

MAY NEWSLETTER

A Letter from Meg to the First UU Community!



I'm sitting at my desk here at the Princeton UU, a congregation about the same size as First UU Austin. I've spent two good years here, learning skills, adding strengths as a minister. As I write this I'm looking at two crayon drawings that the office

assistant's daughter Layna drew for me. One is of me standing on a hill, and the words "on a hill" are written across the top of the paper in fluffy looking letters. The other is an undersea scene of a dolphin playing with what looks like a school of orange fish-crackers. A purple cactus stands on the ocean floor along with a ladybug and a snail. More fluffy looking green letters across the top read: "In the sea."

In a way I am standing on a hill these days, looking at Austin, far from here, waving and smiling. I'm very much looking forward to meeting you all in May, beginning the process of our getting to know one another. Being a minister is my "right livelihood," to use the Buddhist phrase. Sunday mornings are a joy: preaching, teaching, mingling with church folk and visitors, feeling the energy and life of a congregation buzzing around me. Weekday work is enjoyable as well, consulting with congregational leaders about their committees, working with members to accomplish the many ministries of the church, creating more visibility for the congregation in its town, tending the sense of community, trust, clarity and goodwill a church must have to be healthy.

You may know some of the facts about my family already, about my son Sam, who is in med school at the University of South Carolina, and his wife Emily, a science teacher. My younger son Ned is a junior at University of South Carolina developing as a singer-songwriter (NedDurrett.com). They all live in a house together in Columbia, SC with Griffin, a small but fierce mutt. My partner, Kiya Heartwood, is a road musician and a composer, an award-winning singer-songwriter who loves to teach writing, work with children, collect academic degrees and talk about eighteenth century agriculture. These past two years she has been doing graduate study in composition at the Westminster Choir College in Princeton. Kiya asks me to tell you that she has spent many happy days in Austin, and that she feels like she's coming home.

The first time I came to First UU to be part of your Distinguished Speakers Series, I felt invigorated and comfortable. It felt like a place where the people weren't sleepwalking, where they were lively and engaged with the life of the church. This would be a wonderful time to be your settled minister, this time when you have been engaged in self-examination and redefinition, when you have added a powerful new mission statement and a covenant of right relations. It is a period of wide-open possibilities, when the congregation could take wing and soar. In addition to all of that, the prospect of living in Austin, with its music, its politics, the bats and Barton Springs makes the possibility of being your settled minister that much more delightful.

So I'm on this hill waving at y'all. That crayon drawing makes sense to me. The undersea picture with the dolphin, the goldfish crackers and the purple cactus? I have no idea about that one.

All my best, Meg Barnhouse

Candidating Week: Frequently Asked Questions

What is Candidating Week? Candidating Week (Saturday, May 14 through Sunday, May 22) is an intensive, activity-filled nine days, bringing together the ministerial candidate selected by the search committee and the congregation. It is the final step in the search process developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and culminates in the congregation's vote to call the minister. There are two main purposes for Candidating Week. The obvious one is that it provides a chance for the congregation and Rev. Meg Barnhouse to get to know each other. It is also an opportunity for Meg to learn about our committees, practices and operating structure. Through our interactions, we will gain insight into her personality and the unique qualities and experience she can bring to our congregation. Meg, in turn, will learn more about our community, where we are now and what we aspire to become.

Why does the congregation vote on one candidate only? Why don't we get to choose among several candidates? In presenting one candidate to the congregation, your search committee followed the ministerial search process sanctioned by the UUA. Search committees do this for two reasons. One is to protect the confidentiality of the ministers. A minister who is known to be in search may unintentionally jeopardize relations with the church he or she is currently serving. Second, presenting one candidate limits conflict within a congregation and lays the groundwork for a successful settled ministry. If a congregation is asked to choose between two or more candidates, the potential for disagreement and divisiveness increases. Upon calling a new minister, members might compare that minister to the "one who got away." Extending a call to one minister helps ensure that the congregation focuses on the work of the church and on supporting the new minister.

What is the role of the congregation prior to and during Candidating Week? The most important thing you can do is to learn as much as possible about our ministerial candidate in preparation for the vote on May 22. Get acquainted with Meg and her partner, Kiya Heartwood, by attending the all-church events taking place throughout the week. Come to church to hear Meg preach at services on Sunday, May 15, and May 22. Review materials that are available every Sunday in the gallery at the Settled Minister Search Committee table. Find more information on the church website at <http://austinuu.org/wp2011/leadership/administrative/smsc/>. You can also find sermons, articles, excerpts from Meg's books and more on her website at www.megbarnhouse.com.

