



Unitarian Fellowship of Houston
A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation
Celebrating 50 Years

Fellowgram

Volume 51, Issue 13

June 26, 2009

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT

Harold Rud

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Wiener

TREASURER

Val Harrop

BOARD SECRETARY

Vickie Chin

TRUSTEES

Wayne Derrick

David Garver

Dodie McKellar

David Oxman

Peggy Tennyson

STAFF

ADMINISTRATOR

Dorene Solomon

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S RE

Katy Carpmán

COMMITTEES

BUILDING

David Oxman

BYOT GROUP

Harold Rud

CARING

Katy Haberman

COMMUNITY

OUTREACH

Sarah Berel-Harrop

DENOMINATION

Dodie McKellar

ENDOWMENT FUND

Dodie McKellar

FINANCE

Bob Wiener

FOCUS GROUP

Caroline Kline

FORUM

Bert Golding

GROUNDS

Harold Rud

HISTORIAN

Betty Oertel

HOSPITALITY

Barbara &

Wayne Derrick

LIBRARY

Jan LaRocque

LONG RANGE

PLANNING

Bob Wiener

MEMBERSHIP

Ruth Lanter

Gretchen Pinsonneault

PROGRAM

Val Harrop

Dodie McKellar

CHILDREN'S RE

Katy Haberman

Bob Wiener

SOCIAL

Ruth Lanter

Annette Rybiski

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Board

TELEPHONE TREE

Carol Ryman

UU NETWORK

Val Harrop

Katy Carpmán

WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Sarah Berel-Harrop

Doug Coleman

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

10:00 A.M. - 10:50 A.M.: ADULT FORUM *Analyzing Our Times*. See page 3 for more details. Coordinator: Bert Golding

10:00 A.M. - 10:50 A.M.: Building Your Own Theology Group (BYOT) A discussion group to help participants search for and develop a personal theology.

10:00 A.M. - 10:50 A.M.: FOCUS GROUP See page 5 for more details.

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION meets from **10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.** See page 2 for more details of programs.

11 A.M. SERVICE

Child Care Provided

JULY 5 — Freedom and "Cafeteria Unitarianism" **Eric Huckabay** will discuss the virtues of freedom and solace in our religious lives; how they reinforce our congregation and our faith, and where these virtues can prove dangerous or misleading. We will examine these virtues in the context of historical religious freedom, modern separation of church and state, evangelism and religious tolerance.

JULY 12 — Living in Covenant. Speaker: Rev. Eric Posa. As long as there have been Unitarians, we have used covenant to understand our shared religious life. How can the concept of covenant inform our current relationship as a community? Eric Posa is the minister of The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley in College Station.

JULY 19 — "Summertime and the living is easy..." It's also a good time to renew body and spirit. We'll join in song, poetry, and readings to find ways to recharge ourselves. **Coordinated/Speaker: Peggy Tennyson**

JULY 26 — Peacebuilding, Our Personal Task – Speaker: Chirstina Branum-Martin Bio: Christina Branum-Martin is 3rd year seminary student at Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago. She is in a non-resident student and lives here in Houston with her husband and 8 year old daughter. She grew up at 1st Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston and the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church is her sponsoring congregation in her candidacy for ministry. Christina is a 7th generation Unitarian.

CHILDREN'S RE



“Oh, look!” my partner called out. “It’s a Unitarian church. (First Parish in Milton, established @1660) You should stop in to look around and meet people.”

We were on a trip to Boston. We were passing a lot of churches, and I kept explaining that a) not a lot goes on at church on an average Friday and b) was this really how we were spending our vacation?

When we got back from a long stroll through Cambridge (First Parish of Cambridge, established 1632), I turned on the computer and went to the UUA website, to the Find a Congregation engine. If you type in our home zip, you’ll find that there are five churches within twenty-five miles. Our vacation spot? Sixty-eight congregations, from a thirty-seven member fellowship to some of the oldest and most established Unitarian Universalist congregations in the world. And none of them are in out-of-the way spaces, but rather in the town centers, often on the list of historic buildings.

