

CUUCSA ON-LINE NEWSLETTER/ VOL. 43, August, 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
2. Announcements
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- 4.Articles and Reports
- 5.Affinity Groups
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#### #1.SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Jul 29: : "It's a Charlie Brown Service," Daron Sachs & YRUU  
Aug 05: " Beyond Belief, a Look at Secular Humanism," Len Wheeler  
Aug 05 Brown Bag Socrates Cafe  
Aug 08: CUUC Board meeting  
Aug 12: "Addiction, Yours, Mine, and Ours," Rev. Phil Schulman  
Aug 12: Men's Group, 6:30 pm  
Aug 13: Women's Group, 7:00 pm  
Aug 19: Sacred Stories, Mary Grace Ketner and Storytellers  
Aug 26: Ingathering and Water Communion. Glenna Jones-Kachtik & RE Committee  
Aug 26: Men's Group, 6:30 pm  
Aug 27: Women's Group, 7:00 pm  
Sep 02: TBA, Rev. Phil Schulman  
Sep 02 Brown Bag Socrates Cafe

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#### #2

##### ANNOUNCEMENTS

An Invitation to Friends

Marilyn DeKing

Over 100 of my paintings in various sizes and shapes will be given away\* Sun-Tues, July 29-31, 2-8 PM. Free parking meters weekdays & all day Sunday at Granada ballroom, 14th floor, 111 Villita St.at St's Mary's St.

\* The painter George Vandersluis, with whom studied in the early '50s at S.U. advised me to always ask for at least a nominal token of exchange for my art work, so I'll swap for \$1.00 each! Come early to the exhibit and if you find something you like, take it home with my pleasure in your having it.

Sincerely,

Marilyn  
210-299-4005

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Women's Group  
Jean Halff

Our Woman's Group is getting smaller and smaller, so we want to increase our membership. If you haven't tried our Woman's Group please attend a meeting and give us a try. We have a lot of fun and in the process get to know each other better. We meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the church. In August this will be the 13th and 27th.

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Remarkable Film Group  
Clem Chow

Those presented at the June 17 showing of the Remarkable Film Group had selected four films that are life affirming for the next series. The first film in the life affirming series will be "Cinema Paradiso". This 1989 film from Italy won the 1990 Oscar for the Best Foreign Language Film. This film was billed as "a joyous ode to cinema and its power to awaken the feeling of Paradise within simple people". This film will be shown at church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, August 19, 2007. The second film in this series will be "It Could Happen To You". This 1994 film was known at one stage of its development as "Cop gives waitress \$2 million tip!" It stars Nicolas Cage and Bridget Fonda. This film will be shown at church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, September 16, 2007. The Remarkable Film Group selected "Muriel's Wedding" as the third in the series of life affirming films. The 1995 production from Australia was the break-out film for Toni Collette and she was nominated for the Golden Globe for her performance in it. The film is also considered as one of the most uplifting films of our times. This film will be shown at church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, October 21, 2007. To complete the life affirming series, the group will be showing "Billy Elliot". This 2000 film from Great Britain was nominated for three Oscars for Best Supporting Actress, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay. The tag line given to this film reads: "Inside every one of us is a special talent waiting to come out. The trick is finding it". This film will be shown at church at 6:00 PM, November 18, 2007.

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Planning Committee  
June Kachtik

**NEW FOLKS! NEW LEADERSHIP! SAME GOAL!**

I'm sure you have noticed - and welcomed - the new folks coming to our church lately. The new board and coordinators are talking about ways to encourage and strengthen the ties that we all have - whether new or long-time members and friends - to CUUC. At its July board meeting it reviewed a report prepared by our ad hoc committee. And we would like to share it with all of you after church on July 29, 2007, during Soup Lunch. These ideas only work if all of us know about them and want to be a part of them.

You can be thinking about:

Why is CUUC important to you?

Our answer is that our church should be meeting one of our most basic needs - the need to be religious, to seek meaning, and to make connections.

Do our programs and activities meet your needs?  
We think this is the year to take a critical look at how we are doing things.  
Just because "we've been doing it that way" won't be a good enough reason  
anymore.

