



The
UNIGRAM

Monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento

VOL. 33 No. 5

JANUARY 2003

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

(See Page 11 for more information.)

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

- 1/5 “Forgiving Ourselves,” Rev. Doug Kraft.
- 1/12 “Forgiving Others,” Rev. Kraft.
- 1/19 “A Tribute to Courage and Liberation,” Mary WillAllen, Taylor Carey, Mary Howard.
- 1/26 “The Globe versus the Glob,” Rev. Kraft.
- 1/2 “Sisyphus, Groundhogs and Other Shadows,” Rev. Kraft.

Religious Education - 9 and 11 a.m., Page 3.

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

Forum – 1 p.m. in the Auditorium.

- 1/5 “Genetically Modified Foods,” Stanislaus Dundan.
- 1/12 “What I Saw in China Over the Years,” Jack Bass.
- 1/19 “Challenging Corporate Personhood,” Jan Edwards and Molly Morgan.
- 1/26 “Globalization,” Panel discussion. Cory Fulton, Susan Oldland.



NOTICE OF FEBRUARY 9 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Over the past few months the USS Board of Trustees has been addressing concerns regarding the budget, as a \$20-30,000 shortfall has been projected for this fiscal year. This is due primarily to three budget issues: New member pledges are not coming in as quickly as we’d hoped; custodial overtime is thousands of dollars over budget; and we lost a \$12,000 building use client.

After much discussion and a financial review, the board voted last month to borrow money, if necessary, to cover the deficit. Because the amount is over 2% of our annual budget, we are required by our Constitution to take the matter to you, the members of USS, for a vote.

A special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday **February 9** at 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The Agenda consists of the following: To authorize the issuance of additional Member Notes.

Please take the time to come and participate in the democratic process.

USS Board of Trustees

AMONG OURSELVES

On December 6, **Devorah Greenstein**, our intern minister, passed an important milestone in her path to becoming a UU minister—an interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee from the UUA in Boston. Devorah has completed four years of seminary studies at Starr King School for the Ministry and several months of clinical/pastoral experience (chaplaincy) in the ER and Psych units of San Francisco General Hospital. She does community ministry at Walden House, a large substance abuse treatment therapeutic community in San Francisco, and she has been serving us as a parish ministry intern here at USS since September.

The Ministerial Fellowship Interview includes delivery of a 10-minute sermon, questions about UU history, polity, and theology, personal beliefs, and questions designed to test the skills needed as a minister. Devorah passed, and is now admitted into preliminary fellowship as a UU minister. She will process with other new preliminary fellowship ministers at the Service of the Living Tradition, at UU General Assembly in Boston next June.

AT THE MOMENT ...

The Reverend Douglas C.B. Kraft

We are in trouble. By the end of our fiscal year this June, our congregational budget could be as much as 5% or 6% out of balance. This is not big trouble. But since it could amount to \$25,000 to \$30,000, it is enough to be worrisome. Some of the sources of imbalance can be traced to a “trickle down” effect from the deteriorating state and national economies. The specifics of where our budget has been impacted are described in the article on Page 1 (“Notice of February 9 Congregational Meeting”) from the Board of Trustees.

Compounding the problem is an accumulated indebtedness by the congregation over the years. An overly complex financial system has made it difficult to track the collective effect of many small, well-intentioned financial decisions. It is as if we have unwittingly maxed out our credit cards.

Over the last year and a half, the Board of Trustees has been determined to sort all this out. They have used outside consultants and the most thorough external financial review in memory to make sure we understand it all as well as formulate corrective measures. By the time of the special congregational meeting on February 9, they expect to have comprehensive strategies for you to consider and vote upon.

In general, there are three things we can do: (1) streamline our financial systems so we can more easily understand what it going on; (2) increase revenues; and (3) cut expenses.

Improved financial systems are already being implemented. Increasing income and decreasing expenses are more painful. Our fundraisers have been very successful. Members and friends have been diligent about their pledges. A supplementary pledge drive has been done often enough in recent years that it may be counter-productive. Some people find it annoying and it cuts into the effectiveness of our main canvass.

Cutting expenses in a lean budget is not easy either. But we may have to make cuts that sting.

We have much strength to draw upon. The spirit in the congregation is buoyant. Participation on Sunday and other times is high. I’m confident we’ll figure out what we need to do and get on with strengthening our spiritual community.

In the meantime, your generosity and ideas are always helpful. Your questions, suggestions and support are needed and most welcome.



Finding Doug...

Except for the week between Christmas and New Year’s, 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 (483-9283 ext. 201) or send me a note (doug@uuss.org).

