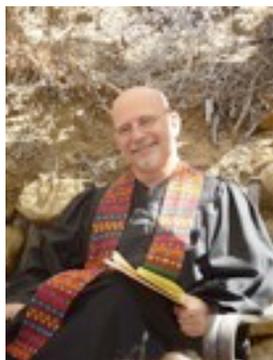


# DIALOGUE

## QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

A publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito

### MINISTER'S CORNER



Every year is different from the one before and the one after and this congregational year will of course follow that pattern. If I were to characterize this year, I would say that it is to be a year of visioning. To some degree, every year we endeavor to be together and better understand our individual and collective paths, but this year we are putting forth some special efforts to work together and make plans for our collective future. With the Dreamcatcher process underway, the possibility of new funds for capital improvements, the collective work some of us will be doing in the *Building the*

#### Table of Contents:

<i>Minister's Corner</i>	Pg. 1
<i>Our Youth</i>	Pg. 2
<i>Social Action</i>	Pg. 3
<i>Dream Catchers</i>	Pg. 4
<i>Goings On</i>	Pg. 5
<i>This I Believe</i>	Pg. 6
<i>Music to Our Ears</i>	Pg. 7
<i>2011 Memories</i>	Pg. 8
<i>Transylvania</i>	Pg. 9
<i>Bridging to the Future</i>	Pg. 10
<i>Why I Got Arrested</i>	Pgs. 11&12

*World We Dream About* classes and the natural ebb and flow of an ever evolving congregation, we have the ability to work together to be intentional about shaping our future.

As a part of our visioning, during the course of the year we will be examining the question, how are we living our faith? Faith, like any other word used in a religious context, can have different meanings to different people. In this case I simply pose the question: what does it mean to live as a Unitarian Universalist? Extrapolating that to our communal context, the broader question becomes: as a congregation how do we, collectively, want to live out our Unitarian Universalism in the world?

Simple questions don't always have easy answers, and not everyone will agree, but our commitment to staying in community even when we don't agree is a foundational aspect of our faith. So, in community, with respect for the opinions and ideas of others, we will work through our joint vision for today and our tomorrows.

As we travel through this exciting and evolving year, let us not forget to be open to others, kind in our interactions and to hold the love of this community in our hearts. As demonstrated by the continuous flow of visitors to our congregation, there are many searching for the kind of religious tradition that UUFSD offers. Visitors hopefully turn into new members, and that means with each person we are always evolving and always changing. Yet through our evolution we are informed by a foundation of love and respect for each individual in our inescapable network of mutuality.

As always, I look forward to traveling this path with you, together we will experience the journey.  
Much love, Rev. David Miller

# VISION THE FUTURE

# OUR YOUTH - OUR FUTURE

## RE Vision For the New Year



## 2011/2012 CURRICULUM

### Vision?

Members of the fellowship ask me "What is the vision for RE this year" often. Generally, my reply is that when I look into my crystal ball (which is 99.9% accurate), I see children laughing, learning and experiencing spiritual growth. I hear the pitter-patter of little feet and the plodding of bigger feet up and down the paths at the Fellowship. I smell sunshine in children's hair. I feel heat in children's bodies as I hug them close, and marvel at how they have grown.

Hello and welcome to a wonderful new Religious Education Year!

I am very excited about this upcoming year, especially our curriculum and activities. The classes are more teacher-friendly, with simple, yet poignant lessons that require just a little preparation and are kid-friendly.

Administratively, there will be a big change this year. I will be organizing all of the teachers and assistants for each class. What has not changed is my consistent emphasis on the need for RE volunteers.

