

UU Galveston Gazette

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

September 2013

502 Church Street, Galveston, Texas 77550-5502

409.765 8330

Online at <http://uugalveston.org>

We welcome the full range of human diversity, that is, age, race, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

Spiritual Practice is the theme for our September service. For Christians, spiritual practice may include prayer, reading the Bible, repeating passages of sacred scriptures, attending religious services, singing, confessing sins, serving the poor or any number of other activities. For other religions, spiritual practice may include the foregoing as well as dancing, chanting, silent meditation, inner reflection, or following prescribed diets. UUs often include people who follow some of these or other practices that for them represent a spiritual path toward meaning and understanding. Join us for a look at a variety of spiritual practice

SEPTEMBER 1: Gerry Carr - "Water Communion."

As Unitarian Universalists, we are free to create rituals and to celebrate life passages in ways we feel express our values and our faith. The water ceremony has become a ritual in our fellowship to mark the end of summer and the beginning of the church year. During this service, you will be invited to add water to a common bowl and share personal experiences. You may bring water saved from travels, water from your home or use water provided as a symbol.

BMOD: Steve Townley
Greeter: Bets Anderson

Music: Tony DiNuzzo
Facilitator: Gerry Carr

SEPTEMBER 8: Ken Vincent - "Developmental Revelation"

Human beings develop mentally, emotionally, morally, and spiritually in a predictable sequence; the practice of religion can be found at each level -- from the remedial to the sublime.

Dr. Ken R. Vincent is a retired professor of psychology at Houston Community College. Ken has over 150 publications in the areas of psychology and religion.

BMOD: Martha Terrill Music: Pam Vincent/Steve Hodgson
Greeter: Mary Hodgson Facilitator: Martha Terrill

SEPTEMBER 15: April DeConick – "Transgressive Talk, Deviant Deeds"

Come and reconsider our heritage as UUs, as a community whose views about religious freedom define who we are. Are we ready to be as

transgressive as our ancestors to bring about social and political change?

April DeConick is the Isla Carroll and Percy E. Turner Professor of Biblical Studies and Chair of Religious Studies Department at Rice University.

BMOD: Susan Persons
Greeter: Mardi Mitchell

Music: Susan Vaughan
Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

SEPTEMBER 22: Tony Lorenzen -- "Spirituality of Friendship, Part III"

The Rev. Tony Lorenzen will conclude his three-part series about the good news of friendship. Tony is a UU minister, spiritual director, and free range builder of beloved community. Most recently the Director of Family Ministries at First Parish Church in Weston, MA, he has pastored churches in Massachusetts and Texas. He loves working with others to increase the awesome in the world. He's done this by being a classroom teacher, a pastor, a candidate for political office, a human-rights activist, and a farmers-market organizer. He blogs on topics related to mission and liberal religion at www.sunflowerchalice.com. Tony is also the father of a teenager and is a huge Boston Red Sox fan.

BMOD: Stan Blazyk
Greeter: Mardi Mitchell

Music: Margaret Canavan
Facilitator: Rick Altemose

SEPTEMBER 29: Terry Conrad To Be Announced

BMOD: Cheryl Henry
Greeter: Mardi Mitchell

Music: Bunny Andrews
Facilitator: Bets Anderson

A Message From the President:

Dog days of summer are here and yet there is no evidence of that lethargy at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County. Instead, we have enthusiastic members contributing in many ways. Our services are well attended. Our recent designation as a Welcoming Congregation is proudly displayed on our lovely new sign!

Recently visiting the Administrative Team meeting, I was heartened to see the dedication of that group which holds the organization together. Thank them when you see them next.

And last night's board meeting was smooth and efficient. Each member takes their role seriously and contributes well. Then there is time for laughs and just appreciation of being with like-minded folks, Thank you all.

Security has been addressed by our task force and you should see signs of their suggestions soon. Breakout door on West side of sanctuary by piano, signing in and out the children for RE, most doors locked during service, locked gates when children at play, security volunteer in foyer, panic button to be installed in children's RE classroom, walkie talkies for key volunteers during service and cameras installed are in the works.

A September 7 Leadership retreat with Natalie Briscoe a Congregational Life Consultant, Southern Region Unitarian Universalist Association will be held from 9 – 2 with lunch served. All board members, committee chairs and anyone who is interested are invited. I

Love, *Susan*

Letter from the Editor, Mary Case

The September newsletter is my first attempt at editing, and is probably like the proverbial waffle. Following a professional like Jim Rainey is another challenge. Thanks Jim for your professional and polished work. Kindly indulge me with your patience as I dust off my technical skills from many, many years ago.

A note from the Treasurer, Stan Blazyk:

Thanks to everyone who made a pledge for the 2013-14 church year. This makes planning and managing our budget much easier. Remember that if you wish to have cash donations documented for tax purposes, please include your name on an envelope with your cash. We maintain donation envelopes on most chair backs in the sanctuary. Feel free to check with me if you have any question, concerns, or suggestions.

