

CUUCSA NEWSLETTER/ VOL. 47, December, 2007

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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:

The most reliable way to send text material for the newsletter is to copy and paste to an e-mail. The ability of my computer to open attachments is highly uncertain even when they are sent in two different types of files.

Also be advised that no matter what the monthly calendar reminder may say, the newsletter deadline

henceforth will be the first Sunday after the CUUC board meeting on the second Wednesday.

#1

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Nov.22 Thanksgiving Dinner, 2:00 pm

Nov 24 Tacos and Trimming

Nov 25 Bread Communion/Guest at your Table, Glenna Jones-Kachtik and RE Committee.

Nov 25 Soup Lunch

Nov 25: Men's Group, 6:30 pm

Nov 26: Women's Group, 7:00 pm

Dec 02: "Magic and Miracles," Henry Halff

Dec.02: Brown Bag Socrates Cafe, 12:15 PM

Dec 09: "Encouragement to Spiritual Growth," Rev. Phil Schulman

Dec 12: CUUC Board Meeting

Dec 16: "Terrorism and Non-Violence," Ken Southwood

Dec 16: Remarkable film Group, "Blue Angel" 6:00 pm

Dec 23: "Xmas in Iraq and Bleak Weather Forecasts," Rev. Phil Schulman

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

Dec 30:"Joys and Concerns. Reminiscence and Resolution", Henry Halff

#2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Circle Dinners

June Kachtik

Outreach Committee

1. Would you Like to Join Circle Dinners?

One of the tasty benefits of working more closely with First UU Church this year will be the opportunity to share good food and stimulating conversation with fellow UUs in our homes on the second week end of January, February, March and April 2008. Here is the way it works:

Once you sign up, you will be called by the host to attend. You will be asked to bring some part of the pot-luck dinner. If you are the host, you call the others. Usually from 6 to 10 folks attend, depending upon the size of the facilities. Or, you may use CUUC facilities. As host, you furnish the entire. To sign up for a good time, email or call Susanne Rupp, the First UU Church coordinator and give her the following information:

1. Your name and the name of your partner if you want to share with someone else.
2. Your street address.
3. Your telephone number and email address.
4. If you would be willing to host a dinner. let Susanne know.
5. Indicate that you are from CUUC.

Susanne: sbrupp@hughes.net <<mailto:sbrupp@hughes.net>> and 698-0559

I went last week and had a very good time. We did not talk about the two churches, but about everyone's interests and what they are doing. In fact, it wasn't until we were all leaving that they learned I was from CUUC.

June Kachtik, Chair
Outreach Committee

2. **MUSIC FOR LIFE** Concert and Dialogue - another cooperative effort with First UU Church

With current deliberation by the U.S. Supreme Court about whether the death penalty can be humanely administered, the American Bar Association's recent call for a moratorium on the death penalty because of serious flaws in the system, discussion about capital punishment is again in the public arena.

The **Music for Life** concert and dialog featuring Sara Hickman and Shelley King, the 2008 Official Texas State Musician, and benefitting the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, will be held at First UU Church (7150 IH-10W) on Saturday, December 8, 2007, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Speakers will include Joan Cheever, author of "Back from the Dead: One

Woman's Search for the Men Who Walked Off America's Death Row", Sam Milsap, and Dr. Roger Barnes. CUUC is one of 19 local organizations sponsoring this event. Tickets are \$10 each and will be available on Sunday mornings. Or, email June Kachtik for a reservation, junekac@aol.com <<mailto:junekac@aol.com>>.

CUUC Thanksgiving Dinner.

Cuuc members, friends, and family are invited to Thanksgiving Dinner November 22 at 2:00 pm. Patty Gullick is coordinating, and the Gullick family is providing the turkey. This will be a potluck dinner with everyone invited to bring something to share.

Remarkable Film Group

Clem Chow

From the Remarkable Film Group:

The theme selected for the next series of Remarkable Films is "films set in a night club".

The first film in the night club film series will be "Blue Angel". This 1930 production was the first major film to come out of Germany and launched the long career of Marlene Dietrich. It also starred Emil Jannings, the first non-American actor to win an Oscar. Mr. Jennings came from Switzerland. This film was directed by Josef von Stenberg. This film will be shown at church at 6:30 PM on Sunday, December 16, 2007.

The second film in this series will be "Cabaret". This 1972 film based on the highly successful Broadway musical was one of the most successful transference of stage to film production. It won eight Oscars including best acting awards for Liza Minnelli and Joey Grey as well as directing award for Bob Fosse. This film will be shown at church at 6:30 PM on Sunday, January 20, 2008.

The Remarkable Film Group selected "Moulin Rouge" as the third film in the night club film series. The 2001 film was nominated for eight Oscars and won two. The film starred Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor and cemented the reputation of the Australian director, Baz Luhrmann. It also features the familiar music of the 20th Century. This film will be shown at church at 6:30 PM on Sunday, February 17, 2008. To complete the night club film series, the group will be showing "Chicago". This 2002 film also successfully transferred the Broadway hit musical to the screen. The film was nominated for 13 Oscars and won six including that of best actress in a supporting role for Catherine Zeta-Jones. The film also featured regular actors in dancing roles and reaffirmed the reputation of its director-choreographer, Bob Marshall. This film will be shown at church at 6:30 PM on Sunday, March 16, 2008.

