

# U2C2 Connection

A monthly newsletter published by the UnitarianUniversalist Community Church

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

## Featured inside this issue:

### A Month of Sundays

- July Sunday Services p. 1

### July 2009 Planner

- Calendar & Schedule p. 2

### Grace Notes

- Midsummer Changes p. 3

### Growing Together

- Mini Updates & Thanks p. 4
- News from the Marriage Front p. 4

### RE News

- A Personal Note p. 5
- MUUGS p. 5
- Soles for Souls - A Shoe Drive p. 5
- A Year of Change and Excitement p. 5

### The Green Corner

- Green Your Work Commute p. 6

### Helping Hands

- Share the Plate p. 6

### Ongoing Activities

- Women's Group p. 6
- Theatre Group p. 6
- Daytimers Group p. 6
- Saturday Supper p. 6
- Kid's Book Club p. 6

### About Us

- Mission p. 7
- Membership p. 7
- Affiliates p. 7
- Contacts p. 7

**July Sunday Services** *Our services will be held every Sunday at 11 AM until August.*

Our 9:30 AM contemplative services have been cancelled due to budget constraints and a reduction in Rev. Martha's hours. There will, however, be occasional early services to celebrate special holidays, so be sure and check future newsletters. Beginning in August, we will meet for worship at 10:30 AM instead of 11:00 AM with social time from 10:00-10:30 AM.

*Sunday, July 5: "What Does It Mean to Be Patriotic?" - Worship Leader: Lucy Bunch*

What does it mean to be Patriotic? We have a new president, new hope, and new engagement with the world. Come join us in singing America the Beautiful and considering what it means to us.

*Sunday, July 12: "Surviving Anxiety" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges*

Many of us are feeling anxious these days. The economy alone is enough to scare us and there is much to be uncertain about. Rev. Martha will reflect on ministry in anxious times and how we cope – or don't cope – with chronic worry.

*Sunday, July 19: "The Excellent Self" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges*

What is your favorite Deadly Sin? Catholicism considers Pride to be the first and most serious offense, and the root of all the other cardinal sins. Rev. Martha will take a look at pride in a contemporary UU context.

*Sunday, July 26: "Unitarian Universalism and Judaism" - Worship Leader: Nina Weiler-Harwell*

Nina Weiler-Harwell and Annette Falcon will share their thoughts on the challenges and insights of Jewish Unitarian Universalists and how our views can further deepen and inform our faith.

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

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
<p align="center"><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>1</b>	<b>2</b> Daytimers 10am at church	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Independence Day 
			<b>5</b> Sunday Services 11:00am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>12</b> Sunday Services 11:00am Kid's Book Club 12:30-1:30pm Women's Group 2:30pm	<b>13</b> Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b> Daytimers 10am at church  Board Mtg 7:15pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Sat Supper offsite  Men's Group 9am
<b>19</b> Sunday Services 11:00am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Women's Group 7:00pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Daytimers 10am at church  Church Ops Mtg 7pm at church	<b>24</b> Theatre Group 8pm	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Sunday Services 11:00am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Daytimers 10am at church	<b>31</b>	
	Altar 7/5 Tonie Darling 7/12 Jim Eastman 7/19 Peter Morse 7/26 Gene Anderson	Greeter Jane Thompson Stephan Lange Rose Kohn Dick Tarble	Lighter <i>on summer break</i> <i>on summer break</i> <i>on summer break</i> <i>on summer break</i>	Usher Jim Eastman Dick Tarble Tonie Darling Tom Rintoul		

## Midsummer Changes

by Rev. Martha Hodges, Minister

The Summer Solstice, also known as Midsummer's Eve, is supposed to be a time propitious for changes. The renewed power of the sun begins to wane again as soon as it reaches its peak on June 21<sup>st</sup>. New projects are undertaken – including, most notably, marriages. There is no standing still in nature – or in the life of a church.

It has been a busy and emotional time for us at UUCC. Our Director of Religious Education, Paula Braxton, will be embarking on her internship at our UU church in Modesto this month. Candy Wood will be taking over as acting DRE during the year that Paula is gone. We'll miss Paula and wish her a rewarding internship! In the meantime, I look forward to working with Candy and know that she will be a most able "sub" for Paula.

