

UUF Galveston Gazette

October 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 9am

October 3:

Cheryl Henry, "Blessing of the Animals"

October 4, World Day for Animals, was inaugurated by the World League for Protection of Animals in 1928 to commemorate the great love and humane work of St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226. Unitarian Universalists have celebrated the tradition of blessing animals, particularly pets, on this day. At this service we will celebrate this tradition by blessing our pets. Bring your pet to the service (on a leash please, and with vaccination papers) or bring a photograph. Cheryl is an active member of our Fellowship and a passionate animal advocate. She resides with her husband Red, and their three rescued dogs: Ruby, Jack, and Sara.

Greeter: Linda Price

Board Member: Kathy Domskey

Music: Margaret Canavan

October 10:

Katy Carpman, "Where do we Come From?"

Sure, Unitarian Universalism is a constantly evolving faith - but that doesn't mean we were born yesterday. Come explore our historical roots and our current shared theology. (Yes, we do have one.) Katy Carpman is the Director of Religious Education of the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston and a board trustee to the Liberal Religious Educators Association.

Greeter: John Frannea

Board Member: Billie Rinaldo

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: Margaret Canavan

October 17:

Mylène Dressler, "Your Words, Your Spirit"

Are we living in a world that pays less and less attention to the breadth and depth of words and what they can do for us? Is our use of short texts and abbreviations encouraging us to limit our relationship to language, and so limiting our access to its expansive, imaginative, inspiring power? Join "Dr. Em" as she presents her call to each of us to honor and enrich the language we use daily, remembering that the words we use to express our lives shape our lives.

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Board Member: John Hunger

Facilitator: Tony DiNuzzo

Music: Steve Hodgson

October 24:

Dr. Ken Vincent, "Religious Experience of Jesus Compatible with Modern Research"

Except for a small number of truly supernatural "miracles" in the Gospels (like walking on water), the things Jesus did are very much like what is reported in modern times by numerous people who are not mentally ill. Nothing has changed in 2000 years. Ken Vincent is a retired Psychologist who has written extensively on Universalism and is webmaster for the **Universalist Herald**.

Greeter: Vickie Francil

Board Member: Mike Hennen

Facilitator: Stan Blazyk

Music: Woody Dickson

October 31

INGATHERING CEREMONY POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Sandra López, "Día de los Muertos"

This celebration from Mexican tradition honors loved ones who have passed on. Sandra, a first generation Mexican American on her father's side and second generation on her mother's side, hopes to share the rich history about Día de Los Muertos and its value in remembering our loved ones. Bring photographs & other mementos (food, drinks, special items) of your loved ones to decorate our altar, & share a story or reminiscence. All are invited to participate in this very special service that provides for sharing, support & community-building.

Greeter: Kay Schiller

Board Member: John Hunger

Music: UU String Band

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.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As autumn begins we often start to think of the year as kind of, well, winding down.

At our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, however, the year definitely is getting wound up to go. Our membership is growing to levels not seen in years, if ever. Membership chairperson **Cheryl Henry** reports that we now have 85 members in our congregation. Two new members joined in August, and four in September. Something good is happening at our Fellowship and it is bringing in fresh faces.

I like to think that it is the friendly, accepting and welcoming environment that we can point to as attracting people to us. Of course, it is more than that. Our program committee continues to impress us with stimulating speakers and presentations that draw us back for more. Also, our adult forums, book-discussion groups, supper circles, committees, pot-luck Sundays, and more offer many opportunities for members to find meaningful activities and kindred spirits.

The September 5 "Revival" program demonstrated the breadth of experience in our religious backgrounds and our spiritual journeys. Many of us took challenging paths to find our way to this Fellowship and to the Unitarian Universalist principles. Repeatedly, those who "testified" during the program expressed

their happiness over discovering a religious experience with which they can identify and embrace. I do not doubt that the UU experience has the potential to attract many more seekers to join us.

Other exciting developments are in music and children's religious education. **Susan Vaughan** (yes, my lovely wife), who also is an accomplished musician and choral director, has begun working with members interested in re-forming a choir at our Fellowship. In fact, on September 19 an unprecedented 16 people turned out to sing in the second choir practice. Susan hopes to have the singers ready to perform in a few weeks.

