

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



“Well, Here We Are”



I'm so glad to be here, finally. We have all waited a long time to get started. Of course, you all are not just getting started. You have been “doing church” here for many years, and I am pleased to be joining you.

I'm already proud of you, because you are involved in an actual congregation, not a TV church or a church-by-mail, but a place where you go in body as well as spirit, where you interact with the minister and staff, with other members and friends of the faith community. An actual congregation is a soul-shaping, challenging, joyous, learning and growing immersion. I'm going to tell you three things I've learned about congregations. The first is about appreciation, the second is about “right relations” being at the center of Unitarian Universalism, and the third is about the importance of the assumption of good will.

I'm enjoying getting to know this congregation's capable and dedicated leaders. In my experience, a congregation, its minister, priest or rabbi, its staff and volunteers mostly run on one fuel: appreciation. No one I know is in it for the money. We do it because we like it, we have fun, and we feel that what we do is meaningful work that matters in the world.

We run on appreciation, but when I speak to church people across the country, I always say “don't you love being in leadership in your church? People call you up all the time to thank you for the work you're doing, to tell you about specific things you did that they particularly liked, to offer you meals and coupons for foot massages...” By this time the people are staring at me, some laughing, others truly lost. They slowly realize that I'm being facetious. Almost no one in any congregation's leadership has that experience! More

apropos, sometimes, would be the Japanese proverb that says “The nail that sticks up will be hammered down.”

One of the main things at the center of our faith is what the Quakers call “right relationship.” We attempt to behave well with one another, which is easy most of the time, but occasionally presents a challenge. We may fall short, but at least we know where we want to be. This congregation adopted a “Covenant of Healthy Relations” describing how you want to do it. I encourage you to make a trip to Howson Hall, where it is posted, or read it on the web site in the “about us” section. <http://austinuu.org/wp2011/visitors/values-mission/>

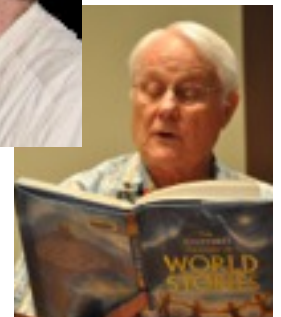
We want to be in right relationship with one another (which is more and more challenging as one moves up into the “black belt” levels of congregational leadership) and we want to be in right relationship with our world.

The main thing I want to say is that we must be gentle with one another in our congregations. When (not if, but when) mistakes are made, it is of utmost importance that those who are affected try to understand that everyone involved was just trying to do a good job; that no one was seeking to hurt or undercut them, and that everyone is acting with good will. Anything less than assuming good will, hurts the church. When people mutter under their breath about the way something was done, that hurts the congregation. When there is muttering instead of conversation, nothing gets worked out, and trust erodes. We don't have to trust that everyone will do things right. We don't have to trust that no one will make mistakes. We do have to trust one another's good will, unless there is evidence of wrongdoing. Even people who are making decisions you disagree with are usually doing what they think is best for the congregation. Trust in good will makes a healthy, strong and kind church, and goodness knows the world needs as many of those as there can possibly be.

-Rev. Meg Barnhouse

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin September 2011 NEWSLETTER

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



August 21st Here we are!



Our first Sunday together as a community. It was a great Sunday. Lots and lots of folks were here.....much applause, great singing, fantastic music for listening, a story for all of us. Meg brought out the demolition twins and we looked them square in the face. They may come back, but we are readier than we were before. Lots of photos, lots of smiling, and muchies and sundaes GALORE!





Sunday Worship



Starting September 11th services begin at 9 and 10:30 in the Sanctuary

September 4: "Water Communion" by Rev. Meg Barnhouse. **This service begins at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.** This is a service done in September at most UU congregations across the US, a home-coming where people renew their sense of being a community. A large bowl is set up at the front of the sanctuary. Singly or with their partners, spouses or families, people come with water in a small container and add it to the water in the bowl. The water is from a place that feeds your soul. That might be the tap in your grandmother's kitchen, a stream behind your house, or a place you visited during the summer holiday. Since this is our first one, no one was collecting water during the summer. If the place that feeds your soul isn't close, let water from your own tap represent the water you want to name. Think of one sentence that will tell the congregation about the place that feeds your soul.

September 11: "Where Are the Strong? Who Are the Trusted?" by Rev. Meg Barnhouse. Elvis Costello's song asks "What's so funny 'bout peace, love and understanding?" On the tenth anniversary of 9/11, we will respectfully remember those who died and talk about the second of our seven UU principles: "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations."

Sept. 18 "All the Gossip From Concord" by Rev. Meg Barnhouse. In the early days of Unitarianism, a group of friends formed what historians have called "a genius cluster" in Concord, Massachusetts. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, the Alcott family, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Margaret Fuller were giants in forming American culture and thought. How did this explosion of growth and influence take place? This is one of the stories of our heritage.

September 25: "Flying Fish Make Me Smile" by Barbara Gay Stoddard, Interim Director of LifeSpan Religious Education. Show Up, Choose Your Attitude, Make Someone's Day and Play are the four principles of living from the World Famous Pike Place Fish Market. I'll consider how these principles have informed my life and keep me smiling.

Barbara Stoddard has been a professional religious educator for 15 years. She has served as the interim religious educator beginning in 2003 for UU churches in New Jersey, Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Seattle and Houston. In addition to her work as an interim she helped design and teach the training for Interim Religious Educators. She is so very happy to be with First UU for the next two years.

