

The

UNIGRAM

Monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento

VOL. 32. No. 9

MAY 2002

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

(See the Month of Sundays insert for more information.)

Forums – 9:30 a.m. in the Auditorium.

- 5/5 Cinco de Mayo celebration. CSUS Latin Jazz Band Steve Roach and Eduardo Aranda.
- 5/12 UUSS (Live) Poets Society (Mother's Day).
- 5/19 "Drug Policies and UUs," Amy Jaynes.
- 5/26 "Forum: Cross-cultural Communication: What do laws and freedoms mean?" Panel discussion.

Services – 11 a.m. in the Auditorium

- 5/5 "Our Tribe: Who Really Belongs Here?" Rev. Peter Morales.
- 5/12 "The Great Turning, Part I." Rev. Doug Kraft.
- 5/19 Coming of Age Service. Kate Throop.
- 5/26 "The Great Turning, Part II." Rev. Kraft.

Witness for the Prosecution

Did Leonard do it?
Will Greta catch his eye?
Will Romaine Stand By Her Man?
Will Thomasina Clegg crack under questioning?
Will Sir Wilfred take the case?
Who is the Surprise Witness?
Have you bought your tickets yet?



On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday May 3, 4, and 5 Theater One will present Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*. This gripping courtroom drama won awards when it opened on Broadway in 1953, and it didn't even have the advantage of *our* stellar cast. Directed by Francine Kozkodin, the players are **Barbara Amberson, Hank Cotton, Richard Dewey, Amy Doyle, Cory Fulton, Ankie Giese, Gina Heckerroth, Blythe Hewitt, Dave Lust, Clay Nelson, Dixie Owens, Howard Owens, David Paul, Warren Questo, Mike Reynolds, and Sally Watkins.**

Performances Friday May 3 and Saturday May 4 are at 8 p.m.; Sunday May 5 matinee is at 2 p.m. \$10 general admission; \$8 students and seniors. Dinner--by reservation only--will be served on Saturday May 4 at 6 p.m. (\$15 additional for the dinner.)

Tickets are on sale in the office or phone 483-9283 ext. 204; or email bobby@uuss.org. Tickets will also be available at the door (except for dinner tickets—check on availability with the office.)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, May 19 all members are urged to attend the Semi-annual Congregational Meeting after church services. Elections will be held for the Board of Trustees, Endowment Trust, Nominating Committee, and Chair of the Communication and Conflict Management Committee (CCMC). We will also vote on the Budget for the 2002-03 church year. All members who joined UUSS before March 21 are eligible to vote, and all members and friends of UUSS are welcome to attend. Here are the nominees: President (1-year term, vote for one) **Tiffany Urness**. Vice President (1-year term, vote for one) **Thelma White**. Secretary (3-year term, vote for one) **Mary Howard**. Trustee (3-year term, vote for two) **Richard Dewey, Glenda Smaage**. Trustee (1-year term, vote for two) **Gary Malkin** (incumbent), **Jan Dennis**. Endowment Committee (3-year term, vote for one) **Hill Snellings**. 2003-2004 Nominating Committee chair (vote for one) **Edith Isaacs**. 2003-2004 Nominating Committee (vote for six) **Tami Buscho, Margaret Case, Nancy Gilbert, Marty Heckerroth, David Libby, Janet Lopes, David Paul, Pat Skeels**. Confirmation as chair of Communication and Conflict Management Committee (CCMC) (vote for one) **Harley Sebastian-Lewis**.
Absentee ballots are available in the office.

It's Spring Service Auction Time!

Bidding is on for the wonderful opportunities for sociability, dining, hiking, travel, adventure, and more! Put in your bids for the offerings displayed on Sunday, May 5, May 12, and May 19, from 10-11 a.m. before church services and 12:15-12:45 p.m. after the services. Then on May 19 stay for the lunch and Congregational Meeting and afterward, find out what you won. This is your last opportunity for several months to get in on the action. Don't miss out!

Special Events This Month

- 5/3 *Witness for the Prosecution* opens.
- 5/4 Dinner show, *Witness for the Prosecution*.
- 5/5 Matinee, *Witness for the Prosecution*.
- 5/5 Auction bidding begins.
- 5/12 Auction bidding continues.
- 5/19 Final Auction bidding; Congregational Meeting..

AT THE MOMENT ... The Reverend Douglas C.B. Kraft

As I entered the meditation hall, I had an urge to bow. I was a little surprised by this. I've never been the bowing kind of guy. At this retreat center, a few people bow. Most do not. So there's no real social pressure. I'm in active martial arts training these days. We always bow on entering the dojo: etiquette and respect. Maybe I was feeling a conditioned response?

As I entered the meditation hall I resisted the urge and walked to my cushion. For me, bowing seemed like turning myself over to an external authority. There have been many authority figures in my life – personal, religious, political, educational. I had respect for some and little for others. But none were people to whom I'd want to surrender my whole life. I've always valued Emersonian self-reliance. I have an allergic response to devotional practices like bowing which seem to pay too much homage for my taste.

But entering and leaving the meditation hall, the urge continued. So finally I gave in. I placed my hands together and inclined my head toward the front of the hall. My breathing immediately became ragged and my eyes welled up. Walking to my cushion with a tear running down my cheek I thought, "This is interesting."

In the next few days of the retreat, I became more and more conscious of the devotional part of me I have repressed for years. I am probably a fairly typical Unitarian Universalist in this regard.

