



A Month of Sundays

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

President's Message

May 2

Gustavo Valbuena, "The Ethics of Atheism"

Atheists love their family and friends just as much as religious people do. Atheists care about the natural environment and the welfare of others just as much as most religious people do. Atheists also feel the suffering of others and strive for happiness while maintaining high ethical standards. I will discuss my personal experience with atheism, my inspiration, my ethics, and my path. Dr. Valbuena is a native of Colombia, South America. He works as a scientist at UTMB, where he received graduate and postgraduate training. He was raised as a Catholic and attended Catholic schools from pre-K to the end of Medical School.

Greeter: Sandra Sullivan
Facilitator: Dorothy Treviño

Board Member: Mike Hennen
Music: Margaret Canavan

May 9

Rev. Helen Appelberg, "God's Unconditional Love"

Greeter: Linda Price
Facilitator: TBA

Board Member: Cheryl Henry
Music: Margaret Canavan

May 16

Laura Emerson, "Margaret Fuller"

May is the 200th birthday of a fascinating Unitarian, Margaret Fuller. She was so famous that the biography rushed to print (after her tragic death in a shipwreck) was the best selling biography of that decade and went through 13 printings by the end of the century. Her short life is inspirational as a self-made woman who set out to achieve extraordinary goals despite many obstacles that would derail those of us equally inspired but less driven. Regarded as the best-read person of her time, she was the first woman allowed to conduct research in Harvard's library, the first woman book reviewer, first woman foreign correspondent, and she published the first feminist book, while putting her three little brothers through Harvard and remaining single but having an affair (and a child) with a man ten years her junior. Let's look at her life and then look in the mirror. What do we find? Laura is a frequent speaker to UUFGC.

Greeter: Kathy Domsky
Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

Board Member: Patrick McGuffey
Music: Steve Hodgson

May 23

Christina Branum-Martin, "If The Walls of our Sanctuary Could Speak, What Would they Say?"

They would say, as the UU theologian James Luther Adams has written, "that our actions together are the embracing patterns about the ultimate decisions of our existence. Indeed the struggle between our different answers constitute the very meaning of human history." Perhaps if we sit together and listen we can hear them speak. Christina is a seminary student and a returning speaker to our Fellowship.

Greeter: Vickie Francil
Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Board Member: Fanny DeGesero
Music: Tony DiNuzzo

May 30

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Laura Murrell, "Gulf Coast Interfaith"

For several years our Fellowship has been represented by Laura Murrell's work with Gulf Coast Interfaith. This organization provides an opportunity for us--as a Fellowship and as individuals--to join with other churches to create positive change in our community. Laura will fill us in on activities and accomplishments. Laura is a member and Past President of UUFGC.

Greeter: Mary Hodgson
Facilitator: TBA

Board Member: Kathy Domsky
Music: Woody Dickson

Dear Galveston Fellowship Colleagues,

Hello again! I have much to report to you about recent events and upcoming opportunities. First of all, the annual Empty Bowls fundraiser was a hit, with record attendance and fantastic weather. If you were there, you couldn't help but notice all the blue shirted UUFGC volunteers. Well done to all among our fellowship who helped make this a wonderful experience.

I am asking all Fellowship members to consider their pledge for the coming year and let Pete Olsen or Neil Huddleston know your intentions. We are in the midst of creating the budget for the coming fiscal year. Your pledges are a major source of funds for that budget, so we need to know what total congregation pledges will be for the coming year. Please complete your pledge card and submit by the May 10th board meeting.

Mark your calendar! The Board has chosen Sunday, June 6th as the date for our Annual Meeting. During the meeting you will vote to elect the new slate of officers for your Board, review and ap-

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.

(Continued from page 1)

prove the budget for the new fiscal year, and discuss old and new church business. We will convene after service. A meal will be provided for all. Please plan to attend and participate.

Spring brings announcements for a number of Unitarian Universalist events scheduled for the coming months of June, July, and August. See the names, dates, and locations of these events in the following list. Follow the URL for more details

UU General Assembly
June 23-27 Minneapolis, MN
<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>

Dwight R. Brown Leadership Experience
July 25-30 Stillwater Conference Center in Glen Rose, Texas
<http://swuuc.org/pages/lifespan-faith-development/dble.php>

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute
August 1-6 Western Hills Guest Ranch in Hulbert, OK
<http://swuuc.org/pages/services/camps/swuusi.php>

That's all for now. Best to you all,

John



Thanks to all who helped and attended the Empty Bowls evening on Friday, April 16. It was a HUGE success, filling the Garten Verein with beautiful greenery and flowers, and many delicious soup selections. At the bowl display table, we counted a total of 374 bowls for participants to choose from!! Most were made by our own intrepid "bowlers", many by **George Bowes** and his COM students, and some from **Beth Thomas** at Galveston College. The event could not happen without volunteers and to honor that, let me list a few names here: Bowlers: **Madeleine Baker, Bets Anderson, Mary Hodgson, Dale Hogan, Sandra Sullivan, Kathy Domsy, Corinne Drake, & Pat Patterson**. There have been others, but these are the stalwarts. Event volunteers, besides the above, were **Fannie DeGesero, Red Henry, Patrick McGuffey, Pete Olsen, & Susan Baker**. If you volunteered and your name was not included, blame it on insufficient memory on my part, not lack of gratitude.

