

U2C2 Connection

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

A Month of Sundays



Worship Services

10:30am Sundays, unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, May 4, 10:30am - "Being a Religious Humanist: Engaging our Fifth Source"

Humanism is still the most popular choice when UUs are asked to classify themselves by belief system. A lot has changed, however, since the fifties and sixties when Humanism was the clearly dominant influence in our movement. We will reflect on some of these changes and what it means today to be a UU Humanist.
Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Allison Claire

Sunday, May 11, 10:30am - "Teaching Love"

For all their human failings, mothers (and mother-figures) teach us how to love, which may be the most important lesson we ever learn during our lifetime. On this Mother's Day, Rev. Martha will lead the Sunday service in honor of mothers in all their various guises.
Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Kurt Schmidt

Sunday, May 18, 10:30am - *Guest Speaker*

We warmly welcome Imam Mohamed Abdul-Azeez, the religious leader of the SALAM Islamic Center in Sacramento. He has been involved in Islamic activism and education for the past ten years. He is a passionate advocate of interfaith work and dedicates his time to educating the community about the peaceful essence of Islam.
Guest Speaker: Imam Azeez/Worship Associate: Jenn Richard

Sunday, May 25, 10:30am - "Remembering Well"

Join us in affirming the power of hope as we acknowledge our losses and celebrate the memory of our dead at this special service in honor of Memorial Day.
Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Lucy Bunch

A Month of Sundays

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May 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 Daytimers 10am at church Worship Committee Mtg 7pm	2	3 Sat Supper
4 Sunday Worship 10:30am Stewardship Celebration 12pm	5 Carbon Ring Mtg 7-9pm	6	7 Building Your Own Theology Workshop 7:00- 9:30pm (CANCELLED)	8 Daytimers 10am at church Carbon Ring Mtg 7-9pm Board Mtg 7:15pm	9	10 Women's Group 9:30am *AAE/TR&RL (TBD)
11 Sunday Worship 10:30am Drumming Grp Mtg 12-2pm Mother's Day	12	13	14 Building Your Own Theology Workshop 7:00- 9:30pm	15 Newsletter Deadline Daytimers 10am at church Carbon Ring Mtg 7-9pm Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm	16	17 Men's Group 9am Italian Dinner Theater Group 8pm
18 Sunday Worship 10:30am FinanceMtg 12pm *AAE/TD&KS @ 12-2pm	19 Carbon Ring Mtg 7-9pm	20	21 Building Your Own Theology Workshop 7:00- 9:30pm	22 Daytimers 10am at church Church Ops Mtg 7pm (offsite)	23	24
25 Sunday Worship 10:30am	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29 Daytimers 10am at church Carbon Ring Mtg 7-9pm	30	31 *AAE/AE&PC (TBD)

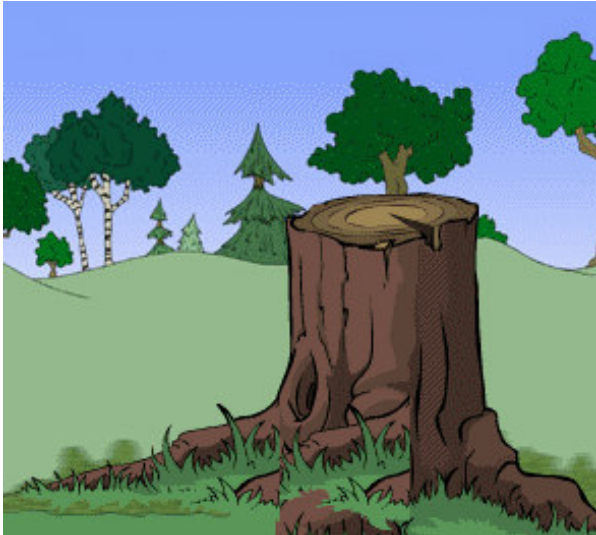
Worship Support Schedule

Altar	Greeters	Lighters	Ushers
5/4 Karen Gunderson	Emily Estes & Frieda Fergus	Cheyenne B.	Jim Eastman
5/11 Jerry Melnick	Emily Estes & Frieda Fergus	Hannah C.M.	Jim Eastman
5/18 Judi Schafer	Emily Estes & Frieda Fergus	Ben C.M.	Jim Eastman
5/25 Edie Olaughlin	Emily Estes & Frieda Fergus	Jesse C.M.	Jim Eastman

*AAE indicates an Action Auction Event.

Grace Notes

We Make a Life by What We Give



"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." – Winston Churchill

Like you, I have been thinking about what amount to write on the pledge card that I'll turn in at our May 4 service. I have also been giving serious thought to what it means to "pledge." We promise a certain amount of money and to make good on that promise, barring serious financial setbacks, of course. But we pledge more than just money; we pledge ourselves.

