

CUUCSA ON-LINE NEWSLETTER/ VOL. 39, March, 2007

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Web site: <http://www.cuucsa.org/>

WE COVENANT TO PROMOTE:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
Justice, equality, and compassion in human relations;
Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth,
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
The right to conscience and the use of the democratic process;
The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all,
Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.

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#1.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Feb 25 "Shared Ministry: Yours, Mine, and Ours," Rev.Phil Schulman
Feb 25:Soup Lunch, hosted by Men's Group
Feb 25: All Church Retreat, following a break for lunch after morning service
Feb 25: Men's Group, 6:30pm
Mar 04: Brown Bag Socrates Cafe, 12:15 pm
Mar 10: Service Auction
Mar 11: "Healing Sexism," Rev. Phil Schulman
Mar 11: Men's Group, 6:30pm
Mar 12: Women's Group, 7pm
Mar 18: Remarkable Film Group - "South Pacific"
Mar 25: "Women Shaping Our Lives," Rev. Phil Schulman
Mar 25: Men's Group, 6:30pm
Mar 26: Women's Group, 7pm

#2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UUHAC
June Kachtik

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! March 30, 2007

The U. U. Housing Assistance Board and Staff will be hosting the Annual Membership Meeting on Friday evening, March 30, 2007, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at First UU Church. We hope that all of you will come. There will be food, displays, lots of information about how we are doing, and election of the new board.

Speaking of how we are doing, here are some interesting figures.

The number of low-income families that have had their homes totally repaired by UU HAC has risen each year.

2003 - 2004: 15
2004 - 2005: 19
2005 - 2006: 23
2006 - 2007: 30 is our goal

As UU's, you should be proud of this record of achievement by an organization started by UU's and sustained by UU's. It is my hope that each and every one of you will support this organization through your membership dues and attendance on March 30, 2007.

Membership forms are available in the foyer, but if you can't wait until next Sunday to pick one up, you can just send your check of \$25 per person to

U. U. Housing Assistance Corporation
221 W. Poplar Street
San Antonio, Texas 78212
Additional contributions are welcome.
June Kachtik,
Board President, UU HAC

Women's Group
Jean Halff

The Woman's Group meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at the church. These are the dates:
March 12th and March 26th

Remarkable Film Group
Clem Chow

The third and final film in the Rogers and Hammerstein series will be "South Pacific". The 1958 production was filmed in Todd-AO, a then new film processing technique that displayed very well the film's South Seas settings during WWII. The film featured Mitzi Gaynor and Rosanno Brazzi and introduced such beautiful songs as "Some Enchanted Evening" and "There is Nothing Like a Dame". The film also contained a message about racial tolerance that is still appropriate even today. This film will be shown at our church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, March 20, 2007.

The next film series selected consists of four films in the Film Noir Genre. Film Noir films are characterized by their dark subject matter and treatment. Wikipedia describes it this way: Film noir is a cinematic term used primarily to describe stylish Hollywood crime dramas, particularly those that emphasize moral ambiguity and sexual motivation. Hollywood's classic film noir period is generally regarded as stretching from the early 1940s to the late 1950s.

The first film selected for the film noir series is "The Maltese Falcon". This 1941 film was often considered as the trendsetter for film noir. It featured the performances of Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor and Peter Lorre. This film will be shown at our church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, April 15, 2007.

The second film in the film noir series will be "The Big Sleep". Another Humphrey Bogart film, this time featuring his new bride: Lauren Bacall. It was a great success when it was released in 1946. This film will be shown at our church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, May 20, 2007.

The third film for this series will be "Touch of Evil", the 1958 film written, directed and featured Orson Welles together with Charlton Heston and Janet Leigh. The action took place on the border of Mexico and the US. It featured one of the longest continuous shots in Hollywood history. This film will be shown at our church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, June 17, 2007.

The fourth and last film in the film noir series will be "Chinatown", the 1974 film is set in the era usually covered by film noir. The film was directed by Roman Polanski and featured outstanding performances by Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway and John Huston. It is the only film in this series shot in color. This film will be shown at our church at 6:00 PM on July 15, 2007.

