

FELLOWGRAM

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 6

MARCH 19, 2010



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SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 1— SEDER DINNER. 6 pm

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

Come celebrate Easter with us! Easter is the Christian high holiday. What can we, as UU's of Christian persuasion or otherwise, glean from this miraculous story of death and resurrection? Come search with psychotherapist and author Patti Henry for the Holy in this holiday, and learn how Easter just might change how you live your life.

APRIL 11 — *Universalism - Alive and Well in the 21st Century* – John Pepper, UUA Intern Minister

Hosea Ballou was one of the founding fathers of Universalism. As part of the UUA Ministerial requirements, I had to read two of Ballou's primary theological documents. I hope to distill those readings into something relevant for today and share with you places in our denomination where Ballou's beliefs are still finding traction. In addition we will also be celebrating Flower Communion. Please join us in these celebrations of our heritage.

APRIL 18 — *Removing Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide with Biofuels*. John Haberman

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



It used to be that learning to tie your shoe was a kindergarten project. Sure, some kids learned before school, but there was one-on-one time with the sweet kindergarten teacher for all those kiddos still trying to get a handle on manual dexterity and personal responsibility.

And then came Velcro. Suddenly, tying shoes was a headache easily removed from the busy lives of young families. And more and more kids got to put off learning to tie their own shoes. My own children were probably in the second grade when they learned how but then the next time we got shoes, they were Velcro and the kids fell out of practice.

For many of us, our spiritual practice has gone the way of tied shoes. Perhaps we were taught to pray when we were little, or picked up a bit of meditation in our twenties. But then we get busy and we make short cuts or stop our practice completely. We forget to fill our own lamps in a spiritual way--we may even claim that we don't know what it means to be spiritual. We may claim that we don't need to have such a practice.

Anthony David, senior minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta says—

We're not talking about a casual stroll along a garden path...for there are times when life, completely without warning, challenges us to run a sprint, or a marathon. On the spur of the moment, it can require us to lift 300 pounds of dead-weight. It can throw all sorts of stuff our way, and unless we are already actively developing our spiritual muscles, how can we expect to last or cope effectively? How are we gonna run our race, or lift that weight, if we aren't actively training for it right now?

Come to the Fellowship at 10 AM this (and every!) week for a refresher course in the tying of shoes. Sole-work, if you will. 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 7 PM, April 8th in the workroom.

In faith,

Katy Carpman

Director of Religious Education

ufhdre@comcast.net

UU Quiz

Henry Hampton said that this UU "changed the course of the world." Who is she?

Answer on page 7

Alice Neel

Saturday, March 20, 2010 Directed by Andrew Neel (U.S., 2007, 82 min.)

— **In person: Andrew Neel**

2:00 p.m. MFAH Brown Auditorium

Admission Price: Free Admission

Synopsis:

Portrait painter Alice Neel (1900-1984) reinvented the genre by expressing the inner landscape of her subjects, who included luminaries such as Andy Warhol, Bella Abzug, and Allen Ginsberg as well as her neighbors in Spanish Harlem. Made by her grandson, this documentary captures her struggles as a female artist, a single mother, and a painter who defied convention.



Andrew Neel founded SeeThink Films in 2001 after graduating from Columbia College with a BA in film studies. His first film, *Darkon*, won the audience award at the South by Southwest Film Festival and was acquired by IFCtv. His latest film, *New World Order* was produced by IFCtv and is currently on air.

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)

Much of the social reform that has made President Franklin D. Roosevelt so beloved—Social Security, fair labor practices, minimum wage—were actually ideas conceived and pushed by his labor secretary, Frances Perkins, the first female cabinet member and a woman constrained by the sexism of the era as well as her personal circumstances. Drawing on extensive archival research, Downey offers a riveting portrait of a determined social reformer who pushed a shrewd politician to make substantive changes in the American workplace.

May 4, 2010, “The Girl with the Dragon Tatoo” 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 Lisbeth 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 An-*

gel, 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.



So many books, so little time!

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.

March 7: Ø Should the Death Penalty be declared unconstitutional? Texas convictions vs death penalty. Discussions varied from Texas, Florida & Virginia to drug convictions. (*Topic: Jimmy Dunne, 12 present*)

March 14: Ø Education - U.S. falling behind.

General discussion on education on all levels: Federal State, Local school boards and individual teachers and schools. Should government take the lead and make the rules? (*Topic: Roger Ryman, 9 present*)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Happy Birthday to: G.G. Gunn - April 6th</p>				1 SEDER DINNER, 6 PM	2 GOOD FRIDAY Office Closed	3
4 Patti Henry, 11 am 	5 Ch of God, 9am -4 pm	6 Cooking Class (Sch), 2-4 pm BOOK CLUB, 7:30 PM	7	8 Cooking Class (Sch), 2-4 pm	9 Pre- Garage Sale for Members, 6-9 pm	10 Garage Sale, 8 am - 2 pm
11 John Pepper, 11 am HMTA, 1:30- 3 pm	12	13 Cooking Class (Sch), 2-4 pm	14	15 Cooking Class (Sch), 2-4 pm	16 BLUE NOTES, 7 PM	17
18 John Haber- man, 11 am	19	20 Cooking Class (Sch), 2-4 pm	21 	22 Cooking Class (Sch), 2-4 pm Earth Day	23 BLUE NOTES, 7 PM	24 Recital, 6:30 -9 pm
25 David Gaver, 11 am Recital, 3-4 pm	26	27 Cooking Class (Sch), 2-4 pm	28	29 Cooking Class (Sch), 2-4 pm	30 Nayef/ Michelle Wedding, 4- 10 pm	

