

FEBRUARY Newsletter

Appreciate the Sweet Hearts
in your life.



Lots of folks helped and suggested and corrected, BUT **Andi and Peter** have put in countless hours making our Website grow and serves us as a window for the wider community to check us out. Our hearty thanks to the Co-Leaders of the Web Team!



Kitty and Nancy. Oh so many years- Nancy and her energy, knowledge, history, and charm holds this community in her hands. Super Volunteer! Kitty the smiling faces who greet us every Sunday are there through the diligence shown by Kitty. She enrolls, trains, coordinates and through it all pays careful attention to details. Yeah Kitty!

Families Grow Up. **Aaron and his mom, Kim and dad, Bob.** Forces of kindness, curiosity, knowledge and for the youth of the church, Aaron star of Hogwarts. Aaron grew up here and now visits here. Megan, his sister, preceded his devotion to this community. Thanks Kim and Bob!



Who do we call when the (insert random electronic AV device here) doesn't work? **Tom** who is probably the most patient man on the planet, always magically answers the phone or shows up when you need him the most. No one knows how he does it- but we sure are glad he does!



Over the many years. **Marilyn, Eve, and Sally.** The ever present smiles the christmas cards to friends who moved, parties, book clubs, champions of music and volunteers.



John and Karen Can you believe these two quietly attended our church- for years? Now they have jumped into First UU Church life bringing calm leadership, kindness and thoughtful guidance to the committees they are on, the meetings they attend and the Social Justice efforts they volunteer for.

We could have filled our newsletter with your pictures and notes for each person who makes our Church a special place to be. But we want to share the Valentine's Fun! So take a moment this month and let the Sweet Hearts in your life know how much you appreciate them. Have a Great Valentine's Day

News from the Settled Minister Search Committee

Our church is fortunate to have had 30 ministers submit applications for our settled minister position. Your search committee spent much of the past two months reviewing ministerial records, reading articles, listening to sermons, and interviewing the most promising candidates. In January we extended formal invitations to three candidates to come to Austin for pre-candidating weekends. One candidate chose to withdraw from consideration after thinking over the move and the upheaval it would cause his family.

We have two excellent candidates who will join us in Austin in February and March. The pre-candidating weekends will allow us to engage them in deeper conversation and to see them preach in a neutral pulpit. The candidates also have an opportunity to meet with church staff and to become familiar with our city. This part of the search process is confidential, both to protect the ministerial candidates and to avoid the potential for internal conflict in our congregation.

As your search committee approaches the final phase of this yearlong process, we welcome, as always, your questions and feedback. You can find us at church on Sundays or contact us by email at search@austinuu.org. Your Settled Minister Search Committee: Co-Chairs *Michael Kersey and Sharon Moore, Gary Bennett, John Franks, Maria Nehring, Jill Smith, Lynda West, Dale Whiteaker-Lewis, Jill Wiggins*



Ed Brock,
Interim Minister

From our Interim Minister:
It is clear that this church wants to thrive. There are hundreds of talented and very hard working members who seek to make the church's mission come alive. Piece by piece, this church is putting in place all the basic foundation blocks

which will help provide the means and support for a thriving future and without which the level of success this congregation is capable of could not happen.

A new policy governance form of organization is being constructed thoughtfully, carefully and methodically; this will give the congregation the ability to function at a level hitherto impossible. You just passed a balance budget for the first time in 5 years that reflects a robust \$100,000 increase in pledges.

In a bold act of faith in your future, the congregation also passed, by an overwhelming majority, a plan to fund a position of volunteer/membership coordinator; this will help to strengthen your volunteer resources and help to bring into membership some of the approximately sixteen people who regularly visit First UU each week.

Under the guidance of Rose Ann Reeser, you are well on your way to raising your permanent endowment to a higher level.

Rev. Lena Breen is revitalizing and re-energizing your program of religious education for children and youth after a period of difficult transition. You are developing an attractive new website.

Additionally, in what I can only describe as a spontaneous act of radical generosity, a couple in the church has just donated \$5,000 for continuing education for staff and members of the congregations. Of this amount, \$2,000 is given as matching grants.

If you consider the totality of these changes, they reflect an enormous commitment to the new future you are creating together, and present an extremely positive context into which your new settled minister will enter.

