

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Sacramento
July 2007

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Worship Services

Services are held at 10:30am every Sunday.

Sunday, July 1, 10:30am

"Optimism the Essential Emotion"

Our Universalist ancestors were the ultimate optimists, but even if you take a strict dust-to-dust view of life, you should and can be optimistic about everyone's dust. As we start a new (fiscal) year, some thoughts on being optimistic about the human condition. "The Essence of Brass"; a brass quintet with Ellen Skow playing the French horn, will be performing at the service to include our own pianist Loren Richmond's composition: "American Honesty".

Worship Leader: Jim Skow/Worship Associate: Jenn Richard

Sunday, July 8, 10:30am

"Celebrating Spirit, Celebrating Diversity"

How does a culture of celebratory worship help grow a welcoming and multi-cultural congregation?

This service will explore the relationships between celebratory worship, growth, and inclusivity. We will also explore the uses of celebration as an antidote to despair, both in individual spiritual development and in justice building.

Worship Leader: Allison Claire/Worship Associate: Nina Weiler-Harwell

Sunday, July 15, 10:30am

TBD

Fresh from a few weeks spent relaxing and rejuvenating with nature, MK promises a pithy sermon filled with thoughtful insight and humor.

Worship Leader: MK Menard/Worship Associate: Allison Claire

Sunday, July 22, 10:30am

"Awakening to Our Dreams"

Throughout recorded history dreams have captivated the human imagination. Dreams have played an important role in many of the world's faith traditions and have often been seen as conveying messages from the Divine. Scientists speak of the answer to a long struggled over problem coming to them in a dream. Musicians talk about first having heard the melody for a song playing in their dream. Many today see dreams as an important key to psycho-spiritual insight and growth. What might we, as modern day Unitarian Universalists, learn from our dreams?

Worship Leader: Jenn Richard/Worship Associate: Lucy Bunch

Sunday, July 29, 10:30am

"Spiritual Nature of Local Landscapes"

Many of us find inspiration or solace when spending time in native landscapes. Come hear about local landscapes that can feed the soul, provide nurturing, and highlight the diverse nature of the Sacramento region's prairies, woodlands, and rivers.

Worship Leader: Peter Morse/Worship Associate: Allison Claire

Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Sacramento
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July 2007

If you have a meeting or birthday this month and don't see it listed, please contact the office at 689-2008 or uucc@cwnet.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday Worship 10:30am Sr. High Grp 6pm	2	3	4	5 Daytimers 10am at church	6	7
8 Sunday Worship 10:30am	9	10 Chalice Circle evenings 7pm Religious Ed Committee Mtg 7pm at church	11	12 Daytimers 10am at church	13 Chalice Circle mornings 10am	14 2nd Sat Supper
15 Sunday Worship 10:30am Finance Mtg 12pm Women's Group 4pm Newsletter Deadline Sr. High Grp 6pm Theater Group Reservations Due	16	17 Board Mtg 7:15pm	18	19 Daytimers 10am at church Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm	20	21 Men's Group Breakfast 9am Theater Group 8pm
22 Sunday Worship 10:30am	23	24 Chalice Circle evenings 7pm	25	26 Daytimers 10am at church	27 Chalice Circle mornings 10am 4th Fri Fun & Games 6pm at church	28
29 Sunday Worship 10:30am	30	31				

Altar

07/01 Jenn Richard
 07/08 Toni Darling
 07/15 Jim Eastman
 07/22 Peter Morse
 07/29 Gene Anderson

Greeters

John Sugar & Rosemary Miles
 John Sugar & Eric Walle
 Barbara Schnable & Merry Walle
 Becca Sanders & Frieda Fergus
 Becca Sanders & Rebecca Fain

Lighters

on summer break
 on summer break
 on summer break
 on summer break
 on summer break

Head Usher: Richard Leimbach (Georgene Tarble 7/15)

Within UUCC

From Our Minister: Grace Notes from Rev. Martha

The older I get, the more appealing and compelling I find the concept of grace. And the more I experience of life, the more I find myself seeking it and finding it at work in strange ways.

