



# FIRST UU NEWS

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

## A Pirate is a Rabbi

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse

Bob Marley's voice came singing from my car radio. The beat got me right away, and I was bobbing my head, tapping the wheel, grinning. He was singing something like "a pirate is a rabbi." That's all I heard before my thoughts got louder than the music. What a poetic line! "A pirate is a rabbi." That could be true, for sure.

I thought of my friend who says that the time in her life when she lost everything was the time she learned the most about how to live, how to be with other people, about who she was at the bottom line of herself. A rabbi is a spiritual teacher, and a pirate takes everything you've got. Maybe that's what Bob Marley meant: the one who steals your riches is also teaching you about what's important in life, that you are not your wealth and your position, but that your infinite worth is inside of you, inherent in your being.

Facing the loss of everything makes you ask yourself questions. What's wrong with me? How did I get myself in this situation? Why didn't I save instead of spend, why didn't I keep myself in shape, why didn't I appreciate what I had when I had it? If I could have it back, I would drop to my knees and kiss the floor of that house I loved, that garden I grumbled about, I would take those healthy legs for a walk every night, and now I can't. I was

beautiful, and all I thought about was that I needed to lose twenty pounds. I had so much, why did I not notice?

You wonder if it's time to pray now that you are facing such loss; you worry that you didn't pray much when things were good; you wonder if the Universe will keep taking care of you the way it did before. Why should it take care of you, after all? It doesn't take care of everyone. You can see that just looking around. You have been one of the lucky ones. Does each person seem to have the same kind of luck throughout their lives, or can it change drastically?

**There is a freedom, I hear, in knowing that you've been through losing it all. You know it won't completely destroy you. You know you will eventually get through to the other side.**

A pirate can capture you and take you on a journey against your will, a detour far from what is familiar. Your identity is stripped away as you leave the safe little boat of life as you know it. You may have to discover just what you can survive. You will learn things about yourself and about the world that many people don't have to learn. These are things

the rabbis and other spiritual teachers try to make you think about, but you don't have time,

you don't have the inclination, you don't have the interest. It is when you lose everything that suddenly your interest in these matters becomes insistent.

There is a freedom, I hear, in knowing that you've been through losing it all. You know it won't completely destroy you. You know you will eventually get through to the other side. Even if your little boat is on fire, you will come through. Everything that was in you that was just straw and plywood is gone, but those things that were sure and strong, those things that shine like rubies, that endure like rock, those things will still be there. You are now made of stronger stuff. You don't have to live in fear. The loss can be redemptive.

This church has been through it. Difficulties, bad times, hard feelings. It's okay. That happens to a lot of churches. We can talk about it. We can move on. New people are pouring in, and they are some of the best people I've met in my life! I think our time of loss is over and our time of building is beginning. This month is our fundraising canvass, and it's time to face our fears of money



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**Yew Grove Full Moon Circle**

**Thursday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m.**

The next gathering will be under the trees in front of the church (or if we have rain, in the Art Gallery).

We each have our own path on our spiritual journey, we honor your choices as you make the decisions which lead you to your Source. This is an intimate time to join in sacred space and be safe, mindful, and welcome. Afterward we will enjoy seasonal fruits/vegetables, bread, and juice to affirm our connection to one another and gratitude for the gifts of the earth.

If you have any questions, please email [yewgrove@austinuu.org](mailto:yewgrove@austinuu.org) or check out our webpage at [www.austinuu.org/yewgrove](http://www.austinuu.org/yewgrove).

**Autumn Sky: An Evening of Poetry, Music and Stories**

**Sunday, Oct. 20, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

First UU is co-sponsoring this event with poet Coleman Barks and cellist David Darling. This is the Annual Friendship and Dialogue Dinner put on by the Dialogue Institute of the Southwest.

Come to the Hilton Austin downtown and hear the world's premier interpreter of Rumi. Tickets and details at [ruminight.eventbrite.com](http://ruminight.eventbrite.com).

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

**We're Workin' on a Building...**

**by Michael Kersey**

In each unique endeavor they pursue, individual members are helping build and strengthen our UU community.



Some wit once described Unitarian Universalism as an "Open Source Religion." I think that there's an element of truth in this. Within a central kernel of "a responsible search for truth and meaning" to hold it together, we have the opportunity to engage, question, create, and make use of that which feeds our spirit within a supportive and encouraging community. I'm thinking of this because during this season of the Stewardship Campaign, the metaphorical app that I'm running is the gospel song "I'm working on a building." There are at least a couple different version of this song done in many different styles, soul to rock-n-roll and probably jazz quintet to classical quartet too, but it's the version by Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys that I have in mind. It makes me smile and reminds me that we can each contribute in our own way to a larger purpose. The Stewardship Campaign is foundational to our making real the vision and mission of this church community.

