

UUF Galveston Gazette

October 2008



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

502 Church Street, Galveston, Texas 77550-5502

(409)765-8330

Online at <http://uugalveston.org>

Information in this newsletter is as current as possible. We will add information about members as we get information. Please check back for updates. If you have information about someone who is not mentioned, or updates about your own situation, please email the Fellowship (administrator@uugalveston.org) so we can keep up with each other. **REVISED OCTOBER 11.**

President's Message

We survived! About thirty of our fellowship showed up on Sunday morning September 28 to re-connect, tell our stories, renew our souls. Despite the dark, un-air conditioned building, we listened intently as one by one we related our evacuation or non evacuation tales. We laughed at our own pain and losses and re-affirmed the true meaning and values in our lives. Madeleine Baker whose home was a total loss, did a stand up comedy routine that had all of us laughing until tears of both joy and sorrow fell. Diane Olsen told us of the state of the various animals at Moody. Tony entertained us with a song of the 1900 storm. Margaret selected appropriate hymns for us to sing and lift our spirits.

During the evacuation and immediately afterwards all levels of the UUA were anxiously contacting us to check on our welfare. Thanks to the efforts of Cheryl Henry and Margaret Canavan, we determined the whereabouts and safety of our members scattered all over Texas and even beyond.

Although, I am commuting now from a furnished apartment in Sugar Land, I will be down several times a week to supervise the re-building of my home, take care of church business and just hang with all the people I love!

Only other thing is
Dancers are eager to get back

Susan Persons
Galveston Island, temporarily in
Sugarland

A Month of Sundays

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

October 5

Stan Blazyk, "The Superlative Significance of Life: A Sermon Never Given"

It is 108 years since "the" Galveston hurricane, and only two weeks past the devastation of our own era's Hurricane Ike. This sermon is an update of that given on the 100th anniversary of the 1900 Galveston storm. Stan will provide a tribute to the survivors and victims of that storm, and a reflection on how the storm impacted the Galvestonians of that era as well as the lessons it holds for us all. Stan Blazyk is a retired social worker, weather enthusiast, published author & member of Galveston UU.

Board Member: John Hunger Facilitator: Gerry Carr Music: Margaret Canavan

October 12

Susan Smith, "Growing our Spirit"

Join with UU's across the nation celebrating our shared commitment, to make Unitarian Universalism a stronger voice for liberal religious values. If you are in a position to contribute, today's special collection will be used for grants to congregations for their growth and outreach projects. Donations may also be made at <http://www.uua.org/giving>. Susan Smith is District Executive for the SW UU District.

Board Member: Bets Anderson Music: Margaret Canavan

October 19

Dr. Ken R. Vincent, "Jesus on Sex"

Homosexuality and abortion engender such rage among the Christian Right that we might be persuaded that they are the most heinous sins of all! But what did Jesus say about homosexuality and abortion? Well, NOTHING! This Sunday we will explore what the Bible DOES say, and put Jesus' teachings into the perspective of the sexual mores and medical and pharmacological knowledge of the 1st-Century. Dr. Ken R. Vincent is a writer and retired Professor of Psychology who has over 100 publications in the fields of psychology and religion. Visit Dr. Ken R. Vincent at:

<http://www.near-death.com/experiences/origen021.html>

Board member: Amanda Prather Music: Margaret Canavan

October 26

Laura Emerson, "Revelation Revealed"

A large percentage of Americans believe that the Book of Revelation is true. What does that mean? To some, the city of Bellaire has the "devil's phone number" 666". For others, it means the awful events occurring now, such as Hurricane Ike and the financial crisis, are part of God's plan for ushering in a new era. Is it important that we, as religious liberals, review what the book actually says and various ways that we, and others think about it? "You betcha." And hold on to your four horses of the apocalypse: this isn't "we" vs. "them": are we so very different?

Board Member: Donald Lee

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 Second Annual Service Auction will be held Saturday February 7

TASK FORCE MEETING TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16th RIGHT AFTER CHURCH FOR PLANNING

For those of you new to the fellowship: The Service Auction is a traditional and fun way to raise money for the congregation. Members donate a service or product or event and then the attendees are given the opportunity to sign up or bid. Examples from last year are the Kentucky Derby Party hosted by Laura Murrell and Fanny DeGesero or the 1/ day handy man services donated by Pete Olsen or the sculpture of a pet by Madeleine Baker or the use of a Hill Country house by Red and Cheryl Henry or a cake by Diane Olsen and on and on many wonderful and fun activities and

services. We ended up raising nearly \$10,000. The items are bought and paid for the night of the auction and the donors donate the cost of their contribution but do determine the cost they want to charge bidders or attendees of the event.

