



A Month of Sundays

Services and Children's Religious Education 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9am

President's Message

July 5

Susan Persons, "Waving Old Glory"

. Ever wonder about the word "patriotism"? What is patriotism like today with our new president? What does our 4th of July holiday focus on? Here's an opportunity to hear from a number of famous people about the concept of patriotism and to renew your own spirit of patriotism. Susan will facilitate this program originally conceptualized by Reid Swanson, a former member of UUFGC who now lives in California.

Greeter: John Frannea Board Member: Susan Persons Music: Steve Hodgson

July 12

Shirley Haulotte, "What Will Happen in 2012?"

For years, archaeologists have known the Mayan calendar predicts this date as the end of an era on earth. Today, more and more researchers, spiritual explorers, and scientists are discussing signs that 2012 will mark a critical shift in the history of our planet. Shirley will present an overview of some of the on-going discussions. She is an ordained Interfaith Minister and serves as a Chaplain for Lighthouse Hospice in Austin. She is a retired professor from The School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin where she worked in the areas of gerontology, crisis intervention, and spirituality.

Greeter: Fanny DeGesero Board Member/Facilitator: Cheryl Henry Music: Woody Dickson

July 19

Bill & Valerie Porras, "Inspirational Change through Music"

This "Song and Story" program is based on the many challenges and events that have shaped the lives of Bill & Eli. While raising a blind and deaf child; going through broken relationships; dealing with severe health issues; and more; they were able to resolve these problems with humor, hope, and faith, enabling them to help others see through their trials with their songs. Bill & Eli are Performers of Original Inspired Acoustic Folk and Blues from DeLand, FL. They speak out with strong heartfelt lyrics accompanied by soulful genuine pentatonic rhythms against social injustices, corporate greed, and daily follies in everyday life. They can grip your heart, search your soul, change a mindset, or softly strike a funny bone, all the while leaving the audience with a sentiment for the common good we desire in all mankind. More information can be found about them at www.bluesgotus.com.

Greeter: Martha Terrill Board Member: Susan Persons Facilitator/Music: Tony DiNuzzo

July 26

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Joanna Fontaine Crawford, "To err is human, to forgive, divine."

There seem to be as many definitions of "forgiveness" as people in the world. So what does it mean to us, and how do we learn to forgive God, forgive others and perhaps most difficult, forgive ourselves? 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: Gerry Carr

Board Member: Pete Olsen
Music: Margaret Canavan

Dear UUFGC Members & Friends,

Thank you all for your vote of confidence by electing me Fellowship President for 2009-2010. I will strive to be as diligent and committed to my duties as your outgoing President, Susan Persons. Susan, as you steered our community through the "dark days" of Ike, your leadership helped us to cope & recover from the aftermath of the storm, even as your own home was inundated. Thank you. Thanks also to those Board members I have served w/ this last year and welcome to the new Board members joining the team.

Upon the suggestion of Fellowship member Sandra Sullivan, the Board approved \$100/month donation to the Jesse Tree, to be dispersed from the Community Outreach budget (\$2000 allocated for the '0-09 fiscal year, but year to date, have not spent any of it!). From now on, the board meeting agenda and current financial statement will be posted on the entryway wall, the Board meeting minutes will be regularly posted to our website, accommodations have been made for visitors to attend every board meeting, and we plan at least one informal meeting where board members will be available to discuss any matters of interest to the Fellowship, answer questions, etc. More details soon.

The Fellowship seems to be running smoothly, at least for the moment. But, I am sure we will en-

(President's Message continued on page 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.

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

(Continued from page 1)

counter surprises, challenges, (and problems) during the coming year. I look forward to working with you all as we navigate them. May you all experience the same joy I feel of being in "fellowship" with each of you.

Because of scheduling and travel conflicts, the July meeting of the Board will convene Monday, June 29 and there will be no Board meeting in August. Our September meeting will convene @ 5:30pm on Monday, September 14.

