



# FIRST UU NEWS

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

## The Story of Where I Am

**by Rev. Meg Barnhouse**



When I was 23, at Princeton Seminary, I decided I needed to start talking to myself because I was just skating over the surface of my life, moving too fast, paying too much attention to what had to be accomplished, to the dramas in my head.

Things like spring would pass me by, I would find myself in tomorrow already and I hadn't noticed today. I began to notice things aloud. "This is the time when the daffodils are blooming. The sky is pale blue and there are wispy clouds in the sky." The tidy data specialists in my brain would retrieve for me the name of the clouds. Cirrus. My fifth-grade teacher called them "horsetails." It was a way of getting oriented in the world, of being present for my life.

I like to know the story of the place where I am. As I write this, I am in South Carolina, involved in big milestones in the life of our boys. Kiya and I have gone to two graduations (our older boy's finishing med school and our soon-to-be daughter-in-law's graduation from the SC Honors College), our granddaughter's first birthday party, our younger boy's CD release party, and now we're getting ready for his wedding. Back when we all lived in SC together, I called a geologist at one of the colleges to learn that 370 million years ago there was an ocean where we were. It was narrowing, because the plate that carried the continent of Africa was headed our way on a collision course. Around

363 million years ago it plowed into the plate carrying the North American continent. The edge of Africa was pulled underneath North America and melted. The earth in the south was pushed up into mountains high as the Himalayas. The piece of Africa that melted floated up to the surface as granite. The rocks at my feet were formed by heat and pressure 8 -10 miles below the surface. As the plates pulled apart again, an inch a year, forming the Atlantic Ocean, over time, weathering and erosion removed

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maybe 15 miles of surface where I stood. The Blue Ridge Mountains are the remnants of the towering peaks...not even the remnants, they are the roots of those peaks, having made their way up from deep below.

Things look still, but they are not. Change happens fast and change happens slowly, but change happens, and what is under the surface is moving and shifting, and things come up. When I learned the history of the people of the place I found something similar. What was past was under the surface and it affected what was happening in the present. The complicated truth of the interactions between Europeans and the native people, the greed for farmland, the Cherokee removal, the slave trade, the textile mills and suppression of the unions. Faulkner said "The past isn't dead. It isn't even past."

I'm learning more and more about the past of First UU. It flows and shifts under our feet, and things surface and dive. It behooves us to remain aware of all of our triumphs, our failures, and all of the many events, interactions and decisions that are hard to place on the continuum between those ends. I'm so glad to be coming back to this congregation and continuing my work with you all. I look forward to meeting a geologist who can tell me what's under my feet in my Texas home. ■

## Solar Celebration

*Sunday, June 30  
Patio, south side of  
church*

First UU's solar panels have now kept one million pounds of carbon from entering the atmosphere. In honor of this great achievement, we will celebrate the sun and all things solar. On the patio and south side of the church following both services, we will have solar car races, solar art projects, tours and celebration of our solar installation, other fun activities and information about how you can add more solar to your life. Join us for this family-friendly event and dig what the sun can do besides bringing us those hot Austin summers. ■

## Deputy Registrar training continues through June

Come on down to First UU on a Saturday morning at 10 a.m. and get trained to do voter registration.

Please sign up for one of the training sessions listed below by sending an email to [maptrick@gmail.com](mailto:maptrick@gmail.com). Indicate the date that you will attend.

Training starts promptly at 10 a.m. (Please arrive shortly before 10 a.m.) on June 2, 8, 15, 22, or 29. ■

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

# Living our values and making a difference at First UU

by **Michael Kersey**

I feel honored and privileged to serve as your Board of Trustees President. It is an exciting and wonderful time at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin.



I see so many things that this community is doing towards realizing its mission and ends. I am delighted at our efforts to be an intentionally hospitable community by offering Martha's free breakfast before the first Sunday service, by having a brighter, more congenial space through the Freshen UUp project, the new welcome center staffed by friendly volunteers,

**And I am especially proud of our engagement as witnesses to justice in our personal lives and beyond with our continued engagement with Peoples Community Clinic, Hands On Housing, Standing on the Side of Love, and Split the Plate.**

and all the other ways we're being welcoming to ourselves and newcomers. I am thrilled at our efforts to nourish souls and transform lives with our burgeoning chalice circles program, the new art mission, Fellowship Religious Education and Dinner (FReD), and the

continued excellent quality of our existing programs and events such as Paradox Players, Public Affairs Forum, Senior Luncheon, Sharing Suppers, Yew Grove, Sing-Alongs, and many others. And I am especially proud of our engagement as witnesses to justice in our personal lives and beyond with our continued engagement with Peoples Community Clinic, Hands On Housing, Standing on the Side of Love, and Split the Plate. We are also reaching out in new ways, such as the recently completed Spring Into Action focus on immigration reform and the Action for Justice project.

I know I've left things out and I've mentioned programs instead of specific names, but these are some of the ways we are living our values and making a difference in the world. I'm grateful to everyone who's contributing to the vitality and success of our church.

I hope you will also join me in extending thanks to the people who have recently concluded their service on the First UU Board of Trustees: Mike LeBurkien, Eric Hepburn, Bruce Barker, and Susan Thomson. They have served our community well and deserve our gratitude. ■

## Long-time First UU leader Kitty Clark dies Memorial service set for June 22

Long-time First UU member and local political leader Kitty Clark died on Sunday, May 12 at the age of 91. For more than 50 years Kitty Clark was part of the First UU family, an institution in the Democratic party of Travis County, and an early leader in the civil rights movement in Austin. In the words of one of her good friends Caroline Reynolds, Kitty Clark left a lasting legacy to the First UU Church of Austin and to the people of Austin.