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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joys and Concerns: 03/07 – Michelle Wambaugh hopes that everyone traveling to the Houston Photo Fest will be safe and that all participants and attendees have a wonderful and safe time. David Garver's 96-year-old mother-in-law fell recently and broke some ribs. She has dementia and is not adjusting well to this transition. David hopes that she her adjustment will smooth out which will bring much relief to her family. Katy Haberman reminded us that we can take safe water for granted but many in the world cannot. She is also concerned about her father and her brother since her brother's cancer has recurred. Larry Pinsonneault believes that we need to be able to laugh at ourselves and recounted how he and Gretchen arrived at 9 this morning mistakenly believing that Daylight Savings Time had started! Jimmy Dunne let us all know that Tim McGregor's mother passed away last week.

Joys and Concerns: 03/14 – Jan LaRocque lit a candle for her friend and fellow violinist, Carol. Despite being wheelchair bound from an accident, Carol was always cheerful, and she came to gigs prepared to play and always chewing gum! Elizabeth Christian is thankful for completing her hardest semester in her training to become a physical therapist. Elizabeth is also excited about expanding her massage therapy business which supports her schooling. Simone Donnelly lit a candle to celebrate the 99th birthday of her neighbor!

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

"I would like to thank the Women's Luncheon Club that met at Sweet Tomatoes on March 4th. That was my birthday date and they sang "Happy Birthday" and also gave nice cards." Emilie Lemmel

Congratulations to Gordon Cave who just celebrated his 80th birthday on the 15th of March!!

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 Wednesday of the month: 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 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

March 7th — *Is Sexuality Education Religious Education?* — **Katy Carpman, DRE**

Why should a church teach sexuality education? Well, our Unitarian forefather William Ellery Channing said that we are all made in the image of the divine, and that we must help all to reach their full potential, to know who they truly are. It is impossible for that to happen if people cannot know themselves as sexual beings, and make their way in the world with real intimacy and happiness.

Ours is a Welcoming Congregation, flying the rainbow flag proudly. We march in the Pride Parade, have members involved in PFLAG and Planned Parenthood and lobbying the legislatures on any number of sexual health and equality matters. As a denomination, we're on the forefront of such issues, with our Standing on the Side of Love campaign among others.

As opposed to the fear and shame based curricula available in our schools, Unitarian Universalists (along with the United Church of Christ) offer Our Whole Lives (OWL) - a comprehensive sexuality education course for a variety of ages, from preschoolers to aging adults. This program holds up healthy values matching our Unitarian Universalist principles - respect, a responsible search for truth, and so much more.

Unitarian Universalists save souls. Our congregations are places where people can bring their whole selves. We honor great diversity and provide a sacred space for the sharing of personal truths. And we do our best to prepare people for swimming before they get in the pool, and do what we can in the greater world to make that pool a safer and more welcoming place for all.

March 14th — *Ethical Eating - Feeding the Hungry* — **Rebeca Barvin**

This is the fourth in a series of Sunday Programs devoted to issues of food growth, healthy eating, food distribution and the moral aspects of each. The UUA has, as one of its Study/Action Issues our involvement, as members, in the alleviation of hunger within and without the U.S.A.

Rebeca Barvin, spokeswoman for the Houston Food Bank, revealed that local needs have increased 74% from 2006. The mission of the Food Bank is simply to lead the fight against hunger. Not all recipients of aid are homeless; 49% of families have one working adult, actually 94% are not homeless. Food is frequently given up in favor of paying rent and/or utility bills. The Food Bank distributes 46 million lbs of food annually. It does not deliver the food directly but through other agencies like companies, Meals on Wheels, Kroger barrels and feeds approximately 866,000 people each year.

Some of its divisions include:

- 1) Meals on Wheels (Food Bank prepares the food, others deliver)
- 2) Soup Kitchens, Shelters, and Nutrition Centers
- 3) Kids Café - healthy meals and snacks for kids distributed by YMCAs and Boys & Girls Clubs
- 4) Backpack Buddy Club - weekend food for poor children
- 5) Red Barrel program - collections are from 240 grocery stores
- 6) Food Preparation - a wonderful opportunity to volunteer where 25,000 meals are prepared monthly
- 7) Operation Frontline provides a 6-week course to help clients learn nutrition and budgeting
- 8) Second Chance - on the job training for prisoners to learn marketable skills after jail

We can help by providing funds, volunteering time or organizing a food drive. Let's put our values into action!