Connections Fair

Join the Board at Meet & Eat on Sep 21st

We Gather in Community to Do Justice

Every Sunday morning we say that we "do justice." Why is it part of our mission? What does it mean to do justice? Who will it affect? How will it affect them?

The Board invites you to come to the next First UU CAFÉ: conversation about questions that matter, to tell us your thoughts on doing justice. Join us during Meet & Eat from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wed, Sep 21st, in Howson Hall. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. After dinner we will explore the meaning of doing justice at First UU.

Dinner is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Please RSVP for the meal by Mon, Sep 19, call 524-1963 or meeteat@austinuu.org, or sign up on the bulletin board on the Gallery wall next to the library or at the Visitors table in the foyer. Childcare is available at childcare@austinuu.org.

Join us Sunday, September 25th, in the Gallery and the courtyard beside the church offices for First UU's annual Connections Fair! Looking for a good discussion, book study? Want to get involved in the Austin community? Excited about First UU and want to lend a hand? Just have too much free time? We can help with all of that!

The groups and teams that make First UU a rich and diverse community will be spread out in the gallery and, weather permitting, the courtyard from 10:00 to 1:30. This wealth of opportunity is one of the most rewarding elements of the Unitarian Universalist church—if you're new to First UU Church of Austin, rejoining us after a long absence, or just want to go deeper into the swimming pool, don't miss this event!

Are YOU the leader of a team, committee, small group? Are you trying to start up a new community at First UU? Please contact Jacob Williamson (jacob@thrifthorror.com) to get involved in the connections fair—we'll make a table for you!

The Forum

The Forum will be held in the Sanctuary at 11:45 a.m. beginning September 11th

September 4: This Forum will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. “Which Side Are You On? Labor, Democracy, and the American Middle Class” with Louis Malfaro. Louis Malfaro is the current Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas branch of the American Federation of Teachers and is a true labor leader. The connection between the struggle for labor rights and the fight for a healthier economy and democratic values will be discussed.. How labor helps create and sustain an adequate standard of living and quality of life will be addressed.

September 11: Hunger is Unacceptable with Hank Perret, President & CEO, Capital Area Food Bank Hank Perret joined Capital Area Food Bank as CEO after seven years on the Food Bank Board. His passion is to lead the Austin and Central Texas community in the fight to end hunger. He will share how he was inspired to work with the Food Bank, an overview of the programs and operations and their impact on the community, and the face of hunger in Central Texas as well as the potential impact of funding cuts at the federal and state levels, and the future of the Food Bank.

September 18: Restorative Justice: The Tim Cole Case with Judge Charlie Baird. Charlie Baird is the head of the Criminal Law Section at the Fowler Law Firm in Austin. Judge Baird retired from the 299th District Court of Travis County in December, 2010. As a recognized expert on the legal aspects of DNA testing and adequate representation in criminal cases, Judge Baird will discuss Tim Cole, who was convicted of and sentenced to prison for a crime he did not commit. By the time his innocence was proven, Tim had died in prison. Tim’s posthumous exoneration is a landmark case of restorative justice.

September 25 Adult Probation with Dr. Geraldine Nagy, Director Travis County Community Supervision and Corrections Department. 1 in 45 individuals are on community supervision (Probation or Parole). At the same time, probation and parole departments are expected to do more with less. In response to this charge, the Travis County Adult Probation Department began a 5 year journey to re-engineer the Department around research and best-practices. The end result was a substantial reduction in probation revocations and re-arrests, and a more efficient allocation of treatment resources. Dr. Nagy focuses on lessons learned and a report by Council of State Governments detailing the Travis County experience entitled, “ Ten-Step Guide to Transforming Probation Departments to Reduce Recidivism.”

Chris’ Space



September will be a busy and wonderful time within our church community to practice our stated ends goal of practicing radical hospitality. Our church experiences an unusually high number of visitors each Sunday as it is. With our new settled minister in the pulpit and our new interim director of lifespan religious education leading our religious education efforts, it is likely we will have an even greater number of visitors during the next few months.

Our wonderful media team has set it up so that we can have video of services available in Howson Hall for any overflow traffic until we return to two services on September 11. Our terrific membership committee is engaging in numerous activities to welcome guests and new members and help them get connected and involved. Board members are assigned to greet folks each Sunday before and after services. Monthly, I am mailing a personal note of welcome to each new member who has joined the church. Let’s all be aware of opportunities to welcome our guests and invite them into fellowship with us! It can be as simple as smiling and saying “hello and welcome.”

Likewise, let’s also remember for those of us who are already church members to treat each other to that spirit of radical hospitality! It will be a busy, hectic time with our new Sunday schedule we are trying out, lots of new and returning faces and many new activities going on. Our stewardship campaign will be getting into full swing. Space will be tight and we may all need to cooperate and compromise to make it all work well! May we respect one another and our covenant with one another and work together to be that radically hospitable community we so desire! -Chris Jimmerson, Board President

Fall Stewardship Campaign Phase One



On August 28 the Stewardship Campaign held its first event, the Kick-off Free Pizza Lunch, resplendent with salad, cookies and speeches. This event has jumpstarted the fall campaign as a tribute to you, the people, the heart and soul of the church. Thanks to Kae McLaughlin for coordinating the food, and to Sally Scott, Fellowship Committee Chair, Rose Ann Reeser, Gary Bennett, Rev. Meg Barnhouse, and the many other people who helped make this event happen.