But I see that devotional urge popping up all over our UU movement. It is part of the draw toward deeper spirituality. It is part of the feminist influence on us that teaches the value of horizontal connection in community. It is part of the draw many have toward earth-based spirituality with its sense of community with all creatures and mother Gia. It is part of the draw toward music and singing which connects us together.

My resistance to devotional practices is a resistance to bowing to someone else's image of God or higher authority. Since I'm not absolutely clear about what the term "God" means to me, I stand back from such things as bowing and prayer.

Yet, when I stop worrying about to whom I bow, the urge is strong. I realize I don't have to know. The head appreciates the interconnected web. The heart simply bows to it.

I bow to our deeper natures. I bow to life. I bow to all of us.

Namasté.

Doug

Finding Doug

I can usually be found at the church between 3 and 5 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and between 1 and 3 on Wednesdays and other times by chance or appointment.

Feel free to come by or give me a call (483-9283x201).

Worship Leaders Grow

As we move to two services next fall, we would like to expand our pool of UUSS members willing to help as Worship Leaders (aka Worship Associates) for the Sunday morning services.

The job consists of preparing for and leading a service every two to three months, attending Worship Leader meetings for one hour once a month (currently first Thursdays), and attending a training session in the late summer or fall.

This year's class of Worship Leaders also had a one-day mid-winter retreat. If you feel moved to join in this important and fulfilling activity, please contact our minister, Doug Kraft, at 483-9283.

For more information on the program, call Worship Leader co-chairs Rich Howard (488-7030) or Dan Ford (783-4141).

Rich Howard



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

I've been making lots of lists lately...here is one for all of you who have children and teens in our religious education program!

May "To-Do" List

1. Complete a 2002-03 Family Registration Form (in the R.E. office or at the R.E. table on Sundays).
2. Educate ourselves about next year's choices and decide which R.E. program we will attend regularly from September-January.
3. Find the R.E. Volunteer Board and choose four tasks for our family to do next year.
4. Consider joining the Religious Education Committee! Particularly sought are candidates who are parents of a child or children under eight, and enthusiastic members of the congregation who are not actively parenting but are interested in supporting our youngest members and their teachers "behind the scenes."
5. Attend the May 19 Coming of Age Service at 11 a.m., and the Congregational Meeting immediately following. New Board members will be elected and important decisions about UUSS financial priorities will be made. Let your voice and vote be counted!
6. Sign the family up for UUSS Camp (Do this ONLY if you love dirt, marshmallows, warm sun, cool nights, singing around the campfire, meeting other UU parents and not-parents in a relaxed setting with no TV, no phones, no computers...)

Just so you'll know that I'll be working, too, here's what's on my list:

- ❖ Issue personal invitations to parents and friends to help with our summer program, serve as teachers or assistants next year, lead a Children's Worship service, coordinate a community service project, or assist with a "special event" during the year.
- ❖ Put finishing touches on our summer R.E. activities (see June Unigram for details).
- ❖ Celebrate with Coming of Agers and their mentors on Saturday, May 18, and honor them in their Coming of Age Service on May 19 at 11 a.m.
- ❖ With the R.E. Committee, begin writing and editing the curricula we will use next year for "One World, Many Faiths."

If all goes well, by Memorial Day we'll have made check marks by most of our "to-dos," and we can burst into June with a mighty sense of accomplishment!

With love and thanks in advance for all that you do,

Kate

Happy Birthday to you....

May 5 Katharine Reed
May 6 Carly Melchers
May 9 Max Collard
May 12 Spencer Gregg
May 12 Alex Wroten
May 16 Netty Carey
May 20 Connor Malkin
May 21 Frances Snellings

P.S. Calling all shoeboxes! Our supply has diminished and we're ready for a new infusion of shoeboxes with tops. Please leave in the R.E. Office or Church Office. Thanks!

Flogging a Dead Horse

(Kate Throop found the following bit of wisdom. Mary Stanton provided the drawing.)

Dakota tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount and walk. However, in churches we often try other strategies with dead horses, including the following:

Buy a stronger whip.

Change riders.

Say, "This is the way we have always ridden this horse!"

Appoint a committee to study the horse.

Rewrite the standards for dead horse performance.

Hold a workshop to increase riding ability.

Point out that dead horses make fewer demands.

Declare that our dead horses are better than the Baptists' dead horses.

Change the requirements, declaring, "This horse is not dead."

Say, "we tried walking once, and it didn't work."

Do a Sunday service on the inherent worth and dignity of dead horses.

Just because some folks are happy riding a dead horse doesn't mean you have to...



Mary Stanton

CABBAGES & KINGS

As the canvass is being wrapped up and the time for hard budget decisions approaches, you may wonder why “The Church” keeps asking for your money or why the Board will be wrestling with a no-frills proposed budget for next year of \$528,024 that is about \$20,000 less than we need to stay healthy. Well, once upon a time the only one who got paid at the church was the minister, and more often than not compensation was a chicken and a sack of tomatoes. If he was married, you got an organist for free. For the ingredients of chicken cacciatore the minister preached to and “hatched, matched and dispatched” the faithful, leaving the running of the church to its members. This agrarian way of supporting a church is a distant memory, but vestiges remained into the 1970s. Our women seniors remember giving significant volunteer hours helping to do whatever had to be done. In many places they ran the Religious Education program and served as teachers; edited, printed and mailed the newsletter; counted the money, did the bookkeeping and paid the bills; raised needed money for special projects with their handcrafts in the annual Christmas Bazaar; and prepared meals for monthly potluck socials. And it wasn’t just the women. Their husbands gave significant time keeping up the grounds, making repairs, and proudly ushering on Sunday mornings and serving on the Board (no women need apply). And in this congregation both men and women even physically built the church. When the women were ready to relax a little and let the next generation fill their shoes, their daughters sought to have both careers and families. Their husbands had to share in household and family raising responsibilities. Leisure and discretionary time became endangered species, leaving no time for mailing the *Unigram* or mowing the grass. Instead of relaxing, that older generation continued doing their best to help out. And those who can still do. They have given untold hours in the past and we should never forget that or forget to honor them for that continuing gift.

