



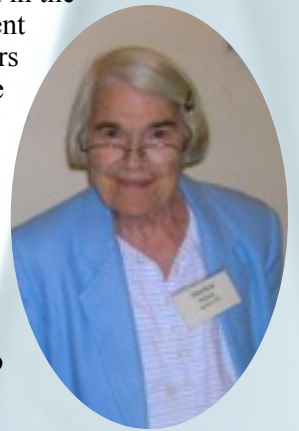
Spotlight On...

Marilyn Wilson...

What a lady! I sat with Marilyn at the sandwich shop a couple of weeks ago and this lovely energetic lady filled me on “little known facts” of life and First UU. Marilyn joined First UU 21 years ago when she moved to Austin after her husband’s death to be near her son and daughter and four grandchildren.

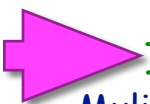
Music is a central theme in Marilyn’s life. She played the flute with the Midland Odessa Symphony and Chorale for 35 years and taught elementary school music. She joined First UU’s choir and was very appreciative of Janet McGaughey (see page 9) who was the director of music. She continued in the choir until 4 or 5 years ago. She gives highest praise to Brent for making the program grow and bring many new members to the church as well as including the youth more and more in the music program.

North Central Caregivers is a recipient of Marilyn’s enthusiasm, hard work and support today. She has volunteered there as a UU representative for years, first driving and in the past few years working in the office. The Women’s Alliance of First UU helped start the Caregivers. The Alliance took care of all the memorial service receptions at First UU and were often the ones who cared for folks who were ill or needed other assistance. Marilyn explained that the Alliance disbanded because no younger women were interested in joining. Jane Laessle had the idea to hold a Senior Lunch and include the men. Marilyn feels the Lunch has helped give the older members a sense of community.



Her biggest dream for First UU is to grow and develop programs for the youth. She smiled and said, “No one will quit the church over the kitchen, but they might quit if we don’t put emphasis on children’s programs.” Her good times in church were listening to Fred Wooten and Davidson. She told a story about the Joys and Concerns. In the past folks would get up during the service and speak about what was important to them, and they often talked a long time and felt they needed to “go up front” every Sunday. This was changed when Davidson and Jim Burson put up the Sanctuary candle wall in one week. “When the time comes in the service for lighting candles, my husband comes to me in my heart.” she said. “It is a quiet peaceful time.”

We finally came around to the present. What impresses her right now are the forums on Family Systems presented by David Jones and his workshop. She has high praises for Micheal Kersey’s presentations and hopes that they continue in the future. She thinks these activities should be attended by more people. It is an honor and a privilege to spend time with this lady. *Linda Taylor*



Inside this Issue: Thanksgiving at “Our House” pg 2, Nell’s Mission pg 6
Multi-generational Service? pg 10, New Adult Education Class pg 11, and much,
much more.



In the Interim

November is a complex month. A line from the works of Sir Walter Scott describes it: “November’s sky is chill and drear, November’s leaf is red and sear.” (*Marmion, 1808*).

Here in central Texas we may not experience weather quite like Scott’s weather, but there is a sense in November that time is moving onward at a quickening pace. Sometimes November brings us the realization that despite our wishes, some opportunities are over and will not come again.

November is a time for looking back at what has already happened and for making decisions for the future. To me, November has a quality of retrospect and prospect (looking behind and forward) even more than January. So it seems fitting that during this month the Transition Team and I encourage you to step up to the congregation’s historical time-line on the vertical windows in the foyer, across from the butterfly memorial sculpture, and post your remarks on the color-coded post-it notes available on the counter. Honoring the past of First UU, Austin, is an important step in your transition/transformation process in which all are involved during the interim period.

You’ll note that there are also two windows for posting your hopes and dreams for the congregation. There, even the most recent newcomer can share aspirations, dreams, and hopes for the church. On the history windows we urge you to write on the post-it notes your memory of events in the life of the church that a) made you feel proud of your congregation and b) made you feel disappointed in your congregation. Please recognize that the same event can bring both responses from different people. This is healthy and to be expected, and it can lead to greater understanding of one another. The notes need not be signed, but you may do so if you wish.