This event has become very important to the Jesse Tree, and it is amazing that it has grown in seven years to fill the Garten Verein. Ted Hanley said that one anonymous participant who had not attended before was so impressed, he went out and came back with a check for \$10,000! Presumably he got a bowl as well. The total is not in yet for income but we'll report that when we have it! Thanks

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 Domsy 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

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.*

News & Coming Attractions

Upcoming Events

Attic Treasures Sale: Be here May 1 all day for our big fund-raiser! You are invited Friday night April 30 as well, for the Early Bird sale and reception. Bring your friends, bring your donations, bring your money. Wear your blue "Volunteer" t-shirt and help us make it happen! You may bring donated items to the Fellowship starting Sunday, April 25; Monday-Wednesday from 5-7pm, and all day Thursday or Friday.

Used Book Sale: The May book sale will be held during the Attic Treasures sale on April 30-May 1.

Galveston College Choir offers a free spring concert on Monday, May 3 at Galveston College Fine Arts Recital Hall (FA207) at 7:30pm. Same program will be presented Tuesday, May 4 at Moody Methodist Church at 7pm. UUs in the choir include **Bets Anderson, Madeleine Baker, Margaret Cavanaugh, John Hunger, Alison Rutledge,** and **Roy DeGesero** (UU by marriage).



Pledge drive continues through May 10: Please consider the importance of our Fellowship in your life, and how it may enrich others as well. Your pledge will guide our Board in developing a budget for 2010-2011.

Book Club Wednesday, May 12: the group will discuss **Lamb** by Christopher Moore. All are welcome.

"Spirituality of Poker" & Game Night; There is no poker night in May. Games TBA.

Supper Circle: Judy Glaister & Richard Orange are hosting the May Supper Circle on Sunday, May 9 at 5pm. They will be grilling hamburgers (meat and veggie) in the backyard. Bring lawn chairs and sign up on the bulletin board.

Coming soon: Holly Fortenberry is working on a UU Galveston Facebook

page where you can stay informed of upcoming weekly and monthly fellowship events. Stay tuned for details.

Annual Meeting: our Board has set the 2010 Congregational meeting for Sunday, June 6, following the service. Please plan to attend this critically important meeting, at which we will conduct the official business of the Fellowship, including election of Board members, and adoption of the 2010-2011 budget.



Around UU

Music Festival: The annual UU Houston Spring Music Festival will take place at The Fellowship on Wirt Road, Saturday, May 1, 3-9pm. UU musicians, vendors, jugglers, belly dancers and such will perform outdoors. Family friendly, with hotdogs, popcorn, ice cream. Bring the cooler and lawn chairs. Celebrate Spring with 300 UUs. More info at www.uuhouston.org.

Our own **Tom Hargrove** will be speaking about his experience as a kidnap victim in Colombia, at Bay Area UU Church, on Thursday, May 6 at 7pm. Tom's story is riveting and inspiring to all who hear him speak.

Microfinance Update: Our microfinance "revolving" fund added two loans this month. We have now used & "recycled" a few hundred dollars to make 109 loans, totaling \$3475, to recipients in developing countries, and have donated \$200 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 now has 379 members. See our "portfolio" at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversalist3384>.

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.

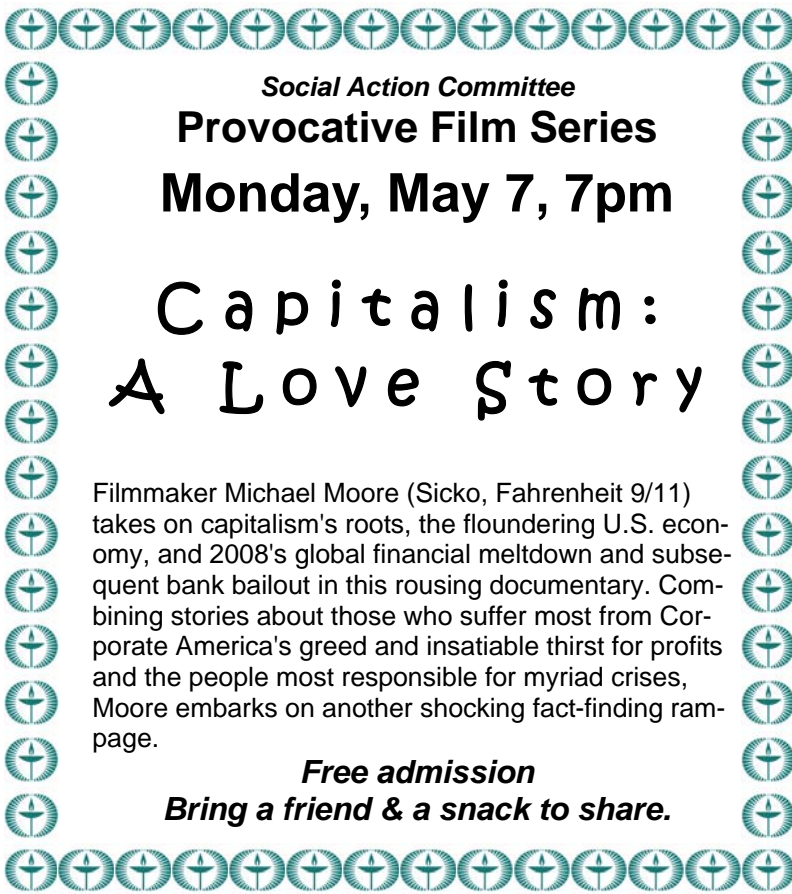
We will respect & support the diversity within our congregation & work to foster a welcoming environment.

