

UUF Galveston Gazette

August 2009



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

August 2

Terry Conrad, "Salvation -- Attaining Spiritual Freedom"

We speak of salvation as spiritual freedom, a state of true and lasting happiness, peace-of-mind and well-being regardless of our circumstance. **Freedom from** discomfort, disharmony, despair and disappointment, ... Freedom from agitation, irritation and frustration that so often leads to anxiety, anger and resentment... Freedom from emotional suffering. It also means **freedom to** be true to who and what we are. Terry has worked as an artist for over forty years and has taught at numerous levels of education, ranging from mid-school to university post-graduate. He has also worked in construction and development, and has traveled the world. At Island Brain Works, Terry uses an advanced form of neuro-feedback to train brains. He also works as a volunteer chaplain in the Texas prison system and recently began leading Buddhist meditation at the UU Fellowship.

Greeter: Stephanie Nwadieli Board Member: Susan Persons Facilitator: John Frannea Music: Stephen Hodgson

August 9

John Gorman, "Living With Mystery: Freelance Spirituality & the Poetry of W.B. Yeats"

William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) was a Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet, one of the greatest of the twentieth century. His spirituality informed his work throughout his life, and as his spiritual directions changed, so did his poetry. He was raised Protestant and his early works reflect Irish folklore, magic, and his culturally Celtic identity, while his later works reflect his deep interests in Irish Nationalism, Hinduism and theosophy. Dr. Gorman, Galveston's own Poet Laureate and our poetry teacher, will use samplings of Yeats's poetry and relate them to the poet's spiritual stances.

Greeter: Ana Rivera Board Member: Cheryl Henry Facilitator: Alison Rutledge Music: Woody Dickson

August 16

Michelle Sierpina, "Your Abundant Legacy... Your Lifestory"

For human beings, there is no break from story. We are story creatures, members of the story species." According to author Joseph Gold, "Stories are powerful enough to shape our behavior, how we live, and what we think, then they must effect our health." Join in an interactive opportunity for story sharing and a time to contemplate that most abundant legacy...your own lifestory. We'll sprinkle in some research findings as you participate in personal reflections, the kind of experience that Gene Cohen calls "a bit like chocolate to the brain—a sumptuous activity." Michelle directs the Oscher Lifelong Learning Institute at UTMB.

Greeter: Fanny DeGesero Board Member: Fanny DeGesero Facilitator: Cheryl Henry Music: Margaret Canavan

August 23

Margaret Canavan, "The ABCs of Liberal Religion"

One way of understanding who we are and what we stand for is to take a trip through the alphabet to meet some of the great men and women and reflect on some of the great principles and events at the heart of our faith. Margaret will read a sermon by Kenneth W. Phifer, delivered at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Ann Arbor. Margaret is a member of the Fellowship and volunteers with the Administrative Team.

Greeter: Linda Price Board Member: Mike Hennen Facilitator/ Music: Stephen Hodgson

August 30

Bets Anderson, "Celebrating Failure"

What if all you ever had were successes? Would you grow? Change? Develop? Probably not. What we may need, more than success, is failure. For picking yourself up, dusting yourself off, and starting all over is an opportunity for improvement. So instead of patting ourselves on the back over successes, let's celebrate our failures. Bets is past president of this Fellowship and also volunteers with the Administrative Team.

Greeter: Vickie Francil Board Member: Kathy Domskey Music: Margaret Canavan

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

Hola! Fellow UUFGC members. Isn't the recent rain great!

As July winds down, I have some ongoing Board business to share w/ you. We have hired Jacqueline Ketch as babysitter for the children in our Fellowship. Some Sunday this summer, stop by the Children's' RE space and say hello. Susan Person's brought Jacqueline to us. The Board will address a more permanent arrangement for child care during our September board meeting.

The summer heat puts a strain on everything and everyone. Seems one of the AC units for our building gave up the ghost recently. After research, the Board has decided to replace the unit. Pete Olsen and Cheryl Henry are taking steps to get this done as soon as possible.

As many of you know, Susan and I are spending July and August at our home

in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Business brought me back to Texas recently and I was at the Sunday service to enjoy the singing of own Tony DiNuzzo and guests Bill & Eli Perras.

During the program, Tony spoke about Chalice Lighters. I have asked Tony to poll the Fellowship about who is already active in the program and be the contact person for our congregation. Why don't we all learn more about this program and consider participating.

Despite being out of sight for July and August, I am in constant contact w/ my colleagues on the Board. We have been able to address Church business as it arises. If any of you need to speak w/ me, don't hesitate to email me, <mailto:jhunger@bedfordstmartins.com> or call 409 497 8970.

