

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis: Green Sanctuary Committee

Clean Air Sunday: What did we do in 2007?

At the UU Church of Davis, Earth Day in 2007 was the start of a month of Green Sanctuary activities related to global warming, air pollution, and saving energy:

- On April 8, the Davis City Council signed a Resolution, that we had prepared for them, declaring Earth Day through Clean Air Sunday to be Climate Action Season. May 18-21 officially became Clean Air weekend and through the work of Care for God's Creation, a local interfaith group that Judy Moores and Mary Wind, co-chairs of the GS Committee, are part of, the following places of faith joined our Green Sanctuary "clean air" efforts: Davis United Methodist Church, Community Church of Davis, Newman Center, American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-SV), and the Islamic Center of Davis.
- On April 14, Judy Moores participated in an Ecology/Action Panel and described our GS work over the past 2 years at Call To Action, a West Coast conference of the Catholic Church. The conference was held in Sacramento and over 40 people attended the panel discussion.
- On April 14, members of our UU church helped with the Davis event as part of the "Stepitup2007" national effort to encourage congress to tackle global warming and start the work needed to get our carbon emissions down 80% by 2050. UUs involved included Judy Moores and Don Saylor (Davis City Council member), who spoke, Sophie Meads who read S. Suzuki's 1992 World Summit address and Melaine Huyck-Aufdermauer who sang Blue Boat Home and was accompanied by Tom Jankowski and Jim Coulter. Even though it rained, 40-50 people showed up. We collected signatures on the Stepitup2007 petition.
- On April 22, more people attended our church for our Earth Day service than on Easter! The folk group, Mudlark, performed and the Reverend Beth Banks focused the service on water conservation. We gave out our new brochure *101 Things you can do to Make the World More Green*. Judy Moores, representing the committee, presented Steve Burns, Board President, our new official framed Green Sanctuary certificate from the UU Ministry for Earth. We collected signatures on Stepitup2007 petitions. The certificate frame was recycled....
- On May 1, our church was awarded the City of Davis Environmental Recognition Award for a non-profit group. The award included being named on a perpetual plaque at City Hall, a plaque for the church and a City Council Resolution. As part of the festivities, Judy Moores was invite to speak briefly. Tom Jankowski, (Green Sanctuary Committee member) and Diane Parro (Vice President of the UU Church of Davis Board of Trustees) read the "Message for the Hopi Elders," which Judy set up for two readers. Members of the GS Committee handed out our *101 Things* brochure and copies of the Hopi reading to the City Council and others who attended.
- Throughout May we had a tabletop kiosk with information on issues related to air quality, pollution, forming carpools, etc. to church. We distributed our brochures on biking and *101 Things*.
- In early May we started two sessions of the NWEI class, Discovering a Sense of Place at church.
- Our Church newsletter for May featured our GS article on Clean Air Day on the front page.
- On Clean Air Sunday itself, we had a lovely, low-key event. There was so much going on - Coming of Age service for our junior high group, the annual congregational meeting (a bit later this year than usual), a party for two members and our church intern who graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry in May, plus Clean Air Sunday that we did away with signing in people. Instead we had a table along the entry path, handed out pedometers and tire gauges from our Air Resources District, talked to people about air quality, aired up bike and car tires, and served "Remember the Polar Bear" vanilla ice cream cones after the second service. The latter were very popular as the day was warm. Many people did bike and carpool, some came by bus from a retirement home, and some who drove themselves - said, "But I did drive my Prius." All in all, the day became one of gratitude for all that we had accomplished.