



A Month of Sundays

Services and Children's Religious Education 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9am

April 5

Laura Emerson, "The Death of Jesus – Open Case File"

The broad outlines of Jesus's life and death and resurrection are so well known in our culture that details are often ignored. It is worthwhile for religious liberals and secularists to pry apart the often contradictory details to try to ascertain who he may have been, why the Romans (and not the Jews) killed him, and why the ensuing faith community described him in such a variety of terms, from god to rabbi to rebel. Put on your detective hat and explore the details. What do you conclude about what can and can't be known? UU biblical scholar Laura Emerson will lead us on this quest.

Greeter: Vickie Francil Board Member: Patrick McGuffey
Facilitator: Cheryl Henry Music: Margaret Canavan

April 12

Gerry Carr, "Flower Communion"

On this Easter Sunday, we welcome spring and look with hope to the future. Hope is especially relevant to us this year. In addition to the flower communion, Gerry will share her story of "rising from the ashes" inspired by the book "Broken Open" by Elizabeth Lesser. Please bring a flower to share in the flower communion, which was developed by the Unitarian minister, Dr. Norbert Capek. Gerry Carr is Chair of our Program Committee.

Greeter: Bets Anderson Board Member: Fanny DeGesero
Music: Margaret Canavan

April 19

Mitch Philpot, "Texas Prairies; Past Present and Future"

When the first ships of settlers landed in Texas there was one oak tree on Galveston Island, bison sometimes wandered down the streets of Austin. There were 6 million prairie chickens on 6 million acres of prairie. Today in the wild there are about 4,000 spotted owls, there are about 40 Attwaters prairie chickens. What happened, what is being done? Mitch Philpot is a member of our Fellowship and an avid conservationist.

Greeter: Judy Glaister Board Member: Amanda Prather
Facilitator: Diane Olsen Music: Woody Dickson

April 26

POT LUCK AFTER THE SERVICE

Tony DiNuzzo, "Recapturing Joy: Lessons from a Storm"

The damage caused by Hurricane Ike went far beyond the destruction of homes, businesses and the environment. The storm's negative affects on our way of life, what we like to do, that maybe was taken for granted, have only begun to become apparent. Maybe it's time to reevaluate our lives, how we spend our time, and what we enjoy. This service provides a personal reflection on finding joy again as we continue our road to recovery.

Greeter: Susan Persons Board Member: John Hunger
Music: Tony DiNuzzo

President's Message

I love coming into the fellowship-like last night. The living room was full of animated people sharing their impressions of **Their Eyes Were Watching God**. As the book club started, the creative & dedicated UU Bowlers were finishing. I got to peek & oh & ah at their beautiful bowls-especially when my only attempt was a lumpy disaster. Another group began in the fellowship hall as we finished the book discussion. Yes, we needed larger trash cans to serve so many more & yes, we need to educate our guests about recycling but it is worthwhile to be a humming vital part of this recovering community.

I love seeing dreams unfold like Stephanie's to teach & provide means for sanitation in African schools. As I write this, the Nigerian night is only days away. The article in the Galveston newspaper showcased this event nicely. The committee is preparing food & organizing auction art pieces.

The coming together to create a more pleasant entry, is another dream actualizing. Calvin has been hard at work on the structure & Margaret & Martha have been puzzling over how many plants are needed. With the decline of bookstores & diminished library service, Bets & Fanny have given the community another source of books with the book sale.

The pledge drive begins April 17. I recall how my then husband & I were of the ilk one did not pledge - guess we thought it intruded on our personal freedom. Then he became treasurer & I on the pledge campaign. Boy our eyes opened. We learned pledges were needed. There was no fat in that budget then nor in UUF's. Your monies are vital. At the annual meeting on May 17, you will elect a new board of talented members who will wisely spend your dollars.

Bets, Cheryl, Margaret, Madeline, Gerry & myself attended the first International Convocation of UU Women in Houston. We brought home new ideas & renewed commitment plus a lovely new quilted hanging made by Rev. Laurie Bushbaum of Minneapolis. For us, the quilt called as a symbol of hope & joy which we all wanted to bring home to you.

I am still exploring the issues of recovery. I spoke with Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt from the UUA

(President's Message continued on page 2)

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its gift.

This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

(Continued from page 1)

trauma recovery team to learn how we could have better accessed their services. Sometimes I felt forgotten by the larger organization. Recently I went to the Southwest web site & saw the report on our fellowship after the storm & found a report I made from my hotel room in Rosenberg. I had no idea we were even mentioned. I try to keep this all in perspective, recalling how when I call FEMA, they ask me which disaster I am calling about & how if I look around, I see we have pulled together remarkably well. I may wish for more than is realistic. I have to ask myself how well did I understand & reach out to others during their disasters? I have learned so much. As a community we are far from recovered from IKE but we definitely recovering. Thank you for being a part!