“Over the years I have been a member at First UU, Kitty has been a central figure in the church culture and personality. Her activist theology was one of two important points in my deciding to join and support First UU. She didn’t just talk about issues, she made lunch and she worked for important changes in the community. The world is a better place because of Kitty Clark’s work for the past 50+ years.”

Kitty is survived by her three sons: Tom, Bill, and Lee, and Lee’s wife Deann; daughter, Pearl and her husband Jon Ohlsson; five grandchildren and one great grandson. Kitty was predeceased by her husband, Les Clark, and daughter, Dail.

A memorial service for Kitty will be held at First UU in the Sanctuary on Saturday, June 22, at 4 p.m.. The service will be followed by a reception in Howson Hall. ■



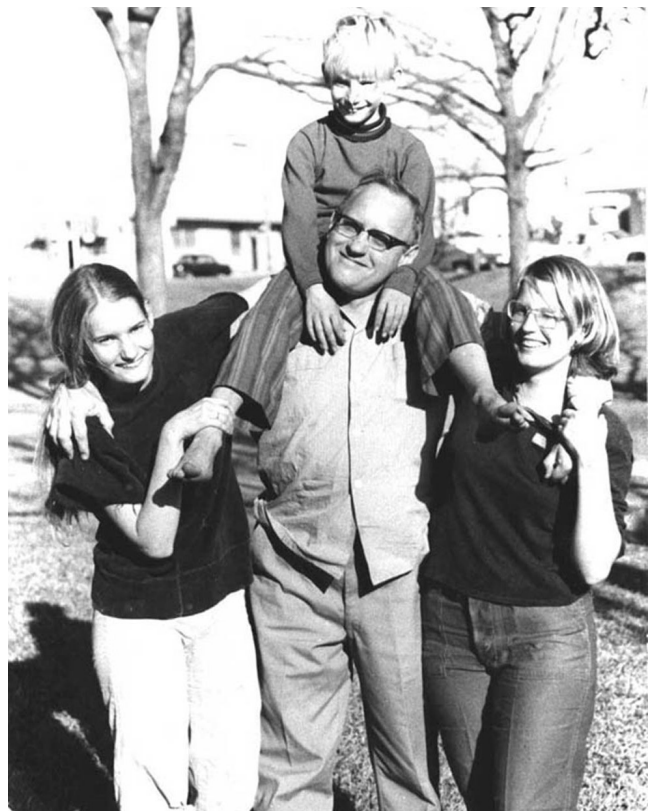
*Kitty Clark with Rep. Elliott Naishtat*

## Free movie: “Blue Gold-World Water Wars”

**7 p.m., Friday, June 7  
Howson Hall**

In Texas the saying goes, “Whiskey is for drinkin’ and water is for fightin’.” Certainly that is beginning to play out here in central Texas as counties to the east try to decide how much ground water can be pumped out and sent to other Texas regions. This movie travels the world to places where this battle is already playing out as water becomes a global resource that is bought and sold and communities fight for equitable rights. Water will be served along with popcorn. Free admission.

*Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee. ■*



*Les Clark with the kids*



## Member Profile

# Kae McLaughlin: Don't mess with this Texas woman

by Carla Jo Schaefer

Don't let her soft Texas drawl and warm smile fool you. Kae McLaughlin is a strong Texas woman who makes things happen. And, while she is warm and she is friendly, she can be as tenacious as a bulldog when she wants to make change happen. Perhaps it's the result of growing up in Big Spring in west Texas where the sun beats down on the flat Texas plains. Or, maybe it is growing up in a time when, if you were a woman, you had to fight to get those things that came easily to your male counterparts. Whatever the impetus, Kae forged a successful career in banking when few women were being promoted in the profession. At age 27, Kae was president of a small country bank in Schwertner, Texas. A graduate of Texas Tech in Lubbock, Kae worked in a major Texas bank in downtown Dallas before heading up the bank in Schwertner. She was also a founding director of Cattleman's State Bank—the first bank in Austin located east of IH35, which was later purchased by Wells Fargo. “My partners were a bunch of ranchers and farmers from east Austin,” says Kae.

From banking Kae moved into the political arena. She first served as a legislative aide at the state Capitol, and went on to lobby for healthcare issues. She also ran her brother's campaign for State Representative in west Texas. “Running that campaign is what made me committed to taking a larger role in ensuring women's reproductive rights,” says Kae. “It was a pivotal time. Texas had some of the most liberal abortion laws on the books, thanks to the likes of Ann Richards, Cissy Farenthold and other progressive Texas women. But things were changing very quickly, and Texas had become the battleground for the religious right, with the goal of making it the showcase state.”

Kae returned to Austin to head NARAL Pro-Choice Texas for almost nine years. “It was the hardest work I'd ever done, and at the same time the most rewarding and the most frustrating,” she says. Kae is particularly frustrated with the lack of support women give themselves, particularly around abortion rights. “There is an enormous disconnection in many women who have abortions and their understanding of the need to protect that right for others. While the vast majority of the population support abortion rights, far too few feel the need to defend those rights. As a result, the procedure

has been restricted further and further each year since it was legalized. Providers have been overburdened with licensing, permits and regulatory restrictions, increasing the cost of the procedure and reducing the number of physicians willing to provide the services.”

Kae made a name for herself working tirelessly for NARAL when the anti-choice candidate for President hailed from her home state. She was on “Hard Ball” and “The Daily Show” with Jon Stewart (2004) and in the same year drew a lot of attention with the “Don't Mess with Texas Women” T-shirt controversy. “I put in a lot of hours, a lot of myself,” she says, “I was in the fray.” She laughed at her favorite moniker, given her by a reporter from the “Austin Chronicle”—“the bad-ass babe on the frontline of fracas.”

