

U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Sacramento
July 2008

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A Month of Sundays

Worship Services

10:30 a.m. Sundays, unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, July 6, 10:30 a.m. - "God and Country"

On this Independence Day weekend, Martha will reflect on the idea of patriotism and how it might or might not conflict with our UU Principles.

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Sunday, July 13, 10:30 a.m. - "Sleep, Glorious Sleep!"

Join Kurt Schmidt as he waxes philosophical on the spiritual benefits of a god nap. Bring your blankets and pillows just in case.

Worship Leader: Kurt Schmidt

Sunday, July 20, 10:30 a.m. - "Holy Moly! UU Thoughts on Being Holy"

Is holiness an outdated, irrelevant concept for Unitarian Universalists? We talk vaguely about "The Holy" but not about being holy. Do our principles have anything to do with it? Mary Helen Doherty, Eric Walle and Karen Gunderson share personal perspectives on holiness and what it means (or doesn't mean).

Worship Leader: Karen Gunderson

Sunday, July 27, 10:30 a.m. - "What Does it Mean to be a UU Atheist?"

Nina Harwell-Weiler will share more perspectives on atheism through the Unitarian-Universalist lens.

Worship Leader: Nina Harwell-Weiler

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A Month of Sundays

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July Planner 2008

If you have a meeting or event 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	2 Sing-along 7:30-8:30pm	3 Daytimers 10am at church Worship Committee Mtg 7pm	4 Fourth of July	5 Sat Supper
6 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Newcomer Welcome 11:30- 12:30	7	8	9	10 Daytimers 10am at church Carbon Ring Mtg 7-9pm Board Mtg 7:15pm	11	12
13 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Harry Potter Book Club after church	14 Carbon Ring Mtg 7-9pm Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Sing-along 7:30-8:30pm	17 Daytimers 10am at church	18	19 Men's Group 9am
20 Sunday Worship 10:30am FinanceMtg 12pm	21	22	23	24 Daytimers 10am at church Church Ops Mtg 7pm (offsite)	25	26
27 Sunday Worship 10:30am	28	29	30 Sing-along 7:30-8:30pm	31 Daytimers 10am at church		

Worship Support Schedule

Altar	Greeters	Lighters	Ushers
7/6 Tonie Darling	Christy Clark & Frieda Fergus	Annika L.	Terry DeCrescenzo
7/13 Jim Eastman	Christy Clark & Frieda Fergus	Miley N.	Terry DeCrescenzo
7/20 Peter Morse	Christy Clark & Frieda Fergus	Martina G.F.	Terry DeCrescenzo
7/27 Gene Anderson	Christy Clark & Frieda Fergus	James E.	Terry DeCrescenzo

Grace Notes

Standing on the Side of Love



Tuesday, June 17 was a gorgeous day, sunny and hot, with an occasional cooling breeze. What a fabulous day to celebrate the triumph of fairness and equality as same-sex couples flowed in and out of the Sacramento County Clerk's Office to obtain their long-awaited marriage licenses!

I arrived at about 9:30 a.m., lugging our rented helium tank, to find that dear Julia Walle had been there since the office opened at 8:00. Along with Julia were Dick Tarble, Laura Osborne and Merry Walle, soon to be joined by Becca Sanders with Paula Braxton's and Candy Wood's two children in tow. With other supporters, including a member of the Trinity Episcopal Church, women from the St. Francis Catholic Church and several children, we formed a kind of cheering "tunnel of love" that the smiling couples passed through on their way in and out of the building. Several of the couples were getting married at the Clerk's Office or on the sidewalk just outside. We cheered, threw rice, handed out balloons, blew bubbles, sported handmade signs and spoke our congratulations to the couples, including the occasional straight couple who was there for the same purpose.

Across the street for a good part of the morning was an opposition group holding signs and speaking through a bullhorn, tirelessly admonishing us to turn back from our evil ways. An occasional motorist would drive by and honk their support for one side or the other – by far more frequently for "our" side. Only one gentleman in a car, who appeared a bit mentally unbalanced, was truly unpleasant and the police ticketed him for obstructing traffic. The

police and sheriff deputies were plentiful and friendly and we felt very safe, despite the ugly messages that were displayed on two roving "hatemobiles" that circled around the block and the rather dispirited-looking protestors across the street. In fact, several of the peace officers let us know in little ways that they supported us and our message.

