



A Month of Sundays

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

President's Message

July 6 **Installation/Recognition of new & outgoing Board Members** **Elizabeth Anderson, "Patriotism Revisited"**

Ever wonder about the word "patriotism"? Ever think, "That's not patriotism to me"? Does the Fourth of July, "Independence Day," sometimes make you wonder what we are really celebrating? Well, here's an opportunity to hear from a number of famous people about the concept of patriotism and to renew your own spirit of patriotism. Bets Anderson will facilitate this program originally conceptualized by Reid Swanson, a former member of UUFGC who now lives in California.

Greeter: Sandra Sullivan Board Member: Susan Persons Music: Margaret Canavan

July 13 **Gerry Carr, "This I Believe"**

"This I Believe" is an international project engaging people in writing, sharing, and discussing the core values that guide their daily lives. These short statements of belief, written by people from all walks of life, are archived on the "This I Believe" website and featured on public radio in the United States and Canada, as well as in regular broadcasts on NPR. The project is based on the popular 1950s radio series of the same name hosted by Edward R. Murrow. Several essays will be shared and the congregation will be invited to write their own essays to present at future worship services.

Greeter: Susan Persons Board Member: Patrick McGuffey Music: Steve Hodgson

July 20 **John Gorman, "Nature and Our Meaning-Hungry Spirit: Three Varieties of 'Creed'"**

Humans have long tied contact with Nature to their quests for personal focus and/or contact with some Larger Presence. A reading, with commentary and discussion, of one poem each by William Wordsworth (romantic nature mysticism), Gerard Manley Hopkins (Christian orthodoxy), and A. A. Ammons (eco-psychological freelancing). Beauty and Wisdom. . . will abound. UU poets may share their own poems; please let Stan know if you wish to do so.

Greeter: Linda Price Board Member: Fanny De Gesero
Facilitator: Stan Blazyk Music: Margaret Canavan

July 27 **POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE** **Margaret Canavan, "Make a Joyful Noise: Our Favorite Hymns"**

What you've been waiting for! We all have our favorite hymns, from our UU hymnal or from others we have known before. This service will feature much singing by all of us as we share music we love. Music is good for the soul, and ability to sing is not a requirement, merely a wish to enjoy the music. Please submit YOUR favorite hymn(s) (from any source) on the list in the hallway, or via email, or phone, so we can include something special for everyone.

Greeter: Cheryl Henry Board Member: John Hunger Music: UU String Band

It is an exciting privilege to serve as your president for the coming year. I have big shoes to fill following Bets Anderson and Gerry Carr but fortunately for me they are generous in sharing their wisdom.

The other wonderful thing is the good news from our annual congregational meeting on June 1. Our finances look great, we enjoy community visibility with the monthly provocative film series selected by **Mary Hodgson** and the Social Action Committee, the great web site maintained by **Amber Zainfeld** and the increasingly successful Empty Bowls project for Jesse Tree headed up by **Madeleine Baker**. Membership is growing with four ingatherings this year under **Bets Anderson's** and **Cheryl Henry's** guidance.

A sense of community is enhanced by the well attended supper circles coordinated by **Judy Glaister**, the monthly potlucks after service and the opportunity to dance with the Galveston Dance Club. Personal spirituality is being deepened in the Spirit Circle and the Course in Miracles' weekly meetings. Minds are being challenged in our Sunday Adult Forum and our monthly book club. The program committee continues to amaze me with their creativity each week in our Sunday services.

The newly formed aesthetics task force has generated creatively transforming ideas for our space. It will be delightful to see the ideas put into action. Another newly appointed task force, focused on religious education for children, is addressing one of our most challenging issues but thoughtful ideas were shared at the annual meeting and new folks stepped forward to help. The monthly special collection will be reinstated, utilizing past feedback, to contribute to needy causes identified by the Social Action committee.

In general there is a sense of hope and enthusiasm in the fellowship. It is truly miracu-

(President's Message continued 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.

(President's Message continued from page 1)

lous what seventy people can accomplish! I congratulate you all. We are all blessed by the truly remarkable members who stepped up to the plate to serve on the board; **Bets Anderson** as Past President, **John Hunger** as President-elect, **Amanda Prather** as Secretary, **Pete Olsen** as Treasurer, and **Patrick McGuffey**, **Fanny DeGesero**, and **Donnie Lee** as members-at-large. Many thanks go to the out going board members; **Karen**

Bryczynski, Doris Lee and **Woody Dickson**. Also a special thanks needs to be made to the A-Team of **Bets, Madeleine, Cheryl, Judy** and **Margaret** who keep our fellowship running smoothly and have agreed to continue for the same salary!

