

UUF Galveston Gazette

March 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

March 2: Ken Vincent, *The Salvation Conspiracy: How Hell Became Eternal*

From the 2nd through the first half of the 5th century, Christianity had six theology schools. Of these, four taught Universalism, one taught annihilation of the wicked, & one taught endless punishment. At the end of the 7th century, Universalism was condemned by the Roman Catholic Church, although it remained viable in the Church of the East. In the West, Universalist theology was relegated to the realm of Mystics until the Reformation when it was "resurrected." Dr. Ken R. Vincent is a writer and retired Professor of Psychology. He has over 100 publications in the fields of psychology and religion.

Greeter: Bev Frannea

Board Member: Bets Anderson

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: Margaret Canavan

March 9: Tony DiNuzzo, *The Life and Music of Dan Fogelberg*

Dan Fogelberg died on December 16, 2007 at the age of 56 after a three year battle with prostate cancer. Many people recognize the name from his popular love songs. But he also had a strong spiritual side that flowed through his music, & an intense love of nature & the environment. He was a poet, musician, singer, songwriter, activist, & entertainer. His religion, as he would say, "are the wild places in my soul." This service will celebrate his life and explore the many facets of his being that touched so many people in so many different ways.

Greeter: Cheryl Henry

Board Member: Susan Persons Music: Margaret Canavan

March 16 Karen Bryckzynski, "Saint Patrick"

Naomh Pádraig was an Irish pagan who was influential in bringing Christianity to that land. In honor of his day, Karen will share with us stories of his use of pagan symbols to convey Christian spiritual beliefs. St. Patrick's Day is Karen's favorite holiday.

Greeter: Madeleine Baker

Board Member: Pete Olsen

Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Music: Margaret Canavan

March 23: Gerry Carr, *Flower Communion*

On this Easter Sunday, we welcome spring and look with hope to the future. The Flower Communion was developed by the Unitarian minister, Dr. Norbert Capek. The program will explore the history of the Flower Communion as well as Dr. Capek's story. Please join us and bring a flower from your garden or yard to add to the vase for the ceremony.

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Board Member: Pete Olsen

Music: Margaret Canavan

March 30 POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Madeleine Baker, *Justice Sunday*

The UU Service Committee is the "service arm" of UUA. Today we explore local examples of issues in the area of social justice, as UU congregations everywhere unite to take action on urgent human rights issues.

Greeter: Gerry Carr

Board Member: Karen Bryckzynski

Music: Margaret Canavan

President's Message

February has been a month of activity in the Fellowship. Many of our "Service Auction" parties were held with great success. We enjoyed a Super Bowl Party hosted by **Stan Blazyk & Margaret Canavan** – how about those Giants?! Soon to follow was an exciting Chinese New Year's Party [Year of the Rat] hosted by **Susan Persons** who, it has been said, "channels Martha Stewart" – how about those decorations?! **Katrina Chamberlain & Donny Lee** hosted a Formal Dinner with a wonderful wine at each of the four courses – how about that food?! We certainly have our share of talent among our members! We also had great parties during Mardi Gras at **Judy & Richard's, Stan & Margaret's, & Sandra & KBall's**.

On a more sober note, we have had health challenges within our Fellowship: **Ken Vaughan's Grace** was moved to South Dakota and is in a home there; **Doris Lee** continues to recover and we are hoping to see her soon; **Woody Dickson**, our treasurer, is recovering as well; **Fanny and Roy DeGesero's** daughter, **Cindy**, has had a recurrence of a meningioma on the optic nerve which necessitated surgery; and **Stan Blazyk** is contending with a health problem. We keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

I know you join me in complimenting the Program Committee on some inspirational and exciting sermons in February. This was a month of "our own" members' contributions beginning with former member **Val Richardson's** permission talk; then **Gerry Carr** talking about Benedict's "radical hospitality;" and **Margaret Canavan** reading a sermon about prudence [wisdom]. To end the month we were once again mesmerized by Laura Emerson, a visitor from Emerson UU in Houston, as she spoke of the "Liberal Bible," this time with an emphasis on the New Testament.

In peace, *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.

Service Auction Report

The great thing about a service auction is how the fun continues after the evening of the auction. September 28 was our auction and the festivities go on. Recently was the Super Bowl party at Stan and Margaret's, the formal dinner and wine tasting at Katrina and Donnie's, Chinese New Year's at Susan's.

Upcoming are St Patrick's Day at Karen's, and the still-available Kentucky Derby at Fanny's co-hosted by Laura, Margarita Party at the Olsen's, and Friendship Brunch (last three still have openings--see the bulletin board). Then there were all those wonderful classes like dog obedience that Diane did, handyman chores that Pete provided & custom water colors like the recent one Bets did for Bev & John. And this is only part of the list. Many more wonderful events will & have been going on.

These activities provide a service, make new connections and friendships while adding to the coffers of our fellowship. If you missed out last year, join in this year.

AND a HUGE thanks to all who made and continue to make the service auction the fun success it was.

