

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



***Many thanks to all of you who helped in
big and small ways to make the service
of Installation wonderful.***

To Peter Morales for agreeing to lend us his august and inspiring presence,

To Andrea Lerner, for bringing her computer, her knitting and her insight to Austin,

To Laurel Amabile, for coming to remind us of our generosity,

To Jennifer Nichols, for connecting us to the District.

Thank you to Susan, for being presidential early and letting Chris Jimmerson stay at Meadville for his classes.

Thanks to my colleagues Bret Lortie, Kathleen Ellis, Eliza Galaher, Daniel O'Connell, and Brian Ferguson for being part of this service.

My deep appreciation to Brent Baldwin and the choir, for giving me the joyous gift of hearing Kiya's composition.

Thank you, Bryan Uecker, for your music and panache.

To the Search Committee: Sharon Moore, Michael Kersey, Jill Smith, Maria Nehring, Dale Whiteaker-Lewis, Jill Wiggins, Gary Bennett, Lynda West, and John Franks. I'm glad we found each other.

Thanks to Sharon too, and to Michael West for handling the logistics for Saturday night.

Thank you Sally Scott and the Fellowship Ministry for the good food, and to the Gabacha-chas, for the festive dance music.

Thanks to my Transition Team, a multitude who support and advise me, to Sean, Barbara, Natalie, Alan, Jamie, Kami, Mary, Linda, Ash and Ann, who helped when I needed it, and most of all thank you to my partner Kiya Heartwood, who painted the invitation, wrote the music, and sang the charge to the minister.

If you are one of the 49+ new members of First UU who joined in the last few months or are a visitor or an old-timer, this issue of the newsletter is for you!

Whenever you see this symbol  on the page... check it out!

It may be a just what you are looking for. Consider this your special invitation to get involved as much or as little as suits your fancy! Glad to have you on board. -Linda Taylor, Editor First UU of Austin Newsletter.



Sunday Worship

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

February 5: "Everybody's Got A Hungry Heart" by Rev. Meg Barnhouse. In the Christian scriptures is a story about Rabbi Jesus doing a miracle where 5,000 hungry people were fed. It began with a boy offering to share what he had. What kind of miracle was it? What is its message for us?

February 12: "The Man Who Ate a Car" by Rev. Meg Barnhouse. Our fifth Principle talks about liberty and justice for all, with a goal of world community. How are we supposed to get this done? Roy Zimmerman will be providing the special music for both services.(see page 9)

February 19: "She Stirs Up the World" by Rev. Meg Barnhouse. Susan B. Anthony was a Unitarian during the days of fighting for abolition and women's suffrage. She was fierce and complicated, and her life is an inspiration.

February 26: "A Prophetic Liberal Religion?" Chris Jimmerson, President of the Board of Trustees. Both the Unitarians and the Universalists have a long history of prophetic ministry – speaking truth in the public square and, perhaps more importantly, taking action on social issues. From Michael Servetus espousing an early Unitarianism in the 16th century through the Prophetic Sisterhood of the late 19th and early 20th century, to the Unitarian Universalists (UUs) publishing the Pentagon Papers in the mid-20th century, UUs, though not always unified, have a long tradition of being at the forefront of social change and carrying our values into the world. Will we continue that tradition into the 21st Century and beyond?



We are funding our social outreach a little bit differently this year. The congregation still nominated organizations and voted on a full roster of organizations to support with our second Sunday second offerings. Each month's offering, though, will now go into one social justice fund which will be divided among the organizations at the end of the year.

There are several reasons for this. One is that we did not want an organization penalized if there was a race, a town-wide event, bad weather, or low attendance for some other reason. It seemed fairer to have one fund and split it evenly. Once in a while we will have the CEO of an organization speak, but usually we like to have the congregation member who nominated the organization speak in the service. Some will be more skilled and

moving speakers than others, even though the organizations are all doing great work. We wanted the offering not to be so closely tied to whether the speaker was able to move us as we listened. We have also decided to put ten percent of all bequests into our social justice fund in hopes of building a significant outreach into our budget every year. All of this is in service of the mission of this church.

