



A Month of Sundays

Services & Children's Religious Education 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9am (except Potluck Sunday)

December 5

Jean Goodwin, "Saint Michael, Archangel"

The image of Saint Michael is carried in procession through the streets of Cuzco each October 29 to the accompaniment of two bands playing two different songs while masked dancers shoot fizzy beer into the crowds. What is going on here? Why is Saint Michael important in Peru? What do the Archangels mean to us? Why do we have angels on our Christmas trees? Dr. Goodwin is a favorite 'angel' to our Fellowship and always delights and informs with her stories.

Greeter: Madeleine Baker
Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Board Member: Mike Hennen
Music: Steve Hodgson

December 12

Steve Brooks, "What if Dog Were One of Us?"

At the age of 50, I demonstrated that old dogs can learn new tricks by adopting a young dog: Molly, a stray golden retriever puppy with big brown eyes and a bad case of mange. Little did I know that raising her would turn into a spiritual journey, from my first experience at being a parent to the mysteries of communication between human and non-human intelligence and a fresh understanding of love. Besides telling my own stories, this sermon would review what other writers have learned from their canine companions - and what we all can learn. Steve is an Austin-based UU singer-songwriter and graces our Sunday services with his music and creative spirit.

Greeter: Bets Anderson

Board Member: Billie Rinaldi

Facilitator/Music: Tony DiNuzzo

December 19

Gerry Carr, "Moravian Love Feast"

This annual service celebrates the Christmas season with carols, readings, candles and a traditional Moravian Love Feast. This ritual is a shared communion of rolls and sweet coffee, served by members of the congregation. It is based upon the Agape feast and the meals of the early churches described in the Bible in the Acts of the Apostles, which were partaken in unity and love. A Lovefeast seeks to strengthen the bonds and the spirit of harmony, goodwill, and congeniality, as well as to forgive past disputes and instead love one another. Gerry Carr will lead this service with the help of other members. Gerry is past president of our Fellowship and chairs the Program/Worship Committee.

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Board Member: Dale Hogan

Music: Margaret Canavan

December 26

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Cheryl Henry, "What Gives Life Meaning?"

Through a sermon by the late Forrest Church, beloved minister of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City, we will explore the universal search for meaning in our lives. In his book **Lifecraft**, Dr. Church suggests that we all possess the power to create meaning in our lives and in the lives of others. At this last service of the year, UUFGC member Cheryl Henry will read the sermon Dr. Church delivered to his congregation at All Souls in October of 1999. We will also conduct our traditional end-of-year ceremony, the Burning Bowl, which offers us the opportunity to symbolically release any emotions, regrets, resentments, or grievances we do not want to carry with us into the new year.

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Board Member/Music: Woody Dickson

UUFGC 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.

--adopted 12/05

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.

From the President

The last two months of the year are replete with celebrations as the weather cools and the holiday spirit heats up.

Traditionally we view November and December as months in which we gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. For the religious and the non-religious these occasions provide us with motivation and opportunity to be with those with whom we have a special bond, and with whom we wish to share the feeling of just being together.

Unitarian Universalists come from diverse backgrounds, and our holiday traditions reflect that diversity. Some of us will celebrate Christmas in its religious and spiritual dimension. Some of us will celebrate Christmas just because it is fun and is a good excuse for a fine party. Others of us may come from families and groups of friends whose tradition is Hanukkah, and the celebration of candles, lights and the spinning dreidel. For Muslims, November brings Eid-UI-Adha; for Hindus the celebrations of Diwali and Govardhan Puja. For pagans it brings celebration of the winter solstice, and the ancient yule practice. Still others may find inspiration in the Roman care-free, December fling called Saturnalia. For followers of Pig-skin, it is a time of playoffs, bowl games, and hopes for a better next season.

Whatever our reason for religious observance, celebration, and gift-giving in the year's last two months, the common theme that unites everyone is that very human urge to be with loved ones and good friends at a time of good cheer and happiness.

This season of the year brings to my mind some of the lyrics from the song, "What a Wonderful World." It's the line that goes: "I see friends shakin' hands sayin' ... how do you do they're really sayin' ... I Love You." Family and friends meet, exchange warm handshakes, happy hugs and big smiles.

We know that these intensely human feelings of warmth and regard for one another are world-wide and abound among every people and culture. Our challenge as we gather and as we celebrate is to find the means to channel those positive human traits into action that will unite all the planet's peoples in working together with sincerity and good will.

Happy Holidays!

--Michael Hennen

2010 - 2011

UUFGC Board of Directors

President	Mike Hennen
President-Elect	Billie Rinaldi
Past-President	John Hunger
Secretary	Cheryl Henry
Treasurer	Woody Dickson
Members at Large:	Kathy Domsky Holly Fortenberry Dale Hogan

Committees and Task Forces

Communications	Madeleine Baker
Landscape	Martha Terrill/John Hunger
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
Newsletter	Judy Glaister/Margaret Canavan
Webmaster	Neil Huddleston



"May your life preach more loudly than your lips."

