

UUFSD FOCUS – JANUARY 2011



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, we are empowered to transform the world, one person at a time.

Rev. David A. Miller, Minister
Alison A.L.G.M. Crotty,
Director of Religious Education
Patricia Weld, Congregational Admin.



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Website: www.uufsd.org
Office hours: 8:30-4:30, M-F

SUNDAY SERVICES – 10:00 a.m.

Child care is provided

Monthly theme: **Letting Go**

January 2: As Time Goes By – UUFSD’s Annual New Years Service. **Wenda Alvarez**, Lay Leader

January 9: Getting Out of Our Heads - Our Unitarian Universalist history tells us to use reason when considering the issues of deep meaning in our life and the world. But, how do we know when to let go and move beyond the need to think everything through to the very end. *Choir sings!*
Rev. David A. Miller

January 16: MLK Service – The Trap of “Isms”
It can be an easy thing to paint people in wide brush strokes. How do we let go of our isms and explore different patterns of thought and communication?
Rev. David A. Miller

January 23: Letting Go - Members of the UUFSD Buddhist group present a service on letting go.

January 30: The Fear and Courage of Risk – It is often said, “the greatest risk brings the greatest reward,” however when faced with decisions that place us at risk, how do we use our faith to help us with our choices. *Choir sings!*
Rev. David A. Miller.



DAVID’S DIALOGUE

Welcome to 2011. This is a big year for the Unitarian Universalist Association. It is the 50th anniversary of the merger that brought together the Unitarians and the Universalists, two separate denominations each with a long history of liberal religious tradition. At the forming of these two faiths, after the decision to consolidate, the Rev. Donald Szanthy Harrington, Minister of the Community Church of New York, delivered a sermon. In this sermon in May of 1960, Rev. Harrington spoke of the evolution of Unitarianism and Universalism when he said (updated to use more inclusive language):

“Unitarian now stands not only for the oneness of God, but for the *unitary* view of life, the merging of the sacred and secular into a single substance, every particle of which is sacred. It affirms the unitary nature of the universe and everything in it as the single Sacred Reality whose physical and spiritual laws set the bounds of our being, within whose Meaning and Ultimate Purpose our lives find their significance. It seeks the unitary dimension of experience, that *depth within*-- which is universal to all people and therefore unitive. It celebrates the *unitary* character of the human family, rejoicing that no matter what our race or faith or condition, we are all one people, belonging to the single Family of Humanity.”

And of Universalism he added:

“Universalism has come to stand for the seeking out and stressing of the great universals which can lead sorely-divided people into the great unities. It stands for the universal validity of the method of free inquiry and the right of people to share in the determination of their destinies. It desires the One

*Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 23*

At this brief meeting we will elect the new Board President, Vice-President and two new Board members. Members please plan on staying after the service for this important meeting.

Universal Spirit of compassionate and all-redeeming love, which has the power to inspire, judge, encourage and ultimately to gather humanities separate and warring tribes into one world fellowship of the free.

Thus have the little Unitarian and Universalist theological heresies grown up and been transformed in time into the broad philosophical foundation for Unitarian Universalism, a new world faith, which is inclusive in spirit, comprehensive in character and uniting in influence.”

These were prophetic words but the predication he gave later on in this sermon of our perfect positioning for significant growth based on these messages of love, reason and acceptance has not really come to pass. In some ways we continue to be one of the world’s best kept secrets for those who are looking for spiritual fulfillment and community without dogma and creedalism.

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary as the Unitarian Universalist Association, I feel a stirring in our evolution. A feeling of the possible. An undercurrent of activity focused on moving us from our traditional focus in philosophical discussion and internal reflection to a true devotion to deeds and the active work necessary to address the urgent needs of a hurting world.

I would like to encourage all of us who are willing and able, to consider attending the 50th anniversary celebration at our General Assembly in Charlotte, North Carolina this year. It should be an amazing gathering of Unitarian Universalists from all across the world in celebration of this rich and ever evolving tradition. Please don’t hesitate to contact me for more information and some possible financial assistance for related expenses. It would be wonderful to have a strong delegation from UUFSD as we gather to celebrate the past, but also to come together in one strong body to influence the future.