Even though this new way of doing things had been published to the congregation, it was not made sufficiently clear as we took our January second offering. If you donated, thinking that your money would not go into the justice fund but would go directly to iAct, we will be happy to take your donation out of the fund and send it directly to iAct. Just let me know. Meg@austinuu.org.
by Rev. Meg Barnhouse

The Remaining organization to receive the Special Offering in 2012 are:

Peoples Community Clinic, SafePlace, North Central Caregivers, Front Steps/ARCH, Hands on Housing, Austin Groups for the Elderly, Austin Child Guidance Center, UUSC



The Forum

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

February 5: Electric Transportation and the Clean Energy Utility: Challenges and Opportunities with **Karl R. Rábago, Vice President for Distributed Energy Services with Austin Energy.** He sees the melding of the electric service industry with electric personal transportation and mobility solutions. He will discuss strategies for accelerating electric transportation and clean energy resource deployment including the impact of electric vehicle charging on the grid and how this can be an opportunity to usher in the utility of the future.

February 12: No Forum Valentines Day

February 19: "The Rag Lives!" Thorne Webb Dryer, Editor of Rag Blog and Alice Embree Writer to the Rag Blog will discuss the role The Rag played in shaping leftist politics in the sixties and seventies. The Rag was known for its unique blend of leftist politics, its advancement of free speech, promotion of civil rights, recognition of women's issues, and opposition to war, all tempered by humor. It was the rallying point of Austin counterculture and a launching pad for a number of well known Austin writers, artists, and photographers. Clips from documentaries of Rag years and the student movements of the sixties and seventies in Austin will be shown.

February 26: Austin Community College, Southeast Campus with Lupe Sosa, Board Member, Austin Community College. She emigrated from Mexico to San Antonio at the age of 13. Her mother was a domestic worker supporting and educating her 4 children. Lupe learned English while attending school and helping to care for younger siblings. Marrying early she began her career with the state of Texas in clerical jobs before earning a college degree and working as an accountant, an auditor, and a manager with the state. As a citizen, she built support for the South Austin campus of ACC. Now on the ACC board, she supports a Southeast campus, as well.

The Director of Religious Education Advisory Search Committee



I have asked Geri Neemidge, Ryland Trahan, Cyndi Stein and Dwayne Windham to serve on the DRE advisory search committee, and they have agreed to that service to the church. This is announced on the RE page, but I wanted to

announce it as well, since religious education is not just a job for the parents, but for the whole church. Educating ourselves and our children is a big part of what we are here for. It is called an "advisory" committee because, under Policy-Based Governance, the minister hires the Director of Religious Education. I would always rather have church members involved in decisions, though, so they will do a search and I will decide, with copious input from them, on the final choice. *by Rev. Meg Barnhouse*



Construction Project Moving Along

I hope you are enjoying the small taste of construction we are having. We're going to be working on our space in order to be able to fit all of us, so I imagine this will be an ongoing experience. We'll have the welcome center well lit and staffed with a friendly volunteer or two who will greet those entering the building during weekday office hours. They will also be answering your phone calls in person! The Ends/Goals of the church are big on being welcoming, so we're doing what you asked us to do. With joy. *by Rev. Meg Barnhouse*

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin February 2012 NEWSLETTER

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



January marked an exciting and historic time for our church as we celebrated the installation of Rev. Barnhouse as our ninth settled minister, highlighted by a sermon by Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, with beautiful music composed by our superbly talented Kiya Heartwood and performed by our very talented choir. I had the honor of representing the congregation during the installation liturgy in the absence of our president, Chris Jimmerson, who spent the month of January in seminary classes in Chicago. I felt Chris's love and spirit very much with us during the ceremony.

