



FELLOWGRAM

Inside this issue:	
RE Column	2
Book Club	3
Adult Forum	3
Calendar	4
Membership News	5
Monthly Events	5
Past Programs	6

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday Programs

SEPTEMBER 5 — Labor Day, UU Style. On Monday, September 6th, most of us celebrate Labor Day with a lazy morning and a cookout in the afternoon. Join us on Sunday for a Unitarian Universalist perspective on this holiday. **Gary Yokie & David Oxman**

SEPTEMBER 12 — Hymn Sandwich, with Water. David Garver

This week we will have our annual Ingathering Water Ceremony, where we welcome back all who have traveled over the past year with our ritual merging of water from many destinations. This beloved annual service is an example of how ceremony and ritual are important to any fellowship, and is an opportunity to examine how our order of service and other traditions have evolved over time.

SEPTEMBER 19 — Stewards of the Earth and More! – Rev. John Pepper

As UUs we often promote stewardship of the Earth but stewardship is necessary for much, much, more in our lives. Please join me as I broach this subject and this aspect of our lives that we need to be fully conscious of as we go about the ongoing process of building and creating our spiritual home at the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston.

SEPTEMBER 26 — If These Sanctuary Walls Could Speak. Christina Branum-

Martin These sanctuary walls have been witness to all of our inevitable imperfections and our collective search for a practice of forgiveness. Recent scientific research suggests that forgiveness isn't a rare transcendent quality or a cure for revenge: we are more instinctively equipped for forgiveness than we've given ourselves credit for. Knowing this, we can work to calm the revenge instinct in ourselves and others and embolden the forgiveness intuition. In community, this becomes our covenant.

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.*

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Faith Development

On Sunday, August 22nd we had a great worship service, sharing memories of our first days of school, our favorite teachers, and our current paths and future dreams as learners.

Our task moving forward is to live up to our hopes as a community of learners – toward this we had Miracle Sunday – an opportunity for everyone to make a small commitment to the religious education program in one of the following positions –

- o Teaching a 1-2 week block of Faithful Journeys (see themes on back)
- o Coordinating a Special Event (see listing on back)
- o Supervising playground/game time (11:30-noon) twice this year
- o Working with middle and high school youth
- o Helping in the nursery (when there are babies!)
- o Joining the RE Committee
- o Being trained to facilitate an Adult OWL course (September 23-25)
- o Making sure my children are registered for RE!

Share my stories about the Fellowship and my experience as a UU

What was that? You're so sad to have missed such a powerful service? You were really looking forward to making this commitment and just can't stand the idea of waiting another whole year to have a chance? Well, never fear! We have more pledge cards! We're more than happy to talk with you about hopes and dreams and we even have extra bubbles! And if you accidentally took your pledge card home, or needed to consult with your calendar? We're definitely still taking them!

And do you want to know what everyone in the congregation still wants to learn? We're assembling all those blue sticky-notes into a visual presentation available near the fireplace this Sunday – stop by and check it out. What interests do you share? What knowledge could you pass on? What might make a good auction offering?

Two more weeks of summer programming -- we'll start our "school year" on September 12th, which is also our annual Water Ceremony. Bring your water and the transformative stories of your summer!

The Religious Education Committee meets on September 9th at 7pm in the workroom – come be a part of our exciting energy!

In love and in faith,
Katy Carpman
Director of Religious Education
ufhdre@comcast.net



UU QUIZ

What Unitarian said: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."?

Answer on page 7



Here are our upcoming books:

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

"This is absolutely delightful book, and one that may help you spice up your vocabulary, if you are bold enough to call someone mafflard. It will happily you." ~ Marilyn Dahl, Shelf Awareness

October 5, 2010, "The House at Riverton" by Kate Morton

In the summer of 1924, at a glittering society party held at the house, a young poet shot himself. The only witnesses were Hannah and Emmeline and only they-and Grace-know the truth. In 1999, when Grace is ninety-eight years old and living out her last days in a nursing home, she is visited by a young director who is making a film about the events of that summer. She takes Grace back to Riverton House and reawakens her memories. Told in flashback, this is the story of Grace's youth during the last days of Edwardian aristocratic privilege shattered by war, of the vibrant twenties, and the changes she witnessed as an entire way of life vanished forever.

November 2, 2010, "Venetia Kelly's Traveling Circus" by Frank Delaney

"Delaney (*Shannon*) is a master storyteller, and this expansive tale of politics, tragedy, and revenge is Irish storytelling at its best. Full of vibrant, well-crafted characters and satisfyingly high drama." The Library Journal Set against the backdrop of the political and social turmoil of 1932 Ireland, Delaney's latest novel opens with young Ben McCarthy's father abandoning the farm to join a traveling theater troupe. Devastated, Ben's mother sends him off to bring his father home. He finds the troupe and falls in love with the same young actress who seduced his father.

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.