For me, one of the highpoints of the day happened when the group across the street broke into song with "We Shall Overcome!" The folks on our side of the street joined in and there we were, all singing the same anthem of freedom, but understanding very different things by the words. It was a lovely, absurd, ironic and moving moment. Another highlight was the high-spirited presence of several very young girls who had chosen to wear their best dresses for the occasion and bring lovely handmade signs celebrating equality. Our children really will grow up in a world that makes no distinction between the rights and worth of gay and straight people!

As the day wore on, we saw fewer couples and took a break in the early afternoon. When I returned around 5 p.m., I was joined by Julia and MK Menard. There was still a slow but steady stream of couples and at 7 o'clock, having handed out the last of our balloons, we shouted our final congratulations to a pair of women entering the building and called it a day – an excellent day!

And now the hard work must begin! Between now and the November election, we will need to give all we can to the effort to defeat the ballot initiative which would amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage, and thereby, write discrimination into this all-important document. We will need to help register young voters, talk to our friends and neighbors and volunteer to make phone calls. Contact our Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry to find out how to contribute our efforts to this historical opportunity to keep California a state that, in the face of ignorance and fear, refuses to discriminate against anyone on the basis of sexual orientation. This is a good time to be a Californian and a great time to be alive!

From Your DRE

DRE News



The summer is underway and the children are learning about Unitarian Universalism. This summer, the children will be learning a little sign language, some history about Henry David Thoreau, how to do simple book binding and how to fold origami cranes. The summer is chock full of fun and will end with a big bang when the children make *Stone Soup* to share with the congregation on August 10.

Calling all Harry Potter fans! Do you love Harry and the whole gang? If so, we need you! Hogwarts is coming to UUCC on August 17 and we need some people who are familiar with the books and movies to help create the UUCC Hogwarts. This will include making house banners, creating the walls and ceilings of Hogwarts, creating a Hogwarts Christmas Pageant, and much, much more. We need talents of all kinds, so if you love Harry bring your creativity and help us make this year's UUCC Hogwarts something to remember!

NOTE: I have created a UUCC RE yahoo group. This group is for anyone who is involved in RE. The group will send out reminders about what is happening in RE. Don't want to miss out on all the fun? Join the group and always know what is happening. If you have not received an email with an invitation included, please be sure to contact me, Paula.

If you would like your child to participate in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) human sexuality course, please contact me by email and submit the child's name, age and fall grade level. We are hoping to offer both the K-2nd and 5th-6th grade courses this fall.

- Paula Braxton, Dir. of Religious Education

Growing Together

Two Services and Religious Education

As UUCU prepares for two church services starting in September, the Religious Education Committee and Director of Religious Education have been working on what RE will look like. We are not planning on offering two separate RE classes for each service but rather a formal RE class with curriculum and teachers during one service, and a set of activities such as games and crafts for all children during the other service.

The RE Committee polled the parents and found that a majority of parents prefer that their children attend RE classes during the later (11:00 a.m.) service. With this information, we are planning for the fall. Childcare with activities will be available during the 9:30 a.m. service. At the 11:00 a.m. service, the children will be broken into groups of Littles (K-2nd grade), Middles (3rd-5th grade) and Junior High (6th-8th grades). The curriculum this year will be Hogwarts School of Magic and will introduce our children to UU Principles through the characters and the lessons gleaned from the Harry Potter books. Approximately once a month, all of our children will get together for a Way-Cool Sunday School experience of children's worship, an art project or social action.

Whether you choose to attend the early service focused on collective spiritual practice or the later service which will contain the elements enjoyed in our current services, all of our children will have a safe place to connect with friends and enjoy an activity. The RE Committee is working with the Second Service Task Force to ensure that the needs of parents, children and our teachers are being met when we move to two services. We also recognize that having two services will offer opportunities for adults who have wanted to teach but have not wanted to miss services. With two services, you can attend a service and work with our children all on the same Sunday. If you have ideas, comments, or suggestions to offer or you would like to volunteer, please contact the RE Committee.

Annette Emery, Chair
Religious Education
Committee

Harry Potter Book Club

The children's Religious Education program will be offering Hogwarts School of Magic and UU Principles starting this fall. We know that many of our adult friends also love Harry Potter, so we are going to be starting an intergenerational Harry Potter book club starting after church on July 13th. We will start with the first book, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" with lively discussion and lunch at the UU Café. Please feel free to contact Susan Lange, if you are interested in joining us.

