

CUUC Newsletter, March, 2009

Editor, Steven Botts,  
(210) 275-2056  
[stevenbotts@grandecom.net](mailto:stevenbotts@grandecom.net)

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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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### Notice to Contributors

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

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#1

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Feb 23

Women's Group, 7:00 PM

Feb 24

Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 PM

March 1

Morning Service, Rev. Phil Schulman

Yoga With Kitty Bevis, 1:30 PM

Brown Bag Socrates Café, 12:15 PM

March 3

Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 PM

March 8

"The Next Kind Thing," Mary Grace Ketner

Worship Committee meets after morning service

Yoga With Kitty Bevis

Men's Group, 6.30 PM

March 9

Second Sunday Food Swap, all day

Women's Group, 7:00 PM

March 10

Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 PM

March 11

CUUC Board meets, 7:00 PM

March 15

“Tolerance,” Lew Gershman

Yoga With Kitty Bevis, 1:30 PM

Remarkable Film Group, 3:00 PM

March 17

Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 PM

March 22

“Bible Women: Scapegoats and Role Models,” Steven Botts

Yoga With Kitty Bevis, 1:30 PM

Men’s Group, 6.30 PM

March 23

Women’s Group, 7:00 PM

March 24

Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 PM

March 28

Work and Maintenance Party, 9:00 AM

March 29

Morning service, Rev. Phil Schulman

Yoga With Kitty Bevis, 1:30 PM

March 31

Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 PM

April 5

Morning Service, Mark Walls

Brown Bag Socrates Café, 12:15 PM  
Yoga With Kitty Bevis

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#2  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday Work Party  
John Bradshaw  
2/28, 9:00 AM

The project this month will be to clean up the meditation garden, prune trees and bushes, and bag leaves. For Mark Twain fans, there will also be a fence to paint.

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Deep Relaxation Group

The Deep Relaxation group will now be meeting Sunday mornings with Veronica Gard, 9:30-10AM until further notice.

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UU Theological Seminary

Meadville Lombard Theological School, a Unitarian Universalist seminary in Chicago, Illinois, is holding a Prospective Student Conference on April 8 and 9, 2009. Visit the school, meet our award-winning, full-time faculty, and the students who will be your future colleagues. Learn about our Master of Divinity degree program that infuses practical experiences throughout your academic career. And learn how you can earn your degree through our innovative TouchPoint distance learning format, where you travel to Chicago for academic courses and orientation, but do your community and congregational experiential work where you live. For more

information, visit our website or call the Theological Education for Lay Leaders and Seminarians at Meadville Lombard Admissions Office at 773.256.3000 x250.

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## UPCOMING SERVICES

3/01/09

Concerning Politics  
Rev Phil Schulman

Can religion and politics really be separate? Don't our religious values follow us into the voting booth?

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3/08/09

The Next Kind Thing  
Mary Grace Ketner

The hardest thing on earth is choosing what matters. Is it that we don't know what matters, or that we do know but don't choose to do it? Mary Grace Ketner is one of our congregations resident storytellers

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3/15

Speaking of Tolerance  
Lew Gershman

Lew Gershman is a member of the toastmasters group that meets at CUUC.

He will speak on the topic of sharing our space with people who may be different from us in significant ways.

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3/22

Bible Women: Scapegoats and Role Models  
Steven Botts

Much has been made of way the Bible has placed women in the status of second-class human beings. Still, there are many strong female characters in the scriptures who have made their presence felt and made a lasting impression. You will meet some of them in this service.

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3/29

Pieces Left over  
Rev Phil Schulman

People come to be UUs from many religions and denominations, from Adventists to Zoroastrians. What did you bring with you from your original religion?

4/5

The Power of Negative Thinking  
Mark Walls

How do the things we say and think affect what goes on in our subconscious mind and shape our attitudes toward ourselves others, and life in general?

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## ARTICLES AND REPORTS

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From the Editor  
Steven Botts

After the soup lunch on 2/22, we met to discuss the goal of our church and suggest ways that these goals might be met. I suggested that those of us who have attended other UU churches during out-of-town travels might bring back and share some of the things we have seen done in other churches that might be that might work here. A few examples below:

I have adopted a technique I observed in Topeka, Kansas of joining the “Joys and Concerns” part of a service to a short, guided meditation .

I have also heard some really good stories in other churches, and I have, with the teller’s permission, used some of them at CUUC.

I once observed an unusual offertory style in a small UU fellowship in Lawton, Oklahoma. It featured a “noisy” offertory and a “quiet” offertory. The noisy offertory was carried out by children carrying tin buckets. They would pass the buckets down the rows, and contributors would drop in their pocket change. The kids would give the buckets a few good shakes when they got them back and take them to the front. Following that, there would be a traditional quiet offering of bills and checks.

I thought this was a good way of involving the kids, and also a way of showing them that there is a time to be noisy and a time to be quiet.