Grace is a tricky concept, especially for a naturalistic theist/religious humanist like me. I don't look for a personal god to intervene in my life. I don't believe that God grants favors to certain people and not to others – that He, She or It keeps a vigilant eye upon the sparrow and for unfathomable reasons, decides to rescue some and not others.

So, if grace does not come from God, where does it come from? Because come it does – those glimpses of clarity; those fleeting sensations of being safe or loved; those moments of sheer relief, trust, or joy; and those cool breezes that lift the hair off your neck on a hot day.

I can't answer the question of where it comes from or why – not yet. I'm working on it. In our time together – a time that I hope will be long and good – I'll be using this space to ponder this. For now, I'm content with saying that grace comes from within ourselves and from each other. It is found in the bonds in between – in that interdependent web that holds us all.

In this column, I'll write about our life together and hope to share my search for grace along the way – the grace I find in you and in our life as a church. The good times will be easy to write about. When the not-so-good times arrive, as they inevitably will, I will do my best to speak to you with honesty and love about these as well.

As I write this, I am in the process of saying goodbye to the congregation in Dayton that I've served for the last two years. This is a time that is both sad and full of grace – the grace of speaking from the heart to these congregants I've come to know and care about, and the grace of seeing them prepare to welcome their new settled minister.

And, as I write this, my thoughts are also with you, my soon-to-be congregation. There is much grace here, as well – much for which to be grateful: possibilities as yet only dimly imagined; the certainty of shared adventure and fun; faith that our relationships will hold comfort, challenge, learning, and delight for us all. Grace will be found as we work together toward an ever-deepening spiritual life together and a shared sense of purpose for this beloved community.

I trust that you will be patient with me as I get to know you, your traditions, your anxieties, and dreams. I hope that you will be honest and generous with your feedback. Our shared ministry – with grace -- will become strong and fulfilling.

I am looking forward to many good years together and there is nowhere I would rather be than with UUCC. I am very happy to be joining you!

~ Rev. Martha



From Our Director of Religious Education: Dawn's Corner

Storytelling summer

Our summer program for children will focus on the art of storytelling. Every Sunday, we will explore the craft of storytelling through spoken-word, music, mask-making, and puppetry. By the end of the summer, we hope to use these talents for Religious Education church programs in the coming year. Please pick up a brochure on Sunday for more details about our summer program.

Teachers for Fall Religious Education

The theme for our fall program of Religious Education will be bible stories. We are looking for volunteer teachers at all age levels. Call Dawn Rose, if you are interested.

~Dawn Rose

Congratulations to New and Returning Board Members

President: Marion Randall
Vice President: John Sugar
Secretary: Wynne Skow
Treasurer: Stephen Bakken
At Large Members: Laura Osborne,
Maggie Melnick, and Ken DeCrescenzo

And a special thank you to the departing board members for all their dedication and hard work!

A Message from Your UUCC Treasurer

June's First Sunday Collection plate sent \$156.33 to the Braille Books for Blind Children. Well done.

~Stephen Bakken,
Treasurer

Raley's Card Income



UUCC has received \$839.68 in total income (since July 1, 2006) from the use of your Raley's card. Thank you to everyone who participates in this program!

Yard Sale Success

Thanks to the hard work of the Men's Group and the excellent donations that were assembled hurriedly, we had a very successful day at the UU Society yard sale. We took in \$330, paid \$20 for the space, and cleared \$310. Thanks for the valiant effort goes to Jerry Melnick, Patrick Cody, John Sugar, Jim Skow, and Dick Tarble. We had a little left over and we are saving it for an all-church yard sale of our own.

Men's Breakfast is Back

Join us at the church on July 21 at 9:00am for a delicious breakfast and some interesting conversation. For more information about this event, please contact Patrick Cody.

Theater Group

We will see "Little Shop of Horrors" at 8:00pm on Saturday, July 21 at the 24th Street Theater. The address is 2791 24th Street. The reservations are \$18 general admission and \$16 (possibly \$12) senior admission. Please get reservations to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, July 15.