--adopted 12/05

Social Action Committee continues to work on reducing the use of plastic bags in our community. The committee is investigating the use of signs in grocery store parking lots to remind people to bring their reusable bags into the store when they shop. They are planning another effort at Kroger in early May to encourage shoppers to use reusable bags. Please join this group to make Galveston a greener environment for people and animals.

Thanks for generously supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters. We collected \$198.00 for them for our April compassionate offering. Our next compassionate offering will go to Trudy Belz, Wildlife Rehabilitator.

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



Social Action Committee

Provocative Film Series

Monday, May 7, 7pm

Capitalism: A Love Story

Filmmaker Michael Moore (Sicko, Fahrenheit 9/11) takes on capitalism's roots, the floundering U.S. economy, and 2008's global financial meltdown and subsequent bank bailout in this rousing documentary. Combining stories about those who suffer most from Corporate America's greed and insatiable thirst for profits and the people most responsible for myriad crises, Moore embarks on another shocking fact-finding rampage.

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

The Tate Family: Do you know how many members of the Tate family belong to your family or church?

There is old man Dic-Tate who wants to run everything, while Uncle Ro-Tate tries to change everything. There's sister Agi-Tate who stirs up plenty of trouble, with help from her husband, Irri-Tate. Whenever new projects are suggested, Hesi-Tate and his wife, Vege-Tate, want to wait until next year. Then there is Aunt Imi-Tate, who wants our church to be like all the others. Devas-Tate provides the voice of doom, while Poten-Tate wants to be a big shot.

But not all members of the family are bad. Brother Facili-Tate is quite helpful in church matters. And a delightful, happy member of the family is Miss Felici-Tate. Cousins Cogi-Tate and Medi-Tate always think things over and lend helpful, steady hands. And of course there is the black sheep of the family, Ampu-Tate, who has completely cut himself off from the church.

How about it - do you know anyone in the "Tate" family?

Author Unknown, shared by Laura Emerson

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.

Get Connected with 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. May sale will be held with the Attic Treasures sale.

Bowlers meet throughout the year on Wednesday evenings to make bowls for the annual "Empty Bowl" fundraiser for Jesse Tree. They are on vacation during May, resting up from the April fundraiser!

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. There is no poker night schedule for May.

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 until June. 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.

MAY 2010

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																
<p>ATTIC TREASURES SALE SATURDAY, MAY 1, 8am - 1pm Members & Friends Early-bird sale and Reception April 30, 5-7pm</p>																						
<p>2 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - G.Valbuena, "The Ethics of Atheism"; Children/ Youth Religious Education 12n - Social Action Cmte; 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>3 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>4 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>5 6pm - Program Cmte @ Mosquito 8pm - AA Phoenix</p>	<p>6 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>7 7pm - Provocative Film, Capitalism: A Love Story</p>	<p>8</p>																
<p>9 Mothers' Day 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - H.Appelberg, "God's Unconditional Love"; Children/Youth RE 5pm - Supper Circle at Judy & Richard's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>10 11am - Course in Miracles 5:15pm - UU Board 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>11 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>12 7pm - Book Club, Lamb by Christopher Moore 8pm - AA Phoenix</p>	<p>13 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>																
<p>16 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Laura Emerson, "Margaret Fuller"; Children/ Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>17 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>18 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>19 8pm - AA Phoenix</p>	<p>20 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>21 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>22</p>																
<p>23 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - C.Branum-Martin, "If the Walls of our Sanctuary Could Talk"; Children/Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>24 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>25 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>26 8pm - AA Phoenix</p>	<p>27 5:15pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>																
<p>30 Potluck 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - L.Murrell, "Gulf Coast Interfaith"; Children/ Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>31 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>Happy Birthday to:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Sandra López</td> <td>5/1</td> <td>Diane Olsen</td> <td>5/1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J. T. "Red" Henry</td> <td>5/7</td> <td>Cheryl Henry</td> <td>5/15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Owen Leisey</td> <td>5/15</td> <td>Mary Hodgson</td> <td>5/16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Frannea</td> <td>5/17</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					Sandra López	5/1	Diane Olsen	5/1	J. T. "Red" Henry	5/7	Cheryl Henry	5/15	Owen Leisey	5/15	Mary Hodgson	5/16	John Frannea	5/17		
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