

November Newsletter

Central Texas UU's Standing on the Side of Love!



Over fifty members of the Unitarian Universalist Churches of Central Texas took part in a march and rally for Marriage Equality Saturday, October 16. The event was coordinated by GetEQUAL Texas in honor of National Coming Out Day, October 11. Close to two hundred marchers made their voices heard as they sang and chanted their way through Austin's downtown city streets towards the state's capital. They followed a horse-drawn carriage, decked out in wedding finery, as it carried two same-sex couples ready to take their vows. The Rev. Meg Barnhouse, minister of The



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, conducted their marriage ceremony on the Capitol Steps upon their arrival. Approximately another twenty additional couples also came forward to be married at the same time. Rev. Barnhouse spoke positively of the future when she stated "This ceremony is not recognized by the state of Texas...yet!" The crowd cheered and applauded in solidarity for what was such a meaningful, memorable moment in the lives of these brave couples. One woman reported to Rev. Barnhouse, "Seeing the support of your faith community has renewed my own faith." Central Texas UUs are happy to be "Standing on the Side of Love!"



What Spiritual Practice Fits You?



In October I spoke in a sermon about my spiritual practice of gratitude. It's November, and people will be talking about gratitude, so here is one story from my experiences with this practice.

Let me explain something about me and spiritual practice. I do not excel at it. More action oriented than contemplative, there is nothing I do serenely day after day, glowing

from within, filled with light and peace. The practice of mindfulness, for example, makes me so irritable I have to quit after a minute or two. Washing dishes with my whole focus, breathing into the water, doing a careful job, emptying my mind of all other tasks than this one -- just. doing. this. one. thing. Arrrrkkk! My mind and body are happy doing five things at once. I have to find a practice that suits me. Gratitude is one thing that has been working out well so far.

I was on my way down from the mountains on Interstate 26 when, a mile before Saluda, my car's engine turned off. I was going downhill, and for some reason, my spiritual practice of gratitude kicked in.

"Thank you that I'm going downhill," I began, popping the clutch to jump the engine back to life. Nada. When the grade rose again, I coasted to a stop on the shoulder of the road. After trying to start the car two more times, I gave up, got out and, leaning against the trunk of the car, I stood facing traffic.

"Thank you that it's not too hot," I said, making my hand into the internationally recognized telephone symbol, my thumb and pinkie extended, holding it up by my ear.

"Thank you that so many people have car phones now."

"Thank you that I'm not in my pajamas."

I looked down and there was an orange and black butterfly sitting in some grass by the highway. "Thank you for the beauty of that butterfly. Look, there is another one! And another one! They must be migrating. Oh, that one's dead. Uh -- thank you that the other ones are alive."

After ten minutes of signaling to passing drivers to call in about me, I started walking to Saluda.

"Thank you that I'm not thirsty," I muttered, "thank you that I have shoes on me I can walk in. Thank you that it's only a mile to Saluda from here. Thank you that I don't have to go to the bathroom. Thank you that it's not raining. "After maybe four minutes, I saw a Highway Patrol car coming north, on the other side of the median. I waved to him, and he waved back. "Thank you that the officer saw me. Thank you that he's turning around." He pulled to a smooth stop beside me and motioned for me to get in.

"Thank you that it's so cool in this car," I continued silently in my head. I'm not nuts. "Thank you that I didn't have to walk to Saluda."

The patrolman told me the phone lines had lit up with calls about me. "Lotta people have cell phones these days." The nearest towing company was down in Columbus, he told me. It would probably take more than an hour for them to get free and come help me. He was willing to take me to the gas station in Saluda, where there was a pay phone I could use. He radioed the police dispatcher to get a phone number for the towing company. She gave it to him, and I had just enough time to write the number down as we swung into the gas station and jerked to a sudden stop. A huge black truck was barreling right at us, screeching to a dramatic stop, barely avoiding locking bumpers with the patrol car. It was the tow truck.

"Heard you ask for our number over the radio," the red headed man said, laughing, sliding out of the cab. "I'd heard the calls about her being broke down, and I was on my way down the road right north of here. Almost beat you. "

I'm the luckiest person I know. Or maybe I have hit upon a spiritual practice with instant results. Either way, I'll take it.