Community Generosity

On November 24, the congregation raised \$1,500 for our meals efforts through Loaves & Fishes. Food, clothes, and toys for the homeless and near-homeless have poured in over the holidays. By the time you read this, we will have done a special collection for the Mustard Seed School for homeless children. Thanks to everyone for your generosity.

Doug Kraft

Suggestions From the Board

We Can All Economize

While the Board of Trustees grapples with the looming budget deficit, we know that many of you would like to know what you can do to help keep expenses down. A lot of it is common sense, so we’re simply asking you to be mindful of the following:

- * Turn off lights and lock up after meetings.
- * Do NOT turn heat or air off. It’s OK to adjust thermostats up or down, because they will reset automatically to programmed settings.
- * Groups may continue to request room set-up prior to meetings, but doing your own set-up and break-down whenever possible would be very helpful.
- * Leave rooms tidy.
- * If you use the kitchen, rinse and stack dishes and leave utensils to soak.
- * If you have a lot of trash, take it to the dumpster.

Thanks! *Tiffany Urness, President, Board of Trustees*

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS **Women & Religion Meets 1/11**

PCD Women & Religion will meet Saturday, January 11, 10:30 a.m. at the San Francisco UU church. Rev. Cathleen Cox McCarroll will lead a discussion on The Wise Woman and her role in personal and world healing—a wonderful start to the new year—followed by a potluck lunch and the W&R business meeting.

For childcare please contact Geri Kennedy, co-convener, no later than December 30 (gerilou@aol.com, 650-361-8146.)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

We slow to the world, take a deep breath,
Another and yet another.
We allow our spiritual gravity to bring us to rest
And find our place.
Remembering bubbles up.
We know this place.
Here
We listen to our children,
Laugh from the bottom of our belly,
Heal and are healed by our neighbors,
Touch the ones we love.
We recognize delight.
In being restored we remember
No effort is complete without the essential ingredient of
sacred rest.

Wayne Muller

Thank you for the gift of sacred rest.
Yours in faith,

Kate

During January, please contact the following volunteers
for information about religious education classes and
activities:

R.E. Committee co-chairs: Sally Lewis and Denis Edgren
Childcare and Preschool class: Diane Forrest or Julie
Morgan
First-Second, Third-Fourth, Fifth-Sixth: Janet Lopes or
Tina Chiginsky
Junior High: Christopher Jensen
Senior High: Russ Denney

R.E Calendar

January 5 Curriculum classes - 9 & 11 a.m.
(Childcare 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. today only)
January 12 Curriculum classes - 9 & 11 a.m.
January 19 Children's Chapel - 9 & 11 a.m.
January 26 Community Service 9 & 11 a.m.
February 2 Curriculum Classes 9 & 11 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE!
May 30-June 1, 2003
UUSS Family Camp
at
Loafer Creek Campground, Lake Oroville

Parenting and Family Resources Library

Kari MacDonald has catalogued and prepared books for
borrowing from the Parenting and Family Resources section
of the religious education Library. The borrowing period is
one month - instructions for check out are posted in the R.E.
Office. Thanks to Kari for completing this big job!



CABBAGES & KINGS

A New Year is upon us. We ring it in with anticipation and, in a world where everything changes in the time it takes to fly a jet into a tower, anxiety. It is has always been thus, it just seems more stark now. Isn't that why we will be partying on December 31, as much for the fact that 2002 holds no more secrets from us as for the hope a new beginning always brings?

New Year's Eve always reminds me of the Presbyterian minister, who believes in predestination. On his way to church he falls down the stairs. At the bottom, he gathers himself up, dusts himself off, and prays, "Thank God that's over with."

For us as a community 2002 was a mixed bag, probably a lot like 2001, 2000, 1999... We said goodbye to too many beloved members at too many memorial services, leaving a hole in our common lives. But we welcomed many new faces into our midst, who have refreshed and renewed us. We have listened for months in dread to ever louder war drum. But we have an active Social Responsibility Committee and a minister who have been visibly and eloquently witnessing for peace. We struggled with space issues on Sunday morning. But we introduced a second service without tearing our social fabric.

What will 2003 bring? Mostly we don't know, but we know enough to feel a little anxious. We know there will be a special congregational meeting on February 9 to consider strategies for dealing with an anticipated shortfall in the budget, all of which will have implications on future budgets. Budgets and financial reports are dry to most and incomprehensible to some, but they are worthy of our focus, no matter how mind-numbing. I consider them to be theological treatises stating our faith. As UUs we may not have a creed, but we have a budget. It reveals who we are and what we value. And perhaps more importantly it proclaims who we want to become while attempting to preserve our faith and strengthen our witness.

Perhaps we should not consider the February 9 meeting an emergency meeting born out of anxiety, but as a theological synod gathered in anticipation, supported by hope, to reaffirm our historical faith and to move with confidence into an uncertain future.

