

The
UNIGRAM

Monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento

VOL. 33 No. 4

DECEMBER 2002

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

(See Page 11 for more information.)

Sunday Services – 9 and 11 a.m. in the Auditorium

- 12/1 “Sweet, Sweet Revenge,” Rev. Beth Banks.
12/8 “Soul / Witness,” Rev. Doug Kraft.
12/15 “Light, Life, and Love,” Intergenerational Service, Kate Throop.
12/22 “In the Dark Midwinter,” Rev. Kraft.
12/24 (Tuesday) Two Christmas Eve Services.
12/29 “Dialogue Sermon,” Rev. Kraft.

Adult Religious Education – 9:30 a.m. in Room 12 - “Building Your Own Theology” continues.

Forum – 1 p.m. in the Auditorium.

- 12/1 “Thanksgiving Memories and Other Items,” discussion led by Peter KJillian.
12/8 Ted Webb speaks on “Ambassadors Then and Now.”
12/15 “Mark Twain on War,” Bob Webb.
12/22 “Inspection and the Iraqi People,” Pat Driscoll video.
12/29 “Headlines of the Day,” discussion led by Peter Killian.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tree Trimming Party - Saturday, December 7,. All are invited!

Members' Market - Sunday, December 8. Bring you wares and buy others'.

Elizabethan Winter Solstice Celebration - December 21. Dinner and music and celebration.

Christmas Eve Family Service **and** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Come to one or both services to celebrate the season with us.

New Year's Eve Intergenerational Party - December 31.

Report on the Congregational Meeting October 27

Community Generosity

A strong majority (80% yes, 14% no) approved the Community Contribution Program at the October 27 Congregational Meeting. This program would give one Sunday morning offering each month to an organization doing significant direct service to relieve suffering. We also selected 12 organizations to receive our offering. The details of the results can be found in the church office.

Vision and Priorities

The following vision statement, “Our vision for the next five years is to build a congregation that can serve 900 members, friends, children and youth who will become a strong force for spiritual, intellectual and social enlightenment and change in our community” was adopted by a majority (72% yes, 25% no) at the October 27 Congregational Meeting. Some ambivalence was expressed about growth.

The congregation also considered priorities to fulfill that vision. The following items were ranked in the order shown. Strengthening staff support was the runaway favorite. Enhancing or enlarging our present facilities was the lowest concern. A more detailed analysis can be found in the office.

Strengthening Staff Support

Pastoral Care Program

Increasing our presence in the community through service project

Lifespan (R.E.) for Children and Youth

Adopting Governing Structures

Lifespan (R.E.) for Adults

Increasing Ministry

Other

Financial Wholeness

Enhancing Facilities

Building a Larger Sanctuary

Doug Kraft

AT THE MOMENT ...

The Reverend Douglas C.B. Kraft

A beloved member of my extended family (I'll call her "Jane") grew up Quaker. As an adult she became a singer and voice teacher. Synagogues hired her to be their cantor. She loved the music. She loved the intellectual discourse, the history, the culture and the ritual. Eventually she decided to convert to Judaism. After much study, she completed her conversion one July.

When December came around she reminded us that she was Jewish now. She would not be celebrating Christmas. She wasn't rigid about it. She went to Christmas parties to be with friends. But she said she did not want to exchange Christmas presents, send out cards or have a tree. At Hanukkah, she sent out small gifts as is the Jewish custom, but she stayed away from more lavish Yule celebrations. And she planned to spend a quiet December 25th at home.

She was content with this until December 23rd. Then, suddenly, the image of being alone on Christmas day flooded her with more loneliness than she could stand. She hopped in her car and drove five hours to spend Christmas with her sister and nephews, and their Christmas tree, stockings, turkey and eggnog.

December has come around again. For those who celebrate Christmas, it is time for me, as a minister, to offer some insight as to how to navigate the season. It is time for my annual ritual condemnation of commercialism or gentler reminder of the value of quiet reflection. But you've heard these before.

So I scratch my head and wonder, "What can I say that might actually be useful?" I'm tempted to write, "I don't have a clue." I know too many stories like Jane's. I know too many strategies that work for one person but fail another. But I do know a few things:

1. Christmas is big. Those of us who grew up with it were exposed to its music, light and color, its magic and promise since before we could speak. The depth and breadth of that imprinting should not be underestimated. Ask Jane.