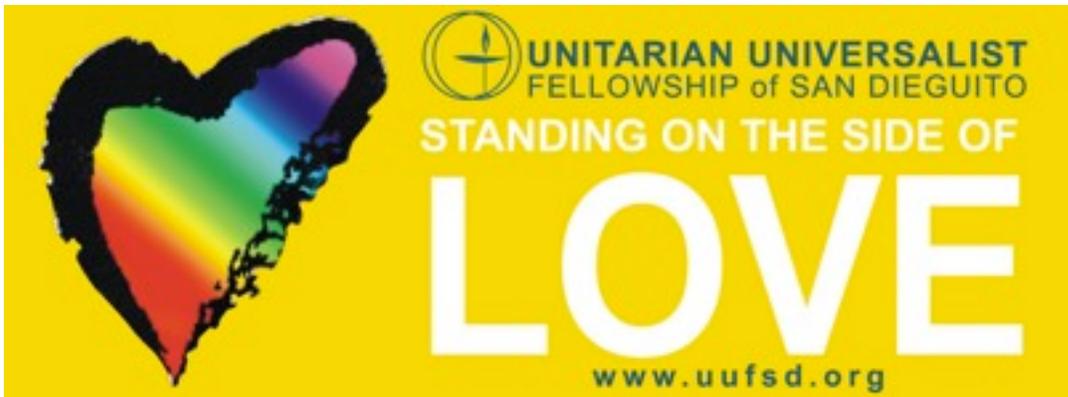
I am beginning to contact each family in the Fellowship to determine how and where they will contribute. If being a teacher or assistant is a terrifying prospect (chuckle), you may wish to work with me on "Children's Chapel." Children's Chapel is a social action activity for Pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and I always need helping hands. In addition, there are plenty of other exciting activities planned for this year, and we have need for everyone's skills.

Please email me at [alison@uufsd.org](mailto:alison@uufsd.org) or call me at 619-252-1867. I would LOVE to catch up with you, as well as help you find the perfect niche in our program.

<p><b>Toddlers (1-3 yrs)</b>  <b>(No Formal Curriculum)</b>                  Our talented staff will encourage young children to explore the world around them. Toddlers may be dropped off before service or attend the first part of the service with their families. Class meets in "Pinecones", above the upper parking lot.</p>
<p><b>PreK/K (4yrs+)</b>  <b>Chalice Children</b>                  Introduces children to concepts such as family, holidays, birth and death, marriage, dreams and the natural world using fun activities, rhymes and fingerplays. Class meets in "Footprints", first classroom up the hill past the administrative office.</p>
<p><b>Grades 1-3</b>  <b>Picture Book Bible Stories and World Religions</b>                  Based on picture books that teach young children about the stories of the bible and world religious celebrations through a UU lens. Class meets in "Treetops", second classroom up the hill past the administrative building.</p>
<p><b>Grades 4-6</b>  <b>Spirit of Adventure</b>                  This curriculum is a vehicle in which UU principles are looked at using a different variety of methods that are not the usual arts and crafts. Some of the themes this year that the kids will explore the principles with are through sports, medicine and cooking. Class meets in the <b>Palmer Library</b>.</p>
<p><b>Grades 7-8 (JRUU)</b>  <b>Coming of Age (COA) Program</b>                  See separate flyer. Class restricted to registered participants. Class meets in the <b>Montessori Building</b>. For more information contact Darlene Kanzler, coordinator of the COA program at <a href="mailto:dar.kanzler@gmail.com">dar.kanzler@gmail.com</a> or Alison Crotty at <a href="mailto:Alison@uufsd.org">Alison@uufsd.org</a>.</p>
<p><b>YRUU (Grades 9-12)</b>  <b>Topic Box Discussions</b>                  Youth will be exploring life and religious issues every week through conversations, conferences, worship sessions, and leadership opportunities. Youth will attend the adult service from time to time. Class meets in the <b>Cathy Schepps Space (YRUU room)</b>, next to the upper parking lot.</p>

# TEACHING FOR LIFE

# SOCIAL ACTION



The Social Action Committee is excited to be offering a series of eight, two-hour long adult-education workshops during the upcoming year, centered around the theme of "Building the World We Dream About." The curriculum seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform the way people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds understand and relate to one another. Each session will be accompanied by reflections, readings, and suggested "Taking It Home" activities that can be easily incorporated into ongoing SAC projects. The first workshop is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>, 10AM – noon, in the Founders' Hall. A subsequent workshop will follow each month thereafter.

