

## Spotlight On... Solar Panel Heroes

**Jeff Hutchens** discovered, researched and drove the project initially as an incidental side issue of the Building Committee. It soon developed a life of its own, and he put many, many hours into searching for additional grant funding (learning the grant process) as well as dealing with the city and contractors for bids.

**Don Smith** took on and pushed the fund drive almost single-handed to a successful conclusion.

**John Payne** called foul on the initial location on the new sanctuary roof and worked with the contractor to find a suitable (superior) new location. We celebrate our solar panels and the players who made this happen. *By Tom Martin, Building, Media, Tech Committees.*



Inside this Issue... Krause Springs Campout pg 2, Men's Fellowship Retreat pg 3, New Face, New Role pg 4, Bridge Builder Work pg 5, Family Social Action pg 6, How to get Involved pg 7 and much more!

# Krause Springs Campout

## April 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>

**PLEASE JOIN US** for a weekend of camping at a privately held campground near Spicewood. Some people arrive around 4:00 p.m. on Friday night. Bring food for Friday night plus breakfast and lunches. It's a beautiful campground. There's a swimming hole and a waterfall. You can also hike to Lake Travis. There are restrooms and shower facilities nearby.

There's a potluck meal at around 6:00 pm on Saturday. Afterwards there's a campfire and musical jam. You don't have to camp. You can just spend the day-it's just 35 miles from Austin. On Sunday morning we fix a communal breakfast.

**BRING:** Musical instruments, food and drinks to share, lawn chairs, flashlights, and water for cooking, washing up and drinking. (No dogs are allowed). Bring tents, bedding, camping equipment and flashlights if you are staying overnight.



**DIRECTIONS:** Go west on Hwy 71 through Bee Caves, go 5 miles past the Pedernales river, and then take a right at the Exxon station/store to Spicewood. Take the second right at the County Road 404 sign. The road into Krause Springs will be on the left, slightly upgrade, after crossing a creek. Drive to the house where you pay.

**COST:** It's \$10/ adults, \$5/children (4-11) per night and if you're just spending the day, it's Adults/\$5 and children/\$4. Tell them that you're with the Unitarians. We're camped close by the house.



**INFORMATION:**

Lynn Vaughan at 989-5701 or [Lynn@Lynnspetsitting.com](mailto:Lynn@Lynnspetsitting.com) or Krause Springs at (830) 693-4181.



## The Men's Fellowship Spring Retreat

will be held **April 3-5 at U-Bar-U**. All men are welcome to participate in this weekend of fellowship, recreation in nature and introspection. A program will be offered that is oriented to enhance fellowship and self-inquiry. Volunteer work opportunities are available. Last Spring we built a 10 x 60 foot deck. In addition to other improvements, last Fall we worked on an upgrade of the kitchen in the Meeting House. The cost is \$75.00 which includes board and all meals.

**For more information** or carpooling opportunities contact Mark Skrabacz (512) 236-0504, [markskrabacz@hotmail.com](mailto:markskrabacz@hotmail.com). Please make checks payable to Brian Miller; send to 1309 Aggie Lane, Austin, TX 78757, (512) 494-5344, [brianmiller.bcm@gmail.com](mailto:brianmiller.bcm@gmail.com).



U-Bar-U at Sunset



**This month's  
Sing-a-Long  
will be held**

**on the fourth Saturday, March 28, from 7:30 to 10:30 at the Friend's Meeting House on 3701 E.**

**MLK Blvd.** Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing with the group. Copies of "Rise Up Singing" will be available.

**For more information** contact Larry Vaughn 469-0029 or [lavest@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lavest@sbcglobal.net). To be added to the email list, contact Mary Jane Ford at [mjaneford@grandecom.net](mailto:mjaneford@grandecom.net).

