



# A Beacon on the Hill

Volume 73, Issue No. 5

Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder, Minister

May 2017

## President's Column

Believe it or not, the church year is winding down. Later this month we'll have our annual congregational meeting to vote on the coming year's budget and the new slate of leaders. There'll also be time for discussion of a few other issues, so I hope you'll take a little time after the service on the 21st to attend. Details will be arriving soon!

In preparation for that, our Social Justice committee is planning a couple of discussion sessions soon. One will be to present the issues and options surrounding our church becoming a Reproductive Justice Congregation, as described earlier this year. The other will similarly present what would be entailed in our church becoming a Sanctuary Congregation. These will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting, so if you'd like to learn more about them, these sessions will get you up to speed.

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank the rest of the church board for the time and care they put into our discussions every month, as well as related committee work: Vice President David Ringer, Treasurer Jennifer Johnson, Secretary Anne Peters, and at-large members April Chase, Betty Dabney, Richard Keith, and Gale Morrow. They've been a great team, and I feel honored to have served with them this year.

I look forward to seeing you at the Congregational Meeting on May 21. Let us know.

**Jim Noël**, President

## Contacts

Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder,  
Minister  
minister@uusat.org  
210.344.4695

Dr. Sheri Phillabaum, Director  
of Lifespan Religious  
Education  
dlre@uusat.org  
210.344.2431

Dr. Susan Dill,  
Music Director  
music@uusat.org

Mary Wright,  
Office Manager  
office@uusat.org  
210.344.4695

Website: [www.uusat.org](http://www.uusat.org)

Facebook & Twitter:  
[@FirstUUChurchSA](https://www.facebook.com/FirstUUChurchSA)

Rev. Josh's usual office hours  
are Monday-Thursday,  
9:30am – 4:00pm, but it is  
always best to call first.

Church office hours  
are Sunday - Thursday,  
8:30 am – 2:30 pm.

## Stewardship Corner – May

As of April 26<sup>th</sup>, we have received estimates of giving from 242 of 365 member and friend households totaling \$414,306. This puts us at approximately 90% towards the Board's goal for funding First UU's programs for next our fiscal year, which begins June 1, 2017. Over the next several weeks, we will be reaching out to 56 member and friend households who pledged this year and invite them to renew their commitments. We hope that many of the remaining 68 households that include newer friends who have recently affiliated with the church will consider making first-time financial commitments to help serve the needs of our growing congregation.

We know that this is a busy time of year, but if you have not yet taken the time to return your estimate of giving, won't you join us in reaching 100% of our goal for next year?

The Stewardship Team

## Wade Richmond Scholarship

Each year our congregation awards a scholarship to a high school senior who has distinguished him or herself through active involvement in our church community as well as academic achievement and admirable personal characteristics. The scholarship is made possible by **Jack and Laura Richmond**, long-time members and parents of Wade Richmond, for whom the scholarship is named.

This year's recipient is Morgan Yost. Yost is the salutatorian at the John Jay Science and Engineering Academy. He will be attending The University of Texas at Dallas as a Collegium V Honors student and plans to major in physics. He loves the outdoors, science, and politics. A third-generation member of this church, Morgan is grateful for the support he's received from our members as he's learned his "adulting" skills. He's looking forward to meeting other young adult UUs at his first General Assembly this summer in New Orleans. He's also looking forward to the food!



## Celestial Celebrations

### Full Moon Labyrinth Walk

Celestial Celebrations Circle will sponsor a Labyrinth Walk and Drum Circle on Saturday, May 13 at 7:00 pm. We gather at the large labyrinth just west of the sanctuary. Bring something comfortable for sitting and enjoy a meditative experience. Call Darcy Walker 210-213-5959 for more information.

