

## Getting Involved



UU Community Church of Santa Monica:

- Committees & Councils
- Task-Oriented Volunteer Opportunities
- Activities & Special Interest Groups

Last updated 03/23/05.

To update any group or contact information in this document, please contact Liz Fuller at [webmaster@uusm.org](mailto:webmaster@uusm.org) or (323) 939-6193.

## **Committees & Councils**

“Committees and Councils” are the groups that do the work of our church on a long-term basis. They tend to have regularly-scheduled meetings, require an ongoing commitment from volunteers, and attend to things like establishing policies and procedures, planning and coordinating major events, and keeping the church’s many administrative functions running smoothly. Explore membership in one of these groups if you are already a church member and would like to gain a deeper understanding of and make a deeper commitment to the inner workings of our congregation.

### **Administration**

**Contact: Greg Wood**

Supports and makes recommendations to the Church Administrator regarding office management, facility use and oversight of the sexton. Oversees the management of the office, computers, equipment, policies, and use of facilities by inside and outside groups.

### **Adult Religious Growth & Learning**

**Contact: Jane Machnik**

Offers programs to support adults in their spiritual journey. Seeking committee members with ideas for new programs.

### **Bienvenidos**

**Contact: John Fels**

Membership development council that organizes and oversees the process for joining the church and providing hospitality. Also organizes new-member activities.

### **Building (Expansion & Renovations)**

**Contact: Alison Kendall**

Long-term, temporary committee working on plans for construction of a new building and the remodeling of our sanctuary, Forbes Hall and our existing building across the alley. Requires architectural knowledge, construction know-how, and/or understanding of local zoning and permitting regulations. Interior designers also welcome.

### **Camp De Benneville Pines Weekend**

**Contacts: Marv Pulliam, Sharon Damerell**

Organizes the annual church weekend at the UU camp, Camp de Benneville Pines, in the San Bernardino Mountains.

### **Capital Campaign**

**Contact: Ron Crane**

Charged with funding the building and renovation project. Needs people who enjoy raising money, don't mind asking for it, and have ideas for how to get it. "Bean counters" welcome, too!

### **Circle Suppers**

**Contacts: Beverly Alison, Karen Canady, Phyllis Kory**

Plans each round of Circle Supper events; recruits hosts and signs up guests.

### **Denominational Affairs**

**Contact: Carol Agate**

Connects our congregation with the wider UU movement across North America.

### **Design and Decor**

**Contact: Ellen Boag**

Assures the overall beauty of the buildings; oversees interior design and decorating.

### **Dining for Dollars**

**Contact: Helen Burns**

Plans and coordinates annual fundraising auction of themed meals donated by church members. Recruits donors/hosts for meals being auctioned.

### **Ernie Pipes Lecture Series**

**Contact: Leonard Adler**

Plans and presents annual speakers in ongoing lecture series.

**Faith in Action Commission****Contact: Charles Haskell**

Develops intergenerational projects that involve congregation members in social action and social justice efforts. Component programs include the Peace & Civil Liberties Committee, Interweave, the Economic Justice Initiative, Hunger Initiatives, the Women's Alliance, the Unitarian-Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) liaison, the UU-United Nations Office (UU-UNO) liaison, the UUA Study/Action Group, the FIA Speaker Series, the FIA Bulletin, and RE Social Justice Sundays.

**Finance****Contact: Warren Mathews, Anne Cadwell**

Develops annual church budget and administers church finances, with approval of the Board. (Requires long-term participation, as well as financial experience or broad experience in church affairs.)

**Gallery Wall****Contact: Shirlee Frank**

Arranges monthly art show for the Gallery Wall in Forbes Hall, along with a reception for the featured artist.

**Investment****Contact: Edward (Ed) Field, Jr.**

Manages the investment of our endowment and reserve funds, to grow our savings. Requires financial know-how.

**Long-Term Planning****Contact: TBA**

Ad-hoc task group appointed by the church President. (Not currently seeking new members.)

