



FIRST UU NEWS

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

Do you ever wonder?

Congregants have very much to do with how our church functions.

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse

How does First UU work? This church voted several years ago to do "Policy-Based Governance." This means that the congregation sets the church's goals, or "ends policies." The congregation talks to the board, and the board articulates these policies in its governing documents. These are the current ends:

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

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

• **First UU Church of Austin nourishes souls and transforms lives by:**

- Engaging and supporting one another in spiritual practice and growth

- Providing worship, programs and activities that awaken meaning and transcendence

- Providing a caring, supportive and safe place to rekindle the spirit.

• **First UU Church of Austin witnesses to justice in our personal lives and beyond by:**

- Practicing liberal religious values in the public arena
- Empowering all people to access the richness of life
- Providing leadership to the greater UUA community to expand the reach of our movement
- Partnering with the inter-faith community to live our shared values.

We count on the generosity and good character of the folks who are part of this community in order to keep going.

The board's job is to keep listening to the congregation ("linkage"), and this month there will be a table at coffee hour where several board members will sit ready to listen to the congregation. You may also attend any board meeting, which

always has time set aside for a "visitors' forum."

So the congregation and the board set the goals, and then the Senior Minister is given the job of getting the church there. She delegates to staff and volunteers most of the myriad responsibilities of accomplishing the church's goals. It is her job to keep the church going in the right direction, and to do what she can so that everyone is aware of the big picture, so that we are all pulling in the same direction, which is to live out our mission by moving toward our goals.

How is the minister evaluated?

Once a month, the minister writes a report for the board on an area of ministry within the congregation. The board reads these reports and asks questions, if they care to, ensuring that in each area the minister is moving things in the right direction. There are many board policies about how the minister may and may not accomplish the goals. These policies are called "Executive Limitations." They dictate that the minister shall do things honestly and kindly, treating members and staff with respect and



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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

A Church Is Its People

What would our church community be without its participants?

by Michael Kersey



Last month's Path to Membership class included an overview of some of the historical reasons why community and covenant are so important to Unitarian Universalism. In addition to discussing how to get more involved with the church and the responsibilities of membership, we talked about the Cambridge Platform of 1648 and James Luther Adam's "Five Smooth Stones of Liberal Religion."

The Cambridge Platform is the document in which our 17th century forebears affirmed that the church community, the congregation, is self-sufficient, held together by a covenant recognizing our relationship and responsibilities to each other. An online video "Time Machine 1648/49: The Cambridge Platform" explains it in a fun and engaging way. It can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/cp-uua>.

Published in 1976 in an essay entitled "Guiding Principles of a Free Faith," the "Five Smooth Stones of Liberal Religion" is Unitarian Universalist theologian James Luther Adam's succinct articulation of the basic principles of a liberal religion, which has been further summarized as:

- Revelation is continuous.
- Relationships ought to rest on

mutual and free consent.

- We need to work together toward the establishment of a just and loving community.
- Virtue only has meaning in society or social incarnation.
- The potential and resources (divine and human) for creating meaningful change justify an attitude of ultimate optimism.

For me, these only make sense in the context of community. We are together discovering what comes next. To the extent that we are responsible and respectful of each other, we create a just and loving community together. Also, I can't consider any aspect of process theology without also remembering dear Dr. Hartshorne, another influential philosopher of religion and metaphysics in the 20th century, and also a member of this church until his death in 2000 at age 103. There's more information about Charles Hartshorne on Wikipedia (<http://bit.ly/charles-h>).

This month the Board of Trustees meets on Tuesday, November 19, at 6:30 p.m. The agenda includes monitoring the Board-Executive Relationship. The church has a governance policy about the Board-Executive Relationship developed and interpreted collaboratively between the Board and Rev. Meg as our church's designated executive.

As part of our regular schedule of monitoring, the Board evaluates how we're doing in terms of balancing our strategic and operational roles, delegating authority through written policies, and performance in reaching our stated ends of being intentionally hospitable, nourishing souls and transforming lives, and witnessing to justice in our personal lives and beyond.

