

December Newsletter

We Three Kings and Fourteen Schizophrenics



All I can say is you haven't lived until you've sung "We Three Kings" with fourteen paranoid schizophrenics on Christmas Eve.

At seven o'clock the Christmas Eve I was fifteen my father developed an urgent need to go caroling. He loved the *idea* of serving humanity, but the actuality of serving humanity was too time-consuming, too much trouble, and

too little applauded for any of us to have done much of it. Christmas is a time, though, when one's thoughts turn to helping others. You watch Dickens' "Christmas Carol" and "It's a Wonderful Life" and you feel moved to do something loving and giving.

My dad had not done any Christmas service to humanity yet, and since it was Christmas Eve, the deadline was fast approaching. We hadn't even bought

our tree yet, but my dad had an impulse to go caroling, and he wanted me and my thirteen year old sister to go caroling with him.

We wailed that it would be terminally embarrassing to go with him caroling around our neighborhood. The neighborhood, he informed us cheerfully, was not what he had in mind. He felt called to go caroling eight miles down the road -- at the Norristown State Mental Hospital.

If you have ever known a teenage girl, you know my sister and I had sulking, sighing, and rolling our eyes raised to an art form. My dad, though, was an artist himself: at growling, jollyng, guilting, and charismatic force of personality. By seven-thirty we were slumped in the back seat of the blue Olds. My twelve-string guitar was riding in the trunk. By seven forty-five we pulled up to the heavy wrought iron gates of the mental hospital. My dad had called ahead twenty minutes before and had spoken to someone in the office, **(continued on page**



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.



December Events



Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly Join us Friday, December 2nd from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for tree trimming, stories, singing, games, and crafts. We will rejoice in the many holidays that are part of this season. Hot chocolate will be served and you are invited to bring fruit or dessert to share. For more info please contact BarbaraStoddard at barbara@austinuu.org Please join us.

Marilyn Wilson Honored at North Central Austin Caregivers Christmas Choral Concert at St. Louis Catholic Church on Friday, December 2, 2011. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and goes until 9:00 p.m. Most of the 16 supporting congregations participate; with each of the 16 choirs performing a selection or two. The First UU Choir is always the highlight of the concert. A freewill collection is taken to raise important funds to help North Central Caregivers continue to provide free support for older adults. This is their largest fundraiser of the year, and they need our help to reach their goal. The Choral Concert is a great way to usher in the holidays.

The Annual Christmas Pageant and Holiday Meal

will be held on Wednesday, December 14th at 6 p.m. with the pageant to follow at approximately 7 p.m. Dinner will be served and hosted by the CYPC committee. There is a limit to the number of people we are able to feed, so please RSVP (plan to pay advance) AND bring your favorite holiday cookies to share. Please know that ALL are invited the pageant.

As it has become our tradition, the story of Jesus' birth will be narrated by our minister, Meg Barnhouse, and the story will be acted out by all who wish to participate. No rehearsals are required and costumes are provided at the time of the pageant. Additionally, the children's choir will provide a holiday music offering. Feel free to direct any questions to Gillian Redfean at pageant@austinuu.org

Winter Solstice Gathering

For decades now our church has enjoyed earth-centered Winter Solstice celebrations. This year the Winter Solstice gathering will begin at 6 p.m. in Howson Hall on Dec 18th. Music, caroling, sharing, good food, - come and enjoy a blend of contemplative and communal experience of this special time together. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck. This year we will be collecting items for SafePlace of Austin. Please donate HEB or Target gift cards. For their wish-list go to YewGrove@AustinUU.org.

Limited childcare will be available, please make reservation ASAP to confirm by emailing YewGrove@AustinUU.org before Dec 7th.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Saturday, December 24th,

We have two services where the stories of Christmas are told and carols are sung. This is a candle light service and is a peaceful place to be on this evening. Following the first service a tea will be served in Howson Hall. Please join us. The services will be held at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.





Sunday Worship

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

December 4: "A Juicy Slice of Unitarian History" with Rev. Meg Barnhouse. Why has Unitarianism always been such a shy denomination? Why do we define ourselves so easily with what we don't believe rather than what we do? What does Harvard have to do with our history? Who is William Ellery Channing? What is the Baltimore Sermon?

