

# FELLOWSHIP

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

**APRIL 20 — Annual Seder Dinner, Wednesday, 6:00 pm.** We will use the Oranges and Olives Haggadah and share a "kosher-ish" potluck - please sign up on the clipboards or email Katy Carpman at [uukaty@gmail.com](mailto:uukaty@gmail.com) to get the full details.

### April 24 — Celebrate Beloved Community -- Flower Communion Sunday

As the days grow longer and the weather grows warmer, we celebrate the return of Spring and the hope and promise we find in this season of growth and renewal. So, too, we find hope, renewal and promise gathering together in beloved community with one another. Bring a flower to symbolize the unique gifts you bring to share with the community at the Fellowship of Houston.

Our worship leader this morning will be **Gretchen Weis**. Gretchen has been a long-time member of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston and is completing her first year of seminary at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, on her path to becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister.

### APRIL 30 — SATURDAY, 3pm to 9pm - Houston Area UU Spring Music Fest

Two stages (sanctuary and outdoors) of great music, plus arts and crafts, great snacks, and fun for all ages! Free admission! Learn more at <http://uuhouston.org/Music-Fest-2011>  
More information on page 6.



## 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.*

### FOCUS GROUP

*Book discussion group—Library. Details on page 5.*



## FAITH DEVELOPMENT



*Do you know that there's still a chance for you  
Cause there's a spark in you*

*You just gotta ignite the light  
And let it shine  
Just own the night  
Like the Fourth of July*

*Cause baby you're a firework*

*Come on show 'em what you're worth  
Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!"  
As you shoot across the sky-y-y*

*Baby you're a firework  
Come on let your colors burst  
Make 'em go "Oh, oh, oh!"  
You're gonna leave 'em fallin' down-own-own  
-Katy Perry, "Firework"*

Each of us has some amazing talent or joy – something that sets us apart from others and makes our eyes sparkle – what’s yours? Like a magic penny, talents should be shared – will could you share with the children of the Fellowship in a single hour? From June 6<sup>th</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>, our religious education program will be staffed with guest teachers like you!

10 AM will be lesson time, just like during the school year – but with you setting the lesson. Finger paint? LEGO challenge? Cupcake decoration? Chemistry experiments? It’s up to you!

At 11 AM we will all join together for the start of the service, then after the offering the \_\_\_ - if planning or carrying out a lesson sounds like too much effort, this is the time to watch the children on the playground or pull out some of our board games for interactive fun.

We are looking forward to a great summer, and you can help make that happen! Bring your calendars to the lobby this weekend to grab your choice of dates (and your personalized firework appointment card!)

How can we occupy ourselves in the meantime? Well, check out some of these multigenerational events –

April 20<sup>th</sup> (*Wednesday*)– Annual Passover Seder – 6pm in the Fellowship lobby

April 24<sup>th</sup> – Easter egg hunt and Flower Communion (bring a favorite bloom from home or the store!)

April 30<sup>th</sup> (*Saturday*)—Houston Music Fest – on the Fellowship grounds from 3 to 9 PM

May 8<sup>th</sup> – Mother’s Day!

May 15<sup>th</sup> – Bring a Friend to the Fellowship Sunday

And of course, RE classes continue throughout – we’re learning about English Unitarian Beatrix Potter this week, and will wrap up the year with stories of children working to change the world and members of the congregation sharing our history – what story might you tell?

With hope and faith,

Katy Carpman

Director of Religious Education ~ [ufhdre@comcast.net](mailto:ufhdre@comcast.net)

### UU QUIZ

What Unitarian was the first woman ordained in Rhode Island?

*Answer on page 9*

## *Upcoming Books for the **BOOK CLUB:***



**May 3, 2011, “Half Broke Horses: A True-Life Novel”** by Jeannette Walls

**June 7, 2011, \*\*\*\*"Piano Player" by Tim McGregor**

In the exciting new novel by Tim McGregor, Roland Newman is a metaphor for the insatiable appetite for power that dominates many people. The character has the means to be wildly powerful but not the will; controlling others makes no sense to him, he prefers cooperation over dominance. He is built as a clone in a lab by weapons designers but wanders off the reservation when his operator dies in a traffic accident. He believes he has a personal history due to the mental implants that he has been given by his designers and is beset by the big questions that we all face; "Now that I have the ability to determine the course of my life, what do I do, where do I go, what do I want?" He falls in love with two different women, one on the heels of the other, who do not have his best interests at heart so love can't grow. He gets dumped twice and learns heartbreak firsthand.