How does the congregation "call" the minister? On May 22 immediately following the second service, the congregation will vote to call Rev. Meg Barnhouse as our next settled minister. If we extend the call and she accepts, she will begin her ministry here on August 15. If we do not muster a satisfactory vote* or Rev. Barnhouse does not accept the call, the current search committee will be dissolved and the Board of Trustees will appoint a new search committee to continue the search for an additional year.

To be eligible to vote, you must be a member of the church. According to church bylaws, this means that you must have signed the membership book (April 10 was the last day to sign the book) and made a gift of record during the last 12 months and at least 30 days prior to the meeting. If you have questions about eligibility, contact Kae McLaughlin, treasurer, at 497-6470 or treasurer@austinuu.org. The Board of Trustees will provide more detailed information about the voting process over the next several weeks.

**Our church bylaws require a two-thirds majority to call a settled minister; however, the UUA discourages ministers from accepting an approval vote of less than 90 percent, and most ministers seek a 95 percent majority.*

**First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin
Candidating Week Schedule**

Rev. Meg Barnhouse

May 14-23, 2011

Events shown in BOLD are open to EVERYONE.



| When | What |
|--|--|
| Saturday, May 14 5-7 p.m. | WELCOME RECEPTION POTLUCK (Howson Hall) Welcome Rev. Meg Barnhouse and Kiya Heartwood to our church! Bring an appetizer and beverage to share. For more information, contact Sally Scott at sallylscott@sbcglobal.net or 512-453-2289. |
| Sunday, May 15 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. | WORSHIP SERVICES (Sanctuary) Meg will preach at both services. |
| Monday, May 16, 10 a.m. | Meet with Paradox Players (10 a.m.) |
| Noon | Brown bag lunch with staff |
| 6 p.m. | Dinner with past Transition Teams |
| Tuesday, May 17, | Meet with Eric Stimmel, Board President, and Chris Jimmerson, Board VP (10 a.m.) |
| 11:30 a.m. | Lunch with Management Team |
| 5 p.m. | Dinner with Executive Committee |
| 6:30-9:30 p.m. | Attend Board of Trustees Meeting |
| Wednesday, May 18 | Meet with Congregational Care Committee (4-5 p.m.) |
| 5-6 p.m. | Meet with Nominating Committee |
| 6-8 p.m. | MEET AND EAT (Howson Hall) Meet Meg at this special dinner sponsored by the Membership Committee. Because space is limited to 120 seats, please reserve early by contacting Jeanette Swenson at meeteat@austinuu.org or 512-524-1973. You can also sign up at the Search Committee table or Visitors table on Sundays, or on the Gallery bulletin board. Cost is \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family. |
| 7:30 p.m. | Meet briefly with the choir during choir practice |
| Thursday, May 19, | Meet with area UU clergy for coffee (9 a.m.) |
| Noon | Lunch with Search Committee |
| 6:30 p.m. | Dinner with Young Adult group |
| 7:30 p.m. | Meeting with church-affiliated groups and committees (Howson Hall) An opportunity for all committees and groups who are not otherwise scheduled to meet with Meg. |
| Friday, May 20 10 a.m. | Meet with Lena Breen, new Interim DRE Barbara Stoddard, and leaders of Children's Programming and Adult RE |
| Saturday, May 21 3-6 p.m. | Meet with Social Action Committee 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. FAMILY FRIENDLY POTLUCK (Howson Hall) Contact Jill Smith at jillhakes@aol.com for more information. |
| Sunday, May 22 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. | WORSHIP SERVICES (Sanctuary) Last chance to hear Meg preach before the meeting to call. |
| 12:45 p.m. | CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO CALL OUR NEW MINISTER (Sanctuary) Every voting member should attend. |
| 2-3:30 p.m. | POST-VOTE BARBEQUE (Howson Hall) Enjoy delicious Texas BBQ—salad and vegetarian options, too. You MUST sign up at the Search Committee table in the Gallery or by contacting Sally Scott at sallylscott@sbcglobal.net or 512-453-2289. Cost is \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family. |
| Monday, May 23, 10 a.m. | Meet with Ed, Sean and Brent |

Meet the First UU 2011-2012 Candidates

to be presented to the congregation for approval at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 15th

President, Chris Jimmerson:

Chris joined the church 4 years ago. He has served as Vice-President and Secretary of the Board. He was on the Bridge Builders Action Team and helped lead the values/mission/ends process at First UUU. He also directed and acted in several Paradox Players productions. Chris has worked in non-profit management for over 20 years and is the Executive Director of American Gateways. Chris says, "I look forward to implementing all of the great work the church has been doing over the past few years so that we can join together with our new minister to fulfill our mission."