Kae has been no less involved in making things happen at First UU. She was raised an Episcopalian in west Texas, which at the time was pretty progressive. “That was before politics invaded religion,” says Kae. “I remember as a young person, wondering why ‘In God We Trust’ was on a dollar bill since according to the Constitution there was supposed to be a separation between church and state. My parents encouraged me to ask questions, to go to other churches and to make up my own mind about my religious beliefs.”

Like so many, Kae moved away from the church as a young adult. “Finding a religious community was not on my agenda,” she says, “A woman from First UU mentioned the public forum, and I *continued on next page*



## One Voice against Monsanto

*A wise friend once told me that it only takes one voice to make a difference.*

On May 18, approximately 35 UUs joined together for the “Monsanto Free Potluck and a Movie.” San Marcos UU Fellowship and Live Oak members joined First UU members to delve into the topic of genetically modified organisms ([www.nongmoproject.com](http://www.nongmoproject.com)). They were joined by March Against Monsanto Austin co-organizers Karen Welsh, Monika Mota, and CC Liedecke (former San Marcos UU DRE and prospective new First UU member).

In a speech that evening, CC Liedecke urged Austin Area UUs to march to protect the interdependent web of

life. GMOs are a danger to the human race, animals, and the environment. On May 25, Austin Area UUs joined more than 1,000 people in the March Against Monsanto to raise awareness of GMOs, despite the pouring rain. Dedicated protestors took up three blocks of space as they marched down Congress Avenue to the Texas State Capitol. The Standing on the Side of Love banner marched proudly. Unitarian Universalists were the only religious group represented and they made the Saturday evening news on KXAN. March Against Monsanto Austin gears up to march again on July 4 and October 12 ([www.facebook.com/marchagainstmontoaustin](http://www.facebook.com/marchagainstmontoaustin)). ■



*CC Liedecke carrying the banner during the March Against Monsanto, on May 25 at the state Capitol.*



*First UU members holding banner at the March against Monsanto on May 25.*

### **Kae McLaughlin**

*continued from page 4*

thought that sounded worth checking out. I went several times to the Unity Church, not realizing my mistake, and was so disappointed in the doctrine. Eventually, I did find my way to First UU. Don Smith gave the sermon that day and his words lifted my spirits, which I sorely needed at the time. I came one Sunday and signed the membership book just a few weeks later.”

Kae started out as a greeter at First UU and was quickly recruited to do the Sunday Night Live program for the RE children ages 4 to 11 years old—all in one room. That was just the beginning. She chaired the Membership Committee and served on the Stewardship

Committee and the Executive Search Committee that hired Sean. She served on the Board of Trustees for two years as Treasurer, and now serves as Finance Chair. She has volunteered in the office, chaired a fund raiser for Paradox Players, and so much more.

These days Kae is still active in the church, but everything plays second fiddle to her care for her mother, who has lived with her since her father died last year. “And while my family is very important to me,” says Kae. “it is my church family that meets my needs for community. I can’t believe I waited so late in life to find them!” ■

## Lobbying UU values in Texas

SOCIAL ACTION

By Samantha Fredrickson

Lobby days, postcard campaigns, online petitions, and rallies. Those were just some of the activities that kept First UU's Action for Justice project busy during this most recent legislative session.

This group of politically inclined First UU members focused its efforts at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature on women's health, education and immigration. The committee also lobbied Texas federal representatives on comprehensive immigration reform. They'll be hosting a wrap-up of the legislative session with Austin area representatives on a weeknight in June in Howson Hall, so stay tuned for more information as we set the date.

The group will continue to meet throughout the summer on any issues that may arise during the special legislative session, and will reconvene in the fall to decide which new issues to tackle at the local, state and federal levels.

Here's a sample of some of what Action for Justice did this spring:

**Women's Health:** The committee focused its women's health efforts on advocating for the restoration of funding to the women's health program, including to Planned Parenthood, that was gutted by the Texas Legislature in 2011. It also opposed legislation that was aimed at restricting women's access to health care, contraception and abortion.

In addition to joining Planned Parenthood for their rally and lobby day, First UU members frequently attended legislative hearings and registered opposition or support for various health bills.

The committee also organized an online petition asking the legislature to fully restore all funding cuts to women's health. More than 200 signatures were collected as the petition was circulated to UU churches throughout Texas, thanks to the help of the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry. That petition was hand delivered to Sen. Judith Zaffirini and Rep. Elliott Naishtat. And while the legislature did not restore all of the funding cuts, it did make progress by restoring some.

**Education:** Committee members worked to restore the funding cuts to education, to oppose school vouchers, and to advocate for better testing standards.

Church members joined the thousands that gathered for the Save Texas Schools rally and sent letters and emails to legislators.



*Peggy Morton, Samantha Frederickson and Karen Neeley at Senator John Cornyn's office.*

The committee plans on working with Texas Freedom Network over the summer to advocate before the state school board to improve textbook science curricula.

**Immigration:** The Texas Legislature was not as active on immigration issues this year as it has been in the past. But the Action for Justice committee kept busy advocating for comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level.

The committee joined with the Standing on the Side of Love campaign that is urging UUs across the nation to lobby for fair and just immigration policies, and worked with the Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition and Reform Immigration for Texas. Church members met with the staffs of Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz and Representatives Roger Williams and Michael McCaul to advocate that immigration reform must respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person by including a path to citizenship and an improved worker visa program.

After the Senate introduced legislation, the committee organized a postcard campaign urging Sen. Cornyn to vote for immigration reform that reflected the above-mentioned principles. About 75 postcards signed by First UU members were collected and hand delivered to Sen. Cornyn's Austin office.