December 11: "Wisdom Tree" with Rev. Meg Barnhouse. The fourth in a sermon series on the seven UU Principles. We agree to affirm and promote "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Some say that a search for truth is to private a focus for a person of faith, that the search needs instead to be for justice. Some say you can't articulate the Truth anyway, and maybe there is no capital "T" Truth anyway.

December 18: "How to Disagree Passionately and Peacefully" with Rev. Meg Barnhouse. Conflict is part of a healthy system. We can't agree about everything all the time. How do we voice disagreement without being disrespectful or unkind? Just in time for our Congregational Meeting!

December 24: 5:30 and 7 p.m. Candlelight Service

Unitarian Universalist Lessons and Carols. The Christmas story as told in Luke, interspersed with carols and poetry. We'll end with candlelight, singing "Silent Night."

December 25: One Service at 10:30 a.m. Barbara Stoddard, Interim Director of Lifespan Religious Education, will help us celebrate this day of peace, joy and life. We will gather around the fireplace in Howson Hall. Barbara will share some of her favorite carols and stories and hopes that you will share some of your favorite poems, songs and stories. All ages are welcome to join on this special morning. There will be no childcare but we will have mistletoe and egg nog. "Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat, please put a penny in the old man's hat"



The Forum

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

December 4: Bob Rose, LCRA, "The Drought of 2011; The Worst May Still be Ahead". A review of the drought of this year and just how extreme the conditions were. The unprecedented heat and lack of rain produced some of the most extreme drought conditions ever observed across Texas. But the drought isn't over yet and could last well into next year. With water supplies at near record lows, continued drought will produce numerous challenges to everyone in Texas and will likely have a huge effect on our current lifestyle.

December 11: Arnold Garcia, Editorial Page Editor of the Austin American Statesman, "Self Interest and Altruism in the Newspaper Business" Arnold Garcia will discuss the work of an editor and an inside perspective on the newspaper business in an era of changing concepts of news and news media. Arnold Garcia has served as the Editorial Page Editor of the Austin American Statesman since 1991.

December 18: Rosemary Lehmborg, Travis County District Attorney, "The Innocence Project and Post-Conviction DNA Testing" discusses her work with the Innocence Project and post-conviction DNA testing. She will cover three cases of exoneration occurring twelve years ago and current efforts to prevent erroneous convictions. She will also provide an overview of the role and responsibilities of the District Attorney's Office.

December 25: no forum this week.



Installation of Our Minister

On Sunday January 15, at 4 p.m.

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin will host one of our most “high church” ceremonies.

Ministers come from all around the area in their most formal garb, processing in together to begin the service. Dignitaries from the District and from the town are invited to speak. It is our distinct honor to have Rev. Peter Morales, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, presenting the sermon. Andrea Lerner, a former Director of Religious Education at First Austin, will speak as well. The music will be gorgeous. A reception with a live band and dancing will follow. Please plan to attend if you can. If you will be using the childcare, please call to let Barbara Stoddard know. 452-6168.

We Three Kings and Fourteen Schizophrenics (continued from page 1)

4)but whoever that was had not told the guards at the gate. At first they looked at us with suspicion, but my father was famous in Philadelphia at that time since he was on the 6 and 11 o'clock TV news. They had seen his face before. In a brief five minutes they had been charmed into

believing we weren't there to break out an insane serial killer, so they let us in and gave us directions to the building where they thought we might want to sing.

The staff people in that building were surprised to see us too, but they were kind, and with good grace they began directing patients to the lobby where we three carolers stood. The staff set up chairs while we waited. I was completely and totally humiliated. I let my hair hang in front of my face and pretended to be invisible. My little sister copied me, naturally.

The patients started shuffling in, holding their heads at a too-far-back angle I now know indicated heavy doses of Thorazine. In their dishwater gray hospital gowns it was hard to tell anyone's age. Everybody looked old, even the young ones. They shuffled to their chairs. My dad motioned for me to get out my guitar.