One way our congregation will grow is as its people grow. One way to grow is to choose a spiritual practice and follow it. If you used to have one, but it's gone by the wayside, pick it up again. Keep on picking it up again without berating yourself for not doing it daily. If one that works for everyone else does not work for you, choose another. Anything that increases your joy, love and peace over the years is a good one. We are aiming to grow into people who are kind even when we're tired. At least, I hope that's what is at the end of this road! Let's explore it together, shall we?

-Reverend Meg Barnhouse



Chris' Space:

Pre Congregational Meeting already!

It is hard to believe the holiday season is nearly upon us again! This also a busy one for the church. **On Sunday, November 13 at 1:30 p.m., we will hold a Pre-Congregational Meeting.**

What in the world is a Pre-Congregational Meeting? Well, twice per year, we hold meetings of the congregation to decide larger, "big picture" business of the church, such as reviewing and adopting a budget for the next year during a meeting in

December and electing members of our Board of Trustees each May. **This year, the actual Congregational Meeting in December will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 18.**

We hold Pre-Congregational meetings so that church members get the chance to review and discuss important topics ahead of time, but without the pressure of having to vote on them right then and there. This also gives leadership feedback on the agenda items, in case any changes are needed before the actual Congregational Meeting is held. Here are the requirements for voting found in our bylaws:

"Requirement for Voting: Individuals who have been members of the church for 30 days or more and who have (as an individual or part of a family unit) made a recorded financial contribution during the last 12 months and at least 30 days prior to the meeting, have the right to vote at all official church meetings." I hope you will join us for the Pre-Congregational meeting and I wish you a joyous season. *-Chris Jimmerson, President of the Board of Trustees*



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 October was People's Community Clinic. We collected **\$1,850.10!!** Our organization for November is North Central Caregivers (see more on page 10).

A Riddle...

Twenty-four seven	When folks are around,
I was hot, hot, hot,	My heat will abound,
But things have changed,	When I am alone,
Now I'm not, not, not.	I'll be cold as a stone.

Who am I?

If you guessed the hot water heater for the foyer bathroom, get a big high five from the Green Sanctuary Committee. Following a City of Austin Energy Audit, the foyer bathroom water heater is now on a timer and only heats up when we need it to. That's energy saved and subsequently money in our pocket that can be used for some other church function. Thanks to Sean for making the details come together and Dale and Pat Bulla for setting up the audit. In case you are wondering, the bathroom in the main hallway has no hot water to it; we'll just have to depend on Meg's fiery sermons to heat that water up!

From the Green Sanctuary Committee:

Green for your holidays?

The Green Sanctuary Committee is collecting ideas for ways to celebrate the holidays and save energy, water, recycle, and refresh our spirits all at once. If you have holiday traditions or ideas that accomplish these things that you would share with our committee, then we will share them with the congregation. These can be ideas around food, decorating, lighting, gift giving, reinventing traditions, or what have you. All ideas will be celebrated!

Email ideas Beki and Richard Halpin at green@austinuu.org



Sunday Worship

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



November 6: “There is a Crack in Everything. That’s How the Light Gets In.” with **Rev. Meg Barnhouse** We’ll hear Leonard Cohen’s song “Anthem” in this service about forgiveness. How do we forgive? Do we have to forgive and forget? Does it make us more vulnerable to be forgiving?

November 13: “Digging a Good, Deep Well” with **Rev. Meg Barnhouse** Conversation provides nourishment for our souls. Sometimes we can connect well on a Sunday morning or at a committee meeting or social gathering, but sometimes a deep and satisfying interaction needs a bit more structure. The Chalice Circles are one way to get that small group experience in a church. What is it like to be in one?

November 20: “The Devil and Martha Stewart” with **Rev. Meg Barnhouse** Holidays crank up the expectations for food, decorations, family time, and perfectionism rears its ugly head. How do we deal with not having the perfect life, the perfect home, the perfect job, with Aunt Millie asking us again when we’re going to be married..?

November 27: “A Simple Running Stitch” with **Nell Newton** Years ago the lamplight would shine on a woman's needle as she sewed a new dress or mended a worn sleeve. Now she might never know whose hands threaded up a needle and pulled together the pieces of cloth to make her clothes. Or, she might *be* the unseen hands who must make every seam perfect if she wants to be paid. In this season of thankfulness, we'll take time to reflect on missing buttons, three-cornered tears, safety pins, and sewing."