Stay tuned for more information about upcoming events sponsored by Action for Justice. And if you'd like to get involved, email project coordinator Samantha Fredrickson at [justice@austinuu.org](mailto:justice@austinuu.org). ■



## Visit women in detention awaiting political asylum

by **Peggy Morton**

Gillian Redfearn, Felicia Kongable, Maria Salas and I have been visiting women seeking political asylum, who are locked up in the T. Don Hutto Residential (Detention) Center in Taylor, Texas. We are looking for Spanish, French, Chinese, Thai, Amharic and Tagalog speaking volunteers to join us for the visits.

When foreigners show up at the U.S. border to request an escape from persecution in their home countries, Immigration Customs Enforcement agents lock them up. Fortunately, Grassroots Leadership Executive Director Bob Libal and his group offer training to individuals who would like to visit these women. We make it clear to them that we're not lawyers, but are only there to visit and to show them someone in the U.S. cares.

"I have only visited once, but I was so impressed by the good women I met and visited with, I will go again," says First UU member Felicia Kongable. "It must be horrible to have had your dreams crushed, be in limbo and not know which way your life will turn."

The women at the center work five-hour shifts and get paid 30 cents an hour to clean the facility or work in the kitchen. That money goes into an account, which they can use to buy goods in the commissary owned

by the for-profit prison (residential center). After a day and a half of working, the women can buy Suave shampoo for \$2.50 (we can buy at the local drugstore for 99 cents). The women don't complain about the work because they say it gives them a way to pass their time. They also show great appreciation to visitors. We typically take rolls of quarters to buy them snacks and drinks from the vending machines because we're not allowed to bring in healthier treats.

"I keep coming back because it is a way of telling these women that they are not forgotten and that there are many Americans who are ashamed of being complicit in their plight," says UU Maria Salas. "I want them to know that there is someone who cares and that I will let others know about what is happening. I keep visiting because I want the day to come when these places will disappear."

Gillian Redfearn and I started the visitations, and want to grow our group to make sure the women have a couple of visitors every two or three weeks. Currently, we're not on a regular schedule. Please contact me at [socialaction@austinuu.org](mailto:socialaction@austinuu.org) to get trained and join the budding UU ministry. ■

## Second Sunday Special Offering: UBarU

by **Michael West**

In 2001, a group of Quakers made a gift of 142 acres of Hill Country land and associated buildings to Unitarian Universalists in our region. Since that time, UBarU has become a resource for all UUs, serving as the site for numerous retreats for people of all ages. UBarU is a place where UU values are lived out under the Texas sun and Texas stars. UBarU is the only retreat, camp and conference center for UUs in the entire Southwestern UU Conference (not just Texas).

We believe we serve the mission of First UU by offering an opportunity to transform souls through direct contact with the stark beauty of the Texas Hill country and the refreshing chill of the water tank next to the windmill.

We nourish souls each time someone walks the stony steps of the labyrinth modeled after Chartres Cathedral or communes with fellow UUs at retreats for fellowship, team-building, star-gazing or contemplation and meditation.

We transform the lives of youth through the Southwest UU Conference Summer Camps, First UU middle and high school retreats and the new LGBT youth camp that has found a home here in Texas.

We offer a forum for the leaders and members of all UU congregations to work and smile together as they strive to do justice in the paths they take.

Part of our mission at UBarU is to improve on the gift we were given. Many improvements have been made during the past decade, including a new commercial kitchen, a deck on the meeting house, new bunk beds throughout the camp and an outdoor chapel under the Meditation Oak. This is your opportunity to turn the Quakers' gift into a legacy for UUs to pass on from our generation to the next and beyond. UBarU is the one resource in the region that belongs to all UUs. Please consider a generous donation and join in ensuring that UBarU achieves this significant advance toward realizing its full potential. ■

## Recycle your books and help inmates recycle their lives

by Richard Halpin

“I have often reflected upon the new vistas that reading opened to me. I knew right there in prison that reading had changed forever the course of my life. As I see it today, the ability to read awoke in me some long dormant craving to be mentally alive.” Malcolm X

A few of our church Fellowship Committee and Green Sanctuary Committee members had a magical experience on May 12. We took a picnic and willing hands and minds over to this invisible treasure house space on East 12th Street. This ‘Aladdin’s book cave’ hidden by an impossible to read “SPACE 12” sign is a non-profit gem of nourishing souls, transforming lives and doing justice. Housed inside are hundreds of donated books ready to transport readers to new places and opportunities. But its frontage or ‘cave’ face is hard to see and find. The magic is the energy, camaraderie, fellowship and the simple justice of sending books that can change the lives of the recipients in simple and profound ways. As for the nourishment of souls and changed forever lives, one inmate wrote, “thank you all for sending me and other people these books. They are often the only window to the outside world and, even briefly, healing delivery from the madness that fills these prison walls.” Justice? For sure.

What we church members did was simplicity itself. We turned on a light. Joseph Hunt from our church said, “look at these amazing drawings this inmate sent. I found him the most incredible book on learning to be a brilliant illustrator.” We filled book orders. We found the closest titles to what was requested, put them in a manila envelope, wrote a good luck note, weighed the package and slapped the already prepared mailing label on the front. Open sesame! The magic and the justice was under way.