Intrigued? I hope so! See you on Sunday, 7/29/07, at the Soup Lunch.

Planning Committee: June Kachtik, Clem Chow, and Jeff Ketner

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#3UPCOMING SERVICES

July 29

"It's a Charlie Brown Service."

Daron Sachs and YRUU Group

The youth of CUUC and First UU will present the service under the supervision of  
Daron Sachs.

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August 5

Len Wheeler

Beyond Belief, A look at Secular Humanism

We've all heard of secular humanism, but what do we really know about it, and  
what does it have to offer us? Len is coming to us fresh from a workshop on the  
subject.

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August 12

Phil Schulman

Addiction; yours, mine and ours

People often do the same self destructive or self sabotaging behaviors  
repeatedly. They appear unable to learn from the negative feedback to their  
actions. Is addiction something that occurs in a minority of the population? Or  
is it part of our human condition? What do faith, spirituality and religion have  
to contribute?

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August 19

Mary Grace Ketner and Storytellers

Sacred Stories

A panel of local storytellers will share tales taken from a variety of religious  
and cultural traditions.

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August 26

Water Communion/Ingathering.

Glenna Jones-Kachtik and RE Committee

Come share the story of your Summer's spiritual journey as we gather together in  
community and mingle the waters from our travels in communion. Stay for the soup  
lunch and celebrate with us the beginning of a new church year in our community.

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ARTICLES AND REPORTS

Gratitude

CUUC Congregation

(continued from last issue)

At a service presented by Henry Halff earlier this year, members of the congregation were asked to express their gratitude for another CUUC member on a card. The cards were taken up, read and put away. Lest they be forgotten. I'm printing three expressions of gratitude, selected at random, here. Expect more next month.

"I would like to thank those who established this community church."

"I thank Joan Bradshaw for her constant good cheer."

"Thank you, HH for encouraging me to participate and fall in love with this church."

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From Our Pastor

Rev. Phil Schulman

Energy, Intention, Ego and Community Sunday someone commented that there was an energy present in the gathering after service, that he had never seen at Community before. I did not know that this person has spent any time here, and at first I was cynical, guarded and dismissive of his comment. On what basis did he make his comment? But the look on his face, and his comment kept coming back to me. Hadn't a founding member made virtually the same comment a couple months ago? Hadn't I also recently stated that I liked the energy: that something positive was happening at CUUC this summer? Might there be an energy (spirit) blessing and being felt in our gatherings? I remembered that many first time visitors to my house had expressed appreciation for "the energy" of that place. I remembered how I had taken their comments as validation of the success of many hours of labor given to the landscape and to home improvement. I had purchased a 85 year old home in a not so great neighborhood, and had set out to create a healing sanctuary, someplace ideal for peer counseling classes and a massage therapy practice. I spent what I judged as a ridiculous amount of time working on the house and yard during what I have called my lost years. My personal and professional dreams had stalled, and I didn't know what to do. A few years prior in another city I had enjoyed some success and notoriety as a community organizer. There had been guest editorial columns and TV interviews. I enjoyed a sense of connection and could feel the pulse of progressive community efforts. But my glory days were short lived. This city didn't know me. Who cared that I was giving my sweat to this patch of Earth? I wondered what had become of my plans. I longed to be part of a team that did "good work" that "amounted to something." A critic broadcast frequently on the airwaves in my head telling me that I was wasting my life. Fortunately, I came to realize that my labor had amounted to something. I knew too, that the work I did with the intent of creating a healing sanctuary had helped to heal me. Today, I am tightly woven into the fabric of a congregation that shares the wisdom of coming together with the intention to create sanctuary and offer its energy to Earth community. If the energy or spirit of our community can be perceived by a newcomer then it is probably the sum of every song, every meditation, every prayer, every word and every deed offered at CUUC. It is not only the sum but each part that is something of value. Thanks, all of you for what you give to create a space that is welcoming, beautiful and filled with holy spirit! (energy)

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RE News

Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

RE has been having fun this summer. We made CD fish and we made yarn bugs! On short Sundays we have had activities available at the back table in the Sanctuary and so far, we have really enjoyed all the Java & Jellyrolls. The RE Committee is looking at curriculum for next year and we want to offer a social justice theme in September. We are looking at Chalice Club interspersed with In Our Hands, Peace Projects and Teaching Tolerance.

