

UUF Galveston Gazette

October 2006



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

502 Church Street, Galveston, Texas 77550-5502

(409)765-8330 Online at <http://www.uugalveston.org>

Sunday Activities: Adult Forum, 9:00 a.m.; Services 10:30 a.m.; Children and Youth Religious Education, 10:30 a.m.

President's Message

Gerry Carr, Board President

A Month of Sundays

Katrina Chamberlain & Program Committee

(All Services are held from 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

Greetings:

As always, I hope this message finds everyone well. There is hope for cooler weather!

The Board this month is continuing to work on financial issues. The Finance Committee made some recommendations for ways to increase our income so that we can meet our financial responsibilities while maintaining reserves. They also continue to look for options for refinancing our mortgage. I know I seem to be talking about money a lot, but it's necessary. Please notify me or any Board Member if you have ideas.

The board also spent some time doing goal setting. We started by identifying our strengths and challenges. Our strengths list was much longer but the challenge list is always daunting. We agreed that our main goals are to maintain and increase membership, and we know that the way to do that is to provide a haven for all of us to continuously strive to be our best and create a more just and loving world. Keep your eyes open for upcoming opportunities to explore our mission and vision. Everyone's voice will be important! Be thinking about what you want from your church and how we can make it happen!

Faithfully,

Gerry



October 1

Speaker: Gerry Carr

Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Title: Wrestling With Prayer

"Gathering the prayers of the people" this is what Rev. Alan Taylor was told his role as a minister was. In this sermon, read by Gerry Carr, Rev. Taylor explores his own wrestling with prayer as well as how to talk about it with religious liberals. He says "It's a tough sell. Most of us don't readily talk about prayer. For some it is too private; for others, irrelevant."

October 8

Speaker: Joseph Lee

Facilitator: Kelly Hawes

Title: Fighting for Individuality

Description to be provided in weekly bulletin.

October 15

Speaker: Dr. Ahmed E. Ahmed

Facilitator: Stan Blazyk

Title: Similarities in our Faiths

A Quranic verse addressed to all people reads: "O people We (God) have created you from a single male and female and made you into nations and tribes in order for you to know, care and be compassionate with one another. Surely, the best of you in the sight of God are those with the most righteousness and piety in their hearts". Dr. Ahmed will discuss this religious directive, and encourages attendees to share similar statements from their various faiths. Dr. Ahmed a member of the Galveston Islamic center and contributes writing on Islam to the local newspaper. He and wife, Didi, have 3 sons.

October 22

Speaker: Rev. Carroll

Facilitator: Kelly Hawes

Title: Death House Religion

The Rev. Carroll Pickett is a Presbyterian minister who spent 15 years as the death house chaplain in Huntsville. Rev. Pickett is the author of the book "Within These Walls: Memoirs of a Death House Chaplain." Now a strong opponent of the death penalty, he will share his observations about capital punishment and life behind bars. His appearance is made possible in part by the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, one of many organizations across the country sponsoring Oct. 20-22 as the National Weekend of Faith in Action on the Death Penalty.

October 29

Facilitator: Margaret Canavan

Title: Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

The *Dia de los Muertos* celebration from Mexico is a time to remember those who have gone before us, thank them for enriching our lives, and contemplate our own mortality, both with reverence and with humor. Bring photographs and other mementos (food, drinks, special items) of your deceased loved ones to decorate our altar, and you are invited to share a story or reminiscence as well. All are invited to participate in this very special service that provides for sharing, support and community-building for our congregation.

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its gift.

This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

News from Children & Youth Religious Education—Teri Hawes, DRE



Administrator's Corner
—Teri Hawes, Administrator

Our used children's book drive in conjunction with the Social Action Committee is in full force, but we need volunteers to help deliver the books. Some places that might accept our used books include waiting rooms, day care centers, community centers, Laundromats, etc. If you know of anyplace where children congregate, or where a parent might read to a child if a book was available, please feel free to take some of our books and deliver them for us. Our goal is to get the books to children who might not otherwise have access to books. They can keep them, share them, or read them and leave them for the next child who comes along. We don't put any restrictions on our donations. We just want to get them out there. Please contact me if you can help.

In September I delivered a donation of school uniforms to Rosenberg Elementary School and Principal (and UUFGC member) Billie Rinaldi was very grateful for our contribution. The clothes will be used for students in need of a uniform during the day, and will prevent the child from having to return home or wait for a parent to deliver appropriate clothes. The goal is to get the student back to class, where learning takes place, rather than sitting in the office and waiting for a uniform. Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's School Uniform Drive. It is one of my favorite RE projects, and the return on our investment is priceless.

