



### A Month of Sundays

Services and Children's Religious Education 10:30 a.m.; Adult Forum 9am

#### August 5

**SPEAKER:** Shaykh Abdul Haqq, "The Sufi Spiritual Path"

*The goal of the path of Sufism is the cleansing and perfecting of the soul and the subjugation of the ego to allow closer communion with God.*

*Sufism is the mystical and spiritual heart of Islam and professes peace and love for all of God's creation and its main practice is Zikr or remembrance of God. Shaykh Abdul Haqq has been following the Sufi path for many years and is a respected speaker.*

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Laura Murrell

Greeter: Judy Glaister

#### August 12

**SPEAKER:** David Throop, "The Free Faith Comforts the Afflicted"

*Our free churches do more than give members a set of truths to believe. We teach a way of searching for truth. But what happens when we're hurting, disheartened, afflicted? When we need some truth and comfort in a hurry, without a lot of time spent searching? The free faith has some time-tested answers. David Throop has preached at the Galveston UU Fellowship many times. He's currently a member of Bay Area UU Church.*

Facilitator: Tony DiNuzzo

Music: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Susan Persons

Greeter: Cheryl Henry

#### August 19

**SPEAKER:** Stephanie Nwadiie, "What Can I Do to Make the World a Better Place?"

*After her children were grown and on their own, Stephanie gained inspiration from Mother Teresa's life of helping one person at a time. She decided to use her skills and resources to establish a preschool in Africa. Ms. Nwadiie is a Registered Nurse in Labor & Delivery at UTMB, and in her personal life is an artist and businesswoman.*

Facilitator: Fanny DeGesero

Music: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Woody Dickson

Greeter: Madeleine Baker

#### August 26

#### POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

**SPEAKER:** Dr. John Gorman, "A Summer Frost"

*Robert Frost's poetry is sometimes taken as local color backed by proverbial wisdom. But beneath that deliberately calculated surface lies a skeptical mind on a spiritual quest. We'll explore its journey for both its skills and its findings. Bring your poetry to share during potluck. John Gorman is Professor of Literature at UHCL.*

Facilitator: Susan Persons

Music: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Karen Brykczynski

Greeter: Bets Anderson

### President's Message— Laura Murrell

#### STARTING THE NEW CHURCH YEAR:

We started a new church year on July 1 which is the time to assess our strengths and weaknesses and to decide how to move forward.

#### OUR MEMBERS, OUR GREATEST ASSET:

Our greatest asset is our members. We have many who have been here for years with valuable knowledge and understanding of the history of the church and community. We have many who give incredible amounts of their time to keep what is at this point a totally volunteer effort going. We have a goodly number who have recently joined and are bringing their enthusiasm for liberal religion to us. However, there are many more in this community who could be with us. One UU source suggests that 1% of the population would value being part of a liberal religious community. Since Galveston has almost 60,000 residents, that means that there are 600 people on the island alone who would be interested in our community, and there certainly are many more right across the causeway.

#### OUR WONDERFUL BUILDING AND

**GROUNDS:** Our second greatest asset is our building and grounds. We have an incredible worship space, spacious RE classrooms, and a delightful playground. Due to the efforts of Margaret Canavan and others, we have amazing landscaping and flowers. But our building is also a concern. With our present level of membership and contributions, supporting our building is taking virtually all of our income. Our mortgage, insurance, utilities, phone, cleaning, and mowing expenses consume what we bring in. Mardi Mitchell, as a part of the fund raising task force, successfully renegotiated our mort-

For visitors and newcomers: Our members receive the *UU World* magazine, and have donated copies of past issues to share with you. Feel free to take copies from the display in the RE hallway.

(Continued on page 2)

*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.*

(President Message continued from page 1)

gage to a lower fixed rate payment earlier this year, or our circumstances would be even tighter

**OUR DEVOTED VOLUNTEERS:** In the past, we had a part-time administrator and RE director, but when those holding the jobs left the community, we didn't replace them because we didn't have the income to do so. Thanks to our "A-team" of Bets Anderson, Madeline Baker, Margaret Canavan & Judy Glaisler, our administrative needs are being met. Thanks to Gerry Carr and the program committee, we have good speakers every Sunday with a very low program budget. Thanks to Katrina Chamberlain and other volunteers, we have RE available when children attend. Thanks to Mary Hodgson and others, we have a social action presence through our provocative film series. Thanks to Madeleine Baker and the "bowlers" we have another social action presence through the Empty Bowls project. We are doing a lot with very little. But can we continue as a totally volunteer organization indefinitely?

A very positive step is that our fund raising task force has scheduled our first ever Service Auction for September. Similar auctions have raised significant sums of money for other UU congregations in the Houston area. A successful Service Auction will provide funds that could be used for the general budget or for initiatives that would move us forward.

