



A Month of Sundays

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

President's Message

November 2

Sandra López, "Día de Los Muertos"

This celebration from Mexican tradition honors loved ones who have passed on. Bring photographs & other mementos (food, drinks, special items) of your loved ones to decorate our altar, and share a story or reminiscence. All are invited to participate in this very special service that provides for sharing, support and community-building. Sandra is a social worker and part-time Galvestonian who cherishes her cultural roots and looks forward to sharing her love of this holiday with us.

Greeter: Sandra Sullivan

Facilitator: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Susan Persons

Music: UU String Band

November 9

Christina Branum Martin, "Celebrating the Rituals of Our Every Day Lives"

Rituals create meaning and depth in our lives. They address our personal transformations both large and small. Our public rituals formally celebrate life passages of births, weddings and funerals. Often unexplored, our private rituals are grounded in the habits and routines of our every day lives. How is your life's journey enriched by ritual? bringing new rituals, new energy, and new life to our religious movement. Christina is a student at Meadville-Lombard Seminary and a frequent guest in our pulpit.

Greeter: Sandra Sullivan

Board Member: P. Olsen

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: Steve Hodgson

November 16

Margaret E. Anderson, "How Rational Are We?"

A man says "he decided to" raise his arm, when in fact, a research scientist triggered the action with an electrode. Seventy-six percent of homeowners who display a small "Drive Safely" window sticker later accept a large, ugly "Drive Safely" sign for their front yard. New brain science shows what a small role our conscious "reasoning" plays in determining our behavior. But that tiny rational portion of our brain's activity is all it takes to lead a better life, including living our UU principles, if we learn how to direct it. Margaret Anderson is a communications specialist with deep family roots in Galveston, who teaches and practices in Houston.

Greeter: Stan Blazyk

Board Member: Pete Olsen

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: Steve Hodgson

November 23

Steve Brooks, "Music Service"

Our favorite Austin UU troubador returns for a service that will certainly inspire us. Steve is a Texas singer/songwriter and a frequent visitor to our pulpit.

Greeter: Sandra Sullivan

Facilitator: Tony DiNuzzo

Board Member: Susan Persons

Music: Margaret Canavan

November 30

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Jean Goodwin, "Thomas Merton: He Needs a Miracle or Two"

Thomas Merton, intellectual, peacenik, and father of an illegitimate child, may need more than a miracle or two to become a saint. Reading from his poetry and prose indicates what a useful saint he might be for us. Dr. Jean Goodwin is a local psychoanalyst and popular speaker at our Fellowship.

Greeter: Sandra Sullivan

Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Board Member: Susan Persons

Music: Margaret Canavan

Hurricane Ike has given us so many opportunities for "spiritual growth"! But if you are like me, seeing the silver lining even tarnished, is a daily struggle. Yet that determination is in the eyes and faces of our members and friends as they reach out of their pain to help others in the church community as well as the larger community.

My grand great aunt lived around the corner from where my house stands now and they survived the 1900 storm and saved the horses by bringing them into the parlor. This woman died long before I was born but she held a strong position in my family's lore. In fact, my middle name is hers, Laura. She had money and was generous with it if you did things her way.

Some days as I scrub mud from my home or hopefully scrape the bark of a bush, I see my 60 year old Aunt Laura in her long dress, matching hat and parasol, chin high, making her way along the elevated planks that served as sidewalks when the island was raised. I feel her presence as she chides me about how much worse it was then. When she died, the estate included sea-wall bonds. She and her husband came to Galveston at the end of the Civil war as newly weds and were part of

(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.

the history that made this island a thriving city.

In my darkest moments I succumb to primitive fears of being somehow punished as I look at my disappearing retirement funds and the shell of my home. But then Aunt Laura shouts in my ear, "Fiddlesticks, girl-just get busy and do the next thing!"

So from Aunt Laura to you all, lets just do the next best thing-one step at a time.

Susan Persons

Board President

PS--The exploration for part-time ministry with Phil Schulman and the Service Auction have been set aside for now to allow the fellowship and the island to recover. Empty Bowls will be part of a later fund raising project for Jesse Tree These changes focus our energies on what needs to be done for now.


Our "revolving" microfinance fund has made loans totaling \$1500 to people in developing countries, and donated \$65 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.

Update on the Empty Bowl Event
Madeleine reports that she has fired all the bowls that were made pre-Ike and they came out fine. There are bowls that need glazing. Clay will be available so we can continue to make bowls. Therefore Wednesday evenings will once again become bowl-making time!



The Empty Bowl event will be rescheduled for sometime after the first of the year. Stay tuned for more information.