Participating in this special offering, as well as in ongoing SAC projects is a great way to wrestle with the challenging question, posed in David's September 11<sup>th</sup> sermon, "To be a UU, do I really have to live my life any differently than I am now?" Registration is free and open to all interested congregation members—although attendance in each workshop will be limited, so register early! It is a great way for us to take action on growing our individual cultural awareness and competency, while also making a difference in our community. Contact Brynn Craffey ([brynn@gmail.com](mailto:brynn@gmail.com)) or Kathy Faller ([fallerkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fallerkathy@gmail.com)) for more information or to register.

In addition to producing the "Building the World We Dream About" workshops, SAC plans to continue with its ongoing projects. These include:

1. The Interfaith Shelter. As in years past, UUFSD is partnering with St. James Church in Solana Beach to host the Interfaith Homeless Shelter. We will be responsible for the week of October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup>. Kevin West will be at the Social Action table after Sunday services with signup sheets for volunteer cooks and chaperones. You can also reach him at [kwest180@gmail.com](mailto:kwest180@gmail.com).
2. Home Build in the Colonia Carretas, Tijuana, Mexico. This construction project will take place the weekend of October 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>. Families, teens, and people of all ages, including people with and without building skills, have found this to be a rewarding experience. All you need is a passport and a positive attitude! (Bring a hammer, too, if you happen to have one.) Contact Kathy Faller or Brynn Craffey ([brynn@gmail.com](mailto:brynn@gmail.com)) for more information or if you would like to take part.
3. Encinitas Community Resource Center Food Pantry. UUFSD staffs the pantry every Thursday, 10AM -12:30. Volunteers are always needed. If interested, please contact Norma Showalter ([noshow8@yahoo.com](mailto:noshow8@yahoo.com)).
4. Generosity Sundays. SAC will be collecting the Sunday offering for various causes over the upcoming months. Scheduled to date: Doctors without Borders (September 25<sup>th</sup>); Association Sunday (October 2<sup>nd</sup>) to raise funds to support UUA scholarships, continuing education, and a comprehensive assessment of our ministries and their future needs; and, the Encinitas CRC (November 6<sup>th</sup>).
5. Holiday gift baskets for the Community Resource Center (CRC) and planning for the Colonia Carretas Christmas Party. These projects are still in the works, so stay tuned for more details.

Regarding the year that just ended, SAC members—with generous donations and assistance from many UUFSD members—put together 42 backpacks from cash gifts and donated items during the month of August. Half of the backpacks were delivered to the CRC in Encinitas. The rest will be delivered to Casas de la Luz in Tijuana this month.

# BUILDING JUSTICE

# DREAMCATCHERS

## President's Message

What an exciting time to be a member of UUFSD! We are a strong community that gathers together to give one another support and fellowship, while still looking beyond itself to help so many who need aid in these trying times. Our strength is based on our members and the love and work that they have poured into our Fellowship over the past 50-plus years. Our Fellowship is constantly renewing itself as new people join. In looking forward, it is the dream of the Board to draw on the talents of members to bring new energy into current functions of the Fellowship. Our idealistic people serve as the foundation of our strength and as the catalyst to realize our dreams for the future.

Sarah Appleton-Knapp  
President , Board of Directors

## Dreamcatchers Corner

What is the future of UUFSD? What dreams do you have for our congregation? Now that we have a settled minister and an active membership, it's time to think about what comes next. While, as good UUs, we all have opinion, it's not clear that our congregation currently has a joint vision about who we are as a congregation and where we want to go. We need this vision to inform some of our most important decisions:

What should we be doing beyond ourselves: who is our neighbor and how are we being called to help/change the world? What should we be doing to participate more actively in our world?

