

UUF Galveston Gazette

March 2010



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

March 7

PLEDGE DRIVE BEGINS

"Music Communion"

What better way to connect than by sharing music which is meaningful to each of us. Our congregation will select the music, favorite hymns from any faith tradition, and we will enjoy it together. Special performances included! All are asked to bring a favorite music CD, or one you have compiled, to be part of a music exchange "communion" at the close of the service.

Greeter: Madeleine Baker Board Member: Cheryl Henry

Music: UU Musicians

March 14

Howard Brody, "The Best Way to Do Health Reform"

Enjoy a review of a prototype for thoughtful public debate about health reform—the Oregon Health Decisions movement of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Our speaker will suggest that we have missed a major opportunity to engage the public in a sensible discussion of health reform options, and as a result, we are today far too easily stampeded by scare claims about health care "rationing" and "death panels." The session is planned to promote active discussion and dialogue. Howard Brody is Director of the Institute for the Medical Humanities at UTMB.

Greeter: Sandra Sullivan

Board Member: Patrick McGuffey

Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Music: Woody Dickson

March 21

Margaret Canavan, "Miracle, Myth or Mystery? The Resurrection of Jesus Christ"

As we near Easter, let us consider what may have actually transpired nearly 2000 years ago. This sermon by Rev. Mike Thompson provides a view of Easter from a perspective of "common sense and reason, not in a fog of faith and religious preconceptions". Rev. Mike was a regular speaker at UUFGC for many years and his sermons are always thought-provoking.

Greeter: Holly Fortenberry

Board Member: Pete Olsen

Facilitator: Stan Blazyk

Music: Tony DiNuzzo

March 28

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Joanna Crawford, "You Are Loved"

You are surrounded by love—do you recognize it? Do you realize how much? As humans, we have both a need to give love and receive love. As Unitarian Universalists, we say that "love is the spirit" of our church. What do we do with this love? What is the real power of the love within? And if we want more love in our lives, where do we find it? Joanna is a member of Houston's Northwest UU, and combines family & motherhood with her seminary studies.

Greeter: Linda Price

Board Member: Susan Persons

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: Margaret Canavan

President's Message

Dear UUFGC Colleagues,

Our annual congregational meeting will take place in May, and planning has already begun. Susan Persons and I are heading up the Nomination Committee. We are seeking nominees for *President-Elect*, *Treasurer* and *two At Large board members*. Any UUFGC member in good standing is eligible to serve. Please consider offering your time and talent for these important Board positions.

At the annual meeting we will also approve the annual budget for 2010-2011. To prepare for this, our **Pledge Drive** kicks off on Sunday, March 7, to continue through our May Board meeting. This pledge drive offers each of us the opportunity to share a part of what we have with our larger UUFGC family. (Note: *pledge packets will be available that day and will be mailed to those not attending the service*).

I first joined our Fellowship in late 1995. At the time, I was going through some life changing events. You all welcomed me and gave me a place of refuge and healing.

Before my involvement w/ our Fellowship, I had not actively participated in any organized church activities my entire adult life. Making a significant financial contribution to the Fellowship was another first for me. Since then, my annual pledging has become one more way of investing in my spiritual life. Boy has it paid off! Please join me in renewing that investment.

We have made progress in securing more off street parking for members and guests. Thanks to Mardi Mitchell for making this happen. Watch for an announcement w/ more details soon.

Spring is about to spring and will herald a fresh start for our year. Mitch Philpot and I will be organizing some "Spring Cleaning" days in the coming months. There are some pressing repairs and improvements for which we will need your help.

Stay well!

John

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW: The mysterious repairman who fixed our corner street sign was none other than our illustrious Prez, Mr. Hunger. Thanks John!!

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.

**Social Action Committee
Provocative Film Series
Friday, March 5, 7pm**

the Visitor

Widowed professor Walter Vale finds himself drawn to a different rhythm when he discovers an immigrant couple, Tarek and Zainab squatting in his Manhattan flat and becomes wrapped up in their lives. Tarek's mother who forges an unlikely connection with Walter when Tarek is thrown into a detention center.

**Free admission
Bring a friend & a snack to share.**

**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



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.*

G e t C o n n e c t e d w i t h U U F G C

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 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.

Used Book Sale monthly on second Saturday, 9am .

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

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

Dance Classes: Galveston Dance Club meets each Tuesday & Thursday, 7pm for classes. 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 location published in the calendar. Meetings are open to all. *Note date change in March, to second Wednesday.*

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. Help plan our "deeds not creeds".

Spirit Circle Covenant Group is on break for a couple on months. Contact Gerry Carr gcarr@tlc-galveston.org if you have questions.

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 (gcara@comcast.net) or visit galvestonzen.org about Mondays, or Terry Conrad (409)599-7268 about Thursdays.

