

# UU Galveston Gazette

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

JANUARY 2012

502 Church Street, Galveston, Texas 77550-5502

409.765.8330

Online at <http://uugalveston.org>

## A Month Of Sundays

**Cheryl Henry**

*"Begin Again"*

JAN.  
1

It's the start of a new year! Take a deep breath and sigh — the holidays are over! Now it's time to begin again. If your spiritual life has become automatic or stale, it may be time to "re-boot." Where do you start? How do you make the changes you'd like to see in your life? What do you hope for in the New Year? Cheryl will share thoughts from Rev. Forrest Church on "Beginning Again." Come to this service and hear how to jump-start the New Year in a positive way. Cheryl is the President-Elect of the Fellowship. She lives in Galveston with her husband Red and their two soulful dogs, Sara and Jack.

*Facilitator: Cheryl Henry*

*Music: Bunny Andrews*

*Greeter: Curtis Jones*

**Laura Emerson**

*"Hope from the Promised Land"*

JAN.  
8

So much of the Bible is about hope, and in the Old Testament, concrete goal-orientation. The promised land, the chosen people, the "God is on our side" in this endeavor or that. Different from today, though, the ancient text describes a group hope whereas now we seem to cling more to individual hope, and a group god more than an individual one. Laura will relate stories from the Bible that outline these differences and talk about how Protestantism and Emerson's Transcendentalism fueled the shift from groupism to individualism. Laura is a religious educator who majored in classics and religion at Duke University; she conducts adult education classes all over the country. She is a member of Emerson Unitarian Church in Houston, TX, and a frequent speaker at our Fellowship.

*Facilitator: Cheryl Henry*

*Music: Margaret Canavan*

*Greeter: Madeline Baker*

**Alison Rutledge**

*"Race and Its Meaning: Eye of the Beholder"*

JAN.  
15

Martin Luther King was a leader in ending Jim Crow laws and practices discriminating against people of color since the Civil War. Neuroscience tells us that the superficial appearance of another person is the first thing we see about them, and our brains categorize according to sex, skin color, able-bodiedness, and beauty before our conscious minds even register that we are looking at someone. Why do we categorize as good or bad, safe or dangerous, based on such external attributes? And what does it take to stop doing that? Alison Rutledge is a member of our fellowship and occasional speaker. She is a psychologist, writer, and singer.

*Facilitator: Alison Rutledge*

*Music: Bunny Andrews*

*Greeter: Sandra Sullivan*



**Gerry Carr**

*"Living Faith"*

JAN.  
22

UU Faith is in lived experience. In this sermon we will unpack faith from its negative connotations and claim it as our own! Gerry is past president of the Fellowship and chair of the program committee.

*Facilitator: Gerry Carr*

*Music: Tony DiNuzzo*

*Greeter: Cheryl Henry*

**INGATHERING**

**Susan Baker**

JAN.  
29

*"Hope"*

"It's never too late to be what you might have been."

-- George Eliot, Author.

"It's never too late to do what you might have done."

-- Susan P. Baker, Author.

Susan will present ideas on what hope is: where to look for it; how to find it; what to do with it; and why bother about it. Susan P. Baker lives in Galveston with her husband, John Hunger (and their daughter-dog Hannah Hunger). Susan is a lifelong Unitarian, having grown up in this fellowship, having been dragged across the causeway every Sunday, kicking and screaming, when church met in LaMarque, and having left and returned several times. She and John make their home on the west end of the island in Campeche Cove.

*Facilitator: John Hunger*

*Music: Margaret Canavan*

*Greeter: Al Smith*



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## Seeking volunteer for "Bring the Bag" Committee

We are looking for a volunteer who would like to represent the UU Fellowship on the "Bring The Bag" committee. Holly Fortenberry was representing the UU in our effort to help reduce/eliminate the use of plastic bags on the island as part of our Social Action Committee.

Holly is having to step down from that responsibility due to conflicting schedules. It would be a great opportunity for eco-conscious UU member who is willing to take her place.

Anybody who is interested can contact Holly with any questions at [holly@hollyfortenberry.com](mailto:holly@hollyfortenberry.com).

