

# UUF Galveston Gazette

October 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

### October 7 Vickie Francil & Madeleine Baker, "Blessing the Animals"

*"All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures," said St. Francis of Assisi. In honor of him, as well as our own love for animals, we offer this blessing of the animals service. Bring a picture or a live animal. To bring a live animal, you must bring a current vaccination certificate (the greeter will keep until the end of the service). Dogs must be on a leash (or in an animal crate/carrier) and other animals in an animal carrier/crate. Please bring only one animal per person, and only those who are friendly to other people and animals. This promises to be a lively Sunday!*

Greeter: Cheryl Henry

Board Member: Woody Dickson

Music: Margaret Canavan

### October 14 Gerry Carr, "Association Sunday"

*Join with UU's across the nation celebrating our shared commitment, to make Unitarian Universalism a stronger voice for liberal religious values. We are better together. Our values are needed to help heal the wounded world. Today's special collection will be used for grants to congregations for their growth and outreach projects. If you can't attend, please send in a check, or donate online for Association Sunday at <http://www.uua.org/giving>.*

Greeter: Amanda Prather

Board Member: Pete Olsen

Music: Margaret Canavan

### October 21 Margaret E. Anderson, "My Secret Journey"

*One can find a lot to question about Rhonda Byrne's popular little book, The Secret. Is it "Prosperity Theology" disguised in sheep's clothing? Does it "blame the victims" of poverty and other misfortune? And perhaps most damning to the intellectual, is it too simplistic to contain anything new, or even anything useful? Margaret Anderson has concluded that there is indeed an important message for UUs in **The Secret**. She is a returning speaker whose profession is as an executive coach & corporate trainer specializing in persuasion & communication skills, teaching people to build bridges rather than burn them. A Harvard-trained negotiator, Margaret designed & teaches courses in interpersonal persuasion for the Rice University School of Continuing Studies and has lectured for the UH MBA and engineering programs & for Texas State University. Born & raised in Galveston, Margaret is a Unitarian Universalist now residing in Houston. She will present an "Ethical Persuasion" workshop at 1pm today (details in this newsletter).*

Greeter: Shirley Hollingsworth

Board Member: Susan Persons

Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Music: Stephen Hodgson

### October 28 "Día de los Muertos" **POTLUCK AFTER THE SERVICE**

*This celebration from Mexican tradition honors loved ones who have passed on. Bring photographs & other mementos (food, drinks, special items) of your loved ones to decorate our altar, & share a story or reminiscence. All are invited to participate in this very special service that provides for sharing, support & community-building. Children will stay in the service.*

Greeter: Maggie Pinson

Board Member: Doris Lee

Facilitator: Margaret Canavan & Ana Rivera

Music: UU String Band

## President's Message— Laura Murrell

We are showing lots of energy and a lot is going on.

Our all volunteer administrators (the A-team) are keeping us organized and moving forward.

We have 6 new members since the first of the year.

Before this goes to press, we will have had our first ever service auction. I'm overwhelmed by the catalog of fabulous services that the fundraising task force has worked with you, our members, to offer.

The Adult Forum has had to use a folding table to hold everyone because of record attendance for a series comparing various religions.

The Empty Bowl group continues to create more practical works of art on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays.

A new "Spirit" covenant group has begun, the A Course in Miracles group continues, while an outside group does Buddhist meditation every Saturday.

The Provocative Film Series had a good turn out to watch a filmed power point presentation by David Korten on his exciting new book "The Great Turning," which I understand the adult forum is planning to read and discuss after the present series finishes.

On a sad, but still positive note, the memorial service for Jeanette Winfree was a true celebration of the life of a remarkable member who many of us had not had a chance to know well because of her illness. It was extremely well attended.

However, this is still just a good start and we need to work together to move forward to meet the very real concerns that we are all aware of. The UUFGC consists of all of its members (and its active friends). It's up to you. Please think about what you value, what you don't like and what you would like to see added, so that we can all work together to make it happen.