**Ministry****Contact: Audrey Lyness**

Works with the minister to assure a quality ministry for our congregation; acts as a liaison between the congregation and the minister. Committee members are appointed by the minister and the church Board.

**Music****Contacts: Peter Van den Beemt, Gayle Follmer Deal**

Works with the minister and music director to make sure music programs at the church meet the congregation's needs. Includes choir participation, planning choir events, and proposing possible guest musicians for Sunday services. Also includes oversight of the childrens' choir, and other musical events and activities at the church.

**New Member Dinners****Contact: Helen Burns**

Organizes quarterly social programs for new members.

**Newcomer Orientation****Contacts: Judith Meyer, Ofelia Lachtman**

Sponsors a monthly orientation that provides information on UU history and philosophy and governance of our denomination and congregation.

**Nominating****Contact: Kathy Cook**

Nominates people to serve on the church Board and nominating committee. Includes leadership development activities. Committee members are elected by the congregation.

**Personnel****Contact: John Schroeder**

Develops personnel policies, oversees annual evaluation of staff personnel, and participates in the recruitment of new staff.

**Pilgrims Feast****Contact: Melinda Ewen**

Organizes annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner for the congregation, held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

**Planned Giving****Contact: Ron Crane**

Promotes to church members the advantages of participating in the planned giving program established by the UUA.

**Pulpit****Contact: Vilma Ortiz**

Meets monthly with the minister to discuss the Sunday morning services, including the overall flow, how music relates and occasionally, themes for the services. Also helps coordinate speakers when the minister will not be present, and hosts the services for outside speakers.

**Religious Education Council****Contact: Janet Goodwin**

Coalition of our five Religious Education committees (Social Justice, Curriculum, Worship, Youth Activities and FUUN Events), which oversees the church's religious education programs for children and youth. (Volunteers needed for all five committees.)

**Stewardship****Contact: Jacki Weber**

Oversees member development from a financial perspective, conducting the annual pledge drive, overseeing planned giving and working in concert with the Finance Committee to ensure the overall financial health of the church.

**UU Service Committee (UUSC) Liaison****Contact: Phyllis Gabriel**

Under the auspices of the Faith in Action Commission, connects us with the program and activities of the UUSC worldwide.

**UU UNO Envoy****Contact: Eleanor Eagan**

Under the auspices of the Faith in Action Commission, supports and advocates for the United Nations, through affiliation with the UUA's UU-UNO office.

## **Task-Oriented Volunteer Opportunities**

“Task-Oriented Volunteer Opportunities” are the kinds of pitching-in-to-get-the-work-done jobs for which you can sign up once or as many times as you like, without committing to long-term membership or leadership on an ongoing committee or council. Instead, you can simply lend a hand with specific administrative chores, or at various kinds of special events or activities (often during Sunday coffee hours)...which is a great way to get involved, meet new friends and find a niche in our congregation.

### **Adult Religious Growth & Learning**

**Contact: Jane Machnik**

Facilitate, lead or teach classes or workshops designed to support members and friends in their spiritual journey, their search for understanding, and their knowledge of our Unitarian Universalist traditions.

### **“Ask Me”**

**Contact: Melinda Ewen**

Available during Sunday coffee hours, to help newcomers learn more about our church. Volunteers should be long-term UUs and enjoy talking to people.

### **Audio Taping Services & Special Events**

**Contact: Church Office**

Tape services and prepare tapes for sale at church Book Cart.

### **Book Cart**

**Contact: Max Joffe Johnson**

Present and sell books and CDs on Unitarian-Universalism, religious freedom and philosophy from the book cart in Forbes Hall, after Sunday services.

### **Bulletin Boards & Literature Management**

**Contact: Marie Kashmer-Stiebing**

Assist church administrator with organizing, posting and coordinating contents of church bulletin boards.

### **Child Care**

**Contacts: Director of Religious Education, Church Administrator**

Provide care for infants and toddlers on Sunday mornings and at selected church events.

### **Choir**

**Contact: Steve Wight**

Sings at 11:00 worship service, rehearses Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings; off first Sunday of each month and two months of summer.

