

# U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the UnitarianUniversalist Community Church

**::A Month of Sundays::**

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**August Sunday Services** Starting this month, our services will be held Sundays at **10:30 AM**.

Sunday, August 2: "Mysticism - Can It Be Rational?" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

Lucy Bunch and Stephan Lange will share their thoughts and provide some history about mysticism - one of the sources of Unitarian Universalism.

Sunday, August 9: "The Reverent Skeptic" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

No one wants to be considered gullible, but in our eagerness to be wise to the ways of the world, we may lose the capacity for wonder. Rev. Martha will reflect on the author Tim Robinson's statement that "Miracles are explainable; it is the explanations that are miraculous."

Sunday, August 16: "Filthy Lucre" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Rev. Martha will continue her series on the Seven Deadly Sins viewed from a modern UU perspective as she considers "Greed" and its converse "Charity." Does the concept of "avarice" hold any meaning in a capitalist system? How much stuff is enough?

Sunday, August 23: "A Campfire of Our Own" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

This weekend is our annual church camping trip and many members of our congregation will be away sharing time together, including our minister and our accompanist. But don't feel left out! We who remain at home will create our own campfire on Sunday morning with songs, stories, and sharing that invoke the spirit of community. What's your favorite campfire memory? If you have a story, poem or song to share that reflects the spirit of the campfire, let Lucy know or just bring it along. Bring your own marshmallows. We will see you there.

Sunday, August 30: "Wrestling with Angels" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

The Hebrew Bible tells the story of Jacob's night-long struggle with a mysterious being, an angel, or messenger from God. The angel blesses Jacob even as it wounds him. Rev. Martha will reflect on struggles of the spirit, the marks left upon us by spiritual trauma, and the blessings of crises of faith.

Transcripts of UUCC sermons are available on our website at [www.u2c2.org](http://www.u2c2.org). Select "Services" and then "Sunday Sermons."

# ::August 2009 Planner::

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
<b>Calendar &amp; Schedule</b> If you don't see your meeting or event posted here, contact the office at 689-2008 or <a href="mailto:office@u2c2.org">office@u2c2.org</a> .						<b>1</b> --Martha on vacation-- 
<b>2</b> Sunday Services 10:30am	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> --Martha on vacation--	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Daytimers 10am at church	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Sunday Services 10:30am Kid's Book Club 12:30-1:30pm Women's Group 2:30pm	<b>10</b> Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Daytimers 10am at church	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Men's Group 9am Newsletter Deadline
<b>16</b> Sunday Services 10:30am	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Daytimers 10am at church Board Mtg 7:15pm	<b>21</b> Theatre Group 8pm --UUC Camping Trip-- 	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Sunday Services 10:30am --UUC Camping Trip-- 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Women's Group 7:00pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Daytimers 10am at church Church Ops Mtg 7pm at church	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Sunday Services 10:30am	<b>31</b>					
Altar		Greeter		Lighter		Usher
8/2	Karen Gunderson	Jane Thompson	<i>on summer break</i>		Bev Boido	
8/9	Jerry Melnick	Stephan Lange	<i>on summer break</i>		Tom Rintoul	
8/16	Judi Schafer	Rose Kohn	<i>on summer break</i>		Tonie Darling	
8/23	Edie Olaughlin	Dick Tarble	<i>on summer break</i>		Jim Eastman	
8/30	Celia Buckley	Rose Nelsenador	<i>on summer break</i>		Terry Chekon	

## On Hiatus

Rev. Martha is on vacation until August 8, so we will have to get along without her wonderful Grace Notes article this month. But don't fret, it will return in the September edition!



## ::President's Message::

### Looking Forward

Our new administrative year is starting, even though the "church" year will kick off in September. This will provide challenges, along with opportunities for spiritual exploration, learning, social justice pursuits, fellowship and fun.

Allison Claire has come back from General Assembly fired up to help us rebuild momentum on social concerns. Allison has offered to serve as the Board liaison to the Social Concerns Committee and to help organize the effort. She is providing us with a great opportunity to expand our efforts, bringing our values to the world around us. There may be no better way to express the values of Unitarian Universalism than to assist those around us. You can be part of this effort, helping our church to serve this community. There will be more information as our church year gets underway. In the meantime, if you'd like to explore how you can be part of this effort, please speak with Allison.

