

# UUF Galveston Gazette

March 2009



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 9am

## President's Message

### March 1

#### Laura Emerson, "Bible 101 Continued: The Ten Commandments"

*Ten Commandments: Next time you hear someone argue that the Ten Commandments should be posted outside a court room, ask, "Which ones?" The Old Testament lists THREE sets of ten commandments, two of which are never cited, and the differences are illuminating. Which ones have legitimacy today for our culture? Maybe you would advocate for "Five Commandments" and "The Amendments."*

Greeter: Bev Frannea

Facilitator: Tony DiNuzzo

Board Member: John Hunger

Music: Tony DiNuzzo

### March 8

#### Rev. Phil Schulman, "Renewal of Spirit"

*Rev. Phil Schulman is Minister of Community UU Church in San Antonio. According to Phil, "our UU movement is growing beyond disembodied intellectualism and Protestant decorum, we are embracing multi-cultural expression of our spirituality. We are enjoying a renewal of spirit, and facing societal challenges as a religious people. Phil is the founder of the "10 Tree Challenge," a UU "re-leaf ministry which asks UU congregations to participate in providing trees for our children's future. The project is one of many that have brought new rituals, new energy, and new life to our religious movement.*

Greeter: Cheryl Henry

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Board Member: Bets Anderson

Music: Margaret Canavan

### March 15

#### Karen Brykczynski, "St. Patrick's Day"

*Naomh Pádraig was an Irish pagan who was influential in bringing Christianity to that land. In honor of his day, Karen will share with us stories of his use of pagan symbols to convey Christian spiritual beliefs. Dr. Brykczynski is a Professor of Nursing at UTMB. St. Patrick's Day is her favorite holiday.*

Greeter: Stephanie Nwadike

Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

Board Member: Amanda Prather

Music: Woody Dickson

### March 22

#### Rev. Susan Smith, "The Peace of Wild Things"

*Naturalist and poet Wendell Berry wrote, "When despair for the world grows in me...I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought or grief." The quest for the spiritual and the rational are often associated with a serenity that few if any of us can imagine in the day to day wildness of our lives and, therefore, seems most attainable when it is most needed. In fact, we always have at hand common, everyday, ordinary peace. Rev. Susan M. Smith is District Executive, Southwestern UU Conference of the UUA.*

Greeter: Madeleine Baker

Board Member/Facilitator: Susan Persons

Music: Margaret Canavan

### March 29

#### Marilyn Schultz, "Passover"

*A short account that includes the history of the celebration of Passover and a description of the holiday and how it is celebrated. Marilyn is a member of our Fellowship.*

Greeter: Amanda Prather

Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Board Member: Bets Anderson

Music: Margaret Canavan

Let's take time to reflect today. Recall how one Sunday last month, I read the letter from Rev. Melanie Morel-Ensminger from New Orleans when they sent us a generous donation of \$275. This kindness from a church that still does not have 100% electricity! Well, I called her to thank her and to get suggestions on our own recovery. She had some excellent insights.

- ◆ Immediately after the storm, men cope more poorly, more temper outbursts, use of alcohol, etc., and women were generally too busy to feel anything-dealing with insurance, etc.
- ◆ Two to three years later, men were fine; now women started to show more symptoms of depression, agoraphobia
- ◆ Church services, newsletter, for a long time must focus on healing and recovery not the usual intellectual exploration-healing as a community, being gentle with Yourself, reaching out, accepting help as a sign of health, new beginnings, new hope, recalling how the community and the church and individuals have survived other disasters, celebrate any sign of recovery-she cautioned going back to business as usual too quickly and just covering our wounds.

This information makes us pause and recognize how sig-

*(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.*

(Continued from page 1)

nificant an event this hurricane has been in reshaping our lives in so many ways-homes, jobs, friends, mechanics, doctors, hair dressers and so on. But what other disasters have we survived? All have had personal traumas that we have overcome and as a community we have the wonderful legacy of rebuilding after the 1900 storm. The connections and caring of our fellowship will sustain us all as we pull together-allowing ourselves to cry over losses including favorite shops well as our personal losses. And to celebrate and mark each sign of recovery.

I can relate to just taking care of business. Melanie talked about of the aftermath. The fellowship has been a great source of connection to the greater community--a sense of not being alone in all this chaos. I wish for it to be a place of hope for all of us. Observe yourself and your fellow members. How are we doing? Are we balancing between what needs to be done and caring for self? Are we patient with those around us who are suffering as well?

Personally, I have begun walking my neighborhood again and was recently touched by a beautiful, perfect pink rose on a scraggly bush with no leaves. Awed by its survival, I was briefly tempted to take it home but then imagined how many other souls it would cheer just where it was. And I have returned to painting. I photographed beautiful sunrises in my temporary home for inspiration. New story ideas are forming in my head. These outlets will release my fears and anxieties as well as create new hope. But I still take lots of naps, gripe with my friends and eat too much chocolate and wine.

Let us all pause to take stock and continue to be gentle with ourselves and each other.

