



A Month of Sundays

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

President's Message

September 7

Katrina Chamberlain, "Water Ceremony"

Coming home like rivers to the sea...Join us as we celebrate the beginning of the church year. As we return from summer, we share water as a symbol of our connectedness. Please bring a small amount of water (authentic or symbolic) and share a story from your travels.

Greeter: Bev Frannea Board Member: Fanny DeGesero Music: Stephen Hodgson

September 14

Rev. Phil Schulman, "Nurture Your Spirit and Help Heal the World"

Rev. Phil Schulman is Minister of Community UU Church in San Antonio. According to Phil, "our UU movement is growing beyond disembodied intellectualism and Protestant decorum, we are embracing multi-cultural expression of our spirituality. We are enjoying a renewal of spirit, and facing societal challenges as a religious people." Phil is the founder of the "10 Tree Challenge," a UU "re-leaf ministry which asks UU congregations to participate in providing trees for our children's future. The project is one of many bringing new rituals, new energy, and new life to our religious movement.

Greeter: Mary Hodgson Board Member: Pete Olsen
Facilitator: Gerry Carr Music: Margaret Canavan

September 21

INGATHERING OF NEW MEMBERS

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

Rituals create meaning & 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? Christina Branum-Martin grew up in Houston, Texas as a Unitarian Universalist and is currently a member of the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church. She is a 7th generation Unitarian. She lives in Houston with her husband and 8 year-old daughter. As a third year seminary student at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago as a modified residency student, she spends each January in Chicago taking intensive classes in addition to classes in local seminaries in preparation for Unitarian Universalist ministry.

Greeter: Vickie Francil Board Member: Pete Olsen
Facilitator: Judy Glaister Music: Stephen Hodgson

September 28

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, "The Meaning of Rosh Hashanah"

A sought-after speaker, Rabbi Jimmy Kessler of Temple B'nai Israel, will once again provide a program based on Jewish history. Rabbi Kessler is the Jewish Chaplain at UTMB and founded the Texas Jewish Historical Society. We welcome him back to our Fellowship.

Greeter: Fanny DeGesero Board Member: Susan Persons
Facilitator: Bets Anderson Music: Margaret Canavan

The sights and sounds of the UUFGC are so joyous. I see a caring community in action, soft voices murmur in the "living room" from the Spirit Circle on Tuesday nights, while the strain of Tango music floats through the air and whirling dancers flash by the glass doors of the sanctuary while others gather in yet another room to instill hope around the concerns and issues of adult children of alcoholics.

Then there is the smell of popcorn and the happy greeting of members and friends for the monthly provocative film series which feeds our minds as well as our souls. And the exclamations of joy when bowls created every Wednesday night are taken out of the kiln to see the final results. The bowls' colors and designs lift hearts both in their creation and in the anticipated filling of soup to benefit Jesse Tree's services to the community.

The peaceful chanting in a recent service, voices strong and soft called for peace. And the bright yellows, oranges, purples and reds of flowers on our altar brought in from our gardens show us simple pleasures. Caring is symbolized in the lit chalice. The "sharing of joys, sorrows and concerns" helps remind us of our vulnerability and how sharing eases the loads we all carry. There is the laughter and sweat of the groups who show up for the monthly work nights to do the chores inside and out.

We explore beliefs and grow in many ways through the Adult "Forum" Religious Education, the Course in Miracles, The Spirit Circle, The UU Book Club, the thoughtful Sunday programs and the upcoming Build Your Own Theology which all keep our spirit home going.

The sanctuary seems fuller lately of bright, smiling faces, glad to be here and

(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)

to see one another. Small clusters gather after service here and there for another cup of coffee and a chance to talk; people reaching out to one another.

These are just some of the wonderful things that I have noticed in our fellowship. I am frankly amazed at all we do!

And it's true we have greater volunteering from a few, but those few create a gathering place of hope and harmony where other people are drawn. And perhaps their extra volunteering allows a busy young mother to simply come and be nurtured or a person who is overwhelmed with other expectations to simply be at peace here. It's like a dance-sometimes its one's turn to dance every dance and another's turn to sit the dance out but still enjoy the music.

The UUFGC is a caring community of diverse people who come together to create a wonderfully functional spirit home.

Thank you for your part.

Susan Persons

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>.

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.

Rev. Phil Schulman to Visit September 13&14

Mary Beth Romeo, a former member and now in San Antonio, recently e-mailed to ask the fellowship to consider hiring Phil Schulman as a quarter time minister. Her small church of 30 is so pleased with him, they hired him 50%! He serves the Kerrville UU for another 25%. The Program committee has invited him to do a service on September 14 just as an invited guest speaker. I encourage you to come to the program and let your board know what you think.

IF we would proceed to consider him as a *quarter time* minister, a special congregation meeting would be called to decide. We have contacted Susan Smith, our district UUA representative to make sure we follow proper guidelines.

