

UUF Galveston Gazette

November 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

November 1

Sandra López, "Día de los Muertos"

This celebration from Mexican tradition honors loved ones who have passed on. Sandra, a first generation Mexican American on her father's side and second generation on her mother's side, hopes to share the rich history about Dia de Los Muertos and its value in remembering our loved ones. Bring photographs & other mementos (food, drinks, special items) of your loved ones to decorate our altar, & share a story or reminiscence. All are invited to participate in this very special service that provides for sharing, support & community-building.

Greeter: Kay Schiller

Board Member: Pete Olsen

Music: Margaret Canavan

November 8

Joanna Crawford, "Testify!"

Or "So What's the Good News About Unitarian Universalism and Why/How Should I Spread It?" Joanna will testify, exhort you to evangelize, discuss Holy Spirit and even give some tips about getting through those "What do you believe?" conversations. Joanna Fontaine Crawford is a UU seminary student and member of Northwest Community Unitarian Universalist Church. She lives in Houston with her husband and four children.

Greeter: Cheryl Henry

Facilitator: Madeleine Baker

Board Member: John Hunger

Music: UU String Band

INGATHERING OF NEW MEMBERS

November 15

Mylène Dressler, "Inspiring Ourselves and Others Through Challenging Times"

Dr. Dressler will share, from an artist's perspective, how in our lives, work and relationships we can reach deeply into private reserves of strength and imagination, to move ourselves toward newly creative acts, and help others to do the same. Mylène is a gifted and published author who has spoken with us several times in the past. She will meet later in the day with the UU Book Club to discuss her novel, **The Deadwood Beetle**.

Greeter: Fanny DeGesero

Facilitator: Dorothy Treviño

Board Member: Kathy Domsky

Music: Woody Dickson

November 22

Steve Brooks, "The Music of Pete Seeger"

Austin Wildflower UU's traveling troubadour returns for another enlightening, moving, and entertaining service. If you haven't heard him you're in for a treat. Visit Steve's website at <http://www.stevebrooks.net/>.

Greeter: Madeleine Baker

Board Member: Susan Persons

Facilitator/Music: Tony DiNuzzo

November 29

Gerry Carr, "Giving Thanks"

As Thanksgiving weekend ends, let us pause today to aspire to gratefulness throughout the year. Gerry is past president of our Fellowship, and chairs our Program/Worship committee. She is thankful to be back in her home.

Greeter: Susan Persons

Board Member: Patrick McGuffey

Music: Steve Hodgson

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Dear UUFGC Colleagues,

Your board met Monday, Oct. 12 and covered a lot of ground. In particular, the Administrative Team has submitted a list of repairs and improvements that need our attention. In the very near future I will be asking for volunteers to rally for a work day to address some of these items (others will require professional services to complete properly). I intend to meet with the Administrative Team before our November board meeting to work out the details.

Additionally, the Houston area UU ministers and lay leaders are being asked to participate in an exciting opportunity. It is to field test the UUA's Tapestry of Faith curriculum, **What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology**. We have been invited to participate. I have already received preliminary material about the program and the first several workshops. It involves facilitator training with Thandeka, a very prominent UU minister and theologian. This appears to be a great opportunity for our Fellowship!

[http://
www.witherspoonsociety.org/
thandeka.htm](http://www.witherspoonsociety.org/thandeka.htm)

I am discussing with our Worship Committee and Adult RE group. If interested see me for more details.

Best,
John Hunger

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.

Rest Assured, Fellow UUs, We're All Safer From Terrorists than you Might Think!

Pete Olsen is on the job. Pete is working with government agencies in security management integration as a project manager. Right now he's working with the Galveston wharves, putting together a program in prevention against terrorism.

Pete is a long time member of UUFGC. He is usually around on Sundays with Diane, his wife, who takes care of our sea friends at Moody Gardens, and Astrid, his mother, who's usually kind of quiet and doesn't get around too well, so be sure to stop by and say hello to her on Sundays. She's a sweetie.

Pete's parents came to the states from Denmark in 1947 after the war. They moved to Washington, D.C. where Pete was born. He grew up in a suburb of Virginia with his sister and brother. He admits he was never a great student, and got drafted into the army in 1969, where he opted for power equipment training. He was sent to Vietnam, where sticking

to his scruples, he was able to resist the wild ways of a GI in Nam; a great challenge, he says. He married Susan Baker while in the army, and they settled in Galveston in 1974. They had two daughters. Susan, of course, is now married to John Hunger. Kudos to all of them for being so civilized and being able to get along and attend our UUF. We are all a big happy family here.

