

UUF Galveston Gazette

May 2007



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

Greetings:

I am never quite sure what to say when the charge comes to get something together by the newsletter deadline. As I write this today I have prepared a memorial service for our friend Andy Baker. Andy was a founding member of this fellowship which began in 1951 with this ad in the Galveston County Daily News:

"If you are a ... UNITARIAN, CONGREGATIONALIST or UNIVERSALIST [come next Sunday to] hear Monroe Husbands, Fellowship Director of the American Unitarian Association speak on 'Who Are These Unitarians?'" The ad, which had been placed by Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Orrell, also stated that following the talk plans would be made to establish a Unitarian Fellowship in Galveston. On November 18, 1951 another ad appeared in the News - "What's your idea of true religion? Unitarianism is a way of life, a life of vigorous thought, constructive activity, of generous service . . ." Of the twenty-eight people who attended the meeting, sixteen indicated interest in forming a Fellowship. You can see the rest of our history on our website and I urge you to read it. We are truly part of a legacy of social justice in this community....and, we the current members, are keepers of the flame.

In his book "Growing a Beloved Community" Rev. Tom Owen Toole says *"In pursuit of the Beloved Community the past is cherished, the present is celebrated and the future is charted. Genuine community doesn't just dwell in the present moment; it's vertical as well as horizontal, traveling backwards and forwards in time. Robust congregations pay homage to those spiritual comrades who have come before and honors those not yet born, remembering that our mission is to give succeeding generations the precious gift of tomorrow."*

For many reasons, I am more aware than ever of the power of this community in my life and I hope you are too. Please plan to attend the Annual Membership Meeting on May 20 as we "chart the future". If you have questions, concerns or ideas, please do not hesitate to talk to me or any other board member. This is our Church; we can make it what we want!

Faithfully,
Gerry

**General Assembly, Portland, Oregon,
June 20-24, 2007**

Be in Portland, Oregon, this June for an unprecedented opportunity to shape the mission of our Association. General Assembly attendees will engage in a unique open meeting process where our own questions and passions will determine our direction for the 21st century.

In Open Space meetings, event participants create and manage their own agenda of parallel working sessions around a central theme of strategic importance, such as "What difference should Unitarian Universalism make in the world?"

More Information: <http://www.uua.org>



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 Education is from 9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.; All services are held from 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

May 6

SPEAKER: Steve Brooks

TOPIC: J.C. and Me

The J-word can be a touchy subject among Unitarians. Many of us have grown up under a Christianity that's harsh and narrow-minded. But are we throwing the divine baby out with the bathwater? In speech and song, Austin UU Steve Brooks takes a non-Christian look at the story of Christ. Viewing the Gospels with fresh eyes - as mythology instead of history - he finds a powerful tale of the spiritual challenges that face us at each stage in our lives. It culminates in a parable of spiritual death and rebirth, and the many layers of meaning that are wrapped up in a simple symbol: the Cross.

Facilitator: Tony DiNuzzo

Music: Steve Hodgson

Board Member: Tony DiNuzzo

May 13

SPEAKER: Christine Branum-Martin

TOPIC: Welcoming Religious Transformation

Many Unitarian Universalists are uncomfortable with the notion of being "transformed" by religion. Yet, at our core, we have the notion of faith being a journey of change. Let's explore how reclaiming the power of transformation can bring us closer to living out the principles and purposes of our faith. Christine is a student at Meadville-Lombard Seminary.

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: Steve Hodgson

Board Member: Laura Murrell

May 20

SPEAKER: Rev. Dean Becker

TOPIC: Fear could make the drug war last forever

Rev. Dean Becker is a former cop and current member of "LEAP", Law Enforcement Against Prohibition. LEAP's goal is curtail the death, disease, crime and addiction that result from the US policy of drug prohibition.

Facilitator: Stan Blazyk:

Music: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Woody Dickson

May 27 POT LUCK TODAY AFTER THE SERVICE

SPEAKER: Bets Anderson

TOPIC: How To Be Remembered: A Memorial Day Reflection

This sermon by Stephen D. Edington of the UU Church of Nashua, NH, asks us to consider what memories we wish to leave behind us. Bets Anderson is a member and former President of our Fellowship.

Facilitator: Karen Bryckzynski

Music: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Karen Bryckzynski

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.

UUFGC News & Coming Attractions

Galveston College Chorale FREE Concert

Galveston College Chorale's annual FREE spring concert is Friday May 4, 7:30pm at Galveston College, 40th and Ave. Q Streets, in FA-207 (above the fitness center.) Bets Anderson and Margaret Canavan sing with this group and hope you will attend. Stan Blazyk meets with a group for dinner at Salsa's before the concert, so let him know if you'd like to join in.

Poker Night — and Non-Poker Night

Let the games begin: Sunday, May 6 at 6:30pm you can choose between "Spirituality of Poker" night at Tony Di-Nuzzo's (1419 Ball) or "Game Night" at Fanny DeGestero's.

