



My name is Jim --
Today I want to ask you to TALK to ME --
THE biggest challenge that our church faces is -
Not enough communication --
Y'all need to talk to each other --
Y'all need to talk to me --

Talk To Me

The members of this congregation need to talk to each other --
And not only to the friends we know --
But, more importantly, -- talk to people we do not know --
Talk to me --

Each of you --

Must talk to our minister, ----
Janet Newman --
You must talk to the board members --
And, -- the board members must talk to you --
And, -- of course -- the board must talk to the minister --
And, --
y'all, -- must talk to me --

I am personally going to seek out people that I do not know --
To talk to them --
And to listen to them --
We must have dialogue --
Not just talking --



But, -- talking **AND** listening --
And -- you must listen more than you talk

Y'all listen to me.---

If we had been talking and listening to each other for the last ten years --
We would not be in the situation we are in now --
We would have fewer complaints about **TRANSPARENCY** --
Fewer complaints that we are **AN UNFRIENDLY** people --
Y'all stop to talk --
Stop to listen to each other --
I'll listen to you --
My name is Jim --
Y'all **talk to me** ----

-Jim Burson





IN THE INTERIM by Janet E. Newman

By the time you read this, the Board and I will have completed the first of two yearly evaluations (the next one is in June) of the congregation's progress to date in its interim period. Of course, the Interim Minister herself is evaluated in the context of the church's progress. You may be interested in how I appraise the situation here and my work with you.

I believe that the congregation has been highly responsive to my guidance in claiming and honoring its past. On the congregational time-line you expressed much pride in your accomplishments over the years. The Transition Team picked up on these themes in their homilies on January 17. There were more notes of pride than there were of disappointment in the congregation throughout its life. I would say that you are well on track.

About your progress in acknowledging the griefs and conflicts of your past, I believe that again you have been very responsive and thoughtful. The time-line demonstrated that there remains a clear gap in how congregants view the dismissal of the former called minister, and many of you acknowledge that pain was widespread throughout the congregation. This recognition is very important as you continue to heal, although it is a harder task than acknowledging your accomplishments.

I am very much impressed by the work of the Bridge-Builders and other leaders in their efforts to help the congregation recognize its unique identity and strengths, as well as its needs and challenges. Soon there will be open forums for congregants to engage in facilitated conversations that will lead to the creation of a clear identity of today's church. Included in this new identity will be a covenant of healthy relations for all in the church. Also included will be the development of a clear mission based on your purpose and values as they are now. Both of these creations will enable the church to engage inwardly and outwardly in a constructive way.

It seems to me that you have made significant progress in understanding the leadership roles of the minister, church staff, and lay leaders. In addition, you are doing well in navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition. I was very grateful to learn, well before I arrived on site, that you were working through the Nominating Committee to develop new lay leadership to share in the work of the church. You didn't wait around for a minister to initiate leadership development, but you recognized a need and began to fill it. Congratulations!

There have been misunderstandings and missteps between the congregation and the Southwest Conference and the Unitarian Universalist Association, but in time and with good will those fences can be mended. Of all the times in the life of a congregation, the need for such resources is greatest during its period of transition, and I believe that many of you recognize this fact. Attendance at the General Assembly of the UUA, district conferences, and annual meetings is improving, which is a good sign that relations are improving.

As you are still in the first year of Interim Ministry, it is too soon to expect you to be prepared for new growth and new professional leadership (i.e., a new called minister), but I am confident that by this time next year, you will be. That is the ultimate reason I am here as your Interim Minister, and I greatly appreciate your willingness to work with me during this time of transition.

Best wishes,

Janet E. Newman, Accredited Interim Minister



Sunday Worship



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

February 7: "The Humanity of Heroism" by Rev. Dr. Janet Newman. On this first Sunday of Black History month, I want to explore race relations in a work of fiction and how they relate to some of the statements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The text I will use is *A Gathering of Old Men* by Ernest J. Gaines.

February 14: "The Faces and Phases of Love" by Rev. Dr. Janet Newman. Just when we need it most comes February, the month of love. The Greeks had many words for it, but I will mention only a few of its manifestations in our lives. Love is for life-long learners!

February 21: "The Handwriting on the Wall, Revisited" by Rev. Dr. Janet Newman. I'm sure that all will agree that the homilies by the members of the Transition Team were very helpful in celebrating the congregation's accomplishments and understanding the disappointments and conflicts – not to mention the hopes and dreams. Now for another look!

