

UU Galveston Gazette

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

MARCH 2012

502 Church Street, Galveston, Texas 77550-5502

409.765.8330

Online at <http://uugalveston.org>

A Month Of Sundays

March Programs

How does your Unitarian Universalist faith and belief inspire your service to self and others? Join us this month for a look at service from a variety of perspectives, including an old fashioned revival! The program committee welcomes your feedback and ideas for meaningful programs and worship.

Rick Altemose & Dawn McCarty

"Stories from a Catholic Worker House"

For almost two years before moving to Galveston last spring, Dawn and Rick lived and worked at Casa Juan Diego, a homeless shelter in Houston for undocumented migrants (or illegal aliens, depending on your politics). As Catholic Workers, they lived with the some of the poorest of the poor, committed federal crimes on a daily basis, earned no money, and had the time of their lives. They will share with us some of the stories of the people whose lives were intertwined with theirs.

Dawn and Rick are members of our Fellowship and live in Galveston. Rick has retired after working as a Coast Guard officer, community organizer with the IAF, and college professor. Dawn has worked in child welfare, fair housing enforcement and now teaches social work at University of Houston-Downtown. Some of her articles published in the Houston Catholic Worker are available on-line at <http://cjd.org/author/dawnmccarty/>.

Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

Music: Margaret Canavan

Greeter: Susan Persons

BMOD: Bets Anderson

UU Revival

Today we begin our annual pledge drive. This service will give us an opportunity to reflect on our faith, recommit to our beliefs and renew our connections to this fellowship. What does it mean to you to be a UU? What about becoming a member of this fellowship?

There will be time for sharing and testimony revival style!

Facilitator: Billie Rinaldi/John Hunger Music: UU String Band

Greeter: Claudia McVeety

BMOD: John Frannea



Join Us Online on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/#!/home.php?sk=group_152677004758894&ap=1



Cuba: Not Your Usual Travelogue

In November 2011 six members of UUFGC traveled to Cuba for 10 days with a commercial tour group under a "religious/cultural" travel license. What we saw there changed our attitudes about that communist country and opened our eyes to the impact long-time US-Cuba relations have had on the Cuban people. Join us for a brief journey through what we learned.

Presenters: Stan Blazyk, Karen Brykczynski, Margaret Canavan, Alan Griffin, Susan Person, Dorothy Treviño

Music: Bunny Andrews

Greeter: John Hunger

BMOD: Holly Fortenberry

Ellie Hanley

"Women Creating Healing for Women"

ADA Women's Center was founded over 25 years ago by women in recovery and women from faith communities who believed that, working together, women could create healing options for other women living in our midst who lack the financial and spiritual resources for recovery. It is still true today. Ellie Hanley has been a Galveston County resident for nearly 30 years. For the past 12 years she has been the director of the ADA Women's Center, a substance abuse treatment facility for women.

Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

Music: Tony DiNuzzo

Greeter: Judy Glaister

BMOD: Cheryl Henry

From The UUFGC President...

Dear UU Family:

With the arrival of March, your UUFGC Board of Trustees is beginning to plan for the 2012-13 church year. We wish to include everyone in the process and to that end we also want to give you plenty of time to plan your support for UUFGC.

Each month we review our progress, activities, and budget. Right now we have great news about our mortgage which ends the first 5 year balloon and we are able to reduce the interest rate and decrease the number of years to payoff from 10 to 8 with very slightly higher monthly payment! We will be getting a new sign for our grounds and we are moving ahead to get our trees trimmed. Our A-Team started

spring cleaning of office records according to recommended UUA guidelines. The Social Action Committee continues to "wow" as their provocative film series draws many and as their collections for charitable donations climb. Books are selling, grounds are blossoming and children's RE is growing. The Daily News ads are visible, popular, and are drawing new visitors to our programs. Right now our membership is at the all time high of 94 members. Meanwhile this Newsletter is refreshing and engaging as we have moved more and more to take advantage of this electronic age and decrease our mailing costs.

