

Fellowgram

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF HOUSTON

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

July 2, 2010

JULY 11 — Faith in UUism. Eric Huckabay

JULY 18 — Religious Genealogy and The Abrahamic Faiths – The three great monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, all have the same founding father, Abraham. Please join me as I review what unites these religions as opposed to what divides them. **John Pepper**

JULY 25 — Reducing Violence in Our World. Jimmy Dunne

The talk will range from raising children without spanking to abolishing nuclear weapons and settling conflicts between nations at the United Nations without war and whether you are safer with or without guns in the home. Your feedback is an important part of this two-way discussion.

AUGUST 1 — The Linguistic Turn and Where it Has Taken Us: Moments in the History of 20th Century Philosophy. Jim Garson

AUGUST 8 — Forever Forgiving - John Pepper

Forgiveness is a primary theme for most religions and the season seems to begin with August and September. In honor of International Forgiveness Day on August 1st, we'll reflect on some of the religious traditions surrounding forgiveness and the inherent power within the act of forgiveness.

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 5.*

Volume 52, Issue 13

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Faith Development



Wow. This year was my first to attend GA (General Assembly) and I took it for all it was worth. Workshops on multicultural community, missional church, adaptive leadership, spiritual deepening, sexually healthy and responsible congregations. Lectures from UU theologian and president of Starr King School of Ministry Rebecca Parker and Parenting Beyond Belief author Dale McGowan. And worship with thousands of other Unitarian Universalists from around the United States and around the world! (And all that after three days of meetings with my professional organization of religious educators LREDA.)

During mini-assemblies and the plenary sessions, delegates from our congregations processed some really tough business - what do we give our official witness to? How should we best be in the world? GA 2012 had already been scheduled for Phoenix ~ in light of Arizona's immigration law, could we still go in good conscience? Or should we exert the economic pressure of a boycott? What about the safety of our members who might be harassed under the law if they head to the meeting? What about all the people of color already in Arizona? How do we balance safety and conscience, denominational concerns and the world we live in? After much thoughtful and sacred work, the assembled people of faith voted that YES, we would go to Phoenix, but it would be a new kind of meeting ~ more educating ourself and advocating for justice, less "business as usual" ~ it was an awesome holy moment, pulling together all we hold dear and using our democratic process and best ideals for how we should treat all people.

I'll be letting you know more about new ideas and initiatives- I must have sixty pages of hastily typed notes on this computer~but first I'm going fishing! My kids checked in last night to let me know that they'd caught the legal limit, then helped clean and fry the fish for a feast with the generations.

I miss those sweet guys and I miss y'all too! (I miss the weather not at all.) I hope you're finding plenty of times to practice your highest values and share your love, to advocate and to educate yourselves. If you're a little stuck - hey, try something new next Sunday morning. I know for a fact that Joan Golding will be having a Fourth of July Tea Party with the children on July 4th (and there will be ice cream and hot dogs after the service, I think!) and on July 11th Dan Kirkpatrick will be leading the adventure at 10am!

In love and in faith,

Katy Carpman

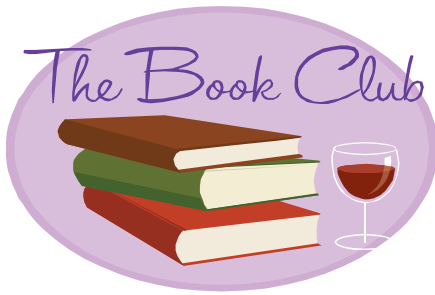
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UU QUIZ

What Unitarian wrote *Mosses from an Old Manse*??

Answer on page 6.



Here are our upcoming books:

July 6, 2010, "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery.

August 3, 2010, "A Reliable Wife" by Robert Goolrick

He placed a notice in a Chicago paper, an advertisement for "a reliable wife." She responded, saying that she was "a simple, honest woman." She was, of course, anything but honest, and the only simple thing about her was her single-minded determination to marry this man and then kill him, slowly and carefully, leaving her a wealthy widow, able to take care of the one she truly loved. What Catherine Land did not realize was that the enigmatic and lonely Ralph Truitt had a plan of his own. And what neither anticipated was that they would fall so completely in love.

