

UUF Galveston Gazette

January 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

January 6

Elizabeth "Bets" Anderson, "Gratitude: The Heart of Our Faith"

The discipline of gratitude reminds us how utterly dependent we are on the people and world around us for everything that matters. From that flows an ethic of gratitude that obligates us to create a future that justifies an increasing sense of gratitude from the human family as a whole. This program will include the 'scientific' evidence that says that gratitude is good for the body as well as the soul. Bets Anderson is an UTMB faculty member Emeritus, a community volunteer, and President of our Fellowship.

Greeter: Fanny DeGesero
Music: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Pete Olsen

January 13

Dr. Howard Brody, "Sicko: The Moral Issues"

Michael Moore's film Sicko has been discussed in the media as if it raises issues that are primarily policy, political, and economic. The film actually relates to very basic moral issues. It depicts the treatment of Americans both with and without health insurance in ways that could only be described as cruel. Moore challenges us: how did it come to be that we, a country made up of compassionate people who care about our neighbors, have become able to look the other way in the face of such cruelty? Howard Brody holds an MD degree, and a PhD in philosophy. He is Director of the Institute for the Medical Humanities, and John P. McGovern Centennial Chair in Family Medicine, at UTMB and has authored numerous books and articles on medicine, medical ethics, and medical issues, most recently "Hooked: Ethics, the Medical Profession, and the Pharmaceutical Industry".

Greeter: Bev Frannea
Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Board Member: Susan Persons
Music: Margaret Canavan

January 20

"Dr. Martin Luther King"

Each year we commemorate the life of Dr. King and recommit to the goals for which he lived. Our speakers will be members of the Galveston community and will surely inspire us.

Greeter: Vickie Francil
Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Board Member: Karen Bryckzynski
Music: Margaret Canavan

January 27

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Laura Emerson, "Liberal Bible 101: Biblical Literacy for Religious Liberals -- The Old Testament"

Do you feel frustrated by your inability, as a logical, religious liberal, to respond to statements that conclude, "Because the Bible tells me so" because you don't know the Bible well enough to counter the arguments? Laura Emerson, a religion and classics major who has spoken at the Galveston Fellowship several times before, will share some memorable "who, what, when, where, why" information about the enormously influential Torah that can arm religious liberals for "agree to disagree" conversations in which they might want to participate. 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.

Greeter: Susan Persons
Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

Board Member: Gerry Carr
Music: Margaret Canavan

President's Message

I am honored to have been elected as your President for the remainder of the church year [until July 1 when Karen Bryckzynski will take over].

I hope during my tenure that we will continue with the wonderful cohesiveness and caring that have carried us thus far. Although we are "small" in numbers, we are "large" in what we are able to accomplish.

Let me remind you of some of the important work of this Fellowship: We provide love and friendship to all of our members through weekly services, monthly circle suppers, pot luck lunches each month, a weekly e-mail of news and updates, a monthly newsletter, an up-to-date website, beautiful natural gardens, a play area for the children, a kiln for the "bowlers" and friends [such as ADA House] to fire pots, bi-monthly spirit circles, weekly meetings of A Course in Miracles, weekly adult forum to discuss important issues and ideas, a responsive board of directors that meets monthly to oversee the Fellowship, volunteers who carry out the administrative duties and teach the children, a book club, a safe place for at least one homeless man, a monthly 'provocative' film for the community, and many one-time activities that reflect our involvement in the community.

Perhaps I haven't included everything, so please let me know and I'll mention them in next month's newsletter. I am proud to be a member of this church for the many caring people that I see at our various activities. Thank you and keep up the great work.

Happy New Year to you.

Bets Anderson

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.

Welcome New Members

We happily welcomed nine new members on Sunday, the 4th of November.

Kathryn (Kate) Fiandt (pronounced like “giant”) who grew up in New Orleans moved to Galveston this year from Omaha, Nebraska. She is the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at the School of Nursing at UTMB and retired from the US Army Reserves. A widow since last December, she has 2 adult daughters. She lives with her dog, Cassie and one cat (Kyra). Interests include walking with her dog, practicing yoga, and reading. She chose UU because “It is a place to practice my beliefs in a safe environment with like-minded people.”

Bev and John Frannea have lived in Norway, Indonesia, New York City, Washington, DC, and spent 3 ½ years in an RV including 9 months in Costa Rica. Their last home was in El Paso and they are happy to be in Galveston and getting “settled” in their new home. Bev and John have 4 grown children and 10 grandchildren and, at home, their toy poodle, Baji.

Marilyn Schultz is an “old friend” to many in our Fellowship. She is a native of New York [Brooklyn] who came to Galveston in 1968, and considers this her home. She has “come and gone” from Galveston through the years to become a psychologist, a massage therapist, and to study ceramic art. She says, “I have come to love the community and fellowship of this congregation. It is the first group I've been affiliated with that practices what it preaches.”

