

# UUF Galveston Gazette

March 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)

#### March 6

##### Stan Blazyk, "The Mythological and Spiritual Roots of Mardi Gras"

Many customs and cultural events have deep roots both in our historic past and our mythological history. While modern expressions of these ancient rites may seem divorced from the times and understandings that originally produced them, they still offer both mirror to our past and to those universal psychic needs that transcend time and place. This talk will explore the mythological and spiritual roots of Mardi Gras with a view of providing a deeper understanding and appreciation of both this particular festival as well as rituals in general. Stan is a member of our fellowship, and is enthusiastic about weather, poker, and Mardi Gras.

Greeter: Cheryl Henry

Facilitator: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Holly Fortenberry

Music: Tony DiNuzzo

#### March 13

##### Malcolm Brodwick, "The Spiritual in Music"

Musical meaning can be categorized in several poles. This talk examines the spiritual dimension as revealed through the expression of liturgical texts, the enactment of dramatic texts, the implication of text through symbolic means, the imitation of emotion, and lastly how formal devices themselves imply a philosophical world view. Various examples of Western and World music will illustrate these points. Dr. Brodwick is a neuroscientist at UTMB and teaches in the medical school. He is actively involved in problem-based learning..

Greeter: Stan Blazyk

Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Board Member: Billie Rinaldi

Music: Steve Hodgson

#### March 20

##### Rev. Ken Shuman, "Losing My Religion"

"After twenty years as a professional pastor I lost my religion. It's not that I forgot where I put it or anything. I knew exactly where it was. And it's not that I set out to get rid of my religion. It just wasn't working for me anymore. In the midst of questioning God and searching for answers to the big questions, religion just wasn't providing the answers. Some want to equate losing religion with losing faith. I haven't lost my faith. I believe very passionately in God and in his mission. I'm seeking to walk humbly with God and to align my life with God's dream for the world. I'm deeply committed to pursuing God in the way of Jesus. I want to be honest however and say that I've put all of my beliefs under a microscope. I've questioned everything. Even in my questioning, however, I couldn't let go of God, and he/she wouldn't let go of me. Is it possible to give up religion and yet have a deep spirituality?" Dr. Ken Shuman is a former Southern Baptist pastor with more than thirty years of ministry experience. He is an adjunct professor at the Houston Graduate School of Theology. Ken and Becky have two grown daughters and three grand dogs. Ken loves college football and playing Texas Hold Em poker.

Greeter: Bets Anderson

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Board Member: Mike Hennen

Music: Margaret Canavan

#### March 27

##### Ingathering of New Members

##### POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

##### Alok Kalia , "UU Principles Revisited (Your mileage may vary!)"

I have now been a member of a UU congregation for over 12 years. Our covenant asks me to affirm and promote our principles. But do these principles mean the same to me as they did 12 years ago, or has my interpretation changed and evolved with the passage of time? Alok Kalia, MD is a retired professor from the University of Texas Medical Branch. He attends the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church where he has served on the Board of Directors and chaired the Community Service Committee and the Committee on Ministry. He is especially interested in the history of Unitarian Universalism, on how we came to be what we are today. Dr. Kalia's beliefs come from Vedantic Hinduism but he puts them into practice as a member of a UU congregation.

Greeter: Madeleine Baker

Facilitator: Tony DiNuzzo

Board Member: Dale Hogan

Music: Woody Dickson

*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*

Finally we can feel spring coming and anticipate the warmer weather, fresh green on the trees, and new flowers in the garden. Change is in the air.

At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship we want to keep up with you, our members; with your needs for religious experience, for fellowship, for education, for service, and other matters of interest. In 2001 and 2004 surveys were conducted to assess members' interest in various areas. It is important, I think, that any changes in our congregation's attitudes and beliefs be known to the Fellowship as a whole, and especially to our leadership.

To that end, this spring we will again conduct a survey to gather information about your needs and interests. The program/worship committee and the board of directors currently are assessing what type of survey or surveys will be used.

With a new fiscal year approaching this summer, such a survey will be helpful in establishing priorities and in allocating budget resources. Everyone will be urged to participate so that we will have the best-representation of your views.

Also, another interesting assessment is coming along. It will deal with "ethical eating." This is a topic slated for serious attention at this year's Unitarian Universalist General Assembly. What is "ethical eating," anyway? For some it may be a strict vegan regimen. Organic or chemical might be important. For others, it may be paying attention to how the animals we eat are treated before appearing on the supermarket shelves. No doubt there will be a wide range of opinion on this issue. What food is eaten, how it is grown or raised, what resources are consumed in growing it and transporting it, will be grist for important examination. Just the fact that we will think about it and discuss it is worthwhile.

So, stay tuned and don't miss out on these and other important events coming in the near future. In the meantime, let's enjoy the springtime songs of robins and mockingbirds, knowing that the oleander blossoms will not be long in coming – if they have weathered our cold winter.

