

# U2C2 Connection

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

## *A Month of Sundays*

### **Worship Services**

#### **9:30 AM Meditative Service** [every Sunday]

The theme of our contemplative services in the month of November is "Gratitude." Come join us for music, images, poetry and meditation upon the many things for which we can be grateful.

#### **11:00 AM Traditional Service**

*Nov. 2: "With Us Still" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges*  
Join us at our 11:00 service for our annual celebration of the Day of the Dead. We may be uncertain about our fate after death, but we share the conviction that the dead live on in memory and continue influencing the lives of those who knew them – sometimes in ways we could never foresee. Bring a picture or a memento of a deceased loved one whom you would like to commemorate as part of our celebration.

*Nov. 9: "Freedom and Duty" - Worship Leader: Rebecca Sanders & Jim Skow*

Rebecca Sanders and Jim Skow will jointly share thoughts on the relationship between freedom and duty for individuals living in our complex society. Are the concepts independent of each other or mutually dependent? We UUs want freedom with respect for the interdependent web. How do we balance the inherent conflicts?

*Nov. 16: "Engaging Our Third Source: Wanderers & Worshippers" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges*

Martha will continue her sermon series on the six sources on which we draw as Unitarian Universalists as she considers "wisdom from the world's religions." As we become increasingly sensitive to the dangers of "cultural misappropriation," where does that leave us as a faith that welcomes all belief systems? Can we be "dabblers" in different faith traditions and still enjoy a serious and authentic religious life?

*Nov. 23: "Blessings Known & Unknown" - Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges*

This is our annual multigenerational Thanksgiving service. We will welcome new members into our congregation at this service and kick off the annual "Guest at Your Table" collection for the UU Service Committee. Our children will also treat us to a "hunger banquet" during the service. Come celebrate the opening of the holiday season with us.

*Nov. 30: "Water & UU Principles" - Worship Leader: Julia Walle*  
Julia Walle, who participated in this summer's UULM Young Adult Water Justice road trip, will share her experiences of the people and places that the group visited during the nine day trip, and how it helped her to find a voice and put into action the UU Principles she identifies with the most.



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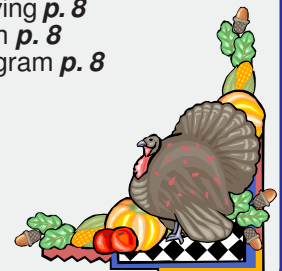
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# November Planner 2008

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](mailto:uucc@cwnet.com).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Sat Supper RE Halloween Party 12-6 *AAE/JG@ 6pm
<b>2</b> Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11:00 am Newcomer Welcome between services Daylight Savings Time - Fall Back	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Daytimers 10am at church	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Men's Group 9am
<b>9</b> Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11:00 am UU Cafe after church	<b>10</b> Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Daytimers 10am at church	<b>14</b> Action Auction Setup Day 6-9pm	<b>15</b> ***ACTION AUCTION** 5-9pm Newsletter Deadline
<b>16</b> Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11:00 am RE Meeting after church FinanceMtg 12pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Daytimers 10am at church Board Mtg 7:15pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Theatre Group 8pm
<b>23</b> Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11:00 am *AAE/MKM&JC @ 1-6pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Orphan Thanksgiving 3-6 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>						

\*AAE indicates an Action Auction Event.

## Worship Support Schedule

	Altar	Greeters	Lighters	Ushers
11/2	Karen Gunderson	Sybil Lawson	Martina F.G.	Jim Eastman
11/9	Sonia Duffoo	Sybil Lawson	Annika L.	Jim Eastman
11/16	Judi Schafer	Sybil Lawson	Miley N.	Jim Eastman
11/23	Edie O'Laughlin	Sybil Lawson	TBD	Jim Eastman
11/30	Celia Buckley	Sybil Lawson	Monty N.	Jim Eastman

# Grace Notes

## Harvest Home



Thanksgiving, that uniquely American holiday, celebrates harvest – a harvest that, unless we live and work on a farm, is far removed from contemporary America. With fruits and vegetables available year-round at the grocery store and an international assortment of breads available at the nearest bakery, we still pay tribute to our rural past at this time of year by displaying gourds that are purely ornamental and roasting an enormous bird that comes “pre-basted” and provides more leftovers than anyone really wants or knows what to do with.

Clearly, there’s something about the idea of “harvest” that transcends our current reality and speaks to us on a deeper level. Maybe it’s simply the need to have a party as the days get shorter and colder – a sort of consolation prize for the passing of summer. I think there’s more to it, though.

