

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the UnitarianUniversalist Community Church

::A Month of Sundays::

Featured inside this issue:

A Month of Sundays

- April Sunday Services **p. 1**
- Special Congregational Meeting **p. 1**

April Planner

- Calendar & Schedule **p. 2**

Grace Notes

- The Gift of Diversity **p. 3**

RE News

- Religious Education (RE) **p. 4**
- Easter Egg Hunt **p. 4**

President's Message

- Faithful Generosity: Continuing the Conversation **p. 5**

Treasurer's Report

- First Sunday Collections **p. 5**

Growing Together

- Does Your Plan Measure Up? **p. 6**

The Green Corner

- Spring into Action **p. 6**

Helping Hands

- Annual Yard Sale **p. 7**
- Drivers Still Needed **p. 7**
- Raising UU Children **p. 7**
- Let Your Light Shine **p. 7**
- Creek Week Cleanup **p. 7**

Ongoing Activities

- Daytimers Group **p. 8**
- Theatre Group **p. 8**
- Saturday Supper **p. 8**
- Chalice Circle **p. 8**
- Men's Group **p. 8**

More Events

- District Assembly 2010 **p. 8**
- Wine Country Holiday **p. 8**

About Us

- Mission **p. 9**
- Membership **p. 9**
- Affiliates **p. 9**
- Contacts **p. 9**

April Sunday Services

Our services are held on Sundays at 10:30 AM unless otherwise stated.

Sunday, Apr. 4: "Morning Has Broken" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Celebrate the renewal of life and hope at this intergenerational Easter service and enjoy some very special music.

Sunday, Apr. 11: "Ten-toed Sloths" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

The "deadly sin" of sloth involves more than simple laziness; it is apathy, and the disinclination to engage with not only spiritual and mental challenges, but also physical. Rev. Martha will consider the pros and cons of the easy life.

Sunday, Apr. 18: "UUs and Buddhism" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

Unitarian Universalism has many things in common with Buddhism – many UUs identify as Buddhists and we even have some UU ministers who are also ordained as Buddhist priests. This service will explore the connections between these two faiths in ways that that will enrich your appreciation for both traditions.

Sunday, Apr. 25: "Earth Day: Cherishing Gaia" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Join us this Sunday as we contemplate the religious nature of the call to honor and preserve the fragile interdependent web of life.



Special Congregational Meeting

Please plan to stay after the service on Sunday, April 11, for a brief congregational meeting. The Stewardship Committee will report on the results of our pledge drive, and the Board will update the congregation about the planning process for next year.



::April Planner::

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1 Daytimers 10AM at church	2	3
4 Sunday Service 10:30AM Easter Sunday	5 Membership Committee Mtg 7-9PM off-site	6	7	8 Daytimers 10AM at church Board Mtg 7:15PM	9	10 Men's Group 9AM
11 Sunday Service 10:30AM Special Congregational Mtg 12 PM	12	13	14 Chalice Circle 7-8:30PM	15 Daytimers 10AM at church Newsletter Deadline	16	17 Sat Supper off-site
18 Sunday Service 10:30AM	19	20	21	22 Daytimers 10AM at church Church Ops Mtg 7PM at church	23 Theatre Group 8PM	24
25 Sunday Service 10:30AM	26	27	28 Chalice Circle 7-8:30PM	29	30	
<p>Calendar & Schedule</p> <p>If you don't see your meeting or event posted here, contact the office at 689-2008 or office@u2c2.org.</p>						

	Altar	Greeter	Lighter	Usher
4/4	Tonie Darling	Rose Kohn	Cheyenne	Jim Eastman
4/11	Jim Eastman	Stephan Lange	Sarah	Tom Rintoul
4/18	Peter Morse	TBD	Monty	Tonie Darling
4/25	Gene Anderson	Dick Tarble	Zoe & Lily	Beverly Boido

The Gift of Diversity

District Assembly is in Fremont again this year, April 30-May 2. That's coming right up and you can get an early bird discount if you register by April 15. Just go to the PCD website for details. I'll be there and I hope you'll try to join me for this "mini-GA".

Among the speakers will be the Rev. Paul Rasor, author of the article in the latest *UU World* entitled, "Can Unitarian Universalism Change?" Rasor cites a U.S. Census Bureau projection that white Americans will no longer be the majority population by 2042. He challenges us to consider whether UU congregations, so overwhelmingly white both demographically and culturally, will be able to embrace the new multicultural reality, and remain vital and relevant.

