



# March Newsletter

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin 2012

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



**In its last meeting, the Church Council leaders voted for "Enoughness" as our spring theme.**

From our kick-off on March 11<sup>th</sup> through Passover/Easter and beyond, we will be asking ourselves "What is enough money? What is enough consumption? What is enough freedom to do what we want to do

and use what we want to use?"

Enoughness is a Quaker concept, having to do with a "right sharing of the world's resources." Richer countries have a large foot print, consuming a disproportionate and unsustainable share of the world's resources. The spiritual core of environmental concern is to realize that we are part of a large, connected and sacred universe. It is a tenet of faith and hope to believe that everyone can have enough.

We as spirited/spiritual people can question our desires, to ask ourselves what would be enough for us, and to be satisfied with our lives. We can also ask ourselves how we might work to bring enough to those who do not have it. Our seventh principle says that we affirm and promote "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." If we look at the ethic of enoughness, it gives us a way to be aware of our connection to the whole. It poses a challenge to our over-consumption and gives a hopeful promise to the impoverished of the earth. How might we discern ethical lifestyles that honour the well-being of people we do not know? Do we see ourselves as morally bound to protect the poor and the weak? Can our global economy and the global ecosystem be such that everyone has enough? *-The Rev. Meg Barnhouse*



## Enoughness Events:

**Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>** "Firsts First" Enoughness kick-off with Dick Pierce of the Austin Permaculture Guild. Bill Mollison, one of the forbears of the permaculture movement, has described permaculture as *"a philosophy of working with, rather than against nature; of protracted and thoughtful observation rather than premature and thoughtless labor; and of looking at plants and animals in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single project system."*

**Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** at 6:45 is Enoughness movie night: Come have dinner at 5:45 and watch **Affluenza**, a one-hour television special that explores the high social and environmental costs of materialism and overconsumption. We will watch it and discuss it afterward. **Af-flu-en-za** n. 1. The bloated, sluggish and unfulfilled feeling that results from efforts to keep up with the Joneses. 2. An epidemic of stress, overwork, waste and indebtedness caused by dogged pursuit of the American Dream. 3. An unsustainable addiction to economic growth. 4. A television program that could change your life.

**Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** is "buy nothing day" Can we do it? Whether we can or not, we will make ourselves aware of how much unmindful buying we tend to do. A recent Gallup poll says that Americans spend, on average, about \$60 each day, not counting things like rent/mortgage, car payments, and utilities.

How hard would it be to go an entire day without spending any money? Challenge yourself to find out on First UUA's Buy Nothing Day!

**Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>** Grove Burnett will be leading a short mindfulness (meditation) retreat on Friday afternoon, March 23 in the sanctuary. He is the Founding Teacher and Director of the Vallecitos Mountain Ranch in New Mexico. [www.vallecitos.org](http://www.vallecitos.org) Vallecitos is a retreat center in the mountains of Northern New Mexico that uses mindfulness training techniques as a core part of its "curriculum." Grove will be in Austin to meet with Vallecitos alumni (including the staffs of Leadership Austin and iACT.) He comes highly recommended by Tom Spencer, director of iACT. Watch the announcements for further details.

**Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>**, 3-5 p.m. Afternoon movie: **Never Enough**, A documentary by Kelly Anderson. Do you own your stuff, or does it own you? *Anderson has chosen wonderful subjects to tell their story, people whose self-understanding runs as deep as their addiction to collecting. She takes clutter out of the aesthetic and moral, where it usually resides, and into the philosophical. Students across the gamut, from psychology to literature, will find provocative ideas here.* Valerie Allen, Professor of English John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)

**Chalice Circles** will be able to choose a lesson on Enoughness in March or April.

## Sunday Worship

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

**March 4: Rev. Meg Barnhouse:** Purim is the Jewish festival celebrating a time long ago when the Jews were saved from destruction by the brave Queen Esther. What's the story? Get ready to boo the bad guy.

**March 11: Dick Pierce "Firsts, Firsts:"** Each of us doing what we can so that all human creatures, -big and small, young and old, here and elsewhere - have enough nutritious food, shelter, clothing, and meaningful work to meet the minimum requirements for survival. Then, and only then, should we in the US and the developed world work toward "seconds" or "thirds" for ourselves. Noted sustainability and local food advocate, Dick Pierce, will kick off our Spring theme "Enoughness" (A Quaker term) **Dick Pierce** is a founding member of the Austin Permaculture Guild, a cofounder, with Brandi Clark of the very successful Austin Citizen Gardener program, and a passionate spokesman for the Environment, for "relocalizing" our food, business, jobs/careers, lives and priorities

**March 18: Rev. Meg Barnhouse.** The Spring Equinox is coming, when the day and night are the same length. It's a good time to talk about balance, about living gracefully. Do we want to grow deep roots that can hold us steady while all around us things are pushing us one way, then the other? Do we want to learn to be light-footed so we can, as the Zen teacher says, "play ball on running water?" What would good balance look like to you?

