

U2C2 Connection

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

Worship Services *UUCC worship services are held every Sunday at 10:30am.*

Sunday, October 7, 10:30am

"What We Worship, We Become"

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "A person will worship something – have no doubt about that... It behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping, we are becoming." This morning, Martha will share her ideas about worship. Who or what do we UUs worship? Is this word even appropriate to use to describe what we do here on Sunday mornings? And if it is, how should we be worshipping?

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Lucy Bunch

Sunday, October 14, 10:30am

"Now is the time: Association Sunday"

This morning, we will join with thousands of Unitarian Universalists across the nation to celebrate our shared commitment to our faith. In the belief that the world needs us and what we can offer, the Unitarian Universalist Association is leading congregations in a special effort to reach out to the larger world and grow in numbers, depth of commitment and breadth of influence. To this end, we will be taking a special collection dedicated to the growth and vitality of our congregations. Bring your checkbook and be ready to give joyfully and generously so that our congregations may thrive!

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Jim Skow

Sunday, October 21, 10:30am

"Chalice Circles"

UU theologian Thandeka speaks of small group ministries like the chalice circle gatherings at our church as engaging in the spiritual practice of "opening up time and giving it the texture, content, feelings, and ideas." She says, "this way of packing time with detail and dimension, slowing it down by filling it up with the full presence of life, is the essence of every spiritual practice" and this conscious cultivation of "sacred time" is why chalice circle gatherings like the ones that will begin again at our church this fall are rapidly spreading through our congregation. Please come and join us in this "sacred time" as we reflect upon chalice circles.

Worship Leader: Jenn Richard/Worship Associate: MK Menard

Sunday, October 28, 10:30am

"They Are with Us Still"

As the calendar marks the coming together of All Souls Day, the Day of the Dead and Halloween, we will celebrate the lives and grieve the loss of our loved ones who have died. As winter nears, we will seek comfort in our shared acknowledgement of this universal human experience of loss.

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges/Worship Associate: Nina Weiler-Harwell

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October 2007

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

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

Worship Support Schedule

Altar
10/07 Toni Darling
10/14 Jim Eastman
10/21 Peter Morse
10/28 Gene Anderson

Greeters
Sonia Duffoo & Rebecca Fain
Sonia Duffoo & Eric Walle
Sonia Duffoo & Cris Morales
Sonia Duffoo & TBD

Lighters
Alex R.
James L.
Lawrence H.W.
Jacob N.

Ushers
Georgene Tarble
Georgene Tarble
Georgene Tarble
Georgene Tarble



Hospitality Host Schedule

10/07 Tonie Darling
10/14 TBA
10/21 TBA
10/28 Nina Weiler



Grace Notes: Welcoming the Stranger

Rev. Martha Hodges, UUCU Minister



Did you ever find yourself sitting across the table from a friend, or even a loved one, and being struck by the realization that this person – this Other – has an entire life, an entire universe – that exists independently from you? A whole world of thoughts, sense perceptions and past experiences that have nothing to do with you. It's a disorienting realization.

Even if you share many common experiences with that person, when filtered through each of your unique personalities, these shared events may be quite different. Even that very moment, while the two of you are sitting together sipping coffee and chatting – even that moment is experienced as if by inhabitants of different worlds. As in fact, they are. We each create the world of our reality that can't quite be shared.

Artists may be able to express that personal reality. We may enter into the other reality of our children from time to time. Maybe identical twins can do it. But most of us are strangers to each other at this deep level. There are undoubtedly aspects of our inner lives that we share with no one – not even with those who love and know us best. There may even be – and I hope there are – facets of your personality you yourself have yet to discover. We are all mysteries. This is a great gift – the source of potential compassion and also the source of great loneliness.