John E. Hunger

In Memoriam

Thomas "Rusty" McGowen
1/8/54-6/18/09

Rusty is free from the struggle of his long illness. Rusty was always a lively and positive soul whose goal was to help others. As part of a memorial celebration at their home, his partner Malaine Moore shared a reading that Rusty had treasured for over 30 years, underlined in a dog-eared and well-worn book. Here is an excerpt:

"I will greet this day with love in my heart. . . . Muscle can split a shield and even destroy life but only the unseen power of love can open the hearts of men. . . . I will make love my greatest weapon and none. . . . can defend against its force."

--from Og Mandino, **The Greatest Secret in the World**

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.
- **Friendly Sunday morning "Greeters"** are needed! These folks show up early on Sunday and help visitors and members feel welcome. 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 a BIG Success!

Thanks to the generosity and work of so many, we had a great turnout for our recent sale, and has already brought in over \$2800 for the work of the Fellowship, with more trickling in every day.

Why do we create this time-consuming event? Here are some thoughts.

- ◆ We raise funds for the Fellowship. This year's sale covered a month's mortgage plus one electric bill!
- ◆ We get rid of excess stuff in our attics, garages and closets! This year Ike took care of a lot of those items, but we still seemed to have more

than we needed. Of course we buy new stuff....that we'll probably donate next year.....

- ◆ We build community among our members, by providing an activity in which everyone can participate at her or his own level. Everyone contributed in some way, through donations, working the setup or sale, buying things, or telling others about the sale. If you aren't yet in any of those categories, there's always next year.
- ◆ We provide an opportunity for visitors to see our lovely Fellowship building. Sure, it looks like a thrift shop during

the sale, but it's a classy and beautiful thrift shop!

- ◆ We create an inexpensive way for people to replenish what they need, or buy great stuff that they think they need.
- ◆ We help many folks with limited resources, and donate all leftovers to the Resource and Crisis Center.
- ◆ We have fun doing all these things.

Seems like a no-lose proposition. Start collecting your donations for next year's sale, which will probably be in March or April, God willing & the creeks don't rise.

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

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

Fanny' DeGesero 's birthday/ Fanny & Roy's anniversary reception: Saturday July 4, 4pm till ??, casual dress. RSVP to Roy or Fanny. They are looking forward to seeing UU friends!

Our former members **Donald Lee & Katrina Chamberlain** are pleased to announce that **Eleanor Kathryn** was born at 4:18am on 6/19 and they were home 5 hours later. Cards and other good wishes can be sent to 2902 Long rifle Dr., Wimauma, FL 33598. They are both still looking for jobs but their hearts are captured by their new daughter.

UUpcoming Events

Book Club: The book **Suite Francaise** by Irene Nemirovsky will be discussed on July 8 at 7pm. All are welcome.

Garden Work Party, Friday July 17 at 7pm: Landscape Chair **Martha Terrill** asks all who are able, to turn out for an evening of garden watering and beautifying. We can play in the sprinkler.

Used Book Sale: July 11 from 9am - 2pm. Come by to give Fanny a hand.

"Spirituality of Poker" and Game Night Sunday, July 19, 6:30pm:

Poker will be at Roy DeGesero's and games at Cheryl Henry's.

Supper Circle: Pete and Diane Olsen are hosting the July Supper Circle on Saturday, July 25 at 6pm. Please sign up on the bulletin board and join fellow UUs for delicious food and stimulating conversations. The theme is BBQ. Directions are on the bulletin board.

Buddhist Meditation Practice: A new group will meet on Thursdays from 5:15-6:45pm, beginning July 2. Practice will include meditation instructions, chanting, & discussion of the Buddhist approaches to spiritual practice. Sitting cushions and mats will be provided. All are welcome. Contact Terry Conrad 409-599-7268 with any questions.

Around UU

Join UUs from around the country in Niagara Falls, July 19-22: Experience the wonder of Niagara Falls, sponsored by Niagra UU Church. For information visit <http://www.uunex.net>

SWUUC summer camps: The district website, www.swuuc.org, has information about these camps for children and youth.

