

the Unigram



The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento

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March 2010

All the Ways We Grow: Some Personal Reflections

By Margaret Wilcox, President/Moderator,
UUSS Board of Trustees

Since wandering into the UU Society of Sacramento five years ago during our search for a spiritual community that spoke to our heads as well as our hearts, I have continued to be amazed at that random good fortune.

Whether I am at a Sunday service, in an official UUSS meeting, enjoying a social event, or engaged in one of our many, many programs, I am delighted by our commitment to shared values, by our energy and engagement in trying to live those values within the congregation and the regional community, and by our generosity with whatever we can offer. Those are all integral to helping us grow together—which is the theme of our 2010-11 stewardship campaign.

When I reflect on our achievements this past year, which were only possible with the growth in our pledges, I think of many, many accomplishments. But I especially think of our ministers. They, along with all of you, are the core for me of UUSS. I cherish their wisdom and inspiration and I greatly value their support during personal crises. This year we were able once again to honor our multi-year commitment to gradually bring our Lead Minister's compensation up to the UUA recommended level for a congregation our size and in our geographic area. We have accomplished these step-wise increases for two years now with three years remaining before reaching the recommended level. We also continued our contract with the Associate Minister (Family Minister) who is the lead on family ministry, including religious education, and whose position has become very important to UUSS for many of us.

Our budget process for the past several years has proceeded on the assumption that we must have a balanced budget. Our revenue, primarily pledges, determines whether we are able to move forward with the hopes and dreams we all have for UUSS. I hope that

we will support our Lead Minister, Associate Minister and staff at the appropriate level. I dream that we will be able to fully fund our many wonderful programs and that our budget will fully support moving forward with our five-year plan goals: to strengthen our connection with and support of new and existing members; to deepen our ministry to children and families; and to develop, approve and begin to implement an environmentally-friendly master plan for UUSS property.

I hope that you, like us, will make the strongest financial commitment that you can for the coming year to support the continued vitality of our congregation.

Month of Sundays

Two Service Times: 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

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|-------------|--|
| February 28 | Rev. Roger Jones <i>Money and Anxiety: As Old As the Bible</i> |
| March 7 | Rev. Doug Kraft <i>Swimming in the Deep End: The End of Self As We Know It</i> |
| March 14 | Rev. Roger Jones <i>Joys and Terrors of Religious Education: What Are We Doing Here, Anyway? And Will It Hurt?</i> |
| March 21 | Rev. Roger Jones <i>A Revolution of Libraries and Living Rooms: Margaret Fuller's Legacy of Liberation</i> |
| March 28 | Carole Czujko, Intern Minister <i>To be announced</i> |
| April 4 | Rev. Doug Kraft <i>Alleluia!</i> |

UUSS Community Contributions

During March, our morning offering is shared with the St. John's Shelter for Women and Children, which supports homeless women with children, helping them move from a point of crisis to a position of self-sufficiency.

AT THE MOMENT

By Reverend Doug Kraft

Spirituality: What is it anyway? There are at least four different criteria for creating a definition of spirituality: Beliefs, feelings, levels and ultimate concerns.

Beliefs: These definitions say spirituality is a set of ideas. The ideas could be about God, reincarnation, the Bible, salvation, karma, heaven, soul, afterlife, enlightenment, etc. If we hold the right beliefs about the right ideas, we are spiritual. If we don't, we aren't.

Feelings: These definitions say spirituality is a peak experience. If meditation, music or a wilderness view invokes feelings of peace, awe, spaciousness, love, etc., we say, "that was a spiritual experience."

Levels: These definitions say there are many kinds of intelligence (cognitive, emotional, social, sensory motor, moral, etc.) and the highest of this is a spiritual level. So a ballet dancer, musician, poet or philosopher might develop from beginner to intermediate to master to spiritual.

Ultimate Concerns: These definitions say there are many kinds of intelligence and spirituality is just one of them. Cognitive intelligence asks, "What am I aware of?" Emotional intelligence asks, "What do I feel?" Moral intelligence asks, "What to I do?" And so on. Spiritual intelligence asks, "What is of ultimate concern?" We all have cognition, emotions and behavior. And we all have concerns. Our deepest concerns are our ultimate concerns.

All four criteria are valid. But they refer to different animals. To have fruitful discussions about spirituality, we must agree on what we are talking about. As the philosopher Ken Wilber puts it, too many discussions mush these criteria together--they slide from one to the other. The result is, well, mush.

The spirituality I am most interested in is the latter--spiritual intelligence that deals with our deepest concerns in life and how we relate to them. For example, we might have many concerns: Love, God, spirit, raising our kids, creating a peaceful world, helping others, making a living, fitting in, doing things my way, seeing the next episode on TV, money, power, techno gadgets, and so forth.

The concerns that draw us most deeply when we are at our best are our ultimate concerns. The concerns that drive us in any given moment are our immediate concerns. For example, our deepest concern might be creating a

more loving community, but our immediate concern might be winning an argument. Or as I write these words, my ultimate concern might be helping enlightened hearts emerge into the world. But my immediate concern may be writing words that don't sound stupid.