Thanksgiving is about gratitude for the successful completion of labors, gratitude for the fruits of our efforts. In a service economy, our labors are seldom if ever completed, and their fruits are most likely intangible. Maybe that’s why we love the idea of Thanksgiving. It’s pretty hard these days to see how we’re bringing the harvest home .... But that doesn’t mean that we long any less for that sense of accomplishment and the security of knowing that we will be safe through the winter – through the barren and dark periods of our lives.

So, this month as you defrost the Butterball and swing by Raley’s to pick up the pumpkin pie or send grandma a Thanksgiving email and switch on the football game, you may want to take a moment to think about what you’ve harvested this year and about what you’ve stored away in your virtual pantry to see you through the hard times. Maybe your teenage daughter is still speaking to you, despite the fights and sullen silences. You have worked for this bond of love. Celebrate it. Maybe you still have a job, even if it’s not what you planned to be doing back when your options seemed limitless. You have proved yourself to be adaptable and resourceful. Celebrate this. Maybe you have taught yourself a hard lesson and found meaning and grace where you least expected it – in a hospital room, sleepless nights, rejection, or disappointment and loss.

Celebrate the harvest of love and patience, and of endurance and hard lessons. These will see you through the winter.

~ Martha Hodges, Minister

# President's Message

## Board Update

Dear Congregation,

Our Action Auction is fast approaching. I hope to see all of you there for fun, fellowship and fundraising! I will spend just a minute giving you an update on the workings of your new Board. In September, we had a day long retreat. We did some of the usual retreat warm up stuff: spending time getting to know one another and discovering our work styles through interesting exercises. Then we moved into a more serious mode where we began to discuss strategies.

You may recall from multiple meetings last year, our discussion of the ministries of Welcoming, Serving, Nurturing and Empowering. We spent a lot of time discussing these ministries and the organizational structure of our church. Some of the question we asked ourselves: How does our current organizational structure support these ministries? Should we be organized differently to better support them? Do we have every thing we need or are functions missing? Through that process, the Board developed its perspective on the matter, but the Board's opinion is not the only one that counts. We look forward to discussing this with the congregation at a future community meeting and beyond.

In addition to the discussion on ministries, we also developed a list of goals for the year. Needless to say, there is always plenty to do and the list is quite long. The Board will work on prioritizing this list at future Board meetings. That is the update from the Board. See you at the Action Auction!

~ Marion Randall, President

## Committee on Ministry

### About the Committee on Ministry

Reverend Martha Hodges is our full-time, settled minister who is here to serve us in many capacities including offering us spiritual and administrative guidance, and being the representative of our church in the greater community. It's been more than a year since she joined our church family.

How is she doing? Is she doing enough? Too much? Or is she focusing her efforts on matters other than what you had hoped? Just what does a full-time minister spend all her time doing, anyway?

These and many other questions are important, but may be difficult to politely ask her directly or may be best answered by an objective third party. This is what the Committee on Ministry is for. The CoM is the minister's liaison to the board and congregation which fosters constructive and objective communication between her and our church. The committee consists of Reverend Martha, Tom Rintoul (chair), Celia Buckley, and Jim Eastman.

If you have questions, comments or advice regarding Reverend Martha and her job, the eyes and ears of the Committee on Ministry are here for you. You may contact us at church (our name tags have special black plaques indicating Committee on Ministry), by phone, or email. Our growth together is strongest as we speak together with kindness and sincerity.

## RE News

### This Month's RE Schedule

The Religious Education (RE) November schedule:

#### Little's

- 11/2/2008 Gayle Newman  
Herbology Kids, Awesome Stuff
- 11/9/2008 Susan Lange  
History of UU Magic, John Murray
- 11/16/2008 Rose Nelsenador  
Care of Magikal Creatures, Zoo Kit, Amphibians
- 11/23/2008 Julia Walle  
Hunger Banquet, Divination
- 11/30/2008 John Sugar  
Defense Against Dark Arts - A Bully Free Environment Part 2

#### Middle's

- 11/2/2008 Candy Wood  
Herbology, Kids Awesome Stuff
- 11/9/2008 Annette Emery  
Care of Magical Creatures, Zoo Kit, Amphibians
- 11/16/2008 Tom Rintoul  
History of UU Magic - John Murray
- 11/23/2008 Julia Walle  
Hunger Banquet, Divination
- 11/30/2008 Paula Braxton  
Defense Against Dark Arts - A Bully Free Environment Part 2



## RE Meeting

The next RE Committee meeting will be held on Sunday, November 16 after church. If you have any questions, contact Annette Emery.