The UUFSD strategic planning team, known as the Dreamcatchers, is organizing small group meetings during September and early October to capture the ideas and visions of Fellowship members. At each meeting, participants will be asked four questions:

- What brought you here; what were you seeking when you first came to UUFSD?
- What have you found?
- What are you still looking for?
- Where should we go next as a congregation? What would you like the Fellowship to be in the next 5-10 years.

The results of these small group meetings will be synthesized and reported back to the congregation, as part of the process of identifying our shared vision. The congregation, minister, and staff can then use this vision to guide future decisions on budgets, staffing, facilities, and programming.

For more information, contact any of the Dreamcatcher team members: Greg Brown: [gmbrown6@cox.net](mailto:gmbrown6@cox.net); Angela Ichwan: [angela@crisproot.com](mailto:angela@crisproot.com); Kristin Magnuson: [kemagnuson00@yahoo.com](mailto:kemagnuson00@yahoo.com); Lisa Shaffer: [LRshaffer@roadrunner.com](mailto:LRshaffer@roadrunner.com) Kathryn Sturch: [ksturch@san.rr.com](mailto:ksturch@san.rr.com); and Scott Thacher: [scott827@gmail.com](mailto:scott827@gmail.com).



# DARE TO DREAM

# GOINGS ON-JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### FALL CHOIR SCHEDULE

Sept 25 - October 9 (Yom Kippur)  
October 23 - November 6  
November 20 - December 4 (Joy Service)  
December 11 (Music Sunday)

### MEMBERSHIP & CONNECTION

New UU Class, Sunday, October 23, 11:45  
Palmer Library  
New Member Circle, Saturday, Nov. 12, 10-12  
Palmer Library  
Sunday, November 13, New Member Recognition  
During the Service

### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

SYMPOSIUM: Building the World We Dream About  
Saturday, October 29, 10-Noon – Founders Hall  
Saturday, November 19, 10-Noon – Founders Hall  
Saturday, December 10, 2pm-4pm - Founders Hall

### Colonia Garrettas Home Build

October 15 and 16, Tijuana Mexico

### Interfaith Shelter

October 30 through November 6  
St. James Church, Solana Beach

### YRUU

#### Halloween Carnival

Saturday, October 29th, 6 p.m. UUFSD Campus

### JOY COMMITTEE

Yom Kippur Dinner, Saturday, October 8, 6 pm, FH\*  
Pot Luck Dinner, Friday, October 21, 6:30 p.m., FH\*  
Thanksgiving Lunch, November 24, 1 p.m. FH\*  
Holiday Party, December 17, 6 p.m. Potluck - FH\*  
Christmas Day Potluck, December 25, 3 p.m. FH\*

### SPIRITUALITY

Meditation Day of Mindfulness  
Saturday, October 22, 8:30 to 4 p.m. Founders Hall

