

CUUCSA NEWSLETTER/ VOL. 53, June, 2008 Editor: Steven Botts, [stbotts@texas.net](mailto:stbotts@texas.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

May 24: Work & Maintenance Party, 9:00 am  
May 25: Guided Meditation, bean bag room - Francine Richter, 9:30 - 10:15  
May 25: "Church Leadership, What's it like?" Rev. Phil Schulman and CUUC Board  
May 25: Annual Congregational Meeting May 25: Men's Group, 6:30 pm  
May 26 Memorial Day picnic  
Jun 01: TBA (Short Service) Steven Botts  
Jun 01: Brown Bag Socrates Cafe, 12:15 pm  
Jun 01 Hatha Yoga with Kitty Beavis, 1:30 pm  
Jun 03: Nonviolent Study and Practice Group, 7:00 pm  
Jun 08: Political, CE Rev. Phil Schulman  
Jun 08: YRUU Meeting, 12:00 pm  
Jun 08: Hatha Yoga with Kitty Beavis, 1:30 pm  
Jun 08 Men's Group, 6:30 pm  
Jun 09: Women's Group, 7:00 pm  
Jun 15: "Integrity to Life's Purpose" Heather Ash  
Jun 22: ""Summer Solstice Celebration That's Fully Ours," Rev. Phil Schulman  
Jun 29 Short Service, Henry Half

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#2

Announcements

Agenda, CUUC Annual Congregational Meeting May 25, 2008

Joan Bradshaw, President

1. Call to Order/Establish a quorum
2. Motion to approve the minutes of May 20, 2007 (A copy will be e-mailed to all today)
3. Report of the Nominating Committee (We will be taking nominations from the floor for Secretary and Programs Coordinator)
4. Motion to approve the slate
5. Motion to approve the budget for 2008-2009
7. Other Business
8. Adjourn

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Guided Meditation

May 25, 9:30am

Francine Richter

We will be meeting in the bean bag 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 of course this would not work for children. Remember, after the door is closed at 9:30 a.m. no one can be admitted. Sessions will continue until further notice.

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Remarkable Films Goes Brown Bag

Glenna Jones-Kachtik

The Remarkable Film Group is trying something different. Bring your brown bag (if you eat that early) and join us for popcorn, 'dinner' and a movie.

We have moved from 6:30 to 5:00 PM and are meeting in the fireplace room. We had a good time on 5/18 watching the film M\*A\*S\*H and discussing the movie. We enjoyed conversation, cherries, red velvet cake, popcorn, chocolate chex mix, beverages, carrots w/dip & pistachios. The movie was #7 on the American Film Institutes 100 funniest comedies of all time.

They chose the next 2 films in the series: 6/15 5 PM - The Producers (1968) #11 on the list. Directed by Mel Brooks, the group decided on the 1968 version starring Zero Mostel, Gene Wilder & Dick Shawn.

The story of 2 shysters, Mostel as Max Bialystock (a has been Broadway producer) schemes with accountant Wilder to fleece investors of their money with an enormous flop musical. They solicit bad material until they stumble upon a musical about Nazi Germany and Hitler written by fanatical playwright Mars who informs, "Not many people knew it, but the Fuehrer was a terrific dancer." Their plan to produce a flop catches them short when the show turns into a big hit. When the curtain goes up on "Springtime for Hitler", the debacle becomes a sudden comedy hit - sending the producers to prison. If it is half as funny as the version with Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, Uma Thurman and Will Ferrell - it is a do not miss movie!!!

7/20: The Apartment (1960) - #20 on AFI list of greatest comedies. Directed by Billy Wilder; the movie stars the late Jack Lemmon, Shirley McClaine and Fred MacMurray. It is a sparkling office comedy about a career climbing insurance clerk (Lemmon) who advances his career plan when he offers his boss (MacMurray) the use of his apartment as an evening love nest for an extra-marital fling. He soon gets tangled up with the boss's flighty and fragile girlfriend (McLaine), the building's elevator operator and his career

gets dangerously close to plummeting back down to the lobby. This movie won Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay.

We will decide on the next series in June. If any of you have any ideas for a series that you would like to see, send it to me at: [gjkbear822@yahoo.com](mailto:gjkbear822@yahoo.com)

<<mailto:gjkbear822@yahoo.com>>. We hope that you will join us for a good time. Glenna Jones-Kachtik, Remarkable Film Group leader

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#3

### UPCOMING SERVICES

May 25

Rev. Phil Schulman

"Church Leadership, What's that like?"

What is it like to serve on our board? Is there a personal and spiritual dimension? Or is it hard work, awful conflict, bitter politics and boring tedium? Come hear how serving on the board has affected some of our leaders.

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June 1

Steven Botts

Short Service, Topic TBA, Steven Botts

This will be the first of our short services that will be presented intermittently through the summer months. the service will begin at the regular time, and after a brief opening, a topic of interest will be introduced.. A discussion will follow, and the service will conclude after approximately 20 minutes or so. A brunch will follow the service. .

In this case, the speaker will bring some breakfast tacos. Other attendees are invited to bring something breakfasty or lunchlike ( sweet rolls, sandwiches, eggs, fruit, cheese, etc).