This month the Board of Trustees meets on October 15th. The agenda includes monitoring how this church is doing in moving towards our goal of becoming a community that witnesses to justice in our personal lives and beyond.

This is part of our regular schedule of reviewing our policies within the context of our mission, what we've heard from the community, and what we are doing to move towards our goals. Some of the questions that the board considers with regards to justice are: Do we provide opportunities to practice our liberal

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religious values in the public arena? Are there a number of programs and events which allow members to do hands-on justice work? Are we providing leadership to the greater UUA community to expand the reach of our movement? Are we partnering with the interfaith community to live our shared values?

This month the board will also issue a formal statement as representative of our whole church sponsoring Nell Newton as a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry. Nell is a cherished member of our church, who having heard the call to formal ministry, has been studying at Meadville-Lombard Theological School. The next step in her journey towards ministerial fellowship is congregational sponsorship. Our church's statement of congregational sponsorship will serve as evidence to ministerial credentialing bodies that Nell is actively committed to Unitarian Universalism

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*“Workin’ on a Building,” from page 2*

and the institutions which uphold our faith tradition, that she is familiar with UU congregational life, and that we have confidence in her potential and suitability for UU ministry. We are very proud and pleased to be sponsoring Nell’s ministerial candidacy.

Also please mark your calendars for the All Church Congregational Meeting on December 15th, when the whole church will be voting on the proposed church budget for 2014-2015.

At this time of the year, we’re all workin’ on a building, helping to strengthen and sustain this community. Hallelujah! And thanks to all who are making it happen. ■

*“Pirate is a Rabbi,” from page 1*

and deal with it. We can lift up this community together and learn to be brave and sturdy, we might even learn to dare greatly. What could we do if we were not afraid?

Redemption is what Bob Marley was singing about, about emancipating your mind from the slavery of fear. I, however, would like to be free from fear without having to go through the experience of losing everything. I would like everything in my life to go swimmingly, thank you, and I would like for the only pirates I meet to be strong boisterous ones who take me on a rip-roaring adventure and then bring me home, dizzy by none the worse for wear. I need the freedom from fear. I need to

know that I am more than my position in the world, more than my accomplishments, that I am sweet and savory and enough just as I am. My spirit wants to sing songs of freedom from the fear of what people will think, the fear of how I’m going to make my way in the world, the fear of doing everything wrong, of looking stupid, of being snickered at, of having bad judgment, of trusting the wrong people...I heard the words then “Old pirates, yes they rob I,” but the picture of the swashbuckling wooden-legged man with a yarmulke and an eye patch stayed with me. Maybe he’ll have some good advice for me over the crest of the next wave. ■



## Music Matters

by Brent Baldwin

### Music for All Ages: Children’s and Youth Choirs at First UU

The First UU Children’s Choir (grades K-3) and Youth Choir (grades 4-8) offer the children and youth of First UU a high level of vocal musical experience and the opportunity for personal expression of faith. Participation fosters dedication, community, and teamwork while having a joyous time throughout the musical journey.

First service choir participants begin rehearsal after being sung out following the Story for All Ages. Second service choristers may simply arrive at 10 a.m. Parents then pick up their singers at 10:40 a.m. (prior to second service).

### Meet Our Directors!



**Caroline Moore** has been teaching music for over a decade in New York City, where she also performed at BAM, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Allen Room, and the Metropolitan Opera. Caroline holds a B.A. from New York University’s Gallatin School, an M.A. in Music and Music Education

from Teachers College at Columbia University, and she is currently a student in the PhD Music and Human Learning program at UT Austin. Caroline is also the Early Childhood Coordinator and Chorus teacher at the UT String Project, the Summer Music Study Program Director and an Early Childhood Advisor at the Diller-Quaile School of Music in New York. Caroline Moore is thrilled to be working with the young musicians of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin!



**Brigitte Smith**, Director of the First UU Youth Choir, is a passionate music educator, vocalist, and conductor. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Choral Music Education from Texas State University where she was a member and section leader for Chorale, a student conductor for the Women’s Chorus, President of NAFM, and Steward for Mu Phi Epsilon. She is currently the head Choral Director at Goodnight Middle School in San Marcos, Texas. Under her direction the choir has grown from just under thirty members to a flourishing 200+. In the past four years, the Goodnight Choirs have consistently won Superior ratings at UIL Contests and festivals. Brigitte also enjoys performing solo and in local choirs. In the past, she has been the soprano soloist, section leader, and guest conductor for University Baptist Church.

# First UU of Austin spreads the love at Pride Fest

*Photos by Karl Weston and Vickie Valadez*



*The Pride Fest Parade procession marched from the east side of the Capitol building to downtown 4th street.*



*First UU members and their furry companions pose for a picture before the parade begins.*



*Thanks to all the UU members that came out and represented our community at this year's Pride Fest and Parade. It is because of your volunteerism and committment to equality that we can live out our mission to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.*

## First UU volunteers continue to strengthen People's Community Clinic

One of the church's social action outreach programs is with the People's Community Clinic. Since 1970, the clinic has served the underinsured and underserved in Central Texas. People have access to prenatal, pediatric, adolescent and adult care, immunization, social work and integrated behavioral health services. Charges for services are on a sliding scale. Many UU members have donated their time and energy to the clinic's mission.

