

# PATHWAYS

## Committee and Activity Guide



## WELCOME

to the Unitarian Universalist  
Society of Sacramento.

We invite you to explore and join  
one or more groups. You'll find a  
list of contact people on the  
insert sheet.

We come together to deepen  
our lives and be a force for  
healing in the world.

# 1. Building Community: *"We come together..."*

One strength of a large church is that people with special interests can usually find enough others to form a group. Joining or starting a group is a great way to get to know people.

**Adult Enrichment** volunteers coordinate short courses based on denominational curricula or their own interests. A coordinating committee does the recruiting, scheduling and registration.

**Alliance** meets at 10:45 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month, Sept. through May, for a brown bog lunch. Programs include lectures and presentations on a wide variety of topics.

**Art Exhibits** seeks to enhance the aesthetic experience within the church by presenting high quality exhibits of art.

**Betty Ch'maj Annual Event Group** plans and arranges for an annual live performance of various types of entertainment or informational talk for the benefit of UUSS members. These events are paid for from the Betty Ch'maj bequest. New members are always welcome.

**Betty Nash Memorial Crafts** group hand-crafts items to sell in support of the church.

**Book Club** meets the third Thursday of each month for a lively discussion of notable books chosen by club members. Volunteers lead the discussions.

**Bridge Club** features two styles of play: a Round Robin tournament that runs from September to May, and monthly or bi-monthly party bridge. Many people attend both.

**Couples Club** meets once a month for potluck and conversation.

**Documentary Film Club** is a group that meets at the church on the fourth Sunday of every month to watch and discuss documentary films. Refreshments are also served.

**Film Club** is a social group that provides venue for monthly discussion of current film in people's homes.

**Gen X Boomers** is a social club for people ranging from ages 35 to 59 who gather to enjoy a wide range of fun outings.

**Out And About** offers affordable day and evening outings to special places in Sacramento and Northern California such as art galleries, museums, performances, restaurants and gardens.

**Palestine-Israel Study Group (PISG)** meets to study issues around achieving peace with justice in Palestine-Israel and to sponsor a series of educational events for the community.

**Servetus Club** meets monthly for a potluck supper and fellowship. Members are older people, both singles and couples.

**Ted's Web** is a group of men and women who meet weekly to discuss politics and foreign affairs; other subjects also come up and are included. We have solved most of the problems of the US and the world, but others remain, and more seem to spring up needing our attention.

**Theater One** is open to those who are interested in any aspect of theater production: acting, directing, backstage, publicity. No experience is required to participate, just a desire to have fun and be on stage or help out at our community theater productions.

**UTunes Instrumentalists** is a friendly, music-loving bunch of people of all ages and musical abilities that meets to practice solos and ensemble pieces for fun and fellowship.

**Women's Groups:** Two Women's Groups (afternoon and evening) are open to all women, and discussion topics are suggested by the group.

**Yarn Ministry:** All knitters and crocheters are welcome, from beginners to experienced. Bring your current project and ideas for projects such as chemo caps or scarves for teens.

**Young Adult Group** welcomes members and guests ages 18-39, building a circle of peers within the UUSS community through gatherings at church and outside activities.

## 2. Caring and the Spirit: *"...to deepen our lives..."*

People who are part of a community take care of one another in many ways. They try to be open with each other, sharing their life's stories, listening carefully to what the other says.

**CUUPS** (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) is a national organization for those whose spirituality is earth-based, including native religions of diverse places and traditions.

**DayDreamer** group is open to anyone interested in working with their dreams in a group setting. Dreams as agents of change often reveal new insight about life on many levels: personal, cultural and global.

**Friends in Deed** facilitates member-to-member support.

**Interweave** supports UUSS's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community; their parents, family members, friends and allies. Affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association's Interweave Continental, we work to end discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. We meet socially every month and hold larger events to promote learning, growth and fellowship for the congregation and outreach to the local area throughout the year, including Pride Month.

**Labyrinth:** The labyrinth has been utilized for centuries as a means to support worship/meditation. The Labyrinth Education Committee will hold at least two training events per year to instruct members and friends in this practice. Several times each year services celebrating the changes of the seasons are held.

**Lay Ministry** volunteers from the congregation are available to act as compassionate listeners for people in the UUSS community at times when it would be helpful to talk to a non-judgmental, objective "Other". A licensed mental health professional serves as coordinator of this group, working closely with the ministers. (See separate brochure).

**Memorial Reception** provides light refreshments and hospitality at Memorial Services for UUSS members, friends and their families.

**Men's Groups** are peer groups that meet twice a month to promote bonding and share concerns, feelings and experiences in a confidential, supportive environment.

**Ministry Circles** are small groups led by trained facilitators. Their purpose is to encourage spiritual growth and to establish close ties among participants through heartfelt sharing. Registration forms are available at the church office.

### 3. Social Responsibility:

*"...and be a force for healing in the world"*

**American River Parkway Stewards** adopt and perform regular cleanups of one mile of the Parkway. As Parkway Stewards our members meet on the morning of the second Saturday of each month to clean up our adopted mile which is located on the UUSS side of the river between the Campus Commons Golf Course and the near border of Cal Expo.

**Family Promise** is a temporary shelter program designed to meet the needs of newly homeless families. UUSS hosts up to 14 guests for a week at a time on a rotating schedule.

**Green Sanctuary** focuses on environmental justice, sustainable living, worship and celebration, and earth education for adults and children to promote a sense of reverence, gratitude and care for our living Earth.

**The Interfaith Service Bureau** is a nonprofit service organization that encourages understanding and cooperation among people of all faiths in response to human needs. ISB sponsors programs that build bridges of dialogue, spirituality and community service. As a participating member of ISB, we send representatives to the monthly ISB meeting and publicize their activities.

