

# UUF Galveston Gazette



November 2007

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

502 Church Street, Galveston, Texas 77550-5502

(409)765-8330

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

## A Month of Sundays

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

## President's Message— Laura Murrell

### November 4

### Ingathering of New Members

Laura Lee, **"The Sixth Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all"**

*Lighting a candle for peace has become a tradition in our Fellowship, and candles for liberty and justice are also often lit. This service will look at the importance of these words to our faith. And how these concepts, along with freedom & equality help truly define UUism. Laura Lee regularly attends the Fellowship and is involved in the RE program. She is a third generation UU.*

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Board Member: Karen Bryckzynski

Facilitator: Katrina Chamberlain

Music: Margaret Canavan

### November 11

### Haroon Nasir, "Christian-Muslim Dialogue"

*Mr. Nasir is a Fulbright Scholar from Pakistan who is currently a guest of the Boniuk Center for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance at Rice University. He holds a Master's Degree in Theology with a major in Interreligious Dialogue from Edinburg University. He works at the Christian Study Centre in Rawalpindi Pakistan. As a religious minority in an Islamic State, he has always been interested in promoting a culture of peace and mutual cooperation among religions.*

Greeter: Shirley Hollingsworth

Board Member: Karen Bryckzynski

Facilitator: Katrina Chamberlain

Music: Stephen Hodgson

### November 18

### Steve Brooks, "The City that Care Forgot: Why We Need New Orleans"

*Singer/Songwriter Steve Brooks will join us and share his thoughts and original music about the spiritual significance of the city of New Orleans. Steve is a member of Wildflower Unitarian Universalist Church in Austin. You can also see him live at Acoustic Cafe in Galveston on Saturday November 17.*

Greeter: Mary Hodgson

Board Member: Laura Murrell

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: Margaret Canavan

### November 25

### POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

### Linda Ercole-Musso & Ed Sulzberger, "Happy Home Orphanage"

*Our speakers will report on their one-year effort to raise funds for one of the many grassroots orphanages now being established in Africa to deal with the Continent's growing AIDs epidemic. They moved to Galveston in 2000 after nearly 30 years working and living in developing countries. Linda is an artist and teacher of young children; Ed is a science writer & fund raiser for agricultural development & climate change projects. In 2006, they agreed to help raise money for an orphanage then being established by one of Ed's colleagues in Kenya. In less than a year they raised more than \$15,000 – mainly in the form of small donations from the Galveston area – enough to provide food, shelter, education & medical care for 25 children. They plan to expand their efforts to accommodate an additional 50 children next year. For information visit: [www.happyhomekenya.org](http://www.happyhomekenya.org).*

Greeter: Bets Anderson

Board Member: Doris Lee

Facilitator: Susan Persons

Music: Margaret Canavan

This congregation is a warm and caring place. Given our size, we do amazing things.

\* **Empty Bowls** started here as a relatively small project by Madeleine Baker while we were still meeting at Williams Temple, now it has outgrown us and is spinning off into something bigger, while people continue making bowls every other Wednesday.

\* The Service Auction was a suggestion at the congregational meeting last December, but with the help of a committed task force and generous offers of service from many inside and outside the congregation, it is providing a major boost to our finance, and it was SUCH FUN. Susan Persons and the task force are already figuring out how to do it even better next year.

\* Gerry Carr and her very dedicated program committee do a wonderful job of providing us with programs, but they outdid themselves with the Service Blessing the Animals, led by Vickie Francil and Madeleine Baker. The tally sheet for that week show adults, children and CRITTERS who attended.

Let your friends know about this warm and caring community. UU publications say one in a hundred people have an interest in liberal religion. Get the word out to those other 350 people on the island alone. They need our healing and we need their friendly smiles. And when they find their way to our doors, let's make sure we make them feel welcome.

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.

*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.*

**Empty  
Bowl  
Event  
Nov. 10**



The **Empty Bowl**

fundraiser for Jesse Tree will be held from **6-8 pm on Saturday, November 10**. This year will have some major changes over previous years! For the first time, it will not be held at the Fellowship.

