

UUC Newsletter, December, 2008

Editor, Steven Botts, stbotts@texas.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.

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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.

#1

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Nov 23: Sunday Service: "Give Us This Day," Rev. Phil Schulman, 10:30 am

Nov 23: Relaxation with Francine, 9:00 am

Nov 23: Bread Communion -"Give us this Day..." Rev. Phil Schulman

Nov 23: Nov 23: Yoga with Kitty Bevis, 1:30 pm

Nov 23: Men's Group, 6:30 pm

Nov 24: Women's Group, 7:00 pm

Nov 25: Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 pm

Nov 30: Relaxation with Francine, 9:00 am

Nov 30 Sunday Service: Guest at Your Table" Dianne Duesterhoff and Mike Phillips,
10:30 am

Nov 30: Yoga with Kitty Bevis, 1:30 pm

Dec 02: Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 pm

Dec 07 Relaxation with Francine, 9:00 am

Dec 07: "The Virgin Mary as a Jewish Woman in the New Testament" Mary Beth Romeo

Dec 08 Women's Group, 7:00 pm

Dec 09: Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 pm

Dec 10: CUUC board meets, 7 pm

Dec 07: Yoga with Kitty Bevis, 1:30 pm

Dec 14: Relaxation with Francine, 9:00 am

Dec 14: Sunday Service: "Seizing the Magic of the Season" Rev. Phil Schulman, 10:30 am
Dec 14: Yoga with Kitty Bevis, 1:30 pm

Dec 14: Men's Group, 6:30 pm

Dec:16: Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 pm

Dec 21: Relaxation with Francine, 9:00 am

Dec 21: Yoga with Kitty Bevis, 1:30 pm

Dec 22: Women's Group, 7:00 pm

Dec 21: Sunday Service: "Yuletide" " (Intergenerational), Mark and Stephanie Walls, 10:30 am

Dec 21 Remarkable Films, "The Power of Myth", 3:00 pm

Dec 23: Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 pm

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service, Rev Phil Schulman, 8:00 pm

Dec 28: Yoga with Kitty Bevis, 1:30 pm

Dec 28 Relaxation with Francine, 9:00 am

Dec 28 Sunday Service, Speaker TBA

Dec 28 Men's Group, 6:30 pm

Dec 30: Non-Violent Communication Class, 7:00 pm

Announcements

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.

White Elephant Auction

Ron Clarke, CUUC Board President

Are you getting your WHITE ELEPHANTS ready? Sunday - November 23, 2008 - After Service WITH SOUP LUNCH!! Remember, all items are wrapped so no one can tell what they are . When the auctioneer bids off an item another person can outbid on that item

and "steal" it only ONE TIME. GET YOUR WHITE ELEPHANTS READY!

WE WANT THEM AND YOU WANT TO GET RID OF THEM - SEE YOU AT THE 11/23 AUCTION

Soup Lunch

Ron Clarke, CUUC Board President

The theme is NOT Thanksgiving! But a dish you are THANKFUL FOR!

Please bring a dish that you are thankful you learned to cook, or thankful you can enjoy. For some it is beer. or me - you know it will be Italian! auction and meal right after church this Sunday!

Regards,

Ron

#3

UPCOMING SERVICES

11/23 "Give us this Day..."

Rev. Phil Schulman

Bread Communion: With a few biblical references to bread, We'll consider what we really need and what really feeds us: Join us for a celebration of simplicity, taste, warmth, flavor and community.

----- 11/30

Guest at your Table

Speaker: Dianne Duesterhoff and Mike Phillips

The program will be coordinated by Glenna Jones-Kachtik and will focus on the Guest at your table program in regard to it's purposes, results, and means of implementation

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12/14 Seizing the Magic of the Season Despite challenges and difficulties of the holiday season, there are also qualities of humanity that come to the fore each year in an exceptional manner. How can we make the most of these individually and collectively? Send your suggestion/ response to minister@cuucsa.org <<mailto:minister@cuucsa.org>>. Also if have a touching holiday story, Phil wants to hear it.

12/21

Yuletide Celebration

Mark and Stephanie Walls

Come and enjoy a morning of seasonal merriment and Yuletide festivity.

12/ 24 8pm Christmas Eve Service.

Rev Phil Schulman Please sign up ASAP to bring a song, a prayer, a reading, or a story for this service

12/28 TBA

#4

ARTICLES AND REPORTS

From Our Pastor

Rev. Phil Schulman

What was it like to go to the SWUUC Fall Conference?

For me the gathering brought a strong sense of belonging and beauty. These couldn't be missed in the worship services led by Rev. Aaron Smith, Director of Young Adult Ministry. His sermons expressed his enthusiasm and his sense of the value of our UU Mission. He alluded to James Luther Adams term

"Prophethood of all Believers" to tell us that all UUs are called to be of service. He reminded us that the world needs us to bring our values into the public arena. His sentiment was supported with very emotional music.