If you've been around Unitarian Universalism for any length of time, you know this isn't a new question. As a denomination, we've been talking about the need for racial diversity in our congregations for decades, yet we've made little progress in becoming more multiracial or multicultural. This article and the years of conversations, programs and trainings that precede it, raise a lot of deeply challenging questions.

For one thing, the concept of "race" is becoming increasingly unhelpful in our thinking. Racial categories that we've long accepted as valid are man-made inventions, not biological realities. Some, like "Hispanic" are virtually meaningless; not all "Hispanics" speak Spanish or have Spanish surnames or share common physical or cultural characteristics. Like Latinos, Asian-Americans hail from such varied cultures around the world that they may have little in common with each other besides this artificial racial category. It's inaccurate and disrespectful to speak of any racial group, including whites, as if its members were culturally homogeneous. Interracial relationships further blur these supposed distinctions among us. So, given all this, why focus on racial and ethnic diversity within Unitarian Universalism?

Well, race may be a scientific fiction, but it's a social reality, as anyone who drives around our city can observe. For another, it's a category that is emotionally, sociologically and economically loaded for all Americans. The racial category to which one is assigned by birth has lifetime consequences. We can't pretend that these categories don't exist, bogus though they may be, our discussions of race need to acknowledge its decreasing significance as a concept.

I also believe that our churches will not become less "white" until we ask ourselves what we are trying to accomplish by our diversity efforts, and why. First, we need to define our collective mission as a faith, and that has never been easy. But unless we know why we exist and what our purpose is, we cannot address the question of diversity with the wisdom it demands; we cannot answer the question of whom we seek to include, let alone how to accomplish this goal if we don't know the essential "why" that underlies it. Is it to make ourselves feel better? Is it because we think others need us, or because we need them, or both? Are we seeking racial diversity or class diversity or cultural diversity? What do our principles require of us? What is essential to Unitarian Universalism? What is desirable and worth keeping about our UU culture? What must we retain as part of our theological identity and what is peripheral and changeable?

I've joined a group of clergy and lay people growing out of the recent New Century Summit that will meet to work on these matters over the next year because I know they are both troubling and very important to us. The question of diversity forces us to articulate our collective mission and challenges us to live with greater integrity both in our congregations and in our larger communities. It requires us to search our hearts and we may not always like what we find there. And as Rasor reminds us, our changing national demographics demand that we "put up or shut up" and that's not a bad thing at all.

In the meantime, I hope that we can begin this conversation as a congregation starting in the next church year and I hope you'll be willing to participate. Living in such a culturally diverse city as Sacramento is a gift that we need to embrace. There's so much at stake. To quote one book we might use to shape this conversation, this is "soul work."

Religious Education (RE)

In February, our youth visited the Sangha of Lion's Roar Dharma Center. It is a Buddhist tradition to return the favor of a visit, so members of the Sangha will be joining us for one of our services on April 18.

Last month, we studied Catholicism and visited the St. Francis Parish in Sacramento, introducing a run on Christianity. We will spend the next few months studying various traditions that fall under the Christian umbrella.

The Littles continues to be our best attended class. In order to assist our primary teachers, we are asking for volunteers to act as Spirit Guides for this classroom. If you are interested in a position as a craft assistant, hall monitor, or Lego builder, please contact Gayle Newman.

The Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program for K-2nd grade is in full swing. We are meeting in the 'couch' room, so those of you in the sanctuary may hear us occasionally. We will try to keep our enthusiasm at an appropriate level, but talking about our wonderful bodies and families is very exciting, and sometimes we are having so much fun that our joy spills over.

We are extremely pleased that eight of our youth registered to attend this year's Middle School Unitarian Universalist Gathering, March 26-28. For those of you who may not realize this, that is ALL of our middle schoolers! I can't wait to hear about their incredible experience. I am very excited for our youth to become engaged in more Pacific Central District activities.

District Assembly (DA) is rapidly approaching (April 30 – May 2). For those adults attending, please remember there will be programming for youth!

Now that spring is here, summer isn't very far behind. Start thinking about time that you may be able to commit to supporting the RE summer program, so that we can give our fabulous teachers this year a break.

As always, the Children's RE staff, youth and volunteers really appreciate your support.