#3

UPCOMING SERVICES

November 25

Bread Communion/Guest at your Table

Glenna Jones-Kachtik and RE Committee

Participants are invited to bring some bread that has some connection with family and holidays, (even if it's just Butterkrust toast.) and share the memories it has for you. Also, the Guest at Your Table program will begin and boxes will be distributed.

A soup lunch will follow the service

December 2.

Magic and Miracles.

Henry Halff

Try as we might to "heed the guidance of reason," we often find ourselves turning to other voices, some of them quite absurd, for joy, hope and solace. This Sunday, we will kick off the holiday season by letting our spirits range free in the forbidden fields of magic and miracles.

December 9
Encouragement to Spiritual Growth
Rev. Phil Schulman

How does a mixed group of liberals, skeptics and nonbelievers accept one another AND encourage spiritual growth. What is spiritual growth anyhow?

December 16
Terrorism and Non-Violence.
Ken Southwood
The speaker will discuss how terrorism might be dealt with realistically and without violence.

December 23
Xmas in Iraq and bleak weather forecasts
Phil Schulman

How do we find reason for celebration while also remembering families suffering from the scourge of war? Do we have to ignore the news in order to see the beauty of this season? Will angels bring good tidings this year?

December 30
Joys and Concerns, Reminiscence and Resolution.
Henry Halff.
It's New Year's Eve Sunday (or close enough thereto). Bring your memories, fond and not so fond, of the past year and your visions, joyous or fearful, of the year ahead. Join us in our second annual communion and toasts to the year past and that to come.

#4

ARTICLES AND REPORTS

From Our Pastor

Ain't it just like life?

Rev. Phil Schulman

I scurried into the sanctuary fifteen minutes before start time. I expected to see Stephanie Sepaugh practicing for the service. To my surprise I saw and heard from the opposite corner what appeared to be a choir singing a calypso tune with keyboard accompaniment.

This new development will surely please the worship committee and the congregation as a whole. Both have expressed the hope that we could have more live music in services. Things seem to be looking up for us musically.

However, at 10:15, I was less than elated. The music that they were rehearsing was intended for next week's service. All I wanted to think about right then was the service that was due to start in fifteen minutes. (Take note my dear ones: I know that there are wonderful things and important things that could be shared, but chances are I don't want to hear about them until after the service!)

I tried to hold on to a bit of the perspective that this new worship involvement is good news. I did my best to ask for what I wanted without sounding like a guard dog whose yard was just stepped on.

Later I could
find some humor in my internal reactions. Somewhere deep
inside me joy
and celebration might be found, but on the surface I could care
less
about anything that wasn't in my plans. I thought to myself: "ain't
this
just like life"?

Maybe all our conflicts and misunderstandings are something
like this.
Could it possibly be that at the deepest level no one really
intends
anyone else harm, blame or criticism? Sometimes we are
quick to assign
negative intentions to people's actions. Is it possible that the
person
or behavior we call bad is simply someone's best attempt to
take care of
themselves? If we didn't put our energy into blame, criticism or
resentment, where would it go?

One thing great about CUUC is that it is a place where we try
to be
conscious/ compassionate in our relations. We don't always hit
the mark,
but hopefully we do it often enough that people experience
some
wonderful here. It's just one more reason I give thanks for what
we
manage to create together.

RE News

Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

Well, here we are nearing the end of the year 2007. We will
soon be swamped with Thanksgiving turkeys followed

Christmas trims and presents and then New Year's resolutions. I just finished a module on Multiculturalism in the classroom and a serious discussion of how race is viewed or not viewed in America. It was interesting because I had not thought of some of the things presented in this book and I am still not sure that I buy into some of what was discussed. What I do know is that in 2008 we need to work hard to make sure that our children do not succumb to thinking that people are classified by the color of their skin or what religion, gender or sexual orientation they are.

There was a song in the teal book, *Singing The Journey*, called "Turn the World Around" and it caught my eye right before I left for the Fall Conference/RE Module. I told Stephanie and Mark Walls that I would like to see that song performed or sung at the GAYT/Bread Communion. They got together with our wonderful Stephanie Sepaugh and made it happen. If you attend the service, you will be able to hear our spirited rendition of this classic folk song. One afternoon, recently Von was fooling around on YouTube and found a segment of the old Muppet Show which featured Harry Belafonte and some authentic African looking "muppety" characters singing this very song! Harry's comment about the song really made me think. He said he found inspiration for his songs in many places and one of them was in Africa. He had gone deep into the interior of Guinea and there an old native storyteller told him a folktale of magical things - a myth about the fire as sun, the water, the earth and the spirit that make the world go round. "We are, all of us, here for only a short time and in that time, there is really no difference in any of us - **If** we take the time out to really understand each other (to really listen). Do I know who you are? Do you know who I am? Do we care about each other? Because if we do - then together, we can turn the world around." Out of children's stories, songs and TV shows often come the best nuggets of wisdom.