## Sharing Suppers

**Would you like to get to know other UUs in a more personal, informal setting? On March 21**, (the third Saturday of each month), groups of 6-10 people will gather for food, conversation, and laughter in various participants' homes. Everyone contributes something to the dinner. Sharing Suppers are open to anyone in the church, and you need not be a member to participate. The deadline for signing up is the Sunday before the suppers, for this month, March 15. Then the hosts will call you on Monday or Tuesday with directions and the time and a dish/part of the meal to bring. Just show up with your dish and enjoy the great food and conversation. **Contact** Linda Buehlmann (512-323-5334) [lindabuehlmann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindabuehlmann@sbcglobal.net) or sign up on the sheet posted outside the Room 8. If you'd like to be on an email list for time, place, and info, send an email [sharingsuppers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sharingsuppers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)





## An Invitation to Come Alive



If one of our goals as a community is to come alive, how do we do that? When juxtaposed with its opposite, dying, it becomes clear that we seek moving beyond mere existence or survival to vigorous activity and growth! As a church where the congregation has the ultimate power and authority, we each have a right to expect to come here to come alive coupled with a personal responsibility to make it happen.

This newsletter, for starters, serves as a testament to the life of the church. For those not yet involved, it serves as an invitation. What do we find inside this month?

For good old fashioned fellowship, you have a campout, a retreat, a sing-along, a smorgasbord of group meals, a movie night, and the formation of new covenant groups alongside the continuation of old ones.

For engagement with the broader community, your activities include a walk to fight hunger and poverty and meals for the homeless.

For life of the church, you have the weekly ushers and greeters, intergenerational activities, and many religious education activities for adults and children throughout the week.

This brings us, of course, to your invitation. As a part of this community, each of us has a right and responsibility to participate in those activities that help us come alive. For those of you who currently participate in the activities that appear here (or elsewhere) and especially those dedicated volunteers who organize so many of them, thank you for helping us to come alive!

For those of you who don't feel a deep connection to the community yet, we invite you to try one or more new activities this month. The more we come alive as individuals, the more we will come alive as a community. We'll keep an eye out for your RSVP!

*Sean Hale*

*First UU Executive Director*

## Familiar Face, New Role

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, Natalie Freeburg began work as our new administrative assistant. Natalie, who many of you may know already know as having a marvelous personality, brings great skills and attitude to the job. She's had a variety of responsibilities in the past that have developed her technical skills and allowed her to hone her attention to detail, ability to multitask, and capacity to build efficient systems.

She will turn her attention first to mastering our room scheduling and rentals. This includes helping us tighten up our whole rental process, clarifying policy, ensuring all bills get paid, and making the process more efficient. She has strong integrity and already has familiarity with both the denomination and this congregation, so I expect that she will fit in perfectly and prove very dependable.



## No Reinventing the Wheel

### Did you know that First UU will

- \* Spend almost \$104,000 on Facilities and Grounds?
- \* Spend about \$19,000 of that for utilities?
- \* Spend about \$83,000 on the Music Program in 2009?

Your Stewardship Committee met to review and plan for this year and beyond. The challenge is that our pledges / income for 2009 fall close to \$100,000 short of the budget commitments we – the Congregation – voted for and passed three months ago.

Talk about a challenge. Talk about an opportunity. Talk about a cliché.

The challenge is how we will finance our Church in the light of this large budget shortfall. One option that is not an option would be to run out of money by Halloween. Another option that is not an option would be to abandon our programs and lay off our staff and limp through the next nine months.

It comes down to either expanding our financial base, or shrinking our dreams. The opportunity is that the members of the Congregation – we, us – have the chance to develop enthusiasm and inspiration such that we raise the pledge base to the level of our dreams.

We are not re-inventing the wheel: enthusiasm and inspiration are there for the nurturing. By way of illustration, in 2000 our Church – discontented, without a settled minister, even somewhat adrift – faced a deficit of about \$50,000 going into the year. Our members rose to the challenge and, in a special effort we closed the gap.

Your Stewardship Committee, and your leadership, look to the past as a way to look to the future.

We – the Stewardship Committee, the Leadership, and you – talk about a challenge, and we talk about an opportunity. We don't talk about a cliché .