When we submit that pledge card, we promise our selves to this community, this faith and its values, our future together and to all the dreams we hold for this congregation. We make a commitment, and commitments change people. They change the people to whom we commit and they change ourselves. You might say, we are known by our commitments. And commitments change the course of events. They determine, to a large degree, the lives we live.

So what do our promises to UUCC say about us? What are the hopes and values that we affirm and promise to support when we make our financial pledge? What is this life that we are making together? Your answer may not be exactly the same as anyone else's, but I believe some common threads run through them all.

-We want to be generous people; we want to dedicate our time, energy, skills and money to something that isppp worthy of this generosity.

-We want to be a part of something alive and exciting that energizes us, enhances the lives of others and makes a difference in this world.

-We want to act on our common values of respect and compassion for others, the belief that human lives are precious and the opportunity to practice an ethic of love and inclusiveness.

-We want to think for ourselves and demonstrate by our actions that reason and kindness can work together to make a safer and saner world while also honoring and protecting this earth.

-We want to be deeply connected to others, responsible to our communities and joyfully awake to the wonders and mysteries that surround us.

We want all this - and we want to offer it to a world that is so fearful, dissatisfied, violent and unhappy. And yet, Unitarian Universalists are known to contribute less than other denominations to the support of their very own churches.

Perhaps what I want most of all is for our church - our UUCC - to be central to our lives and to represent who we understand ourselves to be. I want our church to be more than just another "good cause" to which members contribute. My dream is that UUCC become a force for good in our lives - and in the world beyond our front door. And that is the vision to which I am promising myself when I make my pledge on May 4.

To make my life by what I give, in reference to Churchill's phrase, I've decided to increase my pledge by ten percent, bringing it to six percent of my income. It's going to be a bit of a stretch, but I am feeling quite happy about this decision.

Not everyone is able to do as much. Others may be able to do more. Regardless of your means, I encourage you to ask yourself: What do *you* want to give yourself to? What dream is worthy of your commitment? What promises will allow you to make the life that you truly desire - and also the life that this world so desperately needs?

- Rev. Martha Hodges, UUCC Minister

President's Message

The Meaning in Your Life

Dear Congregation,

While we may be heading towards the end of the school year, we have in no way slowed down in our church year. We have been discussing and preparing ourselves for a move to two services, immersing ourselves in the understanding of a new way to think about our organizational structure and contemplating the meaning of stewardship.

I very much appreciate and want to acknowledge the work and effort of the Stewardship Committee. They have done an excellent job in creating the big picture of what stewardship means in the context of our church. In doing so, it makes it very easy to see how we as individuals can support or influence the future of our church. When you get down to it, it's pretty simple. What each of us has to offer are our time, talent and treasure. And when we align those things with our ministries of welcoming, nurturing, serving and empowering - we should get results. If by now, these words do not sound familiar to you, then you should definitely make it a point to ask about them.

The other outcome of the work by the both the Stewardship Committee and Close the Gap Group is that every congregant should be well informed about the financial standing of our church. Again, if somehow you have missed this pertinent information, I encourage you to ask about it.

From time to time, it is important to think about your level of commitment to anything that you are involved with. Your church community is no different and now is a really good time to look within to see how you are feeling about your level of commitment. How do you see yourself using the time and talent you have to offer? How might your personal ministry align with the church ministries identified above? When it comes to your treasure where exactly do you see yourself? Are you a "supporter", "sustainer", "visionary" or "full tithing" (from the fair-share giving guide)? And if your giving has been equal to one of these categories in this past year, does your commitment to and vision for your church enable you in any way to stretch yourself to the next level?

I hope you find time to think about the meaning that UUCU and Unitarian Universalism have in your life.

In service and gratitude,
Marion Randall



From Your DRE



DRE News

As spring hops into Sacramento, things are hopping in RE as well. This coming summer, the RE program will be presenting an overview of the seven UU Principles. A couple of the fun activities we will be doing as we learn the UU principles include having a lesson in sign language and learning how to bind a book!

OWL

Sign Up for Our Whole Lives (OWL)! OWL will be offered to those children going into the 5th and 6th grades in the fall. Children that are friends of current RE students are also welcome to join the OWL program this summer.

Each level of Our Whole Lives Offers...

- Up-to-date information and honest, age-appropriate answers to all participants' questions
- Activities to help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills
- Effective group-building to create a safe and supportive peer group
- Education about sexual abuse, exploitation, and harassment
- Opportunities to critique media messages about gender and sexuality
- Acceptance of diversity

- Encouragement to act for justice
- A well-designed, teacher-friendly leaders' guide
- Parent orientation programs that affirm parents as the primary sexuality educators of their children

A mandatory orientation will be held prior to classes starting. If you are interested in having your child (and/or your child's friend) participate in this program, please contact Paula Braxton.

Summer Teachers Needed

The RE program needs summer teachers! If you'd like to teach one Sunday during the summer, please contact Paula Braxton to see which Sundays we need help with! The curriculum is ready, so there will be little prep work for anyone who is teaching. If you've ever wondered if you'd be any good at teaching, this would be a great time to test the waters of teaching RE!