February 28: Sermon title to be determined. Speakers: Corinna and Dale Whiteaker-Lewis. Corinna is co-chair of the Social Action Committee, and Dale is a former member of the Board. With their daughters, Audrey and Bridget, they are very active members and model UUs. Join us for an enlightening service.



Sunday Forum



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

February 7: No Forum. Religious Education has Howson Hall for Valentine's Party.

February 14: "Darwin and Religion", Dr. Bruce J. Hunt, Associate Professor of History, UT
Amid the many commemorations last year of the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his *Origin of Species*, one issue always took a central place, even if not directly addressed: that of Darwin and religion. What implications, if any, did Darwin's theory have for religious belief? How have religious responses to Darwin's theory changed -- evolved, one might say -- over the past century and a half? What in fact were Darwin's own religious views, and how did they change during his life? A brief review of these questions will give us a more rounded view of Darwin and his theory, and will shed light on controversies that continue to this day.

February 21: "Perpetual Drought: The Coming Water Crisis in Texas" Alyssa Burgin, Executive Director of the Texas Drought Project, makes the connections between climate change and our already sad state-of-affairs in water management in Central Texas and beyond.

February 28: "The Texas Politics Project", Jim Henson
Jim Henson directs the Texas Politics Project and teaches in the Department of Government at the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his Ph.D. In the late 1990's, he helped design public interest multimedia for the Benton Foundation in Washington D.C. In 2008 he and a colleague established the first statewide, publicly available internet survey of public opinion in Texas. Join us for a fascinating look into the world of political surveying and polling. You'll also have a front-row seat to the latest survey/polling data on Texas Politics!



Nell with Hamlet

The Story of Our Congregation

I can tell stories! Storytelling is a deeply human practice and a good storyteller will have all ages in an audience wide-eyed and ready to listen. We create and maintain our sense of self, family, and community through the stories we tell. Historical accuracy often bends and stretches in the retelling of significant events, and every participant has their own perspective with shafts of light illuminating different details.

Churches are also shaped by the stories we develop and share among ourselves. Often the minister is the primary narrator of a church's current plot, but the larger, longer story has to be carried by the congregants themselves. How does our church's story go? Sit down with a long time member and you will hear two or three versions -- complete with mysteries, feasts, moments of absurd comedy and courage, and the purest of tragedies.

This year, in the process of identifying our collective values and our church's mission, we will be telling many stories together. Some of them will seem quite fantastic featuring castles in the sky or a shining city upon the hill. New voices will join in and bring fresh motifs to the telling. Visitors from the UUA will bring stories from other churches and help us connect to some larger stories.

And then, we will be sifting and discerning through all of these threads to find which ones can carry us into the future. I sincerely hope that your voice will one of the many we hear. Please plan on attending some of the work sessions this Spring, so you can be part of the ongoing story!

See you in church,

Nell Newton, President of the Board of Trustees

More on Covenants...

The board of trustees has worked hard to build a covenant to help us as we work on behalf of the church. We had lively and playful discussions in November and December to pull forth our ideas. Then the editors among us snipped and nudged and came up with covenant which we adopted at our January meeting. While some of us rolled our eyes at things that seemed unnecessary ("We shouldn't have to spell that out!") and others quibbled over the grammar, the whole process was really quite fun. We are happy enough with the result that it seems worth while sharing it with the rest of the congregation -- knowing that we'll revisit and revise it with each new board.

Covenant of the Board of Trustees, FUUCA

As servant leaders of the congregation, we the board covenant with one another to:

- ~ Frame all of our activities with mindful regard for the church's mission and vision.
- ~ Respect our time together by being focused, prepared and timely.
- ~ Engage with one another and our work by being present and participating, listening to one another, and supporting one another's leadership.
- ~ Communicate clearly by seeking to understand one another, addressing concerns directly with one another, and, at the end of our discussion, speaking with one voice.
- ~ Encourage our personal and collective health by showing compassion and support to one another, respecting boundaries and limits, and enjoying each other's good humor.
- ~ Conduct ourselves openly and respectfully in times of agreement and disagreement, keeping confidentiality when it is requested, and agreeing to be called back into covenant.