*-Bill Edwards,*

*Stewardship Chairperson*

## The Bridgebuilder Work Has Begun

### Dr. Steinke will present his findings on April 4th

Our church has engaged the services of the Rev. Dr. Peter L. Steinke, a Lutheran pastor from Austin and a national consultant to congregations. His program is called "Bridgebuilder." It is a process over several months to help congregations promote growth and healing in times of transition and tension.

Some of you may have attended Dr. Steinke's workshop on Sat, Feb 28. DVDs will be available for those who could not attend (info at the bookstore Sunday mornings or the church office during the week). Dr. Steinke will return **Sat morning, April 4, to present a written Action Report** that will outline church issues identified through interviews and on Feb 28. ***All are invited and encouraged to attend this oral presentation.*** Anyone may email or phone Dr. Steinke (see below) if they want to communicate with him and were not interviewed or did not attend Feb 28.



A quote in Dr. Steinke's brochure states, "Organizations grow under pressure, when a change or a crisis reveals new strength from all quarters." Come help our church discover new strength from all quarters. The next step is that Dr. Steinke will meet with a 16-member Action Planning Team to plan how to address the issues raised in his report. Focus groups will review and provide input to the planning process.

Dr. Steinke may be contacted by email at [hcongregations@austin.rr.com](mailto:hcongregations@austin.rr.com) or by phone at (512) 263-7861. For questions regarding Bridgebuilder meetings, check the church web site or contact Margaret Borden at [m.borden@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.borden@sbcglobal.net) (512) 458-4502.



## Social Action for the Whole Family – CROP Walk!

Parents often ask – what social action project can I do with my child? Well, we have the perfect opportunity for you and the kids on Sunday, March 8! Our church is sponsoring a team of walkers in the CROP Hunger Walk, and we need church members, including children, to come and walk to fight global poverty and hunger. CROP stands for “communities responding to overcome poverty” and the Hunger Walk is the largest interfaith activity held in Austin each year, jointly sponsored by Austin Area Interreligious Ministries and the Church World Service.

My family went last year and enjoyed ourselves very much. Every walker receives a “passport” as they walk through Roy Guerrero Park. Placed throughout the park were “country stations” where you learn about how the money raised will combat poverty, increase education and health services, and feed the hungry. Things like mosquito nets, new school, libraries, and village goats. It was a very gentle yet eye-opening experience, and of course we all liked collecting stamps in our passports. At the end we were asked to send off postcards to legislators asking for support and received a mini-flag of one of the countries we “visited”. The walk itself was an easy two mile amble with refreshments provided. Strollers are welcome.



Walkers meet up in the grassy parking lot on Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 before convoying over to Roy Guerrero Park. We will have t-shirts available to identify our team from FUUCA. Walkers can choose to solicit pledges for their walk or not - we have and will continue to solicit from the entire congregation on behalf of our CROP Walk team. Our goal is \$1000 – if you cannot walk, please come see us in the Gallery and make a donation. For more info, contact Social Action co-chairs Eric Hartman at [hartoftex@aol.com](mailto:hartoftex@aol.com) or Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis at [corinna@austin.rr.com](mailto:corinna@austin.rr.com). the CROP Hunger Walk, please visit: <http://www.main.org/cropwalk/community.html> **Thank you and see you on the 8<sup>th</sup>!**

- Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis

**On March 1**, we will split the offering with **El Porvenir** (which translates as “the future”), an organization that sponsors work groups of 10-15 individuals who support community-initiated water, sanitation, and reforestation projects in rural Nicaragua. Projects include hand-dug wells, community wash stations, reforestation, and spring capture. All projects involve the entire community working with the volunteers using locally available materials. El Porvenir began as an offshoot of Habitat for Humanity’s self-help housing program in Nicaragua. So far the program has completed over 600 projects and served over 70,000 people.

**On March 15**, our split-the-plate beneficiary will be **Camp Fire USA Balcones Council**. Camp Fire builds confidence in youth through camping, cultivating outdoor skills, and participating in other programs. The Camp Fire USA curriculum develops the whole child and strengthens the family through diverse service-learning programs. Camp Fire serves youth of all races, religions, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation, or other aspect of diversity. Coeducational programs help girls and boys cultivate their unique talents and skills. Split-the-plate proceeds will support after-school education programs for challenged and underprivileged youth.