## Cranes & Words of Love

Our children responded to the tragedy at the Tennessee Valley UU Church by making paper cranes and cards for the two congregations affected by the shooting. The Tennessee Valley UU Church and the Westside UU Church each sent a thank you note to our children expressing their appreciation for the cranes and the words of love sent across the country from one UU congregation to another. The notes will be on the bulletin board for all to read.

## OWL Fundraising

The monthly UU Café has been a success in bringing people together after church and raising money to send volunteers to Our Whole Lives (OWL) training. The next UU Café will be after church on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and will feature homemade chili with cornbread. A huge thank you to Gayle Newman and Sybil Lawson for organizing the October UU Café salad bar and to everyone who donated food for the lunch.

## Helping Hands



## Share the Plate

In September, our "Share the Plate" generated a \$99.00 donation to the Loaves & Fishes Maryhouse program, a daytime shelter for homeless women and children. The program provides personal attention to women who need help with identity issues through intense short-term counseling with a goal of helping them take the next step toward independence and self-sufficiency. Other women guests, especially the mentally ill or chemically dependant, are provided with long-term assistance. The goal of the program is to help give each homeless woman the necessary tools to live independently in a home of her own with her children.



"Thank you for your recent gift of \$119.45. Your contribution helps us to celebrate and sustain our accomplishments this past year including the introduction of the HPV vaccine that protects girls and young women against cervical cancer; providing emergency contraception over the counter to both men and women; and helping local teen mothers stay in school and maintain their families at one child."

--- Planned Parenthood (8/25/08)

## Thank You Notes

The following messages are from the recipients of UUCC's latest contributions.

"Thank you for your gift on 6/3/2008 in the amount of \$125.75 to the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Sacramento SPCA). Together, we are making a very positive impact on the lives of both animals and people in the greater Sacramento region. Thank you once again for your generous support."

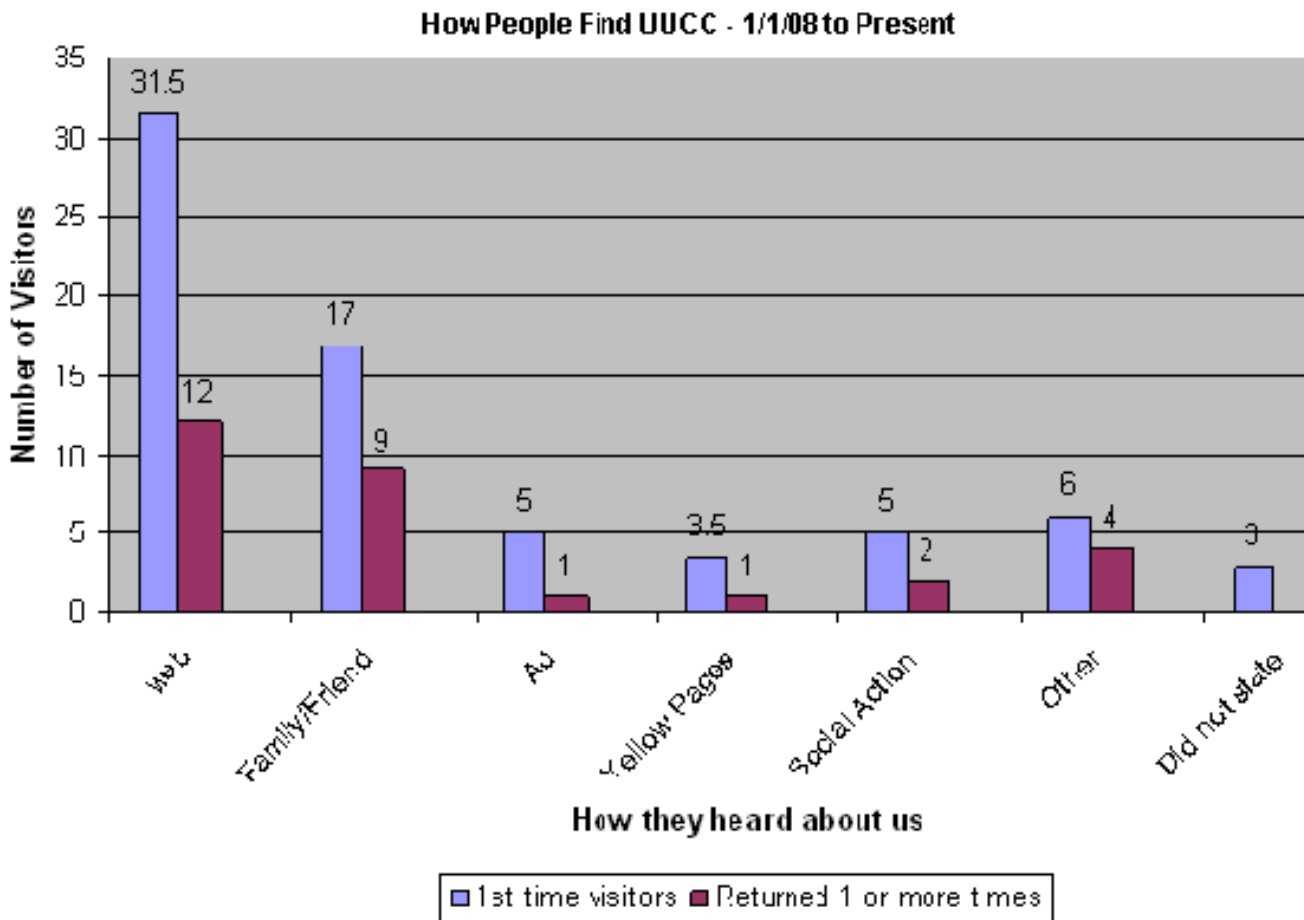
--- Sacramento SPCA (10/15/08)