While much is yet to be done, the church should feel that at this half way point in the year it has demonstrated a commitment to an exciting future. Congratulations for your commitment of time, treasure and talent to your mission and values.
Rev. Ed Brock, Interim Minister

Sunday Worship

The time for Sunday Worship is 9:45 and 11:30 a.m.

February 6: Reverend Ed Brock speaking.

February 13: Reverend Ed Brock speaking.

February 20: Reverend Ed Brock speaking.

February 27: Reverend Ed Brock speaking.

Sunday Forum

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

February 6: Anne Dunkelberg, Senior Policy Analyst and Health Care Expert with the Center for Public Policy Priorities Health Care policy - national and Texas, especially the state of Medicare in Texas. Anne Dunkelberg has worked with the Center since 1994. She is one of the state's leading experts in policy and budget issues relating to health care access and a strong public health advocate.

February 13: No Forum

February 20: Tom Davis "The Transition Movement and the Future of Society" Our society is about to undergo some profound changes. We're running off the end of the age of oil, the global climate is changing as a result of our use of fossil fuels, and the economic system is growing more and more unstable. The Transition movement offers a way for us to get through the coming shocks by building resilient communities dedicated to truly sustainable living. Churches like First U-U are an ideal framework to build communities that are not only physically resilient, but spiritually resilient.

February 27: Tom "Smitty" Smith - "What's up in the Texas Legislature? Ethics, the Environment, and Energy." Tom Smith, Director of Public Citizen in Texas, will discuss major legislative efforts in Texas which will attempt to repeal our ban on corporate and union donations to campaigns. Texas's energy and environmental agencies are simultaneously undergoing Sunset Review this year and these reviews may offer opportunities for either improved agency functioning or major mischief in state government.



Calling all Bookkeepers, Accountants, Finance and Investment Types

There are several ongoing chores that could use financially-oriented volunteers. I am compiling a human resource list and would love to hear from anyone who enjoys accounting, bookkeeping, or audit tasks, or has experience/knowledge of investments, and would be willing to spend a little or a lot of time volunteering in this capacity of First UU. Please contact Kae McLaughlin, First UU Treasurer treasurer@austinuu.org I look forward to hearing from you!

All First UU Technology Groups will meet together Sunday, Feb 13 at 1:30.

Anyone interested in church Audio-Video, the Web Team, or any aspect of technology in service to the church is welcome. We always need volunteers. Room to be determined but we're not hard to find. Contact firstuutech@austinuu.org for details or simply to reach us.

Justice is LOVE in Action

Did you eat today? I hope you did.

As the time for our UU Journey with Food draws near, I'd like to share with you some of the moral implications of food choice. Please consider:

Human Dignity: Support fair wages and healthy working conditions for farmers and food workers.

Universal Destination of Goods: Support fair distribution of profits, not food cartel control.

Integrity of Creation: Support humane treatment of animals; restrict factory farms. Protect the environment by the food you eat.

Common Good: People around the world have a right to food security. Limit "food miles" and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Solidarity: Affirm local food production and local purchasing as a preference. Encourage fair trade practices.

Option for the Poor: Provide nutritious foods for those who are hungry.

You may be surprised to find that the summary above comes from the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. As a matter of fact, the UU Journey with Food is an adaptation of a program given at St. Austin's Catholic Church a few years ago; a friend who worships there told me about it. But their concerns are mirrored within our Unitarian Universalist Association, in its congregational study/action issue called "Ethical Eating and Environmental Justice." I encourage you to look at the www.uua.org for a full description – it is a lot wordier than what the Catholics put together! And I look forward to walking on this journey with food with you! Questions or comments? Please contact me at corinna@austin.rr.com. – Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis, co-chair, Social Action Committee



**Sunday February 13:
First UU will
commemorate the 2nd
annual National
Standing on the Side of
Love Day**, where we re-

imagine Valentines Day as a holiday of love and acceptance for everyone, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered folks.



"National Standing on the Side of Love Day"

is our opportunity to honor courageous love, and recognize those whose words and deeds exemplify the values of inclusion, diversity, community, and equality. When we stand on the side of love, we let our communities know that how we treat each other truly matters."

