



APRIL NEWSLETTER



Spotlight On...

Bethke Stage

Have you noticed the new flooring and handsome black drapes that now grace the stage in Howson Hall? Many folks helped build, paint and sew but the true theatre angels are Bob and Sue Bethke. They designed, recruited volunteers and supervised the work. We honor their vision, talent and tremendous good humor over the many months it took to refurbish the Paradox Players stage! To honor Bob and Susan for their contribution the Board voted in their last meeting to name the stage the



Meet the Wests

Lynda and Michael West are an incredible gift to this church community. Lynda has been volunteering for Mommy Meals and noticed the need for a particular meal or type of food for the families of the new baby. She and Michael, a Trustee who frequently offers to help in the office, often discussed the need for a freezer in the church. Then Lynda began volunteering with the Caring Committee and once again the need for a place to go when you need a particular meal in a hurry...like a large casserole or a bland mini meal for someone who is recently home from the hospital. So Linda and Mike talked some more and Voila they came up with a solution...they donated a freezer to First UU so that we can store frozen meals and food that can be ready at a moment's notice. Thank you both for your generosity



➡ Inside this Issue... Hands on Housing Springs pg 2, Interim Minister Search pg3, Want to Involved? pgs 4&5, Bridge Builder Work pg 6, Passover Seder pg 11 and much more!

Hands on Housing



Once again, First UU will participate in the Spring Bluebonnet Blitz Hands on Housing Event on Saturday, April 18th,

organized by Austin Area Interreligious Ministries' (AAIM). UUs from the Austin area will team up to repair the home of low-income elderly or disabled persons who cannot afford to repair their homes.

We'll be assisting an elderly grandmother whose home was damaged in the December windstorm and has no insurance to cover it. This is a great way for UU members and friends to help someone

in need while enjoying the fellowship of other UUs. Hands On Housing is a family-friendly, all skill-level event. Supervised children are welcome to help. The Saturday work shifts will be from 9 to 12, 1 to 4, and 4 to 7. We'll have lunch and take a group picture around noon. We'll be painting, making carpentry repairs to the roof, patio, and awnings. We will also have a clean-up crew on Sunday morning. If you would like to sign up or would like more information, contact Beverly Donoghue at 971-5402 (cell) or beverlydonoghue@yahoo.com. You can also sign up at the Social Action table in the Gallery before and after Sunday services.



Split-the-Plate Recipients for April 2009:

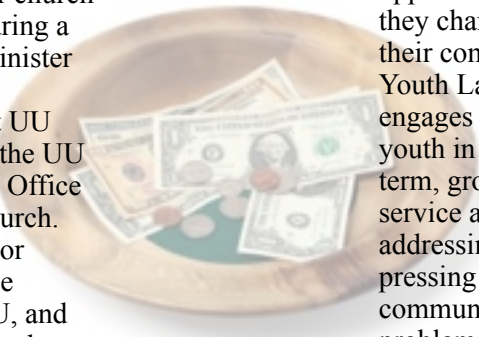
First and Third Sunday of the Month

On the first and third Sundays each month our congregation splits the offertory collection (exclusive of pledges) with a nonprofit organization whose work reflects our values.

April 5: Feketehalom partner church in Romania. This small church near Brasov has been our partner church since 1992, sharing a building and minister with two other churches. First UU works through the UU Partner Church Office to assist this church. Reverend Sandor Mathe has twice visited First UU, and some of our members have visited



Feketehalom. Our donations are used for the church expenses.



April 19: Youth Launch, a local nonprofit that provides empowering service opportunities to youth, supporting them as they change their own lives through improving their communities. Youth Launch engages with youth in long-term, group-based service activities, addressing such pressing community problems as teen pregnancy, environmental sustainability, and under-age alcohol abuse.



Interim Minister Search is Underway

The Interim Minister Search process is underway and seeks your input. Six capable and energetic volunteers have been assembled to gather the Interim Application information requested by UUA, capture the priorities of our church community and review and select a candidate for our Interim Minister. The Interim Minister will serve for up to two years and will not be a candidate for our called minister. While this task is not the same as that of selecting a candidate for a called minister, it is extremely important in the life and transition of this church.