The Forum

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

November 6: “Investing in a Really Scary Economy” with **Scott Burns**, a nationally syndicated financial columnist and author, will discuss why investing today is so frightening and what we can do to reduce risk. He will draw heavily from his forthcoming book, coauthored with economist Laurence J. Kotlikoff, titled “Clash of Generations.” He ranks as one of the five most widely read personal finance writers in the country and is best known for creating “Couch Potato Portfolio” He is also the Cofounder and Chief Investment Strategist of the web based investment advisory firm, AssetBuilder.

November 13: “An Austin Town Hall Meeting” with **Mayor Lee Leffingwell** addressing issues of current economics, social issues, public safety, and future directions he hopes the city will take. Mayor Leffingwell is a native Austinite. He had fascinating careers: a retired U.S. Naval commander and a retired Delta Airlines pilot. With a broad base of experience, he ran for Mayor in 2009. The Mayor had one other job worth mentioning; he was the moderator of the First UU Public Affairs Forum several years ago.

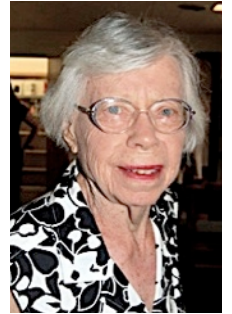
November 20: “Shaking Silos: Finding 'your voice'” with **Ms. Ora Houston** who was educated in segregated public schools in Austin, retired from the state of Texas and worked in the office of Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos. She is an active church and community volunteer and incoming chapter president of the Union of Black Episcopalians. She has testified before the state legislature, commissioners court and the city council. Her focus is giving 'voice' to people who are not invited to the table and protecting the rights of all who are forced to the margins of our community.

November 27: No Forum

The Forum has many dedicated volunteers- How about a round of applause!



Kitty Clark, who came to First UU around 50 years ago, met the Forum when she arrived. It was a new concept for her, but Kitty was fascinated by the idea, joined the committee and settled in to First UU (she or her husband were on the search committee for many ministers). Marge Loehlin started attending First UU in the 70's and soon became a member of the Forum group. Marge says, "We found people to speak on interesting and entertaining topics of a social and political nature." (as we still do) Kitty and Marge are still active members of the Forum Committee.



Cris Cunningham became Chair in 1989. Cris continued to serve as a Chair of the Forum Committee and helped maintain Forum's high quality programming until mid 2011! Many folks have been involved since the mid 1990's including Eric Hartman and Bonny Gardner.



Austin's current Mayor, Lee Leffingwell and his former wife, Mary Lou McClain, helped moderate Forum presentations from 2005 to 2007. From 2007 to 2009 David Kobierowski joined Cris Cunningham as Forum Co-Chair and helped publicize Forum more widely on radio as well as Public Access TV. In 2009 Leslie Currens and Bonny Gardner, the current Co-Chairs, joined Cris and remain as the current Co Chairs, with Cris stepping into a Chair Emeritus role.



There are many folks who have served. Two main players are Larry and Betty Korts. Larry ensures that Forum presentations go smoothly, and Betty has provided outstanding photos of Forum speakers. Betty is stepping down and Anne Gardner is now the photographer. Thanks also to Eric Hartman, Gary Bennett, Judy Sadegh, John Franks, Paul Sullivan, John Keohane and Michael Le Burkien for their work to preserve and enhance Forum programming.



Like so many other activities in our church, The Media Committee provides invaluable production services and technical support to the Forum continuously. The technical wizardry of Tom Martin and Becky Moon, and Phil Richardson, Jim Letchworth, Michael Bicknell and Kate Morter, as well as Steve Bett and Peter Roll and others, is greatly appreciated.



If you are interested in joining this Forum team, we welcome new members at any time. Anyone can make suggestions to us. The Forum is open to the entire Austin Community. For further information on the First UU Public Affairs Forum, contact Leslie Currens or Bonny Gardner at forum@austinuu.org

Path to Membership Class a Big Success!

We had a terrific 20 new and prospective members at the Path to Membership class. Participants were welcomed by Board President, Chris Jimmerson, shared spiritual backgrounds, then learned some great stuff from other church leaders, finishing up with words of wisdom from Rev. Meg Barnhouse. The result: a high percentage of prospective members who attended the class have since joined the church.