2008-2009	
UUFGC Board of Directors	
President	Susan Persons
President-Elect	John Hunger
Past-President	Elizabeth "Bets" Anderson
Secretary	Amanda Prather
Treasurer	Pete Olsen
Members at Large:	Fanny DeGesero Donald Lee Patrick McGuffey
Committees and Task Forces	
Archives	Ellie Porter
Communications	Madeleine Baker
Landscape	Margaret Canavan
Membership	Cheryl Henry
Program/Worship	Gerry Carr
Religious Education	Neil Huddleston
Supper Circles	Judy Glaister
Social Action	Mary Hodgson
Administrative Team	B. Anderson, M. Baker, M. Canavan, J. Glaister, & C. Henry
Webmaster	Amber Zainfeld

- ### 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.
 - 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 and 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 copies of past issues to share with you. Feel free to take copies from the display in the RE hallway.

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

Alison Rutledge has volunteered to Adopt-a-Refrigerator, so our lovely new fridge will stay lovely.

Doris Lee is staying for awhile with her son in Albuquerque. She sends best wishes to everyone.

Rusty McGowen is staying at River Hill Health & Rehabilitation Center in Kerrville.

Steve Reubens is still in Austin with Galveston evacuees.

Many thanks to **Pete Olsen, Bets Anderson, Stan Blazyk, Bev Frannea, Sally Chapman, and Margaret Cavanaugh** who showed up on October 18 to mow, trim, haul limbs, reinstall our street sign, and generally work around the place. For those with time and/or energy, our next workday is Saturday November 15 at 9am.

Upcoming Events

Sunday Morning Religious Forum Has Resumed: All seekers and explorers, old timers and new to UUsers, are welcome to join the Sunday morning forum that meets in our "RE Room." The group will read and discuss the book **Unitarian Universalism: A Narrative History** by David Bumbaugh. The book has been called "engaging, accessible, and succinct" as a history that spends equal time on the European roots and American development of our two liberal traditions. Copies of the book are available in the Fellowship for \$13.40. As always, there will be a number available free to those unable to pay. We hope you will join us on Sunday mornings to discuss this book. If you have any questions, contact Bets Anderson.

Book Club: Will meet on Wednesday, November 12. The book for this month is *A Sense of the World* by Jason Roberts. Contact Sandra Sullivan if you have questions.

Ingathering of New Members planned for November 16: If you have been considering membership in the Fellowship, on this date we will formally welcome new members. Please let Membership

Chair **Cheryl Henry** know of your interest, or your questions.

Thanksgiving Supper Circle: The November Supper Circle will be the annual Thanksgivings dinner at the Fellowship. **If you don't have a kitchen and can't cook, please come and eat and share with those who are fortunate to have a kitchen and be able to cook. The cooks will make enough food for everyone.** Dinner will be served at 2:00 p.m. but you can come earlier and help set up and snack on appetizers. Please sign the list on the bulletin board what you are bringing and how many of you are coming. Judy & Richard, and Stan & Margaret will bake the turkeys, gravy, and dressing.

Poker Night: Poker night will be at Tony DiNuzzo's (1419 Ball) on Sunday, November 23. Game night will be announced later.

Building Your Own Theology Course (BYOT) will have a new start date, to be announced later.

Announcements

OLLI Classes at UU: UTMB's Oscher Lifelong Learning Institute will be holding Tai Chi classes on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-10 at the Fellowship. There is room for more members if you are interested.

Membership Directory: Like disrupted our best-laid plans to provide all members of the Fellowship with a copy of a current membership directory. Until we get it completed, current contact information for members and many of our friends on the UU Galveston website, <http://uugalveston.org/members.htm>. As it says, the user name is "member", and if you've forgotten the password let us know and we'll remind you. If you see any errors or missing information please let us know. Email administrator@uugalveston.org, or call and leave a message at (409) 765-8330.

From our Membership Committee: Have you contributed your page to the

Members Book yet? The book resides in the foyer & contains pages created by members sharing a little about themselves. As you can see, there's no standard format for the page; so feel free to be creative in your design. If you need help in putting your page on paper, Cheryl Henry will be happy to help. Give her a call or let her know at a Sunday service. We'd like every member to have a page in the book!

Be a Supper Circle Host in 2009: At the annual meeting this year, we voted to once again have a series of Supper Circles where everyone in the Fellowship is invited via random drawings. The dinner will be held around the table to facilitate conversation. This makes for a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted with different members of the Fellowship. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would be willing to host a dinner, note preferred month & how many folks can sit around your table. This series begins in January.

Sunday morning "Greeters" are needed! Sign-up in the kitchen or contact **Vickie Francil**. Don't wait for Vickie to call you, go ahead & contact her or sign up in the kitchen! 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.