The volunteers on the Interim Task Force reflect a wide variety of experience at First UU and in their professional lives. Gary Bennett is chair of Denominational Affairs, Dale Whitaker-Lewis has long been active with Social Action, Chris Jimmerson is the director of a non-profit, Nancy Bene is a member of the Committee on Ministries, Brian Uecker is the cheerful piano accompanist in our music program and Dr. Gary Beach is a long time member seeking to become more active in this transitional phase in the church's life. Michael West, Board Trustee is the Board's liaison to the Task Force.

The UUA Transitions office is the clearinghouse for congregations seeking an Interim Minister and for ministers seeking an Interim position. The Task Force will complete the Interim Application online before April 15 and begin to review the available candidates soon thereafter. The Task Force will make a recommendation of their choice to the Board and the Board of Trustees will contract with the selected candidate to begin at the church around September 1st. An array of resources on the transition process is available on the UUA.org website.

The Task Force is conducting a Congregation Survey to gather feedback on a number of priority issues to be addressed by the new Interim Minister. A print Survey and an online Survey **will be available by March 27** through the following link on the First UU Austin website: <http://www.austinuu.org/interimsurvey> The Task Force also has a mailbox in the church office and a contact e-mail address through the church and welcomes input from any member of the congregation: interimsearch@austinuu.org

How To Get Involved...



16 Covenant/Interest Groups

Check them out and Sign Up Listed with leaders in Announcements



Sign up in Gallery on Sunday or contact Sharon Moore: smoore779@austin

Sharing Suppers



On April 14, groups of 6-10 people will gather for food, conversation, and laughter in various participants' homes. Everyone contributes something to the dinner. Contact: Linda Buehlmann (512-323-5334) lindabuehlmann@sbcglobal.net or sign up on the sheet posted outside the Room 8. Email list for time, place, and info: sharingsuppers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Paradox Players April Auditions



Auditions for our June play, *Trying*, will be a little different from the past. Director Gary Payne requests that actors prepare a short 2-minute monologue for the auditions, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 20 in room 17, and April 21 in room 13. This two-character drama calls for one female playing mid-20's and one male playing 70's. Scripts are available for checkout from the PP mailbox in the church office.

Trying is an interior drama, set in the study of an old Philadelphia aristocrat who had been Attorney General under Franklin Roosevelt. We will need many props and furniture in addition to what we already have, so please let us know if you can lend us large bookcases, old metal gas heaters, an old desk, or any other furniture listed in the Sunday Bulletin.

Please call Gary Payne at 441-4720 with questions about auditions, furniture or props.



**Needs Volunteers to
compile Charts April 5th
from 1-2 in Room 15.**

Contact: Sheri Overton (512-847-2685 or sherioverton@hotmail.com).

Don't forget...

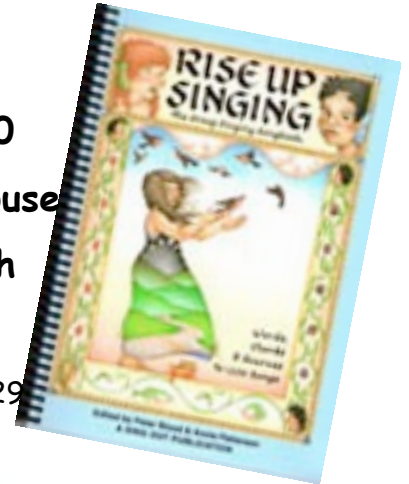


Hello...
Hello...
Can you give me directions to the church? Hi is there a Grounds Committee meeting today? When? Where? Is there childcare? Do you know how to get Mary Smith's email ?

Wanted by the Staff:
Folks to mostly answer the phones and occasionally do a few odd jobs during the day Monday through Friday. If you can help for a few hours on a regular basis for a month or so PLEASE call 452 6168 ext 301 or email linda@austinuu.org and give us the times you can be here or stop by the office and see what works best.