-- Mike 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.*

## **ATTIC TREASURES Sale Set for March 18-19**

We're in the home stretch for this annual fund-raiser for UUFGC!

The early-bird sale and reception is Friday evening, **March 18 from 6-8pm**, which will have an admission fee of \$5 to cover refreshments.

**Mardi Mitchell** has volunteered to manage refreshments for that evening, so let her know if you'd like to assist.

Sale will continue on **Saturday, March 19 from 8am-1pm**. Both events are open to the public, of course. Tell your friends to come!

The volunteer list is posted on the Fellowship bulletin board. Please add your name if you're not on there already! And get our your blue UU Volunteer t-shirt to wear during the sale (we have one for you!).

Our Sanctuary is used during the week so we won't be able to set up completely until Thursday. However, please go ahead and **bring items for the sale beginning Sunday, March 13** after the service (until 2pm). We will have someone present Monday through Wednesday from 5-7pm to accept donations.

Beginning **Thursday morning, March 17**, we have the building all to ourselves and will be able to transform the Sanctuary into our annual thrift shop. Someone will be there from around 10am Thursday and Friday. Please bring your donations as soon as possible so we'll have time for sorting and pricing. If you need assistance hauling things to the Fellowship, let any of the volunteers know.

We hope you'll get right to work identifying things you'd like to donate. Solicit donations from your friends too! All donations are tax-deductible.



**Send us your news! Provide information to [administrator@uugalveston.org](mailto:administrator@uugalveston.org) or phone 409-765-8330, or leave a note at the Fellowship.**

# Get Connected with UUFGC

Meetings are at the Fellowship unless otherwise noted. Everyone is invited and welcome to all listed activities.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Phoenix Group** meets Sunday & Wednesday at 8pm. Contact Robert G. for information at 409-392-7005.

**Adult Forum** meets Sundays at 9am (except potluck days) 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 5:15pm.

**Book Club** meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Contact Fanny DeGesero if you have book suggestions.

**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. Join them or 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 ([gcara@comcast.net](mailto:gcara@comcast.net)) or visit <http://galvestonzhen.org/>. Natural Awareness Meditation meets Thursdays at 5:30pm, contact Terry Conrad (409)599-7268.

## 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.

## Provocative Film Series Friday, March 4, 7pm

## Pray the Devil Back to Hell

Director Gini Reticker and producer Abigail E. Disney's documentary tells the story of the thousands of Liberian women, both Christian and Muslim, who helped end the bloody civil war in 2003 that killed over 200,000 people. Through nonviolent protests, these brave women forced a resolution in the peace talks, and their efforts led to the election of Africa's first female head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

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

### 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.Caravan, J.Glaister, & C. Henry
Newsletter	Judy Glaister/Margaret Caravan
Webmaster	Neil Huddleston

# News & Coming Attractions

## NUUws from Members & Friends

Thanks to **Dale Hogan**, we have wireless internet available at the Fellowship! Login information is on the bulletin board. Thanks, Dale.

We are happy to hear that **Pete Olsen's** mother **Astrid Lawler** is doing better and should be in rehab by the time you read this.

## UUUpcoming Events

**"Spirituality of Poker"**: Sunday, March 6 at 6:30, hosted by Tony DiNuzzo. Games are "dealer's choice". Other games just need a host!

**New Covenant Group**: "UU101" is open to New- and Old-comers. The purpose of this covenant is to learn more about the UU principles through sharing and discussing. We'll start our sessions at 7pm and should finish by 8pm. The schedule for March:

*Third Principle: March 7*

*Fourth Principle: March 23*

*Fifth Principle: March 30*

**Book Club**: Will Meet March 9th at 7pm to discuss **Sarah's Key** by Tatiana deRosney. All are welcome to participate. Here is the reading list for 2011: April: **Suite Française** by Irene Nemirovsky; May: **Zeitoun** by Dave Eggers; June: **The Shadow of the Wind** by Carlos Ruiz Zafón; July: **World and Town** by Gish Jen; August: **The Sonderberg Case** by Elie Wiesel; September: **Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China** by Jung Chang; October 12: **Birds Without Wings** by Louis de Bernières; November: **All Those Who Save Us** by Jenna Blum' December: **Crow Lake** by Mary Lawson

**Brendan Kennedy** will be offering a public meditation at the Fellowship on Thursday, March 10, from 5:30 – 7pm. He is a longstanding and deep practitioner of the Dharma who has trained and practiced with many of the great masters of the Dzogchen tradition, and is a personal student of H.H. the Dalai Lama. He uses language that is fresh, clear and coming directly from his own

experience to communicate the essence of Natural Meditation as practiced in the Dzogchen tradition.

**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 March 12. Please join them as they are working hard to make our grounds beautiful. Check with **Martha Terrill** or **John Hunger** of the Garden Committee.

**Supper Circle**: Saturday, March 12 at 6pm, hosted by Madeleine and Pat. Sign up 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!

