

CUUC Newsletter, February, 2009

Editor, Steven Botts, stevenbotts@grandecom.net

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

Notice to Contributors

Be advised that the newsletter deadline is the first Sunday after the CUUC board meeting on the second Wednesday.

#1

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Jan 25

Relaxation with Francine, 9:00 AM
“HIV/AIDS and Women of Color,” Michelle Durham, 1030 AM
CUUC Job Fair
Yoga with Kitty Bevis, 1:30 PM
Men's Group, 6:30 PM

Jan 27

Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 PM

Feb 01

Relaxation with Francine, 9:00 AM
“Poetry and Prose,” Mark and Stephanie Walls, et al.
Yoga with Kitty Bevis, 1:30 PM

Feb 03

Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 PM

Feb 08

Relaxation with Francine, 9:00 AM
“Sex and Celibacy,” Rev. Phil Schulman, 10:30 AM
Worship Committee meets after morning service
Yoga with Kitty Bevis, 1:30 PM
Men’s Group, 6:30 PM

Feb 09

Women’s Group. 7 PM

Feb 10
Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 PM

Feb 11
CUUC Board meets, 7PM

Worship Committee meets after morning service
Men's Group, 6.30 PM

Feb 15
Relaxation with Francine, 9:00 AM
"Forty Years Plus loving Blind Students" Wendy Dresnik, 10:30 AM
Yoga with Kitty Bevis, 1:30 PM
Remarkable Films, 3:00 PM

Feb 17
Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 PM

Feb 22
Relaxation with Francine, 9:00 AM
"A Moment of Science"(not a typo),Rev. Phil Schulman 10:30 AM
Yoga with Kitty Bevis, 1:30 PM
Men's Group, 6:30 PM

Feb 23
Women's Group, 7 PM

Feb 24
Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 PM

#2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Work and Maintenance Party

John Bradshaw

We will not hold our usual work and maintenance party the Saturday of the 24th

Memorial Service
John Bradshaw

The reason for the cancellation of the aforementioned work party is that our sanctuary is rented to friends, relatives, and admirers of Catherine Farringer, a longtime local freethinker.

For a memorial service. The service will be held from 1 to 3 PM.

I don't know if anyone keeps a record of the most rational, liberal, and progressive Letters to the Editor published in the S.A. Express-News, but Catherine's name should be toward the top of the list

I am looking forward to an interesting service and seeing a number of people who will be visiting CUUC for the first time.

Service Auction
Ron Clarke, CUUC Board President

As everyone knows February 14, 2008 (MARK YOUR CALENDARS – PLEASE WE NEED MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION!) is our CUUCSA annual service Auction. This is one of our great and fun important fundraisers for each year. But you know us - - we like FUNDRAISERS, but we LOVE “FUN-RAISERS”.

Thanks to Henry H who once again used his technological mastery to get the website ready.

You can submit your REQUESTS (a service you would like and are willing to bid on!) online.

You can submit your DONATION (a service you would like to donate for the auction) online.

For more information please go to <http://cuucsa.org/auction09/> and review our great online web access. Don't forget you can also complete a regular paper form (provided last week at service and also attached here!) just complete and give to me or place in my box in the Office.

I still need some volunteers – maybe you would consider reprising your role from last year in some way?

I am new and I need some veteran assistance (Thanks again Henry!)

Also, we will need some dinner/food donations for the big gala which will have a “Valentine’s Day” Theme. Again, on 2/14/09 at 7PM. This is for anyone who would like to participate and all of our Church Friends, Neighbors, etc, are invited. Please feel free to forward this Email to anyone who might be interested in any way and please feel free to Email me at RCLARKE2@satx.rr.com with any questions, and also call me at 845-1638 or 844-2297.

Soup Lunch/Job Fair
Stephanie Walls, Member Services Co-coordinator

In conjunction with the soup lunch, Member Services is also hosting a job fair:

The purpose of this most excellent even is to:

1. Educate the congregation on the needs of the church.
2. Fill vacant spots on our committees by matching the talents, skills, and willingness of our people with the jobs available.

Coordinators and Committer Heads:

Please be thinking now about the needs in your area of expertise, and what kind of information/sign-up sheets you can include in the fair. Information should explain the purposes/duties of the committee itself and job descriptions of eligible positions.

Membership and friends:

Please join us for a delicious lunch, then stay to learn and volunteer.

Deep Relaxation Group
Francine Richter

Even if you aren't sure you can be there, please join my "Deep Relaxation" group

On "meetup.com" and/or RSVP for all the weeks provided. We are getting attention on the site, and this may even mean new CUUC members at some point! The URL is <<http://www://meetup.com>> Put "Deep Relaxation" in the search bar. We don't want to scare people when it looks like there will be only one or two others there. There is a ten-member limit because of space.

