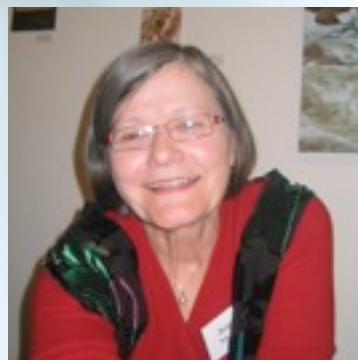


# Spotlight On...

## Kudos to Corinna Whittaker-Lewis,

who has given more than her share of hours to First UU's religious education program and has been an enthusiastic chair and now co-chairperson of the Social Action Committee. Corinna's roots at FUUCA go back prior to the moment when she and Dale Whitaker-Lewis celebrated their marriage in the church in 1992. At that time, Corinna had no idea that she would become as involved as she is in making a difference in the church's direction through her work in Social Action and in helping to define the church's Vision. Corinna shares leadership of Social Action, which oversees everything from the Freeze Nights that benefit Austin's homeless to the church's link with various social action groups in the city. She is also the President of the Bryker Woods Elementary School's PTA. THANK YOU, Corinna for all you do on behalf of our community.



## Jeanette Swenson is very deserving of this spotlight

location. She settled in Austin recently having moved from Portland, Oregon and the First UU Church there. She brought with her first hand knowledge and experience of life in a big UU church. We needed that. Along with this perspective and an eye to detail, she soon became the Membership Committee Chairperson. The committee has grown in size and diligence. The group is diverse in opinions and Jeanette has managed the group well. The Eat and Meet is now a project of Membership as is the Connection Fair coming in September. Thank you Jeanette; there will be a new Chairperson of Membership this year and Jeanette has passed on a healthy, hardworking, committee.

## Spring Congregational Meeting!

May the 3rd at 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary Make a day of it. Enjoy Chuck Freeman from Live Oak deliver the sermon. Partake of lunch that is being served by our First UU Teens as a fundraiser from 12:30 to 1:15 in Howson Hall (moderate donation requested). Make arrangement for childcare by making reservation at [childcare@austinuu.com](mailto:childcare@austinuu.com) or calling 452 6168 ext 305. This is our twice a year meeting of the church membership. Please attend and express your thoughts and ideas. The Complete Agenda can be viewed at [www.austinuu.org/wp/category/announcements/](http://www.austinuu.org/wp/category/announcements/)



Inside this Issue... Solar Panels 123 Go! pg 4, Worship and Public Forum pg 5 Interim Minister Search pg 8, Adult and Children Religious Education pages 9, 10, & 11. Spiritual Movie pg. 3 and much more!

# How To Get Involved...

## Public Affairs Forum Committee Meeting

The semi annual meeting of the Public Affairs Forum Committee to plan the fall forums will take place Wed. May 20 at 6:45 pm in the gallery of the church. The public is invited to attend. Anyone who would like to be a member of the committee is especially invited. People with suggestions for speakers and topics are allowed five minutes at the beginning of the meeting to present their subjects. It is preferred that a specific speaker be suggested with the topic, rather than just a general topic. The forum committee is especially fun to be associated with. It has only two meetings a years and lots of camaraderie.



### Help PCC Sunday May 31

It's Sunday! You're already here! Stay and help! The Clinic needs our help compiling new patient charts. They bring us the materials and we meet in Room 15 after the last church service from 1-2 pm. We need 10 volunteers, so please let me know if you can help out. Sheri Overton (512-847-2685 or [sherioverton@hotmail.com](mailto:sherioverton@hotmail.com)).

### Covenant Groups Enhance Relationships



These small groups are aligning for these express purposes: forming deeper, more intimate relationships, sharing spiritual struggles and growth, and deepening religious commitment. Inquiries and questions are welcome. Contact Sharon Moore at [smoore779@austin.rr.com](mailto:smoore779@austin.rr.com) or phone 349-2318 with your questions. Some groups are forming now, so visit the Religious Education Table in the Gallery to learn how you can be a part of this amazing journey.