Sing Along
April 25th at 7:30
Friend's Meeting House
See details March newsletter pg 3

Contact: Larry Vaughn 469-0029



Please join in for an Easter Brunch April 12th in Howson Hall. A selection of pastries and snacks will be provided. POT LUCK WELCOME.

Meet & Eat: Focus on International UU Women's Convocation

April 22nd at 6 p.m.

Join us for Meet and Eat with a bit of a twist! It will be held April 22nd Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. The cost is \$5 and childcare is available by contacting childcare@austinuu.org. The Membership Committee is moving to a different format with an informal forum or program during and following dinner.

To kick off in April, we will focus on the recent International UU Women's Convocation in Houston. We have invited women from Wildflower and FUUCA who attended the Convocation to share their experiences. Please join us and connect with Unitarian Universalism locally, nationally and internationally. The idea is to have a different focus each month. Remember that Meet and Eat is currently the fourth Wednesday of each month.

For reservations, email or call Jeanette Swenson 512-524-1973 jeanetteswenson@yahoo.com linda@austinuu.org

Readers' Theatre

April 13th 7:30 pm Rm 13

This month reading full length play unrehearsed. Please be prompt. Newcomers welcome



Pictures in the newsletter are often the work of **Jane Parsons**
smilingjane@ddg.com

343 9119



Striving to Serve You Better

The bad news is that your church office hasn't provided the best possible service to you. The good news is that with the right tools and training, together with your patience and trust, you will see significant improvements in the not-too-distant future

Currently, we use inordinate amounts of staff and volunteer time inefficiently. To give you just one example, we have at least six major software systems that use a lot of the same information, but don't talk to each other. So, if you give us a new piece of information like your new email address, someone has to manually update it in several different places. In addition to wasting time, each time someone retypes that information it creates an opportunity for a typo, an error, to creep into the system. This situation impacts daily operations, stewardship, our membership database, our accounting, rentals, communications with the congregation, and just about every other area of the church.

How did this happen? Our office processes and tools served us well enough when we were a much smaller church. Today, we've grown much larger but we still have the same tools and processes.

Something similar would happen to any of us individually if all of a sudden we had to serve 300 meals a day out of our home kitchens. Our kitchens work perfectly well for feeding our family, but they aren't set up well for operating a mid-sized restaurant. Between storage, prep, refrigeration needs, cooking, cleaning dishes, having multiple cooks, etc., we'd quickly find that the space, the tools, and even the way we work could not keep up.

So, we've made getting the right tools and processes in place our top priority. It will take time though, because we can't just shut everything down and focus on making the transitions. At the same time that we are trying to cover key functions, we will begin researching the strengths and weaknesses of what we currently have; looking at new services and conveniences that we want to provide; investigating how others accomplish the same job better; and ultimately implementing the changes necessary to put the right combination of tools and processes in place.

In the meantime, your trust and patience will help immensely. It has taken years for these challenges to develop and we cannot fix everything at once (or even this year or next). The reason that things aren't getting fixed immediately isn't because we don't know how, or aren't aware of them, or think they're unimportant. Many of these imperfect situations will persist because we have very limited time and resources, especially after handling day-to-day operations. We're carefully choosing not just which the most urgent needs are, but which will produce the most return on investment of time and resources, over both the short and long-term. (We've picked stewardship and finances as two of the most urgent.)

Our goals go beyond just eliminating some of the errors and rough spots that some of you have experienced and maintaining the same level of support and service that you've had over the years. Ultimately, we seek to provide excellent service to this community, strong support to your programs and committees, and the solid foundation that will allow your activities here reach a much higher level.

Bridgebuilder Work Has Begun....Dr. Steinke's findings on April 4th in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. Everyone Come!!!

Bridgebuilder Work Has Begun: Dr. Steinke will present his findings on April 4th. The Rev. Dr. Peter L. Steinke will return to our sanctuary **Sat, April 4, at 9 a.m. to present his Action Report.** The written report recommends changes to our church community identified through interviews, emails, and comments from listening ministry groups and at the Feb 28 meeting. ***All are invited and encouraged to attend this oral presentation.*** After presenting his report and modifying, if needed, **based on audience feedback**, Dr. Steinke will meet with a 16-member Action Planning Team to plan implementation of the report's recommendations. Focus groups open to all will review and provide input to the planning process.



