

CUUCSA ON-LINE NEWSLETTER/ VOL. 45, October, 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

- Sep 19: Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, CUUC, 7:00-9:00 pm.  
Sep Sep 23: "Religion and Politics, a Dangerous Combination?" Rev Phil Schulman  
Sep 23: Congregational Meeting, CUUC, 11:45 - 12:15  
Sep 23 Men's Group, 6:30 pm  
Sep 24 Women's Group, 7:00 pm  
Sep 30 Jean and Henry Halff "The Lost Years of Jesus"  
Oct 07 "Gay Identity and the Transformation of Human Conciousness," Toby Johnson  
Oct 07 Brown Bag Socrates Cafe, 12:15 pm  
Oct 10 CUUC Board Meeting  
Oct 12 - 15: LAREDA Conference, Doubletree Hotel, San Antonio, TX  
Oct 14: "Death Be Our Guru," Rev. Phil Schulman  
Oct 14: Men's Group, 6:30 pm  
Oct 15: Women's Group, 7:00 pm

Oct 21: Morning Service TBA  
Oct 27: Juried Art Show and Sale, CUUC, Sponsor: Mrs. Sylvia St. Jean  
Oct 28: "Terrorism and Non Violence," Ken Southhall  
Oct 28: Men's Group, 6:30 pm  
Oct 29: Women's Group, 7:00 pm

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peter Van Dusen  
Adult RE

### **"To Promote the General Welfare"**

**What:** A CUUC/FUUC Adult R.E. program (4 sessions).  
**When:** 12:30pm--2:00pm, every other Sunday starting Sept. 30.  
(Other dates: Oct 14, Oct 28, Nov 11).  
**Place:** CUUC Fireplace room.  
**Facilitator:** Peter Van Dusen, flosfr399bc@yahoo.com, (210) 724-1614

**Topic:** Universal healthcare will be hotly debated in the 2008 elections. What are the relevant articles of the U.S. Constitution, and how should they be interpreted regarding this issue? In 1958, Robert Hutchins founded the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions to examine possible revisions of the Constitution in light of 20th century developments. Mortimer Adler, Hutchins's partner in Britannica's "Great Books of the Western World," wrote a paper for the Center in 1959 addressing the specific phrase, "To Promote the General Welfare." What did the phrase mean to the Founders, and what should it mean to us today? The article, never published, was only recently released by Adler's literary estate. Adler ranks with John Rawls as one of the most important political philosophers of the last 100 years. Although this article was clearly written before the breakup of the Soviet Union, its focus remains completely relevant for us today, and will be the basis for our discussion.

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Socrates Cafe  
Marilyn DeKing

Most everyone knows that the Brown Bag Socrates Cafe meets at the Community Unitarian-Universalist Church, the first Sunday of each month at 12:15 PM. This is a special invitation to YOU if you have never checked us out.

We choose a philosophical question from those tossed out among us with the intent of exploring it for an hour and a half. We don't solve anything, just explore.

Our group ranges from about eight to fifteen persons. There's no formal commitment; come as often or as seldom as you like. We do not get upset if someone has the quietest leave early.

Some of us bring a lunch, while other tummies can hold out until after the discussion.

Pay us a visit the next first Sunday of the month,

Marilyn DeKing, Sometime Moderator.

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#### Remarkable Film Group Clem Chow

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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#### CUUC Board Meeting Agenda Joan Bradshaw, President

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Agenda Item Notes/ Decisions or Actions

7:00 Opening Exercise

7:15 Approval of August Minutes

7:25 Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

7:35 Minister's Report/Contract Review

Rev. Phil Schulman

7:45 Ops. and Maintenance Report/

Rental Agreement Review

John Bradshaw, Claudia Glass

8:00 Programs Committee Report

Patty Gullick, Henry Half

8:15 Membership Report

Clem Chow, Jeff Ketner

8:25 Outreach Committee Report  
June Kachtic, Vicki Mattern,  
Veronica Gard  
8:35 20th Anniversary Celebration/  
Joan Bradshaw, Beverly Mansfield,  
Veronica Gard  
8:45 Calendar Items

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#3

UPCOMING SERVICES

September 23  
Rev Phil Schulman  
"Religion and Politics, a dangerous combination?"

In reaction to fundamentalists influence worldwide, many of us have wished the church would stay out of matters of state. Are we best leaving sociopolitical concerns out of religion and leaving our religion out of the public discussion of civic affairs?

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September 30  
Jean and Henry Halff  
"The Lost Years of Jesus."

We often hear that it is the journey and not that destination that counts. What lessons are there, then, in the journey of a man who refused to accept the standard answers about the life of Jesus. In 1894 Nicolas Notovitch published a book called *The Unknown Life of Christ*. He was a Russian doctor who journeyed extensively throughout Afghanistan, India, and Tibet. Notovitch learned, while he was there, that there existed ancient records of the life of Jesus Christ. In the course of his visit at the great convent, he located a Tibetan translation of the legend and carefully noted in his *carnet de voyage* over two hundred verses from the curious document known as "The Life of St. Issa." When he returned to the western world there was much controversy as to the authenticity of the document. He was accused of creating a hoax and was ridiculed as an imposter. Most today dismiss Notovich's account. For some, the controversy still rages. Although the facts of the matter may never be resolved, there is much to be learned from the way that Notovich's experience molded his spirit.