I am still in need of nursery volunteers for our youngest UUs. Please let me know if you can spare a Sunday now and then to help out in the nursery.

The children will spend a Sunday in October talking about the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. We will also spend some time working on the RE scrapbook, and will be continuing our discussions of character traits. See you in RE!



Empty Bowls Fundraiser Saturday, November 4, 2006 UUFGC Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by: UUFGC Social Action Committee

To Benefit: The Jesse Tree

The Empty Bowl fundraiser event is fast approaching, and this is one of the biggest events the Fellowship holds each year. We need many more bowls prior to holding this fall's soup supper, so please, take some time and come create masterful works of art with us! No experience with clay necessary! We will meet the first and third **Wednesdays of the month, at 5:45pm** at the Fellowship. Contact Madeleine Baker at m a d - baker@houston.rr.com.

Additionally, the committee is beginning to collect donations for the event. Teri Hawes is in charge of the Silent Auction and is hoping for donations including artwork, pottery, gift items, etc., for sale during the event. She can be contacted at teri.hawes@sbcglobal.net.

Fannie DeGesero is seeking volunteers to bake homemade bread and finger desserts for the dinner. She can be contacted at fandfare@aol.com.

We also need at least 25 crock pots of soup, and are only about halfway there. Please help out by cooking your favorite soup and sharing it with others during this important event. The soup recipe will also be included in our Empty Bowls Cookbook. Contact Bonnie Young at 770-0290

As most of you know we have recently had some problems with both our website and e-mail programs. However, both are now back up and running, and e-mail can once again be sent to administrator@uufgc.net. Additionally, the website is back online and can be accessed at uugalveston.org. We hope to have a new webmaster appointed very soon so the website will be updated and maintained on a regular basis.

Due to the problems with our e-mail, I have been sending the weekly updates from my personal account. However, I will go back to sending the notices from the administrator's e-mail account. Should you have any problems receiving or reading the weekly updates, please let me know. Also, as reported in the past, if you would like to have an item in the weekly e-mail, please have it to me by Tuesday morning of that week to be sure I get it in. Several recurring items are in the e-mail frequently, but one-time news items and announcements will take priority, so be sure and send them to me promptly and I will do my best to have them included.

Be sure to check the weekly updates for information on any committees or other activities in which you are involved at the church. Anytime information needs to get out, for example a change in date or location of a meeting, updates on future events, or fellowship announcements, it will be in the weekly update.

One of the Social Action Committee's biggest events of the year, The Empty Bowls Soup Supper, is scheduled for November 4, 2006 at the Fellowship. I have been named chairman of the Silent Auction for this year, and am currently in the process of acquiring donations for the event. We are accepting artwork, pottery, gift items and other appropriate auction items for sale during the evening. If you would like to make a donation please contact me at teri.hawes@sbcglobal.net. The proceeds from the auction will be donated to The Jesse Tree in its ongoing mission to feed the hungry in Galveston County. We also are in need of donations of soup, home-baked bread, finger desserts and manpower for the event. Madeleine Baker is coordinating the evening and she can be contacted at madbaker@houston.rr.com for more information.

As a reminder, anyone who wishes to continue to receive their newsletter by regular mail needs to contact me at administrator@uugalveston.org, or the newsletter editor, Maggie Pinson, at hestia_olympian@sbcglobal.net, and we will make sure to mail you a copy. However, if you have computer access we would encourage you to access the newsletter electronically to save on paper, copying, and postage expenses.

As I do not have regular office hours, should anyone need to contact me please feel free to call me at home at 621-2270, at the church at 765-8330, or by e-mail at either administrator@uugalveston.org or teri.hawes@sbcglobal.net. I will respond as quickly as possible to all correspondence and messages.