And in such a saturated place, pretty much everyone has some understanding of what Unitarian Universalism is. A guard at the Museum of Science remarked on my ever-present chalice necklace. Not only do you see the symbol on most of the churches, but on banners in the middle of town, at booths at summer festivals. Even in comparatively lib-

eral Massachusetts, Unitarian Universalism as seen as being on the forefront of change.

At dinner one night I was asked to help a friend of a friend make connections with a Texas UU congregation as she tries desperately to adjust to grad school in this state where her marriage is not considered legal. And I was thankful for my many connections throughout this district—I know not only the Director of Religious Education, but the minister and several members of that church.

Speaking of connections, you may notice that this Fellowgram is coming out a little late, and perhaps a few familiar faces aren’t around this Sunday. Why? Because it’s the week of General Assembly—the annual meeting of Unitarian Universalist congregations. This year they’re in Salt Lake City, Utah, meeting new friends, discussing important issues, voting for a new UUA president, and enjoying cool weather (as I write this Tuesday morning, it’s 54 degrees there) and gorgeous vistas. I’m already making plans to attend the 2010 gathering in Minneapolis-St. Paul!

Due to summer travels, the Religious Education Committee will not meet again until August – back to our normal date of the second Thursday of each month. However, feel free to contact me or Bob Wiener (RE Chair) with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

Yours in faith,

Katy Carpman
Director of Religious Education
ufhdre@comcast.net



UU QUIZ

What Unitarian became a Justice on the Supreme Court and also served on the board of the Unitarian Service Committee?

Answer on page 8.

Tuesday Book Club

Here are our upcoming books:

August 4, 2009, "THE SOLOIST: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music" by Steve Lopez

This is the true story of journalist Steve Lopez's discovery of Nathaniel Ayers, a former classical bass student at Julliard, playing his heart out on a two-string violin on Los Angeles' Skid Row. Deeply affected by the beauty of Ayers's music, Lopez took it upon himself to change the prodigy's life—only to find that their relationship has had a profound change on his own life.

September 1, 2009, "SNOBS" by Julian Fellowes

Fellowes, who won the 2001 Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for Gosford Park, gives readers another glimpse into life among the upper classes in this delightfully satirical tale of the blond and beautiful Edith Lavery. Desperate and on the brink of turning 30, she chooses a husband for his money and status and almost immediately regrets her decision, as Charles turns out to be decent and honorable but totally boring (in and out of bed). The narrator, an actor friend of the social-climbing bride, describes Edith's growing frustration with married life and her ill-advised decision to run off with a sexier man, only to discover that her old life held many charms—not the least of which was oo-

dles of money and parties at Ascot. What's a girl to do? The satire is biting but not distasteful, and Fellowes offers up a host of interesting characters—especially Google, Edith's aristocratic mother-in-law, who would make a great subject for a novel—plus an insider's view of England's class system



Our books should all be available at the library and in paperback at your favorite bookstore. You can reach me at ufhlibrary@comcast.net. Jan

The **Fellowship Book Club** meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Library of the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston, 1504 Wirt Road and is open to all book lovers.

"The greatest gift is the passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind. It is a moral illumination." ~ Elizabeth Hardwick ~

ADULT FORUM

We meet Sunday Mornings at 10 AM. Our topics are unannounced. Our discussions are often lively and intense, but remain polite and friendly.

June 14th: Ø What does our Future Hold? Members generally felt that Ahmadinejad probably won the Iranian election, but there was also a conviction that there was corruption and cheating in determining the election results. There was agreement that the election results and the controversy involved would make it more difficult for Obama's plan to negotiate with Iran. ♦♦ (Topic Presenter: Roger Ryman; Number Present: 11)

June 21st: Ø The group had a wide-ranging discussion on three topics: Same sex marriage/civil unions, disorder in Iran, and fixing the health care system. The group generally supported civil unions, expressed concern about the outcome of the disorder in Iran, and there was no consensus regarding the likelihood of improving the health system. ♦♦ (Topic Presenter: Doug Coleman; Number Present: 10)

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 BOOK CLUB, 7:30 pm	3	4	5 Blue Notes, 7 pm	6
7 Brad Stufflebeam, 11 am	8	9	10	11	12 Blue Notes, 7 pm	13
14 John Pepper, 11 am	15	16	17	18	19 Blue Notes, 7 pm	20
21 David Oxman, 11 am Father's Day!	22	23	24	25	26 Blue Notes, 7 pm	27
28 Lisa Gilchrist & Kim Willis, 11 am	29	30				

MONTHLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

Every First Tuesday: The Book Club, 7:30 pm (Library)

Every First Thursday: Ladies Luncheon, 1 pm (Hunan Chef on I-10, near Home Depot)

Every Second Thursday: RE Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm (Workroom)

Every Second Sunday: Offertory goes to benefit lunch for Turning Point

Every Third Saturday: Volunteer to help serve lunch at Turning Point (sign-up sheet is located at the front desk or just ask Dodie)

Every Saturday: Church of God, 12 to 4:30 pm (ext'ed hours on calendar)

Every Third Thursday: Men's Luncheon, 12:20 pm at Nam's

Every Wednesday, the SSSC (RS) Society, 6:15 pm (Sanctuary)

Schedule of Events

- ◆ **Recital, June 6, 4:45-7:30 pm**
- ◆ **Recital, June 7, 1:15-5:30 pm**
- ◆ **Eagle Scout Project: June 6th**
- ◆ **Waldorf Playground Workday: June 6th**

Fellowgram Deadlines: June 9 and June 23 (FG will be delayed a few days, due to GA week)

BIRTHDAY LIST

Caroline Kline,

June 8th

Lee Dominey, June

10th

Melanie Jagdeo,

June 12th

Kim Willis, June

14th

John Haberman,

June 21st

Katrina Lewis, June

28th

If your BD is not listed, please call the office and let Dorene know.



THE FOCUS GROUP

THE FOCUS GROUP MEETS AT 10 AM ON SUNDAYS.

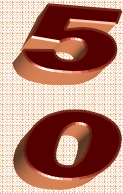
Everyone is welcome. The Focus Group meets every Sunday at 10:00AM, and all are welcome. Herodotus' Histories has been selected, and we will start with the first 50 or so pages of the 1st book. Jonathan Needle will lead our discussion, at least for the first few weeks. If interested in trying our group, it is not necessary for you to have read the book--just stop in and give us a try.

We meet in the library, and we hope to see you there!

— Fifty Fabulous Years Ago —

June 10, 1959 COMING ATTRACTION

From time to time, your editor has been urged to quote pithy sayings from various authors. This has been resisted, along with the Reader's Digest, as pre-masticated mental food. Since one of the truly great features of a fellowship is the requirement of doing for ourselves, we shall now institute a feature in which one of our members, in fifty words or less, will comment on something of importance. We are also resisting the desire to label this feature, "Pearl Casting".



THANK YOU NOTE FROM MAXINE BARKAN—PAST AND FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF THE FELLOWSHIP IN 1966

MY DAY ~

I can't tell you how much I appreciated getting in the mail today the Maxine Barkan Day on my unmentionable birthday! I am taking a copy to show my minister at Wildflower Church tomorrow and also giving copies to my children and siblings. Although we do not drive to Houston anymore, I want you to know that I am proud of the success of the Houston Fellowship and have used it in my resume and over the years when I have been lay leader of First Church of Austin and Wildflower. I am sure Betty Oertel had something to do with this and I thank her, too. Keep up the continuity of the Fellowship and what it stands for.

Love to all, Maxine

 *
 * **Joys and Concerns** *
 * **Announcements** *
 *
 * **Joys and Concerns: 6/14** — We lit a single candle to commemorate Stephen Tyrone Johns, the guard *
 * at the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. who was shot and killed on Wednesday, June 11, 2009, by *
 * a gunman with a history of violence and anti-Semitism. *
 *
 * **Joys and Concerns: 6/21**— Shared memories of father's were given during the service. *
 *

OUR PROGRAMS

June 14th - *Forgotten Voices* - John Pepper

On June 11, 2009, Stephen Tyrone Johns, a guard at the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. was shot and killed by an 88-year-old gunman with a long history of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial. Yet, Jews were not the only holocaust victims. In fact there are so many well-documented cases of the victims, the fact that some people today want to deny the Holocaust ever existed is simply ludicrous.