Easter Egg Hunt

Join our annual Easter egg hunt on Sunday, April 4th after church. The Juniors will be in charge of hiding the eggs before church and assisting younger children during the egg hunt. This year, we will have two separate egg hunts, one for the Littles and Middles and another for preschoolers. Please contact any member of the RE Committee with questions.

Faithful Generosity: Continuing the Conversation

Dear Friends,

As part of our Stewardship Sunday service, I told the story of the Loaves and the Fishes. I agree with Quaker writer Parker Palmer that the key to the miracle was Jesus's understanding that community provides the pathway from scarcity to abundance. By breaking the vast crowd into smaller face-to-face groups, and then celebrating the generosity of the boy who was willing to share his own small portion, Jesus inspired sharing that spread to meet the needs of the day. The act of sharing in community transformed the fear of scarcity into the recognition of abundance. The story teaches us that we already have enough (collectively, if not individually), if we will but celebrate our abundance and contribute our resources to the common good.

Our pledge drive has challenged us to experience the truth of abundance by deepening our giving even when we fear scarcity. This isn't a "leap of faith" in the sense of irrationally jumping off a cliff and hoping it will magically be all right. It's an act of faith, an acting out -- making concrete in the world -- of our faith in the spirit of life, hope for the community of earth, and love of the sacred in one another. We are an exceptionally generous congregation, and I think that our strong sense of community and loving respect for one another both fosters and is deepened by our ongoing faithful generosity. If this church is to thrive going forward, especially if we are going to find a permanent home that will support an expanded ministry to the community in which we live, we need to deepen that practice even further. The result will be an even deeper sense of connectedness with each other, a deeper connection to the Sacred, a deeper Unitarian Universalist identity, and a deeper commitment to living out our mission in the world.

If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so now. If you filled out your pledge card under the influence of financial anxiety or the fear of scarcity, and realize that you actually can give more, contact Ernie Tomasilli to revise your pledge. And if you have already made a pledge that you know in your heart reflects the depth of your commitment to your faith and to this church, in light of your personal circumstances, then bless you. Your generosity is an inspiration to us all.

Please plan to attend a brief congregational meeting after church on Sunday, April 11, 2010. We will announce the results of the Stewardship Campaign and inform the congregation about the budget planning process for the 2010-2011 church year. See you then!

In faith,
Allison Claire

First Sunday Collections

We designated our "First Sunday" collections for February and March toward meeting UUCC's "Fair Share" commitments to UUA and PCD. We collected \$73 on February 7 and \$106.90 on March 14. In addition to that \$179.90 from the plate, we now have collected \$5,009 in specific donations (as of March 14.) That put us about 76% of the way to our goal for UUA (\$4153.90 of \$5,488) and 46% of the way to our goal for PCD (\$1,035 of \$2,254) with twenty-seven of the fifty-nine UUCC "pledging units" (46%) participating. Progress payments have been made to both UUA and PCD.

::Growing Together::

Does Your Plan Measure Up?

Sound estate planning is important; without it, you could lose a sizable portion of your estate to taxes. In addition, this is your opportunity to define what your assets mean to you and your heirs. Evaluate your current estate plan, and then add up your points. How do you score?

1. Do you have a will or living trust drafted by a qualified estate planning attorney? Add 15 points if you have either document. _____
2. Do you review and update your will every few years? Add 5 points if you do. _____
3. Have you named an executor in your will and notified that person? If yes, add 3 points. _____
4. If your estate is valued at more than \$3.5 million, have you made arrangements for minimizing federal estate taxes? If no, subtract 5 points. _____
5. Is your life insurance adequate for you and your family's needs? Are the beneficiary designations up to date? Add 5 points if you have reviewed your coverage in the last five years. _____
6. Do you have beneficiaries who require special care? Subtract 5 points if you have not made arrangements for their well-being. _____
7. Have you established a durable power of attorney in case you become incapacitated? If yes, add 5 points. _____

Bonus Points

8. Does your will name a guardian for any minor children you may have? If yes, add 5 points. _____
9. Have you made any provisions for your favorite charitable organizations? If yes, add 5 points. _____
(If you have made provisions for our church, we thank you!)
10. Do you have a living will or health care power of attorney? If you have either document in effect, add 5 points. _____

Total Score

33 to 48 points: Nice job! Your estate plan is in excellent condition. Make sure it stays that way by reviewing your plans every year and after major life changes.

23 to 32 points: Consider your plans to be in fair condition. Set aside an afternoon to more thoroughly assess your plans, and contact an estate planning professional if you need help organizing and updating.

