

CUUCSA ON-LINE NEWSLETTER/ VOL. 34, October, 2006

Editor: Steven Botts, stbotts@texas.net

Web site: <http://www.cuucsa.org/>

Nosotros, las congregaciones miembros de la Asociación UU, convenimos en afirmar y formentar el valor y la dignidad propia de cada persona.

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2. Announcements and articles
3. Social Justice Report
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#1.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sep 24: "UU Evangelism" - Rev. Phil Schulman

Sep 24: Soup Lunch by YRUU after church

Sep 24: Men's Group, 6:30 pm

Sep 25: Women's Group, 7 pm

Oct.01: Understanding Islam Through its History - Dr. Dorothy Haecker

Oct 09: Women's Group

Oct 08: "Gaia, the Seventh Principle, and Emergent Spirituality" - Rev. Phil Schulman

Oct 15: "The Hurting World and the Heart of God" - Blake Feuge

Oct 15: Remarkable films - "Meet Me in St Louis" 6:00 pm

Oct 22: "Individuals and Society" - Rev. Phil Schulman

Oct 22: Men's group, 6:30 pm

Oct 23: Women's Group, 7 pm

Oct 29: "Dia de los Muertos." (Intergenerational) - Glenna Jones-Kachtik

Nov.19 Remarkable films - "Show Boat", 6:00 pm

Dec. 17: Remarkable films - "Singing in the Rain"

#2

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ARTICLES

What Happened to the September Newsletter?
Henry, the CUUC Newsboy

You may have noticed that you are reading the October 2006 CUUC Newsletter, and you may find yourself wondering whether or not you missed the September newsletter. Rest assured that you did not. There will never be a September 2006 CUUC Newsletter. Why? Because we're changing the way that we date our newsletters. To bring us into conformance with accepted practice, this newsletter, and all subsequent newsletters are and will be dated with the month in which they expire, that is, when they are taken off the shelves. So, even though this newsletter is published in September, we're calling it the October newsletter.

UUHAC Helps Homebuyers

U. U. Housing Assistance Corporation has completed three homes for low-income homebuyers. Come, help us celebrate on Friday morning, October 20, 2006, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. We will want to thank our funding partners, especially PMI, an insurance company that has loaned us the construction funds - at no interest! - and the City of San Antonio. To make it possible for the families to afford these homes, the City is giving each one a grant of \$8,000 and a low-interest loan of \$10,000. Built just 3 blocks from historic San Pedro Park, UU HAC has honored the Alta Vista Neighborhood's request to restore housing to this part of their neighborhood boundary. It's been a difficult venture - but come and hear the whole story for yourself. You will be proud of what UU HAC has accomplished, for UU HAC represents your tangible interest in your community.

On-street parking is limited. I'd suggest you park at San Pedro Park (Ashby and N. Flores) and walk along N. Flores to Fredericksburg Road. The homes are on N. Flores at Fredericksburg Road, just across from the VIA garage. Or, try Estela's Café, 112 Fredericksburg Road. She will be serving brunch for the event. Maps will be available at church.

June Kachtik
UU HAC board president

UU HAC LOOKING FOR A RENTER. DO YOU KNOW ANYONE?

If you know of some group or business that is looking for office lease space one mile north of the downtown area, please refer them to the contact below. We would like to lease out 215 W. Poplar Street by October 15, 2005.

215 W. Poplar Street is zoned commercial and is in an area of larger renovated homes that have been converted to office space. This building is owned by U. U. Housing Assistance Corporation and is part of the complex of 5 buildings owned by either UU HAC or Community Development Loan Fund.

215 W. Poplar has 4 rooms, a kitchen and a bath in one story. There is 145 square feet of usable space and parking in the rear. Monthly rent will be between \$1,200 and \$1,500, and one month's rent is to be given up front as a security deposit. The building was completely renovated in 2005.

Contact: Patrick Shearer
Cambridge Realty
(210) 299-1172, Extension 245

From the Remarkable Film Group
Clem Chow

The next series chosen by the Remarkable Film Group will be musical films. We are going to feature three musical films of reasonable vintage. The first film selected is "Meet me in St. Louis." The 1944 film features Judy Garland and was directed by her husband Vincent Minnelli. It is well known for its "Trolley Song" and has a moving story about a family in transition. The film will be shown at church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, October 15.

The second film chosen for this musical series is "Show Boat." The 1951 film features Ava Gardner, Kathryn Grayson and Howard Keel. It was written by Oscar Hammerstein II based on a novel by Edna Ferber. This musical features a number of famous songs, the most notable one being "Old Man River." This film will be shown at church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, November 19.

The Remarkable Film Group selected "Singing in the Rain" as the third in the series musical films. The 1952 production is often considered as the best musical ever filmed. The film features Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds and has a charming story about the coming of sound in Hollywood films. This film will be shown at church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, December 17.