–Peter Langlois, Chairman of Interweave



Social Action

Additional volunteers are needed for the 2nd



Tuesday Collate Group at People's Community Clinic to complete patient information packets. We meet on February 8th in the workroom at PCC. Arrive anytime after 9:30 am and leave when you need -- we are always finished by noon. You don't need to participate each month, just as you can. There are usually around 4 to 8 of us and it is a nice opportunity to visit each other. Please call or email Sheri Overton (512-847-2685 or sherioverton@hotmail.com).

Freeze Nights

There will not be Freeze Nights February 1 and 8 due to previously scheduled events in Howson Hall. We will resume our regular schedule on February 15. You will be notified as usual if we have a Freeze Night.

Thanks to all who have supported Freeze Night and our homeless male population. Freeze Night will no longer accept any items of clothing or blankets to be donated to the homeless. We are disappointed about this but due to the bedbug infestation we simply can't accept the donations. ARCH will accept blankets that are packaged with complete enclosure by the manufacturer. The Salvation Army on the corner of East 8th Street and Trinity will accept cleaned clothing and blankets. Thanks, *Mary Ann Stafford, Freeze Night Coordinator*

NEW CLASS! “Pathway to Membership” see page 8...



Recognition Ceremony

February 13th

On Sunday, February 13, 2011, Rev. Ed Brock and the Membership Committee will welcome First UU's new members, individuals and families who joined our church between October 1, 2010 and Feb. 13, 2011. A Recognition Ceremony will be held at both services. As a part of our committed congregation, you are asked to attend. Please make it a point to get to know these newest members who have made First Church their spiritual home.

Sharing Suppers First UU's Best Kept Secret

Are you new to the church? Or not so new to the church, but feel you haven't gotten as involved as you'd like or developed as many relationships as you'd hoped? Well, I've got just the thing for you. I call it First UU's best kept secret –

Sharing Suppers! Held on the third Saturday of every month, these gatherings not only provide an excellent opportunity to meet and get to know other members, but the contributions from each participant make the meals gastronomical delights. Every month, different individuals open their homes to host these meals and those who have made reservations (by signing up at the Visitor's table in the foyer or the bulletin board in the hallway adjacent to the Gallery or by emailing sharing@austinuu.org) are assigned to one of the hosts.

Since my partner and I have been participating, there have been about twenty individuals participating each month. We've even hosted one in our modest home and felt so enriched by the experience. Most of the people who attend these meals are involved in different programs, committees and groups in the church and are more than willing to help you get more involved in the church according to your interests and talents. These meals not only provide nourishment for our bodies, but they nourish our souls as we get to know others from the congregation and allow them to get to know us.

The next Sharing Supper is February 19th. Join us and find out for yourself why I call this First UU's best kept secret! - Lisa Carrell

New Members Honored Guests at

Meet and Eat, Wednesday, February 16th.
Membership Committee's monthly Meet and Eat program will start at 6:00 pm in Howson Hall. All new members who joined after October 1, 2010 will be honored guests (no fee). For others, the dinner will cost \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family.

This Meet and Eat program will focus on getting to know our new members as we enjoy dinner together. Staff, Board members and Committee chairs will make short presentations describing the church's social action, adult education, chalice group and other volunteer opportunities. Please come! **To RSVP, sign-up on the Gallery bulletin board or at the Visitors Table outside the sanctuary.**

How Do You Join First UU Church of Austin?

If you wish to become a member of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin in February, the Membership Table will be open February 13 and 27 in the Gallery. The Membership Table is staffed between the 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. services and after the second service until 1:00 p. m.





THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE IS

BRINGING YOU A
FAMILY FUN PARTY!

POTLUCK
DINNER

AND



When?

Saturday, February 5th,
6:30 to 10:00 p.m.

What?

Bring your pot luck, and a game you like.

We will provide glasses, dishes, silverware and drinks and small tables for young'uns.

Come and be Prepared to HAVE FUN and WIN!

Help us build community and rekindle your spirit! For more information call Fellowship chair: Sally Scott 453- 2289 or fellowship@austinuu.org



The Coming Year

January's Congregational Meeting confirmed our 2011 budget, and took the first step to create the position of the Volunteer Coordinator. Our Congregation – you, we – can be proud of our success in the 2011 Canvass. A great start in our new era.