All of us have ultimate and immediate concerns. My interest is not in proclaiming one and pretending the others don't exist; holding one and pushing the others away. My interest is helping all of us bring both kinds of concerns into the light and into a fruitful conversation together.

And with that our spiritual intelligence matures.

Namasté,



P.S. Thank you all for your help during our stewardship drive. Your pledge of financial support is one key ingredient for helping us be a vibrant congregation where we explore our ultimate concerns and how they relate to our everyday life and to being a healing presence in the world. If you haven't pledged yet, there is still time. All pledges help--after all, we are in this together.

FINDING DOUG . . .

I can be found at the church between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, and other times by chance or appointment. Give me a call (483-9283 X201) or send me a note (doug@uuss.org). Monday is my day off. I'll be away on retreat from March 12th through the 20th.

— Doug

SPIRITUALLY GROUNDED LEADERSHIP

by Reverend Doug Kraft

Spiritually Grounded Leadership is a program I started facilitating last fall and will continue next year. It is for people drawn to deepening their spirituality and to using leadership roles as part of that deepening. If you are intrigued, want to know more or would like to apply, get in touch with me. I hope to have an idea of who will be joining before summer.

A more detailed description and application can be found on the web. Go to www.uuss.org/Home/Governance, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Spiritually Grounded Leadership Program" folder. Or contact the office.

A RELATIVE OUTSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE: THE WAYS YOU (AND I) HAVE GROWN IN MINISTRY

By Reverend Roger Jones, Family Minister

This is the seventh year this congregation has had a second minister on staff. Prior to that UUSS had been served by a full-time professional Director of Religious Education. A number of leaders asserted that a congregation of this size and level of activity needed more than one minister, in particular to help UUSS reach out to meet the needs of families with children.

When I was hired by the Board of Trustees in 2008, you all had just made a leap in funding to raise this position from that of "assistant" minister to the level of "associate" minister. I had to dye my temples gray just to look worthy of it. This position has stretched my abilities and caused me to learn new things about ministerial leadership and religious education. It has given me the character-building experience of feeling not just overwhelmed but in over my head. Fortunately, not too many of you have caught on to me yet.

I hope you find the following summary useful as you consider the past few years of experience with a second minister at UUSS.

My portfolio includes Child and Youth Religious Education (RE), Adult Enrichment, the Membership Committee (especially New Member Orientations), All-Ages Activities and the Task Force on Ministry to Families with Children. In addition, I attend most of the monthly Board, Executive Committee, Program Council, and Steering Committee meetings. I have weekly Ministry Staff meetings, RE Assistant meetings, Senior Staff meetings, and All-Staff meetings. I preach at least once monthly, among other roles I play in worship services. I've led the search to recruit and hire a new child care provider, and we expect to hire more new staff soon. I have consulted with or participated in Social Responsibility programs, Stewardship and fundraising campaigns, the Alliance, and several other activities where I smell food cooking. I've officiated at weddings here and in the local area. I respond to hospital calls and other pastoral requests as much as I can, and I welcome families of all kinds to reach out to get acquainted and tell me how the church can be of help. (I also am active in several volunteer roles in the local, Pacific Central District and denominational realms.) Clearly, there is more ministry to do. Doug works an average of 60 hours a week, sometimes more. I don't want to know if I surpass him!

The RE program cannot rely on me alone (even if I were competent)! It must rely on the cooperative leadership of the RE Committee and especially its chair, Jeannine

Newcum, and many other lay leaders...like you.

You have more experience and knowledge than I do and have shown great patience and forbearance to me-- and also have been willing to try some new things. Our outgoing part-time RE Assistant, Janet Lopes, has worked beyond her job description and rate of pay to support our volunteers and me in this time of growth and change. She is stepping down from her staff role to resume life as a church volunteer. We can look forward to her contributions in a leadership role now rather than a paid position that was designed as an administrative one.

Of course, the RE program relies fundamentally on the regular participation and attendance of children and their parents and the talented, creative and generous volunteer leaders in the classrooms, youth lounge, nursery, community garden, playground, worship services, social events, and so on.

In the coming months the next church year, we will need to see broader involvement by members and friends in UUSS Religious Education programs for children and youth. What will this mean?

It will mean more contributions of time and attention by those with children in the program as well as by our stellar elders and middle-aged folks who come here unattached to children. It will mean improved regular attendance by our children and youth at the classes and other programs that staff and volunteers plan and provide for us. It will be worth it!

Major change takes intention, vision and effort. I do see that a new level of ministry to families, children and youth is within reach.

Will you reach with me?

Yours in service, 

P.S.: I welcome everyone's help in organizing activities and special events for all ages. Passover Seder, anyone? Outing to Children's Theater? Day at Raley Field to see the River Cats? Thanks to everyone for your generosity in the Stewardship Campaign, and thanks for "all the ways we grow."