Childcare is available for the first 40 children whose parents make reservations at childcare@austinuu.org with ages and number of children. Coffee will be served in the Gallery. Please feel free to bring snacks to share. Voluntary donations are welcome at this and all

Bridgebuilder events. Please consider giving generously to help pay for Dr. Steinke's services.

For questions regarding Bridgebuilder meetings, check the church web site or contact Margaret Borden at m.borden@sbcglobal.net or (512) 458-4502. DVDs of Dr. Steinke's presentation are (Feb 28) and will be (April 4) available for check out at no cost from the bookstore on Sunday mornings.



President's Corner

At the March 17 Board of Trustees meeting, we had the happy task of welcoming our new Youth Trustee, Aaron Osmer. Unfortunately, Aaron's first board meeting went late into the night and dealt with many sticky financial issues arising out of our current serious budget concerns. Aaron stayed to the bitter end, and we thank him for his insightful contributions to some difficult discussions. We heard and discussed presentations from Bill Edwards, chair of the Stewardship Committee, Eugene Balaguer, chair of the Finance Committee on where we are and where we need to be. Sean Hale and Luther Elmore further contributed cash flow projections, financial reports, and contingency options leading to a bottom line hard truth: if the current income trend continues, our church may run out of money. There is no question we need to come together in the next few weeks to raise the money needed to overcome this crisis; our dreams for our church community depend on it. Hopefully, the Spring Drive will be successful enough that the congregation will not have to consider some really painful budget cuts at the upcoming May 3rd Congregational Meeting.

Michael West, board liaison to the Interim Minister Search Task Force, reported that the search is in high gear, and targeted for a September hire date if the right candidate appears. Please see his report on page 3 in this newsletter for all the details, including a request for your input in a survey at: : <http://www.austinuu.org/interimsurvey>. At the board meeting, we also learned that the UUA's interim minister search procedure requires us to post up front our compensation package for the position. We had a long and lively discussion about balancing the need to attract the very best pool of applicants to help us through these difficult times, with the need to cut spending during our current financial troubles. We reached a compromise decision to offer as much as we could without exceeding the current budgeted senior minister salary package.

As always, we welcome observers to visit the board meetings at 6:30 on the third Tuesday of each month in the Gallery.

Sheila Gladstone

President, FUUCA Board of Trustees

Your Stewardship Committee at Work

If you were not able to attend the March 15th service not only did you miss the original songs and writings of Jim Scott, but you also missed out on a very important announcement from your treasurer and your Stewardship Committee chair. The message: our church faces a \$100,000 financial shortfall in income versus expenses, between now and the end of this year.

In life, when something goes wrong, you can always find somebody to blame. Fixing blame, however, does not fix the problem. Ultimately, it falls on all of us to respond to this problem and ensure that the community and programs we've inherited from other's efforts and money endure.

What this means is that the members of the congregation of our Church – you, we, us – need to close the pledge gap, or the Church will run out of money before the end of the year. What that means is a special Spring fundraising project.

The church has seen severe income problems in the past. In January 2000 the Church faced a \$50,000+ shortfall for the year. Our members closed this gap in about 6 weeks in a special Spring Canvass. We did it once; we can do it again.

The Stewardship Committee will report back to the Board and the congregation by the time of the May Congregational Meeting on whether we will have enough funding to continue our church programs – our Mission - through the year, or whether finances will force us to shrink our Mission and our dreams.

You will shortly receive a more complete explanation by mail. You can expect to hear from the Stewardship committee in the near future to talk about your opportunity to help end the budget crisis.

DID YOU KNOW?

- *It costs \$30 per week per family to operate your church.*
- *RE attendance is up 8% so far this year?*
- *If everyone increased their pledge by only \$8 per week per year the problem would be solved.*
- *The music program includes both an adult and children's choir.*
- *To help you can make a one time contribution or increase your pledge for 2009.*



Sunday Worship

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

April 5: Michael LeBurkien: From Judaism to UUism.

April 12: Traditional Flower Service Ron Phares in coordination with Lara Douglass. Please remember to bring a flower to the service.