We’ll leave the time-line up through Thanksgiving for the benefit of those who return to Austin for the holiday. Then the Team and I will discuss what we have discerned from the posted remarks, and I’ll craft a sermon about any patterns and implications for congregational life that I see. We’ll follow up by arranging small discussion groups for persons to explore in depth the events they noted. Please participate! Only through the material you give me in your comments on the time-line can I help you honor your past and look toward your future.

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

UU Thanksgiving

Please join us in Howson Hall on Thursday, November 26 at 4 p.m. for our annual Thanksgiving dinner.

The Church will provide turkey, iced tea and coffee. Please bring a holiday side dish, bread, salad, or dessert. If you are vegan, please bring your own main entree.

We will need lots of help assisting in the kitchen, hosting, setting up and cleaning up. So if you are willing to volunteer, please contact Lara Douglass lara@austinuu.org by Tuesday, Nov. 24 and tell us what you will bring.

We will also have access to live football games.





Sunday Worship



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

November 1: “Martyrs of Liberal Religion” by Rev. Dr. Janet Newman. Nov. 1st is known as All Saints Day in the Christian calendar, but I prefer Nov. 2nd, All Souls Day. Not all of us can be a saint, but we all are growing souls! In my sermon I will look at two persons whom we can count as martyrs for the cause. In addition, I will offer an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the Worship Committee and their efforts during the months without a minister.

November 8: Remembrance” by Rev. Dr. Janet Newman. Remembrance calls up in me experiences I had while serving Canadian congregations; there, the honoring of Nov. 11 is very serious, and I was asked to provide special services for remembering. I will provide time in this service for all the butterflies in the memorial sculpture to be recognized and for all others whom we loved an “ d lost to be remembered and named. All who served in the military are invited to wear uniforms or any part of a uniform.

November 15: Speaker and sermon title to be determined.

November 22: “A Festival of Thanksgiving” by Rev. Dr. Janet Newman, Lara Douglass, Brent Baldwin, and a cast of dozens. What are you thankful for? We’ll experience the meaning of gratitude as expressed by families and individuals, through words and music.

November 29: “What Are You Waiting For?” by Rev. Dr. Janet Newman. The sermon title is a question that can be taken in many ways – I prefer taking it as an existential query. What is important in your life? How are you taking action to make sure you have it – and share it? As the holidays make us more and more frantic, how can we keep this uppermost in our minds? See you in church!



Sunday Forum



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

Sunday, November 1st Denise L. Gilman, JD, Clinical Professor, UT School of Law “Obstructing Human Rights: The Texas-Mexico Border Wall” A member of the Border Wall Working Group at UT, Prof. Gillman was instrumental in taking the Human Rights issues to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States. Department of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff unfortunately waived 36 laws in all that would have required consideration of the impacts of the border wall on the environment and Native American Communities. Professor Gilman will update us on this “Obstruction of Human Rights”.

Sunday, November 8th TX State Representative Mark Strama “The Future of Energy in Texas” First elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2004, Strama represents District 50 of Travis County. Mark was named “Legislator of the Year” by the Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association and received the Texas Wind Coalition’s “Legacy Award”. Strama says “we can position ourselves in Texas to be the world leader in renewable energy for the next hundred years, just as we were the world leader in oil and gas for the past hundred years”. Join Rep. Strama for an inspiring and engaging presentation and Q&A on the Future of Energy in TX.

Sunday, November 15th Dr. Frank N. Bash, Ph.D., Served from 1989-2003 as Dir. McDonald Observatory “Stars and How They Work” Frank N. Bash served as Director of one of the world’s foremost astronomical research institutions. Bash is a well known and a widely published specialist in astronomy. He joined the Faculty of UT at Austin in 1969 and served as Chair of the Department of Astronomy from 1982 to 1986. Frank will speak about the understanding of stars and how they work as one of the triumphs of modern physics. He’ll discuss what stars are, how they live, what they are made of, and how they die. Join Frank to experience his passion for the wonderful world of Astronomy and Origins of the Universe.