He finds a third woman, Hiroko, or they find each other; she plays the piano, hence the title, and they fall in love, it is mutual and they are happy. Hiroko's sister is enmeshed in a slavery ring in Tokyo and Roland gets together with his new found family to counter the threat and free her. Can they counter the threat of the Yakuza without resorting to Yakuza methods? Can a nonviolent man succeed in a violent world? Read the startlingly entertaining new novel; "Piano Player" to find out.

*\*\*\*\*NOTE: Yes, this is our very own Tim McGregor. If you'd like to read the book, please contact me so I can get you a copy. This book has not been published yet, we will be the first readers and we can provide feedback to Tim on June 7*

**July 5, 2011, “Shakespeare: The World as Stage”** by Bill Bryson

The Fellowship Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of each 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. Our books should all be available at the library and in paperback at your favorite bookstore. You can reach me at [ufhlibrary@comcast.net](mailto:ufhlibrary@comcast.net) . Jan

## **ADULT FORUM**

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

**April 10th: Ø *Do We Need a New Business Model to Allow America to Have a Middle Class?***

In part due to globalization, improved technology, and unfortunately greed, the shift in the world's economy is shifting the US middle class into a few wealthy people and dropping the standard of living for many who would have described themselves as middle-class. “My question is: what fundamental change in the business or governmental model that needs to be considered to change this direction within our country?”

Presenter: Lee Bergman

*All are Welcome!*

## OUR PROGRAMS

### April 3rd — *Gathered and Sent* – Joanna Fontaine Crawford

Okay, so there were three blind people and ... (Congregation: "An elephant.") Elephant? No, no, man, that'd just be weird. Three blind people and a Unitarian Universalist church. They'd taken a quiz on beliefnet.com that said they were all UUs so they wanted to see what a Unitarian Universalist church was.

The first came in and heard the choir practicing. "Oh," he said. "Music. A Unitarian Universalist church is where you make music and celebrate."

The next stumbled over a toolbox. Picking up a hammer, she said, "No, church is where we find purpose."

The third reached out to her so he could examine the toolbox, but as he did, he also stumbled. She caught him and he reached up and touched her cheek. "Ah," he said. "A Unitarian Universalist church is where you make community."

Of course, they were all right. A Unitarian Universalist church is where we celebrate, find purpose, and make community. And learn. And connect. And find meaning.

But at its core, church is where we are gathered, before being sent back out. We are a gathered and sent people. We are gathered together to strengthen our souls ... and we are sent out to strengthen the world.

When we gather together, we worship. Worship, from the Old English *weorthscipe*, means to shape what is of worth. It's where we take time to focus on what we value. And we give praise, one of those challenging terms for Unitarian Universalists, but praise is about pausing and paying attention to what we value. And celebrating it.

When gathered together we also receive the gift of inspiration. And one of the great, precious gifts that we inherited in this liberal faith is that we have so many places to look to find our own answers.

When we gather together, we feel loved and remember that we matter, and that our values matter. And we are fortified. And so, having given praise, and received inspiration, and been fortified, our souls have been strengthened. And so we are sent out to strengthen the world. We cannot hide here, or seek sanctuary here, nor even provide sanctuary here. We are not a cave to hide out in. We are missionaries. We are missionaries. And our job is to go out into that world out there, and spread kindness. Love. Tolerance. But kindness. Love. Tolerance. Those things by themselves, those forces, have no hands, have no feet. Love is the most amazing power in the world, but love cannot literally hold open a door for someone burdened.

Love has no hands and no feet.

But we do.

We have hands and we have feet and we can walk out there, walk into that world, and be missionaries for what we hold to be true. We can be the hands and feet of love. And we can strengthen the world.

We can build a land where we bind up the broken, restoring ruins of generations, we can build a land of people so bold. Gathered and Sent, we'll build a land.

*(Continued on page 9)*

## FOCUS GROUP

The Focus Group has chosen Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer's book ***Making Our Democracy Work: A Judge's View*** as our next book for discussion. Because the Supreme Court's decisions have often been in the news, we think this a timely choice. We meet each Sunday at 10:00 in the library and hope you will join with us in our lively and open discussions.