**WE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DO MORE:** As UUs we have significant things to offer this community. And

through our regional and national UU affiliations, we have access to national and regional resources to assist us as we reach out to our community. Six of us just attended the UU General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, and will be reporting on it in an upcoming Sunday program. Three of us have just returned from a week of regional leadership training. One possibility is to build on the various UU Statements of Conscience as a rallying point for likeminded people in our community. This possibility will be expanded on and discussed in future newsletters.

**HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD?** The president can't do it, the board can't do it, the A-team can't do it, it will take all of us. Your ideas are needed, particularly ideas that you are passionate about. Like-minded folks can join together to form a task force to work on an approach or issue on a short term basis, as the fund raising task force has shown. Members (and friends and interested community members) can come together to think about a problem or potential area of interest and then figure out how to address it. Two ideas that come to mind immediately are:

**OUR WEB SITE—AN INEXPENSIVE AND POTENTIALLY VERY EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR REACHING THE COMMUNITY AND POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS:** We have a web site, but it can become a much more positive outreach tool. Look at our website & think about what you would have liked to see when you were looking for a church. If you are interested in being part of an effort to improve our web site, let me know.

**IDEAS FOR REACHING OUT TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN:** We have a wonderful facility with wonderful RE rooms, and RE teachers available every week, but it isn't being utilized. While the demographics of the island are against us, there are children on this island, and there are children from families who value liberal religion. How do we reach out to them?

Please take a minute and let me know what you think. What needs to be done? What could be done? What offers potential? What do you care about? What would make our congregation more welcoming and exciting? What would make your experience here more rewarding & comfortable? We need everyone's ideas and passions to be what we can be.

**Right Relations Covenant**

We will communicate openly, honestly & respectfully. We will listen carefully with open minds & open hearts. We will assume good intentions, practice tolerance & resist the temptation to become offended. We will take responsibility for our speech, actions & feelings, & we will be sensitive to possible conflicts & willing to work toward solutions. We will consider other perspectives & will strive not for unanimity but for mutual respect. We will honor our own boundaries & the boundaries of others. We will respect & support the diversity within our congregation & work to foster a welcoming environment.

Reminders

- Friendly Sunday morning "Greeters" are needed—Sign-up in the kitchen or contact **Vickie Francil**
- Please bring **clean plastic grocery bags** for **Shirley Hollingsworth's** Saturday work to feed the homeless. Leave them in the small room behind the kitchen.
- We can get free paper with your **used printer cartridges**.
- **Fair Trade Coffee** sales benefit the small coffee farmers and our Social Action Committee.



Our microfinance fund has made \$200 in loans to five people in developing countries. You can view our online portfolio at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversali3384>.

# News & Coming Attractions

## Member NUUs

**New Webmaster: Amber Booth** has agreed to take on that task, which **Neil Huddleston** has performed excellently for many's the month (year?). Many thanks to both!

Congratulations to **Judy Glaister & Richard Orange** who are celebrating the arrival of granddaughter Katie Kubota on July 12. Katie is Judy's third grandchild and her daughter Jamie's (and husband Ken's) first child.

**Amber Booth & Mitch Philpot** worked at lighting technicians for the production of *Fiddler on the Roof* at College of the Mainland. Don't miss this fine show.

**We'll miss them: Chris & Susannah Kisvarday** have settled at 28 S. 8th Street, Lewisburg, PA 17837. **John & Linda Willke** and daughters **Olivia &**

**India** have relocated to Houston, at 1413 Oak Tree Dr, Houston TX 77055. **Becca Walker** and family have moved to 12R Foley Drive, Framingham, MA 01701.

## Upcoming Events

**Board Meetings** have been changed to the second Wednesday of each month at 5:45pm.

**Book Clubs Begin!** The first UUG Book clubs will meet on **August 26th** after the pot luck lunch, and **August 29** at 7pm at the fellowship. The first book for discussion is **Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned** by Walter Mosley, which was a finalist for the 2008 *Galveston Reads* selection. It is readily available both new & used, so find a copy & start reading. Questions, contact Fanny DeGesero.

**August Supper Circle.** **Alison Rutledge** will host on Saturday, August 18 at 6:30pm at 3400 Avenue P. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Join in for great food and interesting discussion!

**Game Night: Sunday, August 19 at 6:30pm.** Poker at Tony DiNuzzos (1419 Ball), other games at Susan Persons' (1209 Winnie). Bring snacks.

**Coming Soon: Spirit Circle.** Do you want to explore your beliefs, practice spiritual discipline & deep listening, & deepen your connections to others & our fellowship? Spirit Circle may be for you. Gerry Carr would like to start a small group (8-10 people) in September. Please contact her at [gcarr@tlc-galveston.org](mailto:gcarr@tlc-galveston.org) or sign up on the sheet provided in the entry hallway at the fellowship.

