

# F E L L O W G R A M

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 02

JANUARY 27, 2012

## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

### **FEBRUARY 5 — Necessity of Virtue: Justice. Bill James**

The inherent worth and dignity of every person is the first of UU principles and stands as the cornerstone of Justice, the topic of Bill James' presentation. Based on the sermons of Rev. Galen Guengerich, James will explore its importance in our religious lives.

**FEBRUARY 12** — Each year, Unitarian Universalists meet as an Association to do Association business. This meeting is called our **General Assembly**. This year's GA will be held in **Phoenix, AZ from June 20 to June 24**. It will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations.

### **FEBRUARY 19 — Salvation. David Garver**

Salvation is a word infrequently used by UU's because it's closely associated with a particular metaphysical view which we reject. However, one can be "saved" from any number of things large and small. Come for a discussion of whether we can recover this potentially useful word and make it meaningful to our 21st century existence.

### **FEBRUARY 26 — Longing for Freedom. Laura Nicol & Peggy Tennyson**

Negro spirituals, the folk music of American slaves, are relics of the social media of a captive community. Slaves used Biblical imagery and task-specific rhythms to establish camaraderie, express emotions, and share news. We will sing a few favorites and discover what they meant to the people they were created for.

### **MARCH 4 — Necessity of Virtue: Temperance. Val Harrop & Dodie McKellar**

**Come "Early" for Our  
9:45 am-10:45 am  
offerings!**

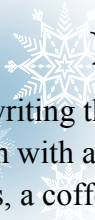
**Children's Religious  
Education** RE wing.  
*Details on page 2.*

**THE FORUM** *Analyzing  
Our Times—Workroom.*  
*Details on page 3.*

**FOCUS GROUP** *Book  
discussion group—Library.*  
*Details on page 4.*

*Correction:*

*In the last issue on page 9, Fellowship's Birthday Dinner was to read, "\$35 per person" Not \$25 per person.*



## FAITH DEVELOPEMENT

As I am writing this the Adult RE room is beginning a transformation. It is going from a generic classroom style room with a large wooden table and plastic chairs gathered around it, to a sitting area with a love seat and chairs, a coffee table and plastic plants (so we do not kill them). We even have art to hang on the barren walls and a few throw pillows to throw about. If you have a love seat, chair or bookshelves that you no longer need and would be willing to add to this room PLEASE do not hesitate to tell me. I can probably even figure out a way to come to you and pick it up if I HAVE to. The long term goal is for the furniture to even be, GASP, nice. Right now I will take what I can get, but do not be offended if the chair you give gets sold in the garage sale as we upgrade, PLEASE.

Another exciting thing that is in the works is a miniature village outside for the birds and other creatures to play in. To start this off I will be bringing in an old birdbath to sit into the ground. I will be looking for old clay pots to turn into houses for toads and others with the creative help of our youngsters. It will be a joy to watch this little town grow into a story land where ideas can be born.



Finally from now on the bags of food for the homeless will always be available in the foyer so you no longer have to wait for that once a month day to pick them up. They are located in the basket under the thousand cranes for peace, a suitable place. The requested donation is still \$3.00 per bag, but if you want to pay \$10 for three the extra dollar really helps.

Thought for the day (I have to share this even though it is somewhat inappropriate) Cigarettes are a lot like hamsters, perfectly harmless, until you put one in your mouth and set it on fire. – Will Ferrell. See I know you are chuckling to yourself and envisioning a person with a really mad soggy hamster in their mouth right now. Laughter is good for you.

Peace,  
Jill Haberman  
Director of Religious Education  
jhabermandirRE@gmail.com

### **CLEAN CARPETS!! CLEAN PEWS!!**

After so many years, the carpets throughout the building had accumulated lots of stains. The carpets in the Sanctuary, Nursery, Library, RE area & the Office were finally cleaned (and rid of stains) on Monday the 23rd. On that note: please think about **NOT** taking your coffee into the Sanctuary! Those who rent the facility are not allowed, so members of the Fellowship should follow this example as well. The carpet in the Foyer is beyond the cleaning stage, so after 10/11 years, it's time to replace it. The process of finding the right color is happening now. Hopefully in the next few weeks, we will have a brand new, beautiful carpet! Again, please be careful - if you spill something, don't let it go! Wipe it up quickly! See someone else spill something? Clean it up quickly! Please be considerate and save some money for the Fellowship. Clean up after yourselves. *Dorenne*