The church is also getting ready for our All-Congregational meeting in December. Twice per year, we hold meetings of the congregation to decide the larger, "big picture" business of the church, such as reviewing and adopting a budget for the next year during a meeting in December and electing members of our Board of Trustees each May. We hold Pre-Congregational meetings so that church members get the chance to review and discuss important topics ahead of time, but without the pressure of having to vote on them right then and there. This also gives leadership feedback on the agenda items, in case any changes are needed before the actual Congregational Meeting is held.

Here are the requirements for voting found in our bylaws:

"Requirement for Voting:
Individuals who have been members of the church for 30 days or more

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and who have (as an individual or part of a family unit) made a recorded financial contribution during the last 12 months and at least 30 days prior to the meeting, have the right to vote at all official church meetings."

Please mark your calendars for the Pre-Congregational Meeting on November 17th at 1:30 p.m. and Congregational Meeting on December 15th at 1:30 p.m. Child care will be available for both meetings.

Finally, thanks to everyone who made our "I'm a Believer" stewardship campaign a success. ■

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operating within cautious financial boundaries. The minister (and her designated Director of Finance and Operations) report on their adherence to these limitations as well. The board's plan and intention is to post all of these reports online. We will also email you the reports at your request. Please ask Sean.Hale@ustinuu.org or Meg.Barnhouse@ustinuu.org.

Where does the funding come from to run everything? From the members and friends who pledge, write checks, remember the church in their wills, and give time, intelligence and effort to the church

to keep its mission funded. If you were not contacted by a canvasser, please pledge online at ustinuu.org or call Sean Hale or Meg Barnhouse at the church: 512-452-6168, ext. 308 and 304, respectively. We count on the generosity and good character of the folks who are part of this community in order to keep going. If you would like to help with time and effort as well, please write the Membership Coordinator, Chad.Stanton@ustinuu.org. Please give some of your strength and love to this congregation. ■



Music Matters by Brent Baldwin

Enjoy this month's wonderful music programming accompanying early and late Sunday services!

This Month's Music Programming

November 3

Flutist Jeanne Barker and pianist Kathryn Govier

November 10

The First UU of Austin Jazz Combo, with guest saxophonist Paul Klemperer (see his website at <http://www.pksax.com/>)

November 17

The First UU of Austin Youth Choir

November 24

The First UU Adult Choir will be joined by the Kuo/ Uecker Piano Duo

From all of us with the music program, have a great Thanksgiving!

Equinox Auction a great success for First UU

First UU Equinox Auction was held last month, on the evening of September the 27th. One of the high points of the evening was the beautifully dressed children helping to serve delicious food.

Because we are sharing space with the Girls School of Austin, this was a smaller auction as compared to other years. Rev. Meg debuted her new CD "House of Love" at the concert, and overall a great evening was had by all.

The auction raised a little over \$8500.00 for First UU! We send out thanks to Kiya Heartwood, as well as to Sally Scott and her Fellowship Team for their assistance. Warm thanks to the Neemidges for decorating, to Laraine Altun for helping with check-out, and to all who attended and helped make the party!

Some of your winnings are still in Meg's office, so please do pick them up. If you have questions, please email Kiya Heartwood, Kiya@KiyaHeartwood.com.

Women's Spirituality Group Update

The Women's Spirituality Group continues our "Explorations of Spiritual Practices" by celebrating Dia de los Muertos on November 2 and learning about different meditation practices on November 16. The group meets on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month from 10:30 a.m.-12 noon in Rm. 13.

We are open to new members high school age and older. Please join us. For more information contact: women@austinuu.org.

Yew Grove Full Moon Circle

Thursday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.

The November Moon Ritual falls on the day of the Mexican Revolution. The moon revolves around the earth. The earth revolves around the sun. We are constantly in motion, constantly in revolution. What form revolution takes in your life? Come howl at the moon with us.

We will meet outside under the trees if the weather permits, but if we have rain we'll be inside in the Art Gallery. Contact yewgrove@austinuu.org with any questions or go to www.austinuu.org/yewgrove.

FROM SOCIAL ACTION CHAIR

Exhale creates a safe space for those affected by abortion

by Peggy Morton

Exhale is a group focused on creating a more compassionate and empathetic dialog around the complex issue of abortion, and they're bringing their Sharing Our Voices Tour to First UU, Sunday Nov. 10. It will be in Howson Hall starting at 2 p.m.

