

UUF Galveston Gazette

February 2011



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

February 6

Laura Emerson, "Hagar's Prayer"

One of the most poignant passages in the Bible occurs after Hagar and her son are abandoned to the desert by Abraham and Sarah. She prays, not to be rescued, but that she won't live long enough to witness the death of her only child. It is also a story, told entirely differently in Muslim tradition, with important implications. For these two, very different reasons, it is well worth a review. When have you felt totally abandoned, alone, and terrified? What happened to you? When have you heard a story one way all your life, only to discover a totally different version believed by others? Can we twine these two threads into a compelling message for religious liberals? Join us and see. Laura is a member of Houston's Emerson UU and teaches liberal religion to adult education groups all over the country.

Greeter: Gerry Carr

Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

Board Member: Dale Hogan

Music: Tony DiNuzzo

February 13

Frank Dickson, "The Ultimate Truth"

A physical scientist with a broad range of interests, Frank Dickson has devoted himself to the study of the origins of and properties of the Earth's minerals and their chemical reactions. One of his many interests is philosophy. He will speak on "absolute truth," that elusive concept forever sought by humanity. Rather than such "truth," maybe just the soundest concept of the moment will do! Frank is a member of our congregation and has been a Unitarian for some 56 years. He also is emeritus professor of geochemistry at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Greeter: Margaret Canavan

Facilitator: Mike Hennen

Board Member: Billie Rinaldi

Music: Woody Dickson

February 20

Anne Ellsworth, "The Jesus Puzzle"

This sermon, based on Earl Doherty's book **The Jesus Puzzle**, was written by Fred Harland, a member of the Lake Chapala UU Fellowship in Ajijic, Mexico. The talk has three sections. First, a personal account of some of my exposure to the story of Jesus of Nazareth; second, an explanation of the argument in the book *The Jesus Puzzle* by Earl Doherty which concludes that Jesus never lived at all; and, third, a reflection on possible implications of that argument, on some issues it raises for Earl. Would it matter if Jesus never lived? Might this book help bring about the end of the Christian church? Or will a book like this just be ignored? And, also, what can we as Unitarians learn about life and truth and meaning from the persistence of the Jesus story? Indeed, should we consider taking a page from that story to assist us in writing our own? Anne is a member of our Fellowship.

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Facilitator: Tony DuNuzzo

Board Member: Holly Fortenberry

Music: Steve Hodgson

February 27

INGATHERING OF NEW MEMBERS

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Joanna Fontaine Crawford, "Illimitable Mind"

With his metaphor of the Cathedral of the World, the Rev. Forrest Church drew a picture of the treasure we inherited as Unitarian Universalists – unlimited ways of understanding and experiencing divine reality. As UUs, it is our theological privilege and responsibility to "go deep," not merely picking and choosing concepts that appeal to us, but to develop a fully examined faith. Joanna Fontaine Crawford is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, a seminarian at Houston Graduate School of Theology, and a UU candidate for ministry.

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Facilitator: Kathy Domskey

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.

F r o m t h e P r e s i d e n t

Recently, your board of directors reviewed 2010 with an eye on what worked well at our Fellowship and what needs improvement. The discussion was lively and fruitful. If you go to the minutes of the January meeting you will get a flavor of what the board looked at and talked about.

One thing unanimously viewed as a bright spot was the year's programming. Speakers from within and from outside our Fellowship brought interesting and moving messages to us every month. Our Sunday attendance rose to as high as 70 people, nearly filling the seats in the main hall. You may have noticed that more members and visitors seemed to be occupying the UUG than in past years.

Much of this success is owed to the amazing work done by our Program/Worship Committee. This well-connected group consistently has identified quality speakers and arranged for them to present fascinating topics. It has not, however, been

easy. A speaker has to be identified, contacted, confirmed for a date, assisted with the program details, and so forth – a lot of work. Here are the folks to whom our thanks are due: Bets Anderson, Margaret Canavan, Gerry Carr, Tony Dinuzzo, and Cheryl Henry.

For 2011 the committee will seek to identify a person to speak on a monthly basis, that is, each month we will hear from this speaker on a topic of her/his choosing. This will help the committee in not having to plan for a speaker and program details for every Sunday of the year, since the

The intention is to try this out for six months or so to see how we like it, and to see if it takes some of the burden off the shoulders of the committee. I am looking forward to it!