Peace, *Susan*

## 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*.
- 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, & donate copies of past issues to share with you. Feel free to take copies from the display in the foyer.
- **Friendly Sunday morning "Greeters"** are needed! 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 ! You know how wonderful it feels to be welcomed when you enter the Fellowship, so go ahead and plan to offer that warm welcome to others.

Our microfinance "revolving" fund has made loans totaling \$1,775 available to recipients in developing countries, and we have donated \$77 to support the activities of Kiva. We will continue to make more loans as we receive donations and 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/unitarianuniversal13384>.

2008-2009

### UUFGC Board of Directors

President	<i>Susan Persons</i>
President-Elect	<i>John Hunger</i>
Past-President	<i>Bets Anderson</i>
Secretary	<i>Amanda Prather</i>
Treasurer	<i>Pete Olsen</i>
Members at Large:	<i>Fanny DeGesero</i> <i>Cheryl Henry</i> <i>Patrick McGuffey</i>

### Committees and Task Forces

Communications	<i>Madeleine Baker</i>
Landscape	<i>Margaret Canavan</i>
Membership	<i>Cheryl Henry</i>
Program/Worship	<i>Gery Carr</i>
Religious Education	<i>Neil Huddleston</i>
Supper Circles	<i>Judy Glaister</i>
Social Action	<i>Mary Hodgson</i>

Administrative Team	<i>B. Anderson, M. Baker,</i> <i>M. Canavan, J. Glaister, &amp; C. Henry</i>
Webmaster	<i>Amber Zainfeld</i>

## 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.*

# News & Coming Attractions

## Member NUUws

**Thinking of YoUU:** Please keep in your prayers & thoughts: **Rusty McGowan, & John & Bev Frannea's** daughter **Andy Walker**. **Jean Baker** is home and ready for calls and visits.

**Galveston College Choir concert:** Come and hear "Music from the Movies". This free event is Friday March 6 at 7:30, in the Fine Arts Recital at GC. **Margaret Canavan** will be singing for you!

## UUcoming Events

**Supper Circle:** **Laura Murrell** is hosting the March Supper Circle on Saturday, March 7 at 6:30 pm. Laura will make Coconut Shrimp for those who want it and some healthier shrimp alternatives for those on a diet. There is a limit of 12 as that is the number that will fit around Laura's dining room table. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

**Galveston Island Arts Academy Concert:** **Mike Hennen** announces a concert on Saturday, March 7 at 8pm, featuring Texas singer/songwriter Joe Pat Hennen and his band. The event will be at Moody Mansion and will be free to the public.

**Poker & Game Night:** March 8th at **Tony DiNuzzo's** at 6:30.

## Announcements

**Book Club:** It is time to restart the UU Book Club. We will meet on March 11 at 7:00 PM in the living room. The book we'll discuss will be **Their Eyes Are Watching God** by Zora Neale Hurston.

**Attic Treasures re-re-scheduled:** Save the date, Saturday June 13 for this annual fundraiser. We usually have a Friday night "early bird" event, plus Saturday morning. The week before is when we bring our donations for the sale. We'll need lots of hands to make this happen, so mark your calendar now.

**From Debbie Speegle, Former Member:** *I am shaving my head March 14th in San Antonio. I have been rais-*

*ing funds for St. Baldrick's Foundation. St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising event for childhood cancer research. Thousands of volunteers shave their heads in solidarity of children with cancer, while requesting donations of support from friends and family. Follow the link <http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/#> type in my name to support me. Miss you all.*

## Around UU

**Hurricane Ike Volunteer Help:** The Wildflower UU Church wants to come to Galveston to volunteer to help with Ike projects in June. They need guest rooms and new projects. They are working with the city to serve on some rebuilding projects but are also willing to help out with one or two local UU projects. Contact **Susan Persons** if you can host a volunteer and/or have a post Ike project you need help with. More details will come.

**Crisis/Post Crisis Workshop:** **Rev. Phil Schulman** is offering some pastoral programming or support prior to the March 8 service, on "peer support, empathetic listening, or compassionate conversations". Would you come to such a program? Would you be willing to make the commitment by paying \$10? Call Susan Persons at 409-765-7907, or e-mail to [slper-sons@comcast.net](mailto:slper-sons@comcast.net) and let her know.



## Other Events

The SW UU Spring Conference and Annual Meeting will be held at First Unitarian Church in Memphis TN on April 24-26. The keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. Thandeka, speaking on "One Faith, Many Voices in Our Multicultural World." The agenda of the annual meeting includes the

budget for 2009-2010, nominations for the board and nominating committee, and election of a new UUA Trustee. Several inspiring and informative workshops are offered. For more information is available at <http://www.swuuc.org/media/docs/forms.Springcomplete.pdf>.

## Action to End Death Penalty:

After two decades the United States still has not signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child which internationally recognizes a child's political, cultural, social, and economic rights. As of the beginning of this month, 193 countries have ratified the Convention, including every member of the United Nations except the United States and Somalia.

The main reason the US has not ratified the Convention is because **the State of Texas allows children to be given the death penalty**, which the Convention would not allow. By refusing to sign the Convention, the US continues to condone the legal execution of children. President Barack Obama has described the U.S.' failure to ratify the Convention as 'embarrassing' and has promised to review this.