For several years, Rose Ann Reeser and her mother, Louise Reeser, have volunteered to send out the monthly reminders of immunizations to the parents of children served by the clinic. To increase the visibility and effectiveness of those notices, Rose Ann and Louise have designed and donated new, attractive black and white postcards with photos of children

served by the clinic to send to parents reminding them of the children's immunization needs. Yep, where there is a need, the church seems to have people with the talent and know-how. The Clinic and First UU count themselves lucky to have such wonderful volunteers!

If you are doing any "fall cleaning" and have gently used or new children's books, the Clinic would like to have them for their storytime project and to give books to children when they visit. We will be collecting books on Sundays before and after each service through October 27. A collection box and flyer with information will be in the gallery. Last year the clinic served 7,735 youngsters. A lot of books are needed! Many thanks in advance for your help. Contact Nan Sechler for more info at [nsechler@att.net](mailto:nsechler@att.net).

### Invitation to Artists & Crafters Show & Sell

## FALL ARTISANS & CRAFTERS' FAIR

Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 2013

First UU Church of Austin

4700 Grover Ave

One block east of 49<sup>th</sup> and Burnet Rd.

Details and Information:  
[trodriquez6@austin.rr.com](mailto:trodriquez6@austin.rr.com)

512-451-2131

### *An update about the Connections Fair from Chad Stanton, Membership Coordinator*

Please note that the Connections Fair will be October 6th, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., not September 29th. Please begin to think of innovative ways to attract members to the wonderful work you're doing and contact tabling volunteers.

I'm looking forward to working with y'all in helping to ensure that our community here at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin is as vibrant and engaged as ever. For more information, please contact me: [chad.stanton@austinuu.org](mailto:chad.stanton@austinuu.org).

## FROM THE CANVASS CHAIR

## Pledge from the Heart

by Karen M. Neeley

October means many things—the possibility of cooler weather, the excitement of Halloween, and for First Unitarian Universalist—canvass! As chair of the Canvass Committee, I would like to share some basics about this activity. Since my “day job” involves regulatory compliance procedure writing, I thought that I would borrow from that and share some FAQs with you.

**What is a “canvass”?**

The dictionary definitions include “to seek custom from” and “to ascertain opinions.” For First UU, it means to solicit the contribution pledges from members. But at the same time, the canvass includes an opportunity to ascertain the opinions from members about where we are as a congregation and what we could do better.

**Why is there a canvass?**

This enables the board of trustees, the minister and staff to plan and budget for the next year in a responsible manner.

**Why do people pledge?**

There are probably as many reasons as there are members! For me, I pledge because I truly value the community of seekers and supporters that I find each time I walk through the doors. To me, it is vital that this community—this church—have the resources it needs to thrive.

**How will canvass be conducted?**

If you have already made a 1-2-3 pledge, then this will be year “2” for your pledge. On “Celebration Sunday” October 13, you will have an opportunity to affirm that you are on

track with this pledge, and to give some feedback about the church. If you have made a one-year pledge, Celebration Sunday will be a time when you can make your pledge for this upcoming year, either a three-year “1-2-3” pledge, or a new one-year pledge. There will be pledge cards available most Sundays in October, both in the programs and at a Canvass Table. For those who prefer to visit with a canvasser, there will be opportunities to meet (by phone or in person) with knowledgeable members of the canvass committee.

**How much should I pledge?**

This congregation asks that you be “generous within your means.” That is a matter for you and your conscience. There is no “one size fits all” approach to pledging. For some, a particular dollar amount each month is a comfortable target. For others, a tithe (10%) or half-tithe of net take-home pay is a comfortable figure. The amount needs to fit into your family priorities and financial condition.

**Doesn't the plate contribution cover the church's expenses?**

No, it is a very small proportion of the gifts to the church.

The canvass theme this year is “I’m a Believer.” In the halls, you will see photographs with captions reading: “I’m a believer in...compassion”, or “I’m a believer in...reason and observation,” or “I’m a believer in...community.”

I am a believer in the power of this church to flourish and to nourish our members and the greater community. I invite you to join with me in pledging from the heart to support this special space. ■

**An evening with Sen. Kirk Watson and Rep. Donna Howard***Monday, Oct. 7**7:00 p.m.***Sanctuary**

Join Action for Justice for a discussion about the 2013 legislative session with Sen. Kirk Watson and Rep. Donna Howard. The legislators will talk about how the fight for women’s health and education played out in the regular and special sessions. Afterwards we’ll mingle over tea and dessert in the gallery. Questions, please email [sgfredrickson@gmail.com](mailto:sgfredrickson@gmail.com).