The next class will be held on Jan. 7th



Fall STEWARDSHIP Campaign Wrap Up Time



In October the Stewardship campaign settled into a routine of canvassing, working at the Gallery Table on Sundays, and hearing a different testimonial from a church volunteer leader each Sunday. The last of these will be on November 6, when Gary Bennett will speak. Thanks to all the people who have given these testimonies on how the church is important to them. We hope you have been inspired by their stories. And thanks to the canvassers and table workers who have spent so much time trying to contact people, surveying, and explaining how the pledge process works. Many good conversations have been held. Much has been learned.

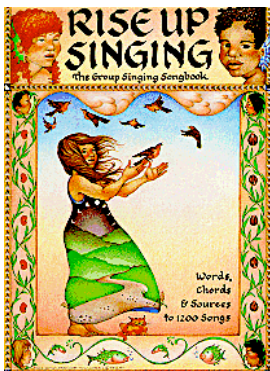
As of the last week in October, the Stewardship Committee began its wrap up operation, targeting those who have not yet pledged. Canvassers are still at work, taking pledges, using all means available. If you have not yet pledged, please call your canvasser or contact the pledge co-Chairs to make sure that your pledge is counted by November 6, the last day of the official campaign. In the alternative, visit the table in the Gallery, official last day November 6, to make your pledge. The Stewardship pledge table has sported a new sign and

banner, both green. Thanks to Ed Parken for providing these attention-getting items.

If you miss that last Sunday of the table, you can also call Jamie Schroeder at the church office with your pledge. If you have special information regarding your pledge by credit card or electronic checking account withdrawal, you may give such information to your canvasser or the Stewardship Co-Chairs and it will be treated confidentially. To all those who have pledged, (look in your order of service to see who those are) thank you, thank you, for the church survives on your generosity.

This month the final estimate of pledges will be made, based on what we have at November 6. The budget will be set based on the final estimate of pledges. The Board of Trustees will propose a budget to the congregation for vote at the December congregational meeting. Please do your part to make sure the church community has a budget sufficient to fulfill its mission to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.

Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs, Mary Jane Ford (512-926-4122) and Luther Elmore (512-288-7916) or email to Stewardship@austinuu.org.



This month's Singalong

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

The Fall Men's Retreat begins November 18th



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 midday or evening 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

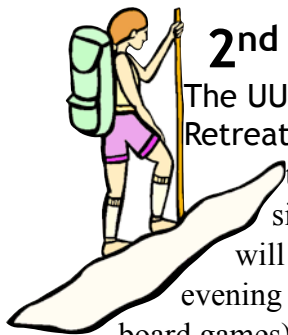
acres, and fellowship (not necessarily in that order). As anyone who has been there will tell you it's a pleasant, relaxing time to unwind and just get away for a couple of days. If you can't make it for two nights you are welcome for one. Sign up now and help make this a great retreat. Please send Ken Pfluger a note if you plan to attend along with a check for \$110 and include your church affiliation, if any. The address is 2408 Bridle Path, Austin 78703. For more information contact Ken or Brian Miller men@austinuu.org. Hope to see you there!

The UU Circle of Friends

2nd Annual Singles Retreat at U Bar U

The UU Circle of Friends has planned our second annual Singles Retreat for November 11 -13, 2011 at U-Bar-U near Kerrville. The over all theme for the weekend is "A Single Purpose." What a great chance to have fun, meet other singles and just plain relax with other single UU's from the surrounding area. There will be a weenie roast with s'mores along with music around the campfire on Friday evening (if we have enough rain before then). 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).



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
meditation@austinuu.org

Expanded Open Library Hours -

Your library is open longer hours now! On Sundays, the library hours are 10 am - 12:30 pm, Rm 6. During the week hours are 11 am - 1 pm, Mon-Fri. Are you thinking of donating some books? **Please**

contact us first, we have changed our policies.

Any Questions? Email us at Library@AustinUU.org.

You can see the online collection at www.AustinUU.org/library. Enjoy!





