

Midweek Ministerial Message: Sunday Service
& Religious Ed; Sing-along Harmonies Friday;
Membership Orientation Saturday
Feb. 3, 2010

Dear UUSS Members, Friends and Guests:

Welcome to February! This email includes some a review of last Sunday and an advance look at this Sunday's service and Religious Education fun. For complete news **click these links for the Sunday Blue Sheet Announcements**, the **February Unigram** newsletter and our calendar at www.uuss.org.

Singing Together: **This Friday** (and every first and third Friday) the **Harmonies sing-along** takes place at 6:00 PM with [Judy Lane](#) and others in the sanctuary. Contact her to find out more. All welcome!

Giving Together: This week we have launched the Stewardship Campaign for the 2010-11 budget. This is when members, friends and supporters make our pledges of financial support to the congregation for the coming year. Below see an affirming testimonial by one of our church families. I hope to see you at a Cottage Meeting soon, and please let me know if you have any questions. The good work continues!

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Pastoral Notes

We extend our condolences to JoAnn Anglin on the loss of her brother-in-law.

We keep in our thoughts Carol Byers, Lillian Tool, Maxine Cornwell, Pat Setzer and others among us [please let us know] who are recovering from accidents or infections, and to Carl Sweet and Diane Kelly Abrams, as Carl has just had surgery again after the dislocation of a surgically replaced hip. We send our love and care to Judy Jauch, who has just had major surgery; she welcomes cards but no visits at this point.

2—Good News from Last Sunday in Religious Education

*Thanks to our adult volunteers who help out Miranda in the Room 11 nursery while Leeanna is on an extended medical absence. Others may offer to help by contacting janet@uuss.org.

*Thanks to Kimberly Ayres for her consecutive weeks of presence reading a picture book in *Story Time*, which is next to Room 11. Thanks to Linda Hoganson and Holly Wunder Stiles, who led the Spirit Play program for a nice crowd! Click this link to learn about [Spirit Play](#) from its UU author; we will be recruiting more Story Tellers in spring.

*In the *Junior High Spiritual Practices* class: Carol Singleton and Denis Edgren had four

students. Carol writes: “They reviewed what the kids discussed in their previous class about Martin Luther King, Jr. and then we moved into a discussion about what their ideal or perfect world would look like. They had lots of ideas and were very enthusiastic. Many came up with technological advancements that would help create a perfect world -- colonizing mars and the moon, solar cars, sending nuclear waste into space, etc. There was much discussion about food in their perfect world; free In & Out for all was one solution. Many wanted no war and no violence, but how to govern these perfect worlds was a tricky subject. We spent some time drawing the perfect world, but quickly ran out of time. We had popcorn, muffins and brownies and fun was had by all.” (Here’s hoping more of our youth will enjoy the fun this Sunday— Roger.)

Senior High Youth Group made a pilgrimage to Jamba Juice. Doug Kraft tagged along. One teen’s words will be featured in the sermon this Sunday. Thanks to Tami, Carl, and Bonnie, our SHYG adult leaders.

Okay, what did I miss?

3—This Sunday in Religious Education— Don’t Miss It

While we have nursery care at both services, we have Child & Youth Religious Education during the 9:30 service:

**Story Time*: with our storybook reader sitting under the rainbow canopy and reading to little ones.

**Spirit Play*: with Storyteller Dorothy Mitchell and Doorkeeper Mandy Porter providing a time of wonder, work and community for grades 1-5. The lesson for the day is the classic story of the blind men and the elephant, which can be told without all male characters, and perhaps they are blindfolded rather than all blind? Anyway, find it posted [here](#).

**Junior High Spiritual Practices* for youth in grades 6-8: Adults Rich Howard and Eric Ross will be leading.

**Senior High Youth Group*: On February 7 the youth will learn about Sacramento’s new

Sister City, [Bethlehem](#), in the Palestinian West Bank. On February 21 they will communicate LIVE via web cam with youth in Bethlehem, who will be gathering at night to meet our youth. Patricia Daughtery and Dick Taylor will be our guests.

**OWL (Our Whole Lives)* comprehensive sexuality education class for junior high youth [meets](#) for several hours starting at 11:00 AM [this](#) Sunday for important, values-based conversations, sharing support, acceptance, and honest, crucial information. Thanks to Matt, Annie, Ben and Barbara, our OWL teaching team.

4—This Sunday’s Service and Meetings Afterwards

Don’t miss the Krafty Jones duo in our singing debut this Sunday, which will happen early in the service so the kids can see how much talent their ministers have; surely our two “sermonettes” will seem anticlimactic coming after that! The choir sings at the second service, with a special vocal soloist at the 9:30 service. Our Congregational Conversation takes place at 12:45, and is open to all Members, Friends and Guests. The next general meeting of the Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) will be take place at 12:45. The room location will be on the white board near the entry structure and office that morning. With the Equinox approaching, there is much to be done. --JoLane Blaylock

5—Inspiring Words from Doug, Roger, Carole and Margaret Wilcox (the Prez)

I hope these are inspiring words, since they come from our new pledge drive brochure!

Rev. Doug Kraft, Lead Minister:

We are in the transformation business. Our work is to provide an environment where we can heal our hurts, discover new aspects of being, and go back into the world with more confidence and joy.

