

Meet the Candidates!

May
NEWSLETTER



Eric Stimmel
President of the Board



Chris Jimmerson
VP of the Board



Kae McLaughlin
Treasurer



Klondike Steadman
Secretary

Read their
statements
and plans
on pages
3,4 & 5...



Susan Thomson
New Board Member



Eric Hepburn
New Board Member



Linda Buehlmann
Nominating Committee



Michael LeBurkien
Nominating Committee



In the Interim

by Janet Newman

On Easter Sunday I had the privilege of conducting a ceremony of dedication for Charlotte Rebecca Reed, the daughter of Rachel and Craig Reed. I enjoyed it enormously, and even Charlotte seemed to be having a good time!

In the Unitarian Universalist faith, the arrival of a child in a family is a time for marking the event with an appropriate ceremony or rite of passage. Orthodox Christian denominations term this ceremony a "baptism" or "christening" service. For us UUs, it is a ceremony of "child dedication" or "child naming."

Instead of a ceremony in which the child's sins are washed away, we UUs celebrate the child's wholeness and potential. Instead of renouncing the influences of the world on the child, we UUs dedicate ourselves as adults to providing understanding guidance and insightful education for the child. The service includes a "Promise to All Children" in which we adults promise to grant loving support and faithful concern to the welfare of all of the children and youth in the congregation. It is truly a ceremony of joy, celebration, and commitment.

I invite any families of the congregation to speak to me about having your children dedicated in such a ceremony. I prefer to dedicate children as part of our regular worship service, but we can make arrangements to do it in a private setting if necessary. A good time for the ceremony is during the Mothers' Day service. I've dedicated children who are well into school age, so don't hold back if your kids are beyond the infant stage.

Best regards,

Janet Newman, Interim Minister

Our Monthly Special Offering in May



The Unitarian Universalist Service embodies our UU beliefs through action, advancing human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. You may have heard of UUSC at our church through our collection for Haitian earthquake victims, the Guest at Your Table boxes, Justice Sunday, and the Alternative Gift Fair. Church member and Social Action Committee member Judy Sadegh helps coordinate these activities for our congregation. Although UUSC responds to emergency humanitarian crises such as the earthquake in Haiti, the majority of humanitarian programs are on-going. Examples include a Project in Darfur to support women's centers in the refugee camps, the Ugandan Project to help communities of people transition out of refugee camps back to their villages and projects in Myanmar, Gaza and Kenya. Our Special Offering will support these very important on-going projects of the UU Service Committee.

Please give generously to this Special Offering for UUSC on May 9. Through a 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. Direct contributions make up 60% of their annual budget.



Sunday Worship



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

May 2: “The Purpose of Freedom” Kristin Grassel The United States identity is largely defined in terms of liberty, and specifically the monarchical government we as a nation gained freedom from during the Revolutionary War. Shaped largely by the Enlightenment, the Unitarian Universalist faith is similarly often defined by what it doesn’t affirm, with a focus on freedom from orthodoxy. In contrast, this sermon will assert the moral imperatives of national and theological liberty, and explore the possibilities of what we are free for.

May 9: “In Honor of Mothers and Others” by Rev. Dr. Janet E. Newman. In this sermon I will look at how we can celebrate and honor those who nurture us as helpless infants and who continue to care – but without the crass commercialism and rampant sentimentality that has come to characterize Mothers and Fathers Day. The Children’s Choir will sing. The special offering for UUSC will take place in both services.

May 16: Youth service featuring the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU). The theme of this service is “The Measurement of Worth.” Through homilies, readings, music, and stories, the youth will explore their theme, and all of us, young person and adult, will grow as a result. Be sure to support the religious journey of our young people.

The congregational meeting will follow at 1:30.

May 23: “A Sacred Connection” Christian Schmidt. Unitarian Universalists come together every week for worship, but you’ve probably heard the questions: What do you worship there? Why do you worship? What’s the point of Unitarian Universalists meeting on Sunday morning? Worship is important, and we’ll explore its importance in this worship service.

May 30: “Music as Meaning in Our Lives” by Rev. Dr. Janet E. Newman. Throughout my life, music has provided me with a tie that binds me to meaning and to relationships. As this is the Sunday that precedes the choir’s major concert on June 6, I want to observe how music can change, enrich, and empower our lives.