### STEWARDSHIP

Art Fair, Saturday November 6, 11:30  
Core Area

\* Founders Hall

## ONGOING EVENTS

### SENIOR EXERCISE

Monday & Wednesdays, 8-9 a.m., Founders Hall

### SMART RECOVERY PROGRAM

Tuesdays 6:30-8 p.m., Founders Hall

### THURSDAY MEDITATION GROUP

Thursdays – 6-7:15 p.m., Palmer Library

### FRIDAY MEDITATION GROUP

Fridays – 10:00 a.m., Palmer Library

### CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursdays 7-9 p.m., Founders Hall

### SUNDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

Sundays 8:45 -9:45 a.m., Core Area

### BUDDHIST SANGHA

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7:30-9 p.m., Palmer Library

### WOMEN OF THE WORLD

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, Noon, Locations Vary

### FIRST WEDNESDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

10-Noon. Locations Vary

### BOOK CLUB

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m., Palmer Library

### PURSUING WISDOM

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 10 a.m., Palmer Library

### SPIRITUAL GROWTH CIRCLES

Monthly meetings, times and locations vary



# BELOVED COMMUNITY

## THIS I BELIEVE RICHARD MAC DONALD



### What I Believe

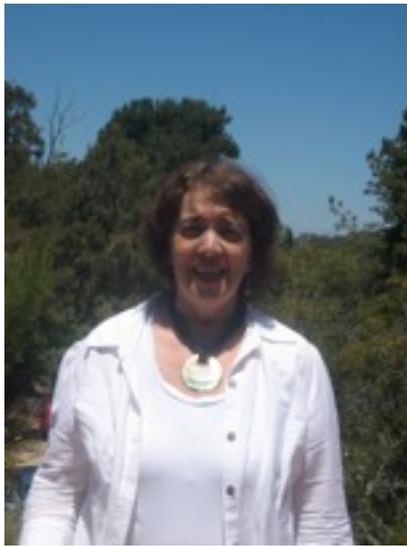
When I was asked me to write a piece about "What I Believe," I thought, "What a coincidence, that's exactly what I joined the Fellowship to discover!". Trained as a scientist, I have always been taught to be suspicious of beliefs, and to trust independently verifiable observations and facts instead. As a result, whenever I ponder what I truly and deeply believe, I have a moment of confusion followed by a panic sweat and no ready answer. Sometimes I fall back onto aphorisms from my mother, like "There's safety in numbers." She said it whenever my sisters were heading out on a date, but I use it for all sorts of occasions, like walking down a lonely street at midnight, or camping in bear country. But seriously, I think my beliefs can best be expressed by the choices I have made throughout my life -- by whom and by what I have been attracted to. First and foremost, I have been attracted to people with common sense and wide-ranging interests. It helps if they are more outgoing than me, to balance my innate reserve. I believe strongly in education, but not necessarily in test scores and memorization. I believe that education is a lifelong experience, and I worry that kids can get burned out too early. My advice to my two boys was "Do what you love and the money will follow." I may have to revise that advice for Chesney (my 5 year old daughter), since the money part hasn't worked out yet for my artistic sons. I have never been a joiner and preferred to spend my free time in solitude. After a 30 year stint at Judaism, which ended in 2002, I discovered the UU Fellowship through a friend in 2008. The discovery coincided with a new phase of my life, which includes a new family, retirement, and being a stay-at-home dad with my daughter Chesney. Of all the things we teach our children, I value the teaching of "Values" at the top of the list. That is why I love the Religious Education program at UUFSD. I hope to see you all at the Sunday coffee hour and book sale; please introduce yourself!

-- Richard Macdonald

# LIBERAL RELIGION

UUFSD - 1036 SOLANA DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH, CA 858-755-9225 [WWW.UUFSD.ORG](http://WWW.UUFSD.ORG)

## MUSIC TO OUR EARS



### Gianna Drogheo

Gianna Drogheo grew up on the beaches of Chesapeake Bay in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The daughter of two professional singers, Gianna has been singing all of her life. In college, she traveled the Caribbean and Europe performing for the U.S. Department of Defense with eight other girls and their director, Eleanor Walden. In her twenties, Gianna moved with her new husband (in his Jeep) to Fairbanks, Alaska. There she lived for over 30 years. In Fairbanks, she continued her study of music and performed in many venues and styles, Renaissance, opera, musical theater, cabaret and jazz. She also worked as surveyor, waitress, gardener and librarian's assistant. She received her Master of Arts in Music from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and also studied at Manhattan School of Music and Juilliard in NYC. Gianna has studied voice with Dr. Robert McCoy and Louise McClellan from the University of Maryland Opera Department and Kathryn Harvey and Dr. Byron McGilvray of San Francisco State University. She has taught voice and directed both choir and orchestra in musical stage shows for many years. She soloed with the Alaska Chamber Orchestra, in their tour of Europe tour, performing "Forest Without

Leaves" by John Luther Adams. For the last ten years, Gianna has been studying sound healing with such masters as Jonathan Goldman, Jill Purce and Fabien Maman. She plays the Celtic harp and facilitates singing meditation and toning classes using sound as a healing medium.