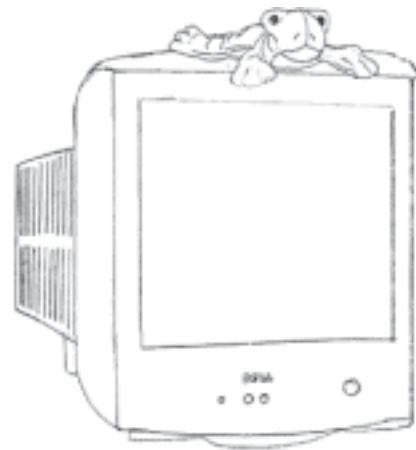
These changes in our society, economy, and demographics have changed how the work in a congregation gets done. While volunteers are still valued and essential to our success in carrying out our mission (e.g., we would be bankrupt if we had to hire teachers for Religious Education), there are simply not enough volunteer hours in today’s society to keep a congregation of our size functioning. We live in a world where we have to have a paid staff to do what we can no longer do for ourselves. Not including what Doug, Kate, or I contribute, they answer your calls; edit and produce your *Unigram*, schedule your meetings, rent your facilities, prepare your mailings; prepare your Sunday service leaflet; keep your records up to date; pay your bills, record your pledge payments, track and report your finances; manage and maintain your facilities, mow and

water your lawn, clean your bathrooms, classrooms, and auditorium, set up and break down chairs and tables for your worship and meetings, wash your dishes; give loving care to your infants and toddlers; plan and lead your music program, prepare the choir for Sunday worship; and give us the gift of beautifully performed music Sunday after Sunday.

Do they do it for the money? Not likely. That’s a good thing for us, for while we hardly ever give them a chicken instead of a paycheck, we will never pay them what they are worth or contribute. They do it because they care and are committed to this congregation. Please remember to thank them and then remember that their fair compensation is directly related to your generosity. Want to know what your annual volunteer time is worth? If you were to do what your staff accomplishes on your behalf, the church would save \$828.27 per member. That’s a lot of chicken cacciatore! But it would be even more if we paid a living wage to all and met UUA salary guidelines. Goals we will keep working to meet.



Clay Nelson, Business Manager



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

By the time you read this, some of us will have been to the District Assembly in Santa Rosa, and the adventurous folks will be looking forward to the General Assembly in Quebec City, Canada.

These events are key to being connected to the larger UU community and offer a vast array of experiences—from artistically created worship services to coffee houses, poetry, and dance to workshops.

Large assemblies of UUs are always stimulating and thought provoking. See the enclosed insert and the Kiosk for the schedule for other UU camps and conferences this year.

Be Patterson

UUSS NEWS

A Teaching Congregation

A new role for UUSS

One factor in the long-term vitality and growth of Unitarian Universalism is training ministerial professionals for tomorrow. UUSS is embarking on assisting in that task.

Last fall a couple of students from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley approached our congregation about becoming an intern at UUSS. Luckily Reverend Douglas Kraft is a strong proponent of congregations providing a learning experience for interns, and UUSS changed its recent stance of not hosting an intern. An Internship Committee was assembled, and with preliminary Board of Trustees approval, we interviewed the two potential intern candidates to make a selection, in consultation with Doug Kraft. The committee applied for and received a small grant from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to defray some of the costs of becoming a Teaching Congregation.

Starting in September 2002, UUSS will host a remarkable woman, Devorah Greenstein, as our intern. In next month's *Unigram*, she will introduce herself, and you will have the opportunity to get to know her in the subsequent months.

The Internship Committee, still learning its role, attended a "Teaching Congregation" seminar at Starr King. Working with the church community, we want to ensure that our intern's time with us is enriching and positive. The Committee hopes to institutionalize hosting interns at UUSS in the future. We are fortunate to be just "down the road" from Starr King, one of the few Unitarian Universalist seminaries in the country, and we can offer an established, stable congregation and community to help prepare tomorrow's leaders in our chosen faith.

Please anticipate meeting Devorah, and share our eagerness for this new adventure and opportunity in our congregational life.

Members of the Internship Committee are: Michelle Ebler, Fran Oyafuso, Ron Selge, Zac Taylor, Lauren True, Shirley True, Dave Thomas, Board Representative (ex officio), Doug Draft (ex officio). *Shirley True*

Revising the Constitution

The Constitutional Revision Task Force will meet Monday, May 13 at 10 a.m. in the Library. The Board has given us orders to revamp the membership of the Board to have two-year terms for members-at-large, Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition, the plan is to have a president-elect, a president, and a past-president, each with a one-year term. We will discuss term limits: no limits? one term? two terms? three terms? If you want to have input, come to the meeting or contact Roger Barr or me. *Barbara Amberson*