Sunday, November 29th Carlton Carl, CEO/Exec Publisher of the TX Observer and Keith Elkins, Exec Dir. Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. “State of the News Business, the Shield Law, and Freedom of Information” Both Carlton Carl and Keith Elkins bring a wealth of knowledge from the media business. Carlton is CEO and Executive Publisher of the Texas Observer and has reported for the Houston Chronicle and New York Times. Keith is a longtime Austin TV newsman. He’s been in the news business most of his life, working as an anchor/reporter for CBS 42 in Austin from 2004-2008 before joining The Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. Join these two champions of the media business as they share their expertise on the news business, the shield law, and the Freedom of Information.



So, its been a year.

I feel pleased to have completed my first year here at First UU Church. The challenges have been great and many remain. Nonetheless, when you work with and for good people, it is a good and worthwhile road.

On the operations side, we've made (and continue to make) progress on things like: bookkeeping, record keeping, rental income, pledge payments by credit card and electronic transfer, personnel policy, security, saving money, increasing income, and staff efficiency. Ahead, we have plenty of work to do to get where we're going. "Where's that?" you ask. Figuring that out represents one of the most important tasks that this community will undertake in the near future.

I can say with certainty that we already have among you, our members and friends, more than enough time, treasure, and talent to achieve some truly great, perhaps monumental, things. With good organizing, planning, and preparation we can do it. Next steps? For me and my staff, we want to create excellent infrastructure and support so that things run smoothly and silently behind the scenes.

In the meantime, I continue to enjoy meeting and learning from you, the members of this community that we serve. If you'd like to have lunch or take a morning walk, please email me so we can arrange a time.

-Sean Hale, Executive Director

Split the Plate for November and Thank You Letter!

Thank You Letter to the Congregation of First UU Church of Austin:

People's Community Clinic owes another round of thanks to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin for the recent donation of toiletries. We will share them with the teen mothers in our Tandem program and with other at-risk youth we work with at PCC and at our off-site clinics—the LifeWorks Street Outreach Program, Phoenix Academy, and, most recently Austin Children's Shelter. Providing care for teens and teaching them how to be good advocates for their own health is critically important. Your volunteer service and your generous financial support over the years (more than \$4,000) makes our work possible. Many thanks!

Margaret Henkels, Director of Development of People's Community Clinic

On the first and third Sundays each month, we share the non-pledge offertory plate with a nonprofit organization, chosen by the congregation, whose work reflects our social-justice values.

On November 1, our split-the-plate beneficiary will be **People's Community Clinic**. The Clinic is a non-profit, primary health-care facility providing high-quality medical, counseling, and health education services at a reasonable cost to individuals and families in the Austin area. PCC is dedicated particularly to serving the needs of limited-income patients. The Clinic promotes community involvement in providing health care and emphasizes health maintenance and disease prevention in all treatment programs. PCC is the focal point of one of three congregation-wide Social Action initiatives of our church. First UU volunteers have been honored for their effective and expanding range of services in support of the Clinic.



On November 15, we will split the plate with the **Trinity Center Woman to Woman Program**. This program of the Trinity Center in downtown Austin focuses primarily on counseling and other support services for homeless women. Volunteers provide fellowship and serve as personal shoppers, helping homeless women "shop" for clothes, accessories, and toiletries from the Center's clothing closet. Approximately 40 women take part every week, served by 10 to 12 volunteers from a pool of 25. The Woman to Woman Program is one of several linked programs at Trinity Center providing everything from basic necessities (food, restrooms, telephone access, transportation) to mental-health and employment counseling.

Split-the-Plate Nominees for 2010 to be Voted on November 8

Nominations for the 2010 split-the-plate program are due no later than Friday, October 30, using a form provided by the First UU Social Action Committee via the Committee's mailbox, via the envelope posted on the Social Action bulletin board, or via e-mail. To receive a copy of the nomination form by e-mail attachment, please contact Eric Hartman by e-mail at hartoftex@aol.com or by phone at 469-9894.

