

From: "CUUC Newsletter" <newsletter@cuucsa.org>  
Date: April 21, 2007 11:44:34 PM CDT  
To: "Margaret Batschelet" <typea45@swbell.net>  
Subject: CUUC Newsletter - May 2007 (revised)

CUUCSA ON-LINE NEWSLETTER/ VOL. 41, May, 2007  
Editor: Steven Botts, stbotts@texas.net  
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
3. Upcoming Services
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#1.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Apr 22: "Who Are We?" (UU Identity Service #2), Henry Halff  
Apr 28: Tacos & Trimming, 8:30 am  
Apr 29: "Where Are UUs Going?" (UU Identity Service #3), Rev. Phil Schulman  
Apr 29: Men's Group, 6:30 pm  
Apr 30: Women's Group, 7:00 pm  
May 05: Annual CUUC Garage sale, 8am - 2:00 pm  
May 06: "Homecoming - Our UU Stories," Intergenerational  
May 06: Socrates Cafe, 12:15 pm  
May 09: Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:00 pm  
May 13: Worship Committee, 9:00 am

May 13: "More Foolish Wisdom," Rev. Phil Schulman  
May 13: Men's Group, 6:30 pm  
May 14: Women's Group, 7:00 pm  
May 20: Congregational Meeting  
May 20: Remarkable Film Group: "The Big Sleep," 6:00 pm  
May 27: Men's Group, 6:30 pm  
May 28: Women's Group, 7:00 pm  
June 03: "The Spiritual Purpose of Democracy," Rev. Phil Schulman  
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#2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Editor  
UU Questionnaires

Glenna has asked that I remind you to get the UU questionnaires to her as soon as possible. They are needed for the May 6 service, and can be found in the RE report section of the April Newsletter. Here's the requested information re-printed:

Short biographical sketch - name, address, job, date of birth, names of any children and/or pets. Name any foreign countries in which you have lived.

Name one thing that you are not sure that anyone knows about you or would be surprised if they knew. (This can be like marching in a peace march in the 60s, that you sing opera or might not vote for the democratic party, or anything like that. Perhaps you are a secret chief, a spy just anything we might not know)

What is or has been your spiritual journey? How did you decide you were a UU (if you are). Was there a particular event or an "ah-ha" moment when you decided. What any other religions have you been or are you?

Where do you see yourself in years to come?

What is one piece of advice that you received that you have never forgotten? Why?

If you could name one thing that you think would change the world, what would it be and why?

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RE Stepping Stone Project  
Glenna Jones-Kachtik

Do you yearn for a stone butterfly, or a stone flower to grace your garden? Perhaps a diamond shaped, circle shaped or a hexagon shaped stone- encrusted with gemstones and lovely words for the Church's memory garden is more up your alley? Or both but you do not have time you say? Did you like the stepping

stones sold to parents at the service auction? Let the RE class make a custom made stepping stone just for you!

The RE class will make a stepping stone for you. Follow these simple steps:

- A. Choose your shape and designs
- B. Choose your colors
- C. Choose what you want on the stepping stone.
- D. Tell RE whether the stone is for your personal use, or if you want this Memory Stone in the church Meditation Garden or someplace else on the church grounds.

For the price of the supplies and a nominal fee, which will go to the Church fund [and will help defray RE costs], RE will make this for you and we will either give it to you for your yard, or will place it where you wish on the grounds of the Church.

This would be an excellent way to memorialize some of our members who are no longer with us; create a memory stone for the Meditation Garden. Or perhaps your preference is a family stone with all of your family names and the date on it for the Church grounds. Contact Glenna Jones-Kachtik with your order today! 525-0416 or (cell)1- 956-451-5925. Or send an e-mail to gjkbear822@yahoo.com.

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Member Services Committee  
Welcome Charley Pond and Suzy Olsen  
Clem Chow

Introducing Suzy Harmon Olsen (in her own words):

During night blackouts, in WW II, in St Louis, Missouri, I was born deaf, ten weeks early, so hence my stubborn feisty attitude. Have lived life is as an artist since age three, I am always interested and curious about everything. My childhood was all about asking questions and exploring everything I could reach with eyes and hands.

My oral education as a deaf student enabled me to extend my education. After twelve years of college, I received a Masters Degree in Fine Arts at UTSA. Being the explorer has brought me to Spain for one year, and many years in Italy, where my children were born. Painting is my talent, teaching art is my gift to others. I still ache to travel to more corners of the world, perhaps learn about Tibetan culture and faith.

Introducing Charley Ross Pond:

Charley was born and raised as a Lutheran in San Antonio. He is retired from the US Army. He has three grown children all living in the New England area.

In the late 70s, Charley joined the local UU Fellowship while living in Kingston, NY. On Christmas Day, 2005, Charley moved back to San Antonio from Acton, MA. He is also a member of Gardening Volunteers of South Texas.

Charley is already active in our church. He has agreed to be nominated to be a member of our Board. He also serves as a member of the Operations and Maintenance Committee. Charley wishes to remind everyone to please note the correct spelling of his first name.

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Tacos and Trimming  
Claudia Glass

This Saturday, April 28, at 8:30 AM, break bread (okay breakfast tacos) together, then steward the place we make holy. In other words, pull weeds in the playground, and take down a tree in the meditation garden, maybe do leaf patrol. Any amount of time helps. We'll work until noon. Questions? Call Claudia 494-3135.

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CUUC Garage Sale  
Vicki Mattern

It's time for the Annual CUUC Garage Sale. The sale will be held on May 5th from 8 am to 2pm.

Please bring items you want to donate to the church before Thursday, May 3. Garage sale items should be stored in the shed next to the fence, not the one next to the patio. And if you have items that you would rather store in a climate control, it can be placed in the room upstairs in the church where RE used to be held.

Please do not bring clothing or large appliances, but we are happy to have books, house wares, toys, electronics, yard and garden items, Christmas and other holiday stuff, most anything out of the attic or garage that has not been used in a while -- essentially anything with a potential resale value.

We also need volunteers to help set up for the sale and to work the sale. Set up will begin on Thursday and continue to opening of the sale. Please contact Vicki Mattern at [vmattern@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vmattern@sbcglobal.net) or 667-0296 if you can help.

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Service Auction  
Nancy White

CUUC made approximately \$1800 on the Service Auction when all the payments come in. The following need to contact Nancy White about their payments: Patty

Gullick, June Kachtik, Glenna Kachtik, Vicky Mattern, Janet Paleo, Charley Pond, Phil Schulman.

The church thanks you all for your support.

Nancy E. White  
3840 Barrington  
San Antonio, TX 78217-4168  
(H)210-650-4785

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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: April 23, May 14th, and May 28th.

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Remarkable Film Group  
Clem Chow

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.

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#3  
UPCOMING SERVICES

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April 22  
Henry Halff

Who Are We?

We have come a long way since John Murray, a Universalist pioneer, first set foot on these shores and since William Ellery Channing instigated the movement that became Unitarianism in America. What is Unitarian-Universalism today? What, if anything, is at the enduring core of the Unitarian-Universalism? Are we an authentic religion or simply a denomination? This service will present different ways of asking and answering questions about the essence of Unitarian Universalism as it is practiced today.

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April 29  
Rev. Phil Schulman

Where are UUs Going?

Destination Unknown; the future of our UU movement  
In 1776, every Unitarian and Universalist considered themselves Christian. Transcendentalism and humanism profoundly changed our movement. Who will be in 20, 50 and 100 years from now? Where are we going?

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May 6  
RE Committee

Homecoming: Our UU Stories (intergenerational)

This will be a service in which members of the congregation will share something of their personal lives and spiritual journeys. See "RE News and Intergenerational Service Announcement" for more information.

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May 13  
Rev. Phil Schulman

More Foolish Wisdom

Join us for another dose of "enlighten up ment" as Phil takes us down the sacred path of jesters, clowns and tricksters.

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May 20  
Board of Trustees

May 27  
Glenna Jones-Kachtik and RE Committee

RE Closing Service

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June 03  
Rev. Phil Schulman

The Spiritual Purpose of Democracy

Why do our UU congregations promote the democratic process? What does democracy have to do with our faith? Does democracy effect personal and communal spirituality?

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#4  
ARTICLES AND REPORTS

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The CUUC Worship Service Blog  
Henry Halff

The worship committee, at its last retreat, devoted some time to ways of extending the reach of our services in time, of making them more influential in our lives, and of making them last longer. One of the ideas that came out of our discussion was that of putting the services on a blog.

What's a blog? (If you know the answer to this question, you can skip this paragraph.) A blog is web site upon which someone, the blogger, posts periodic essays, called blog entries, and invites comments on these entries. (If you don't know what "web site" is, I can't help you.)

Acting upon this idea, I set up an experimental blog for our worship services and posted a couple of my services thereupon. I've invited others to post their services, but have thus far had no takers. I've invited everyone to comment, but have thus far had no takers. Our august worship chair, Peter Van Dusen, suggested that we might get takers if we announce the blog in the newsletter. Hence, this article.

So, the short of it is this. If you want to read the blog and make comments, point your browser to <<http://cuucservices.blogspot.com>>.

If you want to put a service on the blog (and those of you who have led worship services really should do this), either send me the material or let me know that you're interested, and I'll set you up as a blogger.

Why should we be doing this? Young folk, and by young I mean thirty-somethings, spend a lot of time on blogs. If we hope to attract younger people to CUUC, we should be using the technologies that they use. Besides that, it's fun.

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From Our Pastor

Rev. Phil Schulman  
What Are We Practicing?

During a conversation with Dr. Will Tuttle, author of "World Peace Diet" he stated that we become masters of anything that we practice over and over. I have since asked myself, what is it that I am practicing over and over. What patterns or rituals have I mastered? Are my practices spiritual?

I define spiritual practice as any thing we choose to do repetitively in order to become mindful or conscious of life, the sacred, or the eternal. "Choose" may be the most important word in that sentence. It seems true that in some sense we choose all of our habits, behaviors or practices, but habits tend to become automatic. The question is "How does keeping this practice affect me and others? If we can answer this question honestly, we may decide to choose differently.

In his book "The Power of Now" Eckhart Tolle says that "it is very difficult to remain conscious and create suffering." He also said that if we are (unconsciously) creating suffering for ourselves, we are probably creating suffering for others too. So I have been reexamining some of my habits to see what need they are designed to meet.

One of the habits that I am most grateful to have been taught is the habit of appreciating. This means inwardly and sometimes outwardly acknowledging specific ways that people, places and things meet my needs. I have noticed that the more often I practice that habit, the happier and more effective I become.

If you are willing to examine your life, you will likely find that some of your practices are spiritual and that some do not meet your needs sufficiently. Would you be willing to share with our Community something that you do regularly that you consider a spiritual practice? - Remember it doesn't have to be anything associated with religion, prayer or formal meditation. If you don't wish to share publicly, feel free to send your answer to me (schulman@satx.rr.com)

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Social Justice Committee  
Glenna Jones-Kachtik  
Social Justice Notes and Concerns

Social Justice did not meet in March.

We would remind you to buy the FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE (\$2.50 @ BAR), TEA (\$5.00 @ BOX) and COFFEE (\$8.00 @ BAG) that is located in the coffee room.

May 12th is Voting Day. Vote for the candidates of your choice for City Council and School Board and Bond Issues. We will be getting voter's guides when they are out and invite you to pick one up. Read it. Vote for the candidates of your choice. The right to democratic process is one of our founding Principles. Exercise it.

Earth Day is Sunday, April 22. Remember to REDUCE/REUSE/RECYCLE.

Check out the Step Up Program.

Talk about and discuss intolerance. Fight prejudice where ever you find it.

Do practice Random Acts of Kindness.

Glenna Jones-Kachtik & Joan Bradshaw Co-Chairs.

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RE News for May

Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

The RE class has been busy learning about The 7 Principles and the 6 Sources. In the coming weeks, as is the rest of the congregation, they will be studying or talking about our UU Identity - Where did we come from? What/Who are we? Where are we going? The week of 4/22 they will be making Rainbow Bracelets; the 29, they will be doing a clay or media exploration of their idea of a perfect world.

They will have participated, along with the congregation in a retelling of the story "Stone Soup" from a UU perspective by adding our 7 Principles and our 6 Sources to the stew. They will also be participating in the Home Coming Sunday by doing a fairly unique chalice lighting and perhaps a song or two or some poetry.

We will end the RE School year on either Memorial Day Weekend or June 3rd with the RE Closing Service. RE will continue throughout the summer on alternate weeks (Long services). Joan Bradshaw will be helping me in planning some alternate and interesting activities for your children: from art projects to sewing projects to crafts and kitchen science.

The RE Committee will meet on May 13th and we will be looking at some of the curriculums for next year.

I am always struck by the ability of children to sort out what is fair and just. They are often selfish, but most of the time, they can look at a situation and decide what is fair. They have good common sense most of the time. We had visitors to our classes in March and April and we hope to have them come back soon.

The whole UU Identity Unit has made me re-think some of the ideas that I think it is important for your children to learn. I want them to learn about our UU History, and about the men and women that we call our heroes. The fact that many of our figures in history - 6 US Presidents, numerous authors, educators, scientists and famous people from all walks of life considered themselves

Unitarian, Universalist or UU is something that our children need to know and be proud of. So, that may be some of our curriculum for next year.

In the coming weeks, we will be working on the UU Identity unit and learning about the members of our congregation, and why they decided to be a UU or to join or come to our Church.

Our people, although perhaps not as important worldly wise as some of the men and women in history, are just as important. We have to know where we came from, and who we are in order to determine where we are going.  
Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

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#5

AFFINITY GROUPS

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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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#6  
DIRECTORY

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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 Halff, 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

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Staff

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

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

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Email Addresses

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

Calendar additions and changes should be submitted to 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](mailto: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](mailto:cuuc-men-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).