Provocative Film Festival & Discussion

The Social Action Committee will continue its Provocative Film Series on May 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the UUFGC Fellowship Hall. We will be showing "Why We Fight," a film about the Military Industrial buildup. Please bring refreshments to share.

Program Committee Needs Input

Program Committee: will meet at 6:15 pm on Thursday, May 24 at the Mosquito Café, 14th & Winnie St. in Galveston. We welcome all ideas and feedback about Sunday services. We would like to recruit a few people to read prepared sermons from time to time, and a few new facilitators. Please contact Gerry, Katrina or Margaret if you can consider doing either.

May Supper Circle

Gerry Carr and Joseph Simmons will host the May Supper Circle on Saturday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. at 4902 Houston Drive, Galveston. Please sign up on the bulletin board for the opportunity to enjoy great food and conversation.

Garden Work Day

The May Garden Work Day will be on Friday, May 25 at 6:00 p.m. Join us in the Fellowship garden for some light maintenance and weed pulling, as well as pizza and fellowship.

Greeters Needed

Many thanks go out to Vickie Francil who has volunteered to coordinate "Greeters" for each Sunday morning. People who wish to help out can sign up on the sheet in the UUFGC kitchen. Vickie will be contacting folks to sign up as well. Having a friendly welcome on Sunday means a lot to visitors to our Fellowship (and to members as well!). Please consider helping out.

From the "A-Team" (Your Volunteer Administrators)

To keep us all organized, we have posted calendars for the next three months in the hallway. If you want to know what's coming up, take a look. If you want to SCHEDULE an event, please check the calendar for conflicts and then write in your event so it can be included in the "official" calendar that we post online and put in the newsletter. This way we can prevent having two important events at the same time. If you cannot come to the Fellowship but have UU events you believe.

Kudos to Jeri Kinnear

UUFGC Friend Jeri Kinnear has been elected Chair of the Galveston Park Board of Trustees. Please join us in conveying our congratulations!

Adult Forum meets every Sunday Morning at 9am!

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

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. For more information, contact Laura Murrell at Laura-Murrell@houston.rr.com or Susan Persons at SPersons@houston.rr.com.

Empty Bowlers Bowl making has now resumed on every other Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Contact Madeleine Baker at madbaker@houston.rr.com.

Program Committee meets every fourth Thursday at 6:15 pm at the Mosquito Café to plan Sunday services. The next meeting is April 26. Please come if you want to suggest or provide a program, participate as a facilitator, or just talk about our Sunday services. Contact Margaret Canavan, Gerry Carr, or Katrina Chamberlain.

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

UUFGC Board Members meet every fourth Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. 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 hearty native foliage and flower beds. For more information contact Margaret Canavan at margaret@galveston.com

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

Zen Meditation meets Saturdays at 9am, and is an activity of the Zen Island Fellowship. If you wish to learn more about Zen Buddhist practice, contact Cara Geary at gcara@houston.rr.com.



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	Madeleine Baker
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	Gerr, Margaret, & Katrina
Religious Education	Neil Huddleston
Supper Circles	Judy Glaister
Social Action	Mary Hodgson
Newsletter Editor	Maggie Pinson
Webmaster	Neil Huddleston

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*

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

MAY 2007

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated.
See the newsletter for details

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>502 Church Street Galveston TX 77550 409-765-8330 Email administrator@uugalveston.org www.uugalveston.org</p>		1	2 5:30 pm— Bowlers	3 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles	4	5 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
6 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Steve Brooks, “JC & Me”; Children & Youth RE 6:30 pm Poker Night at Di- Nuzzo’s, Game Night at DeGesero’s	7 Weekly Bulletin Deadline	8 8:00 pm— UU Net, Emerson UU	9	10 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles	11 7:00 pm— Provocative Film “Why We Fight”	12 9:00 am—Zen Meditation 4pm to ??—Spring Music Festival at UU Fellowship Houston
<i>Mothers’ Day</i> 13 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Christine Branum- Martin, “Welcoming Reli- gious Transformation”; Chil- dren & Youth Religious Edu- cation	14 Weekly Bulletin Deadline	15	16 5:30 pm— Bowlers	17 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles	18 <i>News-letter Deadline</i>	19 9:00 am—Zen Meditation 6:30pm— Supper Circle at Gerry Carr’s
20 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Dean Becker, “Drug War”; Children & Youth Religious Education <i>ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP- MEETING AFTER SERVICE</i>	21 Weekly Bulletin Deadline	22	23 5:45 pm— Board Meeting	24 6:15pm— Program Cmte @ Mosquito Cafe 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles	25 6pm Garden Work party	26 9:00 am—Zen Meditation
<i>Memorial Day</i> 27 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Bets Anderson, “How to be Remembered”; Children & Youth RE <i>POT LUCK AFTER SERVICE</i>	28 Weekly Bulletin Deadline	29	30	31 7:00 pm—Course in Miracles	<i>MAY BIRTHDAYS</i> <i>Mary Hodgson (5/16)</i> <i>Diane Olsen (5/1)</i> <i>Kathy Thomas (5/17)</i> <i>John Wilke (5/10)</i>	