*Clay Nelson
Business Manager*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The endorsement policy that the Board of Trustees adopted in February 2002 has been getting a workout of late. That is to say, we've been pulling it out, applying it to different circumstances, seeing how far to stretch it, responding to requests to bend it, all the while hoping that it does not come across as a pointless hurdle, but as a way to minimize pain and injury to our community.

Here is the policy:

Neither the Society's name nor the name of any Society group may be displayed in public, publicly announced, or otherwise used in a way that would give the appearance of Society endorsement of social or political causes, campaigns, positions or actions without board or congregational approval.

Requests for permission presented to the board in accordance with current procedures shall be granted unless any of the following applies:

One or more board members object on the grounds that support or endorsement would be inconsistent with a current position of social witness adopted at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations;

Five or more voting members of the Society object in writing in a timely manner, for any reason.

Let me try, in a nutshell, to explain what the intent is. Responsibility for how the Society's name is used and for determining our public commitments ultimately rests with the congregation. The board seeks to carry out the will of the congregation. The board wants it to be very easy to take a public stand on issues where we are completely confident of congregational unanimity. The board does not want it to be easy to take a public stand on issues where there might be important differences of opinion within the congregation. So we provide for a "fast track" for highly unanimous issues. But basically, all it takes to slow down the fast track is for at least five members of the congregation to dissent. Where does that leave the proposer? Scale back, and be satisfied with just using the committee's endorsement, which is OK. Collect signatures. Advocate on behalf of "Unitarian Universalists of Sacramento" or something general that does not commit us as an organization. Or go directly to the congregation by calling for a Congregational Meeting.

We go a lot further than many other UU congregations whose policy is to never take positions on potentially controversial social or political issues, and I'm sure we don't go nearly far enough for some. What is clear is that for our policy to work, three things need to happen: the proposers need to inform the congregation and provide opportunity for opposition to be expressed; members need to be alert and willing to be informed (for example, by reading your *Unigram*); and, if you read a proposal you cannot support, you must speak out. As UUs, we should be able to do this, shouldn't we?

Looking forward,

Tiffany Urness, President, Board of Trustees

COMMITTEES AT WORK

Campus Comments

Property Management Committee makes plans

Our Work Day with the County crew was scheduled for December 14, but as this is written it looks like it will rain. We have rented a dumpster for all the green waste we have—it's a big campus. There is much work to be done in the Memorial Garden.

Our property Management Committee meeting this month was a brainstorming session led by Chuck O'Neil—it was a stimulating and informative meeting. We made a wish list of things that are needed and desirable for the building and grounds and prioritized the list.

Some of the things proposed were:

- * New floors for the main building. This would save maintenance costs.
- * Design and build an entrance to the auditorium/sanctuary that looks like an entrance.
- * New sanctuary and R.E. building.
- * Update electrical system so it is safe.
- * A professional projector and screen system for the auditorium.
- * Take the hum out of the lighting system in the auditorium.
- * Change all door locks to a card system. This would save custodial wages.
- * Resurface the parking lot. (Last quote was \$65,000 and costs will increase as it is delayed.)
- * Air condition auditorium.
- * Upgrade kitchen, including new stove and ovens.
- * Design and re-work the campus landscape to reduce maintenance costs.

At our January 2 meeting we will discuss how feasible any of these projects are. We will also be doing next year's budget. Want to take part?

Musings:

Are we one-dollar UUs? A look at the Sunday offering shows mostly one dollar bills. Are these conscience-savers? We can't even get a cup of coffee for a dollar. In a dollar store we still add tax. At our service we get a thoughtful sermon, a chance to share our joys and sorrows, and sing, meditate, listen to good music, and meet with friends. Isn't that worth more than a dollar? We... we pledge too! That pledge goes to pay salaries, maintain buildings and grounds, and hopefully build a reserve for emergencies. Wouldn't it be nice if we had a Sunday offering that expressed our appreciation for the Sunday service. Can we multiply the Sunday plate by a factor of 5, 10, or even 20? Those who prepare and deliver the service would surely feel their time and effort was being rewarded and we really wouldn't miss the money we added to the contribution. Thanks.

Pete Larsen

Thanksgiving Dinner 2002

Feast sparked by Barbara Amberson

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner together at UUSS. About 70 people were served an elegant meal of turkey with all the trimmings and a wide variety of side dishes and desserts supplied by the guests.

Not everyone who attended knew that it was Barbara Amberson who made it all happen. Barbara planned, organized, and publicized the event, and she purchased and cooked the turkeys, potatoes, and stuffing. She had helpers in the church kitchen on November 27: Barbara Lewis, Joan Jansen, Matt Settle, perhaps others too. Custodian Elaine Cooper set up the tables in an attractive arrangement with a backdrop of "trees."