FINDING THE FAMILY MINISTER IN MARCH

I welcome invitations to get together for a pastoral visit with UUSS families. It's hard to get to know all the kids on Sunday, except as flashes of light speeding past me. I am usually at UUSS Monday and Wednesday afternoons and Tuesday and Thursday mornings; but I welcome evening and early morning appointments. I have rediscovered the joy of connecting with folks by phone instead

of e-mail. The human voice adds richness and variety to a busy day. However you do it, please be in touch.

I welcome responses to sermons and others postings on my weblog: www.ironicschmoozer.wordpress.com. If you don't yet receive my Midweek Ministerial Message by e-mail, contact Linda@uuss.org in our office. I will be out of town for a clergy study group retreat near L.A. on March 1 to 4.

– Rev. Roger

JANET STEPS DOWN AS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSISTANT

by Rev. Roger Jones and Janet Lopes

Janet has resigned her position. Say it ain't so! I don't know how I would have survived here the past year and a half without her knowledge, wisdom, and flexibility. So many families and RE teachers and committee members appreciate her warmth and organizational gifts. Please join me in thanking her as she makes this transition, since holding her against her will is against the law.

Fortunately, she's not going anywhere. As a long-time member and church parent, she seeks to return to civilian life as a member of the RE Committee. She recognized that her level of interest and her vision for development of the program are larger than is permitted within the bounds of an administrative job for 12 hours a week. She loves UUSS and wants to serve it as a leader, not a clerical staffer.

Soon we will hire a Religious Education Secretary for the program. We also need to expand the size of the RE Committee, so we can have a coherent and reliable support structure for our volunteer RE teachers and the children and youth in our program. I asked Janet to write her views about the ongoing evolution of our RE program. Here is an excerpt.

Janet Lopes writes: In the past, there has always been a personality (Director of RE or Minister of RE) who has been the focal point for the RE program. She was always the

'go to' person for RE information and inquiries. However, this situation no longer exists. Roger's role is not that of a Minister for Religious Education. His energies are much more dispersed. Also, it is not appropriate for the RE Assistant to take that focal role as this position was created as an assistant for a DRE or MRE. That leaves the RE Committee and its chair to take on the role, but this has not been done at UUSS for at least the last 15 years. I believe that eventually there will be no one focus person for the RE program, but that all those previously mentioned will carry a part of the load. This will all, however, need time to sort out.

SPIRIT PLAY IS FEASTING, FUN AND WONDERING: NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING

COMING SOON

By Rev. Roger Jones

Spirit Play takes place on Sundays during the 9:30 Religious Education hour for grades 1-5. Using classic stories, the arts and shared rituals, it builds community and promotes spiritual reflection and play. Regular story sessions include the roles of Story Teller (lead teacher) and Door Keeper (an adult assistant). While on most Sundays a Story Teller is in charge and we have a story and a discussion based on "Wondering questions," on Feast Days we have special guests, conversation and food.

Thanks to Irwin, Abby, Carl, Matt and Lisa for preparing

our first three Feasts. Thanks to musician Deborah Smith for teaching the kids how to be instruments themselves and how to give and take direction from one another – becoming an orchestra.

On March 28 all RE classes will have a session in the UUSS Garden, so dress in clothes meant for dirt! Consider becoming a Door Keeper. We will have training for new Door Keepers between services and let you shadow an experienced colleague. In April or May we'll have a Saturday training session for new Story Tellers and Door Keepers from UUSS and the Davis and Stockton churches.

For questions, contact RE Chair Jeannine Newcum or me. We'd love to help you decide if this would be a good fit for you. For more information see www.SpiritPlay.net.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

March 2010

Sunday, March 7:

9:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Childcare (age 5 and under)

RE Garden Day – Wear grubbies!

Jr. High OWL Overnight ends

Sunday, March 14:

9:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Childcare (age 5 and under)

RE Classes

RE Committee Mtg. - Rm. 6

All are welcome!

Sunday, March 21:

9:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Childcare (age 5 and under)

RE Classes

Jr. High OWL Class

Sunday, March 28:

9:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Childcare (age 5 and under)

RE Classes

Passover and Easter next week!

UUSS SPIRITUAL PARENTING

By Sally Lewis

The UUSS Spiritual Parenting group is starting fresh this spring season. Join other parents with children of all ages who support and sustain all members as we lovingly nurture the minds, bodies, and spirits of our children. We discuss pertinent topics such as our inner wisdom, our communication skills, our children's happiness, our caretaker needs and our families' spiritual experiences and practices.

This is a short-term group convening six times mostly every other week on the UUSS campus. We will meet every other Monday starting March 22, 2010, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and ending on Monday, May 24, 2010. It is open for all to attend for the first two meetings; then we close it to new members until next time. Adding sessions beyond the last day is possible. Child care at UUSS is available for the whole series by advance registration and is \$60 per family to defray costs. Minimum five participants, maximum 12. Register by March 14 at Connection Central or RE Welcome tables.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Sally Lewis at 916-646-3410 or slewis6346@gmail.com.