23 points or less (or if you had to subtract any points): See an estate planning professional as soon as possible to make sure your plans are designed to protect the people and causes you care about most.



::The Green Corner::

Spring into Action

Welcome to the Green Corner, a column contributed by Candy Wood of the UUCU Carbon Ring Group with the goal of fostering ecological education and offering tips and tools to diminish the negative human impact on the precious resources of the Earth. Now that spring has sprung, there are several green activities rapidly approaching. There is something for everyone and this means YOU, too!

Earth Day – The 40th anniversary of Earth Day occurs April 22. There are tons of things you can do both locally and globally. See <http://www.earthday.org>.

Creek Week Cleanup – If you can't wait until the 22nd to do something, why not join the Osborne/Rintoul family for the Creek Week Cleanup on April 17. For more details, see the article in this newsletter or contact Laura Osborne.

Annual Yard Sale

Start saving all your yard sale donations! The annual UUCC yard sale will be happening on Saturday, May 22, 2010, in the front yard of Stephen Bakken and De Brewer's home. The church yard sale will take advantage of the well publicized and well attended Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association's annual neighborhood-wide yard sales.

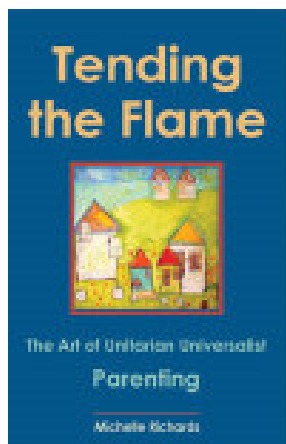
Please bring your donations to Stephen and De's home on Saturday morning between 6 and 8 AM. Remember any appliances, tools, and electronics must be in good working order. Of course, we do not want any broken or dirty items. Do not bring clothes - they do not sell. Based on last year, we expect the sale to last from 7 AM to 2 PM. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church in April and May.

Drivers Still Needed

We occasionally get calls from people who would like to attend our church but have no transportation. Some of us may not be able to drive because of car troubles or medical issues. Others may not feel safe driving at night. If you are willing to help someone get to church from time to time, please contact Rev. Martha. She will plot your location and give you a call when a need arises in your area.

Raising UU Children

From now through April, join UU religious educator, author, and mother Michelle Richards for online weekly conversations about the challenges and joys of raising UU children. Richards is the author of a new Skinner House book, *Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting*. The blog website is at <http://blogs.uuworld.org/parenting/?n> If you would like to get together with other UUCC members to talk about the challenges of UU parenting, let Rev. Martha know and we'll put something together. There are several resources for UU parents that we could explore together, short-term or longer.



Let Your Light Shine

Volunteer entertainment is needed at the Volunteers of America Family Shelter. The shelter houses homeless families and their children, including some who are newly homeless. If you are a singer, dancer, musician, martial artist, magician, etc., and would like to join others from UUCC to reach out to these families by offering your talents, please let Rev. Martha know. Thanks!

Creek Week Cleanup

Come join the Osborne/Rintoul family with this fun and environmentally-friendly outing.

Where: A creek near the church (more info to come)

When: Saturday, April 17

Time: 9 AM to noon

Note: Celebration afterward at Carmichael Park from noon to 2 PM

Children and youth are most welcome, however all must be present with a responsible adult for safety reasons (such as bodies of water, slippery stream banks and hazardous debris). If you bring a child/children, your most important job is to supervise and keep them safe. Collecting trash is secondary for adults in charge of children.

Come prepared to get a little muddy. The items listed below can help protect against natural and man-made elements.

Checklist:

- Comfortable, washable clothes
- Long pants and long sleeves
- Hat and sunscreen
- Gloves (work or gardening type)
- Shoes that can get wet and muddy
- Waterproof boots (optional)
- Grabbing tool or rake (optional)

If you plan to join us, please contact Laura Osborne.

::Ongoing Activities::

Daytimers Group

The Daytimers Group meets each Thursday from 10 AM - 12 PM at church. Anyone may join our lively discussion group. If you are interested in participating, contact Jim Eastman.

Theatre Group

We will see Eurydice on Friday, April 23, 8 PM, River Stage, Cosumnes River College campus, 8401 Center Pkwy. This production tells the Orpheus legend from the point of view of his love, Eurydice. Submit reservations (\$10-18) to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, April 18. Come join us!