### **White Supremacy Teach In**

Because of issues in the hiring practices affecting the Southern Regional UUA of which we are a part, a White Supremacy Teach In has been called for and is being widely offered in UU churches nationwide. Recent weeks have included important and necessary conversations within Unitarian Universalism about the ways white supremacy has and continues to show up within our faith tradition. This is a time that mandates exploration, navigation and transformation to grapple with the ways white supremacy continues to be perpetuated by our institutions. Religious educators in collaboration with Black Lives of UU, have invited congregations across the country to dedicate their programming on May 7 to a UU White Supremacy Teach In. Rev. Josh and the Social Justice committee have stepped up to take on the challenge. We hope you are able to attend and be a part of the conversation.

In preparation for the teach-in, we are asking everyone to read "[Letter from Birmingham Jail.](#)" This is an open letter written on April 16, 1963, by Martin Luther King Jr.. The letter defends the strategy of nonviolent resistance to racism. Responding to being referred to as an "outsider," King writes, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". Interestingly, King wrote this letter specifically to white liberals who were questioning his tactics and not yet very involved in the civil right movement.

### **Reproductive Justice Talk**

The Texas Freedom Network is working to establish a network of faith-based organizations throughout Texas that affirm the principles of a Reproductive Justice Congregation: That we respect and trust women, promise that women who attend will be free from shame or judgment for their reproductive decisions-including abortion, and proclaim that access to affordable reproductive health services is a moral and social good.

On Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> after service in the Fellowship Hall TFN's Outreach and Faith Coordinator, Sonja Miller, will guide a discussion about making the decision at our Congregational Business Meeting Sunday, May 21, to become a Reproductive Justice Congregation. The Social Justice Committee will provide a light lunch. We hope to see you there for this important discussion.

### **Sanctuary Church Talk**

During the FUUnd Lunch on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, the Social Justice Committee in partnership with RAICES, will host a discussion about ways our church can help immigrants by becoming a Sanctuary church. This talk will hopefully guide a discussion about making the decision at our Congregational Business Meeting Sunday, May 21, to become a Sanctuary Congregation.

### **San Antonio Sanctuary Network Meeting**

Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee and led by the Interfaith Welcome Committee, this is a meeting of local churches, mosques, and synagogues who are already talking about sanctuary in their own faith communities to get together and help and support each other. The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend



## Join with Our Immigration Justice Partners!

The peace CENTER has hosted three prayer Compassion Vigils in front of the San Fernando Cathedral and the participants have asked that it be a regularly scheduled event.

They have partnered with the Interfaith Welcome Coalition, and will hold a vigil May 25 | June 22 | July 27, from 6 – 7 PM. They have invited we UU's to also attend

these vigils. You are welcome to share spontaneous prayers or bring a poem or a prayer from our faith tradition.



## Rainbow Inclusion

**June is Pride month!**

**Rainbow Inclusion has several fun events planned.**

### LGBTQ Pride Fair - Volunteers Needed

The city's Family Pride Fair will celebrate San Antonio's diversity, provide opportunities for families to learn about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender programs and services, and to support the health and well-being of San Antonio's community, including youth, and empower all to build a future where all people are accepted. The fair will be at El Mercado/Market Square on Saturday, June 3, 10 am – 6 pm. This free event will feature informational and food booths, musical performances, poetry readings, and other family-friendly activities.

The Rainbow Inclusion Committee has arranged for a booth with information on our church. Several people have already volunteered and filled the 11 am-1 pm shift! To sign up for your shift, please contact email [rainbowinclusion@uusat.org](mailto:rainbowinclusion@uusat.org): 8-11 am, 1-3 pm, 3-5 pm, or 5-6 pm. Instead of doing a full shift, you are also welcome to help unload supplies in the morning or help pack up at 5 pm.

### Pride Month Italian Potluck

Rainbow Inclusion will host a potluck dinner on June 8<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall from 7-9 pm! We'll have some colorful cupcakes there. Let me know what you might bring---salad, pasta, bread, antipasti, ...