Brief note about me. Retired 2 years ago after 35 years in healthcare, I have lived on the island for three and a half years. I actually visited the fellowship first to see if it fit before I decided to move here. I

have been a UU'er since 1968, beginning in Austin, Texas mostly sporadic attendance, then at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City for eleven years where I was very involved, followed by twenty not so active years at Emerson in Houston. Oh my, that's 40 years as a Unitarian Universalist! That's longer than any other commitment has lasted so far!

Susan Persons

Service Auction Planning Begins

Susan Persons is beginning to plan our second annual service auction, tentatively set for February 2009. Those who attended and those who worked on the event last year all had a good time and we raised \$9000 for the Fellowship. Susan wants to start the planning now and needs your help. See the list below and let her know what you can do to help put on the event. Also start thinking of what you'd like to donate as a service or an event. Contact Susan at slpersons@comcast.net or phone 409-765-7907 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer! First meeting will be Sunday July 13 immediately following the service. Chair and members are needed for the committees shown below.

Committee	Tasks
Solicitation of service & items	Includes forms filled out by donor, passing on information to catalogue, no events TBA, firm dates
Catalogue	To be posted on web, update there as needed, no paper one until event
Registration	Registering participants, devise method to track purchases-\$5 charge to attend?
PR	In monthly ad, free events portion of newspaper, monthly calendar, Parrot, Islander, flyers 2 weeks before distributed (write ad, design flyer)
Checkout	Includes credit card check out, cash
Auctioneers	Hawk live auction items, record winners' names
Food	Wine, beer, water, appetizers (more than last year)

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**.

2008-2009

UUFGC Board of Directors

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

Committees

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

Our 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.

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

Thinking of Youu: Please keep in your prayers & thoughts: **Woody Dickson, Andy Walker (Bev & John Frannea's daughter), & Rusty McGowen.** Rusty has graduated from ICU & is in rehabilitation at Clear Lake.

Sharon Booton is off on a summer job working on the north rim of the Grand Canyon.

Proud Parents:

Susan Persons is basking in happiness following the wedding of her son Christopher Ecker to Shannon Carlsen on June 7, at the Fellowship. They are now living and working in Galveston.

Diane & Pete Olsen write: [son] *Christopher Vineski graduated from the Air Force Academy on May 28. He is stationed at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida where he is a physicist and will be working on munitions research. Two days after his graduation he married fellow cadet Jamie Gibbs who will be a communications officer at Hurlburt Air Force base right next door.*

Many thanks to those who helped out at the June 13 workday. **Pete Olsen & Stan Blazyk** did yeomen's work on the back fence. **Marilyn Schultz, Bev Frannea, Diane Olsen, Cheryl Henry & Margaret Canavan** finished their weeding & trimming early, then sat under the arbor to enjoy the view. Please plan to help out at the workday July 18. We also need volunteers to help coordinate workdays. Contact **Margaret Canavan**.

We are saddened to learn that our friend **Fran O'Pry** passed away on June 25.

Upcoming Events

Supper Circle: Pete & Diane Olsen are hosting the July supper circle: A "Red, White, and Blue" Picnic starting at 4pm on Sunday, July 6 at their home, 3220 Dominique. They are providing hot dogs and burgers. Please sign up on the bulletin board to bring food that is red, white, or blue (or a combination), so they'll know how much to cook.

Astros Trip: Steve Hodgson got a couple of extra tickets for the 6pm game on July 19, "just in case". Let him know ASAP if you want to join the fun.

Game Night is set for Sunday July 27 at 6pm. Poker at **Roy DeGesero's** (2910 Heron Drive) and other games at **Madeleine Baker's** (1619 Bayou Shore Drive). All are welcome to join the fun.

Book Club: The Book Club is on vacation for July. The next book club discussion will be on Wednesday, August 13 at 7pm, when they will discuss **A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini. All are welcome to join in this discussion.



Announcements

Adult Forum is on vacation until September.

Program Committee meetings are now on the third Thursday of each month at 6pm, at Mosquito Café.

Committee and task force reports can be sent to Susan Persons slper-sons@comcast.net by Monday July 7 prior to the board meeting Thursday July 10. Please submit any agenda items for the board on Monday as well. Susan will get the agenda out to board members on Tuesday.

Hosts are needed for **Supper Circles** in September, October, and November. Please consider hosting a gathering at your house. It is great fun, delicious food, and a wonderful way to share with others. Contact **Judy Glaister** at 762-8187 if you are interested and she can fill you in on the details.