Pete met Diane through a friend of hers, who worked with Pete. I asked Pete if the friend was married, and he said she was single. I wondered why this young single woman didn't grab him for herself. He did not believe in dating anyone he worked with. Up popped those scruples again, I guess. Lucky for Diane. They married in 1997, here at UU, after less than a year of dating.

Pete has worked around motorcycles and boats. He also worked for an upholsterer for awhile. He eventually got a B.S. in environmental management,

while working for Texas A & M. He developed a program for the school in oil spills response. Under his leadership, ten thousand people in the oil industry went through a five day training in environmental awareness related to prevention and response to oil spills. He feels really good about this contribution to protecting our earth.

Pete was attracted to Galveston for its fishing. He has a boat in his driveway, but laments the fact that he doesn't do much fishing these days. He's always ridden a motorcycle, and continues to do so.

Pete has been an asset to UUFG. He served as president several times and as secretary a couple of times through the years. He's been invaluable to us because of all the maintenance he's done around here. We've all benefited from having him as a member.

--by Marilyn Schulz



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.

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 Domsky 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

Reminders

- Please bring **clean plastic grocery bags** 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 & polishing on the *Elissa*.
- We can get \$3 credit at Office Depot with your **used inkjet printer cartridges**.
- **Fair Trade Coffee and Tea** sales in our foyer benefit small coffee farmers & 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! Sign-up in the kitchen or contact **Vickie Francil**.

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

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

Mike Hennen is recuperating after a brief overnight stay in the hospital.

Jodie Mitchell says hi and she hopes to visit soon.

Bets Anderson's watercolor exhibit, "Doors of Galveston" continues on display at Mosquito Café. Be sure to go by if you haven't seen it yet. Congratulations to **Bets** and to **Margaret Canavan** for their awards in the recent St. Augustine of Hippo art show, "Communion". Bets placed first in watercolor, and Margaret received third place in mixed media.

Sandra López delivered the keynote address at the annual Texas conference of the National Association of Social Workers, in Fort Worth. **Kay Schiller** was recently elected Vice-president of that organization.

Caecilia Fryear is recuperating from a bout of problems with her pancreas. Both Caecilia and Jerry send greetings and hope to see everyone soon. They are planning to return to Galveston when they can rent or sell their house in Washington state.

UUpcoming Events

Ingathering: We will formally welcome new members to UUFGC in an Ingathering Ceremony as part of the service on Sunday November 8. If you have been thinking about membership in the Fellowship, now is the time! Contact Cheryl Henry, Membership Chair.

Book Club: This month the group will discuss *The Deadwood Beetle* by Myléne Dressler. She will be our speaker on November 15, and will participate in the discussion that afternoon. Time has not yet been set. Book for December is *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.

Used Book Sale, Saturday November 14: Sale will be from 9am-2pm. **Fanny DeGesero** invites all to come buy, and/or help out. **Susan Baker** requests the following: *If you have used books to*

donate, please patronize the Galveston Bookshop by taking your books (those not purchased at the UU book sale) to that venue for resale. Sharon will buy from you any books she wants for her shop (or give you credit by establishing an account in your name). Any books she does not buy are given to us for our monthly sale. This will benefit all of us by supporting a local business, getting you a bit of credit for purchase of books from her shop, and our Fellowship receiving books to sell monthly at our sale.

"Spirituality of Poker" and Game Night: Poker will be Sunday evening, November 15, 6:30pm at **Stan Blazyk's**. Other games TBA. All are welcome to participate!

Supper Circle: This month's "supper" will be Thanksgiving dinner at the Fellowship at 1pm on Turkey Day, November 26. Please sign up on the bulletin board and include what dish you will bring. Everyone is welcome.

Microfinance at UUFGC: Our microfinance "revolving" fund has used our donation fund of a few hundred dollars to make 86 loans, totaling \$2825, to recipients in developing countries, and we have donated \$160 to support the activities of Kiva. We make loans as we receive donations and re-lend as existing loans are repaid. All are welcome to help select loan recipients. We are part of the Unitarian Universalist lending team which has 286 members. Take a look at our microfinance portfolio and history at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversalist3384>.

Around UU

Fall Leadership Conference November 13-15: If you want to learn more about being an effective congregational leader, this is an excellent opportunity. The meeting will be held in Glen Rose, TX. Theme is **The Nuts and Bolts of Church Work**. This annual event is sponsored by the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference. For more information go to www.swuuc.org.

