



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Mary Jane Ford has a wonderfully rich and diverse experience as a member and volunteer with First UU. Her early church experience was in First Unitarian Church of San Antonio (Unitarianonly at that time). She moved to Austin with her mom, Marian Lyford, who remained a member of First UU until her death in 2007. Mary Jane followed the growth of the church from the meetings in the Federation of Women's Clubs on San Jacinto, to the halls of Rosedale Elementary , and on to Howson Hall until the Sanctuary was built.

As a teenager she was in LRY (Liberal Religious Youth) and met the children of long time church members Stan Hutchinson and Mary MacGregor at youth conferences. When she started college she stopped attending and didn't return to first UU until 1974 after coming back to Austin to live. She became involved with the choir and a guitar group for a few years but dropped out again. In 1992 she came back one more time and has been with us ever since.

Mary Jane has served on seven different committees over the years (often as Chair or Coordinator), served on the Board twice, and also served as the Board Treasurer. Mary Jane's current involvement: SWUUSI SW District Summer Conference attendee, U-Bar-U supporter, Social Action Committee as Sack Lunch Originator and Coordination, Finance Committee, Dirgibles, Stewardship Committee, Yoga Practice Covenant Group, and Denominational Affairs Committee.

And that's not all, she volunteers in the office. You will see her at many of the events held at the church. She is the quintessential volunteer! Let the spotlight shine and next time you see Mary Jane you might tell her, "Thank you."

Another pleasure for Mary Jane is the Sing-a-Long which will be held Oct. 24, at 7:30 at the Friend's Meeting House on 3701 E. MLK Blvd. She suggests you bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing with the group. One more request: no alcohol, since this is not a custom of the Quakers. Join this easy going, soft spoken lady at one of her favorite pastimes.



➡ **Inside this Issue...** Transition Team pg 2, Social Action: Reaching Out to the World pgs 4&5, Religious Education pgs 10-13, and more!....



In the Interim *by Janet Newman, your Interim Minister*

Recently I have been preaching on the topic of covenant, or mutual promise, and I have encouraged the entire congregation to take up the process of creating a relational covenant of behavior. Indeed, the column about the middle school covenant in last month's newsletter offers inspiration for all ages.

As it happens, it is often more effective to create a system of mutual promises in smaller groups where people are together frequently than it is to develop a congregational system of promises first and expect smaller groups to follow suit. And so I urge all committee chairs, small group facilitators, task force leaders, and anyone who gathers a working group here at the church to develop a covenant of right relation. I would very much like to be your guide in the process. If you put me on the agenda

(and let me know about it!) I can work with you to create the basics of your group's covenant in short order. Then you can refine it, wordsmith it, whatever it needs from that point.

My hope is that once you have experience with the process of developing a covenant in smaller gatherings, congregants will find it less daunting to develop a congregational covenant of right relation. I have many examples of systems of mutual promise (covenant) from other congregations; you can see them on the UUA.org website. Bridge Builders put this process right up there with the other recommendations. Why not make it happen this year? See you in church, *Janet Newman, your interim minister*

The Transition Team and The Interim Period

I am very pleased to announce the names of the volunteers on the Transition Team for 2009-10. These persons were selected and approved by the Board of Trustees and have shown great promise as the Lay "Think Tank" for the congregation. They are **Nancy Bene, Jim Burson, Margaret Roberts, Michael Kersey, Wendy Kuo, Sharon Moore, and Sylvia Pope**. At their first meeting with me, they decided that the Congregational Time-Line project should be the initial task of Interim Ministry this fall.

The purpose of the Time-Line is to elicit comments from congregants on church events that caused individuals to feel proud of First UU or to feel disappointed in First UU. Sometimes the same event elicits both responses, and this is completely normal. The result of the exercise is to show patterns in response to church events, to learn from one another, and to give me some insights into congregational history and reactions. Please participate. The Time-Line project will be ready during October for your post-it notes. *Janet Newman, Interim Minister*



The Process of creating a Covenant in a Small Group. When the Open Minds covenant group started meeting, what held us together initially was a desire to be there. We quickly set about defining our covenant, or contract with each other. At first, it was easiest to talk about what we didn't want or what hadn't worked before. Our first real agreement was that we would define ourselves in the positive, by who we are (or at least who we wanted to be).