I don't buy the assertion that black is always bad and white is always good - but I do believe that good trumps evil in most

cases and I believe in love - and the idea that if we can just try to understand each other and teach our children tolerance, kindness and generosity that tomorrow will be better than today. I'm not so sure we need to look for intolerance in all our words and all our deeds - but if someone is offended by what we say or do, it should open or foster dialogue between peoples. I do know we really need to listen to what each other is saying - not just what we are saying. So, as the year draws slowly to a close next month, I am going to resolve to really try to listen to what others have to say and to foster open dialog. I also resolve to listen to the myths and the stories that others have created because they do contain wisdom. I will also continue to strive to teach your children about social justice and tolerance. Here's to a stress free Holiday Season.... Glenna Jones-Kachtik DRE

Social Justice Opportunities

Glenna Jones-Kactik

Social Justice RE has been working hard on the Guest At Your Table service (and Bread Communion). We have studied some of the work that UUSC does. This is the beginning of the season where we show that we can share with those who have less than we do. The whole Holiday Season is the season of Social Justice. It begins with Guest At Your Table. We read the Stories of Hope and the fact sheets from the UUSC. Some of us will take home a box to put together and set on our tables throughout the holidays. Some of us will take an envelope home, loose the envelope and then get another one or two or three and then finally write out a check and place it in the envelope....Some will wait until the final day and write a check and place it in the offering plate. But we will dig down into our pockets and further the work of the UUSC as it works to right injustice in Darfur, help those who are suffering after natural disasters, work for a living wage or to protect water rights from those who would privatize this natural resource and prevent others from having it or who would contaminate it.

The season continues with Christmas giving...be sure to visit Heifer International and do some of your Christmas shopping on line by giving shares of or whole animals and seedlings to help people become self-sustaining. [www.heifer.org/catalog <<http://www.heifer.org/catalog>>]. Continue the trend by visiting UNICEF and buying gifts or cards from them.... Any number of items can be found online from organizations that benefit others from World Wildlife to The ASPCA. Also, any number of stores here in San Antonio sells Fair Trade Items. They are a bit more expensive; however, consider the fact that you may be helping someone become more self sustaining. Fair trade chocolates, coffees and teas make wonderful gifts.....You can find some of these items at places like Sun Harvest, Whole Foods and HEB.

Don't forget non-profits like UU Housing, the United Way, The Salvation Army and the myriad of other organizations who house, clothe and feed those who have no hope. Be sure that your words and actions the rest of this year are those which are intended to include all people and not to exclude them. You can start by taking those boxes and envelopes home on 11/25 and start filling them up. Participate in the 11/25 service and go to UUSC and learn about the Stories of Hope and the Fact Sheets that tell about their work. When you get the e-mail that talks about the work of this organization, read it - please....

Let's make the end of 2007 a happy one for those who are in need of something to be happy about. Glenna Jones-Kachtik & Mary Beth Romeo Social Justice Co-Chairs PS - CUUC still has Fair Trade coffee and tea left.... Tea \$5.00 @ box Coffee \$8.00 @ bag!!!!

COMMUNITY UU. CHURCH

Board Agenda

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Agenda Item Notes/Decisions or Actions

1. 7:00 Opening Exercise
2. 7:15 Approval of October Minutes
3. 7:25 Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
4. 7:35 Minister's Report
Rev. Phil Schulman
5. 7:45 Programs Committee Report
Henry Halff/PattyGullick
6. 7:55 Ops. and Maintenance Report
John Bradshaw
7. 8:05 Stewardship Committee Report
June Kachtik
8. 8:15 Outreach Committee Report
June Kachtik
9. 8:25 20-Year Celebration
Joan Bradshaw
10. 8:30 Membership Report
Clem Chow
11. 8:35 Denominational Affairs
12. 8:45 Record Calendar Items
13. 8:50 Adjourn: Next Meeting, Wednesday, December 12,
2007

Gratitude

CUUC Congregation
(continued from last issue)

At a service presented by Henry Halff earlier this year, members of the congregation were asked to express their gratitude for another CUUC member on a card. The cards were taken up, read and put away. Lest they be forgotten. I'm printing three expressions of gratitude, selected at random each month.

Thanks to Joan Bradshaw for the quilt on the wall.
Thanks to John Bradshaw for attending to our physical space
I thank Henry for loving this church so much.

#5 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. 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 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.

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 on that theme, whether directed by the same person or featuring a specific actor or actress. Current leaders of the group are Clem and Joyce Chow. Any questions about this group may be directed to Clem or Joyce.

#6 DIRECTORY

Officers

President - Joan Bradshaw, 210-241-8506,
joanbradshaw@sbcglobal.net

Secretary - Daron Sachs, 210-699-0798,
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Director of Religious Education, Glenna Jones-Kachtik, 956-
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Email 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
Diane Wilson, 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>>.