## UP NEXT FROM PARADOX PLAYERS



Our spring season continues with the June 12 gala opening of *TRYING*, a drama directed by Gary Payne. Playwright Joanna McClelland Glass has written an exquisitely moving and compelling play, delicate and engaging. A must see evening of theater! "*Trying* is a portrait of generational reconciliation. It is enormously bracing theater," New York Daily News. Tickets will go on sale mid-May. Props needed



include a cot, a late 1960's rotary dial phone, a metal gas heater, a hard cover copy of Bartlett's, and black-and-white photos, framed or unframed. Please contact Gary Payne to lend anything, at 441-4720.

We want to thank our audience who enjoyed February's production of *Social Security*. Because of high attendance we were able to donate a substantial portion of our pledge to church coffers.

### Readers' Theatre

May 11<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm Rm 13

We'll read an array of one-acts  
Newcomers welcome

### Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith Calendar

Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30

Yew Grove Alternative Faiths Recovery Circle  
We will meet at Genuine Joe's Coffee House

Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00

Yew Grove Monthly Meeting at Central Market, 4001 N. Lamar  
There will be no Full Moon Ritual in May

## Congregational Care Task Force

We are a church; we take care of each other. You are invited to affirm this value by participating with the Congregational Care Task Force.

Learn about the work the Congregational Care Task Force has done during the past three months to create a sustainable process for helping us take care of each other. All the hard work is done: the forms are developed, the process is defined, roles and responsibilities are specified and divided up so no one is consumed by what they volunteered for, there is even a list of volunteers waiting to be called to give rides, cook meals, etc.

We have half of the committee positions filled, but we are still looking for more Care Coordinators, a trainer, and a chairperson. These are clearly defined positions with specific roles and responsibilities. Est. time 4-6 hours /month. Or, if all you want to commit is just an hour a month, sign up to be a care volunteer. (Contact Mary Ann Stafford, Genie Martin, or Pat Walters).

## Seniors' Luncheon

Tuesday, May 12th

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

Program: "Money Talk" - Where Does the Money Come From and Where Does it Go at FUUCA? - A Powerpoint Presentation by Tyler Anderson on

Finances and the Budget Shortfall at FUUCA.



## Work is Love Made Visible...

### Church-wide workday May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Lots to do cleaning the grounds, painting, and pruning. When you do these things with church friends it feels like play and community, not like work. Did you join this church for community, but it is hard to meet people, and committees are too overwhelming? Then spend a few hours working/playing side-by-side with others and see what a great return you get on your investment. Lots to do, both indoors and outside. Saturday, May 23 from 9 am to Noon. Contact Elizabeth Gray at [egray88@hotmail.com](mailto:egray88@hotmail.com), and watch the weekly announcements for reminders.

## Howson

### Hall Closet Cleanout!

We are cleaning out the Howson Hall Closet. Over the years, the closet has become cluttered. Many of the items in there look like they haven't been used in twenty years! So, Monty Newton has taken inventory and it is posted outside the main office. If there's anything dear to you or your committee in the closet, please check the list. Any items unclaimed by the end of May could end up in a landfill or donated to charity.

## Spiritual Movie Night...

May 15, 7:00 p.m. in Howson Hall. Movie Presentation is "Taos" and is about finding balance. Inspired by the author's experiences as a corporate attorney in Seattle, Washington and travels to Taos, New Mexico, it is a fictionalized story that takes place in the present day in Washington D.C., Taos, and Aspen.

The short feature is "Help Wanted." The story centers on an older Mexican-American immigrant (Ramon, played by Javier Ronceros) who has lost his passion for living, and his faith in the American dream. A younger and more recent immigrant (Juan, played by Adam Pena) arrives, and the two of them rediscover some of what makes life worth living. This uplifting tale drew both tears and cheers from an enthralled audience from the Elevate Film Festival.

# We are on SOLAR POWER!



This is an exciting time for the **Green Sanctuary Committee**. Dale and Pat Bulla and Don Smith spear headed the Solar Project. Two weeks ago they flipped the switch and turned on the system! One more step towards a greener First UU.

## Serving Suppers to the Homeless at ARCH ! Let's get Involved Here...

What a great opportunity. Get three of your friends to join you. Contact Mary Ann or Karen. Go to ARCH at 5:30 on a scheduled evening (once or twice a month) and serve food to people right here in Austin who do not have what you have. When it gets to be 8:30 that evening, you leave there with your friends and go home to a house, condo, apartment or room that you call HOME. We have so much to be grateful for...Let's share it.

