

UUF Galveston Gazette

April 2008



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

502 Church Street, Galveston, Texas 77550-5502

(409)765-8330

Online at <http://uugalveston.org>

A Month of Sundays

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

April 6

Kalen Fristad, "Universalism: Past, Present and Powerful"

Kalen Fristad is an ordained United Methodist Minister. After serving churches in Iowa for 27 years he embarked upon an independent ministry. He conducted this ministry full time from 2003-2006. It consisted of traveling around the country with his wife, Darlene, accepting invitations to speak to churches & other groups, countering the teaching that God sends many people to hell forever, & instead proclaiming the hopeful message of universalism. Kalen is currently serving churches in Iowa spends half time traveling and speaking at churches. Kalen's book **Destined for Salvation: God's Promise to Save Everyone** will be available for purchase after the service

Greeter: Stan Blazyk

Board Member: Susan Persons

Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Music: Stephen Hodgson

April 13

Gerry Carr, "UU Revival"

On this Sunday as we begin our annual canvass, our service will allow us the opportunity to reflect on our faith, recommit to our beliefs, & renew our connection with our Fellowship. What does it mean to be a UU? What does it mean to be part of the Fellowship? Here's your chance to come forward to share "what the Fellowship has done for me" as you consider what you can give back. Gerry Carr is a member and lay leader of this congregation.

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Board Member: Amanda Prather

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: UU String Band

April 20

Adult Forum, "Promoting "Earth Community"

The Religious Education Adult Forum that meets at 9am each Sunday just completed reading and discussing David Korten's book, **The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community**, where he argues that corporate consolidation of power is merely one manifestation of what he calls 'Empire.' That is, the organization of society through hierarchy and violence that has largely held sway for the past 5,000 years. Changing the "conventional wisdom" stories is one way to promote "Earth Community" and those positive 'stories' will be the focus of this program by Madeleine Baker, Neil Huddleston, Laura Murrell, Steve Reubens, Bets Anderson, Mardi Mitchell & Robin Panagakos.

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Board Member: Bets Anderson

Music: Margaret Canavan

April 27

Ahmed Ahmed, "Hajj Pilgrimage"

In December 2006, along with his wife, a dozen Galvestonians and more than three million Muslims from around the world, Dr. Ahmed visited Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Their 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.

Greeter: Patrick McGuffey

Board Member: Amanda Prather

Facilitator: Katrina Chamberlain

Music: Margaret Canavan

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

President's Message

The "Ides of March" have passed and now all we need worry about is tax time. Did I say "all"? Well, now that I have your attention and, perhaps you are thinking about money, I'd like to ask you to reflect on what this Fellowship means to you. And, I will reflect on what it means to me. On Sunday, April 13, we will begin our annual "pledge drive" with our annual "revival" service and reflect on the meaning this Fellowship has in our lives.

I grew up an Episcopalian and was a "devout" one: I sang in the choir; attended Sunday School faithfully; recited all of the required creeds; and loved the beauty of the services, sometimes they included incense. I got 'goose bumps' when, during the communion service, the priest would say, "on the day He was betrayed . . ." and a bell would toll way up in the steeple above. All of my British, Welsh, Scot, and Irish ancestors were Church of England [Episcopal] so, of course, so was I. But it wasn't until I was 'grown' that I began to ask, "What's it all about?"

The revelatory moment that brought about my change is another story, but the outcome was that I found the UU Fellowship of Galveston meeting at the Senior Center on 22nd and Avenue L. A tiny group it was. As I recall, around 12 people were at the first Sunday service I attended. But I knew from the first that I had found a home. Here were people with values like mine who also questioned the infallibility of someone's interpretation of "the word." I immediately 'took to' the questioning and acknowledgment of not knowing; that we can't have every belief neatly summed up in a "creed;" and that the creed I had been saying was not really what I believed.