ADULT ENRICHMENT AND EXPLORATION COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

AMERICAN TRANSCENDENTALISM CONVERSATIONS with Kathryn Canan

The Transcendentalism class meets the first and third Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Upcoming topics include the social movements which grew out of Transcendentalism: women's rights, abolition of slavery, educational reform, and attempts at utopian living. Authors inspired by Transcendentalism include Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman. Anyone is welcome to join us at any time. To receive information and suggested readings for the class, please e-mail kacanan@yahoo.com or phone 723-2409.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

A great way to build connections and community at UUSS is to join a Ministry Circle, a group of 10 to 12 members who meet at UUSS or in members' homes twice a month for deep listening and speaking on topics of the heart. These are ongoing groups. However, we can also offer short-term group programs, for a stretch of eight to 10 weeks (in a row, not biweekly), meeting at UUSS. There are a number of good UU guide books, or a group might form to reflect and connect over a specific theme. Let Roger Jones or Carole Czujko know of your interest.

JOURNAL AND JOURNEY

A Six-Week Writing Group, Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to noon, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6
Co-facilitated by Intern Minister, Carole Czujko, and Linda Roye and Jan Schroeder.

The purpose of this course is to offer a supportive writing environment. A variety of writing activities will help jump start your creativity and thoughts to get your unique story onto the page. You choose what you want to write about--stories from your past, journaling, fiction, reflections, or exploring ideas. We'll spend time writing, then respectfully listening to those who elect to share excerpts from what they've written. Journal and Journey is a critique-free, safe space for all.

Sign up at Connection Central during coffee hour on Sunday or e-mail carole@uuss.org. Fee for six sessions--\$20. Limit of 14 people.

PLANNING FOR THE INEVITABLE

By Tiffany Urness

Tiffany Urness and Muriel Drakeford will facilitate an Adult Enrichment workshop based on the Capitol Public Radio broadcast, "Would it Kill You to Plan for your Death," on February 24, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (re-broadcast February 25, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.). The workshop is Saturday, March 20, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The focus will be on the official and legal processes that kick in when you check out, how to put your affairs in order, sharing information about funeral homes and cremations, and how to clarify and communicate your wishes to loved ones. Advance Health Directives and other important documents will be explained and blank copies will be available. Donation of \$5, public welcome.

SECOND SATURDAY MEDITATION

By Rev. Doug Kraft

DATES: SATURDAYS, MARCH 13, APRIL 10 AND MAY 8

TIME: 8:30 A.M. TO 12 NOON

PLACE: UUSS

LEADERS: REV. DOUG KRAFT AND RICH HOWARD

Our Second Saturday Meditation will continue on Saturday, March 13, at UUSS from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Instruction will be offered. New and experienced meditators are welcome. Reservations are not needed -- feel free to join us. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring any cushions you might need. (Chairs will be provided.) For more information see the Unigram (uuss.org/Unigram/Unigram2010-02.pdf) or contact Doug (doug@uuss.org, 483-9283 x201) or Rich (rhoward1@surewest.net, 359-7359).

FAMILY-FRIENDLY DINNER AT FRESH CHOICE ON MARCH 17

By Rev. Roger Jones

Folks of all ages are invited to our monthly dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, at Fresh Choice, 535 Howe Ave., between Sierra and Fair Oaks. This buffet restaurant features salads, soups, breads, potatoes, pasta, dessert, and a family-friendly attitude. Come meet some newcomers or some long-time members. Fresh Choice donates 15 percent of our group's purchases back to UUSS; print out the flyer for this at www.uuss.org or pick it up at the UUSS Office or sanctuary on a Sunday.

NEWCOMERS' MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION COURSE COMING IN APRIL

by Rev. Roger Jones, Family Minister

Twenty new folks came to our Saturday orientation and many of them joined UUSS as official members afterward. Soon we'll have a brief New Member Ingathering Ritual in a Sunday service.

The next course will take place on two week nights, Monday, April 12 and 19, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. You may reserve a place for it by signing up at the Sunday Welcome Table. It includes discussion with ministers, lay leaders, and other new UUs like yourself about UU principles and about UUSS – even a tour. Learn how to get involved here and a bit of liberal religious history (2000 years in 20 minutes).

Meanwhile, another place to find out how to get involved at UUSS is the Connection Central table. Volunteer leaders staff the table in the foyer after every worship service. A different activity group is in the spotlight every Sunday, but you can learn about all other programs at Connection Central at any time. Be sure to pick up a Pathways brochure and browse at www.uuss.org.

NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES WEB PAGE AND OTHER UPDATES

By Margaret Wilcox, President/Moderator,
UUSS Board of Trustees

Thanks to Peter Kosar and the Web Committee, you can now find lots of information about the Board on the UUSS web site at <http://www.uuss.org/>. Just click on the "Who We Are" tab, then click on "Board of Trustees," and you're there! You can see brief bios on Board members as well as agendas, minutes, financial reports, UUSS policies and procedures, and our congregational five-year plan. Check it out and let me know if you'd like additional information included.