There was the usual tension between process and progress. We were all wary of repetitive meetings with seemingly no conclusion, yet we wanted to give ourselves time to explore shared values. We used an Affinity Diagram, a brainstorming tool, where each participant writes down as many uncensored ideas as they can think of on cards. The cards are placed on a wall and similar ideas are moved next to each other to form clusters of commonality. The group reviews and prioritizes the ideas. After some weeks of discussion, Carol Ramsey, took our ideas and gave them voice in the form of the group prayer:

As we light the chalice, as we hold hands, as we breathe deep and slow down

Let us remember what brings us together

May we choose compassion even when it isn't easy

May we tell good stories more often than bad

May we listen to each other and support each other

May we look outside of ourselves and be open to what lays beyond

May we live intentionally, creating the life we want, in the every day moments, with our every day choices

May we be grateful for our time together.

This is the agreement we've made between ourselves. Though it at times feels like that prayer reflects our aspirations more than our daily lives, for at least an hour each week we get together and reaffirm our intention to slow down, to support each other, to create the lives we want, to be open and grateful. *by Brian Wittenbrook*



Sunday Worship



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

October 4: “Heroes of Our Hearts: The First Lady and the Great Soul” by Rev. Dr. Janet Newman. We cannot claim Eleanor Roosevelt or Mohandas Gandhi as part of the Unitarian Universalist cadre of heroes, but they were truly heroes of our hearts. We can learn much from their lives, flawed humans as they were.

October 11: “Unmentionables” by Rev. Janet Newman. A sermon title such as this one inevitably inspires speculation – what subjects are unmentionable in our culture? Religion, sex, politics, or (gasp) money? As the first Sunday of the Stewardship Campaign to determine the possibilities for 2010 here at First UU, you may expect to be surprised.

October 18: “Mission - As Fire Exists by Burning” by Rev. Janet Newman. This title is part of a longer statement by Emil Brunner, “The church exists by mission as fire exists by burning.” How does this relate to the congregation of First UU? Though mission statements are not new, how can the church live in mission and not simply write the words on paper?

October 25: “Dia de los Muertos: How Does It Speak to UU’s?” by Rev.. Janet Newman. Day of the Dead sounds so funereal to our ears, and yet our cousins to the south find the holiday to be one of connection and growth. How can we learn from them? All are invited to bring mementos of deceased loved ones to church for an altar.



Sunday Forum



The times for the Sunday Forum is 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 4:- Joanne Richards, Lilith Fund Board of Directors and Mike Hirsch, NARAL ProChoice Texas Board Member “What is the State of Women’s Reproductive Health in Texas?” Texas ranks the highest state in the country in teenage births, while also ranked 1st in abstinence-only sex education funding. Something is very wrong here in our great state. This is the sad state of affairs in TX. Joanne Richards, of the *Lilith Fund Board of Directors* and Mike Hirsch, Board Member of *NARAL ProChoice Texas* and also member of the *Lilith Fund Board of Directors* will join us for a thought-provoking presentation on the State of Women’s Reproductive Health in TX.

Sunday, October 11: Michael Mordecai, Jazz Trombonist, member of legendary Beto and the Fairlanes “History and Fundamentals of the Music Business in the Live Music Capitol!” Jazz trombonist Michael Mordecai is a longtime Austin musician and member of the legendary *Beto and the Fairlanes*. He was founder of *Fable Records*, Texas’ oldest Jazz record label, and in 1973 started his music agency *BBA Management and Booking*. Michael is also on the advisory board of the *Austin Music Foundation*. He’ll speak on the History and Fundamentals of the music business here in the Live Music Capitol!

Sunday, October 18: Texas Senator Kirk Watson, “Eleven TX State Constitutional Amendments; How Will You Vote on Nov. 3rd?” Did you know there are 11 TX State Constitutional Amendments that Texas registered voters have an opportunity to vote on Nov. 3rd? What are these amendments? How are you going to vote on them? Join the *Austin League of Women Voters* and the *Public Affairs Forum of Austin* as we team-up to host a forum to answer questions about these 11 amendments. Our keynote speaker is Texas State Senator Kirk Watson. As with all of our First UU forums, this forum will include a presentation and a Q&A session. The *LWV-Texas Voters Guide* to the November 3rd election is available at www.lwvtexas.org.

Sunday, October 25: Former TX State Legislator Ann Kitchen “The State of Health Care.” Health Care has dominated our news cycle for many months as one of the most important topics of 2009. Elected in 2000, Representative Kitchen served as TX State Representative for Travis County District 48. An expert in Health Care, she managed the Health Care Regulatory Group of PwC, was policy advisor to the TX Health and Human Services Commission, and works with a local health care non-profit. Join us for a comprehensive and timely presentation and Q&A on the State of Health Care!