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 20th: Ø Topic discussing the Rolling Stone magazine article about General McChrystal

September 7, 2010, "Reading the OED: One Man, One Year, 21,730 Pages" by Ammon Shea

NOTE: This book was chosen in honor of the Book Club's 10th anniversary. Our first book, "The Professor and the Madman" by Simon Winchester, was about the creation of the OED.

Shea's engouement ("irrational fondness") for dictionaries led him to spend a year reading through all 20 volumes of the Oxford English Dictionary, and he describes this account as "the thinking man's Cliff Notes to the greatest dictionary in the world." For each letter of the alphabet he provides a handful of his favorite words and his own

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.

titled "The Runaway General." He was fired by Pres. Obama for the disrespectful comments made by the general and his team about the civilian White House leadership and replaced by General Petraeus. We discussed our 9-year war in Afghanistan and what we should do now. Eight out of

humorous glosses, along with musings on the history of the OED, dictionaries in general, and his reading life. (He does most of his OED reading at the Hunter College Library and finds himself turning into one of those "Library People" as the year goes by.) He shares a number of words that, though they have fallen out of the common vocabulary, could be put to excellent use today: empleomania: "a manic compulsion to hold public office"; zavernism: "a misuse of military authority." The book will happily ("make happy") word and dictionary lovers, who will be able to read it in an hour or two, much less time than it takes to read the OED.

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

ten attending, voted to get out of Afghanistan now. (*Presented by Karen Dunne, 10 attending*)

June 27th: Ø The Oil Spill. Lively discussion about the oil spill/BP. (*Topic by George Hackett, 9 attending*)

All are welcome.

JULY 2010

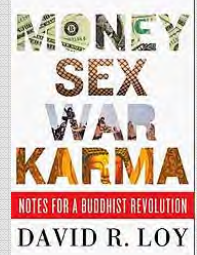


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 Orson Cook, 11 am— <i>Hot Dogs & Ice Cream after service</i>	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 Book Club, 7:30 pm 	7	8	9 Blue Notes, 7 pm Office Closed	10
11 Eric Hucka- bay, 11 am 	12	13	14	15 Rose Philpot, BD 	16 Blue Notes, 7 pm Office Closed	17
18 John Pepper, 11 am	19 Shadyvilla HOA Meeting, 7-9 pm	20	21	22	23 Blue Notes, 7 pm Office Closed	24
25 Jimmy Dunne, 11 am	26 Lisa Gilchrist, BD 	27	28	29	30 Blue Notes, 7 pm Office Closed	31 Winona Stew- art, BD 
Monthly Schedules on page 5. →						

FOCUS GROUP

We meet each Sunday at 10:00am in the Library. We are starting a new book by David Loy, Money, Sex, War and Karma, reading and discussing a chapter each week.

Come give us a try--our discussions are lively and stimulating and inclusive.



JOYS AND CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

06/20 — Simone Donnelley lit candles for Jonathan Needle and her boyfriend – this is the first Father’s Day for both without their fathers. Jan LaRocque’s father was always good for one free answer. After that she and her siblings had to look things up on their own. Jimmy Dunne remembered the times he and his dad had one on one time at sporting events. Jonathan Needle lit a candle in honor of his mother who passed away yesterday. Rory Jagdeo found himself mentioned in the Guyanese newspaper –two of his songs are featured in a recent movie. Harold Rud honored his good Norwegian father who took the time to listen.

06/27 — Sam Philpot glad that his wife Lynn's health is improving and she is feeling better now that she stopped taking pain killer medications. David Garver lit a candle for his friend, Lynn who was having rotator cup surgery. Jimmy Dunne lit a candle in celebration of he & Karen’s 2nd wedding anniversary. They were married at the Fellowship on June 28 two years ago with Gary Yokie officiating. Jimmy invited everyone to join their celebration with a piece of cake after the service. Emilie Lemmel was happy to have her daughter Claire and granddaughter, Renee visiting this week from San Francisco.