Enjoy the summer!

John

2009-2010

UUFGC Board of Directors

President	John Hunger
President-Elect	Mike Hennen
Past-President	Susan Persons
Secretary	Cheryl Henry
Treasurer	Pete Olsen
Members at Large:	Fanny DeGesero Kathy Domskey Patrick McGuffey

Committees and Task Forces

Communications	Madeleine Baker
Landscape	Martha Terrill
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.*



As of July 25, our microfinance "revolving" fund has made 74 loans, totaling \$2525, to recipients in developing countries, and we have donated \$129 to support the activities of Kiva. We make loan as we receive donations and re-lend as existing loans are repaid. All are welcome to help select loan recipients and donations are always welcomed. Take a look at our microfinance portfolio at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversali3384>.

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*. They are needed for polishing.
- 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 & also our Social Action Committee.
- **For visitors & newcomers:** Our members receive the **UU World** magazine, & want to share with you. Feel free to take copies from the display in the foyer.
- **Friendly Sunday morning "Greeters"** are needed! These folks show up early on Sunday and help visitors and members feel welcome. 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 !

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

Amanda Prather reports that her husband **Derek** is improving quickly and expects a full recovery after his stroke in June. They thank UUFGC for the thoughts, prayers, and Kiva donation.

We will all miss **Liz Dickson's** sweet smile. Our thoughts are with her husband **Frank**, and son **Woody** and his wife **Karen**.

Thinking of YoUU: Please keep in your prayers & thoughts: those persons in need of some extra positive energy.

UUcoming Events

Book Club: The UUFG Book club will discuss **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak on August 12 at 7pm in the Living Room at the Fellowship. A list of books the UUFG book club will discuss for the next seven months is available on the table in the hallway at the Fellowship Hall.

The Garden team did yeo-woman's work on July 17, tidying up the 5th Street entrance area. Workers were **Susan Persons, Martha Terrill, Dorothy Treviño, & Margaret Canavan**. We hope you can join us Friday evening, August 14, at 7pm. Bring tools if you have some. Light weeding, trimming, watering, visiting, etc..

Used Book Sale: There will be UU Used Book sale at the fellowship on August 15 from 9am to 2pm.

"Spirituality of Poker" and Game Night Sunday, August 23, 6:30pm: Poker will be at **Red Henry's** and other games at **Madeleine Baker's**.

Supper Circle: **Susan Persons** is hosting the August Supper Circle Sunday, August 16 at 6pm. Bring fixin's for salad or ice cream sundaes! Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Come and enjoy delicious food and great conversation.

Around UU

BAUUC's Fellowship Council is inviting other UUs to go camping September 25-27 at Huntsville State Park: For more information contact **Judy Glaister**.



Escape to Vermont October 9-11: 15th Annual B&B Weekend offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, nature walk, kayaking, bicycling, antiques/arts, cider making historic tour, soaring tour, touring historic sites and quaint towns, and much more. Registration by August 15, \$275 (single) and \$475 (double). After August 15, \$325/\$525. For more information contact uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com or (802) 353-7969.

Standing on the Side of Love: On Sunday, July 27th, 2008, a man walked into the sanctuary of my church--Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church--and opened fire. Two dedicated Unitarian Universalists were killed: Greg McKendry, an usher, and Linda Kraeger, a member of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church. Six other people were injured. Every member of our two congregations was affected.

In the aftermath of that tragic morning, the surrounding community embraced us. We kept our hearts and our doors open, and love came rushing in from every direction.

One year later, I remain deeply grateful for the countless hugs, cards, meals, and prayers that sustained us. I could not have known then that our commitment to love in the face of violence would inspire the Unitarian Universalist Association to launch the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign. I couldn't be more pleased, however, because experience has taught me that brokenness can only be healed with love.

As we approach the first anniversary of the shooting, I ask you to join this campaign by pledging to stand on the side of love.

Unfortunately, our experience is not unique. People across the nation face exclusion, oppression, or violence because of their immigrant status, sexual or gender orientation, religion, race, political views, among other identities. Such dehumanization must be chal-

lenged. This campaign invites people of every faith and belief to stand together in the name of love. Our nation is at a critical moment, when our collective voice and action can heal families, towns, cities, states, and nations.

One week after the shooting, I returned to the pulpit to rededicate our sanctuary. I said, 'A man came into this space with a desire to do an act of hatred, but he has unleashed unspeakable amounts of love.'