### Split-the-Plate Recipients for March 2009: First and Third Sunday of the Month

# How To Get Involved...

## FUUCA USHERS and GREETERS

Many thanks to our FUUCA volunteers for serving in the Spring Session (February to May 31st). Most continue to serve each session (taking a break now and then, but still coming back). Many new members begin volunteering in this way. They learn about the church, become acquainted with new people which often opens a door to other volunteer opportunities.

Volunteers work in teams performing duties beyond handing out the Orders of Service and greeting the congregation. They keep the sanctuary neat, monitor the foyer for items needed in the service, maintain candles for lighting and pew items, collect the offering, complete a report of the money received, number in attendance, and other information needed by the church.

Training is fun and easy. You meet great folks. A Stepping stone to involvement in this community [ktraylor3@austin.rr.com](mailto:ktraylor3@austin.rr.com).



The volunteers for this session:

**Joe Linsalata, Roseanne Graham, Linda Buehlmann, Elizabeth DeLeon, Cyndi Loudon, Doug Ginn, Lori & Richard Sommer, Dwayne Windham, Kitty Traylor, Geri Mosher, Luther Elmore, Annie Smith & son Mateer Hudgens, Melanie Walter-Mahoney & daughter Colleen, Jim & Betty Bowie, Nadhdiah Hoang, Joyce Wilson, Ruth Marie, Alice Cashman, Jenny Loehlin, Sudie Vassef, Gwen Carroll, Elaine Granoff, Russell Eskew, Judith Gostisha, Shannon Vyff, Michael Trice, Peter Langlois, Catherine Reynolds, Amy & Gary Bennett, Jim Burson, Barbara Denny, Carol Ginn, Matthew Holloway, John & Cynthia Keohane, Suzy & Bill Reid, Barbara Weeks, and Beverly Donoghue.**

## The Religious Education Department is actively seeking volunteers

to assist our teachers in the classrooms each Sunday. In order for RE to provide the safest and most nurturing environment for your children, it is key for them to have all the support they need.

**It takes a village to raise and inspire our children and we need YOU to be part it!**

Please contact **Cyndi Stein**, Children's Programming Assistant, at [cyndi@austinuu.org](mailto:cyndi@austinuu.org) or 512-560-2839.

## Serving Suppers to the Homeless at ARCH

Many thanks to our FUUCA volunteers **Mardi Nott, Ruth Marie, Stephen Davis and Christy Seals**. Two days each month, four UUs serve dinner, cafeteria-style, from 5:30-8:00 pm to 100 homeless men at ARCH (Austin Resource Center for the Homeless) in downtown Austin (500 E. 7th St.).

**Volunteers are needed for the 4th MONDAY** (contact Christy Seals [seals@loop-d.net](mailto:seals@loop-d.net) 512 217 9056 **and the 1st SUNDAY** (contact Mary Ann Copp [mac624@star.net](mailto:mac624@star.net) or Karen Franks [kfranks@yahoo.com](mailto:kfranks@yahoo.com) 512 670 2221 of each month.

## PCC Social Action Project

Each month, our church sends multiple teams of volunteers to the People's Community Clinic to prepare patient education materials and send out immunization reminders. Over 75 church members/friends have been involved in one or more activities in last three years. One way you can help is to come to the **2nd Tuesday Collate Group**. This group meets next on March 10th from 10 am-noon to collate and stuff patient information packets. You don't have to participate each month, just as you can. There are usually around 6-10 of us, and it is a nice

opportunity to visit with each other. There are other opportunities as well, including individual volunteers to help in various departments at PCC. Additionally, we hope to develop teams to: 1) provide programming for children during evening parent classes, and 2) provide Storytime to children in the waiting room. If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please contact Sheri Overton at [sherioverton@hotmail.com](mailto:sherioverton@hotmail.com) or 512-847-2685.