# BOOK CLUB

Upcoming Books: *Please note changes*

**Tuesday, February 7, "Franklin and Eleanor: An Extraordinary Marriage"** by Hazel Rowley

In this groundbreaking new account of the marriage, Hazel Rowley describes the remarkable courage and lack of convention--private and public--that kept FDR and Eleanor together. She reveals a partnership that was both supportive and daring. Franklin, especially, knew what he owed to Eleanor, who was not so much behind the scenes as heavily engaged in them. Their relationship was the product of FDR and Eleanor's conscious efforts --a partnership that they created according to their own ambitions and needs.

**Tuesday, March 6, "Snowdrops: A Novel"** by A.D. Miller

A mesmerizing tale of a man seduced by a culture he fancies himself above, Miller's novel is both a nuanced character study and a fascinating look at the complexities of Russian society. --Kristine Huntley

**NOTE:** The Public Library has limited copies of this book; I suggest you order it now.

**April 3, 2012, "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet"** by Jamie Ford

Ford's debut concerns Henry Lee, a Chinese-American in Seattle who, in 1986, has just lost his wife to cancer. After Henry hears that the belongings of Japanese immigrants interned during WWII have been found in the basement of the Panama Hotel, the narrative shuttles between 1986 and the 1940s in a story that chronicles the losses of old age and the bewilderment of youth. Henry recalls the difficulties of life in America during WWII, when he and his Japanese-American school friend, Keiko, wandered through wartime Seattle. Keiko and her family are later interned in a camp, and Henry, horrified by America's anti-Japanese hysteria, is further conflicted because of his Chinese father's anti-Japanese sentiment.

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



The *Fellowship Book Club* usually 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.



## THE FORUM

We meet Sunday Mornings at **9:45 AM**. Our topics are unannounced and discussions are often lively and intense, but remain polite and friendly.

**Recently discussed issue:**

**What books have you read lately and what did you learn from them?**

Presented by Jimmy Dunne

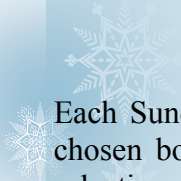
Also Good discussion about everyone's favorite reading, whether it be from a book, magazine, newspaper or columnists.

### Entertainment!

Presented by Karen Dunne  
Discussion including the latest and old favorite movies; favorite television shows, hobbies, music preferences, etc. Most of them developed real passions for favorite music, operas and music, and shared the latest venues.



*ALL ARE WELCOME!*



## FOCUS GROUP

Each Sunday at **9:45** am the Focus Group meets in the library to discuss a chapter or two of a chosen book. Our selections have been a varied mix, always focusing on non-fiction. Our new selection for discussion is Henry Petroski's book The Evolution of Useful Things: How Everyday Artifacts from Forks and Pins to Paper Clips and Zippers came to be as they are Please contact me at 281-596-0935 if you would like more information--- Joan G.

*Our discussions are open and lively.*

## JOYS & CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Joys and Concerns January 15:** Bob Wiener is happy to report that son JunJi made it back to college via Houston - Baltimore, Philadelphia by air and auto. After all this, it is hoped he will also study! Krishna Dronamraj lit a memory candle for an illustrious and long lived (95 years) friend whose name was ironically, Jim Crow. He was active in NAACP, Unitarianism and a Professor in genetics at the University of Wisconsin. Katy Haberman was happy about her annual auction dinner and sci-fi play production last night. Thanks go to Michelle and Nayef Algosabi for the clean up! Lee Bergman was grateful for the chance meeting one year ago at the Fellowship that brought Peggy Tennyson into his heart. Sue Needle and spouse shared their new TV with Bill and Darcy James. It was so nice to reconnect.