We welcome two new Board members, Alison Navas and Allison Claire (elected to serve as vice-president) and a new president, John Sugar. We are grateful to retiring Board members, Wynne Skow and Marion Randall. Marion has done an outstanding job leading us through many changes. Thank you, all!

The budget that we passed at our congregational meeting last month includes many painful cuts. The membership had the courage to recognize that these cuts were essential to our financial survival and the wisdom to know that UUCC will live to see brighter and more prosperous days.

One such cut was the line item for our congregation's dues to the UUA and the Pacific Central District. UUCC has been proud to be a "Fair Share Congregation" and our PCD Executive, Cilla Raughley has been a valued advisor and meeting facilitator for us. We will attempt to make up the amount we owe in dues by asking members to contribute the amount we pay per member. You will be hearing more about how we can make this happen.

Another difficult decision has been to reduce my hours by twenty-five percent. I fully support this decision. This is a temporary situation. When next year's budget vote comes around, I hope that we will be able to return to full-time ministry.

What will this change mean to UUCC? The details have yet to be worked out, but I can tell you that I will be reducing my time with you about twelve hours a week, or the equivalent of one week a month. I will continue to preach at least twice a month and will provide pastoral care whenever it is needed. I can be called anytime. I will also meet regularly with the Board and will continue to fulfill my administrative duties, although new initiatives may need to wait.

As part of this change, in July, we will return to one service on Sundays. In August, we will change back to our former worship time of 10:30 AM. There will be beverages available after the service, but our main time for socializing will continue to be before the service from 10:00 to 10:30 AM. Our last early service was held June 28, ably led by Jim Skow. Jim has been essential to these meditative services and I am very grateful to him.

As you probably know, UUCC's main expenses are ministry and rent. Our landlord has generously agreed to reduce our rent by \$2000 a month and to forego rent increases during the remainder of our lease. Together with our budget cuts, this will allow us to almost meet our expenses. Thank you to Marion Randall, Sonia Duffoo, John Sugar, Eric Walle and Kurt Schmidt for negotiating this arrangement.

Although all these budget cuts are difficult, they remind us that we have an opportunity for renewal in the midst of the pain. Our lease will be over in two more years. Will we be in a position to buy our own property? This is my fervent hope. Two years will pass quickly and it is none too soon to be examining our options. To this end, we are forming a special Task Force to plan for our eventual move.

Sometimes a swift kick in the pants is salutary. UUCC has experienced crises before and emerged from them stronger than ever. I have no doubt the same will happen this time. Our members are creative, resilient and generous and they are our greatest resource. Keep the faith!

### Mini Updates & Thanks

- Our condolences go out to Candy Wood upon the death of her father and to Rose and Will Kohn upon the death of their sister-in-law. We hold you all in our care.
- Thank you, Susan Lange, for the delicious Central European feast last month in honor of Norbert Capek! We are lucky to have such a talented and generous cook among us! We hope to make the UU Café once more a regular event at UUCC. If you are interested in helping, please let Rev. Martha know. This is an excellent way to add a bit to our Operating Fund and also to enjoy spending time together.
- If you shop at Raleys/Bel Air, see Terri Riley about signing up for their scrip program. The store will give a portion of what you spend to our church. This is an easy way to contribute to UUCC every time you go grocery shopping!
- Tom Rintoul has graciously agreed to head up a Task Force to make recommendations on how UUCC can take advantage of “new” technologies such as Facebook, blogging, podcasting, etc. If you have some technical knowledge in this area and can help make UUCC more accessible to people in this way, please let Tom know!
- Please be sure and thank Alison Navas and Allison Claire for agreeing to serve on our Board as well as “Thank you” and “Well done!” to Marion Randall and Wynne Skow as they retire from Board duty. The commitment and caring of these four individuals deserves our deep gratitude.
- Congratulations and thank you to Allison Claire on her election to the UUA Board of Review. Allison will add her wisdom and compassion to this group that reviews appeals from UU clergy who have been sanctioned for breaches of conduct.
- The Committee on Ministry meets with the minister monthly to provide feedback and support. If you have any concerns about the ministry of UUCC and prefer not to address them directly with Rev. Martha, you should feel free to talk to the CoM. Tom Rintoul is rotating off the committee as of this month, and Tamara Faber will be joining it. Celia Buckley is the new chairperson and Jim Eastman is continuing as the third member. Feel free to let any one of them know how you think things are going.
- Rev. Martha will be on vacation July 20 though August 8, but can be reached at either her home number or through the church office.