Rummage Sale a Success

We made almost \$3,000 this year. First and foremost I would like to thank **Eileen Karpeles**, my Right Hand Gal, who was at the church for hours on end during the weeks preceding the sale. We heartily thank all our volunteers, who sorted, carried, priced, set up, sold, cleaned up: **Barbara Amberson, Anna Andrews, Roger Barr, Lisa Baeuerlen, Tami Buscho, Tina Chiginsky, Maxine Cornwell, Dee Curtis, Richard Dewey, Michele Ebler, Claire Eichinger, Marie Flanagan, Michelle Fusek, Arnie Godmintz, Judith Granada-Dewey, Shirley Hines, Kim Ingram, Delmar Janson, Joan Janson, Lore Jirucha, Susan Johnson, Fran Kennedy, Peter Killian, Erika Kraft, Verner Larson, Joan Lee, Richard Loomis, Janet Lopes, Pete Martineau, John McMillan, Brenda Mitchell, Peggy Middleton, Joyce Miller, Rosemary Muller, Pat Naylor, Polly Ostrofe, Dixie Owens, Marlene Parkinson, Arlene Pollett, Joan Rubenson, Alex Smaage-Killian, Gloria Smith, Patricia Thomas, Kate Throop, Terry Throop, Clair Urness, Tiffany Urness, Helen Vanderford, Aggie Vawter, Gayle Voeller, Polly Watson, Thelma White, and Lou Watson.** Thank You Thank You Thank You! If I missed anyone I am sorry... Thank you also for all of the donated items and thanks to Samaritan House for taking all of the leftovers.

Glenda Smaage

Note From the Treasurer

Did you know...

- * ...It's very important that you attend the Semi-annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 19?
- * ...Here at UUSS **your** vote definitely counts?
- * ...Theater One's annual production is one of our major fundraisers for the year? We value your support.

Green Thumb Sale, Chapter Two

Buy more plants on Sunday May 5

On May 5 we will have a continuation of the GREEN THUMB Plant Sale that was a great success on April 6 & 7. We will be selling before and after the service. Don Dormeyer will be bringing seedlings.

Gardeners: Prepare your additional contributions NOW! We need all sorts of plant materials. Everything welcome! *If it grows, bring it!*

Everybody: Come and look... Come and buy!

Barbara Amberson



UUs GET TOGETHER

SSS SANDWICH SUPPER SOCIAL

“Outdoor Fun”

Friday, May 24, 7 – 9 p.m.

Come celebrate the long evenings and join us for some outdoor fun and games.

All ages welcome

Donation: Adults \$3; children \$1

For more information, contact Maryly

Reinertson at 739-1083

or David Paul at 422-3732.

**TAKE TIME TO RELAX – COME!
ENJOY!**

Poetry Forum is on Mothers Day

UUSS poets present their best

The Sunday May 12 Forum will feature UU poets presenting their own work. Participation in this annual event has grown to the extent that each reader will be limited to one poem until all have read. Questions? Call JoAnn Anglin at 451-1372 or me at 646-1429.

Ruth Davis Barr

PoemSpirits Meets May 5

“Finding Spirits in the Natural World” is the topic for PoemSpirits monthly gathering Sunday, May 5, 6 p.m. in Room 6. This presentation of poetry by Maggie Frost, and of Nora Stalkis on Walt Whitman was rescheduled from last month to make it possible for us to attend a celebration honoring California’s first Poet Laureate, Jose Montoya, that same evening.

JoAnn Anglin

Work With Your Dreams

Dream Group meets Wednesdays

Tap into the wisdom you were born with by working with your dreams. Our open Dream Group meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the church library. No experience is necessary. Everyone is welcome. For more information call me at 353-0376.

Fran Oyafuso

Attention Jazz Lovers

The CSUS Latin Jazz Band will perform in memory of late UUSS members May D’Marie and Brick Menz on May 5 at 9:30 a.m. at the Cinco de Mayo Forum presentation in the auditorium. May D’Marie called Mexico her second home and Brick Menz was a jazz enthusiast and a long-time supporter of the Forum.

Steve Roach, CSUS music professor, leads the six piece jazz band in this special celebration. As a trumpet player, Roach performed all over the world with such notables as Louis Bellson, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, Lou Rawls, and Ben Vereen. He is the new director of jazz studies at CSUS.

Eduardo Aranda, a CSUS professor, will share the history of Cinco de Mayo in his native Mexico and its meaning to celebrations in the United States.

You are encouraged to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, enjoy the music, and share memories on May 5.

Pete Wallace

UU Young Adults Meet 3 Times in May

Meet, eat, discuss, run, make a film

UU Young Adults are Unitarian Universalists in their 20s and 30s. Some of us are single, some are married, and some are in between. Newcomers are always welcome! The group meets on Sundays at 7 pm in the library unless otherwise noted below. For more information on the group, please contact Carrie Cornwell at 442-1637. To join our e-mail collective, send a message to Dean Baird at dbaird@mac.com.

Sunday 5/5, 5 p.m. *An Evening with the Rev. Melora Crooker.* We’re invited to the Unitarian Universalist Community Church at 7560 Forin Road, east of Highway 99. Services there are at 5, followed by a potluck dinner, and then we will meet with UUCC’s minister, Rev. Melora Crooker, a young adult herself, for a discussion. Have questions or need directions? Call Mark Callicotte at 501-0586.

Saturday 5/11, 7:30 a.m. *Race for the Cure.* UU Young Adults run or walk the Race for the Cure to support breast cancer research. Race packets may be picked up beginning at 6:30 a.m., the 5k run starts at 8 a.m. UU Young Adults will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Golden Bear near the entrance to Cal-Expo closest to Business 80. The race starts near the Golden Bear. To sign up for the run visit <http://sackomen.org>. Questions? Call Mark Callicotte at 501-0586.