(Since seating will be limited, those wanting to attend must RSVP to Social Action Chair Peggy Morton at socialaction@austinuu.org. Please write RSVP in the subject line.)



The five speakers from the Sharing Our Voices Tour.

An Oakland-based nonprofit organization created by and for women who have had abortions, Exhale founded the "Pro-Voice Movement" to create space for intentional listening and sharing stories about abortion without a political agenda.

Most known for their national, multilingual post-abortion talkline, Exhale has a decade of experience generating conversations about abortion that are based in real, lived experiences. From Glamour Magazine and MTV to CNN and the New York Times, Exhale continues to find new, creative ways

to talk personally about abortion and transcend the politics of the day.

As part of the Sharing Our Voices tour, five young women travel the U.S. to both share their own experiences and to listen to the stories of those in the audience to create a pro-voice environment where silenced, marginalized issues can be discussed in a way that begins to shift culture from stigma and shame to support and respect.

Here's what Marjorie Jolles, PhD and Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies Program at Roosevelt University had to say about the tour:

"Exhale's 'pro-voice' approach to thinking and talking about abortion is ethically, politically, and rhetorically radical. It suggests that if more people heard women's stories about their abortion decisions, they would find the polarization of mainstream discourse on abortion inadequate for understanding a decision-making process that involves the ethics of care, the ethics of relationship, and the ethics of justice. In telling their abortion stories, Exhale's Pro-Voice Fellows humanize women as thoughtful ethical agents. The Sharing Our Stories tour should inspire a meaningful shift in how we understand and talk about abortion."

Exhale will facilitate the discussion, with no more than 40 attending to keep it intimate. It will last about an hour and a half to two hours, starting at 2 p.m.

Attention Randalls Shoppers!

You can donate automatically to the church whenever you make purchases at Randalls!

Their Good Neighbor Program is designed to contribute a percentage of what you spend to the non-profit of your choice. Simply visit the Customer Courtesy Counter the next time you shop at Randalls, and give them the church's Good Neighbor Number 4792 to link to your Remarkable Card.

Or, you can link your card to the church's account by going online at www.randalls.com – Community Caring button at the bottom of the page – Good Neighbor Program link.

This program runs all year. Mark your calendars for next year; in September there is a bonus of one dollar for every \$50 spent. The more of us who link our Remarkable Cards to the church's account number, the more money we'll raise when we buy groceries at Randalls!

November Seniors Luncheon

**Wednesday, Nov. 13
12:00 p.m.**

Howson Hall

For the program, the Dirgibles (made up of Mary Jane Ford, Edward Sledge, Jim Barry and Jeanne Barker) will play mostly original music along with a touch of gospel, a new UU hymn, and a surprise singalong.

Soup, salad, and dessert will be served for \$5. Please RSVP to Alice Cashman: (512) 837-0988 or seniors@austinuu.org.

Second Sunday Offering: Drive A Senior

Drive A Senior - North Central Austin (aka North Central Caregivers) is a non-profit organization serving the needs of the elderly in the North central Austin. Since 1989, NCC volunteers—including many from our congregation—have provided free transportation to the home-bound elderly for vital trips such as doctor or dentist appointments, pharmacy, and grocery needs.

The needs of Drive A Senior are expanding as Austin's elderly home-bound population increases. There

are so many people in our community who do not have friends or relatives to help them with their most basic living needs. Each one is a real face of need for our mercy ministry—one person helping another, one at a time.

The funding of Drive A Senior comes from various sponsoring church congregations and from individual donors. First UU of Austin has been very generous over the years and we are requesting your support this year so we may continue to provide services to the elderly of our area. For more info, contact ncc@austinuu.org.

Save the Dates!

Pre-congregational meeting

Sunday, November 17,
Sanctuary
1:30-2:30 p.m.

Congregational meeting

Sunday, December 15,
Sanctuary
1:30-2:30 p.m.

Childcare provided for each in room 19.

You are invited to a conversation

One of the responsibilities of the board of trustees is to engage in conversations with people around the church to hear what they have to say so we can better represent our shared values and purpose. The board is especially interested in having conversations about hospitality. What does it mean to be hospitable here at the church? How might we become more hospitable than we are now?

