

# U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the UnitarianUniversalist Community Church

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

## Featured inside this issue:

### A Month of Sundays

- February Sunday Services p. 1

### February Planner

- Calendar & Schedule p. 2

### Grace Notes

- Widening the Circle p. 3-4
- New Members Welcome p. 4

### RE News

- Religious Education (RE) Update p. 4

### President's Message

- Busy Times Ahead p. 5

### Treasurer's Report

- First Sunday Offerings p. 5

### Growing Together

- The Year in Review Continued p. 6

### The Green Corner

- Green Jobs p. 7

### Helping Hearts & Hands

- Appreciation p. 7
- Condolences & Thanks p. 7
- Help Us Connect p. 7

### Ongoing Activities

- Chalice Circle News p. 8
- Daytimers Group p. 8
- Men's Group Update p. 8
- Kid's Book Club p. 8
- Theatre Group p. 8
- Saturday Supper p. 8

### Other UU Events

- Margot Adler to Speak in Stockton p. 8

### About Us

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



## February Sunday Services

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



Sunday, Feb. 7: "A Faith in Process" - Worship Leader: Eric Walle

In this lay-led service by Eric Walle, we will explore the dynamics of Unitarian Universalism in relation to growth and transformation at various levels - personal, congregational and socio-cultural.

Sunday, Feb. 14: "Essential Connections" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

On this "Evolution Weekend," churches and synagogues around the country will join the Clergy Letter Project in celebrating the legacy of Charles Darwin and affirming the place of science in the religious life.

Sunday, Feb. 21: "Universal Love in the 21st Century" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch

The second name of our denomination, Universalist, is often overlooked when discussing our history. This Sunday, we will learn more about the Universalists, their message of universal salvation and how it still has resonance for us in the 21st century.

Sunday, Feb. 28: "Friends We Did Not Earn: The Graceful Bond" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

There are many kinds of friends, from pals to soul mates. Each brings unique gifts to our lives. We will reflect on what we long for and what the limitations are in that special relationship which we call friendship.

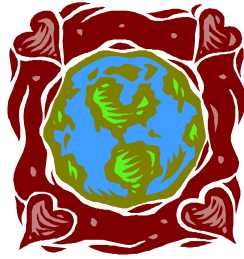


Transcripts of UUCC sermons are available on our website at [www.u2c2.org](http://www.u2c2.org). Select "Services" and then "Sunday Sermons."

# ::February Planner::

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	<b>1</b> Membership Committee Mtg 7-9PM off-site	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Daytimers 10AM at church	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Board Mtg 7:15PM	<b>10</b> Chalice Circle 7-8:30PM	<b>11</b> Daytimers 10AM at church	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Men's Group 9AM
<b>14</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM 	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Daytimers 10AM at church	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Sat Supper off-site
<b>21</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Chalice Circle 7-8:30PM	<b>25</b> Daytimers 10AM at church Church Ops Mtg 7PM at church	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Theatre Group 8PM
<b>28</b> Sunday Service 10:30AM						
<p><b>Calendar &amp; Schedule</b></p> <p>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>.</p>						

	<b>Altar</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Lighter</b>	<b>Usher</b>
2/7	Cliff Cannoncin	Rose Kohn	Ben	Jim Eastman
2/14	Judi Schafer	Stephan Lange	Meghan	Tom Rintoul
2/21	Rose Kohn	Jane Thompson	Martina	Tonie Darling
2/28	Celia Buckley	Dick Tarble	Sarah	Bev Boido



## Widening the Circle

We often talk about our church's hospitality in welcoming newcomers and affirming and appreciating individual differences. We view this community – rightly – as one that accepts and wants us for who we are and wants to build authentic and loving relationships among us. Our first principle reminds us that we are all worthy, and our seventh declares that we all “belong.” This commitment to welcoming the stranger, not as raw material to be reformed or re-formed into one doctrinally accepted mold has distinguished this denomination from its outset. Hospitality is foundational to our beliefs.

This is the philosophy underlying “Bring a Friend Sunday.” I urge you to consider inviting a friend, family member or acquaintance to accompany you to UUC on February 28. Making this easier to do, the topic of the service that day will be “Friends We Did Not Earn: The Graceful Bond.” If you find it awkward to ask friends to come discover your church, simply invite them to come to this meditation on friendship as a way of honoring them.

Our shared faith in human worth and the right to recognition as members of the human family have further implications for hospitality and call us to more difficult actions than simply opening our church doors to friends. In the words of one of our frequently sung hymns, we are called to “break not the circle of enabling love; make it wider still, till it includes, embraces all the living.” In these fearful times of economic insecurity, what does this mean? What kind of hospitality should we, can we, offer?