The Canvass Like No Other

I am writing this as we go into the final stretch of the Fall Canvass. As I write these words, we don't know where our Church's funding for 2010 will be.

We do, however, know a lot about our Church's Stewardship. Stewardship is more than asking for money - among other things, Stewardship has to do with the commitment within our ranks and the caring that our Congregation needs. You have to have Stewardship before you recruit a Canvass team. This year's Canvass has involved more than a dozen Team Leaders who have brought to us more than a score of Canvassers who have asked us for our financial commitment to our Church for 2010.

On Stewardship Sunday - October 12, 2009 - our Interim Minister, Janet Newman, invited to the front of the Sanctuary everybody involved in Canvass. If you somehow miss your own face in the photographs, know that you will be able to join next year's Team. *Bill Edwards, Stewardship Chairperson*

These are the people whose efforts and canvassing will provide the programs and services



What Do I Have to do to Become an Usher or a Greeter?

A great way to meet people, say hello to all your old friends and/or help others to be welcomed into our Sanctuary is to be an Usher or a Greeter. It is really not a complicated process.

Volunteers work in teams performing tasks beyond handing out the Orders of Service and greeting the congregation. They are responsible for duties that open and close the services, which include keeping the sanctuary neat and orderly, monitoring the foyer, replacing pew items, maintaining the candles, collecting and counting the offering, and completing the report for information needed by the church.

If you would like to be a part of this session, training can be done in between the two services. To become involved and learn more about the church and congregation, **contact Kitty Traylor at ktaylor3@austin.rr.com.**

ONCE A MONTH SUNDAY SERVICE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

There is an **immediate need for a volunteer** to be in the office/mailroom on Sunday **during one service just one time per month**. Training available, of course. This is not a complicated job and is invaluable to our church life on Sunday. **Contact Barbara Denny at 342-9767 or btdenny3@gmail.com.**



My Mission

Recently, I had a chance to listen to some church members and realized that many people still feel unsettled without a current shared mission. Please know that we will spend much of next year working on updating and clarifying our church's mission! However, in the meantime, let me share with you *my* mission! It only has two main points -- one simple, one complex -- and they are at the base of everything I am doing this year.

First, I want to work to help us simply feel better about our church. This is a good place, where good people do good things and I am working to help us all to see this. We've been through some rough weather, and some unhealthy beliefs and stories have built up over the past few years. I've dedicated myself to promoting a healthy optimism and self-image for our church.

Secondly, I am deeply committed to improving our physical and emotional safety. Let me clarify these very carefully.

Physical safety: because we are a tolerant body, we welcome many, but we must also work to keep our members and visitors safe. After the tragedy at the Knoxville church in 2008, our staff and leadership began making many small but steady changes to our facilities and practices to keep people safer. Any person who becomes aggressive is asked to leave our grounds. We have established clear protocol on handling such incidents and I am still working with our staff and other leaders to improve the physical safety of our church family and visitors.

Emotional safety: In the past few years I witnessed and heard reports of emotionally abusive behavior and bullying in the church. This is never acceptable, but what made these incidents devastating was they were the actions of church leaders. Granted, most people never saw this abuse and many would say they weren't affected by it, but I disagree. If, out of 100 people, only one person was verbally or emotionally abused by church leadership, it might not seem like much. But there were generally nine other people who witnessed the abuse or then had to offer comfort. Now ten people either feel complicit in, or victimized by the abuse. That's still not many. But I contend that the remaining 90 people are no longer being served well when their leaders participate in or ignore any type of abuse.

How do we address this? I think we will do well to establish a firm covenant of right relations amongst one another and then listen carefully for words or actions that are dismissive or belittling of another.

So, these are the missions I hold for this next year. What are you planning to do? What are you going to do to make our church better, clearer, livelier, safer, or more joyful? We'll need your ideas when we start our work next year and I'm looking forward to hearing from you! See you in church, *Nell Newton, President of the Board of Trustees*

The Congregational Care Committee Serves YOU

In times of joy and sorrow, in a crisis or an emergency, the caring and generous responses of friends and acquaintances –cards, calls, visits, meals, transportation – do make a difference. The Congregational Care Committee wants to support this outreach to our church community, and we need your assistance. Here are some ways you can help us.

