



# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

## Standing Out in Austin

One of the things you all wanted me to do as your minister is to make First UU more visible. Two events coming up will make us visible to the folks in Austin, and I invite you to come be part of them.

1) **I have been asked to officiate at the weddings on the steps of the State House on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 p.m.** The "Coming Out For Marriage Equality" March and Rally starts at Pease Park and ends with a free mass wedding on the State House steps. Wear white and bring white flowers!

2) **My sixth book, "Broken Buddha," is being launched at Book People with a signing at 7 p.m. on November 1<sup>st</sup>.** I will be reading stories from this book. I'm proud to support Austin's indie book stores, and it would make me proud to have your support in this celebration!

### Volunteer and Membership Coordinator

To be a good steward means to take good care of the resources with which you have been entrusted. For a congregation to be a good steward, it has to take care of itself, having a strong worship life, a stimulating intellectual life, delightful music, ongoing education and faith development, reaching out to those who are suffering, steeping its children in strong values and a sense of heritage, and working to heal the world's ills. It must use money well and be financially strong.

Right now the congregation is talking about a desire to be radically hospitable. At the same time as we are exploring what radical hospitality means, we also must accomplish regular hospitality. Regular hospitality entails having space for fellowship and coffee, having good signs up directing people to an obvious front entrance, providing enough parking, displaying a welcoming attitude, and offering good content. Regular hospitality means that we continue to build a process whereby new visitors are welcomed, informed and encouraged. If they decide to become members, it means having a process by

which they are drawn in to the congregation, assisted in making connections, shepherded along through their whole first year of membership until they have a solid sense of belonging to this community.

The goal of this year's canvass is not only to give this church the dignity of being well-funded, but to have a Volunteer and Membership Coordinator who can take new members and guide them personally through their first year of membership, connecting them with small groups, with good ways of meeting people, learning what their hopes and gifts are, matching those to the church's ministries, matching what the new members need with the gifts this church has to offer.

I like that the building, like our faith, has many, many ways in. Unfortunately, during the week, this can lead to people with ill intent wandering through, and we had a theft last month. We want our staff and members to feel safe in the building, so we are thinking together about how to balance welcome and safety.

One of the very first tasks of the Volunteer and Membership Coordinator would be to help us staff a "church greeter" desk. The building is open many, many hours every day, but at least from nine until five we would like to have a volunteer to receive those who come into our building with a smile, who would help them find what they needed. Having a greeter would let our phone be answered more often by a friendly human voice. It would enable the staff to focus on their given jobs, and it would help with our sense of safety. So I hope that, this stewardship season, we can lift this church up to the next level of its development, where we are being responsible about the resources that are pouring through our doors on Sunday. May we all find our place and our sense of belonging.

- Rev. Meg Barnhouse





## Sunday Worship



**Join us in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.**

**October 2: Repentance, Forgiveness, Reconciliation” by Rev. Meg Barnhouse.** During this time of shortening days, our Jewish brothers and sisters are celebrating the “Days of Awe,” Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. This is a good time for us to talk about a Unitarian Universalist understanding of guilt and repentance, making amends, turning to more “right action,” forgiving ourselves and others.

**October 9: National “Coming Out Day” is on October 11 every year. by Rev. Meg Barnhouse.** Let’s talk about what it’s like to be gay in the US. Did you know that GLBT teens are five times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers? This is one issue where the message of our faith can be literally life-saving. A Sunday Short by Paradox Players from an original script adapted from a blog written by a fellow UU.

**October 16: “Be a Stream, Not a Swamp” by Rev. Meg Barnhouse** The third in the series on the seven UU Principles. We talk about acceptance, spiritual growth, encouraging one another. What is “spiritual” for Unitarian Universalists?

**October 23, 2011: “Growing Out - Maturing as an Expanding Embrace” by Rev. Mark Skrabacz.** Widening our circle of compassion, opening our hearts, embracing life, and living large...these are expressions of growing out, the theme of today's examination of maturing. I think of growing out as the experience of unconditional love or accessing our own true presence. This involves learning to acknowledge, allow, open to and inquire into the experience that each of us has of "what is", our own very life and all its conditions, without trying to have some other experience than the one we are in. This can be difficult. Yet it is possible. This Sunday, let's gather to explore the ideas and experiences of Growing Out. Mark Skrabacz . Pastor - UU Church of the Hill Country ([uuchc.org](http://uuchc.org)) . Trustee of UBarU Retreat and Conference Center ([ubaru.org](http://ubaru.org)) .

**Oct. 30 “Honoring the Ancestors” by Meg Barnhouse** In this season we have the Celtic earth-based holy day of Samhain, Day of the Dead, and Halloween. The children are invited to wear their costumes as we learn some chants, hear some drumming, and honor our ancestors.