2. The extremes of indulgence and abstinence are hard. Giving in to every indulgence can make you physically sick. Resisting every indulgence can make you heartsick. Jane was wise to resist the lure of the season. Jane was also wise to not resist the lure of the season completely.

3. Wisdom grows out of awareness, not control. A little sense of humor about our foibles and a little self-observation go a lot further than righteousness. Taking

the time to notice your moods is more important than taking control of them.

4. December 26th comes right after December 25th. No matter what happens, life goes on. So it's okay.

However you do navigate the season, I hope it brings you balance, warmth, wisdom and an abundance of good humor.

Finding Doug . . .

Except for Thanksgiving week, I can be found at the church between 3 and 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and between 1 and 3 p.m. on Wednesdays and other times by chance or appointment. Give me a call (483-9283x201) or send me a note (doug@uuss.org).

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

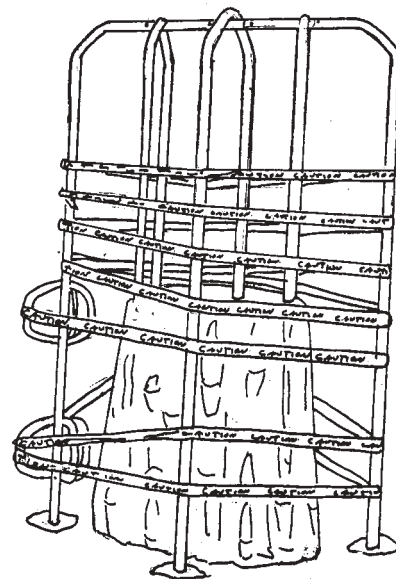
"*Spring Thing*" is a retreat for all UUs at Asilomar April 18-20, 2003. Look for information on the Kiosk.

The annual PCD (Pacific Central District) *Leadership Development Day* held at UUSS November 2 was a grand success! Join us next year.

This spring, our congregation, along with the UU Community Church, will be hosting the *PCD District Assembly* here in Sacramento at the Hilton-Arden West, so please put it on your calendar for April 25-27, 2003.

Huzzah!

Be Patterson



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Why it is that when December comes and our deepest animal instincts tell us to have just one more paw-full of honey, then find a warm cave and crawl in we find ourselves embarking on just the opposite course of action?! Hope has a lot to do with it, I think.

During our “Unplug the Christmas Machine” workshop in November, each participant wrote a letter to her/himself answering the questions “what can I do to make my dream for a holiday of true peace and joy come true? What can I give up—what can I change?” The letters were sealed in envelopes that were self-addressed; they will be mailed on January 15, 2003, for some post-holiday reflection. I invite you, too, to reflect on these questions. May the month of December be a time of centering, listening, reaching out, savoring the company of family and friends. May all the love and blessings of this season of darkness and candles and hope fall upon you like gentle rain and silent snowflakes.

In the spirit of love and community,

Kate

December Calendar

- 12/1** 9 & 11 a.m. *Community Service Sunday*. All ages attend church with family, then meet in Room 7/8. We'll make holiday placemats and decorate stockings for St. John's Shelter, finish packaging our “doggie treats” to sell at the Member's Market, and do some clean-up work outside on the UUSS grounds (weather permitting).
- 12/7** 5:30-8 p.m. *Tree-Trimming Party*, sponsored by the Religious Education Committee. All are invited to trim the tree, enjoy a pizza dinner together, make ornaments and decorations to take home, and sing carols. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. \$6 for families of one, two, or three; \$12 for families of four or more. Pizza, salad, veggies and punch will be served—please bring a plate of cookies to share.
- 12/8** 9 & 11 a.m. *Curriculum Sunday*—Winter Solstice and preparation for Dec. 15 Intergenerational Service, “Light, Life and Love.”
- 12/15** 9 & 11 a.m. *Intergenerational Service*, “Light, Life and Love.” If you or your children would like to have a non-speaking role in the tableaux, please let Kate know as soon as possible.
- 12/22** 9 & 11 a.m. *Children's Chapel* – Sally Lewis.
- 12/24** 4:30 p.m. *Christmas Eve Family Service* – “Each Night a Child is Born is a Holy Night” – Kate Throop & Devorah Greenstein. Special holiday music by Matt Ford, flute, Kevin Collins, piano, and Marci Chambers, voice. This service will be just under an hour long, with carols, readings and special music by UUSS young people. A time of fellowship with hot cider, a savory snack and singing of popular holiday songs will follow the service.
- 12/29** 9 & 11 a.m. *Friendship Sunday* – class holiday. Games and crafts supervised by the Ebler family.