Sunday 5/19, 7 p.m. *Experimental Film Making.* Our own Nate Mahoney will lead us in an exercise in experimental film making, so bring your creative side to this session. For more information, call Nate at 944-3046.

Sunday 5/26. Holiday. In honor of Memorial Day, UU Young Adults will not meet this weekend.

Carrie Cornwell

UUs GET TOGETHER

Alliance Presents Historical Houses *Jo Wragg to speak May 9*

Women's Alliance meets May 9, 10:15 a.m. for their monthly business meeting in the Auditorium. At 10:45 a.m. Jo Wragg will give a slide presentation, "American Domestic Architecture." Jo has a deep interest in the styles of houses in this area, and has spoken to a number of community groups. The meeting is open to all. Bring a bag lunch and dessert and beverage will be offered for a nominal price.

Pat Moore-Howard

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP

Yearly dues (\$20) for 2002-2003 membership in Women's Alliance is due in June. A prompt payment of dues will insure that your name is included in our roster and that you receive a copy of the *Women's Alliance Membership and Activity Schedule*.

Please complete this form and bring it to the May 9 meeting along with your check for \$20 made out to "Women's Alliance" to the May 9 meeting; or mail to "Women's Alliance/UUSS, 2425 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento CA 95825-4896.

Women's Alliance Membership 2002-2003

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

It's Time to Batter Up & Play Ball!

Come join fellow UUs for a fun night of baseball and barbeque at the Sacramento River Cats game on Saturday, August 24, at 7:05 p.m. The Cats will take on the Fresno Grizzlies at Raley Field.

Tickets and barbeque are \$25.20 per person and children under 10, \$17.50. The all-you-can-eat-barbeque begins one hour prior to game time and will continue until 7:30. Seating is limited to 36. Get your reservation in early by sending a check for \$25.20 per person to:

David Paul

7066 Eider Way

Sacramento, CA 95831

For more information, call 422-3732. See you at the game and include your family and a friend!

David Paul

Gap Group Has 3 Events in May

The Gap Group is a loosely organized group of middle-aged people, both married and single, who enjoy getting together for social occasions. New people are always welcome. Please call me at 481-9568 or e-mail cgeorge255@cs.com for more information.

Friday 5/3 or Saturday 5/4. Come see Theatre One's production of the courtroom drama *Witness for the Prosecution* by Agatha Christie. If you are interested in attending Friday, May 3, let me know at 481-9568. If Saturday is better for you and you'd like to attend the dinner, call the church office (483-9283 ext.O) and we'll try to get a group together for that performance as well.

Saturday 5/18. Join us at for a pre-talk and concert by The Camellia Symphony Orchestra called "Philosophy and Music: When Worlds Collide," featuring works by Pena, Bernstein, Haydn, and Liszt. World philosophies come together in magnificent music: Angel M. Pena's "Trinity - A Symphonic Cycle" (world premier) explores the three deities of Hindu tradition representing Creation, Preservation, and Dissolution. Leonard Bernstein's "Serenade," based on Plato's Symposium, will feature Sebastian Krapisz as soloist. Franz Joseph Haydn's "Symphony No. 22 in E flat - Philosopher" follows, in keeping with the theme. The program concludes with a tone poem by Franz Liszt, "Les Preludes, Symphonic Poem No. 3, G. 97," based on a poem by Alphonse de Lamartine. Here, life and death come face to face and the text speaks about the light preceding the afterlife. In 1857 Eduard Hanslick wrote of this great orchestral work, "What are our lives other than a line of preludes to an unknown song whose first solemn note is struck by death. Love, pain, peace, victory—all these are preludes." Meet at Westminster Church, 1300 N Street at 6:45 p.m.—Pete Wallace will be watching for us. Tickets are \$18 and are available online, by phone, or at the door. Contact Pete at 363-0204 or croid@msn.com for details.

Saturday 5/25. Join Karen Latimer for a movie and dessert. E-mail Karen at klatimer@cwnet.com or call her at 456-6601 for time and place.

Cathy George

Join a Ministry Circle

Small groups meet biweekly

Want to join a small group of UUSS members and friends who meet to explore and share their spiritual or ethical journeys? Ministry Circles meet twice a month in homes or at the church. For more information, pick up a Ministry Circle brochure and application available in the church office or at the greeters' table after Sunday services.

Fran Oyafuso

OUTREACH

Thanks From Debrecen, Hungary

On Sunday, March 31, both the early and late morning service offerings were earmarked to go to our partner church in Debrecen, Hungary. The monies will help them rewire their electrical system, buy new furniture for the office, and build a new facade and doorway. Thanks to your very generous giving, we raised over \$1,000 and all of the above needs will be met. The minister, Katalin Miklos-Vari, called last week to express her deep appreciation for our support and friendship.

She also says that she is looking forward to greeting the USS travelers who will be visiting Debrecen, Budapest and Romanian cities next year in August. Space is very limited so if you have an interest in joining the Partner Church Tour, please contact me at 429-0295 or Meg Burnett at 422-5343. *Dixie Owens*

Action Group Against Charitable Choice Reports

The Senate Health & Human Services Committee, Senator Deborah Ortiz, chair, held a hearing on SB 1230 (Haynes) on April 10. This bill would have allowed funding by state and local governments to churches and other religious organizations for social services and would have required that they be considered when contracts are allocated to nongovernmental entities.