**Gardening Update:** Intrepid and courageous gardeners did major trimming and hauling of debris this month. Helping out were **Neil Huddleston, Vickie Francil, Stan Blazyk, Margaret Canavan**, and our gardening friend **Sally Chapman**. Everything is growing like crazy with all the rain we've had.

We **really** need more help in the garden. The original planting area on Church Street (the former entrance to the Fellowship) is totally overgrown and we need assistance in trimming and digging. Take a look and see for yourself. Bushes are taking over! Please consider helping out at the next garden workday on August 24 at 6pm. Or go on your own! We do not have the funds at this time to hire anyone extra so we are counting on every little bit of help.

## Service Live Auction Coming September 28

The **First Annual Service Live Auction** will be held September 28. It's success depends on YOUR participation. What can you do?

- ◆ Donate a service or item for auction\*. Don't think you have anything to donate? Think again-maybe you could teach a small group to knit or give two hours of spring cleaning. Maybe you don't mind driving to the airport and could donate a couple of rides. Cook a meal and have a dinner at your home. Or have an event at the church-maybe a sock hop? Maybe your family heritage could be shared by a special dish by making some or teaching others how to. Are you handy? Do you sing, draw? Your talents are valuable to others. Have a pick-up? Could you donate a couple hours of hauling? Concerned you don't have the right space? Use the church or ask someone else who has the space to join in on your contribution. Still stumped, talk with one of the committee members and let's see if we can help.
- ◆ Come to the auction and bid. Bring your non-UU friends and family to bid, too. Something too expensive? Split with a friend or friends.
- ◆ Help out on the night of the event. Many hands will make

the work light and fun. Talk to one of the committee members and we'll find a place for you or sign up on the sheets in the foyer.

Getting your contributions in as soon as possible will make things work more smoothly. We will create a catalogue for you to preview and entice you and your friends to attend.

Not all items will be live auction; many will be sign up and first-come, first-served; so, knowing what you want ahead of time is important.

You will find the contract in your church bulletin, on the web site, or on the table in the foyer. Just fill it out and turn it into the box at church or give to Susan Persons or Margaret Canavan.

Committee members are Fanny DeGesero, Mardi Mitchell, Marilyn Schultz, Andrea Hodgson, Cheryl Henry, and Susan Persons with special help from Madeleine Baker and Margaret Canavan.

\* To differentiate from *Attic Treasures*, these donations are generally of greater value \$100-\$250 or more) but bid can start where you think is reasonable. i.e., a class could be \$15-\$25 each for 6-8 people, a dinner or party \$20-\$30 each for 12 people. The donor determines the value.



**“UU Bowlers”** meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm, to create ceramic bowls for the annual Jesse Tree “Empty Bowls” fundraiser. No experience is necessary. Questions, contact Madeleine Baker ([madbaker@houston.rr.com](mailto:madbaker@houston.rr.com)).

**Board** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 5:45 pm. Committee members are invited to send Committee reports or present them in person at the meeting. Interested members/friends are also welcome to attend.

**Social Action Committee** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month after service. Come and share your ideas, energy and enthusiasm for Social Action projects. Contact Mary Hodgson at 409-762-0193. Our *Equal Exchange* fair trade coffee and tea sales benefit the activities of this committee.

**Program Committee** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:15 pm at the Mosquito Café to plan Sunday services. Please come to help plan Sunday service. Contact Bets Anderson, Margaret Canavan, Gerry Carr, or Katrina Chamberlain.

**Book Clubs** meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Contact Fanny DeGesero for information at (409) 740-2355.

**Adult Forum** meets Sundays at 9:00 am to explore topics in religion, philosophy, history and politics. For information, contact Neil Huddleston at 409/7442369.

**Course in Miracles Study Group** meets every Thursday at 7pm. Contact Laura Murrell ([LauraMurrell@houston.rr.com](mailto:LauraMurrell@houston.rr.com)) or Susan Persons ([SPersons@houston.rr.com](mailto:SPersons@houston.rr.com)).

**Gardeners** meet monthly to weed and maintain our native foliage and flower beds. See the calendar for this month’s workday. For more information contact Margaret Canavan at (409) 771-6252.

**Game Night** is monthly and held in members’ homes, and it open to all. Check the calendar and weekly announcements for date and location.

**Zen Meditation** meets Saturdays at 9am, and is an activity of the Zen Island Fellowship. All are welcome to participate. If you wish to learn more about Zen Buddhist practice, contact Cara Geary ([gcara@houston.rr.com](mailto:gcara@houston.rr.com)) or visit [galvestonzen.org](http://galvestonzen.org).