--Susan Persons, Chairperson

Our microfinance fund has made \$800 in loans to people in developing countries, and donated \$55 to support the activities of Kiva. 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 14-15

It's time again for our annual de-cluttering and fund-raiser rummage sale. Already we know we'll have lots of good stuff. Be sure to mark your calendar for Friday evening, **March 14 from 6-8pm**, which will be our early-bird sale and reception. This year there will be an entrance fee of \$5 to cover

refreshments, so all sales will be income for the Fellowship. Invite your friends, so they'll have the first chance to see all the goodies. Sale will be open to the public **Saturday, March 15 from 8am-1pm**.

We hope you'll get right to work identifying things you'd like to donate. All you give is tax-deductible as a donation to the Fellowship. Be sure to ask for a receipt.

We will start accepting things after the Sunday service on March 9, around noon or so. We'll be there organizing for a couple of hours. Then on Monday through Thursday we'll have someone present from 3-7pm each day to accept donations. Please bring your things by as soon as you are able, so we'll have time to sort and price everything. On Friday we'll likely be there from noon on.

We still need plenty of assistance, both with the daily sorting and pricing, and with the sale itself. Sign up on the bulletin board, or contact Margaret Canavan.



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.
- We get discounts on paper with your **used inkjet printer cartridges**.
- **Fair Trade Coffee** sales benefit small coffee farmers and our Social Action Committee.

Crazymaking Disease Workshop Saturday, March 1, 9am-3pm:



A dialogue workshop that explores how our "isms" make us crazy or un-sane and what strategies can make us more whole and healthy. Registration \$125, students negotiable. Presented by Sunbear Community Alliance, at the Fellowship. Contact Christopher Bear Beam at 409-392-6063 or email dukebeam@hotmail.com

- **Program Committee** will meet Thursday, March 27 at 6:15pm at Mosquito Café in Galveston (14th & Winnie). While these informal meetings have the goal of planning future Sunday speakers, we also discuss other aspects of our worship experience.
- Our goal is to provide services which fill the spiritual needs of our congregation, challenge us, and encourage our growth.
- We hope you will let us know what your wishes are. Come meet with us, or contact Gerry Carr with questions and/or suggestions.

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

Laura Murrell has enlisted the aid of her neighbors **Al & Priscilla Baxter** in recycling plastic bags for the Saturday homeless ministry where **Shirley Hollingsworth** volunteers. Priscilla has even "imported" bags from her non-recycling daughter in New Jersey.

We had a great "home improvement" day on February 9. Thanks to **Mardi Mitchell, Amanda Prather, Bev Frannea, Neil Huddleston, Pete & Diane Olsen, Red & Cheryl Henry, & Margaret Canavan** who helped with chores both inside and out. We now have a new bulletin board in the foyer, soon to be decorated. Plants outside are more weed-free and well-trimmed. See if you can make it to the next workday on March 29. By then spring should be in full bloom and the weeds will be ahead of us, & there will also be indoor jobs to be tackled....

Upcoming Events

Empty Bowls: Begin making bowls again on Wednesday March 5 at 5:30, at the fellowship. No experience required!

Poker/Game Night March 9, 6pm: Poker at Alan Griffin's, 7012 Lasker. We need a home for other games, please let us know if you'd like to host.

Book Club has chosen *Family Matters* by Rohinton Mistry at the next selection. There will be no meeting in March. April 9 begins the new monthly meeting date, will be each second Wednesday.

March Supper Circle: will be hosted by Jerry and Irma Hite on Saturday, March 29 at 6pm, at 1507 Winnie. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Around UU

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 peace-

making resources. Speakers include District Executive Rev. Susan Smith & Rev. Tom Capo among others. If you are interested in attending, contact Gerry Carr.

Online UU Bibliography: Conrad Wright's excellent bibliography of major and minor works of UU history (1946-1995) is available at <http://www.25.uua.org/uuh/>. This is a great site in general for anyone interested in UU history, and is made possible by *The Journal of Unitarian Universalist History*.

History of Unitarian Universalism: A free lecture series on Tuesday evenings in March, at Emerson UU Church in Houston. Becky Edmiston-Lange, Co-Minister Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church will describe the people, events, & ideas that have influenced our movement since 1961 as we provide a strong liberal religious voice for compassion, reason, & justice. To register please contact Susanna Painter at 713-782-8250 or susanna@emersonhouston.org and let her know if you will need child care.

Southwestern UU District Annual Meeting and Spring Conference: April 25 - 27, at First UU Church of Austin. The theme, "What the World Needs from Religious Liberals," will cover a wide variety of subjects in keynote addresses, workshops, worship, & conversations. Details at <http://www.austinuu.org>, email conference@austinuu.org, or see the brochure at the Fellowship. Early registration ends March 31.

Other Events

Help Float the Boat, March 1, 6-9pm: a fundraiser for Artist Boat during Galveston ArtWalk at Nic Noblique's Studio, 2527 Mechanic. For more information ask Bev Frannea, Cheryl Henry or Susan Persons, call 409-770-0722, or see <http://www.artistboat.org>. Artist Boat promotes awareness and preservation of coastal margins and marine environment through disciplines of the sciences and the arts.

