

UUF Galveston Gazette

May 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

May 4

Zen Master Dae Gak, *Meditation as the Practice of Being with Suffering*

Meditation is the practice of being with life exactly as it is. This often entails being with discomfort, agitation and suffering - either our own or another's. Being fully present for all life has to offer without closing off to the parts of life that hurt is the greatest gift we can offer each other and humanity. Zen Master Dae Gak has studied Zen for over 30 years in both the Korean and Japanese traditions.

Greeter: Cheryl Henry

Board Member: Amanda Prather

Facilitator: Robin Panagakos

Music: Steve Hodgson

May 11

Christine Branum-Martin, *Standing Barefoot On The Earth*

*The seventh Principle, which affirms "respect for the interdependent web of all existence", is the center of our worldview as UUs. Yet we have difficulty finding religious language to express this theologically. I found myself in need of a spiritual practice that reconnected me to the natural world and explored a way to talk about it in religiously humanistic terms. I found in the 2003 incarnation of the **Humanist Manifesto** a foundation for a theology that celebrates a language of reverence and spiritual depth. From this, I found renewal as a person of faith in a secular world. Mrs. Branum-Martin is a student at Meadville-Lombard UU Seminary.*

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Board Member:

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: Margaret Canavan

May 18

Tony DiNuzzo, *Change Through Creativity*

We all go through various stages of change throughout our lives. How much of that change comes out of the need to express our creative spirits and how much is change for the sake of change? Does it just happen or are we conscious of the need to express ourselves through creativity? This service will explore aspects of recreating ourselves through new venues as we showcase our creative selves. Please contact me at (409) 762-5348 or ozzun1234@aol.com if you would like to provide a "show & tell" that speaks to your creative needs. This could be a new idea to take on, a new hobby, a poem, book, painting, sculpture, song, a makeover, hairdo, a new attitude etc... There is no limit to expressing our creative selves. Let's celebrate that. Tony DiNuzzo is a musically creative member of our Fellowship.

Greeter/Board member: Bets Anderson

Music: UU String Band

May 25

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Bets Anderson, *Thoughts on Memorial Day*

Thoughts on Memorial Day by Bets Anderson. This will be a service to recognize the tradition of Memorial Day [Decoration Day] and those who have served in our armed forces. The men and women who lost their lives in service to their country will be remembered and the service will be both a eulogy and celebration of our own members we lost over the past year. Bets Anderson is President of our Fellowship.

Board Member: Karen Bryckzynski

Greeter: Mary Hodgson

Music: Steve Hodgson

If you are reading this after May 4 I hope you have returned your pledge for 2008-09. Thank you for giving generously. I know this Fellowship means a lot to you, as it does to me. Gerry Carr did a wonderful job at the annual "UU Revival" and, thanks to her efforts [as well as our own UU String Band] I think the service was a resounding success. The proof, as they say, will be in the pudding and we'll be basing next year's budget on the pledges so you will know the outcome on June 1.

June 1, you ask? Yes, June 1 is our Annual Meeting, immediately following the Sunday service. Not only is it an excellent time to renew friendships and celebrate fellowship, it is the time we set the pace for the coming church fiscal year, which begins July 1. You will have an opportunity to:

- ⇒ vote on the budget that is being prepared as you read this [if you have a suggestion feel free to contact a member of the Finance Committee: Neil Huddleston, Pete Olsen or Stan Blazyk];
- ⇒ vote on any proposed bylaws changes [now's the time to make suggestions for change in that area];
- ⇒ elect the coming year's leadership team [please see anyone on the Nominating Committee if you wish to serve or to nominate someone: Bets Anderson, Gerry Carr and Judy Glaister];
- ⇒ hear of our accomplishments over the past year and help set goals for 2008-2009.

Now's the time for your input. Please contribute your money, your talent, and your ideas. With all of us working together we can "...be a visible, enduring, liberal religious presence in our community." [from our Mission Statement]

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.

Zen Retreat May 1-3



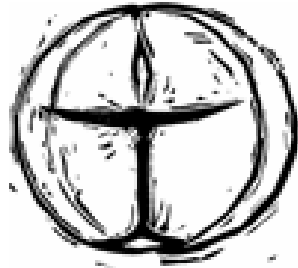
The Zen Island Fellowship, which meets for meditation each Sunday afternoon at the Fellowship, is sponsoring a Meditation Workshop May 1-3. You may still register by contacting Cara Geary at (gcar@comcast.net) or see <http://www.galvestonzen.org>.

The retreat will be led by Zen Master Dae Gak, a Dharma Heir of Korean Zen Master Seung Sahn and founder of the Furnace Mountain retreat center in Eastern Kentucky. He is presently the guiding teacher of Zen Centers throughout the United States and Europe. He is a clinical psychologist and author of *Going Beyond Buddha*. During his visit to Galveston, he will be leading the retreat, providing a talk at our Sunday service on May 4, and co-teaching an introductory workshop on Sunday May 4.