Congregational Meeting MAY 16

At the May Congregational meeting, voting members of FUUCA will vote on **Board and Nominating Committee slate for 2010-2011.** After soliciting applications, presenting leadership development classes, and interviewing all interested applicants, **the Nominating Committee presents the following to lead our congregation into the future: President, Eric Stimmel; Vice President, Chris Jimmerson; Treasurer, Kae McLaughlin; Secretary, Klondike Steadman; Trustees 2010-2013, Eric Hepburn and Susan Thomson. Nominating Committee members to be voted on by the congregation are: Linda Buehlmann, 2010-2013; and Michael LeBurkien, 2010-2012.** Two additional members will be appointed by the Board for one year Nominating Committee terms. Join us in the Sanctuary at 1:30 p.m.!

The Nominating Committee appreciated the enthusiasm and vision of the Board and Nominating Committee candidates.

Meet the Candidates!

Eric Stimmel: Member of First UU since August 2006. I did not grow up in a church background, but felt at home immediately upon visiting First UU with my family.

At church I have served on the Intern minister committee, with the Men's fellowship group and Men's covenant groups. I have been a Trustee since June 2008, and VP since June 2009.



Family: Wife, Bess Green, kids Garner, 6, and Lily 8. Bess and I have been married since November 26, 1988.

Hopes and dreams in a nutshell: I'd love to see us continue to grow as a dynamic, welcoming, inclusive church. My two main goals as Board President will be to transition smoothly to policy governance and support our search for our next settled minister.

As a longer term goal, I'd especially like to see us be able to build our new Religious Education building in the next 3 years.

Chris Jimmerson: I joined the church three years ago after attending services for a few months. I served as Secretary of the church board for the last year and have been active with the Bridge Builders Action Team, working to begin the process of articulating values, mission and vision within the church and to begin moving toward policy-based governance. I have also directed and acted in several Paradox Players productions.



As Vice-President, I would like to continue to help lead the effort toward establishing a clear set of values and a mission statement for the church, as well as continue to help with making the transition to policy-based governance, both of which will inform the eventual choice of the next settled minister.

I work outside the church as the Executive Director of the non-profit organization, American Gateways. My life-long partner, Wayne, and I are governed by two Basenji dogs, Virgil and Kiara.

Klondike Steadman: I started coming to UU churches back in 1993 with my wife (then girlfriend) Wendy Kuo, who was working as a church accompanist at Live Oak church in Santa Barbara, CA. The church felt like a great fit and oddly familiar. It wasn't until many years later that I found out I was a third generation UU, with both sets of grandparents being founding members of their UU congregations in California (I guess it skips a generation sometimes)!



Wendy and I were members of the First UU church in Houston for a couple of years before we got married and she joined me in Austin in 1997. We immediately signed up for First UU in Austin and have been members ever since. We feel we have found a spiritual home here and feel a deep connection to the place and people.

I am very excited and honored to have been asked to serve on the board at such a crucial transition time for our church. I feel there is so much energy for positive change and growth at church with the move toward Policy Governance, greater member involvement in the direction and function of the church and (of course) the selection of a new minister.

My own background is in music and in business and I hope to bring an appreciation of how the arts can help us grow spiritually and how efficient systems can free us up to achieve our dreams. But most of all, I want to listen and learn from my fellow members in the congregation about how best the board can serve the greater good of its members, the community and the world.



Susan Thomson: I have been a Unitarian Universalist for over 30 years and have been involved with First UU of Austin since moving to Austin in 1996. I taught children's RE for several years and have served on the Adult RE committee for a number of years, including chairing it for several years. I am currently participating in the year long Harvest the Power leadership program and will be co-facilitating the April session. In previous UU congregations I served on the board as trustee and vice-president and also chaired a number of committees over the years, including Children's RE, nominating, social action, membership and the committee on ministries. I served on the ministerial search committee of the Lubbock First UU Church. After attending the leadership program sponsored by the UU Mountain Desert District, I participated in forming the Leader Seeders to encourage leadership development in our local congregation.

Since I recently retired from a career in social work administration, I look forward to having more time to devote to First UU as I think membership requires that we all give of our time and our talents as we are able. One of the highlights of my career in state government was leading the statewide implementation of a set of guiding principles for my agency. I also led the development of mission and vision statements and core values for the program whose staff I directed. I witnessed firsthand the power of these efforts which makes me very excited about the Bridge to the Future process currently underway in our congregation. This congregation has so much talent and so much potential to make a significant, positive difference in the lives not only of our members but of the larger community. I welcome the opportunity to be involved in these efforts, to listen to the congregation and work with the board and the congregation to move our dreams into reality.