Here is the information about Phil Schulman on the San Antonio UU's web site:

"Rev. Phil Schulman has been pursuing and promoting spirituality, social consciousness and healing for 25 years. UU Principles and Purposes have guided him in his work as a teacher, counselor, community organizer, and minister. After graduating from Thomas Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA in 1989, Phil began a Community Ministry. He has led support groups, spirituality classes, and workshops at conferences throughout the U.S. and in cities

in Canada and Europe. He served the Mental Health Association in Essex Co., NY as Emergency Services Director, and started a Crisis Alternative Program there as a holistic alternative to hospitalization. Later, Phil served the Lakeland UU Fellowship in NJ and the St. John UU Fellowship in the USVI. As a community organizer, Phil has been active in campaigns for human rights, peace and sustainable environmental policy. His most recent effort is the [10TreeChallenge](#). He also leads study/practice groups in Nonviolent Communication. (see [Center for Nonviolent Communication](#)).

Besides serving CUUC p/t as Consultant/ Minister, Phil is a licensed Massage Therapist. He also performs wedding ceremonies, and offers his services as a Spiritual Mentor for those who want to become more skilled at creating peace and happiness through self-acceptance and faith."

Coincidentally, I am hosting the supper circle at my home on Saturday night, the 13th. Phil has agreed to attend. That is another way for you to meet him. Just sign up on the bulletin board. I'm making fajitas-meat and vegetarian, please bring a side dish or something to share.

See you on the 14th!

Susan Persons

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

Thinking of Youu: Please keep in your prayers & thoughts: **Tennessee Valley UU Church, Don & Corinne Higbee, and Bob Peake. Rusty McGowan** is rehabilitating at Gulf Health Care Center in Galveston & would love visitors.

Don & Hetty Stubbs have decided to stay in Galveston, so they're back home on Tuna. Welcome back home!

UU at UTMB: On Saturday, August 16, **Susan Persons, Amanda Prather, & Cheryl Henry** hosted a table at the Community Fair for new UTMB students. They distributed brochures about our Fellowship & talked with many students, inviting them to visit us.

Red Henry & Margaret Canavan had an impromptu garden workday on August 29. They worked on setting up a fountain in the back arbor garden, and hope to have it working soon. Next scheduled garden workday is Friday, September 12, 6pm. Bring your tools!

UUpcoming Events

Ingathering of New Members planned for September 21: 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.

Book Club: This month's meeting is on September 10 at 7pm, to discuss **Riding Lessons** by Sara Gruen. All are welcome to join in the discussion. Please send your suggestions for books to be read in the coming year, to Fanny DeGessero (fandfare@aol.com).

Supper Circle: Susan Persons is hosting Supper Circle—Fajita Night-- on Saturday, September 13 at 6:30pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

Poker Night: This esteemed group decided to meet on September 21, once again with Red Henry's hosting. Game night will be announced later.

Building Your Own Theology Course (BYOT) Begins September 14: The central purpose of Building Your Own Theology is to create a community context in which individuals can create their

own credos (from a Latin word which means literally "I Believe"). Each of 10 sessions will include readings, activities, group discussions and written assignments to assist participants in writing their own credo based on a religious model. The 10 sessions will begin Sunday September 14 at 9 am at the Fellowship. Co-leaders will be **Gerry Carr** and **Katrina Chamberlain**. Workbooks will be available prior to the start of the group. Sign up on the sheet in the foyer, and contact Gerry or Katrina if you have questions.

Comedy Defensive Driving: Our friend Joseph "Pokey" Simmons has moved his Comedy Defensive Driving Course to UU. He will hold forth three Saturday each month, helping folks deal with traffic tickets, or reduce their insurance premiums with a fun class for only \$35. Dates and times are on the monthly calendar. For questions or to sign up, contact Joseph at (409) 789-8541.

AA Phoenix Group: The Alcoholics Anonymous Phoenix group will begin holding their meetings at UU on Sunday & Wednesday evenings at 8pm. This group met at our Fellowship in the "old days" before we began construction on our sanctuary, and moved when we had to close down for several months in our building phase. We are happy to welcome them back. The group is open to all who wish a 12-step foundation for recovery. Contact Robert G. at 409-392-7005.

Announcements

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. This is a good way to get to know each other a little better. Feel free to be creative in designing your page; include photos if you like & let people know something they may not already know about you. 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. She will even take a photo of you if you like & add it to your page. Just 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.

Board Meeting Change: In order to better accommodate our members schedules, the board meetings are moving to Monday evenings at 5:45 to 7pm. Next board meeting will be September 8.

Adopt-a-Refrigerator Anyone? The fridge in the Fellowship kitchen sure could use a keeper. Leftover food seems to "come alive" over time! It would be wonderful if someone would step up and take it on as an ongoing project. Interested? Contact any member of the A-team! Or just get in there!