Women's Group

The UUCC Women's Group will meet on Sunday, July 15 at 4:00pm at the home of Rebecca Fain. Rebecca can be contacted for directions. The UUCC Women's Group meets on a monthly basis to talk, laugh, cry and eat. For more information on the women's group, please contact Annette Emery.

2nd Saturday Supper

Many thanks to our June hosts, Maggie/Jerry Melnick and Jim Eastman/Fred Deneke. Hosts are needed for the next supper on Saturday, July 14th. If you would like to attend or host a supper, please contact Gene Anderson.

4th Friday Fun & Games

Our "4th Friday" event celebrates the beginning of summer. Bring the whole family, a friend, or just come as you are. We promise a picnic entree, a film, and a chance to march to John Souza music. Please bring salads, summer type fruits & desserts, and your favorite games. For more information, please contact Maggie or Dawn.

2007 Graduation Speech by Valedictorian - Ellen Skow

Welcome school board members, district administrators, teachers, family, friends and fellow graduates.

As I started writing this speech, one question continued to nag me: What is the point of a graduation speech?

I mean, the graduating seniors just want to receive their diploma, to throw their cap as high as possible, and then to go party. The family and friends just want to cheer for their grad, take some memorable pictures, and get away from the cramped and uncomfortable stadium seats. And the teachers and staff are probably just as ready as the students for vacation to start.

One answer to the question of why we have this speech is to allow time for thanks. On behalf of all the graduates, I would like to thank all those people who helped change our diapers. Thank you to those who listened to our teenage woes. Thank you to those who have taught us, even when we didn't want to learn. And thank you to those who were just there. Thank you for the support you all have given us. Without it, we wouldn't be who we are today; we wouldn't be the class of 2007 sitting before you right now.

The next thing I felt a graduation speech should try to explain is why these fashionable robes are still used. Many people look through old yearbooks and are amazed at the clothes students used to wear each day, yet why has the cap and gown withstood the test of time? I do not know the reason, but luckily twelve years in school has finally paid off—we now get to wear the baggy, black and red outfits with the matching square hats.

Now comes the point where I should probably mention some lasting memory, but our diverse class has too many experiences from which to choose. Graduates, tell the memories you have to young children when you are too old to remember what really happened. This way, high school memories will be more glorified

and will make a better story. Tonight is the time to celebrate and envision what new experiences are to come. As Dr. Eric Hammer says, "You can't stuff a great life into a small dream." Don't just dream of writing a book, dream of writing a best seller. Don't just dream of working at a fast food place, dream of being on the board of directors. Don't just dream of being a teacher, dream of being the teacher that everyone respects and values. Once you have a big dream, your life can grow into the unique life that you want to have. Do the things in life so that you can achieve your dream, because no one else can live your life for you.

Of course, a speech wouldn't be a speech without specific advice. I have three simple suggestions: eat chocolate, brush your teeth, and wear sunscreen.

Eat chocolate, and when you do, don't feel bad about it. Chocolate has a chemical that makes people happy. Even if it shortens your life by a few seconds, at least it was a happy life.

Brush your teeth, especially if you don't want cavities from the chocolate. Clean teeth preserve great smiles, and smiles go a long way. A dazzling smile could brighten someone's day or make a good first impression.

And finally, wear sunscreen because it will help protect your skin, your good looks, and your life. The sun has the capability to damage people in irreversible ways. You are important, and sunscreen will keep you around for a long time so that you can tell your grandchildren high school memories you don't really remember.

I now come to the end of my speech, just as we, the class of 2007, come to the end of our years at Cordova High School. Our next steps will be across this stage, and after that, the possibilities are endless. We deserve this moment. Congratulations, Graduates!

Beyond UUCC

UU Camp

An exciting opportunity has opened up—Labor Day Weekend Camp de Benneville Pines is available for your congregation or group to lease.