To help you plan for your support for UUFGC, Sunday, March 11, 2012, John

Hunger and I will be kicking off our annual Revival program along with our own UU String Band. It will be a chance for you to reflect on what UUFGC means to you, how it enhances your life and provides you with a spiritual home. It is the beginning of our annual pledge drive. We need your support to run the fellowship and to continue our excellent programs.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting has been set for June 3, 2012. Do come out to our Revival Program and the Annual Meeting for fun, for sharing, for decisions, and to celebrate the joy of belonging to our UUFGC family.

Blessings to All,
Billie Rinaldi, President



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.

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 (gcarag@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, March 2, 7 p.m. 502 Church Street, Galveston Made In Dagenham

In 1968, the Ford auto factory in Dagenham was one of the largest single private employers in the United Kingdom. In addition to the thousands of male employees, there are also 187 underpaid women machinists who primarily assemble the car seat upholstery in poor working conditions. Dissatisfied, the women, represented by the shop steward and Rita O'Grady, work with union rep Albert Passingham for a better deal. However, Rita learns that there is a larger issue in this dispute considering that women are paid an appalling fraction of the men's wages for the same work across the board on the sole basis of their sex. Refusing to tolerate this inequality any longer, O'Grady leads a strike by her fellow machinists for equal pay for equal work. What follows would test the patience of all involved in a grinding labour and political struggle that ultimately would advance the cause of women's rights around the world.

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

Easter As Seen By Non-Christian Countries

By David Johnson and Shmuel Ross

Christians celebrate Easter to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some aspects of modern Easter celebrations, however, pre-date Christianity.

Ancient Spring Goddess

According to the Venerable Bede, Easter derives its name from Eostre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. A month corresponding to April had been named "Eostremonat," or Eostre's month, leading to "Easter" becoming applied to the Christian holiday that usually took place within it. Prior to that, the holiday had been called Pasch (Passover), which remains its name in

most non-English languages.

It is believed that around the second century A.D., Christian missionaries seeking to convert the tribes of northern Europe noticed that the Christian holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus roughly coincided with the Teutonic springtime celebrations, which emphasized the triumph of life over death. Christian Easter gradually absorbed the traditional symbols.

Easter Eggs

In Medieval Europe, eggs were forbidden during Lent. Eggs laid during that time were often boiled or otherwise preserved. Eggs were thus a mainstay of Easter meals, and a prized Easter gift for children and servants.



In addition, eggs have been viewed as symbols of new life and fertility through the ages. It is believed that for this reason many ancient cultures, including the Ancient Egyptians, Persians, and Romans, used eggs during their spring festivals.

Many traditions and practices have formed around Easter eggs. The coloring of eggs is an established art, as eggs are often dyed, painted, and otherwise decorated. Eggs were also used in various holiday games: parents would hide eggs for children to find, and children would roll eggs down hills. These practices live on in Easter egg hunts and egg rolls.

Different Traditions

Orthodox Christians in the Middle East and in Greece painted eggs bright red to symbolize the blood of Christ. Hollow eggs (created by piercing the shell with a needle and blowing out the contents) were decorated with pictures of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and other religious figures in Armenia.

Germans gave green eggs as gifts on Holy Thursday, and hung hollow eggs on trees. Austrians placed tiny plants around the egg and then boiled them. When the plants were removed, white patterns were created.

Artistic Creations

The most elaborate Easter egg traditions appear to have emerged in Eastern Europe. In Poland and the Ukraine, eggs were often painted silver and gold. *Pysanky* (to design or write) eggs were created by carefully applying wax in patterns to an egg. The egg was then dyed, wax would be reapplied in spots to preserve that color, and the egg was boiled again in other shades. The result was a multi-color striped or patterned egg.

The Easter Bunny

Hares and rabbits have long been symbols of fertility. The inclusion of the hare into Easter customs appears to have originated in Germany, where tales were told of an "Easter hare" who laid eggs for children to find. German immigrants to America — particularly around Pennsylvania — brought the tradition with them and spread it to a wider public. They also baked cakes for Easter in the shape of hares, and may have pioneered the practice of making chocolate bunnies and eggs.