# Sunday Worship

The times for the Sunday morning Worship Services are 9:45 and 11:30 a.m

**March 1: Finding Our Way. Nancy McCranie.** There are times in life that feel overwhelming and confusing; when all we have to guide us is our faith. When we listen with open hearts we can hear the voice of wisdom instructing us to resist fear, stand firm, be still and see what the Divine will do.

**March 8: The Death and Life of Free Will Ron Phares.** Free will is dead. The enlightenment killed it. Do we seek to resuscitate it? Do we want to? Do good and evil still mean anything? Is it possible to live a spiritually significant lives without it? Where do we go from here? All these questions will be answered if the uninterrupted chain of causation and consequence determines that this sermon do so.

**March 15: Gaia, Mother Earth and the Oneness of Everything. Musician Jim Scott** intersperses original songs and readings with personal reflections on spiritual ecological awareness. The idea of Mother Earth or "Gaia" being a living organism with the same physical attributes (heart, lungs, circulatory system) as humans leads us to a deeper connection with our life support system.

**March 22: Birth, Love, Death. Dee Kingsland, Kathy Murphy, Sara Barker, and Gerry King, with music by Paula Held.** A consortium from the Wildflower Church: Dee Kingsland starts with a homily about birth, Kathy Murphy and Sara Barker talk about Love, and Gerry King finishes with another short homily on Death. This is interspersed with two songs by singer song-writer Paula Held on her guitar.

**March 29: To Such As These, Jack Harris-Bonham.** If we think we can remake the world in our image we must stop and realize that the world we create will, in fact, be inherited by the children around us. If we aren't able to be conscious enough to see ourselves as part of the problem, then our legacy will be no better than our parents, no matter how enlightened we think we are.

## Public Affairs Forum

The Forum begins at 11:30 a.m. in Howson Hall every Sunday unless otherwise noted.

**March 1: The Politics of Hunger in America: Speaker: David Davenport, CEO of Capital Area Food Bank.** So, what's the problem? As a nation, we are capable of feeding everyone on the planet. Hear David offer his solutions to this ever expanding need.

**March 8: The Film Industry in Texas: Speaker: Sharon Stover, Ph.D., Chair of the UT Department of Radio-Television-Film.** Professor Stover is a researcher, author and teacher of Communications Theory and Rural and Urban Telecommunications Policy. She will speak about the possibility of film in Texas.

**March 15: 21st Century Green Politics - What Does It All Mean for Austin?"** With new political winds blowing in Washington DC, **Robin Rather**, CEO of Collective Strength, will hold a lively discussion of the implications for the Austin progressive community.

**March 22: A Single Payer Healthcare System: Speakers: Dr. John Troutner** sees patients everyday who were failed by the system; he favors Single Payer Healthcare. **Dr. Elliot Trester** is very aware of the need of health care reform in this country. He feels that health care is a right and that a single payer solution would be the best course to achieve universal health care.

**March 29. The Future of Our Planet and Our Children: Speaker: Alyssa Burgin**, Outreach Director of Texas Climate Emergency Campaign (TCEC). There is a scientific consensus that we need to make substantial cuts in emissions by 2020 or nature takes over and our children and grandchildren will only witness what nature has in store for them. To avert this catastrophe we need to pass a good US bill this summer which, hopefully will be followed by a good UN agreement this coming December in Copenhagen. Ms. Burgin will talk about the latest science, nature's timelines and what we need to accomplish legislatively. TCEC works in 13 congressional districts building coalitions in advance of the coming vote on the national bill.



## COVENANT GROUP IN GATHERING

Sunday, March 15, 1:30 P.M. in Howson Hall

If you want to make some meaningful, lasting personal connections in our church, join us for an informational meeting where you will learn the following:

- . What is a covenant group?
- . What do you do at a meeting?
- . How long does one last?
- . Who leads the discussions?
- . What kinds of groups are offered?

Some proposals for new groups have already been suggested: Singles, Parents, All Artists, Hiking-Walking, Cooking, Wine Tasting, Couples Club, Living by Heart, Unemployment Strategies, Adults with ADD, Evensong. The ideas are endless. Come share yours!