Members of the board will be at a special table Sunday mornings during the month of November. Please look for us in Howson Hall, stop by for a cookie, and a short or long chat about hospitality. We look forward to talking with you!

Celebrate Thanksgiving at First UU!

Thursday, Nov. 28
Howson Hall
1:30 p.m.

Turkey and all the fixins' will be served at our annual Thanksgiving potluck. All are invited to bring a dish, along with a donation based on the number of people in your party. For single attendants, bring your dish and \$6; for families, bring your dish and \$12. Alternatively, if you prefer not to bring food, singles bring \$10 and families bring \$20. Keep in mind we need some vegetarian/vegan dishes for our non-meat eaters.

Sign up in the Gallery following Sunday services through November 24.

To volunteer, contact Lisa Carrell at lisajc0924@gmail.com or call (512) 698-2831.

New Member Potluck

Saturday, Dec. 7
Howson Hall
6-8 p.m.

Please note the date change! First UU will be hosting a new member potluck for all members who have joined this year, as well as their mentors. For more details or to RSVP, contact austinuumembership@gmail.com.

Great success in Children's Book Drive for Peoples' Community Clinic

The Children's Book Drive for The People's Community Clinic was one of the outreach programs sponsored by our Social Action Committee. The drive was off to a great start in October, collecting over 100 books. All our thanks go out to church members and friends. We give a special thanks to Gillian Redfearn, who donated 50 new books to the clinic.

At this rate, by time you read this newsletter we anticipate we'll have collected 200, 300 or more children's books. The book drive ended in late October and we'll be taking a count soon; look in the December newsletter where we'll announce the final number

of books collected in the drive!

The People's Community Clinic Collating Group which meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Clinic's second floor conference room at 2909 N. IH35 will be meeting on the first Tuesday for the month of November, the 5th. The move is due to a conflict with the room space at the Clinic.

All who are interested are more than welcome to join us for good works and good conversation. We usually finish by noon and you can join us for lunch afterwards. For information, send an e-mail to: pcc@austinuu.org. See you on the 5th!

GREEN SANCTUARY

Recycle your old books for a good cause

Second Monday of every month
Next meeting Monday, Nov. 11
SPACE 12 (3121 E. 12th St. 78702) 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Recycling books to Texas Inmates is a great way to get involved in the UU community. You take part of fellowship with a green ministry respecting the earth and her resources, make extra room in your house, and even get a tax credit!

For every bag or box of books you get a \$20 a tax deduction official receipt. Starting Sunday, October 27th, we will have the receipts on the door of the Gallery Bookstore. These are for you to take for each donated box or bag of paperback books.

Especially sought are paperback dictionaries of all kinds, English/Spanish, ESL, bibles, Korans, etc. Also valued are books on astrology, professional development, and basic literacy, as well as blank journals and postage stamps.

Members of our community have given hundreds of books and stamps so far. Thanks to each and every one of you for your thoughtful and generative generosity! A couple of you even introduced us to other sources to get donated books! A big Unitarian Universalist THANKS!

Several church members meet and send inmates these books the second Monday of each month at Inside Books Project, located within SPACE 12. The address is 3121 E. 12th St. Austin, TX, 78702. For more info, email green@austinuu.org.

CAMP FIRE TROOP 17 “THE MIGHTY PLATYPI”

Come along for Camp Fire’s fellowship activities

Camp Fire USA is an inclusive, family-oriented scouting program helping to grow a new generation of responsible, independent thinkers and leaders. Join First UU’s Troop 17, or “The Mighty Platypi” for fun and fellowship activities.

Troop meetings are held Saturday mornings from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at church or at field trip locations. For more info, contact campfire@austinuu.org or (512) 821-3544.

NOVEMBER 2

Hike & Train Ride

The Camp Fire troop will meet at First UU at 9:30 AM, then drive (30 min) to Southwest Williamson County Regional Park. After doing some hiking and exploring at the park, interested people can take a ride on the Cedar Rick Railroad (\$2.50/person). The Railroad is a handbuilt, quarter-scale train. The engineer running it is sometimes also one of the builders.