I would also like to give one final shout out to our Ministerial Search Committee. The MSC was officially decommissioned during the installation and received a very enthusiastic round of applause for their thousands of hours of diligent work that culminated in the January 15th installation service. Job well done!

Our congregation also worked hard during the past three years to bring us to this point in our church life. Do not underestimate the power of the Mission, the Values, the Ends and the Covenant of Healthy Relations that we created as a community. These all serve to define us as a congregation and mark the difference we want to make in the world.

Your Board of Trustees has also marked significant milestones in our transition to Policy Based Governance. We officially adopted our

Your Board of Trustees looks forward to working with you and Rev. Barnhouse to

“Share ourselves with the world and Sing it to the treetops”!

January marked an exciting and historic time for our church as we celebrated the installation of Rev. Barnhouse as our ninth settled minister, highlighted

Governance Policies in December, and in January we initiated monthly monitoring of these policies and ends. We began with monitoring of our ends related to Radical Hospitality and concluded that we should replace “radical” with “intentional” which more accurately captures the congregation’s desires. The Board revised these ends in December as a result of conversations held with the congregation during Meet and Eat gatherings in March and June followed by reflections about these conversations during several board meetings. The new ends better reflect the desire by our congregation to share the life saving message of Unitarian Universalism with others, as so eloquently expressed at our March Meet and Eat: “Share ourselves with the world! Sing it to the treetops!” The revised Intentional Hospitality ends are as follows:

First UU Church of Austin is an intentionally hospitable community where:

- All people are treated with respect and dignity
- All people of good will are welcomed
- People are supported in times of joy and need
- People find connection with one another in fellowship
- We are fully engaged and generous with time, treasure and talent
- We invite people of good will to find a spiritual home with us
- We engage as UU’s in public life

Your Board of Trustees looks forward to working with you and Rev. Barnhouse to “Share ourselves with the world and sing it to the treetops”!

Susan Thomson, President-Elect of the Board of Trustees

Thank You!

As most of you know each month we have a Special Offering on the second Sunday. At the end of the year we will divide all the money equally between the twelve recipients so that no one organization is negatively impacted by reduced attendance due to weather, marathons, etc. Our Offering in January was Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT). We collected **\$2,365.38!!** Our organization for February is Planned Parenthood (see more on page 6).

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I have a great idea for our church...

I could be a great board member, committee chair, project coordinator...

Our church can be even better...

If you see yourself in these phrases, we, **The Nominating Committee, hope you will seriously consider becoming part of the leadership team** that will help First UU Austin fulfill its mission of *gathering in community, nourishing souls, transforming lives, and doing justice.*

Please visit the Nominating Committee table in the Gallery during the month of February for information and application forms. These are exciting times in the life of our church; your creativity, your organizational skills, your time, your enthusiasm, your expertise, your commitment, your vision are needed more than ever.

From the Nominating Committee: Mike LeBurkien, Linda Buehlmann, Derek Howard, Pat Walters, Lynda West

Summary of January 17 Board Meeting

We had a short presentation on the annual survey used by Unity Church with the recommendation we use an adapted form this spring. The Board's monitoring workgroup will bring an adapted survey to the March board meeting.

The Board approached its first month of monitoring our church's goals/ends by reviewing proposed interpretations and measurements for being a radically hospitable community. We voted to change the wording from *radically hospitable* to *intentionally hospitable*; we could not envision any actions we would realistically take that would be defined as radical. Some measures of engaging as UUs in public life were suggested, including at how many public events members were wearing our yellow identifying tee shirt and carrying our Standing on the Side of Love banner. While we had a noticeable presence at the GLBT marriage ceremonies performed by Rev Meg on the Capitol steps, members who took part in the MLK Day March did not so identify themselves. Rev Meg will make revisions and email to the Board for review.

Our continuing discussion of *Almost Church-Revitalized* included the book's proposed Covenant of Leadership and whether having the past president as an *ex officio* board member is a recipe for conservatism. The covenant promotes

board members willing to take risks; having and modeling an attitude of abundance, including pledging generously; and whose primary volunteer commitment is to the church while on the board. We also discussed the board's role vs the minister's role regarding a culture of permission.