Member Services Committee
Clem Chow

Texas Public Radio:

Texas public radio (TPR) is a membership-supported service that offers two separate FM stations in San Antonio. A business membership with a mention of the member institution's name over 50 weeks costs \$500 per year. If more than eight of us who wish to support TPR for \$60 a year can pool our contributions at the church, the church can then become a business member.

This is a good outreach towards a specific population. As a business member, two people from the church can go to special functions offered by TPR for business members only. However, if you choose to support TPR through the church, you will not be given an individual membership card. The church gets two membership cards that members can sign out for a definite period of time. You can still call and sign up for activities offered by TPR for their members. Just mention that you are part of the CUUC business membership. You also will not be sent a monthly copy of the "Key," the magazine for members, but you can sign up to receive it online. Our church has been a business member for a number of years and it would be good to continue our presence there.

The deadline for this year's membership is October 1. If you are interested, please write your check to CUUC with TPR membership designated on the memo line and hand the check to Nancy White, our treasurer. After we received a sufficient number of members' contributions, the church will then sign up as a business member. If you have any questions, please refer them to Clem Chow.

UU News
Daron Sachs

YRUU - by Alicia Sanchez

Here in the city
are people you might see every week
Every month
Numbers one through ten on your best friends list
And also in those far off cities
What takes you anywhere from three
To thirteen hours to get to
In a crowded van

Loud
But filled with laughter and excitement
It's one of those places that lets you be
Exactly who you want to be

It's one of those feelings
That mixes together every feeling you'd ever hope to have
It's somewhere in between an escape
And a home

Wouldn't you love to go
to a place where you can help save the world
And your own community at the same time.

So many people count the days
the hours
Until it happens again
Those incredible days
Where time is lost
left behind

And what you keep is the happiness
The experiences
That cause you to smile

No matter how tired you are it's one of those places where saying hello
Is just as emotional as saying goodbye
It's one of those feelings
That draws together the hopes and dreams
Fears and confusion
That help you learn, grow . . . live,
It doesn't matter what you think
What you feel
Who you like
Or who you are.

Just as long as when someone says "Why are you you?"
You can answer
And how you do it doesn't matter
Because with us, you are exactly who you want to be
Simply because you're here

* * * * *

Forum on Global Warming
Peter Van Dusen

CUUC will participate in the national "Spotlight on Global Warming" event sponsored by Interfaith Power & Light in early October. This will include screening of the film "An

Inconvenient Truth" in the CUUC sanctuary at 2:00 pm on the afternoon of Sunday, October 15th, followed by discussion. For further information, contact Peter Van Dusen, 724-1614, or email at flosfr399bc@yahoo.com.

#3

Social Justice Report
Glenna Jones-Kachtik

Social Justice The social justice committee met on September 17, 2006. Present were Co-Chairs, Glenna Jones-Kachtik, Joan Bradshaw and members June Kachtik, Phyllis Katcher, and Nancy White. The following decisions were made: A. 10 Tree Challenge. We decided to hold a re-potting in conjunction with the maintenance work party on 9/23. Clerical work will be offered when Phil decides what he needs - but he needs to decide by 9/21.

As far as the repotting, he needs to have the materials handy (pots, soil etc). B. UU HAC - 1. The hunt for someone to clean the offices is off the table. We decided it was fairly unrealistic for them to try to have someone volunteer to clean their offices. 2. There is a media event to announce the completion of the Vista Points homes on 10/21 at 10:00 AM. It was agreed that we try to encourage as many of the congregation attend as is possible.

Also, since UU HAC accepted the 10 Tree Challenge, 3 of those trees would be planted (1 at each of the 3 houses) at the media event (holes to be pre dug). One tree should be planted to replace the dead tree at the offices @ 221 W Poplar. 3. We would make a drive to membership in UUHAC when new membership forms may be made by the person they hired to do PR. C. Pennies of Promise: We decided that October 29, would be the last Sunday to donate pennies. On that date, we will add them all up and Nancy will put them into the bank and we will make a check to send to Appalachian voices.

Henry had forwarded us a message that informed us about the Campaign for Labor Rights (STITCJ) and the International Rights fund bringing workers from overseas that are making goods for Wal Mart. The tour will bring these brave workers who will share their stories and tell how Wal Mart's Business Model affects them - from the extreme pressure, the unsafe working conditions to produce the clothing and goods that we purchase at unsustainable low prices. They were asking people to do one of 2 things. Either to arrange a speaking venue for them on 10/21-10/27 or to take action by emailing Wal- Mart to demand that it enforce its code of conduct toward its workers overseas.