Eric Hepburn: I have been a member of First UU of Austin for about six years. I am very interested in ministry and outreach. I have been a member of the worship associates committee, chaired the committee on ministries, and delivered four Sunday sermons in my time with the church. As a prospective board member I have three main callings: (1) to help prepare our church to call the right settled minister, (2) to help the board and administration transition to a fully functioning policy governance model, and (3) to bring honest religion to the people of central Texas. I look forward to working with all of you to see these callings come to fruition.

Linda Buehlmann will join the Nominating Committee for a three year term, 2010-2013. I moved to Austin in 2006 from Omaha, Nebraska where I was an active member of First UU of Omaha. I joined First UU Austin in the fall of 2007 and have served on the Membership Committee and as an Usher Greeter as well as volunteering with Paradox Players and North Central Caregivers. I will continue as Coordinator of Sharing Suppers. It is very important to me to help our church reach excellence in all areas. I will strive to recruit, suggest, and encourage nominees for leadership positions to realize their goals to lead in alignment with the mission and vision of our church.



Michael LeBurkien: currently serves on the Nominating Committee filling a one year appointment, and will continue to complete a 2010-2012 term. I support the new leadership training efforts such as Harvest the Power and Bridge to Our Future. I advocate increased congregational democracy, transparency, and inclusiveness as well as the implementation of policy governance in our church operating structure and culture. I served as Chair of the Worship Committee and am most active on the Forum Committee, which I love. I will attend General Assembly in Minneapolis and look forward to understanding the broader national and international reaches of Unitarian Universalism. I am a Rabbi Emeritus and as an internationalist am at home in France and Spain.

Social Action: Reach Out to the World

Our Story Reader Trains PCC Newbies

Anyone who has heard George Denny reading the children's story during services knows he is a captivating story reader. In March, George shared his talent with the People's Community Clinic when he provided a story reader training to new waiting room volunteers.

Every day PCC's waiting room is chocked full with squirmy little ones, waiting as patiently as little ones can, for their turns or for their family members' turns to see the doctors. As part of the Reach Out and Read program, PCC recognizes the outstanding opportunity provided to create a literacy-rich environment where volunteer readers entertain the children, modeling for the parents the pleasures and techniques of reading aloud. It's an unfortunate fact that parents of children living in poverty may lack the money to buy books, may not have easy access to good children's books, and may not themselves have been read to as children, with the result that millions of children are growing up without books. In PCC's waiting room, volunteers read to children in the waiting room and children are encouraged to pick out a gently used book to take home.

PCC heard about George's experience in story reading and asked if he would help them train their new volunteers. George worked with their five new volunteers, reading them "That's Good, That's Bad" complete with theatrics, hand puppet, and songs accompanied by ukulele. He explained the basics of book selection, presentation, including reading methods, and audience contact. They were thrilled with George's training and have started their new waiting room roles.

If you are interested in volunteering with the People's Community Clinic's reading initiative, they have a very flexible schedule of story time hours and would love your help. For the safety of the children and the volunteers, you would need to provide proof of immunizations and attend a brief training. You are encouraged to call Allison Jones, Volunteer Coordinator, at 708-3156, and tell her you are with our church.- *Sheri Overton*

\$3500 in Three Months!

Monthly Special Offerings are off to a great start! In February, the Social Action Committee began a new program called Monthly Special Offerings. One the first Sunday of each month, we will hold a special collection during both services and donate the money received to a charitable organization or project. First, we asked the congregation to nominate organizations that put our UU values into action. Then, the congregation voted to choose 11 out of the almost 20 that were nominated. To date we have passed this special plate three times and have donated \$3460 to the following amazing organizations:

February: American Gateways \$1596

March: Hands on Housing \$1187

April: Sack Lunch Program \$677

Please help us continue this incredible effort! Still to come in 2010 are:

May: UUSC

Sept: Freeze Night

June: Caritas

Oct: People's Community Clin

July: Capital Area Food Bank

Nov: North Central Caregivers

August: Austin Groups for the Elderly

Dec: Safe Place

UUs Turn Out to Hear Ugandan Representative

Since 2007, the U U Service Committee has been working in northern Uganda to help thousands of Acholi people resettle their villages after more than 20 years of brutal war between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Ugandan government. Our church hosted a potluck to hear Jackie Okanga share the challenges and successes of helping people return to their homes after years of living in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Jackie, the UUSC's on-the-ground representative in Uganda, is touring UU churches in her first visit to the US. She was in the States for only one month; we were very fortunate to be able to hear first-hand about this very important project. Her presentation was extremely well received by the 40 UUs from Central Texas. Her slide-show and personal stories brought a new understanding of the complexity of the situation for the different age groups dealing with this transition. She also presented examples of the way the UUSC partnership model is implemented and is changing the way other groups respond to the challenge of returning 1.7 million displaced Ugandans to their communities. Thank you to everyone who came and gave Jackie such a warm welcome! -*Judy Sadegh*