One way people seek to bridge this existential loneliness is by joining churches. Surveys on why people come to Unitarian Universalist churches show that the majority of us come looking for community. The one factor most influencing a visitor's decision to keep coming

back is the creation of new friendships. Forming relationships at church takes time — time spent doing things together, celebrating life together in worship and in shared work, attending social functions and taking part in discussions, putting faces with names and letting your ideas be heard. But first impressions, as your mother may have mentioned, are very important.

A recent visitor told me that UUCU is the friendliest church she has ever attended. So I may be preaching to the choir when I say that we are all called to help our newcomers feel at home with us, but I would hazard a guess that UU congregations harbor more than their share of introverts. I'm one of them! For many of us, small talk does not come easily. Chances are that it's not easy for the visitors among us, either. Noticing them and speaking with them is not only the kind thing to do, it is also the only way that we can build our community and live out our UU commitment to inclusivity and acceptance of others. For suggestions on how you might do this, see "Help for the Introvert" below.

Remember the times you visited a new church. Perhaps you can recall standing around at coffee hour, feeling shy and uncertain and left out. We don't forget that feeling of being the "outsider" - the "new kid in school." Our goal should be that no one ever feels that way among us. The presence of "strangers" among us truly is a gift. Let us treat them accordingly.

Help for the Introvert

If you are one of those among us whose intentions are good, but who feel awkward approaching a stranger at church, maybe these few suggestions will help. (These may seem obvious to you extroverted "people-persons" out there, but may not come naturally to everyone.)

Look for an unfamiliar face and introduce yourself (saying, "I don't believe we've met," rather than "Are you new here?") avoids that awkward moment of finding out that the other is a longtime visitor or even a fellow member). Ask if the person lives in the area. This will let you know whether he or she is looking for a church or simply passing through town. Either

way, it will help to get the conversation going.

Ask if this is their first visit, and if not, ask them about their impressions so far and if they have any questions about what they've observed or experienced. If it is their first visit, ask, "What brings you here today?" (Not "Why did you come?") Try to find out if the person is "shopping" for a church and let them know that this is perfectly okay. Ask if they are familiar with Unitarian Universalism and invite them to tell you what they are hoping to find in a church. If they are "unchurched" or from another tradition, offer to try to answer any questions they may have about UUism or to introduce them to someone who can answer their questions.

If they have children with them, make sure they know where their child's classroom is located and that their child is welcome to stay with them during the service if they prefer.

Invite them to sit with you at the service. If you see someone you don't know sitting alone in the service, sit nearby. Say hello and introduce yourself. Try to get a sense of whether they would welcome further conversation and act accordingly.

After the service, make sure they get some coffee—and stay close by. Offer to introduce them to the minister. Introduce them to others standing nearby or to people with whom you think they may have something in common, and then stay and talk.

You might want to look over the bulletin announcements with them, answer any questions about the notices it contains and invite them to come with you to a special event.

Offer to look for them next time they come. If you're comfortable doing so, offer your phone number so they can plan to meet you before the service next time. Tell them you are glad they came and look forward to seeing them again.

And, of course, if you sense that all this attention is making them uncomfortable, just tell them it was nice to meet them and let them be.

Clinical Pastoral Education

Jackie Kelly, UUC Community Minister

It's hard to believe I have been at the Sacramento VA Medical Center for a whole year! As your community minister, I am the chaplain at the VA and also supervise chaplain interns in the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program. To give you a little background into what CPE is, its standards state that "the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education is a professional association committed to advancing experience-based theological education for seminarians, clergy and lay persons of diverse cultures, ethnic groups and faith traditions." What this means to me is that I work with people of various ages and ethnicities from different backgrounds, beliefs and ways of looking at the world – not unlike our Unitarian Universalist congregations – to offer them an educational experience in providing spiritual care to people who are injured, ill or dying; their families and loved ones; hospital staff and volunteers; the students' peers and supervisors; and equally important - themselves.

