

UUF Galveston Gazette

June 2007



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

502 Church Street, Galveston, Texas 77550-5502

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

President's Message—Gerry Carr

On Sunday May 20, we had our annual membership meeting - maybe the shortest in history! At this meeting we elected Board members to replace those completing their terms. The new board members were unanimously approved. They are:

President- Elect: Karen Brykczynski
Secretary: Amanda Prather
Board Member: Pete Olsen
Board Member: Susan Persons

Continuing on the board for 2007-2008 are

President: Laura Murrell
Past President: Gerry Carr
Treasurer: Woody Dickson
Board Member: Doris Lee

Please plan to attend the service on Sunday July 1, where new board members will be installed and outgoing board members and committee chairs will be recognized.

We appreciate everyone's gift of service. Thanks to outgoing Board members Tony DiNuzzo, Amber Booth, and Mike Hennen.

In addition to the new board, our 2007-2008 budget was approved.

Susan Persons, representing the Fundraising Task Force, presented a proposal for a Service Auction. This will be a new event for us in addition to some of the other things we will do in the coming year. Look for much more information about this event in the upcoming months.

Please come and help us welcome our new members at the ingathering on June 3rd.

Let's have a safe summer!

Faithfully,
Gerry

Membership Notes

On June 3 we will celebrate five new members. **Cheryl & Red Henry, Linda & Carlos Price, and Micah Alaniz** will have signed our membership book and will be joyfully ingathered at our regular service on that day. All have been attending our Sunday service and already feel like 'old timers' to many of us. Linda and Carlos are the parents of our own Amanda Prather and Cheryl and Red 'discovered' us through several of our members. We welcome you to our Fellowship Cheryl, Red, Linda, Carlos and Micah!

From the Administrative Team

We are working on a new membership directory, which we hope to publish in early July. Please make sure we have your contact information correct. There is a draft copy in the table on the foyer at the Fellowship, and the current directory is posted online. Take a look at let us know of any corrections.

The "A-team" is made up of Bets Anderson, Madeleine Baker, Margaret Canavan, & Judy Glaister. As we have no paid staff, the Team is trying to keep office hours several days each week, keep the mail handled, and respond to phone calls. We welcome assistance from others and invite suggestions and encouragement.



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

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

June 3

SPEAKER: Mike Hennen

TOPIC: Americans are "Soft on Religion"

*The Constitution of the USA prohibits the establishment of religion by law, yet our elected leaders increasingly use the language & symbolism of religion to forward their political purposes. This is done with the acquiescence of the majority of the American people, who give religion an unmerited "free pass" & shrink from asking hard questions when it comes to the subject of religion. Mike Hennen is a trial lawyer who lives in Galveston with his wife, Susan Vaughan, & his 15-year-old son, Vaughan. He has two grown daughters & two grandsons. Mike loves sailing small boats, enjoys volunteer work on the tall ship **Elissa**, likes to garden, & is assistant scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 104. He is a longtime member of the American Civil Liberties Union, a member of various UU churches in three states over a 30-year period, & an outgoing Board member.*

Facilitator: Fanny De Gesero

Music: Steve Hodgson

Board Member: Doris Lee

Greeter: Cheryl Henry

June 10

SPEAKER: Gerry Carr

TOPIC: The Third UU Principle

The third in our series on the seven UU principles focuses on "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." What does this principle mean? How do we live this principle in our fellowship? The Rev. Patricia Tummino says "The very design of our faith is to encourage the spiritual growth that becomes possible in that boundary between people where differences exist and are acknowledged and negotiated with respect." Gerry Carr will share her exploration of the third principle and some ways to live it out in our congregation. Gerry is completing a year as President of this Fellowship, and will continue working with our Program Committee.

Board Member: Laura Murrell

Music: Steve Hodgson

Greeter: Maggie Pinson

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.



June 17

SPEAKER: Margaret Canavan

TOPIC: Fathers' Day

Some would claim that Fathers' day was invented to sell greeting cards. However, it provides us a time to reflect on many who have nurtured us in our life's journeys. What do our fathers—biological or otherwise-- mean to us? Bring a photograph of someone who "fathered" you for our altar, and bring poems, stories, and recollections for this participatory service. Margaret is a member of this Fellowship who volunteers in the garden and with the administrative team, and is still striving to learn to play violin.