Equal Exchange Drug Emporium to Reopen
Henry M. Halff

The Equal Exchange Drug Emporium will stage a grand reopening on March 10 at the CUUC Service Auction with an expanded line of addictive substances. Several varieties of organic coffee will be available in drip grind and, for the first time, in whole-bean form. In conformance with ADA requirements, some decaf varieties will be available to the somnolence-challenged in the congregation. The fat- and sugar- dependent will be delighted to learn that the chocolate offerings will be expanded to include a milk variety. And, for the first time, an assortment of teas will be available to serve the needs of tannin addicts.

UU Bed and Breakfast Directory

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 27 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at 828-281-3253 or at info@uurehome, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the UU're Home website at <http://www.UUreHome.com> are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published every year in April (and has many listings different from those on the website). For a copy of the 2007 directory, please send a check for \$20 (or \$25 and your e-mail address for both the book and a year's access to the website) to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

#3

UPCOMING SERVICES

Feb 28

Shared Ministry: Yours, Mine and Ours
Rev. Phil Schulman

The ministry of the church is not something to be left to a professional. What is the work of this congregation? How does it shape our lives individually and collectively?

The theme of this service will be taken up in an all-church retreat called "From Community Relations to Shared Ministry" led by Janet Paleo and Anna Gray, Directors of the Prosumers Group.

Janet and Anna, have provided leadership and organizing resource to mental health clients locally, nationally and internationally. Employing many of the same motivational techniques used in corporate America, these women have inspired and challenged people to take responsibility for self determination, and to get in touch with inner motivation and direction in order to live with enthusiasm, responsibility and purposefulness.

March 4

Reflections on the First Principle
A sharing service coordinated by Steven Botts

The first of the Seven Principles of Unitarian-Universalism, "The Worth and Dignity of Every Person" seems simple, but has many facets. When we face the reality of such matters as war, the death penalty, abortion, and euthanasia, we may wonder just how the first principle applies.

Although there may be some sort of consensus among UUs on some of these matters, UUs are not bound to follow any specific interpretation of the principles. A panel of CUUC members and friends will present their thoughts on how they understand (or puzzle over) the first principle.

March 11

Healing Sexism,
Phil Schulman

Why it's more important than we may realize. The idea that men are better and more important than women plays a far greater role in shaping society than we may realize. Phil will present sexism's role in gender conditioning, environmental collapse and spiritual crisis/awakening.

March 25

Women Shaping our Lives
Phil Schulman

Three Church Members will share the influence of a woman that had an impact on their lives. Plus we will be treated to the life-affirming music of local star, Butch Morgan.

#4

ARTICLES AND REPORTS

From Our Pastor
Faith without Work is not Dead

I'm a bit amazed that a year has passed since I shared with the community my Lent committment to give up rushing. Was I successful last year? Let's just say that the effort was well worth while. As UU's we have the freedom to pick and choose which holidays and/or religious practices will be meaningful for us. Many UU's exercise this freedom by throwing out most if not all religious holidays from their past. Personally, I like the adage "make new friends, and keep the old. One is silver and the other gold." Obviously some practices and holidays have established greater importance in my life than others. It thrills me to have a new experience of a religous observance.

When I announced last year that I was giving up rushing for Lent, some assumed that I was making a joke. Some may have thought that I was mocking Catholics. Truth is that Lent is meaningful to me. I just don't feel the need to be orthodox (in any of the flavors of orthodoxy). I do try to have some awareness about what people would take as honoring or offensive to their tradition. I wouldn't announce a Pork Dinner to celebrate Passover or Ramadan. The intent is to observe in such a way that increases my awareness of the beauty of life and helps me to live in accordance with my (UU) values.

In the process, I have sometimes become too serious. Fortunately, I have realized that the biggest gains have come when I don't work so hard- when I live with faith and acceptance. Playfulness and creativity are tremendously helpful

as well as fun in this regard. I have wanted to know how to show up for life without being distracted by chatter in my head. I set out to learn how I can laugh and love and dance myself into a full expression of what is sacred?

Perhaps this year I will give up work for Lent! Nancy, please do not withhold my paycheck. I bet that the "services" that I'd offer would be more valuable not less, if everything I did I did with the attitude of a child at play. "Not possible," you say? Well I didn't quit rushing perfectly either. Would you be willing to make such a sacrifice as to give up your "work" and offer all your life energy from a playful and joyous heart?