Many thanks to our recent FUUCA volunteers on first Sundays and fourth Mondays: Nancy Eyermann, Amber Mitchell, Ruth Marie, Rose Ann Reeser, Julia Gregory, Elaine Carpenter, Mary Ann and Dana Copp and Karen and John Franks.

It is unfortunate that our current pool of volunteers can no longer support two serving evenings a month at ARCH. We are back to serving only on the FIRST SUNDAY of each month. On the first Sunday, four UUs serve dinner, cafeteria-style, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm to 100 homeless men at ARCH (Austin Resource Center for the Homeless) in downtown





## Sunday Worship

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

**May 3: "Turn the Tables, or Turn the Other Cheek" Rev. Chuck Freeman.** Like all of you, Chuck has been observing candidate and now President Obama in his style of engagement and early governing strategies. Chuck will distill practical spiritual lessons from Mr. Obama's words and deeds. What can we glean from resident Obama that can help us be better UUs, citizens, and human beings? Rev. Freeman is co-minister of Live Oak UU

**May 10: First UU's annual Youth Service with music from the Children's Choir**

**May 17: "In Search of Freedom" Gary Bennett** "Freedom" is really popular, well above the levels of "Mom" or "Apple Pie," even contesting with "God" and "Nature" as that which we most claim to value; I cannot recall ever meeting or even reading about anyone who opposed it. With support like that, why isn't freedom simply an established fact of all human experience? An exploration into human nature. Bio: Gary Bennett has been a card-carrying UU since 1970, and has served a number of roles in congregations in Louisiana, Pennsylvania and (since 2005) here at FUUCA.

**May 24: "The Gospel According to Monty Python" Rev. Jim Rigby** British comedy group Monty Python made some of the most insightful critiques of bad religion of all time. There is nothing more respectful of the sacred mystery than a good laugh at human efforts to capture it in religious forms. This sermon will look at the jokes of Monty Python as a way of understanding the parables of Jesus. Bio: Rev. Jim Rigby is minister at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Austin.

**May 31: "Values and Choices" Jim Checkley** In the last hundred years, life has become incredibly more complicated that it used to be. Just in my lifetime, since I was a boy, it seems that the speed of life has increased dramatically. And the choices we have at every level about how to live our lives are immeasurably greater than existed for virtually the entire time humans have been on this planet. But, I think this myriad complex of choices has come with a big price. I want to talk about that price.

## Public Affairs Forum 11:30 a.m.

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

**May 10th, Nadine and Sarah Eckhardt:** Mother and daughter on Mothers Day! Nadine, author of "Duchess of Palms," and Sarah, Travis County Commissioner, will discuss women in politics and Nadine's first book which tells the remarkable story of "a fifties girl" who lived through the men in her life (novelist Billy Lee Brammer, and later U.S. Congressman Bob Eckhardt).

**May 17th, Rhoda Mae Kerr, Austin Fire Chief,** was sworn in the first female fire chief on Friday, January 30, 2009. Kerr is a fourth generation firefighter, with 26 years of field experience. She was fire chief of the Little Rock, Ark. and Assistant Fire Chief in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. before that. Join us as we learn about our new fire chief, how her first four months in Austin have been, and what to expect going forward!

**May 24th, Mike Levy, TX Monthly Founder;** A native of Texas, Mike founded the publication in 1973 when he was 27 years old. Mike is a graduate of the University of TX School of Law. TX Monthly provides commentary on all things Texan and is currently read by over two million people each month. Join our Public Affairs Forum as Levy shares his story, "Making a Difference."

**Sunday, May 31st, Paul Burka, "The TX Legislature"** Paul Burka speaks the day preceding the final day of TX State Legislative Session! Burka, a native Texan, Senior Executive Editor, Political Columnist, and Blogger for TX Monthly. Come learn the highs and lows of the 81st TX Legislative Session, the political stories from the session, and the artful political commentary that Burka is so well known for!