Now at last the Stewardship Committee will be able to refocus its primary efforts away from the Annual Canvass and focus more on true Stewardship: a process including the welcoming and incorporating of our members into the fabric and culture of our Congregation, and to grow the giving culture of our Church to a culture of generosity, and abundance, and unlimited possibilities.

I have paraphrased Bob Dylan before: once we change the giving culture “the sands will unfold a carpet of gold for our weary toes to be touching.” What a wonderful thing that will be.

Bill Edwards, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee

Heads up on SW UU District Conference and UUA General Assembly

Southwest District Spring Conference: April 28- April 30 Our conference covers all of Texas except El Paso, all of Oklahoma and Arkansas, as well as parts of Louisiana, Missouri, and Tennessee. The location of the conference moves locations each year. This year is Oklahoma City. More information will be up and coming on the Southwest UU Conference site (swuuc.org).

The UUA General Assembly for 2011 will be in June (22 to 26) this year in Charlotte, North Carolina. This is the continent-wide gathering of Unitarian Universalists. If you are interested in the possibility of attending or just finding out what goes on there: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/programming/14599.shtml>

*John Keohane, Chairperson
Denominational Affairs Committee*





Valentine Treats

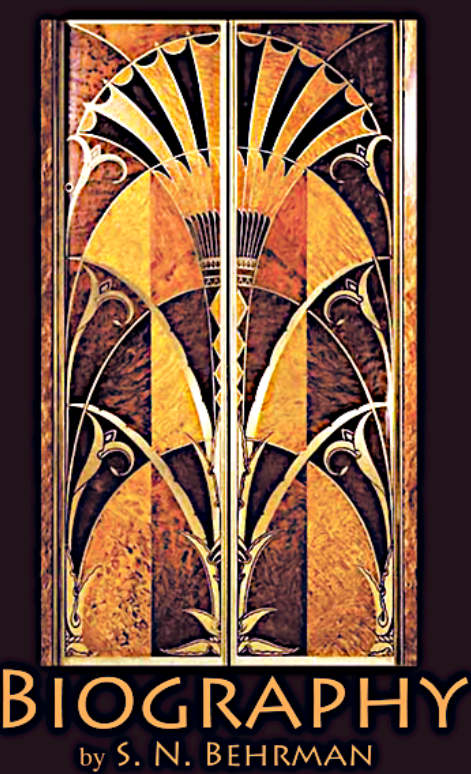
Looking for a Valentine treat? Bring your sweetheart to the February 11 Gala following the Opening Night performance of *Biography*! This romantic comedy,



described in last month's newsletter and on our website, will surely spark lively discussion about the role of celebrity, press, politics and scandal in our culture. This year we are hosting only one Gala in February, catered by a highly reviewed neighborhood restaurant – a treat you won't want to miss.

Or perhaps you are looking for daytime entertainment with free childcare? Then the Sunday matinee on February 13 is your ticket. Be sure to reserve childcare at childcare@austinuu.org by February 6 for a different kind of Valentine treat!

As always, tickets can be



arranged on the website at paradoxplayers.org, by phone at 744-1495, or at the Paradox Players table in the Gallery on Sundays.

Senior's Luncheon

Tuesday, February 8th (2nd Tues.)
Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice
Cashman 837-0988



Program: A Sneak Preview - Paradox Players will present an opening scene from *Biography*, the romantic comedy opening Friday, February 11. Director Dr. Charles R. Hill will be on hand to answer questions about the revival of this play written in 1932 with themes that still



Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith Bardic Circle for Brigid's Day

The Goddess Brigid was a deity of many talents. Among other attributes, one of her skills is to light the spark of inspiration in poets, singers, and artists. So we are having a gathering of inspired people, who will share their talents with you to mark this time of light in the darkness.

Join us in the Art Gallery at 7:30 pm on Thurs, Feb 3rd for a music, poetry, and more. This will be a special occasion to honor featured artists **John Berry, Herman Nelson, and The Tulstin Troubadours**. There will be other performers joining us as well. **Potluck to follow.** Contact Stephanie at 512-291-3106 or YewGrove@AustinUU.org with any questions.

The Yew Grove Monthly Meeting will be held Feb 18th at 7:30 pm in Room 13.