We decided to simply make the congregation aware of the problem and leave it up to them to e-mail Wal- Mart if they wish. You may write to them at the following address:

<<http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/WalMartsweatshops>>.

Henry had also passed along a message from Blake Feuge regarding e- mailing President Bush and Kofi Annan to do more for the people of Darfur. We also decided to let the congregation decide if they wanted to do this e-mail campaign. You may find more information at <<http://www.savedarfur.org/>> or you may go <<http://www.democracyinaction.org/darfur/campaign.jsp?campaign-KEY=5190&t=>>>.

The other item on the Agenda was the children's stepping stone project. We are going to launch this item on 10/29 in conjunction with the Dia de los Muertos Intergenerational service. So, more about that later. The RE Committee will meet on 9/21 at the church to plan several services and discuss Religious Education. Glenna Jones-Kachtik

#4

RE NEWS

Glenna Jones- Kachtik

RE NEWS Religious Education has been concentrating on Dr. Seuss throughout the months of August and September. We began with the Butter Battle Book and the week of 9/17 we will read I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew. There are copies of the discussion questions "Thinkin' About Things" on the table in the foyer. I love Dr. Seuss. He has such a delightful way of making a point. It is fitting that we celebrate his birth.

10/1 I will be at the UU Identity Renaissance Module at 1st Church so I will get the lesson together for someone else who will do the story for that week. We have had some great fun with Seuss - We made "Whos" and we made Oobleck. We talked about making decisions and we did scratch off pictures. On the 17th we will make Nature Collages. We have talked about making decisions, playing fair, how everyone is important, that everyone counts, that we have a right to our opinion and that we should take care of our world. We at long last have a small RE committee. Composed of Co-Chair Patty Gullick, Vicki Mattern, Joan Bradshaw, myself as Co-Chair and ad hock members Henry Halff (Program Co-Chair) and Mary Grace Ketner (Congregation President). Anyone else who would like to be a member of this committee is welcome - we value input from the congregation.

We will be busy planning 3 intergenerational services/programs: Dia de los Muertos (10/29), Guest At Your Table/Bread Communion (11/19), and some kind of a Christmas pageant, play, service in December. Our congregation is blessed with a beautiful and talented group of children. We are lucky that we have committed parents who are willing to share their children with us. Hillary Clinton once wrote that it "Takes a Village". We are lucky that our particular village is so blessed with both adults and children. Look for some great things to come your way in the next few months. The 21st of September is/was International Peace Day.

I would like to close with a quote from Mary Lou Leavitt a famous Quaker writer and peace activist: "Living out a witness to peace has to do with everyday choices about the work we do, the relationships we build, what part we take in politics, what we buy, how we raise our children. It is a matter of fostering relationships and structures - from personal to international - which are strong and healthy enough to contain conflict when it arises and allow its creative resolution." I trust these children with my future - I think that this church and this faith does much to teach our Youth that they are responsible for their actions, that they should be fair, that they should live ethically because it is the right thing to do. GJK

#5

FROM OUR PASTOR

The Family Reunion

My mother made it clear she wanted her sons to attend the family reunion. Our family is so large we rented a YMCA camp for the event. The recent passing of cousin Tom McDonnell made my mother, 81 the oldest of 4 generations, a clan of 160. Having no good excuse to miss it, I begrudgingly purchased my tickets.

Somewhere along the line, I had lost much of my appreciation and sense of connection with my family. I had allowed estranging resentment to grow in me as a result of things that had been said and done. I judged them as being obsessed (in a typically American way) with "the rich and famous." They repeatedly dropped names and told stories about the elite of society. Reports of family members kept the emphasis upon status and success. Some remarks have echoed sentiments of Rush Limbaugh. And then there were the events that I won't mention. I judged the Levacks as having drifted from a liberal Catholic following of Jesus as requiring preferential treatment of the poor into a Protestant American equating of wealth with God's providence.

Fortunately, the Levack family reunion caused me to see with different eyes. A conversation with my Aunt Noel was particularly illuminating. Telling of her upcoming high school 50th year class reunion, she spoke more candidly and personally. She told me something of the difficulty of her teen years. She said that no one ever asked her out on a date. Given the striking good looks of the "girls" in my family, I had trouble understanding how that could be possible. Her explanation; "We were from the wrong side of the tracks." She continued from there.

When I was growing up I had heard only positive things about being a Levack. Mother always spoke with appreciation of growing up in a big family. She said "there were always cousins, aunts and uncles around, that loved and cared for each other."

Noel said that it was different for my mom because she was first born. When grandfather abandoned his wife and 14 children, my mom was a young adult. When I was growing up we were poorer, and people looked down on us," Noel said. Of course it

affected my mother too. A bright and competent woman, she very much wanted to go to college. Instead she went to work to support the family.