News & Coming Attractions

NUUs from Members and Friends

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

Congratulations to Tony DiNuzzo, for his appointment as Assistant Professor in the UTMB Department of Internal Medicine. He works in the Center on Aging.

It's good to see **Larry Janzen** up and around so soon after his brush with the healthcare community. Same goes for **Ellie Porter**.

UUcoming Events

Spirit Circle is on break for the next couple of months, while the "What moves Us" curriculum is meeting.

Adult Forum Update: The group is midway through discussion of **Eternal Life: A New Vision: Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell** by John Shelby Spong. By mid-March they will begin **Irreligion: A Mathematician Explains Why the Arguments for God Just Don't Add Up** by John Allen Paulos. All are welcome to join the discussion on Sundays at

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

9am in the rear conference room. Books are available; contact Madeleine Baker.

Book Club: The UU Book Club will discuss **The Hungry Tide** by Amitav Ghosh on Wednesday, March 10 at 7pm All are welcome to join in the discussion.

UUUsed Book Sale: Our monthly used book sale is set for Saturday, March 13, from 9am-2pm. **Bets Anderson** will be in charge this month and welcomes all volunteer assistants.

Supper Circle: Ilse & Basil Benard are hosting the March Supper Circle on Saturday, March 27 at 6:30pm. The Benards are asking that only 12 sign up to come. Please sign up on the bulletin board and as a courtesy to the host, if you don't sign up, please wait and attend the next Supper circle. Thanks.

"Spirituality of Poker" and Game Night Sunday, March 28: Enjoy poker at **Red Henry's**, 6:30pm. We need a volunteer host for games.

Attic Treasures May 1: Our annual indoor garage sale extravaganza fund raiser is set for Saturday May 1, with our usual Members & Fiends early-bird sale & reception the evening before. Now is the time to start walking through your house, collecting items that you'd like to donate. We'll need lots of volunteer help in setting up, sorting & pricing, the sale, and clearing the debris afterward. **Margaret Canavan & Fanny DeGesero** are partners in crime for organizing this event, so they'll be signing you up soon!

Around UU

Microfinance at UUFGC: Our microfinance "revolving" fund added four loans this month. We have now used & "recycled" a few hundred dollars to make 102 loans, totaling \$3225, to recipients in developing countries, and have donated \$185 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 362 members. See our "portfolio" at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversalist3384>.

More about plastic bags: Plastic bags are difficult and costly to recycle, and most end up on landfill sites where they take around 300 years to photodegrade. They break down into tiny toxic particles that contaminate soil & waterways, animals ingest them & we eventually ingest the toxins as well. They clog up drains, causing water and sewage to overflow and breed disease-causing bacteria. Marine animals mistake plastic bags for food, which clogs their digestive system and leads to slow starvation. Others become entangled in plastic bags and drown. Every time we use a plastic bag, we drive up the demand for oil - which is used to make plastics. Did you know that you can use biodegradable dog poop bags (*instead* of plastic bags). For more information: <http://www.flushdoggy.com/>

Reminders

- Bring old (clean) socks and rags for **Judy Glaister** to use for cleaning & polishing on the *Elissa*.
- **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**.
- **Shirley Hollingsworth** needs **clean plastic grocery bags** for work feeding the homeless.
- **For visitors & newcomers:** Please feel free to take copies of **UU World** magazine, from the display in the foyer.


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

MARCH 2010

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 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	2 7pm - Dance lessons	3 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix <i>Program Committee next week!</i>	4 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons	5 7pm - Provocative Film, <i>The Visitor</i>	6
7 Pledge Drive Begins 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - "Music Communion"; Children/Youth Rel. Education 12n - Social Action Cmte; 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	8 11am - Course in Miracles 5:15pm - UU Board 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	9 7pm - Dance lessons	10 5pm - Bowlers 6pm - Program Cmte, DiBella's 7pm - Book Club 8pm - AA Phoenix	11 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons	12	13 9am - Book Sale
14 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Howard Brody, "The Best Way to do Health Reform"; Children/Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	15 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	16 7pm - Dance lessons	17 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix	18 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons	19 Newsletter Deadline	20
21 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - M. Canavan, "Resurrection: Miracle, Myth or Mystery?"; Children/Youth Religious Ed. 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	22 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	23 7pm - Dance lessons	24 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix	25 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons	26	27 6:30pm - Supper Circle at Benard's
28 Potluck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Joanna Crawford, "You are Loved"; Children/Youth Religious Education 6:30pm - Poker @ Henry's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	29 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	30 7pm - Dance lessons	31 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix	Happy Birthday to: <i>Kristopher Benson</i> 3/7 <i>Carlos Price</i> 3/21		