Jackie Okanga

Sheltering the UU Way

Thank you to everyone who helped turn our church into a true sanctuary this past Freeze Night Season. We hosted approximately 50 homeless men eight different nights, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day. These men were fed a plentiful, hot dinner upon arrival and given a sack breakfast in the morning before they left. This program is unfunded – the food, time, and energy needed are all donated by our church volunteers who signed up and pitched in. Special thanks go to Mary Ann Stafford, long-time coordinator of this amazing project. See you in October for the 2010 Freeze Night Season!

Over \$1500 to Fight Hunger!

Our church was well represented at this year's CROP Walk – over 50 walkers! We had individuals, families, as well as members of our middle and high school youth groups. And we beat last year's goal and raised over \$1500! CROP means "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty" and it is one of the largest interdenominational events in Austin. Churches, temples, and mosques all send teams and staff "country stations" so we can learn about the work being done with the money raised. Before convoying to walk at Walter E. Long Park, we enjoyed a pizza lunch together here at church. Special thanks to Emily Wethington, Fellowship Chair, for her help coordinating the meal. Thank you walkers and donors for your support and see you next March!

Honoring our Social Action Volunteers

In the past year did you:

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Serve a meal at the homeless shelter? | - Walk in CROP or NAMI Walks? |
| - Put info packets together at PCC? | - Sack a lunch for the homeless? |
| - Work or bring food for Freeze Nights? | - Help out at the Alternative Gift Fair? |
| - Sweat it out at Hands on Housing? | - Take canned goods to Caritas? |

Your work for those in need is deeply appreciated! Please join Social Action Committee chairs and program coordinators as we host a dinner in your honor on Saturday, May 22 at 6:30pm in Howson Hall. The Dirigibles will provide the music! Please rsvp to corinna@austin.rr.com Many, many thanks to the Membership Committee for sponsoring this event.



**PRESENTATION BY
MARC ADAMS
VISITING UU
AUTHOR AND
SPEAKER
ON THURSDAY MAY
6th at 8 p.m.**

Growing up the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister is tough enough. Growing up gay in an environment where your parents, teachers and peers

deem evangelical Christians like Jerry Falwell as left wing liberals is an entirely different experience.

Marc Adams grew up in such a home. In an effort to save his own life, he decided at age 16 to rebel against his parents and attend Jerry Falwell's Liberty University where he thought he could find a way to change his behavior from homosexual to heterosexual. His experience there changed his life and jump started his journey to self acceptance and personal freedom.

Marc Adams is the author of nine books including "The Preacher's Son" and "Do's & Don'ts of Dealing with the Religious Right." His newest book is titled "It's Not About You: Understanding Coming Out & Self Acceptance". He is a widely respected authority on subjects ranging from fundamentalism, the religious right, gay civil rights as well as his ground breaking work with his own nonprofit, HeartStrong. HeartStrong is a social justice organization providing hope and help to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students who are persecuted in religious educational institutions.

Marc Adams' presentation covers an often dark side of life. He bridges the serious discussion with humor and all-encompassing human compassion. People from all walks of life who have heard Marc Adams speak find themselves enlightened, uplifted and inspired.

Mr Adams will be speaking at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin on Thursday May 6, 2010 at 8:00 pm. *This event is co-sponsored by Adult Religious Education and by Interweave, the group for LGBT folks and their allies.*

Seniors' Luncheon

Tuesday, May 11th

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

Program; Kathryn Govier, piano and Charles Palmer, baritone will perform a selection of popular Broadway songs and other favorites.



Spiritual Movie: The Shift

May 21..... 7 pm.

Motivational speaker Dr. Wayne Dyer makes his debut in an intriguing movie called the Shift. You can see the trailer and read about the movie here: <http://www.dyermovie.com/> The movie was previously titled "Ambition to Meaning."