Saturday Supper

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner held on third Saturdays. This month, our potluck will be held on April 17. Normally, we divide into small groups of 6-12 and share a meal in someone's home. At each dinner, we ask a question and take turns answering, if we choose. It's okay to participate without ever hosting and it is okay to come occasionally. Participants are with a different group of people each month. We would love to have you join us in March. Thank you to our hosts for March: Sybil and Doug Lawson; and Nina and Marty Weiler-Harwell. Please contact Terri Riley, if you are interested in coming to our April potluck.

Chalice Circle

Chalice Circle meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the church at 7 PM. We invite you to attend a meeting or two to see if it is a fit for you. Chalice Circle is an opportunity to deepen relationships with others in our church community and to explore your own spiritual path. If you have any questions, please contact Gayle Newman, Jim Eastman or Rev. Martha Hodges.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will be meeting on second Saturdays for breakfast at 9 AM at church. Please contact Patrick Cody if interested.

::More Events::

District Assembly 2010

This is the time of year we start getting excited about the great programming at District Assembly (April 30-May 2). If you've never been to DA before, this is the year to find out what you've been missing. It's a shot of extra energy for congregation leaders, who can count on returning to their congregations with new tools, new ideas, new understandings, and new connections. And in addition to all that -- it's fun!

This year's theme, Harvest the Power, invokes our belief that we are better together. We come together to teach, learn, support and inspire one another. You don't want to miss this. And we don't want to miss you.

Take a look at the DA pages on the PCD website at <http://www.pcd-uaa.org/>. More information is still to come.



Wine Country Holiday

The UUs of Napa, California proudly announce a new

season of Wine Country Excursions. They offer a variety of options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas that is internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

The program runs from April through October. For more details, visit http://www.uunorthbay.org/wine_tours.



Mission

The ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church is to foster open minds, caring hearts, helping hands, and growing spirits in a congregation of all ages. By living and sharing Unitarian Universalist values, our spiritual and intentionally diverse community seeks to bring compassion and justice to the world.

UUCC is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Pacific Central District (PCD) of the UUA.

Membership

Would you like to be a formal member of this congregation? We would love to have you as a member!

If you would like membership information or if you feel ready to sign our membership book, you may talk to Rev. Martha Hodges.

Membership requirements are:

- 1) you must be at least 16 years old
- 2) you accept our principles and purposes
- 3) you make and fulfill a commitment to an annual contribution of record through a pledge of money and/or services.

We are a wonderful congregation and we will welcome you with open arms.

Affiliates

All Unitarian Universalist affiliates in California's mountain and valley areas:

www.uuvalleysierra.org

Pacific Central District (PCD):

www.pcd-uua.org

Telephone: (510) 601-1437

Unitarian Universalist Association:

www.uua.org

Telephone: (617) 742-2100

UU Legislative Ministry:

www.uulmca.org

Telephone: (916) 441-0018

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee:

www.uusc.org

Telephone: (617) 868-7102

Sacyouth - Faith-Based Activities for Youth:

www.sacyouth.com

South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP)

Emergency Food Closet:

www.ssipfoodcloset.org

Telephone: (916) 428-5290

Contacts

Newsletter

U2C2 Connection Editor:

Newsletter contributions should be mailed to the UUCC church address, phoned in to 689-2008, faxed to 689-2282 or emailed to office@u2c2.org by the 15th of each month.

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Leadership

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minister@u2c2.org

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Paula Braxton/Candy Wood 689-2008
or office@u2c2.org

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President: Allison Claire

Vice President: John Sugar

Secretary: Richard Leimbach

Treasurer: Eric Walle

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Patrick Cody, Sonia Duffoo

Endowment Trust: Terri Riley,

Terry Chekon, Patrick Cody

Committees:

Church Operations: Terri Riley

Committee on Ministry: Celia Buckley, Tamara Faber,
Jim Eastman

Finance: John Sugar

Membership: Rev. Martha Hodges

Religious Education: Gayle Newman

Stewardship: Jim Skow, Ernie Tomassilli

Worship: Jim Skow

Justice Coordinating Team: to be determined

Openers/Closers Supervisor:

Rev. Martha Hodges

The “Kid-Friendly” Version of Our 7 Unitarian Universalist Principles

We believe that:

- each and every person is important.
- all people should be treated fairly.
- our churches are places where all people are accepted, and where we keep on learning together.
- each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
- all people should have a voice and a vote about the things which concern them.
- we should work for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
- we should care for our planet earth.



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