RE News for March
Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

The children have been studying about what a UU is. We have covered 3 of the 7 Principles. We will be making "Stepping Stones" to place in the Service Auction.

Not only will we make 2 stones to auction off; but we will be taking orders for family stones to be made the way they want for placement at their homes or in the Meditation Garden at CUUC. Think about what you would want a stone to say in memory of your family member(s). What would it look like?

Plans are at this moment to make a stone for Allen Lawrence to be placed in the garden. The RE Committee is planning their basket for the Auction: Home Movie Night. We plan a continuation of the Principles in preparation for the Church wide UU Identity Unit the last 3 Sundays in April & the 1st Sunday in May. Where Do We Come From? Who Are We? Where Are We Going?

For the 1st Principle, we did fingerprint pictures because each of us is unique and individual. We also learned a song called "We are unique and unrepeatable". We learned about Olympia Brown, Antoinette Brown, Dorthea Dix, Lucy Stone, & Whitney Young, Jr. as well as Clara Barton and other famous UUs in conjunction with the 2nd Principle as they struggled for equality and fair treatment for all. We made a handprint Unity wreath.

For the 3rd Principle, we did a guided meditation, learned about Ghandi and Namaste, re-read the story of the Buddha and made "Valentine Guys". We are beginning a season that in other Religions is a very sacred time. Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday (a time of feasting and festivity) leads to Ash Wednesday (when ashes in the shape of a cross are placed on the forehead) which leads to Lent (in the past a time of fasting and acts of penance - now marked by giving up of something that is considered a favorite thing) that culminates in Easter.

This is a time when we can teach our children to be tolerant of other's beliefs and to celebrate the uniqueness of our UU faith. The fact that we believe in personal responsibility and the consequences of our actions all the time means that we do not have a special season that we must atone for our actions.

We are expected to atone all the time, that we are unique and important, that we treat each other fairly, that we strive to learn all we can in our churches and everywhere, that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life, that we can be democratic in all our endeavors (everyone has a say) , that we should work for Peace and that we take care of the world because we are connected to the earth and each other.

In the coming months, we will be looking for some information from you, the congregation. We ask that you think about the following questions: (1) Why am I a UU? (2) How did I and when did I decide that I was a UU? (3) What are some things that the children and perhaps the congregation do not know about me?

These and other questions are going to be vital to our UU Identity Unit. Glenna Jones-Kachtik DRE/CUUC

"Three children were talking about their religions. The first child said, "I'm a Catholic and our symbol is a Cross." Well," said the second child, "I'm Jewish and our symbol is the Star of David". The third child looked at them and said "I'm a Unitarian Universalist and our symbol is a candle in a martini glass" UU Quotes & Jokes.

Social Justice News

Glenna Jones-Kachtik and Joan Bradshaw, Social Justice Co Chairs.

Social Justice is busy preparing their basket for the service auction. We have not met recently. We only owe Phil 4 trees since one of our members planted a living Christmas Tree this year. UU Housing is gearing up for their Annual Meeting. See June Kachtik for details and be sure to see the testimony by Mrs. Menchaca about the rehabilitation of her home. Send in your membership form. The Heifer International Project was a success.

Be sure and attend the All Church Retreat on 2/25. Save 3/10 for the Service Auction. Sign up to sell raffle tickets on the lovely quilt for the service auction.

"I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge-
That myth is more potent than history.
That dreams are more powerful than facts-
That hope always triumphs over experience-
That laughter is the only cure for grief.
And I believe that love is stronger than death."
--Robert Fulghum, 2003

UU Minister and author of many books, including
All We Really Need to Know We Learned in Kindergarten

#5

AFFINITY GROUPS

Socrates Cafe
Marilyn DeKing

The Brown Bag Socrates Cafe will meet at 12:15 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at Community Unitarian Universalist Church. Bring your lunch and join us for a satisfying philosophical session.

At the beginning of each session, participants submit and vote on the question to be discussed. Resolution is not the goal of the discussion. We usually end with more questions than we began with.