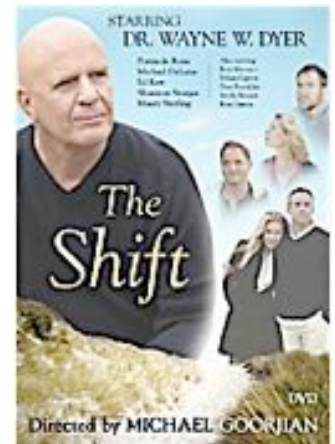
The movie is about three modern lives in need of new direction and new meaning, and that's where

Dyer, appearing as himself, comes in to help provide the shift.

A discussion will follow the film as we share. We will also show a children's movie so there will be childcare for kids over age 5. For more

information contact

Scott@austinuu.org





Nell with Hamlet

Yes, I'll admit it. After a year as vice president and a year as president, I'm tired. But it's a good tired and I'm ready to step back and admire the ongoing work of our church.

This past year's board has been a great group of committed folks who took many changes in stride and approached the work with good humor. We truly laughed a lot, discussed the matters before us passionately, and grew closer together by serving together. Even when we did not agree we listened carefully and treated one another with respect.

When we gather at our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 16, we'll have the opportunity to elect a slate of people who

have stepped forward to serve. Many will be new to their role as leaders in the church. This is an exciting change that is a result of charging our Nominating Committee with leadership development. And it is a wonderful reversal from previous years when members of the NomCom would have to beg and wheedle people to serve! At our April board meeting we formally declared that our NomCom rocks!

Looking back, I am happily unable to point to any one thing that "I" accomplished. Instead, it feels more like I was simply witness and facilitator to many good things that bubbled up organically. It has indeed been a good and holy year in the life of our church. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Nell Newton, President of the Board



Spring Celebrations, Summer Play

May brings a Theatre Retrospective to the Gallery - 10 years of posters and photos documenting Paradox Players' birth up to the present. Main Stage productions, Readers' Theater, Sunday Shorts - all adding up to tremendous artistic talent and abundant fellowship! Our church can be proud of supporting the creative talent that has made it possible to reach this milestone.

June 4 opens *Charlie Cox Runs with Scissors*, a dramatic comedy written by Michael McKeever and directed by Lisa Foster. Charlie Cox, a man who's never been in love and never taken a risk, must choose sides in a battle between Love and Death. *"A joyous, uplifting work from a playwright who gets better with every story he tells."* — Christine Dolen, Miami Herald. Tickets are on sale in the Gallery on Sundays, online at paradoxplayers.org and by phone at 744-1495. The show runs through June 20, on Fri and Sat at 8:00 and Sun at 3:00. Free childcare is available for the Matinee June 6, if reserved by May 31 at childcare@austinuu.org.



The Duck Variations, written by David Mamet and directed by Chris Jimmerson, played to full houses on an April weekend. Produced as a staged reading, the show was offered free to our audiences in honor of Paradox Players' 10th Anniversary. Thanks to a generous audience, our theater is able to contribute financially to the church. *Shards of Love*, our Feb play written by Poullette MacDougal, played to several sold-out houses and generated a tidy sum for the church coffers.



Readers' Theater meets May 10 at 7:30 in room 13. One act plays seeking actors – regular folk who simply enjoy reading aloud! Newcomers welcome.

Congregational Covenant

To be Unveiled at the Pre-Congregational Meeting

You've been hearing about it for six months, now: a congregational covenant. The Transition Team and our fantastic interim minister, Rev. Janet Newman, have been compiling the results from the congregational covenant workshops and the promise cards. Throughout the many responses, certain ideas stood out: relating to each other with respect, extending friendship to one another, honoring a diversity of spiritual and religious beliefs and devoting our resources to the church. We have done our best to distill these main ideas into a congregational covenant that all will embrace.

The covenant will be unveiled at the Pre-Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 18, 2010. It will be posted on the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin's website at approximately the same time. Also, it will be printed in the Sunday bulletins and included in the weekly announcements for the month prior to the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 16, 2010. We hope that church members embrace the principles within the congregational covenant and vote for its adoption. Here is the covenant: *-Sylvia Pope*

As a religious community, we promise:

- To nurture the spiritual growth of people of all ages in our church.
- To keep communications with one another direct, honest, and respectful in a spirit of compassion, love and trust.
- To support our church with generous gifts of time, talent, and money in gratitude for the fellowship, joy and inspiration we receive.
- To be present with others through life's inevitable transitions.
- To make our church a safe place to express our deepest fears and our greatest joys.
- To forgive ourselves and others when we fall short of expectations, showing good humor and the optimism required for moving forward and calling ourselves back into covenant.
- To engage with the larger world to promote justice and peace.