Nancy Beach, UUSS Childcare Supervisor, will be away on Dec. 22, Dec. 29 and Jan. 5.

Please watch for announcements on the “blue sheet” and posted on the R.E. bulletin boards regarding the availability of childcare on Christmas Eve. Call Kate for the most up-to-date information.

December Community Service

On Dec. 15 and Dec. 22 children and youth are asked to contribute “Head,Heart, and -Hand-Warming” gifts for the children at St. John's Shelter. New or gently-used (and clean) sweaters, sweatshirts, knit hats and one-size gloves are needed. The gifts will be collected during the Intergenerational Service on Dec. 15 and in the R.E. office on Dec. 22.

CABBAGES & KINGS

I have a lifetime caught on film and videotape tucked away in the back of a closet. I have longed for technology to reach the point where I could edit it on the computer. That day has finally arrived. I bought the software and a tutorial to teach me how to use it. Now I can take all those memories and put them in some kind of cogent order. It should be easy... By this point in my life I should be used to being wrong.

I was particularly looking forward to editing out the many flaws—you know the times, like when you forgot to turn off the record function and you have ten minutes of tape looking at your shoes in the middle of your daughter's graduation. I was especially hoping to edit out this annoying snort I make when I laugh. I never hear it at the time, but on the tape it makes me cringe. The software is great for getting rid of the feet, but I can't always get rid of the snort without cutting out whatever the subject of the tape is saying. I'm disappointed when the less than perfect has to stay, but that isn't the biggest challenge of film editing.

I have learned that once I get rid of the flaws (or at least most of them) the editing process isn't done. It turns out that there is plenty of good tape that needs to be cut too, because it is more than I need to communicate the story, or it would be boring to anyone but me, or because it confuses the story, or because, while interesting, it is not essential to the story. My tutorial calls this "tight editing." It is the hardest part of film editing. No one wants to cut out those precious moments we were trying to preserve by taping them in the first place, such as the 20 minutes I have of my first born waiting to record her first step (of course when it did happen, I missed it.). In other words, tight editing is about letting go. We have often heard the phrase that "less is more." This is one of those cases. The tutorial dramatically demonstrates how tight editing makes the film more dynamic and interesting, which means you might actually watch it, which is, of course the whole point.

So does this column have a point? I hope so. It is that film isn't the only thing in life that needs editing. In these tough financial times we are being forced to take a film editor's view of our budget for this and next year and the story it is trying to tell. We are facing at least a \$30,000 deficit for this year and maybe an even bigger one next year. This isn't much out of a budget that exceeds half a million dollars, but when we no longer have cash reserves, it is more than we can afford. It is also a challenge because most of the easy "flaws" were already cut. Now we are faced with doing a "tight edit." That means we have to look at cutting portions we or others in our community value. That could be a definition of "pain." There will be plenty of discussion and differences about what is essential to our UU story and what isn't. Most of us will find portions of the story we treasure discarded on the cutting room floor. But the biggest challenge will be can we rise above our

differences to keep a common focus on what UUSS is about, not just to us, but the community we serve. Not just to us, but our children who follow. Not just to us, but to those hungry for a liberal religious tradition that will feed their souls. I trust that we will and that is the point. When we are done, I have faith that less will be more.

Clay Nelson, Business Manager

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's mid-November as I write this, and although I haven't seen the results of our professional audit review yet, I'm bracing myself for painful news. Nothing shocking, mind you. I doubt that there will be anything, really, that we don't already know. It's going to be painful all the same.