The Board discussed the Sep linkage event on doing justice to determine what questions to ask at the continuation after the Feb 15 Meet & Eat. We reviewed the five purposes of linkage and decided it would be most helpful to give members and friends the opportunity to interpret our end of *witnessing to justice in our personal lives and beyond.*

The board split into work groups to discuss updates to a list of board skills and expectations. The Board's policy workgroup will synthesize the suggestions and draft a revision that will ultimately go to the Nominating Committee for their work in recruiting future board members. An ad hoc work group will look at best practices for accessing savings in an emergency and report back to the Board. *Margaret Borden, Member of our Board of Trustees.*

Social Action is Love in Action



What are you doing Tuesday morning Feb. 14th? Or any second Tuesday of any month?

We need additional volunteers for the 2nd Tuesday Collate Group at People's Community Clinic. If you are new to First UU what a great way to help and meet some new folks. Chat, collate, and stuff patient information packets. We have taken on additional responsibilities and need more help. Remember Feb. 14th in the workroom at PCC. Arrive anytime after 9:30 a.m. 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.



February's Monthly Special Offering Recipient

On February 12th, congregants will have an opportunity to support our local Planned Parenthood clinics with our monthly split-the-plate offering. Texas has the highest number of uninsured residents in the nation. Most of Planned Parenthood's clients are uninsured or underinsured, live paycheck to paycheck, and pay out of pocket for health care. For most of their clients, Planned Parenthood is their only source of health care.

The 2011 Texas Legislature slashed 2/3^{rds} of the state budget for basic women's health screenings and birth control putting more than 300,000 Texas women's health at risk. As a result, Planned Parenthood's East 7th Street health center lost state/federal funding that provided free health care to 4,000 Austinites each year along with People's Community Clinic and El Buen Samaritano clinic.

In further support of UU values to provide health care without discrimination, Planned Parenthood is a trusted resource for confidential, non-judgemental health care and education within the LGBTQ community. Planned Parenthood partners with numerous communities, nonprofits and advocacy groups throughout Austin including Queerbomb, Gay Pride Festival, and World AIDS Day events.



Join the First UU Team at the Austin CROP Hunger Walk in March

This year's Austin CROP Hunger Walk takes place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 3, and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, at Walter E. Long Park, 6614 Blue Bluff Road, near the Travis County Exposition Center. This annual walk is the largest interfaith activity of the year sponsored by Interfaith Action of Central Texas. Last year's walk drew more than 1,500 participants from Austin-area religious communities and raised more than \$85,000 for the global fight against hunger.

One-fourth of the money raised supports the Capital Area Food Bank and a network of hunger-fighting programs in the Austin area. The other 75 percent supports the worldwide work of Church World Service, national sponsor of CROP Hunger Walks, which teams up with local partners to provide emergency relief and to help build local capacity to supply food, clean water, and health care. For more information on all the efforts supported by the Austin Walk, visit <http://austincrophungerwalk.org/>.

More than 30 members of First UU took part in the 2011 walk, raising more than \$1,200. Many more First UU members donated to support the walkers from our congregation. This year we plan to car-pool and convoy to the walk after church on Sunday, March 4. For more information, come to the Social Action table in the Gallery on Sundays, or contact Eric Hartman (469-9894, hartoftex@aol.com) or Social Action chair Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis (371-3253) corinna@austin.rr.com).

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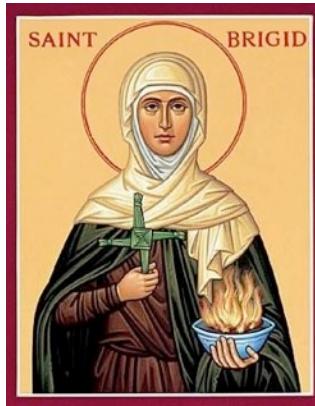
Meet & Eat, Immigration? Homelessness? Marriage Equality? Death Penalty?