- William Ellery Channing

(thanks to Bob English for this quote)

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.*

Send us your news! Provide information to administrator@uugalveston.org or phone 409-765-8330, or leave a note at the Fellowship.

Alcoholics Anonymous Phoenix Group meets Sunday & Wednesday 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. They do not meet on potluck Sundays. Contact Neil Huddleston at (409)744-2369.

Board of UUFGC meets the second 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.

Book Sale monthly on second Saturday, 9am-2pm.

Bowlers meet on Wednesday evenings to make bowls for the annual "Empty Bowl" fundraiser for Jesse Tree. Contact Madeleine Baker for more information.

Choir rehearsal for December will be Sunday, December 12 after service, and Tuesday, December 14 at 6pm at the Galveston Island Arts Academy (27th and Avenue O).

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

Dance Classes: Galveston Dance Club offers classes each Tuesday & Thursday at 7pm. Questions, call Betty at 281-337-0441. UU

members can join for half price. See <http://www.galvestondanceclub.com>.

Program/Worship Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6pm, at Mosquito Café in Galveston. Meetings are open to all. Contact Gerry Car if you have a program to suggest.

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

Social Action Committee meets the first Sunday of each month after service and welcomes your ideas, energy and enthusiasm. Help plan our "deeds not creeds".

Spirit Circle Covenant Group meets each second and fourth Tuesday at 6:15pm. Contact Gerry Carr at gcarr@tlc-galveston.org for information.

Supper Circles meet monthly. Call Judy Glaister at (409)762-8187 to schedule a supper, sign up for one, or for information.

Meditation: *Zen Island Fellowship* meets every Monday at 5:30pm, Contact Cara Geary (gcara@comcast.net) or visit <http://galvestonzen.org/>. *Natural Awareness Meditation* meets Thursdays at 5:30pm, contact Terry Conrad (409)599-7268.



Provocative Film Series
Friday, December 3, 7pm

CHOP SHOP

Scrappy street orphan Alejandro (Alejandro Polanco) lives and works amid the mass of auto shops and junkyards known as the Iron Triangle just outside Queens, N.Y. But when his teenage sister (Isamar Gonzales) arrives, the ambitious boy is inspired to make life better for them both. Nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards, this sophomore feature from director Ramin Bahrani offers an unflinching look at life on society's margins. It got 4 stars in the *New Internationalist* which calls it "great life-affirming realist cinema."

Free admission
Bring a friend & a snack to share.

Reminders

- **Fair Trade Coffee & Tea** sales benefit small coffee farmers & our Social Action Committee.
- **Sunday morning "Greeters"** are needed! Sign-up in the kitchen or contact **Vickie Francil**.
- We can get \$3 credit at Office Depot with your **used inkjet printer cartridges**.
- **For visitors & newcomers:** Please feel free to take copies of **UU World** magazine, from the display in the foyer.
- Bring old (clean) socks and rags for **Judy Glaister** to use for cleaning & polishing on the **Elissa**.

News & Coming Attractions

NUUs from Members & Friends

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

Best wishes to **Tom Hargrove** and to **Steven Benard**, as each of them recovers from recent injury. We hope to see them feeling great again soon.

Boo Hoo: We already miss **Kat Edwards** and **Amber Blakley**, who have moved "north of the border", in Oklahoma. New address is 812 Hightower, Stillwater OK 74074. We wish them both the best of luck in their new location.

UU Upcoming Events

Book Club: The book club will meet Wednesday, December 8 at 7pm to discuss **The Year of the Flood** by Margaret Atwood. All are welcome to attend.

Book Sale: Saturday December 11, 9am-2pm. You are welcome to come and browse! And of course we welcome your assistance. Help is always appreciated both before and during our sales. Every week we receive numerous boxes of books from the 23rd Street Bookshop in addition to donations from the fellowship members others, which need to be sorted and put on the tables and shelves. Contact **Bets Anderson** (betsanderson@sbcglobal.net) or **Fanny De Gesero** (fandfare@aol.com)

"**Spirituality of Poker**" will be hosted by **Roy DeGesero** on Sunday, December 12th at 6:30 pm. These games are "dealer's choice" and we always have fun. Other games TBA, please let us know if you'd like to host a game night..

Supper Circle: **Mardi Mitchell** is hosting the Supper Circle on Sunday, December 19 at her home. She's got a small space, so **only the first ten people who sign up** should plan to attend. A big **THANK YOU** to all who hosted a Supper circle this year. Please consider hosting a supper circle in 2011. It is fun and a wonderful way to get to know fel-

low UUs.

Garden Committee : Has scheduled the second Saturday of each month as work date, from 9am until you are ready to stop. Please join them as they are working hard to make our grounds beautiful. Between droughts, freeze, and hurricane, our garden has taken a hit in the last couple of years. It needs some TLC.