Lee Wilcock was born in Pennsylvania

and attended UT law school. She is a retired attorney who has lived in Galveston for 3 years with her partner, Anna, the choreographer for the Galveston Ballet. They have 2 dogs, Samu an Akita, and Kiva, a Chow Chow. Lee was a long-term resident of Dallas and “really enjoys the intelligence of this congregation.”

Next month we'll feature the other new members, **Darren and Kathy Domsky and daughters Tessa and Bryn.**



Attic Treasures, Anyone?

It's that time again, to start thinking about our springtime “Attic Treasures” sale. Look at your March calendar for a good Saturday for the sale, and let's get together after the service on January 13 to pick a date. Start looking through your attic and closet and pile things up in your garage. This is always a fun event and raises funds for our landscape and other projects.

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.

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 ink-jet 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>.

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- **Right Relations**
- **Covenant**
- We will communicate openly,
- honestly & respectfully. We will
- listen carefully with open minds
- & open hearts. We will assume
- good intentions, practice toler-
- ance & 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 solu-
- tions. We will consider other
- perspectives & will strive not for
- unanimity but for mutual re-
- spect. We will honor our own
- boundaries & the boundaries of
- others. We will respect & sup-
- port the diversity within our
- congregation & work to foster a
- welcoming environment.
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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 Booth

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

Bev Frannea creates art pieces from used beer bottle caps. She would appreciate any caps you can collect for her. She can pick them up or you can bring them to the Fellowship, just write her name on the bag. If you know anyone who owns a bar, she'd appreciate a contact **name**. Bev's phone number is 409 974-4491.

Margaret Canavan & Stan Blazyk have just returned from a fabulous cruise around South America. They were awed by icebergs, penguins, and Chilean wine.

Best wishes to **Grace Wellman** as she recuperates. Grace was moved to rehabilitation at Mainland Medical Center. Her telephone # is 409 938 5537, room 537-5th floor. Send cards to 7310 Seawall Blvd, #207, Galveston, 77551.

Welcome home to **Jim and Nancy McGlathery** who have returned to the Island for the winter.

Upcoming Events

January Supper Circle: Dinner will be jointly hosted by **Bets Anderson** and **Jim & Nancy McGlathery** Saturday, January 19 at 6:00 pm at Jim and Nancy's home 1312 Sealy. Theme will be Nuevo Nouveau Mexico Cuisine. . . . limited to the first 16 who sign up.

The **2008 Supper Circle Calendar** has been posted. If you would like to host a dinner, please select the month and let us know if you have a theme, the address and time, and the number of guests you can accommodate. Any questions, contact **Judy Glaister** at 409-762-8187.

Poker/Game Night: Sunday January 13 will have poker at Tony DiNuzzo's (1419 Ball) at 6pm. If you wish to host game night, let us know and we'll get the word out.

Book Club: This month the book club will be discussing *Family Matters* by Rohinty Mistry.

Board Meetings have been moved to the second Thursday of each month at 5:45pm. All are welcome to attend.

Other Events

A World of Variety: Surveying the Major Religions of Today: The Boniuk Center for Religious Tolerance at Rice University promotes understanding and conditions conducive to sustainable, peaceful coexistence among people of different religions around the world. As part of this mission, the Center is pairing with the Adult Program Committee of Houston's First UU to offer a seven-week introductory course to the major world religions of today. Participants will learn about religions in their ancient and classical forms in addition to their modern manifestations, including the forms these traditions take in the United States. The course will be held at First UU, 5200 Fannin, on Tuesday evenings beginning January 8. Religions surveyed will include Hinduism, Buddhism, Chinese Religions, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism. For more information, contact 713-348-4536 or tolerance@rice.edu.

UU Niagara Experience: Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls! Come experience the wonder of **Niagara Falls** including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience from July 20-23, 2008, providing a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. For information visit our web site : <http://www.uunex.net/> . Contact by email at uunex@yahoo.com , or phone : (716) 745-7149 or (716) 791-4453.

Civil Rights Bus Tour: March 22-30, 2008: Meadville-Lombard Seminary opens this course to non-student auditors. Join Rev. Dr. Gordon & Judy Gibson as they take you on a tour of significant sites of the Southern Civil Rights Movement, offering a journey of experiential learning where you will encounter the sites, sounds, and people who worked to create change during this revolutionary time in our country's history. Enrollment is limited and registration is on a first-come basis, due by January 18. Details are available at www.meadville.edu, or contact Tina Porter at 773.256.3000 x236.