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 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, John Pepper 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)

PROGRAMS

June 20th – *Father's Day and Family Traditions* – David Oxman

During the time that David was a child, we were experiencing a depression that was beyond anything we can imagine today. Unemployment, lack of veteran's benefits, the dust bowl all were devastating. Life was also simpler. Few had cars, and children played outside on bicycles, scooters roller skates. Girls played with dolls, boys with trucks. Children dressed appropriately for school and were respectful. Many rural areas did not have electricity. Families ate together, played together, and went to church together.

Many of the unemployed took to the trains to look for work. 8,000 women and 200,000 children joined thousands of men in becoming migratory workers. FDR started the Civilian Conservation Corps which developed work camps to help alleviate the pervasive unemployment. The Works Progress Administration also undertook major public works projects that provided employment for 8 and a half million people during this troubled time. Only one person per family could be involved in this and those people worked a maximum of 30 hours per week

After World War II thousands of servicemen took advantage of the GI Bill to improve their opportunities. The 5-day, 40-hour work week became standard, and more and more women completed high school and went to college to gradually become a major part of the work force. Soon, television brought the outside world into our living rooms and computers put that world at our fingertips. Today, men are under more stress than ever before. They work, but must assume more household responsibilities in a society that is constantly on the go. Families break down under these pressures and one of the major causes is the lack of spirituality in their lives. Divorce is ever on the rise, families are spread out across the country and the world, and religious practice has declined.

I can look back now and realize some basic lessons I learned from my father: to be honest, to work hard to support your family, and to love family and family reunions. And, I wonder, what will my children have learned from me? For, life is not the way it is supposed to be, it is the way it is. The way we cope with it is what makes the difference. We can but do our best.

Continued on page 7



UU Quiz Answer: Nathaniel Hawthorne. (July 4, 1804 – May 19, 1864) “was born in Salem, Massachusetts. He was an enormously influential early American writer. His works include *Twice Told Tales* (1837), *The Scarlet Letter* (1850), *House of the Seven Gables* (1851), and *Mosses from an Old Manse* (1854). Hawthorne’s Puritan heritage haunted much of his work, but part of his dour outlook might be traced to his mother’s almost complete self-seclusion after she was widowed in 1808. Hawthorne married Sophia Peabody, sister of Elizabeth (see May 16, 1804) and belonged to Transcendentalist circles. Hawthorne adored his family, but they were very poor. He worked at a variety of government jobs and served as American consul at Liverpool, England. He lived variously at Brook Farm, the Old Manse, and the Wayside in Concord,, Massachusetts...” (*This Day in Unitarian Universalist History*, Frank Schulman). More de Hawthorne can be found at:

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

<http://www.ibiblio.org/eldritch/nh/hawthorne.html>

<http://www.artsci.uc.edu/english/hawthornesociety/nh.html>

Other July birthdays:

Charlotte Perkins Stetson Gilman	07/03 Social reformer and suffragist
Dana McLean Greeley	07/05 Minister & President of AUA (1958-1961) President of UUA (1961-1969)
Eldbridge Gerry Brooks	07/09 Christian Universalist

Courter: 'The work is just beginning'

By Sonja L. Cohen (excerpt from *uuu.org* website)

June 27, 2010 at 9:41 pm

UUA Moderator Gini Courter, in her annual report Sunday evening, reflected on how what could have been a painful debate on boycotting Arizona turned into a commitment that almost everyone can enthusiastically support. Proudly sporting a Standing on the Side of Love T-shirt, Courter started her report by reading an excerpt from the book *The Arc of the Universe Is Long: Unitarian Universalists, Anti-Racism and the Journey from Calgary* by Leslie Takahashi Morris, James Roush, and Leon Spencer. The passage described the Association's historical race relations, starting with the murder of Unitarian minister the Rev. James Reeb in Selma, Ala., and ending with the Black Empowerment Controversy.

Courter explained that her decision to begin today's report with the reading was because she'd heard from some people that they wished they'd had more time for debate during Saturday's plenary and less time for conversation before the debate. Saturday's plenary session, which included debate and a vote on the proposed Arizona GA boycott, also included a lot of talk and worship elements about immigration issues before the debate and vote started. Later in her report, Courter talked about the power of marching in witness in Arizona to the sounds of people chanting "*Si, se puede*"—Spanish for "Yes, we can!" She acknowledged the concerns people have about the decision to go to Arizona for GA in 2012, including: fears of people in our communities of color who, given our history, may worry whether we will stick by the commitment we've made to them; concerns that people will be scared off by the changes and commitment of the witness-heavy event; and fears that people had voted for a GA they aren't willing to attend. She acknowledged that "this may not be a GA of great creature comfort" and that it will be hard for some people to come and work outside.