Monday evening, February 8, at 7:30 in Room 13.

We'll be reading short scenes about winter nights in Maine.

The kind of Valentine treat you create yourself! No preparation needed, newcomers welcome.

Mark Your Calendar for First UU's Dinner and Auction on April 16th

Make plans to attend First UU Church of Austin's live and silent auction on the evening of Saturday, April 16, 2011. There will be entertainment, food, drink and a whole lot of fun. To ensure the success of this event, we need a donation (or donations!) from every church member and every church member needs to attend and bring a friend along. Childcare will be available so plan to bring the young'uns with you, too. More information to come, but in the meantime email Lisa Carrell at auction@austinuu.org or call her at 512-698-2831 with donations, questions or offers to help.

*We gather in community
to nourish souls,
transform lives,
and do justice.*

Religious Education

NEW CLASS! Parents As Spiritual Guides

Raising Unitarian Universalist children means being a companion and guide on their magnificent journey of making meaning in life. Rev. Lena Breen will facilitate a learning workshop for parents utilizing various UU curriculum and her many years of experience. Text used is, "Tending The Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting." This is available at the workshop on Sunday, February 27th from 1:00-3:30 in room 15. There is a \$5 donation request for lunch. Rev. Lena Breen will be leading this workshop. For more information and to RSVP for the class please contact Lena at lena@austinuu.org

NEW CLASS! Pathway to Membership

By collaborating together, the Membership, Adult RE and Stewardship committees have created a new class called "Pathway to Membership." Our new format should prove to be lively, fun and a great opportunity for folks who recently became new members- or are considering becoming members- to get a well rounded tour of what our Church is all about. Participants will have the opportunity to spend time with our minister, learn about our Religious Education programs, dive into our UU history, find out how to bring about Social Justice and hear about how our church works and what it has to offer. Our pilot class will be on Sunday March 6th in Howson Hall from 1:15-4:45 pm with a light lunch and snacks offered for all who attend. For more information or to RSVP please contact membership@austinuu.org or leave a message by calling Lansing at 512-452-6168 ext 312.

Children, Youth & Adult Teacher Training

"Religion is our philosophy in action."

On January 15th, Lena Breen, our Interim Director of Religious Education led a Children, Youth & Adult Teacher Training day. Stop and ask us what we learned that day- since that is what matters in terms of how each of us teaches and learns going forward. Thank you Lena for providing a safe space for us to learn from you, share our insights and connect with each other. Kami, Laine, Lansing, Karyn, Front Row: Lena, Andrew and Star.



Adult Religious Education Book Groups

The Great Decisions 2011 Book Group begins Sunday, February 6th from 4-5:30 pm in room 13. The Great Decisions Briefing book costs \$20 and can be purchased from the Religious Education table on Sunday or by contacting lansing@austinuu.org while supplies last. We are considering offering a weeknight offering of this class later this year- so stay tuned if you missed the Sunday night class.

The Sunday Morning Book Group "THE LOOMING TOWER: Al-Queada And The Road to 9/11", by Lawrence Wright 9:00 to 10:45 AM Starts Jan. 30 with the Prologue and Chapters 1 & 2. It will take about 5 weeks to complete the book.

Mind & Meaning Book Group Meets Sundays in Room 13A at 9:30 a.m. We are reading "The Ancestor's Tale: A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Evolution" by Richard Dawkins." If interested, please come by Room 13A any Sunday between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. For information contact June Beach at junembeach@aol.com.

The Austin Eckhart Tolle Presence Book Group Eckhart Tolle is a spiritual teacher and author who was born in Germany and educated at the Universities of London and Cambridge. He is the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller, "The Power of Now" and the highly acclaimed follow-up "A New Earth", which are widely regarded as two of the most influential spiritual books of our time. Eckhart's profound, yet simple teachings have already helped countless people throughout the world find inner peace and greater fulfillment in their lives. We will be meeting every Thursday, 7:00 to 8:30 PM, where we'll discuss a chapter each week from "A New Earth" beginning January 27th. Anyone is welcome to join to any of the meetings through the series. A donation of \$5.00 per person is requested. 100% of all donations will be given to First UU. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Thomas Najar, via email at tomnajar@mac.com or call 512 965 1338.