In 2010 Gianna heard warmer climes calling and so drove out of Alaska in her Subaru Forester to the lower 48. After a few stops along the way, she is very pleased to have found a wonderful choir at UUFSD to serve as director.

Gianna has two children, Justin, 32, living in Brooklyn, NY and Sarah, 29, living in Portland, Oregon. San Diego County seems to be a wonderful place to lure her children for visits during winter months of snow and rain. At least one can hope so!

### Dave Ploeser

After one of our choir performances at the Fellowship and on the way home I couldn't resist showing off one of our Spanish language tunes ("Nada Te Turbe") to an acquaintance of mine who owns a local flower shop. Some months later she asks me to teach her son to play the guitar. So I get me my first music student and give the flowers to my "Numero Uno" Debbie.

Well, how'd all this come about? I blame my good friend Greg (Brown). Around 1970, I came to San Diego and found myself working as a welder in the local shipyards. I met Greg at a "Movement" social gathering and to make a long story longer, we formed a collective and lived in a number of old oversized Victorian homes in Hillcrest where I met my wife to be.

Then thirty some odd years later, Greg and I get together to play some banjo music and he asks me to join the UU Choir! Join a what? Me? Listen, I have Antagonistic leanings. And then what? He pulls in our old roommate Jerry (the Bolt) Thiebolt to build the Memorial Wall. So I join the Choir, Jerry builds the wall. And then you won't believe this! My bass player's family is with the UU and here I am twisting his arm to get him to play with me during some of the services.

Everything seems to work out in the wash. I never could have enjoyed my meteoric career trajectory (they're the ones that fall to the ground), not to mention my opulent lifestyle in Carlsbad without my friends, workmates and family. Few rewards compare however to the thrill of showing off my talented wife and soulmate Debbie to my friends, old and new, at the Fellowship.



# FELLOWSHIP

UUFSD - 1036 SOLANA DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH, CA 858-755-9225 WWW.UUFSD.ORG

# PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS



EMMA'S REVOLUTION IN CONCERT



UUFSD ORGANIC GARDEN



HORSE HAVEN CAMPOUT



OUR WHOLE LIFE



CHRISTMAS 2010



COMING OF AGE



ARCHERY AT DE BENVILLE PINES



ART FAIRE



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

# CELEBRATION

## A Musical Journey to Transylvania



*Jo!* [Say Yo!] That's Hungarian for *It's all good!* *Listen up!* Did you know that Unitarian Universalism has deep roots in Transylvania? I had heard this, but didn't know much more than that until recently. (*Transylvania, hmm, the place with the vampires...*) Interesting, but it was not on my list of travel destinations until I saw photos of this beautiful place with small villages in a landscape of rolling hills, where Unitarianism has been practiced for hundreds of years. I had heard of the UU Partner Church Council (<http://www.uupcc.org/>) and decided to check out their trips; maybe I would go to Transylvania *someday*. And, to my surprise, the website showed a trip designed around singing concerts in Unitarian churches and touring historic sites related to UU history. That sounded like a lot of fun to me, and Karen Eckhart agreed, so we signed up right away.

By November, the trip had filled up with sopranos, altos, and tenors from all over the US, but there were no basses. Our tour leaders remedied that situation by recruiting graduates of the Unitarian high school in Kolosvar, Romania. These six young men were excellent singers, Hungarian pronunciation coaches, and delightful company for us as we toured historic and religious sites, some of which they had not yet seen. In the US and UK we say we have a living religion that changes with the times. But in Transylvania, Unitarianism is practiced as in 1568 when the Transylvanian king, John Sigismund, declared that everyone should worship as they pleased and converted the Catholic churches to Unitarianism. We visited the place where this happened - Torda, Romania - and sang a song in Hungarian reciting part of King John's Edict of Torda.

