

UU Galveston Gazette

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

January 2014

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.

“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul--and sings the tunes without the words--and never stops at all.” – Emily Dickinson. The theme for our January services is “Hope.” Some describe it as an uplifting and essential quality of being human, but others say it is a tormentor of humanity that leads to disappointment. We begin 2014 with hope. Join us as we contemplate what it is to hope.

JANUARY 5—Rev. Helen Appelberg— “From Where Comes Our Hope?”

Hope is a basic building block for leading a positive, productive life. One of the consequences of being hopeful is having a greater sense of meaning, purpose and motivation. The Psalms are often quoted when distress comes and people search for hope. What better way to begin this New Year than to center our hearts and prayers on hope and the gift of its meaning. The Rev. Dr. Helen Appelberg is Director, Center for Spirituality of Aging at the Sealy Center on Aging at The University of Texas Medical Branch.

BMOD: Steve Townley

Greeter/Concierge: Bets Anderson/Beverly Vanderpool

Facilitator: Bets Anderson

Music: Tony DiNuzzo

JANUARY 12—Dr. Ahmed Ahmed— “Hope”

Dr. Ahmed is on the faculty at UTMB and is a member of the Galveston Islamic Center.

BMOD: Stan Blazyk

Greeter/Concierge: Claudia Maveety/Beverly Vanderpool

Facilitator: Tony DiNuzzo

Music: Margaret Canavan

JANUARY 19—Rick Altemose— “Hope as an Obstacle”

The way we normally look at it, hope for the future is a good thing. “Giving up hope” seems tantamount to despair, which is most certainly not a good thing. This attitude has roots in our Judeo-Christian tradition, in which hope is a cardinal virtue, right up there with faith and love. So it might come as a surprise that some spiritual traditions consider hope a distraction a best; at worst, an obstacle. So, what’s wrong with hope? What could we replace it with? From Zen Buddhist teachers to modern-day advocates of “mindfulness,” we will examine some of the proponents of the view that hope is overrated.

Rick Altemose is a member of the Fellowship. He was introduced to Zen Buddhism in what was then the Republic of South Vietnam. He has studied under a number of teachers from different Buddhist traditions.

BMOD: Cheryl Henry

Greeter/Concierge: Wendy Baker

Facilitator: Mike Hennen

Music: Bunny Andrews

JANUARY 26—Rev. Tony Lorenzen— “Zihuatanejo”

Hope isn't a way out, but a way through the pain and struggles of life. We all seek that place toward which hope leads us --the place of promise and refuge, the promised land, if you will; the place that is better than the "here" we find ourselves inhabiting. The Reverend Tony Lorenzen is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, a spiritual director, and a free range builder of beloved community who 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. Follow him on Twitter (at) @revtonyuu. Rev. Tony is also the father of a teenage son and a huge Boston Red Sox fan.

BMOD: Martha Terrill

Greeter/Concierge: Judy Glaister

Facilitator: Cheryl Henry

Music: Susan Vaughn

*Love is the spirit of this church, and services is its gift. This is our great covenant.
To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.*

A Message from the President:

New Beginnings

January can be a dreary month but it signals first reflection and then new beginnings.

When driving up to the fellowship, I am comforted by how welcoming our building is; a well cared for home for a community of passionate hearts and inspiring minds who work and play together. The programs continue to thrive with the addition of a second night for "Bowls", well planned Sunday programs, fabulous music, the amazing Christmas Choir and small study groups to help us dig deeper. Opportunities to reach out through compassionate offerings and special basic need, drives for Aides Coalition and the Seaman Center as well as lending a hand of food and rides to members during illnesses.

January is also the start of a new year; a chance to let go of the past and move on with fresh energy and hope. And that is what I would hope for all of you.

I will be on a leave from January 3 until April 21. Contact John Vanderpool and /or Cheryl Henry in my absence.

See you in the spring!

Susan

New Years Resolution

"Fear less, hope more; Eat less, chew more;
Whine less, breathe more; Talk less, say more;

A message from Karen Bryczynski:

I really miss everyone at the Galveston UU. It is really special. I have been to 3 UUs here and they don't come close to the warm, caring, friendly, community spirit you all have. I think I'll be going to the gorgeous UU in downtown St Petersburg which is right on Mirror Lake. I just went there this past Sunday and found the service very familiar and hope to find a spiritual home there.

My address for now is:

536 Normandy Road
Madeira Beach FL 33708

I closed on my house 12/19 won't be moving in for several months yet, but my new address will be:

14766 Wildwood Drive
Largo FL 33774

I would love to hear from folks.

Adult Forum Resumes in January

The Adult Forum will begin meeting again on Sunday, January 5, at 9:00am in the rear RE Room. The book we will begin discussing is *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Some comments about the book:

"*Half the Sky* is a call to arms, a call for help. . . .

It asks us to open our eyes to this enormous humanitarian issue [and] does so with exquisitely crafted prose and sensationally interesting material." [Washington Post]

"Superb. . . .As Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* once catalyzed us to save our birds and better steward our earth, *Half the Sky* stands to become a classic, spurring us to spare impoverished women these terrors, and elevate them to turn around the future of their nations." [The Plain Dealer]

An unblinking look at one of the seminal moral challenges of our time." [Khled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner*]

We have several copies of the book [\$15] in the UU office. Please contact me if you wish to purchase one. Also, if it is a burden to buy one, talk to me about our Forum 'scholarship.' We hope to see you January 5!
Bets Anderson (betsanderson@sbcglobal.net)

2013 - 2014 Leadership of UUFGC

Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	<i>Susan Persons</i>
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Cheryl Henry</i>
<i>President-elect</i>	<i>John Vanderpool</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Stan Blazyk</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Judy Glaister</i>
<i>At-large members</i>	<i>Al Smith</i>
	<i>Martha Terrill</i>
	<i>Steve Townley</i>