All the best, **Rev. David**

JANUARY 23 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Submitted by the Nominating Committee (Kathy Faller, Susan Hahm, and Sharilyn Parr)

The Fellowship is governed by bylaws that guide our policies and procedures here at the Fellowship. These bylaws state that each January, the congregation will vote to select a congregational President and Vice-President, and to fill vacancies on the Board when current members' terms are completed. The by-laws specify the requirements for board eligibility and details of the nomination and election process. This year's **Congregational Meeting** will be **January 23**, immediately following the service.

The nominating committee is tasked with recruiting and nominating candidates for each open position. This year's slate of nominees is listed below. Biographies of each board nominee follow.

Nominee for President: **Sara Appleton-Knapp**

Nominee for Vice President: **Anne Larocca**
(*incumbent*)

New Board Nominee: **Caroline De Mar**

New Board Nominee: **Walter Kanzler**

We are grateful for their willingness to embrace the responsibility and service of board membership!

At the congregational meeting, we will also elect next year’s Nominating Committee. These are generally people with significant experience on the board and other key committees. (The bylaws state that one of the three members can be a current board member.) The candidates for the “NomComm” for next year are **Susan Hahm** (incumbent), **Sharilyn Parr** (incumbent and former Congregational President) and **Anne Larocca** (incumbent, nominee for Vice President, and former Congregational President).

BIOGRAPHIES FOR BOARD NOMINEES

Board Nominee: Caroline DeMar

Caroline grew up in mid-western university towns. Soon after graduating from the U of Wisconsin, she married. While raising her three children, she was active in her community, a small town in southern Ohio. When her children were in high school, she returned to graduate school to earn a Master’s Degree at the U. of Cincinnati, and then practiced as a school psychologist until her retirement in 1997. During her career, she mentored new psychologists and organized a number of different programs to improve the quality of psychological services in the district.

Reminder to Committee Chairs

Saturday, January 15 10 am-12

Fellowship 2011 Calendar and Planning Meeting
in Founders Hall. Committee Chairs please plan on
attending or send a representative.

She was raised as a Unitarian, but was not active in the church until moving to Solana Beach after the death of her husband. She specifically selected Solana Beach for her home because of its proximity to family and the Fellowship. Since joining the Fellowship in 2001, she has been active in a number of areas: singing in the choir and serving on the Music Committee, serving several years on the Finance Committee, now serving on the Stewardship Commission. She states that the Fellowship not only helps her meet her spiritual needs, but is also like an extended family for her and is the source of many wonderful friendships. She has always enjoyed "making a difference" and feels that her leadership and organizational skills can be put to good use in supporting our minister and our visions for our Fellowship as we grow and evolve in the future.

Board Nominee: Walter Kanzler

Walter is originally from New Jersey, a few miles west of New York City. He grew up in Nutley New Jersey and went to college at Montclair State University and to the New Jersey Institute of Technology, earning his Graduate degree in Architecture. Walter is married to Darlene Kanzler and has two teen-age children, Chelsea and Zachary. Walter moved to San Diego shortly after meeting Darlene back in 1995. After arriving in San Diego Darlene became the DRE at UUFSD and along with her participation, Walter and the kids became very active at the fellowship. Walter worked on several projects here at the fellowship related to the facilities, including the staining of the concrete floors and lighting in Fellowship Hall, the Nursery behind the kitchen and the Palmer Library interiors. In 2001, Walter and Darlene moved back to NJ and lived in Morristown for almost 8 years. During his time there, Walter worked at Montclair State University as the Director of Design for the Facilities department and eventually started his own architectural practice, Ecocollaborative, a Green Building/Sustainability consulting firm.