-- *Michael Hennen*

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.*

U.S. Foreign Policy Study Discussion Program to Begin February 10

Great Decisions, the annual, eight-week U.S. Foreign Policy study-discussion program will begin at UUGFC on Thursday, February 10, 2010. The UUGFC group will meet Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm for nine sessions but will not meet March 17 (spring break). A similar group is schedule to meet at Bay Area UUC.

Each week, participants read a topical section in a study-booklet (\$20) published by the Foreign Policy Association in New York (FPA). They then meet to discuss the topic for about an hour, after which they cast ballots, expressing their opinions on what policies the United States should adopt relating to the issue studied. The ballots are compiled by FPA with results being distributed to the President of the United States, U.S Secretary of State and Members of Congress.

Dr. Dotti Jones a former U.S. Foreign Service Officer and Director of International Education and Development at College of the Mainland, will lead the UUGFC group. Dr. Jones is currently Director of Leadership and Organizational Development at College of the Mainland. During her twenty years of employment at the college she has had many responsibilities, including her previous position of Director of International Education. She has served as a Diplomat in the Foreign Service with assignments in Brazil and Washington, DC. She was awarded a special assignment to serve as liason to the White House Press and world press in Portugal. While Director of Editorials for CBS in Philadelphia, she facilitated the Great Decisions Program for the Philadelphia World Affairs Council. Dr. Jones has studied at the Foreign Service Institute, Washington, D.C. and the School for International Education, Brattleboro, VT. She is affiliated with the Society for International Education, Training, and Research, an international organization. She also is well-established in the field of Leadership Development.

Individuals who are interested in participating may contact Laura Murrell, 409-737-9636 (LauraMurrell@att.net).

***Send us your news! Provide information to administrator@uugveston.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 rehearsals are on the second Sunday of the month at 11:45, and potluck Sundays at 9:15. All are welcome.

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 Carr 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".

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 (gcarag@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, February 4, 7pm

**GOODBYE BAFANA/
THE COLOR OF FREEDOM**

Dennis Haysbert and Joseph Fiennes co-star in this remarkable drama based on the controversial memoirs of James Gregory, the white South African who guarded Nelson Mandela during more than 20 years of imprisonment under apartheid. As Mandela (Haysbert) seeks freedom for himself and his people, Gregory (Fiennes) gradually begins to renounce his militant racism, thanks to his unlikely but powerful relationship with the political prisoner.

Free admission
Bring a friend & a snack to share.

UUFGC
Right Relations Covenant

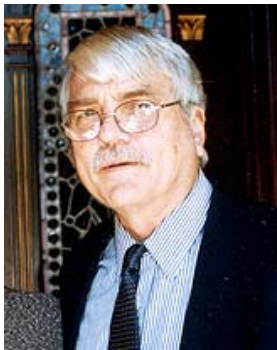
We will communicate openly, honestly & respectfully.
We will listen carefully with open minds & open hearts.
We will assume good intentions, practice tolerance & resist the temptation to become offended.
We will take responsibility for our speech, actions & feelings, & we will be sensitive to possible 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

News & Coming Attractions

NUUws from Members & Friends

He will be missed: Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of our member **Tom Hargrove**, who passed away recently. We who knew Tom will always remember him with fondness. Tom made a difference in this world.



UUpcoming Events

New Covenant Group: On February 7 from 6:30-7:30pm we will begin a covenant group for those people interested in exploring the principles of Unitarian Universalism. All are welcome, old members, new members, non members. For more information, please contact **Cheryl Henry** at administrator@uugalveston.org (and put "for Cheryl" in the subject line").

Book Club: The book club will meet Wednesday, February 9 at 7pm to discuss this year's Galveston Reads choice, **Into the Beautiful North**. Discussion will be facilitated by John Gorman, Professor of Literature at UHCL. Light refreshments will be served. The public is invited. The book for March will be **Sarah's Key** by Tatiana de Rosney.

Used Book Sale: Saturday February 12, 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 oth-

ers, which need to be sorted and put on the tables and shelves. Contact **Fanny De Gesero** (fandfare@aol.com) or **Bets Anderson** (betsanderson@sbcglobal.net).

Garden Committee : Has scheduled the second Saturday of each month as work date, from 9am until you are ready to stop. This month it falls on February 12. Please join them as they are working hard to make our grounds beautiful. See **Martha Terrill** of the Garden Committee.