"Please accept our belated thank you for your generous support of our efforts to educate and advocate on issues of social justice. Unitarian Universalist Community Church contributed \$270 on April 8, 2008. Your contribution is greatly appreciated."

--- UULM (8/20/08)

We are recognized as a very friendly congregation. Between 40 and 45 percent of those who visit us return at least once. These are phenomenal statistics! Linda Laskowski, the statistics guru from the Berkeley congregation, has never seen return rates above 40 percent. This is the best of the best, nationwide! It is very heartening to look around on a Sunday morning and see our newcomers engaged in conversation with so many different people. Thank you! You are helping grow UUism and we have the added bonus of getting to know so many wonderful people who are searching for others with shared values.

Ever wonder how newcomers find us? Below is a chart showing how visitors found us and how many of those returned one or more times:



As you can see, most people find us via the web. Hearing about us via family/friends is the second leading way people find us. The “Other” category tends to be people who are already local UUs and have always known about us. For those who find us in two ways, for example, the web and the Yellow Pages, they are counted as a half person each. Hence, there are some fractions in the numbers above.

It is interesting to note the following statistics:

- 53 % of those who find us via family/friends returned at least once
- 38 % of those who find us via the web returned at least once

We will be working to help those who find us via the web to feel more at home and welcomed.

Thank you to all those who help new visitors feel comfortable. All of you who are new to us, we thank you for being a part of us. We welcome you and we would love for you to be a permanent part of our community.

## Ongoing Activities



### Daytimers Group

Daytimers is a discussion group that meets every Thursday from 10-12 noon. We are pleased to welcome people of all ages to join us for lively talk, good company, and lunch at a local restaurant afterwards. The current topic is "Varieties of Scientific Experience" by Carl Sagan. If interested, please get in touch with Dick Tarble.

### Saturday Supper

Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. The next dinner is on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. 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. 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 for October: Sybil and Doug Lawson, and Frieda and Lloyd Fergus. Please contact Terri Riley if you can host or are interested in coming to our November potluck.

### Theatre Group

We will see "Greetings" by Tom Pondudzick at UUSS on 2425 Sierra Blvd., Saturday, Nov. 22 at 8 PM. Optional dinner at 6 PM (\$15). The play is about a family whose son plans to marry a woman of a different religion. "Thoughtful, enjoyable, good entertainment." Reservations (\$10 & \$8) to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, November 16.

## Passages

### Loving Sympathy

Our loving sympathy goes out to Gayle Newman and her family on the passing of her father last month. We wish them all peace and comfort.

## The Green Corner



### Be Green, Give It Away!

As a world renowned 'throwaway society' America tosses approximately 245 million tons of garbage every year. This is an opportunity to promote both our Unitarian Universalist ecological growth as well as spiritual growth. In the event that there is something that you no longer want and are willing to part with, there are numerous means to route that item away from a landfill and into the hands of someone else who can somehow benefit from the use of that item.

For instance, it is hardly possible to pass by a street corner or grocery store parking lot without seeing a donation box for some charity or another. Or you could actually take your items to the charity of your choice. It is also common for many religious organizations to hold community garage sales as fundraisers. A traditional method would be to simply place the item at the end of a driveway or other common area with a sign affixed stating "free". Another option, through the wonders of the Internet, is the use of social groups or websites, such as Freecycle on Yahoo and Craigslist, which allow individuals to post items they no longer want or need. By using these tools, you are alleviated of the hassle to drop off your unwanted or no longer needed items. Buyers come to your home and take the items away! This saves you time, money and reduces your carbon footprint.