Because some churches already provide the social services to be funded by this bill, giving them public funds to do this work will release more of the churches' own resources to promote their particular beliefs, with which California taxpayers may disagree. Like the faith-based initiative passed by the U.S. House of Representatives (HR 9), SB1230 would imperil the separation of church and state, as provided in the U.S. Constitution and federal and state laws and judicial decisions.

At the hearing on April 10, the bill failed passage with three yes and five no votes, but was granted reconsideration. The author, Senator Haynes, thus may continue to pursue this bill. Our group will monitor the bill and report on the results. *Joyce Miller*

“Spring Clean” the Bike Trail

Wild flowers, native birds, and beautiful weather made the task of cleaning the “USS mile” a very pleasant one for Jan and Ben Graber, Carl and Gretchen Bergemann, and me on April 6. The area looked good when we started and great by the time we finished.

Let's keep it looking great! Come out on Saturday, May 4, for another “Spring Cleaning.” Some of us will meet at church at 9:30 a.m. to bike over; others may meet us at milepost 4 at 10 a.m.

Jeff Voeller

COMMITTEES AT WORK

PMC Wants YOU

The USS Property Management Committee (PMC) is concerned with overseeing the gardens, watering systems, trees, parking lot, exterior and interior of the buildings, painting, lights, sound system, etc. We serve as supervisors when the county work crew comes every month to help us greatly.

This committee needs new members with fresh outlooks and views. We also need USS members who have an interest in how their pledges are being spent for these purposes. If you are interested please contact our Business Manager Clay Nelson at 483-9 283 ext 210 or me at 481-3335—or better yet come to our monthly meeting. We meet at the church on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Give us a try. No obligation or cost.

Pete Larsen

Women's Ritual Group Responds

Addenda: March 24 Women's History Service

I want to assure the former Montanans in the audience who thought I said Jeannette Rankin was from Missouri--not so. This intrepid pioneering congresswoman was definitely from Montana.

About the two pictures taped to the podium: the drawing with the dramatic hat was of Jeannette Rankin - used as the logo for Montana's Jeannette Rankin Institute. The other picture was of the woman who was the inspiration for Mother's Day, Anna Maria Reeves Jarvis, who got mothers together from both sides before, during, and after the Civil War.

I didn't mention that Emily Balch was fired from her professorship at Smith College for her pacifist views. I wonder whether this was before she was awarded the Nobel Prize for her work with the Women's League for Peace and Freedom (in 1931 or 1946?).

I forgot to include a moving statement from the founder of Grandmothers for Peace, Barbara Wiedner. When she was visiting the campus of the former School of the Americas, the terrorist training ground, she said she never got over seeing the images they used for target practice: those of a man, a woman, and a child.

We have been asked to compile copies of the women's pictures we used in the service so I will have the pictures laminated and labeled with names, dates, and bios. Eventually we may even transcribe the tape of the service.

We are still researching the Peace Pole and labyrinth projects.

We will sponsor a Summer Solstice church service June 23. We are looking into getting the chanters Gordon and Rita Burnham back from last year's summer solstice service and bringing in a poet and Native American flute players.

If a nearby Sunday is available, we hope to do an Autumn Equinox service with Rich Howard.

Laurie Jones

NEW MEMBERS

These people joined our Society in March:

Lisa Baeuerlen works with special ed. students and also coaches elementary school cheerleaders. **Anna**

D'Ascenzi is an application designer for IBM. She has a five-year-old son. She gardens, cooks, and reads.

Danielle Eichhorn is a communication studies major at CSUS. She has three teenage daughters and works for the federal court. **Linda Killick**, formerly a nurse, now has a new career in financial services. She is a stamp collector and musician. **Cathy Whitney** is retired from working in financial and tax services. She has three children and six grandchildren, and she loves music. Linda and Cathy have been partners for 22 years. **Julie**

Kuhn is an early childhood educator. She has two sons in college. She sings in our choir. **Joann Lebrun** holds a degree in Gerontology from CSUS. She was a member of UUSS years ago and is now returning—we welcome her back to our community. Joann is retired. She is a widow, and her one daughter passed away. **Pat Naylor** and

Chuck O'Neil are a married couple. Between them they have three children and two grandchildren. Pat, a Unitarian for 25 years, is a researcher and she telecommutes to a company in Chicago. She volunteers at St. John's Shelter. Chuck owns and manages rental property. He is active in the Green Party. He has a Master's in Economics from CSUS. **Joan Rubenson** is a retired budget analyst and is currently working as a substitute teacher. She is married to David Rubenson, and has three grandchildren. **Patricia Thomas** is a housewife and caregiver for her mother-in-law. She has a business as an herbalist and energy worker. She has an AA degree in Human Services with a certificate in drug and alcohol studies. **Mary Sue Wainio** moved to California a year ago from Michigan. She writes poetry and essays, and is a technical writer and trainer. **Barbara**

Weiss is a registered nurse in critical care at Sutter Roseville hospital. She has two children. She is interested in gardening, camping and hiking, and Buddhism. **Charlene Weiss** has worked at a veterinary lab for 16 years and is currently a research operations coordinator. She is interested in camping, martial arts, and music.

Please join us in welcoming these new members. We will give you a line or two on others who joined us in the past year in the next *Unigram*.

Clair Urness

WANTED:

We need new people to work at the book table on Sundays. Please call me at 482-1925 if you're interested.

Mollie Jackson

UUs GET TOGETHER

Servetus Club Meets May 5

Servetus Club is a social club for older singles. We gather on the first Sunday of each month for a potluck, 6 p.m. in the Fahs Room, and we plan occasional trips and parties. Come join us Sunday, May 5. Cost is only \$2 for Servetus members, \$3 for guests. Bring a dish to share; beverages are provided. Guests are always welcome!