## FUUCA Receives Generous Bequest from the Estate of Alfred (Al) Kandik

In May, beloved church member Al Kandik, age 91, passed away. We joined his wife, Alice, in mourning his passing and celebrating his many years with us. Now, our church is the grateful recipient of a generous gift left by Al in his will. We thank Al and his family for remembering the church in this way. We will add a butterfly in honor of Al to our memorial sculpture in the foyer outside the sanctuary. If you would like information on how to leave a gift to the church in your will, please contact the church office or memorial gifts committee member, Rose Ann Reeser at 327-7951 or [memorial@austinuu.org](mailto:memorial@austinuu.org)



# Green Sanctuary Committee Gets Goin'



Gloriously Green Sylvia

Things may look brown, but we are green! First UU Church of Austin continues to renew our commitment to walking as lightly on the earth as possible and the Green Sanctuary Committee is springing back to life to explore strategies we can adopt going forward to keep our church a green oasis in Austin.

Richard and Beki Halpin Co-Chair this committee and like the rest of our congregation, we welcome

persons of all persuasions and that certainly includes Green! If you have suggestions for making our church more sustainable, please talk to anyone on the committee and consider greening up with us. Our committee includes the ever intrepid Dale and Pat Bulla, Out, Out With Plastic-Lynn Adams, Gloriously Green Sylvia Pope, the Pied Piper of paperless meetings, Peter Schneider, and the sustainably energetic, Jim Hill.



Out, Out with Plastics Lynn

As early green pioneers in the Green UU Nation, our church has installed solar panels, LED exit lights, compact fluorescent bulbs, fluorescent electronic ballasts, added insulation, low flow toilets and low water landscaping. We use china dishes at church dinners in lieu of paper. We're not slackers, but we're not resting on our laurels either! Several weeks ago we had an energy audit performed by Austin Energy. The good news is that we are miles ahead of most churches in the Austin area in sustainability practices. Since the audit we have fixed AC leaks and planned a timer for the water heater in the bathrooms in the front foyer so it heats water only when we need it.

Last week FUUCA received a letter from the Mayor thanking us for renewing our participation in the Green Choice energy program. As a Green Choice customer we support energy generated from clean, renewable sources when we're not using the energy from our own solar panels!



Pat & Dale



Richard, Beki and Peter



Dale & Don in the beginning

## The Forum

**Join us in the Sanctuary at 11:45 a.m. following the second service.**

**October 2: Martha Owen: "Workers' Rights and Victories in a Right-Wing, Right-to-Work State."**

Star labor lawyer, Martha Owen, will examine the labor and employment protections that exist, yes, even in Texas, and highlight how workers have used those rights to exercise power and achieve justice in the workplace. Owen has earned a reputation as one of the top labor lawyers in Texas and the nation encompassing public-sector and private-sector labor law including First Amendment claims, equal pay for women, employment discrimination, sexual harassment, overtime and other wage and hour issues.

**October 9: Kathy Miller, President of the Texas Freedom Network: "Just Educate: A campaign to reform the Texas State Board of Education."** Texas Freedom Network is leading the fights against partisan politicians on the State Board who are determined to promote their own personal and political agendas in our children's public school classrooms. Learn how you can help ensure that teachers and experts play a bigger role in ensuring that Texas students receive a 21st century education.

**October 16: Jim Cullen, Editor Progressive Populist: "What's the Matter with Texas?"** Rick Perry and the Republicans have cut education funding and done little to help working Texans afford health insurance. Democrats must return to their populist roots and defend the interests of working-class and middle-class Texans if they are to regain the majority in the Lone Star State. Jim Cullen is the editor of The Progressive Populist, a twice-monthly journal of politics and economics with editorial offices in Manchaca, Texas.

**October 23: Dr. Harold Zacon, Neurobiologist, UT Austin: "Keep Research Weird: the beneficial and unintended impact of basic research on society."** Some conservative organizations such as the Texas Public Policy Foundation have claimed that research at universities is wasteful and "does not produce measurable returns." I will explain the rationale for doing basic research and give some examples of the amazing, often unintended (and yes, even profitable!!), impact of basic research on our society.

**October 30: John Burnett, NPR Correspondent: "The War Next Door: an Eyewitness to the Mexican Cartel War"** John Burnett will speak about his experiences covering the mafia war next door in Mexico and how the conflict is and is not effecting Texas. As a roving NPR correspondent based in Austin, his beat stretches across the U.S. and around the world. Normally, he focuses on the issues and people of the Southwest United States, providing investigative reports and traveling the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. His special reporting projects have included New Orleans during and after Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. invasion of Iraq and its aftermath,

## OCTOBER SHARING SUPPERS - A Great Way to Get Acquainted

Sharing Suppers will be held on the third Saturday in October. Please mark your calendars for October 15<sup>th</sup> and join others for food, conversation and laughter. Groups of 6 – 10 people gather in various participants' homes and all contribute to the meal. Everyone in the church, new or established, couples or singles are very welcome to attend. It's easy to sign up – just call Linda Buehlmann at 323-5334 or email to [sharingsuppers@austinuu.org](mailto:sharingsuppers@austinuu.org) You may also sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the mail room and on the visitor's table. Visitors are very welcome. All dinners begin at 6:30.