Reminders

- Please bring **clean plastic grocery bags** and small **plastic food containers with lids** for **Shirley Hollingsworth's** Saturday work to feed the homeless. Leave them in the box outside the Administrator office (there's a sign).
- Bring old (clean) socks and rags for **Judy Glaister** to use for cleaning on the *Elissa*.
- We can get reduced-price paper with your **used inkjet printer cartridges**.
- **Fair Trade Coffee** sales in our foyer benefit small coffee farmers and also our Social Action Committee.
- **For visitors and newcomers:** Our members receive the **UU World** magazine, and donate 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. You can view our online portfolio at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversali3384>.



Important Notice: Information about the June 1 membership meeting will be sent out by email to folks who do not receive this newsletter by US mail. If you are a member and do not receive email from us and think you should, we may not have your correct address. Please send us your current email address.

General Assembly (GA) June 25-29, 2008 Ft. Lauderdale, FL

The board of directors here at UUF encourages everyone to consider attending GA, the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. This is where and when our denomination makes overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and directs and control its affairs. This is our link to UUs throughout the US and the world. Members who have attended in previous years have come back with a renewed enthusiasm and sense of community.

This year GA is centered on the theme of the "Common Threads" that weave together the fabric of our Unitarian Universalist faith and community. It is normal for our congregation to make a small grant to those attending to assist with fees and expenses. **DEADLINE FOR EARLY REGISTRATION IS APRIL 30.** Information is available on the web at: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>, or ask any Board member.

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.

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 Zainfeld

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

Stan Blazyk & Margaret Canavan send sincere thanks for all your support during his recent surgery. He is recuperating very well.

It was great to see **Doris Lee** at the recent "Revival". She sends greetings to everyone, and we send her our greetings and best wishes.

Jean Baker is recovering nicely from recent surgery. She is at home. We send healing thoughts to Jean.

Margaret Canavan has a petition to keep a Social Security office open on the island. If you want to sign or get other signatures contact her at (409)771-6252.

Do UUs control the weather??? We caused a break in our dry spring by scheduling a workday on April 26! Despite the light rain, we got lots of tidying up done indoors. Thanks to **Robin Panagakos, Neil Huddleston, Shirley Hollingsworth, Fanny DeGesero,** and **Margaret Canavan** for helping out. Check out the rejuvenated refrigerator! Admire the tidy tool shelf! In May we shift to evening work parties during our warm weather and long days. Mark your calendar now for the **Friday evening May 23** at 6pm. We usually enjoy drinks and pizza.....

UU Upcoming Events

Poker Night: May poker night will be Sunday, May 11 at Stan's Blazyk's (3823 Avenue P). Starts at 6pm. All are welcome. Stay tuned for news on Stan's fall poker class.

Book Club: UU Readers will gather

Wednesday May 14 at 7pm to discuss **Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro. This is open to all. Fanny DeGesero has an extra copy of the book to lend. The selection for the June 11 meeting is **The March** by E. L. Doctorow. The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

Supper Circle: Red & Cheryl Henry will be hosting the May Supper Circle on Sunday, May 18 from 4-8 pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board, or contact **Judy Glaister**.

Announcements

Please remember to return your pledge by May 4. The Board will use pledge information to prepare a budget for the annual meeting. We are appreciate of all donations by members and friends!

We will have a **Ceremony of Ingathering** as part of our Sunday service during the service on June 1. This is the time when we welcome new members into the Fellowship. If you are interested in joining at this time, please contact Cheryl Henry at csandershenry@yahoo.com or 409.765.5991.

June 1 is also the date of our annual **membership meeting**. Plan to stay after service that day for lunch (not a potluck!), and to vote on leadership for 2008-09, and a budget for the coming year. By-laws now allow us to notify members by email, so you may not receive the usual reminder letter. If you will be unable to attend, proxy voting will be possible and forms will be available.

Sounds like fun: If you're around the Fellowship on Thursday evenings, you will hear the sound of dance music in the

Sanctuary. The Galveston Dance Club is offering free dance lessons for club members each week from 7-9 pm (Western swing at 7, Cha-cha at 8). Members of our Fellowship can join the club for half price of \$30/year per person. *Note: the lessons scheduled for May 1 will meet on Tuesday April 29 due to the Zen Retreat.*

Other Events

Kilgore Lecture at Emerson Unitarian Church: Local UU churches are co-sponsoring the lecture by Dr. Hillis from UT, speaking on Sunday, May 4 at 3pm. The title is "Teaching Evolution is Vital". There is no charge. For more information contact Emerson at (713)782-8250.

