

UU Galveston Gazette

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

DECEMBER 2011

502 Church Street, Galveston, Texas 77550-5502

409.765.8330

Online at <http://uugalveston.org>

A Month Of Sundays

A Christmas Music Extravaganza with the UU Choir and UU String Band

DEC.
4

There's nothing like music to get you in the holiday spirit! The UU Choir, under the direction of Susan Vaughan, will perform special Christmas music at our service on December 4. Come join us in this special musical celebration of the upcoming holiday season!

Greeter: Curtis Jones

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: String Band

Board Member: Holly Fortenberry

Joanna Crawford

"The Battle for Christmas"

DEC.
11

There has been talk in the past few years about the "War on Christmas." However, if you look at the history of Christmas in the United States, you'll discover that the reality is different than some would want you to believe. Make no mistake – this is a subversive holiday, highly influenced by Unitarian Universalists. In fact, without Unitarians and Universalists, Christmas as we currently know it wouldn't even exist!

Greeter: Claudia Maveety

Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

Music: Margaret Canavan

Board Member: Mike Hennen

Earl Canfield

"Sacred Cows Make Great Hamburgers"

DEC.
18

Earle Canfield and Mary Jane have been returning every year to Nepal for the past 17 years. Ten years ago, they established ANSWER to educate disadvantaged children when they placed a little street girl in a private school for higher caste children and watched her shoot to the top. Little Uma graduated with Distinction in Nursing and is now part of an organization of 700 students and career professionals being educated and working in Nepal to improve their country. These children are the vanguard for undercutting the caste system there. Earle Canfield is the Executive Director of ANSWER, a 501c3 program that places indigent, low caste children in high caste schools in Nepal in order to undercut the caste system there. ANSWER is a unique, model organization and you can learn more about his organization on their website www.answernepal.org. Earle is a member of the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship and a



supporting friend of the International Council of the UU. He visits UU congregations all over the US and has 400 UU members supporting the children they serve and their schools.

Greeter: Laura Schaaf

Facilitator: Tony DiNuzzo

Music: Bunny Andrews

Board Member: Margaret Canavan

INGATHERING/POTLUCK

Gerry Carr

DEC.
25

"Moravian Love Feast"

This annual service celebrates the Christmas season with carols, readings, candles and a traditional Moravian Love Feast. This ritual is a shared communion of rolls and sweet coffee, served by members of the congregation. It is based upon the Agape feast and the meals of the early churches described in the Bible in the Acts of the Apostles, which were partaken in unity and love. A Lovefeast seeks to strengthen the bonds and the spirit of harmony, goodwill, and congeniality, as well as to forgive past disputes and instead love one another. Gerry Carr will lead this service with the help of other members. Gerry is past president of our Fellowship and chairs the Program/Worship Committee.

Greeter: Al Smith

Facilitator: Gerry Carr

Music: TBD

Board Member: Bets Anderson

You Too Can Be A Chalice Lighter!

Our Southwestern UU Conference (SWUUC) offers us the opportunity to help other congregations grow and develop.

The "Chalice Lighters" project has been around since 1984. Individual UUs sign up to contribute \$10 or more up to three times a year, to help a congregation in their district complete

a special project linked to growth. Our SWUU district includes most of Texas; all of Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana; and parts of Tennessee, Missouri, and Mexico.

Over the years UUs have donated millions of dollars to help other UU congregations in their

development. Projects often focus on helping congregations call a minister or construct a

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building or addition. More than 10,000 UUs are Chalice Lighters.

You can read more about the program at <http://www.uua.org/interconnections/interconnections/48570.shtml>

Here's how it works: In a Chalice Lighter call, members in congregations across a district agree to contribute a set amount several times a year to help a congregation achieve a specific goal. In 2010 the SWUUC project was Huntsville UU church, and this year it is the Westside UU Church in Fort Worth.

Specifics on donations are available on the SWUUC website at <http://swuuc.org/pages/stewardship/chalice-lighters.php>, (including a printable enrollment form).

Think about "paying it forward" and sending a few dollars a year out to other UU congregations. Who knows, someday the congregation benefiting might be our own.



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 5:30pm.

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

Book Sale monthly on second Saturday, 9am-2pm, at the fellowship. All adult hardback books are \$ 1.00, paperbacks \$ 0.50. Children's hardback books are \$ 0.50 and paperbacks are \$ 0.25.

