

# FELLOWGRAM

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 5

MARCH 5, 2010

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## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

### MARCH 14 — Ethical Eating—Feeding the Hungry.

Globally, 4.3 pounds of food are produced daily for every woman, man, and child on earth—enough to make all of us fat. Yet every year, six million children across the globe die as a result of hunger and malnutrition. The Houston Food Bank distributes food and other needed supplies to 400 southeast Texas hunger relief programs. Learn about their programs as part of the UUA Ethical Eating Congregational Study/Action Issue.

### MARCH 21 — All Things Being Equal - Speaker: Katy Haberman

"All things being equal," we say, then we go on to tell what we would do or say. At the time of the Spring Equinox, the days and nights are of equal length and we are preparing our minds and bodies for Spring and Summer and warmth and light and all the lovely flowers. In other words, we are ready to move into a better, brighter time, but are all things equal for everyone? Will everyone look forward at the equinox to a better time? Since we, as Unitarians believe in the inherent worth of every individual, where do we fit into the pattern? Are we part of the problem or part of the solution?

### MARCH 28 — Our World is Changing - Where Are You? A look at life's meaning. David Oxman

### APRIL 1— SEDER DINNER. 6 pm

### APRIL 4 — The Holy — and the Magic — of Easter. Patti Henry

## Come "Early" for Our 10 AM—10:50 AM OFFERINGS!

**Children's Religious Education** *RE wing. Details on page 2.*

**ADULT FORUM** *Analyzing Our Times—Workroom. Details on page 3.*

**Building Your Own Theology Group (BYOT)** *Discussion to help participants search for and develop a personal theology—RE Room 1.*

**FOCUS GROUP** *Book discussion group—Library. Details on page 4.*

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT



My parents came down to help with some projects—especially replacing the oversized patio door in my kitchen. We got the new door, pulled out the old one... and realized the opening was just a tad too small. Dad sent me to the hardware store for the right tool...and I returned home to complete and utter chaos. Dad was attacking studs with his big sawzall, and pieces of my wall littered the ground inside and out.

Mom quickly jumped in, “There was a change in plan. You’re going to have to have faith.”

“Mom, if there is one thing I have faith in, it’s that you guys will not leave me in a lurch,” I blurted out, giving her a hug. That isn’t to say that the next day and a half didn’t come with some cringes as more of the newly painted wall was sawed off, or me having to leave the room a few times as Dad levered an entire wall with a wrecking bar and a big hammer. But I knew that before we went to bed, there’d be something keeping the cold out, and my parents wouldn’t leave before the project was entirely finished.

I thank my lucky stars every day for my folks, and am awed by the love they have given me. I work every day to live up to their example, to be that warm and steadying force in the lives of my children, and of all those I meet.

In what do you have such deep faith? Put another way, what in your life has given you reason to believe that it will always be true? What can we do as a congregation to give people faith? What can we teach to help each other go out into the world and be pillars of love?

Come to the Fellowship at 10 AM this (and every!) week to strengthen your soul and widen your skill set. To learn more about faith development opportunities, come to our circle any Sunday, or speak with Bob Wiener or me! Our next committee meeting will be 7pm, April 8<sup>th</sup> in the workroom.

In faith,

Katy Carpman

Director of Religious Education

[ufhdre@comcast.net](mailto:ufhdre@comcast.net)

**UU Quiz**  
What Unitarian helped found the NAACP?

*Answer on page 9*



A big “thank you” to all those who participated in the Shared Values workshops last month! The Vision-Mission-Covenant Task Force is working hard to tabulate those results and develop next steps in the process. We are so very grateful to all those who shared their insights, and to all those who helped with set-up, meals, and take-down!

The What Moves Us group meets in the workroom at 7pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month – on March 9<sup>th</sup> we will explore George deBenville’s theology of Universal Love, with plenty of opportunity to share deeply of our own experiences. If you would like childcare, or have any other questions, please email Katy Carpman – [ufhdre@comcast.net](mailto:ufhdre@comcast.net).