The next day, Thanksgiving, more helpers stepped forward: Liz Crotty (who served beverages throughout the dinner), Marie Flanagan (who made the gravy), Devorah Greenstein, Steve Hoverman (who carved), Joan Jansen, Mark Settle, Pat Skeels. Many others helped on the spot with serving and cleaning up.

Devorah Greenstein, our intern minister, gave a Thanksgiving reading before the meal. Barbara Lewis brought us greetings from Portland, where she moved after Minister Emeritus Ford Lewis died in 1998.

We had hoped to break even, but actually made \$143 for the church--a profit of \$125 for the food, and \$18 in addition contributed voluntarily for the donated beverages.

Forum Committee News

HAGSA and Forum to combine February 23

The Forum and HAGSA (Humanist Association of Greater Sacramento Area) will meet together on February 23 at 1 p.m. to hear Esther Franklin speak on "Thomas Jefferson: Slaves and Culture."

She will describe the research and writing of her historical novel, "The Others at Monticello." The book began as non-fiction titled "Thomas Jefferson, Librarian" and was originally to focus on the third President's personal library.

After Esther lived three years in Charlottesville, Virginia, however, visiting Jefferson's second home several times, making many trips to Washington D.C., and meeting (alleged) descendants of Sally Hemings, her interest in the whole Hemings family intensified and she knew she had to get these remarkable slaves into library history. Imagination was her bridge.

Esther will be autographing her book after the presentation.

Anna Andrews

OUTREACH

Economic Globalization Education Project

Workshop begins January 26

The Forum and the Social Responsibility Committee (SRC) invite you to a superfantastick event to be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday January 26. We are kicking off the **UUSS Globalization Education Workshop**, a series of six topic sessions designed for you over the last several months by your fellow UUs to help you understand and act proactively on issues of economic globalization. Forces of globalization currently at work are changing our future in ways that are sometimes beneficial, but often detrimental to the lives of many human beings and the environment.

A dynamic and motivational introduction to the series will be presented at the January 26 Forum. Beginning February 3 a series of six session topics will be presented from 7-9 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month through April. These topics will be lenses through which we will examine economic globalization. The topics include:

- History of Colonialism & Current Economic Colonialism
- Child Labor and Sweatshops
- Democracy at Risk; the IMF, World Bank, and WTO
- Culture and Consumerism
- Environment and Water
- Mystery Topic

We are preparing the series especially for our congregation and have drawn deeply from the Seven Principles as inspiration. We highlight the importance of spirit and our common humanity in learning about economic globalization. The session topics won't be lectures; as a participant, you will have fun as you learn interactively AND you will receive a handsome Economic Globalization Education diploma when you complete the series! Every session topic will include information and simple actions that can be taken to impact the course of economic globalization.

We encourage participants to register for the whole series (six classes over three months), but you may register for individual topic sessions as class size allows. You can register at the January 26 Forum or at the UUSS office or by calling Cory or Susan at (916) 444-1215. The SRC is requesting a sliding-scale donation of \$5 to \$20 to hold your place as a participant in the series (registrants for individual topic sessions will be admitted as space allows).

Please join us in learning about economic globalization so that we may lay the foundation for an economic future that values sustainability over massive consumption, fair trade over free trade, and basic human rights over profit.

*Cory Fulton
Susan Oldland*

Food Basket

The holiday season has been a wonderful time to give all the intentional gifts donated by our members and friends, and many people in need were helped by your generosity. Our Laundry Basket donations were part of this giving.

To those who are able: please continue to bring a can or package of dry food to the church each Sunday. Any time food comes in, we are twice blessed—in the receiver and the giver. Thank you!

Maryly Reinertson

Members' Market

Many thanks to Gayle Voeller and to others who contributed food and crafts to the Members' Market on December 8! The Betty Nash Memorial Crafts Group made \$150 for the church. Thanks also to Carol Jacobs and the Bookstore volunteers who graciously permitted Members' Market to take over their space that Sunday.

Board of Trustees News

The following resolutions have been presented to the Board of Trustees by the Social Responsibility Committee. It is the board's intention to support these resolutions unless five members of the congregation express objection, in which case the committee would need to have the resolutions voted on by the congregation. To voice your concerns, please send an email to curness@mcnexus.org or doug@uuss.org; or call either Tiffany or Doug or sign your name to the notices on the Announcement Board. January 10 is the deadline for doing so.