**March 25: Luther Elmore. "UU Utopias: How Shall We Live?"** In the first half of the nineteenth century approximately one hundred utopian societies were established across the United States, several by Unitarians and Universalists. We will look at those UU utopian societies and see what lessons they offer us today.



## We Gather in Community to Do Justice

This January, I took a course at Meadville Lombard called "Ecology and Theology" that was both inspiring and terrifying. It was terrifying because the information presented convinced me that we are so far into global climate change that we will likely see some terrible events even if we act effectively beginning now. It was inspiring because we saw in the class how amazing is the human spirit even in the midst of potential tragedy – how people can overcome adversity and find strength in seemingly impossible situations.

At First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, we have long been a Green Sanctuary and committed ourselves to conservation and sustainability, both here at the church in many of our individual practices. During the class, it became clear to me though, that truly making a difference to mitigate the worst effects of global climate change will require that we address the far greater contributions to green house gasses that are being caused by current industrial, commercial and agricultural practices embedded in economic and governmental structures.

How do we advocate for change at that level? What would that change look like? Can we truly say we are doing justice if we do not work to change the larger, systemic structures that are causing so much of the human suffering and environmental damage we end up working to alleviate? *Chris Jimmerson President of the Board*



## 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 February was Planned Parenthood. We collected **\$2,290!!** Our organization for March is Austin Group for the Elderly. See details on page 6.

## The Forum

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

**March 4: New Directions in Physics** with Stephen Weinberg will be speaking is a UT Professor Physics and a Nobel Prize Winner.

**March 11: Highlight the impact of Computer Vision on our daily lives today and projected into the future. with Dr. Aggarwal**, a Cullen Trust Endowed Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin where he has taught for over 40 years. His research interests have centered on the artificial intelligence of "seeing" with a camera and a computer. He is known internationally and frequently is invited to speak at international meetings and Universities. Computer Vision research and development has moved it's focus away from inanimate objects to recognizing personal characteristics and to monitoring people and their activities in public places. Additional computer applications include the monitoring activities from unmanned aerial drones, guidance assist devices for the blind, classifying and organizing albums of photographs, recognizing human faces and tattoos and as a diagnostic aid and therapeutic tool to combat childhood autism.

**March 18: "US Banks after Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act."** Karen Neeley, general counsel for the Independent Bankers Association of Texas. Congress responded to the mortgage meltdown and the big bank crisis with the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. But how did we get to the flash point, and what changes does this massive law make to financial institutions and their regulation in the United States? And what do the consumer protections mean to us? Karen Neeley is a much honored banking lawyer and is presently a trustee for First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin.

**March 25: The Civil Rights Movement in Austin in the Fifties, Sixties, and Seventies: A Retrospective and a Work in Progress Bertha Means** a retired teacher, an owner of Austin Cab, and has been a political activist in Austin over many decades. She was a major force in integrating luncheon counters, swimming pools, and schools in Austin and confronting entrenched racial prejudices in the community. She will discuss the strategies she used to end discriminatory practices and desegregate stores, restaurants, schools, and other public facilities in Austin. She will discuss the changes she as seen in her lifetime and directions for the future.

## Summary of February 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting

The board was joined by Joe Sullivan, the consultant who has advised us through both our church's mission work and our transition to policy-based governance.

Rev Meg and Sean presented interpretations of two executive financial limitations for the board's monitoring and approval. Joe suggested that interpretations should state the metrics that will be used to show compliance or progress. He also suggested "defining the standard," e.g., when words like "appropriate" are used in the policy, they should be defined in the interpretation.

The Board reviewed a proposed survey for obtaining feedback from members and friends on how our church is doing in accomplishing our mission and our ministries. The anonymous survey will also request demographics on respondents. An initial trial to obtain baseline information will likely be in the spring.

The board had a lively discussion of chapter 4 of *Almost Church-Revitalized* around the idea that members should be expected to attend services regularly, the concept of evangelism, and "Anonymous giving promotes anonymous non-giving" (attributed to MLK Sr). Joe suggested ending such discussions with each board member responding to "What have we learned that applies to our values and goals?" or "What does this mean to our work as a board?"

*Margaret Borden, Member of the Board.*







# St. Patrick's Day



Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 11 p.m.  
In Howson Hall and the Gallery.