Stewardship - Much Larger than Money

Sixteen of your fellow FUUCA members have become Team Leaders in the Annual Stewardship Canvass. Each Team Leader has recruited Canvassers to meet one-on-one with us. At the time of this writing, our Team Leaders have selected more than 100 potential Canvassers. Each Canvasser will hold a conversation with no more than 3 of us.

And what a conversation it will be. It is said that UUs can talk about anything in the world except for money. Our Canvassers much prefer to talk with you about our dreams, than talk with you about levels of funding and line-items on a budget grid. This is the same conversation that you also prefer.

The official start of the Annual Stewardship Canvass is Sunday, October 11. Our goal for the 2010 Canvass is \$650,000 in pledges. When we reach that goal, we will fully fund our balanced Budget, and we will realize our shared Dreams of Interior Facelift and Kitchen Renovation. The 2010 Annual Stewardship Canvass will end on November 1, 2009.



*Bill Edwards
Chairman
Stewardship Committee*

Fellowship Committee Invites you to Dinner!

The Fellowship Committee is getting more active each month. Just recently, we have partnered with Membership Committee to sponsor one of the "Meet and Eat" nights. Now there are two evenings a month when you can come to 1ST UU to enjoy healthy food and good company.

To arrange for your FREE DINNER, just get in touch with the Fellowship committee.



Leave a note in the Fellowship mailbox or e-mail ewethington@austin.rr.com. We'll put you on the guest list! That's all there is to it. Here are the dates:

October 7th & 21st, November 4th & 18th, and December 2nd and TBD. This program is run by volunteers. We believe that Fellowship is so important that we want every one to try our event. We hope once you try it, you'll return, bring a friend, and be a part of the Wednesday Night activities offered at 1st UU.

New to UU? If you are looking for a deeper connection, come on Wednesdays and stay. Maybe you'll rehearse with the choir, join Evensong, or play a game of checkers. If you stay to help wash dishes, I can guarantee you'll make a few friends, too.

Committee or Group Members? Think of how bright and lively the Church is on those Wednesday nights! Maybe a little dinner childcare would help your members stay involved.

1. Plan your meetings around Eat and Meet (or during if you can find room)
2. Make Eat and Meet a socializing time for your group
3. Feature the good work of your group as the program on one night.

Contact Fellowship if your group needs publicity, more volunteers, or wants to entertain a crowd. ewethington@austin.rr.com or leave a note in the Fellowship box in the UU Office.

Third Wednesday Meet and Eat / Informal Forum

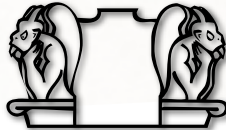
To offer people in our church an opportunity to enjoy relaxed conversations over dinner about topics of current interest to us at FUUCA, the Membership Committee has offered a series of Wednesday night dinners on topics ranging from a joint meeting with Wildflower UU and Live Oak UU to talk about the March International UU Women's Convocation, dialogue with General Assembly attendees, dinner with Janet Newman, and Bridgebuilders representatives. Each table has a facilitator or discussion leader, and we look forward to talking about your ideas, concerns, and interests. The September topic, Radical Hospitality, generated a lot of discussion about how we can be a more welcoming church. After dinner, we watched a short DVD of Jefferson Unitarian Church (JUC), in Golden, Colorado. In a seven year effort, JUC has radically altered the culture of religious hospitality. At the conclusion of our discussion, participants agreed that we wanted to act and to continue the discussion, and we agreed that the October 21 Meet and Eat / Informal Forum would continue to explore religious hospitality: Radical Hospitality II. **Please join us for dinner and conversation at 6:00 pm in Howson Hall on October 21st where the forum topic is Radical Hospitality II.** In order to have a meal count, please sign up on the bulletin board, at the Visitors Table, or **email Jeanette Swenson, jeanetteswenson@yahoo.com**. We look forward to hearing your ideas and concerns.



Brent Baldwin
Music Director

Music Matters

AUSTIN CHAMBER MUSIC CENTER: ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE



Starting this Fall, the FUUCA Music Program began a partnership with the Austin Chamber Music Center. ACOMC will perform the main concerts for their 2009-2010 season at our church, with half-price tickets available to FUUCA church members (just let the people selling tickets at the door that you are a member of the church to take advantage of the discount). In addition, ACOMC will lend their world-class talents to our services.