An appropriate response for this ongoing insanity is simply to listen to the pain and anguish some of these people experienced first-hand. The power of their voices will hopefully spur us on to right future wrongs and address injustices before they become tragedies. Today is an ominous anniversary. On June 14, 1940 Polish political prisoners became the first residents of the Auschwitz concentration camp and on that same day in 1942, Anne Frank began writing her now famous diary.

During their reign of terror, the Nazis persecuted, tortured, and killed many different groups of people. The documentation the Nazis left behind is a testament to their brutality and their ruthless organized efficiency. Each of the groups targeted was assigned a specific color triangle to wear on their clothes that designated their particular offence or place of origin.

Yellow was for the Jews, red for the politicals, green for the criminals, pink for the homosexuals, black for anti-socials, purple for Jehovah's Witnesses, blue for emigrants, and brown for gypsies. Approximately 6 million Jews were killed, and while the estimates vary, several million other people were also killed from all the other persecuted groups.

The reality is that each one of the statistics was in fact a person, a person worthy of dignity, respect and love. While many of their voices have been silenced for all eternity, some of the victims did survive and it is to their voices that we now turn.

During his moving service, John gave voice to those people. We heard readings from Anne Frank's diary,

from *Forgotten Crimes: The Holocaust and People with Disabilities* by the Disability Rights Activists (A report by Disability Rights Advocates, September 2001), from *The Men with the Pink Triangle* by Heinz Heger (John Pepper), *Pharrajimos: The Fate of the Roma During the Holocaust* edited by Janos Barsony, and from *Shards of Memory: Narratives of Holocaust Survival* edited by Yehudi Linderman.

The shooting and the Iranian elections highlight the need to honor the victims and keep these memories alive.

June 21st - *Fathers and Family Traditions* - David Oxman

While Mother's Day became official in 1914 it took until 1966 for Father's Day to become a tradition. Much is lavished upon mothers in gratitude, but it seems more difficult to show appreciation for fathers. Ultimately most would cherish your time, attention and understanding. Fatherhood involves many roles: coach, advocate, teacher, guide and defender among them. You who are fathers know the many ways you've interacted with your children.

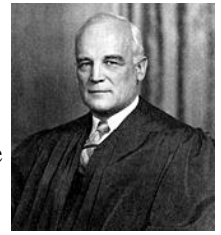
These roles have altered over time and our lives are very different from earlier generations. A review of cultural issues reveals many changes: the automobile was a simpler machine and was special and rare, the doctor made house calls, the milk was delivered by the milkman, children walked to school only to name a few. Many of our families lived on the farm where hard physical work was demanded. The privilege of schooling sometimes ended with grade school. Fathers working from dawn to dusk frequently had little time to spend with children unless during work time.

The 20's and 30's with more automobiles enabled families to spend more recreational time together. In my family we were proud to have my eldest brother be the first to go to college (at Cornell).

World War II in the 40's sent many fathers oversea and exposed them to almost nameless experiences that many could not event share with their families upon their return. My brother's family never knew

(Continued on page 7)

UU Quiz Answer: “**Harold Hitz Burton** (June 22, 1888 – October 28, 1964) served as the 45th mayor of Cleveland, Ohio, a member of the United States Senate and later Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He was known as a dispassionate jurist who prized equal justice under the law.” Born to a Unitarian mother in Jamaica Plain, MA, Burton attended Bowdoin College. He served in the Army during World War I, and became a US Senator in 1941. Despite being a Republican, he got along well with Harry Truman who appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1945. Burton was very influential in bringing about the unanimity in the Brown vs the Board of Education decision of 1954.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Hitz_Burton

Although Harold Hitz Burton can in no way be considered a justice of major influence, he nonetheless played an important role in moving the court from its New Deal emphasis on upholding federal powers at the expense of the states and individuals, to the Warren court's focus on a more tempered federal reach and a larger sphere of individual rights. He was consistent without being doctrinaire, meticulous, and an indefatigable worker.

http://www.ohiojudicialcenter.gov/h_h_burton.asp

When the Unitarian Service Committee was founded in 1940, Burton served on the Board of Directors for that organization.