“When I breathe in peace, I breathe out love.”

Susan



Our Fellowship is what WE make it!
Support our annual pledge drive
April 12-26

2008-2009

UUFGC Board of Directors

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| President | Susan Persons |
| President-Elect | John Hunger |
| Past-President | Bets Anderson |
| Secretary | Amanda Prather |
| Treasurer | Pete Olsen |
| Members at Large: | Fanny DeGesero |
| | Cheryl Henry |
| | Patrick McGuffey |

Committees and Task Forces

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Communications | Madeleine Baker |
| Landscape | Martha Terrill |
| 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, & C. Henry |
| Webmaster | Amber Zainfeld |

Reminders

- Please bring **clean plastic grocery bags** and small **plastic food containers with lids** for **Shirley Hollingsworth's** Saturday work to feed the homeless. Leave them in the box outside the Administrator office.
- Bring old (clean) socks and rags for **Judy Glaister** to use for cleaning on the *Elissa*. They are needed for polishing.
- We can get reduced-price paper with your **used inkjet printer cartridges**.
- **Fair Trade Coffee and Tea** sales in our foyer benefit small coffee farmers & also our Social Action Committee.
- **For visitors & newcomers:** Our members receive the **UU World** magazine, & want to share with you. Feel free to take copies from the display in the foyer.
- **Friendly Sunday morning "Greeters"** are needed! Sign-up in the kitchen or contact **Vickie Francil**. Don't wait for Vickie to call you, go ahead & contact her or sign up in the kitchen!



**Deeds Not Creeds:
Social Action News**

Walk for Global Warming: On March 8, a small group of us met at the fellowship with Greta Browne, a retired UU minister who is walking 2,000 miles as a witness to global warming. She told us about her walk, why she was doing it and where and when. As she had problems with her motor home on her trip down from Pennsylvania, and did not have time to contact the press, she made a change in plans and we walked down to the beach where we did a "sounding". We stood in a circle to listen to the sounds around us. We then shared our thoughts and stories of Hurricanes Ike and Rita. Greta posted a picture of the group of us on her blog www.forallthegrandchildren.blogspot.com. She was also impressed with our display of moccasins in the entryway of the church. It was a good experience for all of us.

Nigerian Village Night: Much appreciation goes to all the volunteers, who set up, decorated, cooked and served, and then cleaned up. Thanks to their efforts, the fundraiser was a huge success. The menu consisted of West African Peanut Stew with Couscous, West African Banana Chutney, Chicken Jollof Rice, Tanzanian Bhajia, Sausage rolls, Tropical Vegetable Salad, Carrot Cake and Plantain Gingerbread, all prepared by members of the Fellowship. Stephanie Nwadie welcomed everyone and talked about her HYBASIA project. Music was provided by Kurt Gillins who did a fine job on the drums. The tickets, silent auction, raffle and money from book sales added up to \$2670.

News & Coming Attractions

Member NUUs

Thinking of YouU: Please keep in your prayers & thoughts: **Rusty McGowan**, **Mike Hennen's** mother **Belva Hennen**, and **John & Bev Frannea's** daughter **Andy Walker**. Rusty would love to have visitors anytime at 3203 Ave. Q.

Letter from Steve Hodgson: Hello to all: I'm getting started on work in Kuwait. All seems to be going well. ... Just before I left, in Florida I saw the movie *Slumdog Millionaire*. Here we have many Indian contractors and employees. I've mentioned the movie and most all have seen it. They say there are places like that India and the story is true to life. Please wish my wife a happy anniversary which was Feb 25... I attempted to peddle my music, to the Catholics and the Protestants. But they already had players & other music. There's no UU group here.

Mike Thompson, our past part-time minister, lost his mother recently. His address is: Rev. Mike & Pam Thompson, 1027 East Loop 456, Apt. #301, Jacksonville, TX 75766, 903-541-0837

Our friends and former members **Katrina Chamberlain and Donny Lee** are looking forward to the arrival of their new family member around June 3. Ultrasound suggests they will have a little girl. Donny has found work in remodeling. Their address is 2902 Long Rifle Dr., Wimauma, FL 33598.

UU Upcoming Events

Supper Circle: Fanny and Roy DeGesero are hosting on Saturday, April 18 at 6pm, with a main course of shrimp. Please sign up on the bulletin and join in a night of delicious food and stimulating conversation.

