



WILDFLOWER CHURCH

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

July 2010

Transforming lives

Volume 10, No 7



2010 AMY YOUNG MEMORIAL SERVICE TRIP

The 2010 Amy Young Memorial Service Trip to New Orleans was a

great success as nine of us lived, worked, and sweated together for nearly a week, doing our small part to raise New Orleans up from the ruins of Katrina and its aftermath. While the work we did—cleaning up a parking lot, priming the back and one side of a house, and some of us painting one small room—may not have seemed like much of an accomplishment in the big picture, the truth is, we did what we could, with the tools we had, and we showed up, and we laughed, and played Apples to Apples at night, and gained new friends as every day passed by. I give deep thanks to Debbie Groves, Sarah Duke, Lisa Fahlquist, Maggie Currier, Donnis Doyle, Liz Hiles-Fisher, and Julie and Caroline Goodin for all of their tireless work, their humor, their perseverance, and their positive attitudes. It will be great to have any and all of them back for next year's trip, wherever it may be, and I look forward to seeing who else will step up to be a part of this healing, holy, and heartfelt adventure.

~Eliza



SASAC CLOSED TWO SUNDAYS IN JULY

Please mark your calendars for the two upcoming Sundays in July when we will be worshipping at a site other than SASAC. SASAC will be undergoing major repairs this summer as well as being closed for the Fourth of July holiday.



Sunday, July 4, Austin Waldorf School, 8700 South View Road. For directions, see the following link:

http://www.austinwaldorf.org/index.php/about/contact_us/

Sunday, July 18, South Austin Recreational Center, 1100 Cumberland Road. For directions, see the following link:



http://maps.google.com/maps?rlz=IT4RNWE_enUS315US315&q=south%20recreation%20center&us=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=N&hl=en&tab=wl



PICNIC PLANNED FOR AUGUST 7



The All Church Picnic will be at Garrison Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, August 7. This is a family friendly potluck.

For more information, call Frances Osborne at 347-1705 or email osborne35@hotmail.com. Garrison District Park, 6001 Manchaca Rd. 78745. See link for location:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Austin&state=TX&address=6001+Manchaca+Rd&zipcode=78745-3624&country=US&latitude=30.21295&longitude=-97.80187&geocode=ADDRESS>

LISTENING MINISTRY AVAILABLE

Are you looking for a compassionate ear? Wildflower Church now has a Listening Ministry Team whose purpose is to companion people while they journey through difficult stretches of their lives. Contact Rev. Eliza at minister@wildflowerchurch.org for more information.



Rev. Eliza Galaher

WALKING TOGETHER

In the world of 12-step recovery, in order to be as open-minded and open-ended as possible, people often (though not exclusively) refer to the source of their healing and strength not as God, but as their Higher Power. I am okay with the use of the word God, but I know there are those Wildflowers among us who are not. There are those of you who prefer Goddess, Great Spirit, Universe, Conscience, Science, and I'm sure many other terms. And actually, I've said more than once that for me it's less about God or Goddess, and more about god-ness, or goodness. Nonetheless, the question arises, What, or who, do you see as your higher power? How would you define it? How does it feel? How does it sound? Is it in the shape of a radical young man or a magnificent old tree? Is it the vastness of the night sky, or the intimacy of your own glowing heart? Is it all of these things? How do you know when you are near

your higher power? In my weeks away from Wildflower this summer, I hope to revisit these questions myself, and hope as well that each one of you, in your own way, will feel yourselves closer to that which feeds and nourishes you, rejuvenates you and brings you more deeply into beloved community as well as into your own beautiful hearts. Peace to all.

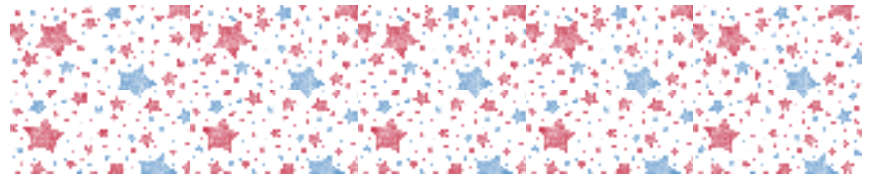
~Rev. Eliza Galaher



A WILDFLOWER NURSERY RHYME

There was an old woman
Who lived in a shoe
She had so many books
She didn't know what to do
She read them,
She kept them,
She stacked them up high
In two leaning towers
That reached to the sky.

