



# *Huntsville, Texas Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*

October 2009 Newsletter

Services are generally held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Laura Chapel of Huntsville Memorial Hospital. From 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., we gather and have coffee. For more information call (936) 295-3170.

*I love you when you bow in your mosque, kneel in your temple, pray in your church. For you and I are sons of one religion, and it is the spirit.*

~Kahlil Gibran

## Sunday, October 11th



Our guest speaker will be Christian Schmidt and the title of his talk will be "What's UU Theology, Anyway"?: The majority of adult Unitarian Universalists didn't grow up in our religion, and as such, we often lack a strong background in the theology and history of our tradition. Moreover, our non-creedal faith makes it difficult to articulate the theology that we share. In his message, Christian Schmidt will try to set a framework for our theology based on the work of the great Unitarian theologian James Luther Adams.

Christian Schmidt attends Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where he is studying for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. He is a longtime UU and was a member and lay leader at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Brazos Valley in College Station from 2006-2009. His interests include sports, theology and travel.

## Sunday, October 25th

Our ministerial intern, John Pepper, will give a sermon entitled *Connections that Count*. This particular service will be part sermon and part conversation. My job as a minister is to make connections that count and the Sunday morning service is the primary method to accomplish that task. Since we are a fellowship, together we share more



responsibilities related to the Sunday morning service plans than do larger churches. This service will be dedicated to talking about the key aspects of a worship service and how we can make the overall experience more meaningful for everyone present.

## Military Care Packages

My son-in-law, Will Cobb, has gone to Afghanistan as a contractor for the Army. He has been there before and to Iraq three times as a Marine, where he earned a purple heart after being injured. Will and my daughter, Amber, were married in Laura Chapel by Beth Williamson and Amber and her 3 children are living in Newton Texas, where Amber is a teacher.

I will be sending care packages at least once a month to him. If anyone wants to donate any supplies or money for postage, it would be appreciated!

Ideas:

beef jerky

baby wipes

Clorox-type wipes

foot powder

small bottles mouthwash

small bottles of febreze

chapstick

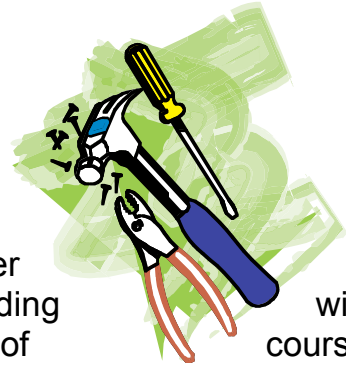
powdered water flavoring to add to water (like Crystal light individual)

DVDs (he does have a laptop that plays movies) Action/GUY STUFF!

If anyone needs other ideas or wants to donate to other soldiers, please visit <http://www.militarycarepackageideas.org/>

Thank you,  
Pam Johnson

## Building Work Day October 4th



Thank you to everyone who turned out to help caulk the building on September 26th. We had a lot of people and a lot of very sore fingers. We were able to caulk over half the building. One more work day and the entire building will be finished. So please bring caulking guns, gloves and, of course, yourselves and help finish the caulking. We will be meeting at 8:30 on Sunday, October 4th, and we hope to be finished by noon. An additional thank you must go out to the Stringers for supplying the delicious hamburgers to the workers.

## New Men's Group

The Huntsville UU Fellowship Men's Group is forming with its first meeting on Wednesday night, the 30th of September at 7pm. The meeting will be held at 4408 Shady Ln., 77320 and will be open to new members through Wednesday, October the 14th. The Men's Group is a small community of men who meet weekly to create a sacred container for the development of the whole person. We are essentially about learning to serve and be served, to see and be seen, to hear and be heard. We hope to see you Wednesday night. Please call Travis Gould if you have any questions: 830-221-8827.



## Charitable Giving

October 4th is the third annual association Sunday. These Sundays are an opportunity for us to come together to grow our faith and our influence in the world, and to develop spiritual communities that are more racially, culturally, and economically inclusive and welcoming to all people. In honor of Association Sunday, at our October 25th service, we will have a special collection for our building fund. Please make out all checks to the Huntsville UU Fellowship and write building fund in the memo line.

At the September 27th service we collected \$180.00 for Habitat for Humanity of Walker County.

## Campus Ministry

The inaugural meeting of the SHSU UU campus ministry was held on September 30 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Lowman Student Center. Eight students attended, including two members of our own fellowship – James Moore and Jennifer Yepez – and two members from other UU groups – Jenny Thayer from Austin and Cameron Leal from Bay Area UU. The other 4 students in attendance were members of the Sam Houston Atheist, Agnostic, Humanist and Free Thinker Association. The group voted unanimously to form a UU student group and elected James Moore President and Cameron Leal Vice President. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, at 6pm in the LSC. The group discussed possibilities for activism on campus, including adult religious education, GLBTQ advocacy and environmentalism. Hopefully, the UU student organization will provide a haven for young adults who feel unwelcome by the conservative fundamentalist culture that seems to be so prevalent in the community, a phenomenon Jenny Thayer said had become more pronounced since her childhood in Huntsville.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Our member, Jennifer Yepez, has won the state-wide competition for the Undergraduate Poetry Contest of the Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers! She and her teacher, another UU member, Melissa Morphew, will be driving to Lubbock the weekend of the 27th. Jennifer will present her poem, "Buoyancy". We will get to hear the poem at our service on October 11th! Way to go, Jennifer!