“We are very excited to partner with the First Unitarian Universalist Church,” says ACOMC director Michelle Schumann. “It’s reputation as a place for the musical arts makes it especially attractive, and the sanctuary’s superior acoustics make it a terrific place to play, whether it be for the UU services or for our own concerts.” Their next concert will be on November 14th at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary, and will feature Jewish-inspired music by great composers. **More information and concert dates may be found at the Austin Chamber Music Center website: www.austinchambermusic.org**



ADULT CHOIR TO BEGIN FALL REHEARSALS



The FUUCA Adult Choir is likewise off to a great start. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays from 7:30pm to 9:00pm in the Sanctuary. We’ve got a wide variety of musical offerings coming down the pike, and it’s never too late to get involved. Curious? **Contact Director of Music Brent Baldwin at brentb@austinuu.org**, or simply drop by a rehearsal to check it out.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR CORNER



Children’s Choir began rehearsals start on September 13th and the turnout was terrific. Directors Danielle Solan and Kelan Latimer are back and are revved up to provide their inimitable top-notch instruction (and a good deal of fun!).

It’s not too late to involve your child in the Children’s Choir program. Rehearsals are held between services from 10:40 to 11:25 a.m. in room 17 for Primary Choir (grades K-3) and room 15 for Youth Choir (grades 4-8). Simply drop by a little early with your child to talk to one of our directors. **You may also contact our Children’s Choir Coordinator Chris**



Heidel at chris@chrisandtoby.com for more information.

Be sure not to catch the Children’s Choir Singing Services on Sunday, October 18th!!!

SOCIAL ACTION: *Reaching Out to the World*



Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis and Eric Hartman are the Co Chairpersons of the Social Action Committee. On these two pages a few of the activities are highlighted. This, however does not begin to scratch the surface. In the winter we have Freeze Nights for the homeless. We serve Sunday dinners at the ARCH. We deliver food for CARITAS. We have many projects throughout the world. We are actively a part of Austin Area Interreligious Ministry. We maintain a strong commitment as volunteers at The People’s Community Clinic. The list goes on. We are very appreciative of the folks who came and signed up at the Connection’s Fair to join our efforts. If you want to join us. Come along. Place your name and info in the social action box in the office or speak with us on Sundays in the Gallery and we will get in touch with you.

Saturday, October 24th is Hands On Housing Day

On Saturday, October 24th, Austin area UUs will participate in the Fall “Raise the Roof” Hands On Housing event, a city-wide volunteer project organized by Austin Area Interreligious Ministries (AAIM). Volunteers from First UU, Live Oak, Wildflower, and the Fellowship will team up to repair two homes on Huston Street, off Webberville Road in East Austin. One home, owned by a retired yard worker in his mid-80s, needs a lot of carpentry work on the outside and roofing work. The second house is owned by an elderly woman who is on disability and needs a complete paint job inside. So we’ll have plenty to do!

Participating in Hands On Housing is a great way for members and friends of our congregation to help someone in need while enjoying the fellowship of other UUs. The work shifts on Saturday 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 will also have a clean-up crew from 9 to 12 on Sunday morning.

Hands On Housing is a family-friendly, all skill-level event. 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. We’ll provide the addresses and more information to volunteers once they sign up.

We are fortunate to have **Brian Ferguson** organizing the children’s activities for this Hands On Housing project. If you would like to assist Brian with the kids, please **contact him at brian_m_ferguson@yahoo.com**.



Trick or Treat for UNICEF information and boxes will be available in the Gallery Sundays during Oct. at the Social Action table. This has been a tradition in many families and groups for over 50 years. It is a way to make Halloween a meaningful and generous experience and has helped countless children around the world to a better life.

Contact **Judy Sadegh** for more information, jsadegh@yahoo.com, 496-5771 or go to the US Fund for UNICEF website at <http://youth.unicefusa.org/>



Alternative Gift Fair
A must do event!



Mark your calendars! Save the date for our Alternative Holiday Gift Fair on Sunday, Nov. 22. Shop early this year for special gifts of meaning. Honor friends and family with gifts given in their name to help others. You will receive a gift card explaining the donation. We will also have Fair Trade and unique gifts and cards available from UUSC, Romanian Partner Church, Campfire and others. If you have an idea of a group which should be involved or if you would like to volunteer to help, **contact Judy Sadegh. 512-496-5771 jsadegh@yahoo.com**.

SOCIAL ACTION: *Reaching Out to the World*

LOOK



Split the Plate for October

On the first and third Sundays of each month we split the non-pledge offertory plate with a nonprofit organization, chosen by the congregation, that puts our common social-justice values into action.



On October 4, our split-the-plate beneficiary will be **Austin SafePlace**, which provides shelter and counseling to women, men, and children suffering from the harmful effects of domestic violence. Each year roughly 1,000

individuals receive shelter at SafePlace. The organization provides not only crisis services but also long-term support, including counseling, life-skill training, parenting classes, and housing placement. Also part of the SafePlace mission is community education on sexual and domestic violence.