Join with me in that unleashing of love. I invite you to open your hearts and join thousands of others who are standing on the side of love.

Standing on the Side of Love is a public advocacy campaign, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association, promoting respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. **Standing on the Side of Love** will confront exclusion, oppression and violence based on identity. Based in the aspiration to create beloved community, the campaign will pursue social change through advocacy, public witness and speaking out in solidarity with those whose lives are publicly demeaned. All people, not just Unitarian Universalists, are invited to stand, speak, worship, march, roll, and live on the side of the love.

For more information go to: <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/>

Love,
Rev. Chris Buice
Tennessee Valley UU Church

Get Connected with UUFGC



Meetings are at the Fellowship unless otherwise noted. Everyone is invited and welcome to all listed activities.

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

Adult Forum meets Sundays at 9am to explore topics in religion, philosophy, history & politics. Contact Neil Huddleston at (409)744-2369.

Board of UUFGC meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 5:45 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Book Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Contact Fanny DeGesero if you have suggestions for readings..

Used Book Sale monthly on second Saturday, 9am . Come help out! Donate your used books!

Bowlers meet throughout the year to make bowls for the annual "Empty Bowl" fundraiser. They are currently on break.

Comedy Defensive Driving: "Pokey" Simmons teaches this three Saturdays each month, for \$35. Contact him at (409) 789-8451 to sign up.

Course in Miracles Study Group meets every Monday at 11 am. Contact Laura Murrell for information(lauramurrell@att.net).

Dance Classes: Meet each Tuesday & Thursday, 7pm: Questions, call Betty at 281-337-0441. See <http://www.galvestondanceclub.com>.

Gardeners meet monthly for work that is important to keeping our Fellowship looking good & working properly. See calendar for work dates.

Program Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6pm, at Mosquito Café in Galveston. Meetings are open to all.

Poker and Game Night is monthly and held in members' homes, open to all. Check the calendar & weekly announcements for date & location.

Social Action Committee meets the first Sunday of each month after service and welcomes your ideas, energy and enthusiasm.

Spirit Circle Covenant Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6pm. 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 Mondays at 5:30pm, and Thursdays at 5:15pm. Contact Cara Geary (gcar@comcast.net) or visit galvestonzen.org about Mondays, or Terry Conrad (409)599-7268 about Thursdays.

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
Who Killed the Electric Car?
Friday, August 7, 7pm

Amid ever-increasing gas prices, this documentary delves into the short life of the GM EV1 electric car -- once all the rage in the mid-1990s and now fallen by the roadside. How could such an efficient, green-friendly vehicle fail to transform our garages and skies? Through interviews with government officials, former GM employees and concerned celebs (such as EV1 driver [Mel Gibson](#)), Chris Paine (former EV1 owner) seeks to answer the question.

Free Admission -- Bring a friend and a snack to share.

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.

AUGUST 2009

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Happy Birthday to: <i>Susan Baker</i> 8/2 <i>Kathy Domsky</i> 8/2 <i>Stan Blazyk</i> 8/6 <i>Larry Janzen</i> 8/6 <i>Jodie Mitchell</i> 8/10 <i>Laura Murrell</i> 8/19</p>						1
<p>2 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Terry Conrad, "Salvation"; Children/Youth Religious Education 12n - Social Action Cmte; 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>3 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>4 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>5 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>6 5:45pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>7 7pm - Provocative Film, Who Killed the Electric Car?</p>	<p>8 9am-3pm Defensive Driving</p>
<p>9 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - John Gorman "Living with Mystery: WB Yeats"; Children/Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>10 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>11 6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>12 7pm - Book Club, The Book Thief 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>13 5:45pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>14 7pm - Garden Work party</p>	<p>15 9am-2pm - Used Book Sale 9am - 3pm Defensive Driving</p>
<p>16 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Michelle Sierpina "Your Lifestory"; Children/Youth Religious Education 6pm - Supper Circle at Susan Persons' 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>17 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>18 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>19 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>20 5:45pm - Zen Meditation 6pm - Program Cmte at Mosquito 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>21 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>22 9am-3pm Defensive Driving</p>
<p>23 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Margaret Canavan, "ABCs of Liberal Religion"; Children/Youth Religious Ed 8pm - AA Phoenix Group 6:30 - Poker at Red Henry's, games at Madeleine Baker's</p>	<p>24 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>25 6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>26 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>27 5:45pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9am-3pm Defensive Driving</p>
<p>30 Potluck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Bets Anderson, "Celebrating Failure"; Children/Youth RE 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>31 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>					