Vice-President, Susan Thomson:

Susan has been a Unitarian Universalist for over 30 years and has been involved with First UU since moving to Austin in 1996. She has taught children's Religious Education, chaired the Adult RE committee, facilitated sessions of Harvest the Power leadership program, served as a Board Trustee, and participated in the Policy Governance Task Force. Her professional career was in social work administration, during which she led the statewide implementation of a set of guiding principles for her agency. Goals for next year include "continuing our transition to policy based governance, welcoming our new minister, and working as a congregation to live our vision, mission, and ends."

Secretary, Brendan Sterne:

Brendan is a software engineer, and has been a member of First UU for four years. Founder of Young Adults Group, Brendan is currently serving a term on the Board of Trustees. One goal that he has for 2011-2012 is to ensure that we continue to make progress in our transition to policy-based governance.



Treasurer, Luther Elmore:

Luther has been a member of First UU for five years. He previously has served as Church Treasurer and as chair of the Adult Religious Education Committee. Luther worked for the State of Texas for over 25 years and currently teaches US history at Austin Community College.

Trustee 2011-2014, Ann Edwards:

Ann and her family moved to Austin in 1997 and immediately joined First UU. Her contributions to the church include being Chairperson of the Religious Education committee, co-leader of the Listening Ministry program, co-founder and developer of Paradox Players, member of a covenant group for over ten years, and performing additional volunteer jobs. Her skills include an ability to bring together people from different backgrounds around common goals, both within and outside the church.





Trustee 2011-2014, John Franks:

John joined FUUCA in 2002. He served on the Settled Minister Search Committee in 2010-2011. Additional church contributions include membership on the Denominational Affairs Committee and Web and Media Committees, participation in the men's breakfast group, UBarU men's retreats, Hands-on Housing, and other activities in the church. John served in the U.S. Air Force and has had a career in the computer industry as a troubleshooter and Headquarters support engineer for Control Data Corporation and Amdahl Corporation.

Trustee 2011-2013, Rose Ann Reeser:

A member of First UU since 1991, Rose Ann has served in many leadership roles. At present, she oversees the church endowment fund, the Butterfly Memorial and memorial services at the church. Rose Ann is a previous President and Vice-President of the Board of Trustees. In addition, she was a member of the Committee on Ministries and chaired the previous settled minister search committee in 2000. Rose Ann is a lawyer by profession.



Trustee 2011-2012, Klondike Steadman:

Klondike grew up in California and came to Austin in 1994 for graduate school. He joined First UU in 1998. Since that time he has served on various committees at the church, including the search committee for the Director of Music. Klondike is completing his term as church secretary. His background is in music and business, and he will continue to bring a systems approach to his work on the board.

Nominating Committee 2011-2014, Lynda West:

Lynda has been a member of First UU since the early 80's. Over the past two decades, she has worked on the Flower Committee, Ushers, Religious Education Committee, Committee on Ministries and as part of the Bridge Builder team and as a facilitator for Bridge to the Future. She is a care coordinator with Congregational Care and has been on the Settled Minister Search Committee this past year. She is looking forward to the opportunity to serve in this new capacity.



Congregational Meeting May 15

At the May Congregational Meeting, voting members of First UU will vote on the Board and Nominating Committee slate for 2011-2012. 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, Chris Jimmerson; Vice-President, Susan Thomson; Treasurer, Luther Elmore; Secretary, Brendan Sterne; Trustees 2011-2014, Ann Edwards and John Franks; Trustee 2011-2013, Rose Ann Reeser; Trustee 2011-2012, Klondike Steadman. The Nominating Committee member to be voted on by the congregation is Lynda West, 2011-2014. The Nominating Committee appreciated the enthusiasm and vision of our candidates.



Sunday Worship



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

May 1 May 8 Rev. Ed Brock will be speaking

May 15 Rev. Meg Barnhouse: “Liberty, Healing, Good News ” Why go to Church? What are we doing on Sunday mornings when we come together? Is the place where we meet sacred? Is what we do spiritual?

May 22 Rev. Meg Barnhouse: “Where I Come From is Like This” What effect does it have on a person to come from a long line of ministers? What fuels a minister’s work? What is Rev. Barnhouse’s understanding of the work she may be doing here?

May 29 We will have one service at 10. This is The Flower Communion Service and is a service that is completely intergenerational. All babies, toddlers, and children of all ages are encouraged to attend with their parents, godparents, guardians, and grandparents. Each person attending brings a flower to church. Those will be placed in baskets outside the chancel doors and be brought into church for our communion service. This is a significant service in most of our Unitarian Universalist churches with rich meaning and history. There will also be Senior recognition, musical offerings by young people and Child Dedications. Don't miss it!