In addition to many hymns from the newer (3.5 years old) hymnal, there was music from Beth Ullman, Director of Music at the Waco UU Fellowship. Beth poured life from her keyboards with tunes such as "God's Boogie Woogie" and "Lead Me Into the Light." The enthusiasm erupted repeatedly into clapping and swaying.

My contentment grew seeing familiar faces in the crowd of UU leaders and loyalists. They were faces people who share a common way of bringing beauty and meaning into their lives and to contribute to society. Being a part of this group brought a sense of belonging that a Yankee never thought he would have in Texas.

Over meals, newcomers and old guard UUs from TX, OK, AR, and LA fit together like dear old friends. In workshops, there was a spirit of whole hearted engagement. We were there gathering useful tools, skills and insights to bring home to our church families.

Driving home with Veronica Guard and Glenna Jones-Kachtik sealed the deal. From Glen Rose to Blanco, Glenna, we took in expansive views of rolling hills. The fall colors make it the best time to travel. At 4:30 we had tea and snack while looking out at the Colorado River and Marble Falls. I gained a deeper sense of the values and qualities of my traveling companions than a Sunday after service gathering could allow.

I could summarize the weekend in one word, ...rich. It's the same richness we have at CUUC. But it's something else to see it flowing in the river of life that is our larger movement. If you have found that CUUC adds a spiritual quality to your life, I encourage you to attend upcoming district events.

(recommended: 1st International Women's Gathering- Houston in March, Spring Conference in Memphis TN in April,)

Religious Education

Glenna Jones-Kachtik

Well, I just returned from the Fall Conference where I completed the Worship for All Ages Renaissance module. It was quite informative and I learned much about putting together a worship service. There was 1 other DRE at the conference who also had experience with planning worship and we had both brought samples of our services. People as far away as Little Rock saw CUUC's 2008 Dia de los Muertos Order of Service and the script that went with it. I also took a copy of the script and some copies of the Water Communion Service from this year. I promised to send copies of the script to many other DREs and Worship leaders. They were especially interested in the Prayers for the Dead.

I was very proud of our Dia de los Muertos Service this year. The RE students worked hard at preparing items from the Ofrenda and in items to make the Sanctuary more inviting to spirits. The parents, too worked hard at learning the Prayers for the Dead and to make it a rewarding service for you CUUCies. I would like it if you would expressly thank the RE Co-chair, Stephanie Walls for all she did to help with this service. I really appreciated her singing "Into the West" from the Lord of the Rings and I loved hearing Rawlyn's deep voice singing "Among my Souvenirs." Thank you to Mark for drumming and supervising our burning bowl; to Von, Stephanie & Ron for helping to put up the Ofrenda.

Thanks to all who participated in the service itself and who stayed for the wonderful food afterward; if you brought photos, you may take them home now. They are in the coffee room.

I was also happy to see the children get to participate in a small way with the Sai Baba group in November. It is always good for them to see that some people worship differently than we do but still have many things in common with us.

Now, we begin a unit on Native Americans. It is planned to last from 11/23 through 12/21. We will be doing one story from In the Beginning, talking about Black Elk, Meeting a Hopi friend - Tiva and doing a story from Sacred Myth. The children will be participating in the service 11/23 - "Give Us This Day" and also on 11/30 for GAYT. These will not be Multigenerational Services.

There will be an RE Committee Meeting on Friday evening at 7:30 PM at the Church. All interested parties are invited to attend. Please bring a dessert to share.

Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

Social Justice

Glenna Jones-Kachtik

The Guest At Your Table service is being planned as we speak....This year, the theme is the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As soon as the material arrives at the church, Mary Beth & I will begin sending out the information.

Guest At Your Table highlights the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Our symbol of Religious Freedom, the Flaming Chalice, owes it's creation to UUSC. Since 1975; at this time of year, the UUSC has used the Guest At Your Table program to help celebrate UU faith in action by sending these little boxes home to sit on your table throughout the Holiday Season to remind you that there are others in the world who are not as lucky as we are.

The idea is that every time you eat a meal, or have some kind of celebration - that you drop currency or coins into the slot of the box. After New Year's, the boxes are returned to the Church and the money collected is sent to UUSC to help with projects such as *Advancing worker's rights and passage of a living wage; * Defending the rights of people affected by disasters; *Promoting the right to safe, affordable water & *Protecting civil liberties and democratic processes.

Stories of Hope and the GAYT boxes will be given out at the Guest At Your Table service on November 30th. Speakers for that service will be Diane Duesterhoeft District Volunteer Chairperson and her husband Mike Phillips who is a community leader and social action "star". Other special treats are being planned for the service itself - but the important thing is to take the boxes home, drop \$\$\$\$\$\$ into the box, and turn the box in when asked.

HELP FURTHER THE WORK OF THE UUSC. DONATE TO GUEST AT YOUR TABLE!!!

#5

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 of 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 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.

#6

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

Staff

Minister - Phil Schulman, 210-614-2014, 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>>C

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
unsubscribe requests may be sent to cuuc-members@yahoogroups.com <<mailto:cuuc-members@yahoogroups.com>>.