NOVEMBER 9

Texas Natural Science Center

Camp Fire will meet at First UU at 9:45, then head to the Texas Natural Science Center to explore exhibits on geology, wildlife and biodiversity. We plan to include a scavenger hunt!

NOVEMBER 16

Walk for Nature Annual Fundraiser and Family Fun Festival

Camp Fire will meet at 9 a.m. at Mueller Park. We’ll participate in Camp Fire’s annual fundraiser, an outdoor festival for families. It will include activities to raise public awareness on the issue of water conservation for wildlife.

NOVEMBER 23

This week is still TBA; look for more info in upcoming bulletins.

NOVEMBER 30

No Meeting—Be with your family for Thanksgiving! ■

Do you like to know about the inner workings of the church?

We have a new email list for people who like to stay in touch with the behind the scenes info on First UU Church.

You’ll get 1-4 emails per month of the financial reports, board meeting minutes, and the like. No discussion. No general announcements that appear on other email groups (events and the like). Just the nitty gritty details that some of our members enjoy reading so they can stay in touch with the inner workings of the church.

To subscribe, send an email to: in-the-loop-subscribe@yahoo.com.

COME STROLL THE GARDENS, ENJOY A FREE BUFFET LUNCH WITH SUNDAE BAR FROM AMY'S ICE CREAMS, PLUS FUN KIDS' ACTIVITIES AND A BALLOON MAN!

11.03.13

ADMIT ONE

PARTY IN THE PARK!

EVENT TIME SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3 2013 **12:30PM**

ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDENS CARPOOL DIRECTLY FROM CHURCH

2013 First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin Pledge Drive

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Social justice nonprofits still need your financial support

First UU members and visitors still have time to increase our financial support to elected social justice nonprofits in 2013.

Maintaining our current monthly donation levels, we anticipate we'll give about \$1800 to each group in December, but we can increase that by submitting checks anytime made out to FUUCA Monthly Special Offerings. You can also contribute extra money during the special collections Sunday, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, when we focus on North Central Caregivers and SafePlace, respectively.

We collect money all year and divide the total collections by 12 to support worthy causes. The following list includes those benefitting from this year's monthly

service offerings:

- Texas UU Justice Ministry
- Texas Freedom Network Education Fund
- Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- Spring Into Action—Casa Marianella
- Austin Child Guidance Center
- U-Bar-U Retreat & Conference Center
- Children's Summer Social Action Project—iACT
- Planned Parenthood
- Hands On Housing
- Front Steps for the Homeless
- North Central Caregivers
- SafePlace

Write a check now to FUUCA Monthly Special Offerings to help us give more to the nonprofit groups, which support UU values throughout the Austin community.

Nominate your favorite social justice nonprofit as Special Offering recipient

If you want more money for your favorite social justice nonprofit, nominate it to be one of our recipients for Monthly Special Collections in 2014. Church members may submit nominations from Sunday, Nov. 10 to Sunday, Dec. 8.

All congregants may vote for their ten favorite nonprofits by filling out a ballot in person Sunday, Dec. 15, either after one of the Worship Services or at our 1:30 p.m. Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary.

As a nominator, members will commit to:

- 1) Testify to the congregation about this organization when the plate is passed;
- 2) Write an article for the newsletter and an announcement for the weekly Order of Service about the organization;
- 3) Invite a representative of the organization to visit

congregants in the gallery on the day of the offering to provide further information; and

- 4) Provide proof of 501c3 status.

Nomination forms will be available starting Sunday, Nov. 10 at the Social Action table in the Gallery. The form requires an explanation of:

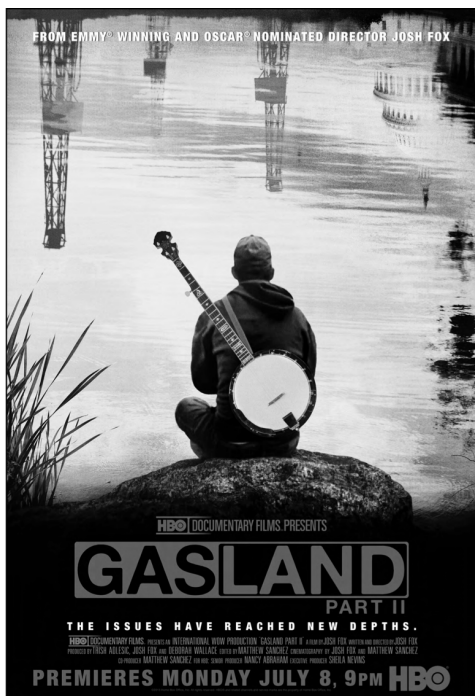
- 1) How the organization promotes and advocates our UU values;
- 2) The nominator's relationship with the organization; and
- 3) What volunteer opportunities the organization currently offers or could offer our congregation.