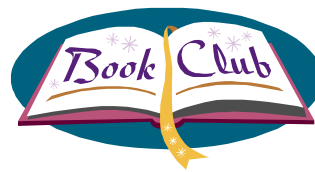
The Kanzler family missed the California lifestyle and moved back in 2009. They currently reside in Cardiff and are active again at the fellowship. Chelsea and Zack participate in RE and Chelsea was involved in Coming of Age which was an excellent way for her to get reacquainted with the Fellowship here in San Diego. Walter looks forward to participating on the Board to assist in creatively fostering the Visioning and Goals that are established for 2011. Walter is committed to the principles of the fellowship with a special interest in principle #7 "respect for the interdependent web of all existence."

Presidential Nominee: Sara Appleton-Knapp

Sara Appleton-Knapp and her family started attending the Fellowship when they moved to Solana Beach in 2002. Prior to the move, she and her family were members of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica. She has served for two years on the UUFSD Board of Directors. Sara holds a PhD in Cognitive Psychology from UCLA, where she studied human memory processes. Until 2007, Sara was a tenure-track marketing professor at San Diego State University, continuing her general research about memory as well as researching how people remember advertising. Currently Sara divides her time between taking care of her kids and various volunteer and philanthropic activities including volunteering in the classroom, helping secure funding and building materials for Casas de Luz, and most recently walking 60 miles in the Susan Komen 3-Day event to raise money for breast cancer research. Sara's family includes her husband Jason, daughter Carolyn and son Bryan.

Vice-Presidential Nominee: Anne Larocca

Anne Larocca joined UUFSD six years ago and has enjoyed the past two years serving on the Board. She especially likes working in the UU co-op garden and attending monthly work parties. Trained as a research scientist, she now works in the biotechnology industry as a medical writer. Although she grew up in New Jersey, she has been a Californian for more than 30 years. She and her sons, Jacob and Adam, live in Encinitas.



News

The UUFSD book club meets each month at **7:00 pm** in the **Palmer Library** to discuss the month's reading selection. This month's meeting will be **Monday, January 10**, and we will be discussing Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel. (You can see a description of the book on the Amazon website, if you like: 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



Alison Aguilar Lopez Gutierrez
McLeod Crotty, DRE
858- 755-9225 alison@uufsd.org

*Time may change me
But you can't trace time*

*Strange fascination, fascinating me
Changes are taking the pace I'm going through*

*Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes
(Turn and face the strain)
Ch-ch-Changes*

- David Bowie

“Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes” plays in my mind almost every time someone talks about the inevitability of change. I find it fascinating that I am still surprised when change happens. Sometimes an event will happen with a sudden and distinct movement. We will be all too aware that things have changed. The start of a career, a new birth into this world or a life exiting ours is distinct and absolute. Other times change comes over us gently and slowly, like the realization you need a sweater. The temperature has changed gradually and we have a dawning recognition that change has happened or needs to.

I am not talking about the “Changes” people feel the need to make at the beginning of each year. I have a firm resolution since I was a child, not to make resolutions at New Years. I trust the process of change, and the natural rhythm of life and know change is inevitable. It is how we deal with it, as an individual or community that makes the changes exceptional.

Change has come to the RE Program this year and it has taken many forms. We as a team and committee have come to the dawning recognition that changes need to be made in the class line up. We know of one firm change that we need to make, and are contemplating others as well. The first change that will be taking place is that we are folding the 1st Grade class into the 2nd-3rd Grade class. On average we have about three participants in the 1st Grade class and with our dwindling teacher and assistant resources, we all agree that this makes the most sense. Our 1st Graders are very mature and I am sure will be thrilled to be with the older boys and girls. That new class, the 1-3rd will be meeting in Treetops, which is a good change for the 2nd-3rd Graders who were our roaming group without a classroom. The second major classroom change we are thinking about comes with 7th graders who will not

be able to take OWL this year. We have 19 students in our OWL program which is amazing but our 7th graders are left out in the cold. Not wanting to lose them from the program, they are adamant about not moving down to the 4th-6th grade class. So the RE Committee and I have choices to make... do we move the 6th graders to the 7th grade class, find a new curriculum and classroom coordinator? That seems to be what we are leaning toward. We have enough 4th-5th graders who would comprise the younger age group and fill out the classroom nicely. And the 6th-7th graders would get a jump on bonding for next year when they are all in JRUU. As I write this I am more convinced that this is the right move.

