

U2C2 Connection

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

A Month of Sundays

Worship Services

9:30 AM Meditative Service [every Sunday]

The theme of our contemplative services in the month of October is "Autumn." Come join us in meditation upon the ways that the dying of summer with its autumn leaves, migrations of birds, and celebration of harvest and hearth inspire our lives.

11:00 AM Traditional Service

Oct. 5: Association Sunday

Our lay leaders will present a service on the bonds that unite Unitarian Universalists and our need for one another as we seek to become a more influential voice for reason, tolerance and compassion in this world. The theme of this year's annual Association Sunday is "Growing in Spirit." A special collection will be taken to support theological educational offerings for lay persons and clergy, and projects encouraging excellence in ministry. Please bring your checkbook and be as generous as you can as we contribute in this way to the future of our movement.

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Oct. 12: "The Wolf at the Door"

Recent events in the worlds of national and global finance have us all worrying. Might we be in store for some true economic hardship — personal or national want — or both? Rev. Martha will share some reflections on poverty and the fear of poverty, and how we might remain spiritually and socially grounded during lean times.

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Oct. 19: "Living Lonely"

The author Thomas Wolfe wrote that loneliness "is the central and inevitable fact of human existence." Whether or not it is central to us, it certainly is inevitable — or so it would seem. Rev. Martha will consider the many faces of loneliness and our human attempts to deny it, banish it from our lives or celebrate its gifts.

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

Oct. 26: "Three Sermons That Shaped Our Faith: Channing's Baltimore Sermon"

Imagine hearing a sermon — or preaching one, for that matter — that, for generations to come, would be cited as a turning point in your religion. Such a sermon, entitled "Unitarian Christianity," was presented by William Ellery Channing in 1819. Rev. Martha will consider what was so revolutionary about this sermon and what, if anything, it means to us today.

Worship Leader: Rev. Martha Hodges

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October Planner 2008

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Daytimers 10am at church	3	4 Sat Supper
5 Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11:00 am	6	7 "No On 8" Phone Bank 6-9pm	8	9 Daytimers 10am at church Board Mtg 7:15pm	10	11
12 Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11:00 am Harry Potter Game & Talk Time after church Newcomer Welcome between services	13 Membership Committee Mtg 7-9pm	14 "No On 8" Phone Bank 6-9pm	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Daytimers 10am at church	17 Theatre Group 8pm	18 Men's Group 9am *Facility Rental 1pm
19 Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11:00 am FinanceMtg 12pm	20	21 "No On 8" Phone Bank 6-9pm	22	23 Daytimers 10am at church Church Ops Mtg 7pm (offsite)	24	25
26 Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11:00 am	27	28 "No On 8" Phone Bank 6-9pm	29	30 Daytimers 10am at church	31 Happy Halloween!	

* A "Facility Rental" is when church space is reserved for a non-UUCC event at the time/date stated.

Worship Support Schedule

	Altar	Greeters	Lighters	Ushers
10//5	Tonie Darling	Tonie Darling & Julia Walle	Lindzy W.	Richard Leimbach
10/12	Jim Eastman	Tonie Darling & Julia Walle	James L.	Richard Leimbach
10/19	Peter Morse	Tonie Darling & Julia Walle	Jacob N.	Richard Leimbach
10/26	Gene Anderson	Tonie Darling & Julia Walle	Alex R.	Richard Leimbach

Rev. Martha will be out of town Oct. 1-6. In the event of a pastoral emergency, contact the office. If you need on-the-spot care during this week, call her to arrange for a qualified helper to meet with you.

Insisting on Hope

As I write this, our neighbors in Louisiana and Texas are once again gathering the remnants of their lives scattered by Hurricane Ike and beginning yet again. Closer to home, we are anxiously monitoring news of our economy as financial institutions we've taken for granted threaten to topple. Retirement funds we've been counting on may suddenly be at risk. As the national election approaches, messages from both sides demean our ideals by resorting to ugly personal attacks. At least some things never change!

But during this time of high anxiety, there is hope. We hear it again and again. The survivors of Ike say it: "We lost everything, but those are just things. We still have each other." People are learning to live with tighter budgets: vacationing at home, re-instituting family nights, dining out less, cutting back and slowing down. Again and again, we are reminded that what really matters is each other. There is something that we can rely upon, and that is the power of love. Our hope lies in love.