Resolution on Protesting the War in Iraq:

The Board of Directors of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento grants permission to members to use the Society's name in opposition to a possible or actual war against Iraq. Members may use the name of UUSS to engage in any legal protest, to sponsor or endorse any legal anti-Iraq-war demonstration or protest, or to lobby government representatives or agencies.

Resolution on Stewardship of the American River Parkway:

The Board of Trustees renews its agreement with the American River Parkway Foundation to participate in the "Adopt the Parkway" by being the steward for Mile 3-4 North for another two years from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004.

Bike Trail Clean-up

The clean-up of the UUSS mile of the American River Parkway has been rescheduled from December 14 to January 11. See you there Saturday, January 11—meet at Mile 4 on the bike trail (unless we get rained out again).

Jeff Voeller

OUTREACH

Interfaith Hospitality Network Begins May 2003

Hoorah! The Social Responsibility Committee is excited to announce that the Interfaith Hospitality Network at UUSS is completing arrangements to welcome our first guests at the church in May 2003. We are asking for your enthusiastic support and participation in this project.

Who? UUSS members and friends hosting up to a total of 14 people in newly homeless family units. The families come into the Network through local social services agencies who will screen the guest and refer families to our Network. We invite all members of our UUSS community to welcome them to our community and to spend time with them while they are here. It's a great opportunity for intergenerational participation. We need seniors, and kids, and everyone in between to welcome our guests.

What? An opportunity to work with the Sacramento interfaith community to provide evening shelter, food and friendship in 13 places of worship throughout the city. Our guests will spend their days at the Day Center in the North Sacramento United Methodist Church on El Camino Ave., where they can look for work, care for pre-school children, conduct a search for housing, shower, and do their laundry. We can help them succeed by providing our guests with breakfast, a sack lunch, and dinner during their week with us.

When? May 2003 our first guests will arrive. They will come to UUSS on Sunday evening at 6 p.m. to begin their week with us. They will leave our church at 7 a.m. the following Sunday and move to the next host congregation. They will leave UUSS at 7 a.m. each morning for the Day Center. They will be at our church for one week, 3 to 4 times a year.

Where? In some of the rooms in our RE Building. We will need a room for eating and relaxing, access to two bathrooms and space for sleeping.

How can you participate?

* Provide one meal for 14 guests. We will need 14 meals, three times a day for the week; a dinner, a breakfast and 14 sack lunches each day. This is a great way for entire families to be involved.

* Donate bed linens and towels. The beds, blankets, and pillows will come with our guests and will follow them to their next location.

* Volunteer your time and fellowship one evening to visit with our guests, to help with homework, to play games, to share your unique talents with our guests. Another great opportunity for UUs of all ages to participate in the Network.

* Be a Host or Hostess for one night and stay overnight with our guests.

* Help with transportation of cots to our church on Sunday evening and to help move them on to the next church the following Sunday morning.

What special talents are you willing to share? Music, art, walks along the river, story telling?

Why? Ask Us! Nancy Oprsal, Chair (482-5736); Arnie Godmintz (971-1094); Barbara Hopkins (482-0555); Nancy Lust (483-5425); Pat Naylor (391-6274). *Nancy Oprsal*

Living Wage Ordinance

On January 9 a massive number of people will appear at the Sacramento City Council meeting to urge the City Council to pass a LIVING WAGE ordinance. Prior to that, postcards addressed to the City Council urging the passing of this ordinance will be circulated for signing throughout the city and county and will be at our Social Responsibility table every Sunday. The postcards will not be mailed—they will be collected and hand delivered to the City Council on January 9.

Please, anyone/everyone believing that a person who works 40 hours a week should be paid enough to pay for food, clothing and shelter (medical benefits if not paid by the employer) sign a postcard and leave it for delivery to the City Council.

Also, if possible come to the City Council meeting January 9 at 6 p.m., at 700 H Street.

Rick Caughey

Social Responsibility/ Peace Action

Do you wonder what you can do? Here are some events coming up...

1/11 Saturday, 6-9 p.m. Fourth Annual Festival for Human Rights, Hart Senior Center, 916 27th St (between I & J) > \$2. Crafts, information, other goods from peace and justice groups, entertainment and food. *Ruth Hultgren*

1/18 Saturday. Some members of the Social Responsibility Committee will join the national demonstrations to Stop a War Against Iraq, 11 a.m. in San Francisco (www.internationalanswer.org). This will be a very large march. If you would like to join us, please contact me at 391- 6274 for details. *Chuck O'Neil*

To take the bus from Sacramento or Davis, send a check for \$20 (\$10 for students) to Sacramento-Yolo Peace Action at 909 12 th St #118, Sacramento CA 95814 before January 10. Please include your phone number, email, and whether you want the Sacramento or Davis bus. *Ruth Hultgren*

1/20 Monday. Spread Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message of peace in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial March. Meet us at Sacramento City College, 3835 Freeport Blvd., as we join the march at 8:30 a.m. to the west steps of the Capitol.

