



FELLOWGRAM

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A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday Programs

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.

OCTOBER 3 — Special Guest Speaker: Linda Eastburn from the International Academy of Intuitive Arts, who promotes a wholistic use of subtle energies through our mind/body/spirit.

OCTOBER 10 — In recognition of **National Coming Out Day** on October 11th, the Fellowship will present a program featuring the varied voices and experiences of what it means to be gay in Houston, Texas.

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Come “Early” for Our 10 AM—10:50 AM OFFERINGS!

Children’s Religious Education *RE wing.*

ADULT FORUM *Analyzing Our Times—Workroom.*

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.*

Faith Development



When you were a child, what superhero did you want to be? Did you have your favorite comic book character, or did you choose a power and a costume all your own? Did you ever jump off the roof to see if you can fly? Did you ever try on a villain persona? Or were you content with your meek alter-ego?

Each of us has a superhero inside of us. Some, like Superman and WonderWoman, are born with special gifts. Others, like Batman, use our cunning and integrity and an impressive array of technology. Some of us, like Spiderman, are forever transformed by life experience – and choose to use those powers for good.

What are your powers? What help do you need to develop your reflexes and utility belt? How can we fill your spirit with courage and hope so you can set aside your meek alter-ego and go out into the world for good?

THIS, my friends, is what Faith Development is all about. Unitarian Universalists believe that we can make the world a better place – what help do you need to get there?

One way we save the world lies in teaching our ideals to all the generations – our grade school class will walk the path of Faithful Journeys, exploring stories of our faith ancestors to discern a way to live our Unitarian Universalist values every day. *Like superheroes? Come help with our lesson on Unitarian Universalist Christopher Reeve!* Our older youth are working with Bob Wiener to better articulate their faith (and fulfill scouting requirements) – soon they will transition to an exploration of spirituality, creativity, and modern life with the You the Creator curriculum. There are lessons in both these curricula to make all of us more courageous – what a simple way to pick up a new super skill!

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



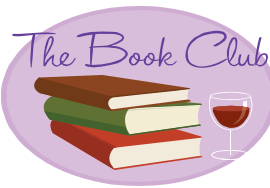
The "**Ladies Who Lunch**" are changing venues.

Beginning with our **October 6** lunch, we'll be meeting at the **Olive Garden** at 9750 Katy Freeway (I-10). This is on the north side of the feeder between Bunker Hill and Gessner. Phone: 713/973-6287. We'll meet at 1 p.m. as usual.

UU QUIZ

What Universalist was the first woman to be ordained as a minister in the United Kingdom?

Answer on page 7



Here are our upcoming books:

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.

December 7, 2010, "Bringing Down the House: The Inside Story of Six M.I.T. Students Who Took Vegas for Millions" by Ben Mezric

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

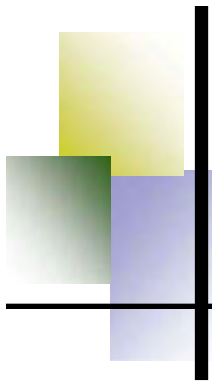
We meet Sunday Mornings at 10 AM. Our topics are unannounced. Our discussions are often lively and intense, but remain polite and friendly.

August 29th: Ø Maternal mortality: US ranks 39th or 41st. US rate 16.6 deaths per 100,000 live births, Harris County 23 deaths/100,000. 20% of women age 15 to 44, or 13 million, are not insured. Half are women of color. Most were poor. Bureaucracy in Medicaid enrollment [especially in Texas] delays access to checkups. Nearly 1/3 of deliveries are by caesarean section [US].



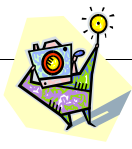


These have a death rate nearly 3 times as high as natural delivery. Our group included causes: obesity, diabetes, improper diet, smoking, drug use, older women becoming pregnant, lack of sex education. Accuracy of statistics was questioned. (*Presented by Wayne Derrick; 12 present*)

September 5th: Ø There were various topics that were discussed—it was lively & very interesting. (*Presented by George Hackett, 8 present*)

All are welcome



SEPTEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Happy Birthday to —</p> <p><i>Erv Boehm, 9th</i> <i>Brian & Joey Carpman, 30th</i></p> <p><i>Jeanne Jagdeo, 12th</i> <i>Sarah Berel-Harrop, 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 BOARD MEETING	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 Monthly Scheduled Events pg. 5. 		