April 19: Paying Attention - The Essential Spiritual Practice. Tom Spencer, CEO of AIM. If you can visit his internationally acclaimed web site www.souloffthegarden.com, Paying attention to simple details of life.

April 26: Is the work of "God" God's work? Michael Benedikt. UU represents not one faith but many, and also no-faith except in humanity and virtue. What, then, should we make of God-talk? Shall we abjure it, or bracket it, or embrace it in so far as it produces goodness, beauty, and deeper truths? And if the latter, do we not have God again--not "God" but God actual--and a worthy object of faith? My sermon will try to convey the potential for a new theology inherent in this idea, which also gives title to my book: <God Is the Good We Do>."

Public Affairs Forum

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

April 5: The Robot Group; Fusing Technology and Art, artists and engineers will demonstrate and explain an amazing assortment of creative robotic inventions on stage. Don't miss it!

April 12: Easter Brunch: No Forum

April 19: Kinky Friedman; The Cowboy Philosopher _ Singer, songwriter, novelist, humorist, politician, and columnist. Join us for lots of laughs and intellectual stimulation from the one-and-only Kinky Friedman!

April 26: James K. Galbraith, Professor of Government, LBJ School of Public Affairs How bad is our economic situation? Can we pull out of this recession? What caused it? How effective will President Obama's stimulus and recovery plan be? Join us to hear answers to these questions and more from the leading economic policy expert in our nation.

Denominational UUpdate

It's time to talk about General Assembly again (June 24-28, Salt Lake City). This year is a special one because a new UUA President will be selected to replace outgoing President Bill Sinkford, the symbolic head of our denomination; the two candidates are Rev. Peter Morales, minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado, and Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman, minister of First Unitarian Church of Dallas. There is a considerable amount of material about each candidate at the UUA Elections Site: <http://www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/elections/>. We also hope to have materials available in the Gallery soon.

The actual voting will be done at GA by official delegates of each congregation. By the UUA formula, our church will be entitled to 13 delegates; and if you wish to be one of these, let Board Chair Sheila Gladstone know & she will gladly give you a signed certification of delegate status when the forms arrive in May (we can be confident of this because FUUCA has never yet filled its quota). There also seems to be a provision for absentee voting by congregations, even if they send no representatives to GA; FUUCA might be interested in pursuing this option. Note that a new Moderator and new Financial Advisor will also be elected.

Last call 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." An on-line copy of the registration form is at <http://swuuc.org/media/docs/forms/registration%20form.pdf>.

ADHD

Possible Adult Education Group

We have the possibility of offering the group described below. If you are interested in being part of this group please contact Sharon Moore at smoore779@austin.rr.com for registration information.

Have you ever wondered if you have ADD or do you know you have it? Are you creative and feel different from others?

Do you ever feel like you are not fulfilling your potential and meeting your goals? Are you curious as to how others lead a consistent, regular life? Do you feel like you are "passing for normal" or have not felt normal? Do you feel that you have many more ideas than others, but you can't stop them or organize or act on them in an orderly way? Then, this might be the group for you.

In this educational community group, we will talk about many topics as well as a different side of AD/HD, the personal side, the emotional side, feelings about yourself and your relationships. Here, we find ways to move the focus of our lives to our strengths, talents and abilities, to increase our choices and options, rather than the barrage of negative self-talk and feelings of inadequacy and overwhelm that we may have.

Topics of the group will include What is ADHD?, Organization, Time Management, Social Skills and Communication, Emotional Development, Positive Aspects of ADHD, Goal Setting, Medication, Relationships, Workplace and Career, Creativity, and Self Care. The group's format will be an hour of education around a specific topic and then 30 minutes of discussion.