The most important is to let us know who needs help by posting on the Joys and Concerns Yahoo Group (details on the CCC webpage of the church website), by leaving a message on the CCC Voice Mail (512-452-6168, Ext. 315) or by sending an e-mail (uucongcare@gmail.com).

If you want to be part of the volunteer group that is sending cards, visiting, calling, cooking, and driving, become a Congregational Care Volunteer. This does NOT involve attending any meetings or other time-consuming commitments.

And if you have great ideas about improving congregational care and want to be involved on a deeper level, consider joining our committee. We meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 1:00 pm. For additional information, please contact Pat Walters, CCC Chairperson, by leaving a message on the CCC voice mail, or by e-mailing uucongcare@gmail.com or pat3walters@gmail.com.

Asking the Important Questions



Meanwhile, back at the visitor's table, we've been seeing at least a dozen new faces every week! September and October are when the slumbering church starts to wake. In many ways, it's the church's new year—new faces in children's RE, new programs, in a few unusual cases a new voice in the sermons. It's not a bad time to make a few promises as we face the coming year—particularly a promise regarding all those new faces!

It's time to boldly say hello this Sunday. Here's the challenge: /Before/ you look for members of your covenant group during coffee hour, before you try to track down a board member, find someone you haven't met before, and say hi. Odds are, with a membership base of 600 and no telling how many third-year visitors, you'll be striking up a conversation with someone who's been here for a long time, but that's not a bad thing!

Looking for an easy way to start? Try any of the following:
 “Hi! How are you doing! I'm (insert name here). Is this your first Sunday here?” Or, “Have we met before?”
 That's probably the hardest question you can ask! If you've actually encountered a New Person, I'd encourage you to follow up with one of the following:
 “What brought you to the church this morning?” Or, “Are you visiting us from another church?”



Once the conversational possibilities of their beautiful three-year-old daughter, remarkable jewelry, or exciting and challenging hairstyle are exhausted, these are both excellent fallback questions. So many people come to our church after a difficult breakup with another religion, or are seeking some new concept or community, that UU seems like a great way to get back on their feet in looking for a Sunday home. Most people enjoy talking about their background and themselves. I'm also a big fan of /What brings you to Austin?/ for travelers, or /Have you met the Young Adult Group yet?/ for anyone younger than I am, which is strangely a bigger group every year. And there are a hundred variants of /We're so glad to have you here!/ that are both useful, friendly, and above all, true!

And because we are who we are, /Have you had some coffee this morning?/ is a great question, too. See you in Howson! *Jacob Williams, Membership Co Chairperson*



Denominational Affairs:

Wanted: Youth of all ages for our Denominational Affairs Committee

Requirements are: member of our church, have email, and be interested in relating to Unitarian Universalists outside our church. That's it. Everything else is a may do or possible to do or good to do. Conferences are a may do. These include General Assembly, SWUUSI, and SW district conferences (the next of these is November 13-15 in Glen Rose, TX: <http://swuuc.org/pages/services/conferences/fall-leadership-conference-2009.php>)

Back to perhaps joining this committee: If you are a teenager, interested in this committee, let me know. If you're Lisa's age let me know, although Lisa herself is not a church member, so she wouldn't qualify. We recently got a letter from Lisa. It was a prompt response to my delayed response to her Christmas card from Norway last December. It included a cogent analysis on the economic crisis in Norway and Iceland. Physically, Lisa's cut back. She only goes skiing for 3-4 hours, once a week, for ten weeks in the winter, and writes that “my legs need a cane on the street”. I don't know if Lisa has email, and she's 88 years old. So whether you are 18, or 88, you might contact me, about perhaps joining us.us. *John Keohane, chair* keohane@prodigy.net (512) 371-3853

Forrest Church, one of the most loved and respected UU ministers and acclaimed author of more than two dozen books, died on September 24, 2009 in New York City. UUA President, Peter Morales, said, “We have lost a brilliant and articulate thinker, a champion of democratic values, and a compelling advocate for liberal religion. More importantly, we have lost a kind, thoughtful, and loving spirit. More information can be found on the UUA website.