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck. We'll have a band for your dancing and listening pleasure. Children are invited. Crafts for kids! Don't forget to wear something green!

*Sponsored by the UU Circle of Friends at First UU and Wildflower.*

## Join Us at the Alternative Vehicle Fair!

The Green Sanctuary Committee is hosting an Alternative Vehicle Fair on Sunday **April 1st, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** here at First UUA. We will be in the northwest corner of the grassy parking lot. There will be activities for the kids while you stroll among the various vehicles and the owners will be on hand to talk about them and answer your questions.



## Calling All Alternative Vehicles!

If you have an electric, hybrid, biodiesel, or very low gas mileage automobile, a scooter, electric scooter, electric bike, bike, skateboard, Segway, plug in flying carpet, or some other fuel efficient alternative vehicle that you would bring to the Alternative Vehicle Fair to display and talk about, please contact the Green Sanctuary committee. [green@austinuu.org](mailto:green@austinuu.org)



## Mardi Gras Celebration at Sharing Suppers

Jeanne and Bruce Barker transformed their lovely home into a festive, atmosphere for one of the Sharing Suppers in February. Everyone was in the Mardi Gras spirit and enjoyed traditional New Orleans fare. Margaret Bordon also hosted another Sharing Supper the same evening.

You, too, can take part in all the fun we have at the Sharing Suppers, casual, adult dinners held the

3rd Saturday of each month. They are open to anyone attending the church:

including singles and couples of all ages. Participants take turns planning and hosting the meal and each attendee contributes something to the dinner. Sharing Suppers are an excellent way to, meet new people, make friends and discover more about what is going on in various groups and programs in the church.

The March dinner will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup>. You may sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the mail room or by e-mailing Linda Buehlmann at [sharing@austinuu.org](mailto:sharing@austinuu.org)





Brent Baldwin  
Music Director

# MUSIC MATTERS

*Nourishing Souls and Transforming Lives Through Music*



**Presents:**

## Vary Interesting

Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 7:30pm

The Austin Chamber Music Center will perform works by Haydn, Beethoven and Brahms for piano, violin and cello. Don't miss out on a terrific chance to hear some world-class performances, and represent a unique fellowship opportunity for our congregation. Please take advantage of the First UUA membership discount (just let the folks at the door know you're a church member), and come out to support the terrific works of our Artists-in-Residence.



AMY SCHWARTZ-  
MORETTI

GREGORY  
SAUER

MICHELLE  
SCHUMANN

*Tickets are regularly priced at \$25; for First UUA members they are \$12.50.*

## A NIGHT OF MUSIC, FUN, SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP

A fundraising variety show for Suzette Emberton & Manoj Panicker

Hosted by the First UUA Choir

Thursday, April 5 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the Sanctuary

In November, our friend and choir member, Suzette, and her husband, Manoj, were involved in a serious car accident. After being hit head-on, they were taken to separate hospitals for intensive care and rehabilitation. They're making wonderful progress and are finally able to be home with their young daughter, Divya. Their ordeal's not over, though, as they'll continue to need physical therapy and assistance in the coming months.

That's where we come in! This event will help with expenses, as well as treat them to a night of entertainment and support from their church community. A freewill donation will be taken at the door. Howson Hall will have hors d'oeuvres and potluck dishes before the show and during intermission. And some cool items will be raffled off! We're putting the show together this month and will have more details soon. Check the April newsletter and announcements for the full lineup of acts.

**Hope to see you there!**



# Social Action is Love in Action

Save the Date -- April 14<sup>th</sup> is the spring Hands On Housing project, otherwise known as the "Bluebonnet Blitz"!

## Re-imagining Valentine's Day

"Thank you for your courage as well as your love."

"We honor your love and commitment." "Happy Day when all can marry the person they love. May that day come soon!" "Your love is important." These words are just some of the blessings and encouragement delivered to several couples on Valentine's Day. During Sunday services, Rev. Barnhouse asked us to write a message of love and support on a red heart card. She asked us to join her on Valentine's Day as she delivered the cards to same-sex couples who were refused a marriage license at the Travis County Clerk's office. Over



30 members and friends were able to attend, showing off their yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" shirts and banner. UU clergy from San Marcos, Kerrville and Cedar Park as well as Rev. Meg offered marriage ceremonies to any who wished one. Rev. Skrabacz did the honors for two couples outside the office amongst cheers of congratulations and well wishes.

The event was organized by human rights group GetEQUAL Texas and attended by a coalition of Occupy Austin, PFLAG, and First UU activists. Media coverage was high and we were featured on both KXAN and FOX news. County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir, County Clerk, was very sympathetic to the cause and was in tears as she told these couples that she could not give them a license.