Someone should tell this poor woman about Books-R-Us! The next one is July 11 and there will be books, CDs, DVDs and books on tape. Please bring some and take some. The money donated will go to the Amy Young Service Fund. Books that are not taken will be given to Recycled Reads which is the used book store run by the Austin Public Library.



PROUD TO BE IN PRIDE PARADE

This year's Wildflower turnout for the annual LGBT Pride Parade was wonderful, enthusiastic, and standing on the side of love, thanks to Bill Walker, who organized our group, and thanks to all who walked, carried signs, whooped and whistled. We also saw several folks standing on the sidelines, cheering us on, and that felt great, too. As I come to the end of my third year at Wildflower Church, it's very heartwarming to see the turnout at the parade grow larger and larger. Maybe next year, you will be there, too!



JULY WORSHIP SERVICES

July 4 – Christian Schmidt

From One Church to Another

Unitarian Universalist churches embrace congregational polity, the idea that each church body is its own authority in decision-making. Along with this, though, we associate with other congregations in the Unitarian Universalist Association. A foundational document of our church governance says that congregations should relate to other congregations in six ways: mutual care, consultation, admonishment, participation with, recommendation of members to, and providing relief. But Unitarian Universalist congregations too often seem like islands to themselves. Maybe it's time to embrace our fellow churches and really be in community with them. Christian is our newly hired youth director and a candidate for the UU ministry, and attends Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Martha Allan, *lay leader*; Allen Fisher, *service coordinator*

July 11 – To be determined

Due to a “dental situation,” Scottie McIntyre Johnson will not be able to speak on this Sunday. Please stay tuned for information regarding this service. Updates will be posted in the weekly news and on the website, www.wildflowerchurch.org. Gary Lichtenstein, *worship leader*; Eva Andries, *service coordinator*

July 18 – Annice Ellington

“May You Use Those Gifts That You Have Received...”

This phrase comes from St. Theresa's prayer and reminds us of the reciprocity that is inherent in our interdependent web of existence. When we pass on what we have been given, we participate in that web in a manner that benefits others as well as ourselves. Tom Moran, *lay leader*; Janet Spencer, *service coordinator*

July 25 – Rev. Galaher

That's How the Light Gets In

Rev. Galaher will explore the need for us as human beings to be in relationship with our shadows, and how, by doing so, we can help heal ourselves and others. Maxine Barkan, *lay leader*; Helen Burnette, *service coordinator*.

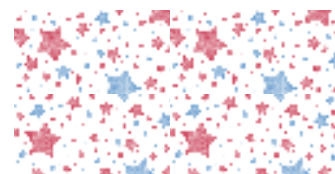
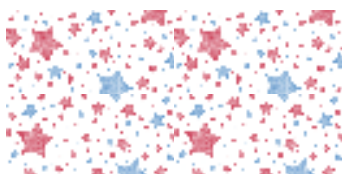
WILDFLOWER AND AUSTIN INTERFAITH IN ACTION – JOIN US!

Are you concerned about the new immigration law recently passed in Arizona, and about how Texas might or might not be influenced by that law? Are you wondering how you can be an effective voice in speaking to the needs of the local and statewide community in the upcoming Texas gubernatorial race? Austin Interfaith is hosting two major events this summer that will speak to both of these issues, and the Wildflower Austin Interfaith Team is taking an active role in seeing that attendance is strong, voices are heard, and justice is done.

On August 8, there will be an Austin Interfaith Accountability Session focusing specifically on immigration reform, and we plan to have in attendance elected officials, as well as heads of law enforcement, so we can be in conversation with them, and receive commitments from them to make sure our local leaders are doing all they can to honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person. On August 28, in San Antonio, there will be a statewide gathering of Texas Industrial Areas Foundation groups, including Austin Interfaith, to meet with gubernatorial candidates and to seek commitments from them regarding our concerns around immigration, education, living wage, and health care.