We need help with the following sub-committees: solicitation of service & silent auction items, catalogue, registration, PR, check-out, auctioneers, and food.

If you have questions or ideas, I'd love to hear from you-any level of participation is welcomed!

Susan Persons
409-765-7907
slpersons@comcast.net



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.

Social Action Committee Provocative Film Series is Cancelled for October Will return in November!

Our microfinance fund has made loans totaling \$1175 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>.

*More than ever, we need friendly Sunday morning "Greeters"! Sign-up in the kitchen or contact **Vickie Francil**.*

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

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

Best wishes to all our members and friends and congratulations on surviving Ike!. Our Fellowship had damage only to our electrical service. Garden is fine and only needs watering! Here is what we know at this time:

Bets Anderson & Madeleine Baker still have their troop of dogs, cats, and bird in Centerville and are taking turns coming to the Island. Bets was spared flood waters in her home, but Madeleine's house was devastated by English Bayou.

Susan Baker & John Hunger were fortunate in not sustaining much damage.

Jean Baker had flooding on her first floor.

Karen Brykczynski stayed on the island during the hurricane, taking on a few inches of water.

Katrina & Donald Lee had Donald's brother Joey with them & they got to visit with family. Their home was not flooded

Fanny DeGesero is in their hill country home. **Roy** is here living in garage and cleaning out their house, which sustained significant flood damage.

Woody & Karen Dickson had some damage but no flooding. Woody's parents **Frank & Liz Dickson** are in San Antonio with their daughter.

Tony DiNuzzo had water in his first floor but says that is where he had his junk. Living area is habitable. **David** is with him and **Elise** will be home soon.

Kate Fiandt had no damage in her home, and is proud of how the School of Nursing is keeping faculty, staff, and students updated.

Vicki Francil sustained significant flood damage in her home and got some cleaning help from folks at BAUUC. She is temporarily with a friend in the Clear Lake area.

Alan Griffin had much flood water in the first floor of his condo, but got right to work on cleaning, demolition & rebuilding.

John & Bev Frannea had no damage to their home. They have been volunteering with the Red Cross.

Judy Glaister & husband Richard Orange were very fortunate. They are helping restore the Texas Seaport Museum.

Mike Hennen & Susan Vaughn had water in their basement and garage and at the Galveston Island Arts Academy.

Cheryl & Red Henry had floodwater in their first floor & rainwater in their third floor. Red's picture was in **USA Today** and on TV.

Mary & Steve Hodgson, Marilyn Schultz, Stephanie Nwadije, & Mitch Philpot were fortunate with little damage. Mitch has been quite helpful to others.

Shirley Hollingsworth, Susan Persons, & Robin Panagakos had a lot of water in their first floors.

Pete & Diane Olson had significant flooding and are using this "opportunity" to clean out their garage. Pete's mother Astrid is in Virginia.

Eleanor Porter & Steve Reubens are in Austin. Ellie's house is fine. **Rusty McGowan** is in a rehabilitation center in Kerrville.

Stan Blazyk & Margaret Canavan escaped interior flooding, but had two feet of water in the garage, and have a huge tree lying on their garage and house.

Billie Rinaldi took up the reins at Satori School in early September, and is busy getting the school up and going.

Sandra Sullivan and husband **K-Ball Withers** fled Friday morning when Sandra found out that Stan the Weather man was leaving. Their house fared well.

Neil Huddleston and his wife **Mary Jane** are living in their RV, as their house and cars were totaled by the storm. They will be temporarily in League City.

Gerry Carr & Joseph Simmons had a couple of feet of water in their home, and are cleaning out.

UUpcoming Events

Board Meeting: The UUFGC Board meeting will occur on its scheduled date, Monday October 13 at 5:45

Poker Night: This esteemed group has decided to reconvene on October 19,

hosted by **Stan Blazyk**. Game night will be set when we find a host.

Supper Circle: **Tony DiNuzzo** is hosting the October supper Circle on Saturday October 25th at 6pm. In addition to supper Tony will be having an open mike, music, poetry, etc. Should be a fun evening for all. Sign up on the bulletin board.

The **Ingathering of New Members** originally scheduled for September will be rescheduled once we get reorganized! Contact Cheryl Henry to be part of that.

Building Your Own Theology Course (BYOT): Beginning date for this course will be announced soon.

Book Club: Book Club will not meet in October but will discuss the October book in November.

Announcements

Comedy Defensive Driving: Joseph "Pokey" Simmons plans to continue his Comedy Defensive Driving Course at the Fellowship. For questions or to sign up, contact Joseph at (409) 789-8541.