And at this very moment, we have the chance to affirm this – the saving and transformative power of love. When our possessions and easy way of life are threatened by natural or economic disaster, we reaffirm our basic values and find in them comfort and strength. The foundation of our shared faith is love. We proclaim the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We strive to practice justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

And, in keeping with these principles, we affirm the right of all loving and committed couples to be married. It has never been more important to put our faith into action than it is at this very moment.

Our congregation is special. Sexual orientation is virtually a non-issue among us. One of the high points of my ministry occurred during the wedding we celebrated with five same-sex couples last July, and one of the most moving moments of that ceremony occurred when we asked the gathered community to bless these unions. I asked those present to signify their support of these marriages by saying "Yes", and the response rang out, "Yes!" It was a thrilling moment – not only because it signified our love and respect for the couples being married, although this would have been enough, but it also witnessed to our faith and determination that love will prevail.

In a congregation like this one, I don't need to preach to you on the rights of gays and lesbians to be married in the eyes of the law, on the sanctity of committed love regardless of gender, or the inherent right of all citizens to be treated equally and fairly. But putting our convictions into action...that takes courage and encouragement.

Last month I spoke to you from the pulpit about our call to find and use our prophetic voices. I told you that, like the Hebrew prophet Isaiah, our lips are "touched by fire," meaning that we must surrender to this call to speak and act for justice. This is our chance to do exactly that.

Proposition 8 would eliminate the right of gay and lesbian couples to marry by amending the state constitution to state that only heterosexual couples deserve this blessing. It is not enough to vote "no" on Prop 8, though this is absolutely crucial. Those of us who affirm the full personhood of LGBT people have a special responsibility at this time. Our special responsibility is to help others see the wrongness of Prop 8. UUCG needs to make its voice heard on this issue!

Every Tuesday night between now and November 4, we are holding a phone bank in our building. I am asking you to volunteer to serve love and justice by signing up to work the phones on these occasions. If you cannot find it in yourself to make phone calls, you can still help. Talk to Karen Gunderson or Mary Helen Doherty about what you can do. There are many ways to make your voice heard. Write letters to the editor, contribute money, or get a lawn sign and a bumper sticker. Go to www.NoOnProp8.com and take the "Vow to Vote No." Talk to your relatives, friends and co-workers about why you are going to vote no.

These times call on us to delve deep into our resources of love, hope and courage...to use our prophetic voices. We cannot prevent economic hardship and natural disasters; we can only respond to them with compassion and determination. But we can do something about the forces of fear and prejudice that would write discrimination into our constitution. We can insist on fairness and respect, and equality before the law. It has never been more important to claim our own voices and our own power – the power of love — and to use them to insist on hope.

~ Martha Hodges, Minister

*May faith in the spirit of life,
Hope for the community of earth,
And love of the sacred in one another,
Be ours now and in all the days to come.
Blessed be.*

President's Message

Signs of Fall

Dear Congregation,

I don't have a lot of news or information to share, so I will just ramble on a bit.

We have completed our first month of two services. I hope that you all have had the chance to experience our early contemplative service. I have and I enjoyed it very much. I'm sure over the next few months, we will hear more about how this service is being perceived.

Next month on Nov. 15, we will have our major fundraiser known as the Action Auction. I hope you are all thinking about what you might donate and saving your money for what you might bid on.

The Board has its annual retreat in late September, so I will be able to share with you some of the outcomes of that retreat in the November newsletter.

Like others, I am struggling with balancing all the aspects of my life: work, school, home and church. The good news is that I still notice the shortening of the days and the coolness in the air that are the signs of fall. I hope you will take time to notice them too.

~ Marion Randall, President

From Your DRE

Halloween Party

Come one, come all! Bring the kids of all ages and join us on Nov. 1 at 2PM for a Halloween Costume Party. Come and have some fun, and enjoy all the costumes and festivities. There will be crafts, a cake walk and lots of creepy food to eat, including a kitty litter cake and brain surgery salad. We are looking for people to help set up, decorate, run the activities and clean up. If you would like to be in on the fun, please contact Paula Braxton.

