

The

UNIGRAM

Monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento

VOL. 33 No. 8

APRIL 2003

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

(See Page 11 for more information.)

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

4/6 “Hope and Inspiration,” Rich Howard & Julie Heston

4/13 “Experiencing God,” Rev. Doug Kraft.

4/20 Easter. “Resurrection Now,” Rev. Kraft.

4/27 Edd Doerr speaks.

Religious Education – 9 & 11 a.m., Page 3.

Forum – 1 p.m. in the Auditorium.

4/6 “Experiences With the Indigenous People in the Rain Forest of Nicaragua,” Jan Fleming.

4/13 “Single Payer Healthcare Bill,” Sara Rogers.

4/20 “Meeting the People of Iraq--People Like We Are,” Simone Campbell.

4/27 “Will Religion and Government Stay Separate?” Edd Doerr.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN APRIL

Devorah Greenstein's Ordination is on April 6

Come and enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime celebration. I'm being ordained into the UU ministry. Believe me, it's a profoundly important event. I have met many wonderful people here at UUSS and I ask you to join me in the celebration. Please mark your calendars and share in this joyful occasion.

Devorah Greenstein

UU Community Conversations

April 6 (See pg. 5)

Women's Alliance Spring Luncheon

April 12 (See pg. 7)

PCD Conference in Sacramento

April 25-27 (See pg. 2)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Plan to attend Sunday, May 25

There will be a Congregational meeting on Sunday, May 25, 12:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. The following items are on the agenda:

* Election for Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, Endowment Board, and Communication and Conflict Management Committee.

* Approval of the 2003-2004 budget

Mary Howard

Secretary, Board of Trustees

A huge thank you to all the fantastic cast members, production people, and all of the mighty efforts which went into the staging of “Spoon River Anthology.” Mike Reynolds was an outstanding director, and we who were able to be the audience were treated to a very wonderful experience. What a gift to our congregation and to our treasury! —an Audience member



Hank Coffin, Rich Reinertson, Erika Kraft, Tiffany Urness, and Mike Reynolds on stage at Spoon River Anthology

AT THE MOMENT ...

The Reverend Douglas C.B. Kraft

The air in the backyard is dense with mist. The buds on the persimmons are wet. Quail scurry across the damp grass. The trees in the distance fade into blue whiteness.

I sit cross-legged. Sylvie, my cat, is curled and purring by my feet, ready for our morning sitting.

A bird hops onto the bamboo shade rolled up tight under the eaves. He is beige and brown and speckled with a deep rusty throat. He turns his head this way and that. He settles on the bamboo, looking though the slats out into the yard. Then he hops up and dances a few steps.

My son tells me that birds sing in the morning to warm up and burn excess calories. That may be the effect of his singing. But the reason he sings is because he's alive and excited.

His mate joins him. Together they dance along the bamboo and flit away.

I'm glad I don't know the name of these birds. I'd just dismiss them as robins or grackles or something. Without the label they are flittering life, feathery song and flickering suchness.

My eyes close. I hear the purrs of the cat, the calls of birds, the whooshing of cars in the distance. For the next 45 minutes I have many bouts of enthusiastic mental rambling. Between these, my mind gradually settles. But there is no moment more alive, simple and peaceful than those few moments of attending the feathery creatures.

Life hangs heavy these days with news of the war, the economy and a wide assortment of cruelty and foolishness.

Yet, behind all the news, worries and busy-ness, life has a simplicity, peacefulness and, yes, even joy. When I remember this, I can sometimes stop for a moment, take my attention off my thinking and just notice the dew, buds, birds, my body, my breath. When I do, I usually find myself smiling.

We all have our ways of stopping and noticing: meditating, strolling in the park, jogging, getting absorbed in music, sitting quietly, yoga, hanging out with the birds.

The world needs our simplicity, aliveness and peace. Our thoughts, worrying and activism can only go so far. Words and deeds are more effective when grounded in stillness. So, for the sake of the world as well as yourself, I hope you can remember to stop and notice and be.



Finding Doug...

I can 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. Give me a call (483-9283x201) or send me a note (doug@uuss.org).

Adult Enrichment Coordinator

Eileen Karpeles has agreed to take on the role of Adult Enrichment Coordinator. If you have classes or groups you'd like to offer, give her a call (564-3456) and she'll help you set it up.

Doug



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

PCD Conference is in Sacramento

Join your fellow UUs April 25-27

This year UUSS members won't need to drive far to attend the 2003 Pacific Central District (PCD) Assembly. The conference will be held at the Sacramento Arden West Hilton April 25-27. Join fellow UUs from Northern California, Northern Nevada, and Hawaii. This year's theme is "To Love the World: Embracing Our Call," and programs will include music, speakers, and workshops.