SPIRITUAL MOVIE UPDATE

Last months' movie "Being There" was a big hit for the evening showing. There were 33 people there, and the discussion group afterwards went until 10pm. The matinee only had 4 people show up- I think maybe the cold weather had something to do with that. Many thanks to everyone for the film suggestions for future movies. Stay tuned next month for a list of what is in our queue, and a list of films that still need to be screened.

Spiritual Movie for

What does Nelson Mandela do after becoming president of South Africa? He rejects revenge, forgives oppressors who jailed him 27 years for his fight against apartheid and finds hope of national unity in an unlikely place: the rugby field.

Clint Eastwood (named 2009's Best Director by the National Board of Review) directs an uplifting film about a team and a people inspired to greatness. Morgan Freeman (NBR's Best Actor Award winner and Oscar nominee for this role) is Mandela, who asks the national rugby team captain (Best Supporting Actor Oscar nominee Matt Damon) and his squad to do the impossible and win the World Cup. **This is national Beyond Categorical Leadership in action.**

***FREE Movie & Popcorn in Howson Hall**

EVENING: Friday, February 4th at 7:00 pm

MATINEE: Friday, February 11th at 1:30 pm

*Donations of \$5 or what you can contribute are encouraged.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUSTIN

4700 Grover Ave. Austin, TX 78756

Call 512 452 6168 ext 312 more information.



First UU of Austin Joins The UU Small Group Ministry Network

Our church has become an official member of the UU Small Group Ministry Network (UU SGMN) thanks to generous donation from one of our congregants. The UU SGMN is financially independent of the UUA and depends upon membership and publications sales to cover their modest expenses. As an added incentive to membership, they offer a member discount of 40% off all of their UU SGM Network publications.

The Network website, www.smallgroupministry.net, contains information about the UU Small Group Ministry Network, articles by leaders in the small group ministry movement and an extensive selection of sessions that people have contributed, as well as a complete archive of Covenant Group News and the *SGM Quarterly*. We have the SGM Quarterly emailed to me at church. Anyone interested in having the *SGM Quarterly* forwarded on please email me at lansing@austinuu.org.



First UU of Austin Chalice Circle Program Takes the Next Step

We have received the Facilitator Training and Development Manual from the Small Group Ministry Network and the first training will take place at Church Saturday, Feb. 21st. The length of the training depends on the number of people who participate, but it looks like it will be about 1 day. We currently have about 6 people who have expressed interest in attending our first Chalice Circle Facilitator training. Attending the training does not commit you to become a facilitator of a Chalice Circle but gives you a chance to make an informed choice. For more information contact me at lansing@austinuu.org. - *Lansing Bicknell, Adult Programming Coordinator*



Youth Report: Love the Rally!

Greetings, adult congregants! I'm Claudia Cutter, one of the amazing youth that hangs out in the back of the church on Sundays. I'm a freshman, which means a lot of things. New school, new friends, new responsibilities. But, the best thing of all is that it means I got to move from the middle school Religious Education class up to being an official member of the high school class last fall. It's been a great transition. I get to be more involved in church, I get to write on the YRUU room walls, and best of all I get to go to rallies!

My first rally was this weekend and it was pretty darn fantastic. A rally is basically where over a hundred teenage Unitarians from Louisiana to Texas to Oklahoma all gather in one church for an entire weekend. Mayhem ensues.

As soon as I walked into the big UU church in Houston, I was being jostled around by screaming people, running and jumping on the friends they hadn't seen since the last rally. People I didn't know were hugging me, asking who I was. Someone inexplicably threw someone else's rad fedora on my head. I couldn't wait to be a part of this crazy energy.

Over the course of the weekend, I managed to plant nine trees for Houston's Hermann Park with the help of my super awesome tree-planting group (we dubbed ourselves J-Dec, which sounds like a gangster name but is actually an acronym), attempt a challenge involving picking up live worms with my toes, go to one wild dance party, see a talent show with some fantabulous singing and ukulele performances, learn how to do henna, get about a zillion hugs, and even make some new friends, who I'll get to see again and again for the rest of the rallies over the course of my high school career. I can already feel myself becoming a part of something, and I can't wait to get more in this crazy experience.



