

# UUFSD FOCUS – JANUARY 2012



The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito is a safe haven and community of inspiration creatively meeting the spiritual, social, educational and emotional needs of members and their families in ways consistent with our UU principles. Through this mutual support,

Rev. David A. Miller, Minister

Alison A.L.G.M. Crotty,  
Director of Religious Education  
Gianna Drogheo, Choir Director  
Patricia Weld, Congregational Admin.



Phone: 858/755-9225  
Fax: 858/755-9017  
Email: [office@uufsd.org](mailto:office@uufsd.org)  
Website: [www.uufsd.org](http://www.uufsd.org)  
Office hours: 8:30-4:30, M-F

## SUNDAY SERVICES – 10:00 a.m.

Child care is provided

Monthly theme: Freedom

**January 1, 2012: As Time Goes By** – This annual reflection kicks off each UUFSD new year. The voices are congregation members sharing the richness of their lives. Topics in the past have ranged from glaciers to raising children.

Worship Associate, **Wenda Alvarez**

**January 8: Do Good Fences Make Good Neighbors?** - How do clear boundaries help us dwell together in peace? **Pacific Women's Chorus** will provide special music for this service.

Rev. David A. Miller

**January 15: Martin Luther King Sunday: Get on the Bus** – “Justice GA 2012” – What are the civil rights movements of our time and how is a trip to Phoenix good for the soul? *UUFSD Choir sings!* Worship Associate, **Dianne Masser-Frye.**

Rev. David A. Miller

*Luncheon follows the service.*

**January 22:** To be announced

**Important Congregational Meeting to elect the Board takes place following the service on the 22 January. Please plan to attend!**

**January 29: The Gospel According to Springsteen, Part Two – The Ties that Bind.** *UUFSD Choir sings!* Worship Associate, **John Atcheson**

Rev. David A. Miller

*Luncheon follows the service.*

## DAVID'S DIALOGUE

This upcoming year is a big year for UUFSD. We have completed the parking lot in record time through excellent work by our Board, a generous anonymous donor and a grant from the Spirit Level Foundation. We have another offer of \$100,000 in matching gifts for this year and next from our unbelievably generous donor, and we are well on our way in our strategic planning (Dreamcatcher) process. This month there will be a congregation wide meeting on **January 14** to work on an evolved vision and mission for the congregation and a renewed sense of a unified congregation purpose. This is all important work and points to the natural evolution of any congregation that shifts and changes with the times, the culture and people who come and go.

There will be other opportunities for important work as we continue to define and live out our faith as Unitarian Universalists. This year's General Assembly is a first time design for the UUA. Held in **Phoenix, Arizona, June 20-24, 2012**, “**General Assembly (GA) 2012** will focus on multiple ways to engage in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with UU's in Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. All participants should leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and equipped with resources to bring this work home to our congregations. <http://www.uua.org/ga/2012/index.shtml>

I will continue to highlight this GA in the months to come because I hope that we can go as a large group of UUFSDers. Since it is close, it is an opportunity that has the potential to be a transformative experience for all involved. Please consider attending. My initial dream is that we would rent a bus and all travel there together. Who knows if that is economically feasible? I hope we will be able to somehow go as a group.

Many exciting things are planned for 2012. I look forward to our shared journey through these and many other events, activities and the joys and challenges of our every daily lives in this wonderful community.

*HAPPY NEW YEAR!* See you next year!

In faith, **Rev. David**

### INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM: A THEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE JAN. 18, 7- 9PM

Are you interested in Unitarian Universalist history? Do you wonder how our theology evolved over the millenniums? Are you interested in joining the congregation, have joined recently, or are a member and interested in hearing more, please join Rev. David on **Wednesday January 18**, in **Palmer Library**, from **7:00- 9:00 pm**.

Rev. David will present a broad timeline and history of Unitarian Universalism and discuss the theological roots of UUism. Please RSVP if you can to [revd@uufsd.org](mailto:revd@uufsd.org) but no RSVP is required. All are welcome, even at the last minute.

Hope to see you there!! **Rev. D**



### DEBENNEVILLE PINES WEEKEND March 30 – April 1, 2012

Our UUFSD weekend at Camp deBenneville Pines is just a few months away! The registration form is enclosed with this newsletter. Sign up by February 1 and receive a \$10 discount off the adult price. Be sure to register early if you are interested in **Craig's Cabin**, as those rooms always sell out fast!