Bring your Gay Teen to Church Day February 20: UUFGC is a welcoming congregation for this effort by the Houston Clergy Council. Help us to get out the word to parents of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning teens that there are loving congregations in the Houston area who will affirm and support both them and their teens. See the website at <http://bringyourgayteentochurch.com/>

Supper Circle: Sunday, February 20, 5-9pm: Hosted by Alison Rutledge. This will be an Open House with "Brunch" theme. Sign up to attend in the hallway at the Fellowship. Please consider hosting a supper circle in 2011. It is fun and a wonderful way to get to know fellow UUs. Guest lists can be sized to fit your home!

"Spirituality of Poker": This month's host is **John Hunger** on Sunday, February 20 at 6:30pm. Games are "dealer's choice". A night for Other Games is not currently scheduled--all we need is a willing host!

ATTIC TREASURES SALE: We hope you are busy cleaning out attics and closets and saving things up for our sale on Saturday, March 19 (and Friday evening March 18 for our "early bird" sale and reception). You'll be able to begin bringing your donations after Service on Sunday, March 13. Please don't bring them before that because we have nowhere to put them. If you want to help out, let **Margaret Canavan** know.

UU News

UU Choir: Director **Susan Vaughan** has scheduled two monthly rehearsals, after service each second Sunday, and be-

fore service on potluck Sunday. For those not already singing with the group and who would like to join, now's a perfect time. Meetings in February will be February 13 at 11:45 am, and February 27 at 9:15 am. There will be no March Rehearsals--due to spring break.

Garden News: Many thanks to the following who donated cyclamens for planting in the front flower bed, brightening up the front entrance and making it more welcoming: Bets Anderson: to honor UUFGC; Cheryl Henry: in memory of Amy Sanders; Red Henry: in memory of Irene Barrett; Susan Persons: in memory of David Persons; Martha Terrill: in memory of Victoria Morris; Lynne Hauseman; Claudia Maveety; Margaret Canavan: to honor Martha Terrill.

Microfinance Update: Since November we have made **seven** loans, bringing our total loans totaling \$4510 to 142 borrowers! See our "portfolio" at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniv ersali3384>.

Please send items for the newsletter by the 15th of each month, for the following month's edition. Send to administrator@uugalveston.org and put "for newsletter" in the subject line.

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

FEBRUARY 2011

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galves-

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7pm - Dance lessons	2 5pm - Bowlers 6pm - Program Cmte @ Mosquito Café 8pm - AA Phoenix	3 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons	4 7pm - Provocative Film, The Color of Freedom	5
		6 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Laura Emerson, "Hagar's Prayer"; Children/Youth Religious Education 12n - Social Action Cmte. 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	7 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation 6:30pm - UU Exploration Group NEW	8 7pm - Dance lessons	9 5pm - Bowlers 7pm - Book Club, Into the Beautiful North 8pm - AA Phoenix	10 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons 7:30pm - Foreign Policy Program
13 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Frank Dickson, "The Ultimate Truth"; Children/Youth Religious Education 11:45am - Choir Rehearsal 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	14 11am - Course in Miracles 5:15pm - Board 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	15 7pm - Dance lessons	16 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix	17 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons 7:30pm - Foreign Policy Program	18 Newsletter Deadline	19
20 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Anne Ellsworth, "Jesus Puzzle"; Children/Youth Religious Education 5pm - Supper Circle @Rutledge's 6:30 - Poker at John Hunger's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	21 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	22 7pm - Dance lessons	23 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix	24 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons 7:30pm - Foreign Policy Program	25	26 Mardi Gras
27 Potluck 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 10:30am - Joanna Crawford, "Illimitable Mind"; Children/Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	28 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	Happy Birthday to: <i>Andrea Hodgson</i> 2/1 <i>Marilyn Schultz</i> 2/1 <i>Alison Rutledge</i> 2/5 <i>Dorothy Treviño</i> 2/9 <i>Judy Glaister</i> 2/11 <i>DD</i> 2/14 <i>Ana Rivera</i> 2/15 <i>Kathleen DiNatale</i> 2/16 <i>Shirley VanBuskirk</i> 2/20 <i>Ilse Benard</i> 2/23				