## Austin Groups for the Elderly is the recipient of our Monthly Special Offering for March.

AGE is celebrating 26 years of providing direct assistance to older adults and their families through our unique programs, including:

**Elderhaven**, the only licensed Adult Day Centers in Central Texas, provides a safe and interactive environment for medically vulnerably seniors. at our facilities in Central Austin.

**Offering therapeutic activities** under licensed, medical supervision during the day, specializing in memory loss care. With a loved one spending the day at Elderhaven, family members can return to work, get a break, and even prevent early nursing home placement.

**The Caregiver Resource Center** provides free referrals, information, and education to seniors and families. Caregiver U, collaboration of 14 agencies providing Free Caregiver education in 4 local counties.

**The Health Equipment Lending Program (HELP)** provides critical safety and mobility equipment to the Central Texas community in need of wheelchairs, walkers and shower chairs.

**The Austin Computer Learning Center** is a peer-to-peer senior computer literacy program, engages and connects older adults in new technologies.

**New program specifically for early memory loss, titled New Connections.** Currently meets weekly at Westlake Presbyterian Church and AGE is looking to expand it to other locations in 2012.

Learn more [www.ageofaustin.org](http://www.ageofaustin.org). 512.451.4611

## A Partnership with Occupy Austin

As you may know, the Austin Occupiers were evicted from City Hall, but they continue to work for positive societal change. Many among our congregation have struggled to find a meaningful way to support their work and message, our minister included. Rev. Barnhouse feels this is “such an important movement for our time and it’s really important that we be a part of it.” Fortunately, she has been able, little by little, to cultivate a relationship with several Occupy activists. One way she is doing this is by inviting them up to church for our new weekly “Welcoming Wednesday” dinner for discussion as well as sustenance. This relationship is fairly undefined and it is unclear what direction it will take. However, it has already identified that offers of simple, basic needs like a meal are always welcome. So this is one way we can support this movement – by offering food free of charge. Social Action Committee is currently underwriting their meals up to \$500, which should last for about five months. We are also working on a solidarity statement. Here is a draft:

*The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin and Occupy Austin stand in solidarity. We recognize that our paths share a mutual destination; one that promotes peace, liberty, justice, equity, compassion and the inherent worth and dignity of every person, in every city, state and nation around the world. We further assert the shared ideal of a democratic process where practices are transparent, elections are open to members and ideas are open to criticism - so that people might govern themselves. To these ends we recognize that the earth sustains us and in kind we too should sustain it. Both of our organizations commit to maintaining our autonomy, neither UU nor OA is under the direction of the other but we simply wish to make evident our shared goals for the community*

Occupy Austin is also formalizing their structure and figuring out how they can make the most impact in



the Austin community. They want to engage Austin at large and develop partnerships. Recently they hosted a “come one, come all” picnic at Zilker Park so folks could get to know them better. They have developed several sub-groups to address issues such as public education, GLBT rights, mortgage refinance, economic justice, and more. They are eager to work with us through our existing social action programs – several Occupiers came to the Feb. 14 same-sex marriage license action and also plan to attend our April Hands-on-Housing project. Currently the Occupiers are looking for a place to house some of their homeless members, as well as office and meeting space. If you have suitable property or ideas to help them meet this need, please send an email to [socialaction@austinuu.org](mailto:socialaction@austinuu.org).



**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 and raised more than \$85,000 for the global fight against hunger. 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 to the walk after church on Sunday, March 4. For more information, come to the Social Action table in the Gallery or contact Eric Hartman (469-9894,) or Social Action chair Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis (371-3253 ).



## Save Texas Schools 2012 Rally at the Capitol on March 24!

One year ago, over 13,000 people gathered in Austin to speak out against budget cuts to public education. It was the largest capitol rally in modern Texas history! However, our legislators chose not to listen. Now, we need to come back before the primary elections to let them know, "We're watching, We Remember and We VOTE!" It's important that every candidate know that education is an issue that they CAN'T IGNORE!

Make plans to join your fellow UUs in an even larger rally. We'll carry our church banner in the march and wear our "Standing on the Side of Love" shirts. We'll make signs to carry. Say NO to underfunding our schools! Say NO to overcrowded classrooms and overworked teachers! Say NO to millions spent on an out-of-control testing system! Say YES to educating our children for the future!