*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.*

## DEEDS NOT CREEDS

Join the multi-congregation UU work crew to renovate the home of an elderly or disabled owner on Saturday, Oct 20 or 27 (see [www.rebuildingtogetherhouston.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetherhouston.org)). This is a hands-on, multi-generational project. The April crew won a city-wide award for its work! To get on the email list for the address and other information, please contact Laura Emerson at [laura@starlightcapital.com](mailto:laura@starlightcapital.com). You do NOT have to be a carpenter or budget two whole days to be useful. The crew needs painters, scrapers, lunch delivery, afternoon site clean-up, and people with trucks to haul supplies and debris. Some volunteers bring a plant or new curtains for the homeowner, too. Please note that if you don't want to come join our crew but would work on a house close to you, there are about 250 house projects each fall and spring, all over Harris County. A few volunteers can join another work crew. Contact Tracie at [info@rebuildingtogetherhouston.org](mailto:info@rebuildingtogetherhouston.org) or

## Medical Ethics and Holocaust Lecture Series at UTMB

**Tuesday evenings 6-8 pm:** through December 11. In the School of Nursing/SAHS Building, Room 1.102 (1100 Mechanic Street). Free admission, and free parking available between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> on Mechanic (Lots D and D-Annex). For additional information contact: Dr. Cheyenne Martin at (409)772-8327 or [damartin@utmb.edu](mailto:damartin@utmb.edu). This series of lectures sponsored by the Holocaust Museum Houston. Read about the series at <http://www.nodussolutions.com/MedicalEthics/>.

## JOURNEY OF HOPE WILL BE VISITING HOUSTON

*Journey of Hope ...from Violence to Healing* is an organization led by murder victim family members joined by death row family members, family members of the executed, the exonerated, and others with stories to tell. Journey Storytellers come from all walks of life and represent the full spectrum and diversity of faith, color and economic situation. They are real people who know first hand the aftermath of the insanity and horror of murder. They have real stories that recount their tragedies, and their struggles to heal as a way of opening dialog on the death penalty. They will be in Houston  
*Sunday, October 14 at 1 pm*  
*First Unitarian Universalist Church*  
*5200 Fannin*  
*713-526-5200*

## English Teacher and Program Coordinator for Transylvania

Meadville Lombard is committed to offering academic excellence to Unitarian Universalist ministers throughout the world. Our English Teacher and Program Coordinator will live in Transylvania and teach English to Unitarian seminarians at the Protestant Theological Institute in Cluj/Kolozsvár, Romania. Details about the position, including the requirements, are listed below. More information is available at our website: [www.meadville.edu](http://www.meadville.edu).

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.

## Web Help Needed:

The UUFGC history on our website is in great need of up-dating. Anyone interested in working on this project—gathering the information or figuring out how to place on the web, please contact Laura Murrell.

## Reminders

- Friendly Sunday morning “Greeters” are always 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.



## **Introduction to ETHICAL PERSUASION**

**A Mini-workshop by Margaret Anderson  
Executive Coach and Corporate Trainer**

Sunday, Oct. 21, 1:00-3:00 PM - Price \$20.00  
Held at the Fellowship 502 Church St. in Galveston

We all need things from others, who, in their turn, make demands on us. We sometimes feel we must sacrifice our own interests in order to meet our ethical standards or maintain good relationships with family, neighbors or coworkers. Surprisingly, just the opposite is true. The most productive persuasion techniques are also fully compatible with high ethical standards. With the right skills, we can get *more* of what we need from others while building bridges, not burning them. The catch is that effective persuasion techniques don't come naturally to most folks. Learn three counterintuitive skills you can take away and use immediately.

**For more information**, phone the church office (409) 765-8330 or Anderson Persuasion Training (713) 975-1377.

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

# News & Coming Attractions

## Member NUUws

**Congratulations** go to:

**Fanny & Roy DeGesero** on their inauguration into grandparenting with the birth of Cooper Louis Wernette on September 6 (8lbs 2 oz of him).

**Katrina Chamberlain** and **Donald Lee** on buying their first house!

**Cheryl & Red Henry**, who are pleased to have a new home on the island.

Thanks to **Amanda & Derek Prather** for hosting **the** September Supper Circle.

**David Pyle**, our former Administrator who is preparing for UU ministry, graduated at the end of August from the Chaplain Officer Basic Leader Course at Ft. Jackson, SC, "basic training" for Army chaplains. David is serving for one year as Intern Minister at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, IL with the Rev. Barbara Pescan. Then he will have one more year of academic preparation before entering UU ministry. Pictures of David at training are at [www.celestiallands.org](http://www.celestiallands.org).