Artistic People Needed

At the end of summer, the RE classes will be transforming from their current look into Hogwarts School of UU Magic. In order to make this happen, the RE department needs some artistic people to assist in its transformation.

The creative talents that will be needed are:

- People who can sew to help make the children Hogwarts robes and hats
- People who can create the walls of Hogwarts (set design)
- People to help teach fascinating Hogwarts subjects

Teen Drumming Group

Do you have a child that is at least thirteen years of age and would like to participate in a hand drumming group? If so, please email Paula.

- Paula Braxton, Director of RE

RE Corner

Children's Religious Education

Our children from ages five to ten have been studying bible stories and how we, as Unitarian Universalists, respond to these stories. The children will be planning an end-of-the-year Palestinian Feast to be shared with the entire congregation. To prepare, the children made pinch pot candles to get into the spirit of sharing the light with all.

Announcements

Guest at Your Table

Thanks to generous donations from the Newman's children, Ruth Ellis, Gene Anderson, Judi Schafer and Ernie Tomassilli, Georgene and Dick Tarble, Celia Buckley and Marion Randall, Laura Osborne and Tom Rintoul, Allison Claire and Teri McKown, Rev. Martha Hodges, Antonio Gonzalez and Tamara Faber, Emily and Billy Estes and son, Fred Deneke and Jim Eastman, Rose and Matt Nelsenador, and Dave and Beverly Boido, we collected \$768.15 for the UU Service Committee "Guest at your Table". Thanks to you all for your participation.

- Dick Tarble, Coordinator

Special Events

UUCC Annual Camping Trip



Arrival Date: Friday, August 15, 2008
Departure Date: Sunday, August, 17 2008
Length of Stay: Two nights
Number of Occupants: Fifty
Number of Cars: Ten

Save the date for the UUCC annual camping trip! It will take place this year at the Big Bend group camping ground from Friday, August 15 to Sunday, August 17. We will have two campsites (twenty-five people per site) and would really love to fill up them both. There will be no other campers around us; it is strictly a group campground located behind the Big Bend Visitors Center. We will also be looking into a guided rafting trip down the Yuba River for Saturday. There are a few trails located near the campgrounds for hiking. More details to follow. We will start taking reservations around mid June, so please mark it on your calendars for now!

- Sybil Lawson & Bev Boido

Stewardship 2008:
Invoking Our Future – It's Elemental!

CELEBRATION SUNDAY
MAY 4th, 2008



We are having a catered luncheon after the service at 12 noon by Refer-A-Chef. Be sure to RSVP to Celia Buckley, so we can order the appropriate number of lunches.

New Members

Welcome Our Newest Members

We are delighted to have among us two new members of UUCC: Annette Falcon and her daughter. Annette was raised in Puerto Rico and Brooklyn, NY. She teaches high school Spanish in Natomas and is looking forward to eventually resuming her studies for the UU ministry. Her daughter is now our youngest member, attends the tenth grade and has an interest in earth-centered spirituality. Annette and her daughter were active in the San Jose UU church for many years, where among other things, Annette assisted with the church's Spanish language service.

Helping Hands

March Collection

UUCC donated \$136.29 to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy for acquisition and management of local wild lands.

- Stephen Bakken
Treasurer

Ongoing Activities

Theatre Group

The Theatre Group will attend the production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" at 8pm on Saturday, May 17 at the 24th Street Theater on 2791 24th Street. The tickets are \$20 general admission and \$18 senior/student. For reservations, please be sure to contact Frieda Fergus by Sunday, May 11.

Saturday Supper

Our April potluck was held in the homes of Ken and Terry DeCrescenzo, Dick and Georgene Tarble, and Terri Riley and Richard Leimbach. What a great turnout! Thank you to our hosts. Our May Saturday Supper will be held on Saturday, May 3rd. These are potluck suppers and all are welcome. If you are interested and would like to host or attend in May, please call Terri Riley.

Women's Group

The next meeting of the Women's Group will be held on Saturday, May 10 at 9:30am at UUCC. It is a monthly meeting where we share a brunch potluck, check in with each other and discuss an article/idea from the UU World Magazine. This group is open to all women. For additional details, please get a hold of Annette Emery or Gene Anderson.

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.

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Nancy Flagg 689-2008

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Editorial Advisor - website:

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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: Wynne Skow

Treasurer: Steve Bakken

At-Large Members: Laura Osborne, Ken

DeCrescenzo, Maggie Melnick

Endowment Trust: Mark Callicotte

Committees:

Church Operations: Laura Osborne

Committee on Ministry: Richard Leimbach, Celia Buckley, Tom Rintoul

Finance: Mark Callicotte

Membership: Eric Walle

Religious Education: Annette Emery

Stewardship: Celia Buckley

Worship: Lucy Bunch

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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Postage

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