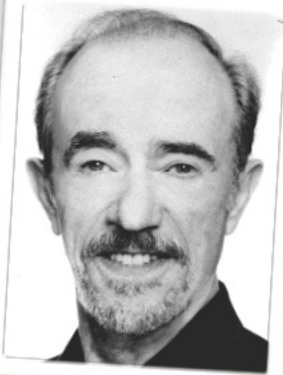


World Premiere *Shards of Love* Opens 10th Season

Shards of Love opens our tenth year on February 12. Artistic director Paullette MacDougal wrote this romantic comedy especially for our anniversary Valentine production. This world premiere explores love, marriage and commitment in farcical, funky, wistful, sweet, and murderous variations. Eight Stories, Eight Couples, Eight Less-than-

Perfect Relationships! Returning to our stage are Paradox favorites Bob Brody, Peter Blackwell, Bobbie Erb, Bethany Harbaugh, Kathleen Lawson, and Ed Nichols. Phil Ayliffe and Susan Roberts have appeared on our stage once before; Ashley Edwards and Gary Bennett make their stage debuts with this show. Five of these actors play two and three roles, a fun twist for the audience!

Opening weekend celebration parties follow performances on February 12 and February 14. Note that free childcare is offered for the Valentine matinee, Feb 14 (reservation deadline for childcare is Feb 7). Tickets can be reserved or purchased several ways – by phone (744-1495), on the website (paradoxplayers.org), or in person on Sundays in the Gallery. Season Ticket subscribers still need to make reservations.



BOB BRODY



KATHLEEN LAWSON



GARY BENNETT



Readers' Theater

will meet Monday evening,
February 8, at 7:00 in room 13.
We'll read a full-length play this time.
Newcomers welcome!

Please come to the Bookstore and check out our wonderful new books listed below!

The Cathedral of the World: A Universalist Theology (Forrest Church)
The Premise and the Promise: The Story of the UUA (Ross)
A Chosen Faith (Buehrens and Church)
Everyday Spiritual Practice: Simple Pathways for Enriching Your Life (Alexander)
The Fellowship Movement: A Growth Strategy and Its Legacy (Ulbrich)
Questions for the Religious Journey: Finding Your Own Path (Beach)
The Epic of Unitarianism: Original Writings from the History of Liberal Religion (Parke)
Salted with Fire: UU Strategies for Sharing Faith and Growing Congregations (Alexander)
The Jefferson Bible (ed. Church)
Healthy Congregations (Steinke, Alban Institute)
Unitarian Universalism: A Narrative History (Bumbaugh, Meadville Lombard)
Singing the Living Tradition, Pew Edition (UUA hymnal, UUA)

We are located in the Gallery and are open between services and after the second service. See you at church! -Melanie and John



Social Action: Reach Out to the World



Corinna and Eric

Monthly Special Offerings in 2010

Your Social Action Committee is pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees has approved Monthly Special Offerings for the remainder of 2010. These offerings will be collected during both services separately from our regular offering for the church – a separate plate will be passed earlier in the service. The recipients of these special offerings are charitable, justice-seeking organizations that advocate and promote our UU values in the larger community. The Monthly Special Offering is an important way our congregation shows its commitment to social justice and action.

Do you know of a worthy organization you would like to nominate? Nominations are due Friday, February 12. Forms are available on the church website, at the Social Action table in the gallery and on the Social Action bulletin board. The congregation will vote during services on February 21, and our first Special Offering will be on Sunday the 28th! Thank you and we look forward to learning about the organizations you nominate!

Let's Get Together for the Austin Hunger Walk March 6 and 7

The annual Austin CROP Hunger Walk is the largest interfaith activity of the year sponsored by the Austin Area Interreligious Ministries, drawing thousands of walkers and thousands more donors together in the fight against hunger at home and abroad. (CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.) In 2009, some 2,000 walkers representing 110 religious communities and other organizations in Austin raised \$132,000.

More than 45 members of First UU participated in the 2009 Austin walk, raising more than \$1,600. Many more First UU members made donations to support the walkers from our congregation.

This year, walkers from our congregation will convoy to the walk after church on Sunday the 7th. We encourage you to walk in groups with your church friends! Choir pals, Sunday school classmates, fellow board members ...all you have to do is chip in a few dollars each and then agree to meet up and walk together. We will recognize groups with the most walkers and the most dollars raised!