I am daily grateful to UUFGC for being here. It is a place where I find spiritual growth, friendship, comfort, intellectual challenge, respect, peace, fun, and love. I shall continue to support our Fellowship with my time, talent and treasure!

Bets

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.

ATTIC TREASURES Sale a BIG Success!

After long preparation, our fifth annual "Attic Treasures" garage/rummage/ everything sale is behind us. What a lot of work! What a lot of stuff! What a lot of people traipsing through our weekend thrift shop to look for treasures! What a great "bottom line": over \$3400! All proceeds will go toward keeping our Fellowship financially in the black.

Our experiment with a Friday night admission fee seemed to work well, as the evening brought us a nonstop crowd. **Fanny DeGesero** & her sister **Margaret** catered a fine reception.

It is challenging to name everyone who made the event such a success. Almost everyone in the Fellowship, and many of our Friends, played some part, through donating, working, or buying--or all three! Major thanks to all who donated of their possessions and/or time!

Cheryl Henry, Shirley Hollingsworth & Judy Glaister put in many, many hours sorting through donations. Cheryl created and managed the "boutique" almost single-handedly. **Madeleine Baker** did yeoman's work in sorting and folding and displaying the mountains of women's

clothes we received this year (many of us now have lovely new outfits as a result). **Linda Price, Sandra Sullivan, Irma Hite & Marilyn Schultz** did their "time" in sorting and pricing. In addition to other tasks, **Bets Anderson** managed cashier's duties in her usual efficient way. "Sanford & Son" **Red & Cheryl Henry** made innumerable trips hauling items to us. **Patrick & Barbara McGuffey** provided temporary storage, delivered lots of stuff, & brought us several large and heavy tables to use. **Richard Orange** took care



recycling.

Additional helpers during sale and close-up time included **Susan Baker, Vickie Francil, Gerry Carr, Pete & Diane Olsen, Katrina Chamberlain, Stan Blazyk**

Calvin Wehrle, Alison Rutledge & Neil Huddleston. Mardi Mitchell arrived like the Lone Ranger at the end just when we'd run out of energy, and inspired our mass transfer of leftovers to the Salvation Army when our plans for hauling off failed to materialize. If your name is left off let us know and we'll get your name in next month. In any event, to everyone: **Thank you, thank you, thank you.**

While raising funds is the obvious goal of this effort, an added bonus is the camaraderie and community spirit which arose among us as we worked. What a positive crew we are! Another is the great energy we felt in our Fellowship with so many visitors enjoying themselves. And I know we made many people happy through shedding themselves of no-longer-needed items, which made others equally happy to take them home. All in all, a great event.

Now that I've slept, I can even imagine doing it again next year. Did I say that? Please think about you experiences and ideas for "next year" & watch for a debriefing meeting soon..

--Margaret Canavan

PS--all donations are tax deductible, so if you need a tax form let us know.

Our microfinance fund has made \$800 in loans to people in developing countries, and donated \$55 to support the activities of Kiva. View our online portfolio at <http://www.kiva.org/>

Wanna Dance? Stay tuned for possible Dance Lessons at the Fellowship! More later.

Reminders

- Please bring **clean plastic grocery bags** for **Shirley Hollingsworth's** Saturday work to feed the homeless. Leave them in the box outside the Administrator office (there's a sign).
- Bring old (clean) socks and rags for **Judy Glaister** to use for cleaning on the **Elissa**.
- We can get reduced-price paper with your **used inkjet printer cartridges**.
- **Fair Trade Coffee** sales in our foyer benefit small coffee farmers and also our Social Action Committee.
- **For visitors and newcomers:** Our members receive the **UU World** magazine, and donate copies of past issues to share with you. Feel free to take copies from the display in the RE hallway.



Friendly Sunday morning "Greeters" are needed! Sign-up in the kitchen or contact Vickie Francil. Don't wait for Vickie to call you, go ahead and contact her! You know how wonderful it feels to be greeted, so go ahead and offer your welcome to others.