[rainbowinclusion@uusat.org](mailto:rainbowinclusion@uusat.org)

### Local LGBTQ History Is San Antonio History: An Introduction to Archived Treasures at UTSA

An exhibit, reception and presentation by Melissa Gohlke, archivist librarian with the UTSA Library Special Collections, Saturday, June 10, 2:30-5:30 pm. Mementos of Sterling Houston, Lollie Johnson, Hap Veltman, Pierre Duval Hair Studio and the Fiesta Dinner Playhouse, Linda and Cynthia Phillips, The San Antonio Marquise and more. If you want a table to display your memorabilia, contact [rainbowinclusion@uusat.org](mailto:rainbowinclusion@uusat.org) by June 1. On Tuesday, June 6, 7-9 pm we can meet in the library, across the patio from the Fellowship Hall, to arrange our great prints on display boards and plan the exhibit space. That Saturday we will need some people to help set up at 1:30 and again later to help clean up at 5:30.

**This is some of what we have lined up for June.  
Hope to see you often in Pride Month!**

## Member Care

If you know of someone who needs support in a time of need, please contact Member Care at [membcare@uusat.org](mailto:membcare@uusat.org). We are always looking for volunteers to help.

## Question-Box Sermon

On May 28<sup>th</sup> Rev Josh will present a Question Box Sermon. What will this sermon be? It is up to you! Submit your theological questions to Rev. Josh and he will put together the sermon to answer them. He will do his best to answer as many of the questions put forth as possible, with similar questions being grouped together. Please submit your questions to [minister@uusat.org](mailto:minister@uusat.org) by Wednesday May 24. Thank you!

## Membership



### First UU 101

For people new to the church, the next First UU 101 session is May 14<sup>th</sup>, after the service in the Jefferson Building. Grab some food at the FUUnd Lunch and join us! These sessions last about an hour and just gives you a bit more info about the church and tries to answer any questions you might have about us, and how YOU might fit in with us! **Join Us!** Dorothy Wallace, Membership Coordinator / [membership@uusat.org](mailto:membership@uusat.org)

## End of Year Picnic



Join us as we celebrate the end of a wonderful church year and the beginning of summer at our end of year all church picnic. We will meet under the large pavilion at beautiful Woodlawn Lake park on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The pavilion is right next to the playground, sand box, and dock. Bring a dish to share, chairs to sit in, and enjoy a wonderful day at the park.



## Annual Congregational Meeting

### Sunday, May 21, 12:15pm, Fellowship Hall

All members are encouraged to attend our congregational meeting where we will be voting on the Leadership Slate, Proposed Budget, and Share the Plate recipients for the upcoming church year. All are invited to attend the meeting but only eligible members are allowed to vote. We must have 20% of eligible members present to have the meeting, so please plan on attending. To be eligible to vote you must have been a member for at least 60 days prior to the meeting and have made a pledge payment sometime in the past 12 months. To check your eligibility status, contact the church office.

### Share the Plate

#### Nominees for 2017-2018



At our May annual meeting, you will be voting to Share the Plate with nine\* of the following fifteen nominees between August 2017 and July 2018. Please click on each name to see their Web sites and consider your choices! Thanks to those who nominated these excellent non-profit organizations!

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Website</u>
ACLU of Texas	Arlis Olson	<a href="http://aclutx.org">aclutx.org</a>
The Bridge Collective	Ruth Castillo	<a href="http://thebridgecollective.org/">thebridgecollective.org/</a>
Center for Refugee Services	Betsy Kropp	<a href="http://sarefugees.org">sarefugees.org</a>
Child Advocates of San Antonio	Phoebe Smith	<a href="http://casa-satx.org">casa-satx.org</a>
Green Spaces Alliance of So Texas	June Kachtik	<a href="http://greensatx.org">greensatx.org</a>
Healthy Futures of Texas	Dorothy Wallace	<a href="http://hf-tx.org">hf-tx.org</a>
Heidi Search Center	Marilyn Stavinoha	<a href="http://www.theheidisearchcenter.org/">www.theheidisearchcenter.org/</a>
Hughes Mendez Foundation	Ruth Castillo	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/HughesMendezFoundation/">https://www.facebook.com/HughesMendezFoundation/</a>
Interfaith Welcome Coalition	Mary Grace Ketner	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/texasiwc/">https://www.facebook.com/texasiwc/</a>
Planned Parenthood South Texas	Ellen Remenchik	<a href="http://plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-south-texas">plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-south-texas</a>
PFLAG	Terry Palin	<a href="https://pflagsanantonio.org/">https://pflagsanantonio.org/</a>
RAICES	Lani van Petten	<a href="http://raicetexas.org/">raicetexas.org/</a>
Roy Maas Youth Alternatives	Rainbow Inclusion Committee	<a href="http://rmya.org">rmya.org</a>
San Antonio Youth Literacy	Maria Bush	<a href="http://sayl.org/">sayl.org/</a>
Voices for Children	Marilyn Stavinoha	<a href="http://voicesforchildren.org/">http://voicesforchildren.org/</a>