### News from the Marriage Front

It has been a busy month for all concerned with the marriage equality issue. The State Supreme Court ruled on May 26 to uphold Proposition 8, amending the Constitution to exclude same-sex couples from the right to marry and have their unions recognized by the state. On the plus side, the 18,000 couples who married during the all too brief window during which same-sex marriage was legal will continue to be married in the eyes of the law.

The evening before the Court decision was announced, the Reverend Lindi Ramsden led a worship service of hope and affirmation at Head Hunters, a gay and lesbian bar in Midtown. Rev. Martha attended and was moved by Rev. Lindi’s remarks and by the gentle and loving spirit of all there. Mary Helen Doherty has been very active in organizing interfaith clergy to respond to this injustice. On Decision Day, she recruited several clergy to speak at the rally at the Capitol. Rev. Martha was proud to be included as one of the speakers and several of our members were in attendance. June 17 marked the one-year anniversary of the Court’s initial decision recognizing same-sex marriage, and Martha and several of our members attended a bittersweet press conference at the County Clerk’s Office in commemoration. Allison Claire and Teri McKown and their children agreed to be there to represent gay and lesbian families and Allison spoke eloquently of the five months during which she was “equal.” Finally, Rev. Martha attended a breakfast meeting organized by Mary Helen and others for interfaith clergy to hear reports from and share ideas with Harry Knox, Director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Religion and Faith Program and recent appointee to President Obama’s Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and the Rev. Samuel Chu, Executive Director of California Faith for Equality.

With so many talented and passionate advocates for marriage equality, there is no doubt that Proposition 8 will be overturned in the not so distant future, and UUCC will continue to do its part to bring that day about.



-- Paula Braxton, Director of Religious Education (DRE)

**A Personal Note**

As many are aware, I am a full-time graduate student at Starr King School for the Ministry (SKSM). As part of my curriculum, I am required to do a yearlong internship with a parish. I have had the good fortune to be placed in a parish for this coming fall. The internship is very demanding and I will be unable to continue working as Director of Religious Education (DRE) during the internship. After a discussion with Rev. Martha, the board and the operations committee, it was decided that I would take a one year leave of absence in order to do my internship. I will be starting my internship mid-July 2009. My last day as DRE will be at the beginning of July.

I would never leave this congregation without someone to take my place. While I am gone, my partner Candy Wood, who is also a SKSM student, will be your interim DRE. The curriculum for this year is all set and ready to go. There will be no lapse in coverage and the Religious Education (RE) program should run smoothly in my absence. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at [u2c2dre@yahoo.com](mailto:u2c2dre@yahoo.com). You may use the same email address to contact Candy during my absence.

I have loved my time here with you and I look forward to coming back once my internship is over.

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**MUUGS**

The Middle School UU Group will be holding its initial meeting in July. If you have a middle school student (grade 6-8) that would like to participate, contact Paula Braxton at [u2c2dre@yahoo.com](mailto:u2c2dre@yahoo.com) for details.

**Soles for Souls - A Shoe Drive**

The RE department is still collecting gently used shoes for the homeless. It is our goal to fill the box that is outside the Middles room with shoes that can be handed out to the homeless. If you have any gently used shoes that you no longer want, please consider donating them on Sunday. Your old soles could help another soul.

**A Year of Change and Excitement**

It is incredible to believe that we have completed an entire year of UUCC Religious Education (RE). This was a year of change and excitement. Among the changes was a new Director of Religious Education, Paula Braxton. Paula introduced a new theme to UUCC RE – the Hogwarts School of UU Magic. The children learned about our UU principals through the Hogwarts experience. In conjunction with this theme, Susan Lange held a Harry Potter book club once a month. This inspired a children’s book club, which has been meeting for the last few months.