We started with “The First Noel” and “Hark the Herald

Angels Sing.” A woman wearing bright red lipstick, not only on her lips, but up along her cheekbones and in a circle on her chin, slapped her legs and sang loudly in time with the music. You'd be stretching it, really, to call it singing. Her voice sounded like something between a crow and a warning siren, and she didn't bother with words. She especially liked “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.” We started smiling at each other. Her enjoyment became a blaze that caught in the rest of us. One by one each of the patients joined us in singing. It was during “We Three Kings” that I forgot to act cool. We were having Christmas, and the whole dark place, just for a moment, was lit with joy.

I know this place will be lit with joy during this season of the celebration of light in the darkness of winter. I'm looking forward to the Christmas Pageant on the 15th. I'm looking forward to the Christmas Eve services. May many of you gather on Christmas morning as Barbara Stoddard creates a warm and memorable service.

May all of us find a way during this season to give and receive gifts of time and attention, listening, affirmation and love. May there be times when we remember those among us for whom the holidays are a hard time. May we allow them their sorrow without demanding that they cheer up, and may we all have some times so good that we forget to act cool. *-Rev. Meg Barnhouse*

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 November was North Central Caregivers. We collected \$1,895.67!! Our organization for December is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, UUSC** (see more on page 7).

Last February, First UU launched a pilot for its small group ministry program.

Interested

participants attended a training session and three groups emerged from that training. They met throughout the year honing their skills as facilitators, deepening their spiritual life and building strong bonds within their groups. Here's what has been expressed about their experience over the past nine months:

- The listening I have experienced from my group members has touched me deeply.
- This group has helped me in understanding what spirituality is all about.
- When I see one of my group members at church functions, I feel a special connection to them and, as a result, to the church itself.

Small Group Ministry is defined as intentional lay-led small groups that deepen and expand the ministry of a congregation. The purpose of this program is to help build community, provide opportunities for deeper relationships, deeper spiritual exploration and search for meaning. Groups are from 6 to 8 people meeting regularly to discuss a variety of topics. You do not have to be a member of the church to join a group, but you have to be participating in other church functions in order to fulfill the mission of expanding the ministry of the congregation. That could mean attending services on a regular basis or participating in one of the covenant groups or religious education programs. Your connection to the church must extend outside of the Chalice Circles.

Throughout December, anyone interested in participating in a Chalice Circle can sign up to join a group. Groups will be formed around the different days and times that members are available to meet. Meetings begin in January and continue through May. There will be two terms consisting of 10 sessions each during the year - one in the Winter/Spring and one in the Fall. The groups will reform for every session: new members, members move to a different group, or drop out of the program.



Participating in Chalice Circles requires a commitment on the participants' part. You covenant with the program to attend regularly

and participate in a service project during the 10 session term. Each group will also develop its own covenant that will guide their inter-actions with one another and the larger church community. There will be policies, guidelines and a meeting format for members and groups to follow. One policy is that couples be in different groups. This is recommended by small group ministry experts for good reasons. We will do everything in our power to accommodate couples whose schedules make it necessary to meet at the same time.

There will be someone available to answer questions and sign up new participants in the Gallery after services each Sunday through December. You can also contact Lisa Carrell at ChaliceCircles@austinuu.org or [512-231-1048](tel:512-231-1048) for more information.

The Presence Group

Special Event: "Awakening into the New Year: Ending Needless Suffering Using 'The Work' of Byron Katie." held at Casa de Luz in the Cielo Room South at 1701 Toomey Road, Austin, TX 78704 on 1/12/12 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.. The evening will include a Byron Katie video,



Byron Katie

discussion Katie's wisdom, and a chance to experience the freedom that using her 4 question method offers to dismantle our troubling thoughts. The facilitator of the group is [Amanda Winters](http://www.thework.com), LCSW. More info at www.thework.com. Watch videos of Katie doing The Work at www.youtube.com

For the remainder of January, our group will meet at First UU every Thursday, in Room 13 at 7:00 p.m. 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 for more information about our group, and more about Byron Katie and the meeting, see <http://www.meetup.com/AustinPresence>, where you can join our mailing list to be informed of upcoming meetings, as well.