At our January meeting, Board members and guests discussed priorities for the 2010-11 UUSS budget. The discussion included input from several members of the congregation who had called or e-mailed their concerns and recommendations. The

top three identified priorities, which will guide the Board in preparing the proposed budget for congregational approval, were a balanced budget, PCD/UUA dues, and a tie between ministerial salaries and capital outlay/reserve fund. If you have thoughts about these priorities, I invite you to share them with me or any of our Board members. The Finance Committee will draft a preliminary budget, the Board's Executive Committee will review that draft, and then the full Board will discuss and approve a proposed budget. During May Lisa Malkin, our treasurer, will schedule a

budget discussion for interested members. The 2010-11 budget will be formally presented for approval at the May 23 congregational meeting.

Our three task forces that are implementing our long-range planning document, Building the Future: A Five-Year Plan, are moving forward with our three initiatives. Each month the task forces report their progress to the Board. If you browse the monthly minutes on the Board's web page, you will see how they're coming along.



UUSS BOARD OF TRUSTEES


JULY 2009 - JUNE 2010

Margaret Wilcox, *President*
Linda Klein, *Vice-President*
Lisa Malkin, *Treasurer*
Carrie Cornwell, *Secretary*

Members at Large:

John Abbott • Kathryn Canan • David Navarro
Jeff Voeller • Cathy Whitney
Alice Lopes, *Youth Trustee*



BLACK, BROWN, YELLOW, WHITE...
STAYING AT THE TABLE...
THE COLOR OF FEAR 

"A gripping documentary." "Every time I watch it I find something new and compelling."

By Carole Czujko

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010, 8:45 TO 11:30 A.M.

Sign up now to be among the 25 to experience the award-winning film, *The Color of Fear*.

In *The Color of Fear*, eight men of different ethnicities confront the dynamics of color and culture, facing one another and their fears during one weekend together. To quote the director Lee Mun Wah: "Out of their confrontations and struggles to understand and trust each other emerges an emotional and insightful portrayal of the type of dialogue many people fear, but must happen if we hope to achieve a true multicultural society in our lifetime."

You are invited to a screening of this powerful documentary. Youth age 16 and older are welcome (contains small amount of adult language). Consider coming as parent and youth eye-opener. Invite a friend – this movie will bring up lively discussion. We'll gather at 8:45 a.m. for coffee, screening of the 90-minute documentary will begin at 9 a.m., with ample time for small group, facilitated discussion afterward. Expect to be moved, made uncomfortable, and uplifted.

E-mail Carole Czujko, intern minister, at carole@uuss.org to reserve seats, or sign up on Sunday at Connection Central in the coffee hour area. I look forward to watching *The Color of Fear* and talking about it with you.

INTERWEAVE 

By Catherine Whitney

Interweave started the new year with a potluck at the home of Cathy Whitney and Linda Killick. Eighteen people attended and began planning for the upcoming year. In February, a showing of the video, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, occurred at the home of Annie Kempees. Jorge Jimenez staffed a table on Valentine's Day for the "Standing on the Side of Love" event. In March the potluck will be held at the home of Jean Kotal and Diane O'Mara. For information, call Cathy Whitney at 481-3224.



THE ENDOWMENT TRUST 

By Candy McMorris

Planting Seeds for Tomorrow...

The Endowment trustees thank Charles and John Watters and Toby and Sue

Johnson for their gifts in memory of Evelyn Watters; and thank the Joe Fitzsimmons family, John and Dorothy Genn, and Bob and Fran Oyafuso for their gifts in memory of Jackie Davis.

The thoughtful generosity of these donors honors the memory of their loved ones, makes special congregational projects possible each year and safeguards and strengthens the mission and long-term vitality of UUSS.

The most recent project supported by the Endowment Trust was the purchase of a mobile storage system for the Spirit Play classroom, requested by the Religious Education Committee and the Spirit Play Storytellers. In the past two years the endowment has also supported the UUrth Song Community Garden, the Art committee, the RE Coming of Age group, the Entryway project, the Green Sanctuary, and the Searching for the Future workshop.

The Endowment can disburse an additional \$875 prior to June 30th for special, one-time projects that will benefit and improve UUSS. Additional funds will become available after July 1st. To request an application for endowment funds, send a note to endowment@uuss.org, or to candy.mcmorris@comcast.net.

Memorial gifts under \$1000 are automatically placed in the Endowment Trust. Other gifts to the Endowment should always specifically designate the UUSS Endowment Trust. To speak with an Endowment trustee, please send a note to endowment@uuss.org or call the church office at (916) 483-9283 to arrange an appointment.

ALLIANCE 

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010, 10:45 A.M.

Alliance is pleased to have Fran Kennedy as guest speaker at its March 11 meeting. Fran and her husband, Jack, traveled to Iran this past fall as part of a small group; and she will share their experiences with us. This presentation promises to be exciting and fascinating and one you will not want to miss. Coffee and tea will be available at 10:45 a.m. The presentation will begin at 11:00 a.m. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided.

WHITHER PUBLIC FORUM? OR WITHER PUBLIC FORUM?

By Rick Caughey

The Public Forum needs your help!

The UUSS Public Forum Planning Committee has been in existence for many, many years. Its objective has been to arrange for speakers and other types of presentations that would be of interest to our members. Over the years there were weekly presentations at 9:30 a.m. when there was only one service at 11:00; but in recent years, due to the limited size of the committee, presentations have withered down to one a month at 1:00 p.m. after the second service.

