

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis, California Green Sanctuary History 2007-2008

Committee Members: Judy Moores and Mary Wind, Co-chairs, Lynne Nittler, Diana Schwyzer, Tom Jankowski, Mike Pach, Kathy Coulter, Steve Brennan. Helpers included Anja Clasen, Marcy Shannon, Terry Parker and Jan Bower.

Mission

The purpose of our Green Sanctuary effort is to help us move as individuals and as a church toward a more sustainable future — one that is respectful of Earth – and in harmony with our seventh principle of “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” We concentrate on theological, spiritual and ethical aspects of human activities that affect the health and sustainability of living Earth. Our aim is to make Earth healthy again – our lives, the lives of our children, and the lives of all living things depend our good work! As a Green Sanctuary, our work will continue, until Earth herself is once again a healthy Sanctuary for all.

Objectives

- ☞ Worship and Celebration: We seek to include joy, celebrate our UU faith, and help us all find deeper meaning in our lives.
- ☞ Religious Education and Sustainable Living: We seek to empower people by giving them the knowledge they need to make good decisions, the courage of community to adopt new more healthful, meaningful, and thoughtful ways of doing things, and the opportunity to incorporate our UU values into everyday life.
- ☞ Environmental Justice: We seek to develop and implement church projects that rectify environmental injustices, and work with other churches and/or groups on environmental injustices beyond the scope of just our church.

Activities

- ☞ The GS Committee began to transition from candidate for Green Sanctuary to certification and began to reinvent itself and work on a number of projects that had been a part of the original list of possible projects and new ones, too.
- ☞ The GS Committee sponsored two walking meditation services after the regular Sunday morning service. One was a “Walk among the Trees,” and the second, on “All Creatures Great and Small.”
- ☞ Judy spoke with members of the Covell Commons Community on how to green their homes and grounds and at UC Davis as part of their Work-Life brown-bag series.
- ☞ In August, Judy Moores, Mary Wind, Mike Pach, Kathy Coulter, Nancy Lower and Eldridge Moores presented the Sunday August 5, 2007 worship service on “Deep Listening: A Spiritual Journey to the Future”.
- ☞ In the summer, Kathy Coulter and Lynne Nittler completed the cookbook project and ordered about 325 copies, which we will sell for \$10/book. We expect to make a profit of about \$1500.
- ☞ Though the efforts of the GS Committee, over 60 people took NWEI classes on environmental issues at church in 2006-7 and another 40 at International House as an outreach effort. On November 16, the Committee hosted Richard Heinberg who lectured on “Climate change and Peak Oil: Implications for the Farming, Energy and All of Us.” About 140 people attended.
- ☞ In August, Judy began meeting with John Mott-Smith to get the City of Davis to stop buying bottle water. By September we had turned a resolution and in October, the City Council voted to adopt the resolution. Judy Moores and Ann Halsted wrote a song supporting the resolution. Tom Jankowski, Judy, Ann, and Cindy Anders sang the song at the City Council meeting.
- ☞ In September, Lynne Nittler and Tom Jankowski led an equinox service.

- ☞ In October, Lynne Nittler spearheaded putting up a tree mural on the window in the Great Hall. Folks could put up leaves with notes on ways they had moved toward sustainability.
- ☞ Judy Moores worked with the Adopt a Social Worker program to use recycled materials to wrap beanie baby gifts for children served by the County social service programs.
- ☞ In November, we began selling the cookbooks. Carrie Zizer brought a net veggie bag design to our attention and members of the committee made enough bags to sell each cookbook in a veggie bag as a Holiday gift.
- ☞ In January the Committee, especially Vince Schwent put on a weekend film festival and showed The Power of Community, Kilowatt Ours, The End of Suburbia, and What a Way to Go. The
- ☞ In March 2008, the committee hosted Jim Scott, folksinger for a concert. Judy and Lynne talked to the UUCD Board and invited them to participate in the Low Carbon Diet.
- ☞ In January, Lynne Nittler and Judy Moores became co-chairs and Diana Schwyzer, secretary. Other members include: Tom Jankowski, Mike Pach, Kathy Coulter, Steve Brennan, and Terry Parker. David McCusker joined the GS Committee in June. Mary leaves to become president of Teach Peace. Helpers included Anja Clasen, Marcy Shannon, Jan Bower, and Diane Evans.
- ☞ Judy Moores brought the Low Carbon Diet Book to the group and suggested that the committee consider using it in the spring. ,
- ☞ In March, the committee hosted Jim Scott, a folk song composer and singer with an emphasis on environmental issues. We had a net profit of \$260. With about 75 attending.
- ☞ In March and April, Lynne and Judy with help from Terry, Diana, Steve and Tom led a bi-weekly series on the Low Carbon Diet. We sold 35 books and had 12-15 people come to the sessions.
- ☞ In April, Judy wrote most of a resolution for the City of Davis proclamation of May as “Bike Everywhere Month: For Our Health, Our Air and Our Earth.” The committee promoted May is Bike Month (www.maiyisbikemonth.com).
- ☞ On April 20, Leisa Huyck conducted a GS service on “Feeling Our Grief, Healing the Earth.” May 4 we had Clean Air Sunday at church and encouraged everyone to bike, walk or carpool to church.
- ☞ Judy, Lynne, and Tom gave workshops at the May 3Care for God’s Creation Conference on the “Breathe of Life,” which was held at the Davis Community Church.
- ☞ On May 11, the committee sponsored Restoring Mother Earth Day (www.1sky.org) with murals for folks to draw on. The GS Committee recognized Judy as a UU Ministry for Earth “Guardian of the Future.” Judy and Lynne sold roses and cookbooks as a fund-raiser.
- ☞ The committee hosted Barbara Ford, President of the UU Ministry for Earth and had a potluck in her honor.
- ☞ On May 31, Eldridge and Judy Moores led a fund-raiser fieldtrip to the west into the Coast Ranges and then south through the delta for church members to learn about our geo-bioregion.
- ☞ During the year, we encouraged State Fish and Game and County of Merced to supply water to the Los Bamos Migrant Center, which has been without drinking or household water since 2006.
- ☞ Throughout the year, we maintained a kiosk in the Great Hall, put weekly notes in the church bulletin, and articles in the UUniverse.