Our own Rev. Doug Kraft and Rev. Melora Crooker from UU Community Church will collaborate in the opening worship, and the worship team from the Unitarian Church of Davis will conduct the closing worship. Keynote speaker is Rev. Thomas G. Anastasi of the Shoreline Church, Shoreline Washington.

Workshops, hosted by UU members from throughout the district, include conscientious objection and our religious response to war; a play depicting the experiences of a young woman as she encounters life on the streets of the Tenderloin of San Francisco; the legislative process and public policies consistent with UU Principles and Purposes; and building congregations with youth involvement.

District Assembly is a time to worship, celebrate, and deepen our connections to each other.

For more information or to obtain a registration form, contact the UUSS office at 483-9283 or me at 353-0376.

Bob Oyafuso

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dear friends,

Thank you for your words of support and caring following the announcement of my resignation as Director of Religious Education at UUSS. The beloved community that you and UUSS's kids and teens have helped to build here will hold us all as you chart a course for the future.

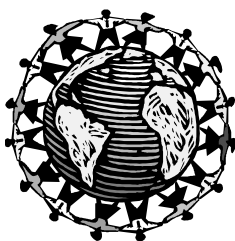
During this time of transition for the professional leadership of religious education, I will not participate in visioning for the future or in planning for the selection for my successor. This is as it should be, with leadership for these important initiatives coming from you and other congregational leaders and professional staff.

I am deeply grateful for having had the opportunity to be a leader and a learner among you. With appreciation, love, and hope for the future,

Kate Throop

Celebrations around the World in April

April 13 – Palm Sunday
April 17 – Passover
April 18 – Good Friday
April 20 – Easter
April 22 – Earth Day



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL YOUNG UUS WITH BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL.

May the next year bring you all that is good!

Nina Saferstein 4/9 Kayley Andersen 4/20
Kendall Bare 4/23 Alex Franco-Schmidt 4/26

R.E. Calendar for April

April 6 Curriculum classes – 9 & 11 a.m.
April 13 Community Service – 9 & 11 a.m.
April 20 Intergenerational Services – 9 & 11 a.m.
 Annual Spring Egg Hunt 10:15 a.m.
April 27 Friendship Sunday – 9 & 11 a.m.
 Games and playground activity



Following the 9 a.m. service on April 20, UUSS children and guests will be invited to hunt for Spring Easter eggs. Please bring a basket for collecting, and wear your Easter bonnet if you have one. The egg hunt will begin at 10:15 a.m.

Thank you, Kate

She was an outstanding Director of Religious Education for the past five years. We are saddened that Kate Throop has decided to leave the position, but we are also delighted that she will remain a member of the UUSS community. We are grateful to her for being so conscientious, caring, efficient, understanding, and organized. We love her and wish her well, and extend a great big “thank you” to Kate from all of us in Religious Education: teachers, helpers, volunteers, committee members, parents, and the children for whom she did so much.

Members of the Religious Education (R.E.) committee cordially invite all interested UUSS members to join our very energetic group and to participate in the dynamic activities of the R.E. program. The R.E. Committee's goal is to develop a successful, meaningful Religious Education Program that will help our children and the children in our community to celebrate life, appreciate the importance of themselves and others in affecting the moral tenor of our times, and understand the tenets of Unitarian Universalism as they relate to each child's developing belief system. You do not have to have a child in the R.E. program, just be willing to participate in the goals and objectives of the committee. For more information, please contact Sally Lewis, 646-3410.

Religious Education Committee

Denis Edgren and Sally Lewis, co-chairs

Michele Ebler
Joe Karkoski
Janet Lopes
Tina Chiginsky

Glenda Smaage, liaison to the Board of Trustees

Save the Dates!

UUSS R.E. Camp 2003
Lake Oroville - Loafer Creek Campground
May 30, May 31, June 1
Registration forms will be available
beginning April 13.



CABBAGES & KINGS

Some months there are few cabbages to speak of but many worthy of the crown.

The Canvass is over in record time. In three weeks we received all but 55 pledges as of this writing, and we expect the balance in short order. A big reason we were so successful was because of some heroes who helped with the phone bank: **John Abbott, Anna Andrews (who worked the phones all five nights!), Bob Cornwell, Carrie Cornwell, Jan Dennis, Cory Fulton, Shirley Hines, Mary Howard, Edie Isaacs, Doug Kraft, Scott MacDonald, Chuck O'Neil, Dennis Riechmann, Maryly Reinertson, Glenda Smaage, Carey Taylor, Clair & Tiffany Urness, Jeff Voeller (who in spite of a root canal worked three nights), Chris Webb-Curtis, and Thelma White.** In my eyes you are all royalty!