Around UU

Tell us! We would love to share news of your activities and projects. Please send items for the newsletter by the 15th of each month, for the following month's edition. We know you like to read what other folks are doing, so let them know about YOU.

Join New Year's Labyrinth Walk at Emerson UU: On both December 31 and New Year's Day, Emerson UU Church will host the fifth annual New Year's Labyrinth Walk. This unique holiday event will be open to UUs and labyrinth walkers throughout the Houston area in celebration of Emerson's 50th anniversary. Two very different labyrinth walks are offered. On New Year's Eve, 9:00-midnight, Westwood Hall will feature a classic seven-circle labyrinth made of tiny white lights. Sparkling ever-

greens and serene music surrounding the indoor labyrinth will enhance walking meditation and reflection on the passing year. The group program designed for the full evening is \$20 per adult, \$5 students. The evening will include an orientation for new walkers, optional arts activities, and elegant holiday desserts with a champagne toast. A second option is offered on New Year's Day from 5:00-8:00 PM – a personal labyrinth experience tailored to the walker's time and interests. Light refreshments will be offered (donations appreciated). Emerson is at 1900 Bering Dr, Houston, 77057. For more information, please contact Judith Richardson at jrichardson44@pdq.net or 281-597-9657.

Other Events

Galveston College Choir Concert: Don't miss this free concert, which is guaranteed to put you into a holiday mood. Come to Galveston College Fine Arts Recital Hall on Monday, December 6 at 7pm. You'll get to hear fellow UU's **Bets Anderson, Madeleine Baker, Margaret Canavan**, and **John Hunger**, and UU-by-marriage **Roy DeGesero**.

Be Involved: Volunteering is a wonderful way to "give back" to the Fellowship and the community, and will also enrich your life by making new friends or hanging out with "old" ones. Want a satisfying volunteer experience? We have many activities right here at UU that could use your help. Here are a few:

Interested in books and reading? Contact **Fanny DeGesero** (fandfare@aol.com) or **Bets Anderson** (betsanderson@sbcglobal.net) to help with the **monthly book sale**. Contact **Fanny** for information about the monthly Book Club.

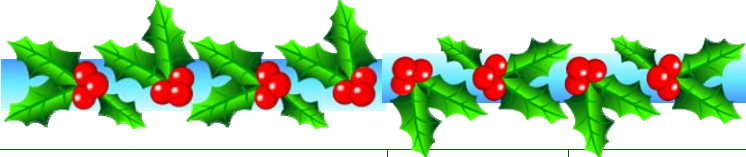



Social Action Committee has several projects ongoing. Want to help decrease plastic litter in Galveston and our Gulf and Bay? Help to increase awareness of the **Use Reusable Bags** effort. Contact **Mary Hodgson**, (maryhodgson97@hotmail.com), who is committee chair. Bow-making for the Jesse Tree fundraiser is ongoing, contact **Madeleine Baker** to learn more.

Gardening and Landscape Committee is already doing great work and can use more hands. We have a lawn service that maintains the grass, but flower beds are up to us. Just show up on the second Saturday of any month around 9am, or get in touch with garden co-chairs **Martha Terrill** (mterrill4401@yahoo.com), or **John Hunger** (jhunger@bedfordstmartins.com).

DECEMBER 2010

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galves-
Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Happy Birthday to: <i>Vickie Francil 12/09 Dale Hogan 12/10</i> <i>Sharon Booton 12/23</i></p> 			<p>1 5pm - Bowl-ers 8pm - AA Phoenix <i>happy Hanukkah</i></p>	<p>2 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>3 7pm - Provocative film, Chop Shop</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Jean Goodwin, "St. Michael, Archangel"; Children/Youth Religious Education 12n - Social Action Cmte. 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>6 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>7 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>8 5pm - Bowl-ers 7pm - Book Club 8pm - AA Phoenix</p>	<p>9 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9am - 2pm - UU Used Book Sale</p>
<p>12 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Steve Brooks, "What if Dog Were One of Us?"; Children/Youth RE 11:45 - Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm - Poker at DeGesero's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>13 11am - Course in Miracles 5:15pm - UU Board 5:30pm - Meditation</p>	<p>14 6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons 6pm - Choir Rehearsal @ GIAA</p>	<p>15 5pm - Bowl-ers 8pm - AA Phoenix</p>	<p>16 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>17 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Moravian Love Feast"; Children/Youth Religious Education 6pm - Supper Circle 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>20 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>21 <i>Winter Solstice</i> </p>	<p>22 5pm - Bowl-ers 8pm - AA Phoenix</p>	<p>23 5:30pm - Meditation</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 </p>
<p>26 Potluck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Cheryl Henry, "What Gives Life Meaning?"; Children/Youth Religious Ed 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p> 	<p>27 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>28 6pm - Spirit Circle</p>	<p>29 5pm - Bowl-ers 8pm - AA Phoenix</p>	<p>30 5:30pm - Meditation</p>	<p>31</p>	