## Chris' Space

At First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, we gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives and do justice. What a transcendent purpose, uplifting mission we share. As we enter into our 2012 Stewardship Campaign, we truly are, as the campaign's theme states, "Building a New Way" together. Because of the great work we have done articulating our covenant, discerning our values, adopting our mission, we are seeing the full potential of this congregation come alive. We have begun our spiritual journey with our marvelous settled minister, Meg Barnhouse. We are experiencing revitalized Religious Education. Our musical programs just gets more and more beautiful.

Now, to fully realize our potential together, we must fully fund our mission. Together, let us create a culture of abundance so that we fully live that transcendent purpose. Please visit the stewardship table in the gallery after services or make time to speak with one of our wonderful stewardship folks when they call on you. Look into your heart and discover a pledge amount that is meaningful for you. Let's give until it feels good! It will nourish our souls. -Chris Jimmerson, President of the Board of Trustees.

Major thanks to Bob Boney for delivering everything to the Austin Disaster Relief Network warehouse.

(Water was no longer needed and will be used for volunteers at our Hands on Housing event October 22.)



**Another Thank You to YOU** As most of you know each month we have a Special Offering on the second Sunday. This money goes directly to the organization that was pre selected by the congregation at the beginning of each year. Twelve groups each year. Our Offering in September was Safe Place. We collected **\$1,857.31!!** Our organization for October is People's Community Clinic (read about them on page 11)

## Fall Men's Retreat at U Bar U

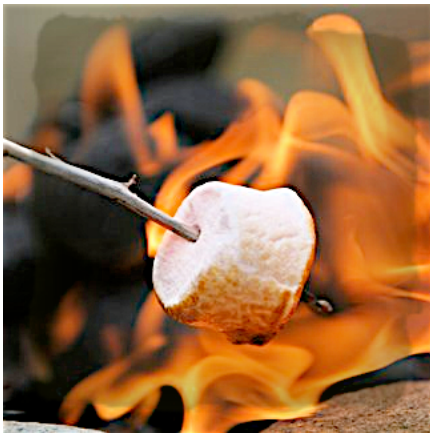
The Fall Men's Retreat is coming up! As usual the retreat will be at the U Bar U Ranch located about 20 miles west of Kerrville in the Hill Country. The retreat will again be facilitated by Mark Skrabacz, minister of the UU Church of the Hill Country in Kerrville. This event for all area men runs from mid-day or evening of Friday, November 18th until noon on Sunday the 20th. We will begin with a Friday evening meal, 3 meals on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday.

There is plenty of bunkhouse room and camping spaces if you want to bring a tent. All buildings are heated and air conditioned. Activities will include relaxing, poker playing, volunteer projects, deeper reflection, hiking around U Bar U's beautiful rugged 142 acres, and fellowship (not necessarily in that order). As anyone who has been there will tell you it's a pleasant, relaxing time to



unwind and just get away for a couple of days. If you can't make it for two nights you are welcome for one.

This is your chance to sign up early, and help make this a great retreat. Please send Ken Pfluger a note if you plan to attend along with a check for \$100 by October 15th and include your church affiliation, if any. After that date the amount will be \$110. The address is 2408 Bridle Path, Austin 78703. More details to come about volunteer projects and activities and what to bring. For more information contact Ken ([kmp@pobox.com](mailto:kmp@pobox.com)) or Brian Miller ([brianmiller.bcm@gmail.com](mailto:brianmiller.bcm@gmail.com)).

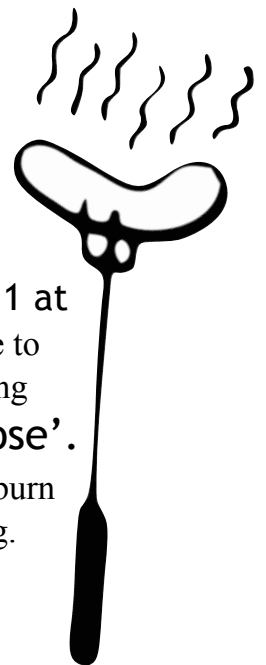


## The UU Circle of Friends 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Singles Retreat at U Bar U

The UU Circle of Friends is planning our second annual Singles Retreat for November 11 -13, 2011 at U-Bar-U near Kerrville. The weekend will be a chance to relax, have fun and meet other single UU's from surrounding areas. The theme this year is 'A Single Purpose'.

There will be a weenie roast with s'mores along with music around the campfire (if no burn ban in effect) on Friday evening and a related documentary will be available for viewing. Other good food, entertainment (music, card or board games) and activities (hiking, swimming, massage and two labyrinths) will be available.

Our website to register is <https://sites.google.com/site/uusinglesretreat/>  
If you have questions, you can call Mary Ann (First UU 512-587-8373) or Marilyn (Wildflower 512-644-1814).



## “Everyone Needs Help Sometime”

That’s the “Bumper Sticker” version of the mission of the Congregational Care Committee. You will see it prominently displayed on new congregational care referral cards, available near the Joys and Concerns book in the church foyer. If you, or someone you know, needs assistance, please fill out the card and place it in the collection plate or in the Congregational Care mailbox in the mail room. Help us live the values and ends of our church, so that *“members and their families feel supported in times of joy and need.”*

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.,

**WHERE:** Room 11

**CONTACT:** Michael Kersey at [michael.kersey229@gmail.com](mailto:michael.kersey229@gmail.com)



## Potluck Playday!

Saturday,  
Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> 2-5 p.m.