One-fourth of the money raised each year supports the Capital Area Food Bank and a network of neighborhood hunger-fighting programs in the Austin area. The other 75 percent supports Church World Service, the national

sponsor of CROP Hunger Walks, which works with local partners in scores of countries both to provide emergency relief in disaster areas and to help build local capacity to supply food, clean water, and health care for the long term. (Note: Donors also may designate other hunger-fighting agencies, including the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, as beneficiaries.)

This year's Hunger Walk will occur at 10 am Saturday, March 6, and 2:30 pm Sunday, March 7, at a new location: Walter E. Long Park, at 6614 Blue Bluff Road, near the Travis County Exposition Center. For more information, come to the Social Action table in the Gallery on Sundays, or contact the Social Action Committee co-chairs, Eric Hartman (469-9894, hartoftex@aol.com) and Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis (371-3253, corinna@austin.rr.com)



More Social Action in the news... Join Us!



Helping the Homeless during Freezing Weather

Our church shelters fifty homeless men on Tuesday nights when the weather drops below 32 degrees. Our first "Freeze Night" was called on December 15 and UU cooks produced enough food for an army. We served 100 servings of main dish, 50 servings of vegetables and/or salad, bread, milk, more than 150 cups of coffee and 50 desserts. Our 50 guests ate until satiated and still there were leftovers! A sack breakfast was prepared with bananas, hard boiled eggs and bread for the men to take with them the next day. Before leaving at 6:00 am, they drank cups and cups of hot fresh coffee with milk. Margaret Roberts photographed the mountain of much appreciated items as well as the volunteers who



brought the items in to us. Church members also had their pictures taken to add to the pictorial history of FUUCA. The Freeze Night season lasts through the end of March. For a volunteer effort that warms your heart, please sign up ahead of time at: <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/30-629871488112heart>.

PCC Social Action Project

Each month, our church sends multiple teams of volunteers to the People's Community Clinic to prepare patient education materials and send out immunization reminders. The next 2nd Tuesday Collate Group meets at PCC on February 9th from 10am-12pm to collate & stuff patient information packets. You don't have to participate each month, just as you can. There are usually around 6-8 of us and it is a nice opportunity to visit with each other. There are other opportunities as well, including individual volunteers to help in various departments at PCC. If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please contact Sheri Overton at sherioverton@hotmail.com or 512-847-2685.

Chalice Lighters?

The Chalice Lighters from First UU joined with other Chalice Lighters in the South West District to support the Huntsville, Texas UU Fellowship in their request for help to build their first church. We received a very nice thank you note from them this week showing their appreciation.

What is the Chalice Lighter program? In general terms Chalice Lighters donate \$10 or more up to four times a year to a fund that helps congregations in need of assistance. Through this program, one can directly reach out and help a congregation realize its dream of expanding outreach into the community, making its building accessible, improving religious education for its children, creating new programs for growth, developing new social justice outreach or strengthening some other vital part of its ministry.

Would you like the opportunity to support Unitarian Universalism in a larger way that goes beyond the walls of your local congregation? In these times of cultural anxiety, we need to let our light shine to speak the message of liberal religion loudly and clearly. A very important way in which we let our light shine is by participating in the of the Southwest UU District's Chalice Lighter program (swuuc.org and search on main page for chalice lighters)





Brent Baldwin
Music Director

MUSIC MATTERS

Musical guest **Beth Wood** to play **FUUCA on February 7th**

Eugene Oregon artist Beth Wood will share her music during services on Sunday, February 7th. A native of Lubbock, TX, Beth has been the subject of wide acclaim, and the winner of numerous musical awards (including Best New Folk Artist at the Kerrville Folks Festival).

"Folk singer-guitarist Beth Wood has such a dazzling voice it's a mystery why she's still just a cult artist."

-- Dallas Morning News



DUKE ELLINGTON

COME SUNDAY

Celebrating Black History Month

The FUUCA Choir will focus on the rich heritage of African American music during the month of February. Offerings will include Duke Ellington's timeless "Come Sunday" on February 14th and the Gospel offering "River Jordan" on February 28th.



A Note About My Future and Yours.

Dear Friends,

I hope my column (page 2) in which I assess the progress you have made over the past several months makes clear how much I appreciate you. I am very grateful that you agreed to work with me during this first year of transition.

However, I believe that the First UU Church would benefit from another Interim Minister's guidance for the second year of your transition. A minister who has a different set of eyes and ears from me, different perceptions, different skills, would be of greatest use to you; working with another Interim Minister will give you the best preparation for selecting your called minister.