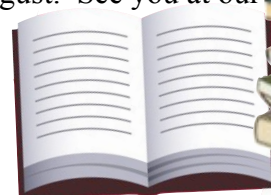
We acknowledge and commit ourselves to the work of sustaining our beloved community, welcoming all in good faith and ministering to each other.

Thus, do we covenant with one another.

Donations to the FUUCA Library

The wait is over your; opportunity to donate books to the Library collection is here! In the past, a significant number of the books donated to the library were books which were widely available elsewhere. The Library is starting anew, and we will be more selective about which books will go into the collection, so that our "new" Library has more relevance to Unitarian Universalism and this congregation. To see our donation criteria, click on: <http://www.austinuu.org/wp/community/library/library-committee/>

We will be accepting donations of 5 books per person on the 2nd Sunday of each month, from May through August. See you at our table in the Gallery on May 9th!





Sunday Forums



The Sunday Forum begins at 11:30 a.m. in Howson Hall

May 2: *WOODS BURNER - A Book About Henry David Thoreau.* John Pipkin, holds a Doctorate in Romantic Poetry from Rice U. and served as Executive Director of the Writers' League of Texas from 2006 to 2008, draws a detailed picture of then 26-year-old Thoreau as a conflicted man, on the verge of abandoning his literary aspirations. A year before he embarked on his Walden experiment, Thoreau was responsible for a forest fire that consumed 300 acres of Concord's woods. There has always been a debate about how his guilt over the fire impacted the rest of his life and his decision to move into the cabin in the woods. Pipkin draws on Thoreau's feelings of isolation and indecision. This story deals with Unitarians at that time, including Thoreau's friend Ralph Waldo Emerson. Pipkin illuminates a dramatic episode in Thoreau's life and turns it into a gripping and profound work of fiction. You won't want to miss this program by one of our own Austinites about one of our own spiritual family.

May 9: *Polio: A Look Back At America's Most Successful Public Health Crusade,* David Oshinsky, U.T. Professor in History David Oshinsky holds the Jack S. Blanton Chair in History at the University of Texas and is a Distinguished Scholar in Residence at New York University. His books include "A Conspiracy So Immense: The World of Joe McCarthy," which won the Hardeman Prize for the best book about the history of the U.S. Congress; "Worse Than Slavery," which won the Robert Kennedy Prize for its distinguished contribution to human rights; and "Polio: An American Story," which won the Pulitzer Prize for History. His reviews and essays appear regularly in the the New York Times and other national publications. His latest book, "Capital Punishment on Trial" was published this year

May 16: *Enhancing the Quality of Life for Senior Adults,* Jaron Winston, MD, President of Senior Adults Specialty Healthcare and Vice President of Senior Adults Specialty Research Dr. Winston is nationally know and internationally acclaimed for his dedication to enhance the quality of life for senior adults through psychiatric support services. His many articles have set the highest standard for clinical research about depression and dementia. His services provide support for family and patients and education about growing older as we live longer. Among many positions and in addition to his practice, he is Medical Director of Geriatric Services at St. David's Pavillion and Section Chief, Dept. of Psychiatry, St. David's Medical Center. He has been called on by the Attorney General's office for numerous forensic evaluations. Dr. Winston has devoted himself to treating geriatric patients and teaching countless people how to lead a productive, active, and rewarding life in the later years. He maintains that there is no age at which a person has to stop growing emotionally, stop maturing, and stop increasing intellectual growth. If you are growing older or have family members who are physically aging, you won't want to miss Dr. Winston's advice on how to cope and flourish in later years.

May 23: *Welcome to the Future of Journalism* Evan Smith; Editor in Chief and CEO of the Texas Tribune

Evan Smith spent nearly 18 years at Texas Monthly Magazine. While Smith was at Texas Monthly, the magazine was nominated for 16 national awards. He has also hosted a weekly TV program, Texas Monthly Talks, which has aired since 2003 on PBS stations across Texas. In 2009 Evan left Texas Monthly. Last November he Co-Founded the Texas Tribune, a non-profit, non-partisan public media organization exclusively focused on public policy, politics, and government which posts original journalism online at www.texastribune.org. Join us for an engaging speech and Q&A into the world of new media with the man at the center of it all, Evan Smith

May 30: *The Texas After Violence Project* Virginia Raymond, J.D., PhD, Director, listens to the first-person narratives of people directly affected by serious violence; criminal investigation and legal processes; incarceration; and the death penalty. In the last two years, the project has interviewed and recorded over eighty people: family members of murder victims and executed persons, police officers and deputy sheriffs, defense lawyers and prosecutors, clergy, public advocates, media witnesses to executions, and others. By carefully listening to people tell their own stories in their own ways, the project helps to deepen our understanding of the violence in our communities, and to stimulate critical, constructive conversations about how we might most effectively prevent violence and respond to it when it does occur. In May, the first set of public interviews conducted by the project will go online at the new Human Rights Documentation Initiative of the University of Texas Libraries.