The STS March begins at 11 am at 12th and Trinity. Rally begins at noon on the south steps of the Capitol. Sign-making party the day before on Friday, March 23, 7pm, Room 13 of the church. Questions? Contact [socialaction@austinuu.org](mailto:socialaction@austinuu.org)



## Come Tour



People's  
Community  
Clinic

**Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-12:30**

We have arranged for People's Community Clinic to offer our members and friends a tour the clinic and meet with staff to hear about their work. We've set the tour for lunch time in hopes that you might be able to bring your sandwich and squeeze this in on your lunch break. Space is limited to 10 individuals.

Since 2006, our church has partnered with PCC to provide volunteers to support their work: working immunization fairs and fundraisers, producing educational materials for patients, providing training, sending appointment reminders, and giving generously to support their financial needs.

People's Community Clinic is at 30<sup>th</sup> Street and I-35. It is Austin's only independent clinic offering comprehensive health and wellness care to uninsured and underinsured Central Texans, many of them non-English-speakers who encounter barriers to care in most other settings. In the course of a year, the clinic may provide almost 35,000 visits with medical providers.



Our partnership with PCC emanates directly out of our UU values – community: that in acting together, compassion: showing that we are concerned that our neighbors can meet their family's basic need for health care; and transformation: helping our neighbors, we have the power to transform lives and heal our world. Please RSVP for the tour to Sheri Overton ([pcc@austinuu.org](mailto:pcc@austinuu.org)).



# Denominational Affairs



**Batter UUP - UU Spring Training (Multigenerational) March 29-31 or April 1, 2012**  
The First Unitarian Church of Dallas

The SWUUC Spring Training is designed to broaden understanding of Unitarian Universalism and provide continuing education to professional and lay religious leaders. Congregational leaders, lay and professional, as well as members, new or old, are encouraged to attend. The conference tracks are:

1) **Leadership Experience Prep Course**  
(Thursday - Sunday)

- 2) **Our Whole Lives (OWL)** - middle and high school (Thursday - Sunday)
- 3) **OWL - young adult and adult** (Thursday - Saturday)
- 4) **Non-Violent Communication/Dialogue** (Thursday - Saturday)
- 5) **Pastoral Care/Lay Chaplain Training** (Thursday - Saturday)
- 6) **The Smart Church: Healthy Congregations** (Thursday - Saturday)
- 7) **The Philosophy of Religious Education Renaissance Module** (Thursday - Sunday)  
(Register now! Details at [www.swuuc.org](http://www.swuuc.org) and on Denominational Affairs bulletin board.)

## Leadership for a Multi-Cultural Age

**Save the Date! SWUUC Spring Conference April 27-29, 2012**

Keynote Speaker: Juana Bordas, Author of *Salsa, Soul and Spirit, Leadership for a Multicultural Age* Host congregation: Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church, Houston, TX (Registration is open now. Details at [www.swuuc.org](http://www.swuuc.org) and on



## UUA President Rev. Peter Morales Invites You to General Assembly 2012!!!

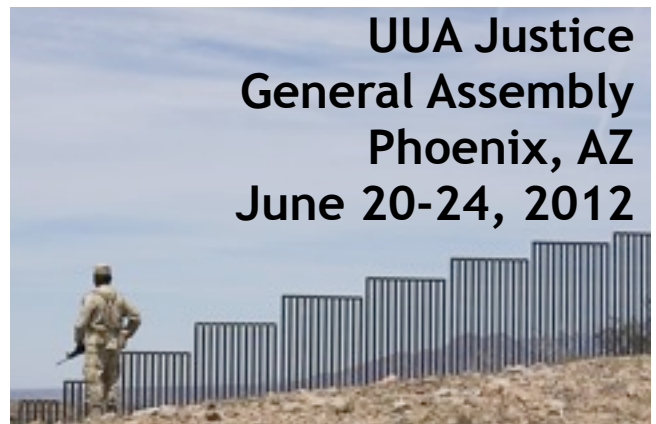
*PETER MORALES: Hello, I'm Peter Morales, president of the UUA, and I'm standing here in Nogales, Mexico. And as you can see, the historic new border fence is behind me. This fence represents so much that has gone wrong in our immigration policy and is a visual expression of the divisions of people that is occurring across our land.*

*I want to issue my personal invitation to you to join me and thousands of other Unitarian Universalists in Phoenix at our Justice General Assembly. This is going to be an opportunity for us to raise our voices together in a powerful public witness against violations of fundamental human rights. But also, on top of that, it's a chance to work with other community partners in Arizona, partnerships we've been developing for years, to learn more and to do work together in unison with these partners. And perhaps most important, this is a chance to participate in workshops and trainings and hear speakers that help us learn how to form these powerful partnerships wherever we are in our congregations, in our communities, so that we Unitarian Universalists become an even more powerful force for good in our world. Spirituality and justice have always been linked together at the core of our faith. This is a central part of our tradition. Come, join me in Phoenix for this historic Justice General Assembly*

To see a video of his invitation go to:

<http://www.uua.org/ga/2012/invites/192553.shtml>

Registration information is at: <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/index> and on the Denominational Affairs bulletin board.