Brent Baldwin
Music Director

MUSIC MATTERS

Nourishing Souls and Transforming Lives Through Music

First UU's ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE



Starting this Fall, the First UU Music Program began a partnership with the Austin Chamber Music Center. ACMC will perform the main concerts for their 2011-2012 season at our church, with half-price



tickets available to First UU church members (just tell the people selling tickets at the door that you are a member of the church to take advantage of the discount). In addition, ACMC will be lending their world-class talents to a number of our services throughout the year.

"We are very excited to be partnering with the First Unitarian Universalist Church," says ACMC director Michelle Schumann. "It's reputation as a place for the musical arts makes it especially attractive,

and the sanctuary's superior acoustics make it a terrific place to play, whether it be for the UU services or for our own concerts."

Their next concert will be on November 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and will feature works for clarinet, cello and piano by Beethoven, Brahms and Glinka.



More information and concert dates may be found at the Austin Chamber Music Center website: www.austinchambermusic.org



I Hear the Ocean Dreaming:

Music from the island countries of Japan, Cuba and England
A Classical Guitar concert *benefiting First UU*
performed by Klondike Steadman and friends

When: Sunday, December 11 at 2 p.m.

Where: In the Sanctuary

How Much: Whatever the waters of your soul move you to contribute
Food and conversation to follow in Howson Hall.

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. No matter what your interest, there is something for you!

Nov 11-13: SWUUC Fall Training: "Evangelizing the South," Glen Rose, TX



New This Year: Kids' program for ages 6-13
EvoUUtion!! with field trips to Fossil Rim and Dinosaur Valley State Park. So register your children and choose your track!

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

How do we get to do this.....?

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 middle school youth wishing to attend EvoUUtion Camp, see <http://www.swuuc.org/> for the schedule, housing info, registration, maps, etc.



Feb 24-26, 2012: SWUUC Women's Conference "Exploring the UUniverse of Women's Spirituality"

with speaker **REV. MEG BARNHOUSE!** It is not too early for our First UU women and maidens 13 and older to plan to Relax, Rejuvenate and Reconnect at the Houston NASA Hilton! See more details at www.swuuc.org. We will post information about programming, housing and registration as it becomes available, but meanwhile, save the date and start planning your carpools!



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

Calling all First UU 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

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. -Karen Franks and Rob Feeney, Co-chairs, Denominational Affairs: denom@austinuu.org

To read about immigration justice issues:

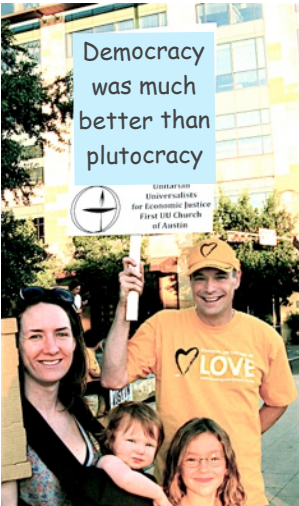
<http://www.uua.org/immigration/index.shtml>

To learn about General Assembly 2012:

<http://www.uua.org/ga/>

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

Social Action is Love in Action



UUs Occupy Austin!



Your fellow church members gave a strong showing of support this month at the Occupy Austin rally in front of City Hall. They joined the Occupy movement in decrying the wealth disparity that leaves millions struggling for economic security. Stop by the Social Action table in the Gallery on Sunday to learn how you can get involved in economic justice!

Special Offering for November: North Central Caregivers.

On November 13, North Central Caregivers will be the recipient of our special collection plate for the month.



**FAITH
IN ACTION
CAREGIVERS**
NORTH CENTRAL AUSTIN

First UU has been a member of the North Central Caregivers since its inception in 1989. We are part of an alliance of

congregations and volunteers which offers volunteer services to older adults.

Our goal is to enable older neighbors to remain in their homes. We provide transportation to medical appointments, friendly visitors, telephone contact persons, handymen and handywomen, errand runners, paperwork helpers (assisting clients with various forms), and office workers to schedule rides and services.

These services are provided by volunteers free of charge to clients, but are funded by contributions from individuals, sponsoring churches, private grants, and corporate donations. All donations are tax deductible.

North Central Caregivers is a good way to live our values whether you donate your time or your money. Please be a part of our reaching out in our community.

Tis Freeze
at First



Night Time
UU!