If you can please make a donation to our scholarship fund to ensure that all those from our community who want to attend will be able to do so. Thank you!

If you have any questions, contact **Pamela Parker** at [debennevillepines@uufsd.org](mailto:debennevillepines@uufsd.org) or

If you are interested in helping to set up a workshop or other program for the weekend, contact **Judy Osman** \_\_\_\_\_

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Nominations committee is pleased to announce the slate of new Board members (**Sarah Wright, John Atcheson, and Don Jones**), Board officers (**Lisa Shaffer**, president and **Caroline DeMar**, vice-president), and **Nominations committee members (Alejandra Chan, Steve Bartram, and Caroline DeMar)**. Their biographical statements were published in last month's newsletter.

An election for these positions will be held at the **January 22, 2012** Congregational Meeting. Please plan on attending.

**Submitted by Anne Larocca**

### ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE

**January 8, 2012 – February 26, 2012**

Our annual pledge drive will officially begin on **January 8, 2012**, and will conclude on Celebration Sunday, February 26. Each Sunday during this time, we will hear a brief talk from one of our members, on a particular aspect of Fellowship life, and how it provides them with connection and meaning. Our pledge drive is the opportunity to commit our money where our faith and values reside and to invest in our beloved Fellowship. Over the holidays, please take time to reflect on what UUFSD means to you and your families, and resolve to start the New Year with a renewed commitment to supporting this much-loved congregation that enriches all our lives.

**Submitted by John Sherman**

### CALLING ALL SINGERS!!!!

Our "Cluster" UU group of San Diego County (Palomar, Summit, Chalice, San Dieguito and First Church) is preparing a concert to be offered **Saturday, June 9th at First UU Church of San Diego**. A wonderful 7-song cantata "**Sources**" by UU composer Jason Shelton, contains many beautiful and diverse styles of music. Those of us already singing in it love the music and the joy of meeting other UU singers in our area. There is still time to join the group if you wish. **You do not have to be a member of a choir to participate**. The group meets once a month. UUFSD will host the rehearsal on **Saturday, January 7th from 1:00-4:00 pm**. For more information, please contact **Gianna Drogheo** [giannadrogheo@gmail.com](mailto:giannadrogheo@gmail.com) .



**Alison Aguilar Lopez  
Gutierrez**  
**McLeod Crotty, DRE**  
**858- 755-9225**  
[alison@uufsd.org](mailto:alison@uufsd.org)

**RE NEWS**

*“Whenever I get gloomy with the state of the world, I think about the arrivals gate at Heathrow Airport. General opinion's starting to make out that we live in a world of hatred and greed, but I don't see that. It seems to me that love is everywhere. Often it's not particularly dignified or newsworthy, but it's always there - fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, husbands and wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, old friends. When the planes hit the Twin Towers, as far as I know none of the phone calls from the people on board were messages of hate or revenge - they were all messages of love. If you look for it, I've got a sneaky feeling you'll find that love actually is all around.”*

(Hugh Grant, Love Actually - movie quote)

This time of year, I always break out “Love Actually,” the movie, and watch it with a box of tissue. While I feel it is “a wonderful life,” this movie speaks to me far more than traditional Christmas movies. As the title implies, it is actually all about love during the frantic month of December and I watch it religiously to get me in the holiday spirit. - A holiday spirit that is wrapped up in love, reminding me that it is not necessarily in shiny paper and bows.

The quote above is one of my favorites to explain what I feel is the ultimate core of our humanness. When everything is stripped away, and we are left to our last moments of reflection, I would like to believe that Jun Suzuki, who tormented me during my childhood about my weight, will not cross my mind. I know my thoughts and heart will be filled with such love with a myriad of people. My family, familia, your faces at this beloved community will flood through me. And frankly, as I think of the amount of love I receive just on a Sunday morning alone, I brush grateful tears from my eyes. Don't worry, I have forgiven Jun over 20 years ago, carrying the weight of past transgressions becomes just too much baggage for me and I don't want my life defined by negativity. Smiling, I hope he is blessed with a happy life and a beautiful family filled with daughters.