## Denominational UUpdate

General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations. June 24-28m 2009, Salt Lake City, Utah. The sexy issue is the UUA President's race between Rev. Peter Morales and Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman, both of them with "local" (i.e., Texas) ties (other races feature unopposed candidates). There will also be a vote on a UU Statement of Conscience on the issue of Peacemaking, the culmination of four year's study, which began with the 2006 question: "...should the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war...and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through nonviolent means?" If you are interested in the draft statement (as of March 2009), consult this site: <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/index.shtml> . Austin FUUCA has a limit of 13 voting delegates for this and all other denominational business conducted at GA. If you are interested, you will need to have delegate credentials signed by the Board President. See you there!



## Spring (April Showers bring ...)

In the absence of snow, we note Spring's advent in Central Texas through other measures. Spring has visited my garden, for example, with pomegranate blooms, new strawberry plants taking root, and mint spreading like wildfire. Elsewhere in the yard, lantana, irises, damianita, and others sport beautiful flowers.

Spring has also begun at First UU (literally and figuratively). Blessed, as we are, with a Backyard Wildlife Habitat (per National Wildlife Federation specifications), a wealth of trees, plants, and cactuses have now emerged from their winter slumber. April's longer days coincided with the flipping of the switch on the solar panels, channeling the sun's energy towards the sustainable relationship we seek with Mother Nature.

New growth has begun appearing in the spirit of this community. Peter Steinke and our Bridge Builder Team have made important headway on this. They're now identifying how we can emerge from what has been, for many, a hard winter and create the conditions for, eventually, a fruitful and healthy harvest. Simultaneously, more than a dozen new covenant groups have begun forming, bringing fresh meaning and connection to many people's church experience, and creating new, life-giving bonds between us.

This month, we'll see May flowers and fresh faces as many new people take new leadership roles at First UU. Having met and gotten to know quite a few of them, I feel great excitement for what they will accomplish in their service to our community. They bring a great wealth of wisdom, sensitivity, energy, and enthusiasm. I fully expect that their addition to the ranks of our dedicated, hard-working leadership will produce an even brighter spring next year.

Sean Hale, *Executive Director*



## Sharing Supper for May

Sharing Suppers will be held on **May 16<sup>th</sup>**. Join others for food, conversation and laughter. Groups of 6 – 10 people gather in various homes. Everyone in the church, new or established, couples or singles are welcome to attend. It's easy – just call Linda Buehlmann at 323-5334 or email her at [lindabuehlmann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindabuehlmann@sbcglobal.net). You may also sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside Room 8. Check your calendars and sign up today and **no later than Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**.

## Bridge Builder Focus Groups to Meet

We need to hear from you! Come share your ideas for the church action plan. Help paint the future of First UU.

If you have not already done so, sign up for one of the Bridgebuilder focus groups below. Sign-up sheets are located on the wall next to Room 8. Email Margaret Borden at [m.borden@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.borden@sbcglobal.net) if you cannot sign up at church or if you have questions.

Each focus group will address the four issues identified in Dr. Peter Steinke's Action Report. Please read the report before the session ([www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org)). Babysitting will be available at the Tuesday, May 5 session.

- \* Unclear Mission
- \* Governance
- \* Clergy Roles & Responsibilities
- \* Community

Bridge Builder Focus Group #4: **Saturday, May 2, 10:00, Room 8**

Facilitated by Mina Loomis and Margaret Borden

Bridge Builder Focus Group #5: **Tuesday, May 5, 6:00, Room 13**

Facilitated by Don Smith and Jeanette Swensen

Bridge Builder Focus Group #6: **Sunday, May 10, 1:00, Room 13**

Facilitated by Michael Kersey and Margaret Borden



## President's Corner

I am awed by the groundswell of volunteer activity going on at the Church right now. Just a few of the many projects going on include improving our website abilities and integrating the Church's technology, organizing the "Connections Fair" to match volunteers with Church activities, overhauling the garden outside the sanctuary windows, continuing the Sack Lunch Program for the working homeless, and organizing new and enriching fellowship activities. The Men's Fellowship Breakfast Group had its spring retreat at U Bar U and donated sweat and money to improve facilities there. The new Congregational Care Committee has completed a framework for consistent, sensitive and sustainable pastoral care for those in our community needing assistance. The very active high school group is working on ways to interact with and become more visible to the rest of the congregation (don't miss the Youth Service this Mothers' Day). The Worship Services Committee has staffed our pulpit with challenging and exciting presenters through September, and the Interim Minister Task Force reports that the UUA has our complete packet ready to present First UU's opening to interim minister candidates who wish to start in September. And to top it all off, the Green Sanctuary Committee "flipped the switch" to solar power for the Church in April.