Help Us

Feed & Shelter the Homeless

Join us in doing justice by either bringing food donations or serving the homeless men we shelter at First UU on Tuesday nights when it's freezing outside. Whether you want to pick up items like bananas, eggs, milk or bread or prepare main dishes or sides like stews, soups or vegetables, we welcome your help. We also need volunteers to sign up for a time to set up and serve food, spend the evening here with our visitors or clean up after them in the morning.

Stop by the Social Action table in the gallery and sign up for a couple of Tuesdays you may be available as we provide a meal and shelter through the Winter season. We look forward to visiting with you in the gallery, or you may contact us at freezenight@austinuu.org.

See how easy it is to do justice and possibly transform your own life by being there for someone else. Peggy Morton, Freeze Night Coordinator, contact her: freezenight@austinuu.org

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Social Action at



NAMI Walk Biggest in Texas!

Thank you, Thank you, to all those who walked with and/or donated to the NAMI Walk team from First UU on October 8th. There was great representation from our church as well as the other UU Churches in Austin under the UU Uniques name. **Austin had the largest walk in Texas with more than 2500 walkers participating, and over \$213,000.00+ was raised so far.** This will go a long way toward erasing the stigma that is Mental Illness in our community. We are still accepting donations and will be for the next several weeks.



-Kathryn Govier and Donna Pauler, co-captains

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 **November 8th** in the workroom at PCC. Arrive **anytime after 9:30 am and leave when you need** -- we are always finished by noon. You don't need to participate each month, just as you can. There are usually around 4 to 8 of us and it is a nice opportunity to visit with each other. Please email Zosia Hunt at pcc@austinuu.org. This was our Special Offering group for October. We donated cash now let's donate some time to keep things moving smoothly for the people that Dr. Neavel spoke about when she presented the Clinic to us.



Shop for the Holidays at First UU first!

At our Fair Trade and Alternative Holiday Gift Market, **November 20th from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Once again we will provide an opportunity for early holiday shopping which will benefit others while providing you with unique, memorable gifts for your friends and family. We will have a variety of Fair Trade Goods available through Equal Exchange (coffee, tea and chocolate), UU Service Committee, Southern Alternatives Agricultural Cooperatives (pecans), True Vineyards Ministries (African Crafts) and more. We will also have Alternative Gifts available from Church World Service for those on your list who have everything they want or need. Making a gift in their name which will benefit someone less fortunate can be very meaningful.

Save the date. Bring cash or checks. Shop at First UU first.

November meet & eat

Hosted by:

**The Ushers and Greeters Committee &
The Green Sanctuary Committee.**

I believe there will be a gobbler present!. Please sign up in advance. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. The price is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Please RSVP for the meal by Monday November 14th by emailing eatmeet@austinuu.org, sign up on the bulletin board in the Gallery wall next to the library or the Visitors table in the foyer. Thanksgiving is right around the corner. We will share with others at our table what we are thankful for. Come and enjoy the community.

PARADOX



Subscription to the Season of 2012

You can still subscribe to our 2012 Stub Season! February opens *Searching for Eden*, written by Mark Twain and James Still. Adam and Eve meet in paradise, then return as a middle-aged couple several thousand years later. This romantic comedy is a fresh look at the question of how to make the magic last, and a testament to enduring love. Artistic Director Paullette MacDougal's *Sisters under the Skin* concludes the season in May/June - 150 years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Based on extensive research, this unusual drama features the stories of three women of Virginia during the Civil War – a slave-holding abolitionist, her slave who was a spy in the home of the President of the Confederacy, and the First Lady herself. As they divulge their complicated relationships, they reveal their influence on the history of our country. Season tickets can be purchased online at paradoxplayers.org.



Senior's Luncheon

Tuesday, November
8th (2nd Tues.)

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

**Program for Senior Lunch: The
Dirigibles- Mary Jane Ford, Edward
Sledge, Jim Barry, Jay Barnett
Eclectic folk music: Traditional,
original, and classical.**

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 Nov 9th at 7:30 pm under the oaks to the south of the sanctuary



OR we may be inside so check the webpage www.austinuu.org/yewgrove as the time approaches.

Reader's Theater

We meet Monday evening, November 14, at 7:30 in the Gallery. Join us for an evening of unrehearsed readings, no experience required. An easy way to enjoy participating in theatre without a stage. Newcomers welcome!