Generosity of time and money helps us manage the nitty-gritty realities of making a transforming community possible.

Rev. Roger Jones, Family Minister:
This is a congregation of spiritual depth, social concerns, creativity, caring, trust and fun ... of leadership and vision ... of loving relationships. Your generosity will sustain and strengthen this congregation, the ministries it provides, and the values for which it stands.

Carole Czujko, Ministerial Intern:
You are supporting my growth into my goal of congregational ministry. When a congregation takes on an intern, they grow, too. How are you growing right now?

Margaret Wilcox, President, Board of Trustees:

I think about the remarkable sense of enthusiasm, commitment and generosity in the congregation right now. We are enthusiastically but thoughtfully engaged in looking toward our future. We are committing ourselves to new initiatives, programs and goals. We are following through with generous offerings of our time, talents and resources. It's truly amazing to share this moment with all of you. I imagine our congregational journey to accomplishing some of our new goals, with important lessons learned and adjustments made to accommodate those. That's part of what I love about UUSS – we understand the joy and the value of the journey.

6--New Member Orientation and Signing the Book this Sunday

If you have been attending UUSS for a while and have been thinking about joining as a member, I think there will be room for 2 more folks for Saturday. Let me know by Thursday noon to register! You may pick up the **folder** with your name on it at the office by Friday at 4:00 PM or come a bit early Saturday to peruse it. Please confirm with me if you have requested child care during this time. For all who have

completed the two forms necessary to join UUSS but have not yet signed the Membership Register, we will make it available after both services on two Sundays, Feb. 7 and Feb. 14, and by appointment. The next New Member Ingathering Ritual will be scheduled for a later service.

7--Pledge-Drive Testimonial: All the Ways We Grow

John and Janet said wonderful things about UUSS Sunday, including kind words about yours truly from Janet. I'll post that as soon as I can, unless she has recanted by now. Here are John's notes:

I have been a UUSS Member since 1996. Our motivation for joining was to get a liberal religious education for my children to make them less vulnerable to what I call "Religious Predators." *2009 was not a good year financially for the McLopes family:* I am a State Engineer, and the furloughs reduced our income. In February we found out the consequences when you don't update your tax deductions as children get older. During [last year's] Pledge Drive Janet and I considered the impact of the furloughs — and decided to maintain our pledge level. This church, the people, the ministers (who are people, too) are important to us. Deepening our lives is dependent on this church. So we economized in other areas, including our giving to other charities.

Things did not improve financially as the year progressed. Our 10-year-old car needed engine work. In September Alice got her license and we got the insurance bill. But even with all of this we maintained our pledge commitment. 2010 is also is not starting out well financially: we had to replace the furnace last week. Regardless,

when Janet and I sit down to discuss our pledge we will not consider lowering it.

I have a hope of UUSS becoming a recognized spiritual center for Sacramento. I want people of all faiths to feel comfortable to come and be energized by the programs and even just by walking the grounds. This would truly make UUSS a place for deepening lives and being a force for healing. Our contributions are the foundation in truly carrying out our mission. Thank you [John McMillan, Jan. 31, 2010]

Invitation:

[Ginger Enrico](#) and [Jo Ann Anglin](#), co-chairs of the 2010-2011 Stewardship Campaign, have organized **Cottage Conversations** to be hosted in various homes of Members and Friends. A minister and board member will be at each event. (I'm attending at four of these meetings, and bring a Ziploc bag with me to raid the snack table.) **Space is still available** Thursday at 7:00 PM at two locations, and for Saturday afternoon, with child care, if you reserve it now. You may click on their names above to RSVP and to ask them any questions. **Thanks** to JoAnn and Ginger for chairing this campaign. We send prayers and wishes of strength and comfort to them as they both deal with family medical challenges and loss, while doing lots of detail work AND facilitating our Cottage Meetings with grace and good cheer.

8—Second Saturday Buddhist Meditation with Doug Kraft & Rich Howard

A Half Day of Mediation will be offered by Doug Kraft and Rich Howard *once a month* starting Saturday, February 13 at UUSS from 8:30 AM to noon. Instruction will be offered. New and experienced meditators are welcome. 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, 483-9283x201) or

Rich (rhoward1@surewest.net, 359-7359).

9—Recommended Article Haiti: A History of Hurt and UUSC Relief Fund

I recommend "[Haiti: A History of Hurt.](#)" from a recent issue of *The Week* magazine, as very good background on the long-beleaguered nation. Note that donations through February can be deducted on your 2009 tax forms, and AmEx credit cards are not charging fees to the recipients of our generosity.

If you don't already have a trusted relief organization, UUSS makes its donations to the [UU Service Committee](#). This link will show you how to make one, and it includes weekly updates. Thank you all for your generosity in so many ways. I look forward to seeing you soon. Take care and be in touch!

Yours in service,

Roger Jones - Family Minister

roger@uuss.org

PS: My weblog has sermons and other reflections by me plus some "guest" postings. I welcome comments from you and other readers at the blog site itself! I will post my *End of the World* sermon Thursday or Friday.

ironicschmoozer.wordpress.com