**BRING YOUR CALENDARS** so we can form new groups on the spot and meet for the first time that day. Leaders of already existing groups which are open to new members will speak to you.

We will sample a typical group meeting agenda. Plenty of support is available for willing leaders.

Questions? Call Sharon Moore, facilitator, at 349-2318



**Seniors' Luncheon**  
 Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Howson Hall at Noon  
**Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5**  
 RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988  
 Program: Ed Nichols, a longtime member of FUUCA and a thespian with Paradox Players, will give highlights and tell stories about his years in the U.S. Foreign Service in Western Europe, and as Agricultural Minister in Italy, Denmark, Norway and Spain. More about European Union, plus work in Texas and in the Carter Administration.

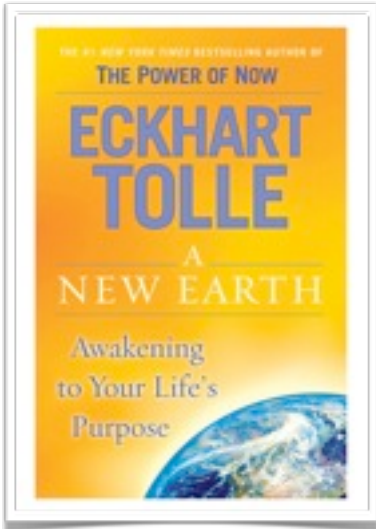
**Spiritual Movie Night . . .** Our Premier will be held on Friday night, March 20 at 7 p.m. in Howson Hall. **SWING** is a feature film that will get your heart pumping and your toes tapping. **SWING** stars Jacqueline Bisset, Jonathan Winters, Tom Skerritt and Nell Carter in a film about keeping dreams alive. **SWING dancing to the rhythm of your own heart!**



# Religious Education

## Eckhart Tolle Discussion Group

Eckhart Tolle a spiritual teacher and author born in Germany and educated at the Universities of London and Cambridge. He is the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller, **The Power of Now** and the highly acclaimed follow-up **A New Earth**, two of the most influential spiritual books of our time. Eckhart's profound, yet simple teachings have already helped countless people throughout the world find inner peace and greater fulfillment in their lives.



We meet every Thursday, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, in Room 13 where we discuss a chapter each week from **A New Earth**. At the **March 5th** meeting we will show a video of Eckhart teaching at a seminar. A donation of \$5.00 per person is requested.

## Tuesday Art Studio

The Art Studio meets every Tuesday morning from 10:30 to "later in the day" in Room 13. Stop by bring your project or join in a project that is going on.

Judith and Susan are seen here working with the staging for the Paradox Players. If you walk by Room 13 they will be making origami birds on a string, making boxes of unique design and shape, or perhaps caning chairs or hand weaving intricate designs. Whatever you do you like to do, or want to learn, come and join these folks .



## New UU Class



New UU is a one-day session for new members and for those who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalists. Questions, explanations, and discussion of beliefs, history, Seven Principles, and ritual practices will be covered. Individual credos are constructed to illuminate the current thinking and evolution of beliefs. Functional areas such as affiliations, local governance, congregational committees, and participation in activities, all resulting in more informed members and visitor will be addressed,

The date of the class has been changed to March 7, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. in Room 17. Don Smith, past President of First UU and Lara Douglass, Director of Religious Education will conduct the class. There is no fee and brunch will be served. Email Peg Frey at [peg@austinuu.org](mailto:peg@austinuu.org) to register. CHILD CARE will be available for those who request it no later than Wednesday, February 25th. Please provide the number and ages of the children when you register at [childcare@austinuu.org](mailto:childcare@austinuu.org).