What is particularly encouraging this year is that in spite of difficult economic times, the uncertainties that going to war engenders, and the painful restructuring we are going through here at UUSS so we can live within our means, over one-third of us were able to increase our pledge, only a small number had to reduce it and most of those sent a note expressing their sadness that their financial situation required it. The Canvass Committee, **Carrie Cornwell, Jeane Davidson, Scott MacDonald;** the board liaison, **Bob Oyafuso;** the staff liaison, myself; and **Doug and Tiffany** who gave significant time to the effort are extremely grateful to the congregation for your generosity, which in many cases verges on sacrifice to support a small but important liberal religious voice in Sacramento. At the present it appears our giving for next year has increased 8%. I think that is amazing. Give yourself a hand and a crown! You are my Kings and Queens.

Some others that deserve a crown are a group who at the moment refer to themselves informally as the Grasshoppers. After the last congregational meeting **David Lust** and **Clair Urness** came to me and said that they agreed with me that paying a lawn service \$1,100 a month to keep our lawn "mowed & blowed" was painful for property that didn't pay for itself. They told me they were going to find volunteers to keep our lovely grounds presentable. I told them they were "lawn LUUnies." I was (am?) certain it was a much too big a job for volunteers. They wouldn't listen to my sage advice and found over 20 men and women willing to face the elements to mow and blow. We have an agreement that if they still have 20 people by July 1, they will have the contract. At "free" they certainly have the best bid. Whether it works out or not, they and their fellow "hoppers" have my respect and admiration for giving it a try. If it works they will save us \$13,200 a year! All the Grasshoppers are royalty in my eyes for even trying.

Clay Nelson
Business Manager

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It sure looks to me like we are back to having a full house at the 11 a.m. service on many Sunday mornings despite the addition of a second service. True, there is often a sudden upturn in attendance in times of national crisis and mourning, but the trend was already there. Questions about growth and where we're headed as a congregation are going to be on our minds more and more, especially as the Long Range Planning Committee picks up speed.

At the October 2002 congregational meeting, the vision statement put to the congregation passed with a relatively weak 72% of the vote. There were mixed feelings about stating how large we wanted or expected to be in five years.

I'll lay my cards on the table. I am not in favor of growth for the sake of growth; that is, as a good unto itself. I don't believe in new member "recruitment" or that we should equate the membership process with fundraising. I find the idea of proselytizing completely repugnant. I don't have any illusions that large congregations are somehow better and happier places than small or mid-sized congregations. Furthermore, I don't think I know of any fellow UUSS leaders who are actually "pro-growth" in these terms.

That said, I do believe that there are people right now, right here in River City, who are "Unitarians at heart" but who do not yet know we exist. These are folks who would be thrilled and amazed to find a community of kindred souls in their own backyard, us!—ready to applaud and appreciate their activism, their intellectual curiosity and questioning, and whose lives would be enriched by joining our ranks. These are people a lot like us, and possibly reflecting greater socioeconomic and ethnic diversity than our current membership. Our lives would be enriched and our voice and contribution to the causes we care about would be magnified by their presence among us.

Now, we can make it hard for them to find us, or we can make it easy. Once they find us, we can have ample parking, seats, and Orders of Service for them, or we can cut it pretty tight. We can have well-organized programs to welcome and integrate new members, or we can leave it on a hit and miss basis. We can open our arms and hearts enthusiastically, or reluctantly.

Aren't there other solutions? Can't we nurture and seed the formation of other UU congregations? Yes. And that might be the end of the story...if it weren't for our superb location, our wonderful site, our multi-talented minister and our own energy and creativity. I feel that we are called, as expressed in our Vision Statement, to become a "strong force for spiritual, intellectual and social enlightenment and change in our community" and it is right, fitting, and good for us to envision a steadily growing membership. Growth is not the goal but one of the consequences of doing a good job at what we believe in.

Looking Forward,

Tiffany Urness
President, Board of Trustees

FROM THE INTERN'S DESK

Comments from an Early Bird

I'm a person who gets up early in the morning (without an alarm clock), so I'm often here at UUSS by a few minutes after 7 a.m. on Sunday mornings. I've gotten into the habit of buying a cup of coffee and a bagel to go, and bringing my breakfast to eat in my office in Room 6.

It's me and the magpies here on Sunday mornings... we're the UUSS early birds.

Folks who come for the early 9 a.m. service are early birds too. But they miss the "really-early" worship service that I enjoy every week. At 7:00, there is a sacred feeling here — a sense of quiet holiness — the Spirit of Life revealed.

By 8:00, there are already people here, working... the "behind-the-scenes" folks... Robert, unlocking doors, putting up signs, making sure the place is ready; the RE staff, organizing materials for the children who'll be coming; Barbara practicing on the piano.