Other June birthdays:

Norman Cousins

6/24 Author and peace activist

Arthur Lismer

6/27 Artist

(Continued from page 6)

of his harrowing war experiences until I mentioned his military career during my remarks at his funeral. Veterans of The Korean conflict were also reticent to share their experiences. As we live through the prolonged conflict in the Middle East we now know how important understanding of soldiers' traumas affect their families when they return.

The modern family, with outside communication at their finger tips almost constantly needs to strive to become closer with one another. And while fathers may not have the heavy physical burdens so characteristic of the past, many are still driven by working long hours to succeed.

I can look back at my immigrant father who came to the USA in 1900, married in 1920 and opened a stationery and gift store. His work ethic was passed onto us and I have, as a father and grandfather tried to do the same.

While traditions and culture have altered the economic scene, the family configuration and our man-

ner of communication, we still need to be appreciative and caring toward our fathers and as fathers, need to share our concern and love toward our children.

Members Lynn Philpot, Doug Coleman, Jonathan Needles, Bob Wiener, Jan LaRocque and Shannon Fyfe shared memories of their fathers.

After the service, the Children's RE provided an array of hors d'oeuvres. In addition, Evelyn Gerson, Pat Ballinger and David Oxman graced the congregation with a luncheon.

Thank you all for a splendid Father's Day.





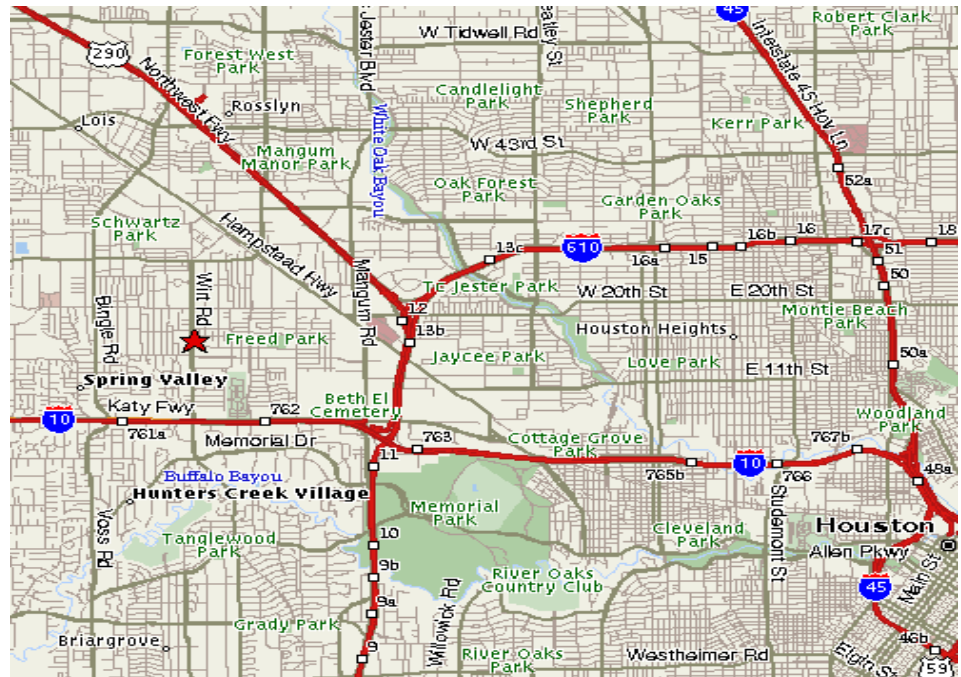
**Unitarian Fellowship
of Houston
A Welcoming Unitarian
Universalist Congregation**

1504 Wirt Road
Houston, Texas 77055
713.686.5876 (Office)
713.686.7664 (Fax)
ufhouston@comcast.net

See us on our Website!
www.ufoh.org

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We seek to provide an atmosphere of warm companionship and respect for free and inquiring minds, searching together for finer religious, ethical, and social truths, and we work to apply the best we know in our lives, in the lives of our children, and in the service of our fellow humans.



A bunch of Agnostics, Atheists, Buddhists, Christians, Humanists, Jews, Muslims, Pagans, Quakers, Skeptics, spiritual non-religious seekers, and other random people all go to church together on Sunday....And you've been missing out.