**ATTIC TREASURES SALE March 18 & 19**: We need your help for this event! See the article on page 2. Volunteer to assist! Tell your friends! This is our only annual fundraiser for UU. If you are willing to help out, let **Margaret Canavan** know. This month's **UUsed Book Sale** will be held with Attic Treasures.

**Ingathering March 27**: This is a ceremony in which we welcome new members to the Fellowship. If you are interested in assuming the joys and responsibilities of membership contact **Cheryl Henry**, [administrator@uugalveston.org](mailto:administrator@uugalveston.org).

**Empty Bowl Event Saturday, April 15 at Garten Verein**: This is our BIG social action event of the year, and has become a significant fundraiser for the Jesse Tree. Join us in making it a great success! We need volunteers to wash & arrange bowls on the tables, work in the bar, serve soup, set up & clean up. We will have a silent auction of work by local artists, and will need volunteers to work the auction. If you can help out, please email madeleine baker at [madeleinebaker@att.net](mailto:madeleinebaker@att.net), or [bet-sanderson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bet-sanderson@sbcglobal.net).

**UU Choir**: Director **Susan Vaughan** would like to hold March rehearsals after all, as the group is planning a performance late in the month. Stay tuned for rehearsal dates and times.

## From UUA

**Free Online Literature from UUA:** OLYMPIA BROWN – America's First Officially Ordained Woman. The illustrated autobiography of the Universalist minister who was a prominent woman suffrage movement advocate who lived long enough to vote. Today half of our Unitarian Universalist ministers are women, and almost half of American Protestant denominations now ordain women. See <http://harvardsquarelibrary.org/olympiabrown/home.html>. CELEBRATING EASTER AND SPRING - An anthology of Unitarian Universalist Readings compiled and edited by Carl Seaburg and Mark Harris and illustrated by Thomas Da-hill. See [http://harvardsquarelibrary.org/Celebrating\\_Easter\\_and\\_Spring/Introduction.html](http://harvardsquarelibrary.org/Celebrating_Easter_and_Spring/Introduction.html)



The U.S. Department of Defense reported to Congress: "Climate related changes are already being observed in every region of the world. Climate change will contribute to food and water scarcity, will increase the spread of disease, and may spur mass migration." Global peace is threatened. We UU's passed a Statement of Conscience in 2006 on Global Warming / Climate Change. Now we need to act. It is our responsibility to the planet and our descendants. Contact Senators and Representatives, and urge them to oppose any legislation that would limit the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases. Contact your elected officials here: <http://www.usa.gov>Contact/Elected.shtml>

**Please send items for the newsletter by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, for the following month's edition. Send to [administrator@uugalveston.org](mailto:administrator@uugalveston.org) and put "for newsletter" in the subject line.**



# MARCH 2011

*Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston*

*Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7pm - Dance lessons	2 5pm - Bowlers 6pm - Pro- gram Cmte 8pm - AA Phoenix	3 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons 7:30pm - Great Deci- sions	4 7pm - Provoca- tive Film, <i>Play the Devil Back to Hell</i>	5 
<b>Happy Birthday to:</b> Kristopher Benson 3/7 Rudy Steury 3/15 Carlos Price 3/21						
6 9am - Adult Forum Choir Rehearsal TBA 10:30am - Stan Blazyk, "Meaning of Mardi Gras"; Children/Youth RE 12n - Social Action Cmte. 6:30pm - Poker @ DiNuzzo's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	7 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation 7pm - UU 101	8 7pm - Dance lessons	9 5pm - Bowlers 7pm - Book Club 8pm - AA	10 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons 7:30pm - Great Deci- sions	11	12 9am - Gar- den work- day 6pm - supper Circle @ Madeleine Baker's
13 9am - Adult Forum Choir Rehearsal TBA 10:30am - Malcolm Brodwick, "The Spiritual in Music"; Chil- dren/Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	14 11am - Course in Miracles 5:15pm - Board 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	15 7pm - Dance lessons <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	16 5pm - Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix	17 10am-7pm - Work Party for Attic Treasures Sale 	18 10-4 - Work Party 6-8pm - "Early Bird" Sale	19 8am-1pm - <b>ATTIC TREASURES SALE</b>
20 9am - Adult Forum Choir Rehearsal TBA 10:30am - Rev. Ken Shuman, "Losing my Religion"; Chil- dren/Youth Religious Education 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	21 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	22 7pm - Dance lessons	23 5pm - Bowlers 7pm - UU 101 8pm - AA Phoenix	24 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons 7:30pm - Great Deci- sions	25	26
<b>27 Potluck</b> 10:30am - Alok Kalia, "UU Princi- ples Revisited"; Children/Youth Religious Ed. Choir Rehearsal TBA 8pm - AA Phoenix Group	28 11am - Course in Miracles 5:30pm - Zen Meditation	29 7pm - Dance lessons	30 5pm - Bowlers 7pm - UU 101 8pm - AA Phoenix	31 5:30pm - Meditation 7pm - Dance lessons 7:30pm - Great Deci- sions		