Ramsey Park  
4301 Rosedale Avenue  
Austin, TX 78756

Come meet and hang out with UU families. Eat and drink with other UU parents while the kids run around and play. No need to RSVP. Hosted by Eric Stimmel [erictstimmel@gmail.com](mailto:erictstimmel@gmail.com) (512) 925-6647

## Please join us for a weekend of camping at Krause Springs

, October 21<sup>st</sup>, a privately held campground near Spicewood. Some people arrive around 4:00 p.m. on Friday night and others arrive on Saturday to camp. Bring food for Friday night plus breakfast and lunches. It’s a beautiful campground. There’s a swimming hole and a waterfall. You can also hike to Lake Travis. There are restrooms and shower facilities nearby. **There’s a potluck meal at around 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. Afterwards there’s a campfire and musical jam. You don’t have to camp. You can just spend the day—it’s just 35 miles from Austin. On Sunday morning we fix a communal breakfast.**

**Bring:** Musical instruments, food and drinks to share, lawn chairs and water for cooking, washing up and drinking. Tents, bedding, camping equipment and flashlights if you are staying overnight. No dogs are allowed.

**Directions:** Go west on Hwy 71 through Bee Caves, go 5 miles past the Pedernales river, and then take a right at the Exxon station/store to Spicewood. Take the second right at the County Road 404 sign. The road into Krause Springs will be on the left, slightly upgrade, after crossing a creek. Drive to the house where you pay. It’s \$12/adults, \$6/children (4-11) per night and if you’re just spending the day, it’s Adults/\$6 and children/\$4. Tell them that you’re with the Unitarians.

**Information:** Lynn Vaughan at 989-5701 or 587-8221 or [Lynn@Lynnspetsitting.com](mailto:Lynn@Lynnspetsitting.com) or Krause Springs at (830) 693-4181.





# Building a New Way with Stewardship



In September the Stewardship Committee recruited 33 canvassers and held three successful and enjoyable canvass training sessions.

The canvassers are now in the process of calling you and arranging a meeting time to have a conversation about the church. This year's approach is different, with an emphasis on face to face meetings between canvassers and the congregation. We are ready to meet, and hope you are too.

This is a year of great excitement and hope because we have Meg as our new minister. We want to help her learn about our thoughts and dreams. We started this process on August 28 at the pizza lunch with the wall of wishes on post-it notes. We continue it with a short survey which is part of our pledge form. The canvassers will present the survey's questions to you, and your answers will provide Meg with information so that she will better understand her congregation and be better able to serve us.

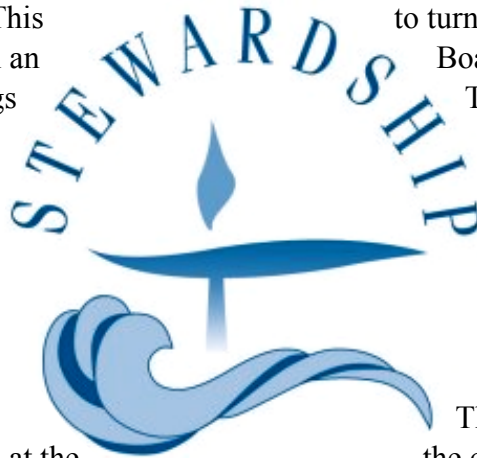
You may help the canvass effort by promptly returning calls from your canvasser and agreeing to a meeting. It can also be helpful for each of you to go over your budget and think about what a reasonable

amount to pledge would be. For those of you who have a partner, this becomes a family conversation. Please have that conversation early, rather than at the end of the campaign in November. Our last day of active campaigning is November 6. After that, we have to turn in a number for total pledges to the Board of Trustees for Budget approval.

There is not much time available before the Congregational Meeting in early December, when the budget is approved. Pledges usually make up at least 75% of the budget. Sean and Meg have come up with a budget which includes \$690,000 in pledges. This is approximately 30% more than last year's.

The increases are across the board, to make the church run more efficiently. This budget

is essential for us to move out of a culture of scarcity to achieve a culture of abundance. We must have enough money to do what we want and need to do, to fulfill our mission, and to be able to constructively channel the efforts of our many enthusiastic volunteers. Quoting words from the wall of wishes, let us "become a proud, vocal, shining presence in Central Texas" and in the UUA. Contact the Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs, Mary Jane Ford and Luther Elmore, at [Stewardship@austinuu.org](mailto:Stewardship@austinuu.org).