By 9:00 when the early service begins, I settle into my seat, listening to the prelude, relaxing into a quiet, receptive worshipful mood. For me, it is my second Sunday worship service. My early service is with the birds. Come enjoy it some time. *Devorah Greenstein*

ENRICHMENT & LEARNING

Do You Feel a Connection With Judaism?

Several people have come to me with a similar interest — talking about what it feels like to be a Unitarian Universalist who also identifies, spiritually or personally, with Judaism. So let's get together and schmooze about it! (You don't have to be Jewish, everybody is welcome.)

We're going to meet in my office (Room 6) at 12:15 p.m. on April 13. If you are eating your lunch here that day, there are tables in Room 6. Maybe I'll find some bagels for us to nosh on. *Devorah Greenstein*

Join a 4-Week Adult R.E. Class

If you would like an opportunity to gather with a small group of people interested in exploring our life journeys through sharing our thoughts, experiences, doubts, and beliefs, then please join us in a four week series I'm calling *Spirit of Life*.

We'll meet from 9:15 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. on four Sundays — March 23, March 30, April 13, and April 20. I'm asking people who are interested to make a commitment to attend at least three of the four weeks. Please sign up in the office.

Devorah Greenstein

BOARD NEWS

UU Community Conversations

Join Rev. Kraft and UUSS Board Members on Sunday, April 6 for a chance to air your concerns and discuss issues that affect UUSS. We expect to talk about the budget, staff layoffs, governance restructuring and the process about which it evolved, and any other issues which concern you. The meeting will be held in the Fahs room from 12:15 to 1 p.m.

Mary Howard

New Policy Governance Workshop

On Saturday, May 17 at 10 a.m. in the Fahs Room, your Board of Trustees will conduct a workshop to help you understand the new method we are planning to govern our congregation. Many Unitarian Universalist churches throughout the United States are changing over to this more efficient type of governance. It is described as the Carver Model of Policy Governance. (See Tiffany Urness's March *Unigram* article.) We will serve coffee, bagels and fruit juice. Save the date.

Thelma White, Vice President

AMONG OURSELVES

Look in the Beacon Bookshop for Ruth Hultgren's new paperback, "Looking into the Rearview Mirror: Vignettes and Verse," just published in March. Ruth's passion for writing in the last few years has taken the form of humorous and poignant personal reflections (in the Erma Bombeck genre)—and a few rants, which cover her long marriage, career in preschools, and years of activism for peace and justice.

Charming illustrations in the book are by Sacramento artist Ellen Dillinger.

"Such pleasure in reading is hard to come by," says Ted Webb. Ruth will sign books on the patio Sunday, April 13.



Ellen Dillinger

OUTREACH

Bike Trail Clean-up is April 12

The calls of pheasants, kingfishers, red tail hawks, killdeer, meadowlarks, owls and other feathered creatures accompanied Roger Barr, Matt Doehne, Dick Taylor, and me as we cleaned the UUSS portion of the American River Parkway on a beautiful March Saturday. Come enjoy the poppies and do good for the world at the next clean-up on April 12. Meet at church at 9:30 a.m. to bike over, or meet at mile 4 of the bike trail at 10 am.

Jeff Voeller



A scene on Mile 3-4 of the American River Parkway

A Talk on the Faith-Based Initiative Come to the Capitol April 2

Rev. Barry Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, will speak at the State Capitol, Room 4203, on Wednesday April 2, 7 p.m. An accomplished and entertaining speaker, Rev. Lynn has appeared frequently on TV and radio to offer analysis of First Amendment issues. He will talk about Faith-Based Funding and Other Church-State "Hot Topics." Enter the capitol at L and 11th and take the elevator to the fourth floor. Detailed directions can be picked up the Social Responsibility table after church.

Joan Osborn

Feed the Laundry Basket

The Laundry Basket loves your food
To keep it heaping sure feels "good."

A can of beans here, a can of greens there
A package of pasta here, some peanut butter there.

It's a treat to eat for those who meet
—Downtown at St. John's Shelter.

Thank you!

*Jan Dennis
Maryly Reinertson*

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Interested in Polishing Your Leadership Skills?

It's a wonderful opportunity to build your UU Leadership skills and to meet other UU leaders from around the district. The curriculum includes worship design, UU religious heritage and identity, faith centering and community building.

This year's Pacific Central District UU Leadership School will held July 12-18. The cost is \$875, with a \$125 deposit due at registration. Scholarships are available. The registration form is available on the kiosk and the web page. Endorsement by the UUSS President, Tiffany Urness, is required. For more information, please talk to me or Tiffany, see the brochures on the kiosk, or look at the Leadership School web pages at <http://www.pcd-uaa.org/pcdldrship/pcdleadershipschool.htm>.

Terry Throop

General Assembly Delegates Arise!

If you are planning on attending General Assembly in Boston this year and wish to be a delegate, please contact Tiffany Urness at 971-0744 or turness@commerce.ca.gov before April 15.

