

CUUCSA ON-LINE NEWSLETTER/ VOL. 38, February, 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.

In this Issue

1. Schedule of Events
2. Announcements
3. Upcoming Services
4. Articles and Reports
5. Affinity Groups
6. Directory

#1

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Feb 04: "Adlai Stevenson, The Unitarian Who Would Have Been President," Peter Van Dusen
Feb 04: Brown Bag Socrates Cafe 12:15 pm
Feb11: "Closing the Gap Between Head and Heart," Rev. Phil Schulman
Feb11: Men's Group, 6:30 pm
Feb18: Worship Committee meeting, 9am
Feb18: "The Great Transformation" Steven Botts
Feb18: Remarkable Film Group - "Carousel," 6 pm
Feb 25: "Shared Ministry: Yours, Mine, and Ours," Rev. Phil Schulman
Feb 25: Soup Lunch, hosted by Men's Group
Feb 25: All Church Retreat, following a break for lunch after morning service
Feb 25: Men's Group, 6:30pm
Mar 04: Brown Bag Socrates Cafe, 12:15 pm
Mar 20: Remarkable Film Group - "South Pacific"

#2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UUHAC
June Kachtik

UU. HOUSING ASSISTANCE CORPORATION IS A MEMBER ORGANIZATION. PLEASE JOIN US!

We believe you will agree with us that there is no more basic need than shelter. After food and clothing, shelter determines our health, our family harmony, our individual success.

You are most likely aware that UU HAC has been addressing the need for shelter by repairing the homes of low-income residents in City Council Districts One and Two for 15 years and has received an average of \$700,000 per year from the City of San Antonio to revitalize older inner-city neighborhoods. So, you might think that the program supports itself. However, that is not the case. 90% of the funds received are spent directly on counseling clients and repairing their homes. UU HAC must raise the remainder of its operating funds (office space, communications, printing, postage, etc.) not covered by City funds from other sources.

Were you aware that UU HAC is a member organization and that the dues that individuals and groups pay annually help to bridge that funding gap? As a member of one of the founding organizations of UU HAC, I encourage you to join as an individual. There are membership forms in the coffee room. Dues are \$25 per person.

In addition to that good feeling that you get from making San Antonio a better place, you will be invited to our March annual membership meeting. At that time we will report on our year's projects and ask for your input for the next fiscal year.

June Kachtik, Board President
UU Housing Assistance Corporation

Women's Group
Jean Halff

The Woman's Group meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00p.m., at the church. These are the dates: February 12th and February 26th.

Remarkable Film Group
Clem Chow

The next series of film to be shown by the Remarkable Film Group will be three Rogers and Hammerstein musicals. These films are selected as a continuation of our musical series in honor of Allen Lawrence, our member who passed away recently.

The first one in the Rogers and Hammerstein musical series was the 1955 film "Oklahoma!" The second film in this series will be "Carousel". The 1956 musical was filmed in wide-screen and again features Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones. The film gained fame for a number of memorable songs: "If I love You" and "You'll Never Walk Alone" were the two most prominent ones. This film will be shown at our church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, February 18, 2007.

The third and final film in the Rogers and Hammerstein series will be "South Pacific". The 1958 production was filmed in Todd-AO, a then new film processing technique that displayed very well the film's South Seas settings during WWII. The film featured Mitzi Gaynor and Rosanno Brazzi and introduced such beautiful songs as "Some Enchanted Evening" and "There is Nothing Like a Dame". The film also contained a message about racial tolerance that is still appropriate even today. This film will be shown at our church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, March 20, 2007.

UU Bed and Breakfast Directory

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 27 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at 828-281-3253 or at info@uurehome.com, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the UU're Home website at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published every year in April (and has many listings different from those on the website). For a copy of the 2007 directory, please send a check for \$20 (or \$25 and your e-mail address for both the book and a year's access to the website) to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

#3

UPCOMING SERVICES

Feb 04

Adlai Stevenson, The Unitarian Who Would Have Been President
Peter Van Dusen

For people who think of themselves as political liberals in the classical mold (as I do), Stevenson continues to have strong appeal--40 years after his death and 50 years after his second run for the presidency. The 2004 electoral campaign got me to wondering why this was. In my research, I've discovered that, before JFK received the nomination at the 1960 Democratic convention, Eugene McCarthy--another liberal icon--placed Stevenson in nomination for a 3rd candidacy. I've also recently read a new book entitled "The Return of the 'L' Word," the L-word of course being "Liberalism." My service will be a reflection on these things

Feb 11

Closing the Gap from Head to Heart
Rev. Phil Schulman

One of the basic principles of Marshal Rosenberg's concept of "Nonviolent Communication" is that we are trained and educated to ignore what is "alive in us." How do we reconnect with ourselves and others?

