



## A Month of Sundays

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

## President's Message

### August 3

#### Sam Calderera, "Blowing Zen: Instruments to Awareness"

Sam Calderera was a born musician, now playing several wind instruments (including the didgeridoo, Shakuhachi, Native American flute and Indian bansuri). He will share with us the meditative and spiritual experience of playing a musical instrument. Sam teaches in the Family Therapy Program at UH Clear Lake and also maintains a private psychotherapy practice in Houston.

Greeter: Red Henry  
Facilitator: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Susan Persons  
Music: Steven Hodgson

### August 10

#### Spirit Circle Covenant Group, "What the Spirit Circle Means - Keeping the Circle Whole for UU"

Spirit Circle is a form of small group ministry which intentionally seeks to "stick together" even with our differences. Members of the group will explore this as the very center of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

Greeter: Fanny DeGesero

Board Member: Amanda Prather

Music: Margaret Canavan

### August 17

#### Kathleen DiNatale, "The Practice of Meditation for Reconciliation"

This profoundly powerful yet simple meditation provides participants with a means for working with loving kindness & forgiveness in order to achieve a measure of peace & reconciliation with another without a resolve of all issues. Given the political climate, our concerns about the state of our nation & the environment, our issues with friends & family, this meditation practice can bring a profound measure of clarity & ease of suffering. Kathleen owns & operates The Yoga Haven in Galveston.

Greeter: Red Henry  
Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

Board Member: Patrick McGuffey  
Music: Stephen Hodgson

### August 24

#### Katrina Chamberlain, "Get Off the Spiritual Path"

We hear so much about finding and following the right spiritual path. Yet, is a path really the best metaphor? Can your own individual spirituality be discovered on someone else's well-trod way? Is there even an end to the path? Let's explore new metaphors for spiritual seeking & strike out into our own spiritual trackless spaces. Katrina is a UU & Pagan who has been exploring spiritual paths & trackless spaces for as long as she can remember.

Greeter: Bets Anderson  
Facilitator: Vickie Francil

Board Member: Fanny DeGesero  
Music: Margaret Canavan

### August 31

#### POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

#### Kathryn Eastburn, "In Praise of Sacred Harp Singing"

Sacred Harp Singing is a powerful nondenominational religious singing, part of a deeply held Southern culture. Its two hundred year old tradition has spread throughout the nation. Kathryn will provide an introduction to the tradition & "shape note" singing. She lives in Galveston & is a journalist, freelance writer, & author of **A Sacred Feast: Reflections on Sacred Harp Singing and Dinner on the Ground.**

Greeter: Stan Blazyk

Board Member/Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Music: Margaret Canavan

In June I met with some of the past presidents of the Board, **Pete Olsen, Diane Olsen, Madeleine Baker, Gerry Carr, Laura Murrell** and **Bets Anderson** along with **John Hunger**, current president-elect to get their advice. They were quite helpful. They gave a comprehensive historical perspective and a realistic view of our present situation which is in line with the **SWOT** done at the annual meeting (our group organizational assessment of **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats**). All agree that children's Religious Education is an issue reflective of the changing demographics of the island. Also we want a clear vision and a visibly inclusive outreach. For such a small fellowship (69 members), we are extremely visible and successfully pull off several major projects a year. (Here's where you all pat yourself on the back for jobs well done!)

One concern is volunteer burn out. Suggestions include short term sabbaticals for volunteers who really like the job but just want a break; training someone to assume leadership from the beginning of a project; and watching out how closely we schedule our three large projects, the Empty Bowls, the Service Auction and the Attic Treasures. So the Service Auction has been moved to February. Major projects seem more successful in the academic year

(President's Message cont. on page 2)

*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.*

rather than in the summer.

The new board is getting our feet wet. Our first board meeting on July 10 was very productive. The task force reports and committee reports were excellent. We are lucky to have such an energetic and thoughtful group in our leadership positions. Please see the minutes on the website or drop by one of our meetings. One immediate result is to explore consultation with a Religious Education expert and to do an RE clean-up on the next building maintenance day.