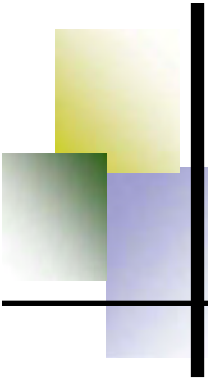
August 15th: Ø Income Tax Rates: The presentation argued that with increasing income separation in the US - more extremely rich, plus about 1% of incredibly rich, a series of higher tax brackets boosting tax rates to higher levels at the \$1 million to \$10 million incomes. The major-

ity were in general agreement, with one member arguing replacing income tax with an increased sales tax.





(Presented by Bert Golding)

August 22nd: Ø Will Israel Bomb Iran? -- This made a very challenging discussion.

All are welcome



SEPTEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Happy Birthday to — <i>Erv Boehm, 9th</i> <i>Jeanne Jagdeo, 12th</i> <i>Sarah Berel-Harrop, 30th</i></p>		<p><i>Brian & Joey Carpman, 30th</i></p> 	1	2	3 Blue Notes, 7:00 pm	4
5 David Oxman & Gary Yokie, 11 am	6	7 FELLOWGRAM DEADLINE	8	9 Ch of God, 9-4:00 pm Rosh Hashana 	10 Blue Notes, 7:00 pm	11
12 David Garver, 11 am	13	14 	15	16	17 Blue Notes, 7:00 pm	18 Yom Kippur 
19 John Pepper, 11 am	20 FELLOWGRAM DEADLINE	21 Pictorial Di- rectory Shoot, 2:30-8:50 pm	22 Pictorial Di- rectory Shoot, 2:30-8:50 pm	23	24 Blue Notes, 7:00 pm	25 Komen Fund- raiser, 6:00 pm dinner 
26 Christina Branum- Martin, 11 am	27	28	29 SBDem Meet- ing, 6:30-8:30 pm	30		

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, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joys and Concerns: 08/15 – Peggy Tennyson honored Jan LaRocque for her violin playing this Sunday and many other times. Bert Golding was sad to report that former member, Paul Donaho, now living in California near his daughter has had a reoccurrence of cancer. Wayne Derrick reminds us to collect the Kroger forms to enable them to continue their over a million dollar charitable contributions to the community. Harold Rud is joyous over his projected two-week vacation to home state Wisconsin (weather permitting, i.e. no hurricanes).

Joys and Concerns: 08/22– Jan LaRocque is thrilled that she and her siblings can now video conference. Her last night Dinner for 8 was a big success too! Nayef Algosaibi remembered his great uncle, a Saudi diplomat and poet, who recently died. Dan Kirkpatrick was sad to note the passing of their 19 year old cat, Lily. Michelle Wambaugh is sending her best thoughts to her nephew Charlie on his upcoming eye surgery. David Garver announced the birth of his wife's grand nephew born to a delicate mother (who suffers from Crohn's disease). A joy in the bathroom saga - the tile is now regROUTED! Terry Lambert is proud that her three highschoolers are ready to make music, that is - with two violins and a cello.

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 Second Saturday: Bible Book Study, 12:30-2:00 pm (Library)

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

August 15th — Tradition With a Twist. Rabbi Dan Gordon

One of our favorite speakers, and outstanding raconteurs, Dan Gordon is now officially a rabbi having completed his studies and being ordained in December, 2009. Mazel Tov!

In introducing his story for the day, he explained the word “midrash” as being more than a myth, more than just a story, but a tale to find meaning in the Bible, where frequently the meaning is not literally stated. A midrash helps us deal with the events in our lives.

We are currently in a month when according to the Bible we are being judged. El Lul is just before Yom Kippur when we fast and make promises, promises frequently that deal with our relationships. Our midrash today is called The Curse of Blessing.

There once was a young man who was very proud of his training to be the best law officer possible. He wanted everyone and everybody to be safe. He would make sure there was no crime and everything would be perfect. He shined his shoes, pressed his clothes, polished his sword and dusted his cap. He stood straight, walked tall and bragged about his power to bring justice.

But it came to pass that he was disappointed because all was not perfect. One day he heard a voice in the bushes and it said “Don’t you know who I am?” When he saw the ragged speaker, he replied, “No, but I know what to do with you!” and grabbed him and intending to collar him, stabbed him by mistake. The ragged man laid a curse on him as he lay wounded saying, “You must bless something every day or die.” The law officer ran for help but on his return found nothing but the sword. “It must have been a dream,” he said to himself.

When he went home he began to feel a deadly chill and then he remembered the curse. He quickly looking down said, “Thank God I’ve got shoes!” and the chill disappeared. So encouraged he began to bless everybody around him. He blessed people for smiling, for not littering, for being kind and in fact he changed all kinds of behavior (and his own) and became known as the “blesser”.

For 100 years his blessings made him famous and so he retired finally. “Perhaps tomorrow I will find nothing to bless I’m so old, but I have had a blessed life.” So he closed his eyes and waited to die. And behold! He saw the man in rags who said once again, “Don’t you know who I am? I was sent here to collect your soul long ago and you had none. Now you have a beautiful soul and I can collect it.”