Feb 18
The Great Transformation
Steven Botts

This service is based on the book of the same title by Karen Armstrong.

In the period 200 to 900 BCE, a revolution was taking place that led religion to the renounce violence and promote the well being of humanity. The insights developed by the poets, prophets, and philosophers of this period have been expressed in different ways, but have never been surpassed. This service will explore the ways this ancient wisdom came into being in different parts of the world, and look at it's implications for modern times.

Feb 28
Shared Ministry: Yours, Mine and Ours
Rev. Phil Schulman

The ministry of the church is not something to be left to a professional. What is the work of this congregation? How does it shape our lives individually and collectively?

The theme of this service will be taken up in an all-church retreat, called "From Community Relations to Shared Ministry" led by Janet Paleo and Anna Gray, Directors of the Prosumers Group.

Janet and Anna, have provided leadership and organizing resource to mental health clients locally, nationally and internationally. Employing many of the same motivational techniques used in corporate America, these women have inspired and challenged people to take responsibility for self-determination, and to get in touch with inner motivation and direction in order to live with enthusiasm, responsibility and purposefulness.

#4
ARTICLES AND REPORTS

From Our Pastor
Fulfillment in Ministry

Flying back from Philadelphia today, I was basking in the afterglow of intense personal growth that came as a result of participating in a weekend workshop on Nonviolent Communication. As I thought ahead to my job "to-do list," a reassuring phrase bubbled up from inside me; "I love being a minister." This phrase has connection to my job description, but fortunately goes much further. Delight filled me as I imagined sharing how "sense of purpose" gets fulfilled through ministry.

For me an exciting aspect of ministry is a focus on personal and spiritual growth. I

was called to the ministry in my 20's. I looked at our world, saw suffering and injustice and wanted to do something about it. I was a disturbed and angry young man who claimed to believe in love. I was inspired by socially radical holy men and women such as Dorothy Day, Mohandas K. Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr. I wanted to be like them. I wanted the skills to live in this world as a healer and a peace-maker.

The grandeur of my goals, and the esteem of my heroes is contrasted by humbleness of my results. Life has repeatedly pushed me toward humility. I have taken much comfort from a quote by Rabbi Zalman Shlomi Schacter. When asked to what he credited his sagacity, he said that he had learned by making a lot of really big mistakes. I can't claim to be destined for sagacity, but I have provided myself with some really big learning opportunities. I've repeatedly grieved disappointments and my apparent lack of ability to transform society. Meanwhile, I also give thanks for the insights that life has delivered and the skills I am pushed to develop. I haven't lost my desire to live as a healer and peace maker. I've simply learned to acknowledge the victories that occur in the struggle. I've come to appreciate the value of my own spiritual growth. Life continues to deliver insights and further opportunities to become a man of faith and skill. It's actually very exciting and rewarding!

I have today barely begun to raise the question "What is Ministry?" During our Feb 25th service and retreat, we'll apply that question to the congregation. We will ask ourselves how we can find fulfillment (and enjoyment) by participating in a shared ministry? Hope to see you then.

Grateful for the opportunity to serve as your minister-

Phil

RE News for December
Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

ReNews for UU. The children have begun a study of UUism. This is in preparation for Church Wide 4 week unit on UU Identity: (Where Do We Come From/Who Are We/Where Are We Going), scheduled for April & May. We will be studying what UUs believe; who some famous UUs were/are & our principles and our sources. We had an overview and the last 2 Sundays, we have been talking about our 1st Principle - Everyone is Important (in Kidease). Elly Mattern drew a really good chalice one Sunday; we did a Unity Handprint Wreath (in honor of Martin Luther King Day) and we did fingerprint pictures.

The one thing that I want to dwell on is making each of your children feel that they are important and to let them know that they are vital participants in this church community.

We lost Richie & Anna Thomason as they moved to the Washington area. John & Sally Wiesen work most Sundays at 9 Lives books so, that means that Richard & Anne do not join us very often; and Nicholas & Jadzia Thompson are spending family time together on Sundays with their folks as their Dad, Eric has been ill. Jadzia turned 6 on January 3rd, and Crystal Mattern turned 12 on January 9th. We have had several visitors in January. No one has had perfect attendance in January - but

we have had some cold days!!!