Why did we sing in Hungarian and not Romanian? Transylvania was part of Hungary for 1000 years, and then after World War I it became part of Romania. Hungarian is still spoken there. The Transylvanian people have had to endure much discrimination and oppression. Freedom of religion is something we in the US take for granted, but it is a precious thing to Transylvanians. Our concert repertoire of 23 songs included several we've sung at UUFSD, e.g., *Welcome, Welcome; Blue Boat Home; Let Your Little Light Shine*, and five selections in Hungarian. You can listen to us here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVYXvp9cWJQ>

At the end of each concert, we sang the Transylvania anthem, which was forbidden to be sung during the Nazi and Communist eras, but children were taught to sing it at home and in small groups where people gathered secretly to sing and worship. Everyone in the audience stood to sing the anthem with us; they all know the words by heart. Singing together - Transylvanians and Americans, Unitarians and UUs - was a wonderful, moving experience. We recommend going on a UUPCC trip whether it's to Transylvania or other destinations; check it out. *Jo!* **Anne Larocca and Karen Eckhart**



**Pictures**  
***UUPCC Festival Choir 2011 (All Budapest)***  
***Unitarian Girls in their Confirmation***  
***Dresses (Transylvania)***  
***Pulpit with Folk Embroidery, "God is One"***



# ROOTS

## BRIDGING TO THE FUTURE

### **Katie Scott**



When I leave for college in a couple of months, I know I will be leaving, however temporarily, many people that I love. Not just my family and my school friends, but UUFSD as well. Being a Unitarian Universalist has really helped to shape who I am. I was allowed the freedom to choose my own beliefs and find my own ideologies, and to put those beliefs into action through meaningful outreach activities, like manning a phone bank in an effort to defeat Prop 8 and helping out with charity events and working at a homeless shelter. As I became more involved with the Fellowship, I was offered leadership opportunities that I might not have otherwise had. I represented our Fellowship on the Youth Board of the Pacific Southwest District, became a DeBenneville counselor, and was a co-chair of YRUU. Most importantly, I found a community of people spanning three states, in which I have never felt more at home.

Going to church didn't just mean having to wake up ridiculously early on a Sunday anymore. It meant learning who I am, and being with people who were joining me on their own similar journeys.

In the Fall, I will be heading to Boston University, where I hope to double major in marketing and biology and minor in art. I am looking forward to college for all the challenges and promise it holds! I will miss San Diego and UUFSD (particularly in winter!!), but I will look forward to the visits home. Thank you, UUFSD, thank you YRUU, Alison and Rev D, thank you Ed B. wherever you are – and thank all of you who have given so much to me and the other youth at our Fellowship!

### **Zach Solomon**



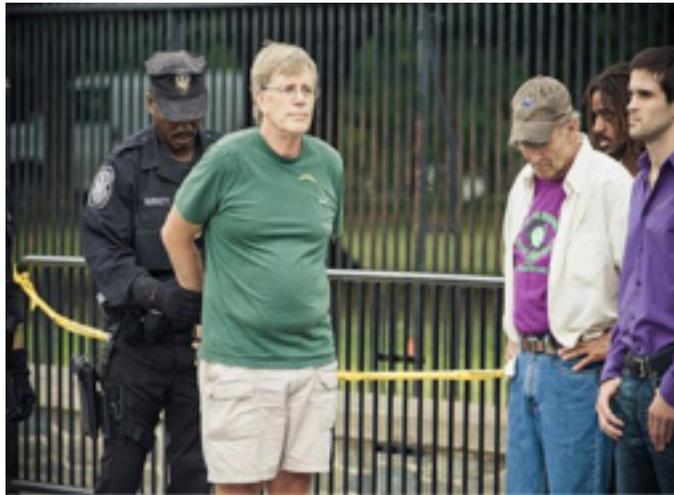
YRUU and the Fellowship in general have really meant a lot to me over the last couple of years. It was a safe place for me to realize who I really am and to become the man I am today. The memories I have from things like the Coming of Age Program and the countless summer camps will never fade away.