To receive a nomination form electronically or to help administer the voting process, contact Social Action Chair Peggy Morton at socialaction@austinuu.org.

“Gasland 2” exposes the dangers of fracking

Saturday, Nov. 16
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Howson Hall

“Gasland Part II,” directed by Josh Fox, continues the examination of “fracking” and examines the long-run impact of the controversial process, including poisonous water, earthquakes and neurological damage, placing his focus



on the people whose lives have been irreparably changed.

Premiered at the 2013 Tribeca Film Festival, “Gasland Part II” shows how the stakes have been raised on all sides in one of the most important environmental issues facing our nation today. The film argues that the gas industry’s portrayal of natural gas as a clean and safe alternative to oil is a myth and that fracked wells inevitably leak over time, contaminating water and air, hurting families, and endangering the earth’s climate with the potent greenhouse gas, methane. In addition, the film looks at how the powerful oil and gas industries are, in Fox’s words, “contaminating our democracy.”

The movie will be followed by a panel discussion. Panelists will include Tom Smitty Smith, Director of Public Citizen; David Cortez from Lonestar Chapter Sierra Club; and Chris Wilson, chemical engineer and XL pipeline activist.

This movie is free and open to the public, and non-GMO popcorn and drinks will be served.

Sharing Suppers

Nov. 16 (deadline to sign up is Nov. 11)

Sharing Suppers is a great way to meet lots of longtime church members and newcomers from the Greater Austin area. It is open to all adults in the church, couples or singles; you don’t have to be a UU member to attend or host. We get together for a casual dinner the 3rd Saturday of each month. Groups of 6-10 gather in participants’ homes, and everyone contributes to the meal. Sign up for one dinner at a time, no long-term commitment. Participants take turns hosting or co-hosting in another’s home. The host plans the meal with the participants so vegetarian and vegan dishes are provided. The host/hostess does not have to provide a main dish.

Contact Mary Ann at: sharing@austinuu.org.

Annual Fair Trade and Alternative Holiday Market

Sunday, Nov. 24
10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Howson Hall

This is an annual event which provides the opportunity for early holiday shopping while making a difference. We are looking for a few good volunteers to help with setup and sales.

Contact: Judy Sadegh, jsadegh@yahoo.com.

Did you know?

Wastewater Averaging Starts in November 2013—Save Water, Save Money!

Many folks are not aware that their wastewater or sewer bill is averaged over three months in the winter, when outside watering is at a minimum. From November to the end of February, the lowest three months of water use are averaged, depending on when your meter is read, and that amount will be your wastewater cost for the next twelve months. So remember that every drop you save through February, will save you all next year.

This green tip is brought to you by your First UU Green Sanctuary.

Lifespan RE highlights

by Rev. Marisol Caballero



Back From the Mother Continent!

Thank you, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, for the warm welcome upon my return from my vacation in Africa! I didn't quite make it to the

top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, as my altitude sickness turned to Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) at about 15,000 feet and a guide escorted me down to a lower camp. But I did come home with some great stories! I also came back with the great news of my engagement to my partner, Erin Wolf! As of yet, we have no answers to the typical questions that follow such announcements, we haven't set a date or decided any details. So sorry to disappoint those eager to squeal like a school girl with me. But, we are basking in all of the "congratulations" we are receiving and loving every minute of it! I couldn't be happier and am so excited to celebrate this time in my life and ministry with this congregation!

In Faith, Rev. Marisol Caballero

Guest at Your Table Begins, Nov. 24th

As in years past, we will celebrate our gratitude and engage in generosity by participating in Guest at Your Table, an annual project of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Read what their website (www.uusc.org/guest) has to say about the celebration:

By celebrating Guest at Your Table, you are helping nurture a spirit of gratitude and "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." Guest at Your Table fosters understanding and awareness of UUSC's human rights work.