Dorothy Engelstad

Attention all Bridge Players

Grand Finale is Wednesday June 5

All bridge players are invited to the Round Robin Bridge Grand Finale on Wednesday, June 5, at the church. It is an evening for getting acquainted and for fun and laughter...sign up for next fall's new Round Robin schedule and enjoy the awarding of prizes to this year's winners. You don't need a partner to attend, and you need not be participating in this year's games. We welcome all bridge players. RSVP to Jane Pivetti at 488-8049 or to me at 421-1026.

Betty Faist

P.S. to Round Robin players: Please turn in your final scores. Thank you.

Senior Support Group Meets Biweekly

All seniors are welcome to come to the Senior Support Group which meets every other Monday in the church library (May 6 and 20). We talk over problems and offer solutions from our experiences.

Annual Meeting of the Peace Action Group

"What is Happening in the War in Colombia" is the timely topic of the annual meeting of Peace Action, Thursday May 23, 7 p.m. at the Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street, downtown Sacramento. The speaker is Ramon Acevedo of the International Action Center (S.F.). The event is free. For more information, call Peace Action at 448-7157.

Ruth Hultgren

Among Ourselves

In late March, former UUSS member and Nevada City resident Dr. John Church invited our PoemSpirits coordinators, Tom Goff, Nora Staklis, and JoAnn Anglin to read poetry at the Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains in Grass Valley. Spirits were high during the reading. UUSS member Dave Paul, who also attended, shared information about common relatives with John—Dave's aunt was married to John's uncle.

The Unigram is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, 2425 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento CA 95825. Annual subscriptions are \$36; Members and Pledging Friends of the Society receive *The Unigram* free. **Electronic version of the Unigram is free.** To request that, send an email to office@uuss.org.

The deadline for each issue is the tenth of the previous month. (For the June issue, the deadline is Monday, April 10.) Items submitted may be edited to fit space available. **We'd love to print your drawings—children's included.** Please bring drawings to the church office. **NOTE:** The *Unigram* no longer prints Want Ads. (If you bring a want ad to the office we will post it on the Kiosk if appropriate.)

UUSS Sponsors Peace Vigil

Join us on Sunday May 26, 8 a.m., in a vigil for world peace at the Sacramento Convention Center, 14th and J Streets. The Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento is the sponsor of the non-denominational vigil.

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 - 7** Women's Alliance, River Cats, Gap Group, Ministry Circles.
 - 8** Partner Church, Action Group, Bike Trail, PMC, Women's Ritual Group.
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A MONTH OF SUNDAYS – MAY 2002

5/5

9:30 a.m. Auditorium Forum: Cinco de Maya Celebration. CSUS Latin Jazz Band. Steve Roach and Eduardo Aranda. (See page 6, "Attention Jazz Lovers.")

11 a.m. Auditorium Service: "Our Tribe: Who Really Belongs Here?" Rev. Peter Morales. Each one of us needs to belong, to be loved, to be wanted, to be respected, to have a sense of identity, to connect with something beyond ourselves. Alas, when we learn to think of "us," we also learn to think of "them," of those who are not us. On this Cinco de Mayo we will explore those things that divide us (race, ethnicity, class, religion) and those things that might unite us. *Rich Howard.*

5/12

9:30 a.m. Auditorium Forum: "UUSS (Live) Poets Society (Mother's Day)

11 a.m. Auditorium Service: "The Great Turning., Part I." Rev. Doug Kraft. "The Great Turning" is a name Joanna Macy uses to describe deep and profound changes our society is going through. We are turning from an industrial growth economy based on endless consumption to a sustainable economy. The perils of our present course are tremendous. The possibilities starting to emerge are inspiring. This Great Turning has three parts to it: (1) slowing the destructive aspects of our current system as much as possible, (2) developing alternate, sustainable technologies and systems and (3) shifting of values and consciousness to that which supports a sustainable future. All three of these are vitally important and all three happening now, though they may not make news headlines. On May 12th and 26th, we will begin to examine the social and spiritual implications of this Turning and how we can help it along. *Doug Kraft*

5/19

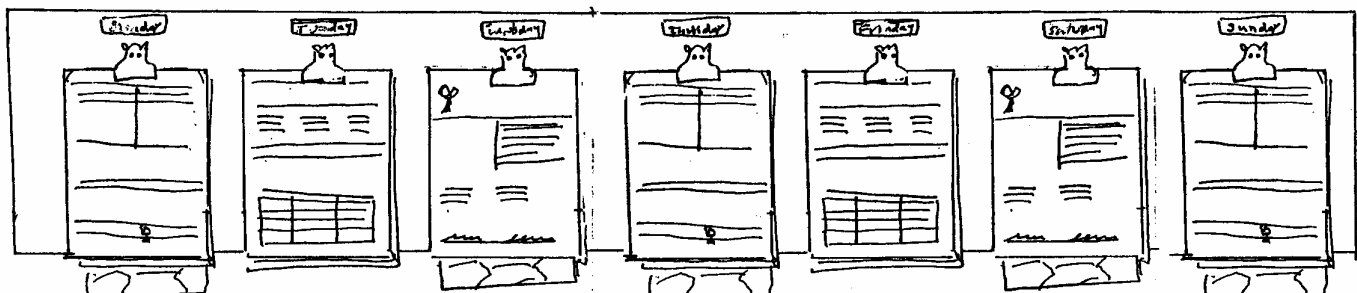
9:30 a.m. Auditorium Forum: "Drug Policies and UUs, Amy Jaynes