As I move toward a bright future at the University of Arizona I know that I will always have a wonderful place and wonderful friends to return home to. Because, if UU has taught me anything, it has taught me to count on my close friends in times of happiness and sorrow.

So I am saying thank you to everyone and everything that made my last couple of years full of happiness and full of new experiences.

## BEGINNINGS

# WHY I GOT ARRESTED



On August 25, I was arrested in front of the White House along with 46 others in an act of civil disobedience [protesting the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.](#)

As these things go, it was a tame exercise. No one turned water cannons on us; no one unleashed dogs, wielded truncheons, or fired upon us. We weren't thrown into dungeons. We didn't risk an extended jail sentence as environmental activist Tim De Christopher did. But being arrested is not without some consequences and some risks.

Why was I willing to take those risks? Well, the obvious answer is that the pipeline must be stopped, and the tar sands must be left in the ground. This stuff is an ecologic nightmare. It produces 80% more carbon than conventional oil, and it uses prodigious amounts of fresh water and natural gas to process, laying waste state-sized tracts of land in the bargain. Burning it would literally be the equivalent of detonating a slew of nuclear bombs and watching them explode in slow motion. But the truth is, I am not optimistic that our actions will change the direction of this particular fossil-fueled juggernaut.

So why, then, risk arrest? Because in an age of cynicism, I needed to feel hope. Hope can be an antidote to cynicism and a springboard for action. As William Sloane Coffin put it, "Hope arouses, as nothing else can arouse, a passion for the possible." Not the probable, not the likely, not the expected. But the possible! Without hope, horizons are shortened, vision is obscured, day becomes night, and the possible becomes impossible. But with hope, the improbable becomes probable; we can see with a clarity and vision that enables and ennobles.

And these are times that cry out for the power of hope. Never before in the short history of humans, has there been such time. A time, when the possible – a sustainable and just world; a world of shared prosperity for all peoples, those living and those yet to be born -- has become ever more improbable **and is in imminent danger of becoming impossible: i.e.** a time when the ennobling and empowering spirit of hope is most essential, **yet seems least rational.**

What makes this time unique is that humanity has become a force of nature: as inevitable as the passage of day to night; as inexorable as the winds, the tides, the seasons; as indelible as the march of epochs across the face of our planet. What we do – or don't do – in the *next few years* will quite literally influence the kind of planet our progeny live on – indeed it will shape the world for hundreds of generations to come.

What an awesome responsibility for a once-puny species to possess! What a challenge to face without hope. A few short years. That's all we have to choose the kind of future we bequeath the planet for geologic ages to come. We can leave a legacy of a world in which hope flourishes and dreams prosper, or we can leave a legacy in which hopes are diminished and most dreams are nightmares. Those are now our choices. Our only choices. We cannot kick the can down the road – we've run out of road. We've run out of time.

Continued on page 12

## COMMITMENT

For the first time in history, humans are fundamentally changing the atmosphere on a ***planetary*** scale, pumping in enough greenhouse gases to heat the planet beyond anything our species has ever seen, beyond what the ecosystems we evolved in can endure. For the first time in history humans are changing the chemistry of the oceans ***on a planetary scale***. We risk turning the life-giving seas into sterile, acidic, and nearly lifeless crypts.

These are moral choices. These are ethical choices. In fact, they are the most profound moral choices our species has ever faced. The jury is out on whether we – as a species – will respond in time. But standing there, on that day, in quiet dignity awaiting arrest with Will, Anne, Bryce, David, Lubchenka and forty other strangers, that didn't matter.

I felt hope. Not optimism, but hope. And as Robert Kennedy said, "Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, these ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." Hope begets action, but action also begets hope. And who knows. Perhaps the tiny ripples of some 2000 citizens willing to risk arrest are the beginning of a vast tide, a tsunami of change that will sweep away the foolishness that now dominates our country.

One can always hope.  
John Atcheson

## UUA CONTINGENT MARCHING AT THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE PROTEST