The location will be the **Lasker House at 1019 16<sup>th</sup> St.**, a beautiful restored historic Galveston house graciously offered to us by its owner, Jeff Kaler. The Lasker house was once an orphanage, and more recently housed the Heritage Christian Academy. Soup for the event will be provided by area restaurants. Our members will continue to provide desserts and drinks. Ted Hanley and his staff at the Jesse Tree are taking a more active role this year in making this event a major fund raiser for their nutrition programs.

New this year will be advance ticket sales. We will have these printed up soon (the Jesse Tree is doing this for us) and make them available for purchase. \$25 will buy you one handmade ceramic bowl, your choice of several delicious soups, bread, dessert and drinks, with music accompaniment while you dine with your friends in a beautiful historic home! There will also be a silent auction of art items! What a deal!

Please mark your calendars for this event and plan to attend. This is a major social action outreach event for our Fellowship, and has attracted quite a local following. If you are interested in

volunteering for the event, please contact Madeleine Baker at 744-7465 or at [madbaker@comcast.net](mailto:madbaker@comcast.net).

**Welcoming Congregation**

Unitarian Universalism is very supportive of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender (BGLT) people and their families, and has officially welcomed this community since 1970. We believe that our first principle, respecting "the inherent worth and dignity of every person," applies equally to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Most of the UUs in the Houston Area already have this designation have completed a program to become especially welcoming to the BGLT community. These congregations are known as Welcoming Congregations, and are indicated on the congregation list with a rainbow chalice icon.

Unitarian Universalism is one of the few religions that ordains openly Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender people. We encourage our BGLT clergy to participate as fully in our faith as our heterosexual clergy. We also work to protect the civil and legal rights of BGLT people and families across the country. Unitarian Universalists have been at the forefront of the same-sex marriage debates, advocating for the right for each person to marry the partner of his or her choice.

Please let our board members know of your support for our proceeding with the process of becoming a Welcoming Congregation.

For more information contact [obgltc@uua.org](mailto:obgltc@uua.org).

**HAVE DINNER.  
CHANGE YOUR LIFE.  
TRANSFORM THE  
WORLD**

Around the table, over a simple dinner, people of diverse backgrounds break bread together and share their personal thoughts about life, faith, spirituality, and living and working together on this earth. It is hoped that the **Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialogues** will expand to hundreds, even thousands, of homes, not just here in Houston, but in cities across the country and around the world, creating a world-wide movement towards understanding, respect, and reconciliation among people of all faith traditions. As this movement grows, thousands upon thousands of people will join with us on this amazing evening of fellowship, dialogue, and exploration once a year, all over the world on the same night.

**In 2007 that night is November 15.**

For more information about this event, please contact Lauren Foe, Amazing Faiths Project Coordinator at [lfoe@imgh.org](mailto:lfoe@imgh.org) or (713) 533-4904.

**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	B. Anderson, M.Baker, M.Canavan, & J.Glaister, & C. Henry
Archives	Ellie Porter
Communications	Madeleine Baker
Landscape	Margaret Canavan
Membership	Bets Anderson
Music	Woody Dickson
Policies & Procedures	Tony DiNuzzo
Program/Worship	Gerry Carr
Religious Education	Neil Huddleston
Supper Circles	Judy Glaister
Social Action	Mary Hodgson
Webmaster	Amber Booth

**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 \$450 in loans to people in developing countries. You can view our online portfolio at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversali3384>.

# News & Coming Attractions

## Member NUUs

If you are not yet a member now's the time to join us, at the Ingathering on November 4. Contact **Bets Anderson** at [betsanderson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:betsanderson@sbcglobal.net).

**Get well wishes: Shirley Hollingsworth** is home after a brief hospitalization. Both her sons came from out of state to help her out. **Astrid Lawler, Pete Olsen's** mother, is doing well after back surgery.

Eighteen folks gathered at **Susan Persons'** home for the October Supper Circle. A great time was had by all as they enjoyed Irish stew & other delights.

**Judy Glaister** and her husband, **Richard Orange**, will be crewing on the Elissa's trip to Port Aransas and Corpus Christi.

Our friends **Bev & John Frannea** have bought a house and will be settling in Galveston.