You are not only invited, but strongly encouraged to attend both of these events. While we do not yet have exact times and locations, please mark the dates in your calendars. As small as Wildflower Church is compared to many organizations within Austin Interfaith, we have continually shown a proportionately large turnout at events like this, and I praise our communal efforts to show that we care, that we are indeed committed to transforming ourselves and the world around us through acts of compassion, love, and social justice. So I look forward to seeing you on August 8th to speak out for immigration reform, and on August 28th, to hold our gubernatorial candidates accountable to the needs of the people!

~Peace, Eliza





Penny Burnette

**CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH RE
JULY CLASS SCHEDULE FOR UU WORLD TRAVELERS**

Our adventurous world travelers have toured Europe, flown to Australia, learned about earthquakes in Guatemala, and created paintings in France. Join us for many more intriguing adventures to come in July. The middle and high school aged youth are welcome to join in the UU World Travelers class or stay in the worship service.

We hope that lots of kids plan to attend RE this summer, in between "real" vacation travel and adventure, of course! We also need helper teachers to join us. Please sign up! Below are next four journeys.

July 4: Join us in learning about the islands of New Zealand with previous inhabitant Kathleen Claps. New Zealand is the youngest country on earth. Learn some key facts about the history, the culture, and the people.

July 11: Fly to Tokyo, Japan with Jennifer Caudle. Experience the culture of Japan, notice the beautiful displays of food in the grocery stores and meticulously clean streets. Learn to create some simple origami. Learn to roll some vegetarian sushi and taste a new food.

July 18: Trek to Bogota, Colombia in the Andes Mountains with Laurel Martin. Hear tales of working on the coffee plantations in the mountainsides, life along the Amazon River with the primitive native tribes in the deep forest, and getting stuck in quicksand while with native peoples with their teeth filed like piranha. Snack on bananas and tapioca, listen to pan pipe music, and view examples of native instruments, a poison blow dart, a wooden carving, and more.

July 25: Journey to Bo, the second largest city in Sierra Leone, with Debbie Groves. Experience the daily life of a missionary through pictures and stories. View original photos, unique tie-dye cloth and carved statues. Be sure and dress for the tropical climate.

**SEE A GIANT CATAPULT
IN ACTION!
DATE CHANGED TO
JULY 3**

Kids of all ages, not just RE families, are invited to an informative and exciting Medieval Trebuchet/Giant Catapult event 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, July 3. Trebuchet Master Mark Winkler and his safety expert team will teach us about the history and physics of a full-size medieval trebuchet while we launch watermelons as well as real fireballs after dusk. Attendance is limited to first 40 people to sign up and provide \$6 donation per adult and \$4 donation per child to Laurel Martin. For more information, contact dre@wildflowerchurch.org or visit the RE table during coffee hour.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR!

Hi, I'm Christian Schmidt. I have been hired to take on the role of Wildflower Church's youth director. As this church continues to grow and change, a strong and vital youth program is a must in its development, and I hope to work with all of you to create that program to serve this church's youth and their families. I will be doing some preparatory work this summer, and in September, we'll get going full-speed on the program. Please feel free to contact me (christian.schmidt@austinseminary.edu) with any questions you have about youth programming in the meantime.

A little about me: I am candidate for the UU ministry, and I just finished my first year at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. My mother grew up in First Unitarian Church of Austin (now First UU). We did not attend church while I was growing up, but I have attended UU churches for over ten years. I am a member of the UU Church of the Brazos Valley in College Station, where I served in several lay leadership positions, including youth advisor and religious education teacher. Since moving to Austin, I have been a frequent visitor at Wildflower and a guest preacher at Unitarian Universalist churches throughout Texas and Arkansas. I look forward to being in the pulpit at Wildflower on July 4.

In August, I will marry Kristin Leigh Grassel. Kristin will be ordained into the UU ministry next year, and she's planning to work this year as a student chaplain here in Austin. I enjoy sports of all kinds, and what little spare time I have is spent on that or cooking, one of my other loves.