The Huntsville Chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens has awarded Richard Lane the 2009 LULAC Citizen of the Year

Award in appreciation for consistently supporting the educational goals of LULAC and the Hispanic Community.

## Classical Music Concerts



Drs. Naomi Gjevre and Javier Pinell would like to invite our congregation to attend the following concerts.

University Symphony Orchestra Concert  
Friday, November 13, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.  
University Heights Baptist Church, Huntsville  
Revueltas: Sensemayá  
Schuman: New England Triptych

Dvořák: Cello Concerto (with faculty soloist Daniel Saenz)

Tickets will be sold at the door

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Violin Faculty Recital: Dr. Naomi Gjevre, violin; Dr. Robert Hunt, piano  
7:30 PM, SHSU Recital Hall, 1681 Avenue J, Huntsville  
Free Admission

Monday, December 7, 2009

The Kolonneh String Quartet  
(Javier Pinell and Naomi Gjevre, violins; Alicia Valoti, viola; Daniel Saenz, cello).  
7:30 PM, SHSU Recital Hall, 1681 Avenue J, Huntsville  
Free Admission



## SWUUC Fall Leadership Conference

This year's Fall Leadership Conference will be held from November 13th-15th at the Glen Lake Camp and Retreat in Glen Rose Texas near Dinosaur State Park. It will be a fun-filled weekend of workshops, training and spiritual realization, and it is a great way to meet other UU's from around the district. To register, visit the swuuc website at <http://swuuc.org> Financial help from the Fellowship may be available for those that need it.

The tracks to be presented include the following:

- Administration of Religious Education Programs, led by Gaia Brown
- How To: A Guide for Lay Leaders, led by Joe Sullivan
- Media in Ministry, led by Jason Fricke
- Beyond Fundraising, led by Wayne Clark
- Small Congregation: Strong and Vital, led by Karen Brammer
- Youth Ministry, led by SWUUC Youth Ministry Consultants

## A Note From Our Intern Minister

Dear Friends!

I can't tell you how excited I am about your new church building. Every time I think about the progress all of you have made with the beginnings of the new facility, I break out in a smile. If I feel this way, you all must be ecstatic! The courage you have demonstrated in stepping out in faith is absolutely inspiring.



Acting on faith is not something often associated with UU communities. We are generally reasonable and rational and we sometimes tend to view those who rely on faith to guide their lives as somewhat naïve. While this may be true sometimes, it isn't always true. Sometimes faith is simply acting on realities all around us and they include our own inherent talents and abilities, freely offered gifts from others, and the previous planning and good judgment both of you and others. These realities set the stage for the potential that awaits us. The potential that awaits you is a new church home where the Huntsville UU Fellowship can grow and express its full potential. The next few or many months until the facility is habitable may seem like an eternity but please don't let that get you down. In the interim, I encourage everyone to use their individual talents and abilities to think of little ways we can each contribute to the future reality. Once we move in, we'll still need many little, and not so little, things in order to make it a functional facility including chairs, a microphone, a piano, and maybe even a pulpit. It is never too early to start thinking about these and other issues and with your collected wisdom and resources the challenges will be easily overcome. Keep acting on your faith and your own wisdom and the Huntsville UU Fellowship can't help but grow.

Namaste!

John

P.S. "Namaste" for those of you who may be unfamiliar with the word comes from the Hindu tradition. It literally means "the divine in me greets the divine in you" but it also means the good in me or the love within me greets the good or love within you.







Kelly Sigler and Gail Phillips are under the weather and would appreciate cards and your warm thoughts. Dean Hubbard has been moved to a new rehab center - HealthSouth in The Woodlands. He is in room #2038A and his phone number is 281-364-2000. Visiting hours are limited so please their website as to when to visit: <http://www.healthsouthnorthhouston.com/>

HealthSouth's mailing address is 18550 I-45 South, Conroe, TX 77384

## 2010 Southwest UU Women's Conference In The Name of Love

The 2010 Southwest UU Women's Conference will be held from February 26th - 28th 2010 at the Holiday Inn Select in Dallas. UUA Moderator, Gina Courtner, will be the theme speaker. Registration costs \$165 before Jan. 15th and \$180 after that date. For more information, or to register go to [www.swuuw.com](http://www.swuuw.com)

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