

CUUCSA ON-LINE NEWSLETTER/ VOL. 37, January 2007
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Web site: <http://www.cuucsa.org/>

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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2. Announcements
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#1.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Dec 24: "Birthing the Christ in All," Rev. Phil Schulman
Dec.31:"Joys and Concerns, Reflections and Resolutions," Henry Halff
Jan.07: "Significant Musical Moments," (sharing service) Steven Botts,
coordinator
Jan.08: Women's Group, 7 pm
Jan.14: "Happy, Joyous, and Free", Rev. Phil Schulman
Jan 14: Men's Group, 6:30 pm
Jan.16: Nonviolent Communication Study-Practice Group, 7-9 pm
Jan 21: "Down into the Abyss, Up Into the Shelter," Mary Locke Crofts
Jan 22: Women's Group, 7 pm
Jan.21: Remarkable Film Group - "Oklahoma!" 6 pm

Jan 28: "Closing the Gap from Head to Heart," Rev. Phil Schulman
Jan 28: Men's Group, 6:30 pm
Feb18: Remarkable Film Group - "Carousel," 6 pm
Mar.20:Remarkable Film Group - "South Pacific"

#2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UUHAC

June Kachtik

Board President

Thanks for coming!

It was such a pleasure to see those of you who were able to attend our UU Housing Benefit! Everyone had a good time. We were able to show our video to about 60 folks. And, we were able to thank Jean and Henry for their matching gift to produce the video with a special Christmas ornament made by one of our own homebuyers who happens to be an artist. I want to thank Joan Bradshaw for her help in getting items for the silent auction. UU Housing raised \$800 through the auction!

Some folks joined UU Housing for the first time and some renewed their membership. We hope every CUUCer will join in the next month for the 2007 year. You can see me after church or send your check of \$25 (per member) to:

U. U. Housing Assistance Corporation
221 W. Poplar Street
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Introducing Mary Beth Romeo

Bob Romeo

Clem asked that I email you a brief personal introduction to you. Hope this is adequate.

Mary Beth Romeo is pleased to have recently joined CUUC. She is married to Bob, has four children and six grandchildren. She comes from Galveston's UUF, where she first discovered UU and became a member in the spring of 1997. Her favorite pastimes are visiting with others and reading and researching.

Remarkable Film Group

Clem Chow

From the Remarkable Film Group:

The next series of film to be shown by the Remarkable Film Group will be three Rogers and Hammerstein musicals. These films are selected as a continuation of our musical series in honor of Allen Lawrence, our member who passed away recently.

The first one in the Rogers and Hammerstein musical series will be the 1955 film "Oklahoma!" which when first staged on Broadway, broke away from a number of traditions in musical production. The film paired Gordon MacRae and a young Shirley Jones for the first time. Rod Steiger played Jud the somewhat misunderstood heavy in this beautifully mounted musical with a western theme. This film will be shown at our church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, January 21, 2007.

The second film in this series will be "Carousel". The 1956 musical was filmed in wide-screen and again features Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones. The film gained fame for a number of memorable songs: "If I love You" and "You'll Never Walk Alone" were the two most prominent ones. This film will be shown at our church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, February 18, 2007.

The third and final film in the Rogers and Hammerstein series will be "South Pacific". The 1958 production was filmed in Todd-AO, a then new film processing technique that displayed very well the film's South Seas settings during WWII. The film featured Mitzi Gaynor and Rosanno Brazzi and introduced such beautiful songs as "Some Enchanted Evening" and "There is Nothing Like a Dame". The film also contained a message about racial tolerance that is still appropriate even today. This film will be shown at our church at 6:00 PM on Sunday, March 20, 2007.

Worship Committee
Peter Van Dusen

The Worship committee will hold its next retreat on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, 9am-12pm. All CUUC members and friends are invited! The committee has still not decided on an agenda, so your 2-cents will count! Here is one possible idea for our theme: "Then What?"

We have had recent, thought-provoking services on prayer, meditation, hope, and religious community. But now what? In what ways will these services enrich our spiritual lives going forward? We listen, think about it for awhile, then have coffee and go home. Then what? What is the follow up? What does our "spiritual practice" or discipline consist of? What larger purpose do our services fit into?

Are Sunday services alone sufficient for nurturing our spiritual growth?

Daily prayer reminds Muslims of Allah. Buddhists use zazen meditation to master the "monkey mind" distracting them from enlightenment. Jews dip into the accumulated wisdom of the Talmud and argue at will with God and each other. Devout Christians hold weekly bible study to penetrate the mysteries of scripture. What do UUs do? What ought we to do? What would we LIKE to do--to augment our Sunday morning worship? Is the worship service itself enough?