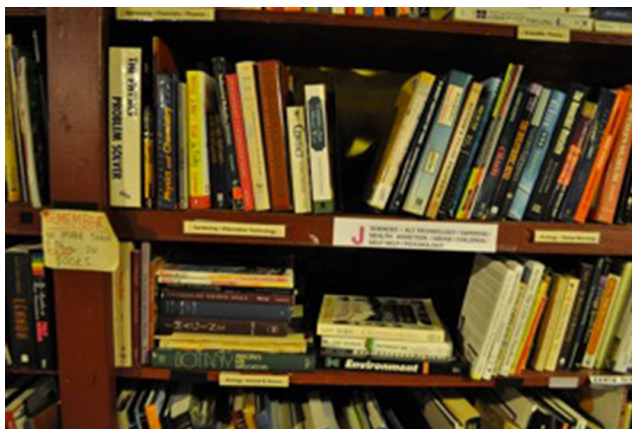
Another magical and transformative element? It is an all-volunteer success. You enter this space and you are in another realm. The rich life of all these books and the Austinites who send them out vibrate in the air that touches your skin and enters your lungs. How to be a truck driver, engineer, learn to speak English or simply have a great book to read. In addition to the potluck lunch, we brought bags of books that you donated. Very tough but liberating you pried books from your own fingers and minds to share with other Texans. In the Gallery outside the First UU bookstore at our book donation spot, a downsizing retired professor and church member said “please come and get my thousands of

books and share them with folks who want to read.”

Your books and his books are now the passports to new opportunities. We recycle books and Texas inmates get to recycle their lives. Want to be part of this transformative nourishing energy? Release those great books from your shelves. Bring your nourishing paperbacks and transformative publications to our Gallery donation site. Do justice and pot luck with us 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 10, the second monday in June at Inside Books Project 3121 E.12th St. As we left the SPACE 12 book cave, the remaining volunteer was heard to say “this was a magical Monday.” Questions or you want to join us ? Call Beki or Richard Halpin at 512 288 4080. ■



From this ...



To this!



**PARADOX**



**PLAYERS**

**Next Fall is almost here**

Paradox Players presents “Next Fall,” written by Geoffrey Nauffts and guest directed by Karen Jambon. This powerful play takes a witty and provocative look at faith, commitment and unconditional love.

Luke is a Christian. Adam is anything but. While the play’s central story focuses on their five year relationship, it also forces us to examine what it means to “believe” and what it might cost us not to.

The show runs June 14-30, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Visit the Paradox Players table in the Gallery on any Sunday, or paradoxplayersorg, or call 512-744-1495 to make reservations.

**“The funniest heartbreaker in town!”**

*“New York Times”*

Valued First UU supporters are invited to celebrate with the cast and crew at a gala reception after the show’s opening on Friday, June 14. Reservations are highly recommended for that night. Free child-care will be provided on Sunday, June 16, and Saturday, June 22, if reserved seven days in advance. Email [childcare@austinuu.org](mailto:childcare@austinuu.org). ■

**Operation Freshen UUp improvements continue!**

**by Vicki Almstrum**

Have you been enjoying the updates in our church facility? During April, hard-working volunteers, including folks from two chalice circles, finished painting the gold walls in the hallways just in time for Mari’s ordination. Volunteers have also made progress with the hallway trim, but there is lots more to go. We are setting up a “trim kit” to make it easy for volunteers, after getting some training, to come in to paint for two or three hours at their convenience.

Have you noticed how lovely the pews in the sanctuary are looking? Volunteers from two chalice circles, the James Luther Adams group and the Martha and

Waitstill Sharp group, spent a recent Sunday afternoon vacuuming, spot cleaning, and steam cleaning all of the pew upholstery. Several young helpers wiped down the wooden edges and trim as well.

Freshen UUp will continue through the summer. There are many tasks, small as well as large, that can benefit from volunteer efforts. Please check out the checklist of pending Freshen UUp activities posted on a loose bulletin board near Meg’s office. For more information or to volunteer, please contact the Freshen UUp coordinator, Vicki Almstrum, at [FreshenUUp@austinuu.org](mailto:FreshenUUp@austinuu.org). ■



*Mary Ann Stafford, Peter Langlois, Torgny Stadler, and Lisa Carrell prepping the RE hallways*



*Curtis Walters, Chris Magyar, and Sharon Nell making progress on the section they claimed as their painting target.*

## Thanks to our generous members: Karen Neeley and Mike LeBurkien

When Karen Neeley noticed that First UU did not have an automatic door opener on the north side of the foyer, she decided to do something about it. She contacted First UU staff and gave a generous donation for the purchase and installation of an automatic door opener. So, now when we have events and Sunday services, we can turn both door openers on, providing easy access for wheelchair users.

Thanks also to Mike LeBurkien who gave a generous gift towards the purchase of the digital flat screen display in the hallway. ■

## A name badge may be waiting for you

We have a lot of member name badges that have been requested and that remain unclaimed on the table in the foyer just inside the south door. Please drop by this table and see if you might have one waiting just for you. ■

## LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Lifespan RE highlights

by Marisol Caballero



Hooray! Summer is here! I hope that all of you plan to get outside and enjoy the sunshine! I know I do! **June 9** is the last day of our spring RE semester

in which we focused on studying world religions.

We will continue to have two services this summer, complete with a story for all ages, but our children's RE program will employ a pared down, yet equally fun, "two-room schoolhouse" model. Beginning **June 16**, Pre-K (3 and 4 year olds) will continue to meet separately and remain engaged in the "We Are Many, We Are One" curriculum that they began this spring. K-5th grade will begin using a curriculum called "We're on Our Way," which explores ways in which kids can act against various forms of oppression and help create a more just and multi-cultural world. We will also begin to have a monthly Children's Chapel service after the kids are sung out of service in the sanctuary. The first will be **June 16**.

A big "thumbs up!" to our youth for their excellent job conducting the worship service last month! I heard many people say that they were inspired by the things that were said and the courage it must take to lead worship. You guys definitely made an impact!