On October 18, we split the plate with the **Unitarian Universalists United Nations Office-Ghana Project**. The mission of UU-UNO is "empowering Unitarian Universalists to participate in the UN's work to build a just international community." The Ghana Project ("Every Child is Our Child") grew out of the desire to do something about AIDS in Africa. Education is the most important factor in slowing the spread of AIDS. For \$80, school fees, books, and uniforms can be provided to send a child to school for one year. With \$800, a child can be assured of a full primary and secondary education.



Split-the-Plate Nominations for 2010 Due by October 30

Nominations for the 2010 split-the-plate program must be submitted by Friday, October 30. To receive a copy of the nomination form by e-mail please contact **Eric Hartman** at hartoftex@aol.com or call 469-9894. You can turn in a nomination to the Social Action Committee's mailbox, via e-mail or the envelope posted on the Social Action bulletin board.

First UU members attending the November pre-congregational meeting will vote to select nominated non-profit organizations to benefit from our split-the-plate program in 2010. You are urged to attend and speak for your nominee.

Social Action's Sack Lunch Program for the Working Homeless

Every Monday night a team meets to make 30 sack lunches and deliver them to Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, "ARCH", 500 E. 7th St. Each team provides its own bread, fruit, lunchmeat and cheese for the lunches, while the rest is bought in bulk and stored at the church for use by all the teams. For a half an hour the kitchen is buzzing as the team lines up the sacks, makes the sandwiches and stuffs the bags with fruit, and other goodies. Next we load them in a car, drive them to ARCH and 30 homeless folks who have jobs now have lunch! All teams meet in the church kitchen except for the 2nd Monday team. They meet at a home in south Austin and have a potluck supper along with the sacking. For details about the 2nd Monday team, contact **Rose Ann Reeser** at rareeser@earthlink.net You may contact **Mary Jane Ford** for further information at 926-4122 or mjaneford@grandecom.net



Thanks to the participants for the work they have done with the Sack Lunch Program! (names are all listed in the Sunday Bulletin)

**U-Bar-U Retreat and Conference Center Homecoming Weekend
Oct. 23-25, 2009**



Come to a weekend of community and fun in the Texas Hill Country. Enjoy the stunning view of the Milky Way, swim in the rock walled tank; walk the labyrinth, or just sit around the campfire. There will be musical entertainment Sat. evening.

The weekend is complimentary for all who have donated to become Friends of U-Bar-U in the past year. If you are not currently a Friend of U-Bar-U you may join for \$100 a family or \$50 for an individual. Normal rates for individual or families to stay at U-Bar-U are \$20 without meals or \$30 with meals per person per night for adults. Children under 14 stay for 1/2 price and children under 7 stay free.

Please make a reservation for your stay and meals by contacting Director@UBarU.org or by phone 830-864 8419. Also, there are reservation forms in the churches office.

Austin Area Interreligious Ministries (AAIM) Sponsors Interfaith Dialogues.

AAIM unites faith and cultural communities to foster respect, partnership, and transformation in service of the common good. In addition to social action projects, AAIM is sponsoring several interfaith dialogue events this fall.

The Red Bench



On Tuesday, October 27th, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Austin Area Interfaith Ministries (AAIM) is sponsoring **The Red Bench**, the 2nd in a series of interfaith conversations on virtues shared by all faith traditions – forgiveness, compassion, and gratitude. The purpose of **The Red Bench** is to provide an opportunity for deeper expressions of what we value as well as deeper listening to a wide spectrum of perspectives. **Red Bench** gatherings will be held at First United Methodist Church - Family Life Center, 13th and Lavaca. You can sign up online at www.aaimaustin.org or contact AAIM at 386-9145.

Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogues (mark your calendar/get involved)

On Thursday, November 12th at 7:00 p.m., AAIM is organizing the Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogues event, which will be hosted by homes around Austin. Each home site will have a pot luck dinner and feature sharing of individual faith stories by participants. For more information or to sign up as a host or moderator, contact AAIM at 386-9145.

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration. Sunday, November 22nd –

Save the date for AAIM’s 25th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration. See the November newsletter for more detail



NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness. We have been staked out in the Gallery signing up walkers. The time is almost here. On Oct. 10th, we will be meeting at Auditorium Shores at 9 a.m. and the walk begins at 10a.m. The route is up Congress and back, about 5K. **First UU, Wildflower and Live Oak will join together to make up the UU-Uniques super team. We hope to get a lot of supporters and walkers.** Remember we are walking for the mind of America.