Phew!!! Keep investing your energy, time, and money into First UU and there is no limit to how far we can go. Sheila Gladstone, *President of the Board of Trustees*

## Your Stewardship Committee at Work

### Spring is in the Air.

Your Stewardship Committee has wrapped up the first stage of its charge – the challenge of closing the \$100,000+ funding short-fall for 2009. The Committee's success – our *Congregation's* success – will go far in defining our Church's dimensions for the rest of 2009.

An inspiration was the Challenge Match, whereby a group of us pledge an additional \$28,000 in matching funds for pledges made between April 10 and April 30.

At press deadline time in late April, we have approximately \$43,000 in pledges made before April 10. We have \$19,000 in pledges made between April 10 and April 21 – which doubles under the Challenge Match to \$38,000. Our total at press deadline thus sums to \$81,000.

This is no time to rest on our laurels: the Stewardship Committee's tasks go well beyond the special Spring Canvass.

The Committee is charged with guiding a change in the culture of our Church into a culture of commitment and a culture of abundance. This looks to be a multi-year project, centering on the short-term, the medium-term, and the long-term. The short-term focus has been the Spring Canvass, the medium-term focus will include the fall Annual Canvass, and the long-term focus will center on enhancing the infrastructure of our Church culture. All three of these endeavors interweave – in the Spring Canvass, we helped lay the base for the infrastructure and for the fall Annual Canvass. The long-term focus of infrastructure enhancement had tied to the Spring Canvass. And so on.

**It is all of a piece. Spring is in the air. Spring is in the Air.**

# 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.



**ecologyaction**  
of texas

On May 3, we will split the plate with Ecology Action of Texas, which provides drop-off recycling services in Central Austin, Bertram, and Cedark Park. Ecology Action accepts for recycling many things the city of Austin will not take, such as: aluminum foil, scrap metal, wire hangers, pizza boxes, ink-jet and toner cartridges, cell phones, gift wrap, gift bags, unused paper towels, toilet paper. By supporting Ecology Action you support First UU's Social Action theme of "sustainable lifestyles." In addition, you honor the church's status as a UUA Green Sanctuary.

On May 17, our split-the-plate beneficiary will be Austin Groups for the Elderly. AGE serves more than 3,000 seniors and caregivers with four diverse programs: Elderhaven Adult Day Care Centers, Caregiver Resource Center (including a community lending closet offering durable medical equipment and supplies for seniors in need), SeniorNet Computer Learning Center, and the Historic AGE Building, providing below-market rental space to emerging non-profit organizations.



## Interim Minister Task Force Update

The Interim Minister Task Force is working to determine the skills and experience we need from an interim minister. The expectations for an interim minister are different than for a settled minister. The UUA has a group of ministers specifically accredited in leading a church that has recently lost its settled minister. They describe their charge as follows:

To enable congregations to heal and to enrich their sense of religious community during this transitional period, the specially trained interim minister seeks to:

- *bring the reassurance that a seasoned professional is working with the congregation. Momentum will not be lost. The search for a new minister will not be unduly pressured. The disaffected can return freely.*
- *deal with "termination emotions" surrounding the former minister who, whether beloved or disliked, was at the center of a web of relationships now tender, often torn. Unless these emotions are discharged, they will wait to be dumped onto the following settled minister.*
- *help the congregation review its operations and clarify its goals. The new called minister will thus find the congregation to be a moving train, instead of a stalled bus waiting for a driver—or a mechanic!*
- *model a different but still successful style of ministry, thus showing the congregation (for many of whom the departed minister may have been the only UU minister they've ever known) that more than one ministerial style can be effective*

Thus, in part, an interim minister is intended to assist us with reaching a point where we are ready to call a settled minister. Other key differences for interim ministers include:

- The Board hires them based upon this task force's recommendations.
- They serve for a set time period and may not apply to be the settled minister.
- There is an evaluative process built into the standard interim minister contract.