THE FOCUS GROUP

Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human by Richard Wrangham will be discussed chapter by chapter starting September 12th. It is available over the internet as well as at local book stores and the library. We invite you to join us---even if you have not had a chance to read/obtain a copy. Our discussions are open and lively and welcoming. We meet each Sunday at 10:00 in the library. Hope to see you there

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

JOYS, CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joys and Concerns: 08/29 – Peggy Tennyson was delighted with the success of the first annual vegan “Dinner for 8”. She is also pleased that we have two young ladies on scholarship. Katy Carpman reminded us of the five year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Melissa McEver’s mother has health problems and she is concerned. She also reminds us that Martin Luther King made his memorable “I Have a Dream” speech 47 years ago. Dwight Raulston hopes for his daughter Darcy’s recovery from brain and spine surgery.

Joys and Concerns: 09/05 – Gary Yokie is looking forward to a 12-day temporary job in Northern California helping to organize health care workers. Simone Donnelly hopes her boyfriend – who has been helping family in China for the last month – has a good and safe trip home. Lynn and Sam Philpot are celebrating their 63rd anniversary on the 7th and thanked us for all the help given along the way! Bob Wiener has both his boys back in college. David Oxman recounted how his girlfriend’s granddaughter took too much Tylenol for the pain she was suffering and wound up in ICU with impaired liver function. He reminded us all to take care in treating ourselves.

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 29th — Sir Bernard Williams, English Philosopher. Dr. Dwight Raulston

Raulston likes Sir Bernard Williams (1929-2003), professor of philosophy at Cambridge and Berkeley, because he brought philosophy back to its Greek aspirations—trying to teach us how to live. Much of his work deals with the role of truth in society and where behavior is internally motivated rather than imposed externally. Let us look at truth then, not as an unreachable ideal but that which is obtainable and relevant in our lives.

Sincerity and accuracy are two components of truth. Sincerity involves the issue of trust which is essential not only in relationships but in the institutions of society. Finally authenticity is a kind of sincerity with self.

Accuracy may seem easier to achieve but from a practical standpoint - the problem is that it's easy to convince yourself of you accuracy if you haven't taken into account your bias and your incomplete research. Williams gives examples of cases when truth is not always desirable e.g. "Does this dress make me look fat?" Mostly however, truthfulness promotes freedom. Take the example of the politician and governmental honesty. He asserts that without truth in government, the populace cannot be free. Truth is an anti-tyranny virtue. Truthfulness also helps us make better sense of the world. We tell stories to reduce chaos in our lives. The more we hear diverse stories, the broader and more inclusive is our understanding of the world.

Williams shows us that these virtues are desirable and are not necessarily divinely mandated. We need sincerity and accuracy to approximate the truth.

September 25th, Part I — History of Labor Day. David Oxman

On Tuesday, September 25, 1882, Union Square in New York City was thronged. It was a large demonstration of workers and was a landmark in the labor movement. Oregon organized in 1887 and 24 states followed suit. A major impetus was the merger of two giants - Pullman and Carnegie - who purchased the Union Pacific Railroad. They employed thousands of worker of its 700 sleeping cars and its engineers. Pullman then built the first planned community (outside Chicago) for his employees. It provided homes, school, medical facilities in fact, basic needs. Unfortunately, when a recession occurred Pullman (who had become invasively dictatorial) laid off workers, reduced pay but did not reduce rental costs. The ensuing strike by workers halted transportation. When state troopers were called some workers were killed. It spelled the doom of Pullman's ideal community but the idea of Labor Day was born.

The great shirt factory fire in 1911 horrified the nation. Staffed by young immigrant seamstresses whom could not escape and perished, it caused the beginning of building codes. Oxman's mother in 1913 worked in such a factory as a 21 year-old immigrant. Such events spurred the growth of the labor movement so that at one time in the mid 20th Century, 50% of workers were unionized. Currently the national membership has shrunk to 18%. David concluded by allowing that he has been in the workforce for 68 years!

September 25th, Part II— The State of Labor Today. Gary Yokie

About 1 in every 10 Americans doesn't have a job. Having no job does not mean having no work, indeed much work continues: care and feeding of family, giving up clothing for a dental visit, giving up replacements, for "making do", no 3-D movies, no restaurant eating. You worry about life leaving you behind, people feeling sorry for you, while you may blame politicians, bankers and brokers ultimately you begin to wonder what you did or didn't do to cause this.

I got a job lead recently and will be on my way to Northern California to organize healthcare corkers. I still have enthusiasm for the basic ideals of the labor movement. Houston has been more fortunate, with a diversified economy and its pro-business climate so has endured better than other cites. Nonetheless, Houstonians have felt the pain of layoffs, cut-backs, reduced salaries and benefits.