Participants, let your friends know why you are involved and encourage them to join you. Everything will go towards the **Austin and Central Texas** goal of raising \$125,000. Those who don’t want to walk but would like to donate are also welcome. Donations in any amount are most appreciated.

NAMI Austin Walks for the Mind of America. Join the UU-Uniques Super Team!

Additional Shows and Auditions



PARADOX PLAYERS Overlapping the ending of *On Golden Pond* is the beginning of Broadway! On Nov 6 and 7 an original cabaret show *A Broadway Melody... from Romberg to Sondheim* will be staged in Howson Hall, with audience seated at tables in nightclub style. Similar to last year, the Cabaret will include a silent auction, after-dinner delectables and assorted beverages.

Auditions for the Cabaret will take place Sat, Sept 26 and Oct 3, from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Sanctuary. We are seeking a lyric soprano, mezzo soprano, second tenor, and a baritone who can sing Broadway tunes and carry dialogue. Please contact Charles R. Hill at 305-3705 for further information. We will sell tickets for the Cabaret throughout October and early November – in the Gallery on Sundays, and online at paradoxplayers.org. Tickets are \$30 each, or \$55 for couples.

This fundraiser will benefit both the church and Paradox Players. This year 100% of revenues raised from the three main stage productions have been donated to the church general funds. The Cabaret is the only function in 2009 that will earn any funds for Paradox Players.

Earlier Readers' Theater

Readers' Theater will meet Mon, Oct 14, at a half hour earlier than usual - at 7:00 p.m - in order to read a full-length script. Newcomers welcome!

Krause Springs Campout

October 2nd through October 4th

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). 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. 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 or Krause Springs at (830) 693-4181.

Tuesday,
October 13

Howson Hall
at Noon



Seniors' Luncheon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

Program: Our new Interim Minister, Janet Newman, is coming to tell us about her past experiences and future plans with us.



Is there a book in the church library which is special to you?

Perhaps written by a family member or in some way deeply meaningful to you? **Please call Stephanie (Canada) Gill at**



David Jones Returns! Family/Church Systems Theory Workshop

Oct. 16: 7pm to 9pm and Oct. 17: 9am to noon

For all of us who enjoyed his lecture series over the summer, here is an opportunity to participate in a more intimate setting with Rev. Jones leading a weekend workshop on Systems Theory.

As you may recall, Rev. Jones is the Director of the Ministry Program at Austin Presbyterian Seminary. He has done extensive work with Peter Steinke.

The cost is \$30 for the entire workshop. Space is limited to 30 participants, so please sign up as soon as you can. RSVP to Diana Parker: diana@austinuu.org

**The Women’s Spirituality Group is alive, and
Magic is Afoot! Come celebrate our 25th birthday!**

When: Saturday, October 10, 2-5 p.m.

Where: Howson Hall

Who: Past & present Women’s Spirituality Group members & their female friends.

We welcome: Maidens over 15, Mothers, Queens; Crones

This is an adult-only women’s event, alcohol-free. It’s an opportunity for us to meet and greet new and old members, participate in a group ritual and enjoy light refreshments and birthday cake. We will be happy to provide child care with advance registration by October 3rd. Please help us get the word out to former group members. **RSVP and child care reservations:** Linda Webster, lindawebster@grandecom.net;

**ENCOUNTER
POINT**

*“For the first time,
Palestinians & Israelis
are meeting to share
their pain.*

*We’re meeting about the
issues that politicians
use to justify killing.”*

The Spiritual Movie Night for October will be

“Encounter Point,” a documentary made by filmmakers from Palestine, Israel, North and South America. The movie has won numerous awards -- 2006 Tribeca Film Festival, 2006 Jerusalem Film Festival, 2006 Dubai Film Festival, and the 2006 San Francisco International Film Festival.

It is the story of an Israeli settler, a convicted Palestinian fighter, a bereaved Israeli mother and a wounded Palestinian ex-prisoner. “Encounter Point explores what drives these and thousands of other like-minded civilians to overcome anger and grief to work for peace. Without dogma or righteousness, it implicitly asks why, with the world’s cameras focused on this conflict, we have never heard about these courageous and vital efforts?”



**My Neighbor
TOTORO**

**The Children's Movie is a
delightful surprise from Japanese Anime**

called “My Neighbor TOTORO.” Roger Ebert says "Here is a children's film made for the world we should live in, rather than the one we occupy. A film with no villains. No fight scenes. No evil adults. No fighting between the two kids. No scary monsters. No darkness before the dawn. A world that is benign. A world where if you meet a strange towering creature in the forest, you curl up on its tummy and have a nap." **So be sure to bring the kids!**

The movie night will be at 7 p.m. on Oct. 16 in Howson Hall. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for Adults, \$2 for children. Popcorn, drinks, and snacks will be available for purchase.