Environment? Our church's goals say that we will "witness to justice in our personal lives and beyond."

Rev. Meg wants your ideas on what this means and how we will know when we are doing it. Join your Social Action Committee and Board of Trustees for dinner and help us answer this question! **On Wednesday**

February 15th the monthly Meet n Eat will be hosted by the Social Action Committee followed by the Board's First UU-Café: Conversations that Matter. We'll have volunteer opportunities for social justice from the committee and then an in-depth discussion about how we will witness to justice at First UU. Dinner is served in Howson Hall at 6pm. The program will end at 8 p.m. Please RSVP for the meal by Mon, Feb 13. Email meeteat@austinuu.org, or sign up on the bulletin board on the Gallery wall next to the library or at the Visitors table in the foyer.

Childcare is available at childcare@austinuu.org. Newcomers and new members especially welcome! Thanks and



Bardic Circle: ❤️

Join Us and Enjoy!

The bardic traditions of the old days, the inspiration of the new! Yew Grove will honor the season by holding a Bardic Circle to show our inspirational gifts of talent & celebration.

Join us and delight in our singers, songwriters, and

poets. We'll be in the Gallery on Friday, Feb 3rd at 7:00 p.m.. The deadline has passed for the performers' registration; so just come, sit back & enjoy the groove with us!

House Concert

Feb. 13 - With Singer-Songwriter - Roy Zimmerman

Roy will be playing a house concert at Meg and Kiya's Outlaw Hill House Concerts Monday night Feb 13th at 7 p.m. (Sliding scale \$15-25) Reservations necessary email to reserve your seats.

kiya@outlawhillarts.com

For more information go to

www.royzimmerman.com.

In addition Roy will provide the special music during both services at First UU Austin on Feb. 12.



So what's the deal with Paganism anyway?

Come and ask your questions, or get a cup of coffee and socialize. Either way, it's always fun! The Yew Grovers will be at Genuine Joe Coffeehouse at 2001 W Anderson Lane to chat & munch & hang out at 7:30 pm on Feb 17th. Are you wondering how to recognize us? Go to www.austinuu.org.yewgrove for more info.



There will not be a Moon Circle for Yew Grove in February.

SPECIAL EVENT

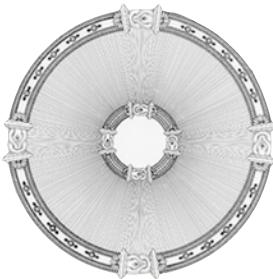
Roy Zimmerman Songwriting Workshop:
Feb. 12 - 1:00-3:00pm in Room 13. \$25/student

In this two-hour workshop, Roy works with students' songs, complete or incomplete, to expand their palette of melodic, harmonic, rhythmic and lyrical options. What would make this song more compelling? More direct? Catchier? Funnier? Does it need a bridge? Is it really two songs in disguise? How does a thought, an inspiration, an experience, an emotion become a song? And how can the songwriting process be a liberating influence on other creative endeavors? Roy is a nationally known writer and performer of satirical songs. He wrote all the material for The Foremen, who recorded for Warner/Reprise Records. He's written hundreds of children's songs for the Walt Disney Co. and Warner Brothers, and has taught songwriting for over twenty years. **Cost is \$25 per student. Space is limited to 20.**

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 UU Gallery Jung Society of Austin February Art Show Geoffrey Graham's Mandala Art Exhibit will be in our Gallery beginning Friday February 3rd through Feb 27th.



On Sunday Feb. 5th beginning at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Graham will present a lecture/discussion concerning his work in the Gallery.



New Season, New Play! Searching for Eden: the diaries of adam and eve.

This romantic comedy is inspired by and adapted from a pair of short stories by Mark Twain. Several thousand years after Adam and Eve meet in paradise, they return to a very different Eden. A comic testament to enduring love, *Searching for Eden* is a fresh look at how to make the magic last.