Sing-Along with Loren



Hey singers, get ready to sing some fun songs together! After church, we will be doing short rehearsals of 3-4 songs around the piano with kids and kid-like adults for a few fun-loving minutes together. Some of the songs that we will be practicing are: I've Been Workin' on the Railroad, Erie Canal, California Here I Come, The Locomotion, Five Foot Two, On the Road Again, City of New Orleans, Pick Yourself Up, Take Me Home Country Roads, Oh Shenandoah, How Much is That Doggie in the Window, Sweet Georgia Brown, Star-Spangled Banner, This Land is Your Land, When Johnny Comes Marching Home, etc.

We are getting ready for our Wednesday evening "Sing-Along with Loren" program. It's better than a game show and more fun than any TV or video games! The meetings will be held Wednesdays from 7:30-8:45 p.m. on July 2, 16, 30 and August 6, 20.

If you have any questions about the "Sing-Along with Loren" program, please contact Wynne Skow or Loren Richmond.

Helping Hands

UUCC Blood Donors

I want to thank you all for donating blood to our church blood donor account. I was in need of two pints of blood to boost my hemoglobin account during my recent stay in the hospital and was able to access the blood that I needed. I am home now and doing well. Hope to see you in church soon! To donate blood for our church account, call the Blood Source at 456-1500 and they will help you to donate at the downtown center (1625 S. Stockton Boulevard) or at a satellite donor center in Elk Grove.

- Amy W. Jaynes, UUCC Member

Elk Grove Food Bank

Thank you so much for your recent donation to the Elk Grove Food Bank. We appreciate your support of those in need here in our local community.

With every good wish,
Marie Jachiro
Executive Director

[Excerpt from a thank you letter dated 5/27/08]

Kudos

Yard Sale

After much ado, UUCC finally was able to hold a yard sale. We rented three spaces at the Parkside Community Church on the corner of South Land Park Drive and 35th Avenue for a cost of \$75.00. Thank you to Dick Tarble for finding this location and John Sugar for arranging the spaces. It turned out to be a good location with a lot of traffic all day. After costs, UUCC cleared a total of \$629.68. Thank you also to Jim Skow, Jerry Melnick, Ken DeCrescenzo, and Ernie Tomassilli for the wheeling and dealing and to everyone else who contributed items and assisted with the yard sale event.

- Stephen Bakken, Treasurer



Equality Lyrics (America the Beautiful melody)

Much thanks to Eric Walle for creating the following lyrics to the tune of America the Beautiful in celebration of the legalization of same-sex marriages:

For justice and for dignity,
For human rights upheld,
For vigorous diversity,
For hate and fear dispelled!

We call on Cal - i - for - ni - ans
To join with us as we
Do what is right, with all our might:
Defend Equality!

Let principles deep-rooted in
A love of liberty
Protect our Constitution from
Amended bigotry!

Americans! Americans!
Hark to thy fabled lore:
"Of thee I sing! Let freedom ring!"
Discriminate no more!

Beloved in community,
LGBT and straight,
With loving friends and families
Who honor loving mates!

Committed couples all should have
The opportunity,
In full and clear legality,
To be a family!

For those exchanging marriage vows
Our heartfelt prayers ascend!
We celebrate as many thousands
To the altar wend!

Equality! Equality!
Steadfast and strong are we,
In sisterhood and brotherhood;
For all, Equality!



Special Appreciation

Thanks to Laura Osborne, UUCC now has five separate messages on Craigslist telling the public about services we offer: rental space for events and weddings, Daytimers discussions, wedding celebrations and worship services. Laura will be stepping down as chairperson of our Operations Committee and Alison Navas will be taking her place. Please welcome and thank Alison for agreeing to fill this demanding position, and please express your appreciation to Laura for the tremendous work she has done — and continues to do — to keep this church running smoothly.

We will also miss the leadership of Eric Walle as chairperson of the Membership Committee. Eric has done a fabulous job of keeping UUCC in the public eye and stepping up our welcoming activities and growth efforts. He will be keeping busy as our treasurer, for which we thank him!

To our departing Board of Trustees members, Ken DeCrescenzo, Steve Bakken and Laura Osborne, thank you for your service! For our continuing Board members, Marion Randall, Wynne Skow and John Sugar, thank you for your continuing dedication! And to our incoming Board members, Christy Clark, Eric Walle, Sonia Duffoo and Richard Leimbach, thank you for your willingness to help steer UUCC towards “invoking our future!”