Ruth Hultgren

UUs GET TOGETHER

UU Car Camping Trip in February

A group of UUs are planning a car camping trip to Baja, Mexico. The trip will include whale watching at Scannon's Lagoon and beach camping (RVs OK) and hanging out at the Sea of Cortez. We will leave Sacramento February 15 with an open return date. If you are interested in joining us, please call me at 332-5980 or Harry Metzger at 739-6040.

Arnie Godmintz

Gap Group Meets Twice

Movie, theater planned for January

1/18, Saturday: Chautauqua Playhouse's, "A Doll's House." Call me at 564-0448 or call the theatre for ticket information (489-7529).

1/26, Sunday: Join us for a movie and dessert. Call Shirley Hines for more information at 444-6553 or e-mail her at hiness@earthlink.net.

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 564-0448 or e-mail cgeorge255@cs.com for more information about the GAP Group.

Cathy George

Start the New Year with a Poem

Poemspirits meet January 5

All are invited Sunday, January 5, 6-7:30 p.m., when the PoemSpirits present special guest Be Herrera, outstanding Sacramento writer-artist, AND a brief talk by Tom Goff on the poetry of Leopold Senghor. This monthly get-together is in Room 7/8. Refreshments available, plus open mike for all who wish to read a poem or two -- your own or another's. Contacts: Nora Staklis, Tom Goff (481-3312) or me (451-1372) or joannpen@attbi.com.

JoAnn Anglin

Dream Group Meets Wednesdays

Why not make 2003 a dream of a year...and join the "Daydreamers." Learning the language of your dreams may help you open doors in your life that you never (aha!) dreamed of. We meet every Wednesday in the Library from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information call me at 353-0376.

Fran Oyafuso

Come to SSS on January 25

Attention all church: We hope a lot of us had a grand time at the New Year's Eve Party at the church. Now don't forget the **Sandwich Supper Social** on Saturday, January 25. It's still winter, and a cozy supper with family and friends should be welcome. We would love to see newcomers so more can know you, too.

We will show the video, "The Gods Must Be Crazy." For anyone who hasn't seen this gem, you won't want to miss it. Others will be playing board games with the usual tasty sandwich supper. A donation of \$3 for adults and \$1 for six- to twelve year-olds is welcome. All ages warmly invited. 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

Maryly Reinertson (739-1083)

David Paul (422-3732)

Women's Alliance to Hear "Making a Difference"

Noted surgeon Fred Pratt speaks Jan. 9

At their January 9 meeting, the Women's Alliance will hear noted reconstructive surgeon Dr. Fred Pratt and his wife and helper Patricia, speak on "Making a Difference." What is a courageous way of living in this incredibly beautiful and difficult world? With slides and stories about their surgical work in several countries, the Pratts will reveal the delights of participation and suggest that courage is the ability to cultivate a relationship with the unknown.

Patricia Pratt, a surgical nurse and major support person for her husband, also functions in Sacramento, among other things, as an effective advocate (collecting money) for UNICEF and organizing programs and workshops for the Quilters Guild.

Fred Pratt, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon, has provided medical and surgical care more or less continuously in and around Sacramento for 48 years, and for the past 16 years he has extended his work to include voluntary care for a few of the unfortunate people (mostly children) throughout the world.

Both are long-time members of USSS and of the local United Nations Association.

For this meeting, bring a sack lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. The business meeting will start at 10:15 a.m. and the program at 11 a.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Joyce Miller

UUs GET TOGETHER

Circles Now Include 90 People

Did you know that twice a month close to 90 UUSS members and friends gather in small groups in private homes and at church to share experiences with each other? These groups are called Ministry Circles and everyone is welcome to join. Call or drop by the office for more information and application forms.

Fran Oyafuso

Servetus Club Meets January 5 *Annual membership party is free to members*

Servetus Club will meet as usual on the first Sunday of the month, but this time we will meet at 2:30 p.m. (after the Forum) at a member's home. Our annual Membership Party gives you the opportunity to pay your dues (still only \$12) for the coming year, to relax and celebrate the start of a new year with old and new friends. There is no fee for this meeting, and you are not asked to bring food or beverage to share—the party is free for those who pay their dues. (Visitors and guests pay \$5.) Servetus Club has been part of UUSS for many years, and as our membership has evolved from young singles into an older category we have opened our membership to couples as well as singles. For more information call me at 481-5845 or call the church office at 483-9283 ext. 204.