Variety Magazine called *Searching for Eden* "An engaging blend of wit and whimsy."

Now is the time to buy your Season Pass to 2 shows (our "Stub Season"), and reserve your ticket for a Feb performance. Advantages to the Season Pass are reserved seating in the front rows, 2 Guest Passes and – new this season – an invitation in late April to an afternoon with Artistic Director Paulette MacDougal and a preview of scenes from the play. You'll find more information at the PP table in the Gallery on Sundays, and on our website, paradoxplayers.org.

 **Senior's Luncheon**

Tuesday, February 14th (2nd Tues.)
Howson Hall at Noon
Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5
RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988



Program: Paradox Players will present a scene from their production of *Searching for Eden; the diaries of adam and eve*. Inspired by Mark Twain's short stories, this romantic comedy is a tender testament to enduring love. Director Joni McClain will join the actors for Q&A.

 **Readers' Theater** meets in the Gallery Monday evening, Feb 13, at 7:30. We'll be reading an assortment of short plays, no rehearsing or memorizing! Newcomers are always welcome.

Game Night!!!

 Fellowship will sponsor another games night on **Friday February 17th**. Bring your own drink and a snack to share. Also your favorite game, for more information contact Geri Neemidge@310-7863. The report from the last Game Night was that it is a not to be missed event!

See you in Room 13 at 6:30p.m.





Denominational Affairs Ladies, This Is It!

REGISTRATION FOR
THE BIG EVENT WILL END SOON !!!



Feb 24-26, 2012: SWUU Women's Conference: Clear Lake City/Houston, TX.

The conference schedule is now posted on the Denominational Affairs bulletin board across from Meg's office and at: <http://www.swuuw.org/news/latest/66-swuuwcon-2012-info> Online registration is at: www.swuuw.org. Besides featuring the most amazing Keynote Speaker **Rev. Meg Barnhouse**, the very talented Music Guest, **Kiya Heartwood**, and Worship Leader **Julie Lambert**, there will be an opening ceremony; numerous educational, spiritual, and creative workshop choices; vendors; meals; entertainment; Red Tent Room; Bazaar; worship service; late evening jam session; and closing ritual. This is the time for personal growth, for making new friends, and for deepening and renewing old friendships. **The final registration deadline is Feb 15 (\$185)**. Registering on-site will ONLY be possible if space is available. Hilton room registration is separate. The group rate of \$80 per night

(one king or two double beds per room) ended on January 30, unless the group block has not yet sold out. If you are looking for someone with whom to carpool or room share, let Karen Franks know at denom@austinuu.org or leave a note for her in the Denominational Affairs mailbox in the Mail Room.

MAIDEN PROGRAM: This year SWUUW will be offering a new and exciting, flexible maiden program for youth (13 to 18 yrs). **Exploring the UUniversal Beauty of our Bodies** will include workshops, projects, and social events designed by maidens, for maidens that explore the concepts of beauty through health, wellness, fashion, media, and more. The maiden program is designed to be a safe, supportive space for young women of faith. Youth registered as maidens are not limited to maiden identified workshops and may attend all open offerings. Adult sponsors of maidens are responsible for their youth throughout the conference.

***See www.swuuc.org for details (as well as on our Denominational Affairs bulletin board) and to register for the following:

Southwest UU District Events:

- **Feb 10-12, 2012: "Everything is Holy" Winter Retreat with singer-songwriter, Peter Mayer**, in Dallas, TX. Join lay leaders and religious professionals from throughout our region for inspiring music, hands-on training and soulful worship.
- **Feb 17-19, 2012: "Colonization, Privilege and Resistance: Preparing for Justice GA 2012," Allies for Racial Equality UU Annual Conference, Robert Jensen** (UT journalism professor and author) and **Megan Dowdell** (adjunct faculty at Starr King School for the Ministry). Fort Worth, TX.
- **March 29-31 or Apr 1, 2012: "Batter UUp" UU Spring Training** (7 tracks) at First UU Church of Dallas. SAVE THE DATE and make your plans!
- **June 20-24, 2012: UUA Justice General Assembly**, Phoenix, AZ (www.uua.org) Registration information is at: http://www.uua.org/ga/registration_index and on the Denominational Affairs bulletin board.