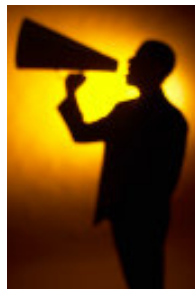
The Sacramento VA Medical Center is a small hospital with 50 patient beds comprised of a medical/surgical unit and an ICU; it also has an emergency department and numerous outpatient clinics that serve veterans with needs associated with substance abuse, mental health difficulties (many veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder), homelessness, chronic pain and women's health issues to name a few. This facility also serves veterans in their homes and in area nursing homes and has a state-of-the-art research center. The Sacramento VA is part of the VA Northern California Health Care System, which has medical facilities in Chico, Fairfield, Mare Island, Oakland, Redding and at McClellan Air Force Base. In addition, there is a 120-bed rehabilitative and extended care facility in Martinez. CPE students currently have clinical assignments in Sacramento and Martinez.

I am between CPE units this month and am gearing up for another group of interns. The diverse beliefs and experiences these people bring to the CPE program make it a very full, interesting and sometimes challenging

endeavor. Some of the students I have supervised include an Evangelical Christian, a gay Independent Catholic priest from the Chamorro tribe in Guam, a Franciscan brother, a female Episcopal seminarian and a Roman Catholic diocesan seminarian from Honduras. Next unit, my class will include an Esoteric Christian minister with a background in Sufism. My primary goal last year was getting the CPE program started. I supervised a 6-month extended CPE unit and a 3-month summer unit, each totaling over 400 hours of education and clinical experience. This year I plan to increase the number of students per unit from 3 to 4; begin building a library for the CPE program; continue to expand the program in terms of recruiting people from diverse faiths, providing new venues for students' clinical experience and furthering the exposure of other hospital disciplines (i.e. nurses, social workers, doctors, psychologists and housekeeping services) to the CPE program; and develop the value of spiritual care in a multi-disciplinary health care setting.

UUCC's moral support of this ministry has been invaluable to me. I so appreciate and enjoy your interest in the veterans and their families, the CPE program and the chaplaincy department. I have been especially gifted by a wonderful support committee: Jane Churchon, Mary Helen Doherty, M.K. Menard, and Georgene and Dick Tarble. I thank you all and I look forward to our continued partnership.

Raise Our UU Voices **Marion Randall, UUCC President**



Dear Congregation,

The month of October provides many opportunities for us as individuals and as a congregation to raise our UU voices and live the principles that are at the heart of our faith. In my message to you this month, I thought I would tell you about a couple of opportunities

and encourage your participation.

Through the UULM (UU Legislative Ministry) – Marriage Equality

Marriage equality issues are ramping up. An opportunity has presented itself for straight UUs to support GLBT rights and gain some positive publicity in the process. A nationwide witness is being organized called “Seven Straight Nights” (pun intended) from October 7-14. The first movers on this were Atticus Circle and Soulforce, but UUs are also becoming active across the state. Take a look at this link to get a sense of www.sevenstraightnights.org. Basically, tag teams of straight allies do a night time vigil (in shifts) one night during that week - some groups are doing all nighters (with young adults and college students taking the wee hours) and others are doing a more limited evening vigil. Several of our sister churches have folks who are interested in participating and perhaps you are too. Rev. Martha is participating and serving as our group coordinator, so if you are interested in supporting marriage equality in this simple way, please contact her.

Association Sunday, October 14th

In my first news letter message to you I talked generally about the experience of attending General Assembly (GA) and how great it is to feel connected to some thing larger than yourself or even you own congregation. I talked about finding ways to bring a little bit of that GA experience to our congregation. Association Sunday provides the first opportunity to do this.

Association Sunday's are a request by the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) for all congregations to recognize and support in spirit and financially, the national work of the Association. We envision a day, an “Association Sunday” during which thousands of UUs across the nation are simultaneously celebrating our shared commitment to Unitarian Universalism. The funds raised on this Sunday will support the national marketing and growth projects. A portion of these funds will be set aside for grants to congregations who wish to enable their own growth projects. UUA President, Bill Sinkford believes strongly that “Now Is the Time” to share our faith message

with a national marketing campaign. An awareness campaign will help seekers looking for a liberal religious home to find us. This is a great opportunity for us to support the work that individuals, congregations and UUA are currently doing to share the “good news” of UUism.