Galveston College Choir Concert Friday, March 7: Come hear **Bets Anderson, Madeleine Baker, Margaret Canavan** and friends serenade you with music from movies and musicals. Loca-

tion is FA207, the Fine Arts Recital Hall (upstairs from the gym).

Vickie Francil reminds us of the Galveston Island Humane Society Home and Garden Show on March 8-9 at the San Luis Convention Center. Pre-party on Friday evening is \$45, & includes refreshments and silent auction. See Vickie for tickets, or call the Humane Society at 409-740-1919.

Mike Hennen, president of **Galveston Island Arts Academy**, invites us to the UH Moores School of Music Women's Chorus in concert on Sunday, March 30, at 4pm at Central Christian Church (27th & O½). Tickets will be available at the door (\$13, or \$10 for students & seniors).

Gnostics and their Gospels, March 13 & 14, 7pm: These Gospels surfaced in 1945 in Egypt after 1600 years and shed new light on Jesus and the early Christians. Lectures at Rice University, Duncan Hall, 1055, the McMurtry Auditorium. March 13 is "Reconstructing an Ancient Papyri Book: How the Gospel of Judas was Restored and the Questions It Raises"; March 14 is "What Else Didn't We Know about the Early Christians?"

Announcements

The **April Supper Circle** is in need of a host. If you would like to host this event, please contact **Judy Glaister**.

We Want Your News: Please send items for the April newsletter by Friday, March 21, 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.



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 meet 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month at 5:30 pm, to make bowls for the annual fundraiser. all are welcome, no experience necessary.

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 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. No meeting in March.

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, con-

Send newsletter information to administrator@uugalveston.org or phone 409-765-8330, or leave at note at the Fellowship.

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.

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm & 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 & the use of the democratic process within our congregations & 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.

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	Cheryl Henry
Policies & Procedures	Tony DiNuzzo
Program/Worship	Gerry Carr
Religious Education	Neil Huddleston
Supper Circles	Judy Glaister
Social Action	Mary Hodgson
Webmaster	Amber Zainfeld

Social Action Committee News

March Provocative Film

Michael Clayton

Saturday, March 8, 7 pm

A middle-aged lawyer who is a "fixer" of complex or dirty cases on behalf of corporate client is challenged when a fellow fixer turns on the very firm they were hired to assist, Clayton finds himself at the center of a conspiratorial maelstrom, and must decide between his loyalty and his conscience. The film focuses on the questionable moral quagmire of working for guilty clients, living your life protecting those you find reprehensible, wanting to get out, but finding you are good at it and that is where your superiors want you. The film deals in the grey world that we all live in.

Stay for discussion afterward.

Free admission -- donations accepted

Bring your friends and a snack to share!

All are welcome to join with the Committee, meetings are the first Sunday of each month. Remember that your purchase of Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate benefits small farmers and supports the Committee's activities.

MARCH 2008

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat								
						1								
2 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Ken Vincent, <i>The Salvation Conspiracy</i> ; Children/ Youth RE Social Action Committee after service	3	4	5 5:30pm— UU Bowl- ers	6 7pm - Course in Miracles	7	8 7pm— Provocative Film, Michael Clayton <i>Daylight Savings begins tonight!</i>								
9 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - T. DiNuzzo, <i>The Life & Music of Dan Fogelberg</i> ; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation Bring items for Attic Treasures! 6pm - Poker/Game Night	10 3-7 Bring items for Attic Treasures	11 3-7 Bring items for Attic Treasures 7pm - Spirit Circle	12 3-7 Bring items for Attic Treasures	13 3-7 Bring items for Attic Treasures 5:45pm - Board Meets 7pm - Course in Miracles	14 6-8pm Attic Treasures early bird reception and sale	15 8-1 - Attic Treasures Sale								
16 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Karen Bryckzynski, <i>Saint Patrick</i> ; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation	17	18	19 5:30pm— UU Bowl- ers	20 7pm - Course in Miracles <i>Spring Begins</i>	21	22								
23 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - <i>Flower Communion</i> ; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation	24	25 7pm - Spirit Circle	26	27 6:15pm - Program Committee @ Mosquito 7pm - Course in Miracles	28	29 9am--UU workday 6pm - supper Circle @ Jerry & Irma Hite's								
30 Pottuck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Madeleine Baker, <i>Justice Sunday</i> ; Children/ Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation	31	 <p><i>Happy March Birthdays to:</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>Maggie Pinson</td> <td>3/2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kate Fiandt</td> <td>3/12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Katrina Chamberlain</td> <td>3/21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carlos Price</td> <td>3/21</td> </tr> </table>					Maggie Pinson	3/2	Kate Fiandt	3/12	Katrina Chamberlain	3/21	Carlos Price	3/21
Maggie Pinson	3/2													
Kate Fiandt	3/12													
Katrina Chamberlain	3/21													
Carlos Price	3/21													