**David Pyle**, our former Administrator, on ABC national news in a story on Military Chaplaincy. No interview; but he leads a small bit of worship. See the clip at

<http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=3737124>

## UUpcoming Events

**November Supper Circle:** will be Thanksgiving Day dinner at the Fellowship starting at 1:00 pm on November 22. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or call Judy Glaister at 409-762-8187 for more information. Come and join us for great food and fellowship.

**Zen Meditation** has moved from Saturday morning to Sundays from 4-6pm.

**Book Club:** This month the book club will be discussing "A Lesson Before Dying" by Ernest Gaines.

**Game/Poker Night:** Poker at Alan Griffin's (7012 Lasker, a couple of blocks off Seawall, just west of WalMart). GAME NIGHT NEEDS A HOME, if you'd like to host games that evening let us know by email or phone.

**Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Fall Conference, November 9-11:** The UUFGC Board has approved \$600 in scholarship funds to assist (amount depends on how many decide to go) those

who plan to attend this great conference at Glen Rose, Texas. You can read about the tracks in more detail at <http://www.swuuc.org>. Please contact Gerry Carr at [gcarr@tlc-galveston.org](mailto:gcarr@tlc-galveston.org) if you are interested in attending.

**Emerson UU Women's Alliance:** We are invited to meetings at 1900 Bering Drive near the Galleria. On November 8, join them for refreshments at 9:30 am and the program at 10, a presentation on basic information about how to avoid medical errors. For more information, contact Gwen Essinger at 713-799-1244 or [gwenessinger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gwenessinger@sbcglobal.net)

## Other Events

**Learn about Raja Yoga:** at the Sahaj Marg (Natural Path) Meditation and Spirituality OPEN HOUSE at the Clear Lake City public library November 3 from 3:30-4:30 pm. Sahaj Marg is a raja yoga system of spiritual training based on a heart-centered meditation. For more information visit [www.srcm.org](http://www.srcm.org) or contact Radheshyam @ 832-541-8155 or by email at [meditate.galveston@gmail.com](mailto:meditate.galveston@gmail.com)



**Gardening Update:** The fall garden is full of butterflies! Be sure to sit under the arbor for a few minutes and watch them. We've seen Monarchs, Gulf Fritillaries, and Swallowtails and we likely have others.

The small native Turks' Caps in the Arbor Garden have had a bad case of whiteflies or scale, with stems covered with sticky white critters (whiteflies & scale are closely related). Neem Oil (biological insecticide) seems to be doing the trick although it's taken a couple of treatments.

**Jeanette Winfree's** memorial tree is planted out by the playset, and it's covered with almost-ripe Kumquats.

September garden workday was sparsely attended-- **Marilyn Schultz & Margaret Canavan**--so there will be plenty of work to do on the morning of **November 3!** Please come if you are able, weather permitting, to start getting the garden ready for winter. We all have gardens of our own to tend, but please consider giving just an hour or two for our shared space.

If you have ideas or suggestions or feedback about plants or other aspects of our landscape, please share them. Input & assistance are welcome!



## Service Auction 2007: A Great Success!

The first annual service auction was held on September 28. Work for this project began in April. A great big **THANKS** is owed to the hard working dedicated task force consisting of:

- ◆ Susan Persons,
- ◆ Fanny DeGesero
- ◆ Mardi Mitchell
- ◆ Cheryl Henry
- ◆ Marilyn Schultz

Thanks also goes to:

- ◆ Margaret Canavan who created the catalog
- ◆ Bets Anderson who handled the money

- ◆ Amber Booth & Alison Rutledge who helped with food
- ◆ Auctioneers Stan Blazyk, Vickie Francil, & Susan Baker
- ◆ The many donors and participants without whom this event would not have been such a success.

An informal tally estimated that the auction brought approximately \$7000. In addition, 2 donated pianos brought an additional \$850. The exact figures will be available from the treasurer after all proceeds from the credit card company are received.

Plans are already underway for next year's event.

## Hip Hip Hurray!!!



“*UU Bowlers*” will be on vacation until 2008. Come to the Empty Bowls fundraiser on November 10.

*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.

*Spirit Circle* meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month 7:00-8:30 pm.

