

UUF Galveston Gazette

June 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

President's Message

June 7

David Throop, "Taking a Bet on the Truth"

*'The search for truth is our sacrament. And service is its prayer.' We are called to action, based on the truths we know. But there's a catch. Revelation isn't finished - tomorrow may prove today's truths to be partial, provisional. Or just **wrong**. Our free churches have struggled with the question ever since the Pilgrims -- How do act boldly, faithfully, given that we might be in error? We look back to our Unitarian roots to learn how UU's serve with confidence even as we walk in doubt. David Throop has been a UU for 30+ years, in six different congregation under twenty UU ministers. In all of these, he has been active in the Unitarian Lunch Ministry. He, his wife and their four children attend Bay Area UU Church in SE Houston, where he is the head coach for Covenant Groups. He does lay preaching all around southeast Texas. Visit his blog at uulaypreach.blogspot.com. Plan to join David after the service for a lunch group at the Original Mexican Restaurant at 14th & Market.*

Greeter: Dorothy Trevino

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Board Member: P. McGuffey

Music: Margaret Canavan

June 14

Martha Terrill, "Sharing our Creativity"

Evidence shows that humans have been expressing their creativity for thousands of years. Given this knowledge, we must accept that creativity is part of human activity that has evolved over the years. Not just for those whose "star" seems to shine brighter, but for every human being. The idea that a "creative" person, is only one whose works gain public acclamation is a self-deceiving notion. The seeming small everyday acts, personal activities, gestures, & flourishes that we express as we go about our daily lives are really creative endeavors whether we acknowledge them as such or not. Members of the Fellowship are asked to bring their creations: large or small, grandiose or humble to share & collectively celebrate this unique aspect of humanity. Sewing, knitting, singing, recitations, poetry, dance, artworks, tattoos, inventions, woodworking, carpentry, plumbing & wiring, music, playing an instrument.....all creative, all inspiring, all human. Martha is a member of our Fellowship & a professional artist.

Greeter: Sandra Sullivan

Board Member: Bets Anderson

Music: Steve Hodgson

June 21

Alan Griffin, "Summer Solstice"

This astronomical event has been celebrated since before written history. What significance can this have for us today? Alan Griffin, retired psychologist, has a long time interest in how people actions are influenced by their environments.

Greeter: Madeleine Baker

Facilitator: Stan Blazyk

Board Member: Fanny DeGesero

Music: Margaret Canavan

June 28

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Laura Murrell, "Saul Alinsky's Tradition Lives"

*Laura Murrell will read "Reveille For Radicals: Lessons from the Life of Saul Alinsky" a sermon by Rev. John E. Gibbons. It seems a good time to repeat this sermon given President Obama's back ground as an organizer and the issues our adult forum is discussing as they read **Getting a Grip** by Frances Moore Lappé which cites many examples from Alinsky's Industrial Areas Foundation.*

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Board Member: Amanda Prather

Music: Woody Dickson

The recent annual meeting was a day of joy. Although I worried that your patience was tested when the service lasted longer than usual with the annual business meeting still to conduct, we all enjoyed the music by the UU String Band and felt confirmed by all the members' testimonies. We laughed at our stories and relished what a warm community we are.

There was plenty of food to feed our 60+ attendees. And when the time came, serious attention was paid to issues on the agenda. Volunteers came forth and new members just gathered in that day, joined in the discussions and voting. It was a wonderful ending for my time as your president. The gift of the chalice charm with all the symbols of other religions, was not the frosting on the cake but the chocolate sprinkles on top! I was totally surprised and honored. Around the sanctuary, people were enjoying each other, lingering at the tables, no one in a hurry despite the longer day. And then moving together to get the jobs done of clearing dishes, moving back chairs, each one pitching in until the job was .

Thank you for the honor of allowing me to be your president-none of us knew what challenges the year would hold, but we all hung in there together and grew in numbers and in strength.

(President's Message continued on p. 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.

I want to thank Amanda Prather as she rotates off the board for a fine job as secretary. We all relied on her cues to help us remember what needed following up. And what a wonderful group of officers the new board will be starting in July.

And I can never say enough thanks to all the members of the program committee, the A-Team, the Social Action group, the folks who are beautifying our front, the students of the Course in Miracles & of Spirit Circle, the Bowlers-all integral parts of the marvelous community called the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County. And the additions of the tangential groups of dancers, quilters, AA'ers, Zen folk, Artist Boat, Galveston Art Center and now yoga which add to our core activities, enriching our community.

Thank you,
Susan

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.
- **Have YOU greeted lately???** 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 !

ATTIC TREASURES Sale Set for June 12-13

We're in the home stretch for this annual fundraiser for UUFGC!

Remember that the early-bird sale and reception is Friday evening, **June 12 from 6-8pm**, which will have an admission fee of \$5 to cover refreshments. **Mardi Mitchell** has volunteered to manage refreshments for that evening, so let he know if you'd like to assist.