## HEART OF TEXAS MEN'S RETREAT

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup> , 24<sup>th</sup> AND 25<sup>th</sup>

Twice a year men from UU Churches across Texas gather for a weekend retreat at the U Bar U Ranch near Kerrville. Come and enjoy fellowship in the Texas Hill Country. Rest, relax, enjoy delicious meals and use the time as a break from your normal routines and schedules. The retreat will be facilitated by Mark Skrabacz, minister of the UU Church of the Hill Country in Kerrville. Mark will guide us in programs of introspection to deepen our life's path and build community among our fellow UU's.

We will gather on Friday afternoon or evening for a meal and end mid-day on Sunday at U Bar U ([ubaru.org](http://ubaru.org)). There is plenty of bunkhouse room and camping spaces if you want to bring a tent. All

buildings are heated and air conditioned. The only thing you will need to bring are your own sheets, blanket and pillow. Activities may include poker playing, volunteer projects, music, hiking around U Bar U's beautiful rugged 142 acres, and fellowship. 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. We encourage participation from all UU men across Texas.

Sign up now and plan on it. The cost is \$110 which includes all meals. Send a check to Ken Pfluger, 2408 Bridle Path, Austin 78703 phone 784 0251 and we would appreciate your signing up early. For more information contact Ken 512 784 0251 or Brian Miller 512 656 6841 or email [men@austinuu.org](mailto:men@austinuu.org).



**Last Fall's Heart of Texas UU Men's Retreat with UBarU Directors Sandy Barnwell and Mara Jewell.**





## March Madness

If you've enjoyed theatre in Howson Hall, you'll love the month of March! This is the busiest time we can ever recall, for both producing and performing.



### Sisters Under

A play by Paulette MacDougal  
Volunteers Needed

We now have several volunteer roles open as we prepare for the final play of the season, Paulette MacDougal's *Sisters under the Skin*, which opens May 4. A period piece set during the American Civil War, We need a costume manager, a seamstress/ tailor, an assistant director and an assistant producer. We offer lots of guidance, support and fun. Contact us for the role that suits you best. [info@paradoxplayers.org](mailto:info@paradoxplayers.org)

### Two Theatre Groups are presenting Plays in March!

Totally independent of Paradox Players, two different theatre groups are renting space here to rehearse and produce two provocative plays. *Getting Betta*, a futuristic comedy by Don Fried that Paradox Players sponsored for the Long Fringe, runs March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm and March 4<sup>th</sup> at 3pm (Friday thru Sunday).

*The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, a court room drama set in a corner of Purgatory called Hope, that runs March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>. Tickets for both these shows will be sold at the door.



## Senior's Luncheon

Tuesday, March 13th (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues.)  
Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

### Program:



A Pops Concert with Lerner and Loewe songs and more, with a light touch, with singers Suzy Gallagher and Christopher Thompson, accompanied by Greta Gutman at the piano.

## Readers' Theater



will be reading an original one-act script with its playwright! Join us Monday evening, March 12, at 7:30 in the Gallery. No rehearsals, and newcomers are always welcome.

## SAVE THE DATE!

# meet & eat

### MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday Evening

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



## Women's Spirituality Group Begins "Rise Up and Call Her Name"

The Women's Spirituality Group will focus on "Rise Up and Call Her Name: A Woman-Honoring Journey into Global Earth-Based Spiritualities." This Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation curriculum was written by Elizabeth Fisher (published in 1994, and reissued in 2007). During the thirteen sessions, we will meet Goddesses from around the world: Lilith, Hecate, Isis, Oshun, Yemaya,

Oya, Outraged Ancestral Mother, Shakti, Kali Ma, Tara, Kwan Yin, Amaterasu, Pele, Virgin of Guadalupe/Tonantzin, White Buffalo Woman, and Changing Woman. We meet on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month, from 10:30 a.m.-12 noon in Room 13B. This group is for women high school age and older. We are open to new members at all times. We hope you'll join us. For more information: Linda Webster, [women@austinuu.org](mailto:women@austinuu.org)



"Rise Up and Call Her Name"

This Necklace by Allison Rickard celebrates the Divine Feminine. The center of the necklace is the Great Mother Round of the Tao. Other symbols include Hindu Shakti, Madonna w/child, Venus of Willendorf, Mother Earth, Isis, Grandmother Moon, and Amaterasu, the Japanese Sun Goddess.