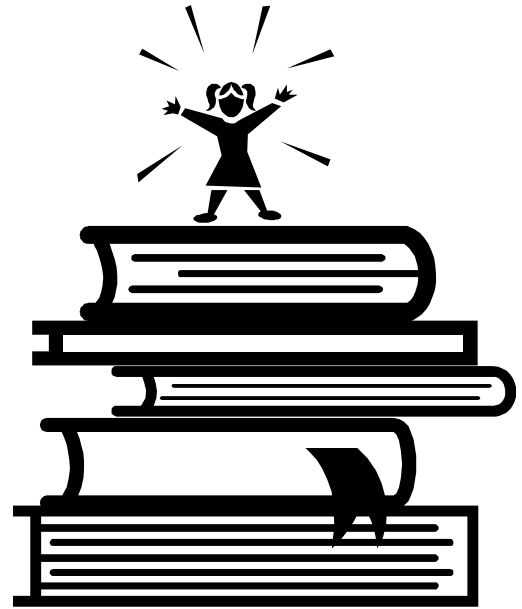
The biggest challenge for us to address this year is our budget. I would like to thank Celia Buckley who has reached out to our members. Celia asked us to augment the work that our Stewardship Committee did and expand giving. We, as a congregation, have responded by offering an additional \$10,000. This covers the remaining deficit in the budget with some funds leftover to build reserves. Everyone involved in the post budget fundraising, including those who cannot afford to expand their contribution now, is helping our church move forward. Thank you, it is this generosity that makes it possible for us to operate and expand our services.

I am looking forward to an interesting and productive year. I am hoping that we, as a community, will expand our social concern efforts this year, along with growing in numbers and knowledge. And, I am honored to be serving as the Board president.

Thank you,  
John Sugar, UUCC President

## Greetings from Your New Acting DRE

There is much to talk about with the Children's Religious Education Ministry. Paula Braxton, our beloved Director of Religious Education (DRE) for the past eighteen months is departing for her ministerial internship with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stanislaus County in Modesto. I will do my best to fill her shoes. There are also changes taking place in the Religious Education (RE) committee. Annette Emery will be stepping down as chairperson and that position will be filled by Gayle Newman. Membership of the committee will also change as members move to fill other commitments within the church.



The Littles are enjoying their summer with fun games and activities. The Middles are engaged in the We Believe curriculum this summer. This curriculum teaches our children about the 7 UU Principles. We are grounding our Middles in their UU faith this summer in preparation for the beginning of fall classes.

We have grown so much that this fall we will have the children separated into four classes. Galina will lovingly care for our littlest charges in the nursery. The Littles will consist of children from Kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Middles will be 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and we will have a new class called Juniors for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Both Middles and Juniors will be learning the Neighboring Faiths curriculum in the fall. This means we will be learning about other religions for two weeks, visiting a place of worship the third week and then reflecting on the experience during the fourth week. We are all very excited about this upcoming year.

-- Candy Wood, Acting Director of Religious Education (DRE)

### RE Committee News

The big news is that the fabulous Gayle Newman is taking over as Religious Education (RE) chair. I am turning over information so that Gayle can learn about the important business of the Religious Education Committee. Thank you, Gayle.

-- Annette Emery, Former RE Chair

## Farewell & Welcome

Please make a point of welcoming and thanking Candy Wood, who is stepping in as Acting Director of Religious Education, and take a moment to wish Paula Braxton well as she embarks on her Ministerial Internship in Modesto.

## Garage Sale Report

Our two garage sales netted a total of \$919, close to our goal of \$1000. Thank you to all who organized and worked the sales, and thank you to all who contributed their unwanted treasures!



## Earlier Worship Time

Beginning August 2, we will be returning to our traditional worship time of 10:30 AM, with refreshments following the conclusion of the service.

## Weekly Bulletin

The UUCC Thursday bulletin that members and friends receive by e-mail has changed! From now on, our weekly all-church e-mail will include only time-sensitive items or special announcements. Ongoing events will still be listed in the Sunday order of service and monthly newsletter. We hope that this change will reduce the clutter in your life and encourage you to pay closer attention to the information it contains. Do let us know what you think about this change, and enjoy!

## Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry (CoM) says goodbye and thank you to Tom Rintoul, and hello to Tamara Faber. The other members are Celia Buckley (Chair) and Jim Eastman. The CoM acts as a liaison between the congregation and the minister, as well as advising and supporting the minister. While it is always better to speak to Martha directly of any concerns you have concerning her ministry or the church, the CoM welcomes your feedback as well and will pass it on to her.

## Sunday Offerings

At our June Congregational Meeting, several of you expressed a strong preference for returning to our "First Sunday" method of sharing our Sunday offerings. With this in mind, beginning this month, we will no longer share one quarter of every collection with the recipient agency; instead, our chosen recipient will receive the entire offering on the first Sunday of each month. Along with this change, we will be featuring a total of four agencies over the entire year. By extending our focus on each agency from one month to three, we hope to be able to make more substantial contributions to our neighbors.

So far, the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership's Food Closet (SSIP) has received three months worth of our shared plate, as has Sacramento Loaves and Fishes. Our recipient for August, September and October will be the UU Legislative Ministry of California. As you may know, UUCG has a covenant with the UULM to contribute a percentage of its budget. Because of our church's current budget constraints, it was decided instead to meet this commitment through sharing the plate. With that in mind, please be prepared to give generously in the next three months so that we do not let down this organization that so ably represents our justice concerns statewide.