Sunday Forum

May 1: Peggy Kelsey The Afghan Women's Project. Human Rights in Afghanistan 2010 shares the stories of women as they relate to various women’s and human rights issues. Drawing upon material from both the 2003 and 2010 trips to Afghanistan, Peggy shares interviews with a women’s defense lawyer, women prisoners, human rights professionals and parliamentarians among others. Discussion of Taliban vs. warlord justice, domestic violence and shelters, health issues and more brings perspective to what women in Afghanistan contend.

May 8: Economist James K. Galbraith, "The American Economy: Looking Ahead With Grim Realism." Professor Galbraith says the obsessive focus of our political discourse on the federal deficit and debt is a major mistake. Policymakers are neglecting the issues that matter, he contends: unemployment, the foreclosure crisis, the infrastructure deficit, energy security, and climate change.

May 15: Bob Jensen “What Does It Mean to Be a Human Being? The Mistaken Identities of Nation/Race/Gender.” University of Texas Professor Robert Jensen examines how nation, race, and gender affect our understanding of ourselves, with a focus on the unjust systems of power and privilege in which they are embedded. In each case he argues against the dominant culture’s ideology and for a radical politics that takes seriously not only political but ecological realities.

May 22: Jessica Herbst, Safeplace: Past, Present, and Future Jessica Herbst will discuss the remarkable history of Safeplace, a pioneering grass roots organization, patterns and prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault, the clients of Safeplace, the services developed to help and empower clients and to educate the broader community and prevent future domestic violence.

May 29: Margaret Perry of Austin Lyric Opera, “Music: How it Began and Why We Need It” Ms. Perry will explore how music became an integral part of the human experience and why every culture has been compelled to create it. Colorful musical examples will be played. She will also share the deep commitment Austin Lyric Opera has to the community and the role it is playing to bring the world of music to Austin.



May Special Offering: Austin Child Guidance Center

The mission of Austin Child Guidance Center (ACGC) is to improve the mental health of children and their families through early intervention, diagnosis, and treatment to help them develop the emotional skills for meeting life's challenges. A multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and counselors provides individual, family, and group therapy; psychological assessments; psychiatric evaluations and medical consultations; parent education; community presentations and consultations; and training to current and future mental health professionals.

Setting the standard for the treatment of children and families experiencing emotional and behavioral challenges for the past 60 years, ACGC offers a full continuum of mental health services from a central location as well as throughout the community, including the juvenile justice center, community health clinics, the local school district, and eight local childcare centers. The full range of clinical services are available on a sliding fee scale; no one is denied services if unable to pay. Every year, approximately 80% of clients are low-income families. Stephen is one of the over 3,500 lives ACGC touches each year (over 130,000 since we opened):

Stephen's mother sought help for her son as he struggled to cope with his father's deterioration and impending death due to cancer. Stephen had participated in various programs for children with a family member enduring cancer treatments and surgeries. As the disease progressed and did not respond to intervention, Stephen was met with reality of losing his father and all of the emotions of grief and loss as well as trying to navigate the world of adolescence in junior high school. Complicating the situation was a history of often difficult interactions with his father prior to the disease and to some degree exacerbated as the disease progressed. Stephen and his mother regularly participated in sessions and after a while his father attended until he was physically unable to do so. Stephen and his dad were able to make some memories, share their thoughts and feelings and say goodbye. His father's condition predictably worsened and he died. Stephen was prepared. With the help of family, friends and resources available he has had the support to continue on with the expected challenges and obstacles, experience the grief and loss, and appreciate the kindness of his family and others.

Reception for Queen Mother Esther Kpabitey of the Manya Krobo region of Ghana on Thurs., May 12, 7 pm in Howson Hall

Many of you have contributed to the UU United Nations Office Project "Every Child is our Child" through Split the Plate offerings and Alternative Holiday Gift Opportunities.

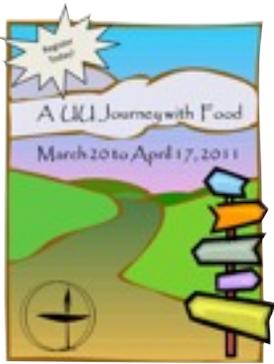
Now you are invited to spend an evening with Queen Mother Esther, as well as, Genia Peterson Kornhaber who has been one of the driving forces behind the project. This is Esther's first visit to the US and she is looking forward to meeting some of the UUs who support the project. She represents the Queen Mothers Association which is responsible for ensuring the care of orphans in the region.

This will be a reception and informal discussion. Refreshments will be served.