One thing that we want to remind everyone of is the STEPPING STONE PROJECT. It has gotten lost in the melee of summer but we want to remind everyone that we are still offering custom made stepping stones for the church grounds or for your yards. We have flower molds, butterfly molds, round molds, square molds and we have mosaic pieces and colorful stones AND stamping alphabets. A custom stone is only \$\$\$ away from your reach! We will negotiate a price that is reasonable based on needed supplies and the extra fees will go to CUUC! This is one thing that RE can do as their part in Church finances. We want our young kids to know that they are a working part of this church too! It is also a good way to remember lost loved ones, or those who have moved away or Church family that is still here. Add to our meditation garden, to the back yard, the side yard, pool or fountain side or any flower bed!

We want to remind you that August 26th is coming up fast...be sure to bring waters back from all your travels this summer to co-mingle at the Water Communion/Ingathering. This will be a multi-generational service planned by RE and Pastor Phil. We are also looking forward for everyone to be back from their journeys and to join any new families that may join the church - so we will have old and new together!

Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

Got a little couch potato? Check out fun summer activities for kids.  
<[http://us.rd.yahoo.com/evt=48248/\\*http://search.yahoo.com/search?fr=oni\\_on\\_mail&p=summer+activities+for+kids&cs=bz](http://us.rd.yahoo.com/evt=48248/*http://search.yahoo.com/search?fr=oni_on_mail&p=summer+activities+for+kids&cs=bz)>

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#### 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

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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.

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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.  
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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.  
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#### DIRECTORY

##### Officers

President - Joan Bradshaw, 210-241-8506, joanbradshaw@sbcglobal.net Secretary - Daron Sachs, 210-699-0798, daron.sachs@sbcglobal.net  
<mailto:daron.sachs@sbcglobal.net> Treasurer - June Kachtik, 210-342-0135, junekac@aol.com At Large - Charlie Pond, 210-348-040  
At Large - Mary Beth Romeo, 694-5233, r5romeo@sbcglobal.net Programs Committee - Henry Halff, 210-493-7501, henry@quiensabe.com <mailto:henry@quiensabe.com>; Patty Gullick, 210-490-1349, pattygullick@hotmail.com  
<mailto:pattygullick@hotmail.com> Member Services Committee - Clem Chow, 210-495-1798, CCIMA8@swbell.net <mailto:CCIMA8@swbell.net>; Jeff Ketner, 210-278-0612, jeffket@sbcglobal.net <mailto:jeffket@sbcglobal.net> Operations Committee - John Bradshaw, 210-341-8506, JandJBradshaw@webtv.net <mailto:JandJBradshaw@webtv.net>  
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##### Staff

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<mailto:schulman@satx.rr.com> Director of Religious Education, Glenna Jones-Kachtik, 956-451-5925, gjkbear@earthlink.net <mailto:gjkbear@earthlink.net> C  
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Email Addresses Messages to the Board of Trustees may be sent to cuuc-board@yahoogroups.com <mailto:cuuc-board@yahoogroups.com>. Calendar additions and changes should be submitted to Diane Wilson, calendar@cuucsa.org <mailto:calendar@cuucsa.org>. Suggestions for and comments on the worship program

may be sent to [cuuc-worship@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cuuc-worship@yahoogroups.com) <<mailto:cuuc-worship@yahoogroups.com>>. Requests for special assistance and pastoral care may be sent to [cuuc-cares@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cuuc-cares@yahoogroups.com) <<mailto:cuuc-cares@yahoogroups.com>>. Requests for use of the church facility and reports of maintenance problems may be sent to [cuuc-ops@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cuuc-ops@yahoogroups.com) <<mailto:cuuc-ops@yahoogroups.com>>. Changes of address, other membership information, and newsletter subscription or unsubscription requests may be sent to [cuuc-members@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cuuc-members@yahoogroups.com) <<mailto:cuuc-members@yahoogroups.com>>.