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin November 2011 NEWSLETTER

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



Journal for Your Soul: A Women's Workshop

The women of Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church invite the women of First Unitarian Universalist Church to a workshop/retreat at Live Oak UU Church on spiritual journaling, including making your own journal. The cost is \$10, which includes journal supplies, lunch, and child care. This workshop is open to all women High School age and up. Facilitators are Ann Miller, Audrey Jensen, and Linda Webster. Registration deadline and deadline for requesting child care is October 28.

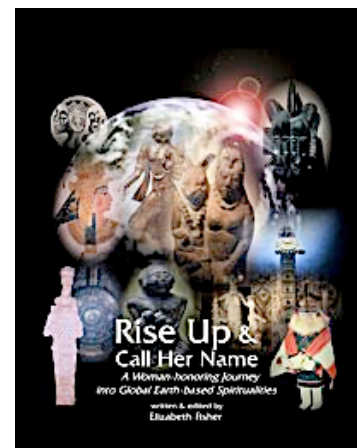
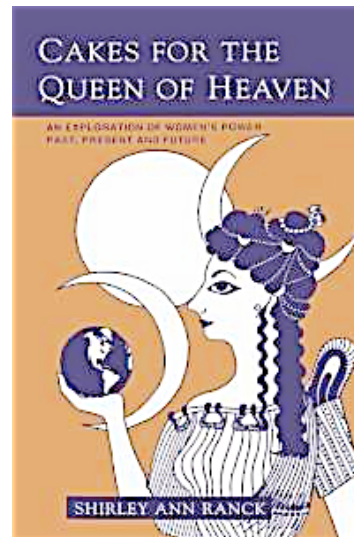
Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, 3315 El Salido Parkway, Cedar Park Nov. 4 (Friday night from 7-10 p.m.)- Nov. 5 (9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.), 2011 For more information and to register, contact Linda Webster, at women@austinuu.org.

Women's Spirituality Group

The Women's Spirituality Group meets on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month, from 10:30 a.m.-12 noon in Room 13B. Our upcoming schedule includes Samhain/Halloween ritual on Oct. 29 (working magic); Day of the Dead on Nov. 5 (remembering those who have died and bringing photos and/or mementos); Cerridwen (Celtic Goddess of the cauldron of transformation) on Nov. 19; Goddess to be decided on Dec. 3; and Winter Solstice Celebration on Dec. 17.

This group is for women high school age and older. We are open to new members at all times. Our interest in Goddesses has been nurtured by two Unitarian Universalist Women in Religion curricula: *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* and *Rise Up and Call Her Name*. We hope that you will join us in our circle.

For more information:
Linda Webster,
women@austinuu.org



November Sharing Suppers

Attending Sharing Suppers is one of the best ways to get to know lots of great newcomers and long-time UUs from all over Greater Austin. Sharing Suppers are casual, adult dinners, the 3rd Saturday of each month. Various participants sign up to host in their homes, and everyone contributes to the dinner. Sharing Suppers are open to anyone in the church, new or established, couples or singles, and you need not be a member to participate. Sign up for one dinner at a time; no long term commitment. Participants take turns hosting and planning the meal or helping as co-hosts in another's home. **For our November dinner (November 19th) we will offer two choices. One is having a very early dinner on a sailboat with Tom Bodine as the organizer and the other is our regular evening dinner at someone's home.** The sign-up sheet will reflect these choices. Please sign up at the membership table by Sunday, November 13th.





Lifespan Religious Education



Guest at Your Table - Begins Sunday, November 20, 2011

Guest at Your Table is an annual tradition in which congregation members take home a box featuring people that the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) has worked with recently. These people are your 'guests' and you are asked to share your blessings with them. As you give to your guests, you can learn about them by reading the *Stories of Hope* booklet found at http://www.uusc.org/files/2011-2012_Stories-of-Hope-Booklet.pdf

By celebrating Guest at Your Table in our congregation, you are helping nurture a spirit of gratitude and "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." Guest at Your Table fosters understanding and awareness of UUSC's human-rights work. You can go to the website of the Service Committee at uusc.org/givetoguest if you wish to donate on-line and to learn more about the Service Committee.

We will begin the program on Sunday, November 20 – so keep your eyes open for the Guest at Your Table boxes.