AA Phoenix Group: The Alcoholics Anonymous Phoenix group will continue holding their meetings at UU on Sunday & Wednesday evenings at 8pm. Contact Robert G. at 409-392-7005.

Other Events

UUs to Adopt an Afternoon at Ten Thousand Villages: If you would like to volunteer on the second Sunday afternoon of each month to work with other UUs at the Ten Thousand Villages shop in Rice Village, please contact Penny Sullivan at pbsul@sbcglobal.net or Cleo Richard at 281-835-8807. Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit fair trade organization that markets handcrafted products (jewelry, home décor, gift items) made by artisans from 36 different third world countries. There will be an orientation / training session on Tuesday October 13 at 7:00pm.

International Convocation of UU Women: February 26-March 1, 2009, in Houston, Texas. Register online at <http://www.icuuw.com/>.

**Please check before attending activities to be sure they are happening!
Call (409)765-8330 or check the website at uugalveston.org for updates.**

G e t C o n n e c t e d w i t h U U F G C

Meetings are at the Fellowship unless otherwise noted. Everyone is invited and welcome.



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.

Board of UUFGC meets the second Monday of each month at 5:45 pm.

Book Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Contact Fanny DeGesero for information at (409) 740-2355.

Bowlers are on vacation for now. Empty Bowls event is postponed..

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 Laura Murrell for information (lauramurrell@att.net).

Dance Classes Tuesdays & 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 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 to plan Sunday services. For information please contact Gerry Carr. Meetings are open to all. Location to be determined.

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. 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.

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.

Why Our Good fortune at UUFGC?

We have been asked why our Fellowship did not receive more damage from Ike. We had to replace only our aging electrical service. The physical well-being of our Fellowship building stems from a combination of luck plus building practices from the past and the present.

Most damage from Ike in Galveston was flooding. Many homes had as much as 6-8-10 feet of water in them. Wind damage was widespread but not as catastrophic.

Unbeknownst to many of us, UUFGC sits on the edge of part of the original Galveston Seawall. The Seawall as originally built made a sharp left turn at 6th Street/University Blvd and continued north for several blocks (to what is now UTMB). Some years later the Seawall was extended straight toward the east at that turn, and the original 17-foot-high seawall became the base for University Blvd. Landfill built up the area behind the new stretch of Seawall and it is now fully covered with businesses & habitations. We are one block east of 6th Street, and thus on a high point of elevation. That is why we did not get flood water in the building. We are unbelievably indebted to the courageous citizens of Galveston who had the foresight and fortitude to build that Seawall that still protects us a Century later. And we are extremely fortunate to have had that building available to us. I'm not sure we were fully aware of what a fine site we had! But we are now.

As far as the building itself, it was built in two phases. The older part was built in the 1950's as a Girl Scout "Little House". It was built of masonry on a concrete slab, by volunteers who were experts at that work, & who built it to last with love for the children who would use it. The building had several uses in ensuing years since the Girl Scouts moved out, as a child care center, mental health clinic, etc. We bought that solid old building from one of our members over 10 years ago & made it our home. When we began to outgrow it five years ago we added a large new sanctuary and converted the original area to classroom & office space. The new sanctuary was designed by our member & professional architect Mardi Mitchell, who supervised its construction to current stringent building codes. Those codes caused many newer structures in the Galveston area to withstand the winds of Ike.

OCTOBER 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 October Birthdays to:</p> <p>Neil Huddleston 10/7 Bev Frannea 10/07 Jean Baker 10/22 Alan Griffin 10/23 Lee Willcock 10/28</p>			<p>1 5:30pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>2 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>3 7pm - Provocative Film, TBA</p>	4
<p>5 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - S. Blazyk, "Superlative Significance of Life"; Children/Youth RE 12n - Social Action Cmte 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	6	<p>7 6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>8 5:30pm - Bowlers 7pm - Book Club 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>9 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	10	<p>11 9am-3pm - Comedy Defensive Driving</p>
<p>12 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - G.Carr, "Association Sunday"; Children/Youth RE 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>13 5:45pm - Board Meets</p>	<p>14 6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>15 5:30pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>16 6 pm - Program Cmte @ Mosquito 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>17 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>18 9am - Garden Workday 9am-3pm - Comedy Defensive Driving</p>
<p>19 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Ken Vincent, "Jesus on Sex"; Children/Youth RE 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	20	<p>21 6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>22 5:30pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>23 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	24	<p>25 9am-3pm - Defensive Driving 6pm - Supper Circle at DiNuzzo's</p>
<p>26 Potluck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Laura Emerson, "Revelation Revealed"; Children/Youth RE 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	27	<p>28 6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>29 5:30pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>30 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>31</p>	