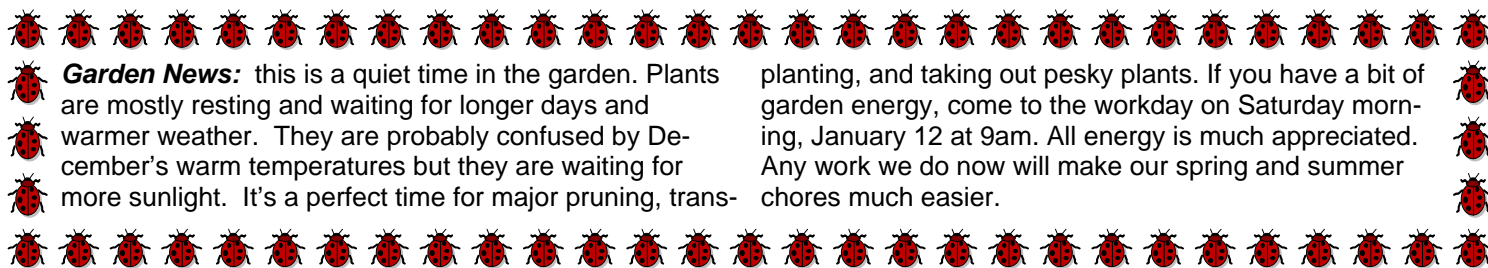
Announcements

Newsletter Deadline: Deadline for the February newsletter is Friday, January 18th. Please send your news items to judyglaister@yahoo.com. The newsletter team of **Judy Glaister, Cheryl Henry,** and **Margaret Canavan** welcomes your suggestions of what you'd like to see in your newsletter!

For information to be included in our weekly emails or the Sunday order of service, you can send an email to administrator@uugalveston.org or leave a phone message at 765-8330.

If you signed up at the service auction for the **Friendship Brunch** with **Susan Persons** to be held in August of 2008, please contact Susan. The sign-up sheet has disappeared from the bulletin board and she needs a reminder of who to expect. There's still room if you'd like to add your name, just let Susan know.

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.



Garden News: this is a quiet time in the garden. Plants are mostly resting and waiting for longer days and warmer weather. They are probably confused by December's warm temperatures but they are waiting for more sunlight. It's a perfect time for major pruning, trans-

planting, and taking out pesky plants. If you have a bit of garden energy, come to the workday on Saturday morning, January 12 at 9am. All energy is much appreciated. Any work we do now will make our spring and summer chores much easier.



“UU Bowlers” are on vacation, stay tuned for starting date.

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.

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

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.

Program Committee meets the 4th 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 4th 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) or Susan Persons (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 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 at note at the Fellowship.

Program Committee

requests your input, feedback, and/or participation! This group meets over dinner once a month and plans our 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! Next meeting is January 24, 6:15pm at Mosquito Café, 14th & Winnie.

Social Action Committee News



January’s Provocative Film
Michael Moore’s Sicko
Friday, January 4 7:00 pm

Don’t miss this documentary about the 45 million uninsured in this country. Then attend the Sunday service on Sunday January 13 to hear Dr. Howard Brody discuss the moral issues in the film.

Free admission -- donations accepted
Bring your friends and a snack to share!

Thanks to all who participated in the *Christmas Angels* program. We took 26 names and all of them were taken to buy gifts for children clients of the Salvation Army. Thanks for your generosity!

We are trying to make arrangements with Treasure Isle Tour Train for the Martin Luther King parade which will be held on January 19. Look for further announcements about this.

Remember that your purchase of Fair Trade coffee and tea benefits small farmers as well as the Committee’s activities.

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.

JANUARY 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 January Birthday to:</i> Mardi Mitchell 1/2 Rusty McGowen 1/8 Hetty Stubbs 1/11</p>		<p>1 <i>Happy New Year</i></p> 	2	3 7pm - Course in Miracles	4 7pm—Provocative Film, Michael Moore's Sicko	5
<p>6 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Bets Anderson, "Gratitude"; Children/Youth Religious Education 12n - Social Action Committee 4 pm - Zen Meditation</p>	7	8	9	10 5:45pm - Board Meets 7pm - Course in Miracles	11	12 9 am - Garden Workday
<p>13 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - H. Brody, "Sicko: The Moral Issues"; Children/Youth Religious Education 12n - "Attic Treasures" meeting 4 pm - Zen Meditation 6pm - poker at DiNuzzo's</p>	14	15 7pm - Spirit Circle	16	17 7pm - Course in Miracles	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 6 pm - Supper Circle at McGlathery's
<p>20 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - "Martin Luther King"; Children/Youth Religious Education 4 pm - Zen Meditation</p>	21	22	23	24 6:15pm - Program Cmte @ Mosquito 7pm - Course in Miracles	25	26
<p>27 Potluck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Laura Emerson, "Liberal Bible 101"; Children/Youth RE Book Club meets after lunch 4 pm - Zen Meditation</p>	28	29	30 7pm - Book Club	31 7pm - Course in Miracles	