**October Seniors Luncheon***Wednesday, Oct. 9**12:00 p.m.***Howson Hall**

The program for the October luncheon is going to be an introduction to Paradox Player’s October play “New Jerusalem” with Gary Payne, director.

There will also be a scene from the play about the trial of Baruch Spinoza in 1656, with a discussion following.

Soup, salad, and dessert will be served for \$5. Please RSVP at Alice Cashman: (512) 837-0988.

**SOCIAL ACTION**

# Spend an Afternoon with Rare Birds & Rainbows

**Saturday, Oct. 12**

**Howson Hall, 3:00-5:00 p.m.**

Wait, and the world will come to you. Wait with Legalize Human, and you'll meet some of the world's rare birds, rainbow feathers and all.

Transgendered people, also known as trans\* people, seem to be in the news more and more often. Recently it was the nondiscrimination ordinance in San Antonio that drew attention to the issues faced by trans\* people, when the notorious "bathroom issue" came up yet again. Or on September 1st, in Denton County, Texas, when another transwoman was found murdered.

Are trans\* people as strange as this apparent fear of them suggests? What makes a transgender person so different, anyway?

Join us on Saturday, October 12 to find out more about trans\* people & meet some of these rare birds.

The program is as follows:

**Introduction** - by Dr. Oliver Blumer, Transgender Education Network of Texas

**"Trans the Movie"**

**Panel** (What's the difference between a trans\*woman, a cross-dresser, & a drag queen? Ask our panel!)

**Q&A**

**Reception for Rare Birds & Rainbows**

Among the day's rare birds, we'll welcome special guests Lavender LaFleur & CupCake.

Keep up with fresh details on our Facebook event

page by searching for "An Afternoon with Rare Birds & Rainbows," and watch for future Legalize Human events at [facebook.com/legalize.human](https://facebook.com/legalize.human).

# TRANS\*

I recently adopted the term "trans\*" (with the asterisk) in my writing. I think you should, too. If it's new to you, let me help clarify. Trans\* is one word for a variety of identities that are incredibly diverse, but share one simple, common denominator: a trans\* person is not your traditional cisgender wo/man. Beyond that, there is a lot of variation.

## WHAT DOES THE \* STAND FOR?

- \*TRANSGENDER
- \*TRANSSEXUAL \*TRANSVESTITE
- \*GENDERQUEER
- \*GENDERFLUID \*NON-BINARY
- \*GENDERLESS
- \*AGENDER \*NON-GENDERED
- \*THIRD GENDER
- \*TWO-SPIRIT \*BIGENDER
- \*TRANS MAN
- \*TRANS WOMAN

read more at [ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com](http://ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com)

## ***The First UU Stewardship Campaign of 2013 has begun!***

Our annual stewardship campaign is in full swing, and this year's theme is "I'm a Believer." Around the halls of our church you'll notice posters of UU congregants highlighting their beliefs. Additionally, Margaritte Knezek is collecting congregants' responses on video. We invite you to share your story and tell us what you believe in.

First UU of Austin gives its members a nurturing community, and a space for intellectual as well as spiritual transformation. We hope you will give back to your First UU community this year by contributing as generously as you are able. Thank you!



**PARADOX****PLAYERS**

## Paradox Players open “New Jerusalem” on October 11

by Gary Payne, creative director

As a member of First UU Austin, you represent the “core” support group for Paradox

Players. Each opening night is always special, a night when we really count on your attendance to make it so. This marks our fourteenth season of exceptional live theater, so won't you join us on Friday, October 11? We'll have a gala reception, including refreshments, following the show.

The provocative and thought-provoking play is subtitled “The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza at

the Talmud Torah Congregation: Amsterdam, July 27, 1656.” Playwright David Ives has created an intriguing courtroom-like drama, opening the temple doors to listen in on a dispute whose philosophical and political echoes still reverberate today, pitting theocracy vs. universalist science in a Reformation-era prequel to the Scopes trial. For Unitarians, this play is not to be missed.

Reservations can be made by calling (512) 744-1495, visiting [paradoxplayers.org](http://paradoxplayers.org) or dropping by our table in the gallery on Sunday morning.

If you can't make it opening night, “New Jerusalem” will run Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. through October 27. Free childcare is available on October 12 and 13 if reserved seven days in advance. E-mail [childcare@austinuu.org](mailto:childcare@austinuu.org) to reserve.

Finally, if you joined First UU in the last year, we are offering you two for one tickets for any performance except opening night. Just mention that when you make reservations.

See you at the show! ■

### Covenant Yoga Group Update

**Every Wednesday  
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
Howson Hall**

This time and location will continue through December.

Bring your mats for a relaxing, energizing Hatha “Slow Flow” yoga session.