*Special Announcement on Announcements.* At the September 30 service, the Worship Leader will read all announcements from the pulpit. If you have an announcement for this service make sure that it is urgent, not available elsewhere, and provided *in writing* to the Worship Leader before the service.

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October 7

Toby Johnson

"Gay Identity and the Transformation of Human Consciousness."

My major theme is that 1) there is a major transformation going on in human consciousness today about how religious truth is understood as a result of our general exposure to world religions and world cultures. And 2) gay people learn from an early age (as a form of coping with difference) to see the world--and especially religion-- as an outsider from a "higher" perspective. So while ALL people are called today to rise to this higher, more inclusive perspective on religion, gay people are "naturals" for this vision. And, indeed, 3) the very existence of the gay movement requires all people rise to a "higher perspective" on the nature of sexuality and the purpose to human life in order to include non-procreative sexuality within the understanding of human nature.

About Toby Johnson:

Former Roman Catholic monk and comparative religions scholar turned gay activist, psychotherapist, community organizer, bookseller, 'zine editor and publisher, spiritual writer and novelist, Johnson was a student and friend of Joseph Campbell, the renowned mythologist best known for his life-affirming aphorism "Follow Your Bliss."

Toby Johnson, PhD, Lambda Literary Award-winning author of some ten books, including *Secret Matter*, *Gay Spirituality: Gay Identity and the Transformation of Human Consciousness* and *Gay Perspective: Things Our Homosexuality Tells Us About the Nature of God and the Universe*, is past editor of *White Crane Journal* of gay wisdom and culture.

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October 14

Phil Schulman

"Death be Our Guru"

Religion would not exist were it not for the sting of death. Can we embrace dying and get more out of life in the process?

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October 21

Service TBA

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October 28,

Ken Southhall

"Terrorism and Non-Violence"

The speaker will deal with ways in which terrorism can be confronted without violence.

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November 11

Rev. Phil Schulman

"Acceptance, the Challenge of a Lifetime"

Though not the 1st Principle, acceptance may be the heart of our religion. Does our covenantal promise to accept on another suggest a theology? Why it is often such hard work?

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#4

#### 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 each month.

"Thank you for the storytelling, Mary Grace.

Thanks to Joan Bradshaw for agreeing to be board president

I'd like to thank Clem Chow for his constantly open joy.

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#### RE News

Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

We started our new program on 9/9. It is called In Our Hands. The first week, in Thinkin' @ Things I sent home an exercise for the children and their families to explore. It is one that kind of ties in to Peter's "For the Common Good" that will be starting 9/30. It supposes that aliens have decided that our planet is heading for destruction and they decide to save us from ourselves. They give us 2 weeks to design a society that is fair for all. At the end of 2 weeks they will hit the earth with a "human warp". After the warp, everyone will be a different human being. Humans will not know before the warp what they will become after the warp. They will have no idea if they will be young, old or in-between; If they will be male or female; If they will be heterosexual or homosexual; If they will be rich or poor or in-between. It also does not predispose any religion. In 2 weeks, human beings would have to decide what the basic needs of all human beings are; what are the services and needs that all humans would have; and what the commitment of all humans is to their community, and the earth as a whole.

It is an interesting premise. What would you do?

The children will have a chance to earn their first badge on Sat. by helping to pick up acorns from the grounds. Tacos & Trimming is at 8:30.

Glenna Jones-Kachtik

DRE

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Social Justice Committee

Social Justice does not presently have a meeting scheduled. Members or prospective members should e-mail Glenna Jones-Kachtik, gjkbear822@yahoo.com

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#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

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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](mailto:joanbradshaw@sbcglobal.net)

Secretary - Daron Sachs, 210-699-0798, [daron.sachs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daron.sachs@sbcglobal.net)  
<<mailto:daron.sachs@sbcglobal.net>>

Treasurer - June Kachtik, 210-342-0135, [junekac@aol.com](mailto:junekac@aol.com)

At Large - Charlie Pond, 210-222-9969

At Large - Mary Beth Romeo, 694-5233, [r5romeo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r5romeo@sbcglobal.net)

Programs Committee - Henry Halff, 210-493-7501, [henry@quiensabe.com](mailto:henry@quiensabe.com)  
<<mailto:henry@quiensabe.com>>; Patty Gullick, 210-490-1349,  
[pattygullick@hotmail.com](mailto:pattygullick@hotmail.com) <<mailto:pattygullick@hotmail.com>>

Member Services Committee - Clem Chow, 210-495-1798, [CCIMA8@swbell.net](mailto:CCIMA8@swbell.net)

<mailto:CCIMA8@swbell.net>; Jeff Ketner, 210-278-0612, [jeffket@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffket@sbcglobal.net)  
<mailto:jeffket@sbcglobal.net>

Operations Committee - John Bradshaw, 210-341-8506, [JandJBradshaw@webtv.net](mailto:JandJBradshaw@webtv.net)  
<mailto:JandJBradshaw@webtv.net>

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#### Staff

Minister - Phil Schulman, 210-614-2014, [schulman@satx.rr.com](mailto:schulman@satx.rr.com)  
<mailto:schulman@satx.rr.com>

Director of Religious Education, Glenna Jones-Kachtik, 956-451-5925,  
[gjkbear@earthlink.net](mailto: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)  
<mailto:cuuc-board@yahoogroups.com>.

Calendar additions and changes should be submitted to Diane Wilson,  
[calendar@cuucsa.org](mailto: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>.