I know that Rev. Martha has a special service planned for this occasion. I hope to see all of you there.

In service,
Marion

UUCC Publicity Project Receives PCD Funding

A publicity proposal crafted by the UUCC Membership Committee has secured a \$1000 grant from the Pacific Central District Growth Committee. UUCC was one of seven Bay Area “commuter” congregations identified by PCD as eligible for these one-time funds, which are designated for publicity projects that “echo” the Bay Area Regional Marketing campaign launched on September 10. Modeled on successful efforts in Kansas City, Houston and Southern California, the Bay Area campaign is the joint effort of seventeen congregations who have raised \$300,000 for a media mix that includes print, radio, cable TV, transit billboards and direct mail advertising.

The grant to UUCC, in addition to \$500 from the Membership committee budget, will be used for a combination of direct mail and newspaper advertising. The centerpiece of the campaign is a postcard developed by UUA that reads in part, “Imagine a religion that embraces many beliefs – including yours.” PCD is providing the graphics at no cost, reducing production expenses and freeing funds to extend the scope of the project. Our campaign, focused (as you might imagine) on southern Sacramento County, will run from mid-October into December. Recipients will be invited to visit UUCC and directed to our web site for additional information.

Anticipating a growing volume of newcomers, Rev. Martha and the Membership Committee

are working to strengthen and expand the UUCC Welcoming System. Rev. Martha will be making herself available to speak with newcomers following each service, and the committee is developing an orientation program and a strategy for following up with recent visitors, but the hallmark of a truly successful UUCC Welcoming System will be widespread congregational involvement. To learn how you can participate, contact Eric Walle by phone or by email.

It’s Photo Session Time!

If you haven’t already, now is the time to sign up for your professional photo session for our new UUCC photo directory. Professional photographers will be here on Sept. 30 and Oct 1, but the time slots are filling up fast. If by chance we missed you, please let us know right away! We want you in our directory, whether you are a member, friend or a visitor that is serious about our church.

To sign up or for last minute changes, please contact Laura Osborne. You will receive a reminder call and we will be double checking the accuracy of your contact information. Your photo session will last about one hour. In that time, you will be professionally photographed, immediately view your portraits, and if you wish, purchase additional portraits.

Benefits of participating are:

- There is no obligation to purchase your portraits, but you may if you wish. If you are interested in purchasing, there are many options, such as “touch ups”, black/white, greeting cards, and traditional photos.
- Each photographed household will receive a free 8x10 portrait, plus a UUCC photo directory.

What to wear? It’s best to keep it simple. Simple long-sleeved garments in medium to dark tones look good against the portrait backgrounds. Be careful of clothing with busy patterns, especially if it clashes with others in your photo.

If Laura can answer any of your questions, please feel free to contact her.

Theatre Group



Where's Martha?



Rev. Martha will be out of town October 2-4 in order to attend our District meeting of the UU Ministers' Association. She will also be taking a week of vacation October 20-27. She will be available in case of emergency.

The Theatre Group will see "The Time of Your Life" at 8:00pm on Friday, October 12 at the Art Court Theatre (12th Avenue & Freeport Boulevard). Reservations (\$15 and \$10) to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, October 7.

Women's Group

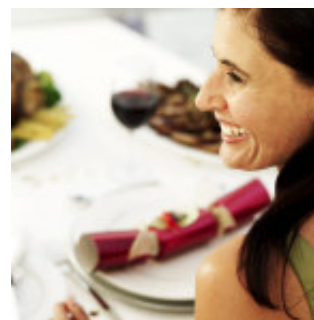
The Women's Group has been meeting monthly for around 8 years. The time has come to decide the next phase for our long-running group. The Women's Group will be meeting on Sunday, October 21 at the home of Beverly Boido at 4:00pm. Please call Beverly for directions and to let her know that you are attending. We invite all women to join in the conversation and share their ideas.