"Spirituality of Poker" and Game Night: Poker Sunday April 5, 6:30 at Stan Blazyk's. Games at Fanny DeGesero's.

Book Club: On Wednesday, April 8 at 7pm join the discussion of **Three Cups Of Tea** by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Please send your suggestions of books to read for the coming

monthsto **Fanny De Gesero** at fandfare@aol.com

Around UU

Seven Year Itch Supports Scholarships at Thoreau UU, April 16: Thoreau UU is hosting a fun evening of wine, cheese, and theater the evening at Theatre Southwest as a fundraiser for their Scholarship Fund. Thoreau has sent 14 students from first-college-ever-in-the-family homes to college since the social action program began. Tickets are \$20 and can be obtained from Valerie Tolman, 4002 Alexis Tate Cir, Missouri City, TX 77459. Contact Valerie at davaltolman@gmail.com for more information. Complementary wine and cheese is at 7:15pm, and the comedy *Seven Year Itch* begins at 8.

Houston Area UU Spring Music Festival, Saturday May 2 3-9pm: This family event is free at the Fellowship at 1504 Wirt Rd. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket, other food and beverages if you wish and all your friends and family. Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up. UU vendors are welcome. UU musicians only please, due to limited time and the many UUs who want to participate. Sign up with coordinator Mark Holt at holtlsi@aol.com. Details at www.UUHouston.org/musicfest.

General Assembly (GA) June 25-29, Salt Lake City, UT: The UUFGC Board of Directors encourages everyone to consider attending GA, the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. This is where & when our denomination makes overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association & directs and control its affairs. This is our link to UUs throughout the US and the world. Members that have attended in previous years have come back with a renewed enthusiasm and sense of community. More information is available on the web at: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>

Join UUs from around the country in Niagara Falls, July 19-22: Experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty.

The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural beauty around the Falls. For information visit <http://www.uunex.net/>

Other Events

Jewish Perspectives for End-of-Life Decisions, Thursday April 23: A free lecture by Baruch Brody, PhD, 5:30-7pm at UTMB's Levin Hall, 11th & Market Streets.

Aids Foundation Re-Green Galveston Events April 3 & 4: Board member Stan Blazyk invites us to the "Après Ike Whine & Cheese Plant Preview Party" on Friday April 3, 5-7:30pm, for \$10 donation. Plant sale Saturday 8am until the plants are gone. Both events at ACCT office, 707 23rd St.

Anthony Kitai Concert Friday, April 3 at 7:30 pm: Galveston Island Arts Academy president Mike Hennen announces this free concert by Anthony Kitai, Houston Symphony cellist, who will perform 7:30 pm Central Christian Church located at 27th Street and O 1/2 in Galveston Texas. The evening will feature works of Britten, Bach, and Hindemith.

Give Galveston a Hug April 11: Join 4,499 other individuals to stand hand-in-hand for an aerial photo. Assemble at 9am for a brief prayer and a huge hug at 10am between 6th Street and 61st street. \$1 donation payable to merchants and restaurants bearing the *One in a Million Campaign* posters.

World Vocal Traditions Concert Saturday April 11, 8pm at UU: Dr. Stuart Hinds, internationally recognized overtone singer & composer, will present a concert of his original music. There will be no admission charge, but donations will be accepted to benefit the Ball High School Choirs. Hinds will be joined in the concert by Nanda Banerjee, a master of classical Indian singing in the Hindustani (North Indian) style, and by professional cellist Max Dyer. Both artists are generously donating their performances for the occasion.



Meetings are at the Fellowship unless otherwise noted. Everyone is invited and welcome to all listed activities.

Alcoholics Anonymous Phoenix Group meets Sunday & Wednesday evenings at 8pm. Contact Robert G. for information at 409-392-7005.

Adult Forum meets Sundays at 9am to explore topics in religion, philosophy, history and politics. Contact Neil Huddleston at (409)744-2369.

Board of UUFGC meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 5:45 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Book Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Contact Fanny DeGesero if you have suggestions for readings.

Bowlers meet each Wednesday to make and decorate bowls for the May 30 Jesse Tree fundraiser. All are welcome, no experience necessary.

Comedy Defensive Driving: "Pokey" Simmons teaches this three Saturdays each month, for \$35. Contact him at (409) 789-8451 to sign up.

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

Dance Classes Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7pm: Questions, call Betty at 281-337-0441. See <http://www.galvestondanceclub.com>.

Gardeners meet monthly for indoor and outdoor work that is so important to keeping our Fellowship looking good & working properly. Work dates are on the calendar.