News from Unitarian Universalist Association: The UUA's **Standing on**

A big thanks goes out to all who contributed to, set up, and worked hard to put on the second **Help Float the Boat** event. The tally is in and on October 10 Artist Boat and the community of Galveston raised \$15,000. Thanks to all and congratulations to Jim Kelly who won the pygmy kayak.

Everyone in our community is so generous. Thanks for your support of Artist Boat's mission serving over 6,500 participants annually through Eco-Art Workshops, Adventures, Habitat Restoration, Public Art, and Professional Development. Artist Boat is dedicated to promoting awareness and preservation of coastal margins and the marine environment through the disciplines of the sciences and the arts.

We are very grateful and these funds will be utilized to further our mission in the five county region surrounding Galveston Bay.

Sincerely,
Karla Klay, Executive Director
Artist Boat

the Side of Love campaign to stop oppression provides materials to help every congregation get involved. These include a petition calling for full equality under the law for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender (BGLT) people.

The **Office of Worship and Music Resources** reminds you that the Worship-Web is available on UUA.org. This is designed to help congregations make the most of their worship services, and continues to grow.

The **Stewardship and Development** staff group is now accepting submissions for the annual Stewardship Sermon Award. This \$1,000 award is given in recognition of sermons that best explore and promote financial support of our Unitarian Universalist faith. All religious professionals and seminarians are encouraged to enter.

The UUA Margaret Fuller Bicentennial Committee is sponsoring a hymn competition for the 2010 General Assembly. The earliest deadline to submit entries will be in January 10, 2010 and the winner will receive a \$500 cash prize.



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 5:15 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Book Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Contact Fanny DeGesero if you have suggestions for readings. Special November meeting on the 15th.

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

Bowlers meet throughout the year on Wednesday evenings to make bowls for the annual "Empty Bowl" fundraiser for Jesse Tree.

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. UU members can join for half price. 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/Worship Committee meets the first Wednesday 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 6:15pm. 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 us your news! Provide 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 Man Named PEARL

Friday, November 6, 7pm

Angered by white residents' racist comments that he wouldn't "keep up his yard," Pearl Fryar teaches himself topiary sculpture and becomes the first African American in his Bishopville, S.C., neighborhood to win the coveted "yard of the month" award. This acclaimed documentary traces Fryar's inspiring story, as he grows into a legendary horticulturist, welcoming thousands of tourists eager to catch a glimpse of his stunning works of art.

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



NOVEMBER 2009

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat												
1 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Sandra López, "Día de los Muertos"; Children/ Youth Religious Education 12n - Social Action Cmte; 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	2 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	3 7pm - Dance lessons	4 5pm - Bowlers 6pm - Program Cmte @ Mosquito 8pm - AA Phoenix	5 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons	6 7pm - Provocative Film, A Man Named Pearl	7												
8 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Joanna Crawford, "Testify"; Children/Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	9 11am - Course in Miracles 5:15pm - UU Board 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	10 6:15pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons	11 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	12 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons	13	14 9am- Defensive Driving 9am-2pm - Used Book Sale												
15 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Myléne Dressler, "Inspiring Ourselves & Others"; Children/Youth RE Book Club special meeting, time TBA 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	16 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	17 7pm - Dance lessons	18 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	19 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 9am- Defensive Driving												
22 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Steve Brooks, "Music of Pete Seeger" Children/Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	23 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	24 6:15pm - Spirit Circle NO Dance lessons	25 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	26 1pm -- Thanksgiving Dinner NO Dance lessons Thanksgiving	27	28 9am- Defensive Driving												
29 Potluck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Gerry Carr, "Being Thankful"; Children/Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	30 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	Happy Birthday to: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><i>Madeleine Baker</i></td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;"><i>11/7</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Margaret Canavan</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>11/11</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Woody Dickson</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>11/12</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Lori Pepper</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>11/21</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Frank Dickson</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>11/28</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Mitch Philpot</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>11/28</i></td> </tr> </table>				<i>Madeleine Baker</i>	<i>11/7</i>	<i>Margaret Canavan</i>	<i>11/11</i>	<i>Woody Dickson</i>	<i>11/12</i>	<i>Lori Pepper</i>	<i>11/21</i>	<i>Frank Dickson</i>	<i>11/28</i>	<i>Mitch Philpot</i>	<i>11/28</i>	
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