\*Yes, nine! We Share the Plate monthly *except* in October, when our Community Responsibility Endowment Fund (CREF) is promoting its work with local organizations; in December, when our church is involved in several local holiday fundraisers; and in January, when we focus on giving to support the UU Service Committee.

## Youth Religious Education

### Religious Education Teacher Appreciation

On Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall – All RE teachers, kids, and parents are invited to have breakfast and celebrate all of our wonderful RE volunteers. There will be no RE classes this morning as we instead take the time to appreciate the hard work of the RE teachers and advisors. The Religious Explorations class, which normally meets in the Fellowship Hall, will meet in the Jefferson Bldg this morning. If you have volunteered with children or youth at any time in the past year, please come have breakfast with us!

### Let the Force be with You Summer Curriculum for K-5

The world of the Star Wars Jedi has inspired real-life practices of spirituality. The Jedi believe in the “Living Force,” a spiritual presence that surrounds us, penetrates us, and binds all the matter in the universe together. The philosophies of Star Wars have been explored, examined, and adopted by many. Some even consider “Jediism” to be their legitimate religion, though it incorporates beliefs from many different philosophies. This 10-session summer program is designed to bring spiritual/ethical lessons from *Star Wars* into a cohesive program for children. Our summer program runs June-August.



## Camps & Conferences



### Family Camp at UBarU

Memorial Day Weekend, Friday May 26 - Monday May 29, 2017

Cook-out \* Campfires \* Sing-Alongs \* Worship \* Swimming \*  
Nature Education \* Star Party \* Clogging

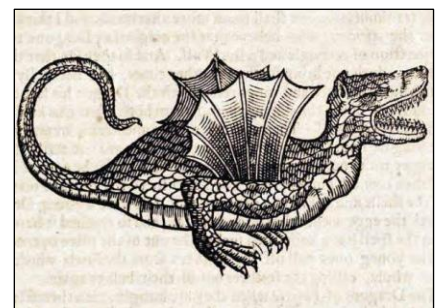
FMI and to register, visit [UBarU.org](http://UBarU.org) & look under the “events” tab.

### Fantastic Beasts Summer camp at First UU

July 31-Aug. 4, 9 am – 3 pm

For children and youth from rising kindergarten through high school

Fantastic Beasts summer camp, coming to First UU this summer. July 31, Aug. 4! We will explore the world of fauna, real and make-believe. We will play, learn, and worship together in this week-long day camp. This camp is for children and youth from rising kindergarten through high school. Middle- and high-school youth will have a role to play as counselors and counselors-in-training. The week will include field trips to the San Antonio Zoo and San Pedro pool. Visit <http://uusat.org/fantastic-beasts-camp-2017/> for more information and to register.



## *Services for May*

**11:00 am Worship Service – In the Sanctuary**

**9:30 am Religious Education for All Ages - Various Locations**

**May 7 – “Optimists See the World Half Empty” – Rev. Josh**

**May 14 – “YRE Sunday” presented by First UU Youth**

**May 21 – “Call & Response” – Rev. Josh**

**May 28 – “Question Box Sermon” – Rev. Josh**

## ***A Beacon on the Hill*** – The Monthly Newsletter of First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio

First UU Church of San Antonio  
7150 West Interstate 10  
San Antonio, TX 78213-3465  
210.344.4695 / [www.uusat.org](http://www.uusat.org)

**TO:**