I was graced to hear family stories with compassionate ears. I could see the residual effects of oppression upon the family, the survival value of belief in the American dream, and of family boasting. More important was that I witnessed and was touched by the transformative love of the family. The celebration of family consisted of praises, prayers, songs, hugs; strokes mentally and physically. What was created together was uplifting for all. My mother had told me true. I could be proud and grateful for my family!

These events I've shared events have touched me and healed me personally. What about you? Can you relate? Can you draw other insights or lessons? I'd love to hear from you!

#6

UPCOMING SERVICES

September 24

UU Evangelism - Rev. Phil Schulman

Could an individual UU or a UU congregation ever be called evangelical? Pastor Phil reports on the UU gospel testified, preached and demonstrated at our General Assembly. "Our movement continues to expand beyond a disembodied intellectualism as we face the challenges of our times and express our diversity of spirituality."

Phil Schulman, the consulting minister at CUUC has been a lifelong advocate of ecological awareness and social justice. At age 11, he first petitioned the citizens of his town to save the forest behind his home. Since then, he's written editorials, served as a board member on a national human rights organization, participated in myriad campaigns for peace, ecology and social justice, spoken at rallies, vigils, and demonstrations, walked on peace pilgrimages across the US, France, and Palestine. He says he's delighted to share his passion with us all.

October 1

Understanding Islam through its history - Dr Dorothy Haecker

A Brief Journey through Fifteen Centuries of Islam, touching upon the life of the prophet, the first four caliphates, the sunni/shi'a split, the ensuing dynasties, the encounter with the modern west, the impact of oil, and the current "clash of civilizations." The guiding question will be: what can a study of the history of Islam suggest about a possible future of coexistence among the world's religions?

Although Dorothy has spent much of her career outside of Texas, she is a native of San Antonio, and has been professor of philosophy at Palo Alto College since 1991. During the 1970s, she founded the first women's studies department in the country, and has been an advocate and teacher of feminist philosophy ever since. At Palo Alto College, she has been the premier instructor of the World Religions course. For several years now, she has been studying and thinking about the conundrums facing the West regarding Islam.

October 8

Gaia, the 7th Principle & Emergent Spirituality - Rev Phil Schulman

Is nature supreme? Can we build our faith upon it? Our most recent principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of existence" has impacted our religious tradition. Where will it lead us?

October 15:

The Hurting World and the Heart of God - Blake Feuge

Blake Feuge is a member of the Toastmasters club that meets at CUUC. She is a trained nurse, but she has of late felt the call to turn her attention to the plight of abused children around the world. In her own words ...

I believe God has been pulling and tugging me to go out of my comfort zone and see what I can do for a Christian organization called International Justice Mission (IJM). Their website is www.ijm.org <<http://www.ijm.org/>>. They are a humanitarian group that has offices all over third world countries and they use the legal systems in each country to help rescue victims of child prostitution, child slave laborers, widows and victims of illegal land grabbing, children in prison for petty theft, and the like. IJM has full-time speakers who travel across the U.S. to speak to churches and various organizations to inform people of the plight of the victims of injustice and seek to gain prayer partners and to raise money to hire lawyers and investigators to help the innocent, to place children in aftercare facilities, fund job training programs, and to continue to open new offices.

Blake's service will address the spiritual wellsprings of her efforts to help children in need around the world.

October 22nd

Individuals and Society - Rev Phil Schulman

Are we subjects of an oppressive and dysfunctional social order? To what extent do we choose our personalities? Can we create a life affirming culture for ourselves and our children?

October 29
Dia de los Muertos - Glenna Jones-Kachtik

This is an annual event in which we honor friends and relatives who have died. Members of the congregation are invited to bring pictures or other memorabilia that remind them of their loved ones, and everyone will be invited to say a few words about those they want to remember.

Glenna Jones-Kachtik is our RE director. She holds a BS in Elementary Education (grades 1-8); having graduated from Texas A&I (now A&M). She has taught in the public school system in grade 2, & in a private school in grade 5 - Language Arts grade 6,7 - Science grade 6. She was children's librarian at Butt Holdsworth Memorial Library in Kerrville for 5 years and put on some great puppet shows and plays during that time.

#7
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. The next meeting will be September 3, 2006. It will be moderated by Marilyn DeKing. 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 Woman's Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 7 p.m. at the church. Our next meetings will be on: October 9th and October 23rd

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.

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 of a common theme, directed by the same person or featuring a specific actor or actress. Past film series have carried such themes as Women Messiahs or include films directed by John Sayles or those featuring Peter Sellers. Current leaders of the group are Clem and Joyce Chow. Any questions about this group may be directed to Clem or Joyce.

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@yahoogroups.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@yahoogroups.com.

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

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

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