I look forward to meeting you all and to being your youth director.

~ Christian



SEARCH FOR A HOME OF OUR OWN

A small group of the remaining Building Committee and three new members have started a review of our strategy for the next search. We are now two years

away from the initial "Search for the Future" sessions that helped define our needs and preferences. Based on the lessons learned during the last search, there were four main areas of consideration before going forward with the next search.

- ☉ Understand the congregation's preferences
- ☉ Review the market further for affordable locations, and different approaches
- ☉ Assess our financial strength and capability for different funding approaches
- ☉ Assess our human resource capability to manage the search, move-in, and ongoing maintenance of our future home

In order to meet these goals, your voice is an essential component. You will be asked to participate in two ways.

- ☉ **Survey will be available July 5–August 15. Please participate.**
- ☉ **Workshop to discuss the options and choose the direction of the Search on Saturday, September 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Faith United Methodist Church, 2701 South Lamar. Please save the date.**



Photo of Rev. Eliza accepting the donation check to the Building Fund from Middle School RE Class Representative Jacob Burnette

CHALICE LIGHTERS

Did you know that there is a grant program wherein Wildflower may be eligible to receive money to grow a Spiritual Home of Our Own? It is called Chalice Lighters.

People in our church become Chalice Lighters if they send \$10 on three occasions throughout the year to the Southwest UU District Chalice Lighter Program. If 20 percent of our congregation participates in the program and if we meet various criteria and are selected, we could receive a grant (of much more money than we contribute) from the Southwest District to either buy land, build, or rent a larger facility.

The Stewardship Committee will have a table each Sunday with the form for you to submit to the Southwest District and thus, register our church as a participant in the Chalice Lighter program. For more information, contact Tom Bookout.

HEB GIFT CARDS = WILDFLOWER FUNDRAISER

Step right up folks, and let me tell you about a fantastic deal now available to you. What if I were to tell you that you could support your church simply by buying groceries and other items at your local HEB store? It's true! All you need to do is purchase HEB gift cards from our designated seller after Sunday service, and Wildflower Church will receive 3 percent of the amount purchased. Use the gift cards at your local HEB to purchase your groceries, gas, photo developing, and prescriptions. Heck, you can even use them for bill payment and car registration services at the Customer Service Counter! Shop at Central Market? The gift cards are good there as well. They come in a variety of handy denominations: \$20, \$50, or \$100 gift cards are available. You can't go wrong with this dandy fundraiser that will benefit our church's building fund! Now you're asking yourself, where can I get these special gift cards that benefit Wildflower Church? Look for the sellers with the red HEB hat after service. And don't forget your cash or checkbook to pay for them. You won't want to miss out on this golden opportunity to support your church!



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

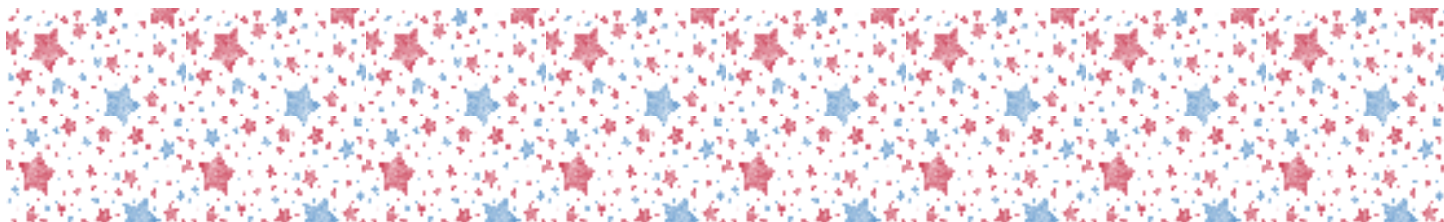
The **7/12 CONNECTIONS COVENANT GROUP** is a group unique to Unitarian Universalists. It uses the format of 12-Step programs, but includes the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism in its outlook—hence the name “7/12 Connections.” We are a group dedicated to offering friendship and support to any person whose life is affected by addiction and compulsive behavior—either our own or that of a loved one. We believe changed attitudes can lead to changed behavior, and we welcome all who wish to join us. We meet twice a month on the first and third Mondays from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Wildflower Conference Room, 1714 Fort View Rd., Suite 106. We observe the AA tradition of confidentiality. Contacts are Helen Burnette, helenburnette@hotmail.com and Bobbie Erb, 825-1373.