Due to other events at the church, please enter from the north side entrance just outside Howson Hall.

For further information, please contact Judy Sadegh, jsadegh@yahoo.com or 496-5771.





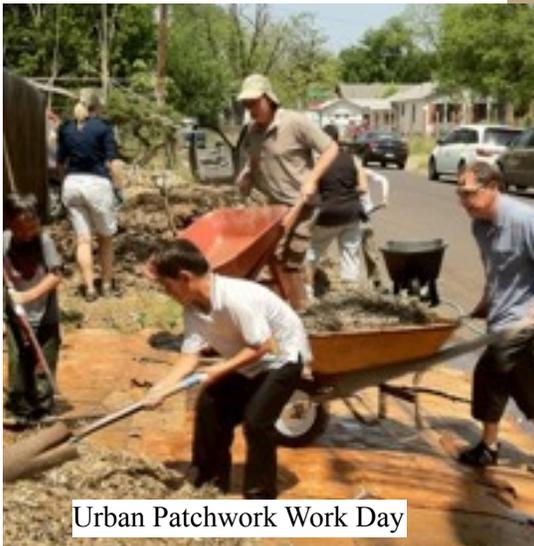
Is a UU Journey ever truly over?

Our five-week UU Journey with Food has come to an end. An experiment in church-wide programming, I hope you had an opportunity to participate in some of the many activities and events that were planned around our theme. We entered this discussion as a covenantal community promising to one another our mutual trust and support. This journey was not about deeming one type of diet as superior to another, and it was not about expanding liberal guilt over yet another potentially damaging aspect of our daily consumer habits.

Instead of a non-stop flight from one place to another, this Journey with Food was more like riding the bus on a circular route around town, with many stops along the way, people choosing to get off here, get on there. A very friendly bus, with lots of talking all along the way! Some people rode for a short while and others a much longer time. Some folks have even asked how we can continue journeying! If you are one of those people, I encourage you to join the Green Sanctuary Committee. This committee would be a wonderful home for planning further congregational engagement around the ethics of food choice, and its current leaders, Dale and Pat Bulla, agree!

There are many wonderful people who made this journey possible. It could not have happened without the support of our minister Ed Brock, our church staff and committees, and the members of the Journey with Food Task Group. Of this group, Ruby Edmond and Karen Franks in particular helped out in so many ways, far beyond the call of duty! Many thanks to you all!

In fellowship,
Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis
co-chair, Social Action Committee



Urban Patchwork Work Day



Sunday Food Altar



Kids touring the Sunshine Garden



Filling bags of rice at the food bank



Tim Mastee, master composter



Sparkle Plenty a Moment in Time

Wow! What an evening! On April 16th, Howson Hall was transformed into a sparkling oasis filled with all kinds of wonderful items from which bidders could choose. And choose they did!! Around \$9,800 in bids were placed by over 100 attendees. Everything from the lively music to the wonderful food and tasty wines (provided at a much reduced price by Twin Liquors) made this a fun-filled event that raised money for the church's many programs. Bidding was fierce at times, especially for the extra 5 minutes after the silent auction closed that Stefan Windsor won in a drawing, but then offered up to benefit the auction. Some said the offer wasn't quite as altruistic as it first appeared since Sheila had her eye on quite a few items in the auction!!! Kudos to George Denny who did a great job as auctioneer for the live auction. Many attendees turned out in their most sparkling outfits, but Jacob Williamson may have out-sparkled them all. Who knew he could be so glamorous?!?

There are too many people to thank in this brief article, but there were many volunteers who pulled together to make this event one to remember. Mary Ann Stafford presided over the beautiful decorating effort. Margaret Roberts provided guidance, support and enormous amounts of time and energy. Natalie Freeburg and Karen Franks brought their superb organizational skills to bear and Sally Scott handled getting the yummy food together and the servers to serve it. Eugene Balaguer updated the database he created for the last Sparkle Plenty and expertly handled the back office operations with assistance from his family.

All the volunteers, donors, attendees and church staff contributed in some way to make this a fun and successful fundraiser. We didn't quite achieve the original goal, but with an approximate amount of \$11-12,000 raised, we came closer than some thought we would. More importantly than reaching our financial goal, at least to me, was the unity demonstrated before and during Sparkle Plenty. It was indeed "A Moment in Time" as we pulled together to make this an event truly worth remembering and of which we can all be proud. I'm grateful to have been a part of it and it was an honor to serve my spiritual community by leading this effort. - Lisa Carrell



Lisa Carrell



Mary Ann



Ed



George



Natalie & Kathleen



Margaret



Sheila and Paulette



Happy Folks!