Provided by: Marianna Satu Korby, M.A., LPC-I



Seniors' Luncheon

Tuesday, April 15th

Howson Hall at Noon

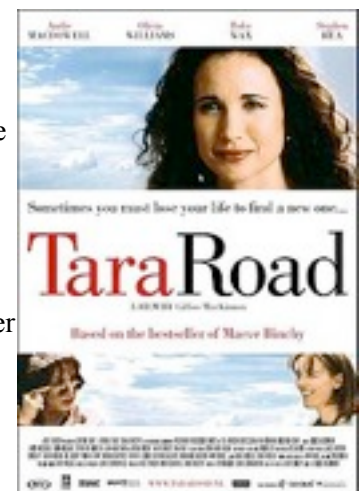
Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

Program: Meet your office staff! Who are they? What do they do at the church? What do they do outside the church? What happens behind the scenes during the week? You'll meet Linda Taylor (publications), Natalie Freeburg (administrative assistant), Jim Scott (bookkeeper), and Sean Hale (executive director).

Spiritual Movie Night...

- Our movie night for April will be Friday the 20th at 7 p.m. in Howson Hall. You are welcome to bring a lawn chair for more comfortable seating if you wish. We have popcorn, candy, trail mix and sodas. Be sure to come and join the community for movie night
- From the acclaimed novel by Irish author Maeve Binchy, this inspiring film stars Andy MacDowell and Olivia Williams as two women who, running from their own lives, decide to switch homes without having ever met. Ria is living in her cozy cottage on Tara Road in Dublin with her husband and kids when her world is turned upside down. Marilyn lives in a mansion in Connecticut, cut off from any semblance of humanity ever since tragedy dismantled her life. In an impulsive move to escape their external (and internal) environs, they decide to switch homes for the summer, only to find that through running away they somehow find themselves, discovering freedom and a whole new lease on life. 97 minutes in English. Written by Cynthia Cidre and Shane Connaughton from the novel by Maeve Binchy. Directed by Gillies MacKinnon.



Religious Education

Imran Ahmad US Speaking Tour Comes to First UU

Mark your calendars for Monday, April 13th, 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary as Imran Ahmad – London-based author will speak on his non-fiction book, “Unimagined: a Muslim Boy Meets the West.” Austin is part of his 40-city US Speaking Tour and as this author states, “with re-humanization between America and the Muslim world being my key aim.”



Certain events conspired to

make this happen:

* The AirTran incident on New Year’s Day, in which a party of nine Muslim US citizens were removed from an aircraft because two of them were overhead discussing the safest place to sit, made Imran Ahmad outraged and frustrated. Unnecessary incidents like this just help groups like Al-Qaeda assert their allegation that America is waging a ‘war on Islam’.

* President Obama’s inaugural speech, in which he called for a new era of respect and dialog between America and the Muslim world, gave Imran a tremendous sense of excitement and hope and a strong desire to do something.

* After a long and distinguished career in General Electric at a senior level, Imran decided that he wanted to focus his energy on this much needed re-humanization effort. Imran Ahmad’s website is www.unimagined.org.



16 Covenant Groups/Interest Groups Formed. Great way to get involved...



Ranging from interest areas of knitting, skating, Sunday Sermon discussions, bird watching, canoeing and 11 more. There is something for everyone.

On Sunday, March 15, Sharon Moore facilitated an informational gathering regarding covenant and interest groups’ formation, their scope, and detail. With an audience of 45 people, testimonials presented from present covenant group members regarding the richness of what these groups have meant *and can mean* to participants served as a springboard for 16 groups. An interest or covenant group can be: supportive, and yet not a support group or therapy; not a formal class and yet an opportunity to learn from peers; reverent and yet not a formal worship experience; and not a social club, yet still an opportunity to make and deepen friendships. The Sunday Bulletin and Weekly Announcements will list all the groups and the facilitators so you can make your choices.

Fees are not connected to these groups, however activities for a fee may be discussed within each group. For more information about how you can become involved, contact Sharon Moore 349-2318. smoore779@austin.rr.com. Or check the announcements and Sunday Bulletin for a listing of all groups and facilitators.

**Adult Religious Education Committee
will meet at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 9th
in Room 9 (RE Office)
(Susan Bethke - Chair)
If you are interested in joining this
committee please join us!**

Remember the....it takes a village concept? All these wonderful activities for adults, children, families all take planning and help in delivery. Please, if you are willing to volunteer for Religious Education in any capacity let Peg Frey peg@austinuu.org or Cyndi Stein cyndi@austinuu.org or Lara Douglass at lara@austinuu.org.