The **BUDDHISM MEDITATION & STUDY GROUP** is a group of people who are interested in Buddhism, meditation, or the deepening of their spiritual life, or any combination of those motivations. The group meets to strengthen our individual sitting practices, and to study Buddhist books to deepen our spiritual understanding. We are not necessarily religious Buddhists, nor do we all have a private sitting practice, but we all have found sitting together and studying together to be a valuable part of our lives. We'd like to expand the benefit to others! We meet twice a month on the second and fourth Thursdays, in the middle of the day, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Sometimes we go to lunch after the meeting.) We schedule the meditation session from 12:10 p.m. to 12:35 p.m., so a person could come only for the meditation portion during a noon lunch break. Contact Helen Burnette, helenburnette@hotmail.com, or just show up at the Wildflower Conference Room, 1714 Fort View Road, Suite 106.

CONVERSATION CAFE, Saturday, July 17, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Hampton Branch, Oak Hill, Austin Public Library, 5125 Convict Hill Road. Don't miss June's opportunity for meaningful conversation on an interesting question. We welcome your presence. There are no books to read or assignments, just interesting conversation. The Weekly News will have information about the Café's focusing question. For more information, contact Joan at 454-3160 or wildflower-conversationcafe@gmail.com.

CONNECTON CIRCLES COMPLETING THEIR FIRST YEAR! In October 2009, Wildflower Small Group Ministry initiated the new Connection Circle program. It involves ongoing individual small groups of Wildflowers meeting to develop closer community while discussing the same topics developed by the Connection Circle Team with Rev. Galaher. We are so pleased that six Connection Circles have been meeting throughout the year, involving 50 people. We are looking forward to a second year of Connection Circles with new curricula and continued community and would love to include Wildflowers who would like to connect on a more intimate level in a small group. The new year will be starting in October and we are gearing up now. If you are not involved at this point and would like to consider joining a Connection Circle, call Joan H. at 454-3160 or Mary O. at 972-467-0956 or email groups@wildflowerchurch.org. Circles generally meet monthly at dates and times that accommodate members' schedules.

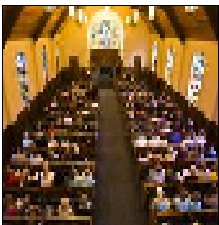
FOOD FOR THOUGHT: ETHICAL EATING. The July 18 Food for Thought: Thought for Action will focus on “Ethical Eating,” which is a national study topic for UUs currently. Wildflower's own Helen Burnette will speak on her experience creating a relationship with food that is healthful and sustainable. Katy Hamill, of the South Austin Food Co-op, will bring us news of how food cooperatives can be supportive of our efforts to eat mindfully, with respect and care for the health of our communities, our selves and the earth itself. Please bring a finger food dish for the potluck, but come, in any case, as we will have extra! The event will be 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Club Room at the South Austin Recreation Center, 1100 Cumberland Road.