It is temptingly easy to “circle the wagons” at such times. We worry about providing for our families and their futures first. Then we think about our immediate communities of the workplace, neighborhood and church. Finally, if there is money and energy – and love -- left over, we turn to the stranger on the corner or across town, and – maybe – to the stranger across the

globe. Justice, the embodiment of inclusive love, takes its place at the end of the line all too often. But it doesn't have to be this way.

We have a choice. We can choose to live fearfully, in an attitude of scarcity, or we can practice radical hospitality. It's easy to feed the stranger when our own cupboards are full. It's another matter to share what we have when we have little. Yet, again and again, in religious texts and traditional folklore and myth, we see stories of the poor man or woman who willingly and graciously shares their last bread with the hungry stranger. This is radical hospitality. Why is this kind of action held up to us as a model across cultures and generations? Because this is justice, this is love; this is what makes us human and keeps us human in times of anxiousness and want. Because if we truly believe all are worthy and all belong, we know that the family we must feed includes the stranger. Because if we don't, our souls, our need to be generous and loving people, will suffer.

There was recently a Twilight Zone marathon on television. One of the episodes I happened to catch was the one in which everyone thought they were about to be attacked by space aliens. In a panic, the one family in the neighborhood that had a bomb shelter barred its doors to their neighbors begging to be admitted. There wasn't room or food and water enough for everyone. As the panic grew, neighbors turned on one another; bigotry and violence and the very worst in human nature surfaced. In the end, the alarm proved to be false and the neighbors, chastened and ashamed, attempted to return to their ordinary lives. This Cold War parable has another possible meaning in the current recession.

We have a choice and we have an opportunity. When scarcity threatens, we can refuse to let our fears isolate us from our better selves and our vision of justice. We can refuse to become less than loving, refuse to close the circle.

In the coming weeks, you may grow weary of appeals to give. Association Sunday, the Minister's Covenant Fund, Guest at Your Table, our Fair Share contributions to the UUA and PCD, the UUSC Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, our stewardship drive and, possibly, a capital campaign... It may seem like you can't come to church without being asked for money. Please bear

*[continued on page 4]*

with us. Some of us are having trouble paying our current pledges. Please speak to me or to our treasurer, Eric Walle, if that is the case. There's no shame in that and we respect the spending priorities you must set. We can ask you for money to support this church and its commitments because we – the UUSC leaders and minister and membership – trust each other. We trust you to say “no” when you must, knowing that only you can decide what you can afford. And you trust this leadership not to ask frivolously, but only because the need is great.

By staying in loving connection and speaking openly about both our needs and constraints, we resist the fearful and insular thinking that diminishes us. We can practice radical hospitality in our welcoming, in our giving and in our vision. Better days are ahead and we will bring them to fruition together.

*May faith in the Spirit of Life  
Hope for the community of Earth,  
And love of the Sacred in one another  
Be ours now, and in all the days to come.*

Amen,  
Rev. Martha

**New Members Welcome**

We hope to formally welcome new members into our congregation at a Sunday service next month. If you would like to “sign the book” or have questions about membership at UUCC, please let Rev. Martha know. She will be delighted to lead you through the necessary steps.

**:RE News::by Candy Wood, UUCC Director of RE**

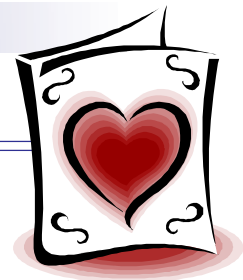
**Religious Education (RE) Update**

Our youth have been studying Hinduism for the month of January. This is a very important religion globally and our youth are learning just how large an impact this religion has on various aspects of the lives of its adherents.

The Littles will study Judaism for the remainder of the year. There is plenty of fun being had creating items for Shabbat boxes, engaging in crafts, games and good company.

A special notice about upcoming classes being offered:

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a positive, comprehensive, and age-appropriate educational program that promotes sexual health and is informed by the guidelines of the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). The curriculum is based on four primary goals: provide accurate, developmentally appropriate information; increase self esteem and understand relationships with and responsibilities toward others; develop interpersonal skills including communication, decision making, and problem solving; and teach responsibility for personal health and safety. This curriculum is based upon the philosophy that parents and religious communities can form a meaningful partnership for positive and responsible sexuality education. This eight session curriculum will be offered to our kindergarten through 2nd graders beginning in the spring. A parent meeting will be scheduled in February to provide more information about this opportunity for our families. If you are interested in participating in this class, please contact Candy Wood.



### **Busy Times Ahead**

I would really like to report on my impressions from the January 24 Congregational Meeting and the Cottage Meetings that follow. Unfortunately, the deadline for this month's newsletter precedes those meetings. However, I'm sure that a lot of information will be coming out throughout February, and probably for the next few months, as the Congregational Meeting continues to spark discussions.