UUFGC Board of Directors

President	Elizabeth "Bets" Anderson
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
Policies & Procedures	Tony DiNuzzo
Program/Worship	Gerry Carr
Religious Education	Neil Huddleston
Supper Circles	Judy Glaister
Social Action	Mary Hodgson
Webmaster	Amber Zainfeld

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

Congratulations to newlyweds **Katrina Chamberlain & Donald Lee**. They were united at the Fellowship in a ceremony of Handfasting on Leap Day, February 29, with President **Bets Anderson** officiating. We were delighted to meet Katrina's parents and Donny's dad. All our best wishes and blessings upon this young couple.

MANY thanks to our workday crew on March 29: **Pete Olsen, Neil Huddleston, Susan Persons, Shirley Hollingsworth & Margaret Canavan**.

Please keep in your prayers and hold in the light: **Bev & John Frannea's** daughter **Andy, Stan Blazyk, Cindy DeGesero, Woody Dickson, & Doris Lee**. Former member **Charles Ward** is having health problems and has temporarily relocated to Amarillo.

Our condolences to **Ken Vaughan & the Mike Hennen** family for the loss of **Grace Wellman**. Grace was a sweet and gentle woman and we will miss her and her beautiful smile.

U Upcoming Events

Empty Bowls: Bowlers will be making bowls on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 5:30, at the fellowship.

The April **Supper Circle** will be a picnic at the home of **Madeleine Baker** on Saturday, April 19 4 to 8 pm. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Poker/Game Night April 6, 6pm Poker at John Hunger/Susan Baker's (#6 Tradewinds Drive, in Campeche Cove subdivision). Other games at Judy Glaiser/Richard Orange's (2513 Avenue O).

Announcements

From the Board: Did You Know???? Our Fellowship is a member of the University Federal Credit Union, where many of us park on Sundays. This means that you may use their full banking services as well. You are automatically a member of UFCU if you are a member of the Fellowship.

Now's the time to consider **bylaws changes**. Our current bylaws are in the Membership Directory, and on our web-

site. If you see needed changes, please let **Bets Anderson** know so that a committee can be appointed. Contact Bets at administrator@uugalveston.org

Book Club for April will be reading **Family Matters** by Rohinton Mistry. There meetings are now on the second Wednesday of each month, which will be April 9, at 7pm.

Other Events

Members of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church are putting together a cookbook to raise money for St. Vincent's House in Galveston. They have an ambitious renovation project on their wish list and all the money from the sales of the cookbooks will go towards that project. If anyone would be interested in supporting this project, please send your recipes to the Allyson Hardick of the **Hope Cookbook Project**, at Gigifoofoo@comcast.net.

Our friend **Christopher Bear Beam**, MA will be leading a series of discussions discussion based on his book **The Crazy-making Disease**. The book explores the relationship between how the "isms" in our culture cause to think in insane ways, and their relationship to our mental health. Discussion groups will meet at the Rosenberg Library on April, 9, 16, 23, 30 from 7:30-9pm. If interested, you may order the book by going to www.chrisbearbeam.com. For more information, please call 409-392-6063 or email: dukebeam@hotmail.com.

Mike Hennen, President of Galveston Island Art Academy, reminds us of the final concert of the GIAA season at 4pm on Sunday April 13, at the GIAA (27th & Avenue O). The fifth annual **Fans, Faculty and Friends** concert will have something for everyone: voice, violin, guitar, woodwind, piano and more. Tickets will be available at the door for \$13, or \$10 for students & seniors.