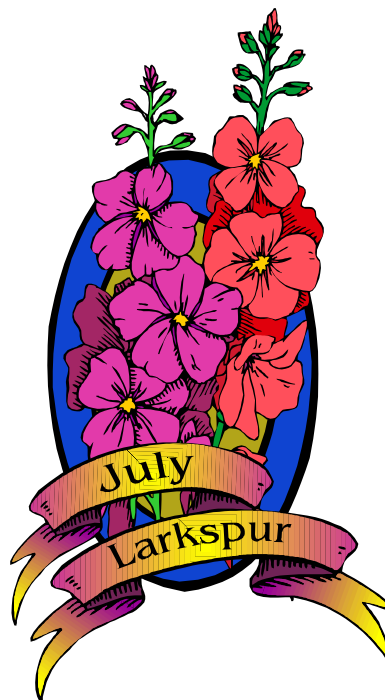
Camp de Benneville Pines is a Unitarian Universalist camp and conference center located near Angelus Oaks at 6800 feet elevation in the San Bernardino National Forest.

Each year, individuals and families of all ages attend a church weekend at the camp. Campers enjoy singing, hiking, reading, games, workshops, arts-and-crafts, seasonal activities such as swimming or sledding, and always just being together. Accommodations range from very nice to rustic, and the cost is quite reasonable. Meals are included. In 2007, our all-church camp weekend will be held jointly with the UU Congregation of Conejo Valley in early October. Watch for planning details or volunteer to be part of the planning committee. Individuals from both churches will plan the weekend so that our experience is truly an all-church event.

A variety of other fun, educational, and inspiring events are held at the camp throughout the year. Workshop and clean-up weekends are held frequently. Winter and summer months offer week-long conferences and gatherings for adults, teens, younger children, and families who join together as extended family for the week.

If your congregation or group is interested in leasing the camp for this weekend (August 30 – September 3, 2007), please contact Janet James at 909-794-2928 or uucamp@aol.com.

Caroline Quintanilla
Camp de Benneville Pines
(909) 794-2928
caroline@uucamp.org



Association Sunday

Association Sunday will be a religious experience. The Latin root of the word religion—“religare”—means to bring together for greater strength. That is what we are doing. Our coming together to affirm our common bonds and purposes as Unitarian Universalists will be a spiritual and empowering experience. We will feel the power of our connection, and extend our influence for good, as we grow our faith.

Together we can help heal a wounded world. We can harness the power—both financial and spiritual—of our congregations across America and beyond, in this affirmation of our faith and potential. We are better together. That is why we hope all of our congregations will participate in Association Sunday on October 14, or as close to that date as you can schedule it. Together we can deepen, extend, and grow our faith and numbers.

Each congregation has a different way of managing special services and collections, so it is important that you check with your minister and board before taking any steps to register.

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 Eric Walle 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 congregations 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

Contact

Newsletter

U2C2 Connection Editor:

Newsletter contributions should be sent to the UUCC church address, phoned in to 689-2008 or emailed to uucc@cwnet.com by the 15th of each month.

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008 or uucc@cwnet.com

Website

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Office Hours: Tue/Thur/Sat 8am-12pm

Minister's Hours: Tue-Fri 10am-4pm

Leadership

Interim Minister:

Rev. Kate Rohde, 689-2073

krohde@uuma.org

Director of Religious Education:

Dawn Rose, uucc@cwnet.com

Board of Trustees:

President: Marion Randall

Vice President: John Sugar

Secretary: Wynne Skow

Treasurer: Steve Bakken

At-Large Members: Laura Osborne, Maggie Melnick, Ken DeCrescenzo

Endowment Trust: Mark Callicotte

Committees:

Church Operations Committee: Laura Osborne

Canvass Committee (Spring 2007): [to be determined]

Committee on Ministry: Wynne Skow (chair), Allison Claire, Mark Callicotte

Finance Committee: Mark Callicotte

Membership Committee: Eric Walle (chair)

Openers/Closers Supervisor: [to be determined]

Religious Education Committee: Alison Navas

Social Action (Bag Days): Celia Buckley

Worship Committee: Jane Churchon (chair), Allison Claire

About the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) represents the interests of more than one thousand Unitarian Universalist congregations, on a continental scale. The UUA grew out of the consolidation, in 1961, of two religious denominations: the Universalists, organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, organized in 1825.



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