Early September will be a busy time for the Stewardship Committee, staff, and volunteers. Staff has been hard at work developing a target budget and theme for the fall campaign. A letter will be sent to all members of the congregation with an explanation of our goal for 2012. At the least we will want a balanced budget and at the most, to be able to fund extra things, beyond the current level of the budget, which will make the church more able to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.

Also in early September we will be recruiting canvassers and holding three training sessions at the church. Those are Wed. Sept. 7 at 6:30pm (This one is also a Stewardship Committee meeting), Sat. Sept. 10 at 10:00am, and Wed. Sept. 14 at 6:30pm. We invite you to join us in the fall campaign as a canvasser. Come to a training session and check it



out! It can be a fun experience. We get to meet and talk to people, and feel like we are really doing something important for the church. Canvassers also have the opportunity to work shifts at the Gallery pledge table on Sundays from September 18 to November 6. This is fun and a really good way to meet people. The table is a convenient way to take care of your pledge.

Remember that everyone needs to fill out a new pledge form for 2012, even if you are signed up for automatic debiting, credit card pledging, or on-line payment. Pledging is an annual event. And consider using the UUA's Fair Share Giving Guide, sliding percentages of income ranging from 2% to 10% to compute your pledge. 10% is Full Tithe across the board. Try that one on for size!

Stewardship Sunday is September 18, where we will hear Rev. Meg Barnhouse's special sermon on giving, as well as our first testimonial by Church President, Chris Jimmerson. We have a lot to be thankful for this year, and we expect to have a good canvass.

For further information contact Mary Jane at 926-4122 or mjaneford@grandecom.net and Luther at 288-7916 or lmore@austincc.edu.
Mary Jane Ford and Luther Elmore, Co-Chairs, Stewardship Committee for 2012



GROUP MEDITATION MONDAYS

All are welcome to join in group meditation Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in room 15. The sessions consist of a brief introduction to meditation technique followed by meditation practice. Come for one session or all. No registration is required.

WHEN: Mondays 6:30-7:30 p.m., 9/12-10/3/11

WHERE: Room 15

CONTACT: Michael Kersey at michael.kersey229@gmail.com

Potluck Play Day!

Saturday,
September 24th 5
PM, Zilker Park -
Hillside Theater



Come meet and hang out with UU families. Eat and drink with other UU parents while the kids run around and play. Bring chairs or blankets, yard games, balls, bathing suits if you want to take a dip in Barton Springs, and food to share. No need to RSVP.

Hosted by Phil, Lisa, and Kai Hastings. For more info email or call Lisa @ drlisa@clearpointwellness.com or 512-914-9097 or Jill Smith @ jillhakes@aol.com or 512-627-8039.

Men's Retreat at U Bar U Ranch

November 18, 19 and 20, 2011

Mark your calendars now and keep the date open. This, as always, is a great time away from the daily routines. We meet on Friday evening at U Bar U near Kerrville and spend time together until Sunday. The cost is low, the food is great and the fellowship is a special thing for us all to share. Make plans now and for more information contact Ken Pfluger at kmp@pobox.com.

SINGALONG!

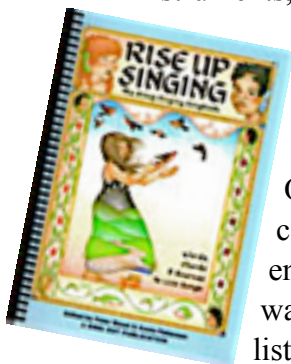
This month's Singalong will be held as usual on the fourth Saturday, September 24th from 7:30 to 10:30 at the Friend's Meeting House on 3701 E. MLK

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.

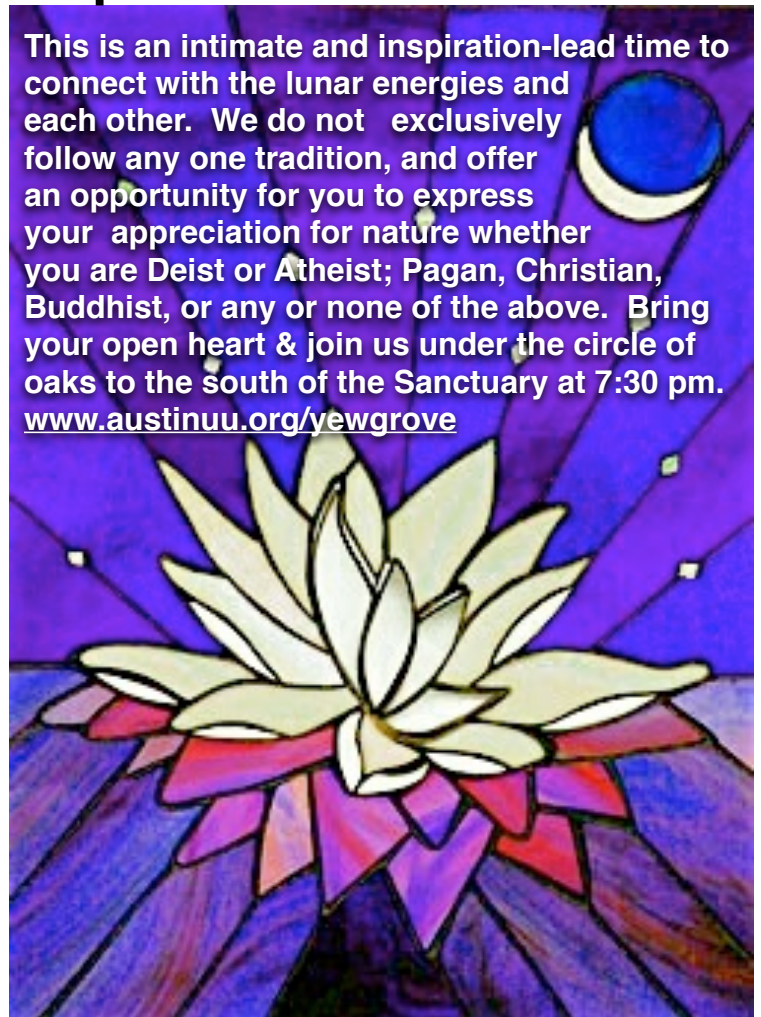
Please do not bring alcohol, since this is not a custom of the Quakers. For more information contact Larry Vaughn 469-0029 or email lavest@sbcglobal.net. If you