## 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 <http://austinuu.org/wp2011/community/programs/yew-grove/> for more info.



**This month's Singalong** will be held as usual on the fourth Saturday, March 24, from 7:30 to 10:30pm at the Friend's Meeting House, 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.com](mailto:singalong@austinuu.com).

## Austin Presence Group

We're returning to our roots and kicking off an Eckhart Tolle video series on Thursday, March 1, 2012. Each week for nine weeks we'll watch a video selection from **Eckhart Tolle's Maui Retreat** in



November 2011. Meetings run from 7:00 to 8:30 PM every Thursday and include silent meditation, video presentation and open discussion. A donation of \$5.00 per person is requested. 100% of all donations will be given to First UU. Eckhart Tolle is a

spiritual teacher and author who was born in Germany and educated at the Universities of London and Cambridge. He is the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller, **The Power of Now** and the highly acclaimed follow-up **A New Earth**, which are widely regarded as two of the most influential spiritual books of our time. Eckhart's profound, yet simple teachings have already helped countless people throughout the world find inner peace and greater fulfillment in their lives. Should you have any questions contact Joe Linsalata 512-327-5000 or [Linsalata@austin.rr.com](mailto:Linsalata@austin.rr.com)





## *Lifespan Religious Education*



### **The Future of Religious Education at First UU Austin With Jennifer Nichols, Director for Lifespan Faith Development, SWUUC**

**WHEN?** Saturday, March 10, 2012, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Childcare and Lunch provided.

**WHERE?** Howson Hall - First UU Church of Austin

**WHO?** Everyone interested in the future of religious education at First UU. Committee members, DRE Search Advisory Committee, First UU Leaders, First UU Members and Friends.

**WHAT?** We gather in community on a Saturday morning in March to consider our hopes, dreams and our vision for lifespan religious education at First UU. Jennifer Nichols from the District Office will lead us in understanding the theory behind lifespan faith development; what it is now and why it is important to our future as a faith.

**COME EXPLORE WHY:** Everything we do is FAITH DEVELOPMENT; all we teach is UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM; the CONGREGATION is the curriculum.

Please contact [Barbara@austinuu.org](mailto:Barbara@austinuu.org) to RSVP and to request childcare.

### **Welcoming Wednesdays at First UU Austin**

Come join us on Wednesday nights for dinner plus an adult education course with **childcare provided**. **NOTE: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays – we will hold our beloved “Meet and Eat” gatherings.**

#### **Wednesday evenings will include:**

- Dinner together –provided by Kami (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays) 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)

#### **Class/Program Schedule for March 2012**

- Mar. 7 , 14, and 28– Building Your Own Theology



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**meet & eat**

**MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday Evening**



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



## First UU Kids from our 9:00 am K-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Support the Austin Humane Society.

"Once a month in Ms. Laine and Ms. Zoe's class during first service we have "Social Action Sunday". This February we did a project to help animals. We wrote letters to Governor Rick Perry, Senator Kirk Watson, and Representative Elliott Naishtat. We wrote to thank them for passing "The Puppy Mill Bill" and to ask them if they could make more no-kill shelters. We also made some dog toys and bought toys and treats to donate to the animals at the Austin Humane Society. Then me and my family went to donate the items.



Now that we have finished our project I feel that we really helped out the animals. I can't wait for our next class project!" -*Story written by Kaitlyn Young*

## Adult Religious Education



### Great Decisions Class

**Continues - Sundays, through - 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 book for this course is \$20 and will be available in our bookstore or can be purchased at the class. 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](mailto:Barbara@austinuu.org).

### Building Your Own Theology: Wednesdays - March 7, 14, and 28

Note: This class does not meet on Mar. 21. Facilitated by Cyndi Loudon and Pat Walters.

### Esalen Trager Massage Instruction and Exchange Group

**March 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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, CA.



Are held throughout the week. Please check with [barbara@austinuu.org](mailto:barbara@austinuu.org)

This program runs through June. A new series of chalice circles will begin in September.

