

UUF Galveston Gazette

February 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

President's Message

What a great way to begin the New Year! Here's a summary of January's activities:

- The Provocative Film [first Friday] was "Sicko" and we had our best-ever turnout – 55 people attended, many of whom stayed for the lively discussion led by our friend, Dr. Alan Griffin.

- Programs continued to stimulate and inform as well as inspire, including a wonderful overview of music from 2007 to end the year; a thoughtful presentation on the moral issues in *Sicko*, gratitude within our faith, a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., and Biblical literacy. Hoorah for our Program Committee!

- Kudos to the Sunday morning greeters; they make everyone feel welcome and 'at home.' Thanks to Vickie Francil for recruiting and supporting the greeters.

- A Supper Circle at Nancy and Jim McGlathery's proved a success with great food and loving fellowship.

- The Martin Luther King Parade was a great success, thanks to Mary Hodgson and the Social Action Committee. Although it was a cold and windy day, Art brought the Pink Train to the Fellowship and we filled it with friends and children before beginning the parade. Once again, we were the only church represented and we played the "I have a dream" speech on the loudspeaker. Children's books were handed out and we hope to have even more to share next year.

More good news is that Cheryl Henry has agreed to chair the Membership Committee and, so far, is being assisted by Donny Lee.

As you can tell by the brief recap of activities in January, a few people are doing a lot of work. How about volunteering to help one [or more] of the committees in 2008? We could use your help.

In peace, *Betsy Anderson*

February 3

Val Richardson, "Giving Yourself Permission & the Evolution of an Obsession"

We frequently don't accomplish what we can just because we haven't given ourselves permission. As always, Val will provide her inspirational message in an entertaining way! She is a past member of the Fellowship who now lives in the Dallas area.

Greeter: Cheryl Henry

Facilitator: Madeleine Baker

Board Member: Pete Olsen

Music: Margaret Canavan

February 10

Gerry Carr, "Radical Hospitality: Why do we need it, aren't we welcoming enough?"

Radical Hospitality has become a "buzz word" in Unitarian Universalism. The term comes from a book called *Radical Hospitality: Benedict's Way of Love*, by Father Daniel Homan and Lonni Collins Pratt. They define Radical Hospitality as "... a spiritual practice, a way of becoming more human, a way of understanding yourself. Hospitality is both the answer to modern alienation and injustice and a path to a deeper spirituality." Gerry Carr will share some readings and thoughts about how we might deepen our hospitality and welcoming to be even more inclusive. Gerry is Past President of our Fellowship.

Greeter: Judy Glaister

Facilitator:

Board Member: Amanda Prather

Music: Margaret Canavan

February 17

Margaret Canavan, "Prudence (wisdom)"

According to Rev. Kenneth W. Phifer, a UU minister in Ann Arbor, Michigan, prudence or wisdom is about knowing the best way to live. Margaret will read Rev. Phifer's January 2005 sermon in which he describes his belief that justice, truth and love are the underpinnings of true wisdom. Margaret is a musician and gardener in our Fellowship.

Greeter: Madeleine Baker

Facilitator: Stan Blazyk

Board Member: Susan Persons

Music: Steve Hodgson

February 24

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Laura Emerson "Liberal Bible 201: Biblical Literacy for Religious Liberals – The New Testament"

Do we do our liberal religious perspective a disservice by not knowing the Bible well enough to engage in contemporary discourse that cites it as authority for actions and perspectives we may regard as untenable? If one perspective is that unbelievers will go to hell and can only be saved by believing in Jesus, perhaps it is important for religious liberals (and others) to know what the Bible actually says about heaven, hell, and the Trinity. Laura Emerson was a religion and classics major at Duke University and delivers services at liberal churches around the country. She is a member of Emerson UU Church in Houston and is currently working on a curriculum for UU adult ed based on an expansion of the "Liberal Bible" services.

Greeter: Bets Anderson

Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

Board Member: Gerry Carr

Music: Steve Hodgson

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.

Water Everywhere?

At its last meeting, at the suggestions of the Social Action Committee, the UU Board agreed to stop purchasing or using individually bottled water in any of our Fellowship activities and to promote the same for our members through our publications and newsletters. What are the reasons for this action?

Over **8 billion gallons** of bottled water are consumed annually in the United States – representing \$11 billion in sales.

The Earth Policy Institute has estimated that making the plastic for the bottles requires about **1.5 million barrels of oil**, which is enough to fuel 100,000 cars a year. Less than 10% of the bottles are recycled.

There is a simple way to visualize the average cost of energy for the whole ex-

ercise – to make the plastic, process and fill the bottle, transport bottled water to market and then deal with the waste -- would be like filling up a quarter of every bottle with oil.