UU Music Fest May 10: Musicians and Vendors Deadline Approaching

The UU Spring Music Festival is Saturday, May 10, starting at 3pm at the Unitarian Fellowship's beautiful backyard (1504 Wirt Road). Enjoy belly dancers, fire jugglers, hula hoops, hand drums, classical music, folk music, odd music, & rock and roll. Good, clean, UU fun at the largest gathering of UUs in the Houston area. FREE! This event is kid-friendly and there's a large fenced play area. For your safety, parking is directed by a Houston police officer. UU vendors & musicians are welcome. **The deadline to reserve a music spot or a vending spot is April 30;** contact Mark Holt at mark@gorilladanceband.com. Food and soft drinks will be available for a donation, or bring your own coolers. Brought to you by the Houston Area UU Network. Your UU taxes at work!

Bay Area UU Church will host training for Covenant Group leaders, on Saturday May 17th, 9am to 1pm. They are opening it to other congregations' current or prospective Covenant Group leaders (or other small group ministry leaders) at no cost. Location will be in the Clear Lake area, TBA. The tentative curriculum will cover

- ◆ Why small group ministry is important, and how it ties to the larger vision of the free church (Rev Matt Tittle will present)
- ◆ Starting new groups
- ◆ Covenanting together
- ◆ Leading 'themeless' groups and leading themed groups
- ◆ Dealing with difficult people
- ◆ Recruiting new members to a group
- ◆ Promoting new leadership within a group
- ◆ A ministry of presence - when members of your group face trouble

Contact David Throop at 281 388 0929 home, 281 460 8415 cell, or email drthroop@earthlink.net.





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. *Equal Exchange* fair trade coffee and tea sales benefit the activities of this committee.

UU Bowlers meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month to make and decorate bowls for the fall Jesse Tree fundraiser. All are welcome to participate, no experience necessary..

Spirit Circle meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. The purpose of this group is to deepen our relationships to each other and our Unitarian Universalist faith through deep listening & sharing. Discussion revolves around meaningful life & spiritual issues and newcomers are welcome at any time. Please contact Gerry Carr at gcarr@tlc-galveston.org for more information or questions.

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. 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.

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.

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. Work dates are on the calendar.

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 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.

Social Action News May Provocative Film

crash

Friday May 9, 7 pm

A 36-hour period in the diverse metropolis of post-September 11 Los Angeles is the theme of this unflinching drama that challenges viewers to confront their prejudices. Lives combust when a Brentwood housewife and her DA husband, a Persian shopkeeper, two cops, a pair of carjackers & a Korean couple all converge. An Academy Award Best Picture.

Free admission -- Refreshments Available -- Bring a snack to share

Remember to buy Fair Trade coffee, tea & hot chocolate from the Social Action committee. The Farmer's Market will be open Saturday May 10 from 8-1,. Buy local produce!

Environmentally friendly tips for recycling:

- HEB on Stewart Road has outdoor recycling for newspapers, glass, plastics, & paper.
- City of Galveston--702 -61st St. drop off point for many items
- CMc Recydlng -- 71st and Broadway buys metal, or will just take it off your hands.
- Radio Shack takes rechargeable batteries.
- Also check out <http://earth911.org/>. and www.secondrotation.com

Friendly Sunday morning "Greeters" are needed! Sign-up in the kitchen or contact Vickie Francil. Don't wait for Vickie to call you, go ahead and contact her! You know how wonderful it feels to be welcomed when you enter the Fellowship, so go ahead and plan to offer that warm welcome to others.

MAY 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 May Birthdays to:</i> Diane Olsen 5/1 J. T. "Red" Henry 5/7 Cheryl Henry 5/15 Mary Hodgson 5/16 John Frannea 5/17</p>				1 7pm - Course in Miracles No Dance Lessons	2	3
				Zen retreat Thurs pm through Sat 7 pm Details at http://www.galvestonzen.org/schedule.htm		
4 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Zen Master Dae Gak, "Meditation as the Practice of Being with Suffering"; Children/Youth RE Social Action Committee after service	5	6	7 5:30pm—UU Bowlers	8 5:45pm - Board Meets 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance Lessons	9 7pm—Provocative Film, Crash	10
11 Mothers' Day 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Christina Branum-Martin; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation 6pm - Poker at Blazyk's	12	13 7pm - Spirit Circle	14 7pm - Book Club, Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro	15 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance Lessons	<div style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-decoration: underline; text-decoration-color: red;"> Newsletter Deadline </div>	
18 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Ingathering of New Members: Tony DiNuzzo, "Creativity"; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation 4pm - Supper Circle at Henry's	19	20	21 5:30pm—UU Bowlers	22 6:15pm - Program Committee @ Mosquito 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance Lessons	23 6pm—Fellowship Work Party	24
25 Potluck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Bets Anderson, "Memorial Day"; Children/Youth RE 4 pm - Zen Meditation Memorial Day	26	27 7pm - Spirit Circle	28	29 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance Lessons	30	31