Speaking of our youth, I know they and their parents were sad to see Andrew Young step down as Youth Programs Director last month. He took a job in San Francisco to be closer to Starr King School for the Ministry, where he is a student. After completing his degree, he plans to pursue UU ordination and enlist in the U.S. Navy as a chaplain.

We will also say goodbye to Laine

Young, our Teacher Coordinator, on **June 16**, after which time she and daughter Kaitlyn will join Andrew in their new home of Berkeley, Calif. We are as thrilled for their new adventure as we are so sad to see these mainstays of the RE department leave our congregation. We wish them all the best!

### Summer children's social action fund drive

Last year our Sunday School kids participated in a social action fundraiser in which they brought in their pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters and raised more than enough money to send a child in Ghana to school for one year! We are again asking the kids to think twice about that extra trip to the ice cream truck and bring in their change. This year, we will be gathering our money and sending students, right here in Austin, to school with school supplies that their families would not otherwise be able to afford. For every \$15 we are able to raise for Austin's Back to School Parade, one student will be given a backpack filled with the supplies on their grade level's list. The festival and parade (at which backpacks will be distributed) are **August 18**, 1-7 p.m., at Bartholomew Park. Everyone is welcome!

### Toy and book drive a success!

Thank you so much to all of the kids, parents, and grandparents who combed through your gently-used toys and books to donate to the kids living at Casa Marianella! We gathered so much that our Casa Marianella volunteer extraordinaire and church member Molly Costigan had to make two trips when she delivered it all! Thanks to all



for their generosity and to Molly for being such a great helper, both to the kids at Casa Marianella and to the kids here at First UU, who wanted their toys and books to make other kids happy!

### Join the RE family!

Would you like to strengthen your connection to the larger First UU of Austin community, deepen your spiritual life, see the world through a whole new perspective, and have a ton of fun? If so, the Religious Education department would love for you to join our great group of talented volunteer teachers! We are seeking those who would like to hang out and learn with our kids over the summer as a lead or assistant teacher. No experience necessary, as you will be given an orientation and curriculum. This summer, our elementary-age curriculum is “We’re on Our Way,” a (FUN!) UU study in anti-oppression, multicultural values. Come join our team in nurturing our youngest Unitarian Universalists along their journey. Aside from being an awesome spiritual practice, some of the job perks include RE teacher happy hours and tons of First UU of Austin swag! Teach during one service, worship in the sanctuary during the other! Please contact: [mari@austinuu.org](mailto:mari@austinuu.org) for more info.

### Adult Religious Education update

F.Re.D. (Fellowship, Religious Ed. And Dinner) has gone away to summer in a cooler climate, but will return from his hiatus in the Fall. Chalice Circles have done the same, but be on the lookout for registration for our small group ministries at the end of the summer. Also, if you are interested in the possibility of co-facilitating a Chalice Circle, please email me at [mari@austinuu.org](mailto:mari@austinuu.org). Training will be provided.

Our Wednesday night programming, Evensong, Compassionate Communication, and Spirit in Practice have all ended quite successfully. We are looking forward to equally engaging adult RE courses when the Fall semester begins. **The April 15 deadline for all fall course and group proposal submissions has been extended to June 30**, as this is the first year that the such a deadline is being enforced. Please email [mari@austinuu.org](mailto:mari@austinuu.org) to request a proposal submission form.

Yoga Covenant Group, Mindful Meditation, and book groups will continue to meet throughout the summer. Please visit the church calendar and weekly announcements at [www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org) for up-to-date meeting times. ■

### Youth lead May 19 service

On Sunday, May 19, the youth of First UU led the Sunday worship service. They planned the readings, the order of service and the music. It was a great time for the members of the congregation to meet the youth of the church and to witness the bridging over of our senior members who are graduating from high school—Max Wethington and Jara Stiller.

The service was bittersweet because it was the last service for Andrew Young, youth programs director, who is moving to Berkeley, California (or CA), to finish his divinity degree at Starr King School for the Ministry. However, it was an exciting time for Max and Jara as they continue their journey and for those youth who are continuing on in our youth program. ■



*Graduating seniors Max Wethington and Jara Stiller are recognized by Rev. Mari Caballero during the May 19 service.*



*Members of the First UU youth group are introduced during the May 19 youth-led 9:15 a.m. service.*



## First UU Choir talent/variety/benefit show a success!!

by Kit Christie

We had a night of fun, fellowship and entertainment at our second annual benefit variety show on May 9! Thank you to everyone who participated or made a donation. As one attendee shared with us, “You were absolutely awesome!! And your church group is a seriously talented bunch. That really was the best church experience I’ve ever had in my whole life.” Please join us again next year! Below is letter from Virginia, thanking all of you for your generous support.

*Thank you to everyone who came out to the second annual First UU choir talent/variety/benefit show on May 9. The music, laughter, and sense of community was so wonderful! There is so much amazing talent in our church!*

*Your generous donations raised more than \$1,250 to help with the medical expenses related to my February accident. This is so amazingly helpful, I am not sure how to thank everyone enough. Even with good health insurance, most of my injuries and subsequent surgeries have been related to my broken jaw and several lost and damaged teeth, some of which are not covered expenses, even after deductibles and co-pays. I would also like to take a moment to thank all the wonderful women in the First UU choir who have volunteered to stay with me during parts of my recovery. Really, everyone has been so amazing. It means so much to me to see so many of you there sharing your talents and offering your support!*

*Many people have asked what is next for me in the recovery, and I will gladly share with you: I am still waiting for the largest break in my jaw to fully heal and a bone graft to take, with hopes to have implants put in for my missing teeth later this summer. For those of you who have had implants, you know it is a “process.” However, my surgeon and dentist are hopeful that I will have my crowns on by February of next year (which means I will no longer have my gap-toothed smile). The other breaks in my jaw seem to have healed nicely, and it looks hopeful that I will not be losing any more teeth. I am still waiting for two bones to heal in my foot, but they feel better every day. Finally, my mental functions are almost back to normal (if we dare to define “normal”) though I still tire very easily, and sometimes struggle with short-term memory loss. I am seeing daily improvement, and am hopeful that in the next few months to have no more lingering effects.*

*Again, thank you for the wonderful talent show—not only was the money raised so very helpful for me, but the music, comedy, and community we all shared was so important to my recovery as well. I truly am grateful to everyone, and I hope to be able to give back just as generously in future years! Much love,*

Virginia Kay Luehresen



George Denney “wows” with his ukulele.