I think the review is going to indicate that our financial reports are difficult to read and interpret and that they do not present a clear picture of our assets and liabilities. It may not come right out and admonish us to immediately replace our current accounting software system, but I expect that this will be singled out as a major source of many problems. I think we are going to be told how unwise it is to operate without cash reserves. I'm sure that there will be serious questions about our failure to set aside funds on a regular basis for future capital outlays. I think it will confirm that the serious budget shortfall that we have been hoping to postpone for the past several years has finally arrived.

You don't have to be psychic to make some good guesses as to what will happen next. You can predict that the board and staff will consult long and hard. You can expect there to be major revamping of the ways we manage and report our finances. You can foresee that we will ask for the congregation's participation and support in finding ways to cut expenses and generate additional revenues. If there is anything that can be done quickly and inexpensively right away, we'll do it.

What many of you will not venture to predict, and may find it hard to believe, is that we are determined this time to look at the big picture, the long term health and well being of our Society. Dedication, talent, and sound judgement have never been lacking at UUSS, but except perhaps back in the days when our buildings were built, I don't think we have had much call to look beyond the present or question our habits, methods and assumptions. The goal is always to just get through this year! So we've tended to patch, mend, and wire together, and I'm not just talking about our electrical system.

Now, we're shifting to another mode. This year is going to be bumpy, but I think we're ready. I am totally convinced that what will pull us through is our collective faith in our future, that will allow us to take appropriate short term measures, but will not detract us from the real challenge of moving ahead toward the fulfillment of our vision.

Looking forward,

Tiffany Urness

COMMITTEES AT WORK

Membership Committee News

In November the Membership Committee held one of its four-times-a-year Socials with the help of several committee chairs. It was at Doug and Erica Kraft's home on a Sunday afternoon, with food and drink, good conversation, an ice-breaker, and a sit-down session where questions regarding theology and Unitarian Universalism were asked of our minister. The next Social is set for February 3, and we'll invite those who joined UUSS from August 2001 through January 2003. If you joined then, save a spot on your calendar for this event. And for those of you who didn't make the scene at Doug's, we'd especially like to see you there.

If Dick Taylor calls you to ask you to be a New Member Friend to one (or two) of our new members, please say *oui, si, or who me?* (Well, you know what Dick'll say.) We need a continuing supply of members of the congregation to help our new members get settled in. You'll also benefit personally by getting to know some new folks. Such a deal! If you want some more information about this program, call Dick.

And finally, thanks to all of you who, without benefit of a Greeter Badge, take the time after the service (or before) to greet visitors and demonstrate to them by your warmth and friendliness that this is a great place to come to on Sunday mornings.

Clair Urness

The Forum Reports Results

Attendance highest and lowest this fall

After two months of the new time for the Forum, 1 p.m., the results have been positive and negative. On Sunday September 29 when we had a joint meeting with the Humanist Society, we had the very largest attendance ever--162. Michael Newdow, the presenter, discussed the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, which he is challenging in court. However, on October 27 the Forum conflicted with the Congregational Meeting, and there were few in attendance. The November 10 presentation, "From Ragtime to Swingtime" presented by Nan Bostick, was very well received by 76 people in attendance.

Much of the attendance success can be attributed to the work of Eileen Karpeles, Barbara Amberson, and Jan Dennis, who made sure that lunch was served each Sunday between the end of the 11 o'clock service and the start of the Forum at 1 p.m. Thank you!

Many very interesting and topical programs are on the schedule for the coming months (two of them are described below)—not just lectures, but musical programs as well.

HELP! In order for our UUSS community and the larger community to know about these interesting programs, we need your HELP. Our Publicity chair David Paul is doing a fine job, but he would welcome your help with:

Preparing notices each Sunday for the new

Announcement Board

Preparing monthly fliers listing each month's programs, to distribute widely.

Preparing small bimonthly ads for the paper *Because People Matter* and possibly some other organizations.

Securing interesting, informative, educational programs. (Suggestions are very welcome, but please be aware that you may be asked to help make arrangements for the programs you suggest.)

You are invited to participate in the Program Committee meetings, the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (Check the board by the Office for meeting room.)

Rick Caughey

An Afternoon With the Webbs

Forum December 8, 1 p.m.

Ted Webb, Minister Emeritus and author, will talk about his latest book on the distinguished Washburn brothers of 19th century Maine, "Impassioned Brothers: Ministers Resident to France and Paraguay." Noel Webb, Los Angeles actor, composer, and jazz violinist, will provide music for the program.