We thank Dick Tarble, Jim Skow and Sybil Lawson for their work on the Nominating Committee that presented the slate of new UUCC leaders, and we welcome the new Nominating Committee, Laura Osborne, Jane Churchon and Ernie Tomassilli.

Condolences

In Sympathy



Our loving condolences go out to Jim Eastman and Fred Deneke on the passing of Jim's mother June 20.

Special Events

UUCC Camping Trip

The UUCC Camping Trip will be held this summer, August 15-17 at the Big Bend group campsite which is located near Yuba River, California at 5,700 feet amid pines and firs and can be accessed by a small bridge across the south Yuba River. It is just beyond the visitors center and picnic area.

Nearby Attractions: Big Bend Visitors Center, Rainbow Lodge, Loch Leven Trail, California Emigrant Trail

Activities: fishing, swimming, sightseeing, bicycling, hiking

Amenities: handicap access, flush toilets

Site Type: group, standard, non-electric, RV, tent, trailer

ADA Accessible: Yes

Check-in Time: 2:00 p.m.

Checkout Time: 1:00 p.m.

Number of People: 50

Number of Vehicles: 10

Maximum Vehicle Length: 25

Driveway Surface: Paved

Driveway Entry: Back-in

Please be sure to email Sybil with your reservations soon as camping pads are limited to 50.

Discover Islam II

The long awaited SALAM favorite, Discover Islam II class, starts on Thursday, July 10th at 6:30 p.m. A continuation of the popular Discover Islam I, Discover Islam II focuses on the Islamic position towards contemporary realities and challenges. This course attempts to objectively cover topics relevant to the current American and Muslim public discourse, and clarify Islam's position on important issues such as democracy, political violence, rights of women in Islam, Muslim and non-Muslim relations, minorities, modernity, and many more.

Dates: July 10 - Aug 28 (Meets Every Thursday 6:30 -8:30 p.m.)

Location: SALAM Islamic Center

Instructor: Imam M.A. Azeez

Fees: Open free to the public, donations accepted.

For more information, please contact Rev. Martha Hodges.

Ongoing Activities

Daytimers Group

Anyone is invited to join the Daytimers discussion group that meets at the church from 10 to 12 a.m. every Thursday. It involves a free and open discus-

sion, lively talk, good company, and lunch at a local restaurant afterwards. The current topic is Michael Shermer's "The Science of Good and Evil". If interested, please contact Dick Tarble.

Theatre Group



On Friday, July 11 at 8 p.m., the Theatre Group will see "The Odd Couple (Female Version)" at the Chautauqua Playhouse on 5325 Engle Road in Carmichael. Contact Frieda Fergus with your reservations (\$17 general admission and \$15 student/senior) by Sunday, July 6.

Saturday Supper

Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner held on the 1st Saturday of each month. The next dinner will be on Saturday, July 5th. 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 so choose. It is okay to participate without ever hosting and it is okay to come occasionally. Participants are with a different group of people each month. This is a great way to get to know others in our congregation. We would love to have you join us! Thank you to our hosts in June: Stephen Bakken and De Brewer, and Ruth Ellis. We had a lovely time at Ruth's house! Please call or email Terri Riley, if you can host or are interested in coming to the July potluck.

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 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 mailed to the UUC church address, phoned in to 689-2008, faxed to 689-2282 or emailed to uucc@cwnet.com by the 15th of each month.

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

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UUC office 689-2008 or uucc@cwnet.com

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

Minister's Hours: Wed 4pm-7pm &

Thu 12:30am-3:30pm (or by appointment)

Leadership

Minister:

Rev. Martha Hodges, 689-2073

uucc_minister@frontiernet.net

Director of Religious Education:

Paula Braxton 689-2008 uucc@cwnet.com

Board of Trustees:

President: Marion Randall

Vice President: John Sugar

Secretary: Christy Clark

Treasurer: Eric Walle

At-Large Members: Wynne Skow,

Richard Leimbach, Sonia Duffoo

Endowment Trust: Terri Riley,

Terry Chekon, Patrick Cody

Committees:

Church Operations: Alison Navas

Committee on Ministry: Tom Rintoul,

Celia Buckley, Jim Eastman

Finance: Mark Callicotte

Membership: Eric Walle

Religious Education: Annette Emery

Stewardship: Celia Buckley

Worship: Lucy Bunch

Justice Coordinating Team: Julia Walle,

Antonio Gonzalez

Openers/Closers Supervisor:

Rev. Martha Hodges

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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