Giving Thanks

Imagine attending a church service where there were no ushers or greeters to prepare the sanctuary, greet everyone as they pass out orders of service, pass the collection plate, and make everything run smoothly. Without this team of ushers and greeters, there would be Sunday chaos.



Kitty

Kitty Traylor keeps this well oiled machine running. It's a huge job that is sometimes taken for granted. Kitty started volunteering as an Usher/Greeter in September 2004. In 2006 she became the team leader and also joined the Membership Committee. In June 2008, she took over from Joyce Wilson, and became the Usher/Greeter Coordinator. She is still serving as the coordinator as well as the team leader for the second service, and Joyce is still serving as a team leader and is the Usher/Greeter Support. During this season of giving thanks, the next time you see Kitty or Joyce give them a well deserved hug and thank you for all the work they have done and continue to do. First UU simply wouldn't be the same without them.



Joyce

Welcome to You All! Glad to Have You with Us!

We have recently welcomed an outstanding group of new members. They all gathered for a potluck dinner on November 12th and got to know each other better and this was followed by a ceremony during the services on November 13th. When you see a person going by with a blue dot on their name tag, say hi and introduce yourself and welcome them to our community.



The Final Harvest

It's December and the fall campaign is over. We hope that our efforts to have a conversation about the church and money have helped to build awareness of our responsibility to support the church financially, to give generously as we are able. For the future we would like to see the Stewardship Campaign as a big event, to come together and talk, update, and accomplish many things other than just the pledges. Help us build a new way.

Our canvassers have worked hard and the canvass has been successful. Thanks to all of them: Tyler Anderson, Gary Bennett, Susan Bethke, Tom Bodine, Elizabeth DeLeon, George Denny, Bill Edwards, Luther Elmore, Mary Jane Ford, Charles Galloway, Stephanie Canada Gill, Douglas Ginn, Vince Harrison, Joseph Hunt, John Keohane, Wendy Kuo, Mike LeBurkien, Cyndi Loudon, Maria Nehring, Ken Pfluger, Sylvia

Pope, Rose Ann Reeser, Caroline Reynolds, Maria Salas, Sally Scott, Brendan Sterne, Valerie Sterne, Melanie Walter-Mahoney, Pat Walters, Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis, Daesene Willmann, and Dan Wilson.

If anyone reading this has not yet pledged, contact us at: Stewardship@austinuu.org, stop by the church office and pick up a pledge form or phone the office bookkeeper to give your pledge.

As of the middle of November, we have received regular pledges from 282 families totaling \$492,447. In addition, we have bridge pledges carrying over from last year totaling \$35,500, matching pool pledges of \$9,200, and employer matching money (other contributions) promised in the amount of \$12,350. All this brings the pledged income up to \$549,497. 39 families have not pledged or expressed their intentions. Of these we are expecting to receive \$15,299 by the end of December. That would give us \$564,796 in total pledges and related contributions. This is better than last year and enough to prepare a budget. We will be voting on it at the Congregational meeting, Dec. 18. We hope to see you there.

-Mary Jane Ford & Luther Elmore, Co-Chairs

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!



Beyond Belief: Reflections from the UUA President

Rev. Peter Morales, our UUA President started his new blog October 25 with:

Dear friends,

It is with genuine excitement that I introduce to you my new blog, Beyond Belief. I look forward to using this forum to reach out to readers in a format that is less formal than a sermon or [UU World](#) column, yet deeper and more flexible than I would post on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#). My hope is that this blog also will provide an opportunity to connect with those of

you who would like to know more about [Unitarian Universalism](#), especially the [public witness](#) work that is a vital aspect of our faith. If you would like to follow Rev. Morales's blog, go to <http://president.blogs.uua.org/> To view the UUA Statement on Faithful Budget and Occupy Protests, see <http://www.uua.org/news/pressroom/pressreleases/189621.shtml>.



Southwest UU Women's Conference:

February 24-26,

2012: More updates every month! Along with **Rev. Meg**

Barnhouse as keynote speaker at the SWUU Women's Conference, **Kiya Heartwood** will be guest musician! Come on, First UU ladies and maidens (13 and older). Let's all get together at the Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake, TX, to relax, rejuvenate and reconnect while together we "Explore the UUniverse of Women's Spirituality."