Thelma White

...and With Mark Twain

Forum December 15, 1 p.m.

"Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated." Believe it or not, Mark Twain is alive and well, brought to life by Bob Webb, one of the country's foremost Mark Twain impersonators, who will appear at the UUSS Forum on December 15, 1 p.m. Webb has played Mark Twain since 1942, entertaining school children, members of Congress, judges, lawyers, and hundreds of theatergoers.

In an unscripted monologue, Webb presents Twain based on his books, notes, lectures and letters, then answers questions while still in character. Webb's wife, Violet, plays Mark Twain's wife "Livvy."

Bob Webb holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee and a Masters in theatre from UCLA. He has received various honors from many prestigious organizations. Webb took an interest in Mark Twain as a child raised on the Mississippi River in Tennessee. This presentation promises to take the audience back in time while addressing issues still timely and critical today, such as war and peace. Forum attendees should plan for an extremely entertaining and informative show.

David Paul

COMMITTEES AT WORK

Campus Comments by PMC

The new youth climbing equipment has been installed, thanks to the supervision and work of John McMillan. Others have helped, including our county work crews and some of our young adults who wielded a shovel. The resilient material which will fill the pit has been delivered; and by the time you read this it will have been hauled to the pit. (Alan Ebler did this work.)

The County work crew was cancelled this month because of rain. So there is much autumn clean-up to be done unless the wind blows it away.

The December Property Management Committee meeting, December 5, 7 p.m. in the Library, will be a brainstorming session led by Chuck O'Neil. We will discuss our campus and building needs and wishes, both short term and long term. Anyone interested in participating is invited.

We are beginning our budget process for the 2003-2004 year. With our limited funds and routine needs it will be pretty much a repeat of last year.

And yes, the rains have found a hole in the roof of Room 12, so some roofing work is necessary.

Pete Larsen

Theater One Meets Dec. 9

Come plan with us

Theater One welcomes all who are interested in plays to attend our planning meeting on Monday, December 9, 7 p.m. in the Library.

Please join us. We enjoyed working together, learned a lot, and made money for the church on our recent productions of *Witness for the Prosecution* and *Amy's View*, and we don't want to lose the momentum!

We have tentatively reserved the weekend of April 11, 12, and 13 for a spring production and we need to decide on the play. "Spoon River Anthology" has been suggested, for one. How about a summer production too? Please join us and bring your ideas.

Barbara Amberson

Bike Trail Cleanup is Dec. 14

Fair Weather Friends (& Members) Only

Fair weather members and friends are encouraged to clean trash from Mile 3 to 4 of the American River Parkway on December 14, but

we'll cancel if it's raining. Meet at church at 9:30 a.m. to bike over or meet at Mile 4 at 10 a.m.; litter bags will be provided.

Jeff Voeller

OUTREACH

Globalization Education Workshop Begins 1/26

Forum & Social Responsibility Committee will present kick-off event

The Forum and the Social Responsibility Committee invite you to a superfantastick event to be held on Sunday, January 26, 2003. We are kicking off the UUSS Globalization Education Workshop, a series of topic sessions designed by your fellow UUs to help you understand and get a handle on the not-so-complex issue of economic globalization.

We will answer excellent questions like "why should I care?" and "what impact does economic globalization have on me?" and "what can I possibly do about an issue as large as globalization?"

Please come learn about an issue that touches the lives of every single human being on this planet! We promise to make the Kick-off fun and informative. Look for more details in the January Unigram or call (916) 444-1215 for more details or to get involved in the Project.

Cory Fulton & Susan Oldland

"Together We Share"

Grateful for all of the blessings of our lives, we will once again make intentional gifts to those in our community who are in need. Please contribute as you are able, using the following list as a guide (collection boxes will be in the west alcove on Sunday morning): Packaged foods that need no further preparation (tuna, peanut butter, jam, canned fruit and vegetables, chili, soups, cereals); new one-size-fits-all gloves, socks, knit caps, sweatshirts, sweat pants, rain gear; toothbrushes, toothpaste, skin lotion, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, shampoo, combs, brushes, disposable diapers (and pull-ups). These gifts will be distributed to St. John's Shelter, Mary House, Loaves & Fishes, and Samaritan Center.