want to add somebody to the email list, contact Mary Jane Ford at mjaneford@grandecom.net.



Sept 11th - Moon Circle

This is an intimate and inspiration-lead time to connect with the lunar energies and each other. We do not exclusively follow any one tradition, and offer an opportunity for you to express your appreciation for nature whether you are Deist or Atheist; Pagan, Christian, Buddhist, or any or none of the above. Bring your open heart & join us under the circle of oaks to the south of the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm. www.austinuu.org/yewgrove



TRAINING FOR USHERS & GREETERS Fall/Winter Session (Sept. 11 to Jan 31,)

Training for Ushers and Greeters for the Fall/Winter Session will be on Sunday, September 4, 2011, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Room 13A. The first part will be going over the Duties and Guidelines and what will be expected of you when you are counting and helping with the deposit. The second part will be a tour through the areas you will be serving in the Foyer and Sanctuary with a demonstration on how to collect the offering.

Serving as an Usher/Greeter is a wonderful way to get acquainted with the congregation! Many continue to volunteer because it is fun. You have a choice on whether to serve either the First Service at 9:00 (starting at 8:30) or the Second Service at 10:30 (starting at 10:00). After the session is up, you can decide if you want to continue doing another session. Snacks will be available during the training!

Please RSVP to Kitty Traylor at: 451-9479
usher@austinuu.org or ktraylor3@austin.rr.com



The Membership Committee Wants You!

The Membership Committee needs your help in welcoming visitors. There are several things you can do before and after services to make sure no visitor goes unwelcomed:

- WEAR YOUR NAME TAG. This helps everyone distinguish between visitors and members. If you need a new one, there is a request form in the foyer.
- Introduce yourself to anyone unfamiliar or to people wearing RED-BORDERED NAME TAG, which signifies a visitor. If the person you meet turns out not to be a newcomer, then you will still have met somebody new to you!
- Go out of your way to greet visitors in the welcoming portion of the church service. Once you've identified visitors, speak to them after the service, invite them to coffee hour and then talk to them and introduce them to others. It's tempting to join our old friends in conversation while visitors stand alone and ignored.
- As you may know, we have created a team of "floating greeters," who supplement Kitty Traylor's teams of ushers and greeters and help make everyone attending First UU feel welcome. With Meg we expect our already significant number of visitors to increase. Let's all do our part to make First UU a truly "radically hospitable" church. Finally, if you would like to be a "floating greeter" one Sunday a month, call Gary Payne or Jill Wiggins at 441-4720 or email at wigginswi@gmail.com. You can really make a difference.



The FLOWER CALENDAR NEEDS YOU! Please check the calendar in the hallway across from the office. Pick a date and SIGN UP to provide flowers for our Sunday service. You can make your own arrangement, buy something, or bring a lovely plant.

SEPTEMBER SHARING SUPPERS



Please mark your calendars for September 17th and join others for food, conversation and laughter. Whether you are a new member, a longtime member, or even a visitor, the sharing suppers are for you! Groups of six to ten people gather in various participants' homes once a month on a Saturday evening for the fun. It's a great way to learn more about our church and also to meet new friends.

Sign-up is simple: just call Linda Buehlmann at 323-5334 or email her at lindabuehlmann@sbcglobal.net. You may also sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the mailroom. In addition, I urge visitors and newcomers to sign up at the Visitor's table. Check your calendars and sign up today and, definitely, no later than Sunday, September 11th. We look forward to seeing you at the next Sharing Supper!



Connecting with Paradox Players

This month welcomes two major opportunities to discover the theatre world right here in the church! One is to visit our table at the Connections Fair, Sept 25th. There you can find out the many ways to join the fun of theatre, from finding props or learning tech for a mainstage production, to attending a monthly Readers' Theater meeting. Another is to buy a ticket to GUEST ARTIST, our final show of the season, opening October 14. Tickets can be purchased on Sundays in the Gallery, or online at www.paradoxplayers.org. Paradox Players' members become extended families who care deeply about the power of theatre to engage our hearts and minds – and in that process, nourish and transform our lives and inspire us to better living. Come explore with us!



Senior's Luncheon

Tuesday, September 13th (2nd Tues.)
Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice
Cashman 837-0988

Program: **Our new minister, Reverend Meg Barnhouse**, will be meeting with us and telling us about herself.



Readers' Theater

Ever wonder what it's like to "be in a play" but never had the nerve to try out, or the time to memorize lines? Join us on Monday evening, September 14th, at 7:30 in Room 13 when we resume our monthly readings. We read scripts aloud, unrehearsed. Usually everyone has a turn at reading the role of a character or narrator. Newcomers are always welcome, no prior experience expected.