Guest at Your Table is an annual tradition in which congregation members learn about several people with whom UUSC is working. This year, we are featuring people who have empowered others to realize their human rights. These people are your "guests," and we ask you to share your blessings with them to support our shared mission.

In the interest of our seventh principle, the UUSC is no

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

longer printing the famous cardboard piggy banks, so the children will be making Guest at Your Table piggy banks in Sunday School and selling them for 50 cents each. Proceeds will benefit the religious education department in its faith development of our children and youth.

All donations are due by the end of 2013. Visit the Lifespan RE table in the gallery where one of our staff will collect them.

Reminder: F.RE.D. Suppers = DELICIOUS and FUN! Only \$6!

Remember to come to church on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. for F.RE.D. (Fellowship, Religious Ed., and Dinner)! Our very own Kami Cornell always cooks a delicious meal, there's plenty of great dinner conversations, and you're always invited to stay afterwards for our captivating adult RE sessions! No reservations are necessary. Childcare is provided after dinner if you plan to stay for class, and children under twelve eat free!

"Building the World We Dream About," facilitated by Rev. Marisol Caballero & Vic Cornell alternating Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. running through April 30, 2014 \$15 registration fee (scholarships available)

It's not too late to join this course!

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)

Connect with RE through Pinterest!

Our Children and Youth RE program now offers parents and guardians a method of engaging with your children and teen's faith throughout the week! Our brand new Pinterest page, found at www.pinterest.com/1stUUAustinRE, will provide links to information about Sunday's lesson, ways to talk about the topic with your kids, and activities to do as a family.

Pinterest is a fun social network based on photo sharing. If you haven't already checked it out, sign up at www.pinterest.com.

For youth, we will provide links to camp and rally registration, as well as other events around Austin that our youth and their families may be interested in attending. Each board will be organized by class for easy browsing.

Please make sure to follow the page to receive updates! I look forward to going pin-crazy! ■

Save the Date!

Christmas Choral Benefit for Drive a Senior (formerly North Central Caregivers)



Friday, December 6th
at 7:30 p.m.
St. Louis Catholic Church
(7601 Burnet Road)

Come listen to the heavenly voices of church choirs from sponsoring congregations for Drive a Senior-North Central Austin! Join in the Christmas carols and get in the festive season! Free admission, donations graciously appreciated.

 A Member of Faith
in Action Network

RE youth group bonds on yearly retreat

The Junior High Youth Group visited U-Bar-U for their yearly retreat on Oct 6th.

At U-Bar-U the youth participated in service projects for the camp, for other visiting groups and for the First UU Church of Austin. They made chalices for each of the classrooms as a way to show how much they appreciated being part of a larger youth movement.

They helped with maintaining the retreat center by moving benches and creating areas that could then be used as meditation and meeting areas. They also collected wood for the UU Women's group that attended the retreat center the following week.



Members of the youth group tend to their campfire.

At the end of the two days, retreat fellowships had been formed and a new energy could be seen within the group.

Eclectic Folk Jam**Friday, November 8****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 Akenehead at (512) 834-0188 or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or singalong@austinuu.org.

UU/Quaker Singalong**Saturday, November 23****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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

NOVEMBER 3**Creating Community**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

What kinds of things can we do to strengthen our community? Conversation, shared tasks, vulnerability, and sacrifice are some of the elements of strong community. What makes a church a community for the people who belong to it?

NOVEMBER 10**Dismantling Racism**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Racism is deep in the human DNA. Most peoples of the world have some other people they paint as lazy, oversexed, untrustworthy, and stupid. Is there a way to heal that in ourselves?

NOVEMBER 17**A Juicy Slice of UU History: The Iowa Sisterhood**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

The Universalists were among the first denominations to ordain women. These women had a picture of how church should be that differed somewhat from their colleagues of the time.