February will be a busy time in a number of ways. For our young people, Religious Education will be starting the Our Whole Lives Program (OWL), a particularly important curriculum to help our youth better understand and deal with the issues of becoming adults. Each time we have offered this program, parents and youth have reported finding it enjoyable and worthwhile... truly a characteristically UU experience for young people.

Chalice Circles will resume this month. If you have not yet participated in a Chalice Circle, you will find that it is a wonderful opportunity to get to know others in the congregation. The opportunity to share experiences in small groups offers an unparalleled opportunity for each of us to better appreciate the gifts that other members bring to our church and enrich our own path through life.

Finally, at the end of the month, we will have "Bring a Friend Sunday". While we can always invite friends to church, on this particular Sunday, we will be focused on reaching out to friends and acquaintances, letting them know the unique message and experiences that Unitarian Universalism and our congregation have to offer.

I look forward to seeing you in church this month.

Peace,  
John

### **First Sunday Offerings**

Loaves & Fishes was the designated recipient of our "First Sunday" collections for November, December and January. In January, UUCC generosity added \$193.00 to the \$549.00 that was donated in the two previous months for a grand total of \$742.00. These donations will support a wide range of effective programs serving the hungry and homeless in the Sacramento area. For more information, please visit <http://www.sacloaves.org/programs/>.



### The Year in Review Continued

Rev. Martha shared her perspective on several aspects of our congregational life in the November newsletter. True to her word, she concludes her review here:

On community building: Daytimers and Saturday Suppers continue to thrive as do our Theatre Group and Men's Breakfast Group. The success of these opportunities for conversation and socializing reinforce my observation that UUCC people love to gather at informal get-togethers.

Our Chalice Circles have been less successful. Two groups met from September through December and their participants report enjoying them very much. Surprisingly, the groups were small. I'm curious about this, given the interest in them expressed over the months. Perhaps the times (Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings) were inconvenient. Maybe people are simply unable to take on an additional commitment right now. At any rate, the two groups will merge and resume meeting this month! Unlike our previous version, this group will remain open to new participants joining; you will need to commit to attending regularly once you decide to join, however. I hope you won't miss this chance to be in deeper relationship with your fellow members and friends.

The Women's Group is looking into new curricula in hopes of recommencing meetings soon.

After-church gatherings are popular, but get-togethers requiring a special trip to UUCC are still problematic. I was surprised that our holiday party in December was so sparsely attended, for example. Children and their families turned out and had a great time – many thanks to Candy Wood, Susan Lange and Gayle Newman, in particular. A truly intergenerational gathering did not materialize, however. It's somewhat frustrating that, with certain exceptions, we continue to segregate ourselves by age and family situations at such events. I'm not sure why this is.

#### On Social Justice

While many of our members are very active in this area in their own lives, doing any collective justice work continues to be a challenge for UUCC. A few ideas are nonetheless in development. One is the introduction of a Speaker's Forum. UUCC would invite knowledgeable speakers to present their ideas to us at a (perhaps) monthly presentation that would be publicized to the wider community. I would love to see us follow through on a Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Social Action Issue using their provided study materials and suggestions for actions and discussions. I'm also interested in offering a racial justice curriculum later this year. The UUA offers many choices in this area, some more involved than others. This wonderfully diverse community of Sacramento seems to call on us to become more informed about and involved in the ethnic and cultural richness around us.

On the plus side, we have contributed financially to other groups seeking to make this a better world through sharing our First Sunday collection plates and contributing to the UU Service Community and the UU Legislative Ministry of California. I also have no doubt that we will step up again in response to the next call to action on the marriage equality front.

#### On Shared Pastoral Care

Our organized efforts here have faltered, but we continue to care generously for each other in times of need. In a congregation of our size, our personal connections enable us to know when someone needs meals or transportation or hospital visits, and to respond accordingly. This is one of our strengths. Nonetheless, I hope to revive our Caring Committee to help me keep track of who needs some extra care and to provide continuing contact with those with whom we've temporarily lost touch.

In summary, UUCC is a small church that does what small churches do and, for the most part, does it well. At the same time, we dream of bigger things and hold onto the vision of being a church that serves the wider world and offers programs and worship to all those in the area who need such a religious community of fellow seekers.

There is a lot to be thankful for and I appreciate all of you who step up whenever there is a need. You are the heart and soul of our congregation, whether you bring cookies, move chairs around, call people who are ill, teach Sunday school, greet newcomers, or serve on a committee. Thank you!

## ::The Green Corner::



### Green Jobs

Welcome to the Green Corner, a column contributed by Candy Wood of the UUCC 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. In this edition, we will look at ways to acquire an education that can lead to employment in the emerging green economy.