## Fall Training for Committee Chairs, Members Saturday, October 15th, 8:30 - 11:30

On Saturday morning, October 15th, the Nominating Committee will present the second of a three part Leadership Development series. The focus of this second session is on "facilitating groups". The presenters for this training will be Pat Walters and Lynda West, both of whom have conducted many workshops in the past. They will present information on how to facilitate and share some of their own experiences with us. It will also include a brief summary of the May training which included The Leadership Reference Guide. The training is open to all committee members and we strongly encourage all interested to attend. There will be a continental breakfast to start the morning at 8:30. We hope to see you there. [noncom@austinuu.org](mailto:noncom@austinuu.org)





## Season Endings & Beginnings

*Guest Artist*, directed by Karen Jambon, closes our 2011 season. Written by actor Jeff Daniels, this semi-



autobiographical drama explores the human dilemma of taking risks and playing it safe. New to our stage, the cast features accomplished Austin actors Joe Penrod, Tyler Jones and Craig Kanne. **The Opening Night Gala will feature live music** with the First UU Jazz Combo! Entertaining us pre-show and during intermission will be Peter Pope on piano, Liam Pope on bass and Chris Smith on drums.

The production runs Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 from October 14-30, with free childcare at the matinee on October 16, if reserved a week in advance at [childcare@austin.rr.com](mailto:childcare@austin.rr.com). Tickets can be purchased or reserved on Sundays in the Gallery, by phone at 744-1495, or online at [paradoxplayers.com](http://paradoxplayers.com).

**2012 will be a Stub Season, shortened to two productions Feb and June - instead of three.** This is a change we've been contemplating for awhile, so that our season coincides with the other theaters in town. Stub Season tickets will be available during the run of *Guest Artist* (early bird specials) and in February (during the run of the Feb show). Starting a year from now, our season of three

## Readers' Theater

continues on Monday evening, Oct 10, at 7:30. We'll meet in the Gallery to read plays aloud without rehearsing or memorizing. Newcomers are welcome, no experience expected!



## Senior's Luncheon

Tuesday, October 11th (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues.)

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

## Program for Senior Lunch

October 11

Paradox Players will present a scene from *Guest Artist*, the drama that opens on Friday, Oct 14. Written by the acclaimed TV and movie actor Jeff Daniels, it is the story of what happens when a young man meets his washed-up idol in a small town bus station.



## Moon Circle - Moon

Circles are open to anyone, of any belief persuasion. We mix mirth and reverence to honor the earth and her cycles, and invite you to come & do the same. **The next circle will be on October 11th, 2011 at 7:30 pm under the oaks to the south of the**

**sanctuary.** Details TBA, so check the webpage at [www.austinuu.org/yewgrove](http://www.austinuu.org/yewgrove) as the time approaches.

## The Tarot Fundraiser - will be

at Genuine Joe's Coffeeshouse at 2001 W

Anderson Ln on October 28th at 7pm. The fundraiser lasts until 9, but please arrive **by 8:30** for your reading. Look within for only \$15 for a \$30 reading, what a deal!

[YewGrove@AustinUU.org](mailto:YewGrove@AustinUU.org)

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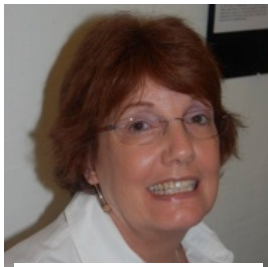


# Social Action is Love in Action

## Our FREEZE NIGHT PROGRAM is at **RISK!**

The Freeze Night Program at First UU is a reflection of our mission to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice. When the temperature drops below 32°, we host 50 homeless men overnight in Howson Hall; they also receive a hot dinner and a bag breakfast to take with them the next day

After dedicating many Winter Seasons to helping the homeless, our Project Coordinator Mary Ann Stafford will be stepping down. Without someone to take her place, our church will not be able to participate in this program as it has for over the last ten years.



Mary Ann Stafford

**Are YOU that special someone who can ensure our continued support of the homeless during this time of special need?** Mary Ann will be on hand to mentor you as you take over the reins, and you will be surrounded by veteran volunteers who know the drill. With their support, you will be successful!

### The Freeze Night coordinator needs to be:

- a liaison between the shelter and First UU
- able to inform and work with church staff
- computer savvy, with internet connection
- available to sign volunteers up in the fall.
- willing to coordinate a volunteer orientation
- on hand to email on-call volunteers when a Freeze Night is “on”

### The Freeze Night coordinator does NOT:

- cook food every Freeze Night
- fill in for unmet needs or shifts
- show up every Freeze Night
- spend the night on Freeze Nights

If you are interested in the coordinator position and would like to learn more, please contact Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis, Social Action Committee Chair, at [socialaction@austinuu.org](mailto:socialaction@austinuu.org) Thanks!

## Annual NAMI Walk is October 8th

NAMI Walk again, Changing Minds One Step at a Time, this year on Oct. 8, 2011. Donna Pauler and Kathryn Govier are co-chairing our church’s team, and walking with teams from the other Austin U U Churches. **Last year there were 2000+ walkers and over \$189,000 raised. This year’s goal is \$200,000. With your help we will surpass that goal.**

Some of the money raised is used to support the efforts of The Austin Clubhouse. This center now has a full time director and two paid staff generalists. In addition they have a small but growing volunteer base. The Clubhouse provides social opportunities for members to come together and build relationships. An average of 18 members a day enjoy the activities of the Clubhouse, and membership is over 160. NAMI’s money also helps put people back to work, engage in meaningful social activities, and eat healthy lunches, just to name a few things.