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD SWAP:
(Repeats every month)

Joan Bradshaw

Participants are requested to donate any non-perishable foods they want to share with church members. The objective is two-fold: to circulate good, unused food items, to encourage all members to share these items and to prepare foods from each other, whether from desire or need.

One of my experiments was from a donated Knorr Sour Mix for a Shrimp Casserole. Somehow, it pleased me to know that one of my friends had donated the mix. Don't ask why, it just did. Monthly, excess donations will be taken to a San Antonio food bank.

#3

UPCOMING SERVICES

HIV/AIDS and Women of Color
Michelle Durham

Ms Durham is the executive director of BEAT AIDS, an organization that promotes awareness, education, and treatment of people in our area with HIV/AIDS, as well as providing HIV testing and necessary social services. Her talk will focus on the group's work with women of color.

02/01/09,

"Poetry and Prose"
Mark and Stephanie Walls, et al

Join in sharing a side of many of us which many of you have never seen!

We are storytellers, musicians, artists, mommies, thinkers, etc....and some of us are writers as well.

Let's explore together this side not seen, and celebrate the beauty, the intrigue, the inspiration of the soul that occurs with the written word. Whether it is your own piece of poetry or prose, or the work of a favorite author bring it on this special day and share, not only the words of the work, but your thoughts on the piece as well. Already

lined up we have Stephanie Walls, Veronica Gard, Heather Lidowski, and Steven Botts.

02/09

Sex and Celibacy
Rev. Phil Schulman

Two very different ways to discover mysteries of soul. Come hear how body, mind and spirit can work together for faith development and awakening. It's not just what you do, but how you do it!

02/15/09

"Wendy Dresek
40+ years loving blind students"

It's obvious that Wendy's work is something special. You don't stay a teacher (of blind students) for more than 40 years unless you have a powerful love in your heart. You may be surprised what you will learn about yourself from listening to her story.

02/22/09 "A Moment of Science!" (What schools need is...)
Progressive congregations across the nation will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Darwin's "Origin of the Species" If what science is teaching us about life doesn't amaze you, then your religion isn't serving life, the source of life or you. Come celebrate the greatest story ever told!

#4

ARTICLES AND REPORTS

From the Editor
Steven Botts

I watched the inauguration of Barack Obama this morning, most of it in a sporadic sort of way while I was engaged in other tasks,. I heard the music, listened to the poetry and watched the stream of dignitaries come up to the podium to make their speeches. It was all very nice and well orchestrated. But the part that really touched me, the moment that brought it all together, was when Chief Justice John Roberts gave Obama the oath of office.

It hit me that those few words had effectively ended the Bush administration and set in motion a government led by Barack Obama, an untested newcomer, and that the burden of government had been laid on his shoulders at that instant, and It was a moment of hope, but also one of fear.

The hope was that in presenting a new face to the world, we could redeem our image in the international community and begin to work toward peace and prosperity for all; that we might start to move away from the politics of confrontation and self-righteous belligerence, to progress toward understanding and reconciliation with other countries; that we might leave behind a policy of casino economics focused only on short-term self interest in favor of one that looks toward long-term stability.

I also felt a thrill of hope evidenced by the crowd of black citizens who had come to witness a historic event that disproved the notion our country is, to quote a certain black preacher (whose name I won't mention) that our country is "The US of KKK,"and would never elect a non-white person to high office.

Then too, there's the hope of an administration that will respect the planet and will cooperate with other countries in fighting pollution and give more than lip service to developing alternate sources of energy.

The first fear that struck me had to do with the fact that we had, on the previous day, celebrated the birthday of another good man (not the first) who was struck down before his work was completed. That was

eased somewhat by observing the elaborate security procedures being followed during the ceremony.

The second fear lies in the fact that our new president has an enormous task ahead of him, and at this point, he is still an unknown player in the complex and precarious game of national government. In his acceptance speech, and several times previous to that, he has warned that recovery may be slow in coming, But, given the fact of a level of enthusiasm that borders on adoration, I'm not sure how long such intense support can be sustained. After all, Barrack Obama is not the Second Coming of Christ, but a human being with human limitations. All presidents make mistakes and all have political enemies who are quick to point them out and exploit them.

In conclusion, I'm convinced that we finally have a president with ideals and goals we can support. I sincerely hope that he is up to the momentous task that fell on his shoulders when he took the oath of office, and I believe he will do everything a man of talent, determination and energy can do for our country.