You are invited to join us--even if you have not had a chance to read/obtain the book. Our discussions are open and lively.

## WORKDAY—APRIL 9TH



**Kudos** to those who volunteered, and there are many to thank for both work days so far!! Many things have been accomplished - the old wooden jungle gym was taken down (which was our major headache), hoses were repaired, weeds were taken care of, the fountain was cleaned...

Job well done and of course every volunteer is greatly appreciated!

*The second Saturday of each month will be a work day at the Fellowship.*

## JOYS AND CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Joys and Concerns: 04/03**— Peggy Tennyson lit a candle of concern for her uncle who has terminal liver cancer. June Godwin is delighted that she has a new friend whom she met at a meeting at the Fellowship. Simone Donnelley is concerned about a family friend who recently celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. His goal was to live to a greater age than his father, who was 98 when he died, and, now that he has achieved his goal, he seems to have lost the will to continue living. Rory Jagdeo announced that wife, Jeanne, is in the hospital recovering from surgery. Christina (guest) overdid it when participating in Team Challenge training (they raise money for Crohn's Disease), and she lit a candle of joy because a very sweet lady that she did not know helped her.

**Joys and Concerns: 04/10**— Bob Wiener lights a candle honoring his late father on what would have been his 92nd birthday. Katy Haberman's daughter, Jill, brought a new Terrier puppy into her life. Barb Nelsen made a plea for beleaguered public education and all the teachers under stress. Laura Nichol has made a courageous leap; she has become precinct chair (in a predominantly Republic district) and be leading an upcoming demonstration at BP. Anissa (guest) was saddened to say her father died unexpectedly.



## MONTHLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Mon.—Thurs.:** Waldorf Kindergarten School, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm (RE area)  
**Every First Tuesday:** The Book Club, 7:30 pm (Library)  
**Every First Thursday:** Ladies Luncheon, 1 pm (Olive Garden 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 10 am -Turning Point (sign-up sheet is located at the front desk or just ask Dodie, John P., or Wayne D.)  
**Every Second Saturday:** Bible Book Study, 12:30-2:00 pm (Library)  
**Every Second Saturday of Each Month:** **WORKDAY!** (inside & outside) from 9:30 to 12:30 pm  
**Every Saturday:** Church of God, 12 to 4:30 pm (ext'ed hours on calendar)  
**Every Third Thursday:** Men's Luncheon, 1:00 pm (Yao's)  
**Every Fourth Wednesday, the SBDC,** 6:30—8:30 pm (Sanctuary)  
**Every Wednesday, the SSSC (RS) Society,** 6:15 pm (Sanctuary)

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE OCTOBER 15, 2011

Is it time to start Spring Cleaning? Great! Just remember to save the items you're dumping! Our Fellowship rummage sale is in October and we will start collecting things starting at the *Beginning of September* (please, no sooner, but if there are big items you just don't have room for, call me!) Patricia B will be in charge of this event and I will be her right-hand person.... We will keep updating you in other issues. *Dorenne*



### HOUSTON AREA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

## *Spring Music Fest*

*Nuturing Our Liberal Mojo*

**Saturday, April 30, 2011**

**3:00 to 9:00 pm**

*Rain or Shine*

**Unitarian Fellowship of Houston**

**1504 Wirt Road, Houston \* [www.uuhouston.org](http://www.uuhouston.org)**

Come have free family fun with UUs from all eight Houston area congregations at the annual **UU Spring Music Fest**. Enjoy music of all sorts by UU performers indoors and out, arts and crafts vendors, belly dancers, hula-hoopers, and the kids' playground. Hotdogs, ice cream, magical popcorn and beverages will be offered for a donation.