Laura Lee, granddaughter of longtime member **Doris Lee**, and a student at Galveston College has agreed to handle Sunday religious education. Laura grew up in our Fellowship and participated in RE in times when we had many more children. Laura is enthusiastic about reestablishing the kind of RE she remembers at our church.

So, is the year winding down? Not at our Fellowship! Happy fall.

Michael Hennen

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 Domsy 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 Amber Zainfeld



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.*

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

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. They do not meet on potluck Sundays. Contact Neil Huddleston at (409)744-2369.

Board of UUF GC 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.

Bowlers meet on Wednesday evenings to make bowls for the annual "Empty Bowl" fundraiser for Jesse Tree. Contact Madeleine Baker for more information.

Choir rehearsal is held the third Sunday of each month, following the service. Anyone is welcome to participate.

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>.

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.

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!

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.

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 meets each second and fourth Tuesday at 6:15pm. 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.

Used Book Sale monthly on second Saturday, 9am-2pm.



Social Action Committee

Provocative Film Series

Friday, October 1, 7pm

AMERICAN VIOLET

Inspired by true events, this penetrating drama centers on a 24-year-old mother of four who is forced to take on a corrupt district attorney when she's unjustly prosecuted in a large-scale drug case. She is swept up in an illegal drug bust by a racist DA running for office who does this to sweeten his image. She is given a chance to take a plea deal that would not put her in jail but she would be considered a felon and on probation for 15 years. A beautifully nuanced performance by Nicole Beharie and the story which, except for names and location, is absolutely true.

Free admission
Bring a friend & a snack to share.



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**.
- **For visitors & newcomers:** Please feel free to take copies of **UU World** magazine, from the display in the foyer.

News & Coming Attractions

NUUws from Members & Friends

WELCOME to new members **Ann Ellsworth, Rudy Steury, Wendy Baker, Robert English, Al Smith, & Curtis Jones.**

Congratulations to Moody Garden's Curator **Diane Olsen.** The Association of Zoos & Aquariums has presented her with an award for her work in finding homes at zoos and aquariums for non-releasable birds affected by the Gulf Oil Spill.

Our friend **Melody Lopez** writes that "we didn't have much storm damage, but I like only pushed me into making the move that had been in the back of my mind since my husband died... I'm up in San Marcos now, and really love it. There's a small UU Fellowship up here that meets in a building on the Texas State campus. Really nice people." We wish Melody the best in her new home.

UUcoming Events

UUused Book Sale: The sale will be Saturday October 9, from 9am-2pm. Volunteers are desperately needed to help with our sales. Every week we receive numerous boxes of books from the 23rd Street Bookshop in addition of donations from fellowship members, which need to be sorted and put out. Help is also needed on the days of the book sales. Please contact Bets Anderson (betsanderson@sbcglobal.net) or Fanny De Gesero (fandfare@aol.com)

Book Club: The book club meeting will meet on **Sunday, October 17**, following the service. The book to be discussed is **The Medusa Tree** by author Mylène Dressler, who is our speaker that morning and will also lead the discussion. A light lunch will be served prior to the book discussion.

UU Choir Rehearsal: We have a choir, under the direction of the fabulous **Susan Vaughan.** This choir is open to anyone who wants to sing; musical knowledge is of course useful but not a requirement. Susan is pleased with the choir's progress and believes we will be ready to sing at services in the near fu-

ture. Rehearsals are set for **October 24**, November 21, and December 19, following the service.

"Spirituality of Poker": October's game will be on Sunday October 17 at Alan Griffin's, 6:30. Usual games are Texas Hold'Em and Omaha, with other games possible depending on the number of players. If you'd like to participate in other games, offer to host at your place!

Supper Circle: Sandra Sullivan & K Ball Withers are hosting the October Supper Circle on Sunday, October 24 at At 6:30 pm. They are fixing pot roast or beef stew. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Ingathering October 31: This service will include an ingathering for new members. This is a ceremony in which we welcome into our Fellowship those who have chosen to join us in assuming the joys and responsibilities of membership. If you are not yet a member and are considering joining us, talk with **Cheryl Henry** or any member who will direct you to her.