One of the easiest ways for people to cut the enormous costs in making bottled water is to **drink tap water**. A filter can be used if one does not like the taste of tap water. According to Gina Solomon, a senior scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council, what people don't realize is that bottled water is actually much less regulated than tap water. "There are a number of studies in which we find arsenic, disinfection byproducts and bacteria in bottled water."

And there is also a question of ethics. The United Church of Christ, United Church of Canada, National Council of Churches, National Coalition of American

Nuns and Presbyterians for Restoring Creation are among the religious organizations that have raised questions about the "privatization" of water. (As far as can be determined, the UUA has taken no stand on this issue yet.)

These religious organizations consider the industrial purchase, packaging and selling of water – which is a basic resource – at enormous prices as nothing but unethical. Bottled water costs about 1,000 times the price of tap water!

Our board is to be commended for taking this positive step. We encourage all of our members to resist the convenience of individually bottled water and return to the consumption of tap or filtered water. This is one important way we can all reduce plastic waste in our environment and reduce our individual carbon footprints.

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.

Our microfinance fund has made \$800 in loans to people in developing countries, and donated \$55 to support the activities of Kiva. Thanks to **Patrick & Barbara McGuffey** (in honor of **Bets Anderson**), and **Daralyn & Howard Brody** for recent donations. You can view our online portfolio at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversali3384>.

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.

ATTIC TREASURES Sale Set for March 15

It's time to start in earnest to clean out your attics, closets, storage rooms and garages. We've set the date for our annual fundraiser!

As usual, we will be able to accept donations beginning the prior Sunday, March 9, when our lovely sanctuary begins to resemble a thrift shop. We'll need folks to help out each day that week with sorting and pricing, plus lots of help for our Friday night Reception and Early Bird Sale, and the Saturday sale and clean-up.

The planning group will meet again after service on **Sunday, February 17** to sign up for specific times. If you can't attend contact Margaret Canavan and let her know what day and time you prefer.



We need everyone's help! And we need your donations and your friends' donations. Help us get the word out about this fun venture.

UUFGB 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 Elise DiNuzzo for her recent role in the GISD musical, **Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat**.

Add best wishes to **Patrick & Barbara Lober McGuffey**, who were united in marriage on January 6 by our president **Bets Anderson**.

Bev Frannea is on a great trip to Spain with her granddaughter.

Please keep **Grace Wellman** and **Doris Lee** in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to rebuild their health.

Upcoming Events

Spirit Circle will meet on January 29 from 7 - 8:30 pm. Beginning in February, meetings move to the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (February 12 and 26). They are finishing up **Evensong** and will decide what to do next in February.

Poker/Game Night Sunday February 10: This month's poker game is at Tony DiNuzzo's (1419 Ball), and other games are at Cheryl & Red Henry's (1202 Broadway). Both at 6:30 pm.

February Supper Circle will be hosted by **Bev & John Frannea** at 6 pm on Saturday, February 23. Sign up on the bulletin board, or contact Judy Glaister at 409-762-8187. The **2008 Supper Circle Calendar** is posted on the bulletin board. If you would like to host a dinner, please contact Judy .

UU Book Club hosts Galveston County Reads: Join our book club

Wednesday, February 27 at 7 pm at the Fellowship, as they host a discussion for **Galveston County Reads**. The book to be discussed is **A Lesson Before Dying**. Sandra Sullivan will facilitate the discussion.

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

Announcements

We Want Your News: Please send items for the March newsletter by Friday, February 15, to judyglaister@yahoo.com. For information in weekly emails or the Sunday order of service, send an email to administrator@uugalveston.org or leave a phone message at 765-8330.

Course of Miracles Study Group now meets for dinner before the meeting. Contact Susan Persons for information.

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 box outside the Administrator office (there's a sign).
- We can get free paper with your **used inkjet printer cartridges**.
- **Fair Trade Coffee** sales benefit the small coffee farmers and our Social Action Committee.

Other Events

SWUUC Peacemaking Workshop: The Board has set aside \$300 to send up to 4 people to the **PEACEMAKING Workshop** April 4-6 at Bay Area UU Church. Topics include: the UU tradition of peacemaking & models of congregational peacemaking, non-violent/compassionate communication, decision-making in congregational life, & review of the UUA's peacemaking resources. Speakers include District Executive Rev. Susan Smith & Rev. Tom Capo among others. If you are interested in attending, contact Gerry Carr.