If you’d like to contribute to the Walk you can click on [www.name.org/namiwalks11TEX/govier](http://www.name.org/namiwalks11TEX/govier), or send donations to me at 1202 Newport Ave, TX, 78753. Any questions, my telephone is 512-832-6379. You may also sign up to walk or contribute in the Gallery at church on Sundays in September and the first Sunday in October. Thanks for your anticipated help. *Kathryn and Donna*

## Serving Dinner at ARCH

Servers for the homeless at Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH). Natalie Freeburg, Betty Wood, Tom and Connie Bodine. Not in



picture....photographer Jon Montgomery.

If this looks like something you’d like to do contact George Denny [archsuppers@austinuu.org](mailto:archsuppers@austinuu.org)



## Special Offering for October Sunday October, 9<sup>th</sup>

The state legislature's \$500,000 budget cut to People's Community Clinic has turned back the clock on women's health to the days before Texas women had access to regular, affordable healthcare. Women's health and wellness services have always been a key component of PCC's practice, and the clinic remains committed to providing these services. With access to high quality, affordable care at every stage of life, 10,000 patients rely on PCC; 2,300 women use the clinic for health and wellness services each year. In addition to providing family planning and contraception, PCC offers Well Woman exams that can screen for diabetes, breast and cervical cancer, HIV, hypertension, anemia, and sexually transmitted diseases. The clinic also offers women laboratory testing, instruction in breast self-examinations, and reproductive health and disease prevention education.

Although state funding never fully covered the cost, the extreme cuts that came from the 2011 legislative session put this care at risk. Your support for PCC and for women's health is more important than ever. Will you donate to PCC, supporting programs that help women to stay healthy? Good healthcare makes sense for our patients and our community. Celia Neavel, M. D. will provide additional information during the service.



### October 22<sup>nd</sup> is Hands on Housing Work Day

First UU members and friends will participate on an all-UU Hands On Housing team for this fall's "Raise the Roof" project on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Join us to scrape, paint, landscape, and do minor repairs on the home of a low-income homeowner who cannot afford to pay for these repairs. This is a family-friendly event! No matter what your skill level, we have a task for you. And supervised children are welcome to help. Volunteer shifts are: 9 am to 12 pm, 1 to 4 pm, and 4 to 7 pm. We'll provide lunch and then take a group picture between 12 and 1 pm. Sign up at the Social Action table in the gallery on Sunday mornings or e-mail [handsonhousing@austinuu.org](mailto:handsonhousing@austinuu.org). Hands On Housing is the largest volunteer home repair effort in Austin and is sponsored by Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT).



### Volunteers Needed at PCC

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 October 11th 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 email Sheri Overton at [pcc@austinuu.org](mailto:pcc@austinuu.org).



Sherri Overton

# Denominational Affairs

Beyond our church walls, there are many enriching denominational opportunities that can connect you to other UU's at deeper levels and lead you to greater spiritual and personal growth. Whether you are interested in developing our small group ministry program; evangelizing the South; connecting with other singles, men or women; or working with others for justice and equity for all, there is something for you!



## Growing Healthy

### Covenant Groups: Oct

**14-16, 2011**, led by Peter Bowden, at U Bar U Conference Center near Kerrville, TX. If you are a covenant group facilitator, leader or enthusiast,



Peter Bowden

for information and to register, see

[http://www.uusat.org/?](http://www.uusat.org/?page_id=340)

[page\\_id=340](http://www.uusat.org/?page_id=340). If you plan to

attend, please let Barbara

Stoddard, First UU Interim

Director of Lifespan Religious

Education, know.

## SWUU Women's Conference "Exploring the UUniverse of Women's Spirituality":

**Feb 24-26, 2012**, with speaker **REV. MEG**

**BARNHOUSE!** It is not too early for our FUUCA

women and maidens 13 and older to plan to Relax,

Rejuvenate and Reconnect at the Houston NASA Hilton!

See more details at [www.swuuw.org](http://www.swuuw.org). We will post

information about programming, housing and registration

as it becomes available, but meanwhile, save the date and

start planning your carpools!

## UUA Justice General Assembly: June 20-24, 2012, Phoenix, AZ.

Calling all FUUCA youth and adults! BE THERE with your church family! Bring your love and compassion and work along side thousands of other UU's and local community organizers to make possible justice and equity and worth and dignity for those who do not have it. Renew your spirit while you make new friends and reconnect with old, while together, we help make the world a better place for everyone.