Lifespan Religious Education

Welcoming Wednesdays at First UU Austin:



Wednesday evenings will include:

- Dinner together –provided by Kami 5:45 – 6:30 Everyone cleans up (6:30pm to 6:40pm)
- Childcare (6:30pm to 9:00pm)
- Class/program begins (6:45pm – 8:15pm)
- First UU Austin Choir Rehearsal (7:30pm – 9:00pm)

Wednesday February 15th and March 21st will be Meet & Eat with discussions following the meal.

Adult RE Classes



Building Your Own Theology - Wednesdays - January 11 - March 28 - Based on the

assumption that everyone is their own theologian, this classic UU adult education program invites participants to develop their own personal credos. Facilitated by Cyndi Louden and Pat Walters.



Great Decisions Class - Sundays, Feb. 12 - April 1 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm.

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The Foreign Policy Association prints the Great Decisions Briefing every January. Judy Sadegh and Helen LaFlare will facilitate the program this year. The eight topics to be covered are: Middle East realignment/Arab Spring; Democracy Promotion; Mexico; Cybersecurity; Drawdown from Iraq and Afghanistan; State of the Oceans; Indonesia; and Energy geopolitics. The book for this course is \$20 and will be available in our bookstore. You can attend all sessions or one, but we ask that you register for the course in the gallery on Sundays or by contacting Barbara@austinuu.org.



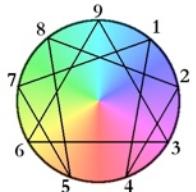
Enneagram Class - Monday's at 7 p.m. in Room 13 A January 9- May 21, 2012.

Come learn all about the enneagram...the "roadmap to the human psyche," presented by Roland Reese.



Esalen Trager Massage Instruction and Exchange Group – Feb. 11 & 25 (2nd & 4th

Saturdays through May). 9:30 a.m. Verbal and hands-on instruction provided by Carl W. Nelson trained at the world-renowned Esalen Institute, Big Sur, California. Learn how to integrate bodywork into your life for optimal health and vitality. Experience the easiest way to reach the meditative relaxed state.



Mindful Meditation – Ongoing – Mondays – 6:30 – 7:30 Room 11. If you have questions contact Michael Kersey meditation@austinuu.org.



Chalice Circles – throughout the week. Please check with Barbara@austinuu.org to see if there is still room for you. This program runs through June. A new series of chalice circles will begin again in September.



Children and Youth Programming

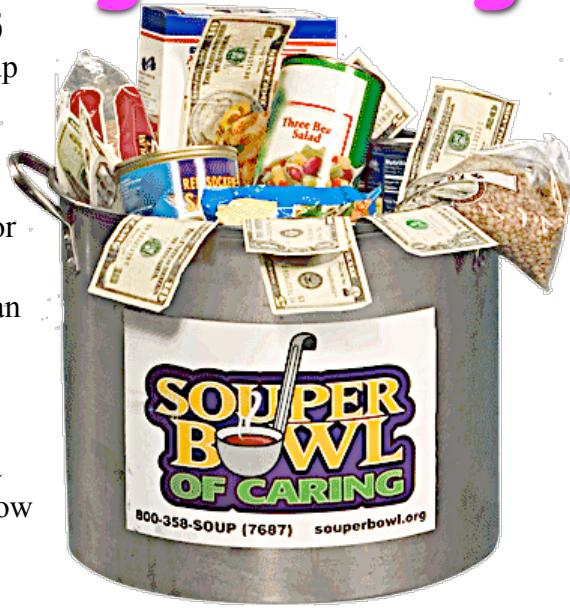
SOUPER Bowl Sunday - Sunday, February 5

 Please support our youth in a canned food drive for the Caritas Soup Kitchen and bring nutritious canned food with you on Sundays!