Bowlers will meet at 5 pm each Wednesday to create "Empty Bowls" for the annual

Jesse Tree fundraiser. Please check availability before showing up.

Choir rehearsals are held approximately twice monthly and are generally listed in the calendar in this newsletter. If you would like to participate please contact Bets Anderson, director Susan Vaughan, or any choir member for the future rehearsal schedule.

Course in Miracles Study Group meets every Monday at 11 am. Contact Laura Murrell for info: (lauramurrell@att.net).

Dance Classes: Galveston Dance Club offers classes each Tuesday & Thursday at 7pm. Questions, call Betty at 281-337-0441. See <http://www.galvestondanceclub.com>.

Program/Worship Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm, at the Fellowship. Join them or contact Gerry Carr if you have a program to suggest.

"Spirituality of Poker" Group meets the third

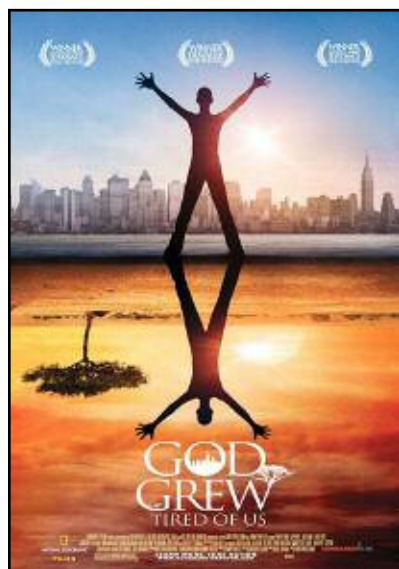
Sunday of each month in a member's home to play "dealer's choice." Location is in the monthly calendar and is announced in weekly emails and the Sunday bulletin. Game Night is not currently held for lack of a host (let us know if you'd like to host!).

Social Action Committee meets the first Sunday of each month after service and welcomes your ideas, energy and enthusiasm.

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 (gcarac@comcast.net) or visit <http://galvestonzen.org/>. *Natural Awareness Meditation* no longer meets.

Have an open group meeting you'd like to list here? Let us know and we'll add it.



Provocative Film Series

Friday, December 2, 7 p.m.

502 Church Street, Galveston

God Grew Tired of Us: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan

After raising themselves in the desert along with thousands of other "lost boys," Sudanese refugees John, Daniel and Panther have found their way to America, where they experience electricity, running water and supermarkets for the first time. Capturing their wonder at things Westerners take for granted, this documentary, an award winner at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, paints an intimate portrait of strangers in a strange land.

Bring a friend and a snack to share.

2011 - 2012 UUFGC Board of Directors

President	Billie Rinaldi
President-Elect	Cheryl Henry
Past-President	Mike Hennen
Secretary	Bets Anderson
Treasurer	Woody Dickson
Members at Large:	Margaret Canavan Holly Fortenberry John Frannea

Committees and Task Forces

Communications	Madeleine Baker
Landscape	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, & J. Rainey
Newsletter	Jimmy Rainey
Webmaster	Neil Huddleston



UUF^G's Kiva Portfolio Continues To Grow

In recent weeks we have added loans to the UUF^GC Kiva "portfolio" as previous loans have been repaid. Since joining Kiva in March 2007 we have made 171 loans totaling over \$5000, and have donated \$342.50 to support Kiva's activities. We make loans as we receive donations and re-lend as existing loans are repaid, and currently have \$739.95 out in loans. We are part of the UU "lending team" which has 583 members who have made 10,222 loans totaling \$353,900. (We have 131 loans through that team, with the average team member having 17.5!) See our portfolio at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversal3384>. Consider starting your own Kiva lending portfolio. It is easy and very satisfying to help people around the world, by donating what is a small amount to us, but makes a huge difference to them in developing countries. We are even able to donate locally on occasion! All our lending funds have been donated for this purpose by our members and friends, and new donations are always welcome. Margaret Canavan manages our Kiva activity and she welcomes feedback from you.

Book Sale: The UU Book Sale will be held on Saturday, November 12, from 9 am to 2 pm. Books are \$1.00 for hardbacks and \$0.50 for paperbacks.

Book Club: Will Meet November 9 at 7 pm in the living room at the fellowship to discuss *All Those Who Save Us* by Jenna Blum; The final book Club meeting for 2011 will be December 14 when the discussion will be on *Crow Lake* by Mary Lawson.

Bowlers: Have resumed working on bowls for the 2012 Jesse Tree fundraiser and will meet each week at 5 pm at the fellowship. Please check for availability before showing up.