**Margaret Canavan** will have a booth at Artoberfest on October 20-21. Come visit her, near MOD Café.

**Bets Anderson, Madeleine Baker** and **Margaret Canavan** invite you to the **Galveston College Choir** free Fall concert at 7:30 on Friday evening, October 26, in the Recital Hall, room **FA207** (above the gym). It will be the "History of Music".

## Upcoming Events

**October Supper Circle: Susan Persons** is hosting an Irish **Dinner** on Satur-

day, October 13th at Sign up on the bulletin board or call Judy Glaister at 762-8187

**Spirit Circle:** this new group will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 7 - 8:30 pm at the Fellowship We are currently using a book of eight gatherings called "Evensong". "In this series, participants will explore individual life journeys through sharing thoughts, experiences, doubts and current beliefs". Upcoming topics are:

*October 2: Religious & Spiritual Experiences*

*October 16: The Divine: What Do I Really Want?*

It is okay to come if you missed the first session. Contact **Gerry Carr** at [gcarr@tlc-galveston.org](mailto:gcarr@tlc-galveston.org) for more information or questions.

**Game/Poker Night Sunday, October 21, 6:30pm:** Poker at **Tony DiNuzzos** (1419 Ball). Other games at **Madeleine Baker's** (1619 Bayou Shore Drive). Bring snacks and drink.

**Sunday Service Workshop Saturday October 27, 10am - Noon**

Have you been involved in our Sunday services? Would you like to be? The hour we spend together each Sunday is one of the main ways we build community and present ourselves to the larger community. What does worship mean to Unitarian Universalists? What do members and visitors want from that hour? Join the Program Committee for this two hour workshop which will look at how we can make our worship services more intentional and consistent from week to week. For more information contact **Gerry Carr** at [gcarr@tlc-galveston.org](mailto:gcarr@tlc-galveston.org).

**Book Club:** In October the Book Club will be discussing **Blink** by Malcolm Gladwell. You may attend Wednesday or Sunday meetings, as you prefer.

## Important Tax Information

October is here and with it the start of the fall/winter holidays and celebrations. As you plan your budget for the rest of the year we would like to remind everyone that there are potential tax advantages for this year if you continue your donations and pledge payments to the Fellowship. You will receive a statement after the first of the year reflecting donations we can track to you. Also there may be tax benefits for mileage and other expenses related to volunteer work you do for the Fellowship. We want to thank everyone for their past and future support and wish you an enjoyable season.

### UUFGC Board of Directors

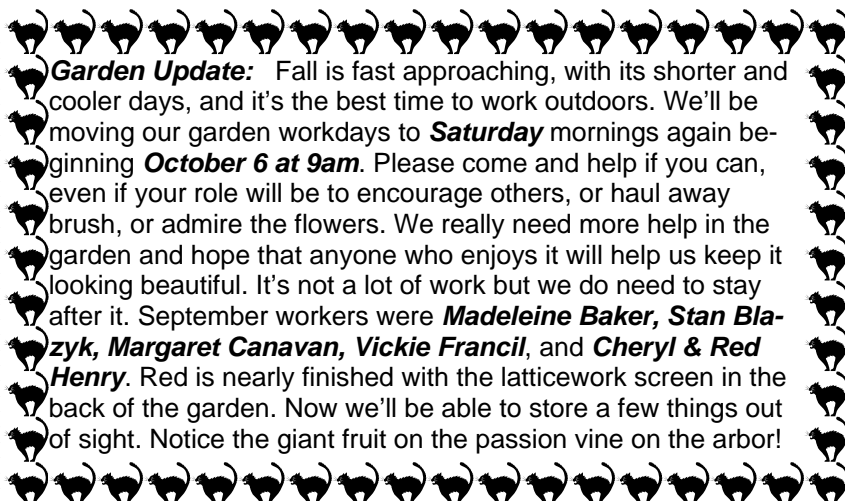
President	Laura Murrell
President-Elect	Karen Brykczynski
Past-President	Gerry Carr
Secretary	Amanda Prather
Treasurer	Woody Dickson
Members at Large:	Doris Lee Pete Olsen Susan Persons

### 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

### 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.



**Garden Update:** Fall is fast approaching, with its shorter and cooler days, and it's the best time to work outdoors. We'll be moving our garden workdays to **Saturday** mornings again beginning **October 6 at 9am**. Please come and help if you can, even if your role will be to encourage others, or haul away brush, or admire the flowers. We really need more help in the garden and hope that anyone who enjoys it will help us keep it looking beautiful. It's not a lot of work but we do need to stay after it. September workers were **Madeleine Baker, Stan Blazyk, Margaret Canavan, Vickie Francil, and Cheryl & Red Henry**. Red is nearly finished with the latticework screen in the back of the garden. Now we'll be able to store a few things out of sight. Notice the giant fruit on the passion vine on the arbor!