UUCC also hosted Our Whole Lives (OWL) for our 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> graders. This is the first time that OWL has been held at UUCC for our children (in the past, we sent our children to UUSS). This was not in the budget but our RE volunteers stepped forward and hosted a monthly UU Café catered and served by RE with the proceeds going to train OWL teachers and purchase curriculum. OWL trainers, Candy Wood and Antonio Gonzales, proudly introduced their OWL graduates at a ceremony last spring.



Finally, a special Chalice Children class was led by Susan Lange for our youngest UUs. This required our Littles to move into the room next to the pulpit, and as a welcoming congregation, we all learned to enjoy the sound of our children enjoying their lessons. We ended the year with a trip to the Sacramento zoo and our children feeling like they belong at UUCC.

The goal for the RE committee next year will be to update the RE charter, inventory our curriculum, clean out and restock supplies, recruit more volunteer teachers and assistants, and continue to work on growing RE as a way to grow UUCC. For more information about the Religious Education Committee, contact Annette Emery at (916) 296-2650 or at [catp@winfirst.com](mailto:catp@winfirst.com).

-- Annette Emery, Religious Education Committee Chair

## ::The Green Corner::

### Green Your Work Commute

Welcome to the Green Corner, a column by Candy Wood of the UCC 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 Green Your Work Commute.

Work from home. Telecommuting is becoming more and more popular with more than 45 million people telecommuting at least one day per week.

Commute manually. By biking or walking you work, you can both reduce greenhouse gases and get your daily dose of exercise. These options can be combined with public transportation or any other means for those who live further away from the workplace.

Rideshare. This can be anything as progressive as a company sponsored shuttle or vanpool service, or as common as carpooling or mass transit. And you just might make a friend or two!

Efficiency. If you do drive your own vehicle, here are some tips to improve fuel-efficiency:

- Keep your tires properly inflated
- Avoid rush hour traffic whenever possible
- Keep your vehicle tuned and maintained
- Drive the speed limit
- Consider biodiesel if you have a diesel engine

Remember, dramatic changes can and do occur as the result of minor adjustments made by individuals just like you and me.

## ::Helping Hands::

### Share the Plate

Loaves & Fishes received the \$177.25 "Share The Plate" donation from our May offerings.



### Saturday Supper

Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner held on the third Saturday of each month. The next dinner will be on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 June: Frieda and Lloyd Fergus, and Maggie and Jerry Melnick. Please contact Terri Riley at 363-8563 or [terrihiley@aol.com](mailto:terrihiley@aol.com) if you are interested attending our July potluck.

## ::Ongoing Activities::

### Women's Group

The UCC Women's Group meets twice a month on the second Sunday and third Tuesday of each month. We have been discussing what it means to be a crone as we reclaim this word to its rightful definition of meaning a woman filled with wisdom and deserving of respect. All women are invited to join us on Sunday, July 12 at 2:30 PM and/or Tuesday, July 21 at 7:00 PM. All meetings take place at church. For more information, contact Annette Emery at (916) 296-2650 or at [catp@winfirst.com](mailto:catp@winfirst.com).

### Theatre Group

The Theatre Group will see the musical "Sweet Charity" on Friday, July 24 at the 24th Street Theater, 2791 24th St., 8:00 PM. Make reservations with Frieda Fergus (457-4373) by Sunday, July 19. All are welcome!

### 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, please contact Dick Tarble at 443-5870.

### Kid's Book Club

Our next meeting will be July 12. Questions? Contact the Newmans at 209-744-4358.

## 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

[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:* Tamara Faber,

Celia Buckley, Jim Eastman

*Finance:* John Sugar

*Membership:* Rev. Martha Hodges

*Religious Education:* Annette Emery

*Stewardship:* Jim Skow, Ernie Tomassilli

*Worship:* Jim Skow

*Justice Coordinating Team:* Julia Walle,

Antonio Gonzalez

Openers/Closers Supervisor:

Rev. Martha Hodges

## Beliefs Within Our Faith

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion that encompasses many faith traditions. Unitarian Universalists include people who identify as Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Pagans, Atheists, Agnostics, Humanists, and others. As there is no official Unitarian Universalist creed, Unitarian Universalists are free to search for truth on many paths.



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

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July 2009