#3

UPCOMING SERVICES

December 24
Birthing the Christ in All
Rev. Phil Schulman

UU readings speak of "seeing the divine in every person" That sounds beautiful but is it really possible? How could we do it?

December 31
Joys and Concerns; Reflections and Resolutions
Henry Halff

This year's New Year's Eve service will set free all of the joys and concerns that have remained trapped within our hearts during the past year. Bring to church those reflections that nourished or troubled your spirit during the past year and your hopes and intentions for the year ahead. The service will provide you with the opportunity to share these reflections and resolutions with the congregation as we indulge ourselves in one long round-robin of joys and concerns

January 7
Significant Musical Moments
Steven Botts, Coordinator - A sharing service

This will be a special musical sharing service. We invite you to consider bringing a 3-4 minute song or piece of music, and a 3-4 minute story explaining its special significance for you. It should be music that represents for you, or recalls for you, a particularly poignant or spiritually significant moment--or turning point--in your life. We hope to include sharing from 4-5 members. If you think you would like to participate in this service, please speak with a member of the worship committee.

January 14
Happy, Joyous and Free!
Rev Phil Schulman

When neither past nor present circumstances bind us we are free. I'll be recalling treasures that make traveling a spiritual path, rip roaring fun. Let's offer affirmations instead of resolutions.

January 21
Down into the Abyss, Up Into the Shelter
Mary Locke Crofts

Mary Locke will tell the story of her encounter with ancient hunter-gatherers of the lower Pecos Region of Texas and their art and share her own creative response. In her writing (poems, stories, and journal) is portrayed the meeting of a particular place with an individual soul.

Mary Locke Crofts is a San Antonio storyteller completing her Ph.D. in Mythological Studies at Pacifica Graduate Institute (Carpinteria, CA). She has previously spoken at CUUC on the topic "How Stories Give Us Hope."

January 28
Closing the Gap from Head to Heart
Rev. Phil Schulman

One of the basic principles of Marshal Rosenberg's concept of "Nonviolent Communication" is that we are trained and educated to ignore what is "alive in us." How do we reconnect with ourselves and others?

#4
ARTICLES AND REPORTS

From Our Pastor
Phil Schulman

Most of us seem to prefer stability, despite the fact that life is constantly changing. Any of you who have studied "Chaos theory" or have explored fractals know that life emerges on the edge of chaos and order. I have been dancing on

that creative edge during the past 6 weeks.

Work and personal journeying has been winning out over the need for sleep. So far it has cost me anything too great. I've often felt like I am awakening or coming to life again. There has been a good run of fresh huge intense insights lately.

However there is no question that sleep deprivation opens me up to many vulnerabilities. Emotions come more to the surface when I'm sleep deprived. Distress leads me into insane ideas and actions.

Even the failures and mistakes become grist for the mill. Since I have been on a path of spirituality and healing, all emotional breakdowns yield to emotional breakthrough. Great gifts of insight come as a result of opening up to deep pockets of emotion.

I have been so blessed by several strong and distinct peak experiences, times of great clarity. Each peak has had major impact upon shaping my life toward healing and happiness. Most (but fortunately not all) of these came during or shortly after times of struggle or grief.

When I reach such peaks, I think I should be able to stay there. Why return into valleys of confusion or despair? It perplexes me why it isn't easier to maintain the attitudes and habits that I've seen as producing the best results?

Maintaining peak insights becomes difficult until they are grounded in experience. More accurately, it requires new habits to establish the best insights and practices. Each of us has accumulated a lot of oppressive beliefs, and habits that must be replaced. We get one room clean, and forget that our mansion has toxic spills in several rooms.

The good news and the bad news is that thoughts can be easily changed in an instant. That's great to remember if you find yourself running a familiar but destructive pattern of thinking. However, it also means that great new insights won't be maintained unless and until they become grounded in our lives. "We have to act ourselves into good thinking." Our UU Principles ask us to work on the world within as well as the world outside us.

Like every religious community, we have some values and ideals that are simple but not necessarily easy to put into practice. At regular intervals, rituals and religious practices direct our attention and behavior. We journey to the edge of chaos and see what new order is about to emerge. When insight is gained, it must be put into practice.

Equal Exchange Chocolate
Henry Halff

Have you forgotten that special someone on your Christmas list (including yourself, naturally)? There's still time to find something for him or her. When you come to church next Sunday, Christmas Eve, sneak over to the Equal Exchange chocolate display, put five bucks in the basket and take a couple of bars of intensely dark organic chocolate, available in several varieties. It's guaranteed to drive your sweetie out of his or her mind. Your purchase will also contribute to the financial security of the church and make sure someone in some far off land is paid a fair price for his or her labor.