Brown Bag Brunch with the Board

Practicing Liberal Religious Values in the Public Arena. One of the primary responsibilities of the Board of Trustees under Policy Based Governance is to stay in communication with the congregation: to

listen to what you have to say in order to represent you effectively when writing church policies and monitoring our congregation's success in achieving our mission and ends. You can find this year's plan on our church website at:

<http://austinuu.org/wp2011/leadership/policy-governance/governance-resources-page/>

Click on First Year Linkage Plan.

As part of our communication plan, the board is hosting a series of conversations with the congregation about our Mission, Values and in particular our Ends. We are calling four of these conversations Brown Bags With the Board, including two Brown Bag Brunches before the first service for those of you who prefer to attend the first service and two Brown Bag Lunches after the second service for those who usually attend that service.

We held the first Brown Bag Brunch in December. The topic was: First UU of Austin is a radically hospitable community where all people feel welcomed and are treated with respect and dignity. The board appreciated the input from those present about this very important end.



We invite you to our second Brown Bag Brunch with the Board, which is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 6 from 8:30 AM to 9:30 in Howson Hall. The topic will be a discussion about another one of our church's Ends: First UU Church of Austin witnesses to justice in our personal lives and beyond by practicing liberal religious values in the public arena. This seems particularly relevant given events in our nation in recent weeks. The board wants to hear your thoughts about what this would look like at First UU of Austin and in our community. So grab some doughnuts or sweet rolls and join us before the first service on Feb. 6.

Board Meeting Summary for January 2011

Klondike Stedman led a brief lesson in how to review minutes of board meetings online. Kae McLaughlin reported on the first meeting for the planned giving program.

The board reviewed and accepted several sections of our executive limitations policies. Brendan Stern led a governance exercise and discussion regarding how a proposed complaint process might work. Susan Thomson board-congregation linkage efforts for Feb/Mar.

Margaret Borden led a discussion regarding board-congregation communication which emphasized the importance of clarifying what a member's concerns are when they voice a concern, using transparency and openness as an example, rather than rushing to solutions before the problem is clearly understood.

The board reviewed thoughts and lessons from the Jan 16 congregational meeting and discussed preparation for the May meeting. Rev Brock will provide the description of the proposed volunteer/member coordinator position to be presented for a second vote at that meeting.

Michael West gave a report from the settled minister search committee, including the expectation of pre-candidates that we would already have a DRE search well underway. Rev Brock has sent questions via the committee to the pre-candidates regarding their preferences on hiring an interim and what part they want to play in the hiring process.

[NOTE: Official board minutes are posted on the web and outside the church office after approval at the following month's board meeting.]

First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Austin

4700 Grover Avenue

Austin, TX 78756

Interim Minister:

Rev. Ed Brock ext 304

Executive Director:

Sean Hale ext 308

Interim Director of Religious Educ.:

Rev. Lena Breen ext 305

Director of Music: Brent Baldwin

Board President: Eric Stimell

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

Church Fax: (512) 453-5912

E-Mail: info@AustinUU.org

www.AustinUU.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

15th of the month

Please submit information to

news@austinuu.org

Heritage Book Club, which is open to all people, will be meeting on Feb. 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Tom Clark, 1216 Piedmont, 78757. The book is "Ford County" by John Grisham. The meeting starts with a pot luck supper followed by a discussion. The next book for March 11 will be "Elegance of a Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery. Please come we need more members.

Save the Date: Austin CROP Hunger Walk, March 5/6: This year First UU members will join again in the annual interfaith Austin CROP Hunger Walk, slated for Saturday-Sunday, March 5/6. (CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty, affiliated with the ecumenical Church World Service aid agency.) This fundraising event raised \$102,000 last year, including \$1,500-plus raised by more than 50 First UU participants. Three-fourths of the proceeds support international hunger relief, refugee services, disaster aid, and community self-development; one-fourth supports the Capital Area Food Bank and other local

Singalong This month's Singalong will be held on the fourth Saturday, Feb. 26th, from 7:30 to 10:30 at the Friend's Meeting House on 3701 E. MLK Blvd. Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing. Copies of "Rise Up Singing" will be available. Please do not bring alcohol, since this is not a custom of the Quakers. For more information contact Larry Vaughn 469-0029. If you want to add somebody to the email list, contact Mary Jane Ford at mjaneford@grandecom.net.