If you should run across a different way of doing things in church that might be worth a try, please let me know, and I’ll print it here.

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## RE NEWS

Glenna Jones-Kachtik

I got a wonderful chance this month – I went to the Mid Winter DRE conference at Shady Lakes Ranch near Dallas. The conference came with powerhouse Keynote speaker Meg Barnhouse. I was truly blessed for 3 days and 2 nights to hear this wonderful UU Minister/Family Therapist speak and sing. The title for the conference came from her song about an imaginary conversation she has with Julian of Norwich; the upshot of which is that no matter what happens – all will be well. It was so wonderful to be fed by word and song and to join in people started showing up for their Sunday service. We extinguished the Chalice; turned their chairs around to face the cross; picked up all our stuff and vacated the chapel. We marched across the compound to the Pavilion; set up our altar; re-light the chalice & Meg sang “All Will Be Well”. We went on with our Sunday worship. The acoustics in the Pavilion were 10 times better so, when we sang “Blue Boat Home”, it sounded like a choir of angels. The title of Jennifer Nichol’s service that day was “Musical Chairs,” based on Robert Fulgham’s short story.

When I returned home, renewed and refreshed; Steph & I set about solving some issues in RE. From now on, multi-age will begin in multi-age classroom and then move to the beanbag room and then back to multi-age during different parts of the lesson. Pre-school will begin in the fireplace room and most of the class will take place in there – unless it is arts and crafts. We will try to have someone scheduled to take care of Lena each Sunday. We are also trying to find ways to keep our older youth here in CUUC.

We have begun a study of Buddhism in multi-age RE. So far, we have studied about Buddha and who he was; heard the story of his birth and enlightenment. We met Sumalee and she was drawn by Michael & Laura. We set up our shrine. Other plans are making mandalas, clay figures and to do a meditation of some type every week. We hope to have Veronica Gard come and do a lesson for us one Sunday.

Kane & Joseph have done February activities – including heart birdseed/peanut butter bird treats to hang in the trees.

We were sorry to hear that Benjamin and Matthew lost their Grandfather; but happy that Ritchie celebrated his 11<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 2/6. We are happy to celebrate Matthew Mansfield's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday on 2/17. Lena is growing by leaps and bounds and every week brings us new joy with Joseph & Kane. We look forward to a great month in RE and whatever happens, All will be well.....

Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

We wrapped up Guest At Your Table. Neither Mary Beth nor I have met to count it yet; so we don't know how much we contributed. We can count the boxes and we can ask June – our treasurer – for an accounting of those who put checks and money into the collection plate; but we have no way of knowing who sent money directly to UUSC. If you did, could you please let Mary Beth or me know?

In February, the UUA's Action of the Month was: Speak Up for BLGT Equality. They sponsored a "Freedom to Marry Day" the week

of Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>. They also asked that you send out a letter to your Congress Critter and/or sign a petition to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell. There was the recent passing of Prop 8 in CA and several cases where National Guards People (even one woman who served in Iraq) being fired and losing benefits to the case in FL where the children & spouse of a domestic partnership were denied access to the partner as she lay dying of a heart attack. The last case was made even more bizarre by the fact that the partners both had legal documentation for power of attorney and medical power of attorney. It becomes imperative for you (if you so believe) to stand up and be counted. It now becomes imperative that people who believe that we should Stand of the Side of Love – to make their voices heard! If you are so inclined, write to your Congress Critters; Send a letter to the White House; Send a letter to your State Senators and Representatives; let people know how you feel.

The March Action is: Sexuality Education Call In Days (scheduled for 3/21-3/24). UUSC Justice Sunday is 3/29 and Earth hour is 3/31. We will be letting you know more about these actions in the next newsletter.

Glenna Jones-Kachtik & Mary Beth Romeo  
Social Justice Co-Chairs

PS 3/19 is an Anniversary of the Iraq War & 3/8 is International Woman's Day

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## 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.

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Relaxation with Veronica  
Sunday Mornings, 9:30-10 AM

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 . No children, please.

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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 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.

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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

PM 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.

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### 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 composed 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.

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## DIRECTORY

### Officers:

Ron Clarke, 210 - 845 1638 - rclarke2@satx.rr.com

Secretary - Mary Grace Ketner 210- 271 0628 - mgteller@yahoo.com

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

At Large - Marilyn DeKing, 210- 299 4005

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

### Coordinators:

Programs Committee - Nancy White, 210 - 650 4785 - nancyemerson@gmail.com

Member Services - Mark and Stephanie Walls 210 - 681-8188 - ibs\_faerie@yahoo.com

Operations Committee - John Bradshaw, 210-341-8506,  
JandJBradshaw@webtv.net  
<mailto:JandJBradshaw@webtv.net>and Mary Beth Romeo, 210 -  
694 5233 -  
r5romeo@sbcglobal.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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### e-mail 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 Glenna Jones-Kachtik  
[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  
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