Committees and Task Forces

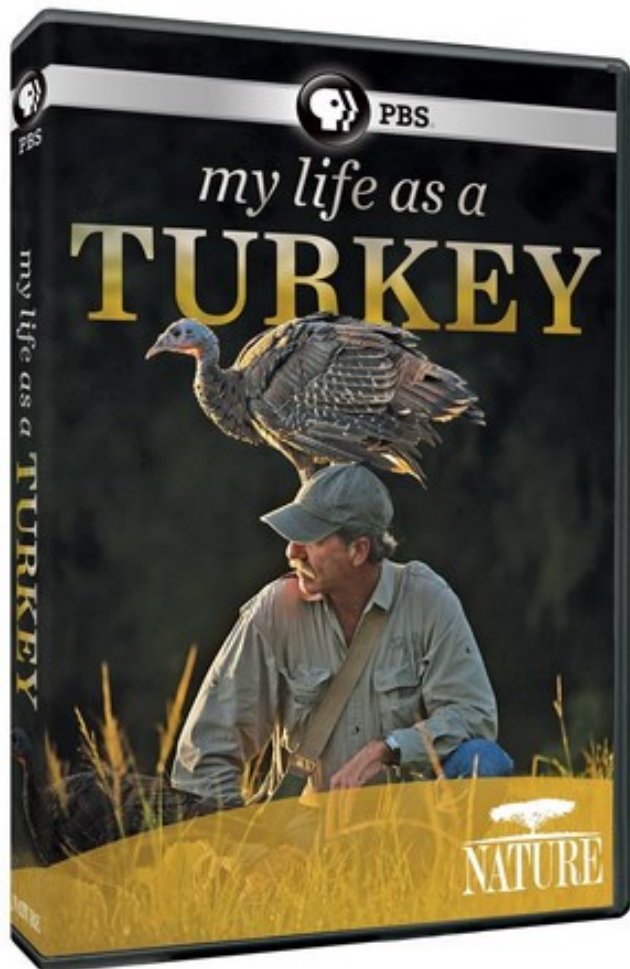
<i>Caring</i>	<i>Claudia Maveety/Carol Lobb</i>
<i>Communications</i>	<i>Madeleine Baker</i>
<i>Landscape</i>	<i>John Hunger</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Margaret Canavan</i>
<i>Program/Worship</i>	<i>Mike Hennen</i>
<i>Religious Education</i>	<i>Neil Huddleston</i>
<i>Supper Circles</i>	<i>Rick Altemose</i>
<i>Social Action</i>	<i>Mary Hodgson</i>

Administrative Team

<i>Bets Anderson, Madeleine Baker, Carey Battle, Margaret Canavan, Mary Case, Judy Glaister, Carol Lobb, and Claudia Maveety,</i>	
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Mary Case</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>Neil Huddleston</i>

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston

Provocative Film Series



Based on a true story, this beautiful, charming, funny, sad, and thought-provoking film explores rare moments when man and animal become more closely linked than nature normally allows. Deep in the wilds of Florida, was presented with the opportunity. to learn about the secret world of wild turkeys. When he arrived home one day to find a bowl filled with wild turkey eggs on his doorstep, wildlife artist and naturalist Joe Hutto was determined to become their mother. For over a year, he lived as a turkey mother, taking on the full-time job of raising 16 turkey chicks. He learned their language and their ways, and in time, became about as close to being a turkey in human skin as nature permits. Eventually, his children grew up, and letting them go off on their own was harder than he ever imagined.

Friday, January 3, 7pm

502 Church Street, Galveston

Free admission

Bring a friend, and a snack to share

Get Connected at 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: 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. 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 offers classes each Tuesday & Thursday at 7 pm. Questions, call 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/>

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, generally 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.

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 Altomose at 409-996-1882.

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.

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

JANUARY 2014

AT UU GALVESTON

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Happy Birthday to</p> <p><i>Mardi Mitchell 1/2</i></p> <p><i>Carey Battle 1/20</i></p>			<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm Provocative Film <i>My Life as a Turkey</i></p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9am Adult Forum 10:30 Rev. Helen Appelberg, <i>From Where Comes Our Hope?</i>; Children's Religious Ed 8pm AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11am Course in Miracles 5:30pm Zen Meditation</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7pm Dance Lessons</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5pm Bowlers 7pm Book Club discussing <i>Men We Reap</i> 8pm AA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5pm-Bowlers 7pm Dance Lessons</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9am -2pm Book Sale</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9am Adult Forum 10:30 Dr. Ahmed Ahmed, <i>Hope</i>; Children's Religious Ed 12 n "Newcomers" meeting 8pm AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11am Course in Miracles 5:15pm Board Meeting 5:30pm Zen Meditation</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7pm Dance Lessons</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5pm Bowlers 8pm AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5pm-Bowlers 7pm Dance Lessons</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
				<p>Newsletter Items Due</p>		
<p>19</p> <p>9am Adult Forum 10:30 Rick Altemose, <i>Hope as an Obstacle</i>; Children's Religious Education 6:30 Poker @ Stan's 8pm AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11am Course in Miracles 5:30pm Zen Meditation</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7pm Dance Lessons</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5pm Bowlers 8pm AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5pm-Bowlers 7pm Dance Lessons</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>Potluck Today 26</p> <p>10:30 Rev. Tony Lorenzen, <i>Zihuatanejo</i>; Children's Religious Education 8pm AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11am Course in Miracles 5:30pm Zen Meditation</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7pm Dance Lessons</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5pm Bowlers 8pm AA Phoenix Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5pm-Bowlers 7pm Dance Lessons</p>	<p>31</p>	