knowing English, and we’re looking for fluent Spanish speakers to help our Sanctuary guest feel more at home and part of the First UU community. If you speak Spanish fluently or have in the past and want to reawaken that ability, please find Alirio and his Austin Sanctuary Network friends in Howson Hall after either worship service on Sundays to say ‘Hola’ y más por amistad.

Por mas información, email Peggy at insideamigos@austinuu.org.

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT



Your thoughtful donation to Inside Books is life changing. Listed below are few of the comments from Texas Inmates who have received the benefit of contributions like yours. Postage is our biggest expense as there are no paid staff. These books are the passports to new opportunities, learning alternatives and a brief healthy escape from the daily horror. Thank you.

For additional info:
Beki & Richard Halpin
green@austinuu.org
512: 658-2599, 917 6018



TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SERVICE

Service is a core component of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Through service we make valuable contributions to our church and community, enhance our own faith and spirituality, strengthen our relationships with others, and move our congregation closer to fulfilling its mission.

The First UU Transformation Through Service team helps connect congregants with the many meaningful service opportunities

available. If you would like to get more involved at First UU, you can talk with our of our team who can help you get connected with service opportunities that match your interests, skills, and time availability. Contact transform@austinuu.org to schedule a conversation.

BIS THORNTON’S TESTIMONY

I love serving as an usher! Each Sunday we honor the spark of the divine in every person by greeting the divine among us in the pews.

When I’m serving as an usher, I get to experience this simple but powerful ritual a hundred times over. I take joy in smiling and saying “Good morning!” to every person entering the sanctuary—the divine manifests in so many people in so many different ways, and ushering helps me remember this and see it in action. I’m glad to help, but the experience is also spiritually and emotionally nourishing, as I get the opportunity to take part in the sacred exchange between people greeting each other, saying, “I’m so happy you’re here!”

CHANGE IS COMING



At the beginning of the year the idea of making the newsletter more interactive was brought up. Originally the plan was to develop a newsletter that works smoothly in a digital landscape but is only put out once a month.

With changes in staff, job role additions, and evolutions of how we approach our religious education new ideas have emerged about the newsletter and how it can be used in a more real time manner. Instead of everything being turned in by the 15th, instead of having to wait for late contributions, edit requests, approvals, printing etc... the thought emerged of having church groups and ministries create the newsletter themselves. Kind of.

By this, it is meant... blogging. The newsletter would become a live blog space where groups can log in, put their upcoming information, graphics, and ideas as needed instead of having to compile a month's worth of information into a few short paragraphs for printing.

This doesn't mean the newsletter will cease to exist, however. We are aware that there are home-bound readers who still need access to a printed version with all the

information from groups.

At the end of each month, we will gather information regarding group activities for the following month and put it all together into a much smaller document. It will be only a few pages, as a basic newsletter but will still contain all pertinent information. It would become similar to our weekly announcement printout but with monthly group information and far more detail.

Columns, other articles, and graphics would stay on the blogs.

This would reduce our footprint economically and environmentally, impacting our budget and our world in very positive ways.

This digital shift also will free up many of Bear's hours in order to allow him to take on the task of being our new RE Chaplain. With this shift there will be a greater focus on creating UU faith and identity content, work can resume on other projects that have been put on the back-burner for the past year, and more energy invested into continuing the growth of our Religious Education into a fully thriving program, side by side with the new RE Coordinator, Kelly Stokes.

With that said, we would like to announce that the Newsletter will be on a hiatus for the summer while Bear begins the task of building our online forum for all of our groups. Many groups usually take the summer to plan for the following year so it was felt that this was the time to dig in and prepare ourselves for great new things ahead.

The plan is for the blog space to become available by the end of summer. During this time, we are asking groups to continue sending in their information, but now on a weekly basis, as needed. This information will be fed onto the announcement page of the website, the printed announcement sheet found in the Order of Service, as well as the Friday Email blast and will allow some cushion for groups who need extra time to get their information gathered and less stress from looming deadlines.

Thank you all for your patience and support as we approach this new aspect of our outreach and information practices. We are working to be greener and more user friendly while meeting the Beloved Community where they are. Let's do this together!

WHITE ALLIES FOR RACIAL EQUITY

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF AUSTIN
(512) 452-6168
WWW.AUSTINUU.ORG

FIRST UU MINISTERS
REV. MEG BARNHOUSE
REV. CHRIS JIMMERSON

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
BRENT BALDWIN

DIRECTOR OF
LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT
JULES JARAMILLO

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
COORDINATOR
KELLY STOKES

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
SHANNON POSERN

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHAPLAIN &
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
BEAR W. QOLEZCUA

BOARD PRESIDENT
TOMAS MEDINA

KITCHEN COORDINATOR/SEXTON
KAMI CORNELL

Sunday, June 9
Rm 13
12:30–2 p.m.

Your facilitators for the Austin UU White Allies for Racial Equity are considering ways we might reformat the group to make it more dynamic and more useful to those who participate. Come let us know what might be most useful for you.

For more information, contact Scott Butki at sbutki@gmail.com. To be added to the email list, contact Elizabeth Kubala at elizkubala@gmail.com.

FIRST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH of Austin



4700 Grover Ave.
Austin, TX 78756