## Better World Books helping make the world a better place

This is not a paid advertisement, but a heartfelt endorsement! Have you heard about Better World Books? This is a great website where you can purchase almost any book you want, used, at a very good price. Shipping is free, and they arrive very quickly. Prices are similar to other used book sites, but here's the important difference, BWB donates money and books to world literacy projects and libraries--over \$10 million and 5.8 million books thus far--

and recycles books which cannot be sold! They will even pay for shipping when you donated YOUR used books. This is an organization that was started by college students and has grown. And they appear to endorse social issues close to our UU hearts. Go to <http://www.betterworldbooks.com/> and take a look. Of course I try to buy local first, but BWB is where I go next for my used books.

-- from Margaret Canavan



## 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](mailto: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.

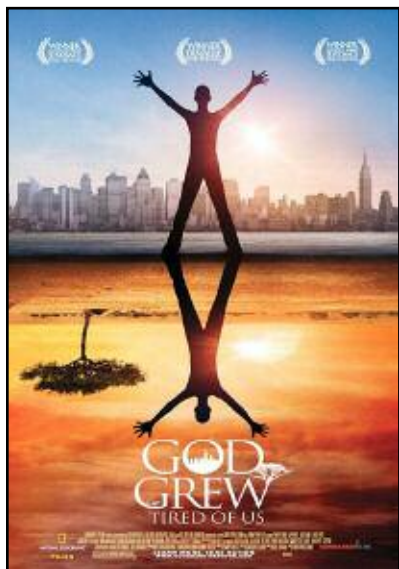
**Spirituality of Poker** Group meets the third Sunday of each month in a member's home to play "dealer's choice." Location is in the monthly calendar and is announced in weekly emails and the Sunday bulletin. Game Night is not currently held for lack of a host (let us know if you'd like to host!).

**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 ([gcara@comcast.net](mailto:gcara@comcast.net)) or visit <http://galvestonzen.org/>.

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



## Provocative Film Series

Friday, January 6, 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





## New Directions for the Worship/Program Committee

We gather for worship each Sunday to hold up our shared values as Unitarian Universalists. As a lay led congregation we depend on volunteers and outside ministers and speakers to help us. Many times the speaker asks us “What would you like to hear?”

Beginning January 2012, the committee has developed a calendar with monthly themes.

January	Hope
February	Love
March	Service and Commitment
April	Transformation
May	Freedom
June	God
July	Creativity
August	Spiritual Practice
September	Hospitality
October	Grace
November	Gratitude
December	Peace

These are intended to be general themes that address some of our values and also to help deepen our faith. Each theme will have a wide range of applications. For example, in January we will have a service on “Beginnings” and one commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. “Hope” can be interwoven in many ways.

If you have any ideas about a speaker or a program related to the themes, please submit them to the Worship/Program Committee (Bets Anderson, Susan Baker, Gerry Carr, Mike Hennen, Cheryl Henry, or Billie Rinaldi).

In addition, we plan to offer a worship facilitator training in the very near future. Let one of us know if you would be interested in attending the training.

**Book Sale:** The UU Book Sale will be held on Saturday, January 14, from 9 am to 2 pm. Books are \$1.00 for hardbacks and \$0.50 for paperbacks. Children’s books are \$0.50 for hardbacks, and \$0.25 for paperbacks.

**Book Club:** Will Meet January 11 at 7 pm in the living room at the fellowship to discuss *The Perfect Spy* by John le Carre.

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

**Supper Circle:** The January Supper Circle will be hosted by Sandra Sullivan and K Ball Withers at 6:30 pm on Saturday, January 14. There is a limit of 8 guests. 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 Sunday, January 8 at Roy DeGessero’s house at 6:30 pm. 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 first Ingathering of 2012 is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 29. 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.

## Women’s UU Conference set Feb. 24-26

The Southwest UU Women's Conference will be at the Hilton Houston NASA in Clear Lake on February 24-26, 2012. The theme this year is Exploring the UUniverse of Women's Spirituality. The Keynote Speaker is Rev. Meg Barnhouse from First UU Church of Austin, TX. Early registration ends January 15, 2012 (\$165); regular registration ends February 15, 2012 (\$185). Registration and more information is available online at [www.swuuw.org](http://www.swuuw.org).