Please note the call for volunteers in the newsletter and in your Sunday program. There is a place for everyone to contribute.

Keep cool and do your rain dance!



## ***UUFGC wants (and needs) you! Here's how you can get involved***

If you've been here awhile, perhaps you'd like to try something new. Or if you are a newcomer, maybe you're not sure where to jump in. None of us are experts, just people working together to maintain the fellowship. Newcomer or long timer, let us know what you want to do. Mark the activities you're interested in and we'll call you or you can contact the person responsible directly. Drop your form off in the container on table in foyer, or send an email to [administrator@uugalveston.org](mailto:administrator@uugalveston.org) and we'll forward to the appropriate person.

- Got a program in your soul? Contact **Gerry Carr**
- Like gardening? Want to learn more about "habitat and water smart gardening"? Contact **Margaret Canavan**
- Want to help out with Sunday morning greeting? Talk to **Vickie Francil**
- Want to serve on the board? **Let Susan Persons** know
- Enjoy public relations? Tell **Madeleine Baker**
- Interested in organizing Thanksgiving potluck this year? Contact **Judy Glaister**
- Like books? Help **Fanny DeGesero** with the sales or book club
- Have a burning desire to work on children's Religious Ed? Talk to **Susan Persons**
- Want to share your musical talents? Tell **Margaret Canavan**
- Are you handy with tools? See **Pete Olsen**
- Are you passionate about social action? Contact **Mary Hodgson**
- Want to learn to make ceramic bowls? See **Madeleine Baker**
- Have ideas for the service auction? Talk with **Susan Persons**
- Got some thoughts about membership? See **Cheryl Henry**
- Ideas about adult education? **Neil Huddleston** is the one to see
- Enjoy garage sales? Let **Margaret Canavan** know
- Want to start a teen group? Let **Susan Persons** hear your ideas
- Willing to host a circle supper? Contact **Judy Glaister**
- Want to be a part of the Empty Bowls for Jesses Tree? **Madeleine Baker**
- Passionate about our earth Give **Fanny DeGesero** a hand with recycling

**HELP!!! Someone has borrowed or filed away the UU's Microsoft Office disk, which we sorely need to reinstall Publisher on the UU computer. Neil says it is a 2002 version. Please, if you have it for some reason, we need it back ASAP. As you can imagine, this is causing difficulty in creating our newsletter!**

These are ideas for ongoing Fellowship activities. If you have ideas you don't see here, we'd love to hear about them. See any board member: Susan Persons, John Hunger, Fanny DeGesero, Amanda Prather, Patrick McGuffey, Pete Olsen, or Donny Lee.

# News & Coming Attractions

## Member NUUs

**Shirley Hollingsworth** donated a large antique porcelain doll to the Attic Treasures sale. We put what we thought was a good price on it--\$40--and it didn't sell. We tucked it away, unwilling to give it away, but not knowing how to find its new owner. We contacted a local eBay seller, who put it up and sold it for to a woman in Austria. After fees and the seller's share of the booty, we earned almost \$300 for the Fellowship! We're so glad we didn't put it in the half-price bin! we're now great believers in the wonders of eBay. Do we have any experts in the Fellowship? If so, we need you! And peruse your closet for hidden treasures...

**Supper Circle** is Sunday, August 17 at 5pm. **Sandra Sullivan** is hosting "Gifts from the Sea". Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Judy Glaister.

**Muchas gracias** to everyone who showed up for our July workday. Garden workers were **Stan Blazyk, Vickie Francil & Margaret Canavan**. Inside were **Fanny DeGesero, Bets Anderson, Susan Persons, Pete Olsen, and Irma Ortiz**. We all got a lot accomplished and hope to see YOU next workday, which will be **Friday, August 15** from 6-8pm (or so). Outdoor work will be general garden maintenance and watering, and indoor work will again focus on organizing the children's RE classroom area. Dress is extremely casual, especially for outdoor work!



