

UUF Galveston Gazette

September 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! Our meditation last Sunday encouraged us to look at all of those who were with us in community during the worship service and also to remember those who weren't with us in person but in spirit. I hope this message finds everyone doing well. As summer draws to a close and our regular routine returns I hope to see all of our members soon.

The Board Meeting this month again focused on our financial status. The finance committee recommended we refinance our mortgage and the board agreed. The refinance will add up to significant savings in our monthly operating costs.

The Finance Committee will also begin publishing a monthly update of our financial situation (income vs. expenses). Finances are tough for everyone right now and our church home is no exception. Our budget is based on our pledges, so please do what you can to meet your pledge. If you need to discuss a change to your pledge, please do not hesitate to contact me or the treasurer. We can make adjustments when we know what to expect. Our spiritual home is here because we support it with our time, talent and treasure!

Despite our low summer attendance, committees continue to plan for upcoming events. I hope each of you finds a way to meet your spiritual needs with this community of fellow seekers.

Faithfully,

Gerry

September 3

Speaker: Kelly Hawes

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Program: Thoughts on Labor Day

On this Labor Day weekend, a message delivered by member Kelly Hawes will recall the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "There is nothing but a lack of social vision to prevent us from paying an adequate wage to every American whether he is a hospital worker, laundry worker, maid or day laborer." In 2004, the average Wal-Mart worker earned \$17,114 a year. That same year the company's CEO, Lee Scott, was paid nearly \$23 million. Congress has not raised the minimum wage in nearly a decade.

Music: Margaret Canavan

BMOD:

Nursery:

September 10

Facilitator: Maggie Pinson

Program: The Water Ceremony

We use the Water Ceremony to "re-group" after a long and busy summer. Just as water appears in many forms, from sea swells to the invisible particles resulting in a rainbow, it recalls to our minds all that is beauty, peace, relaxation, escape from the mundane, even growth, healing, and the passage of time. Participants are asked to add their water, collected during their travels or symbolic water provided at the altar, to a communal container and share experiences or memories evoked by that shared water.

Music: Margaret Canavan

BMOD:

Nursery:

September 17

Speaker: Katrina Chamberlain

Facilitator: Vicki Francil

Program: The Witch's Thanksgiving

The fall equinox is a traditional time to look at your own personal "harvest" for the year and to give thanks. We will examine how pre-Christian societies celebrated this time and meditate on these concepts in our own lives. There will also be a traditional pagan circle worship celebrating the Harvest Home/Mabon in the backyard after we have completed the regular service.

Music: Margaret Canavan

BMOD:

Nursery:

September 24

Speaker: Tony DiNuzzo

Facilitator: Kelly Hawes

Program: Poetry and Songwriting: A Marriage of Creativity

If you took the words of a poem and placed them to music, what would happen to its meaning? Would it have the same impact? Would the spiritual meaning come through in full bloom if spoken without the music? Would it really matter? This service will explore the conversion of simple prose into songwriting covering topics in labor, activism, nature and, of course, love.

Music: Margaret Canavan

BMOD:

Nursery:

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

Can you believe that the kids are back in school already? The summer always goes so fast and before you know it, the winter holidays will be upon us. Let's don't rush it though. We still have some summer left and we all should enjoy it while we can. Even though we're back to busy school schedules, take a trip to the beach on a Saturday morning, watch the birds, look for dolphins, or even pick up some trash. There are advantages to living on an island and we should make the best of it!

With the return of school we are in the midst of our School Uniforms Drive. The effort will continue through September and we are accepting both monetary donations and clothing (new or gently used.) The result of our efforts is a donation of school uniforms for needy children at Rosenberg Elementary School, the GISD campus closest to our Fellowship. Of course, as most of you know, the Principal is our own UU and recent Sunday Service speaker, Billie Rinaldi.

The uniforms we provide go to children whose families can't afford to purchase uniforms, children who may come to school in the wrong clothes, or students who, through mishaps, need to change clothes during the day.

I recently attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Vaughan Hennen, a member of our teen class and son of UUFGC Board Member Michael Hennen and frequent music contributor Susan Vaughan. It was a wonderful ceremony and Vaughan's parents were beaming with well deserved pride. Congratulations Vaughan – we are all very proud of you.

The RE children will be continuing their lessons in character building this month. We will also be working with Madeleine Baker on making some bowls for the upcoming Empty Bowls Project Soup Supper in November. During the month of August we spent some time talking about back to school issues in an attempt to get everyone psyched up for their return to school. The teens will begin meeting again soon after taking a summer hiatus during their school break.

I am in desperate need of nursery volunteers! Please let me know if you would be willing to offer assistance in the nursery for our youngest UUs. At the moment we have very few toddlers on Sunday mornings, and often there are none, so you may not even have to work on the days you are assigned. But I like to have someone available whenever a family comes in with a nursery-aged child, so they can feel welcome and cared for as a part of our UU family.

See you in RE!

I think I am finally getting the hang of his "administrator" thing and it is running pretty smoothly in the office these days. Much credit goes to our new President, Gerry Carr, who has been very patient and understanding through the transition, as well as to Treasurer Woody Dickson who has not only helped me with both administrative and computer issues, but who has also contributed a new financial program to the Fellowship to make his job easier. These things, along with the continued support of some hard-working volunteers and the membership at large, have made this job easier than expected, and I want to thank everyone who has helped out these past couple of months.

I am continuing to send out the weekly e-mail updates, and as previously reported, have attempted to shorten them. If you would like to have an item in the weekly e-mail, please have it to me by Tuesday morning of that week. Some recurring items are included, but one-time news items and announcements will take priority. Again please note the Tuesday morning deadline for those submissions.

Our website was "defaced" last month, but thanks to the hard work and computer savvy of Neil Huddleston it is now back up and running. Neil will be taking over the website and making some changes to the site in the next few weeks.. So take a look and let us know what you think.

Volunteers are needed to serve as "Greeters" on Sunday mornings before the service. If you would like to help out you can sign up on the sheet which hangs on the refrigerator, or contact Jodie Mitchell at jodie.mitchell@sbcglobal.net.

As reported last month, 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. Thanks for your support in on ongoing endeavor to cut costs.

Just a reminder that I will not be having set office hours, but please feel free to contact 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.



Congratulations to:

Steve Reubens, who was named the August "*Employee of the Month*" for his Department at Moody Gardens!

SEPTEMBER 2006

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated

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

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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. Currently the group is watching and discussing the Bill Moyers series called "Faith and Reason" on PBS. 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 sold at a November event to benefit the Jesse Tree. The Empty Bowl fundraiser is one of the best events the Fellowship holds each year, yet it does not happen without our making bowls throughout the year. The date of our event is fast approaching, and we need to get many bowls 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

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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.

UU Gardeners The garden is in impressive full -bloom with all the rain we've had this summer. Everything, weeds included, is growing like... well, like weeds! All this makes our volunteer gardeners more important and valuable than ever. August garden work was done by Stan Blazyk, Katrina Chamberlain, Joseph Lee, Bets Anderson, and yours truly. Join us on Friday evening, September 15, for our next work party. We plan to do our usual tidying up, plus we will put in a small children's vegetable garden for the fall. We meet to upkeep our garden every 3rd Friday from 6-8pm. 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 John Willke at jlwillke@earthlink.net

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
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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
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