UU Vacations: The UU bed and breakfast directory **UU're Home** provides a network of hosts in the US & abroad who enjoy meeting new friends & who open their homes to like-minded people. See the website at <http://www.UUreHome.com> for information on joining, and how you can become a host. A paper edition is published each April. Contact them at 828-281-3253 or by email, info@uurehome.com.

Family Services of Galveston County Gala Fundraiser, February 28, 5-8 pm. To support this valuable community organization, contact Carlos or Linda Price for tickets (\$75 each or \$125/couple) . Enjoy a buffet by the San Luis Hotel, musical entertainment, silent auction & more! Auction donations are also needed.



Wonderful Workday! January 12 was awesomely beautiful, and an equally awesome group of folks gathered to do chores around the Fellowship. We had gardeners, cleaner-uppers, tree-trimmers, and book sellers.

Fanny DeGesero & Shirley Hollingsworth held forth on the first-of-hopefully-many book sales. **Bev Frannea, Robin Panagakos, Cheryl Henry, Diane Olsen & Margaret Canavan** frolicked in the garden (some might call it work). **Neil Huddleston, Red Henry, & Pete Olsen** had fun with **Patrick McGuffey's** new chain-saw-on-a-pole. **Stan Blazyk** helped haul a mountain of trimmings to the curb. **Madeleine Baker** cleaned up the kiln shed & the UU

sign on the street corner. Canine UUs **Tara & Tucker** kept burglars, coyotes and cats away while we worked.

We had such a great time working together that we hope to do monthly "The Tao is Maintenance" days at the Fellowship. There's more to keep up than the garden. Do you have an awareness about something that "ought" to be done around the Fellowship? Notice an area that isn't as tidy as you'd like it? A cabinet that needs straightening out? Mom's not around to do it so it's up to us.

Here's your chance to get it done, and probably even get help doing it. Join us on **Saturday, February 16** at 9am and let's tackle some of what needs doing, indoors & out.





Social Action Committee meets the 1st 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.

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. Please join them!

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

Book Club meets the 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 Hudleston 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 work-day.

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 (gcarac@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.

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.

S o c i a l A c t i o n N e w s

provocative film series

Garbage: The Revolution Starts at Home

Friday, February 8, 7pm

What's the state of your garbage?

This feature-length documentary by filmmaker Andrew Nisker candidly portrays the McDonald family as they track their waste output for three months, & engages the audience with an open-door reality check about where our garbage goes, and at what cost to the environment.

Free admission, refreshments available, bring a snack to share, & a friend

Our last film **Sicko** was a fantastic success, with 55 persons attending! We also had a great turnout for the Martin Luther King parade, in the Pink Train. Plan now to join us next year!

We are working to support the Galveston Farmer's Market, to provide vegetables grown nearby. If you have homegrown fruits, vegetables, or herbs that you would like to sell, please bring them to the Farmer's Market on February 9, at 7 am. We will sell them for you, or you can stay and have fun with us.

Please support our Fair Trade coffee project, as we support small farmers.

Program Committee wants your input! Let us know what you'd like to see & hear more (or less) of. Please let us know the kind of Sunday services you would like to experience.

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! Next meeting is February 28, 6:15pm at Mosquito Café, 14th & Winnie.

FEBRUARY 2008

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 February Birthdays to:</i> <i>Andrea Hodgson 2/1 Judy Glaister 2/11</i> <i>Marilyn Schultz 2/1 Ana Rivera 2/15</i></p>					1	2 
<p>3 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Val Richardson , <i>Giving Yourself Permission & the Evolution of an Obsession</i>; Children/ Youth RE Social Action Committee after service 4 pm - Zen Meditation</p>	4	5	6	7 7pm - Course in Miracles	8 7pm— Provocative Film, Garbage: The Revolution Starts at Home	9
<p>10 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Gerry Carr, <i>“Radical Hospitality”</i>; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation 6:30 pm - Poker @ Di-Nuzzo’s, Games at Henry’s</p>	11	12 7pm - Spirit Circle	13	14 5:45pm - Board Meets 7pm - Course in Miracles 	15 	16 9am - UU Workday (inside and out!)
<p>17 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - M. Canavan , <i>Prudence (wisdom)</i>; Children/Youth RE Attic Treasures planning after service 4 pm - Zen Meditation</p>	18	19	20	21 7pm - Course in Miracles	22	23 6pm - supper Circle at Frannea’s
<p>24 Pottuck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Laura Emerson <i>Liberal Bible 201</i>; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation</p>	25	26 7pm - Spirit Circle	27 7pm - Book Club, discussing A Lesson Before Dying	28 6:15pm - Program Committee @ Mosquito 7pm - Course in Miracles	29	