Heritage Club

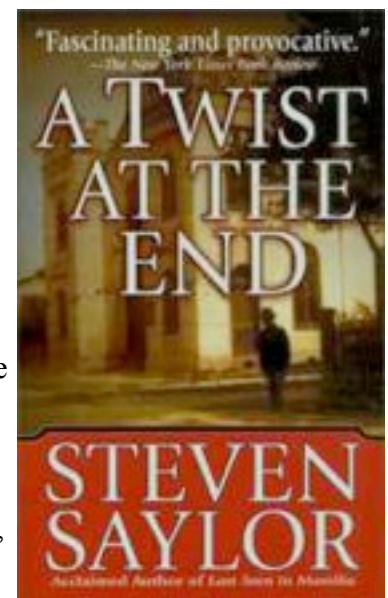
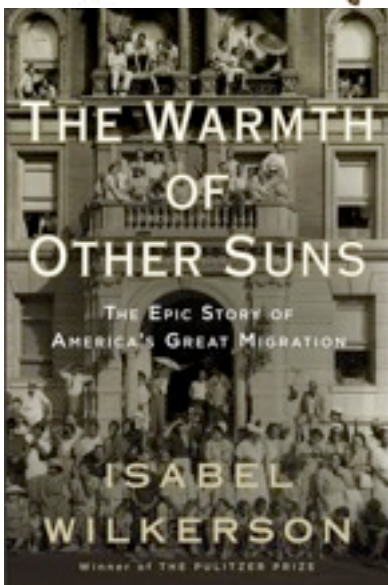
a book club open to all people

Our next meeting is Friday, September 9th. It will be held at **Barb & Tom Moran's home on 9504 Doliver Dr.** We start our gathering for a pot luck supper at 7 p.m.

Discussion on the book "**A Twist at the End**" by *Steven Saylor*, a historical novel that takes place in Austin, Texas, starts at 8:00 p.m.

If you want to read ahead, the October book is "**The warmth of other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration**" by *Isabel Wilkerson*. Come join us, we have fun.

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Denominational Affairs

October UU Small Group Ministry Retreat with Peter Bowden

Peter Bowden is a Unitarian Universalist consultant specializing in congregational growth, outreach and evangelism. Peter is one of the founders of the UU Small Group Ministry Network, a national organization and non-profit dedicated to supporting small group ministries within our movement. Peter will be leading a UU Small Group Ministry retreat **October 14-16, 2011** at the [U Bar U Retreat & Conference Center](#) in Texas. Hosted by the First UU Church of San Antonio, see their website for full details: http://www.uusat.org/?page_id=340



UUA President Releases Statement in Response to Verdict in Arizona Protest Trial

August 6, 2011 BOSTON - The Rev. Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), was convicted August 5, 2011, on misdemeanor charges stemming from his nonviolent civil disobedience in Phoenix, Ariz., in July 2010. He was arrested while protesting Arizona's anti-immigrant legislation, SB 1070.

Upon learning of his conviction, Rev. Morales released the following statement:

“My decision to engage in civil disobedience last July was rooted in my profound opposition to Arizona's SB 1070 and to the inhumane practices of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

“My conviction as a result of that civil disobedience in no way alters my commitment to opposing this legislation that targets and dehumanizes some of the most vulnerable among us.

“We Unitarian Universalists will continue to stand on the side of love against this draconian legislation and the racism and anti-immigrant sentiment it represents, and we look forward to bringing our public witness to Phoenix in 2012 at our Justice General Assembly.”

The UUA is a faith community of more than 1,000 congregations that bring to the world a vision of religious freedom, tolerance and social justice.

Southwest UU Women's Conference



Feb. 24-26, 2012 in Clear Lake, Texas
Speaker: REV. MEG BARNHOUSE!!!

Southwest UU Conference Fall Training:

Evangelizing the South

When? November 11-13, 2011

Where? Glen Lakes in Glen Rose, TX

What? There are 6 tracts to choose from: UU Identity; Your Mission Field; Worship; The Future of UUism; Stewardship; Community Organizing



YoUU Cruise - Reminder!



Worshipping and Learning Community at Sea

For Unitarian Universalists of all ages

~Growing our UU souls

~Deepening our UU faith

~Making a difference

October 6-10, 2011

Want to join the cruise? For details, see:

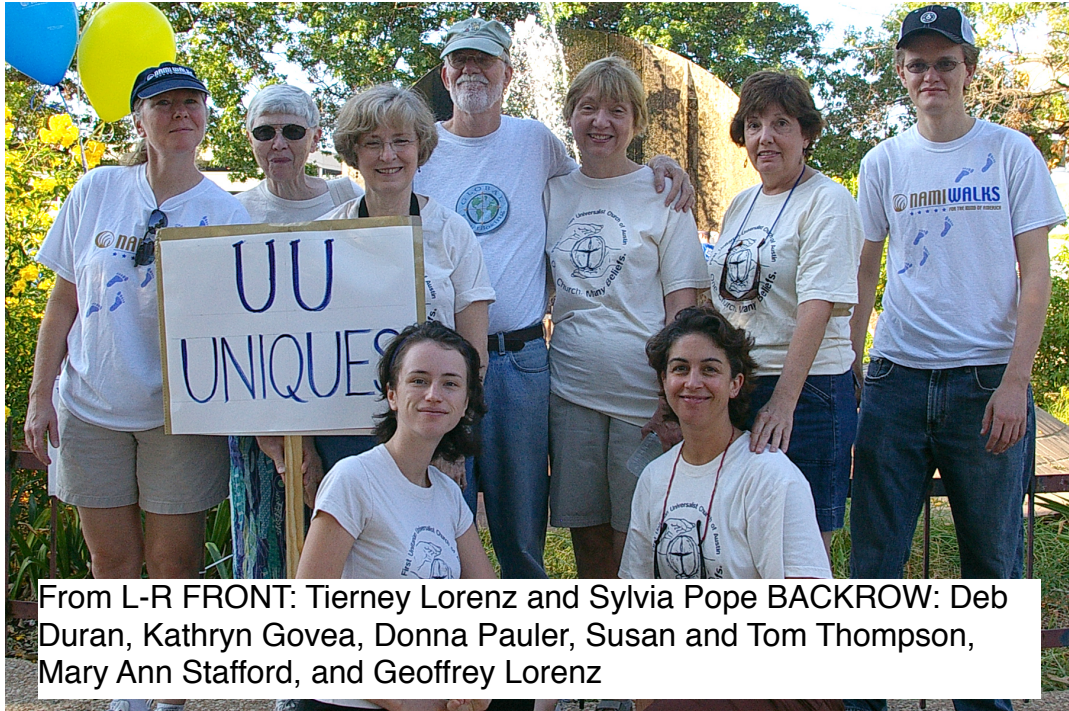
<http://swuuc.org/pages/services/cruise.php>

Social Action is Love in Action

Annual NAMI Walk in October

Please mark your calendars and join us as we support National Alliance on Mental Illness' in the (NAMI) Walk event on Saturday, October 8th, at 8 a.m. from Auditorium Shores.

No one should be stigmatized by having a mental illness. Now is the time to sign up as a FirstUU team member and start raising awareness that mental illnesses are real, physiologically-based illnesses just like diabetes. Alzheimer's and cancer are real illnesses. Together we will walk with members of Wildflowers UU and Live Oak UU as the team UU Uniques. Look for our table in the Gallery for more information on how you may



From L-R FRONT: Tierney Lorenz and Sylvia Pope BACKROW: Deb Duran, Kathryn Govea, Donna Pauler, Susan and Tom Thompson, Mary Ann Stafford, and Geoffrey Lorenz

become involved. you may also contact Kathryn Govier at kamargo72@att.net or 832-6379 for more information.

Sack Lunch Preparation Program

A First UU Social Action Project
Benefitting the Working Homeless
In Partnership with
Arch/Front Steps

Every Monday night a team meets to make 30 sack lunches and deliver them to Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, "ARCH", 500 E. 7th St. Lunch assembly usually takes 30 minutes with a 3-5 person team. The delivery to ARCH can take 30 minutes, round trip from the church.

Each team provides its own bread, lunchmeat and cheese for the sandwiches and also fresh fruit for the lunches, while other lunch components are bought in bulk and stored at the church for use by all the teams. The 1st and 5th Monday teams meet at 6:30 pm. The 5th Monday team only meets around 4 times a year and does not need

people at this point. All the teams that meet regularly each month will welcome new people. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Monday teams meet at 6:00 pm. The 2nd Monday team meets at a member's home in south Austin and has a potluck supper along with the sacking. For details about the 2nd Monday South Austin team, contact Rose Ann Reeser at rareeser@earthlink.net. All other teams meet in the church kitchen. You may just show up and observe for your first time. We communicate by e-mail in advance of the event. You may contact Mary Jane Ford for further information at 926-4122 or mjaneford@grandecom.net.



Conclusion of Summer Social Action Project on Literacy

Great Spirit! Great Fun! Great Results!

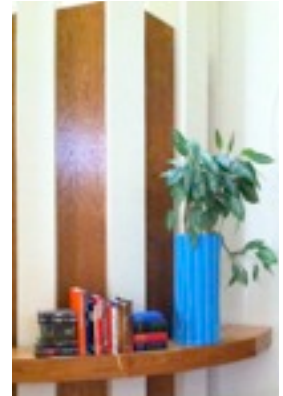
The First UU summer project on literacy ended on Sunday, August 14th, with a potluck and sorting party after the coffee hour. In a small ceremony, we presented the proceeds from the July special collection to a Bookspring representative. After eating, attendees sorted books into 28 cartons, resulting in a total donation from First UU of 56 cartons of books! Bookspring will distribute these books to the children they serve and to their partner agencies.



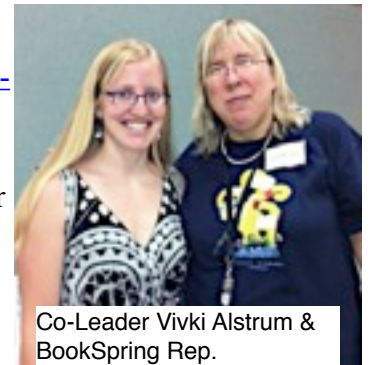
Folks sorting through the books at the end of the project.



The Read It Forward activity continues through late September, so please visit the Literacy Project webpage, at <http://austinnuu.org/wp2011/social-action/literacy/>, for the form and watch for the compilation of recommendations in January 2012. Thank you to everyone who helped make this summer project both fun and successful!! - Vicki Almstrum, Cyndi Loudon, and Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis



Altar honoring our project



Co-Leader Vivki Alstrum & BookSpring Rep.

Interfaith Memorial Service recognizing The 10th Anniversary of 9/11:

A Brotherhood and Sisterhood of Strangers

“Great perils have this beauty, that they bring to light the brotherhood of strangers”

-Victor Hugo

Sunday September 11 at 4:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 901 Trinity Street. Please join iACT and other organizational partners in a city-wide interfaith Memorial Service honoring those who sacrificed their lives to save strangers on 9/11. Lend your voices, lift your prayers and stand together on 9/11/2011.