Other Events

For the Animals: Vickie Francil wants us to be sure to attend the PAWS Gala on September 20, which is a fundraiser for the Galveston Island Humane Society. Contact Vickie for tickets.

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 fall 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 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 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. 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.

Social Action Committee **Provocative Film Series** ***Sister Rose's Passion***

Friday, September 5 at 7:00 P.M.

Nominated for a Best Documentary Oscar, this inspiring film from acclaimed director Oren Jacoby brings to light the work of Dominican nun Sister Rose Thering, an outspoken crusader against anti-Semitism. Always pushing against the status quo, Sister Rose pursued her principles with a passion, and her life's work influenced the historic Vatican II Council that reformed the Catholic Church's position on Jews and Judaism.

Please bring a friend and a snack to share.

The August special offering was for the Tennessee Valley UU church. If you would like the special offering to go to your non-profit group, please contact Mary Hodgson or another member of the Social Action Committee.

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.

Sunday Morning Religious Forum Resumes September 7 at 9 am

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 will be available in the Fellowship on August 31 at a cost of \$13.40. As always, there will be a number available free to those unable to pay.

Following are some excerpts of reviews of the book:

- "The book is easy reading and will help you understand how Unitarian-

ism and Universalism evolved. I was raised as a Unitarian and I know more about other religions than I do my own. And certainly if you are not a Unitarian Universalist, but want to understand what it's all about, this book explains the specific ideas behind UUism and where they came from. I should have read this book a long time ago."

- "This book should be on the bookshelf of every UU, since it provides an easy-to-read overview of our denominational history. Because Bumbaugh does such a thorough job of discussing the various theological actions and reactions of the Reformation, this book is also recommended reading for Christians of all denominations

who want to know more about the formation of their faith. After all, as Bob Marley pointed out, 'if you knew your history, then you would know where you're coming from.'"

- "If you are interested in reading about different points of view and different faith systems, this book is a good read. It gives the reader an interesting alternate view of Christianity and the thoughts about the trinity. A very engaging book to exercise your mind and open it to new points of view."

We hope you will join us on Sunday mornings to discuss this book. If you have any questions, please call Bets Anderson at 409.771.6056.

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.



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 & 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.

Coming Soon:

Empty Bowl Event for The Jesse Tree

What?	Annual Empty Bowl Event - supper and silent auction
When?	Saturday, November 8, 2008 6-9pm
Where?	Corner of 16 th and Avenue K, at the beautiful Lasker House [thanks to Jeff Kahler]
Who?	Everyone is invited
Why?	To underscore the needs of the hungry in Galveston by donating the profits to The Jesse Tree.
How much?	\$25 per person [wine and beer extra]

What can I do?

- Contribute a gift for the silent auction [call Bets Anderson at 409-762-4273 or Cheryl Henry at 409-765-5991]
- Help make bowls on Wednesday evenings at the Fellowship [5:30-7:30]
- Volunteer to help with the silent auction [call Bets or Cheryl]
- Volunteer to assist in numerous jobs on November 8 [call Ted Hanley 409-682-6218 at The Jesse Tree]
- Buy a ticket and enjoy the wonderful food and fellowship!




SEPTEMBER 2008

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat												
	<p>1</p> <p><i>Labor Day</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:30pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm - Provocative Film, Sister Rose's Passion</p>	<p>6</p>												
<p>7</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - K. Chamberlain, "Water Ceremony"; Children/Youth Religious Education 12n - Social Action Cmte 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:45pm - Board Meets</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:30pm - Bowlers 7pm - Book Club 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6pm - Garden Workday</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9am-3pm - Comedy-Defensive Driving 6:30pm - Supper Circle at S.Persons'</p>												
<p>14</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum & Building Your Own Theology 10:30am - Rev.P. Schulman, "Nurture Your Spirit"; Children/Youth RE 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:30pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6 pm - Program Cmte @ Mosquito 7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am-3pm - Comedy Defensive Driving</p>												
<p>21 INGATHERING</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum & BYOT 10:30am - C. Branum-Martin, "Celebrating Rituals"; Children/Youth RE 4pm - Zen Meditation 6:30pm - Poker at Henry's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:30pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7pm - Course in Miracles 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9am-3pm - Comedy Defensive Driving</p>												
<p>28 Potluck</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum & BYOT 10:30am - Rabbi J. Kessler, "Rosh Hashanah"; Children/Youth Religious Education 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30pm - Adult Children of Alcoholics 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p><i>Happy September Birthdays to:</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>Kat Joel-Reich</td> <td>9/1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martha Terrill</td> <td>9/10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Hunger</td> <td>9/16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Billie Rinaldi</td> <td>9/16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Doris Lee</td> <td>9/23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steve Reubens</td> <td>9/30</td> </tr> </table>				Kat Joel-Reich	9/1	Martha Terrill	9/10	John Hunger	9/16	Billie Rinaldi	9/16	Doris Lee	9/23	Steve Reubens	9/30
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