



FELLOWGRAM

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April 2, 2010

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

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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

The increase of atmospheric carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels is causing global concern about climate change. One of many areas of current research is to capture and sequester carbon dioxide from the combustion of coal in electric power plants. If this technology is applied to the combustion of biofuels, significant amounts of carbon dioxide might actually be removed from the atmosphere, accompanied by improved soil quality.

APRIL 25 — *Belief and Truth*. David Garver

Sometimes we believe things that are untrue. Sometimes we disbelieve things that are true. How do we get to that sweet spot where belief and truth overlap to become knowledge, and why is it important to understand and recognize the differences between what we believe and what we know?

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



The Fellowship kids made magic wands the other day and considered what magic they might cast if they could simply wave their wands to change the world for the better. Of course, we know that sometimes you just have to do the hard work, so we also talked about small steps each of us can make. One child said he wanted to start biking to school to reduce miles driven in the family car; another said he would make sure to turn off lights at home. Several were interested in breaking littering habits and picking up trash they find. I found it compelling that while we had talked about a wide variety of changes they could make, all of them decided on an environmental issue.

How timely, then, is the Unitarian Universalist Association's 40/40/40 Challenge! This program calls for congregations to mark the 40th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22nd) with 40 people pledging to make a 40-day "test drive" of some small (or large) change for the good of our planet. What change could you make in your life? Our seventh principle holds up the interconnected web of all existence and we like to think of ourselves as a green denomination, but how does *your* Unitarian Universalist faith inform your stewardship of the Earth? How can our Fellowship community elevate your concerns and support your progress? Who wants to have a celebration after the forty days and maybe commit to making it eighty?

Check out <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/160449.shtml> for more details and look for our sign-up sheet soon!

Come to the Fellowship at 10 AM this (and every!) week to stretch, to love, and to celebrate. To learn more about faith development opportunities, join our circle any Sunday, or speak with Bob Wiener or me! Our next committee meeting will be 7 PM, Thursday, April 8th in the workroom.

In faith,

Katy Carpman

Director of Religious Education

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UU QUIZ

This minister's election as the Hollis Professor of Divinity in 1805 is considered a first phase of the Unitarian controversy.

Answer on page 7

Spring UU Music Festival

Saturday, May 1 – 3:00 to 9:00 PM

Will take place rain or shine at the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston, 1504 Wirt Road

MUSIC & FIRE SPINNERS ~ BELLY DANCERS & FOOD ~ UU VENDORS, ARTS & CRAFTS

TIE DYE STUFF & HULA HOOP

FREE!!

FREE!!

Bring a picnic, blanket, cooler, lawn chairs, hand drums, Hula Hoops & Large Smile.

KID FRIENDLY!

Info: www.uuhouston.org

Quality UU Fun!!



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 Tattoo” by Stieg Larsson, Reg Keeland

Combine the chilly Swedish back-

drop and moody psychodrama of a Bergman movie with the grisly pyrotechnics of a serial-killer thriller, then add an angry punk heroine and a down-on-his-luck investigative journalist, and you have the ingredients of Stieg Larsson's first novel...It's Mr. Larsson's two protagonists—Carl Mikael Blomkvist, a reporter filling the role of detective, and his sidekick, Lisbeth Salander, a k a the girl with the dragon tattoo—who make this novel more than your run-of-the-mill mystery: they're both compelling, conflicted, complicated people, idiosyncratic in the extreme

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.

March 21: Ø The USA is the richest country in the world with the most advanced technology. Are we using these resources to build a better future for both people and enterprises? The discussions varied. However, the majority agreed on cutting military expenditures. (*Topic: Felipe Mendoza, 13 present*)


March 28: Ø New Health Care Laws. There was vigorous discussion of the benefits and also of negative aspects of these laws. For the first time, health insurance companies will be subject to limits, and for the first time, millions of people can get health care when it is needed, instead of waiting for a life-threatening emergency. (*Topic: Wayne Derrick, 13 present*)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

April 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

HMTA MUSICALE: Sunday, April 11, 1-3 pm Two Recitals: Sunday, April 25, 1- 6 pm				1 Seder Dinner, 6 pm	2	3
4 Patti Henry, 11 am	5	6 Cookn Cls, 2-4 pm Book Club, 7:30 pm	7	8 Cookn Cls, 2-4 pm	9 Pre- Sale, 6-9 pm	10 Rummage Sale, 8-2 pm
11 John Pepper, 11 am	12	13 Cookn Cls, 2-4 pm	14 Medical Focus Grp, 7-9 pm	15 Cookn Cls, 2-4 pm	16	17 Grounds Workday, 9am-noon
18 John Haberman, 11 am	19	20 Cookn Cls, 2-4 pm	21	22 Cookn Cls, 2-4 pm	23	24
25 David Garver, 11 am	26	27 Cookn Cls, 2-4 pm	28 SBDC, 6:30 pm	29 Cookn Cls, 2-4 pm	30 M & N Wedding, 4-10 pm	<i>Monthly schedules on page 5.</i>

Happy Easter! 