Class is free and drop-ins are welcome.

For more information contact Mary Jane Ford: [yoga@austinuu.org](mailto:yoga@austinuu.org).



## Lifespan RE highlights

### by Rev. Marisol Caballero



*Mari will be returning from her trip with her partner Erin to Zambia and Tanzania on October 8th. In her absence, if you should have any RE queries, please contact Sean Briscoe at [sean.briscoe@austinuu.org](mailto:sean.briscoe@austinuu.org) or Helen DeMore at [helen.demore@austinuu.org](mailto:helen.demore@austinuu.org).*

#### Friday Night Film Series

#### **“Long Strange Trip: A Journey through 2000 Years of Unitarian Universalism” Led by Luther Elmore**

Come and join us in Howson Hall from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for popcorn and discussion of this six-part history of our faith! Sign-up at the RE table in the gallery.

**Oct. 4** - American Unitarianism (1620-1860)

**Oct. 18** - Universalism (1600- 1860) (in Sanctuary)

**Nov. 1** - Evolution (1861-1961)

**Nov. 15** - Unitarian Universalism (1961- present)

#### **Sign Up for Fall F.R.E.D Classes!**

F.R.E.D. (Fellowship, Religious Education, and Dinner!) returns from summer hiatus! Join the First UU Church of Austin family at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, beginning in September, for a delicious meal and great company, followed by Religious Education for the adults and play time in childcare for the kids. Dinner is \$6 a plate for ages 12 and older and always includes a vegetarian option. We will, again, alternate between two courses this year (descriptions below). Sign up now at the RE table in the gallery!

#### **“Active Reconnection,” facilitated by Juliana Kunz & Joanna Johnson alternating Wednesdays at 7:00-8:30 pm, from Sept. 11, 2013 - Jan. 29, 2014 \$15 registration fee (scholarships available)**

According to her website, Joanna Macy is “a scholar of Buddhism, general systems theory, and deep ecology. A respected voice in the movements for peace, justice, and ecology, she interweaves her scholarship with five decades of activism.” She is also the creator of the Work That Reconnects, a workshop for activists which

## LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

“helps people transform despair and apathy, in the face of overwhelming social and ecological crises, into constructive, collaborative action.” Each week in this class, we will be watching Joanna Macy’s own video introductions to exercises in the workshop, engaging in the exercises as a group, and discussing our responses to them as well as to their underlying philosophical framework. The book “Coming Back to Life” by Joanna Macy and Molly Young Brown is strongly suggested supplemental reading to this class.

#### **“Building the World We Dream About,” facilitated by Rev. Marisol Caballero & Vic Cornell alternating Wednesdays at 7:00-9:00 pm, from Oct. 16, 2013 - Apr. 30, 2014 \$15 registration fee (scholarships available)**

In an effort to become an intentionally anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural and radically hospitable congregation, First UU Church of Austin will embark on the two-year workshop series, “Building the World We Dream About,” by Dr. Mark Hicks, the Angus MacLean Professor of Religious Education at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Join us in this journey to realize the Beloved Community.

“Building the World We Dream About’ is a 24-workshop curriculum to support Unitarian Universalists and our congregations in building the multicultural Beloved Community we want to embody. It seeks to disrupt the workings of racism and transform how we relate across racial, ethnic, and cultural differences, in our congregations and beyond. Participants develop their anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural habits and skills and prepare to nurture a multiculturally competent, actively anti-racist congregation.” ([uua.org](http://uua.org))

#### **“At the MUUvies” 7:00-9:00 pm on F.R.E.D. nights**

On F.R.E.D. nights in which pre-registered courses are not held, we will screen a documentary and hold a discussion afterward!

On October 2nd we’ll be showing “The Dharma Brothers.” This film tells the story of Donaldson

Correctional Facility—an overcrowded, violent maximum-security prison, the end of the line in Alabama’s prison system—and how it is dramatically changed by the introduction and influence of an ancient meditation program. Carolyn Gremminger will be the facilitator.

### **Children and Youth RE Town Hall Meeting, Oct. 27th 12:15-1:45 p.m.**

Calling all parents of kids and teens! We are holding a quarterly Town Hall parent/teacher/advisor meeting on Oct. 27th, 12:15- 1:45pm. This meeting will clarify our move to a cooperative RE program, what that means for each household, and ways to volunteer. RE staff will be present to answer questions. We will also discuss upcoming events and welcome feedback and ideas. Kids and teens are welcome to stay and vocally participate in this meeting, as well, though childcare will also be provided. Your attendance is important! See you there!

### **Better Late Than Never!**

If your child/teen attends First UU of Austin’s Religious Education program and is not yet registered for the 2013-14 term, please do so right away. Pink registration forms may be found on the Lifespan RE table on Sundays or online at [www.austinuu.org](http://www.austinuu.org) under Religious Education—Children and Youth site. Information about the current curricula by grade level can also be found in the August’s newsletter online. We look forward to having a great time engaging in religious exploration with your child this year! Thank you!