Program Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6pm, at Mosquito Café in Galveston, to plan Sunday services. For information contact Gerry Carr. Meetings are open to all.

Poker and Game Night is monthly and held in members' homes, open to all. Check the calendar & weekly announcements for date & location.

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

Spirit Circle Covenant Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 6pm. Contact Gerry Carr gcarr@tlc-galveston.org or leave a message at the Fellowship if you would like to be contacted by phone.

Supper Circles meet monthly. Call Judy Glaister at (409)762-8187 to schedule a supper, sign up for one, or for information.

Zen Meditation meets Sundays at 4pm. Contact Cara Geary (gcara@comcast.net) or visit galvestonzen.org.

Send newsletter information to administrator@uugalveston.org or phone 409-765-8330, or leave a note at the Fellowship.

**Social Action Committee
Provocative Film Series**

Akeelah and the Bee

Friday April 10, 7pm

With an aptitude for words, 11 year old Akeelah Anderson (Keke Palmer) is determined to spell her way out of South Los Angeles, entering scores of local contests & eventually landing a chance to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington DC. Despite discouragement from her mother (Angela Bassett) Akeelah gets support from her bookish tutor (Laurence Fishburne), her principal (Curtis armstrong) and proud members of her community. A heartwarming story of hope, fortitude & love.

Free Admission -- Bring a friend and a snack to share.

Right Relations Covenant

We will communicate openly, honestly & respectfully. We will listen carefully with open minds & open hearts. We will assume good intentions, practice tolerance & resist the temptation to become offended. We will take responsibility for our speech, actions & feelings, & we will be sensitive to possible conflicts & willing to work toward solutions. We will consider other perspectives & will strive not for unanimity but for mutual respect. We will honor our own boundaries & the boundaries of others. We will respect & support the diversity within our congregation & work to foster a welcoming environment.

Our microfinance "revolving" fund has made loans totaling \$2,000 available to recipients in developing countries, and we have donated \$94.50 to support the activities of Kiva. We make loan as we receive donations and relend as existing loans are repaid. All are welcome to help select loan recipients. Take a look at our current microfinance portfolio at <http://www.kiva.org/lender/unitarianuniversalist3384>.

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

APRIL 2009

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Galveston County

Activities are held at the Fellowship unless otherwise indicated



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Happy Birthday to: <i>Stephanie Nwadie</i> 4/01 <i>Sandra Sullivan</i> 4/11 <i>Gerry Carr</i> 4/17 <i>Michael Hennen</i> 4/17</p> | | | <p>1 5pm - UU Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p> | <p>2 7pm - Dance lessons</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> |
| <p>5 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - L. Emerson, "Death of Jesus"; Child/Youth RE 12n - Social Action Cmte 4pm - Zen Meditation 6:30 - Poker at Blazyk's, Games at DeGesero's 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p> | <p>6 11am - Course in Miracles</p> | <p>7 7pm - Dance lessons</p> | <p>8 5pm - UU Bowlers 7pm - Book Club 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p> | <p>9 7pm - Dance lessons</p> | <p>10 7pm - Provocative Film, Akeelah & the Bee</p> | <p>11 9am-12n - Book Sale/Workday 9am-3pm - Defensive Driving 8pm - Concert, World Vocal Traditions</p> |
| <p>12 EASTER PLEDGE DRIVE BEGINS 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Gerry Carr, "Flower Communion; Children/Youth Religious Education 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p> | <p>13 11am - Course in Miracles 5:45pm - Board Meets</p> | <p>14 6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p> | <p>15 5pm - UU Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p> | <p>16 6pm - Program Cmte at Mosquito Café 7pm - Dance lessons</p> | <p>17 Newsletter Deadline</p> | <p>18 9am-3pm Comedy Defensive Driving 6pm - Supper Circle at DeGesero's</p> |
| <p>19 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Mitch Philpot, "Texas Prairies: Past, Present & future"; Children/Youth Religious Education 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p> | <p>20 11am - Course in Miracles</p> | <p>21 7pm - Dance lessons</p> | <p>22 5pm - UU Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p> | <p>23 7pm - Dance lessons</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25 9am-3pm Comedy Defensive Driving</p> |
| <p>26 Potluck PLEDGE DRIVE CLOSSES 9am - Adult Forum 10:30am - Tony DiNuzzo, "Recapturing joy"; Children/Youth Religious Education 4pm - Zen Meditation 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p> | <p>27 11am - Course in Miracles</p> | <p>28 6pm - Spirit Circle 7pm - Dance lessons</p> | <p>29 5pm - UU Bowlers 8pm - AA Phoenix Group</p> | <p>30 7pm - Dance lessons</p> | | |