So, with the global community in mind and with respect for the interdependent web of all existence, think about these things: Reduce the amount of trash you discard by allowing others to reuse items you no longer need. This form of recycling is beneficial to the planet and those of us sharing it with you.

~ UUCC Carbon Ring Group

## Special Events



### Get Me to the Church on Time

Daylight Savings Time ends in the wee hours of Sunday, November 2. When your body is telling you it's time for church, your clock will be telling you that you have another hour. So enjoy that second cup of coffee, but don't go back to sleep!

### New Member Ceremony

If you have been thinking about becoming a member of UCC, this would be a good time to do so! A New Member Recognition Ceremony will be part of our 11 AM service on November 23. Please contact Martha if you would like to make a formal commitment to our church in this way. We would love to count you among our members!

### "Orphan" Thanksgiving



If you are contemplating spending Thanksgiving alone or would just like to spend time with your UCC friends on that day, come join us for a Thanksgiving potluck, Nov. 27 from 3-6 PM. We are making a special effort to include GLBT folks from the larger community who do not feel welcome at their family's table that day. Please consider joining us to help make one and all feel welcome here. If you are able to provide a turkey, ham or other main dish item, please contact Leslie Gladney. If you can help with setting up, serving, or in any other way, please let her know as well. Otherwise, just bring whatever the spirit moves you to bring and enjoy sharing the blessing of fellowship!

### 2008 Action Auction

The Action Auction is approaching fast - only 2 more weeks to the big day on Saturday, November 15 from 5 to 9 PM! The entry fee is \$9.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. The fee will cover dinner and childcare. Here are some types of items that people can bid on: tickets to a sporting event, concert or play, house sitting, home repair services, artwork, hosted lunches or dinners, pool parties, or taxi service.

Would you like to help at the auction? We need lots of help with ticket sales/accounting, setup/cleanup, auctioneer, children's entertainment/childcare. Setup Day for the auction is on Friday evening (November 14<sup>th</sup>) from 6 to 9 PM. To volunteer, contact Merry Walle or Terry De Crescenzo.

### Coming of Age Program

Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento (UUSS) is holding the Coming of Age (COA) program this year and all youth in grades 8 through 10 from UCC are invited to join. COA has been called the UU equivalent of Confirmation and Bat or Bar Mitzvah. The 7 month program helps adolescents discern for themselves what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, individually and as part of the larger faith community. The program involves individual activities, family participation, and working with a mentor. COA is in addition to the regular youth programs at UUSS with its own schedule and separate registration. Components of the program include personal challenge, credo statement, mentors, service to UUSS, service to community, fundraising and the now-famous trip to UUA headquarters and historic churches in Boston, MA. The program is not an end to spiritual searching; it is an official recognition that the youth involved have begun to search for personal truth. Coming of Age is truly a rite of passage. An informational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 9 from 1:00 - 2:00 PM in room 7/8 on the UUSS campus (2425 Sierra Blvd). A parent/youth/mentor dessert potluck is planned for Sunday, November 23, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the Sophia Lyon Fahs room, also on the UUSS campus. To register your child or children for this exceptional program, please contact COA Leader, David Libby. You can read more about the Coming of Age program on the UUSS website at <http://uuss.org/RE/COA.pdf>.

# 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

## 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](mailto:uucc@cwnet.com) by the 15th of each month.

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

### Website

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UUC office 689-2008 or [uucc@cwnet.com](mailto:uucc@cwnet.com)

Editorial Advisor - website:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

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

Minister's Hours: By appointment only (minister's sabbath on Tuesday)

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[uucc\\_minister@frontiernet.net](mailto:uucc_minister@frontiernet.net)

Director of Religious Education:

Paula Braxton 689-2008 [uucc@cwnet.com](mailto:uucc@cwnet.com)

Board of Trustees:

*President:* Marion Randall

*Vice President:* John Sugar

*Secretary:* Richard Leimbach

*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:* Martha Carlson

*Membership:* Rev. Martha Hodges

*Religious Education:* Annette Emery

*Stewardship:* Celia Buckley

*Worship:* Jim Skow

*Justice Coordinating Team:* Julia Walle,

Antonio Gonzalez

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**  
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Sacramento, CA 95828

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**U2C2 Connection**  
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