"How many will help us make General Assembly 2012 one of the biggest General Assemblies in our history?" she asked the audience. Raised hands and loud chants of "*Si, se puede!*" filled the hall in response. Near the end of her report, Courter also dealt with another of this week's sensitive issues. During Wednesday's opening celebration, in a ceremony that many found moving but which inadvertently offended some attendees, people of a variety of ages, but all apparently white, able-bodied, and either male or female, introduced themselves and said "I am the UUA."

Concluding her report, Courter said, "Friends, the work is just beginning on our part. It's just beginning. Please, you must take home a sense of urgency to your own congregation; you have to take the spirit that we have here there and help work on how we will stand together on the side of love in opposition to systemic racism and oppression."

Read the full report (and more about GA) on the UUA website, www.uua.org

Continued from page 6

June 27th – A Musical Experience – Mark Zeus

Reflecting the human condition has always been an underscore to Mark's lyrics. He recognizes emotion and individual differences as contributing to the scope of human interaction, and to resulting actions and circumstances. As frivolous, or intense, a lyric may seem, there is always a residual message that moves listeners to think about themselves and their relationship to the world and people around them.

Mark was born and raised and spent most of his formative years in the Chicago area. Seeking to both approach another region in which to present his music and to get out of the snowy Midwest winter, Mark took off for Texas in mid Jan. '95. He chose Texas for many reasons. Most importantly, he saw it as a place which embraces the grass-roots sensibility of the songwriter and storyteller, and he also had friends through music and neighborhood who had relocated, or returned, there. He drove his old Chevy Impala down the interstates, and eventually settled in Houston. Marc has won a number of songwriting awards and continues to teach and to support and promote Texas musicians. His *Musical Experience* was both rousing and touching. Go to Marc's website to find out more about him and the lessons he offers:

<http://www.markzeus.com/index.htm>

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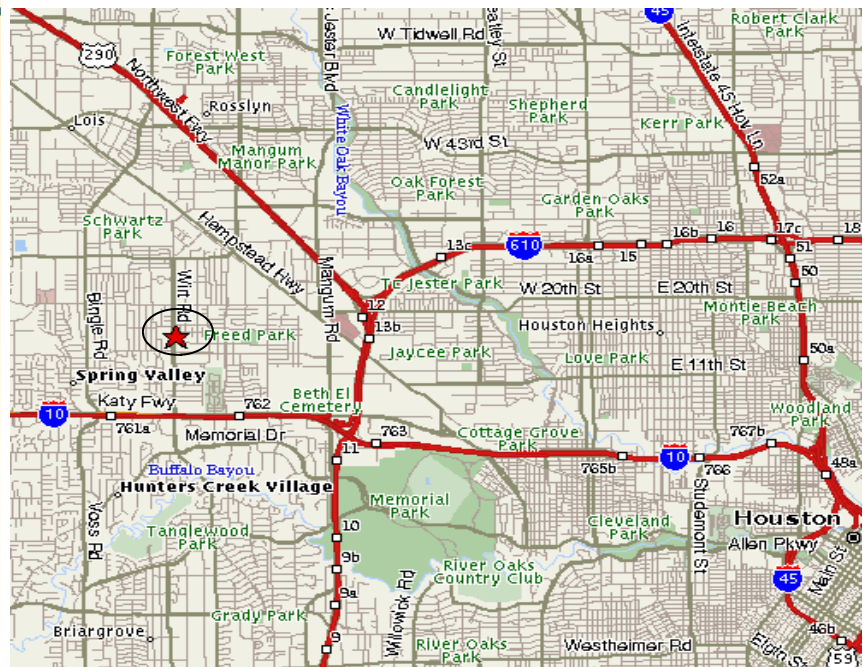
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Unitarian Fellowship of Houston

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.