**Tuesday Book Club**

Here are our upcoming books:

**April 6, 2010, "The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins, Social Security, Unemployment Insurance"**

by Kristin Downey (available in paperback in February, 2010)

**May 4, 2010, "The Girl with the Dragon Tadoo" by Stieg Larsson**

Mikael Blomkvist, a once-respected financial journalist, watches his professional life rapidly crumble around him. Prospects appear bleak until an unexpected (and unsettling) offer to resurrect his name is extended by an old-school titan of Swedish industry. The catch--and there's always a catch--is that Blomkvist must first spend a year researching a mysterious disappearance that has remained unsolved for nearly four decades. With few other options, he accepts and enlists the help of investigator Lis-

beth Salander, a misunderstood genius with a cache of authority issues. Little is as it seems in Larsson's novel, but there is at least one constant: you really *don't* want to mess with the girl with the dragon tattoo.

**June 1, 2010, "Strange Angel: The Otherworldly Life of Rocket Scientist John Whiteside Parsons"**

by George Pendle

George Pendle tells Parsons's extraordinary life story for the first time. Fueled from childhood by dreams of space flight, Parsons was a crucial innovator during rocketry's birth. But his visionary imagination also led him into the occult community thriving in 1930s Los Angeles, and when fantasy's pull became stronger

than reality, he lost both his work and his wife. Parsons was just emerging from his personal underworld when he died at age thirty-seven. In *Strange Angel*, Pendle recovers a fascinating life and explores the unruly consequences of genius.

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.*



**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.

**February 21: Ø Special guest speaker, Barry Johnson** gave a presentation about **Identity Theft**. After the presentation there was time for Q&A. (12 present)

**February 28: Ø REINCARNATION.** While not an original thought, the concept of reincarnation appears worth considering as a recurring subset of the great question of the postulated existence of the After-Life and a corollary—NDE (Near Depth Experience). (Topic: Sam Pratt, 16 present)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

# March 2010

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

	1	2 <b>BOOK CLUB, 7:30 PM</b>  Fellowgram Deadline	3	4	5 <b>Blue Notes, 7 pm</b>	6 <b>Chow Piano Recital, 5-7 pm</b>
7 <b>Katy Carpman, 11 am</b>	8	9 <b>School of Woods Cook- ing Class, 2-4 pm</b>	10	11 <b>School of Woods Cook- ing Class, 2-4 pm</b>	12 <b>Blue Notes, 7 pm</b>	13
14 <b>Ethical Eating, 11 am</b>  Daylight Savings time 	15	16 <b>Fellowgram Deadline</b>	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> 	18	19 <b>Blue Notes, 7 pm</b>	20
21 <b>Katy Haberman, 11 am</b>  Board Meeting	22	23	24	25	26 <b>Blue Notes, 7 pm</b>	27
28 <b>David Oxman, 11 am</b>  <b>Ch of God, 5- 10 pm</b>	29 <b>Passover begins at Sun- down</b>	30 <b>Ch of God, 9 am—4 pm</b>  Fellowgram Deadline	31			

## FOCUS GROUP

We meet each Sunday at 10:00 am in the Library. We are reading and discussing, chapter by chapter, The Greatest Show on Earth: the Evidence for Evolution by Richard Dawkins. Come give us a try--our discussions are lively and stimulating and inclusive.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

**Emilie Lemmel, Mar. 4th**

**Katy Carpman, Mar. 14th**

**Gordon Cave, Mar. 15th**

**Betty Oertel, Mar. 24th**

**Jill Haberman, Mar. 27th**

**Harold Rud, Mar. 29th**

**Dorenne, Mar. 29th**



*If we missed your BD, let Dorenne know...*

## JOYS & CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Joys and Concerns: 02/21** – Lit a single candle to commemorate all the milestones of the day.

**Joys and Concerns: 02/28** – **Peggy Tennyson** lit a candle for her brother and his family. **Harold Rud** lit a candle for the joy of introducing our scholarship candidate, Lauren Tebo and her friend. **Wayne Derrick** lit a candle for those in Chile and noted that he'd heard that his friends (including Bill Fricks) are safe.

## MONTHLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

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

**Every First Thursday: Ladies Luncheon, 1 pm (Sweet Tomatoes on I-10)**

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

**Every Second Wednesday: Medical Focus Group, 7:00 to 9:00 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 or David O.)**

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

**Every Saturday: Smart Recovery, 7-8 pm (Workroom)**

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

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

**Monday—Friday: Shining Star Waldorf School, 8:30-3:00 (RE Wing)**

## OUR PROGRAMS

### February 21<sup>st</sup> – *Taking On Our Values* – John Pepper

Something happened this past December that caused me to question my own values. I received a call from a friend in California who told me that she had lung cancer and has been undergoing treatment for almost a year. I was totally unaware. How had I allowed so much time to pass without checking in? What kind of friend am I anyway? Why can't I keep better tabs on the people who mean the most to me? If friendship is one of my values, you'd never know it through my actual relationship with her.