So I will apply for another position when the Interim Ministers gather for continuing education in mid-April, and I'll move in July. But, remember, we still have five months together, and much work to do.

See you in church,
Janet Newman

Seniors' Luncheon

Tuesday, February 9th

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

Paradox Players actors will entertain with a short excerpt from *SHARDS OF LOVE*, opening Feb 12. Stage favorites Bobbie Erb and Bob Brody will present a preview from *The Emboldened Eighties – Fire in the Basement*. Director Lisa Foster and playwright Paulette MacDougal will be joining us for Q & A. Tickets can be reserved or purchased after the presentation.

Great Decisions

Sign up now for Great Decisions Discussion Groups which will be meeting Sundays at 4 to 5:30 p.m. during February and March. The resource books will be on sale in the Gallery Sundays for \$20. Sign up now for the class and buy your book while they last. Class will be led by Judy Sadegh. Sign up Sundays in the Gallery!

2010 Topics
February 7 - [Special Envoys](#)
February 14 - [Kenya & R2P](#)
February 21 - [Global Crime](#)
February 28 - [U.S.-China Security Relations](#)
March 7 - [Global Financial Crisis](#)
March 14 - [Russia and its Neighbors](#)
March 21 - [The Persian Gulf](#)
March 28 - [Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution](#)

Discussion Groups



First Game Night!!

New at First UU!!

Games you know.

Games you don't know.

Visit with friends. Meet someone new.

Snacks. Drinks. Door Prizes. Surprises.

Day care and games for the kids.

Mark your calendars! Saturday, March 6, 7PM

Sponsored by UU Open Minds covenant group.



Children's Religious Education

Valentine Making Party February 7th



Please join the RE Department in our Annual Valentine Making Party in between services on Sunday, February 7th in Howson Hall. We will have all the supplies you'll need to make Valentines for your friends and family. Since the party is a week before Valentine's Day, you'll have them all ready to go for sharing on February 14th. All church members are welcome

Please bring a dessert to share for the party. Bake us your best sweet treats and impress your friends. All types of cookies, cakes and sweets are welcome and very much appreciated by all.

Crafty, artsy folks are also needed to volunteer to help the congregation and the kids make their valentines. For more info contact: Cyndi Stein, Children's Programming Assistant at cyndi@austinuu.org or call 560-2839.

Surprise Pals 2010

Welcome to the annual Surprise Pals Program!

This is a fun way for adults and kids in our congregation to get to know each other and make new friends at church.

Here's how it works. You simply fill out the Surprise Pals application form to become a Pal. Each child applicant is matched with an adult applicant. You will correspond with your Pal for six weeks through our Surprise Pal Mailbox System, located in Howson Hall. Finally, the Pals meet each other at the Surprise Pals Reveal Party on April 11th where the kids will finally learn the true identity of their adult Pals.

Children from Kindergarten-5th grade are invited to participate. Parent/guardians must sign the application on behalf of their child and will be informed of the identity of their child's surprise Pal in advance. The program officially begins on March 7th, so expect to start corresponding that Sunday.

ALL pals must make a firm commitment to correspond weekly with their Pal for the six weeks of the program— everyone loves to get mail!!

Use the application form that is available in the Gallery & RE Office and email it to cyndi@austinuu.org or return it to the RE Office by Feb. 28th. (Note: Not all adult Pals will be matched with a child because we typically have more adult applicants than children.) For more information contact Cyndi Stein, Children's Programming Assistant at cyndi@austinuu.org or call 560-2839. **NOTE: Adults are required to complete a background check in order to participate in the program. Forms will be available in the Gallery or the RE Department.**



Song of Songs for Spiritual Movie Night February 19th!

What distinguishes "Song of Songs" from so many other films is its compassion, love, and empathy for those who FALL in love and then find themselves "bewitched, bothered, and bewildered" by the every day challenges of BEING in love. The February Movie is a documentary about relationships and how to make them work including interviews with a couple married for 60 years.

SONG OF SONGS comes along just as we celebrate Valentine's Day. See it with someone you love...or want to love...or have loved. And save a special place in your heart for Grandmother and Grandfather Brickler. If there were a contest for America's grandparents, the Bricklers might win in a landslide. \$5 for Adults, \$2 for children. Popcorn, drinks, and snacks will be available. There will also be a children's movie shown.

Middle School and High School at First UU

The middle school and high school students are involved in taking trips to various other religious congregations as part of the Neighboring Faiths curriculum. Ron teaches the high school class and Scott Butki teaches middle school.