Around UU

SWUUDistrict Annual Meeting and Spring Conference: will be held at First UU Church of Austin (TX), April 25-27, with the theme **What the World Needs from Religious Liberals**. Keynote speakers are the Rev. Dr. David Bum-baugh of Meadville-Lombard and Credentialed Master Religious Educator

Natalie Fenimore. Annual business meeting will convene at 3:30 on Saturday. The spirit of liberal religion was born between 2200-2800 years ago, when the focus of religion was turned on its axis. It happened all over the world: in China with Confucius, Lao Tzu and others; in Judaism with the Prophets; in India with the Upanishads, and in the life and teachings of the Buddha. Each path, in its own way, sought an honest appraisal of the human (moral) condition, and saw true religion as concerned with who we are and how we treat one another, not the creeds or rituals that set us apart from others. For more information go to <http://www.austinuu.org/site/index.php?page=sec-southwest-spring-conference-2008> or contact **Gerry Carr** who will be attending.

UU Media Ministry: Pages from the online Harvard Square Library article celebrating Beacon Press books were viewed 20,453 times in February. You can easily help maintain this ministry by the following: When you order anything at all online from Amazon (books or other products) place your order through the Amazon link on our Website: www.harvardsquarelibrary.org.

DUUB: If you "google" those four letters, you will discover the **Dictionary of Unitarian Universalist Biography**. This achievement of the UU Historical Society has hundreds biographies of greater and lesser-known religious liberals, stretching back to the year 1500. Find true tales of our heroines and heroes with strength and weakness disclosed.

The poem below was developed as part of the St. Patrick's Day program. It is a "cinquain" or a five-line poem that is defined as having a noun for a first line, two descriptors for the second line, three action verbs for the third line, four adjectives for the fourth line, and a single word to describe #1. Here's what the Fellowship came up with [slightly edited]:

*Patrick
Green, kind
Devoting, converting, preaching
Happy, serene, determined, ardent
Saint*



Social Action Committee meets the first 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.

UU Bowlers are on vacation; will star working again on March 5.

Spirit Circle meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 7:00-8:30 pm. The purpose of this group is to deepen our relationships to each other and our Unitarian Universalist faith through deep listening and sharing. Discussion revolves around meaningful life/spiritual issues. Currently they use topics from a wide variety of small group sessions developed by UU's across the country. Newcomers are welcome at any time. Please contact Gerry Carr at gcarr@tlc-galveston.org for more information or questions.

Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:45 pm. Committee members are invited to send Committee reports or present them in person at the meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Program Committee meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:15 pm at the Mosquito Café to plan Sunday services. If you have an idea for a speaker, would like to provide a talk yourself, wish to facilitate a service, or have other ideas about services, please contact **Gerry Carr**. Meetings are open to all who would like to attend, but attendance is not required to offer ideas!

Course in Miracles Study Group meets every Thursday at 7pm, and meets for dinner. Contact Susan Persons (slpersons@comcast.net).

Book Club meets the second 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.

Gardeners and Other Maintainers meet monthly for indoor and outdoor work that is so important to keeping our Fellowship looking good & working properly. See the calendar for this month's workday.

Poker and Game Night is monthly and held in members' homes, and is 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) or visit galvestonzen.org.

Send newsletter information to 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.

As We Begin our Pledge Drive on April 13:

Please take a moment to think about what our Fellowship means to you. How has being a member changed your life? How do you support this congregation that gives so much?

At our "Revival" Service on April 13, you will have the opportunity to share with others your thoughts on these questions. On that day pledge cards will be made available to members and others who wish to support the Fellowship financially. Pledges may be made that day, or any time prior to May 4. Our Board will then use those pledges to prepare a budget proposal to be voted on at our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 1.

Of course we count on the work of volunteers who share their time and talent, but we also need financial support to continue the work of creating a more just world, one person at a time. Together we are a community and our influence can become greater with more outreach.

*"We must give more in order to get more. It is the generous giving of ourselves that produces the generous harvest."
—Orison Swett Marden*

The Provocative Film for April

MAXED OUT:

Hard Times, Easy Credit and the Era of Predatory Lenders

Friday April 11, 7 pm

Maxed Out (2006) takes us on a journey deep inside the American debt-style, where everything seems okay as long as the minimum monthly payment arrives on time. *Maxed Out* shows how the modern financial industry really works, explains the true definition of "preferred customer" and tells us why the poor are getting poorer and the rich getting richer. By turns hilarious and profoundly disturbing, *Maxed Out* paints a picture of a national nightmare which is all too real.