Supper Circle: The December Supper Circle will be hosted by Mardi Mitchell at 6:00 pm on Saturday, December 10. There is a limit of 10 guests. Mardi is making Creamy Basil Parmesan Chicken. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2012 Supper Circles is on the bulletin board. Please sign up for the month that you would like to host a Supper Circle at your house. Let Judy know if you have ideas for a non-traditional supper circle.

"Spirituality of Poker" will meet at Tony DiNuzzo's house, at 6:30pm on Sunday, December 18. There is a \$20 buy-in, and is Dealer's Choice. Everyone is invited to participate

Ingatherings are scheduled once a quarter on the last Sunday of the month. The remaining ingathering for 2011 will be on December 25. If you are not already a member, think about accepting the joys and responsibilities of membership in this Fellowship. Please contact Cheryl Henry, Membership Chair, if you are interested in becoming a member.

Give A Gift Of Love

Participate In The Angel Tree Project

The Salvation Army has provided "Angel Cards" that give the first name, the age and the needs of the children. These children have been pre-screened based upon income.

Each participant may select an Angel from the tree and purchase suggested items for the child. Gifts should be placed in a bag with the Angel card attached to the outside.

The Salvation Army has asked that we give clothing to these children, you may also purchase a toy.

These unwrapped gifts should be brought back to the fellowship by December 11. Not wrapping the gifts allows the parents to participate with their child's gift giving. Please feel free to include gift wrapping for the parent.

This is a project of the Social Action Committee.



Galveston Dance Club Announces Holiday Schedule

The Galveston Dance Club will not meet on either December 20, or January 2. Classes will resume on January 3.

There are two Holiday Dances scheduled: The 2step2 dance medley; and the GDC Christmas dinner/dance. RSVP is appreciated. Contact Betty Whistler 2 Step 2 Dance Studio at www.2step2.net, or 281-337-0441

Holiday Choir Performances Planned

The UUF^GC Choir will be performing during Dickens On The Strand, Friday, December 2 at 6:30pm at the First Presbyterian Church, 1903 Church St. (at 19th).

A holiday choral performance is planned for Sunday, December 4 at 6pm, at Moody Methodist Church. The Chorale is directed by our friend Izola Collins and includes UU singers. Joining in the concert will be renowned gospel singer Barbara J. Tucker and "A Chosen Few."

Galveston College Choir will hold it's winter concert on Sunday, December 11 at 2pm, also at Moody Methodist Church. This concert will feature numerous UU singers, so come out and enjoy the music.

DECEMBER 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Happy Birthday to:</p> <p>Laura McIntyre Schaaf 12/3 Vickie Francil 12/9 Dale Hogan 12/10 Mary Case 12/17 Sharon Booton 12/23</p> <p><i>Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise noted.</i></p>				<p>1</p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm - Provocative Film, <i>God Grew Tired Of Us: The Story Of The Lost Boys Of Sudan</i></p>	<p>3</p>
<p>9am - Adult Forum 4</p> <p>10:30am - A Christmas Music Extravaganza with the UU Choir and UU String Band; Children/Youth Religious Education</p> <p>12n - Social Action Mtg</p> <p>8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles</p> <p>5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5pm - Bowlers</p> <p>6pm - Program/Worship Committee</p> <p>8pm - AA</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am - Garden Workday</p> <p>9am - 2pm Book Sale</p> <p>6pm - Supper Circle at Mardi Mitchell's House. Sign up on the Bulletin Board.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9am - Adult Forum</p> <p>10:30am - Joanna Crawford, "The Battle For Christmas"; Children/Youth Religious Education</p> <p>8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles</p> <p>5:30pm - Board</p> <p>5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5pm - Bowlers</p> <p>7pm - Book Club</p> <p>8pm - AA</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>9am - Adult Forum 18</p> <p>10:30am - Earl Canfieldi, "Sacred Cows Make Great Hamburgers"; Children/Youth Religious Education</p> <p>6:30 - Poker at Tony Dinuzzo's House 6:30</p> <p>8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles</p> <p>5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5pm - Bowlers</p> <p>8pm - AA</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>POTLUCK 25</p> <p>10:30am - Gerry Carr, "Moravian Love Feast"; Children/Youth Religious Education</p> <p>12n: Potluck Lunch following Fellowship</p> <p>8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles</p> <p>5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5pm - Bowlers</p> <p>8pm - AA</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>