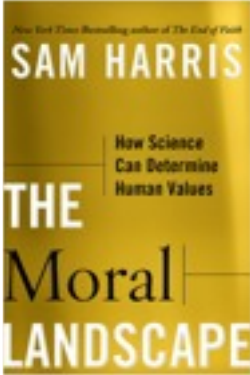
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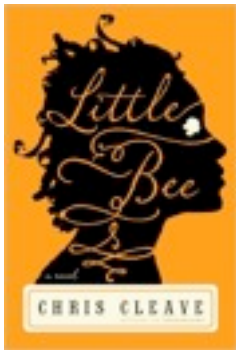
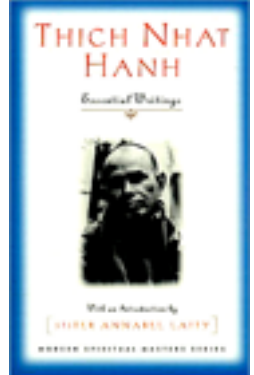


**Mindful Meditation Group:** continues to meet Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 in Room 11 with Michael Kersey. If you have questions contact: meditation at austinuu.org.

# Book Groups

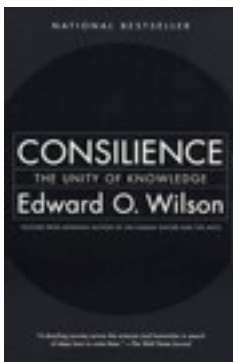
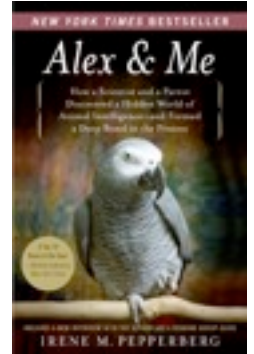


**Sunday Morning Book Group:** We will finish reading "Moby Dick" on March 4<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss "The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values" by Sam Harrison March 11<sup>th</sup>. Following Harrison's book we will read s "Essential Writings" of Thich Nhat Hanh. We take our 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!



## Heritage Book Club

We will meet on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Libby Raach; 4125 Galzley; phone 453-1986 Time 7:00 p. m. We have a pot luck at 7 p. m. followed by a discussion of the book, "Little Bee" *By Chris Cleave*. Everyone is welcome, even if you have not read the book. April's book is ("**Alex & Me**" by Irene Pepperberg)



## 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 29<sup>th</sup>, "Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge" by Edward O. Wilson. For further information contact June Beach, [mindmeaning@austinuu.org](mailto:mindmeaning@austinuu.org).

## April Enoughness Events:



**Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** is our Green Sanctuary sponsored "Alternative Transportation Day." Bike or walk to church if you care to. Come look at some alternative transportation solutions.

**Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** is **Earth Day**, with a special worship service called "Gaia Psalms." Music by Kiya Heartwood. Words by Meg Barnhouse and Kiya Heartwood.

**Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** **Public Affairs Forum speaker** will address the topic of sustainability and Enoughness.

The RE program's summer project continues the theme with Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin March 2012 NEWSLETTER

## First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Austin

4700 Grover Avenue

Austin, TX 78756

*One Church. Many Beliefs.*

**Minister:**

**Rev. Meg Barnhouse ext 304**

**Director of Finance and Operations**

**Sean Hale ext 308**

**Interim Director Lifespan Religious**

**Education:**

**Barbara Stoddard ext 306**

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

**Board President: Chris Jimmerson**

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

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

Photos are by Jane Parsons & Margaret Roberts



## INTRODUCING THE FIRST UU SUPER 62!

Everyone below has signed the Membership Book since October. Look for blue dots on nametags and introduce yourself to these new members.

Robin Williamson  
Diane Barnet  
Pail Sullivan  
Nancy Stout  
Max Stout  
Cassie Moore  
Gus Moore  
Trish O'Day  
Jim Morrison  
Dianne Bennet  
Carol Hawk  
Wayne Festerson  
Liz Kesterson  
Paul Simmons  
Erin Martin  
Katie Severance  
Mary Patrick  
Kathleen Lawson

Ron Buford  
Doris Buford  
Rue Wood  
Jon Montgomery  
Mike Jurkash  
Laura Windwehen  
Mescal Evler  
Jairy Grisaffe  
Chris Barton  
Deborah Black  
Mykey Arthrell  
Margaritte Knezek  
Jane Wray  
Gail Salazar  
Jim McCall  
Patricia Sylvana  
Anita Teresa Costa

Wendy Erismen  
Annabelle Dillard  
Jean Germain  
Ashley Dillard  
Lashanna Martin  
Audrey Lallier  
Marsha "Sam" Elkins  
Dan Griffiths  
Elissa Myers  
Susan Chichester  
Beth Chichester  
Ethan Love  
Peggy Stewart  
Tracy Ekstrand  
Gail Daniels  
Donna Carpenter  
Jennifer Ziegler

Irene Tobis  
Michael Tobis  
Joseph Kanke  
David Goss  
Tom Osborn  
Ty Osborn  
Sharon Zeugin  
Janet Widoff  
Tom Lambe  
Sue Lambe