

CUUCSA ON-LINE NEWSLETTER/ VOL. 42, June, 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

- May 26: Tacos and Trimming, 8:30 am
May 27: RE Closing Service: Glenna Jones Kachtik and RE Committee
May 27: Soup Lunch by Women's Group, 12:00 pm
May 27: Men's Group, 6:30 pm
May 28: Memorial Day Picnic
May 28: Women's Group, 7:00 pm
Jun 03: "The Spiritual Purpose of Democracy," Rev. Phil Schulman
Jun 03: Socrates Café, 12:15 pm
Jun 10: "Reflections on the Second UU Principle" Steven Botts (short)
Jun 10: Brunch after morning service, about 11:15
Jun 10: Men's Group, 6:30 pm
Jun 11: Women's Group, 7:00 pm
Jun 17: "Solstice Speaks," Rev Phil Schulman

Jun 24: "The Buddha's Five Precepts," Veronica Gard (short)
Jun 24 Brunch, after service
Jun 24: Men's Group, 6:30 pm
Jun 25: Women's Group, 7:00 pm
Jul 01: Rev.Phil Schulman
Jul 01: Socrates Café, 12:15 pm
Jul 08: Men's Group, 6:30 pm
Jul 09: Women's Group, 7:00 pm

#2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tacos and trimming
Breakfast Tacos and Beautifying our Space
Claudia Glass

We appreciate any amount of time you have to spare to spruce up outside for the Memorial Day Picnic on Monday.
Tools/gloves provided. Claudia 494-3135

Memorial Day Picnic
Monday, May 28

Bring something to grill, something to share, and maybe a guest or two. The grill will be hot and ready about 5:00 pm.

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: June 11 and June 25.

Remarkable Film Group
Clem Chow

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 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.

#3

UPCOMING SERVICES

"Short" Services

June 10 marks the beginning of our summer cycle of alternating "short" and "long" services that run from June through August. Short services begin at the usual time, but generally feature a briefer presentation and more discussion from the congregation. They generally end about 11:15 and are followed by a brunch.

May 27
Glenna Jones-Kachtik & RE Comittee
RE Closing Service: "Homer the Heritic-Community'Kolova"
CUUC children present the service - a study of the Seven Principles, the Six sources, and other gems of children's wisdom

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?

June 10
Steven Botts
Reflections on the Second UU Principle.(short)

The speaker will introduce some ideas on the interpretation and application of the second UU principle, after which members of the congregation will be invited to share some of their own thoughts and feelings on the subject.

A brunch will follow the service.

June 17
Rev. Phil Schulman
"Solstice Speaks"

Enter the season of the sun! Come let us celebrate the turning of our lives, as we learn from ancient Earth centered religious traditions.

June 24,
The Buddha's Five Precepts (short)
Veronica Gard

Today's speaker, a practicing Buddhist, will discuss some of the basic concepts of Buddhism.

A brunch will follow the service.

#4
ARTICLES AND REPORTS

From Our Pastor
Rev. Phil Schulman

Memorial Day marks the completion of my 2nd calendar year with CUUC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve as your Minister. I am pleased with what we have done and learned together in two years, and we have only just begun.

A year ago there were a lot of meetings filled with angst, soul searching and tough decisions. The board and other leaders agreed on the need to accept the limits of our size. We realized that we didn't want to make the mistake of trying to imitate larger churches. Instead we would do what we do well and enjoy ourselves in the process.

Acceptance is one of the most powerful spiritual principles. It's transformative quality infused the congregation, and it has enabled us to move forward together. Recently we weathered another census correction following our canvas drive. There were some hard discussions and decisions made in order to present a balanced budget. The spirit of the board during these difficult tasks inspired me. I was struck by the faith and good will that was expressed. I have seen the leadership struggle and worry regarding our numbers. There have been some waves of confidence and other waves of fearfulness. Through it all I have witnessed acceptance, and a pride in fighting the good fight.

Another decision made last year was to make sure we were serving the needs of the membership, rather than simply focusing on outer goals and achievements. Attention was given to improve the "culture" of our Sunday morning experience. We wanted to cultivate joy in all our activities. I think we have done well with these intentions. People have commented on the energy here, about subtle shifts. It's great to see members and friends enjoying fellowship. I don't think it's just the good weather that has brought more people around to work on the grounds this spring. There is something to be said for how it feels to be someplace.

A dear friend recently confided to me that religion wasn't "her thing." She said that she didn't want or need anyone to tell her what she should do. She expressed a sentiment shared in part by many of us. We have a healthy distrust of religious authority. Despite our distrust we have chosen to form and sustain a religious community.

One of the reasons I am celebrating on this anniversary, is the way we as a congregation have been reflecting and learning what it means to have a shared ministry. Some of us equate ministry with some top dog telling us how we should think and behave. We don't intend to do that to anyone else, nor will we tolerate it being done in our church. However together we are learning to create a space where each of us can discover what is most true and meaningful for us. We are learning to participate and take leadership in the ministry of our church. Sometimes we come here to work on this place, but in the process it is working on us. ...at least that's my experience!

Peace

RE News for May
Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

By the time that most of you read this, the RE End of the Year Service will be really, really close or over. We have had a very good year this year. Most of what we have studied all year long has been tied in some way to our 7 Principles and our 6 Sources. And, we also did an unusual thing this year. We attempted and carried off a week long Unit that was church wide - called UU Identity. It was based around a song in the new teal hymnal called Where Do We Come From? The song is just 4 simple lines but in typical UU fashion asks questions and offers few or no answers

Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? Where do we come from? Mystery! Mystery! Life is a riddle and a mystery! Where do we come from? Where are we going?

We sang the song every week. All of the Stories For All Ages, the sermons and the RE lessons revolved around those questions. Week 1 (4/15) talked about our roots - Where did we come from?

RE studied the 7th Principle in particular by reading the Lorax, since it was also Earth day; and Pastor Phil talked about UU Roots in his sermon.

In Week 2, we studied about who we are as a denomination and as individual members. We made rainbow path bracelets in RE and Henry Half led a discussion service that included 3 UUs and their reasons for being a UU. This service also included a retelling by the congregation and the RE kids of Stone Soup from a UU perspective - adding our 7 Principles and 6 Sources.

Week 3 saw Pastor Phil talking about where we are going and included a story of the Magic Glasses based in part on a story by Little Rock DRE John Wilkes. In RE we talked about Ghandi and "Being the change you want to see". The children drew pictures of what they thought a perfect world would be.

Week 4 was Homecoming. We invited previous members to come back for one Sunday. Outgoing President, Mary Grace talked about the roots of CUUC. Joan Bradshaw talked about how she became a UU and Steve Botts talked about the future and reading the Bible. Member profiles of the congregation - who had answered the Questionnaire - were displayed. We were treated to the 'magical flute' of Peter Van Dusen as he played Anitra's Dance from Peer Gynt Suite, by UU composer, Edvard Grieg. RE children, [Crystal & Elly Mattern and Ben & Matthew Mansfield],

participated by showing their pictures and telling why they thought it would make it a perfect world. We played CUUC BINGO and topped it all off with a potluck.

The Order of Service for all 4 weeks displayed the same logo. It was an ambitious undertaking. It was also fun, and interesting! I found out information about the congregation members that I did not know and I hope that it helped to bring our congregation closer together.

The questions asked of the congregation for the UU BINGO included: What was one thing that they felt that no one knew about them? When did they know that they were a UU, (or whatever spiritual path they were on?) What advice were they given and who gave it to them and why did they remember it? Where did they see themselves in the future? And last, but not least, If they could think of 1 thing they thought would change the world, what would it be and why?

I would like to thank all those members who took the time to fill out the questionnaire; the members who showed up on these Sundays; Stephanie, Peter, Phil and Henry for their talent and their help; those who brought food for the pot luck; my tireless RE Committee for all their contributions to this unit; and last but not the least, Elly & Crystal Mattern, Matthew & Benjamin Mansfield, Crystal Grant, and Maggie, Michael & Micaela Gullick for their participation and hard work in making this unit a success.

#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.

#6
DIRECTORY

Officers

President - Joan Bradshaw, 210-341-8506, joanbradshaw@sbcglobal.net

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

Treasurer - June Kachtik, 210-342-0135, junekac@aol.com

Trustee - Mary Beth Romeo, 210-694-5233, r5romeo@sbcglobal.net

Trustee - Charlie Pond, 210-348-0040

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; Claudia Glass, lucybrown25@mindspring.com

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 calendar@cuuca.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.