The Public Forum has a faithful and appreciative audience; approximately 50 members attend events. Speakers' topics run the whole gamut of social and governmental issues and audience feedback is usually very positive.

What is missing, however, are more UUSS members to help plan and organize these events. A few years ago the committee consisted of at least 14 able bodies, but that number has now dwindled to just a few not-so-able bodies. If more members are not forthcoming, the result may well be that the Forum will cease as a program at the end of this current year. In order to make it easy for interested persons, just come with one idea you will see through to completion. With enough interested people willing to do one program, a full schedule can be completed. We are now planning for next fall.

Read this, then, as a last-ditch effort to save the Public Forum from extinction. Please come forward and help the Forum continue the dynamic programs as it has presented in the past. If you are able and willing to help the committee, please contact Rick Caughey at 916-485-2869 or rick1920@comcast.net.

THEATER ONE

By Hank Coffin

Theater One will be presenting David Lindsay-Abaire's hilarious tragicomedy "Wonder of the World" coming April 30 to May 9. Nothing will prepare you for the dirty little secret Cass discovers in her husband's sweater drawer. It is so shocking that our heroine has no choice but to flee to the honeymoon capital of the world in a frantic search for the life she thinks she missed out on. It's a wickedly funny, wild ride over Niagara Falls in a barrel of laughs. David Lindsay-Abaire's "Rabbit Hole" was awarded the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for drama.

GREEN SANCTUARY

By Kate Mullinger

Come to the Green Sanctuary Energy Fair on Sunday, March 28! SMUD will be on hand to share environmental program options for those who want to reduce their carbon footprint, buy green power, or explore solar power options. Bring up to three incandescent light bulbs to trade in for new compact fluorescent bulbs that save up to 75 percent of the energy that traditional bulbs use. SMUD will also have information about rebates and incentives for appliances and other home improvements that save energy. More to come. Stay tuned!

OUR MARCH COMMUNITY PARTNER

By Dorothy Mitchell

During March our Sunday morning offering will be shared with the St. John's Shelter for women and children. The shelter supports homeless women with children and helps them to move from a point of crisis to a position of self-sufficiency.

Since 1985 the program has provided shelter and support for more than 23,000 displaced women and children. Their programs provide not only shelter, but work to reintegrate their clients back into the Sacramento community as self-sufficient and productive citizens. Volunteers from UUSS provide dinner for the 100+ shelter residents the fourth Wednesday of each month.

UNIGRAM SUBMISSIONS

The Unigram Committee accepts articles until the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication. Please note this deadline as you prepare future articles. In addition, please send articles as Word text or as text in an e-mail to unigram@uuss.org. Please do not send articles in PDF formatting. Your submission to the Unigram may be edited for content and length. Guidelines may be downloaded from www.uuss.org or picked up in the UUSS Office.

A LOW-TECH ALTERNATIVE

UUSS members or friends without computer access may submit their articles for publication by dropping them into the mail box slot for the Unigram which is located in the hallway near the restrooms.

Unigram Production Crew: Christine Webb-Curtis, Jan Kelley, Judy Lane, Margo Marvin, Doris Simonis, and Kathryn Young

GROWING CLOSER TO CLOSURE

By JoAnn Anglin and Ginger Enrico

On our stewardship campaign checklist:

Get our message out to every member and friend.

- Be sure that all understand the importance of this annual stewardship campaign.
- Get all the pledge cards completed and returned.
- Finish up the Cottage Conversations.

Cottage Conversations: a new concept for some, a welcome return for others. It has been most satisfying to meet in these small groups this past month. We heard great stories about your experiences in our congregation--why you come, why you stay, concerns you have, and the growth and change you hope for. We truly heard 'All the Ways We Grow!'

Some of you came ready with the amount you want to pledge. Others had questions. We learned that we could use more clarity about the 'Fair Share' concept – that it is about the commitment, not the amount; that it is a guide, not a prescription.

We learned that most members will continue or expand their generosity, but some face financial challenges. We found that many are adamant in wanting their pledge to include dues paid to the district and the UUA. We heard board members and staff explain how decisions are made, and the varied ways members can have input to that process, e.g., watch for notice of budget meetings where members can attend and have input on decisions to come. The final budget will be presented for approval, or change, at the May congregational meeting.

And what about those bright green pledge cards? These are the bricks used to shape the paths our congregation will take this next year. As the 2010-2011 Stewardship Campaign winds down, we want and need all of them filled out and returned. The Board will plan in March based on the information from the pledge cards. Please turn them in as soon as you can!!

Thank you for your generous and fruitful participation. If you have more questions, please contact us.