Childrens Religious Education!

HALLOWEEN

DIA DE LOS

MUEROTOS

Our annual 'Halloween Dia de los Muertos Carnival' will be held be on Saturday October 24th this year. Last year we started a new tradition of incorporating the Dia de los Muertos celebration along with Halloween. El Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead or All Souls' Day) is a holiday celebrated in Mexico and by Latin Americans living in the United States and Canada. The holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember

friends and family members who have died. We feel it is important to celebrate both holidays at this time of year as it better reflects our diversity here in Central Texas. Our UU tradition of religious education values the exploring of many religious and spiritual rituals and their relevance both historically and contemporary. We had a wonderful time last year celebrating Dia De Los Muertos and are excited to continue that tradition.

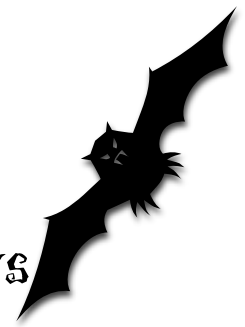
The carnival runs from 6:00PM to 8:00PM on Saturday October 24th. It kicks off with a Halloweenie Meal (healthy options available). There is no charge for the carnival but we do ask for a donation for the Halloweenie Meal (\$5 per person, \$12 per family). The carnival portion runs from 6:30 to 8:00PM and wraps up with Trick or Treating. There will be a wide variety of fun activities and spooky booths including an entire Haunted Hallway.



This event is a long-standing tradition here at First UU we hope to see you

SCARE!

Please come in costume and bring 2 bags of candy or treats



This event relies wholly on volunteers from the congregation in assistance with the RE Department. It takes over 20 volunteers for us to provide all of the elements of the carnival and meal. Without dedicated volunteers we cannot run all of the booths and activities. So we NEED YOU today. **This is by far one of the most fun events for adults to help out with.** We go out of our way to assign you to the activity you prefer. So please volunteer to help out today but **contacting Cyndi Stein at cyndi@austinuu.org or 560-2839.** You can also sign up any Sunday in the Gallery. Just look for our spooky sign up display.

Religious Education Covenant Ritual

On Sunday, September 20, our Interim Minister, Janet Newman, and our Director of Religious Education, Lara Douglass, presented a Religious Education Covenant Ritual during the children's story time for both services. This beautiful and deeply important covenant was a composite of material gathered from a variety of Unitarian Universalist religious education sources.

Here is a transcript of the ritual.

DRE: *Teachers, the objective of this teaching ministry is that you will nurture, challenge and mentor: engaging in the lifelong process of religious education. Our children and youth, with you and in your care, will integrate wisdom from many sources with present experience and reality. With you, they will develop deeper knowledge of what is good, and right and true. Do you pledge to give of yourselves for the spiritual and moral growth of our young people?*

Teachers: *We do.*

Minister: *This is a high calling. We are grateful to you for your willingness to assume this responsibility.*

DRE: *Children and youth, it is a joy to share with you the faith tradition of Unitarian Universalism. Do you pledge to attend class--with open minds, helping hands and loving hearts--making this a place of education, fun, and friendships?*

Children & Youth: *We do.*

Minister: *We are all partners in the concern for spiritual growth. Do you, the congregation of First UU Church of Austin, pledge to contribute to the Religious Education process through the example of living our UU principles, developing relationships with the young people of our church, and giving support the Religious Education program?*

Congregation: *We do.*

Minister: *In this shared journey of religious education and exploration, we join in common purpose to dedicate and covenant with this program and these volunteers. Thank you for taking on this important ministry.*

Through this covenant, the congregation has promised their support and partnership with the RE Department. Having made these promises we would ask that you consider where you could be helpful in assisting RE today. We are very excited to have a record number of children in RE at this time and we need volunteers in the classroom every single Sunday. It takes 7 volunteers every Sunday for each teacher to have an assistant in the classroom. Without a volunteer many of our teachers are left alone with 15 or more children per class. Our Child Safety Policy mandates that we have 2 adults in the classroom at all times.

Please volunteer today so we can continue to have such a vibrant and well attended RE program available to our religious community. There is no preparation you need to do. As a volunteer you can be as active as you choose, feel free to observe or jump right in the fun and do some arts and crafts with our children.

To volunteer please contact Cyndi Stein at cyndi@austinuu.org or 560-2839.