Dorothy Engelstad

Iron Bell Zen Group Meets at UUSS *Join us on Monday evenings*

Iron Bell Zen Meditation Group invites the UUSS fellowship to join us on Monday evenings for mediation, chanting and Dharma talks. All activities begin at 7 p.m. and are held in the Fahs Room, which we refer to as the Zendo. Newcomers are welcome to arrive at 6:45 for orientation.

Our schedule is as follows:

January 6: A retreat evening consisting of silent sitting and walking meditation. Silence is maintained upon entering and leaving the Zendo.

January 13: Walking and sitting meditation will precede a Dharma talk by Rev. Doug Kraft. Doug has 30 years of meditation practice. A discussion will follow his talk.

January 20: Walking and sitting meditation and chanting.

January 27: There will be mediation, chanting, and a talk by Myo Denis Lahey, a Zen Buddhist priest in the Soto Zen tradition. Myo Denis Lahey is affiliated with the San Francisco Zen Center and recently conducted a class here at Iron Bell on the Sandokai, a classic Zen poem.

For more information, you may call me at 421-7828.

Jackie Sneed

Theater One Plans April Production

“Spoon River Anthology” is considered

At a meeting December 9, Theater One participants read excerpts from “Spoon River Anthology” by Edgar Lee Masters, a series of timeless vignettes of fictional lives both ordinary and prominent in a 19th century Illinois town. Voices of the community include judges, thieves, bankers, artists, poets, tradesmen, churchmen and atheists; in them, Masters found an outlet for his indignation and wonder at the mysteries and paradoxes of life.

Copies of Charles Aidman's theatrical adaptation of “Spoon River Anthology” have since been received, and we will be reading these at our next meeting Monday, January 13, 7 p.m. in the Fahs Room. We are planning a production for April 11, 12, and 13 at UUSS. We also want to consider a production for summer 2003. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Barbara Amberson



Come to a Ying-Yang Party Feb. 1 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the Fahs Room

Conquer the winter's blahs with a lively discussion about the differences between men and women. Enjoy a fun, creative night February 1 exploring this topic with other UUs and friends.

This party was offered as an auction item and we would like to enlarge our group. Call me at 567-0404 or email me at hreed@dhs.ca.gov for more details. \$15 donation to UUSS requested.

Heather Reed

January 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1) HAPPY NEW YEAR! New Year's Day Holiday Office closed	2) 10am Lib Wms Alliance board 12pm Rm 11 play group 7pm Lib PMC	3) 7pm Fahs Rm HAGSA'	4)
5) 8:45am Rm 11 Childcare 8:50 am Fahs Nominating 9am RE 9:30am Rm12Adult RE 9&11am Aud Service 10 am Fahs Orientation I 10:15 am Aud Choir 11am RE 1pm Aud Forum 2:30 pm Offsite Servetus 6 pm Rm7/8 PoemSpirits *UU YoungAdults?	6) 7 pm Fahs Iron Bell Zen	7) 10am Rm 12 Ministry Circle #5	8) 10am Lib Daydreamers 10am Rm12 Ministry Circle #10 7pm Fahs Choir 7 pm Lib Council of Leaders 7pm Rm12 Min.Circle #6	9) 10:15 am Aud Wms Alliance program & lunch 12 pm Rm 11 play group 6:15 pm Lounge Worship leaders 7 pm Lib Relig. Services Ctte	10)	11) 9 am PMC Sheriff's work day 9:30 am Fahs Yoga Class (Auction item) 10am Rm12 Forum Program Ctte.
12) 8:45am Rm 11 Childcare 9am RE 9:30am Rm 12 Adult RE 9&11am Aud Service 10 am Fahs Orientation II 10:15 am Aud Choir 11am RE 1pm Aud Forum	13) 10:30 am Lib Support Group 7 pm Fahs Iron Bell Zen 7 pm Lib Theater One	14) 5:30 pm Lib Exec Ctte 6:30 pm Fahs Social Resp. 7:30PM Rm 12 Closed Orange Committee	15) 10am Lib Daydreamers 7pm Fahs Choir	16) 7 pm Rm 7/8 Globalization 7 pm Rm 9 Book Group	17) 7 pm Offsite UU Young Adults	18) 7 pm Fahs China trip (Auction item)
19) 8:45am Rm 11 Childcare 8:50 am Fahs Nominating 9am RE 9:30am Rm 12 Adult RE 9&11am Aud Service 10:15 am Aud Choir 11am RE 1pm Aud Forum 3 pm Fahs HAGSA	20) 7 pm Fahs Iron Bell Zen(?)	21) 10am Rm 12 Ministry Circle #5	22) 10 am Lib Daydreamers 10 am Rm 12 Min Circle #10 7pm Rm12 Min.Circle #6 7 pm Fahs Choir	23) 6 pm Lib Board of Trustees	24)	25 5 pm Rm 6 Forum film 6pm Aud SATURDAY SANDWICH SOCIAL
26) 8:45am Rm 11 Childcare 9am RE 9:30am Rm 12 Adult RE 9&11am Aud Service 10:15 Aud Choir 11am RE 12:45pm Fahs RE Ctte 1pm Aud Forum	27) 10:30 am Lib Support Group 7 pm Fahs Iron Bell Zen	28) 7:30pm Rm 12 Closed Orange Committee	29) 10 am Lib Daydreamers 7 pm Lib Music Ctte 7 pm Fahs Choir	30)	31)	