***Bring kids, a picnic, cooler, lawn charis, blankets,  
hand drums, hula hoops, and a Large Smile!***

*Sponsored by the Houston UU Network and the 8 local UU churches*

# April 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

This Month's Scheduled Events:				1	2	
April 2: Musicale Reh., 9-11:30 am		Ch of God: April 17, 5:30-9:30 pm				
April 3: Recitals, 1:00-7:00 pm		Ch of God: April 18, 5:30-9:30 pm				
April 10: Musicale, 1:45-4:45 pm		Ch of God: April 19, 12-4:30 pm				
April 17 & 24: RSS, 8:00-10:00 am		Ch of God: April 25, 9:30 am-4:30pm				
3 <i>Joanna Crawford, 11am</i>	4	5	6 <i>G.G. Gunn's BD</i> <i>Bob Wiener's BD</i>	7	8	9 <i>Russell Mai's BD</i>
10 <i>Melissa McEver &amp; Peggy Tennyson, 11am</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 <i>John Pepper, 11am</i> <i>~Board meeting~</i>	18	19	20 <i>Seder Dinner, 6:00 pm</i>	21	22	23
24 <i>Gretchen Weis, 11am</i> <i>EASTER!</i>	25 	26	27 <i>Jimmy Dunne's BD</i>	28	29	30

## Greetings from U-Bar-U!

It's time for another wonderful Retreat "From the heart of a Woman"! We are fortunate that the musicians that kicked it off last year have agreed to a repeat performance! This year it is on the schedule for May 6-8, 2011. We'll start with check in and dinner from 4-8 PM on Friday May 6, and the concert at 9 PM.



### Women's Retreat

Music is a powerful tool for integrating intellect and emotion! The wonderful, rockin, band that started the weekend last year, will return to U-Bar-U May 6, to kick off another beautiful heart-felt weekend Retreat. Women from all over Texas will come together to relax and renew, both spiritually and physically. Musicians Kit Holmes, Dana Clark, and Wave Harless will present music "From the Heart of a Woman" which evokes what is common to every woman's life journey: love, family, healing, personal growth, relationships empowerment, spirituality and sexuality. The concert is designed to open our hearts to a deeper understanding of our lives, so that we may more clearly perceive our situations and discover new possibilities.

The band will perform their own stirring compositions, along with songs written by other women, past and present, everything from blues and jazz to soul. The concert is designed to open our hearts to a deeper understanding of our lives, so that we may more clearly perceive our situations and discover new possibilities.

The activities that follow on Saturday and Sunday will expand on the mood set and help us leave our hectic worlds for a short time, gaining perspective so that we can return, renewed and refreshed. We will dance, sing, meditate, and walk the labyrinth. Or we may just hang out on the porch, sleep in the hammock, or swim in the tank. No activity is mandatory.

There will be lots of good food . The fee for the weekend is \$80. This covers all food and lodging. Please bring your own beverages, snacks, sheets and towels. U-Bar-U has new beds which are long single bunks. If you don't have long sheets, just bring regular flat or deep pocket fitted.

This retreat last year was totally sold out. Come and join us for the fun and the magic!

Online registration [www.ubaru.org](http://www.ubaru.org) You can pay at Paypal at [www.ubaru.org](http://www.ubaru.org) or call/email Sandy Barnwell, 830-864-4120, [director@ubaru.org](mailto:director@ubaru.org)

## Vounteer! At Turning Point



The goal of the Turning Point Center is to utilize a variety of supportive services to return the homeless elderly to productive society.

Every **3rd Saturday of the month**, Fellowship members have the opportunity to serve their community by cooking and serving lunch to the people at Turning Point Center. This has been a very successful program and is also very rewarding. If you haven't experienced doing this 'good deed', you can always sign up for next month's date.

The signup sheet is located at the kitchen counter or the front desk. For more information, just ask John P. or Dodie M. They would be more than happy to tell you all about the program.



**UU Quiz Answer: Anna Carpenter Garlin Spencer** (April 17, 1851 – February 12, 1931) “was born in Attleboro, Massachusetts. She joined the Congregational Church at age 12 but eventually became more liberal. She married William Spencer, a Unitarian minister in Haverhill, Massachusetts, and assisted him in his ministry there and in Florence, Massachusetts, and Troy, New York. In 1891 Spencer became the first woman ordained in Rhode Island and served as minister of the Bell Street Chapel in Providence. Popular in the pulpit and known as a good speaker, she retired in 1902 due to ill health but continued preaching in liberal churches. Spencer also served as associated director and staff lecturer of the New York School of

Philanthropy, which became the New York School of Social Work, and was active in the American Women’s Suffrage Association, the Women’s Council of the USA, the National Institute of Social Sciences, and the temperance movement. As a pacifist, she opposed American entry into World War I ...” (*This Day in Unitarian Universalist History*, Frank Schulman).