Around UU

Treasurer Woody Dickson reminds us that our "pledge year" (which began in July) is about 25% over. Soon those who made a pledge will receive a mailer indicating our status related to what we pledged. Thanks to **Anne Ellsworth** who refreshed the pledge envelopes in sanctuary chairbacks. If you make a cash donation and wish to have it credited to your name, please place it in one of those envelopes and indicate who it's from.

Microfinance Update: We added five loans this month, making our total 132. We have now used & "recycled" a few hundred dollars to make loans totaling \$4085 to recipients in developing countries, and have donated \$262 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 UU lending team which has 427 members. See our "portfolio" at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversalist3384>.

Want to be more than a tourist? Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's experiential learning trips are unique educational experiences that allow participants to get a firsthand and up-close understanding of human rights and social justice. Join us for the travel opportunity of a lifetime! Upcoming trips: A Trip to Uganda November 4-16 and the Haiti Rebuilding Program starting in January 2011. For more information go to http://www.uusc.org/learn_by_doing

Other Events

Neighborhood Master Planning - The City of Galveston wants to hear from you. Would you like a community park? More places to eat and shop? Better transportation? We won't know unless you tell us. Go to your neighborhood meeting and let us know. To find meetings or volunteer to go block walking to hand out flyers, go to www.cityofgalvestonrecovers.org or call 409-797-3773 x540. **Holly Fortenberry** is involved with this project.

Writing With Your Body, Dancing With Your Words: Mylène Dressler is co-leading a workshop on Saturday, October 9, from Noon-2pm at Studio Nia Moves in the Houston Heights (508 Pecore). The afternoon combines *accessible* movement and stretching that ANYONE can do with breathing, chant, and natural vocal rhythms. No prior movement or "writing" experience is required. For more information, or to register, go to <https://clients.mindbodyonline.com/asp/home.asp?studioid=3294> (scroll halfway down), or call (713)864-4260 or simply show up at the door. The cost is \$40 for pre-registration, \$50 on the day.

Fall Retreat at Dawn Mountain: this Tibetan Buddhist center in Houston offers Longchenpa's **Living Wistom: Seven Spiritual Trainings for Accessing Your Essence**, on October 8-10. For more information see <http://www.dawnmountain.org/>

OCTOBER 2010

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galves-

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7pm - Pro- vocative film	2
3 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - "Blessing of the Ani- mals"; Children/Youth Reli- gious Ed. 12n - Social Action Cmte. 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	4 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	5 7pm - Dance lessons	6 5pm - Bowlers 6pm - Program Cmte @ Mos- quito Café 8pm - AA Phoenix	7 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons		8
10 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Katy Carpmán, "Where do we Come From?"; Children/Youth RE 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	11 11am - Course in Miracles 5:15pm - UU Board 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	12 6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons	13 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix	14 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons		15
17 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - M.Dressler, "Your Words, Your Spirit"; Chil- dren/Youth RE 11:45 Book club; Medusa Tree 6:30pm - Poker at Alan Griffin's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	18 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	19 7pm - Dance lessons	20 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix	21 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons	Newsletter Deadline	22
24 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Dr. Ken Vincent, "Religious Experience of Je- sus"; Children/Youth RE 11:45 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 - Supper Circle, Sandra's	25 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	26 6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons	27 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix	28 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons		29
31 Potluck 10:30am - Sandra López, "Día de Los Muertos"; Ingathering; Children/Youth RE 8pm - AA Phoenix Group			Happy Birthday to:			
		<i>Bev Frannea</i>	<i>10/07</i>	<i>Neil Huddleston</i>	<i>10/07</i>	
		<i>Nancy Stanley</i>	<i>10/13</i>	<i>Jean Baker</i>	<i>10/22</i>	
		<i>Alan Griffin</i>	<i>10/23</i>	<i>Lee Willcock</i>	<i>10/28</i>	