Everyone is welcome to participate in Socrates Cafe or to visit and see what it is about

Women's Support Group
Jean Halff

The Women's Support Group is open to CUUC women and friends of the church. We meet every 2 weeks, on a Monday night at the church, starting at 7 p.m. and usually finishing before 9 p.m.

Each woman usually talks for about 10 minutes about anything she wishes. However, you don't have to talk if you would rather not. What is divulged is kept confidential unless otherwise stated. It is a great way to get to know the women in the church on a more personal level in a safe environment. We invite you to come and join us and let us get to know you.

Men's Group
Steven Botts

The CUUC men's group meets every second and fourth Sunday from 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. All CUUC men or visitors are welcome to join us.

Group leadership rotates from meeting to meeting. The leader for each meeting is also the host, and he is responsible for furnishing snacks and drinks.

We usually start off meetings with a clearing, in which each member is allowed to talk about recent events in his life, if he wishes to, for as long as he sees fit. Next, the facilitator introduces the topic for the evening. This may involve a short reading - a poem, an article or other text. The subject could be just about anything that the facilitator would like the group to address: What's going on at CUUC, religion, economics science, health, family, friendship, etc.

Around 8:30, we wind things up by deciding who is going to facilitate the next meeting, declare this one finished, clean up, and leave.

Remarkable Film Group
Clem Chow

The Remarkable Film Group consists of members and friends of CUUC who gather each month to view one feature film and discuss it afterward. Everyone is welcome to attend. The films are usually shown at church at 6 PM on the third Sunday of each month. Films are shown in a series. The attendees select the theme, and content of each series normally compose of four films on that theme, whether directed by the same person or featuring a specific actor or actress. Current leaders of the group are Clem and Joyce Chow. Any questions about this group may be directed to Clem or Joyce.

Officers

President - Mary Grace Ketner, 210-278-0612, mgteller@yahoo.com

Secretary - Vicki Lee Mattern, 210-690-1032, vmattern@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer - Nancy White, 210-650-4785, nancyemerson@gmail.com

Trustee - Daron Sachs, 210-699-0798, daron.sachs@sbcglobal.net

Trustee - Peter Van Dusen, 210-724-1614, flosfr399bc@yahoo.com

Programs Committee - Henry Half, 210-493-7501, henry@quiensabe.com; Patty Gullick, 210-490-1349, pattygullick@hotmail.com

Member Services Committee - Clem Chow, 210-495-1798, CCIMA8@swbell.net; Jeff Ketner, 210-278-0612, jeffket@sbcglobal.net

Operations Committee - John Bradshaw, 210-341-8506, JandJBradshaw@webtv.net

Staff

Minister - Phil Schulman, 210-614-2014, schulman@satx.rr.com

Director of Religious Education, Glenna Jones-Kachtik, 210-525-0416, gjkbear@earthlink.net.

Email Addresses

Messages to the Board of Trustees may be sent to cuuc-board@yahoogroups.com.

Calendar additions and changes should be submitted to Diane Wilson, calendar@cuucsa.org.

Suggestions for and comments on the worship program may be sent to cuuc-worship@yahoogroups.com.

Requests for special assistance and pastoral care may be sent to cuuc-cares@yahoogroups.com.

Requests for use of the church facility and reports of maintenance problems may be sent to cuuc-ops@yahoogroups.com.

Changes of address, other membership information, and newsletter subscription or unsubscription requests may be sent to cuuc-members@yahoogroups.com.

Material for and questions about the newsletter may be sent to the editor, Steve Botts, stbotts@texas.net.

CUUC Announce is an electronic mailing list for announcements, information, and questions about church programs and activities. All friends and members of the church are urged to join this list by sending an email to cuuc-announce-subscribe@yahoo-groups.com

CUUC Justice is an electronic mailing list devoted to church and denominational programs in the areas of social action, social justice, and social responsibility. Those interested in these programs can join the list by sending an email to cuuc-justice-subscribe@yahoo-groups.com.

CUUC Discuss is a mailing list for exchange of information on any matter of interest to church members and friends. You can join the list by sending an email to cuuc-discuss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

CUUC Men is the secret mailing list of the CUUC Men's Group. Men who join the list will get in on discussions of Men's Group Activities and the occasional tasteless joke. To subscribe, send an email to cuuc-men-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.