"We are not a religious tradition with a creed, but a religious movement that has always wedded social justice work to theology."—James Luther Adams

To read about immigration justice issues: <http://www.uua.org/immigration/index.shtml>

To learn about General Assembly 2012: <http://www.uua.org/ga/>

## SWUU Fall Conference 2011

### "Evangelizing the South": Nov 11-13,

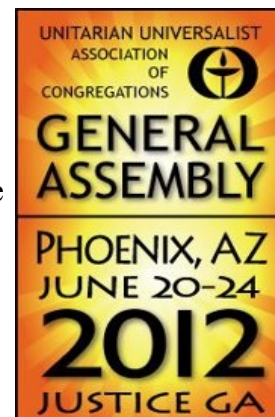
**2011**, Glen Rose, TX. Six tracks: The Future of Unitarian Universalism: A Conversation for Religious Professionals 40 and Under; Worship: From Theory to Practice; Examining Your Mission Field; Beyond Fundraising; UU Identity; Building Coalitions/Community Organizing



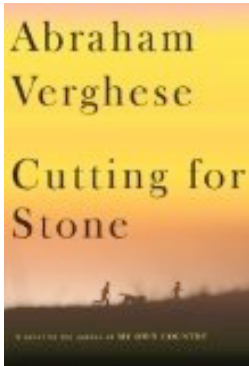
If you are a UU 14 or older, youth, young adult, lay leader, minister, worship committee member, teacher, DRE, board member, current or future leader, UU evangelist, or an elementary or Jr. high youth wishing to attend Evolution Camp, see <http://www.swuuc.org/> for the schedule, housing info, registration, maps, etc.

**Reminder:** The **Chalice Lighters** call for assistance to Horizon UU Church in Carrollton, TX, is still in effect. For details contact us at: [denom@austinuu.org](mailto:denom@austinuu.org).

*-Karen Franks and Rob Feeney, Co-chairs,  
Denominational Affairs*



# Books! Books! Books!

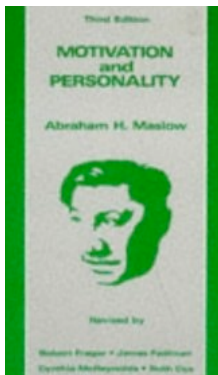
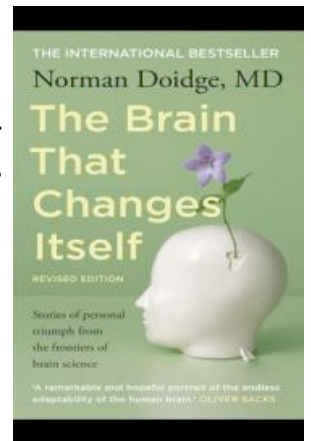


## Heritage Book Club

October 14th's book will be "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese. The meeting will be held at the home of Sally Scott, 4906 Beverly hills dr. It starts at 7:00 with a potluck. Everyone is Welcome.

## Mind and Meaning Book Club

Meets every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. in Room 15A to discuss an assigned reading in science or philosophy.

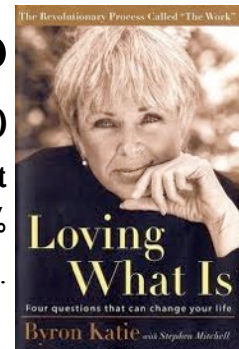


## Sunday Morning Book Club

We will meet every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in Room 13B. This group is currently reading *Toward a Psychology of Being* by Abraham Maslow.

## Presence Group

The group meets Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. We are reading *Loving What Is*. A donation of \$5.00 is requested and 100% of the donation is given to First UU.



## Sunday Morning Spiritual & Philosophical Discussions

Spirituality Exploration Group in the Library at 8 a.m.  
Philosophical Discussion Group in Room 15B at 10:30 a.m.

## Esalen/Trager Massage Instruction & Exchange Group

The group meets every second and fourth Saturday in the month. The next meeting will be October 8 in room 15. Verbal and hands-on instruction of Esalen/Trager Massage will be provided by Carl W. Nelson who was trained at the world-renowned Esalen Institute, Big Sur, California. Learn how to integrate bodywork into your life for optimal health and vitality. Bodywork is a journey into the mysteries and marvels of our bodies. Experience the easiest way to reach the meditative relaxed state.



# *Lifespan Religious Education*



## Children and Youth

October is an exciting month in religious education. We are all getting use to our new schedules. Services are at 9: am and 10:30 am. All children and youth attend the first part of each service and then it's off to class or choir. Please note: All classes will run 15 minutes longer than the worship service. This gives parents a chance to grab coffee and socialize with their peers a little longer. But, parents please do pick your children up no later than 10:15 or 11:45.

Check out the RE table in the RE wing for flyers, volunteer sign up sheets, registration forms and so much more. Meet a committee person or staff member. Come and get to know us.

**Note: There is no RE on Sunday, October 30 as we will have our second multigenerational service of the year, think Day of the Dead and Halloween Costumes.**

Things that some of our classes are looking forward to over the next month:

### **9:15 – 10:15**

Preschoolers: Fall Plantings, Chalice Flannel Board, What it means to help others and a Halloween Party.

K and Up: Multi-cultural Curriculum: We'll explore how we are different in: Gender, Abilities, Families and Beliefs.

### **10:45 – 11:45**

Preschoolers: Fall Plantings, Chalice Flannel Board, What it means to help others and a Halloween Party.

K – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Cooperation, Celebrate Each of Us, Understanding how we are alike and different

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: We'll look at "the beginning" the story of Cain and Abel (complete with crime scene); Noah and Abraham

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: We'll consider how we have or can develop: understanding, empathy, courage, and cooperation.