I am now striving to be a better friend to her because I believe our true values are the ones where our actions and our beliefs intersect and without that intersection, our beliefs are just empty words. It is that intersection that I want to explore a little deeper today and how it might relate to our Fellowship. Hopefully it will stir both your thoughts and your feelings in preparation for our workshop later today.

Is simply sending out the Fellowgram twice a month enough or do we need to be intentional and do more? The reality for me is even if we stay committed to this Fellowship, at some point due to age or infirmity we will not be able to be here. Will receiving a Fellowgram be enough for you or will you want a call every once in a while or possibly even a visit, or maybe a weekly tape of the worship service?

Similarly, as guests arrive what should we be doing to reach out to them to demonstrate the hospitality I know we all possess? If Friendship is one of our core beliefs, what actions do we intentionally take as a religious community to turn that belief into a tangible Value, one we can live by and proclaim? Michael Durall, author of the recent book *The Almost Church Revitalized* explores how congregations can become more vital, outwardly focused entities, and he believes our churches should reach out and intentionally become more public churches.

Durall goes on to challenge our 4<sup>th</sup> UU principle saying, "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning," is the quintessential private spirituality and may be detrimental to future growth." Is our quest for a free and responsible search for truth and meaning detrimental to our future? Do we want to be a more public church? The fact that we support The Turning Point and have a scholarship program point to some of our ongoing actions in the public arena, is that all we want to do? Is that all we actually do? Is that enough?

If we believe in justice for all, how do we put that Value into action beyond support of the UUA and the UUSC?

And, I believe in having fun, I believe in play, and I believe we must act on that belief, both for ourselves and for our youth. A belief in fun and play when put into action creates something I deeply value and this is Joy. A religious community must be joyful at times or it simply won't survive. Finally, if creating a joyful community is one of our core beliefs, what will we do intentionally to make that a reality for us and for our youth turning that belief into a value, one we can live by and joyfully proclaim? I love this community, I love all of you. Together, intentionally planning how we will bring more life to our core values is a task I believe in.

Together, working together, working in unison one with another, we can do so much more than any one of us can alone.

Working together in Fellowship is what this Fellowship is all about. In our denomination, that is one of the definitions and purposes of a Fellowship – defining and meeting our collective needs together and living our collective Values.

Intentionally, with a clear Vision, a meaningful Mission, and a defined Covenant, Taking On Our Values is something we can and must do together.

## FELLOWSHIP RUMMAGE SALE

APRIL 10, 2010— FROM 8 A.M.

UNTIL 2 P.M.

It's time to start spring cleaning now! Get rid of those handbags, shoes that you haven't worn or used since 1997! How about cleaning out your book-cases, kitchen cabinets and your garage? Furniture, camping gear, office, garden and patio furniture. Replacing any appliances? Bring in your old ones!! Got baby & children clothes that your kids have outgrown? Their toys no longer interest them? Bring 'em!! Wanting to get rid of Christmas decorations you've been using since 1967? Bring 'em!! Gym equipment collecting dust? Bring 'em!! **We are accepting items now through April 4th.**



If you need someone to pick up big items you are donating, please contact our *Garage Sale Queen* (I mean coordinator), Dorenne and she will make arrangements.

**We need volunteers!** Help price and setup items the week of April 5th. Help with watching, taking money and possibly load items for customers on April 10th. Help cleanup after the sale and put them aside for a charity group to pickup the following Monday. The SIGNUP SHEET is at the front desk. Remember, this year's garage sale will be a **huge fundraiser** for the Fellowship! Two years ago we made a little over \$3,000—with your help, we hope to double it this year!

If you want to price your items yourself but need a little help, we will have pricing guides available!