## March 2009 for Adults

- 1<sup>st</sup> The Politics of Hunger Forum
- 7<sup>th</sup> New UU
- 8<sup>th</sup> Film Industry in Texas Forum
- 15<sup>th</sup> Covenant Groups Gathering
- 15<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> Century Green Politics Forum
- 16<sup>th</sup> AISD Spring Break Week
- 17<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> First Day of Spring
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Single Payer Healthcare System Forum
- 29<sup>th</sup> The Future of Our Planet and Our Children Forum

# Children's Religious Education

## Mark Your Calendars for First UU's annual Passover Seder on

**Saturday evening April 11th at 6PM** in Howsen Hall led by Michael LeBurkein. This will be a traditional Jewish Seder hosted by the RE Department. This is a cherished RE tradition and we are all looking forward to this year's event with a lot of special surprises in store. Keep your eyes open for more information to come in April's newsletter and announcements about this event.



## This year's Valentine's Day Party was a great success!

Much fun was had by all and many beautiful, creative and incredibly artistic valentines were created. Thanks to everyone who helped out to make this such a love filled event for all generations.

Special thanks to Cathy Savage, or resident artists, for bringing her printing press this year which was a big hit. Also, a very special thanks to our ever faithful "Stamp Man" Bill Reed for showing up once again and amazing the the children with his diverse stamp collection. Here's hoping everyone had a happy and meaningful Valentine's Day. -Cyndi Stein

## YRUU Roundup

Our youth went to Woodlands, Texas to the North-wood UU Church. for a Roundup. You will have to corner one of the participants to see how it went for them: Edward Belaguer, Patrick Belaguer, Aaron Osmer, Rachel and Milenko Loncar, Dennis Chitty, Shannon Mahoney, Ann Van Nort, and Michael Mathis. However, according to Amber Andrews, their advisor, this trip has convinced her that the Social Action projects and Spirituality present in the Circles to continue to take our group to Round Ups in the Future

## March 2009 for Children

- March 29th: Surprise Pals Reveal Party
- April 11th: Passover Seder
- April 12th: Easter Egg Hunt
- May 24th: Annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch



Middle and High School Students need a Programming Committee of there own. We have three students on the Committee that are ready to work on plans and projects for the youth. **WE NEED THREE ADULTS TO JOIN THEM!** Right now we have none. For more information see Feb. Newsletter or contact [Amber@austinuu.org](mailto:Amber@austinuu.org).



**First Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Austin  
4700 Grover Avenue  
Austin, TX 78756  
*One Church. Many Beliefs.***

**Executive Director:  
Sean Hale**

**Director of Religious Education:  
Lara Douglass**

**Director of Music: Brent Baldwin**

**President, Board of Trustees:  
Sheila Gladstone**

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

Church Fax: (512) 453-5912

E-Mail: [info@AustinUU.org](mailto:info@AustinUU.org)

[www.AustinUU.org](http://www.AustinUU.org)

***Next Newsletter Deadline***

***15<sup>th</sup> of the Month***

***Please submit information to***

***[news@austinuu.org](mailto:news@austinuu.org)***

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## **Denominational UUpdates**

“Alternative Spring Break,” a work and worship camp in New Orleans for high school students & sponsors, is worthy of note: [swuuc.org](http://swuuc.org). Second call on this event: “Leading Congregations Into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future,” a UUA event in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dates: Friday, April 3, to Sunday, April 5. Information at [uua.org/events/](http://uua.org/events/)

More information is out on the SWUUC Spring Conference, hosted by the “Church of the River,” in Memphis, Tennessee (April 24-26). The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Thandeka, speaking on “One Faith, Many Voices in the Multicultural World.” The conference brochure <http://swuuc.org/media/> themed “Breaking Barriers,” is at [swuuc.org/media/](http://swuuc.org/media/). An on-line copy of the registration form is in the same location.

And it is not too early to be thinking about General Assembly 2009 (June 24-28, Salt Lake City): [uua.org/events](http://uua.org/events), As First Church passes through this difficult transition period in ministry, it is good to take time to pause and give thanks to all the resources that the larger denomination has given and continues to give: the service of moderators at the time of the December meetings; help and services from other area UUA ministers (we are reminded that there are five other congregations in the Austin metro area, though not all minister-led); denominational resources for securing both an interim minister and our next settled minister. We are not alone.