**“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.

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

**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 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 and are coordinated by Judy Glaister. Call her at (409)762-8187 to schedule a supper, sign up for one, or for information.

**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).



*FINDING STILLNESS*  
*AN INTRODUCTION TO ZEN*  
*BY ZEN MASTER DAE GAK*

**Thursday, October 25 6:00-8:00 pm**  
**\$20 per participant**

*Meditation can be a path towards finding God within and expressing compassion in your life. Please join us for this afternoon Introduction to Meditation. Learn the practice of Zen Inquiry from Zen Master Dae Gak. He teaches Zen meditation as compatible with any belief system, enriching one’s relationship with life. This inter-faith program will involve an overview of the practice of spiritual inquiry, specific instruction and practice in meditation, and a question and dialogue period. Zen Master Dae Gak has over 35 years of training in Zen. He is the founder of the Furnace Mountain retreat Center in Eastern Kentucky <http://www.furnacemountain.org> and leads meditation retreats in Europe and throughout the U.S. He has been leading retreats and workshops in Galveston since 2003. Pre-registration is required for this event, and space is limited to 25 people. For details or to register contact Cara Geary at [gcara@houston.rr.com](mailto:gcara@houston.rr.com) or 409-935-5116.*

**Social Action Committee News**

The **Provocative Film Series** continues on October 5 at 7pm. We will be showing **Border War**, a documentary about five individuals lives which have been affected by illegal immigration across the U.S.-Mexico border.

A discussion will be held after the film  
Open to all - come and bring your friends  
**FREE TO ALL - SNACKS PROVIDED**  
Donations Accepted

**RSVP(Retired and Senior Volunteer program ) at UTMB needs volunteers:**

Volunteers contribute their time and skills based on their personal schedules, interests and the needs of the volunteer stations. They serve in schools, hospitals, police departments, libraries and other organizations, helping to address areas of critical concern to the residents within Galveston County. Contact: Richie Adoue at (409)772-5361.

**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.

# OCTOBER 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 October Birthday to</i> <i>Neil Huddleston 10/7</i> <i>Jean Baker 10/22</i></p>	<p>1 Weekly Bulletin Info Due</p>	<p>2 7pm - Spirit Circle</p>	<p>3 5:30pm - Bowlers</p>	<p>4 7pm - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>5 7pm - Pro- vocative Film, <b>Border War</b></p>	<p>6 9am - Zen Medi- tation 9am - Garden Work Party</p>
<p>7 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - "Blessing the Animals"; Children/Youth Religious Education</p>	<p>8 Weekly Bulletin Info Due</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 5:45pm - Board Meets</p>	<p>11 7pm - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9am - Zen Medi- tation 7pm - Supper Circle at Susan Persons' 1209 Winnie</p>
<p>14 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - G. Carr, "Association Sunday"; Children/Youth Religious Education</p>	<p>15 Weekly Bulletin Info Due</p>	<p>16 7pm - Spirit Circle</p>	<p>17 5:30pm - Bowlers</p>	<p>18 7pm - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>19 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p>20 9am - Zen Medi- tation</p>
<p>21 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - M.Anderson, "The Secret"; Children/Youth RE Social Action Committee after service 1-3pm - "Ethical Persuasion" workshop, by M.Anderson 6:30pm - Poker/Game Night, at DiNuzzo's/M.Baker's</p>	<p>22 Weekly Bulletin Info Due</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6:15pm - Pro- gram Com- mittee @ Mosquito Café 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Zen lecture with Dae Gak</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9am - Zen Medi- tation 10-12 - Sunday Services Work- shop</p> 
<p>28 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - "Día de los Muertos"; Children/Youth Religious Education Book Club after lunch</p> <p><b>Potluck</b></p>	<p>29 Weekly Bulletin Info Due</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 7pm - Book Club</p>			