As it turns out, “creating a sustainable economy and society requires a complex mix of ecological content knowledge, political ability, legal savvy, financial understanding and managerial skill.” In other words, it takes a well-stocked village of educated professionals to create and sustain a healthy environment. While some environmental jobs require very specific knowledge, many others need a broader knowledge base.

As with many jobs, it is important to have a well-rounded skill-set in order to be successful. Some of the most helpful are skills in problem-solving, technical aptitude, teamwork, project management, leadership and time management.

There are a number of undergraduate degrees at colleges and universities all over the country such as the University of California at Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Barbara. These programs include Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Institute of the Environment, Environmental Systems and the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. There are also a number of advanced degrees offered through schools like the University of Michigan, Duke University, Yale and UC Santa Barbara.

So, if you feel the need to participate in work that supports the creation of a just and sustainable economy and society, you may want to look into your academic options. Many people pursue their education during hard economic times.

Stay tuned for more tips in the next edition.

## ::Helping Hearts & Hands::

### Condolences & Thanks

Our condolences go out to Alison Navas and her family upon the passing of her aunt last month.

Ernie Tomassilli, Gene Anderson and Sonia Duffoo continue to improve from their recent surgeries, as does Carol Byers. Carol is back home, but not mobile, and appreciates calls and visits.

Many thanks to Gene Anderson’s son, Eric, for the lovely chancel table.

### Help Us Connect

Rev. Martha wants to bring UUCC into the new decade by tapping into some of the communication opportunities provided by today’s current “social media” and we need your help!

Many churches, including lots of UU churches, are already using Facebook, podcasting, YouTube, blogs (for example, sermon discussions), online classes, etc. to spread the word about their activities and offerings. UUCC needs to get with the program! If you have experience in any of these areas, or simply ideas, please get in touch with Martha or Tom Rintoul right away. Particularly needed are people with some relevant technical skills.

**Appreciation**

After many years of service, Nancy Flagg, the editorial advisor for the UUCC newsletter and website, has decided to step down and allow someone else this opportunity. Nancy, we thank you for all you have done to improve our communications!

## ::Ongoing Activities::

### Chalice Circle News

Chalice Circle is a group of around six to ten people who commit to get together twice a month for shared ritual and conversation. They include readings, a "check-in" and discussions on topics of your choice facilitated by your fellow-members. They are not classes or therapy groups, but an opportunity for spiritual deepening. They are also a wonderful way to get to know people on a deeper level and to form lasting relationships here at UUC.

In the spirit of renewal that comes with the return of blooming flowers and brightening sun, so returns the Chalice Circle, an intimate discussion group where adults deeply consider ideas and issues important to UUs.

The Chalice Circle is open to all and begins Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 PM at the church, and will remain open while it continues to meet on the second and fourth Wednesday night of each month.

For more information, contact Rev. Martha, or the facilitators, Gayle Newman and Jim Eastman.

### 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.



### Men's Group Update

Starting February 13, the Men's Group will be switching from third Saturdays to second Saturdays for breakfast at 9 AM at church. Contact Patrick Cody if interested.

### Kid's Book Club

The Kids Book Club has been cancelled until further notice.

### Theatre Group

The Theatre Group will see "Beyond Therapy" at 8:00 PM on Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Geery Theatre, 2130 L Street. Make your reservations with Frieda Fergus by Sunday, Feb. 21.

### Saturday Supper

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner normally held the third Saturday of each month. This month, our potluck will be held on February 20. 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. Thank you to our hosts for January: Ruth Ellis and Richard Leimbach. Please contact Terri Riley if you are interested in coming to our February potluck.

## ::Other UU Events::

### Margot Adler to Speak in Stockton

"Paganism: Religion, Not Superstition" is the topic of a talk by National Public Radio reporter (and Unitarian Universalist), Margot Adler, at the University of the Pacific in Stockton on February 16. Afterwards, there will be a Q&A period, and she'll sign copies of her book *Drawing Down the Moon: Witches, Druids, Goddess-Worshippers and Other Pagans in America* and her memoir *Heretic's Heart*. She will bring clarity to the philosophies of the Neo-Pagan movements and dispel stereotypes frequently associated with it. The lecture will take place at 8:00 PM at the Long Theatre. Admission is free.

## ::About Us::

### 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.

UUC 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 UUC 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:

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

Editorial Advisor - website:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

#### Administration

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

Director of Religious Education:

Paula Braxton/Candy Wood 689-2008  
or [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

## **The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Sacramento**

The ministry of our 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.



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Serving Sacramento and Elk Grove, California  
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Sacramento, CA 95828

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