**Joys and Concerns January 22:** Kim Willis has mixed concerns about the recent reporting of cruelty to animals and some cases of altruistic animal rescue. She asked that we all be good animal rescuers when we see the need. Elizabeth Christian's great joy is her receiving an offer of an appointment to be a Lt. in the U.S. Navy following her receiving her

## ~ ~ MONTHLY EVENTS ~ ~

**Every First Tuesday: The Book Club, 7:30 pm (Library)**

**Every First Wednesday: Ladies Luncheon, 12:30 pm (Egg & I on I-10)**

**Every Second Thursday: RE Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm (Workroom)**

**Every Second Saturday of Each Month: WORKDAY! (inside & outside) from 9:30 to 12:30 pm**

**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 or Wayne D.)**

**Every Third Thursday: Men's Luncheon, 12:00 pm (Yao's)**

**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 Fourth Wednesday, the SBDC, 6:30—8:30 pm (Sanctuary)**

**Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday, Science of Mind, 7:00 pm (Library) *New Dates***

**Every First Saturday, Soul Collage Group, 9am-1pm (RE gathering area - second Sat. if holiday wkend)**

# February 2012



| Sun   | Mon | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri | Sat  |
|---|-----|---|--|---|-----|--|
| Happy birthday to:  |     |   |  |   |     |  |
| Janet Goh-Wiener, Feb. 6th<br>Lynn Phipot, Feb. 8th<br>Peggy Tennyson, Feb. 13<br>Wayne Derrick, Feb. 21<br>Jan LaRocque, Feb. 22 |     |  | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4  |
| 5 <b>Bill James,</b><br>11 am   | 6   | 7<br>Fellowgram<br>Deadline   | 8  | 9   | 10  | 11<br><b>Fellowship's<br/>53rd Birthday<br/>Dinner! 6 pm</b> |
| 12<br><b>Valentine's<br/>Day! 11 am</b>   | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16  | 17  | 18   |
| 19 <b>David<br/>Garver, 11<br/>am</b><br>Board Meeting  | 20  | 21<br>Fellowgram<br>Deadline  | 22<br><b>SBDems<br/>Meeting,<br/>6:30 pm</b> | 23  | 24  | 25   |
| 26<br><b>Celebration of<br/>Gospel Music!<br/>11 am</b>   | 27  | 28  | 29   | <b>Other Events:</b><br>Recital - Sunday, Feb. 5 from 2-4 pm<br>Recital - Sunday, Feb. 12 from 1:30-5:30 pm<br>Recital - Sunday, Feb. 19 from 1:30-5 pm |     |  |

## Past Programs

### January 15th— How Secret Is the Brain? Dwight Raulson, PhD

You are not who you think you are. So asserts David Eagleman, the topic of Dr. Raulston's presentation. In his book *Incognito*, Eagleman discusses his research at Baylor College of Medicine where he directs the Laboratory for Perception and Action as well as the Initiative on Neuroscience and Law. "if the conscious mind - the part you consider to be you - is just the tip of the iceberg, what is the rest doing?"

The first thing we learn from studying our brains is that most of what we do, think, and feel is not under our conscious control. A myriad of subsystems (zombies) are quietly operating, directing our bodily functions without our conscious interference. Interestingly enough, there is not just one place where each function takes place, rather functions are duplicated, triplicated around the brain. This is the secret fo its flexibility. Memory, for example is lodged in several areas. How is it, then, that we can remember how to drive all the while remembering a grocery list or a past event? Simultaneoulsy?

We are intensely conscious when learning something new say, tennis when we train our muscles, eye-hand coordination and practice correcting our stroke until it becomes automatic. Then, little conscious energy is needed as these acts become automatic. Think about the many details of life that gratefully don't need our fixed attention: driving (unless conditions cause danger) operating the computer, walking, dancing, etc etc. Because of these many systems operating all at once Eagleman believes we are not only many entities but many rival entities.

In the past, theorists such as Freud posited the three systems of ego, id and superego or, Paul MacLean who suggested that thte brain is made up of three layers of evolutionary development: the reptilian, the limbic and the mamalian or neo-cortex. While the details of these theories are no longer in favor with neuroanatomists, the basis survives: brains are made of competing systems.

As an example we remember how Ulysses who when returning as hero of the Trojan War realized his ship would be passing the island where the tempting sirens song. He devised a plan to keep his men and himself form succumbing to their wiles by filling their ears with wax and lashing them to the mast. So, in the long run, the rational mind could work and prevent the emotional mind could work and prevent the emotional mind in the short run from prevailing.

Another way to look at this "team of rivals" is to think about a secret. A secret is the result of a struggle between two parts of the brain; one wants to tell, the other wants to withhold. A way to solve the problem may be to tell a stranger so then the dilemma is solved.