Send newsletter information to [administrator@uugalveston.org](mailto:administrator@uugalveston.org) or phone 409-765-8330, or leave a note at the Fellowship.

<b>UUFGC Board of Directors</b>	
President	Laura Murrell
President-Elect	Karen Brykczynski
Past-President	Gerry Carr
Secretary	Amanda Prather
Treasurer	Woody Dickson
Members at Large:	Doris Lee Pete Olsen Susan Persons
<b>Committees</b>	
Administrative Team	Bets Anderson Madeleine Baker, Margaret Canavan, & Judy Glaister
Archives	Ellie Porter
Communications	Madeleine Baker
Landscape	Margaret Canavan
Membership	Bets Anderson
Music	Woody Dickson
Policies & Procedures	Tony DiNuzzo
Program/Worship	Bets, Gerry, Margaret, & Katrina
Religious Education	Neil Huddleston
Supper Circles	Judy Glaister
Social Action	Mary Hodgson
Webmaster	Amber Booth

**Social Action Committee News:** The next film in our series will be **The Hobart Shakespearians**, an inspiring film about how one teacher is changing the lives of his at-risk minority students by exposing them to great literature and mathematics. Show time is Friday, August 3 at 7pm. Please come, invite a friend, and bring refreshments to share. Donations will go to Rosenberg Elementary for school uniforms.

Donations from July’s showing of **We are Dad** went to the AIDS Coalition.

**Ongoing volunteer opportunity:** This month we will feature the **Resource and Crisis Center**. They need thrift store sorters and pricers, children’s program planners/workers, childcare attendants, legal advocacy volunteers,

personal accompaniment volunteers, clerical aides, receptionist, prison outreach, worker’s crisis intervention volunteers, hotline workers, public speaking/community education and CASA (Court appointed special advocates). Please call Melissa Blanton at 763-1441.

Do you volunteer? We would like to know about it. **Shirley Hollingsworth, Fanny De Gesero, & Madeleine Baker** volunteer for the Jesse Tree. Madeleine also volunteers with the Animal Alliance. **Vickie Francil** volunteers with the Humane Society. **Stan Blazyk** works with the AIDS Coalition. Let us know about your volunteer activities. Please contact Mary Hodgson at 762-0193 or e-mail at [Mary-Hodgson97@hotmail.com](mailto:Mary-Hodgson97@hotmail.com).

### The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:*

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
  - A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
  - The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
  - Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

# AUGUST 2007

*Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County*

*Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Happy August Birthday to:</i>            Susan Baker (8/2)            Stan Blazyk (8/6)            Larry Janzen (8/6)            Jodie Mitchell (8/10)            Laura Murrell (8/19)</p>			<p>1            5:30pm -            Bowlers</p>	<p>2            7pm - Course            in Miracles</p>	<p>3            7pm -            Provocative            Film, <b>The            Hobart            Shake-            speareans</b></p>	<p>4            9am - Zen            Meditation</p>
<p>5            9am - Adult Forum            10:30am - Shaykh Abdul            Haqq, <i>The Sufi Spiritual            Path</i>; Children/Youth Reli-            gious Education</p>	<p>6            Weekly            Bulletin            Info            Due</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8            5:45pm -            Board            Meets</p>	<p>9            7pm - Course            in Miracles</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11            9am - Zen            Meditation</p>
<p>12            9am - Adult Forum            10:30am - David Throop,  <i>The Free Faith Comforts            the Afflicted</i>; Children/            Youth Religious Education</p>	<p>13            Weekly            Bulletin            Info            Due</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15            5:30pm -            Bowlers</p>	<p>16            7pm - Course            in Miracles</p>	<p>17  </p>	<p>18            9am - Zen            Meditation            6:30pm -            Supper Circle            at Alison            Rutledge's</p>
<p>19            9am - Adult Forum            10:30am - Stephanie Nwadieli,  <i>What Can I Do to Make the            World a Better Place?</i>; Chil-            dren/Youth RE            Social Action Committee            Game Night 6:30pm, poker at            DiNuzzo's, others at Persons'</p>	<p>20            Weekly            Bulletin            Info            Due</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23            6:15pm Pro-            gram Com-            mittee @            Mosquito            7pm - Course            in Miracles</p>	<p>24            6pm - Garden            work party</p>	<p>25            9am - Zen            Meditation</p>
<p>26            9am - Adult Forum            10:30am - John Gorman "A            Summer Frost"; Children/            Youth RE            Book Club Meets after lunch  </p>	<p>27            Weekly            Bulletin            Info            Due</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29            7pm - Book            Club</p>	<p>30            7pm - Course            in Miracles</p>	<p>31  </p>	