FOCUS GROUP

We meet each Sunday at 10:00am in the Library. We are reading and discussing, chapter by chapter, The Thirteen American Arguments: Enduring Debates that Define and Inspire Our Country by Howard Fineman. Come give us a try--our discussions are lively and stimulating and inclusive.

JOYS AND CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 21st - Katy Carpman celebrated the birth of her niece this week. Magdiel Martinez is concerned for his friend, who is a campus pastor at UH. She lost her husband last year and found out that her brother passed away last week. Another friend lost his home in a fire. Some pets perished in the fire and his mother was burned and still in the hospital. Gordon Cave paid a tribute to a wild Texan, Craig Dickson, who recently passed away. Dickson was a true Urban Cowboy, and, although quite conservative, was very generous and helpful. Sue Needle is very proud of her children. Noah made a beautiful picture of a bird and then wrote a little story about it, and Hannah, who is not yet in kindergarten, sounded out cat and then wrote it out. Bill Fricks thanked everyone for their concern about Chile. His wife, Amparo, will remain there through May. It was a tremendous quake but all in their family are ok. Some of their friends were not so lucky – a close friend died – and it's hard to imagine, but it is estimated that 15% of their GDP was lost in the destruction. Bob Wiener reported that his wife, Janet, is back from her trip to Singapore and Thailand and they enjoyed a visit from older son, Jun Ren, who has returned to college. Katy Haberman is glad to be feeling better and looks forward to celebrating birthdays with Jill and Frances next week.

March 28th - John Haberman is celebrating the approval of a patent application that he had submitted. Harold Rud has a joy trifecta this morning: His sister, Sue is visiting from Wisconsin and joins us this morning; his significant other, Yvette Miles, also is here today, and tomorrow he will celebrate his 58th birthday!

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 21— *The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring!* – Katy Haberman

An untimely computer crash obliterated Katy's original talk about inequities and inequalities in our world and our times. Her fond memories of her mother reading various verses from *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam* (as translated by Edward FitzGerald) inspired Katy to go in a completely different direction and pass on some words of wisdom to us – her own set of beatitudes as it were.

Blessed are those who use their little time wisely, in love and in making peace.

Blessed are they who give back more than they take and understand their place in the interdependent web of life.

Blessed are those who bless others and see the sacred in Everyone, who wait not for answers but invent them.

Blessed are those who expect nothing but their own deeds to save them, who keep not themselves, who rock each other in their loving arms.

Blessed are they who link arms passionately in the cold, may they come home compassionate to themselves.

We can surrender to the joy of life and appreciate the message of spring – a new chance to live and love – to plumb the joy and the beauty around us and to celebrate our lives!

March 28— *The World Is Changing. Where are You?* – David Oxman

The mystery of life has always intrigued David. He believes that a baby really has two hearts; one that pumps blood and the other being our Soul or our connection to our all creating source. Whether you call this source God, Spirit, Tao, it is through pure love that we are all one.

As we grow we are nurtured by our parents and family and take on their customs, beliefs, habits, food.

In this country we have a long history of freedom of thought and expression, of inventiveness and knowledge. Yet this is changing. Our educational system is in trouble and other countries are challenging us. Many of us can remember a simpler world moving beyond the depression era. Yet after World War II technology started to explode, we all started to collect stuff and ambition became a driving force to get bigger homes, fancier cars, and all the other goodies that became available.

Small family owned businesses gave way to supermarkets and big box stores and computers changed everything. Ambition became greed and incivility is now almost the norm. Spirituality has taken a back seat and many live far beyond their means in a fantasy world of fun and that is all too frequently fueled by alcohol and/or drugs.

We do not care for our world and many victims of disasters are still waiting for relief. We have 500,000 children who are adoptable and yet have no homes and poor people who are in dire need of assistance.