Given our commitments to support the UULM and SSIP, we have openings for two other agencies to receive our donations. We need you to choose which these will be. The Board will be submitting to you an abbreviated form of the list of possible recipients that was published here last February, so stay tuned.

## ::Helping Hands::

### Appreciation

Thanks to Richard Leimbach for volunteering to clean the carpet; Laura Osborne and Tom Rintoul for coffee time clean-up in Galina's absence; and Susan Lange for another delicious luncheon on the day of our July Community Meeting.

### Share the Plate

From our June offerings, we have made a \$99.03 "Share The Plate" donation to Loaves & Fishes. Your generosity will support a variety of programs that serve the hungry and homeless. For more information, please visit <http://www.sacloaves.org/programs/>.

### UUCC T-shirts

We have raised \$70 on the sale of UUCC t-shirts. They are still available for purchase (adult sizes: 2XL, XL, L, M; child sizes: S, M, L). To order, see the coordinator, Dick Tarble.

## ::Ongoing Activities::



### Theatre Group

We will see "The Fantastics" on Friday, August 21, 8:00 PM at Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre, 7991 California Ave, Fair Oaks (across from Slocum House restaurant). This musical ran in New York for some 40 years before closing in 2006, the longest running production in U.S. theatrical history. However, it has opened again and is running off Broadway in New York. Submit reservations (\$15 and \$13) by Sunday, August 16 to Frieda Fergus. All are welcome.

### Saturday Supper

Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner held on the third Saturday of each month. However, the wedding of Mark Callicotte and Christy Clark (friends of UUCC) also happens to fall on the third weekend in August, so we are suspending the dinner for August and the next dinner will be on Saturday, September 19th. Normally, we divide up 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 September! Thank you to our hosts for July: Sybil & Doug Lawson, and Dick & Georgene Tarble. Contact Terri Riley if you are interested in coming to our September potluck.



### Kid's Book Club

Our next meeting will be August 9. Questions? Contact the Newmans.

### Women's Group

The UUCC Women's Group continues to meet twice a month to check in about our lives and share our experiences as maidens, mothers and crones. All women are welcome to join us. The next meetings will be on Sunday, August 9 at 2:30 PM and Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00 PM. We meet at church with members taking turns bringing snacks. For more information, contact Annette Emery.



### Daytimers Group

The Daytimers Group meets each Thursday from 10 AM-12 PM at the church. Anyone may join our lively discussion group. We are currently discussing a public radio program called "Speaking of Faith". If you are interested in participating, contact Rev. Martha Hodges.

## 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 or Laura Osborne.

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](http://www.uuvalleysierra.org)

Pacific Central District (PCD):

[www.pcd-uua.org](http://www.pcd-uua.org)

Telephone: (510) 601-1437

Unitarian Universalist Association:

[www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

Telephone: (617) 742-2100

UU Legislative Ministry:

[www.uulmca.org](http://www.uulmca.org)

Telephone: (916) 441-0018

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee:

[www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

Telephone: (617) 868-7102

Sacyouth - Faith-Based Activities for Youth:

[www.sacyouth.com](http://www.sacyouth.com)

South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP)

Emergency Food Closet:

[www.ssipfoodcloset.org](http://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](mailto:office@u2c2.org) by the 15th of each month.

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

### Website

Website Administrator:

UUCC office 689-2008 or [office@u2c2.org](mailto:office@u2c2.org)

Editorial Advisor - website:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

### Administration

Administrative Support:

UUCC office  
8231-C East Stockton Blvd  
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Phone: 689-2008/ Fax: 689-2282

Website: [www.u2c2.org](http://www.u2c2.org)

Email: [office@u2c2.org](mailto:office@u2c2.org)

Office Hours: Tue/Thur/Sat 8am-1pm

Minister's Hours: By appointment only (minister's sabbath on Tuesday)

### Leadership

Minister:

Rev. Martha Hodges, 689-2073

[minister@u2c2.org](mailto:minister@u2c2.org)

Director of Religious Education:

Paula Braxton/Candy Wood 689-2008, [office@u2c2.org](mailto:office@u2c2.org)

Board of Trustees:

*President:* John Sugar

*Vice President:* Allison Claire

*Secretary:* Richard Leimbach

*Treasurer:* Eric Walle

*At-Large Members:* Alison Navas,

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

## Imagine...

- a religion that embraces many different beliefs,
- a faith that finds meaning in many traditions,
- a church where people nurture their spirits,
- a congregation that works together to make a difference in communities and the world.

We are the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Sacramento. Please come for a visit and find out what we are all about! We would love for you to be a part of our church community.



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Serving Sacramento and Elk Grove, California  
8231-C East Stockton Blvd  
Sacramento, CA 95828

Postage

Mailing Label

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