Billie's Birthday Bash

What: Billie Rinaldi's Birthday Bash and Danny Schmidt Folk Concert

When: Thursday, September 19, 2013, 7:00-10:00 pm.

Where: UU Galveston, 502 Church Street
Welcome Danny Schmidt, for a fun filled folk concert and birthday celebration for Billie. We will celebrate her 70th birthday with this concert. Dress is Island Casual. You may bring finger snacks and refreshments of your choice to complement our

2013 – 2014 UUFGC Board of Directors

President:	Susan Persons
Past President:	Cheryl Henry
President-elect:	John Vanderpool
Treasurer:	Stan Blazyk
Secretary:	Judy Glaister
At-Large Members:	Al Smith Martha Terrill Steve Townley

Committees and Task Forces

Communications	Madeleine Baker
Landscape	John Hunger
Membership Chair	Margaret Canavan
Program/Worship	Mike Hennen
Religious Education	Neil Huddleston
Supper Circles	Rick Altemose
Social Action	Mary Hodgson
Fundraising Chair	Claudia Maveety
Administrative Team	B. Anderson, M. Baker, M. Canavan J. Glaister & M. Case
Newsletter	Mary Case
Webmaster	Neil Huddleston

champagne and birthday cake! Donations will be accepted in lieu of a birthday present to compensate our musician. You may find Danny online at <http://www.dannyschmidt.com>. Let Billie know by RSVP, yes/no/maybe bjrinald@yahoo.com

Social Action Committee: A Tidy Sum

Thank you to everyone who contributed to KIPP Coastal Village Elementary. UUFGC donated \$504.00 for uniforms.

Membership Directory: Our new Membership and Information Directory is available. Pick yours up at UU! It includes updated contact information for our members. Current information is always available to members on the UU website at <http://www.uugalveston.org/onlymembers/index.htm>.

Hear Ye Hear Ye

Dr. Susan Vaughan, musician extraordinaire, has volunteered to direct a choir this fall at UU Galveston. Anyone who participated with her before know what a fabulous performance we achieved together. Susan has selected four pieces of music which are quite lovely and also suitable for our group. She plans to begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 22; rehearsals will be following the service on selected Sundays through November. Plans at this time include performing at a UU service in early December, and hopefully participating in the Friday night choir event during Dickens. Please contact Margaret Canavan (mmcanavan@comcast.net) if you would like to participate, so we will know how many copies of the music we need to order. More information will be forthcoming for those wishing to participate.

Official Designation

We are now an official Welcoming Congregation! We all know that we were always "welcoming", but in order to meet the UU national guidelines several activities were required.

During 2012-2013 we conducted: six workshops with an average of 20 people attending, one LGBT movie per quarter became part of our Provocative Film series, we provided several luncheons at the Aids Coalition of Coastal Texas, 100 toothbrushes & toothpastes were donated to ACCT, the sentence "we welcome the full range of human diversity, that is age, race, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity", was added to all of our printed and web materials, a space on our bulletin board was designated for LGBT issues/activities, and our impressive new sign was installed.

The final report was submitted in early July and soon after we received our official notification.

Thanks to Al Smith and Curtis Jones for all of their hard work as Committee co-chairs and to everyone who participated. If you are interested in seeing the final report, there is a copy in our office.

The current co-chairs of the Welcoming Committee are Curtis Jones and Bev Frannea. A Greeters Workshop is planned for the fall. We welcome your

suggestions for further workshops and/or outreach activities. Great job everyone!

Members of UUFGC Compete in Senior Games

Madeleine Baker and Bets Anderson were among five Galveston badminton players who competed in the Senior Games in Cleveland, Ohio, last month. Eleven thousand athletes over 50 competed in games ranging from basketball and volleyball to track and field events as well as swimming, cycling and running.



The Galveston group has been playing for a number of years at Garten Verein

and most recently, McGuire Dent Park and, thanks to Pat Patterson's urging, went to San Antonio last year and qualified for the National Games.

Madeleine and Bets played doubles in the 70-74 year-old category and came in third! They were delighted to bring home "the bronze" and talked about continuing to compete in regional and possibly future national games. Others who competed from Galveston are Pat Patterson, Bebe Rizo and Paula Johnson. The UU Fellowship is proud of their accomplishments.

Book Sale

On **September 14** there will be a public used book sale at the fellowship from **9:00 AM till 2:00 PM**. Entrance to the sale is on the Church Street side of the building. The bookstore is "always" open when the Fellowship is open, with a "money pig" available for honor system donations.

Books are \$1.00 for hardbacks and \$0.50 for paperbacks.