Brent Baldwin
Music Director

MUSIC MATTERS



A Mother's Day Musical Celebration

On May 9th, the FUUCA Music Program will be out in full force for both morning services. Our

Children's Choirs will share a number of anthems, and will then join our singing adults in the season's final appearance by the Intergenerational Choir. Don't miss this joyous musical event!

Spotlight on Gitanjali Mathur, soprano soloist

Soprano Gitanjali Mathur has been a frequent musical guest this year, fitting in appearances at FUUCA between her many concerts around the country.

Gitanjali was born in India, and immigrated to the US at the age of 8. She finished her Bachelor, Master, and Performer Diploma degrees in Voice Performance at Indiana University, Bloomington, and has sung with numerous ensembles including Conspirare, Austin Chamber Music Festival, Texas Choral Consort, The Texas Early Music Project, La Follia Austin Baroque, Oregon Bach Festival, Viola By Choice, Seraphic Fire, Canzonetta, and Santa Fe Desert Chorale.

Gitanjali was nominated in the "Best Singer" category for the Austin Critics Table Awards, has appeared on two Grammy-nominated recordings (with Conspirare), and recently made her debut at Carnegie Hall.



Articulating Your UU Faith

Rev. Janet Newman, our interim minister, led a group of about fifteen adults through a fascinating thought-provoking five part class based on a curriculum called Articulating Your UU Faith. There was great diversity from those born into the faith to those who have been attending for just a few weeks



Skyler Tanner, Sarah Wilson, Jynne "Gin" Rivera, Alice Morrow Harris, Ken Burton, Aaron Evans. Top row Pat Whalen, Scott Butki, Michael LeBurkien, Rev. Janet Newman, Mia Burton, Amy MacFadden Missing: Sarah Evans. Photographer: Jerry Perkins

A personal highlight was a role-playing exercise where one person pretended to be visiting the church for the first time, asking the questions we get the most often (What does the church believe? What draws people to it? What does the person being talked to directly believe?) while we took turns answering those questions in our own way, with no one right answer. The best part was being able to figure out not only better ways to answer some of those questions but to be able to find ways to describe the appeal of the Unitarian Universalist belief system in ways that do not criticize other faiths, which can sometimes be hard to do. All verbal and written feedback from the class had two things in common: We liked it and we wished it could be offered again for others who could benefit from it. Scott Butki

Note from the Instructor: As the course ended, the participants were enthusiastic about presenting a worship service during the summer season. The purpose of the service will be to convey the participants' views about Unitarian Universalism as a religion in which they have found acceptance, encouragement, and a spiritual path. I will work with the class to help them develop a service, but the date for the service is at present undetermined. Please watch the newsletter for the schedule of summer services, and be sure to attend this most inspiring creative worship. *Janet Newman, Interim Minister*

Special Note for Yew Grove Full Moon Ritual in May:

If you haven't heard about the attacks on the Amarillo UU Fellowship by the religious right, please take a look at details on the Yew Grove bulletin board in the RE Hallway.

Since May is the legendary birthday of the Buddha, we will be holding a candle blessing on the Full Moon, to send love and support to the beleaguered Amarillo UU Fellowship, and to rekindle compassion in our own hearts to honor the Buddha consciousness within. **All are welcome, please join us on this special occasion! 7:00 pm, May 25th in room 17.**



Meet and Eat / Informal Forum Hosts General Assembly Delegates

On Wednesday, May 19, the Informal Forum will host delegates from FUUCA to the UUA General Assembly (GA), which will be held in June in Minneapolis. This is an opportunity to talk to delegates and discuss the resolutions that will be voted on in



2010 by our denomination. There will also be an important vote on changing the frequency of GA to a biennial gathering as well as discussion about funding delegates. Also, talk to delegates to find out why they go to GA. Is it to network, attend UU University, meet friends and colleagues? Prior to Meet and Eat, check the UUA website for the GA agenda or see John Keohane or a member of the Denominational Affairs Committee who will have information about GA in the Gallery on Sundays. Dinner is at 6 PM in Howson Hall and costs \$5 per individual / \$10.00 per family. The discussion often continues after dinner until 8 PM. Childcare is available by request at childcare@austinuu.org.