*NOTE: For schedule for UU Young Adults, please contact Mark at paixnow@yahoo.com or call the church office (483-9283 ext.O)

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS - JANUARY 2003

For the UUSS Religious Education schedule, please see Page 3.

9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Worship Services in the Auditorium.
9:30 a.m. Adult Religious Education in Room 12
1 p.m. The Forum in the Auditorium

WORSHIP SERVICES

1/5 "Forgiving Ourselves," Rev. Doug Kraft. Guilt is not necessarily bad. Remorse helps us right wrongs we have committed and learn from our failings. But after this, there is wisdom in self-forgiveness. Rather than resolving to do better in the New Year, we might be better off forgiving ourselves for our shortcomings. The core of forgiveness is being truly present.

1/12 "Forgiving Others," Rev. Kraft. Forgiveness is giving up hope of having a better past. It is not the same as saying what someone did was okay. But it is important to distinguish between discernment and condemnation. Forgiving others is more about us than them.

1/19 "A Tribute to Courage and Liberation." In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., Mary WillAllen, Taylor Carey, and Mary Howard will lead the congregation in songs of spirit and of protest that carried the Civil Rights Movement through hard times.

1/26 "The Globe versus the Glob," Rev. Kraft. Microchips, telecommunication and the internet have radically altered the human situation. However, these tools are completely amoral. They can be used to create a truly diverse global community. Or they can be used to create a global glob of endless Taco Bells that enrich a few and impoverish many. Before we can inject ethical and moral values into globalization, we have to understand it.

2/2 "Sisyphus, Groundhogs and Other Shadows," Rev. Kraft.

THE FORUM

1/5 "Genetically Modified Foods." Stanislaus Dundan, professor of philosophy at CSUS, is the national coordinator of the "Soul of Agriculture Project." He will discuss the perceived risks and FDA regulations of genetically modified foods. (Esther Franklin)

1/12 "What I Saw in China Over the Years." Jack Bass, UUSS member, first traveled to Asia in 1975 and has taken many subsequent trips. He speaks Mandarin Chinese and is extremely knowledgeable of the Chinese culture. Jack graduated from the Julliard School of Music and was a professional musician for 10 years, including seven years with the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. Jack also worked as a highway contractor in Cleveland for 40 years. (Jack Bass)

1/19 "Challenging Corporate Personhood," Jan Edwards and Molly Morgan of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). Corporations have infinite life spans and limited liability. Jan Edwards and Molly Morgan will discuss how corporations came to have more rights under the law than human beings. WILPF, founded in 1915 to promote democracy and equality of all people, has been working since 1999 to abolish corporate personhood.

1/26 "Globalization," Panel discussion with UUSS members Cory Fulton and Susan Oland--see Page 6. (Jan Dennis)

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS THIS MONTH

1/5 10-11 a.m. in the Fahs Room - Orientation I

1/12 10-11 a.m. in the Fahs Room -Orientation II

The two-part orientation provides a summary of our spiritual practices, our beliefs, our congregation's tradition, and a brief history of the denomination. You will meet some of our congregation's leaders and a complimentary lunch and child care will be provided for each session. You may sign up for the orientation at the greeter's table on Sunday mornings, or call the church office (483-9283 ext. 0).

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- 2** The Minister, Suggestions from the Board, Denominational Affairs.
- 3** Religious Education News.
- 4** Business Manager, President's Letter.
- 5** Property Management Committee, Thanksgiving Dinner, Forum Committee.
- 6** Globalization Education, Food Basket, Resolutions, Bike Trail.
- 7** Interfaith Hospitality Network, Living Wage, Peace Events.
- 8** Car Camping, Gap Group, Poemspirits, Dream Group, SSS, Women's Alliance.
- 9** Ministry Circles, Servetus Club, Iron Bell Zen, Theater One, Ying-Yang Party.
- 10** January 2003 calendar.
- 11** A Month of Sundays.

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 February issue, the deadline is Friday, January 10.)

Items submitted may be edited to fit space available. **Please include your phone number and email address in your item if you want readers to contact you.**

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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