### **Church Directory**

**Contact: Marie Kashmer-Stiebing**

Help church administrator update, publish and/or distribute church membership directory.

### **Circle Supper Hosts**

**Contact: Beverly Alison, Karen Canady, Phyllis Kory**

Provide space in your home for a potluck dinner in which 6-10 members of the congregation gather to meet and get to know each other in a relaxed, informal environment. Circle Suppers are held several times a year. Hosts may volunteer once or several times.

### **Coffee Hosts**

**Contact: Ellen Boag**

Prepare and serve coffee, tea and refreshments at social hour once a month. Includes clean-up duties.

### **Dining for Dollars Hosts**

**Contact: Helen Burns**

Host, prepare and serve a themed meal for our major fundraising event of the year. Once a year we auction off places at about 50 such meals to the highest bidders among the congregation. Past events have included ethnic meals, sailboat brunches and murder-mystery dinners.

### **Enrollment Team**

**Contacts: Ron Crane, Phil Bonacich, Ofelia Lachtman**

Help enroll new members for the church.

**Greeters**

Once a month, provide a warm welcome to all who attend Sunday services, with special attention to visitors.

**Contact: Arvid Knudsen****Newsletter**

Need writers, graphic designers, editors and proofreaders for monthly publication. Takes between several hours and several days during one week each month.

**Contact: Carol Agate****Office**

Be on call to help collate, fold and stamp materials (including monthly newsletter) for mailing to church members. Weekdays, on occasion.

**Contact: Anne MacQueen****Pilgrims Feast**

Help to organize, publicize, set up and clean up after our annual turkey potluck dinner, held the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

**Contact: Melinda Ewen****Religious Education**

Work with children on Sunday mornings, in our Way Cool Sunday School program.

**Contact: Janet Goodwin****Sound & Lights**

Operate sanctuary lighting and sound systems for various church events.

**Contacts: Warren Mathews, Jim Cadwell****Telephone Reassurance Program**

Make phone calls to other UUs in our congregation who live alone and are socially isolated or frail, to help enhance their connection to the church community and brighten their days.

**Contacts: Anita Brenner, Judith Meyer****Ushers**

Greet and help seat attendees at Sunday services, count heads for attendance, hand out Orders of Service, and collect offerings. One Sunday a month.

**Contact: Edward (Ned) Wright****Website**

Provide backup service for church webmaster; may be responsible for regular maintenance of one or more pages on church website. (Requires solid HTML skills.)

**Contact: Liz Fuller**

## **Activities & Special Interest Groups**

“Activities and Special Interest Groups” are more social than work oriented, and bring together people who share specific interests. These groups and occasions offer fellowship, support, intellectual stimulation, community involvement and/or just plain fun. Some meet or occur regularly, and some just now and then...but all of them can provide a great way to get to know new people, learn new things, and indulge your personal passions.

### **Books R' Us**

**Contacts: Phil & Edna Bonacich**

A fiction book group that meets once a month, in members' homes. All are welcome. Please read the selected book before you come.

### **Camp De Benneville Pines Weekend**

**Contacts: Marv Pulliam, Sharon Damerell**

Members and friends gather at the UU camp in the San Bernadino mountains, on the third weekend after Memorial Day each year, for hot tubbing, swimming, hiking, children's activities, dam building, arts and crafts, discussion groups, lazing around, or whatever else people want to do.

### **Caregivers' Support Group**

**Contacts: Joyce Holmen, Helen Brown**

Open to any member who provides caregiving for a spouse, parent, sibling or child who has a chronic illness or disability -- including long-distance caregivers. Gatherings are a lively mix of information and sharing with others who really know what it's like to be a long-term caregiver.

### **Circle Suppers**

**Contact: Beverly Alison, Karen Canady, Phyllis Kory**

Sign up to be a guest at one of these periodic, informal potluck dinners, held in members' homes as a way for church members to get to know each other in small groups of 6-10 people.

### **Couples' Club**

**Contacts: TBA**

A monthly social gathering of couples, usually in members' homes, for good food and conversation. New couples are especially welcome.