11 a.m. Auditorium Service: Coming of Age Service. For six months, four young people from UUSS and seven from UU Community Church have been exploring just what it means to "come of age". Each has worked with an adult mentor, and tackled such topics as UU spirituality, social justice, ethics, and identity. On May 19, Netty Carey, Jessica Doehne, Megan Risk, and Nathan True from UUSS will participate in this very special service. The UUCC youth will serve as ushers. At 5 p.m., our youth will serve as ushers at the UUCC service. This cooperative effort has been guided by volunteers from both congregations.
Kate Throop

5/26

9:30 a.m. Auditorium Forum: Cross-cultural Communication: What do laws and freedoms mean?" This panel discussion will feature community leaders from various cultures.

11 a.m. Auditorium Service: "The Great Turning, Part II." Rev. Doug Kraft. (See above, May 12, 11 a.m. Service.)



MAY 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*			1) 10 am Lib Daydreamers 6 pm Aud Theater One 7 pm Rm 12 Ministry Circle # 6 7 pm Lib Council of Leaders	2) 10 am Lib Women's Alliance Board 6 pm Aud Theater One 7 pm Lib PMC	3) 7 pm Fahs [HAGSA] 4 pm Aud Theater One 8 pm Aud <i>Witness for the Prosecution</i>	4) 10 am K/Aud Theater One prep 6 pm Aud Dinner 8 pm Aud <i>Witness for the Prosecution</i>
5) 9:30 am Fahs Choir 9:30 am Aud Forum 9:30 am Rm 12 Adult RE Patio PLANT SALE BEFORE & AFTER CHURCH 11 am Aud Service 12:15pmFahs+11 Orientation I 12:30pmRm 6 Social Resp. Ctte 2pm Aud <i>Witness for the Prosecution</i> 5 offsiteUU Young Adults 6 pm Fahs Servetus Club 6 pm Rm 6 PoemSpirits	6) 10:30 am Lib Support Group 7 pm Fahs Iron Bell Zen Sitting Group 7 pm Lib Wms Ritual Group	7) 10 am Rm 12 Ministry Circle #5 6 pm Offsite Exec. Ctte	8) 10 am Lib Daydreamers 7 pm Fahs Choir	9) 10:15 am Wm's Alliance Mtg & Lunch 6:15 Lounge Worship Leaders 7 pm Lib Relig Svcs	10)	11) 7:30 Offsite UU Young Adults 8:30 am PMC/Sheriffs Work Day 10 am Rm 12 Forum Program Committee 12 pm Lib/Lounge LUUNA
12) 9:30 am Fahs Choir 9:30 am Aud Forum 9:30 am Rm 12 Adult RE 9:30 am Rm 6 SSS Subctte 11 am Aud Service 12:15 pm Fahs Orientation II	13) 10 am Lib Constitution Review Task Force 7 pm Fahs Iron Bell Zen Sitting Group.	14) 7:30 pm Rm 12 Closed Orange Ctte	15) 10 am Lib Daydreamers 7 pm Fahs Choir 6 pm Lib Music Ctte 7 pm Rm 12 Min Circle #6	16) 6pm Lib Board of Trustees* 7 pm Lib Book Group	17)	18) pm Kitchen/Lounge Coming of Age Dinner; practice service, Overnight
19) Rms 10,11,12 until 9 am Coming of Age Overnight 9:30 am Fahs Choir 9:30 am Aud Forum 9:30 am Rm 12 Adult RE 11 am Aud Service 12:15 pm Congrtegational Meeting 3 pm Offsite New Members' Gathering 4 pm Fahs [HAGSA] 7 pm Lib UU Young Adults	20) 10:30 am Lib Support Group 7 pm Fahs Iron Bell Zen Sitting Group	21) 10 am Rm 12 Ministry Circle #5 7 pm Finance Ctte	22) 10 am Lib Daydreamers 7 pm Fahs Choir	23)	24) 7 pm Aud SSS (SANDWICH SUPPER SOCIAL)	25) 8:30 Rm 9 Meditation Instruction
26) 9:30 am Fahs Choir 9:30 am Aud Forum 9:30 am Rm 12 Adult RE 11 am Aud Service 12:30 pm Rm 6 Last Sunday Film	27) HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm Fahs Iron Bell Zen Sitting Group	28) 7:30 pm Rm 6 Closed Orange Ctte	29) 10 am Lib Daydreamers 7 pm Fahs Choir	30)	31) R.E. Campout begins	

* **NOTE:** Board of Trustees meeting date is changed for this month only.

CELEBRATE CINCO de MAYO!!

Sunday, May 5, 9:30 a.m.
Sacramento U-U Society Forum, 2425 Sierra Blvd.

CSUS LATIN JAZZ BAND

Featuring Music Professor **STEVE ROACH**, Director, on the trumpet, and band members: Matt McFarland, Piano; Andro Rios, Congas/ Percussion; Matt Robinson, Bass; Derek Taylor, Drums; Aaron Thurman, Sax; Esteban Varelas, Bongos/Percussion

Also, Eduardo Aranda will share impressions of the history and meaning of the day in his native Mexico as compared to the way it is celebrated in the U. S.

This special Forum is presented with loving remembrances of Sacramento U-U Society members May d'Marie, whose second "Home" was Mexico, and "Brick" Menz, jazz musician, jazz enthusiast, and tireless member/supporter of the Forum Committee

