

UUF Galveston Gazette

July 2007



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

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Online at <http://www.uugalveston.org>

President's Message—Gerry Carr

July 1 marks the beginning of our new fiscal year and summer is a good time to slow and down and take a look at where we've been and where we're going.

Although it has been a tough year in many ways, I feel we are stronger than ever and more committed to being a strong liberal religious presence in this community.

This summer a great number of our members will participate in activities such as General Assembly and The Dwight Brown Leadership Experience that will serve to strengthen our leadership skills as well as exploring new ways to be with each other in worship, social justice and community. I look forward to continuing my work with the board, but my heart continues to be in bringing meaningful worship services to our Sunday mornings. In addition, I feel a real need to explore my own faith and spirituality more in depth. I have researched some options for some Adult Religious Education classes. Keep an eye out for these groups in the fall.

Many thanks goes out to Tony DiNuzzo, Amber Booth and Michael Hennen who have completed their service

to us through work on the board. Please let them know how much you appreciate them and take care of them, they have worked hard for us!

Best wishes to Laura Murrell as she takes on the duties of board president along with remaining board members Woody Dickson, me, Karen Brykczynski and Doris Lee. We welcome Susan Persons, Amanda Prather and Pete Olsen to the board this year.

Again, I can't thank the "A-Team" enough for your support, you have been a real touchstone in keeping up with the day to day operations of our fellowship.

Last but not least, thanks so much to all of you who have served as committee chairs during the past year - I know many of you hold several roles in our fellowship, please know that your work is appreciated!

Faithfully,
Gerry

From the Social Action Committee

The **Provocative Film Series** continues on July 6 with a 7pm showing of **We are Dad**, about a gay couple who strive to adopt one of the HIV positive foster children they have cared for. Donations from this showing will go to the AIDS Coalition (ACCT), a local organization that helps 70 HIV positive children who have or who have been orphaned by AIDS. Please come, bring a friend and refreshments to share.

On behalf of the Fellowship, the Social Action Committee will donate funds (\$30) collected at the recent showing of **Jesus Camp** to the Houston Peace Camp. Now in its eighth year, Peace Camp is open to all children kindergarten through fifth grade. This year's theme is "perseverance", featuring peacemakers such as Clara Barton, Helen Keller, and Mother Teresa. Music, arts and crafts, yoga, and drumming are among the activities. Developing skills to resolve conflicts nonviolently, deal with bullies, and cope with anger and frustration are part of the daily schedule. This project originated at First Church of Houston and is now coordinated by the Women's international League for Peace and Freedom.

Right Relations Covenant

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

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.

A Month of Sundays

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

July 1

SPEAKER: Dae Gak **Board Installation**

TOPIC: *Finding God Within and Without*

Is there anything needed to know God? We are born into this human life...what more do we need? Zen Master Dae Gak will look into the problem of seeking what has never been lost. Dae Gak has been practicing Zen for close to 40 years. He is the founder and Abbott of the 800 acre Furnace Mountain Zen Center in Eastern Kentucky and guiding teacher for Zen Centers across the United States and in Europe.

Facilitators: Mardi Mitchell & Eleanor Porter Greeter: Mary Hodgson
Board Member: Gerry Carr Music: Margaret Canavan

July 8

SPEAKER: Katrina Chamberlain

TOPIC: *When Seeking a Mountain (or Grail, or Deity): Pack Light*

Our fourth principle invites us on a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" and inherently makes us a faith of seekers. In this service we continue our exploration of the UU principles. How do we reconcile our freedom and responsibility on the search? And are we allowed to actually find anything? Katrina is a member of UUFGC and currently volunteers with our children in religious education program.

Facilitator: Cheryl Henry Music: Margaret Canavan
Board Member: Karen Brykczynski Greeter: Russell Mai

July 15

SPEAKER: Bob Hopkins

TOPIC: *God is One*

A look at the historical development of the theology of one God and the early efforts to perpetuate the "unitarian" concept. We will follow the development through the Christian era from Jesus through the writings of Michael Servetus, and theology of Faustus Socinus, and Francis David. Bob is a geologist who worked in geologic research for Humble/Esso/Exxon for 30 years before retiring. Barbara & Bob are genetically predisposed to be UUs (through his aunt and her mother), and have been members of UU churches where they have lived, currently Emerson UU.

Facilitator: TBA Music: Margaret Canavan
Board Member: TBA Greeter: Vickie Francil

July 22

SPEAKER: Dr. Ahmed E. Ahmed

TOPIC: *Hajj Pilgrimage*

Last December, along with his wife, a dozen Galvestonians and more than three million Muslims from around the world, Dr. Ahmed visited Mecca in Saudi Arabia. The journey is documented by photographs of every ritual and sacred site. Dr. Ahmed is a Professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch, and member of Galveston Islamic Center.