### **Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs)**

**Contact: Dan March**

A spirituality group focusing on the natural rhythm of seasons, nature and humanity.

### **Dances of Universal Peace**

**Contact: TBA**

Meets on the fourth Friday of every month to enjoy simple circle dances, performed in groups and set to live music, that celebrate and foster the spirit of peace. All ages (from kids to seniors) welcome. Suggested donation \$10.

### **Dining for Dollars**

**Contact: Helen Burns**

Bid on and attend one (or more) of approximately 50 themed meals, hosted by other members of the congregation in our biggest fundraiser of the year. Past events have included ethnic meals, sailboat brunches and murder-mystery dinners.

### **FUUsion**

**Contact: TBA**

Dedicated to fun and fellowship for people ages 21 to 35.

### **Gardening Group**

**Contact: Fran Hotchkiss**

For people who enjoy making flowers grow, keeping weeds in check, and pruning and planting.

### **Hiking**

**Contact: Richard Boothe**

Group selects a variety of Saturday morning hikes to enjoy nature. Meets alternate months. Gather in front of the church at 9 a.m. Usually includes lunch at a local restaurant after the hike.

**Interweave****Contact: Judy Federick**

Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender concerns. Includes a support group, an e-mail list for group members, and business meetings on the third Sunday of the month, after church service. All are welcome.

**Men's Group****Contact: Achim Jung**

Meets every other Thursday, to focus on what makes men alike as a group, and what sets them apart as individuals.

**Non-Fiction Book Discussion Group****Contact: Rebecca Crawford**

Emphasis on science literature, including topics like the latest ideas in cosmology and the development of modern biology.

**Over-50 Club****Contact: Gaye Follmer Deal**

Meets monthly at lunchtime, during the fall, winter and spring, for lectures, programs and social events. Despite the name, people of all ages are welcome. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served.

**Parenting Support Group****Contact: Judith Martin Straw**

If you're the parent of a small Unitarian (age 5 or under) or are about to become one, join us for a monthly potluck and discussion. Topics include day care, clothing and toy swaps, best bedtime books, etc. Child care is available on site for a small fee.

**Peace & Civil Liberties Committee****Contacts: Charles & Christine Haskell**

Task force of the Faith in Action Commission, which sponsors activities, speakers and social action relating to peace and civil liberties issues.

**Picnics in Palisades Park****Contacts: Serena Shames or Nedra Bickel**

Informal summer suppers providing a sociable, peaceful and pleasant community good time. Bring your own supper. (Many folks just pick up a salad on the way home from work before they join us.)

**Pilgrims Feast****Contact: Melinda Ewen**

Attend our annual potluck dinner featuring turkey and all the trimmings, held every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

**Poetry Group****Contact: Jeff Greenman**

This group meets monthly to read and discuss the works of our favorite poets. Discussions are lively, and all languages are welcome (though translations are helpful). All are welcome. Please bring copies of the poems for others, along with your hearts, minds, observations and fellowship.

**The Adventure Group (TAG)****Contact: S. J. Guidotti**

If you like hiking, camping, music, volleyball, food from third world restaurants whose names you can't pronounce, or are just interested in meeting other 30+ UUs, then join us in the courtyard after services on the third Sunday of each month. We'll head somewhere for lunch and discuss the latest harebrained scheme coming down the pike.

**Women's Alliance****Contacts: Joyce Holmen, Sue Moore**

The Women's Alliance was founded in 1927 to provide opportunities for leadership training, interesting programs, fund raising, worship, good food, community service and outreach, personal growth, and getting to know some amazing women. For a wider perspective, we maintain membership in the district and continental UU Women's Federation. The Alliance meets quarterly for community-building and enrichment, and newcomers are welcome.

**Zen Meditation****Contact: Bernard Silvers**

Instruction on meditation is provided in this ongoing gathering. Beginners and questions are welcome. The class is informal, and meditation is done sitting on chairs. Meetings begin with

readings or handouts, then a short discussion (from a religious perspective) of issues such as "anger." Buddhist and other forms of meditation are demonstrated.