Dwayne Newt



First UU intergenerational choir share their musical talent at the talent show.

## DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS



## UPCOMING DENOMINATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 19-23, LOUISVILLE, KY

Final reminder to sign up for the biggest Unitarian Universalist Association event of the year! Get inspired, educated, entertained, and connected with other UUs from all over the country and the world. For complete information, see: <http://www.uua.org/ga/>

### UBARU SUMMER CAMP (NEAR KERRVILLE, TEXAS)

Reminder: Sign up for fun and friendship at UU summer camp. Space is limited!, so sign up now!

Jun 30-Jul 6—SWUUC Primary Camp

Jul 7-13—SWUUC Junior Camp

Jul 14-20—SWUUC Senior Camp

To register or for scholarship information, visit <http://www.ubaru.org/home/Events/SummerCamp/tabid/1434/Default.aspx>

### SWUUSI (SOUTHWEST UU SUMMER INSTITUTE) JULY 21-26, HUBERT, OKLA.

Come for the education, faith development, entertainment, recreation, and fun at Western Hills Guest Ranch in Hubert, Okla., with fellow UU individuals and families from all over the Southern Region! It's a great multi-generational summer camp! Sing in the choir; attend workshops; enjoy Artist in Residence, Emma's Revolution; play games; swim in the pool; eat at the camp-wide barbeque; perform in the Talent Show; worship; do social action. There is special children and youth programming. Get the scoop at: <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/swuusi2013.html>

### OPUS YOUNG ADULT CAMP: AUG 7-11, 2013

OPUS is the UU Young adult event of the year. It is the five-day spiritual retreat of the Continental UU Young Adult Network (CUUYAN). Unicamp is located approximately 1.5 hours northwest of Toronto. For an opportunity for spiritual growth and a loving community, don't miss this annual event that offers fellowship, fun, workshops, and participatory worship for those aged 18-35 across the U.S. and Canada. Visit <http://cuc.ca/young-adults/opus-2013-fragile-strands-strong-web/FB>; <https://www.facebook.com/events/299988406778543/permalink/299988410111876/>. View the OPUS video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ol7RhQHka50ys!> ■

### **Eclectic Folk Jam** *June 14, 7-10 p.m.*

#### **First UU Church**

The Eclectic Folk Jam, an open jam session for singers and instrumentalists, is held on the second Friday of every month. We have "Rise Up Singing" song books, and some people like to bring copies of their favorite songs to pass out. Bring drinks and snacks to share. Contact Pete and Kim Akenhead at 512-834-0188 or Mary Jane Ford at 512-926-4122 or [singalong@austinuu.org](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org). ■

### **UU/Quaker Singalong**

**June 22**  
**7:30–10:30 p.m.**  
**Friends 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" are provided. This is an alcohol-free event, round-robin format, held on the fourth Saturday of every month. Contact Larry Vaughn 512-469-0029 or Mary Jane Ford at [singalong@austinuu.org](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org). ■

## Martha's Free Breakfast\*

Come join us every Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. for Martha's Free Breakfast. We'll meet in Howson Hall before the first Sunday service for breakfast tacos, coffee and juice. What a great way to start the day—fellowship and food! ■

\*Funded by a bequest from Martha Leipziger.

## Sharing Supper Saturday, June 15

Sharing Supper is a great way to meet lots of newcomers and long time UUs from across the Greater Austin area. Sharing Suppers are casual adult dinners held the third Saturday of each month. Groups of six to 10 people gather in various participants' homes, and everyone contributes to the dinner. Sharing Suppers are open to all adults in the church, new or established, couples or singles, and you need not be a member to participate. Sign up for one dinner at a time; no long-term commitment. Participants take turns hosting and planning the meal or helping co-host in another's home. The signup deadline is June 9. Contact Jeanne Barker at [sharing@austinnu.org](mailto:sharing@austinnu.org) to sign up. ■

# SUNDAY WORSHIP

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

## JUNE 2

### Tales of the Tribe

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Home from visiting family. Our stories tell us who we are, where we've been. They let us know what is expected of us and what we can expect. Sondheim says "Beware the tales you tell, the children are listening. Your tale is your spell. The children are listening."

*The Adult Choir will be joined by the award-winning Tosca string quartet in a musical offering of Pergolesi's "Magnificat."*

## JUNE 9

### The Rose

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

We hear in songs that love is a rose. We read the poets, who say life is a rose. From Rumi to Emerson to the Grateful Dead, the rose is used to evoke beauty, pain, the ephemeral nature of life. It's summer, and the roses are blooming.

*Robert Norris and Eddie Collins will share their special brand of bluegrass music for both morning services.*

## JUNE 16

### Amazing Grace

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

An auction sermon, where the requested topic is "salvation." What does the word mean? Is it something we want? How do we get it? We have

yielded the ground of words like this to the more traditionally religious communities, but we really can go there. It will be okay.