Coming Soon: Be on the lookout for a **UUFGC Membership Book** in the Fellowship foyer. The Membership Committee is inviting each member to create a personal page for this book, with a photo of yourself, your family, your pets -- anything you'd like to share about yourself. You can add text, illustrations, & poems to your page -- anything at all that would

express who you are and what you'd like your fellow members to know about you. These will be dynamic pages that you can change as often as you wish. For now, we're limiting the book to one page per member, but if everyone demands more space, we'll comply! If you need help with photographs or layout, someone on the Membership Committee will help you. Let us hear from you! Contact **Cheryl Henry**, Membership Chair.

HYBASIA INC. (*Helping Your Brothers And Sisters In Africa*) seeks volunteers who can offer their ideas, talents and time to assist with fundraising efforts to benefit a hygiene program at Rev. Martin Memorial Secondary School, in Issele-Uku, Nigeria. See the website at <http://www.hybasia.org> /409-750-9095. For more information contact Stephanie Nwadieli, Margaret Canavan or Bev Frannea.

Around UU

In the aftermath of devastating floods that have wreaked havoc on several Midwestern states, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Prairie Star and Heartland Districts have announced the launch of individual district relief funds to provide assistance to Unitarian Universalists in Indiana and Iowa whose homes have been severely damaged or destroyed by flood waters. Relief funds in each district will be administered through processes established by each district; check the district website (follows) for current information. <http://www.uua.org/news/newsubmissions/114121.shtml>

The **UUA Commission on Social Witness** is meeting in Houston to draft a Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking, and meet representatives of Houston area UU congregations. You can meet your Commission members for conversation and refreshments on Friday, July 25 from 5-7pm at Emerson UU church, 1900 Bering Drive, Houston (near Galleria). Find out how to engage with our UUA social witness process, and tell them how to make it work for you. Co-chairs of the Peacemaking Task Force, assisting the Commission, will give an update on Peacemaking in congregations and show a new video on Peacemaking. RSVP to dsmay@sbcglobal.net or call 281-493-9278.



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 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.

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).

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 3rd 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 2nd and 4th Tuesday at the Fellowship in the "living room". Please contact Gerry Carr 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) 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.

Our own **Bets Anderson** has been elected to the Rotary Club's Roll of Fame and will be President of the Galveston Rotary Club for the coming year. Following is an excerpt from The Galveston County Daily News (July 26):

A long-time environmentalist & preservationist, Anderson brings to the Rotary Club years of community service, enthusiasm, dedication, & a passion for making Galveston a better place to live and work.

...[T]he first woman Rotarian from UTMB, she has served many times on the Board, ... chair[ed] the World Community Service Committee...for many years & ...[was] Team Leader for the Group Study Exchange team in 2006 that spent four weeks in Tasmania... "a life-changing experience."

Anderson is past-president of the Galveston Historical Foundation, a multi-term board member for GHF, a "Master Naturalist," & an active member of the Galveston Island Nature Tour-

ism Council She is also a Friend of Galveston Island State Park & participates in regularly-scheduled Saturday beach walks with visitors to the Park. Besides one 16-year young lady ("like a granddaughter"), Bets' family consists of five cats & four dogs -- & they all reside together in her 100+ year-old home. An avid reader & watercolorist, Anderson's latest passion is oil painting. She stays in shape by walking & playing badminton.

Congratulations, Bets!

Social Action Committee Provocative Film Series

Friday July 11 7 pm

. The Cats of Mirikitani

When film maker Linda Hattendorf stumbles upon Japanese-American artist Jimmy Mirikitani on the streets of Soho, he is huddled for warmth under the awning of a deli, drawing charming, joyful pictures of cats. They get acquainted, & she starts to film. She continues to unravel the stories of his life. The film follows Jimmy as he reveals more of his past, & follows Hattendorf as she helps him put together a life off the streets. This is a loving portrait, exquisitely filmed & told in a way that unfolds without pretense.

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

You Can Stand Up for Peace – Now's the Time to Redirect the Rebate

Imagine a world where taxpayers can choose to fund peace-making instead of war, where strengthening our nation means investing in peace. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee [UUSC] wants to stimulate peace and needs your help.

An "economic stimulus" payment of \$600 from the U.S. government is on its way to you, or perhaps you've already received it. According to the [National Priorities Project](#), a non-profit research group, \$252 of your payment would have gone to fund the Bush Administration's military program.

Now you have the chance to give that \$252 a rational objective – peace.

UUSC is inviting fellow peacemakers to make a one-time stimulus investment of \$252 in human rights and social justice around the world. We can create real change if we [redirect the rebate](#).

By redirecting these war dollars to UUSC, you support

- ◆ Active-duty U.S. military personnel speaking out against the Iraq war and the U.S. occupation;
- ◆ Iraq war veterans calling for congressional investigations and hearings into military abuses;
- ◆ Women and girls in Darfur who risk their safety each time they leave their camp for firewood and water;
- ◆ Ugandans who, after 20 years of war, are finally returning to their villages.