One of her papers can be found at:

<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/eagle/congress/spencer.html>

#### Other April birthdays:

Charles Francis Barnard

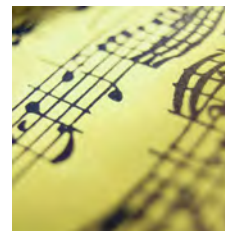
04/17 Unitarian minister devoted to Sunday School work

Emily Taft Douglas

04/19 US politician and activist

(Continued from page 4)

### March 27th — *Social Commentary and Spirituality in Musicals.*



A spritely program based on American musicals was mounted by musicians Peggy Tennyson (piano and voice) and Melissa McEver (soprano).

Using readings and songs from Cabaret, Les Miserables, Le Cage aux Folles, Into the Woods, Fiddler on the Roof, Wicked and Rent they brought their combined 40 years of experience in choosing songs with powerful messages of social commentary and spirituality. Issues of the aspects of war and those of the gay orientation were poignant in Empty Chairs from Les Miserables and the powerful I am What I am from Le Cage aux Folles, both sung by Peggy. A duet, No More from Into the Woods addressed moral strength.

Melissa regarded music as a spiritual experience for her, one which cuts right through to universal themes - those emotions which light us up and transcend experience. Singing Bring Him Home from Les Miserables dealt with self-sacrifice, Defying Gravity from Wicked was about reaching a higher self and Seasons of Love from Rent concluded that the highest purpose is love.

The program ended with a duet For Good from Wicked. The Peggy and Melissa Show was gratefully received by all.

A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

**UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF HOUSTON**

**1504 WIRT ROAD  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77055**

**Phone: 713.686.5876**

**Fax: 713.686.7664**

**Email:  
ufhouston@comcast.net**

**We're on the Web!  
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.*

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**PRESIDENT**

*Bob Wiener*

**VICE PRESIDENT**

*Vicky Chin*

**TREASURER**

*David Garver*

**BOARD SECRETARY**

*Peggy Tennyson*

**TRUSTEES**

*Wayne Derrick*

*Darcy Ford-James*

*Harold Rud*

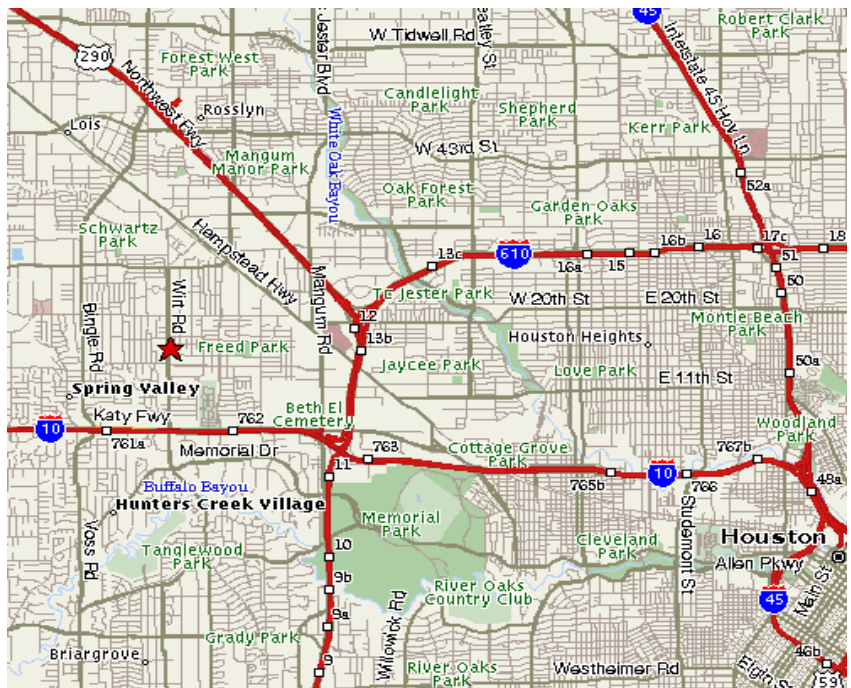
**STAFF**

**CH. ADMINISTRATOR**

*Doranne Solomon*

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**

*Katy Carpman*



**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.