We need to replace our stuff with meaning. Our UU faith calls us to practice kindness and selflessness, to have reverence for all life, to have sincerity – to speak honestly yet in consideration of others, and to be content with what we have. Mother Teresa once said that “Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning. Love must be put into action, and that action is service.” So you must trust in yourself, trust in others and trust in the source of being. We need to remember the story of the Bushmen in the Kalahari Desert about the two hungers: “There is the Great Hunger and there is the Little Hunger. The Little Hunger wants food for the belly. But the Great Hunger, the greatest Hunger of all, is the Hunger for meaning.”

Happy Spring!

I love the following prayer. I'm sure you know it.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.

Reinhold Niebuhr

It is not only a beautiful prayer, it also provides profound wisdom. I don't know about you, but I constantly strive to change and improve some of my own personal traits. Sometimes I'm successful, sometimes I'm not. And sometimes I slip back into old habits I truly wish I could get rid of.

But there are other traits I have that I have no real desire to change. I could probably function better, but then I wouldn't be me. These are things I simply won't change, so don't bother asking.

With regard to all of these traits, the ones I want to change and the ones I don't want to change, they all affect the quality of my ministry, which I'm diligently striving to grow and improve. First, the things I'm working on.

Humor – Sometimes my humor gets away from me and I say something trying to be funny and clever and it is neither funny nor clever. If my humor gets away from me from time-to-time, please forgive me. I'm working on it.

Memory (or lack thereof) – I wish I had a photographic memory, but I don't. If I did you wouldn't know me because I would have stayed in pre-med and today I'd be Dr. Pepper. This poor memory that I'm afflicted by affects me in a couple of ways. First, I'm terrible with names. I generally remember faces and personal characteristics (like the fact that you are a swimmer) but your actual name may elude me for quite some time. Please wear your name tags and please pardon me if I don't immediately address you by name. I'm working on it. The second way my poor memory affects me is with my inability to memorize my sermons and talk to you directly without reading them and from my heart. Often people mention to me how much better I'd be if I didn't read my sermons. In the not too distant future, I plan to try a sermon based on talking points or bullets. I give speeches and presentations at work all the time like this and they go really well. So when I am comfortable with the subject I plan to try it on you. It will take me a while to muster the courage to do this, but I feel it is something I should try.

Procrastination – The final trait I'm working on is the fact that I am really good at procrastination. I am really good at putting things off till later. I circumvent this trait by keeping lists of things I must do and deadlines to do them by. If you have any creative suggestions for dealing with procrastination, I'd love to hear them.

Now for some traits I will not attempt to change.

Trust – I am hopelessly trusting. When someone says something, I typically always believe them, unless it is totally counter to known facts (If you tell me the Earth is flat, I won't believe you). Consequently, I never assume someone has a hidden agenda. This trait has often come back to bite me, especially at work where people often have ulterior motives and hidden agendas and thus they are less than totally honest in their dealings. With regard to trust, I simply refuse not to be trusting. I'd rather be trusting and hurt once in a while, than not trusting and cynical all the time. One final comment on my being trusting, just because I'm trusting does not mean I'm naïve.

Emotions – The final trait I won't change relates to my emotions. I am emotional and I won't try to deny that aspect of my being. Yes, I get a little weepy at sappy movies. But more importantly, I often tear up when someone is in emotional pain or when the subject is particularly moving or touching. This obviously presents problems in worship services. Some people tell me I'm just supposed to control my emotions. That's easy to say and hard to achieve. But more importantly, my emotions are part of my very being, they are part of who I am. To deny them or attempt to control them so that they are "acceptable" is simply not right; at least it's not right for me. My emotions actually enhance my abilities to both empathize and to care and as an aspiring minister, those are two traits I want to enhance and not

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

limit. So please bear with me if I get too emotional. I am an emotional being.

In the meantime, I believe we should all accept and sometimes actually embrace the things we cannot change. We should look for courage and strength to change and modify the things we need to work on and in fact change. And most importantly, we need the wisdom and support of others to know the difference.

Namaste!

John Pepper, UUA Intern Minister

FELLOWSHIP RUMMAGE SALE

APRIL 10, 2010— 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

There are only a few more days we will be accepting items, so please hurry and get them in. You may also start bringing in clothes. If you have hangers you don't mind parting with, please use them so we can hang the clothes up on racks. Pants and shorts we can keep folded. *Please remember to ask your grandchildren if they have any games, toys and/or clothes they no longer use or wear. These kind of items, along with furniture & small appliances, really sell at garage sales.* If you have sacks, grocery bags, small boxes - we can use them as well.