Several good resources on the interim ministry process are available at <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/interimministry/index.shtml>.

Based upon the issue areas identified in the Bridge Builders process, we have recommended a two-year interim period with a targeted starting date near September 1. We have submitted our application to the UUA and hope to begin receiving applications at the end of April or in early May! We also continue to send information such as the Bridge Builder results to the UUA so that a better match may be possible.

To contact the task force, send an email to [interimsearch@austinuu.org](mailto:interimsearch@austinuu.org).



# Children's Religious Education

## Hogwarts School of Wizardry returns to Austin!

July 27 to July 31, 2009 1 week of wizard camp!

During morning sessions; students will play Quidditch and Wizard Chess, study Herbology, Potions, Magical Creatures and more! Afternoon sessions include a Social Action activity and a field trip to local (muggle) sites. Camp is open to students in grades K-6. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and are welcome to join in and be prefects!



- Cost: Full Day (8 am-5:30 pm): \$200. AM Session only: \$100.
- Discounts available for UU members. Camp is non-denominational and simply lots of fun.
- Drop off time: 8-8:30 am. Lunch: 12:30-pm. Afternoon pickup: 5-5:30.

For more detailed information and registration please visit the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry page on the First UU of Austin website at: <http://www.austinuu.org/wp/religious-education/hogwarts/>

For additional questions please contact Allegra Azulay at [allegrazz@aol.com](mailto:allegrazz@aol.com) or 636-9508.

**Parents!** Hogwarts is also seeking volunteer professors for morning classes or chaperones for afternoon field trips. Childcare is provided for visiting professors with children too young to attend classes. Contact Allegra for more information.



**Please join us on Mother's Day, May 10th, for the annual Youth**

**Service.** The High School class will be presenting the entire service; writing their own homilies, performing music and acting as ushers and greeters. The topic is "Leaving the Nest" and Ron Phares will be advising them. For the past several years our Youth Services have received rave reviews for being incredibly meaningful across all generations. This is a service not to be missed!

### Pre-K Teacher Needed in RE

We are looking for energetic, compassionate and fun loving fellow UU's to help guide our little ones along their spiritual path. If you are interested in a four hour a week, paid position, as a FUUCA Preschool teacher please contact Lara Douglass at your earliest convenience. (512) 452-6168 Extension 305 or [lara@austinuu.org](mailto:lara@austinuu.org)

### Thank You

#### Amber Andrews!

FUUCA heartily thanks Amber Andrews for her work and service with the Middle School and High School RE classes. Amber has a very special way of connecting with our youth and we are truly thankful for all the time she has committed to this community. We wish her all the best.

#### Upcoming Children's RE Events

**May 10<sup>th</sup>** Youth Service

**May 31<sup>st</sup>** Children's Programming Committee Meeting

**June 1<sup>st</sup>** Summer Session & Annual Social Action Projects Begin

### Easter Egg Hunt a Hit!

Once the clouds cleared and the sun came out, the children hunted eggs, delivered flowers and enjoyed a glorious Easter Sunday. **Thanks to all who came and helped out!**



# Religious Education



## Couples Club Luau

Couples of the church are invited to the first monthly Couples Club which will take place on Saturday, June 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Sharon and Brian Moore, 8000 High Hollow Drive, Austin, Texas 78750. Bring either an appetizer, salad, main dish, or dessert. Soft drinks and coffee served. BYOB. Sign up at [smoore779@austin.rr.com](mailto:smoore779@austin.rr.com) - **Bring your swimsuits and towels! Prizes awarded for best hula dance!!!** In the meantime, be thinking of activities we can offer on the first Saturday of each month.

## Big Thanks to the OWL Facilitators

The much-revered OWL classes (Our Whole Lives-Adult Sexuality) under the instruction of Barbara Tuttle and Michael West will be coming to an end in May. Adult Religious Education would like to take this opportunity to thank these two for a job well done. "O" Magazine sent a writer to cover this subject and class and it may be incorporated into an upcoming late summer edition of "O" Magazine. Thank you, both.