### **Attention Parents of Middle School Youth!**

Save the dates!

We are planning a trip for the Jr. Youth Group to UBarU, the first weekend of October (4-6th). I will be sending out permission forms and information about programming for the camp within the week. We will also be looking for adults willing to serve as chaperones.

Last year, the middle-schoolers attended the kick-off retreat with the Sr. High teens but, recognizing that a 6th grader and a 12th grader are in very different developmental places, we are trying out this new model this year. This will allow us to better focus on

the Jr. Youth Group, and create age-appropriate programming to better serve them and strengthen leadership skills within the group, as well as to deepen the group’s understanding of themselves as a religious community of youth.

Creating the best experience for the Jr. Youth Group is paramount to helping us grow a more complete Religious Education experience for the younger members of our church. We hope that the kids will have a great time at this weekend retreat!

Contact Sean Briscoe: [sean.briscoe@austinuu.org](mailto:sean.briscoe@austinuu.org) or visit the RE table in the gallery for more info.

### **Chalice Circles Registration Begins!**

Chalice Circle registration is under way! Chalice Circles is First UU Church of Austin’s most expansive small-group ministries program. During each Chalice Circle, consisting of 6-12 members per group, an opening reading is followed by individual check-ins, short readings on a given topic, oral reflection on the topic, and a closing reading. Each group is led by a trained facilitator and adheres to a group-crafted covenant, while engaging in this practice of deep listening. Groups meet twice a month. Every year groups plan and participate in one or two service projects.

Chalice Circles are a great opportunity to connect with other members of First UU in a more intimate and meaningful way. Childcare is available upon request, in advance.

Registration has begun and forms can be found at the Religious Education table located in the gallery. We are also currently recruiting and training facilitators—if you are interested please contact us before the training on Oct. 17. Hope to see you soon! Contact [marisol.caballero@austinuu.org](mailto:marisol.caballero@austinuu.org) or [helen.demore@austinuu.org](mailto:helen.demore@austinuu.org).

## Women's Spirituality Group Update

The Women's Spirituality Group continues our focus on "Explorations of Spiritual Practices" with a presentation on essential oils Oct. 5 and a celebration of life with scarf dancing on October 19. The Women's Spirituality Group meets on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month from 10:30 a.m.-12 noon in Rm. 13. This group is for women who are high school age and older. We are open to new members at all times and hope you will join us. For more information please contact: [women@ustinuu.org](mailto:women@ustinuu.org).

## Save the Dates!

### Pre-congregational meeting

Sunday, November 17,  
Sanctuary  
1:30-3:30 p.m.

### Congregational meeting

Sunday, December 15,  
Sanctuary  
1:30-3:30 p.m.

*Childcare provided for each in room 19.*

## New Handicapped Parking Spots Make First UU More Accessible

With the First UU Church attracting more and more people every week, parking can be a real challenge on Sundays. This challenge can be especially difficult for people with physical disabilities.

As part of this community's heartfelt desire to provide a warm welcome to all who want to be here with us, we have expanded our handicapped parking. You will now find six new parking places on the north side of the sanctuary. They have appropriate signage and access aisles too!

This was made possible through

the generosity of the late Martha Leipziger. Her bequest continues to help us improve the warm welcome and hospitality your church community wants everyone to feel.



*The new handicapped parking spots north of the sanctuary.*

## Second Sunday Offering: Front Steps

Front Steps' mission is to provide a pathway home through shelter, affordable housing and community education. Its vision is to provide real answers and real solutions to the needs of people experiencing homelessness. Front Steps strives to treat each person who utilizes the services with dignity and respect and to restore their hope for their future.

Front Steps' programs include the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), an overnight men's shelter and daytime resource center; the Central Texas Recuperative Care Center, a home healthcare facility for homeless men and women; as well as housing programs providing transitional and permanent solutions.

Our church is partnered with Front Steps/ARCH for three of our social

action programs: the Cold Weather Shelter (Freeze Nights at the church), the Sack Lunch Program for the working homeless, and the First Sunday Suppers (serving dinner at the ARCH cafeteria).

On October 13, please make a generous contribution to our Justice Fund special offering so that we may continue to support Front Steps/ARCH and our other worthy recipients.

Learn more about Front Steps at [www.frontsteps.org](http://www.frontsteps.org), or email the following for more info on our various social action programs.