*Friday, April 9th, all members are invited for a 'sneak-presale' from 6—8 pm. We will be serving food and drinks (asking donation \$5 per plate). And while we're all shopping, The Blue Notes will treat us with their vibrant sounds. Come join us for some good food, fun and who knows, you might find something you can't live without! Any questions, please call Dorenne at the office, 713.686.5876*

## OUR PROGRAMS ... continued

### February 28<sup>th</sup> - Four Spiritualities. Katy Carpman

Katy Carpman asked how we fill our spiritual lamps – what do we need in a worship service to lift us up and keep our lights shining brightly? She pulpitteered a sermon by Anthony David, senior minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, examining the four spiritualities of Hinduism – the yogas of the Rational Mind, the Transcending Mind, Service, and Love. Each of these disciplines needs different things and it can cause conflict in churches when people feel their needs are not being met.

David Bumbaugh, UU Minister and seminary professor urges us to acknowledge the differences and be open to that variety of needs. He says, “If a worship service has touched you in at least one deep way, that is enough to have made it a success. Be positive and look for the one thing that will feed your soul; let all else pass. And know that the parts which are unimportant to you—perhaps even offensive to you—may very likely be feeding the souls of others.”

To read or listen to the whole sermon, go to <http://www.uuca.org/four-spiritualities>

## Where is the Magic?

When someone is in pain, I offer whatever support I can. I often say if there were some magic, I would gladly perform it to make it all better.

Wherever we are, every day people all around us feel pain and hurt for a variety of reasons. Some choose to hurt in silence, not letting others in to help ease the pain. With others, the pain is obvious for everyone to see but instead of reaching out, they lash out. Still others seem to enjoy their pain and don't know how, or don't want to move on, beyond the pain, possibly because they are familiar with it and are simply afraid to change. And there are still others who have no one to reach out to; they are alone, truly alone.

Each of us deals with life in our own unique ways and first and foremost we must respect each other and our right to be different. There is no one way to live, nor is there one way to hurt and to deal with that hurt. But there is something better than magic, and to be frank, I don't understand it or know how it works. But it does!

There is magic when one of us is present and available to another who is in pain or who is hurting. I don't know why our presence helps another, but it does. There is the knowledge that we are not alone in our pain and that someone cares, that someone is simply there for us, it all seems to make a magical difference. Possibly not right away, but over time the constant, assured presence, makes all the difference in the world. That presence, a simple touch, a kind word, an honest gesture, it all slowly and methodically wears down the mountain of grief and pain and hurt until the mountain is gone and we are left with something more bearable and endurable. And then life goes on as before.

That is what a religious community at its finest can do for itself. It creates a network of friends and loved ones to help each of us deal with our hurts and our pains in our own ways and in our own time, surrounded by people who simply care. And for those in our broader community, those who have no one, maybe we have what they need and maybe if we are lucky, we will find each other. With our doors held open, we are open to the possibility of helping one another. Metaphorically and physically, we simply need to open our doors and keep them open, our doors of compassion and love open to all who might need us or who we might need. The magic happens when someone steps through the door allowing genuine love and concern to work the magic of fellowship.

Where is the magic? We each possess it; we just need to share it.

John Pepper, UUA Intern Minister



## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER — ELIZABETH CHRISTIAN

Originally from Houston, Elizabeth returned in 2008 and found a place to live just a short walk from the Unitarian Fellowship. She became an enthusiastic member of the BYOT group and enjoys the way that the various subjects lead to spiritual explorations.

Previously she was a French teacher who saved her money to enter the three-year graduate program at Texas Women's University. Upon graduation, Elizabeth will practice as a physical therapist. (There is a great deal of demand for graduates of this program)

Elizabeth works part time as a massage therapist which helps meet school expenses.

**UU Quiz Answer: William Dean Howells** (March 1, 1837 — May 10, 1920) “was born in Martins Ferry, Ohio. Son of an itinerant printer, he had little formal education but was determined to become a writer and studied on his own. He spent four years as a political correspondent for the *Ohio State Journal* and published his first book of poetry and a book about Lincoln’s presidential campaign in 1860. Howells served as U.S. consul to Venice from 1861 to 1865 and published books on his experiences there. In 1866, he began his long affiliation with *The Atlantic Monthly*, becoming editor in chief in 1871 and bringing it to national status while writing several novels of his own. Howells left *The Atlantic Monthly* in 1881 and focused on using literary realism to critique Victorian society, as in the novel *The Rise of Silas Lapham* (1885). A Unitarian, he helped establish the National Association for the Advancement of colored People (1909).” (*This Day in Unitarian Universalist History*, Frank Schulman)



More on Howells can be found at:

<http://www.wsu.edu/~campbell/howells/index.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Dean\\_Howells](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Dean_Howells)

#### Other March birthdays:

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

03/08 U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Joseph Priestley

03/13 Theologian and scientist

#### Stop the Presses

RealFilms presents the Houston premiere of Stop the Presses; a documentary that examines the awful state of the newspaper industry and what its options for survival might look like. Filmmakers Manny Mendoza and Mark Birnbaum will be in attendance.