Caritas and The Middle School!!!!

Beginning in November, Our amazing middle school class will be organizing the collection of canned goods for Caritas. Before each service, you will see at least 2 youth (K – 12th grade) outside the doors to the sanctuary. You'll be able to hand them your canned good donation as you go into the service. This project is ongoing – so as you shop each week think Middle Schoolers, FUUCA and Canned Goods. Let's fill up our food chest every week.

Summary of October Meeting of The Board of Trustees

The board continued work to ensure clear and transparent governance as directed in Peter Steinke's Action Report and the resulting Action Plan: discuss education of new board members, maintain and increase existing board skills and knowledge; review new financial oversight limitations; and review language to define the church's moral owners. Using a sermon, definition, and member feedback on radical hospitality from the first two First UUCAFEs, the board discussed current statements about living our mission in this area. We agreed some rewording items are needed to better reflect the desires of our members. Proposed revisions will be presented in Nov. board meeting.

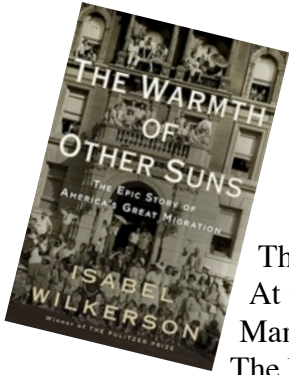
The board reviewed written procedures for board meetings: meeting preparation by members; rules for discussion, action, and information; and rules for monitoring reports.

Sean reported on the canvas to date and outlined two budget possibilities. One with church income similar to the current year and another with church income substantially above 2011 and possibilities for use of the increased income.

The board reviewed a proposed agenda for the fall congregational meeting. We revised it to include a review of governance changes, specifically how oversight included in the Financial Asset Management Plan is being incorporated in other governance documents in preparation for the second vote to dissolve the FAMP. John presented information on the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience, a lay-leader training. He included an outline of a typical day including the types of activities and work done. The board discussed its first reading of *Almost Church – Revitalized* by Michael Durall. We agreed we want FirstUU to be a public, not a private church, meaning we turn our primary concern away from the private sphere to reach out to create a more just and humane world.

Something New From Membership!

We have recently added one more visitor-friendly Sunday morning feature at First UU. Located near the coffee and bagel table in Howson Hall is a well marked Welcome Table, a friendly spot where visitors can gravitate to and feel comfortable. We hope to have at least one Membership Committee greeter there at all times but that won't always be possible, as we are spread pretty thin. We could really use your help in making sure this table always has church members nearby and all visitors are properly welcomed and engaged in conversation.



Books! and More!

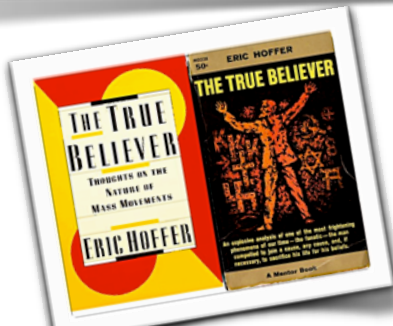
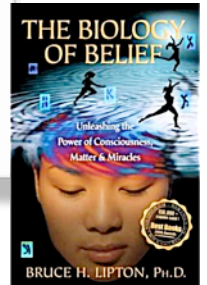
Heritage Book Club

The Next meeting of the Heritage book club will be on Veterans Day, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. At the home of Tom and Barbara Moran, 9504 Doliver Drive, 78748. This is in South Austin off Manchaca.

The book for discussion is "The Warmth of Other Suns" a Pulitzer prize story of America's great migration, written by Isabel Wilkerson. If you want to read ahead, December's book is "In the Garden of the Beasts" about an American family in Hitler's Germany by Erik Larson. Remember we start the meeting with a pot luck. Everyone is always welcome. For more information contact either Tom Clark or Sally Scott 453-2289

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. Our current book is The Biology of Belief.



Sunday Morning Book Group

Meets at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays in room 13B. Our next book will be Eric Hoffer's "The True Believer." Contact: Jim Burson: sundaybook@austinuu.org

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 November 12 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.

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin November 2011 NEWSLETTER

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

First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Austin

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One Church. Many Beliefs.

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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

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