Finding work means applying online through a labyrinth of forms. Frequently no personal interview is involved and the courtesy of any reply not honored. In fact reading through the "musts" of the job it almost appears as though the job has n't anyone who could meet the qualifications. Tightening the belt does not appear to be the case with CEO's whose pay is still running double the 1990s CEO pay average, quadruple the 1980s average and eight times the executive pay in the

(Continued on page 7)

UU Quiz Answer: Caroline Augusta White Soule (September 3, 1824 – December 6, 1903) “was born in Albany, New York. She was principal of the female department of Clinton Liberal Institute in Clinton, New York. She was a member of the editorial staff of *Ladies’ Repository* from 1856 to 1865. In 1867, she founded *Guiding Star* and served as its editor from 1867 to 1878. Soule went to Scotland as the first foreign missionary of the Universalist Church of America, taking up a ministry at St. Paul’s Universalist Church in Glasgow from 1879 to 1882 and from 1886 to 1892. She was ordained there in 1880. From 1882 to 1886, she worked for the Women’s Centenary Association, a Universalist women’s organization, before retiring to Glasgow where she died...” (*This Day in Unitarian Universalist History*, Frank Schulman).



More Soule can be found at:

<http://www25.uua.org/uuh/duub/articles/carolinesoule.html>

<http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/universalists/Caroline-Augusta-White-Soule-.php>

Other September birthdays:

Phoebe Cary

09/04 American poet

Lewis Latimer

09/04 American inventor

(Continued from page 6)

1950s. In fact, those who fired the most workers took home the most pay!

Ultimately as UUs and Americans we embrace the dignity of work and the worker. We need to be realistic and attempt to banish the “fear of fear itself”. We need to keep up the effort to civilize the work culture and environment. While we’re doing that, let’s find happiness wherever we can— even in our work. Especially in our work.

Please join us for a Dinner - Massage Party Fund-raiser 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 PM on September 25, 2010
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston**

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)

“GREEN” LUNCHEON

To start off our Stewardship, we will be having our annual “potluck” luncheon on **Sunday, September 19th**, after the service. Please be sure to sign up in bringing something “green” to eat (signup sheet at front desk)... Think: green enchiladas, avocado dip, green salad, green beans, green apples, green Jello or green tea—the list goes on.

Pictorial Directory Photo Shoots

Still time to schedule your appointment - call the office or look for the signup sheet in the foyer!



Rootin’ Tootin’ Boot Scootin’ Auction!

Our western theme auction this year is Saturday, November 13th, at 6:00 PM— So, put on your jeans, boots and cowboy hats and come join us in some good ole’ Bar-B-Q, fun & buyin’ stuff!!

Also, start thinking about what you will be donating for the auction (jewelry, dinners, tours, chauffeuring, tickets, lessons, party - to name a few) and, don’t forget to volunteer....

SAVE THE DATE!! - NOVEMBER 13TH !!



Unitarian Fellowship of Houston

1504 Wirt Road
Houston, Texas 77055

Phone: 713.686.5876
Fax: 713.686.7664
E-mail: ufhouston@comcast.net

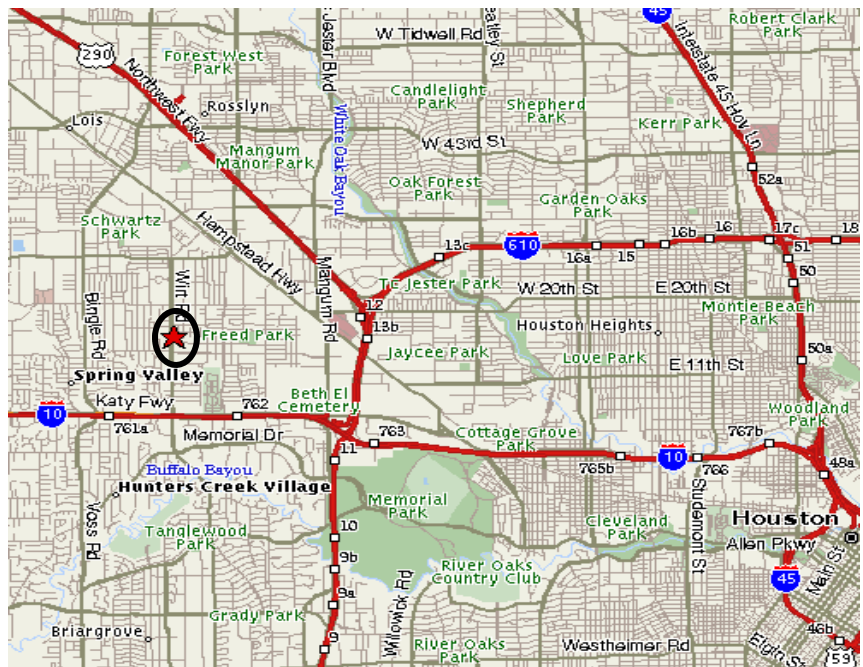


GO GREEN! SAVE A TREE! If you wish to receive the Fellowship by email or do not want to receive it at all, please send us a message or call and let us know.

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.