## Eckhart Tolle Discussion Group Begins

### "The Power of Now"

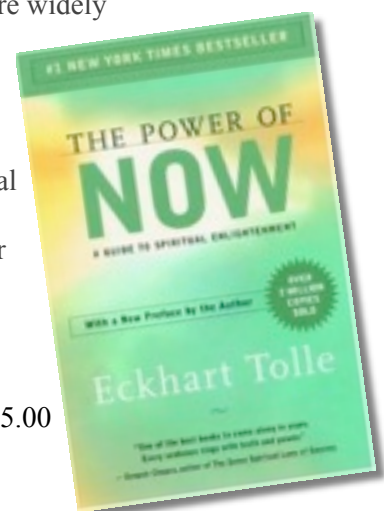
– Eckhart Tolle is a spiritual teacher and author who was born in Germany and educated at the Universities of London and Cambridge. He is the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller, **The Power of Now** and the highly acclaimed follow-up **A New Earth**, which are widely regarded as two of the most 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. At the core of the teachings lies the transformation of consciousness, a spiritual awakening that he sees as the next step in human evolution. An essential aspect of this awakening consists in transcending our ego-based state of consciousness. This is a prerequisite not only for personal happiness but also for the ending of violent conflict endemic on our planet.

Each week we will be discussing a different chapter of **The Power of Now**. Our meetings are on **Thursday evenings, 7:30 to 9:00 in Room 13**.

You can receive an automatic notification of the meeting by signing up at [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com), just type in Eckhart Tolle and your zip code. A donation of \$5.00 per person is requested which will be donated to the First UU's Adult Religious Education program

Should you have any questions contact Joe Linsalata 512-327-5000 or [Linsalata@austin.rr.com](mailto:Linsalata@austin.rr.com)





## Big Spring Thanks! Passover Seder 2009

This year's Passover Seder was a huge success!  
Many thanks to Michael LeBurkien and Lara Douglass for leading the Haggadah. A very special thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make this event such a joyous celebration.



## Yoga Practice Covenant Group is Open for New Members

The yoga practice covenant group meets on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:00 pm in Room 17. We now have spaces available, so the class is open to any who want to try it out with the possibility of becoming regulars. It is free for the first class, but we request a small fee thereafter because now we have an instructor, Judy Edwards. She has an energizing approach which includes many standing exercises for joints and all muscle groups. There is also a long relaxation period at the end. She will be with us through June. Bring your own mat and any other equipment you want to use such as pillow or blankets. If Judy is unable to make it we may play a yoga video or a group member will lead the class in a series of postures. You may just show up, or contact Mary Jane Ford, at 926-4122 or [mjaneford@grandecom.net](mailto:mjaneford@grandecom.net) to get on the email list, or to gain further information about the group.

### Dates to Remember, May 2009

- \*9<sup>th</sup> City of Austin Elections
- 10<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day/Youth Service
- 15<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Movie Night
- \*16<sup>th</sup> O. Henry Pun-Off World Championships
- \*25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Observed
- \*26<sup>th</sup> Final Adult OWL Class
- JUNE 6<sup>th</sup> Kick-Offs:** Couples Club and Singles Group
- \*Brought to you as a public service announcement of Adult Religious Education and not directly affiliated with FUUCA.

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

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**Director of Religious Education:  
Lara Douglass**

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[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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### **Alert: Newsletter moving to email!**

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, or to ensure that you receive the monthly notices at the correct email address 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](mailto:linda@austinuu.org)

### **Get a Room!**

Whether you need a classroom for your committee meeting or Howson Hall for your group's yearly gathering, there is now a Room Reservation Request Form which will help you and your co-chairs hone your needs before you request the room. This will help us reserve the appropriate room for all those who request space at the church, including outside renters.

Forms can be picked up from the wall pockets by the Volunteer Desk in the office and left in Natalie Freeburg's mailbox, or completed online at [www.austinuu.org/rooms](http://www.austinuu.org/rooms) and emailed to her at [natalie@austinuu.org](mailto:natalie@austinuu.org). Thanks for contributing to the success of space allocation of our building!