A Broadway Melody



Last chance to get tickets to *A Broadway Melody – from Romberg to Sondheim!* Seating limited! Last year we were turning away folks wanting tickets to our Broadway cabaret, so this year we're offering two shows – Nov 6 and 7, at 7:30 pm in Howson Hall.

This lively show is arranged and directed by Charles Hill, who also directed the 2008 cabaret *That Fabulous Century*, *Social Security*, *The Rainmaker*, and *Avow*.

This year's cast includes several voices familiar to Paradox audiences, and two newcomers. Returning from *That Fabulous Century* are Poullette MacDougal (longtime Paradox artistic director), Bobbie Erb (*Social Security*, *The Oldest Profession*), Cynthia Schiebel (chanteuse in *The Oldest Profession*), and Keith Hale (*Social Security*). New to us are Chelsea Manasseri and Russell Gregory (both regulars with the Gilbert and Sullivan Society).



Tickets are \$30 singles, \$55 couples. You can purchase tickets on our website, paradoxplayers.org, or mail a check to Paradox Players at the church, specifying which performance you want. A silent auction and after-dinner

AUDITIONS for *Shards of Love...*

will be Nov 21, 1:00 to 3:00 and Nov 22, 2:00 to 5:00. Eight couples are featured – roles open for men and women playing ages 20's to 90's. Please contact Barbara Weeks for more information at blyfordweeks@aol.com. Performances run Feb 12 to 28.

Readers' Theater meets Monday, Nov 9, at 7:30 in room 13. Newcomers welcome!



Alternative Holiday Gift Fair on Sunday, Nov. 22. A must do event! Mark your calendars! 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,

Seniors' Luncheon



Tuesday,
November 10th

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

Program: Nancy Groblewski and her interpretive readings from "Diaries of Adam and Eve" Mark Twain

NAMI Walk a HUGE success!

The three Austin UU churches: Live Oak, Wildfire, and First UU combined to make the Super UUUniques, had 36 walkers, and raised over \$5000.00. So far the total raised altogether is over \$140,000.00, with donations still coming in.

So, a big thank you to all who helped in this worthy cause, by donating your time, money, or both. NAMI Austin is committed to making a difference in the lives of the mentally ill and their families. You shared in our endeavor to get this accomplished. *Donna Pauler and Kathryn Govier, co-chairs at First UU.*

Krause Springs Campout November 13th through 15th



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. **Information:** Lynn Vaughan at 989-5701 or 587-8221 or Lynn@Lynnspetsitting.com or Krause Springs at (830) 693-4181.



Brent Baldwin
Music Director

MUSIC MATTERS

Remembering Janet McGaughey

It is hard to believe that it's been nearly ten years since the passing of our beloved long-time Music Director, Janet McGaughey. Janet instituted a high standard of musical excellence for our music program, and each week we work hard to live up to the high artistic expectations she set for us.

On November 22nd, the Adult Choir will honor Janet's legacy with a musical offering of her timeless anthem, "A Thanksgiving Meditation."



Music and Community

Each week, our Adult and Children's Choirs put together voices to "make a joyful noise," while our combined Intergenerational Choir brings together many age groups in an effort to create a more meaningful worship experience within our services. Music draws people together in a way that is often difficult to describe with words. Victor Hugo pretty much nailed this sentiment when he said "music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent."

On November 8th, our Intergenerational Choir will share their music in both services.



More Music and Community

Here are two special events coming up in our church which provide terrific opportunities for music and fellowship:

Austin Chamber Music Center - Saturday November 14th, 7:30pm

Our 2009-2010 Artists in Residence will present their "Synchronisms" concert in our sanctuary. FUUCA members receive a 50% discount on tickets (just mention you're a member at the door). For more information, go to www.austinchambermusic.org



Tim Woolsey Piano Concert - Sunday November 15th, 3:00 pm

Tim Woolsey will present one of his amazing piano recitals. A freewill donation will help support the church's 2009 stewardship drive. Reception to follow.