Saturday, October 22nd -- Save the date for



family-friendly (all ages) Hands On Housing event

Social Action: Come Volunteer at People’s Community Clinic



Additional volunteers are needed for the 2nd Tuesday Collate Group at People’s Community Clinic to collate and stuff patient information

packets. We have taken on additional responsibilities and need more help. We meet next on September 13th 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 with each other. Please call or email Sheri Overton (512-847-2685 or sherioverton@hotmail.com). If you are interested in learning more about the clinic and First UU’s

volunteers, go to their site and read about our church. It will make you proud to be a <http://www.austinpcc.org/donate/volunteer-spotlights#fuuca>. Sheri Overton is our coordinator with the clinic and there is an article there as well concerning her work at PCC. This



Sheri Overton



Brent Baldwin
Music Director

MUSIC MATTERS

Transforming lives and nourishing souls through music.

BRENT IN SOUTH AMERICA

First UU Director of Music, Brent Baldwin recently returned from a wildly successful concert of tour in South America. In collaboration between the Texas Choral Consort and the Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee, Brent conducted to packed houses in Montevideo and Colonia in Uruguay, and Buenos Aires and Mercedes (where he was awarded a city medal) in Argentina. Joining him were a number of FUUCA singers and church members, including Lissa Anderson, Annette Stachowitz, Jill Wiggins and Gary Payne.



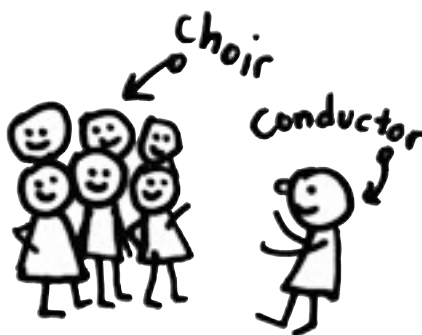
CHILDREN'S CHOIR CORNER

Children's Choir rehearsal starts September 11th (Sundays 9:15-10:15 AM) in room 15 (Youth Choir, Grades 4 - 8) and room 17 (Primary Choir, Grades K - 3). Our excellent directors Danielle Solan and Kelan Latimer provide top-notch instruction – and a lot of fun!

Pick up your registration packet and Fall Session 1 schedule outside the Religious Education office.

For more information, contact Chris Heidel, Children's Choir Coordinator 512-694-5970

chris@chrisandtoby.com.



Brent conducting at the Facultad de Derecho in Buenos Aires, Argentina

ADULT CHOIR TO BEGIN FALL REHEARSALS

The First UU Adult Choir begins rehearsals for the fall on Wednesday, August 31st at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary.

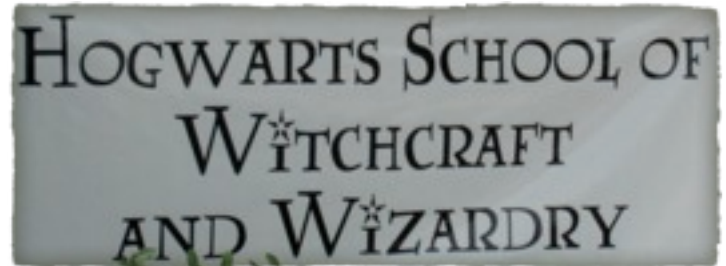
The Choir sings on average 2-3 services per month, and features a wide variety of music. Open to ages 15 and up. No audition required. Not sure about choir? No problem! Come check out a rehearsal with no commitment to stay. For more info, email Director

Brent Baldwin at brentb@austinuu.org.



Another Camp UU/Hogwarts success!

Camp UU, known fondly as Hogwarts, took place this year July 25-29. With proper enchantments, the classrooms, Howson Hall, the gallery, and the hallways displayed all the trappings of a proper school of witchcraft and wizardry.



Each day, campers enjoyed sports (such as Quiddich, Wizard Chess, and Wizard Dueling), music, and classes in the morning, social action in the afternoon, and fun activities to end the day (movies, swimming, bowling, or games). For each social action project, a special guest spoke to the campers about the organization: Monday was First UU's sack lunch program, with campers coloring lunch bags and packing 30 lunches; Tuesday was Bookspring, with campers sorting 28 cartons of books donated by the First UU congregation; Wednesday was Operation Schoolbell, with campers packaging hygiene kits for distribution; and Thursday included a visit by two canines from Greyhound Pets of America, with campers creating nearly 50 knotted fleece blankets to donate to Animal Trustees of Austin and Emancipet.



Sandwiches for ARCH

On Friday afternoon, families were invited to join campers for the Great Feast. The menu included butter and desserts prepared by the campers and the entertainment included songs and creative skits. After the campers left, the prefects (teenagers in the role of camp counselors) celebrated and socialized with one another during a pizza party.



Herbology

The church service on Sunday, July 31st was the official closing to Hogwarts 2011, with a closing report by the Headmistress and a musical offering from about 30 campers. After the service, the congregation enjoyed Hogwarts in the portrait gallery and the Great Hall (a.k.a. Howson Hall) during the coffee hour. It was another amazing and rewarding year, a grand tradition for First UU!