Sale will be continue on **Saturday, June 13 from 8am-1pm**. Both events are open to the public, of course. Tell your friends.

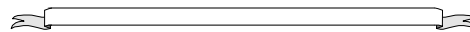
The volunteer list is posted on the Fellowship bulletin board. Please add your name if you're not on there already! And dust off your blue UU Volunteer t-shirt to wear during the sale.

Our Sanctuary is used during the week so we won't be able to set up as soon as we have in the past. However, please go ahead and **bring items for the sale beginning Sunday, June 7** after the service. We will store things as unobtrusively as possible for a few days.

Beginning **Thursday morning, June 11**, we have the building all to ourselves and will be able to transform the Sanctuary into our annual thrift

shop. Someone will be there most of the day and evening Thursday and Friday. Please bring your donations as soon as possible so we'll have time for sorting and pricing. If you need assistance hauling things to the Fellowship, let any of the volunteers know.

We hope you'll get right to work identifying things you'd like to donate. Solicit donations from your friends too! All donations are tax-deductible as a donation to the Fellowship. Be sure to get a donation receipt.



Over the past two years our microfinance "revolving" fund has made loans totaling \$2,250 available to 63 recipients in developing countries, 29 of which have been repaid. We have donated \$103.50 to support the activities of Kiva. We make loans as we receive donations and relend as existing loans are repaid. All are welcome to help select loan recipients. Take a look at our current microfinance portfolio at

<http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversalist3384>.



2008-2009

UUFGC Board of Directors

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| President | <i>Susan Persons</i> |
| President-Elect | <i>John Hunger</i> |
| Past-President | <i>Bets Anderson</i> |
| Secretary | <i>Amanda Prather</i> |
| Treasurer | <i>Pete Olsen</i> |
| Members at Large: | <i>Fanny DeGesero</i> <i>Cheryl Henry</i> <i>Patrick McGuffey</i> |

Committees and Task Forces

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Communications | <i>Madeleine Baker</i> |
| Landscape | <i>Martha Terrill</i> |
| Membership | <i>Cheryl Henry</i> |
| Program/Worship | <i>Gerry Carr</i> |
| Religious Education | <i>Neil Huddleston</i> |
| Supper Circles | <i>Judy Glaister</i> |
| Social Action | <i>Mary Hodgson</i> |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Administrative Team | <i>B. Anderson, M. Baker, M. Canavan, J. Glaister, & C. Henry</i> |
| Webmaster | <i>Amber Zainfeld</i> |

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

Thinking of You: Please keep in your prayers & thoughts: **Rusty McGowan**, **John & Bev Frannea's** daughter **Andy Walker**. Rusty would love to have visitors anytime at 3203 Ave. Q. **Judy Glaister** who recently lost her sister.

Upcoming Events

UU Board: The next UU Fellowship Board meeting will be held Monday June 8 at 5:45pm. Fellowship members are welcome to attend. The Board is glad to have guests and can meet in the fellowship hall to accommodate them. The "summer" board meeting to cover July & August is being planned for Monday June 29 to accommodate Board members travel, etc. But the Board will be available for any Fellowship needs by e-mail and telephone. Let us know if you have any questions or items you want your Board to address. Please note that the meeting minutes are posted on the web site for all members to have access, at <http://uugalveston.org/onlymembers/boardminutes.htm> (let us know if you have forgotten the "members only" password).

Book Club June 10, 7pm: The book for June is **The Devil and Miss Prym** by Paulo Coelho. Hope to see as many of you as possible.

"Spirituality of Poker" and Game Night Sunday, June 14, 6:30pm: Poker at John Hunger's house, 6 Tradewinds Drive. Game night at Richard and Judy's.

Supper Circle: Saturday, June 27th 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Light dinner (pot luck) and swimming. For Directions, contact Mike Hennen and Susan Vaughan, our June host couple, at mhennen@sbcglobal.net. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Around UU

Thanksgiving: A host/hostess is needed for the Thanksgiving Dinner. Judy Glaister was going to do this for the third year in a row, but she has a new grandchild due to arrive on Novem-

ber 23rd and needs to be in California. Please contact Judy if interested.

Alan Griffin has a role in **The Long Journey Home: Caring for a Loved One with Dementia**, a play about the caretakers of Alzheimer patients, written by UTMB's Oma Morey. Performances are free at UTMB's Levin Hall, and are scheduled for 8pm on Friday, June 5, Saturday, June 6, Friday, June 12, and Saturday, June 12.

Living a Mindful Life—Learning to Find Calm in the Chaos: This workshop will be held at UU on Wednesday, June 17 9am – 4 pm, led by Zen Master Dae Gak, PhD and Cara Geary MD, PhD. Cost is \$65 and includes a box lunch, a CD and small workbook). For questions, please contact Cara Geary (cageary@utmb.edu). Please dress comfortably. Space is limited.