Teacher Development & Training



In August and September, Religious Education teachers and staff attended two different training classes at the First UU Church in San Antonio. Both events were educational, enlightening and very valuable for staff enrichment and skills development.

The first, a Youth Advisor Training, on August 15, was attended by Cyndi Stein, Children's Programming Assistant, and Scott Butki, Youth Advisor and Middle School teacher. The training was lead by Donna Harrison, a senior youth advisor for five years at the district level and last year's Youth Advisor of the Year for the Southwest UU Conference. Donna covered a variety of topics including: youth empowerment, community building, balanced programming and the importance of congregational involvement. The training also covered many techniques to get youth be more open with each other and build lasting bonds. The staff came back from the event with renewed energy and commitment to our youth.

Similarly, Cyndi and Scott, this time joined by teacher Adriana DeLaRosa, learned a lot during a one day *Involve* training titled "Radical Hospitality: Creating Beloved Community for All Children." The Workshop leader Sally Patton, Ed. M. Developmental Psychology authored "Welcoming Children with Special Needs." The workshop covered topics such as assessment methods, teaching strategies, sensitivity training and hands-on training activities.

Our staff gained a lot of insight on working with children with a variety of special needs and how they can best be accommodated and welcomed into our religious education community.

In her book "Welcoming Children with Special Needs," Sally discusses the 'giftedness paradigm.'

"In the giftedness paradigm, every person is seen as unique and therefore all their differences are seen as normal. We can adopt the giftedness paradigm in our faith communities, nurturing the innate spirituality of children, recognizing differences as opportunities for meaningful interaction, weaving all children into the fabric of our church communities, embracing social justice issues related to special needs, and offering a sanctuary in which children are safe and free to explore who they are."

Everyone who attended the workshop left having a better appreciation for the challenges students with special needs have and a stronger resolution to make their time in religious education a more positive and inclusive experience. In essence; to engage, to listen, to teach and truly experience each child from our hearts.

Youth Activities: Middle School

This has been a month of transition for the middle school class as **we finished our summer curriculum of social action and started our fall curriculum called Neighboring Faiths.** This is a great curriculum where the class spends about one month talking about different faiths and, during that month, takes a field trip to that place of worship. First we are laying the groundwork with activities and discussions the students talk about such questions as **"If I founded my own religion...."** or **"If I started my own ritual..."**

Meanwhile, as new students join the class or students returned after the summer break, we go over our new covenant with them and it's great to sometimes see the students, instead of just the teacher, be the one explaining to them the rules of the road. *by Scott Bukti*



Youth Activities: High School

Across the hall at YRUU there are other transitions going on. As I write this, at the end of the weekend of Sept. 11-12, there was the **Beginning of the Year Lock-In.**

This is traditionally the time for new freshmen, as well as others new to the church, to begin coming to these youth-led activities. The lock-in activities ranged from games to spiritual (there was a youth-led worship) to social (ranging from checking in and joys and concerns to just, generally, getting to know each other.) There were 18 teenagers who attended the lock-in, including at least five new to the group.

The big focus, now that the lock-in is over, will be on the first big rally of the calendar year, which is the weekend before Halloween in San Antonio.

As always we are looking for adult volunteers to assist both with the middle school classes and with helping with the YRUU activities. **Email me at Sbutki@gmail.com** and I'll explain more but any help is appreciated and you only have to get as involved, or spend as much time, as you feel comfortable. Have a great month!



Upcoming Children's RE Events!

October 7

Eat n' Meet

October 16

Spiritual Movie Night

October 21

Eat n' Meet



November 4

Eat n' Meet

November 20

Spiritual Movie Night

November 22

Guest at Your Table Begins

November 22

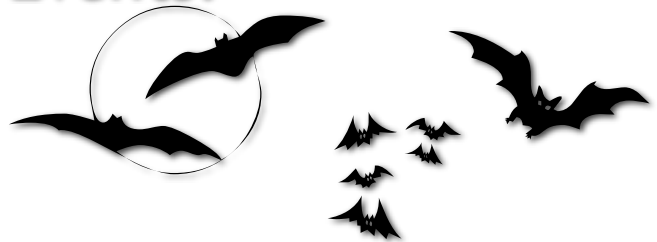
CPC Meeting

December 2

Eat n' Meet

December 16

Christmas Pageant & Holiday Meal





UUs being...
UUs!!



First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Austin

4700 Grover Avenue

Austin, TX 78756

One Church. Many Beliefs.

Interim Minister

Rev. Janet Newman

Executive Director:

Sean Hale ext 308

Director of Religious Education:

Lara Douglass ext 305

Director of Music: Brent Baldwin

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