## UUpcoming Events

**Building Your Own Theology Course Begins in September:** The central purpose of **Building Your Own Theology** is to create a community context in which individuals can create their own credos (from a Latin word which means literally "I Believe"). Each of 10 sessions will

include readings, activities, group discussions and written assignments to assist participants in writing their own credo based on a religious model. The 10 sessions will begin Sunday September 14 at 9 am at the Fellowship. Co-leaders will be **Gerry Carr** and **Katrina Chamberlain**. Workbooks will be available prior to the start of the group. Please contact Gerry or Katrina with questions.

## Announcements

**Wanted:** Person to consult on children's Religious Education. Assess the children's classroom and existing materials. Volunteers to clean up and organize under your guidance. Looking to have things organized well enough for planned programs for rotating volunteers to simply use with a little reading ahead. We will also need two volunteers per Sunday to address needs of different age groups and safety (this would be a week-by-week commitment, not long-term). The RE committee met and has some great ideas to make it simple and fun for kids and "teachers" as well. Contact Susan Persons 409-765-7907 if you are interested

**Book Club is back from vacation:** Join this group on Wednesday August 13, at 7pm at the Fellowship: Discussion will focus on **A Thousand Splendid Suns**, by Khaled Hosseini. All are welcome to join in this discussion. Book for September will be **Riding Lessons**, by Sara Gruen

**From Social Action Committee:** Thanks to your generosity, \$229.45 was collected for HYBASIA, Inc. on special collection Sunday, which is the last Sunday of each month. The next special collection will go to Animal Alliance. If you have a group that you would like included, see **Mary Hodgson** or one of the members of the Social Action Committee. The only criteria is that it be a non-profit group and that one of the members of the fellowship is involved in it.

**Let it be a Dance:** Enjoy Tango Tuesdays, with beginners class from 7-8pm and intermediate from 8-9, both with Robert Barnes. Waltz the night away on Thursdays with Betty & Louis, in their beginning waltz class 7-8pm and intermediate 8-9. The first class is free to all, and UUFGC members get half-price an-

2008-2009

### UUFGC Board of Directors

President	Susan Persons
President-Elect	John Hunger
Past-President	Bets Anderson
Secretary	Amanda Prather
Treasurer	Pete Olsen
Members at Large:	Fannie DeGesero Donald Lee Patrick McGuffey

### Committees

Archives	Ellie Porter
Communications	Madeleine Baker
Landscape	Margaret Canavan
Membership	Cheryl Henry
Policies & Procedures	Tony DiNuzzo
Program/Worship	Gerry Carr
Religious Education	Neil Huddlestone
Supper Circles	Judy Glaister
Social Action	Mary Hodgson
Webmaster	Amber Zainfeld
Administrative Team	B. Anderson, M.Baker, M.Canavan, J.Glaister, & C. Henry

nual membership of \$30. Classes are in the Sanctuary.

**Photocopier for sale:** \$100 will buy our used working Sharp B/W Copier Model SF-2120 with new toner cartridge. Zoom up to 200% and down to 50%. 20 pages per minute output. 120 Volt. Accepts paper up to ledger size. Let us know if you want to take a look at it. Email [administrator@uugalveston.org](mailto:administrator@uugalveston.org) or call the Fellowship at (409)765-8330 and leave a message.

...I ask God:  
 "How much time do I  
 have before I die?"  
 "Enough to make a  
 difference"  
 God replies.

—from "Endline", a poem by  
 "Let it be a Dance" author  
 Ric Masten, who has recently  
 entered hospice care.



**Adult Children of Alcoholics Tuesday at, 6:30pm:** This open support group in a 12-step tradition is for persons who grew up in a family with a parent with any kind of addiction. Information about ACA is available at <http://www.adultchildren.org/>. For information about this group, contact Carolyn B. at (409) 939-3518.

**Adult Forum** is "on vacation" until September.

**Board of UUFGC** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**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.

**Bowlers** meet each Wednesday to make and decorate bowls for the fall Jesse Tree fundraiser. All are welcome to participate, no experience necessary.

**Course in Miracles Study Group** meets every Thursday at 7pm, and meets beforehand for dinner. Contact Laura Murrell for information ([lauramurrell@att.net](mailto:lauramurrell@att.net)).