Investing in peace will create a domino effect that will transform lives. What is it worth to you?

Redirect the rebate. Give [\\$252 for peace](#). Please make your investment in peace at any level now. Send your contribution to:

UUSC Redirect the Rebate
PO Box 845259
Boston, MA 02284-5259

Submitted by Bets Anderson, UUFGC President 2007-2008

UUFGC MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY for 2009-2009

will be printed and distributed in July. Please check to be sure we have YOUR contact information correct. You can look on the website (members have been given the password, ask for it if you've forgotten) and we'll also be putting a note in each member's name tag at church (check and return to the office). Please be sure to review your information, it's how we stay in touch! Your contact information will be provided to members only.

Spirit Circle Covenant Group Fosters Support and Spiritual Growth

Spirit Circle is a form of Small Group Ministry that provides an opportunity for a small group of people to meet & foster intimacy, mutual support and spiritual growth through deep listening & sharing. The group is led by a trained facilitator.

New members are welcome to attend; however, we ask that you plan to attend at least three sessions before deciding if you want to become a permanent member. Regular attendance is strongly encouraged. The group will be limited to 8 regular members; at this time a new group will start. We are in the process of identifying new group facilitators.

Membership in the Fellowship is not a requirement to participate, although part of our mission is to deepen our connection to our UU Faith and Fellowship.

How is this group different from others at the Fellowship?

- We explore our values and put them into action through regular service to the church and our community.
- We intentionally work together to provide an open, supportive, nurturing environment in order to promote and

facilitate spiritual growth and mutual, interactive care for one another.

- Each member is encouraged to search and grow at their own pace and own way through telling personal stories and practicing deep listening.
- We consciously & continuously work to be sure all members are heard, affirmed & accepted.

What can I expect during the session?

Each session will follow the same format outlined below. The topic for the next meeting is reviewed at the end of session. A reminder is also sent via e-mail.

- Opening Words from a UU source.
- Check-in: Each member has a couple of minutes to share the high or low point of his/her life that week. There's no discussion or crosstalk during this time.
- Readings: One reading or a series of readings about the topic.
- Silence: A period of silence is observed – sharing starts when a person is moved to speak.
- Sharing/Deep Listening: Each member has about five minutes to share

his/her thoughts on the topic. There is no crosstalk, feedback, or discussion; the other members engage in active listening. Members speak whenever they are ready, in any order, and sometimes pause in-between to allow the previous speaker's ideas to be absorbed.

- Discussion: Some sessions include a brief period for discussion after all have shared. This is not debate, but it gives you a chance to bring up ideas that might have occurred to you as others shared. Members are asked to be brief & supportive in their remarks.
- Likes & Wishes: members share what they liked or what they wish would have happened during the session.
- Closing Words from a UU source.

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

--adapted from the Boulder Valley CO UU Fellowship

JULY 2008

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30pm - Adult Children 7pm - Dance lessons	2 5:30pm - Bowlers	3 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons	4	5
6 10:30am - Bets Anderson, "Patriotism Revisited"; Children/Youth RE Social Action Committee after service 4 pm - Zen Meditation 4pm - Supper circle picnic at Olsen's	7	8 6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons	9 5:30pm - Bowlers 7pm - Book Club cancelled	10 5:45pm - UU Board meets 7pm - Course in Miracles	11 7pm - Provocative Film, The Cats of Mirikitani	12
13 10:30am - Gerry Carr, "This I Believe"; Children/Youth RE Service Auction Planning Committee meeting after service 4 pm - Zen Meditation	14	15 6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Dance lessons	16 5:30pm - Bowlers	17 6pm - Program Cmte @ Mosquito 7pm - Course in Miracles	18 6pm - UU workday Newsletter Deadline	19
20 10:30am - John Gorman, "Nature and Our Meaning-Hungry Spirit"; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation	21	22 6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons	23 5:30pm - Bowlers	24 7pm - Course in Miracles	25	26
27 Potluck 10:30am - M. Canavan, "Our Favorite Hymns"; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation 6pm - Poker at DeGesero's, other games at M. Baker's	28	29 6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Dance lessons	30 5:30pm - Bowlers	31 7pm - Course in Miracles	Happy July Birthdays to: Fanny DeGesero 7/2 Shirley Hollingsworth 7/13 Tony DiNuzzo 7/17 Karen Brykczynski 7/18 Bets Anderson 7/24 Robin Panagakos 7/30 Eleanor Porter 7/30 Pete Olsen 7/31	