In September I used this quote about love and the twin towers in talking with our children on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. - A day that has shaped their lives in very concrete ways even though most were

not even born yet. Actually one of our children was born on that fateful day. And it hit me that love was literally born as a nation mourned. This past Sunday I found myself talking to our children about the vandalism that occurred at our Fellowship. Upon learning about the anger and hate filled acts, I had been in mourning for what felt like innocence lost. It took some reflection and sharing with congregants to realize that love was strengthened as we mourned during this act of vandalism.

Bad things can happen here even in our sanctuary in Solana Beach, but how we react to them is our legacy and defines our future. Talking about “standing on the side of love” with children and youth, we came to the conclusion that we felt sorry for the anger filled people who defaced our Fellowship. One youth took a harder look at her attempts to live her faith, and reached out to a friend in love and forgiveness after realizing their feud was not a way she wanted to spend her time and energy. We came away from this Sunday and this incident with a better understanding that the community around us is our Fellowship. And while we are grateful for this beautiful campus, it is not the concrete that feeds our spiritual needs. Looking around at beautiful smiling faces of our children, then turning to the scars of the graffiti on the buildings, I could see that “love is actually all around.”

In Love and Fellowship, **Alison**



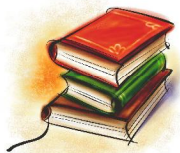
**WINTER CAMPS  
at DEBENNEVILLE PINES**

There are still spaces available for **PSWD Sr. High Camp (grades 9-12), December 27 through January 1**. The camp theme is “Fighting for What You Believe in”. \$390/person.

Also, families, enjoy a fun-filled weekend in the snow **February 18 through 20**. There will be treasure hunts and snow play. Kids (grade 3-6) can come by themselves or with parent(s). *Child (grades K-6), \$146, Adult (\$145), little ones (pre-K, with adult) \$85.*

Register for either camp online at [www.UUCAMP.org](http://www.UUCAMP.org)

## UUFSD LIBRARY



The UUFSD Library is for all members and friends. Checking out books is easy. There are flyers in the library to tell you how. We have a wonderful collection of UU books as well as many other books of interest to members. We have an excellent Buddhism section, and an extensive "family life" section with books about parenting. We also have a nice collection of vegetarian cookbooks. We welcome you all to use the library! The best time to visit the library is Sunday morning before the service. (There are often meetings in the library after the service, but you are welcome to check.) Or, if you would like to visit the library during the week, you are welcome to do so. Just call the office first to make sure that Patricia is going to be around, and she will open the library for you.

We are grateful for members and friends who donate books to the library and who buy books at the Sunday Book Sale. The money we earn through the book sales allow us to buy new books to add to our permanent collection.

Submitted by Sharilyn Parr  
library@uufsd.org

## EMRYS STATON

### Speaker Encourages GA Participation

**Emrys Staton** spoke at UUFSD on Sunday, November 13 about the challenges of doing social justice work. He is a representative from a new ministry called the Southern California UU Justice Team. Emrys invited UUFSD members to consider attending the UUA General Assembly next summer in **Phoenix, June 20-24**. Planners are working on reshaping General Assembly to focus more on social justice work with UUs involved. Immigration was chosen as the main justice theme for GA. Those who attend will get an opportunity to explore issues of immigration, meet both UU and non-UU groups involved in immigration-related issues, and participate in public witness events in Phoenix.

Information about GA 2012 is available from the UUA web site: [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga) You can contact Emrys Staton and the Southern California UU Justice Team at [socialujustice.org](http://socialujustice.org)

## NEW MEN'S GROUP

In 2008, a group of twelve UUFSD men began what seemed to be a very unlikely venture. Simply named "The Mens' Group," we met in an effort to explore the limitations and idiosyncrasies of male communication: how communication issues impacted relationships with spouses, female and male friends, children and parents, the impact of life experiences and demands and our responses to them, creating an opportunity for bonding with other men including entertainment as well as discussion.