Mary Howard

Come to Asilomar this Summer UU Retreat is July 6-11

It's not too early to plan to attend Stebbins Institute at Asilomar, on the beautiful Monterey coast, July 6-11. You will find workshops (play reading, book discussions, poetry writing, and collage, among many others), evening programs, spontaneous activities, films, music, worship services, and many opportunities for UU friendship and camaraderie.

This year's theme is *Challenges & Pleasures: Enhancing Intellectual Growth, Physical Fitness, Emotional Health & the Soul.*

Each comfortable room has its own bathroom, many have views, all are amid the pine trees and a short walk to the beach. Three generous meals per day are served in a dining room designed by Julia Morgan. More information and pictures are at the Stebbins website: <http://www.serve.com/stebbins/>.



UUs GET TOGETHER

Celebrate Passover at UUSS

Don't forget the Passover Seder on Saturday, April 19, at 5 p.m. We'll do the whole thing — read the Hagaddah, sing the songs, eat a traditional seder meal (starting with matzoh-ball soup). Children are welcome. The cost will be reasonable – to cover expenses. Bob Clifton is in charge of cooking, so you know it will be a delicious meal. Reservations, please, so we know how much matzoh-ball soup to make! Sign up in the office.

Devorah Greenstein

Servetus Club Meets April 6

Servetus Club will hold a potluck/get-together in the Fahs Room Sunday, April 6 at 5 p.m. Singles and couples are welcome to drop in. Please bring a potluck dish to share and \$2 for members; \$3 for guests. Beverages are provided.

Dorothy Engelstad, President

Alliance Spring Luncheon is 4/12

Find out "What the Tourist Does Not See in South India" from Loraine Holden

The Women's Alliance annual fund-raising spring luncheon **April 12, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**, will be coordinated by Jodi Ash. The menu will feature New Delhi baked chicken breast with seasoned rice, vegetable medley, green salad, rolls, and dessert, and there will be a no-host bar.

Besides the exciting slide show, based on Loraine Holden's travels in South India, there will be a silent auction, including an elegant 14-piece china set, beautiful ceramics, and a gift box of Sogno wines. There will also be a raffle, offering jewelry, teapots, a handbag, a hand-made shawl, a crocheted afghan, linen napkins and tablecloth, and more.

Tickets for the luncheon--\$25 each, with a deadline of April 6--will be on sale each Sunday, or send a check with the coupon below. Raffle tickets at \$1 each or 6 for \$5 may be purchased after church also. Those wishing to donate items for the raffle can leave them at the office for Thelma White to store or bring them on the day of the luncheon. All are invited to attend — guests are welcome.

For further information, please call Fran Oyafuso at 353-0376 or Marlene Parkinson at 489-6144.

Joyce Miller

LUNCHEON TICKETS: \$25.00 EACH. Send checks payable to: UUSS Women's Alliance, 2424 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento CA 95825

FROM: _____
ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$ _____ for
_____ LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS for Saturday
April 12. DEADLINE: Sunday April 6

PoemSpirits Present New Voice

ALL ARE INVITED April 6, Sunday, at 6 p.m., Room 7-8, to hear poet Michael Guinn, a new presence on the Sacramento poetry scene. A social worker and student, Michael often writes from the voices of his clients. A brief talk on award winning poet Lucille Clifton will also be presented by JoAnn Anglin, followed by open mic, when you can read one or two poems of your own or of a favorite poet. Refreshments served.

PoemSpirits takes place the first Sunday of each month. For more information, contact Nora Staklis or Tom Goff at 481-3312, or me at 451-1372.

JoAnn Anglin

Gap Group Goes to the Movies

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 e-mail me at cgeorge255@cs.com or call 564-0448 for more information.

Sunday, April 20 we will meet for a movie and dessert. Call Judy Bell at 961-0316 or e-mail at jlbell@jps.net.

Cathy George

Dream Group Meets Wednesdays

Join the Dream Group on Wednesdays in the Library, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and learn the different approaches to mining the riches that our personal dreams hold for us. No experience is necessary. For more information call me at 353-0376.

Fran Oyafuso

Attention All Bridge Players

Grand Finale is Wednesday May 21

All bridge players are invited to attend the **Round Robin Bridge Grand Finale** on Wednesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. in the church Lounge. It is an evening for getting acquainted and for having fun and laughter...signing up for next fall's new Round Robin schedule and enjoying 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 interested bridge players. RSVP to Jane Pivetti (359-7049) or to me at 421-1026.

Betty Faist

P.S. to all current Round Robin players: Please keep up to date on your bridge schedule and turn in your final scores to Jane or Betty. Thank you.