Sunday, April 4th: We will be pulling things out of the storage building and placing them in the workroom & Nursery. We will also need some trucks to be available that afternoon so we can pick up some big items from some of our members. Please let Dorenne know if you & your truck will be able to help out!

Tues., April 6 thru Fri., April 9th: Spreading things out on tables and in the foyer area and pricing them. (Anyone and everyone is welcome to come and help!)

Friday Night: from 6-9 pm is the **Pre-Sale for Members.** Food and entertainment (the Blue Notes) will take place.

~~ **THE BIG DAY** ~~

Saturday, April 10th: Public Rummage Sale, 8 am - 2 pm (Please consider volunteering, we still need more people!)



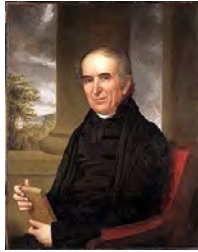
If anyone has pavilions we can use that day, this will be appreciated. (There may be a few scattered showers that day) For volunteers the day of sale - we will have pastries, juice & coffee in the morning and something for lunch.

To volunteer today, call the office and let Dorenne know!

UU Quiz Answer: Henry Ware Sr.

(April 1, 1764 — June 12, 1845)

“was born in Sherborn, Massachusetts. He was minister of First Parish (Old Ship Church) in Hingham, Massachusetts, when Harvard University elected him as Hollis Professor of Divinity. That began the great separation from the Calvinists – and the opening of the Unitarian controversy, which split the Massachusetts Standing Order... Ware took a leading role in training ministers at Harvard University and then at the Harvard Divinity School when it was founded in 1816. From 1829 to 1839, his son, Henry Ware Jr., was his colleague there...” (This Day in Unitarian Universalist History, Frank Schulman)



More on Ware can be found at:

<http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/HVDpresidents/ware.php>

http://webuus.com/timeline/Henry_Ware.html

Other April birthdays:

Hans Christian Andersen	04/02 Universalist and storyteller
Dorothea Lynde Dix	04/04 Unitarian and social reformer

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!

UPCOMING UU EVENTS

SWUUC Spring Conference and Annual Meeting, April 23-25

Theme: *Take a Fresh Look at Your Congregation*

Community Unitarian Universalist Church, Plano, TX

District Faith Development Training – June 3-6

Tracks: *Our UU Faith* (theology, history, identity), *Curriculum*

Development Renaissance

Module, Middle & High School OWL training, Adult/Young Adult

OWL training



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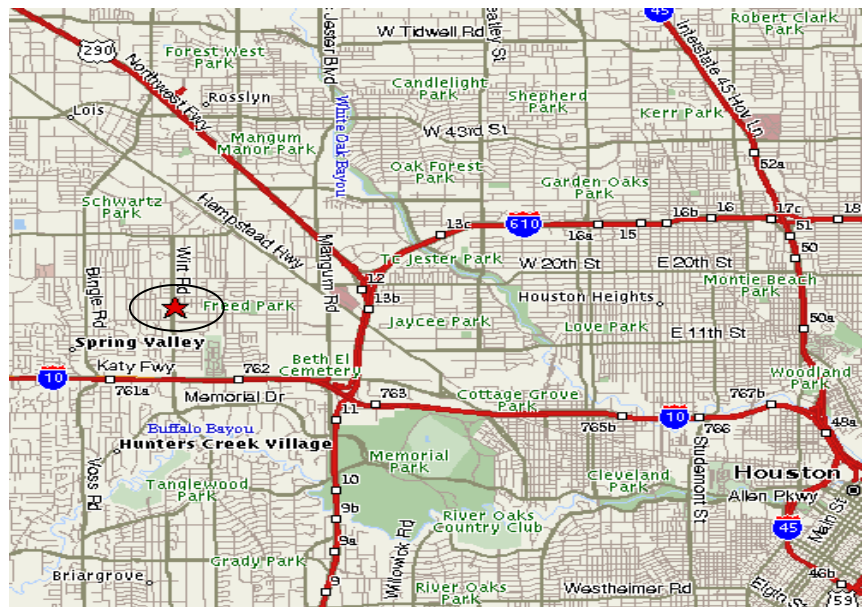


See us on our
Website!
www.ufoh.org

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.