Virginia Countryside & UU History Mystery Tour: Enjoy a beautiful fall

weekend in the historic Virginia/West Virginia countryside & learn about UU History in the process. Members of the UU Church of Loudoun will guide you through your tour of historic villages and towns. The tour includes a day trip to beautiful Harper's Ferry, West Virginia to mark the 150th Anniversary of the John Brown raid. Uncover the truth about 3 UU's who abandoned their pacifist roots to support this historic raid. For more information and to register for the tour, visit <http://www.uuloudoun.org/tour.html>

Donation to the Jesse Tree:

At the June board meeting, Sandra Sullivan attended as a fellowship member and asked the board if they would consider making a monthly donation to Jesse Tree. She explained that many of the regular donations, both large and small, have disappeared. Jesse Tree is struggling to meet its budget. It was a unanimous decision to donate \$100 monthly to the Jesse Tree.

Sixth Annual Empty Bowl Evening

The festivity took place at the Lasker House May 30. Three hundred tickets were sold in advance. Guests lined up before 6pm ready to find "that perfect bowl." The Lasker House is elevated, so there was shady space under the porch for all the bowls to be displayed. Additionally, there was a bar in the yard under the trees that helped keep people cool and happy until 6pm.

Don Clark of Miller's Seawall Grill assisted in the layout of the tables and serving stations, and provided menus to guide guests to the appropriate serving station for their soup. There was no waiting or lines, a big improvement over last year. Guests were seated inside, where they could hear the beautiful piano music of Valencia Arceneaux, and the singing of David Mitchell and Mara

Dacso, or out on the raised porches or on the lawn.

Soups were provided from approximately 14 local restaurants, covering a wide range of tastes from gumbo to gazpacho to butternut squash to French onion. Most guests sampled several soups and offered rave reviews of all.

Sandra Sullivan did a beautiful job obtaining and displaying desserts donated by our Fellowship members. Fanny DeGesero had a large team of bartenders who kept the drinks flowing at two bars, despite the fact that Fanny herself did not attend due to a family illness. Table decorations were handmade vases by George Bowes filled with flower arrangements donated by Jill Randall and Nancy Lee, of "Flowers for NonProfits."

Many of our Fellowship members volunteered before, during and after the event, and without their willingness to help, the event could not have occurred. Their names are not all mentioned for fear of forgetting someone, but you know who you are, and your generosity of time and effort are much appreciated.

The amount raised that evening included \$1800 raised by sale of bowls online. Then in addition to \$10,861 from ticket sales, bar donations and raffle proceeds, a generous individual made \$3,000 contribution. The grand total was \$13,861. Congratulations and thanks to all who have worked so hard to make this event a success. This donation could not have come at a better time for the Jesse Tree.



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 . Come help out! Donate your used books!

Bowlers meet throughout the year to make bowls for the annual "Empty Bowl" fundraiser. They are currently on break.

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, 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.

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**

Music Within

Friday, July 3, 7 pm

After losing his hearing during the Vietnam War, Richard Pimentel (Ron Livingston) returns to America, where he falls in with an unlikely circle of friends and finds a new calling as a spokesman for the disabled. His efforts as an activist eventually lead to the creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This inspiring and entertaining true story won the Audience Award at the 2007 AFI Dallas International Film Festival.

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

Our microfinance "revolving" fund has made 69 loans, totaling \$2375, to recipients in developing countries, and we have donated \$116 to support the activities of Kiva. We make loan as we receive donations and re-lend 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>.

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.

Ever wondered about the ACIM –A Course in Miracles- group that meets once a week on Monday at 11am? This group studies a year long program of daily workbook lessons at the practical level and an accompanying text at the more theoretical level. The daily lesson helps me practice my faith as I read and meditate on them each morning.

What I find compelling is the Course's universal truths. It calls to a place deep inside of me that recognizes these old truths. They include nonjudgement, total acceptable of others or true brother or sisterhood-especially the ones I found most difficult. That there are only two basic emotions, love or fear, so any action I take is either out of one or the other. And I can learn to make it a conscious choice. That this path is only one of many ways and common themes are found in all religious and spiritual paths at their core.

That the goal for me is joyful, peaceful, gentle living. That sin and guilt do not

exist. That the thoughts I think are either from ego-that self serving, fearful part of myself or from a higher Self--be it the Holy Spirit, God, Jesus or love part of myself. And my thoughts are powerful in creating my world which I can experience as peaceful or chaotic. Defenseless is my best protection from getting anger triggered. That I choose can be peace or being right. And peace is much better.