"Infoplease Article."

Fact Monster. © 2000–2007

Pearson Education, publishing as Fact Monster. 15 Feb. 2012

<http://www.factmonster.com/spot/east-erintro1.html>

UU News & Events



Book Sale: The UU Book Sale will be held on Saturday, March 10, 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 March 14 at 7 pm in the living room at the fellowship to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer.

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 Supper Circle for March has been filled. Please sign up for a future supper circle or sign up to host a supper circle at your home. Please let Judy Glaiser know if there is sufficient demand to have more than one

supper circle per month. Contact her at judyglaiser@yahoo.com

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, March 18 at a place that is yet to be determined. Play begins 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. 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.

Date Set For Attic Treasures

We have selected Saturday, June 16 for this year's Attic Treasures (i.e. "Garage") Sale. Mark your calendars and start saving the excess from your spring cleaning. If you don't have storage space, we'll try to find a spot for those treasures that will make our sale the best ever. This is a great annual fund-raiser for the Fellowship, and your time as well as your treasures will be much appreciated!

Laura Schaaf, Mary Castor Take Over Rolls As Children's Leaders

We are pleased that Mary Castor and Laura Schaaf have taken on the responsibility of our children's programming, now that Laura Lee has moved out of town. Both are certified teachers and have experience with all age groups. They will be sharing duties so that our children will get to know them both.

They have begun teaching their multi-age classes following the UU Principles. Four to six weeks will be spent on each principle. They have focused on 'Why everyone is important' and have now begun 'Why we treat everyone fairly and with kindness.' They might call upon volunteers to help out on days with a large number of children or large age variation, so please let them know if you would be willing to help out on occasion.

Welcome Laura and Mary to this important role!

MARCH 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:</p> <p>Kristopher Benson 3/7 Carlos Price 3/21 Rudy Steury 3/15 Jeff Narron 3/30</p> <p><i>Send us your news! Provide information to: jimmyrainey@bluejwaystudios.com or phone 409-765-8330</i></p> <p><i>Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise noted.</i></p>				1	2	3
<p>9am - Adult Forum</p> <p>10:30am - Rick Altemose & Dawn McCarty; "Stories from a Catholic Worker House;" Children/Youth Religious Education</p> <p>8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>11am - Course in Miracles</p> <p>5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p>5pm - Bowlers</p> <p>6pm - Program/Worship Committee</p> <p>8pm - AA</p>	<p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>		<p>9am - 2pm Book Sale</p>
<p>9am - Adult Forum</p> <p>10:30am - UU Revival; Today we begin our annual pledge drive.. This service will give us an opportunity to reflect on our faith, recommit to our beliefs and renew our connections to this fellowship; Children/Youth Religious Education</p> <p>8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>11am - Course in Miracles</p> <p>5:30pm - Board</p> <p>5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p>5pm - Bowlers</p> <p>7pm - Book Club</p> <p>8pm - AA</p>	<p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>		
<p>9am - Adult Forum</p> <p>10:30am - Cuba: Not Your Usual Travelogue; In November, six members of the UUFGC traveled to Cuba. Join them in their journey of what they saw and learned; Children/Youth Religious Education</p> <p>6:30 - Poker 6:30, TBD</p> <p>8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>11am - Course in Miracles</p> <p>5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p>5pm - Bowlers</p> <p>8pm - AA</p>	<p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>		
<p>POTLUCK</p> <p>10:30am - Ellie Hanley "Women Creating Healing for Women"; Children/Youth Religious Education</p> <p>12n: Potluck Lunch following Fellowship</p> <p>8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>11am - Course in Miracles</p> <p>5:30pm - Zen Meditation</p>	<p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>	<p>5pm - Bowlers</p> <p>8pm - AA</p>	<p>7pm - Dance Lessons</p>		<p>Supper Circle - at Cheryl and Red Henry's house. This Supper Circle is full, but if you would like to attend a future Supper Circle please sign up on the bulletin board.</p>