Your Stewardship Campaign Chairs:
JoAnn Anglin, 916-451-1372; Ginger Enrico, 916-631-8400

WATER, WATER, WATER

By Rick Caughey

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010

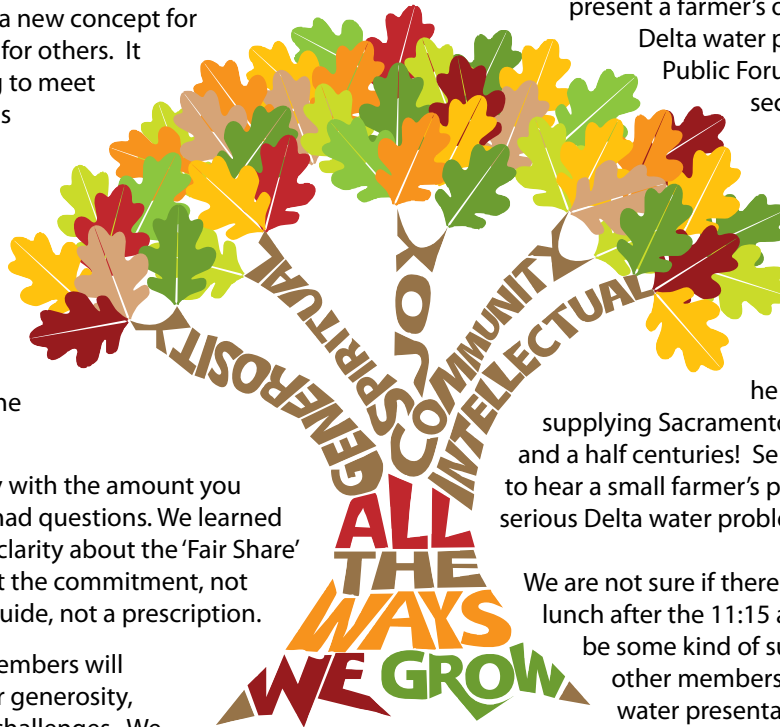
1:00 P.M.

We can live without oil, but we can't live without water.

Tim Neuharth, a long-time farmer in the Delta, will present a farmer's outlook on the difficult Delta water problem at the March 14 Public Forum, 1:00 p.m., just after the second service.

Tim's family has been tilling the Delta since 1848 on a small farm of 295 acres where the family grows cherries, grapes, alfalfa and grain. That means that he and his family have been supplying Sacramento produce for over one and a half centuries! Seldom do we get a chance to hear a small farmer's perspective about the very serious Delta water problem.

We are not sure if there will be a potluck or a light lunch after the 11:15 a.m. service, but there will be some kind of sustenance. Please join other members and stay for the Delta water presentation. Public welcome.



UURTH SONG


COMMUNITY GARDEN

By Kate Mullinger

Spring's around the corner and perhaps your fancy is turning to thoughts of GARDENING! Join us on Sunday, March 21, at 12:45 p.m. as we kick off plans for the 2010 season in the UUrth Song CommUUnity Garden. You can reserve a plot (or plots) on and after the 21st for \$20 apiece. We have two beds that are ideal for seated gardening! We'll be preparing the beds and garden area on Saturday, April 17-- all gardeners (and garden supporters), please plan to be with us then to lend a hand!

KIDS: On March 7, your RE classes will help again this year making bird houses and planter box signs. Don't miss it!

Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento Calendar of Events

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| FEB 28 9:15am-Childcare 9:30am-Food Basket 9:30am-Service & RE 9:30am-Bookstore 11:15am-Service 12:15pm-Potluck Lch 12:30pm-Nominating Committee 12:45pm-Green Sanc. | 1 6:00pm-Property Management | 2 10:00am-Ted's Web 10:00am-Journal and Journey 6:30pm-Adult Enrichment: Transcendentalism | 3 10:00am-DayDreamers 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal | 4 | 5 6:00pm-UUSS Harmonies | 6 9:00am-The Color of Fear 9:00 am-Cottage Conversation 10:00am-Forum Planning Group 2:00pm-OWL Sleep Over 6th & 7th |
| 7 9:15am-Childcare 9:30am-Bookstore 9:30am-Service & RE 11:15am-Service 12:15pm-Potluck Lch 12:30pm-Personnel 12:30pm-Nominating 12:45pm-Cong. Conv 12:45pm-CUUPS | 8 | 9 10:00am-Ted's Web 2:00pm-Program Council Steering 7:00pm-Yarn Ministry | 10 10:00am-DayDreamers 4:00pm-Grief Support Group 6:00pm-Music Committee 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal | 11 10:30am-Alliance Presentation 7:00pm-Finance Committee | 12 6:00pm-All Level Instrumentalists | 13 9:30am-Second Saturday Meditation PCD Board Meeting |
| 14 9:15am-Childcare 9:30am-Service & RE 9:30am-Bookstore 10:45am-Choir 11:00am-RE Ctte 11:15am-Service 12:30pm-Nominating 1:15pm-Forum 3:00pm-Servetus | 15 | 16 10:00am-Ted's Web 12:00pm-Executive Committee 6:30pm-Adult Enrichment: Transcendentalism |  10:00am-DayDreamers 5:30pm-Family Friendly Dining at Fresh Choice 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal | 18 6:30pm-Program Council 7:00pm-Book Group | 19 6:00pm-UUSS Harmonies | 20 1:00pm-Planning for the Inevitable |
| 21 9:15am-Childcare 9:30am-Service & RE 11:00am-OWL 7 & 8 11:15am-Service 12:30pm-Membership 12:30pm-Nominating 12:45pm-Garden 1:00pm-Social Resp 4:00pm-CUUPS | 22 7:00am-Loaves & Fishes Food Prep 11:00am-Loaves & Fishes Servers 6:30pm-Spiritual Parenting | 23 10:00am-Ted's Web 7:00pm-Yarn Ministry | 24 10:00am-DayDreamers 4:00pm-St. John's Shelter 4:00pm-Grief Support Group 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal | 25 9:30am-Volunteers Mail Unigram 4th Thur 7:30pm-Board of Trustees Meeting | 26 6:00pm-All Level Instrumentalists | 27 |
| 28 8:00am-Spring Opportunity Fair 9:15am-Childcare 9:30am-Service & RE 9:30am-Bookstore 11:15am-Service 12:30pm-Nominating 12:45pm-Green Sanctuary: Energy Fair | 29 6:30pm-Spiritual Parenting | 30 10:00am-Ted's Web | 31 10:00am-DayDreamers 7:00pm-Choir Rehearsal |  | | |