Free admission -- Refreshments Available -- Bring a snack to share

Please buy Fair Trade coffee, tea and hot chocolate from the Social Action committee. Remember that the Farmer's Market will open again the second Saturday in April. Buy local produce!

In Memoriam - - Sally Harvey

My first memory of Sally was on our second visit to the Galveston County Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. On our first we experienced a cold meeting that could have taken place in a lecture hall anywhere. It was months before we could work up the interest to attend again. This time we were met at the door by a caring, informative, enthusiastic woman who not only made us feel welcome, but motivated us to return the following week. That was in the 60's; and today I still give Sally the credit for our becoming UUs.

Sally was never one to be the "chief". Over and over again she declined the nominating committee's pleas to accept leadership positions. Over and over again she DID chair (or WAS) the membership committee. This always included lots of outreach and follow-up. And regardless of the "hat she was wearing" she and Dick often provided transportation to anyone who had difficulty reaching our facility.

She was also secretary many, many times. Her minutes were meticulous. Accurate records were very important to her. On at least two occasions, milestone anniversaries, she composed, with great effort, detailed histories of the fellowship.

For many years she and Dick WERE maintenance. They did anything asked of them and were always taking notice of what needed to be done. They were very thrifty and always managed to stretch our dollars a long way.

She was a very intelligent, literate person. Her beliefs and values were very strong and she didn't hesitate to speak out in discussions and committee meetings. She asked questions and expected answers. She was interested in everything and everyone, and had a gift for drawing people into conversations. She had high expectations of herself and others.

Sally and Dick cherished their family. When Jan moved to Galveston, she became a member of our fellowship. They were very close to John, Pam and Francie in Dallas.

We had the privilege of being part of Sally and Dick's 50th Anniversary Celebration. They were a real team. They did everything together. For many years they delivered "Meals on Wheels", and were on their route when Dick suffered a heart attack and their car was wrecked. It was a tragic accident that took Dick's life and left Sally with injuries that plagued her the remainder of her life. For this reason their contributions to our fellowship came to an end before the move from LaMarque to Galveston, a great loss to most of the present membership.

It is our hope that, in writing this memoir, Sally will not be forgotten. We feel quite certain that the contributions made by these unsung heroes, the Harveys, were among those that kept the fellowship alive during the LaMarque years paving the way for the present congregation meeting at 502 Street in Galveston.

Sincerely, Bob & Karen Peake

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.

APRIL 2008

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p><i>Happy April Birthdays to:</i> Gerry Carr 4/17 Michael Hennen 4/17</p> </div>		1	2 5:30pm— UU Bowlers	3 7pm - Course in Miracles	4	5
6 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Kalen Fristad, "Universalism: Past, Present & Powerful"; Children/Youth RE Social Action Committee after service	7	8 7pm - Spirit Circle	9 7pm - Book Club, Family Matters by Rohinton Mistry	10 5:45pm - Board Meets 7pm - Course in Miracles	11 7pm— Provocative Film, MAXED OUT	12
13 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Gerry Carr, "UU Revival"; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation	14	15	16 5:30pm— UU Bowlers	17 7pm - Course in Miracles	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 4-8pm Supper circle picnic at Madeleine Baker's
20 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Adult Forum, "Promoting Earth Community"; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation	21	22 7pm - Spirit Circle	23	24 6:15pm - Program Com- mittee @ Mosquito 7pm - Course in Miracles	25	26 9am - Fellowship Workday (indoors & out, raine or shine!)
27 Pottuck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Ahmed Ahmed, "Hajj Pilgrimage"; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation	28	29	30			