I resisted the course for many years but always found myself being drawn back. There are some hard to swallow pieces like being channeled by a psychologist from Jesus so I set that to the side and look for the lessons which help me to live more peacefully. I find how it came about doesn't matter to me. It just rings true.

Recently I took the workshop on Mindfulness and heard the Tibetan Buddhist quote that we all are the mother of each other. It struck a clear note with me. For I have recognized that the one I

have loved most unconditionally is my child. And that love is the most pure and for me holiest. What wonderful goal it would be for me to love everyone I come in contact with as if he or she were my child. And that is what the Course in Miracles teaches. And the gift of love comes back to me as well. There is no difference in the giving or receiving.

Am I there yet? Of course, not. I wrestle daily with judgment. But my eyes are open to the choices I can make to create a more peaceful, loving world. Does reading the text and workbook get done in one year? Rarely. Does completing it once send you on your way? Perhaps, but for most it is a life long study. I have been studying it for 10 years and learn new truths everyday.

And how does ACIM fit with my 40 years as a UU? The seven principles resonate in perfect harmony with the course and help me walk the talk not just talk it.

“A - Team - What's That?”

For several years the UUFGC had a part-time Administrator (Rosemary Leary and briefly David Pyle), and part-time Religious Education Director (Teri Hawes), who kept up with all things administrative. Unfortunately for the Fellowship, they all gradually moved on to other pursuits, far from us, and we had to decide how to keep the Fellowship running smoothly on a limited budget.

Five members 'stepped up to the plate' and volunteered to cover the things that had to be done on a regular basis. Each person agreed to 'cover' a day and its activities so the transition would not be a huge burden on any one person. This group was the administrative team, or, as it became affectionately called [after a TV show from the 70s], "The A Team."

You may be wondering what this team does. There's not enough space here to list everything but you are invited to the office to peruse the 'activities' book they have developed. The activities include the monthly newsletter, weekly e-mail updates, opening the mail and distributing it, answering the telephone and daily e-mails, providing publicity for the Fel-

lowship, preparing the weekly order of service, keeping track of speakers and their needs, helping to identify needs and problems both in and out [the yard] of the Fellowship, reporting to the board monthly, set out garbage cans, and just generally troubleshooting.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, please see any member to learn more. We would welcome you to our team. Our Fellowship "works" because we have dedicated people who are willing to pitch in when needed. Perhaps you are one. Thank you.

*“The A-Team” Bets Anderson,
Madeleine Baker,
Margaret Canavan,
Judy Glaister,
Cheryl Henry*

Volunteer opportunity: *we need someone to send our weekly email announcements. It takes less than an hour each week. Contact any team member. We'll show you everything you need to get started!*

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.

JULY 2009

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Happy Birthday to:</p> <p>Fanny DeGesero 7/2 Shirley Hollingsworth 7/13 Karen Brykczynski 7/18 Karla Klay 7/26 Pete Olsen</p>	<p>Sharon Corbin 7/11 Tony DiNuzzo 7/17 Bets Anderson 7/24 Eleanor Porter 7/30 7/31</p>		<p>1 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>2 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>3 7pm - Provocative Film, Music Within</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Susan Persons, "Waving Old Glory"; Children/Youth Religious Educ. 12n - Social Action Cmte; 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>6 11am - Course in Miracles 4:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>7 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>8 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>9 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9am-2pm - Book Sale 9am-3pm Defensive Driving</p>
<p>12 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Shirley Haulotte, "What Will Happen in 2012?"; Children/Youth RE 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>13 11am - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>14 6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>15 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>16 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons 6pm - Program Cmte at Mosquito</p>	<p>17 Newsletter Deadline 7pm - Garden Work Party</p>	<p>18 9am-3pm Defensive Driving</p>
<p>19 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Bill & Eli Porras, "Change through Music"; Children/Youth RE 6:30 - Poker at DeGesero's, Games at Henry's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>20 11am - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>21 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>22 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>23 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 9am-3pm Defensive Driving 6pm - Supper Circle at Olsen's</p>
<p>26 Potluck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Joanna Crawford, "To Err is Human, to Forgive Divine"; Children/Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>27 11am - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>28 6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>29 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>30 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>31</p>	