WILDFLOWER MEMBER, MARK MICHEL BARKAN, 1918–2010



Mark Michel Barkan spent his 92 years as a refugee, an immigrant, a soldier, a businessman and a volunteer. But on Sunday, June 13, more than 200 friends and relatives remembered him by doing something he loved best: telling stories. He was born in 1918 in Russia during the Bolshevik Revolution and eventually became a beloved volunteer to Austin's elementary school children, and died June 3. He was remembered at a Camp Mabry memorial service for his long and storied life, his pride in being an American and his love of giving back to his community. Friends recalled his tall stature, trademark handlebar mustache and bolo ties, and booming, French-accented voice. "His was the classic immigrant story, rags to riches," son-in-law Mike von Wupperfeld said. "Simply put, he took his American citizenship very seriously, along with being an adopted Texan." Mark's family fled to Europe after the Communists took power. They eventually settled in France but, as noncitizen "stateless persons," lived in squalor because they were not allowed to have jobs. An uncle sponsored him to come to the United States, and he arrived on Labor Day 1939 just as the world went to war. He fell in love with America, learning English and taking on several jobs. But when the United States declared war, Barkan enlisted in the Army, which tapped him for his ability to speak five languages and placed him in military intelligence. He also married Maxine Lubell in 1942. Barkan served as an officer in China and India until 1946, where he supervised Army interpreters in Berlin. While serving his adopted country, he lost his father, aunt and two uncles to the Holocaust in Europe; his mother and sister were forced to hide from the Gestapo in Paris. When he returned from war, he began a career in sales, including at his wife's family furniture store and at Sealy Mattress in Houston. He later started his own business, where he taught sales and management techniques. He and his wife moved to Austin in 1984 to be near their daughter and son-in-law. Mark became best known in Austin for his volunteering efforts at what is now Dell Children's Medical Center and at Zavala Elementary School. For nearly two decades, he would bring puppets to school and tell stories of how people can achieve anything if they work hard and get a good education. He often told of his own success in America, which he said would have been impossible in many of the places he had lived. "Mark turned out to be the grandfather-role model for all the kids who came through Zavala," said Susan Sanders, a former librarian at the school. In March 2008, Zavala honored him with "Mark Barkan Day." Later, he volunteered as a storyteller and puppeteer at the Austin Jewish Academy. Von Wupperfeld said Mark's acceptance and success in America prompted him to give back to the people around him. "He could not not do something in his community," Mark's son-in-law said. Mark is survived by his wife, Maxine, a daughter and numerous nieces and nephews, his family said. A private burial took place at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.



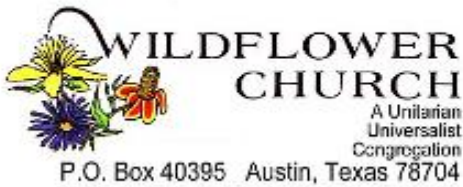
From an article by Patrick George, AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF;
Originally Published: Sunday, June 13, 2010 Updated: Monday, June 14, 2010

COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS

We, the members of Wildflower Church, covenant:

- ⊗ to extend the welcome, hospitality, and acceptance at Wildflower Church that we would wish to receive
- ⊗ to keep the well being of the whole Wildflower Church community at the forefront of our work
- ⊗ to practice caring for one another, especially in times of need
- ⊗ to contribute to the mission of Wildflower Church while practicing self-care and staying mindful of our own needs
- ⊗ to practice mutual responsibility and shared leadership
- ⊗ to inform ourselves and others about church roles and resources
- ⊗ to engage in direct, respectful communication and active listening, particularly in times of conflict and misunderstanding, and
- ⊗ to honor and celebrate our differences.

In the spirit of openness and transparency, thus do we uphold this covenant.



Minister

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**Sunday Worship Service and
Children's Religious Education
10:30 a.m.**

Most Sunday services held at the
South Austin Senior Activity
Center

3911 Manchaca Road
Austin, Texas

(Located about two blocks north of
Ben White/Hwy. 290)

Website: Please visit our website for
the latest information:

www.wildflowerchurch.org

Message Phone: (512) 428-9464

Email: mail@wildflowerchurch.org

Office: (not always staffed)

1714 Fortview Road #106

PO Box 40395

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Wildflower Church Mission

Wildflower Church is a deliberately inclusive, open-minded religious community in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. We joyfully nurture one another in our lifelong spiritual journeys, and we commit to transforming ourselves and the world around us through acts of compassion, love, and social justice.

Newsletter Submissions

The deadline for the August issue is July 15.

Send submissions to newsletter@wildflowerchurch.org.

Newsletter editor: Dotti Sizer

Newsletter copyeditor: Holly Gonzalez

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Send questions and/or comments regarding church matters to board@wildflowerchurch.org

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