Guests at Your Table



Each year at this time friends and families in our congregation participate in the UU tradition of Guest at Your Table. Our Guest at Your Table drive will begin on Sunday, Nov. 22. By taking home a beautiful Guest at Your Table box or envelope, families and individuals help the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee put our shared principles into action around the world. Through combination of advocacy, education and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes **economic rights**, advances **environmental justice**, defends **civil liberties**, and preserves the rights of people in times of **humanitarian crisis**. The Guest At Your Table program is more than 30 years old.

In each household, we suggest that your Guest at Your Table box or envelope is placed in a prominent spot, often at the family meal table. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of their Guests and share generously. We will return our boxes and envelopes in early January 2009.

A Word about Multi-generational Services



There is a treat in store for you on **November 22**. The staff and volunteers of the Religious Education department and I plan to craft a service that will, we hope, be attractive to UU's of all ages. There will be age-appropriate readings, a mini-sermons by the Interim Minister, the words of families of all configurations as they share their thoughts on "What I am Thankful for," and some seasonal décor.

For many in our rushed and hectic lives, Thanksgiving is the only time of the year when families of several generations are able to gather and enjoy one another's company. Why not carry it over to our church life and be intentionally multi-generational here? *Janet Newman, your Interim*



Religious Education!

Racing Away From Ourselves: Anxiety and Depression in Modern Society

Sat., November 2, 10 am - 12 pm

Mandy Blott, PhD
Pierre Choucroun, LPC



Most times it is the personal and spiritual connections we form that help us through difficult periods in our lives, but for those experiencing depression making those connections may feel impossible. Mandy Blott, with Family Counselor Pierre Choucroun, will guide workshop attendees through the symptoms and effects of depression on individuals and their loved ones.

Anyone with a personal connection to depression should attend to learn not only about what depression is, but also to gain tools in coping, supporting, and explaining depression's effects to others. This free event will be in room 15.

High School and Middle School Study Other Faiths

The middle and high school religious education classes this year are doing the Neighboring Faiths Curriculum which you can read more about here (<http://archive.uua.org/re/currmap/curriculum.php?CurrID=107/>).

This is a curriculum in which the students not only learn about other faiths practiced in Austin but actually visit the places of worship and watch a service. We can then learn not only about other faiths but also compare them.

The first visit will be on Oct. 30 at a Jewish temple. Our goal is try to visit – and study one faith per month until June.

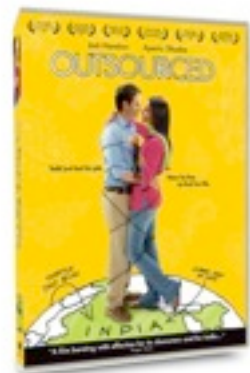


Meanwhile, the high school students at YRUU are gearing up for the first big rally this school year which is taking place Oct. 23-25 at First Unitarian Universalist Church in San Antonio.

At least ten members will be attending and you can expect to see some photographs of the rally in next month's newsletter.

The Spiritual Movie Night for November will focus on a topic many of us will have thoughts on, jobs that are outsourced. The fictional movie Outsourced (2007) takes the topic in a different direction as an employee is sent to India to train a call center but he falls in love with an Indian woman. **The movie night will be on Friday Nov. 20 at 7pm.**

In his review of Outsourced, James Berardinell wrote "It's a celebration of cultural diversity and an affirmation that, despite differences in race, religion, and societal norms, people are essentially the same, with a lack of understanding being a key block to better relations." To read his entire review go here: http://www.reelviews.net/php_review_template.php?identifier=474 and to Read Roger Ebert's review go here: <http://rogerebert.suntimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070927/REVIEWS/709270303/1023>



I will lead a discussion of the movie, outsourcing, India and related issues. \$5 for Adults, \$2 for children. Popcorn, drinks, and snacks will be available.

There will also be a children's movie.

-Scott Bukti

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

Board President: Nell Newton

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

Church Fax: (512) 453-5912

E-Mail: info@AustinUU.org