*Morning service music will feature the Govier and Edwards Piano Duo.*

## JUNE 23

### Joseph Priestley: The Most Hated Man in Britain

WITH LUTHER ELMORE

Joseph Priestley was a scientist, philosopher, educator, and Unitarian minister. His positions forced him to flee his homeland for America. We will look at his life and contributions to our Unitarian history.

*The First UU Church of Austin Jazz Combo will provide the morning music.*

## JUNE 30

### Like Slow-growing Trees in a Ruined Place

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Another sermon in the series on the Buddhist Eightfold Path. Right livelihood means doing something with your life that helps the world, "enriching it, if we will make our seasons welcome here, asking not too much of earth or heaven, then a long time after we are dead the lives our lives prepare will live here..." Wendell Berry

*Service music will feature violinist Paula Beard. ■*



# THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

## JUNE 2

### **Bridges to Life: Restorative Justice, Crime Victims Reaching out**

WITH DEBORAH HARTMAN

Deborah Hartman is the Central Texas Regional Coordinator for Bridges to Life, a program that brings victims and offenders together to facilitate a healing process and to reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. Deborah coordinates projects in facilities throughout central Texas. She began her work with Bridges to Life as a volunteer facilitator. She had previously worked for Victim Services in Hays County and found the approach of Bridges to Life, reaching out to offenders as well as victims, to be something she wanted to be involved with.

## JUNE 9

### **Texas and the Gay March towards Full Citizenship**

WITH TOM DOYAL

Tom Doyal will discuss the long march of gay people in Texas towards full and equal citizenship. Tom has been involved, in one capacity or another, in the struggle for fuller civil liberties for lesbians and gay men for more than 25 years. In 1989, he was one of five plaintiffs in the unsuccessful state court challenge to the constitutionality of the Texas sodomy law. The State of Texas has played an important role in this struggle, especially since the U.S. Supreme Court, in a Texas case, finally declared the Texas sodomy law unconstitutional in June 2003. Tom is a retired lawyer and an inactive member of the State Bar of Texas.

## JUNE 16

### **Hard Times for Workers in Northern Mexico: A Photojournalistic View**

WITH ALAN POGUE

Alan will discuss living and working conditions for farmworkers in the U.S. and maquiladora workers in Northern Mexico. He believes we are entering a time of neo-feudalism, and that we must reverse the rush of capital to ever more poverty stricken populations or we will be forced to join them in their poverty.

While taking pictures in Vietnam in the 1960s, Alan

realized the power of the visual image to overcome rhetoric about the war. Peace groups have asked Alan to document conditions in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Palestine, Iraq, Pakistan and throughout South American and African prisons. The University of Texas Press published a book of Alan's photographs in 2007, "Witness for Justice." Currently Alan is recording the stories of prisoners in the Detroit area.

## JUNE 23

### **Where Are You when We Need You? The Life and Contributions of Governor Ann Richards**

WITH JAN REID

Jan Reid is the author of "Let the People In, The Life and Times of Ann Richards." His book is based on his long personal friendship with Ann, interviews with her friends and associates, her correspondence with Bud Shrake, and extensive research. Governor Richards created opportunities for women and minorities in government service, promoted the development of a health and human services safety net, and pushed for economic growth benefitting all the people, not just a wealthy few. Jan Reid has been a senior writer at Texas Monthly for 30 years and contributes to the New York Times, "Esquire, Men's Health, and GQ, among others.

## JUNE 30

### **Drought in Central Texas**

BRIGID SHEA

As our climate and weather continue to change, we need leadership to prepare our community for the dual impact of drought and wildfires. Come hear Brigid Shea talk about her proposal to create the best disaster prevention and preparedness program in the nation.

Brigid Shea is an expert communicator and advocate of environmental policies that make a difference. A former award-winning journalist, environmental organizer and elected official, she has specialized in developing and implementing effective environmental policies since 1988. She is the principal of two environmental consulting firms: Carbon Shrinks and Brigid Shea & Associates, and she advises heavy industry, corporations, governments and non-profits. ■

**First Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church of Austin**

512.452.6168  
austinuu.org

Senior Minister

**Rev. Meg Barnhouse**

Director of Finance  
and Operations

**Sean Hale**

Assistant Minister

**Rev. Marisol Caballero**

Director of Music  
**Brent Baldwin**

Director of Membership  
and Communications

**Carla Jo Schaefer**

Board President

**Michael Kersey**  
president@austinuu.org

**First Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church of Austin**

4700 Grover Ave.  
Austin, TX 78756

## **First UU membership continues to grow!**

**by Carla Jo Schaefer, director of membership**

We are excited to announce that since September of 2012, First UU has added 77 new members. That is almost 15 percent of our total membership.

These new members are bringing a wide range of interests and experiences and are excited to get involved in the life of the church. In fact, many of them are already serving on committees, heading up projects, and joining other groups. Many of them have children, so our RE department is growing, too.

The challenge of any church is retaining members. That is why we have initiated a mentorship program, pairing new members with our more experienced members. These mentors introduce the new members to others in the church and encourage them to participate in church activities.

Joining First UU is a pretty easy process: you take the three-hour Path to Membership class, fill out the membership forms, make a financial contribution and sign the membership book. Then we'll take a photo of you and get you setup with a mentor. Prospective members also are encouraged to take the Introduction to UU Class. If you are unable to attend the three-hour class, you can set up a meeting with Rev. Meg.

Here are the upcoming dates for our next classes:

June 9, 12:15 -1:15 p.m.

Introduction to UU Class

July 13, 9 a.m.-noon - Path to

Membership Class

Please email [membership@austinuu.org](mailto:membership@austinuu.org) to sign up for either of these classes, or if you have any questions about membership in First UU. ■