RE News for December
Glenna Jones-Kachtik, DRE

The RE Class participated in the Guest At Your Table Service and Bread Communion in November and we began December with "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." We are in the process now, of making cards for persons who need a little extra Holiday Cheer. There is a list of about 35 names from 1st UU and CUUC. We will talk a little about Hanukkah and then continue making cards. We will talk about GAYT issues for the rest of the month of December.

Some of the children are making donations to Heifer International in the name of the Church. Micaela, Michael and Maggie Gullick have done so. Bayard Breeding from Harcourt will donate what is left of \$120.00 for the purchase price of a sheep or will give \$50.00 check to the church to be spent at Heifer if they go over the \$120.00. The object was to give more than last year. They are also busy putting money into their GAYT boxes.

The RE Classes and Committee would like to thank John Bradshaw for the gifts for the children at the Christmas party and also thank Joan Bradshaw for helping them make the lovely snowmen.

We will be starting to work on a code of conduct soon. Children like rules and knowing that there are boundaries makes them feel safe. We will be discussing what rules are and why they are needed and asking their input on the classroom rules.

This is the time of year when so many are asking for so much. We see Christmas ads every other second. Children are bombarded with this or that toy or game that they are told they must have. Christmas is starting earlier and earlier every year. I remember looking in disgust in September as stores had aisles of Halloween, Thanksgiving and small Christmas sections that got bigger and more

filled as time went on.

One thing that I try to impress on the children, and this is perhaps why I started out this month with "The Grinch" is that Christmas doesn't come from a store - that it is not the amount of toys they get or if all their wishes are granted. No, it is that Christmas is a time of sharing and being with family. Even if they do not believe that now- perhaps the foundation is what counts. Our children get that here at CUUC and that core foundation is what I strive to bring to your children.

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS, A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON, A HAPPY HANUKKAH OR A BLESSED YULE. May your days - as they say - be merry and bright (and may all your Christmases be white.)

"It came without boxes. It came without bags. ... It came without tags ... Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store ... maybe, Christmas, perhaps means something more" The Grinch Who Stole Christmas"

Social Justice News
Glenna Jones-Kachtik

We are smack dab in the season of giving!!! Every charity has their hand out and is sending letters asking for donations. The Salvation Army is on every street corner "ding-a-linging", and there is Blue Santa, Toys for Tots, Elf Louise and Angel Trees. I am not complaining it is right that those in society give to those who do not. Tess Baumberger, who is the minister of UU Congregation in Franklin NH has this to say:

"All of the world's great religions advocate giving generously to those in need. The Jewish tradition teaches that if 100 beggars come to your door and only one is truly in need, you must give to all 100 for the sake of that one. A Buddhist teaching about charity says that a person can be like a drought, a local rain or a rain that pours down everywhere. It calls for each of us to become like a gentle, global rain."

She goes on to say: "The Jain tradition teaches that charity is the spring of virtue. Islam honors those who provide for the needy, the orphan and the prisoner out of love for the divine, without wish of reward or thanks."

The Christians have a scripture that reads "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be."

For those of us who may not believe in heaven, think of the earth as a world that you make and one in which you would like to live. ... Oddly enough this reminds me of a well-known ad campaign for a credit card company. You have seen the commercials. They show contented people using various material possessions, listing the price tag for each one. The commercials end with some warm touchy-feely thing, which is listed as "priceless"

... This (commercial) provides me some perspective. Of all the things that happen over the holidays, the truly priceless ones are not things you can buy in a store. The things that matter are those things that you simply can not purchase with any amount of money."

And so, as co-chairs of Social Justice; we ask that you give to your charites. Rain down globally and gently. Give to the charities that make the difference in our corners of the world: Guest At Your Table (UUSC) FILL THOSE BOXES - Heifer International (Help people with the donation of livestock that make a difference in the quality of their lives) GO TO: www.catalog.heifer.org - Buy Fair Trade Chocolate and Coffee (\$2.50 for a 3.5 oz bar and \$8.00 @ bag) - shop local artisans and fair trade items - Buy living trees and plant them after Christmas for a gift that keeps on giving and helps contribute to cleaner air (10 TREE CHALLENGE) and last but not least, remember UUHAC/UU HOUSING ASSISTANCE CORPORATION (your non-profit) in your charitable giving.. These are the things that make this season memorable for others in need.

#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 Support Group
Jean Halff

The Women's Support Group is open to CUUC women and friends of the church. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at the church, starting at 7 p.m. and usually finishing before 9 p.m. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for January 8 and January 22.

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. November dates are 11/12 and 11/26.

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 - Mary Grace Ketner, 210-278-0612, mgteller@yahoo.com

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Trustee - Peter Van Dusen, 210-724-1614, flosfr399bc@yahoo.com

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Operations Committee - John Bradshaw, 210-341-8506, JandJBradshaw@webtv.net

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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@yahogroups.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-announce-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.