The old law officer sighed, “bless you for coming into my life!”

Rabbi concluded by saying, “Let us everyone, think of and bless something or someone in our lives.”

August 22nd — Packing Our Spiritual Lunchboxes. Katy Carpman

What do you remember about your first day of school? Who were your favorite teachers? What are you learning? What would you like to learn?

Katy Carpman, our Director of Religious Education, encouraged us to share our stories with another in the pews, then come together as a community of learners, to bless each other, to share our own needs, and to commit to sharing our time and talents across the generations.

Read more about the service and the ongoing program in the Faith Development column on page two.

You really should have been there! We found new words for favorite songs, lit the chalice with hand motions, and got to blow LOTS of bubbles!

UU QUIZ ANSWER: Theodore Parker (August 24, 1810-May 10, 1860) was a preacher, lecturer, and writer, a public intellectual, and a religious and social reformer. He played a major role in moving Unitarianism away from being a Bible-based faith, and he established a precedent for clerical activism that has inspired generations of liberal religious leaders. Although ranked with [William Ellery Channing](#) as the most important and influential Unitarian minister of the nineteenth century, he was an extremely controversial figure in his own day and his legacy to Unitarian Universalism remains contested.

To see the whole article about Theodore Parker go to:

(<http://www25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/theodoreparker.html>)

More on Parker can be found at:

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

<http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/transcendentalism/authors/parker/>

<http://www.alcott.net/alcott/home/champions/Parker.html>



Other August birthdays:

Edwin H. Wilson	08/23	American Unitarian and Humanist
Brett Harte	08/25	American Author

Please join us for a Dinner - Massage Party Fundraiser for Val's Team (Mary Clark and Rachel Harrop) walking in the 2010 Susan G. Komen Dallas/Fort Worth 3-Day for the Cure

**6:00 PM on September 25, 2010
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston
1504 Wirt Road, Houston, TX 77055**

**Suggested donations:
Dinner \$15
Foot Rub - \$20 for 15 minutes
Chair Massage - \$30 for 15 minutes**

On September 25 at 6:00 PM at the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston, Mary (my granddaughter) and I will host a fundraiser for this event. Mary will have her beautiful themed tie dye t-shirts available. June Godwin will offer reflexology foot massages and Elizabeth Christian will offer relaxing chair massages. (Massages will be available on a first come, first served basis.)

Join me in supporting Rachel (my daughter) and Mary in their endeavor and enjoy a great dinner (vegetarian) and a relaxing massage.

Please RSVP to me at 713/553-0170 or vharrop1@comcast.net.

If you can't join us but would still like to support their efforts, look for Val's Team at the Komen 3-Day website: [Val's Team](http://www.the3day.org/site/TR/2010/DallasFortWorthEvent2010?team_id=150360&pg=team&fr_id=1465) (http://www.the3day.org/site/TR/2010/DallasFortWorthEvent2010?team_id=150360&pg=team&fr_id=1465)

Thank you! Val



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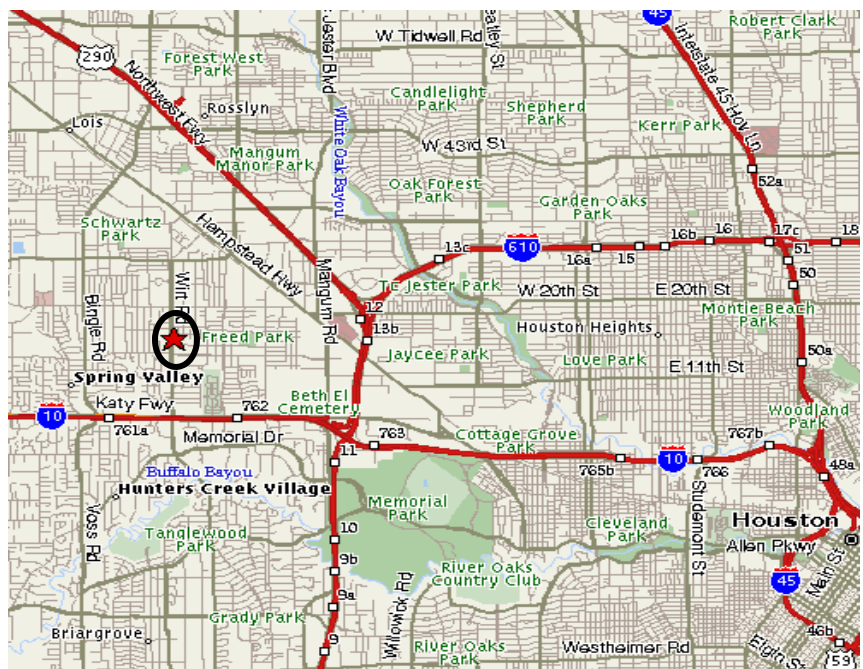


GO GREEN! SAVE A TREE! If you wish to receive the Fellowship by email or do not want to receive it at all, please send us a message or call and let us know.

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.