Please Note: Some meetings/classes are not open to the public without pre-registration. If unsure, please call ahead.

For a more current and complete version of the calendar, please go to: www.uuss.org and click on the Monthly Calendar tab under Current Events.



Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento
2425 Sierra Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95825-4803

Phone: (916) 483-9283

Fax: (916) 483-4934

Email: office@uuss.org

Website: www.uuss.org

Senior Minister:

The Reverend Douglas C.B. Kraft, ext. 201; doug@uuss.org

Family Minister:

The Reverend Roger Jones, ext. 203; roger@uuss.org

Ministerial Intern:

Carole Czujko, ext. 251; carole@uuss.org

Music Director: May Tucker, ext. 208; may@uuss.org

Organist: Barbara Lazar; barbara@uuss.org

Religious Education Assistant:

Janet Lopes, ext. 207; janet@uuss.org

Childcare Providers: Miranda Massa and Leeanna Ramirez

UUSS President: Margaret Wilcox; president@uuss.org

Business Administrator:

David McMorris, ext. 202; david@uuss.org

Bookkeeper: Michele Ebler, ext. 205; michele@uuss.org

Office Assistant: Linda Hoganson,
ext. 204; linda@uuss.org

Custodian: (Sunday - Thursday)

Elaine Cooper, ext. 206; elaine@uuss.org

Custodian: (Wednesday - Sunday)

Armando Molina, ext. 254

CALENDAR CONUNDRUM

Has the Unigram's monthly calendar become obsolete? Those of us who are responsible for producing the Unigram are getting more and more convinced that the printed calendar causes more confusion than enlightenment. Due to the early Unigram deadline, the calendar is incomplete when it is published. Events are frequently added or altered after the Unigram deadline.

The most current version of the calendar can easily be accessed at our website, www.uuss.org. Just click on the tab entitled "Current Events" and then click on "Monthly Calendar." For those of you who do not use the worldwide web, Linda Hoganson will print a few copies of the month's calendar and have them available for pick up in the office. Current information is also available weekly in the blue sheet found in your Order of Service.

MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Two Services: 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

February 28 **Rev. Roger Jones**
Money and Anxiety:
As Old As the Bible

How much is enough? This has been a spiritual question in every age, but it's a more persistent and pestering one in a society centered around money and at times of social volatility. How can you know how much money is enough to have, earn, save, give away, keep and spend on things you enjoy?

March 7 **Rev. Doug Kraft**
Swimming in the Deep End:
The End of Self as We Know It

What happens when the "inherent worth and dignity" of the individual merges with the "interdependent web of which we are a part." This morning we continue exploring the depth of Unitarian Universalism.

March 14 **Rev. Roger Jones**
Joys and Terrors of Religious Education:
What Are We Doing Here, Anyway?
And Will It Hurt?

Whether or not we volunteer in the Religious Education program, it is part of our shared ministry. Whether or not we have kids in the program, we all benefit from this ministry. Even if we don't think it makes a difference, it will. Come hear confessions of a Sunday school slacker. (This sermon is rated PG.)

March 21 **Rev. Roger Jones**
A Revolution of Libraries and Living Rooms:
Margaret Fuller's Legacy of Liberation

Margaret Fuller's 200th birthday is coming up! Do you know this Unitarian feminist writer, teacher, and revolutionary? She lived only 40 years but she helped the Transcendentalist movement leap forward with her gifts of friendship, intellect, and courage in the midst of struggles and pain.

March 28 **Carole Czujko, Intern Minister**
To Be Announced

Please check the Blue Sheet or the on-line UUSS Calendar at www.uuss.org later in the month for information on this service.

April 4 **Rev. Doug Kraft**
Alleluia!

The Easter Story is about a good man, Jesus, who helps, heals, teaches and inspires. In return he's denied, abused, beaten up, tortured and killed. The Easter refrain to this saga is "Alleluia!" -- Hmmm. This morning we'll untangle this story and relate it to our own lives.