Lynda and Mike



Vervan, Greg, and Linda



Donna & Derek



Mike and Mary Jane



Kit & Scott



Shall I bid?



Ed and Nancy



Brent Baldwin
Music Director

MUSIC MATTERS

Celebrating the Sacred in Music in Many Ways...



Music for Four Hands, Voice and More...

Piano duo Wendy Kuo and Kathryn Govier will grace our services on **May 1st**. Soprano Gitanjali Mathur of *Conspirare* will also be featured.



Music for All Ages

The FUUCA Intergenerational Choir will share a musical offering on **May 8th**. This service will also feature a number of anthems by our Primary and Junior Choirs, and the stunning piano work of Bryan Uecker.

Music for **May 29th** will also be “all-ages” in nature, as Lena Breen leads us through a powerful intergenerational service.



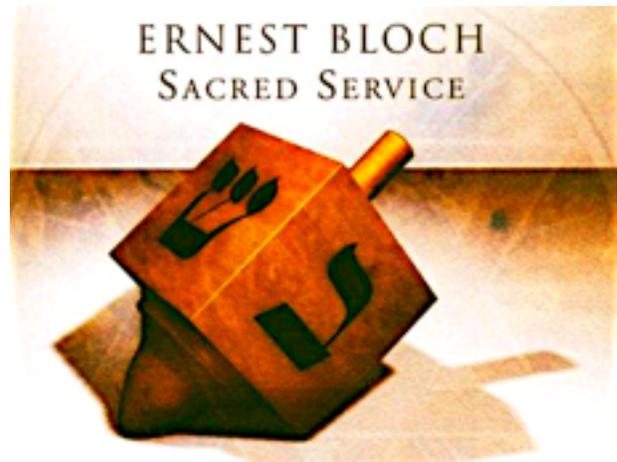
All that Jazz

The FUUCA Jazz Combo will present a variety of musical selections for services on **May 15th**. Our Jazz Sundays are a treat – don’t miss!



Music to Inspire

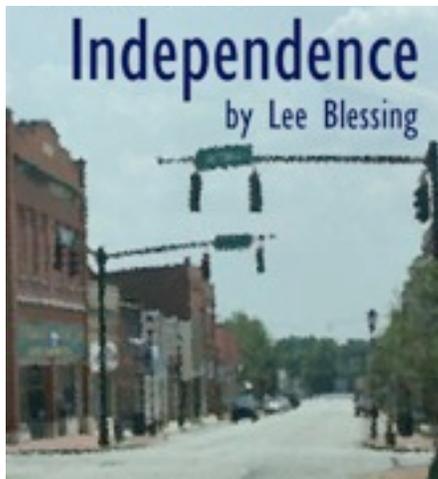
The FUUCA Adult Choir will sing a portion of Ernest Bloch’s *Sacred Service* on **May 22nd**. Sung in Hebrew, this work dramatizes the spiritual journey.





Next Up from Paradox Players

June 3 opens Lee Blessing's play, *Independence*, directed by actor/director Lisa Foster. Each character in this comic drama is seeking her own version of independence. It's 1983 in Independence, Iowa - a town that's hard to stay in, but even harder to leave behind. This gripping, humorous roller coaster ride looks unflinchingly at the lives of three grown daughters and their offbeat mother, a role played by Paradox favorite Kathleen Lawson.

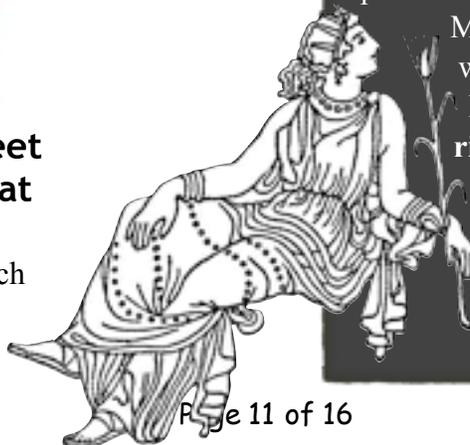


Tickets will be available in the Gallery on Sundays, on the website paradoxplayers.org, and by phone at 744-1495. The show closes June 19. As always, free childcare is available on the first matinee, June 5, if reserved at least a week ahead by emailing childcare@austinuu.org.

We are seeking assistance with administrative tasks related to theater. If this or any theater job appeals to you, please contact us at info@paradoxplayers.org. We offer training and lots of social occasions to enjoy other theater buffs!



Readers' Theater will meet Monday evening, May 9, at 7:30 in room 13, to read the first half of a full-length play which we'll finish reading in June. We always welcome newcomers, no experience needed!



Senior's Luncheon

Tuesday, May 10th (2nd Tues.)