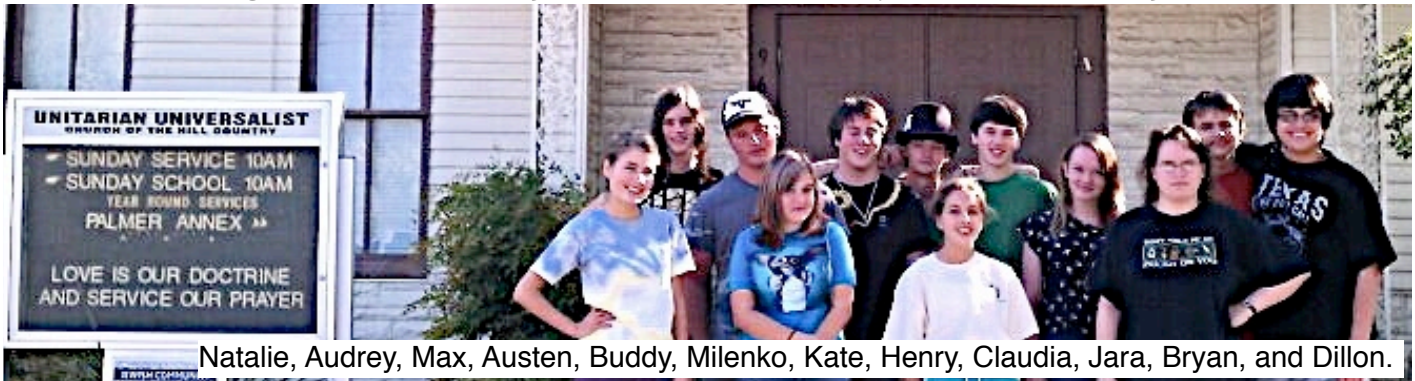
9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: In October our Senior High youth will explore: Indigenous Religions and Hinduism. They will also attend the Fall Rally in San Antonio.



## October's Big Event - Volunteers Needed

Join us for our annual **DIA DE HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA** on

Saturday, Oct. 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. Please contact the office if you can help plan the event.



Natalie, Audrey, Max, Austen, Buddy, Milenko, Kate, Henry, Claudia, Jara, Bryan, and Dillon.

## Youth Group Report

On Labor Day weekend, the YRUU group took a retreat down to U Bar U to kick off the upcoming year, where the food and conversation were equally tasty. We had a very productive weekend talking about the things we would be doing for the upcoming year; more service projects, more social events, and more fun.

Most of the retreat was purely hanging out (in the AC, of course) and getting to know each other. We played games and read some of the more obscure books on the bookshelves all within the comfort of the blanket fort we created. However, the only time we spent outside was to swim; we couldn't even complete our service project due to the ridiculous heat.

On our way back Sunday morning, we joined the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country in Kerrville for their water communion service and were greeted with open arms to learn about how incredibly different, yet similar UUs really are.

We talked a lot about the change in the next year and presented ideas that we're all excited about. Hopefully everyone learned a lot about each other and had fun doing so. We're totally pumped to show you the 2011-2012 YRUU group! *by Youth Group Historian, Austen.*

## Youth and Young Adult Ministry

In September we kicked off a new curriculum social justice curriculum for the middle school youth called "Heeding the Call." The youth worked on beginning to see themselves as social activists and they learned about our UU heritage of social justice movements. This month they will work to understand why social justice is important to our religious community, they will examine how empathy can help bring about the changes in themselves that they want to see in the world, and they will build the courage and community they need to make a real difference in the world.

September also saw changes to our high school youth program, including a change in the time and format of our YRUU youth group. The education component of our youth group this year is a world religions curriculum called "Building Bridges." Last month the high school youth learned about the importance of recognizing that all of the major world religions can bring a piece of the larger story into our personal theology. They also

learned about the history of our own faith tradition. In October they will begin branching out into the study of the major world religions, beginning with the indigenous religions of the world and then moving on to Hinduism. The goal of this curriculum is to give the youth tools to help them incorporate stories and ideas from the world's many faith traditions into their own personal faith and to foster their UU identity. During the weekend of October 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, the high school youth will also be attending our cluster's youth rally in San Antonio, where they will meet with other youth from around the state.

Overall I'm very excited about what this year – and especially the next few months – will bring. I hope you'll take the time to check in with the youth in our congregation and let them know how important they are to you and to the congregation as a whole.

*Andrew Young, Youth and Young Adult Programming Coordinator*

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin October 2011 NEWSLETTER

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

## **First Unitarian Universalist**

**Church of Austin**

**4700 Grover Avenue**

**Austin, TX 78756**

***One Church. Many Beliefs.***

**Minister:**

**Rev. Meg Barnhouse ext 304**

**Director of Finance and Operations**

**Sean Hale ext 308**

**Interim Director Lifespan Religious**

**Education:**

**Barbara Stoddard ext 306**

**Director of Music: Brent Baldwin ext 314**

**Board President: Chris Jimmerson**

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

Church Web: [austinuu.org](http://austinuu.org)



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