The RE Committee met on 1/11 and Patty Gullick has written a tentative job description for the DRE position. We defined the roles of the DRE and the RE Committee and we identified some points that were in need improvement in our programs

We decided that I would be the person working with the Ad-Hoc committee to plan the UU Identity Unit. So, when we meet I will fill you in about this. You know, one of the most valuable things that we can give to our children is a basis for understanding who they are, and where their place is in the scheme of things. They are tolerant and for the most part, they are much more in tune with the unfairness of things - Social Justice.

In the Story for All Ages on 1/21, Mary Locke Crofts said that the lines in the song Spirit of Life: "roots hold me close - wings set me free"...could be an example for the stories that our land can tell us. It is also true of the way that we treat our children. The trick is to know when to hold them close; telling them the things that we need to and preparing them to go out into the world - and setting them free to fly on their own.

That is what RE does. It is RE that tells them of our UU roots: (Where do we come from?) (Who are we?) It tells them about our principles and our sources. RE is sort of our UU ethics 101. Religious Education arms our children with critical thinking skills so missing in the world today and to teach them the tolerance needed to give them the wings to fly free. (Where are we going?) I am proud of each and every one of our children. They are unique and unrepeatable and they will change the world for the better.

Glenna Jones-Kachtik DRE

"We are shut up in schools and college recitation rooms for ten or fifteen years, and come out at last with a bellyful of words and do not know a thing."
Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82) U.S. essayist and poet. (& famous UU)

Social Justice News
Glenna Jones-Kachtik

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS Well, the season of Christmas is over and past and with it a number of our social justice projects came to a fruitful end! GUEST AT YOUR TABLE officially ended 1/21. The total collected at the church was \$229.51 - If some of you have sent your money directly to the UUSC, thanks in advance.

Thank you to: Ronald Clarke & Burke Reed, Henry Halff, Charlie Pond, John Bradshaw, June Kachtik and Mary Beth Romo. Thanks also to the anonymous person who donated some money in a box and forgot to say who you were. I will not send in the tally for another week. If you have donated and I did not thank you; please do not hesitate to let Joan or I know. Thanks to Henry Halff (and Guido - who lost his life in the mad rush to buy, buy, buy) all the FAIR TRADE COFFEE & CHOCOLATE, was sold. We will be polling the congregation to see if you want to order more. Please let him know what you think if he asks you.

The Heifer International Project was a big success! Henry bought all his Christmas gifts from Heifer. There were some Christmas Chicks purchased by the Gullicks as well as a share of a sheep. Joan Bradshaw also purchased 5 shares of a sheep. Since one of the gifts Henry purchased was a lamb, we received a check for \$50.00 from Mr. Bayard Breeding for the RE class to purchase another share of something from Heifer.

Perhaps we could give 5 shares of tree seedlings as part of the 10 TREE CHALLENGE. I am not sure if anyone planted any live trees this Christmas. If you do, let Joan or me know so that we can count them toward our 5 trees left outstanding in our pledge. I hope that some of you also purchased FAIR TRADE ITEMS for Christmas and that you will continue to do so throughout the year.

Also, if you send e-cards, Care2.com is a good free e-card site and they do much in the arena of conservation. UU Housing is always looking for a few good members. The Annual Meeting is in March and they will be voting on many things at that time. Join now so you can be a voting member of this non-profit organization. See June Kachtik for details.

Thanks again to all of you who helped make our social justice holiday offerings a success. Glenna Jones-Kachtik & Joan Bradshaw Social Justice Co-Chairs.

"...when we allow one group of people to look down upon another, then we may for a short time bring hardship on some particular group of people, but the real hardship and the real wrong is done to democracy and to our nation as a whole. We are then breeding people who cannot live under a democratic form of government but must be controlled by force. We have but to look out into the world to see how easy it is to become stultified, to accept without protest wrongs done to others, and to shift the burden of decision and responsibility for any action onto some vague thing called a government or some individual called a leader."

--Eleanor Roosevelt , 1939 (10/11/1884-11/7/1962)

#5

AFFINITY GROUPS

Socrates Café
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. 2/12 and 2/26 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. February dates are 2/11 and 2/25.

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 - 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

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@yahogroups.com.

Calendar additions and changes should be submitted to Diane Wilson, calendar@cuucsa.org.

Suggestions for and comments on the worship program may be sent to cuuc-worship@yahogroups.com.

Requests for special assistance and pastoral care may be sent to cuuc-cares@yahogroups.com.

Requests for use of the church facility and reports of maintenance problems may be sent to cuuc-ops@yahogroups.com.

Changes of address, other membership information, and newsletter subscription or unsubscription requests may be sent to cuuc-members@yahogroups.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@yahogroups.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@yahogroups.com.