Facilitator: Stan Blazyk Music: Margaret Canavan
Board Member: TBA Greeter: Bets Anderson

July 29

Pot Luck After the Service

TOPIC: *Meeting of Minds & Souls*

Several of our members made the trek to Portland, Oregon for the annual gathering of our faith, the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly. They will share with us what they learned and what enriched and inspired them.

Board Member: Amanda Prather Music: Margaret Canavan
Greeter: Madeleine Baker

For visitors and newcomers: our members receive the *UU World* magazine, and have donated copies of past issues to share with you. Please feel free to take as many as you wish from the display in the RE hallway, to learn more about UUism.



The microfinance fund we began earlier this year has been used to make \$200 in loans to five people in developing countries. You can view our online portfolio at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversalis3384>.

Reminders

- Fanny De Gesero is organizing a monthly UU book club. Let her know of your interest, and your preferred day and time to meet.
- 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 is always for sale in the foyer. This benefits the small coffee farmers as well as our Social Action Committee.

News & Coming Attractions

Please let us know about your milestones, volunteer activities, or special interests!

Member NUUws

Congratulations to **Billie Rinaldi**, Principal at Rosenberg Elementary, who was selected as a semifinalist during the preliminary judging of the 2007 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards.

Babies: Congratulations to our friends **Corinne & Jeff Drake**, who welcomed daughter Aislyn on June 1. Congrats also to former member **Elaine Perachio** and husband Adrian, who are "finally grandparents! Our son Glenn and his wife Sarah, as

of May 29, have a baby boy Carson Perachio, absolutely beautiful (we may be a tad prejudiced). We will go [to London in] June to help them out and plan to be frequent flyers so he can get to know us."

Kudos to **Jake Hawes**, who recently won a statewide essay-writing contest about "What I would do as Mayor of my Town" of Logansport, IN. While we are not surprised, we are happy for Jake and we know his parents **Kelly** and **Teri** are tremendously proud of him. Read about it at http://www.pharostribune.com/archivesearch/local_story_153211323.html.

Condolences to **John Hunger** on the loss of his mother Violet on May 31.

UUcoming Events

July Supper Circle. **Maggie Pinson** will host on Saturday, July 14 at 6pm at 41 Back Bay Circle (409-771-2328). Please sign up on the bulletin board and join Maggie in celebrating a belated July 4th. She'll fix burgers and dogs (and vegetarian) and fixin's; bring side dish or dessert.

Other UU Opportunities

Southwestern UU Summer Institute, July 22-27 will be at Lake Murray State Park, Oklahoma. Pick up a brochure in the Fellowship foyer, or read about it online at: <http://www.swuuc.org/swuusi>

Meet Our New Members

Micah Alaniz was born in Dallas and grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee. She attended Richland Community College in Dallas and was introduced to UU in Garland. She attends the Adult Forum where she is an active member and enjoys it because of the "smart people" gathered there. Micah, a self-taught painter and sculptor, writes poetry and enjoys writing in general.

Jerry T. "Red" and Cheryl Sanders Henry: Red was born in Paris, Texas, and grew up in Houston. He retired from his position as Production Coordinator for Goodyear Chemicals in 2001 after 40 years of service. Red has three grown children and five grandchildren. He lives with his wife Cheryl and their three big dogs on Galveston Bay. Red is an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoys landscape design and gardening.

Red has really enjoyed getting to know the people here at UU. Raised a Baptist, he appreciates the lack of hell-fire-and-damnation sermons at UU. Red particularly enjoys the friendly and casual atmosphere here and the respect shown for every individual.

Cheryl was born and raised in Baytown, Texas. Her career includes

teaching high school English at Deer Park ISD and managing the Training Department for the Department of Public Works in the City of Houston. Cheryl recently retired from Goodyear Chemicals where she was the Manager of Organizational Development and Training. Cheryl enjoys watercolor, photography, the beach, nature, and interesting people.

Cheryl is happy to join the Fellowship here because she felt at home on her very first visit. She enjoys the people at UU and their spirit of acceptance of all and respect for each individual's search for contribution and meaning.

While both Cheryl and Red enjoy living on the Bay, they are actively looking for a house in Galveston and would like to make their permanent home on the Island.

Carlos & Linda Price agree with the Bible phrase "and a child shall lead them". Their daughter, Amanda Price Prather, led them to the Fellowship. Carlos was born in Columbus, Mississippi. His dad was a minister in the Church of Christ as was Carlos for a couple of years. After leaving the seminary he taught 6th grade and then attended graduate school at the Univer-

sity of Memphis where he received the M.Ed. and Ed.D in Educational Administration and Supervision. After moving to Arkansas with Linda and Amanda, Carlos served as an elementary school principal and superintendent. After his "retirement," the family moved to Bayou Vista and Carlos took a position with the La Marque ISD and currently serves as a lecturer in Educational Leadership at the University of Houston Clear Lake.