Join a Ministry Circle

Joining a UUSS Ministry Circle is a great way to meet new people and to enjoy the friendships that develop working in this small group setting. It is easy to join a group. Just pick up a brochure and an application form at the church office or call 483-9283 for more information.

Fran Oyafuso
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COMMITTEES AT WORK

Craft Sales Net \$129

Next sale is May 4

The Betty Nash Memorial Craft Group is pleased to announce that because of your generosity, our March 9 sale earned \$129 for the church. Thank you thank you thank you!

We will be back on Sunday May 4, just in time for Mother's Day. Be sure to check us out before shopping elsewhere for that special woman in your life—it might save you lots of time, money and aggravation. What could be better?
Gayle Voeller

Endowment Trust Welcomes Your Gifts

Help fund our long term needs

The Endowment Trust's goal is to assure a financially secure Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento. To accomplish this, we want to fund the long-term needs of our congregation generously. The trust receives gifts and pays out a percentage of the fund to provide for capital improvements, purchase of items of long term value, and special events. Your gift to the Endowment Trust provides an enduring legacy that helps support the society in perpetuity. There are many ways to make gifts to the trust that provide benefits to you while also providing a legacy for the Society. Endowment Trustees will be available following both services on April 6 to provide information and discuss the advantages of creative planned giving to our congregation.

Hill Snellings

Smile!

New picture directory is coming soon

All UUSS members and friends will hear from us soon about making an appointment to have your picture taken for the new photo directory coming out next fall. Pictures will be taken in Room 7/8 on various weekday afternoons and evenings and Saturday mornings from August 20 through September 13.

If you have pictures of UU events that you are willing to share with us, we would appreciate having them for a collage in the book.
Aggie Vawter

A NEW ADULT R.E. CLASS

Need new Strategies for Dealing with Conflict?

A three-session workshop will offer some practical approaches for dealing with conflict more creatively will be led by Eileen Karpeles, a retired UU interim minister whose work was often in conflicted churches. Identical morning and evening sessions will be held at 10 a.m.-12 noon and 7-9 p.m. on three Thursdays: April 10, 17, and 24.

Pot up Your Plants

Green Thumb Sunday is May 4

Our annual plant sale is Sunday, May 4—late this year so we can have seedlings to sell. All you gardeners, we need plants, seedlings, plant supplies. So pot up your excess plants, start your cuttings, and bring them to church to be sold. We like both common things and the strange and unusual. If you are starting seedlings, start a few more for us. We can use both flowers and vegetables. Be sure to label what they are, particularly the varieties of vegetables. The sale will start at 10 a.m. and continue between services until after the Forum.

Even if you have no plants to contribute, we need you! Everyone, come and buy and buy and buy! The money earned goes for plants and materials for the garden and grounds at church.

Barbara Amberson

Campus Comments

Property Management Committee tells all

Because of our reduced funds, we have had to do away with several hours of custodial help. The least expensive yard care contract we could get was \$1,100 per month. Clair Urness and Dave Lust proposed that we could do this work through organized volunteers, using our existing equipment. So we are trying this for four months. Twenty-six men and women signed up, and we are organizing three- or four-person teams to mow, line trim, and blow leaves. The most time-consuming job is the mowing. If you have a good used ride mower you would like to donate, please let the office know.

The liquidamber trees on the north side of the RE building were removed because their seed pods were a hazard—someone tripped and we were sued. Replacement trees will be planted in the future.

We may replace the lights in the RE rooms, which are rented out often. It depends on costs and our finances.

One of the duplex units is being completely renovated before it is rented—some new walls and flooring in the bathroom, as well as paint, kitchen fixtures, and carpet.

If you are interested in helping to mow, please let Clair Urness or Sally Campbell know. With enough teams, each person would only have to do it every four to six weeks. Training is provided. Thanks!

Pete Larsen

Senior Support Group Continues

The senior support group meets every other Monday at 10 a.m. for an hour and a half. We welcome all seniors. We discuss the attendees' concerns and talk about common problems. In April we will meet on the 7th and the 21st.

Barbara Amberson

ENRICHMENT & LEARNING

Theater One Thanks You

Theater One is pleased to announce that with the help of our enthusiastic audiences, we raised about \$3,000 for the church during the weekend of March 7-9 presenting Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology* by Charles Aidman.

Director **Mike Reynolds** had overlapping casts of 12 actors (including himself) performing as no less than 74 characters, nine musicians and singers (including himself) in 19 musical numbers, and two square dancers! Mike's smooth staging of the play and his creative direction of all these people has received many compliments. (We've printed one of the letters on the front page of this issue.)