Another aspect of "the multitudes" is the question of free will or stated another way, culpability. If so much of our operating is below the level of consciousness, how much consciousness is involved in our lives. We hear the case of Charles Whitman who in 1966 went to the University of Texas Tower and proceeded to kill 37 people. After a further examination of Whitman's brain (who was killed as well) it was determined that he had, a brain tumor in the area of fear and aggression. Whitman was aware that something was going awry and left a note suggesting his brain be analyzed. So who was to blame? Perhaps then everyone is not equally free to make blameworthy choices.

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Egleman proposes that culpability is the wrong question in many trials. So, what should be done, moving forward, with an accused criminal? Customized rehabilitation is a possibility which is viewing criminal behavior the way we understand other medical conditions. Ultimately the goal is to predict the rehabilitation possibilities. Currently, Egleman is at this work.

A final note: Egleman, at the end of his book, justifies his use of the royal “we” instead “I” by concluding that his book was written over the course of a few years by several different people, all of whom were named David Egleman.

### **January 8th – Impermanence. Kim Willis**

The program was ushered in by the Sunday School group, garbed in silken, Asian robes and clanging in the Year of the Dragon. Kim Willis’ presentation was preceded by a period of meditation accompanied by the magical sounds of balls being gently stroked.

Quoting from Buddhism, she shared a view of life designed to encourage equanimity and peace.

Everything is impermanent. From moment to moment change reveals itself. Though we try endlessly to negotiate, something always seems to come along to smash whatever it is that we cling to. Endlessly, frantically, we try to get it back again. Our lives unfold like this. And it is so normal we don’t question it. But until we begin to question it, until we begin to become more conscious of how we engage in this struggle all of the time, we cannot open to inner equanimity.

However much we want to gain acknowledgment, pleasure, praise, reputation - the fact of the matter is that we gain some and we lose some. Sometimes things are difficult for us. Sometimes we suffer. We experience criticism, obscurity, discomfort, pain. We lose things. We lose people. We lose our health, and eventually we lose our precious life.



## **Immigration Resources- get the most out of this Justice GA**

Posted in [Phoenix](#), [Values in Practice](#) on January 13th, 2012 by Melissa Saggerer

Want to know more about immigration?: check out some of these resources to see why we’re going to Phoenix and what we’re addressing while we’re there. Attendees will come away with a heightened knowledge of the issues, have opportunities to participate in witness and service and come away having been a part of something unique.

Let us know in the comments if there are other resources you recommend!

Go to <http://generalassembly.blogs.uua.org/> to make your comments.



## GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

### Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

We will be collecting your contributions Sunday,  
January 29th.



### REMINDER

#### How the UUSC puts your contribution to work:

\$20 pays for surveys for the Northwest Arkansas Workers Justice Center

\$25 can inspire Middle East Northern Africa

\$40 helps 30 families in Myanmar

\$60 pays to distribute labor practices in fast food and casual restaurants

\$75 helps outreach and educational projects in Arkansas

February 24-26, 2012

#### "Exploring the UUniverse of Women's Spirituality" with speaker Meg Barnhouse!

Please join us at the **Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake, TX**. Where is that? Clear Lake City is really a part of Houston but don't think of the downtown skyline or busy freeways. The 2012 SWUW Conference will be held in the beautiful Hilton hotel overlooking Clear Lake and across from NASA Space Center. It is located 25 miles south of downtown Houston, 17 miles from Houston's Hobby Airport and is a perfect place to relax, rejuvenate, reconnect and join us in Exploring the UUniverse of Women's Spirituality. Contact convener Lynn Young at [conference@swuuw.org](mailto:conference@swuuw.org) if you have any questions.



**Meg Barnhouse** grew up in North Carolina and Philadelphia. After graduating from Duke University and Princeton Theological Seminary she spent a chapter of her life in Spartanburg, SC, working first as a college chaplain teaching Public Speaking, Human Sexuality, and World Religions, trying not to get them mixed up. Earning her credentials as a Pastoral Counselor, she ran her own counseling practice while raising her two sons who are now in their twenties. She was active in the community, preaching and teaching in many churches, recording commentaries for NC Public Radio and "Weekend All Things Considered," serving as Interim Minister in several congregations and helping to found the SAFE Homes Network for battered women. Along the way she earned a second-degree black belt in American Karate. She finished up that southern chapter with seven years as the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg, served as the Interim Minister at the UU Congregation of Princeton, and has just been welcomed by [First UU Church of Austin TX](#) as their settled minister!