Born Linda Sue Blankenship in Alabama, Linda lived in Michigan for a few years and grew up in Memphis, Tennessee. She attended MSU where she met and married Carlos. It was in Memphis where Amanda was born. For the next 23 years the family lived in Arkansas where Linda was a teacher.

Susan Baker has rejoined the Fellowship after a few years' sojourn in Fredericksburg where she just completed her term as President of the UU Fellowship there. Susan is a lifelong Galveston UU and is the daughter of Jean Baker. Susan followed in the footsteps of her late father, Andy Baker, by serving as a judge prior to retiring and moving to the Hill Country. Susan is a published author of fiction and nonfiction. She is married to John Hunger.



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) or Susan Persons (SPersons@houston.rr.com). All are welcome.

"Bowlers" meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm, to create ceramic bowls for the annual Jesse Tree "Empty Bowls" fundraiser. All are welcome and no experience is necessary. Questions, contact Madeleine Baker (madbaker@houston.rr.com).

Program Committee meets the 4th 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.

Social Action Committee meets the 3rd 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.

Board Members meet the 4th 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.

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 (margaret@galveston.com or 771-6252).

Game Night is monthly and includes a Spirituality of Poker group and a Game group (we are told that "poker is not a game"). These are held in members' homes and everyone is welcome. 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) or visit galvestonzen.org.




Send newsletter information to administrator@uugalveston.org or phonet 409-765-8330, or leave a note at the Fellowship.

UUFGC Board of Directors

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

Committees

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	Neil Huddleston


 **Weeding Update:** the Ladies Garden, Gossip & Glisten group (ladies don't "sweat") met June 22 to attack weeds and overgrowth. 
 Dedicated to the front yard were Marilyn Schulz & Micah Alaniz (the palm tree looks great!). Braving the back yard were Cheryl Henry, Susan Persons, Margaret Canavan, & our gardening friend Sally Chapman. Fanny DeGesero worked on a spontaneous book sale and helped with cleanup. 
 Pizza was our reward for work well done. 
 We made progress in trimming back the Purple Porterweed, which had overgrown our Butterfly Weed. Monarch caterpillars (yellow with small-green & black stripes around their bodies) have denuded the Butterfly Weed so we are planting more for them to consume. 
 The plants in the arbor area are now trimmed enough so that we can use the benches again. The Passion Vine is blooming on the arbor so look for Gulf Fritillary caterpillars soon (orange with black legs). During summer 
 growth months we need more than one workday, so stay tuned for a week- 
 day morning opportunity for those who have flexible schedules. 
 Guys, remember you are always welcome! 


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.

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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

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 - Zen Master Dae Gak "Finding God Within and Without"; Board Installation: Children/Youth RE	2 Weekly Bulletin Info Due 7pm - Dog Obedience Class	3	4 5:30pm - Bowlers	5 7:00 pm - Course in Miracles	6 7:00 pm - Provocative Film, We Are Dad	7 9:00 am - Zen Meditation
8 9:00 am - Adult Forum 10:30 am - Katrina Chamberlain "When Seeking a Mountain, Pack Light"; Children/Youth Religious Education	9 Weekly Bulletin Info Due 7pm - Dog Obedience Class	10	11	12 7:00 pm - Course in Miracles	13	14 9:00 am - Zen Meditation 6pm-supper circle at Maggie Pinson's
15 9:00 am - Adult Forum 10:30 am - Adult Service Bob Hopkins "God is One"; Children/Youth Religious Education Social Action Committee meets after service	16 Weekly Bulletin Info Due 7pm - Dog Obedience Class	17	18 5:30pm - Bowlers	19 7:00 pm - Course in Miracles	20  6pm--garden workday	21 9:00 am - Zen Meditation
22 9:00 am - Adult Forum 10:30 am - Dr. A.Ahmed "Hajj Pilgrimage"; RE 6:30 pm - Poker at 1419 Ball (DiNuzzo), Other games at 3823 Ave. P (Canavan)	23 Weekly Bulletin Info Due 7pm - Dog Obedience Class	24	25 5:45 pm - Board Meets	26 6:15 Program Committee @ Mosquito 7:00 pm - Course in Miracles	27	28 9:00 am - Zen Meditation
29 9:00 am - Adult Forum 10:30 am - "Meeting of Minds and Souls"; Children/Youth Religious Education	30 Weekly Bulletin Info Due	31	Happy July Birthday to:			
			Fanny DeGesero (7/2) Tony DiNuzzo (7/17) Anderson (7/24) Eleanor Porter (7/30)		Shirley Hollingsworth (7/13) Karen Brykczynski (7/18) Robin Panagakos (7/30) Pete Olsen (7/31)	

Potluck