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June 8

Rev Phil Schulman

Fear, Gays, and the Status Quo

A historical look at the politics of fear used to undermine progressive social agenda with gays being the most recent target. Plus, why I personally must "stand (with GLBTQ) on the side of love"

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June 15

Integrity to Life's Purpose

Heather Ash

The speaker will talk about aligning with your life purpose, your integrity, and your spirit

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June 22

"Summer Solstice Celebration That's Fully ours"

Rev. Phil Schulman. In bringing solstice celebrations online, we UUs have turned mostly to the old religion. But most of us are not practicing Wiccans. How might we celebrate

and experience the crescendo of nature's cycle? Is "full on" permitted? Is it religious? spiritual? life affirming? death defying?

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June 29

Henry Halff

Short Service, TBA

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#4

#### ARTICLES AND REPORTS

From Our Pastor

Rev. Phil Schulman

Love Amidst Crisis

Recently we found ourselves in a crisis together. We heard that one of our members was missing. His spouse reported that he didn't come home for work, and no would could give us an explanation. "What happened?!" "How can this be?!", we asked, and our imaginations were quick to offer several horrible scenarios explanations. Most refrained from sharing their fears publicly, but pained looks could be seen on our faces.

Several long days later we got word that our friend- was "all right." However, during those fear filled days, did all "hell" break loose? Had we lost all connection with benign truth? Did we experience an estrangement a loss of connection to knowing acceptance within the intelligent order that binds us together? Our Universalist tradition tells us to reject the false claims of hell. It affirms that nothing will ultimately separate us from the unconditional love that gives us life. That love is one way we at Community share a sense of the holy or sacred.

We were drawn together by our concern for our missing friend and his spouse. The sacred was ever near to us as we gave and received support. We came into contact with the holy through our desire to alleviate suffering.

During a crisis it can be extremely difficult to find peace, to find God, meaning or beauty. Pain can lead us to places we wouldn't otherwise go. We can feel a desperate need to make sense of seeming chaos. A desire to release the pain inside us may push us into unconscious action. Then our desire to alleviate suffering is less likely to succeed.

Perhaps it was just such an instance when our sense of the sacred was most needed and present. One of the responses to the announcement was an email that offered a possible explanation for the crisis by criticizing the spouse of our missing friend. Before the bees in our bonnets were entirely a buzz, the two men had communicated reconciled. One expressed his deep regret that he had accidentally posted a response that was intended to be private. He also expressed regret that his words were "harsh and unkind." The second man publicly offered forgiveness. I was touched by the expression of the first man's pain and regret. I was touched by the latter's valuing of reconciliation. I am tempted to call it a small miracle.

Who among us, burning with a need for understanding, has not been quick to offer diagnosis, interpretation, blame or criticism? Many of us can also identify with the pain of sending email to unintended recipient- of having allowed private thoughts to become public. How often are we unaware that our private conversations and judgments hold the potential to cause harm? Given the public demonstration of forgiveness and

reconciliation, how will our hearts respond? How will we go forward? Perhaps some of the reconciliation we desire has not yet come to pass. And future events will likely bring us more pain.

As we sail through turbulent waters, may we find our vessels to be greater than we knew. May peace and strength abide in our souls. And perhaps most of all, may we allow room in our hearts for the possibility of miracles -not that something supernatural will happen, but that we will find a way to choose love and discover its power as greater than our fears and judgments. If we can face crisis with brave hearts, we will surely continue to grow as individuals and as a congregation that invites all to draw near to the holy and sacred, however and where-ever we find her.

Amen

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RE News

Glenna Jones-Kachtik

RENews The RE Class held its' End of the Year service on 5/18. We said farewells to the Gullicks - because tho they may be coming to the Memorial Day Picnic it is conceivable that they might not make it back to RE. We also found out today that we will be losing Jefferson Purdey for at least a year - since He & Harold will be leaving soon for Poland and then to China.

This year saw our class do many social justice projects: Heifer International; GAYT; food baggies for the homeless; encouraging and also participating in collections for SAMMs shelter and now with collecting toiletries for Under the Bridge. Next year, the budget calls for the RE classes to plan and implement monthly social justice projects. The committee and I have already tossed around several plans for projects. We are going to use money already existing in the budget for social justice this year to purchase toiletries for kits and we will do that before the end of the week ending May 25th. Plans are underway to move the RE classroom back upstairs and to use the existing space for toddlers and all class art projects. This summer, classes will be a story/craft approach with swimming interspersed.

Next year, we will begin again with world religions - using God Images. One change may see the DRE having regular hours at the church during the week, so that I am accessible to parents. I look forward to working with the new board and with my incoming RE chair, Stephanie Walls. We will be looking for ways to bring youth into our church and to add families as well for our Re programs.

Our children did well this year. I think we all learned quite a lot about social justice. If you missed the RE closing service, it was wonderful! Lots of singing, and a retelling of the Giving Tree by Mark & Stephanie made this service memorable. The children showed off their artwork from the year and some participated by providing percussion on Turn the World Around. Michael Parmley talked about his picture for Follow the Drinkin Gourd. An ice cream social followed.

The children will be participating in the Summer Solstice service on June 22nd and we will not have RE on July 27th as we will be listening - along with everyone else as the story tellers weave their tales. Have a wonderful summer! Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE  
Social Justice News

Social Justice did not meet in May. Plans are made to support UUHAC next year and interest was expressed in having a pizza party near Christmas for the kids from the Bridge. The RE class will be joining the social justice group next year as they plan approximately a project a month having to do with social justice. Glenna Jones-Kachtik & Mary Beth Romeo Social Justice Co-Chairs.

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#### #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

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Women's 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 Glenna Jones-Kachtik 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 5:00 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 is Glenna-Jones Kachtik Any questions about this group may be directed to her.

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## DIRECTORY

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