Children's Religious Education

Passover Seder 2009



This year's Passover Seder will be Saturday evening, April 11th, at 6:00 pm in Howson Hall.

The Passover Seder is a ritual re-telling of the Passover story. It is a time to share this story with our children and to celebrate freedom. This year we are excited to announce that our own Michael LeBurkien and Lara Douglass will be leading the ceremony. Our Seder is a fun, family friendly event and long standing tradition here at First UU of Austin.

Our Church Seder is a cooperative meal. We provide the main dish, some side dishes and the ritual foods. We ask that guests bring traditional Passover side dishes. (Passover recipes will be available in the Gallery for people to chose.) You are also welcome to bring one of your own holiday side dishes. The more variety we have the better the meal! If you do bring your

own dish, please follow some simple Seder food guidelines: no pork, no shellfish, no combining meat and dairy and lastly no leavened (yeast, risen) bread.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend. Your RSVP helps us plan for the main dish and ritual foods. You can RSVP and pay in advance at our Passover table in the Gallery on Sunday or register on the church website at www.austinuu.org. Just click on the Passover Seder link to RSVP. Adults \$15 Adults who bring a dish \$10 Children 5-12 \$5 Children under 5 are free! *NOTE: We request the above donations in order to help us pay for our Passover costs such as the main dishes, wine and ritual foods.*

We always need folks to help us with these big events. We will need people to help with food preparation, setup and clean-up. To volunteer to help at the Passover Seder please contact Cyndi Stein at cyndi@austinuu.org or 560-2839.

Matzo Ball Making Party!

Hand-in-hand with our Passover Seder tradition we have a Matzo Ball Making Party in the kitchen the day before the Seder. This year the party will be at 2 pm on April the 10th. We will provide all the supplies! Just drop by and join us in making Matzo Balls to be served the next day at the Seder. This is a great excuse to take off early, relax and hang out in the kitchen in the good company of friends. We'll have plenty of laughter and aprons on hand.



Easter Egg Hunt!

Spring has sprung and it's time for our annual Easter Egg Hunt so bring your empty Easter Baskets! The hunt will be on Easter Day, April 12, at church during both sessions of RE. Once the kids are sung out of service their teachers will lead the K-5th graders out to the main courtyard patio for the hunt. The nursery and PRE-K kids will have their own hunts on the playground. RE will provide age appropriate eggs for them to hunt. Please remember to bring your empty Easter Baskets



This event really depends on all parents bringing one dozen eggs per child. The eggs can be plastic and filled with candy, toys or stickers. When you arrive at church on Easter morning please drop off your eggs in the kitchen (the earlier the better, since we will need to hide the eggs in time for the hunt). We will have spare empty egg cartons for you to pick up in the RE office the week before Easter.

We always need folks to help us scatter the eggs for both egg hunts. To volunteer to help out please contact Cyndi Stein at cyndi@austinuu.org or 560-2839.

Flower Communion Reminder

The Worship Services Committee plans to have our annual Flower Communion during the Easter Service on April 12th. Please bring one fresh flower for each of your family members to share during the ceremony.



**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

www.AustinUU.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

15th of the month

Please submit information to

news@austinuu.org

Non Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 1824
Austin, Texas

Return Service Requested

Alert: Newsletter moving to email!

In response to the church's tight financial situation and to the growing popularity of the internet, your monthly First UU newsletter is moving to an internet format. In fact, several hundred members and friends have already made the switch away from paper, saving the church about \$1 per family each month (it really adds up over a year). Instead, they receive a monthly email guiding them to the newsletter online where it appears in full color!

Except for people who specifically request that we continue sending a paper copy of the newsletter by regular mail, the May newsletter will be the last newsletter they receive that way. Print copies will remain available for pickup at the church on Sunday.

If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter by regular mail, please let Linda Taylor know by one of the following methods:

- * Phone. 452-6168 x 301
- * A note in her box in the office
- * Email: linda@austinuu.org

Or, to ensure that you receive the monthly electronic notices, please let Linda know via one of the above methods.