Getting measured for a wand



Potions



Making Friends



Lifespan Religious Education

Come join us in September as we begin a new year full of hope and promise. Your Children and Youth Program Committee and your Adult RE Committee are both planning some new and old offerings all in the spirit of community. Make sure you check out the new brochures in September so you'll know what's happening. In the meantime here's a quick look at things to consider.

Come join us on **Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011** for a multigenerational Water Communion during the 10:00 service. Childcare will be provided, but all ages preschool and up are invited to attend the service. Activity bags will be available for our youngest children during the service or if needed they may play with others in our childcare room.

We return to two services on Sept. 11, 2011 with services at 9:00 and 10:30. All ages will attend the first part of each service. Classes will run 15 minutes beyond the worship service – so plan to enjoy some time in the coffee hour before retrieving your children. Also note that our two Children's Choirs will meet during the 9:00 service, and we will offer Children's RE at the same time for those children not involved in choir.

Childcare on Sundays will be provided beginning at 8:45 am until 1:00 pm.

9:00 am Worship Service - All ages (Preschool and up) in first part of service

9:00 – 10:15 OWL (Our Whole Lives) Sexuality Course for 8th & 9th Graders

9:15 – 10:15 Children's Choir Rehearsal (K – 3rd grade) and (4th – 7th grade)

“We're on our Way” RE Curriculum for (K – 2nd) and (3rd-5th)

“Chalice Children” RE Curriculum for Preschoolers (3 and 4 year olds)

10:30 am Worship Service - All Ages (Preschool and up) in first part of service

10:45 – 11:45 “Chalice Children” – Preschoolers (3 and 4 year olds)

“Free to Believe” – K – 2nd Grade

“Bibleodeon” – 3rd – 5th Grade

“Heeding the Call” – Middle School – 6th, 7th & 8th Grades

10:45 – 11:45 “Building Bridges” – High School – 9th – 12th Grade

11:45 – 12:45 “A Chorus of Faiths” – YRUU – 9th – 12th Grade

Adult Education on Sunday Mornings:

Two book groups, a spirituality group, and the philosophical discussion group will have the option of meeting before the 9:00 service, during the 10:30 service, and from 11:45 – 12:45. Additional Adult Education Programming will occur from 11:45 – 12:45. Specific times and courses to be announced soon.

11:45 – 12:45 Forum in Sanctuary

Adult Religious Education Programs

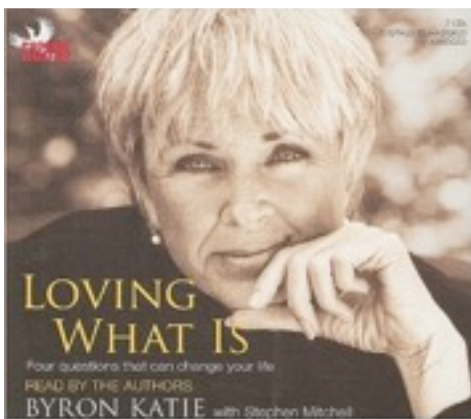
The Presence Group

(formerly the Eckhart Tolle presence group) will be discussing the work of Byron Katie in September. We will be showing a Byron Katie video at Casa de Luz on September 8th 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Amanda Winters, a graduate of several Byron Katie education programs and facilitator of The Work, will be speaking at the event. For the remainder of September we will meet at First UU every Thursday, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. We'll start by discussing a book jointly written by Eckhart Tolle and Byron Katie titled "Peace in the Present Moment" and then we'll transition into Katie's "Loving What Is".



In 1986, at the bottom of a ten-year fall into depression, anger, and addiction, Byron Katie woke up one morning and realized that all suffering comes from believing our thoughts. She realized that when she believed her stressful thoughts, she suffered, but that when she questioned them, she didn't suffer, and that this is true for every human being. Her simple but powerful method of inquiry is called The Work.

The Work consists of four simple questions and a turnaround, which is a way of experiencing the opposite of what you believe. When you Work with a thought, you see around it to the choices beyond suffering.



Katie has been bringing The Work to millions around the world for more than twenty years. Her free public events, weekend workshops, nine-day School for The Work, and 28-

day residential Turnaround House have brought freedom to people all over the world.

A donation of \$5.00 per person is requested. 100% of all donations will be given to First UU.

Should you have any questions contact Joe Linsalata 512-327-5000 or Linsalata@austin.rr.com



Ingredients for life..

Share Your Grocery Dollars with the Church!

You can donate automatically to the church whenever you make purchases at Randalls! This is any easy way to contribute financially to First UU of Austin. Raandall's Good Neighbor Program is designed to contribute a percentage of what you spend to the non-profit of your choice.

Simply visit the Customer Courtesy Counter the next time you shop at Randalls, and give them the church's Good Neighbor Number 4792 to link to your Remarkable Card.

Or, you can link your card to the church's account by going online at www.randalls.com - Community Caring button at the bottom of the page - Good Neighbor Program link.

This program runs all year, but during the month of September there is a bonus – they contribute one dollar for every \$50 spent. The more of us who link our Remarkable Cards to the church's account number, the more money we'll raise when we buy groceries at Randalls!



First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Austin

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One Church. Many Beliefs.

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Executive Director:

Sean Hale ext 308

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Barbara Stoddard ext 305

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

Starting on September 11th

To be re-evaluated after 6 months

8:30 am - 1:30 pm	Coffee, Snacks and Fellowship in Howson Hall
9:00 am - 10:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary Religious Education Classes
9:15 - 10:15 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal in rooms 15/17
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary Religious Education Classes
11:45 am - 12:45 pm	Public Forum in the Sanctuary Childcare (Activities)