**Dance Classes Tuesdays, 7-9pm:** Classes are free to members of the Galveston Dance Club, and members of UUFGC can enjoy a full year's membership for half-price of \$30 per person. Questions, call Betty at 281-337-0441. See <http://www.galvestondanceclub.com>.

**Gardeners and Other Maintainers** meet monthly for indoor and outdoor work that is so important to keeping our Fellowship looking good & working properly. Work dates are on the calendar.

**Program Committee** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6pm at the Mosquito Café to plan Sunday services. For information please contact Gerry Carr. Meetings are open to all.

**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.

**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.

**Spirit Circle Covenant Group** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at the Fellowship in the "living room". Please contact Gerry Carr [gcarr@tlc-galveston.org](mailto:gcarr@tlc-galveston.org) or leave a message at the Fellowship office (409)765-8330 if you would like to be contacted by phone.

**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 ([gcara@comcast.net](mailto:gcara@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.*

### **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.

### Reminders

- **Shirley Hollingsworth** needs **clean plastic grocery bags** & small **plastic food containers with lids** for her work to feed the homeless. Leave them in the box outside the Administrator office.
- Bring old (clean) socks & rags for **Judy Glaister** to use for *Elissa* polishing.
- We can get reduced-price paper with your **used inkjet printer cartridges**.
- **Fair Trade Coffee & Tea** sales in our foyer benefit small coffee farmers and also our Social Action Committee.
- **For visitors & newcomers:** Our members receive the **UU World** magazine, & donate past issues to share. Please help yourself, from the display in the RE hallway.
- **Needed:** friendly Sunday morning **Greeters**. Sign-up in the kitchen or **contact Vickie Francil**.

## **Social Action Committee Provocative Film Series**

**Friday August 1 7 pm**

### **Iron Jawed Angels**

• From 1912 to 1920, a group of fiery young suffragettes led by Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor) band together to wheedle the United States into adopting a Constitutional amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote. Along the way, they incur the wrath of President Woodrow Wilson (Bob Gunton) and anger other suffragette leaders (Angelica Huston and Lois Smith).

*Free Admission - Bring a snack to share - Bring a friend*

# AUGUST 2008

*Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County*

*Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Happy August Birthdays to:</b></p> <p>Susan Baker 8/2      Kathy Domsky 8/2            Stan Blazyk 8/6      Larry Janzen 8/6            Jodie Mitchell 8/10      Laura Murrell 8/19</p>					1 7pm - Pro- vocative Film, <b>Iron Jawed Angels</b>	2
3 10:30am - Sam Calderera, <i>Blowing Zen; Instruments of Spirit</i> , Children/Youth RE Social Action Committee after service 4 pm - Zen Meditation	4	5 6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Dance lessons	6 5:30pm - Bowlers	7 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons	8	9
10 10:30am - "Spirit Circle: Keeping the Circle Whole for UU"; Chil- dren/Youth Religious Educa- tion 4 pm - Zen Meditation cancelled	11	12 6:30pm - Adult Children 7pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons	13 5:30pm - Bowlers 7pm - Book Club <b>A</b> <b>Thousand Splendid Suns</b>	14 5:45pm - Board Meets 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons	15 6pm - UU workday	16
17 10:30am - Kathleen DiNatale, <i>Meditation for Reconciliation</i> ; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation 5pm - Supper Circle at Sandra Sullivan's	18	19 6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Dance lessons	20 5:30pm - Bowlers	21 6:15pm - Program Cmte @ Mos- quito 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance les- sons	22 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	23 <i>Wedding 10-4</i>
24 10:30am - K. Chamberlain, "Get off the Spiritual Path"; Children/ Youth Religious Education 4 pm - Zen Meditation	25	26 6:30pm - Adult Children 7pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons	27 5:30pm - Bowlers	28 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons	29	30
31 <b>Potluck</b> 10:30am - Kathryn Eastburn, <i>In Praise of Sacred Harp Singing</i> ; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation						