

CUUCSA ON-LINE NEWSLETTER/ VOL. 33, August, 2006

Editor: Steven Botts, [stbotts@texas.net](mailto:stbotts@texas.net)

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

Nosotros, las congregaciones miembros de la Asociación UU, convenimos en afirmar y formentar el valor y la dignidad propia de cada persona.

\*\*\*\*\*

In this Issue

1. Schedule of events..
2. Announcements and articles
3. Upcoming Services.
4. From Our Pastor
5. RE Report
6. Editorial: Speaking of God
7. CUUC Affinity Groups

\*\*\*\*\*

#1.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Aug 27: "Water Communion: Celebrating Our Spiritual Travels" Rev. Phil Schulman
- Aug 27: Men's Group, 6:30 pm
- Aug 28: Women's Group, 7 pm
- Sep 03: The Work of the Theosophical Society - Richard Jenkins
- Sep 10: "Self-Correction as Spiritual Practice" - Rev. Phil Schulman
- Sep 10: Men's Group, 6:30 pm
- Sep 11: Women's Group, 7 pm
- Sep 17: "The Rabbi's Gift: Reflections on the Nature of Lay-led Worship" - Peter Van Dusen
- Sep 17: Remarkable Film Group "The Trouble with Harry"
- Sep 24: "UU Evangelism" Rev. Phil Schulman
- Sep 24: Men's Group, 6:30 pm
- Sep 25 Women's Group, 7 pm
- Oct.01: Understanding Islam Through its History - Dr. Dorothy Haecker

\*\*\*\*\*

#2

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ARTICLES

---

### Women's group

Jean Halff

The Woman's Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 7 p.m. at the church. Our next meetings will be on: September 11th and September 25th

Jean Halff

---

### Puppy Needs Home

Allen Lawrence

Lost puppy turned up at my house: about 45-6 mos. old, apparently mixed lab. neutered. very smart, affectionate, mostly black. Anybody want it?

Allen - 344-0730

---

### 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. The next meeting will be September 3, 2006. It will be moderated by Marilyn DeKing. 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.

---

### Help wanted by UUHAC

Glenna Jones Kachtik

UUHAC is looking for someone who would be willing to volunteer to clean their offices once a week. 2 bathrooms, water the plants, dusting, swiftering, trash removal, etc. Call 731-8203 and speak to Mike Lockwood or Alicia Campos if you would be willing to volunteer.

---

### Social Justice

Glenna Jones-Kachtik

The social justice committee met on 8/16. Present were co-chairs Joan Bradshaw & Glenna Jones-Kachtik, Members Patty Gullick, Henry Halff and Nancy White.

Joan handed out the UUA Organization Resolutions. The only one we are currently adopting/working on is to END MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL COAL MINING. This is because they came to CUUC and it involves letter writing campaigns etc. Glenna introduced the causes for CUUC 2006-2007 and we discussed them.

Since we adopted the 10 Tree Challenge when Phil brought it up last year, we are still working on that. It was decided to hold a re-potting day sometime in September to help Phil with re-potting trees already in his possession. When Phil makes a decision as to what he needs as far as clerical help, the committee will provide that and Phil has let the committee know that we are about 5 trees short of our commitment to plant 10 trees. Anyone want to plant some trees????

We had also decided that UUHAC (UU Housing Assistance Corp.) was going to be an ongoing project. They need volunteers on a regular basis and Nancy White volunteered to do so. They will have special projects as announced and they have a special need that you will find elsewhere in the newsletter.

-----  
Pennies of Promise  
Glenna Jones-Kachtik

Ed Wiley is the grandfather of one of the children going to school in an elementary school that is near the coal mines. Last school year, the girl began getting ill and coal dust was found in the school building! These children have been breathing in this toxic dust and most of them have come down with respiratory problems. Ed and his granddaughter began collecting pennies and took many large bags of them to the state capitol to ask the Governor to build a new elementary school in W VA away from the coal site.

Since the governor refused to meet with or talk to them, Ed decided to walk to Washington to meet with his representative and to try to meet with President Bush. People are pledging for every mile he walks. I have written Appalachian Voices and let them know that we starting our own PENNIES OF PROMISE campaign and that we would send what was collected. Von is bringing the jar on 8/20. I am making a poster to go with it. Allen has already brought in 3 bags of pennies. ALL WE NEED NOW IS YOUR PENNIES!!!! DONATE YOUR SPARE PENNIES TODAY. They will be sent to Ed Wiley so that we can help these children study in a safe environment by building a new elementary school.

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have a government by the majority who participate..." Thomas Jefferson

---

Soup Lunch Sponsorship  
Glenna Jones-Kachtik  
Soup Lunch Coordinator

Now is the time for all you committee co-chairs to grab the 4th Sunday that you want. Groups are invited to sign up to organize and provide all the goodies for the soup lunch. Goodies can consist of soups, main dishes, veggies, chips/dips/cheeses, desserts and drinks. It can be a theme or just a smorgasbord... The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board by the main entrance door in the foyer. **STAKE OUT YOUR CLAIM TODAY!!!**  
Glenna Jones-Kachtik

---

Join the Peace Choir

Where will you be and how will you celebrate this September 11th? There is going to be a special happening at the Arneson River Theater in La Villita. No experience is necessary and you don't have to read music. Just go to the website <http://www.songsofpeace.org> and listen. The 2 songs being sung are identified there.

Members of the choir get in free and can purchase other tickets at a 40% discount. **IF WE CAN GET TOGETHER A GROUP OF AT LEAST 10 MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION, DANA CLARK WILL SCHEDULE A PRACTICE AT OUR CHURCH.** If not practices are still left on: \*8/27 (Jumpstart Theater 108 Blue Star Arts Complex 12:00-1:00 PM) \*8/30 (1st UU Church 7150 IH-10W 6:30-7:45PM) \* 9/10 (Unity Church of SA 1723 Lawndale 12:15-1:30 PM) \*9/11 (Arneson River Theater 5:00-6:00). Now is definitely the time to sing for Peace.  
GJK/Social Justice

"Bullets cannot be recalled. They cannot be uninvented. BUT, they can be taken out of the gun." Martin Amis

---

UU News  
Daron Sachs

The YRUU group took its annual planning retreat this weekend (Saturday, 20th) at Frio Springs Resort, on the Frio River. This year was a little bit different than other years because we usually retreat to Port Aransas; however, we tried something new this year and it worked wonderfully thanks to the planning and work of Anna Chatillon-Reed, our new facilitator.

We got lots of organization done for our group and some major planning on a exciting new social action project that we hope will involve the congregations of both CUUCSA and FUUCSA. We elected our new office chairs and hope that we can make this year even more exciting and full than last. Be on the lookout for our social action project, coming very soon!

-----  
Forum on Global Warming  
Peter Van Dusen

CUUC will participate in the national "Spotlight on Global Warming" event sponsored by Interfaith Power & Light in early October. This will include screening of the film "An Inconvenient Truth" in the CUUC sanctuary at 2:00 pm on the afternoon of Sunday, October 15th, followed by discussion. For further information, contact Peter Van Dusen, 724-1614, or email at flosfr399bc@yahoo.com.

\*\*\*\*\*

#3  
UPCOMING SERVICES

-----  
Aug 27: Water Communion: Celebrating Our Spiritual Travels - Rev. Phil Schulman

Bring water from where you've been this summer and share stories about your experiences. If you forgot to collect water from your travels, San Antonio tap water makes a good substitute. Samples are not subject to analysis.

Phil Schulman, the consulting minister at CUUC has been a lifelong advocate of ecological awareness and social justice. At age 11, he first petitioned the citizens of his town to save the forest behind his home. Since then, he's written editorials, served as a board member on a national human rights organization, participated in myriad campaigns for peace, ecology and social justice, spoken at rallies, vigils, and demonstrations, walked on peace pilgrimages across the US, France, and Palestine. He says he's delighted to share his passion with us all.

-----  
Sep 03  
The Work of the Theosophical Society - Richard Jenkins  
Richard Jenkins is an active member of the Theosophical Society in San Antonio.

-----  
Sep 10:  
"Self-Correction as Spiritual Practice" - Rev. Phil Schulman

At one time or another, we all have trouble facing ourselves and admitting mistakes. It's tempting to try to cope with problems by looking outward, blaming and criticizing and resenting people. Self correction is far more productive. Let's look to our community to find encouragement so we can develop self correction as spiritual practice. We'll take a positive approach, sweetened by compassion to do what can sometimes be hard work.

---

Sep 17

"The Rabbi's Gift: Reflections on the Nature of Lay-led Worship" - Peter Van Dusen

Peter is a longtime member of CUUC and is presently the chair of the worship committee. He has been a philosophy instructor, St. Mary's University since 2001. He earned his M.A. in philosophy at California State University, Long Beach in 1984; and is also a 1970 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Areas of professional interest: ethics and economics. Amateur flutist; personal interests in classical music, history and German studies.

---

Sep 24

UU Evangelism

Could an individual UU or a UU congregation ever be called evangelical? Pastor Phil reports on the UU gospel testified, preached and demonstrated at our General Assembly. "Our movement continues to expand beyond a disembodied intellectualism as we face the challenges of our times and express our diversity of spirituality".

---

Oct 01

Understanding Islam through its history - Dr Dorothy Haecker

Although Dorothy has spent much of her career outside of Texas, she is a native of San Antonio, and has been professor of philosophy at Palo Alto College since 1991. During the 1970s, she founded the first women's studies department in the country, and has been an advocate and teacher of feminist philosophy ever since. At Palo Alto College, she has been the premier instructor of the World Religions course. For several years now, she has been studying and thinking about the conundrums facing the West regarding Islam.

\*\*\*\*\*

#4

FROM OUR PASTOR  
Rev. Phil Schulman

First Church (FUU) being temporarily without a minister called me with the news that Mary Agness Dolan had died. At Joan Bradshaw's suggestion, we stepped over to CUUC's charter hanging in the fireplace room. Mary Agness signature. Although she had spent most of her years with FUU, she was one of the people who founded our church.

I spoke with her son Patrick to plan the memorial service which was held on Saturday. Although Patrick identifies as a Lutheran and a conservative Christian, but I believe I saw his UU parents coming through him. He said that what he appreciated most about the UU tradition was its valuing reason and an open minded exploration of ideas. That he taught literature (including the Bible as lit) at a community college in Denver surprised me only a little. I would have guessed him to be a university professor.

Of the three hours he and his wife spent in my office, very little time was spent planning the service. He spoke about property and the impact of Jewish and Christian covenants upon history and social order. He was extremely learned regarding history and theology, two of my favorite subjects, and so I asked question after question. My little brain was chugging away trying to understand the implications of everything he was saying. I loved his engagement of social issues and the human condition.

With the participation of family, members of FUU, Mary's care providers and friends, the memorial service was "beautiful". A wife of one of Mary's relatives, told me that although she had never met Mary, she was so caught up in the service that she wanted to stand and share as others had.

Afterward Patrick asked me to sit with him and his family. We quickly picked up where we left off. There was a steady flow of people paying their respects, but no one could interrupt us for long. A couple of hours later, Patrick and I were the only ones left, and we continued for another 20 min. Before I took my leave, I thanked him sincerely. He said that "it was rare to meet another true seeker, and the occasion was cause for celebration." I wanted to tell him that I appreciated what he had shared, and knew it would be of significant value to me. I also wanted to be honest but not discourteous of the fact that I would think about what he had said and likely draw different conclusions than his. What came out of me was "You have given me several history lessons and much to think about although I can't say that I am at all sure that what you have shared with me is (pause) absolutely true." He replied "Neither could I." We both smiled. How perfect for him to leave me with an admission that he held no claim to absolute truth. Even Lutherans can be a little UU.

\*\*\*\*\*

#5  
RE NEWS  
Glenna Jones-Kachtik

Lots of things are happening in your Religious Education classes. We have started a new curriculum - DR SUESS & UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS. This curriculum touches on the 7 UU Principles re-written for kids. The first book we read was THE BUTTER BATTLE BOOK. Dr. Seuss wrote this book at the height of the Cold War - to point out the folly of war and how it often begins over small things and how it can escalate. It highlighted the principles of "We are fair and kind" and "We help make the world better for everyone". The second book was HORTON HEARS A WHO. In this book, Horton the Elephant - discovers the Whos and decides to make sure that they are OK - that "a person is a person, no matter how small." This touches on the 1st Principle, "Everyone is important." and the 6th Principle "We help make the world better for everyone."

We have added several new children to our class. We now have 2 new pre-schoolers and 2 new middle class members (at least while their folks are in San Antonio). This is necessitating a bold move for us. We are going to actually have to start having the preschoolers meet at 10:20 and will play outside or do inside activities - for the time being, Von Kachtik will watch them until RE class starts. The older children will still be in the service and be sung out at the appropriate time. The children will start out in the fireplace room for the SEUSS offering and a small discussion and then we will break up into groups for activity. We will come together @ 11:40 for snack. We will be looking for someone to volunteer (perhaps on a rotating basis) or look at hiring a sitter (from 10:15 - 12:15) from 1st UU. I have not planned the SEUSS curriculum for September yet, since 8/27 is an intergenerational service - and most of the children will be taking part in the service.

The best news is that there is a newly formed RE committee. So far, Patty Gullick and Vicki Mattern have volunteered to be on it and Joan Bradshaw has been conscripted. We will be making decisions about RE and what the children are learning and doing. If anyone else would like to join, please let me know at gjkbear822@yahoo.com. We will be setting meeting dates soon. Since we are small, we may be doing on-line meetings or Dutch Treat dinner meetings.

Last month, we heard the story of "Raven & Fog Woman" - we did mural pictures on "water" paper - with crayon, markers, sequins and wiggly eyes. We will be doing "Whos" on 8/20 as well as eating "Whoville cookies" and drinking "Who Kool-Aid". As always, we invite you to stop in and look at all our crafts.

DRE, Glenna Jones-Kachtik

"Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat back word for word what you shouldn't have said." Author Unknown.

\*\*\*\*\*

#6

EDITORIAL

Speaking of God  
Steven Botts

in UU churches, the subject of God probably comes up less often than in other denominations, but when it does, there often appears to be a certain awkwardness involved in God talk. In the past, we all knew how to talk about God, whether or not we believed in Him or thought He had a plan for His people.

Nowadays, with modern beliefs in gender equality, The matter of what pronouns to use in reference to the diety, whether in a literal or metaphoprical sense, seems less certain. Some writers and speakers simply take up the practice of refering to God with feminine pronouns. Others try to maintain a balance by having God be masculine in one paragraph and feminine in the next. And some of us just try very hard to write and speak in such a way as to avoid the problem altogether.

To me, the first approach doesn't seem quite right because it attempts to correct one error with another, that is, assuming that God, if not male, must therefore be female. Besides, it sounds cutsey, like a strained effort to be politically correct, and it distracts from what the speaker is trying to say. The second doesn't work for me either, because in the first place, it's hard to follow, and trying to use the right pronoun in the right order seems like more trouble than it's worth. Besides that, it assumes that God must be male some times and female at other times in some kind of balanced ratio.

Being convinced that God has an equal number of testicles and ovaries, that they all add up to zero, and being resigned to the fact that my personal concept of God cannot be accurately expressed in English, my own choice is to avoid pronouns altogether and try to write in such a way as to not have to repeat "God" too many times. I don't pretend to be an authority on God and grammar, but I do have a few suggestions:

1. When speaking of the God in which you personally believe or disbelieve, use pronoun(s) as you see fit. You're not going to please everybody, no matter how hard you try.
2. When reading quoted material, stay with the pronoun the author uses; don't presume to correct or bowlderize your source.
3. Even when not quoting texts directly, try to stay with the pronouns used by the author as much as you reasonably can, although it's hard to keep up with those that go back-and-forth.

Any comments? address them to [stbotts@texas.net](mailto:stbotts@texas.net)

\*\*\*\*\*

## AFFINITY GROUPS

---

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. 7/24 6/26, 8/14, and 8/28 are meeting times for the current period.

---

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 of a common theme, directed by the same

person or featuring a specific actor or actress. Past film series have carried such themes as Women Messiahs or include films directed by John Sayles or those featuring Peter Sellers. Current leaders of the group are Clem and Joyce Chow. Any questions about this group may be directed to Clem or Joyce.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Directory

---

### 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; Allen Lawrence, 210-344-0730, volvonut2002@yahoo.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 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).

Requests for special assistance and pastoral care may be sent to [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).

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).

Material for and questions about the newsletter may be sent to the editor, Steve Botts, [stbotts@texas.net](mailto: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-annnounce-subscribe@yahoo-groups.com](mailto:cuuc-annnounce-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](mailto: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).