Save this Night – October 13

UUCU and other area UUs will be participating in an all-night vigil at the State Capitol in support of equal marriage rights for LGBT couples. This effort is part of a nation-wide action led by the organization Marriage Equality. It's being called "Seven Straight Nights" and it's a play on words. It is an opportunity for straight (i.e. heterosexual) allies to advocate on behalf of their gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, and on behalf of all of us who want to live and love in a world in which all are treated with dignity and equality.

Our night to join in this vigil is Saturday, October 13th. More information will follow soon. In the meantime, if you'd like to take a shift in this vigil (you don't have to stay all night), please let Rev. Martha know. She promises a fun and inspiring time!

Second Saturday Supper



The people who host these suppers are greatly appreciated. In September, our hosts were Sonia Duffoo and Terri Riley/Richard Leimbach. Thank you very much. The next supper is October 13th. If you would like to attend or host, please contact Gene Anderson.

Religious Education Program

The UUCC children's Religious Education (RE) program started on September 16. The theme this year is Judeo-Christian history and bible stories. The children will learn how Unitarian Universalism grew out of Judeo-Christian practices and beliefs. This is a great opportunity to take a fresh look at bible stories and discuss them with our children. The focus, along with bible stories, will be on activities that will enhance the lessons and interest the children. If you are interested in participating as a teacher or helper in RE, please contact Annette Emery.

Message From Sister Magdalen



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous check for \$346.25 in aid of the poor of Oaxaca.

The first week in August we had some indigenous young ladies with us for a short course in self-esteem, the Bible, and Soya hamburgers. I invited two of them who already finished their Jr. High Studies to return in September to initiate a continued education program at a center nearby where they offer secretarial courses, cooking, sewing and hairstyling.

Your donation will be used to defray the expenses of this educational program. They will be free to choose whatever course appeals to them.

We have a special dormitory for four young ladies who can stay with us and we also provide their meals. All expenses are paid for by our Fund for the Poor.

May God bless all of you for your generosity. "As long as you did it to one of these, the least of my little ones, you did it to me." You know how to make Jesus' words come alive.

Blessings and gratitude,
Sister Magdalen Kilbane

Camellia Symphony Association Sends Thank You

Dear Unitarian Universalist Community Church,

On behalf of the Camellia Symphony Association I would like to extend our utmost gratitude for your chair sponsorship for our 45th season. Your support makes it possible for the Camellia Symphony Orchestra to continue to provide wonderful music to the Sacramento region. Through our adventuresome programming and educational outreach activities, the Camellia Symphony remains a unique addition to the artistic and cultural circles of the Sacramento region.

Donation: \$125.00
Received: August 28, 2007

Roberta McClellan
General Manager
Camellia Symphony Orchestra



Fun Facts

Ever wonder how people find our church? Of the 33 households that came since January 1st:

45% found us via the web

27% found us via a friend or family member

15% found us via the Yellow Pages

3% other

1% unknown

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

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Nancy Flagg 689-2008 or uucc@cwnet.com

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Minister's Hours: Mon/Wed/Thu 12am-3pm (and by appointment)

Leadership

Minister:

Rev. Martha Hodges, 689-2073

uucc_minister@frontiernet.net

Director of Religious Education:

[to be determined]

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: Celia Buckley

Committee on Ministry: Tom Rintoul, Richard

Leimbach, Celia Buckley

Finance Committee: Mark Callicotte

Membership Committee: Eric Walle (chair)

Openers/Closers Supervisor: [to be determined]

Religious Education Committee: Annette Emery

Social Action (Bag Days): Celia Buckley

Worship Committee: Lucy Bunch (chair)

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.



Unitarian Universalist Community Church
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