We do not sell children's books, but should children come we give away the books we still have. Volunteers are desperately needed to help with culling and sorting books. Please email Fanny at fandfare@aol.com or call 409-771-9292

Small Group Ministry

Small group ministry is a cluster of groups which are intentionally led by trained facilitators to increase and deepen connections within our congregation. In addition, these small groups may deepen our faith and what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Each group follows a common process, which encourages deep or radical listening.

Opening Words

Check In

Reading/Topic

Meditation (optional depending on group desire).

Sharing/Deep Listening

Check Out

Closing Words

Topics are not a means to themselves but a tool for encouraging deep reflection and sharing. Deep/radical listening is a practice which allows each group member to speak without interruption. There is usually time for some discussion as well. Each group will also develop its own covenant or promise of right relations. Groups may also decide on a shared service project.

Groups will meet two times per month for 1½ hours at the fellowship. Membership is limited to 8 per group and group members are encouraged to commit to attending as many meetings as possible. Enrollment times for new members will be set periodically throughout the year.

New groups will begin in October and run through February. Sign up will begin in September.

Spirit Circle facilitated by Gerry Carr

2nd and 4th Tuesday 5:30 – 7:00 pm.

This is an ongoing group with general topics of interest to Unitarian Universalists.

There will be limited space in this group.

Women's Circle co facilitated by Susan Baker and Diane Olsen

1st and 3rd Thursdays 6:00 – 7:30

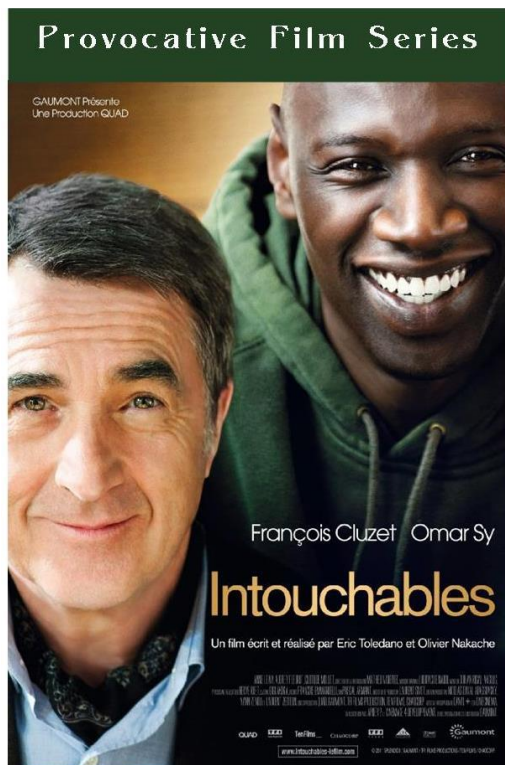
Will focus on topics of special interest to women.

Chalice Circle co facilitated by Joan Patteson and Gerry Carr

1st and 3rd Sunday 12:30 to 2:00 pm

Will focus on topics which allow exploration our own faith as Unitarian Universalists.

If you have questions or want more information feel free to contact any of the group facilitators listed above.



Friday, September 6, 7pm
at UU

Free admission
Bring a friend, and a snack to share

UU News & Events

Leadership Retreat: A September 7 Leadership retreat with Natalie Briscoe a Congregational Life Consultant, Southern Region Unitarian Universalist Association. All board members, committee chairs and anyone who is interested. It will be 9-2 with lunch served.

Bowlers: Meet every Wednesday at 5 pm. All are welcome, but if you haven't been a regular part of this group, please contact Madeleine Baker, Bev or John Frannea before attending, just because space is sometimes limited. No prior experience or creativity is necessary, just a willingness to learn and experience the fun.

Supper Circle: Sign-up sheets for upcoming Supper Circles are now posted on the bulletin board in the entrance hall. There are two different Circles each month.

"Spirituality of Poker:" will meet on, Sunday, August 18 at Bunny & Tony's. There is a \$20 buy-in, games are Dealer's Choice. Newcomers are welcome and invited to participate.

Other Game Night: The Other Games Night has started up again on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please let Judy Glaister know if you would like to host a games night.

Newcomers' Meeting: "Newcomers" meeting will be immediately after service on Sunday, August 11. Please attend if you are interested in learning more about our Fellowship.

Circle Suppers: Sign up for a circle supper hosted each month.

GET CONNECTED WITH UUFGC

Alcoholics Anonymous Phoenix Group: meets Sunday & Wednesday at 8pm. Contact Robert G. for information at 409-392-7005. For information about Alcoholics Anonymous in your community, schools, churches, law enforcement training and judicial system call the Public Information Committee hotline. In Galveston County call 409-877-1674. .

Adult Forum: Is on vacation until the first Sunday in September. After that, the forum will resume regular meetings on 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. The UU Book Club will discuss "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain on September 11 at 7:00 PM in the living room of the fellowship building. Claudia Maveety will lead the discussion. All members and visitors are welcome to join us.