Other Events

Dance Class: Because of our Attic Treasures sale and the Zen island Fellowship Retreat, the Thursday night dance classes for June 12 and 19 have been rescheduled to Wednesdays June 11 and 18, from 6-8pm.

Join UUs from around the country in Niagara Falls, July 19-22: Experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit <http://www.uunex.net/>

Pride Parade: Anyone interested in helping with the booth at the Pride Festival or marching with the UU group at the Pride Parade please contact Sharon Lockridge at 936-755-1475 or email sharon_scherer@yahoo.com. The parade and festival will be June 27. The festival starts at 11 am and the parade starts at 8:45 pm. The booth sign up is for 1 hour increments. Anyone who wants to work it early and not stay the whole day, or anyone who wants to come late so that they also can partici-

pate in the parade, can absolutely be accommodated.

Galveston Arts Center Summer Art Classes for Children, 9-11:30am each Friday from June 5 through August 7. Classes are appropriate for students ages 6 to 14. Classes are \$10 each for GAC Members, and \$12 for others. Students may pre-register for all 10 classes, or pay as you go. Each class will be led by a Galveston-based artist and will focus on a different technique or medium. Registration fee includes supplies and materials. DRESS FOR MESS! Call Robin at 409.763.2403 to register or for further information.

Camping this fall with Bay Area Sept 25-27: Each spring and fall for over 30 years, BAUUC has had a church-campout at a state park. Their Fellowship Council wants to do this as a joint activity with other UU churches. We need someone in our Fellowship to be coordinator for our group. If you are willing or interested, contact administrator@uugalveston.org or leave a message at (409)765-8330.



News from Social Action: Thanks to the generosity of the fellowship, on April 29, **Beverly Franae** and **Mary Hodgson** delivered checks totaling \$531 to Crenshaw Elementary. It was gratefully received and we asked school personnel to use it for teacher and student supplies.

The Committee is busy on a project to curtail the use of plastic bags. We are focusing on Kroger to start with, and will be setting up a display shortly. We will also be coming up with a Power Point presentation to take "on the road" to other groups that might be interested in our cause. Eventually we would like to ban the use of plastic bags on the beach as plastic bags are filling our oceans.



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 - noon. Come help out! Donate your used books!

Bowlers are on vacation for awhile..

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. 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.

Social Action Committee
Provocative Film Series
Gracie
Friday June 5, 7 pm

After a tragedy, 15-year-old Gracie (Carly Schroeder) channels her grief by fighting to get girls into varsity soccer in this inspiring drama. Despite her passion and resolve, she's blocked on all sides as she argues for the right of women to play competitive soccer. The film -- set in 1978 -- is based on the real-life story of actress Elisabeth Shue (playing Gracie's mom), who championed the cause of women's sports as a teen.

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.

Right Relations Covenant


- We will galvestonzen.org 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.

JUNE 2009

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  | 1 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30 pm - Zen Meditation | 2 7pm - Dance lessons | 3 8pm - AA Phoenix Group | 4 7pm - Dance lessons | 5 7pm - Provocative Film, Gracie | 6 |
| 7 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - David Throop, "Taking a Bets on Truth"; Children/ Youth Religious Education 12n - Social Action Committee 8pm - AA Phoenix Group | 8 11am - Course in Miracles 5:45pm - Board Meets 5:30 pm - Zen Meditation | 9 6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons | 10 6-8pm- Dance Lessons 7pm Book club 8pm - AA Phoenix Group | Attic Treasures Sale Set-up all day in Sanctuary & Living Room. Come help out! | | 13 8am-2pm - ATTIC TREASURES SALE |
| 14 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Martha Terrill, "Shaing Our Creativity"; Children/Youth Religious Education 6:30 - Poker at John Hunger's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group | 15 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30 pm - Zen Meditation | 16 7pm - Dance lessons | 17 6-8pm- Dance Lessons 8pm - AA | 18 6pm - Program Cmte at Mosquito Café | 19 Newsletter Deadline | 20 |
| Zen Island Fellowship Workshop all day Wednesday. Retreat with Zen Master Dae Gak, Thursday 6pm through Saturday 6pm. Details at http://www.galvestonzen.org | | | | | | |
| 21 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Alan Griffin, "Summer Solstice"; Children/Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group | 22 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30 pm - Zen Meditation | 23 6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons | 24 8pm - AA Phoenix Group | 25 7pm - Dance lessons | 26 | 27 9am-3pm Defensive Driving 7pm - Supper Circle at Hennen's |
| 28 Potluck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Laura Murrell, "Saul Alinsky's Tradition Lives"; Children/Youth Religious Educ. 8pm - AA Phoenix Group | 29 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30 pm - Zen Meditation | 30 7pm - Dance lessons | Happy Birthday to: Susan Persons 6/2 Linda Price 6/12 Patrick McGuffey 6/19 Joan Klein 6/24 Amanda Prather 6/27 | | | |