The conference schedule is now posted at: <http://www.swuuw.org/news/latest/66-swuuwcon-2012-info> Online registration will be available on **Dec 15**, 2011 at www.swuuw.org. Early registration ends on Jan 15 (\$165), and regular registration ends on Feb 15 (\$185). Hilton room registration is separate and is \$80 per night (one king or two double beds per room). A block of rooms has been reserved. This special room rate will be available until Jan 30 or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first. Don't delay!



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

The 2012 General Assembly Preliminary Schedule (subject to change) is now online at: <http://www.uua.org/ga/programming/14599.shtml> and posted on the Denominational Affairs bulletin board It has

been announced that the 2012 Ware Lecture will be delivered by Mexican American broadcast journalist, Maria Hinojosa!

"General Assembly (GA) 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations."

"Many familiar elements remain. There will be an Opening Celebration, a Banner Parade, Service of the Living Tradition, Ware Lecture, and Closing Celebration, complete with the GA Choir." (From *UU World*, Winter 2011, p. 45.). While the focus of GA 2012 will be social justice, the learning will be about immigration, racism, and economic justice. If you would like to participate in this inspirational and educational denominational event, enter the date on your calendar now!

Registration information is at: <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/index> and on the Denominational Affairs bulletin board. you can find general housing information now at: <http://www.uua.org/ga/housing/index.shtml> Early registration is from March 1 to April 30, 2012. The General Assembly (GA) Housing Reservation System opens on March 1, 2012.

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

Social Action is Love in Action



Mid-day group picture with the Thompsons

Hands on Housing: Great Success!

Our all-UU team did an incredible job at the fall Hands On Housing (HOH) workday on Saturday, October 22nd. Three shifts of UU volunteers worked tirelessly from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.! We had 50 adults, 3 teens, 9 children, and one baby! The homeowners, the Thompsons, were delighted with the results and appreciated all the volunteers' hard work and friendly camaraderie.

Before lunch, San Marcos UU's Brian Ferguson led us in remembering how much we benefit from our joint social action projects and how social justice is central to our UU faith tradition. Live Oak's John Phelps gave us the supreme compliment: If we all left at mid-afternoon, this project would still be the best

job and the highest quality of work that our all-UU Hands On Housing team has ever done.

Thanks so much to all 36 First UU volunteers: Natalie Freeburg (shift lead) & Isla Ferguson; Phil LaRoche & Michael West (who constructed the front porch rail); Joe Linsalata (who made a donation to HOH); Eugene Balaguer & Elizabeth Gray; Beverly Donoghue; Melinda Barker, Rick Lewis, & Danse Lewis; Bob Boney; Mia & Alex Burton; Ray & Michael Easterlin; Eric Hartman; Karen & Steve Herbert & their 2 kids; Liz & Wayne Kesterson; Sandra King; Peter Langlois; Tierney Lorenz; Lashanna Martin; Emily Nowicki; Lindsay Orlando; Donna Squillace; Johnny Sullivan; Kitty Traylor; and Corinna, Dale, and Bridget Whittaker-Lewis. There were 14 volunteers from Live Oak, 10 from Wildflower, and 3 from San Marcos UU churches.



Tierney Arnold



Phil LaRoche and Michael West



Lashanna Martin

Guest at Your Table Who are your guests?

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



Chrisantus is the director of the SoilFarm Multi-Culture Group (SFMG), a UUSC partner in Kenya. Chrisantus works to empower his local community

while being mindful of their larger impact. UUSC is proud to partner with someone who upholds and respects the interdependent web of existence.

Dalia is a youth leader and human-rights activist in Egypt. She is shattering barriers to empower a generation of Egyptians who are experiencing democracy for the first time.

Inspired by Martin Luther King Jr., Dalia worked with UUSC to translate a comic book about the Montgomery bus boycott into Arabic and train youth activists in nonviolent protest.



In Haiti, UUSC is working with partners to protect unaccompanied children.

This is Lionel, of the Oasis Institute. He has helped build an innovative camp to house and protect unaccompanied children. Home to 40 girls, Camp Oasis provides more than just a roof over their heads.

But...What if I don't have a box?.