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

Program: **We're back! Don't miss the Second Annual "Young at Heart Poets" presentation.** Hear how the world looks, feels, and sounds through the hearts, eyeglasses and hearing aids of your favorite UU senior poets: Jane Parsons, Herman Nelson, "Jazz" Jaeschke and Cecile Bridges.



Changes at Yew Grove

Yew Grove is changing its format. We will be holding monthly Moon Circles, some on the Full Moon & some at other phases of the moon. For

May, we will be working with Austin Moon Circles to have

ritual for the full moon at Trinity United Methodist Church. Check our webpage in May for more complete information: <http://austinuu.org/yewgrove>, or join <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/austinmooncircles>.



Summary of April 19, 2011, Board Meeting

Kae McLaughlin reported that four people have been recruited to the financial audit committee. This is sufficient to begin audit work. Over time, she hopes to recruit more people to lighten the load.

Susan Thomson reported results from the March 16 FUUCAfe, the board's first world café discussion. Participants shared thoughts regarding the question, "What difference will we be making at First UU and in the world as we practice radical hospitality?" The goal of this and future discussions is to determine if church members believe our ends accurately represent how we want live out our mission.

The board hopes to send a team of lay leaders to this year's Dwight Brown Leadership Experience. This is the annual district training offered to lay leaders of UU churches in our district, the Southwest Conference. We will attempt to find within the next day or two at least two people who can attend this year's session. We are just past the deadline, but can still send in our applications.

The topic originally scheduled for the annual board retreat in June has been rescheduled to the fall in hope and anticipation that Meg Barnhouse will join us as our new settled minister. The June retreat with four new board members will be a refresher course on policy-based governance. The board must also schedule a "Kicking It Off" meeting with the new minister and Susan Smith, our district executive.

Should the use of the Memorial Savings Fund to supplement a new member/volunteer coordinator position be approved, the governance task force will suggest a way to determine how to replenish the Memorial Savings Fund as specified in the proposal.

The board discussed how to incorporate information learned at the pre-congregational meeting including whether to make changes in a coordinator position proposal that has already been voted on once, how to provide members information on both pros and cons raised about the position, potential changes to the permanent endowment fund, how to deal with the overlap of by-laws changes (one vote required) and FAMP changes (two votes required), and concerns about the elimination of youth memberships. Rev Brock reported that our new interim DRE, Barbara Gay Stoddard, will visit us May 21 and begin her work August 1. He was particularly pleased that she comes highly recommended from two different sources and believes she will be an excellent fit for our church. Her period of interim ministry is for two years.

There was brief discussion about how to keep the board informed in a timely manner of important upcoming changes that do not require board approval. In particular, board members want to be sufficiently informed to be able to answer questions about such changes when asked by members.

The board approved board appointees Pat Walters and Derek Howard to the Nominating Committee for 2011-2012.

Nell Newton advised the board members of steps to take should they observe erratic or aggressive behavior.

The board spent a few minutes reviewing our accomplishments in the last two years. Church members may see the complete list, currently at 36, in the minutes on the web site. It was a refreshing and gratifying exercise that we will consider repeating on a more frequent basis.

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. participating each month. 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 May 21st. Join us and find out for yourself why I call this First UU's best kept secret!

Are You Going to UUA General Assembly this June 22-26



"I'm going to GA this year to witness a provincial town supernaturally transformed into the intellectual, spiritual, creative center of the universe by crowds of interesting and fascinating people."--Michael LeBurkien



"We're going to GA to become re-inspired to further our church's mission in Austin and to take advantage of the UUA's wonderful resources."--Sharon and Brian Moore

These are 6 of the 8 members of our church already going to this June's GA:
<http://www.uua.org/ga/>

"I'm going to GA this year because the whole experience gives me an incredible 'high'. Just hearing 4000 UU's singing together does something to your spirit."--Sally Scott



"I'm going to GA this year because each time I go, I learn so much great information that I can bring back to the church and I make such great connections with other UUs."--Chris Jimmerson



"I'm going to GA this year because it nurtures my soul, inspires and transforms me and fills my head with great ideas to bring back to First UU."--Karen Franks

Lena's May First UU Farewell

"We live with the hello's and goodbye's"

People come in and out of our lives frequently. Some have a hardly noticeable impact while others **influence** us in significant ways that change us forever. Very often we don't realize how important someone is in our circle of daily living until **they take their leave**. Then, we are left with believing in "the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part", knowing that we really are all still con There are different kinds of leaving: death, physical, emotional, and spiritual. Each impacts us in different ways and in varying measures. The common factor is change. Leavings force change in our relationships with each other and with our daily lives. Leavings remind us of the importance of hello's and goodbye's and all that occurs in-between.