Actors, singers, and musicians on stage in addition to Director Mike Reynolds were: **Barbara Amberson, Hank Coffin, Richard Dewey, Michael Erwin, Ankie Giese, Gina Heckerth, Shirley Hewitt, Erika Kraft, Clay Nelson, Richard Reinertson, Paula Squire, Bobby Stewart, and Tiffany Urness; Marlene Parkinson** provided piano music to set the scene before the curtain. **Steve Hoverman and Be Patterson** ran the lights. **Ruth Davis Barr** helped when needed at rehearsals.

Bob Clifton provided a wonderful dinner Saturday night, with **Patricia Thomas** helping and creating the vegetarian dish. Other helpers at the dinner were **Eileen Karpeles, Francine Kozkodin, Mike Rosales, Pat Skeels** and **Ethne Smoot**. Ticket-sellers at church and those taking tickets and hosting at the performances were **Anna Andrews, Ruth Davis Barr, Eileen Karpeles, Erika Kraft, Annette Kregel, Dave and Nancy Lust, Pat Skeels, Ethne Smoot, Paula Squire, and Danielle Tatigne**.

We appreciated having wonderful audiences, and we are pleased that the Couples Club, Servetus, and Ministry Circles organized groups to come to the dinner show together.

We're already talking about what to do next. All interested are welcome to attend a planning meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 7 p.m. in the Library.

Zen Group Meets Weekly

The Iron Bell Zen sitting group meets at UUSS every Monday evening at 7 p.m. in the Fahs Room. For further information or questions about Iron Bell, contact Rex Gordon (530)676-1929 or rex.gordon@intel.com.

*You need not expend great effort
Nor store up extensive spiritual power
Remain in the flow of sheer awareness*

April schedule:

April 7 Retreat Evening. This is a silent sitting night. Please enter and settle on your cushion upon arrival. Please maintain silence upon entry and upon leaving.

7:00 p.m. Meditation Begins

7:30 p.m. Kinhin * (Walking Meditation)

7:35 p.m. Zazen (Sitting Meditation)

8:00 p.m. Kinhin *

8:05 p.m. Zazen

8:35 p.m. Refuge Chant in Pali

8:40 p.m. Group breakdown of zendo

Bow out

*You may wish to leave the zendo for a break during walking meditation [kinhin].

April 14 Meditation and Discussion

7:00 p.m. Meditation begins

7:30 p.m. Kinhin (Walking Meditation)

7:35 p.m. Zazen (Sitting Meditation)

8:00 p.m. Service (Chants)

8:15 p.m. Dharma Talk and Group Discussion

8:45 p.m. Group breakdown of zendo

Bow out

April 21 Meditation & Discussion

7:00 p.m. Meditation begins

7:30 p.m. Kinhin (Walking Meditation)

7:35 p.m. Zazen (Sitting Meditation)

8:00 p.m. Service (Chants)

8:15 p.m. Dharma Talk and Group Discussion

8:45 p.m. Group breakdown of zendo

Bow out

April 28 Meditation and Service with Myo Denis

Lahey

7:00 p.m. Meditation begins

7:30 p.m. Service (Chants)

7:45 p.m. Dharma Talk and Discussion with teacher

8:30 p.m. Group breakdown of zendo

Bow out

Jacquie Sneed

CALENDAR - APR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THUR
		1) 10am Rm 12 Ministry Circle #5	2) 10am Lib Daydreamers 10am Rm 12 Ministry Circle #10 7 Lib Music Ctte 7 pm Fahs Choir	3) 10am Lil 10:30 ar 7pm Lib
6) 8:45am Rm 11 Childcare 9am RE 9&11am Aud Service 10:15 Rm 9 RE Ctte 10:15 am Aud Choir 11am RE 1pm Aud Forum 3 pm Aud DEVORAH'S ORDINATION 5 pm Fahs Servetus 6 pm Rm 7/8 Poem Spirits	7) 10:30 am Lib Support Gp 5 pm Lib Wrs Ritual Group 7 pm Fahs Iron Bell Zen 7 pm Rm 7/8 +9 Globaliz. 7 pm Rm 12 Speaking from the Heart	8) 5:30 pm Lib Exec Ctte 6:30 pm Fahs Social Resp. 7:30pm Rm 12 Closed Orange Committee 7 pm Rm 9 Theater One	9) 10am Lib Daydreamers 7pm Fahs Choir 7pm Rm 12 Min. Circle #6	10) 10 Rm 7 workshc 10:30 ar 6:15 pm Leaders 7 pm Lit Committ 7 pm Rr workshc
13) 8:45am Rm 11 Childcare 9am RE 9&11am Aud Service	14) 7 pm Fahs Iron Bell Zen 7 pm Rm 12	15) 10am Rm 12 Ministry Circle #5	16) 10am Lib Daydreamers 10 am Rm 12 Ministry	17) 10 am F workshc 10:30 ar

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS - APRIL 2003

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

9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Worship Services in the Auditorium.