Kate Throop

Food Basket Update

Many, many thanks to all who have been putting food in the "laundry" (food) basket in the Lounge. The response has been generous—keep it up! The basket loves to receive all kinds of cans and dry food items which are then shared with various agencies of Sacramento.

Don't forget to grab something to bring with you to church, or have a can or two by the door, early—ready—and waiting. All donations are much appreciated.

Maryly Reinertson

UUs GET TOGETHER

SSS is January 25

SSSSave the date

The next Saturday Sandwich Social (SSS) is on January 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m., in the auditorium. Always good food and a fun program. Everyone is invited!

Maryly Reinertson

Celebrate Winter Solstice Dec.21

Elizabethan event will feature dinner, concert

Women's Ritual Group invites you to an Elizabethan Winter Solstice on Saturday, December 21 in the USS auditorium.

Come at 5 p.m. to have dinner first, if you wish. The dinner (vegetarian or with meat) is \$15 and will be prepared by Bob Clifton and Patricia Thomas. Soft drinks are \$1, wine is \$2. To reserve dinner, please call me at 455-3401 and clearly state your name, phone number, and number of reservations. Also, let me know if you are ordering a vegetarian dinner.

The Solstice begins at 7 p.m. with a candlelight procession and music to be provided by Randy Parris, who plays authentic Elizabethan music on the lute and his own neo-Elizabethan music on the harp. There is no charge to attend; your donations would be very much appreciated, however.

By the way, you are welcome to wear a Renaissance or other costume if you'd like.

Laurie Jones

Ministry Circles

The USS Ministry Circles are accepting new members on a regular basis. If you are interested in joining a Circle, you will find brochures and a sign-up sheet in the church office.

Fran Oyafuso

Members' Market is Dec. 8

Don't forget to bring your craft items and food specialties to sell at the holiday Members' Market December 8, after Sunday services. All proceeds go to the church.

Call me at 457-9057 if you have any questions or for information about getting together at Gayle Voeller's to work on crafts. Even if you don't make anything, plan to come and BUY.

Barbara Amberson

Dream Group Meets Weekly

Join us Wednesday mornings

"It was the best workshop ever!" That was the consensus of the 30-plus participants in our October workshop with Kathleen Sullivan. A huge thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the weekend such a success and a special thanks to Jackie and Richard Davis of Sogno Winery for donating their beautiful facilities.

If you are interested in working with your dreams, come join us on Wednesday mornings 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

UU Young Adults Plan Five December Gatherings

Movie, party, discussions, good works

UU Young Adults are Unitarian Universalists in their 20s and 30s. This group serves both UU churches in Sacramento — the UU Community Church (UCC) and the UU Society of Sacramento (USS).

Some of us are single, some are married, and some are in between. Newcomers are always welcome! The group meets on Sundays at 7 p.m. in the library at USS unless otherwise noted. For more information contact me at paixnow@yahoo.com or call 737-2808. To join our e-mail collective, send a message to Dean Baird at dean@phyz.org.

12/1, Sunday, Movie Night. We'll be going out for a night at the movies. Meet at 7 p.m. at the USS Library to carpool for a 7:30 p.m. show.

12/8, Sunday, 7 p.m. 2002 Nobel Prize discussion with some history and commentary from our own Daniel Hamilton. Meet at the USS Library.

12/14, Saturday. We'll be working with the Sacramento Food Bank *boxing meals*. For more information, contact our leader Shauna at rgrandshauna@attbi.com.

12/20, Friday, 7 p.m. Bah-Humbug! It's our annual holiday party at my house, 4851 Alta Dr., Sacramento. Yummies provided, BYOB. Contact Mark at 737-2808 for directions.

12/29, Sunday, 7 p.m. Just when you thought it was safe to celebrate New Year's in peace, along comes a *discussion on New Year's Resolutions!* Leader is Shauna, meet in the Library.

Mark Callicotte

UUs GET TOGETHER

PoemSpirits Meet December 1

You are invited to the Sunday, December 1 PoemSpirits, from 6-7:30 p.m. in Room 7/8. Guest reader Phil Goldvarg writes poems of those often forgotten foster children, factory workers, immigrants, Mayan and Puerto Rican villagers who are hurt by facile political decisions. I will make a brief presentation on Irish poet Seamus Heany, and you are invited to read one or two of your own poems or those of a favorite poet. Refreshments available. PoemSpirits coordinators are Nora Staklis, Tom Goff (481-3312) and I.