NOVEMBER 24**Guest at Your Table Kickoff**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

We will celebrate gratitude by engaging in generosity! The UUSC's (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) annual “Guest at Your Table” campaign will kick off this Sunday, and continue through December. This year, we'll learn about opportunities to support grassroots programs and organizers who are working to bring peace, justice, and compassion to communities worldwide. Our children will be selling handmade piggy banks after the service for 50 cents each. Join us in reflection of abundance and blessings.

THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

NOVEMBER 3

The Affordable Care Act

WITH ANNE DUNKELBERG

Anne Dunkelberg is a healthcare policy expert and Associate Director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities of Austin, Texas.

She will provide an overview of the Affordable Care Act, and explain its implementation and its expected impact on access to healthcare. Finally, our nation is one step closer to making comprehensive healthcare available to most Americans at a sliding-scale price.

Dunkelberg has worked at the Center for Public Policy Priorities for over 19 years. She is one of the state's leading experts on health policy and budget issues. Prior to joining the Center for Public Policy Priorities, she served as Program Director in Acute Care in the Texas Medicaid Director's Office and also worked with the Texas Research League, where she authored many reports on Texas health and human services and budgetary issues.

NOVEMBER 10

Habitat Restoration and the Quality of Life

WITH J. DAVID BAMBERGER

In 1969 J. David Bamberger purchased what the locals called "the worst piece of real estate in Blanco County": 5,500 acres of degraded, unproductive ranch land. His life's work for the last 44 years has been restoring this land to its original, healthy condition through selective clearing and planting of native trees and grasses. The ranch, known as "Selah," is the largest habitat restoration project on private land in the state of Texas. As the land gradually recovered and grasslands redeveloped, dormant springs and creeks began to flow and the restoration project also became a story of water recovery. The ranch sponsors a recovery project for the native plant, the Texas snowbell, and works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in this effort. The ranch now

serves as a center for environmental education, research, and conservation. Bamberger will describe a lifetime of work as an environmentalist who understands the interdependence of plants, wildlife, and humans. His book, "Water from Stone," (2007) published by Texas A&M Press, also tells the story of his ranch.

Bamberger served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in World War II. Now settled in Austin, Texas, he has received numerous awards for his work and has been featured across the country in newspapers, magazines, and on television.

NOVEMBER 17

Backyard Birds of Central Texas

WITH JANE TILLMAN

Get acquainted with common backyard birds that can be found in central Texas year-round, and learn about seasonal visitors that add color and excitement. Tips to make your yard more welcoming to birds will also be highlighted.

Jane Tillman is an active member of the Travis Audubon Society, a Capital Area Master Naturalist and a National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward Host. Tillman was recognized by the National Wildlife Federation as the 2011 Volunteer of the Year for her work training more than one hundred Habitat Stewards to create backyard wildlife habitats here in Austin. She was active in the effort to certify Austin as an NWF Community Wildlife Habitat in 2009. Tillman teaches beginning backyard birding classes, leads field trips and gives talks about Central Texas birds and bird-friendly gardening to garden clubs, neighborhood associations, libraries and the UT NOVA program.

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**First Unitarian
Universalist
Church of Austin**

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www.austinuu.org

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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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THE FORUM, *continued*

NOVEMBER 24
**City-wide Food Waste
Prevention and Recovery**

WITH BRANDI CLARK

Currently about 40% of all food produced in the United States is wasted. Meanwhile 49 million Americans, many of them children, are food insecure, meaning they don't know where their next meal is coming from. This paradox affects communities and families across the U.S. and makes an unbalanced ecological impact on the planet.

In less than an hour, Brandi Clark will change the way you look at food and food waste for the rest of your life. She helps people understand the Food Recovery Hierarchy and learn

ways to reduce the amount of food being thrown away. Clark teamed up with a group of leaders to create an EcoCampaign dedicated to raising awareness about this important issue. She has been a key catalyst in grassroots organizing that led to the Austin City Council declaring 2013 the Year of Food Waste Prevention and Recovery in Austin, the creation of Food Shift Austin, and the expansion of Keep Austin Fed.

Clark is the Founder & Chief Inspiration Officer of Austin EcoNetwork, EcoNetworking, and Food Shift Austin. The Austin Chronicle dubbed her the "Queen of Green" and the Austin Business Journal said, "If Austin had one green ambassador, it would be Brandi." ■