UU Quiz Answer: Dorothy Tilden Spoerl (March 29, 1906 — December 2, 1999) “was born in Brooklyn, New York. She was ordained a Universalist minister in 1929 and later received a D.D. degree from Meadville/Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Most famous as a religious educator, she represented the Universalists on the Curriculum Committee of the American Unitarian Association in the 1930’s and was co-author with Sophia Lyon Fahs of the popular *Beginnings of Life and Death* and *Beginnings of Earth and Sky* in 1938. In 1966 Spoerl became adult programs editor for the Unitarian Universalist Association.” (*This Day in Unitarian Universalist History*, Frank Schulman) In a tribute to her during his Fahs Lecture at the 1987 General Assembly, Henry Hampton said: "Thus far in her long and productive life of service, she has helped educate our children, build a denomination, save more than a few intellectual souls, and, without a doubt, she has changed the course of the world. . . . Dottie Spoerl is the best we have to offer. . . . Her life of service testifies to the tremendous difference one individual can make." (www.uua.org)



More on Spoerl can be found at:
<http://www25.uua.org/uuh/duub/articles/dorothytildenspoerl.html>
<http://www.hzmre.com/dotty/dotty.htm>
<http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/unitarians/spoerl.html>

Other March birthdays:

- Thomas Gold Appleton 03/31 Author and philanthropist
- John Albion Andrew 03/31 Transcendentalist and advocate for prison reform

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The Vision/Mission/Covenant Task Force wonders --

What do these words mean to you?

- Acceptance
- Caring (Compassion)
- Community
- Friends
- Fun (Joy)
- Independence
- Knowledge (Reason)
- Respectful Dialogue
- Tolerance
- Welcoming



Please give us brief definitions of each by April 11th. Feel free to use the provided flyers in the Fellowship lobby

FELLOWSHIP RUMMAGE SALE

APRIL 10, 2010— FROM 8 A.M. UNTIL 2 P.M.

Please start bringing in your items! If you have big items and need a truck, please call the Fellowship. We are storing things in the first classroom and in the Storage Building. I still need volunteers, so please be sure to sign up! The Sign-Up Sheet is on the front desk and also shows the scheduling for everything that needs to be done before the big day!

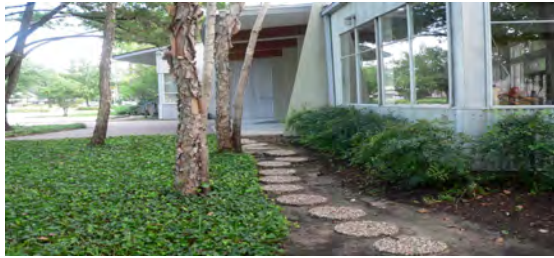
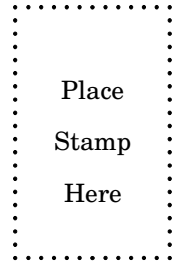
Friday, April 9th, all members are invited for a 'sneak-presale' from 6—8 pm. We will be serving food and drinks (asking donation \$5 per plate). And while we're all shopping, The Blue Notes will treat us with their vibrant sounds. Come join us for some good food, fun and who knows, you might find something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



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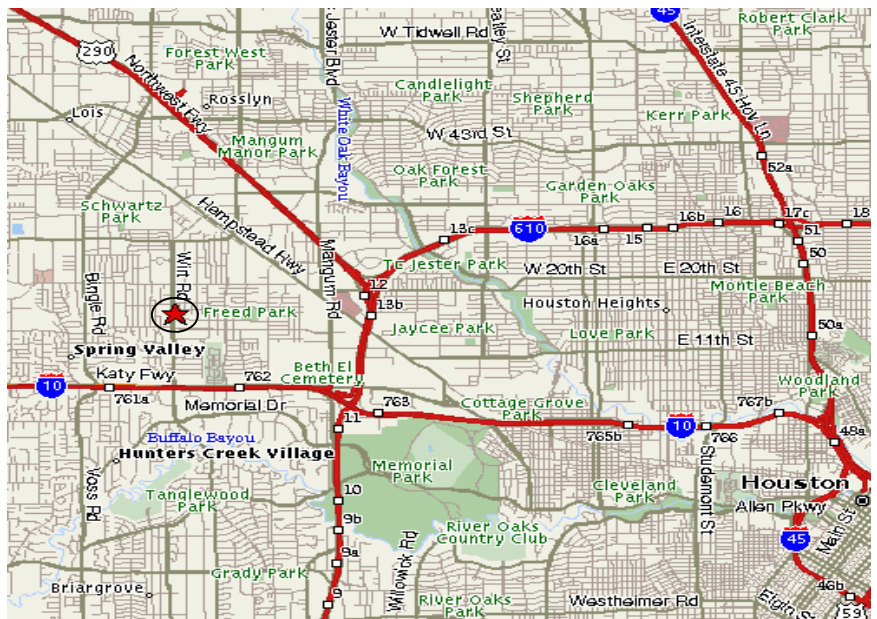


See us on our website
www.ufoh.org

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.