**Loaves and Fishes**, a subgroup of the Social Responsibility committee, provides helping hands to prepare and serve food to homeless people. One day each month, the food prep crew meets at 7:30 and the second crew meets at 10:30 to serve lunch and clean up.

**St. John's Shelter** provides food, lodging and training for 100 women and children. Volunteers from UUSS provide dinner and fellowship to guests on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

**The Social Responsibility Network's** mission is to bring together UUSS leaders of advocacy groups that foster social justice for mutual support and sharing of information in a non-hierarchical network association.

**Together We Share** collects food and personal items (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) for distribution to food banks and other facilities that serve homeless and low-income people. Collection point is the shopping cart in the lobby.

**UUrth Song CommUUnity Garden** is an on-site, self-sustaining, year-round garden with plots planted for a congregation's Produce Stand and plots for individuals to rent. Activities include kids' planting days, potlucks, meditation space, and gardening together.

## 4. Church Works

A wealth of talent, wisdom, creative energy, and just plain hard work goes into the nurturing of a religious community! Join the people who get things done.

**Aesthetics Committee's** purpose is to assure that any permanent or semi-permanent addition or change that affects the visual aspect of the church building or grounds is in good taste and appropriate for the campus.

**Beacon Bookstore** offers publications from Beacon Press and the UUA, and also sells used books and magazines with all profits going to the UUSS general fund. Open every Sunday!

**Coffee Hospitality** sets up, serves, and cleans up after our two coffee hours each Sunday.

**Communication Facilitation:** Monthly informal Congregational Conversation meetings are scheduled on the first Sunday of the month. All UUSS members and friends and interested persons are encouraged to attend. The purpose is to raise questions, create useful discussion and strengthen social ties while addressing UUSS issues.

**Connection Central** is a table set up in the lobby on Sundays where UUSS groups can promote their activities with displays, flyers and sign-up sheets.

**Denominational Connections Committee's** purpose is to promote and maintain the relationships between UUSS and the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Pacific Central District, and other Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations.

**The Endowment Trust** was established in 1980 to improve and benefit UUSS and strengthen our congregation's long term vitality. Five members of UUSS, (three elected and 2 appointed) serve as Trustees. Gifts from members and friends are invested in a prudent and diversified manner. Memorial contributions under \$1,000 are deposited in the Endowment Trust Fund. Each year a percentage of the Trust's income is spent for special, nonrecurring needs of UUSS.

**Finance Committee** regularly reviews financial statements (income and expense, balance sheet, and cash flow), tracks investments, makes financial policy recommendations, and submits an annual budget proposal to the Board of Trustees. The Congregation votes to approve or reject the budget proposed by the Board.

**Membership** serves the congregation by welcoming visitors, helping to integrate new members and supporting activities that make all members of the congregation feel welcome and included.

**Ministry Committee** supports and attends to the health of the ministry at UUSS and reviews concerns about the ministry voiced by the members. The Board of Trustees and the ministers select committee members.

**Music Committee** members are dedicated to making music an integral part of the worship experience and creating a common ground for diverse beliefs through the universality of music.

**Nominating Committee** members are elected by the congregation. This Committee enlists candidates to fill Board of Trustees, Program Council and other leadership positions each year.

**Office Volunteers** support the staff and congregation by providing a variety of services. Tasks vary and include general office duties: use of copier and phone, some computer use, answering general questions, helping with congregation mailings; and copying Orders of Service, the Blue Sheet, sermons, and UUSS pamphlets and brochures. Weekday Volunteers assist weekly and on special projects, and Sunday Volunteers before and after Sunday services, once every four to six weeks as scheduled.

**Personnel Committee** members make recommendations to the Board regarding personnel policies, job descriptions, salaries and benefits for staff.

**Program Council** members are elected by the congregation. Their mission is to nurture current programs and encourage new ones. The Program Council works with the Board of Trustees to establish budgets and is responsible for program implementation within the bounds of the budget and the Long Range Plan.

**Property Management** members work cooperatively with the business administrator to maintain our buildings and grounds. **Grasshoppers** work in teams to maintain the lawns, and the **Waterbugs** water our flowerbeds and other plantings in the dry season.

**Religious Education Committee**, in collaboration with RE staff, provides leadership for education programs involving children and youth. Members provide input on the purpose and direction of classes and activities, assist in developing programs and curricula, and work to ensure a vital and relevant religious education for our young people. We stand at the RE Welcome Table on Sunday mornings, and strive to support the many volunteers who make RE programs successful.

**Religious Services** works closely with the ministers in planning and presenting Sunday services, and arranges for guest ministers. Worship Leaders take on specific roles and duties as participants in each service.

**Stewardship** plans and supervises an annual campaign to fund the work of the congregation through pledges of monthly donations.

**Unigram** editors are responsible for communicating with members who have information of interest to the UUSS community. The editor-members alternate responsibilities for editing and lay-out of the Unigram for monthly distribution by the UUSS staff.

**UUMPF** (Unitarian Universalist Master Plan Facilitators) are charged with developing a strategy for the building and grounds master planning process, and then to be responsible for the development and early implementation of the master plan.

**Website Committee** maintains and updates the UUSS website. It also develops policies and procedures regarding the use and maintenance of the website. The committee is open to all UUSS members and friends regardless of technical expertise.

**Welcome Team** members arrive before Sunday services to distribute hymnals, greet people as they arrive for the service, hand out Orders of Service, and help with seating as needed. They also collect the offering and answer questions of people stopping by the table. Newcomers are encouraged to join; it's a great way to get acquainted.