## ANSWER gives kids an opportunity to learn

When Earle Canfield spoke to our UU Fellowship on Sunday, Dec. 18, he brought a lot of attention to the problems that poor or lower caste children face when it comes to receiving the proper education.

His outreach organization ANSWER (American-Nepali Students’ and Women’s Educational Relief) is trying to rectify that problem by using a system that gets those children and women the proper education, and then relies on them to support others facing the same situation. Just nine years after founding the organization, the size of the effort has grow to having more than 500 children in 100 schools and colleges all over Nepal.

“Our mission is to educate children from the lowest castes and provide them with real lifelong careers so that they will be come the vanguard for real change in Nepal. They will be the ones pushing for universal, compulsory education and government scholarships, etc.” Canfield states in his organization’s Mission Statement.



He goes on to say “we have letter exchanges two times per year between sponsors and children as we feel that Americans need to hear from the children of the developing world and to see life as they experience it. We ask our sponsors to support them for at least three years so as to give the children a chance to learn English and prove themselves. We have had very few sponsors or children drop out. We have become adept at selecting bright children, as

well as overseeing and correcting problems the children may have. Student attrition has declined to nearly nil over the past few years.” To see more, or become a sponsor, visit [www.answernepal.org](http://www.answernepal.org).

## From the President



Dear UU Family:

Blessings to each of you and wishes for a wonderful holiday season. As we celebrate this wonderful season, please remember those in our community in need and reach out in your way to give to each other.

With great cheer,  
**Billie Rinaldi, President**

# JANUARY 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9am - Adult Forum  <b>10:30am</b> - Cheryl Henry, Begin Again; Children/Youth Religious Education  <b>12n</b> - Social Action Mtg  <b>8pm</b> - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles  <b>5:30pm</b> - Zen Meditation</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>5pm - Bowlers  <b>6pm</b> - Program/Worship Committee  <b>8pm</b> - AA</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>7pm - Provocative Film, <i>God Grew Tired Of Us: The Story Of The Lost Boys Of Sudan</i></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9am - Adult Forum  <b>10:30am</b> - Laura Emerson, Hope from the Promised Land; Children/Youth Religious Education  <b>6:30</b> - Poker at Roy DeGessero's House 6:30  <b>8pm</b> - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles  <b>5:30pm</b> - Board  <b>5:30pm</b> - Zen Meditation</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>5pm - Bowlers  <b>7pm</b> - Book Club  <b>8pm</b> - AA</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9am - Garden Workday  <b>9am - 2pm</b> Book Sale  <b>6:30 pm</b>- Supper Circle will be hosted by Sandra Sullivan and K Ball Withers. Sign up on the Bulletin Board.</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9am - Adult Forum  <b>10:30am</b> - Allison Rutledge, Race and Its Meaning: Eye of the Beholder; Children/Youth Religious Education  <b>8pm</b> - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles  <b>5:30pm</b> - Zen Meditation  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>5pm - Bowlers  <b>8pm</b> - AA</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9am - Adult Forum  <b>10:30am</b> - Gerry Carr, Living Faith; Children/Youth Religious Education  <b>8pm</b> - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles  <b>5:30pm</b> - Zen Meditation</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>5pm - Bowlers  <b>8pm</b> - AA</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>POTLUCK 29</b></p> <p><b>10:30am</b> - INGATHERING; Susan Baker, Hope; Children/Youth Religious Education  <b>12n</b>: Potluck Lunch following Fellowship  <b>8pm</b> - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>11am - Course in Miracles  <b>5:30pm</b> - Zen Meditation</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p><b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:</b> Mardi Mitchell 1/2</p> <p><i>Send us your news! Provide information to</i>  <b><i>jimmyrainey@bluejwaystudios.com</i></b>  <i>or phone 409-765-8330</i></p> <p><i>Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise noted.</i></p>			