If you did not get a box to place on your table to put your coins in or bills or checks...PLEASE do not let that stand in your way. How about a bowl on the table for your guests or a jar or a can or an envelope....let your imagination go wild...It is not about the box it is about sharing with the Guests at Your Table from now until the end of December! **Page 9 of 12**



December Special Offering

The UU Service Committee will be the recipient of our special collection plate for December. This comes at a time when many of you are already involved in another fund raiser for UUSC projects, Guest At Your Table. You also may have advanced the work of UUSC by purchasing holiday cards; coffee, tea or chocolate from Equal Exchange; or pecans and candy from Southern Alternatives Cooperative in November. UUSC is an independent membership-based human-rights organization and receives no funding from any government or from the UUA. It depends on its individual members and member congregations for funding its many projects. UUSC works with local partners throughout the world to provide basic resources for the most vulnerable people during natural and humanitarian crises.

December 10 is the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and UUSC is again focusing on the elimination of torture by our government. You can add your voice to thousands by signing a petition calling on President Obama to sign and the Senate to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture which requires a nation to set up mechanisms to assure that torture will never occur anyplace in that nation. Petitions will be available for signing at the Social Action Table in the gallery on Sundays in December.

For more information on the many programs and projects of UUSC or to become an individual member, go to <http://www.uusc.org>. UUSC provides opportunities for you to allocate your humanitarian and human-rights donations to an organization that applies UU values to its work.

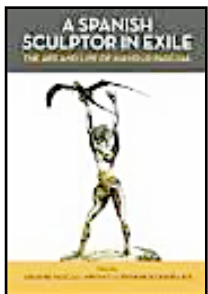
Chris' Corner



It is truly a season to celebrate at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. I would like to especially welcome our members who have recently joined and our guests that have been visiting with us regularly. We are so glad you have found community and spiritual engagement here this holiday season.

This season, our church feels “filled to the rafters” with so much going on – beautiful and busy Sunday services; a vital, thriving Public Forum; a growing number of Chalice Circle groups; exciting religious education programs; new path to membership activities; wonderful, dedicated church members who are here all of the time making sure our building and grounds are kept in great shape; terrific fellowship activities; and energetic social action projects. And these are just a few of the wonderful ways we are gathering in community to nourish souls, transform lives and do justice!

We also have our Congregational Meeting in December, which will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 18. We will be voting on the budget for 2012 and a change in our decision-making rules that will allow us to more freely live our mission and hold ourselves accountable. It is a busy but beautiful time in our community. - *Chris Jimmerson, Board President*



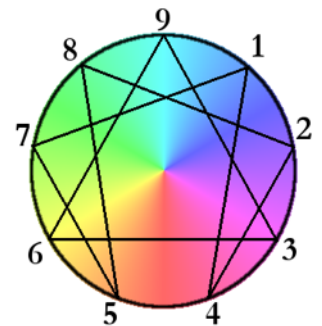
BOOK SIGNING ON DECEMBER 11 at our Bookstore!

Ari Wright will be signing copies of [A Spanish Sculptor in Exile](#) at our bookstore in the Gallery at 10:00 to 10:30 and 11:30 to 12:00. It is her professionally designed book about her artist father, Manolo Pascual, who retired in Austin. After his death in the 1980's, his work was on exhibit in our Gallery. This new book about his art and life can be seen and purchased (\$19.00) at our bookstore. It is also on Amazon, where you can read five reviews.

Five year old Ari and her father, a Captain at the front, were both exiles from the Spanish Civil War, but as a child refugee she was sent with other Spanish children to live in the Soviet Union. Her life memories are included in the book, following a dramatic sampling of Pascual's life and his sculptures, classic and modern. Ariadne's co-editor is an artist in the Dominican Republic, where Pascual was co-founder and the first Director of the National School of Fine Arts before he went to New York for three decades of

Upcoming Enneagram Class

The Enneagram might be the perfect tool if you're interested in transforming your spirituality and acquiring self-knowledge. In January, Roland Reese will be offering an Adult Religious Education class about using the Enneagram to understand how our personality type affects our attitudes and sense of self, motivations, reactions, defense mechanisms, and spiritual potentials. Roland Reese holds a graduate degree in human communication. He describes the enneagram as the “roadmap to the human psyche” and states there is nothing here for you to believe, that the system proves itself. He also calls it the short cut to depth self-knowledge. This will be a basic introduction to the Enneagram as a tool for growth. Participants will explore the different types and identify their own type. Eventually smaller groups will be formed for further discovery. The class will meet at the church during a weekday evening. Details will be publicized as they are determined. The Enneagram model involves nine basic personality types, as shown in the image.