*Social Action Committee* meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month after service and welcomes your ideas, energy and enthusiasm. Contact Mary Hodgson at 409-762-0193. *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. Contact Bets Anderson, Margaret Canavan, Gerry Carr, or Katrina Chamberlain.

*Book Clubs* meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday and last Wednesday of each month. Books are announced in this newsletter, and all are welcome to join at any time. 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 409/744-2369.

*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.

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

*Supper Circles* meet monthly. Call Judy Glaister at (409)762-8187 to schedule a supper, sign up for one, or for information.

*Zen Meditation* meets Sundays at 4pm as an activity of the Zen Island Fellowship. To learn more about Zen Buddhist practice, contact Cara Geary ([gcar@comcast.net](mailto:gcar@comcast.net)) 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.*

### *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.

### *Association Sunday Update:*

Deepest gratitude to all who participated in the First Annual Association Sunday of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations on October 14. Our contributions will help bring our message of peace, justice, & religious inclusiveness to the world at a time when it is sorely needed.

We collected almost \$1000! One half of funds raised will support our partnership with a national magazine to help bring Unitarian Uni-

versalism into the national dialogue on religious issues we care about. Of the remainder, 25% will provide funds for ministers-of-color and the congregations who call them, and 25% will come back to our district for grants in support of individual congregations’ growth and outreach projects.

You can still make a contribution to strengthening our faith by going to the UUA webpage at <http://www.uua.org/giving>. We are better together!

**Social Action Committee News:** The next film in our **Provocative Film Series** will be ***Born Into Brothels***

**Friday November 2 at 7:00 pm at the fellowship.**

**FREE TO ALL - SNACKS PROVIDED - DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

This film won a 2004 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature and is a tribute to the resiliency of childhood & the restorative power of art, & a portrait of several unforgettable children who live in Calcutta’s red light district, where their mothers work as prostitutes. Spurred by the kids’ fascination with her camera, Zana Briski, a New York-based photographer living in the brothels & documenting life there, decides to teach them photography. As they begin to see & record their world through new eyes, the kids, whom society refused to recognize, awaken for the first time to their own talents and sense of worth.

Donations of \$25.00 from October’s film ***Border War*** was sent to Border Angels, a humanitarian group that assists immigrants

#### **The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association**



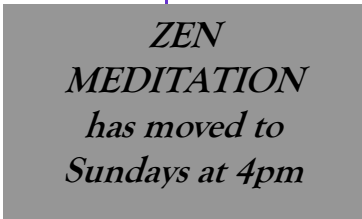
*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:*

- 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.

# NOVEMBER 2007

*Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County*

*Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Happy November Birthday to:</p> <p>Madeleine Baker 11/7            Margaret Canavan 11/11            Woody Dickson 11/12            Kenneth Vaughan 11/13            Lori Pepper 11/21            Mitch Philpot 11/28</p>				<p>1 7pm - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>2 7pm— Provocative Film, <b>Born into Brothels</b></p>	<p>3 9am - Garden Work Party</p>
<p>4 9am - Adult Forum begins "The Great Turning"            10:30am - Laura Lee, "Sixth Principle"; Children/Youth Religious Education            4pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 7pm - Spirit Circle</p>	<p>7 5:30pm - Bowlers final meeting of the year</p>	<p>8 7pm - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 6-8 pm Empty Bowls fundraiser at Lasker House</p>
<p>11 9am - Adult Forum            10:30am - Haroon Nassir, "Christian-Muslim Dialogue"; Children/Youth Religious Education            4pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 5:45pm - Board Meets</p>	<p>15 6:15pm - Program Cmte @ Mosquito - Note date change!            7pm - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>16 </p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9am - Adult Forum            10:30am - Steve Brooks, "Why We Need New Orleans"; Children/Youth RE            Social Action Committee meets after service            4pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 7pm - Spirit Circle</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 1 pm - Dinner at Fellowship   </p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 <b>Pottuck</b>            9am - Adult Forum            10:30am - Sulzberger &amp; Ercole-Musso, "Happy Home Orphanage"; Children/Youth RE            Book club after lunch            4pm - Zen Meditation            6:30pm - Poker &amp; Game Night</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7pm - Book Club</p>	<p>29 7pm - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>30   </p>	