Jr. High Conference

The Pacific Central District Young Religious Unitarian Universalist (PCD YRUU) is a long-standing youth-run organization designed to provide fun, safe, spiritual programs for youth in Northern California, Nevada, and Hawaii. Members are 14-20 years old, plus some 25+ adults who support and advise. The youth on this council hold different jobs like Treasurer or Secretary, as well as Religious Education Outreach and Social Action Coordinator. The adults on council serve in positions like Leadership Advisor or Business Advisor.

The next CON (short for Conference) is Nov. 7-9 for Junior High youth. If you are interested in attending or if you want more information, please contact Paula Braxton. You can read about CONs and YRUU at <http://pcdyruu.org/main/>.

Spirit Guides Needed

The RE department is in need of Spirit Guides. The Spirit Guide assists the teachers with crafts, helps children focus and generally has a good time in class. If you would like to be a Spirit Guide, contact Paula Braxton or Annette Emery.

First Service RE Information

As part of the first service, the RE department will be providing curriculum for the children. The curriculum for this school year will be "We Believe". They will be lessons on what UUism is about. Are you curious what this could consist of? Curious to know what UUism is about? There are Sundays available for volunteer teachers. All of the curriculum is written out. You just need to organize the lesson, print off any handouts or display items, and read the lesson ahead of time, so you know how to present it. This would be a great way for older teens to interact with younger children and earn community service hours. If interested please contact Paula Braxton.

2nd Service RE Schedule

Little's

10/5/2008 - Rose Nelsenador

- Care of Magikal Creatures
- Zoo Kit - Bird Kit

10/12/2008 - Julia Walle

- Divination
- Kids Awesome Stuff

10/19/2008 - John Sugar

- Defense Against Dark Arts
- A Bully Free Environment Part 1

10/26/2008 (Halloween) - Ernie Tomassilli

- Potions
- Pumpkin decorating

Middle's

10/5/2008 - Tom Rintoul

- History of UU Magic
- Beatrix Potter

10/12/2008 - Julia Walle

- Divination
- Kids Awesome Stuff

10/19/2008 - Paula Braxton

- Defense Against Dark Arts
- A Bully Free Environment Part 1

10/26/2008 (Halloween) - Becca Sanders

- Potions
- Pumpkin decorating

~ Paula Braxton, Dir. of Religious Education



OWL Training Fundraisers

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a program that teaches our children about human sexuality and self-esteem. The Religious Education Program (RE) is holding a series of fundraisers to send OWL facilitators to training. We hope that everyone will enjoy our RE pumpkin patch and UU Café' in support of the OWL program.

- Annette and Patrick's compost pile yielded a large crop of volunteer pumpkins. Each of these pumpkins is unique and waiting for the right person to claim and make it their own. On Sunday, Oct. 12, you will have a chance to buy a pumpkin during a silent auction after church.

- Oct. 12 is also the date of our next UU Café' where you can enjoy a wonderful lunch before attending the Harry Potter book club and discussion group.

Questions? Contact Annette Emery.

Registration

If you have not registered your child for RE, please see Annette. The registration is needed to keep track of who is attending and also gives permission for the children to go off-site with their class. Contact Annette Emery.

Hogwarts School of UU Magik

The children have started making their wands as part of the Hogwarts School of UU Magik. Each child will need a black robe for the year. Ideas to secure a robe include old graduation robes, Halloween stores, and sewing one from the black fabric that is currently on sale due to Halloween. If you are having problems finding a robe, contact Annette. We also had the children, their parents and teachers sign a contract for the year. We expect that our children will have so much fun with the curriculum that they will want to attend church and fully participate. Please remember to leave toys and electronics at home during church.

Thank You, Raley's

Raley's Supermarket has donated a \$25 gift certificate to the RE program. We will use this wonderful gift to purchase drinks and food for the UU Café.