Happy Birthday to:

Monte Brand (9/16) Lilian Canouet (9/30) Teri Hawes (9/30) Kat Joel-Reich (9/1) Doris Lee (9/23) Steve Reubens (9/30) Billie Rinaldi (9/16) Andy Baker (10/22) Jean Baker (10/22) Neil Huddleston (10/7) Don Stubbs (9/26) Lynda Willke (10/29)

OCTOBER 2006

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program	2	3 <i>a.m.— Weekly Bulletin Deadline</i>	4	5 6:30 pm—Program Committee; Original Mex. Restaurant 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles Covenant	6	7 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
8 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program	9	10 <i>a.m.— Weekly Bulletin Deadline</i> 8:00 pm— UU Net, Emerson	11 5:30 p.m.— Empty Bowls (RE 1)	12 6:00 pm—Zen Re- treat 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles Covenant	13	14 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
15 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program	16	17 <i>a.m.— Weekly Bulletin Deadline</i>	18	19 12 pm—Social Action 5:45 pm—Board Mtg 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles Covenant	20 6:00 pm— Garden Work Day <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
22 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program	23	24 <i>a.m.— Weekly Bulletin Deadline</i>	25 5:30 p.m.— Empty Bowls (RE 1)	26 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles Covenant	27	28 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
29 9:00 am—Adult Forum 10:30 am—Adult Service & Children/Youth RE Program	30	31 <i>a.m.— Weekly Bulletin Deadline</i>				

Adult Forum meets every Sunday Morning at 9am!

UUF Galveston Gazette



October 2006

Get Connected with UUFGC
Meetings are at the Fellowship unless otherwise noted.

Adult Forum meets Sundays at 8:30 am to explore topics in religion, philosophy, history and politics. On October 1st we will view and discuss the final DVD on Race. Following that, we plan to view and discuss "The Global Banquet—Politics of Food" on 10/8, and "The New Rulers of the World" on 10/15. For information, contact Neil Huddleston at 409/7442369.

Course in Miracles Study Group meets every Thursday at 7pm. For more information, contact Laura Murrell LauraMurrell@houston.rr.com or Susan Persons at SPersons@houston.rr.com

Empty Bowlers meets every first and third Wednesday at 5:30pm to craft unique ceramic bowls to be sold, with home made soup and other treats, on Saturday, November 4th, to benefit the Jesse Tree. Many more bowls must be made prior to the soup supper! So please come and create masterful works of art with us! No experience with clay necessary! Contact Madeleine Baker at : madbaker@houston.rr.com

Program Committee meets every first Thursday at 6:30 pm at the original Mexican Café to plan Sunday services. All are welcome! Contact Katrina Chamberlain at kelarion7@yahoo.com

Social Action Committee meets every 3rd Thursday at 12 noon at UUFGC. Come and share your ideas, energy and enthusiasm for Social Action projects. Contact Mary Hodgson at 409-762-0193.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County
502 Church Street

UUFGC Board of Directors

President	Gerry Carr
President-Elect	Kelly Hawes
Past-President	Tony DiNuzzo
Secretary	Amber Booth
Treasurer	Woody Dickson
Members at Large:	Karen Brykczynski Michael Hennen Doris Lee

Staff

Dir. of Religious Education/ Administrator	Teri Hawes
---	------------

Committees

Archives	Ellie Porter
Covenant Groups	Position open
Communications	Madeleine Baker
Landscape	Margaret Canavan
Membership	Bets Anderson
Music	Woody Dickson
Policies & Procedures	Tony DiNuzzo
Program/Worship	Katrina Chamberlain
Religious Education	Neil Huddleston
Circle Suppers	Judy Glaister
Social Action	Mary Hodgson
Newsletter Editor	Maggie Pinson

UU Gardeners Do you wonder what those things are growing on the back fence? They are vines for Birds Nest Gourds. When they ripen this fall we'll let them dry and the kids (and interested adults) will empty them out and decorate them for bird nesting boxes. These intrepid gardeners who showed up for our September cleanup: Pete and Diane Olsen, Katrina Chamberlain, Donald Lee, Stan Blazyk, Margaret Canavan, and Bets Anderson (a week early). We planted the "Eleanor Porter Rangoon Creeper" outside the back door fire exit, dug a garden for the children to plant, and generally trimmed and weeded. Thanks to Stan for supplying the pizza. October workday will return to a Saturday morning, as the sun goes down early now. Stay tuned for the date, to be announced. For more information contact Margaret Canavan at margaret@galveston.com

UU Social Club is thriving and growing. Past events include a visit to the Haak winery, dinner and Art Walk, and Friday dance class sponsored by Galveston Dance Club. More great activities are being planned. Contact Susan Persons at SPersons@houston.rr.com or at 765-7907

Zen Meditation meets Saturdays at 9am, and is an activity of the UUFGC and the Zen Island Fellowship. On Thursday, September 14th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a Zen Retreat at the Fellowship, and other related activities are planned. If you wish to learn more about Zen Buddhist practice, contact Cara Geary at gcara@houston.rr.com.