Children and youth from our Religious Education classes will be standing by with collection baskets before each service on Sunday, January 29 and Sunday, February 5. You may know that our church collects canned goods for Caritas all year round.

But over the next few weeks our children and youth are asking you to make an extra-special effort in honor of The SOUPER Bowl of Caring, a national movement of youth across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

(www.souperbowl.org) Then on Saturday, February 11 our youth will make a special delivery of your donations to Caritas. Let's see how much food and how many meals First UU Austin can provide together!

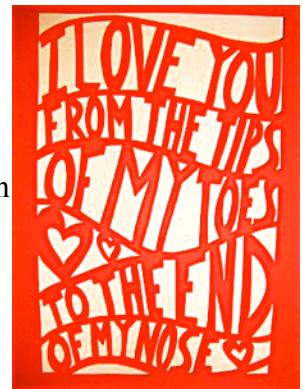


SURPRISE PALS - Sign-up through Feb. 5

 Sign-up for the 2012 Surprise Pals is already underway!! We are recruiting kid pals (grades K-5) and adult pals (14 years old and above) to match for four weeks of fun and mystery! Sign-ups will be collected from January 22 until February 6. We will review the applications and then match children with adults so they can plan to exchange notes and small gifts on February 12, 19, and 26. The final exchange will be on March 4, when we will hold the Surprise Pal Reveal Party from 11:30 to 12:15 in Room 17. For more information, please send an email to surprisepals@austinuu.org



 On February 12th, children in Preschool - 5th Grade will be making valentines during their regular class-times. The choice of recipient is up to each individual: parents, siblings, friends, and even newly-assigned Surprise Pals. Adults are welcome to come by between 9:15 and noon to make their own valentines. We are also seeking adults to help at the stations during the morning. For more information or to volunteer to help during the decorating, please send an email to valentines@austinuu.org



SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 24 MEET-AND-EAT - Wednesday Evening.

The third-Wednesday Meet-and-Eat in March will be sponsored by the two Religious Education committees (Adult R.E. and the Children and Youth Programming Committee, CYPC). The CYPC will use this as an opportunity to share information about changes in policies and plans as we work with our Interim Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Barbara Stoddard, in preparation for the search for a permanent Director of Lifespan Religious Education by August of 2013. Watch for more information in the March newsletter.

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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

Bits and Pieces:

Lost and Found: Please take any items you find to the Lost and Found area in the mailroom If you have lost anything, Please check the Lost and Found box in the Mailroom. Our box runneth over!

 **Mindful Meditation Group:** continues to meet Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 in Room 11with Michael Kersey. If you have questions contact: meditation at austinuu.org.

 **Singalong:** held at Friend's Meeting House, 3701 E MLK Blvd. Bring snacks, musical instruments, and copies of song you want to sing. No alcohol, (not a custom of the Quakers) .Contact Larry at 469-0029. Get on Email list Contact Mary Jane singalong@austinuu.com.

 **Heritage Book Club** will meet on Feb 10th at the home of Tom Clark ;1216 Piedmont, Austin 78757 phone 453-1986. Time 7:00 p. m. We have a pot luck followed by a discussion of the book, " Pillars of the Earth" by Ken Follett. Everyone is welcome

 **Sunday Morning Book Group:** After "Moby Dick", we will discuss "The Moral Landscape" by Sam Harris, and following is "Essential Writings" of Thich Nhat Hanh. We take our time and discuss the books in depth. Our only expert authority is the author him/herself. It is required that each participant read the book. We meet every Sunday at 10:30 AM in Room 15 B. Join our group!

 **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. Beginning Sunday January 29th, "Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge" by Edward O. Wilson. For further information contact June Beach, mindmeaning@austinuu.org.