Helping Hands

Share the Plate

UUCC's "Share the Plate" donation for August came to \$118.29. Our recipient, Creative Living Options (CLO), works with adults who manage developmental disabilities. CLO provides "Person Centered Planning" that places the individual at the center of decision-making regarding his/her service provision. CLO embraces the philosophy that every person with a disability has the right to an individualized lifestyle with the supports necessary to fully participate in community life as he or she desires.



Passages

We offer loving care and support to our members Nancy Flagg and John Sugar, both of whom lost a parent in September. A memorial service for Norine Sugar will be held at UUCC on October 18 at noon and will be followed by a luncheon.

UCC AIDS Walk Team

The annual Sacramento Valley AIDS Walk/Run was held on Sept. 14. UCC was represented by Annette Emery & Patrick Cody and son, and Tamara Faber & Antonio Gonzalez and children. They were joined by Karen Tajbl of the Auburn UU church. Karen brought along a banner to support marriage equality and encourage voting No on Proposition 8. It was a beautiful morning to walk the three miles along with approximately 2000 other walkers/runners. UCC raised over \$400 for HIV/AIDS prevention in the Sacramento area. You can still donate to this cause at www.sacvalleyaidsrunwalk.org.

Growing Together



Make Your Voice Heard

You may remember that last winter you were invited to participate in a workshop on our UU Principles and Sources, facilitated by Eric Walle and Mary Helen Doherty. In keeping with our UUA bylaws, the Principles and Sources are to be reviewed periodically and re-written as needed. Those of us at the workshop had a lively conversation that resulted in our sending a recommendation to the Commission on Appraisal.

The Commission has now compiled and considered suggestions from congregations around the country and has submitted a draft revision of the part of our UUA bylaws that states our shared principles and the sources we draw on. We are all encouraged to review these recommended changes and send our comments to the Commission, so that a final draft may be written and voted upon at the next General Assembly.

Highlights of the suggested changes include important additions to our “Sources” and their enumeration in paragraph rather than in list form; the addition of wording about the dangers of “cultural misappropriation”; and explanations of each of our “Seven Principles.”

As members of a religion without a creed, Unitarian Universalists often cite this document as evidence of the shared values that hold us together. What it says is therefore very important to how we understand and present ourselves to the world. Please take a look at the draft revision and send your comments to the Commission by October 16. You can see the document and respond online at <http://www25.uua.org/coa>.

Special Events

Association Sunday Is Coming

Last October, UCC joined over 620 UU congregations in celebrating our first annual Association Sunday. Together, we raised over 1.4 million dollars that helped to fund the national marketing campaign, the Diversity of Ministry Initiative and grants through districts for growth projects.

Plan now to be in church on Sunday, Oct. 5 when we join with thousands of Unitarian Universalists across the nation celebrating our shared commitment on this second Association Sunday. In this service, we will strengthen the bonds of our common purpose and combine our resources to make Unitarian Universalism a stronger voice for liberal religious values in our country.

The theme of this year’s effort is “Growing the Spirit.” Funds raised will be used for new lay theological education and excellence in ministry projects. The UUA is hoping our average contribution will be \$50 per person.

If you can’t attend, please send in a check – envelopes will be available at church. To donate online for Association Sunday, please go to <http://www.uua.org/giving>.

We have already taken a giant first step towards growing our faith. Let us again celebrate our connections and work to continue this important progress through an even more successful Association Sunday 2008. It’s up to all of us to work together!



Action Auction

The UUCC Action Auction is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 15 from 5 to 9 PM. Have you been thinking of what items(s) or service(s) you would like to donate? New or gently used household items, hosting a dinner, game night or pool party are always popular. So start thinking, fill out the donation form on the back of this page and email it to Merry Walle. Forms will also be available at church on Sunday. We are also looking for volunteers to help with ticket sales/accounting, raffle, setup/cleanup, auctioneer, and student's entertainment/child care. For questions or to volunteer, please contact: Merry Walle or Terry DeCrescenzo.



Honorary Recognition

UUSS is holding two special Sunday events to honor Ted Webb. Ted, who has a number of friends at UUCC, turned 90 years old in August. He will be recognized for his many years of contribution to UUSS, the community, and other associations in which he has been active. Many from UUCC will remember Ted as a minister at UUSS before UUCC was formed. There will be two services at 9:30AM and 11:15AM that will be held on Sunday, October 5th, 2008 (choose to attend the early service so that you can still make it to our important "Association Sunday" celebration at 11:00) and will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, located at 2425 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95825-4896. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Chuck O'Neil or Phil Jaynes.