(Continued on page 9)

# OUR FELLOWSHIPS' BIRTHDAY PARTY!!

Join us for the  
*Fellowship Founders' Day Sweetheart Dinner*

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6:30 pm — \$35 per person

**50 Years!**

Places are still available - see clipboard in the Foyer.



It will be grand, elegant, delicious, entertaining, and a great financial support for our Unitarian Fellowship of Houston, so put on your best bib and tucker and join us.

*If you have not yet signed up, do it today!*

(Continued from page 4)

doctorate in May. David Garver's candles were for friends Virginia Eckardt and brother who are in poor health. Another candle was for the life of Etta James, the great jazz singer who died this week. Laura Nicol has good news to report about her step-daughter, Christine, whose grades and school attendance had been poor after a diagnosis of Krohn's disease and a medication for it, she is now successfully back in school and even working part-time. Katy Haberman lit a candle for another successful ending. She encountered a homeless girl in a thrift shop who now has modeled for their art class and now has a job. Olivia Torres is grateful of the physical therapy which has now improved her sufficient to run and even chase the children! Bob Wiener sends good wishes to his wife's family for a Happy New Year. Also young son is now working as a short-order cook.

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## Music Guest Kiya Heartwood

Award winning singer-songwriter Kiya Heartwood delivers intelligent lyrics, spellbinding storytelling, soulful confessions and political broadside with percussive guitar work, wide open vocals and a wicked groove. Kiya is half of the folk and roll duo *Wishing Chair*. [www.wishingchair.com](http://www.wishingchair.com). Kiya's larger works include song cycles for Womens' and Mixed Chorus, operettas for young people, soundtracks for independent films and *The Gaia Psalms*, an earth based performance worship service for Unitarian Universalist congregations with narration by Rev. Meg Barnhouse. Kiya is the former Composer -in -Residence at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton. She studied Music Composition at Converse College in SC and Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. Kiya tours nationally and internationally as a solo artist and with Wishing Chair, and is the backup band for Meg Barnhouse. Kiya makes her happy home in Austin, TX.

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

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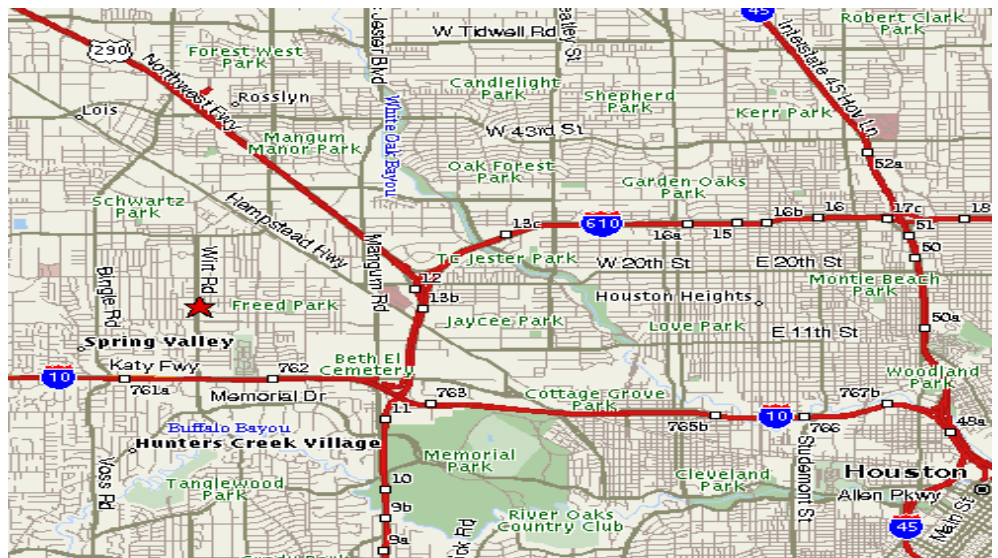
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## Unitarian Fellowship of Houston

### 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.