In late December the middle school and high school students went on a fascinating field trip to an Austin Hindu Temple. I think all present learned a great deal including that there were some parallels being Hinduism and UUism (in both cases members may have varying and, at times, conflicting belief systems.) As one of our students put it, "They're like an Eastern version of UU but with idols."



Our next trip will be to the Promiseland Church. In preparation we have been talking and teaching in recent weeks about Christianity. I, personally, have been thrilled by the high level and quality of questions and conversations in our classes of late.

The last class went over by 15 minutes because the students were not through having deep conversations and questions ranging from "Why is it assumed God - if there is one - is a male?" to "If a church service focuses too much on entertainment will the message be lost?" to, essentially, "why is God credited by Christians for good things but not blamed for bad things?" Plus the girls in the class were upset that there were no female apostles. If I had not eventually stopped the class, citing the parents waiting outside, I think some would have been thrilled to keep going asking questions that were all relevant to the topic at hand.

Meanwhile, the high school group - about 8 of us - are attending a youth rally in Houston in January. I will have more to say about that in the March newsletter. Have a good month! *Scott Butki*

Children's Planning Committee: Planning What's Next

What's next? What's next? This is a common question from my four year old daughter Geneva. Of course she is referring to the next big thing, the next holiday, the next celebration and the next ritual. Geneva wants to know which special foods will we need to prepare and eat. She will then ask, do we need special clothing? Do we get to light candles or bring flowers? Will we sing special songs?

We pass our culture and our values on to our children through the rituals of story telling, singing of songs, cooking, creating and sharing with one another. Our Unitarian Universalist Tradition is rich with a diverse history of seeking knowledge and new experiences. We have so much to offer our children and future generations to come.

Would you please consider joining the Religious Education Team and The Children's Programming Committee to plan and prepare for our two "big" Spring Ritual Celebrations. The first is our Passover Seder on Saturday, April 3, 2010 and the second is Easter Sunday and The Flower Communion on Sunday, April 4, 2010. Just send me an email, vickybmiller@gmail.com or phone me at 494-5344. Peace and See you in Church. *Vicky Bailey Miller, Chairperson of The Children's Programming Committee*



First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Austin

4700 Grover Avenue

Austin, TX 78756

One Church. Many Beliefs.

Interim Minister

Rev. Janet Newman ext 304

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

Bits and Pieces

Library Update

The shifting and cataloging are done, and the entire collection is available to check on a database from whatever computer you like. Information will be posted on the bulletin board next to the Yew Grove board in the R.E. hallway.

Thanks to Andi Windham, Paul Fisher, and Corrina Whiteaker-Lews for all their hard work! We hope to have the Library reopen in late February. We would also like to have a book sale and fundraiser, and so anyone interested should contact me at ThunderHoofDesigns@yahoo.com if they'd like to have a hand. This is a short term project, so it's something you can do and then return to your regularly scheduled life in short order. Many thanks for your patience! -

Stephanie (Canada) Gill

Eckhart Tolle Discussion Group

The group meets every Thursday evening, at 7:30-p.m. We are presently reading and discussing, *A New Earth*. In this New York Times Bestseller, Tolle shows how "transcending our ego-based state of consciousness is not only essential to personal happiness, but also the key to ending conflict and suffering throughout the world. Tolle describes how our attachment to the ego creates the dysfunction that leads to anger, jealousy, and unhappiness, and shows readers how to awaken to a new state of consciousness and follow the path to a truly fulfilling existence". For more information, contact Suzanne Kahn at kahnsuzanne@att.net

Sing A Long:

February 29th, from 7:30 to 10:30 at the Friend's Meeting House on 3701 E. MLK Blvd. For more information contact Larry Vaughn 469-0029 or email lavest@sbcglobal.net. To be added to the email list, contact Mary Jane Ford at mjaneford@grandecom.net.

Sharing Suppers:

Held on February 20th. Sharing Suppers is a get together of UU's for an informal dinner and good times in a home setting. The host/hostess furnishes the entrée and the participants bring one food item. It's an inexpensive way to have a dinner with interesting folks that share your same interests. Please sign up by Feb. 13th for this month's dinner. Call Linda Buehlmann@323-5334 or lindabuehlmann@sbcglobal.net. You may sign up on the sheet posted outside Room 8. Visitors are always very welcome. Give this a try!