Stop the Presses - 80 minutes

Directors: Manny Mendoza and Mark Birnbaum

Date: Saturday, March 27th, 2010

Location: Houston Community College, Spring Branch Campus

Performing Arts Theatre

1010 W. Sam Houston Pkwy N. Houston, TX 77043

Tickets: \$10.00 online or \$10.00 cash/check at the door

Ticket price includes free refreshments: soft drinks, water, and popcorn

Mendoza/Birnbaum Reception: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Screening Time: 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Mendoza/Birnbaum Q&A: 9:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Synopsis: Stop the Presses takes viewers inside disheartened newsrooms to document the devastating slide of print journalism and into the community to learn what readers think of journalism's fate. The film combines footage from several papers like the New Orleans Times-Picayune, Miami Herald, Dallas Morning News, St. Petersburg Times, and the Philadelphia Inquirer, and diverse interviews from a great mix of commentators including Ben Bradley, Walter Cronkite, Dave Berry, and Ed Asner.

*Ellen Goodman*

*She takes current events and sees their universal truths.*  
-Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist  
**ELLEN GOODMAN**  
brings her trademark intellect, wit, and compassion to Houston.

8:00 p.m., Friday, March 12, 2010  
The Performance Centre @ The Ensemble Theatre  
3535 Main (entrance Fannin at Berry)

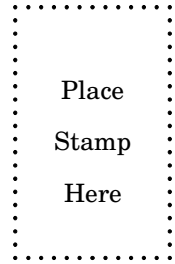
Sponsored by First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston

Tickets available on-line  
[www.firstuu.org](http://www.firstuu.org)

# UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF HOUSTON

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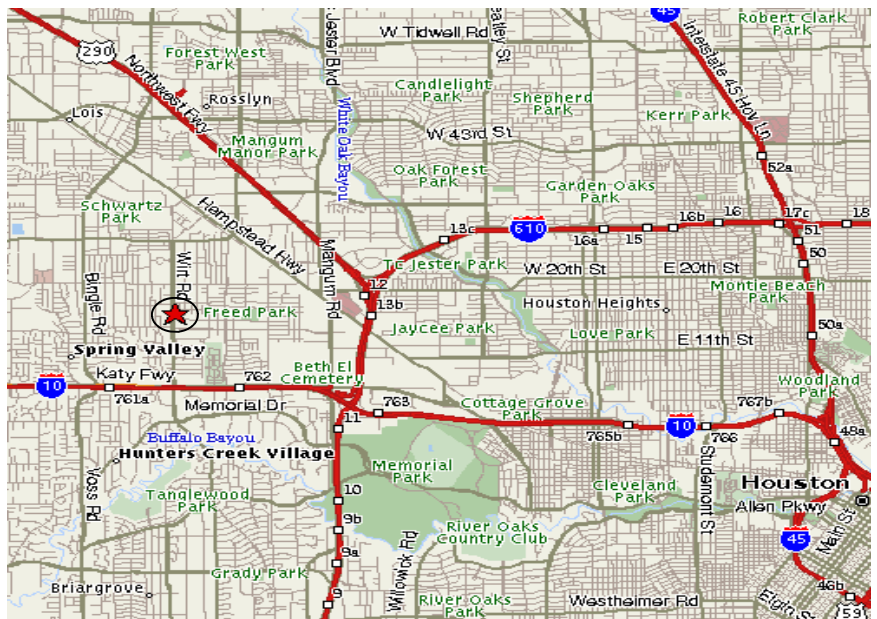


See us on our website  
[www.ufoh.org](http://www.ufoh.org)

**GO GREEN! SAVE A TREE!** *If you wish to receive the Fellowshipgram by email or do not want to receive it at all, please send us a message or call and let us know.*

## Unitarian Fellowship of Houston 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.