The third Wednesday Meet and Eat / Informal Forum, sponsored by the Membership Committee, begins its second year of providing an opportunity for members of the congregation to talk informally about issues in our church and denomination over dinner.

Minneapolis is the Site of the 2010 UUA General Assembly June 23-27

Thousands of UU's from near and far will gather in June to be inspired, enlightened and entertained, as well as to conduct the business of the Unitarian Universalist Association. From the Opening Ceremony featuring UU singer-songwriter Peter Mayer to the rousing Closing Celebration participants and delegates will experience a dazzling program of worship opportunities, workshops, lectures, and plenary gatherings. The annual Ware Lecture this year will be given by the internationally renowned Native American environmental activist Winona LaDuke. There will be no separate UU University this year but Rev. Dr. Galen Guengerich will be following up his hugely popular Theology for a Secular Age program with a new eight-part workshop series.

Public Witness this year will coincide with the Twin Cities' Pride Festival and Parade. The UU Musicians Network will be offering a UU Children's Choir Camp and the Children's choir will be singing Sunday evening.

This year all workshops will be on Wednesday through Friday leaving the weekend free for business and special events. For more information on programs, registration, and housing, visit: www.uua.org/general-assembly. Early registration ends Apr. 30th

Middle and High Schoolers are learning, traveling, and having fun

The middle and high school students have returned from separate events in San Antonio and Dallas respectively. Some of them also went on a prior Sunday to the The Institute for Interfaith Dialogue where we first learned about what Muslims traditionally do before and during the prayers they do five times daily and then took advantage of the opportunity to pray alongside them. As part of the Neighboring Faiths curriculum being taught by Ron Phares and Scott Butki, we had guest speakers on the topic of Islam. In prior months we have studied Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity. This month we are studying Mormonism and next month we will study Buddhism.

Members of the high school group went to Dallas for the last high school rally of the school year. At these rallies students from Unitarian Universalist churches throughout the district, (Oklahoma to Louisiana and points in between) get together for socializing, worship and social action.

Meanwhile, I was helping lead a first of its kind for the district event for middle school students from the region. The event, called Congruity, was a way for middle school students from churches to socialize, meet new friends, share ideas about social action and attend a service. During an opening circle check each student stated their hopes for the weekend. Mostly they said they wanted to have fun, try new things, meet new people and make new friends. About 22 hours later (during the closing circle) the consensus was they had indeed made friends, had fun and want to come back when we do it next year. We also received feedback via written evaluations so we will probably be doing something similar again next year.

A total of 31 attended the event included four from our church. The thought for this first year was to keep it small and enthusiastic so we can build on that energy for next year and that is exactly what we will do.

The big focus now for the high school students is on the youth service, which will be May 16. At a lock in last month a group of the high schoolers came up with a theme and began deciding who will do what during the service. They will be meeting with Rev. Newman and Lara Douglass, the director of RE, and me as that date gets closer to firm up their comments and actions for that service. *-Scott Butki*

Attending To Final Affairs

Do you know what is required to have your end of life choices legally recognized?

DATE: Saturdays May 1, 8, 15 **TIME:** 10 a.m. to noon **COST:** \$15 for materials

SIGN UP with Daesene Willmann or Adult Religious Education or signup sheet in the gallery on Sundays.

May 1, 2010 Daesene Willmann and Ed Nichols, members of our congregation and the Austin Memorial Burial and Information Society (AMBIS), will give this useful program about Powers of Attorney and Advanced Directives with the services of a notary public. Come and learn about your choices as well as what is advisable and necessary in Texas to take care of

May 8, 2010 Jacqueline Rixen, member of our congregation and Austin attorney, will explain what is required to have a valid will in Texas and why everyone should have a will.

May 15 Ed Nichols and Daesene Willmann will cover making sure your end-of-life wishes are known and honored, planning your own memorial service and obituary as well as advice on dealing with funeral homes.

QUESTIONS? Email Daesene@sbcglobal.net or ednichols@austin.rr.com

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



Krause Springs Campout

May 7th through May 9

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. However, a lot of people don't arrive until Saturday. 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 587-8221 or Lynn@Lynnspetsitting.com or Krause Springs at (830) 693-4181.