JoAnn Anglin (451-1372)



Humanists Meetings in December

HAGSA (Humanists of the Greater Sacramento Area) meets twice a month at UUSS in the Fahs Room. All are welcome to attend.

Friday, December 6, 7 p.m.: *Laurens Gunnarsen*, son of Walter and Margo Gunnarsen, will speak to the group on his unique and fascinating work with super-genius children.

Sunday, December 22, 3 p.m. (Note change from our usual Sunday meeting time of 4 p.m.): *Solstice party and potluck* with music, poetry, and a stained glass logo project, and revelry. Bring some dinner food to share. Call me at 448-9373 for further information:

Anna Andrews

Spend New Year's Eve at UUSS *So many activities for the whole family!*

This New Year's Eve, come to UUSS for a great multigenerational celebration.

Tickets for those who missed the early bird sign-ups last spring will go on sale soon, price TBA. Come and participate in one or all of these: potluck supper, dancing to a live...juke box, bridge, sing-a-long, poetry readings, and kids' entertainment. Child care will be provided (but for this you must purchase your tickets before December 18). We welcome volunteers to help with decorations, potluck supervising, bartending, kids' games, hat-making, ticket selling, line or folk dance leading. New members are especially welcome. This is a great way to get better acquainted with everybody.

Tiffany Urness

Women's Alliance Celebrates the Holidays

Join us December 12

The Women's Alliance will meet on Thursday, December 12, in the auditorium. Business meeting at 10:15 a.m., then the celebration at 11:30—we will share Christmas memories and sing carols. Members and guests are asked to bring a dish to serve 6 to 8 or, if unable, pay a nominal fee to share the feast.

Joyce Miller

P.S. Yearly dues for 2002-2003 Women's Alliance membership is overdue! If you haven't paid your dues yet, please complete this form and mail it with your \$20 check, made out to Women's Alliance, to Women's Alliance/UUSS, 2425 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento CA 95825-4896. -----

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP 2002-03

Amt enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Servetus Club

"Singles Club" welcomes married couples too

Started many years ago as a social club for singles, Servetus Club now welcomes married people as well, and two couples have joined recently.

We will meet for our monthly potluck and a holiday celebration on Sunday, December 1, **5 p.m.** (note earlier starting time) in the Fahs Room.

Please bring a potluck dish to share. We will have a gift exchange, so please bring a wrapped present. We ask that you challenge your creativity--spend no more than \$1 on the gift!!

Dorothy Engelstad

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS – DECEMBER 2002

12/1

8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Room 11. Childcare.

9-10 a.m.

Religious Education for Preschool-6th grade.

9 and 11 a.m.

Auditorium – Service: “Sweet, Sweet Revenge,” Rev. Beth Banks. An ancient saying goes, “If you want revenge, dig two graves. One for your enemy and the other for yourself.” If we consider the state of the world today, it would seem that revenge plays an important part in international dynamics. How does revenge play itself out in our individual lives, and in countries around the world? You’ll find this service especially meaningful if you reflect on your own life, and watch the news carefully for examples of revenge. Beth Banks is the Parish Minister for the Davis Unitarian Universalist Church.

9:30 a.m.

Room 12 – Adult R.E.: discussing *Building Your Own Theology*.

11a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Religious Education for Preschool-Senior High.

1 p.m.

Auditorium - Forum: “Thanksgiving Memories and Other Items,” A freeform discussion of current events, musing, or just plain rambling. (Peter Killian.)

12/8

8:45a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Room 11. Childcare.

9-10 a.m.

Religious Education for Preschool-6th grade.

9 and 11 a.m

Auditorium – Service: “Soul / Witness,” Rev. Doug Kraft. Behind all our experience there is an “I” watching what we do. It gives us the capacity to observe ourselves and to be self-aware. It has sometimes been called “soul” and “witness.” It is a subtle yet ever present essence of who we are. The fall is a time when nature strips down to bare essence: loss of leaves, warmth, and sunlight. The Christmas season too often seems more about excess than essence. On this Sunday we will spend some time looking for our own simple essence, this soul / witness. It can help us navigate the Christmas (or any other) season.