1 p.m. The Forum in the Auditorium

WORSHIP SERVICES

4/6 “Hope and Inspiration.” Rich Howard and Julie Heston will discuss what gets us through when times are tough.

4/6 3:30 p.m. Devorah Greenstein’s Ordination. (See pg. 1)

4/13 “Experiencing God,” Rev. Doug Kraft I don’t care whether you believe in God or not. I don’t even care if I believe in God or not. Beliefs are the death of experience and the birth of boredom and jihads. But then, there are inexplicable experiences, moments of touching a stillness, spaciousness, suchness. Let’s talk about these.

4/20 Easter. “Resurrection Now,” Rev. Kraft. “Jesus died on the cross. On Easter Sunday he arose from the grave and ascended to heaven.” As a literal statement of history this sounds like a superstition. But if we can resurrect the story from the coffin of dogma and look at it as a metaphor, it has a powerful and often unwelcome message. It suggests that rather than turn from the pain and suffering in the world, we should open our hearts and walk toward it. This Easter Sunday, we’ll look at resurrection as something we do now rather than something that happened back then.

4/27 4/27 “Humanism and the Future of Unitarian Universalism.” Speaker Edd Doerr is the President of Americans for Religious Liberty and former president of the American Humanist Association. He is currently a member of River Road Unitarian Church of Bethesda MD. He has been a Unitarian Universalist for 53 years and has been a frequent delegate to the UUA Assembly, and he is the author of several General Assembly resolutions.



THE FORUM

4/6 “Experiences With the Indigenous People in the Rain Forest of Nicaragua,” Jan Fleming, dental hygienist. Ms. Fleming has spent two years working where the indigenous people have no purified water or anesthetics. Where ants were her constant companions. She will share her incredible experiences.

4/13 “Single Payer Healthcare Bill.” Sara Rogers, legislative aid to the Senate Health Committee, will help us to understand the Single Payer Healthcare bill which will be introduced into the California Senate soon. This is the bill sponsored by Sheila Kuehl, Chair of the Committee. Very timely and very valuable! (Pete Martineau)

4/20 “Meeting the People of Iraq—People Like We Are.” Speaker Simone Campbell is executive director of Jericho, the California interfaith public policy organization that works to protect the interests of the poor and disenfranchised. Campbell was part of a delegation of religious leaders to Iraq in December 2002. Since coming to Jericho, Campbell has served as the general director of the Sisters of Social Service (Roman Catholic Sisters), and was responsible for the leadership of her Sisters in the U.S., Mexico, Taiwan, and the Philippines. In 1996, Simone represented the Catholic Sisters on an international fact finding delegation of the conflict area of Chiapas, Mexico. (Terry Cantrell)

4/27 “Will Religion and Government Stay Separate?” Joint meeting with HAGSA (Humanists Association of Greater Sacramento Area), AOF (Atheists and Other Freethinkers) and the USSS Forum. Edd Doerr, President of the American Humanist Association (AHA) from 1995 to 2002 and currently the Executive Director of Americans for Religious Liberty, will speak. Doerr is a member of the River Road Unitarian Church in Bethesda Maryland. An AHA member since 1950, Doerr is a Humanist Celebrant, and was a signer of Humanist Manifesto II in 1973. He is author, co-author, editor, or translator of 20 books on such issues as charitable choice, school vouchers, and abortion rights, and has published a church-and-state column in the Humanist for 30 years. He has addressed audiences in more than thirty states and five countries and led workshops at Humanist conferences and UU General Assemblies, where he has often been a delegate. Doerr is a former high school history, government, Spanish, and English teacher. A frequent guest on television and radio talk shows. (Anna Andrews)

Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento
2425 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento CA 95825
(916) 483-9283 Activities ext 208
Office@uuss.org www.uuss.org
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The deadline for each issue is the tenth of the previous month. (For the May issue, the deadline is Wednesday, April 10.)

Items may be emailed to
unigram@uuss.org.

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.

Minister: The Reverend Douglas C.B. Kraft
(483-9283 ext. 201; Doug@uuss.org)

Board of Trustees President: Tiffany Urness
(president@uuss.org)

Director of Religious Education: Kate Throop
(483-9283 ext. 203; Kate@uuss.org)

Business Manager: Clay Nelson
(483-9283 ext. 202. Clay@uuss.org)

Music Director: Mary WillAllen (737-7464)

Organist: Barbara Lazar (483-9283)

Bookkeeper: Carole Petracek (483-9283 ext. 205;
carole@uuss.org)

Office Assistant: Cynthia Creter (483-9283 ext. 206;
cynthia@uuss.org)

Office Coordinator:

Facilities Maintenance Manager: Robert Hosley
(483-9283 ext. 251; 752-0882, 24 hrs.)

Custodian: Elaine Cooper (Pager 730-8803 when on duty).