Ongoing Activities

Theatre Group

The Theatre Group will see "The Good Woman of Setzuan", Bertolt Brecht's parable of good and evil at Sacramento State University Theatre, Shasta Hall, 6000 J St., 8:00 PM, Friday, Oct. 17. Richard Bay Puppets will be a part of the production. Please submit your reservations (\$8 and \$5) to Frieda Fergus by Sunday, Oct. 12.

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 "Evaluating the New Principles and Purposes". If interested, please get in touch with Dick Tarble.



Women's Group

The UUCC Women's Group has been on hiatus. Annette Emery will contact members and survey the best time/date to meet. If you are interested in joining the UUCC Women's Group, contact Annette.



Saturday Supper

The Saturday Supper is a potluck dinner held on the first Saturday of each month. The next dinner is on Saturday, October 4th. 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 September hosts. Contact Terri Riley if you can host or are interested in coming to our October potluck.

2008 Action Auction Donation Form

The Action Auction is November 15th from 5:00pm - 9:00pm

It's time to get the descriptions of your Action Auction donations to Merry Walle so that she can begin creating our catalog. Donating is super simple using the form below. Just fill in the blanks below and either email the completed form, give it to Merry, or submit to her by phone, and voila', your hot item will be included in the catalog. Now is the time to think, think, think, & then spring into action. What will you donate?

What is being donated?

Flowery Description:

Donated by: _____

Donor's Phone Number: _____

Solicited by (if different): _____

Market Value: \$ _____ Minimum bid: \$ _____

Particulars (if applicable): _____

Date: _____

Location:

of people, maximum: _____ to _____ people (give an even and odd number, for example: 5-6 people or 9-10 people.)

If it is a business donation, please give address _____

All business donations must include the item, a gift certificate or something tangible, not just a verbal promise to donate. All business donors will receive a thank you letter for their tax records.

About Us

Mission

The ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church is to foster open minds, caring hearts, helping hands, and growing spirits in a congregation of all ages. By living and sharing Unitarian Universalist values, our spiritual and intentionally diverse community seeks to bring compassion and justice to the world.

UUC is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Pacific Central District (PCD) of the UUA.

Membership

Would you like to be a formal member of this congregation? We would love to have you as a member!

If you would like membership information or if you feel ready to sign our membership book, you may talk to Eric Walle or Laura Osborne.

Membership requirements are:

- 1) you must be at least 16 years old
- 2) you accept our principles and purposes
- 3) you make and fulfill a commitment to an annual contribution of record through a pledge of money and/or services.

We are a wonderful congregation and we will welcome you with open arms.

Affiliates

All Unitarian Universalist congregations in California's mountain and valley areas:

www.uuvalleysierra.org

Pacific Central District (PCD):

www.pcd-uua.org

Telephone: (510) 601-1437

Unitarian Universalist Association:

www.uua.org

Telephone: (617) 742-2100

UU Legislative Ministry:

www.uulmca.org

Telephone: (916) 441-0018

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee:

www.uusc.org

Telephone: (617) 868-7102

Sacyouth - Faith-Based Activities for Youth:

www.sacyouth.com

South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP)

Emergency Food Closet:

www.ssipfoodcloset.org

Telephone: (916) 428-5290

Contact

Newsletter

U2C2 Connection Editor:

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

Editorial Advisor - newsletter:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

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Editorial Advisor - website:

Nancy Flagg 689-2008

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Leadership

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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: 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: Eric Walle

Religious Education: Annette Emery

Stewardship: Celia Buckley

Worship: Jim Skow

Justice Coordinating Team: Julia Walle,

Antonio Gonzalez

Openers/Closers Supervisor:

Rev. Martha Hodges

About the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) represents the interests of more than one thousand Unitarian Universalist congregations, on a continental scale. The UUA grew out of the consolidation, in 1961, of two religious denominations: the Universalists, organized in 1793, and the Unitarians, organized in 1825.



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