From Our Pastor

Rev. Phil Schulman

Setting the course

In the last few days, millions if not billions of us have had our attention tuned to the change in US leadership. People have been watching, listening, and waiting. The very fact of so many of us turning our attention to the same events enables currents of energy to flow through an emergent network of humanity. What's been flowing in this emergent network has been great excitement and anticipation.

Personally, I have never felt more hopeful and optimistic regarding our country. All of the divisions cannot be healed in one day. But

when have such multitudes of diverse people shared and expressed such hopefulness? It seems that we have all been so burdened by numerous mounting problems. Important issues including the Iraq war, Middle East relations, global warming, health care and the failing global economy have brought many of us to our knees, and we have been praying for a change. Suddenly people are looking to the news and expecting that something good might happen. Democrats, Republicans, Americans, Africans, Europeans, Jews, Christians, Muslims, Atheists, are coming together in the common hope that we can find ways to solve the enormous problems facing all of us.

Day 1 of the Obama administration, millions continued to pay attention. What will this new administration do? Each decision, announcement and action suggested to the world what might be coming. Each was carefully chosen for its value in communicating as well as to set the course. Transparency in governance, limits placed to avoid conflict of interest, a clear intent to address and reverse policies which have been damaged our country's reputation, announcements and deeds that suggest we will have faith in the power of integrity, reaching out to leaders in far corners of the globe... If there has been one message behind each of the announcements, it has been that by working together with an awareness of our common needs we will move ahead together. Whatever else anyone might say about Obama, it's hard to imagine not crediting him as a "great communicator."

Even if we suspect we have something less than Obama's vision or commanding skills, we never the less exercise great power to choose which way we will be heading. Although we will not likely face the global attention that has been directed toward our new president, every day each of us can exercise our power of intention to set our course, prioritize our integrity and to trust the value of consistency in what we say and do.

One way I know and have been learning this has come from observing what happens when I launch into something from a disturbed consciousness. The wonderful exciting events of the past few days interrupted my routine, and I several times zipped into action a bit out of kilter. I rushed and pushed myself to engage without doing my usual centering practices such as yoga. Increasingly I notice the results and effects that come when I do this. The further into a karmic

dance I am the harder it can be to reverse the momentum. Fortunately, I have learned how to restart my day. There is infinite power in the present moment in order to determine where we will put our faith, to intentionally reset our course, and choose the intentions that will direct which way our lives will unfold.

Our congregation is a laboratory, a school and a support network for us to learn to use the power of our consciousness. That each of us sometimes acts without mindfulness is a given. We act unconsciously from habit. We perform mundane rituals unaware of their power in our lives. By learning to give ourselves experiences of the sacred in our life, and by communally connecting with shared values, we increase the likelihood that we will later be able to recreate our raised consciousness, reset our intentions and act decisively in the direction we really want to go.

So be it for each of us!

RE NEWS

Glenna Jones-Kachtik

Classes are going well. December we did Sacred Earth: Wiccan/Pagan. We met a “New Friend”, Rowan and we talked about what a Wiccan Pagan child looked like. We discovered that they look pretty much like everyone else – no extra warts or ears or eyes – that they didn’t twitch their noses. We learned that they might go to a Celestial Celebration Circle @ 1st UU; and have a family altar in their homes. Stephanie Walls read a story and we illustrated it for the Intergenerational service on 12/21 – and we participated in that service by holding up the pictures and each family closed one direction of the circle. We finished the month by discussing the fact that many religions have Festivals of Lights. We talked about Divali, Hannukah, and Kwanzaa among other religions.

This month, we have begun studying about another Sacred Earth Religion – Native American. 12/4 we read the story Grandmother

Spider Brings the Sun; which is one of the types of story like Just So Stories – that explains why something is. It explained why fox has a black mouth; why possum has no hair on his tail; and why buzzard has no hair on his head...We made totem poles.

We met TIVA, a Hopi child. The children each drew a part of Tiva and he turned to be a very nice looking kid in shorts and a T-Shirt and again, he looked pretty much like us. Lauri Thomason helped out in RE that day and they had been to an Indian reservation. We made tube sock Kachina dolls complete with googley eyes, curly pipe cleaner tails and beaded apparel. Drew (Marilyn DeKings granddaughter) drew a mouth and he ended up with feathered hair, cardboard feet and a push-pin heart nose.

We walked outside and thought about what could be our spirit guides. We heard the story of Black Elk's vision and talked about how the Indians used sand paintings in religious ceremony. We did our own version of a sand painting on sand paper with chalk.

Sunday, 1/25, we will read the story of Buffalo Woman's gift and talk about Native American prophecy. Not sure what the activity will be.