Cold Weather Shelter:

[freezenight@ustinuu.org](mailto:freezenight@ustinuu.org)

ARCH First Sunday Suppers:

[ARCH@ustinuu.org](mailto:ARCH@ustinuu.org)

Sack Lunch Program:

[sacklunch@ustinuu.org](mailto:sacklunch@ustinuu.org)

**UU RETREAT WEEKEND**

# Mark your calendar for Heart of Texas Men's Retreat

*November 15-17, 2013*

Every fall and spring, men from UU churches across Texas gather for a weekend retreat at UBarU Retreat & Conference Center near Kerrville ([ubaru.org](http://ubaru.org)). Come and enjoy fellowship in the Texas Hill Country. Rest, relax, enjoy delicious meals and get a break from your normal routines and schedules. The retreat will be facilitated by Rev. Mark Skrabacz. Mark will guide us in a thematic inquiry and processes of introspection to deepen our life's path and build community among our fellow UU men.

We will begin gathering Friday afternoon to share an evening meal and will end mid-morning on Sunday. There is plenty of room in the bunkhouse, or camping spaces are available if you want to bring a tent. All build-

ings are heated and air-conditioned. Bring a towel, sheets & blanket (or sleeping bag) and pillow, as well as any snacks and libations you would enjoy. Activities may include poker playing, volunteer projects, music, hiking around UBarU'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 to stay just for one. We encourage participation from all UU men across Texas. Please spread the word!

Sign up now and mark your calendars. The cost, which covers lodging and meals, is \$110 if received by Thursday, Oct. 31; after early

registration ends that day, the cost is \$125. Send a check, payable to Mark Kilpatrick, to:

Mark Kilpatrick  
1618 Westlake Dr.  
Austin, TX 78746

For those in Austin, checks also can be brought to the next Men's Fellowship Breakfast Group gathering, scheduled 7:00-9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12, at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. This event, held on the second Saturday of each month, is open to all UU men. The cost for breakfast is \$5.

For more information, contact Mark at [texanmkk17@aol.com](mailto:texanmkk17@aol.com). We look forward to seeing you!

**UU RETREAT WEEKEND**

# Come out for the first annual UU campout

*November 15-17, 2013*

The first ever UU campout will be on November 15th through 17th. Please join us for a weekend of camping at a privately held campground near Spicewood, just 35 miles from Austin. Feel free to arrive around 4:00 p.m. on Friday night or on Saturday morning. No need to make a reservation as one has already been made for the group. Bring food for Friday and Saturday nights plus breakfast and lunches. There's a swimming hole and a waterfall and you can hike to Lake Travis. There are restroom and shower facilities nearby.

There will be a group potluck meal at around 6:00 p.m. on

Saturday. Afterwards we'll do a campfire (if it's allowed) and musical jam. On Sunday morning we fix a communal breakfast. You can choose to camp out overnight or just spend the day with us.

Bring along musical instruments, food and drinks to share, lawn chairs, and water for cooking, washing up and drinking. Also remember tents, bedding, camping equipment and flashlights if you are spending the night. No dogs are allowed.

Here are directions to the campsite: go west on Hwy 71 through Bee Caves, go 5 miles past the Pedernales river, and then take

a right at the Exxon station/store to Spicewood. Take the second right at the County road 404 sign. The road into Krause Springs will be on the left, slightly upgrade, after crossing a creek. Drive to the house to pay for camp fee. It's \$12 for adults and \$6 for children (ages 4-11) per night, or adults \$6 and children \$4 if you're just spending the day. Tell them that you're with the Unitarians. We usually camp close by the house.

If you need additional information contact Lynn Vaughan at (512) 587-8221 or [Lynn@Lynnspetsitting.com](mailto:Lynn@Lynnspetsitting.com), or call Krause Springs at (830) 693-4181.

**Eclectic Folk Jam****Friday, October 11****7:00–10:00 p.m.****Room 17 @ First UU**

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.

For more information contact Pete and Kim Ak-enhead at (512) 834-0188 or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or [singalong@austinuu.org](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org).

**UU/Quaker Singalong****Saturday, October 26****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.

For more information contact Larry Vaughn at 512-469-0029 or Mary Jane Ford at [singalong@austinuu.org](mailto:singalong@austinuu.org).

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

**OCTOBER 6****Join What Move?**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

The Unitarian Universalist Association has sold their historic Boston headquarters at 25 Beacon St. and has opted to move to the more modern, practical, and spacious digs of 24 Farnsworth. This decision to move has sparked little ambivalence, as UUs across the country either love the idea, believing that we are now able to truly walk our talk, denominationally; or are convinced that nothing must be sacred anymore, that the UUA Board of Trustees has sold us out. What does this move truly mean for us, here at First UU Church of Austin, and what does it mean for UUs everywhere?

**OCTOBER 13****I'm a Believer**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Celebration Sunday! After the sermon, we will have a chance to bring our new pledges or the affirmation of our 1-2-3 year pledges to the front of the sanctuary as a celebration of our participation in this community, its mission and its ministries.

**OCTOBER 20****Walking Between the Raindrops**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

The final installment of our series on the Buddhist Eightfold Path. “Right Concentration,” or meditation, is the practice recommended by the Buddhist teachers, and, recently, by the medical community. What is involved in it?