Leavings teach us that all we really can count on is now.

Life doesn't always offer us the option of saying goodbye, however, I have that option with you now. This is the first of my goodbyes. I will be leaving my consulting **Interim Director of Religious Education** ministry at the end of the month. My relationship with you will then be finished.

Now, while I have the opportunity, I want you to know that my time with you has been important to me. I have served large, medium, and small churches. I have served as administer at our UUA headquarters and as a minister in residence at one of our theological schools. Nowhere else have I experienced the degree of hospitality and kindness that I have experienced here. We have accomplished a lot together in six months. I have accomplished things I have found personally satisfying as well as things that just simply needed to be done, while reaffirming my commitment to our faith.

There are more hellos ahead of you. There will be a new minister, a new director of Lifespan Religious Education, and new members. May any **arrivals** that lie ahead be welcomed with the same grace and openness you have shown me. Those infants, children, young people, and adults that enter these walls are fortunate.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. You have touched my life and my heart.

Faithfully, Rev. Lena Breen

Flower Communion Service and Dedication Ceremony

On May 29th, we will have one service at 10. This is The Flower Communion Service and is a service that is completely intergenerational. There will be an opportunity for parents to have their child(ren) dedicated during the one worship service of May 29th. Reverends Ed Brock and Lena Breen will be officiating this special ceremony, called the Ceremony of Dedication, for the community to bless the child and celebrate the blessing of this gift of life. This ceremony is appropriate when a new baby is born, when a child is adopted, when a family decides to join a UU community, and when a family wishes to have its child welcomed through Dedication.

We ceremonially use water, a universal symbol of blessing and life, offer a blessing, offer a gift of a flower, a symbol of life's beauty and the unfolding of life, and provide a certification of Dedication. If you are interested in participating with your child in this celebration please contact Lena **before** Monday May 23, our definitive deadline.

clenabreen@fidalgo.net

Our New Interim Lifespan Religious Educator Begins in August!



We are very fortunate to have an experienced and capable Interim Lifespan Religious Educator joining FUUCA on August 1. She has committed to be with us in full time employment as director of our religious education programming for two years. There will be an opportunity to meet Barbara on May 21 when she visits Austin. Barbara Gay Stoddard has been a professional religious educator for 15 years. She began work as an interim in 2003 and was part of the team that created the original Interim DRE training. 1st UU Austin will be her 7th interim position. In addition to her work as an interim DRE, Barbara has spent several summers at LRE Week on Star Island, leading music workshops and being part of children's staff. This Summer she will help lead the interim training during LRE

Week on Star Island. In addition, she currently chairs the nominating committee for LREDA. Barbara has two very loved grandsons (ages 10 and 12) that live with their beautiful mother in Denver, CO. Her family is quite excited that she will be relocating to Austin and hope to visit often.



The summer curriculum for Pre-K through High School will be at 10 each Sunday and be based upon earth centered spirituality. There will be Native American stories, environmental activities, and a general honoring of the web of life. Classes begin June 5.



The Adult Religious Education

committee reviewed three basic questions to think about as they prepare to utilize the newly created, "ARE Class Application" packet. (The packet is available on the FUUCA web site) The questions were;

What is Unitarian universalist Adult Religious Education?

How can we as a committee standardize and easily implement classes?

What resources are available for ARE?



First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Austin

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Executive Director:

Sean Hale ext 308

Interim Director of Religious Educ.:

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Next Newsletter Deadline

15th of the month

Please submit information to

news@austinuu.org



Photographs in the First UU Newsletter are from Jane Parsons and Margaret Roberts. Thank you both!

Bits and Pieces

North Central Caregivers. 3rd Annual Garage and Bake Sale. Saturday May 14th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First Cumberland, Presbyterian Church, 6800 Woodrow Ave. Bargains and Treasures Galore. Questions? 453 2273

First UU Women! You are Invited to a Women's Prayer Bead Workshop by Live Oak UU Church.

Saturday, May 14, 2011, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM Facilitators: Linda Webster and Audrey Jensen
Registration forms are on the Women,s Spirituality Group bulletin board at First UU Church, or you may request one by email, lindawebster@grandecom.net. The cost for the Workshop is \$10. This includes the materials, lunch and childcare.

Fellowship Committee meeting is Tuesday, May 10th. 7:30 p.m. in the Gallery

Heritage Book Club is at Sally Scott house. 4906 Beverly Hills Drive on Friday May 13th. Pot Luck at 7:00 meeting begins at 8:00 . Book is "Science of Fear" everyone welcome.