Other Events

International Convocation of UU Women: February 26 to March 1st, 2009, Houston, Texas. Join this first International Convocation of UU Women. Gather & listen to the women leaders of our faith. Connect with UU women from all around the world. Take stock of the status & condition of women. Learn how we can take care of ourselves & how we can find our voice in the world. Speakers from around the globe. Register online at <http://www.icuuw.com> by August 31 and lock in the Early Bird Rate of \$299 with a \$100 deposit (balance payable by November 1st). Registration rate includes three meals and a welcoming reception. Several UUFGC members have already registered for this event, so we'll certainly have carpooling and room sharing. Don't miss it!



Alcoholics Anonymous Phoenix Group meets Sunday & Wednesday evenings at 8pm. Contact Robert G. for information at 409-392-7005.

Adult Children of Alcoholics meets Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Information about ACA is available at <http://www.adultchildren.org/>. For information about this group, contact Carolyn B. at (409) 939-3518.

Adult Forum: meets Sundays at 9am to explore topics in religion, philosophy, history and politics. For information, contact Neil Hudleston at (409)744-2369.

Board of UUFGC meets the 2nd Monday 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 at 7pm. 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 Jesse Tree fundraiser. All are welcome to participate, no experience necessary.

Comedy Defensive Driving: Joseph "Pokey" Simmons teaches his Comedy Defensive Driving class at UU, three Saturdays each month from 9-3. Cost is \$35. Contact Joseph at (409) 789-8541 to sign up.

Course in Miracles Study Group meets every Thursday at 7pm, and meets beforehand for dinner. Contact Susan Persons for information.

Dance Classes Thursdays, 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 held monthly in members' homes, and is open to all. Check the calendar & weekly announcements for date & place.

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. Contact Gerry Carr gcarr@tlc-galveston.org or leave a message at the Fellowship 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.

Tai Chi classes through UTMB's Oshcer Lifelong Learning Institute are held Mondays & Thursday from 9-10.

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.

Social Action Committee
Provocative Film Series
"A Family Thing"
Friday, November 7, 7pm

Sixty-year-old Earl Pilcher Jr. (Robert Duvall) has just been informed that his real mother was black and he has a half-brother he never knew existed. Setting out to find and get to know his brother, their first encounter is awkward and fraught with tension, mistrust, anger and prejudice. But as they begin to explore their pasts, they learn that the bonds of family are indestructible. Written by Billy Bob Thornton & Tom Epperson.

Free Admission
Come bring a friend and a snack to share.

Please help us include in the next newsletter information about YOU and activities you know about. Send by email, snail mail, or phone message.

NOVEMBER 2008

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Happy November Birthdays to:</p> <p>Madeleine Baker 11/7 Margaret Canavan 11/11 Woody Dickson 11/12 Kenneth Vaughan 11/13 Lori Pepper 11/21 Mitch Philpot 11/28</p>						1
<p>2 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - "Día de Los Muertos"; Children/Youth RE 12n - Social Action Cmte 4pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>3 9am - OLLI Tai Chi</p>	<p>4 6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics</p>	<p>5 5:30pm - UU Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>6 9am - OLLI Tai Chi 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>7 7pm - Provocative Film, "A Family Thing"</p>	<p>8 9am-3pm - Comedy Defensive Driving</p>
<p>9 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - C.Branum-Martin, "Rituals": Children/Youth RE 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>10 9am - OLLI Tai Chi 5:45pm - Board Meets</p>	<p>11 6:30pm - ACA 6pm - Spirit Circle</p>	<p>12 5:30pm - UU Bowlers 7pm - Book Club 8pm - AA Phoenix</p>	<p>13 9am - OLLI Tai Chi 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 9am - Garden Workday 9am-3pm - Comedy Defensive Driving</p>
<p>16 Ingathering 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - M.Anderson, "How Rational are We?"; Children/Youth RE 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>17 9am - OLLI Tai Chi</p>	<p>18 6:30pm - ACA</p>	<p>19 5:30pm - UU Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>20 9am - Tai Chi 6 pm - Program Cmte 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance</p>	<p>21 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>22 9am-3pm - Comedy Defensive Driving</p>
<p>23 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Steve Brooks, "Music"; Children/Youth RE 4pm - Zen Meditation 6:30 - Poker at DiNuzzo's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>24 9am - OLLI Tai Chi</p>	<p>25 6:30pm - ACA 6pm - Spirit Circle</p>	<p>26 5:30pm - UU Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>27 UU Thanksgiving Dinner 2pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 Potluck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - J.Goodwin, "Thomas Merton"; Children/Youth RE 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>						