Preschool RE has explored the book Biscuit's Snowy Day, and have taken walks; made drawings of snowmen; played ball and discovered their world. Kane Presley recently joined the class with Joseph. Joseph is mostly learning vocabulary and being a 2-year-old boy!

Lots of learning and lots of fun going on in RE; we look forward to more in February.

Hopefully next year, the children can participate in the MLK walk.

Glenna Jones-Kachtik

SOCIAL JUSTICE

This has been the start of an exciting week! First, Veronica, Mary Beth, Von & I participated in the laying of a wreath at the statue of

Martin Luther King, Jr. It was full of beautiful songs and the words of Dr. Bernard A. Harris – as well as the presentation of wreaths by many organizations. Our wreath, as well as the one by 1st UU were two of only 3 wreaths not on stands and two of 4 (The PEACE center's wreath, made by children of the circle school was wooden) that were completely handmade of greenery. Most of the wreaths were from florists and some were beautiful – but they didn't seem to convey the spirit of MLK to me. I urge everyone to come to the wreath laying ceremony next year!!!

This morning, Monday – Von & I met Veronica & Phil for the MLK march. This was the first time that I had participated in the march and it was a beautiful sunshiny day and a very moving experience for me. I learned some things for next year – carry water; and maybe we need a dowel rod to hang the banner from. Here we were, among the horses; and the other people marching to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There were people of all ethnicities – we even spotted 2 fairies – complete with wings!!! One of the high points was when we the 4 of us joined in with the group behind us in the singing of “We Shall Overcome”. It was a wonderful experience reading all of the shirts with quotes by Dr. King and also the elation of the election of Barrack Obama. We saw Loretta!!! Behind us was a lady with a set of twins and two other children. One of the T-shirts that I loved most was worn by one of her children: “Rosa sat, so Martin could march...Martin marched so that Barrack could run...Barrack ran so that our children could fly.” I certainly hope that our children fly!

There are many other celebrations today for Dr. King. Tomorrow is the inauguration of the first African American President. Change has definitely come to America & I am hopeful! I think Dr. King would be happy with the change that he set in motion and that so would James Reeb and Bobby & John F Kennedy as well as those others who gave their life for the civil rights of others.

Next year, I would like to see more of our church show up for this march. I would like to see a ‘sea’ of T shirts with our logo on it marching with our banner. We are a small church – but even the smallest pebble causes a ripple.

This Sunday, there will be a “job fair” at CUUC. Social Justice

doesn't so much need help with anything – but it would be refreshing for me & Mary Beth to know who our members are!!! So, if you are interested in social action – sign the sheet.

Also, TURN IN YOUR BOXES FOR GUEST AT YOUR TABLE!!!! 1 /25/09.

AFFINITY GROUPS

Explorations of Christianity for the Discontent

Stephanie Walls

7:00 pm Wednesdays

A group which is founded on the 4th Principle "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning". Bring yourself, your Bible, your thoughts, and your questions (especially those questions pushed aside by preachers!). Our meetings are meant to encourage exploration of the Christian life as presented in the New Testament with focus on the differences between Jesus' teaching and those of his followers (such as Paul).

Discussions will include how to live such a life in the present world, and whether or not we find representations of this life to be accurate in modern Christianity. Our main method in accomplishing this is meant to be reading of and discussion of our personal interpretations of pertinent bible passages. Do you pray? Do you meditate? We can take this opportunity to learn from one another on these topics as well.

The group will be limited to church membership/friends initially until such

a time as we see fit to expand to the community at large.

Relaxation with Francine

Sunday Mornings, 9:00am

Francine Richter

We will be meeting in the fireplace room for a deeply spiritual experience that prepares our psyches for the worship service and daily life the purpose is to reach personal bliss and ecstasy (with practice) and remove us from the distresses of modern life and make us more sensitive to spirituality.

Participants don't need to bring anything, especially not cell phones and have course this would not work for children Remember, after the door is closed at 9:00 a.m. no one can be admitted.

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 Group

Jean Halff

The Women's 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 in alphabetical order of the members. . 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

Glenna Jones-Kachtik & Shiloh Richter

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 presently being shown at church at 3:00 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 leader of the group are Glenna-Jones Kachtik and Shiloh Richter Any questions about this group may be directed to them.

#6

DIRECTORY

Officers:

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At Large - Marilyn DeKing, 210- 299 4005

At Large, Veronica Gard, 210 - 499 4118 - vgardshazam@yahoo.com

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e-mail Addresses

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

Calendar additions and changes should be submitted to Glenna Jones-Kachtik
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>.