Theatre Magic Can Include You!

PARADOX



PLAYERS

Ever wonder how a blank stage gets transformed into a small town bus station, a family living room or a 1920's salon? Ever want to exercise that creative spirit you know you have inside you? Eager to get to know a group of fun people? Designing and building sets might be the answer to your desires! The magic of creating sets is an alchemy of imagination, Styrofoam, paint and power tools mixed with a generous portion of inventive Paradox Players volunteers! The 2011 season of plays took place in all three of the locales mentioned above, designed by Bob and Susan Bethke. The February production *Searching for Eden* will feature an outdoor space, requiring both designers and builders. We welcome anyone with a trace of imagination – with or without carpentry skills – to join our talented team who will be building this unique set on Saturdays in January. Just email us at info@paradoxplayers.org for more information on how to participate. Bob and Susan welcome newcomers!

Yew Grove will hold it's next Meet 'n'Greet on Fri, Dec 9th at Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W Anderson Ln. If you're-interested in Earth-centered spirituality, or just want to chit chat, come and join us!

YewGrove@AustinUU.org



Library Tax Deductions!

When you are thinking about tax deductions at the end of the year, please think about donating books for your library. We also accept gift cards for Half Price Books. In order to allow the committee sufficient time to process any donations, we currently request that you only donate 5 books at a time, our Collection Development Policy can be



found on the website or email Library@austinuu.org and you will be sent the specific link plus a list of our "Most Wanted" book subject topics



Senior's Luncheon

Tuesday, December 13th (2nd Tues.)

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

Program for Senior Lunch:

Our own Dan Wilson will be playing with the lively New Austin Polka Band getting us in the holiday spirit..



Reader's Theater

We meet Monday evening, December 12, at 7:30 in the Gallery to enjoy the magic of reading aloud without prior rehearsing! We'll read a combination of new plays and some old favorites. Newcomers welcome, no experience expected.



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 all. No registration is required. by meditation one session or is required.

WHEN: Mondays 6:30-7:30 p.m,

WHERE: Room 11

**CONTACT: Michael Kersey
meditation@austinuu.org**

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin December 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

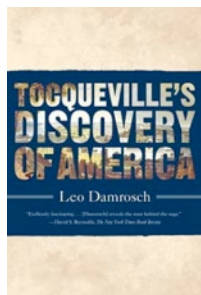
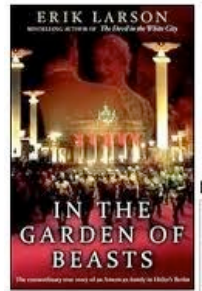
Church Web: austinuu.org

Photos are by Jane Parsons & Margaret Roberts



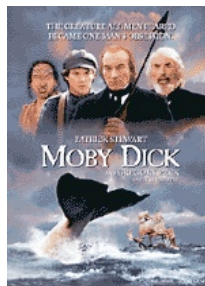
Heritage Book Club

The next meeting of the Heritage Club will be held on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the home of Eleanor Morris, 4814 Hale Drive 78749 (south Austin) The book under discussion is "In the Garden of the Beasts" by Eric Larson. This is our Christmas Party so bring a wrapped book to share as well as your favorite food. For those who want to read ahead the January book is a church suggestion, "Death of Josseline" by Margarate Reagan...these are immigration stories from Arizona. Beacon Press Book. For more information contact 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. We are beginning "Tocqueville's Discovery of America" by Leo Damrosch.



Sunday Morning Book Group

Meets at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays in room 13B. The group took a brief Thanksgiving break. We are back December 4th discussion Melville's "Moby Dick." By all means feel free to join us. Some of us have been meeting in this group for more than 15 years! 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.