In order to maintain and build on our intimacy and confidentiality, ours is a closed group. However, over the last three years other men in the Fellowship have shown an interest in joining our group. Fortunately, we believe that there is enough interest among men in the fellowship to participate in a second Men's Group. To that end, we are inviting anyone who might be interested in putting together another group, to join us on a date to be determined in **January 2012**, in **Palmer Library**, for an exploratory dialogue on the process of forming and maintaining another confidential men's group. Please contact **Irv Himelblau** if you are interested: [ihimelblau@yahoo.com](mailto:ihimelblau@yahoo.com)



## UUFSD CYCLISTS CLUB

Despite busy schedules, which have prevented wider participation, the **UUFSD Cyclists Group** has completed two rides so far. The first, on September 24, started at Brynn's home in Solana Beach, proceeded through Del Mar, up through Torrey Pines State Reserve, across UCSD campus, along the Rose Canyon Bike path, and through Pacific Beach along Mission Bay to the beach. Once there, the bikers paused to replenish carb and (for those so inclined) caffeine reserves at the charming Seaside Cantina. After lingering to chat, watch the surf, and check out the always-entertaining pedestrian and wheeled traffic along the Boardwalk, the route was retraced at a bit slower pace. Back at Brynn's, the bikers dispersed to their Saturday afternoon destinations.

So pleasant was this ride that the bikers who convened at the fellowship for the second ride on October 22, essentially repeated the route, to great enjoyment. Watch for an announcement regarding the next planned ride!

Submitted by Brynn Craffey

# V-Day The Vagina Monologues

7:00 p.m., March 24 in Founders Hall

We are planning on presenting the Vagina Monologues fundraiser to support women's violence programs.

Auditions will be held in **Founders Hall** on **January 22** after the Congregational meeting (about 12:45 pm.) Please invite anyone that you think might be interested in participating in the program. It is fun!!!

**Bev Conner:** [joyandfellowship@uufsd.org](mailto:joyandfellowship@uufsd.org); or  
**Kathy Faller:** [socialaction@uufsd.org](mailto:socialaction@uufsd.org) for details.



## BOOK CLUB NEWS

The UUFSD bookclub meets the second Monday of each month at **7:00 pm** in the UUFSD library. This month's meeting will be **Monday, January 9** and we will be discussing **Life Would be Perfect if I Lived in that House** by Meghan Daum (You can see a description of the book on the Amazon website, if you like: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).)

So, pick up a copy, read it, and come ready to discuss!

For more information, or to be added to our email list, please contact **Sharilyn Parr:** [bookclub@uufsd.org](mailto:bookclub@uufsd.org).

## NEWSLETTERS ON THE WEB

*Newsletters will soon be posted on the UUFSD website. Board members or Committee chairs not wishing their personal email addresses to appear on the website newsletter may use email aliases as they appear on the UUFSD website. An alias such as [committeex@uufsd.org](mailto:committeex@uufsd.org) links you to the individual without divulging personal email address. Updates to committee chairs and board members will be easier. To request an alias contact **Sarah Wright:** [kYVaUghf4iiZjX'cfj](mailto:kYVaUghf4iiZjX'cfj).*

## COMMUNICATION AT UUFSD

We have many ways to share news and activities at UUFSD. Everyone is invited to explore our new website at: [www.uufsd.org](http://www.uufsd.org). We hope you will find many things you want to know about our fellowship.

Did you know that the UUFSD is now on Facebook? Check us out if you know Facebook!

Our newsletter, **FOCUS**, is published monthly and is available on the website listed above. Articles should be submitted to: [office@uufsd.org](mailto:office@uufsd.org) and [Newsletter@uufsd.org](mailto:Newsletter@uufsd.org).

The new UUFSD Quarterly Magazine **Dialogue**, is also available on the website listed above. It is a forum for expanded articles on topics of interest to our members. Contact **Irv Himelblau:** [Publicity@uufsd.org](mailto:Publicity@uufsd.org)

Check out our bulletin board in the Core Area. In addition to the monthly activity report, there are flyers with explanations of activities available on our campus.

We maintain two email lists that allow us to communicate to members and friends.

The UUFSD Announcements list is for UUFSD announcements, such as weekly emails about Sunday services, events and activities. Only staff and board members post emails to this list.

UUFSD's Online list [uufsdonline@yahoo.com](mailto:uufsdonline@yahoo.com) is for members to use to send emails to the member community. Anyone can post emails to this list, and anything is fine, as long as it is in accord with UU principles and is likely to be of interest to all members. For both online lists contact **Sharilyn Parr:** [onlineforums@uufsd.org](mailto:onlineforums@uufsd.org).