Board Member: Tony DiNuzzo

Greeter: Stan Blazyk

Music: Steve Hodgson

June 24

POT LUCK TODAY

SPEAKER: Dr. Ken Vincent

TOPIC: Separating the "Super" from the "Natural"

In the 1970's, Sir Alister Hardy's Religious Experience Research Centre at Oxford demonstrated that — far from being the realm of a few saints, prophets, and sages — religious experiences occur in a large percentage of the general population. Conversely, truly nature-defying "miracles" are simply not present in the modern world. There is evidence the same was true in ancient times. Dr. Ken R. Vincent is a writer and retired Professor of Psychology who has over 100 publications in the fields of psychology and religion. Visit Dr. Ken R. Vincent at: <http://www.near-death.com/experiences/origen021.html>

Facilitator: Vickie Francil

Music: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Amber Booth

Greeter: TBA

In Memoriam: Pat McCarty, a long-time member of the UUFGC, passed away recently in Key West, Florida. Pat had moved there to be near two of her sons. She enjoyed her time in Key West. Pat was past President of this Fellowship, which she loved very much. She will be remembered by those who knew her as a woman of intellectual curiosity, verve, energy, and great humor. Pat was passionate about books, politics and social causes. We send our heartfelt condolences to Pat's family. She was unique and will be missed.

UUFGC News & Coming Attractions

Help us highlight member news and activities. Please let us know about your volunteer activities, hobbies, or special interests. Send information to administrator@uugalveston.org or leave it in the office at the Fellowship. Thanks.

Member Happenings

LARRY JANZEN, will be singing with the Trinity Choir Evensong on 3 June. Trinity is celebrating the 150th anniversary of their sanctuary. Larry's floral business continues to thrive as he works out of his home, and he plans to relocate his studio soon to new quarters on 19th Street.

DAVID PYLE has had a busy first year at seminary. He graduated from the Clinical Pastoral Education Course at the University of Tennessee Medical Center, helped to found a Zen Buddhist Sangha at the seminary for morning meditation, received a \$5,000 scholarship for Military Chaplains from the *Church, State, and Industry Foundation*, preached at a number of UU Churches, & wrote two chapters for books. In January he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and a U.S. Army Chaplaincy Candidate & will be serving as the full-time Intern Minister at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, IL.

To make the year particularly memorable, **DAVID and SANDY** were married on April Fools day of this year in a small Buddhist ceremony. We wish them much happiness.

Friendly Sunday morning "Greeters" are needed— Sign-up in the kitchen or contact Vickie Francil

JOHN and LYNDA WILLKE & daughters OLIVIA & INDIA will be moving to Austin soon. We will miss them and wish them the best.

We welcome to Galveston **PETE OLSEN's** mother **Astrid** and hope she'll be visiting us soon.

Thanks to May garden workers **Bets Anderson, Stan Blazyk, Margaret Canavan, Vickie Francil, Cheryl Henry, Diane & Pete Olsen, and Susan Persons.**

UUcoming Events

Provocative Film Series: Movies to make you think. We will be showing **Jesus Camp**, a documentary about a fundamentalist camp for children on June 1 at 7:00 pm. There is no admission charge, but donations are always welcome. Bring your friends, and if you can bring a snack to share. We always have beverages available. This is an ongoing project of the **Social Action Committee.** Let **Mary Hodgson** know if you have suggestions for future films.

June Supper Circle. Diane and Pete Olson are hosting The June

Supper Circle on Saturday, June 16th at 7:00 p.m. at 3220 Dominique. Please sign up on the bulletin board and join Diane and Pete for delicious food and great conversation.

Calling all Canines: UU Dog Training! **DIANE OLSEN** will provide 6 weeks of classes beginning Monday June 18 at 7pm in the UUFGC backyard. Cost is a \$35 donation to UUFGC. Come without your dog for the first class.