Now is the time to hold the President to his promise and urge him to stand up for Human Rights and protect children world-wide. Please take action by writing to President Obama to urge him to quickly sign this important international convention to protect the children of the world from harm. The absence of the United States from this convention weakens its force, not only in the United States, but around the world. The Canadian Government has signed the convention.

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office promotes the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, as reflected in the United Nations Charter. Through targeted education, advocacy and outreach, we engage Unitarian Universalists in support of international cooperation and the work of the United Nations.

What action would you propose?



**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 and politics. For information, contact Neil Hudleston at (409)744-2369.

**Board of UUFGC** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 5:45 pm. Committee members are invited to send Committee reports or present them in person at the meeting. All are welcome to attend.

**Book Club** is on vacation right now. Please contact Fanny DeGesero if you have suggestions for next year's readings..

**Bowlers** meet first and third Wednesdays of each month to make and decorate bowls for the fall Jesse Tree fundraiser. All are welcome to participate, no experience necessary.

**Comedy Defensive Driving:** Joseph "Pokey" Simmons teaches his Comedy Defensive Driving class at UU, three Saturdays each month from 9-3. Cost is \$35. Contact Joseph 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 Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7pm:** See page 3 for details. Questions, call Betty at 281-337-0441. See <http://www.galvestondanceclub.com>.

**Gardeners** meet monthly for indoor and outdoor work that is so important to keeping our Fellowship looking good & working properly. Work dates are on the calendar.

**Program Committee** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6PM, at Mosquito Café in Galveston, to plan Sunday services. For information please contact Gerry Carr. Meetings are open to all.

**Poker and Game Night** is monthly, held in members' homes, and is open to all. Check the calendar and weekly announcements for date and location.

**Social Action Committee** meets the first Sunday of each month after service and welcomes your ideas, energy and enthusiasm. Contact Mary Hodgson at 409-762-0193.

**Spirit Circle Covenant Group** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6PM. Contact Gerry Carr [gcarr@tlc-galveston.org](mailto: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 Sundays at 4PM as an activity of the Zen Island Fellowship. To learn more about Zen Buddhist practice, contact Cara Geary ([gcara@comcast.net](mailto:gcara@comcast.net)) or visit [galvestonzen.org](http://galvestonzen.org).

*Send newsletter information to [administrator@uugalveston.org](mailto:administrator@uugalveston.org) or phone 409-765-8330, or leave at note at the Fellowship.*

## **From the Social Action Committee Provocative Film Series**

*Because of conflicts in scheduling, we will not be having a Provocative film for March.*

### **Sunday, March 8 -- Walk for Global Warming**

Greta Browne, a retired UU minister from Pennsylvania is embarking on a 2000 mile walk of witness to the threats of Global Warming. Galveston is the official start of her walk. She is requesting that we participate in the event by joining her in front of the Fellowship building on 3/8 at around 3 or 4 p.m. for her press conference and for a walk to the Port Bolivar Ferry. You may check her blogs at [www.forallthegrandchildren.blogspot.com](http://www.forallthegrandchildren.blogspot.com) written for adults and for children, [www.climatechange.blogspot.com](http://www.climatechange.blogspot.com). Please join us in this venture.

### **Friday March 13 -- Nigerian Night 5-8pm**

Be among the lucky 50 who are first to send in your check for \$20 to attend this fund-raiser for HYBASIA (Helping Your Brothers and Sisters in Africa) at UU! This organization focuses on teaching children in about basic hygiene. Enjoy authentic African food and a silent auction with arts and crafts from Nigeria.

Send your check made out to HYBASIA to 101 Island Passage, Galveston TX 77554. HYBASIA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

## **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.



# MARCH 2009

*Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County*

*Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Laura Emerson, "The Ten Commandments"; Children/Youth RE 12n - Social Action Cmte; 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5pm - UU Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7pm - Supper Circle at Laura Murrell's</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Rev.Phil Schulman, "Renewal of Spirit"; Children/Youth Religious Education 3/ 4pm - Walk for Global Warming 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles 5:45pm - Board Meets</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7pm - Book Club 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5-8pm - Nigerian Night</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am-noon - Book Sale/ Garden Workday 9am-3pm Defensive Driving</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - K.Bryckzynski, "St. Patrick"; Children/Youth Religious Education 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5pm - UU Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6pm - Program Cmte at Mosquito Café 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>20</p> <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p>21</p> <p>9am-3pm Comedy Defensive Driving</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Rev. Susan Smith, "Peace of Wild Things"; Children/Youth Religious Education 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am-3pm Comedy Defensive Driving</p>
<p>29</p> <p><b>Potluck</b></p> <p>9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Marillyn Schultz, "Passover"; Children/Youth Religious Education 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7pm - Dance lessons</p>	<p><b>Happy Birthday to:</b>  <i>Kate Fiantd</i> 3/12  <i>David Pyle</i> 3/17  <i>Carlos Price</i> 3/21</p>			