Book Sale: monthly on second Saturday, 9am-2pm, at the fellowship. All adult hardback books are \$ 1.00, paperbacks, \$ 0.50. Your book donations are tax-deductible, just ask for a receipt. Books can be purchased anytime on the "honor system"; a payment piggybank is available.

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

Dance Classes: GALVESTON DANCE CLUB meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at UU. The first two classes are free and after that dues are only \$30 per quarter. UU members can participate for half price. For more information contact Betty at 281-337-0441 or visit www.galvestondanceclub.com.

Fundraising Committee: is now under the leadership of Claudia Maveety. Please contact her if you have ideas or would like to help out.

Meditation: Zen Island Fellowship meets every Monday at 5:30pm, Contact Cara Geary (gcara@comcast.net) or <http://galvestonzen.org/>

Newcomers' Meeting: meets the second Sunday of each month at 11:45, immediately following the service. All are welcome at these meetings, if you are curious about Unitarian Universalism in general, want to know more about this Fellowship, or are considering becoming a member. Questions, contact Membership Chair Margaret Canavan.

Potluck Lunch: happens on the last Sunday of each month following the service. Bring the dish of your choice, but if you can't for some reason there always seems to be enough food. Everyone is welcome.

Program/Worship Committee: meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm, at a location to be determined each month. Join them or contact Mike Hennen if you have a program or speaker to suggest.

Provocative Film Series: shows films with social import on the first Friday of each month. Admission is free.

"Spirituality of Poker": meets monthly on the third Sunday at a member's home at 6:30pm. There is a \$20 buy-in, and is Dealer's Choice (games depend on size of attendance, often we must play Texas Hold-Em or Omaha and we'll be happy to teach you if you don't know the games). Everyone is invited to participate. We generally bring snacks and beverages.

The Other Games Night: have begun again, and are also being held on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please let Judy Glaister know if you would like to host a games night or even participate.

Social Action Committee: meets the first Sunday of each month after service and welcomes your ideas, energy and enthusiasm. This group plans our monthly Compassionate Collections, organizes the Empty Bowls process and event, and plans for our participation in Martin Luther King and Juneteenth parades.

Supper Circles: If you are thinking about the possibility of hosting a supper circle during 2013, contact Rick Altemose at 409-996-1882.

SEPTEMBER 2013

AT UU GALVESTON

"SPIRITUAL PRACTICE"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Adult Forum 10:30 Gerry Carr <i>"Water Communion"</i> ; Childrens Religious Ed. 12 n Social Action Committee 8pm AA Phoenix Group	2 LABOR DAY	3 7pm Dance Lessons	4 5pm Bowlers 8pm AA Phoe- nix Group	5 7pm Dance Lessons	6 7pm Provoca- tive Film The Intouchables	7 9am - 2pm Leadership Retreat
8 9am Adult Forum 10:30 Ken Vincent <i>"Developmental Reve- lation"</i> ; Childrens RE 12 n "Newcomers" meeting 8pm AA Phoenix Group	9 11am Course in Miracles 5:15pm Board Meeting 5:30pm Zen Meditation	10 7pm Dance Lessons	11 5pm Bowlers 7pm Book Club discuss- ing " " 8pm AA Phoe- nix Group	12 7pm Dance Lessons	13	14 9am -noon Book Sale
15 9am Adult Forum 10:30 April DeConick <i>"Transgressive Talk, Deviant Deeds"</i> ; Chil- drens Religious Ed. 6:30pm - Poker group, location TBA 8pm AA Phoenix Group	16 11am Course in Miracles 5:30pm Zen Meditation Newsletter Items Due	17 7pm Dance Lessons	18 5pm Bowlers 8pm AA Phoe- nix Group	19 7pm Billie Rinaldi Birth- day Party and Concert (no dance class)	20	21
22 9am Adult Forum 10:30 Tony Lorenzen <i>"Spirituality of Friend- ship, Part III"</i> ; Chil- drens Religious Ed. 11:45 - Choir rehearsal 8pm AA Phoenix Group	23 11am Course in Miracles 5:30pm Zen Meditation	24 7pm Dance Lessons	25 5pm Bowlers 8pm AA Phoe- nix Group	26 7pm Dance Lessons	27	28
Potluck Today 29 10:30 Terry Conrad, <i>"TBA"</i> ; Childrens Reli- gious Education 8pm AA Phoenix Group	30 11am Course in Miracles 5:30pm Zen Meditation	Kat Joel-Reich John E. Hunger David Bowers Corinne Higbee	Happy Birthday to 9/1 9/16 9/23 9/28 Doug Wind	Martha Terrill Billie Rinaldi Doris Lee Steve Reubens 9/30	9/10 9/16 9/23 9/30	