Other UU Opportunities

Southwestern UU Summer Institute, July 22-27 will be at Lake Murray State Park, Oklahoma. This is an annual extended family gathering with opportunities for people of all ages and interest to develop or enrich their UU identity. Pick up a brochure in the Fellowship foyer, or read about it online at:

<http://www.swuuc.org/swuusi>

4th Annual Civil Rights Journey: Join the **UU Service Committee** for the fourth Annual Civil Rights Journey to Atlanta, Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham, July 7-14, 2007. See the flyer on the Fellowship Bulletin Board

UU Niagara Experience July 15-18. A 4-day opportunity to encounter the Falls & explore history & natural wonders, while hosted by UUs. For information see <http://www.uunex.net/>, Email: info@uunex.net, phone : (716) 791-4453.

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. Also, we can get free paper with your *used printer cartridges.*

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/unitarianuniversal3384>.



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 Thursdays at 7pm. All are welcome. Contact Laura Murrell (LauraMurrell@houston.rr.com) or Susan Persons (SPersons@houston.rr.com).

“UU 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 if you want to suggest or provide a program, participate as a facilitator, or just talk about our Sunday services. 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.

UUFGC 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. Contact Gerry Carr, President.

UU Gardeners meet monthly to weed and maintain our native foliage and flower beds. For more information contact Margaret Canavan (margaret@galveston.com or 771-6252).

UUFGC Board of Directors	
President	Gerry Carr
President-Elect	Laura Murrell
Past-President	Tony DiNuzzo
Secretary	Amber Booth
Treasurer	Woody Dickson
Members at Large:	Karen Brykczynski Michael Hennen Doris Lee
Committees	
Administrative	Bets, Judy, Madeleine, Margaret
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	Bets, Gerry, Margaret, & Katrina
Religious Education	Neil Huddleston
Supper Circles	Judy Glaister
Social Action	Mary Hodgson
Webmaster	Neil Huddleston

UU Social Club needs your input and participation. Contact Susan Persons (SPersons@houston.rr.com or 765-7907).

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 galveston-zen.org.

Send newsletter information to administrator@uugalveston.org or leave a message at 409-765-8330, or leave it at the Fellowship for the Administrative Team.



For details or to register for these Zen Island Fellowship events, contact Cara Geary at gcara@houston.rr.com or 409-935-5116 Visit the ZIF website at <http://galvestonzen.org/>

Summer Retreat with Zen Master Dae Gak

June 28-30 at UUFGC
Please preregister, cost is \$100

Finding God Within

An Interfaith Introduction to Meditation
With Zen Master Dae Gak

July 1 1:00-5:00 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church
Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Cost is \$40

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.

JUNE 2007

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>June Birthdays!</p> <p><i>Susan Persons (6/2) Olivia Willke (6/6)</i> <i>Sylvia Szucs (6/13) Bonnie Young (6/15)</i> <i>Amber Booth (6/23) AmandaPrather (6/27)</i> <i>India Willke (6/27)</i></p>					1	2
					7:00 pm - Provocative Film Jesus Camp	9:00 am - Zen Meditation galvestonzen.org
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 am - Adult Forum 10:30 am - Mike Hennen, "America is Soft on Religion"; Children/Youth Religious Education; <i>Ingathering of New Members</i>	Weekly Bulletin Info Due		5:30pm - Bowlers	7:00 pm - Course in Miracles		9:00 am - Zen Meditation
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 am - Adult Forum 10:30 am - Gerry Carr, "Third UU Principle"; Children/Youth Religious Education	Weekly Bulletin Info Due			7:00 pm - Course in Miracles	Newsletter Deadline	9:00 am - Zen Meditation 7pm - Supper Circle at Olsen's
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 am - Adult Forum 10:30 am - M.Canavan, "Fathers' Day"; Children/Youth RE Noon - Social Action Committee 6:30 pm - Game night: poker at DiNuzzo's (1419 Ball), others at Blazyk/Canavan's (3823 P)	Weekly Bulletin Info Due 7pm Dog Obdi-ence		5:30pm - Bowlers	7:00 pm - Course in Miracles	6pm - Garden Work Party	9:00 am - Zen Meditation
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 am - Adult Forum 10:30 am - Ken Vincent, "Separating the 'Super' from the 'Natural'; Children/Youth Religious Education Potluck Today	Weekly Bulletin Info Due 7pm Dog Obdi-ence		5:45 pm - Board Meeting	7:00 pm - Course in Miracles 6:15pm Program Cmte @ Mosquito Café		
				<p>Zen Fellowship Retreat <i>Thursday evening 5pm through Saturday 9pm</i></p>		