9:30 a.m.

Room 12 – Adult R.E.: discussing *Building Your Own Theology*.

11am-12:15 p.m.

Religious Education for Preschool-Senior High.

1 p.m.

Auditorium - Forum: Minister Emeritus Ted Webb speaks on his book, “Ambassadors Then and Now.” Ted’s son Noel— actor, composer, jazz violinist, is also on the program. The book tells some of the adventures of two brothers: Charles Ames Washburn, Minister Resident to Paraguay, and Elihu Washburn, Secretary of State and Ambassador to France. Ted Webb’s book has been called a must-read for anyone interested in 19th century U.S. history. (Thelma White.)

12/15

8:45a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Room 11 - Childcare.

9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Auditorium – Intergenerational Holiday Service: “Light, Life, and Love.” “To you who gather in this hall, in glad mid-winter festival, we bring this welcome unto you as ancient custom bids us do.” In song and story, we’ll explore the light, life, and love of the midwinter stories: the festival of lights at Hanukkah, celebrating religious freedom, the bonfires of Winter Solstice, kindled to entice the sun back to warm the earth, the birth of the baby Jesus, and the late December festival of Kwanzaa with its seven symbolic candles of black, for solidarity, red, for the long struggle of black people for justice and freedom, and green, for the future.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS – DECEMBER 2002 (continued)

12/15 (continued)

9:30 a.m. Room 12 – Adult R.E.: discussing *Building Your Own Theology*.
11am-12:15 Religious Education for Preschool-Senior High.
1 p.m. Auditorium – Forum: “Mark Twain On War,” Bob Webb virtually brings Mark Twain to life by portraying the noted writer, reporter and lecturer in a unique way. Through his vast knowledge of Mark Twain, Webb has played him for many years. Webb holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee and a Master’s in theatre from UCLA. He has also received various honors from many prestigious organizations. (Esther Franklin.)

12/22

8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11. Childcare.
9-10 a.m. Religious Education for Preschool-6th grade.
9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Auditorium – Service: “In the Dark Midwinter,” Rev. Doug Kraft. The day after the winter solstice and the a few days before Christmas, we will sing carols and reflect on what it means to wait patiently in the dark for the return of the light.
9:30 a.m. Room 12 – Adult R.E. Discussing *Building Your Own Theology*.
1 p.m. Auditorium – Forum “Inspection and the Iraqi People,” Pat Driscoll Video presentation. (Esther Franklin.)

12/24 (Tuesday)

4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Services
Auditorium: Family Service. “Each Night a Child is Born is a Holy Night” – Kate Throop & Devorah Greenstein. Special holiday music by Matt Ford, flute, Kevin Collins, piano, and Marci Chambers, voice. This service will be just under an hour long, with carols, readings and special music by USS young people. A time of fellowship with hot cider, a savory snack and singing of popular holiday songs will follow the service.
7 p.m. Auditorium: Candlelight Service. Rev. Doug Kraft.

12/29

8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11-12. Toddlers through Sixth Grade.
9-10 a.m. Religious Education Holiday.
9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Auditorium – Service: “Dialogue Sermon,” Rev. Doug Kraft.
The last service of the year will be an opportunity for you to get me to speak about whatever questions you’d like me to address. I will place a Sermon Question Box in the sanctuary for a few weeks. Please use it to ask a question you’d like me to address. If you have a sermon of your own you’d like delivered, speak to the Religious Services Committee. But if you have a question you’d like me to address, put it on a card and place it in the box. Sunday morning, I’ll improvise around the topics you’ve given me. I’ll also take questions from the congregation during the service.

9:30 a.m. Room 12 – Adult R.E. Discussing *Building Your Own Theology*.
1 p.m. Auditorium – Forum “Headlines of the Day.” (Peter Killian.)

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- 7** SSS, Winter Solstice, Ministry Circles, Members Market, Dream Group, UU Young Adults.
- 8** PoemSpirits, Women's Alliance, New Year's Eve, Humanists, Servetus Club.
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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 December issue, the deadline is 1 Sunday, November 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, if appropriate.)

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