**OCTOBER 27****Mystery, Spookiness, Magic and Wonder**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

One of the sources from which UUism draws its authority is: “Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.” Well, our Sources don’t really mention spookiness or magic, but we want to talk about this in a way that is appropriate for all ages as the children stay in worship for an inter-generational service about mystery. All are encouraged to come in their costumes!

# THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

## OCTOBER 6

### Closing the Pipeline to Prison

WITH ADRIAN MOORE

CARY (Council on At-Risk Youth) is on the “cutting edge” of delinquency prevention and crime prevention. CARY goes “upstream” to the public school disciplinary system and focuses on violence and drug abuse prevention and early intervention with very high risk students who are abusive, aggressive and assaultive.

Three recent Texas-based research projects validate that students involved in our school disciplinary system are in the “pipeline to prison”. CARY’s expert staff work with 600 of these youth each year in nine of the Austin ISD middle school campuses, using “evidence-based” youth violence prevention curricula. UT evaluation consultants find that the CARY prevention model significantly alters behavior of CARY program participants when compared to a control group of students with similar demographics and characteristics. Comparison of CARY costs to juvenile and criminal justice system costs demonstrates a very attractive return on investment for taxpayers and elected officials.

Executive Director Adrian Moore is founder and executive director of Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY). He has more than 40 years experience in direct service, research and management positions with New Mexico Youth Authority, Texas Youth Commission, National Council on Crime and Delinquency, American Correction Association and Council on At-Risk Youth.

## OCTOBER 13

### Five Years and Going Strong

WITH JAMES GALBRAITH, PH.D.

Dr. Galbraith will return to Forum and discuss his newest research on economic trends since the financial crisis of 2008, the problem of growing concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, and labor force issues relating to globalization, job outsourcing and job obsolescence. He will address the social and political risks of deregulation of big business on all of us.

Dr. Galbraith holds the Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. Chair of Government/Business Relations at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at U.T. Austin and a Professorship in Government. His most recent book is *Inequality and Instability: A Study of the World Economy*, Oxford University Press. An economist by training, he served on the staff of the U.S. Congress in the 1980s and also helped organize congressional oversight of the Federal Reserve. In the 1990s he served as Chief Technical Advisor for macroeconomic reform to the People’s Republic of China. He is a Senior Scholar with the Levy Economics Institute and Chair of the Board of the Economists for Peace and Security. In 2012 he was President of the Association for Evolutionary Economics.

## OCTOBER 20

### Keeping Patients Safe: Making Progress but Still a Long Road Ahead

WITH LISA MCGIFFERT

Lisa McGiffert will provide an overview of the advocacy work of Consumers Union’s Safe Patient Project over the past decade, including healthcare-acquired infections, medical errors, and physician accountability. She will highlight a recent initiative on the safety of medical implants that is pushing the medical industry to provide 20-year warranties on artificial hips and knees.

Lisa McGiffert is a Senior Policy Analyst for Consumers Union and a legislative coordinator for the Texas Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. She has worked on a broad range of healthcare policy issues in Texas and nationally, including healthcare quality, health insurance, and access to care. She directs the Safe Patient Project which has initiated infection reporting legislation in almost every state, and has drafted legislation and raised public awareness on preventing medical harm at the national level. She provides an important voice on consumer safety and public health issues.

*see Oct. 27 forum event on page 16*

**First Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church of Austin**

(512) 452-6168  
[austinuu.org](http://austinuu.org)

Senior Minister  
**Rev. Meg Barnhouse**

Director of Finance  
and Operations  
**Sean Hale**

Assistant Minister &  
Director of Lifespan RE  
**Marisol Caballero**

Director of Music  
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**First Unitarian  
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Church of Austin**

4700 Grover Ave.  
Austin, TX 78756

THE FORUM, *continued*

**OCTOBER 27**

**Equity as a Basis for City  
Government**

WITH NELSON LINDER

Nelson Linder, President of the Austin NAACP, will speak on equity as a basis for city government. The new 10-1 system for city elected officials was part of Arthur B. DeWitty's vision for a new Austin city government that would represent all the people of Austin.

Will the new system produce more opportunities and equity for communities which were ignored under the at-large system? Mr. Linder will discuss the status of ethnic minorities in Austin and pathways to greater civic and economic participation and empowerment.

Nelson Linder is a longtime civil rights advocate and currently serves as President of the Austin Branch of the NAACP. In 1992 he founded the Garvey/Allen/Washington Project which focused on empowerment and social justice for African Americans and other groups. He is a host of Austin Community Radio Station KAZI's program Wake Up Call and is currently working on his book entitled The Empowerment Mode and the Price of Nonconformance. He is dedicated to promoting civil rights, educational equity, economic empowerment, and coalition building for all marginalized groups and often speaks out on issues ranging from police misconduct to housing discrimination. ■