Thanks for helping me sound this out... and if anyone would like to help me in this change filled January, please contact me!!!! Smiling

In Love, Fellowship and Continuing Change,
Alison



EVERYONE WELCOME
DEBENNEVILLE PINES, April 1 – 3, 2011

Please join us for an exciting All Fellowship Weekend at deBenneville Pines, April 1 - 3. This weekend is open to everyone at the Fellowship, singles, couples, families, members, friends, visitors, and anyone else who is interested in having fun and getting better acquainted. There will be workshops, craft projects, games, hiking, dancing, singing, and five great meals. If you are willing to lead a workshop or would like to help plan this weekend, please contact **Kathryn Sturch**. Register now and save \$5. Flyers online and in the office.

DE BENNEVILLE WATER WORKS PROJECT
MATCHING FUNDS EXPIRE 1/31/11

I want to thank the 37 families who have donated to the Water Works Project at de Benneville Pines to date. Replacing the water system is crucial for the continuation of the camp. Those of you who have attended this camp or whose children have attended know first hand the magic of the place and the importance of preserving it for future generations. There are 3,000 feet of water pipes to replace at \$150/ft, and thanks to an anonymous donor, any contributions made (up to a total of \$100,000) prior to **January 31, 2011** will be matched. Please make checks out to **Camp de Benneville Pines** and send them to the office. Again, thank you for your contributions. **Betsy Gilpin.**

DINING FOR DOLLARS SEATS AVAILABLE

There are still some seats available at various events offered as part of our Dining for Dollars fundraiser. These include: One seat at the *New Moon Native Harvest Dinner* offered by Vera Ockenfels and Barbara Barnett on *January 8* (\$50), a number of seats for the *Two Piano Concert* offered by Monique Kunewalder and Lynne Talley on *February 13* (\$45), four seats at the *Grapes of Frath Murder Mystery Dinner* offered by Bev Connor and Louise Garrett on *March 5* (\$45), and a number of seats to the *Lunch and Garden Tour* offered by Betsy Gilpin on *April 9* (\$25). Contact hosts (see *directory* or call office for contact information) for information and to participate.

CURIOUS ABOUT CUBA? Save the Date: February 27, 2011

This past fall, three members of our Fellowship traveled to Cuba as part of a humanitarian delegation sponsored by "Road Scholar" (the new name for Elderhostel), bringing medical supplies to a Cuban charity.

On February 27, following the Sunday service, **Karen Eckhart, Dianne Graham and Sandy Washington** will share impressions and experiences from their week in Cuba along with an engaging slide show. The event will take place in Founders Hall. The 27th is a luncheon Sunday, so all are invited to bring their lunches into the Hall and enjoy the free presentation while eating. For further information contact **Karen Eckhart**.



UU CLUSTER NEWS for San Diego County

our UUFSD email lists, you can also sign up for a weekly email newsletter from SUUN (The San Diego UU Network). The "San Diego County UU Network Newsletter" provides information on activities and events relating to our six UU congregations in San Diego County. You can be added to the SUUN email list by going to the Cluster website at www.uusandiego.org and clicking on "Sign up for our Email Newsletter" on the home page.



Rev. David and members, Ann Linn, her sons David and Ian, Irv Himelblau, Steve Rosen, Alan Sohl and Diana Gomez at the **San Diego County Unitarian Universalist Network (Cluster) picnic** on Sunday, November 7. UUs from all five congregations came together for a picnic at Admiral Baker Field just east of Qualcomm Stadium. It's was a potluck with refreshments, games, music and all sorts of fun. Thanks to a generous financial contribution, we enjoyed grilled fajitas marinated with an award-winning recipe.

MEMORIAL WALL

*"It is right to remember the names
of those who gave us strength
in this choice of living."*

- Kathleen McTigue

This season of the year brings with it many fond memories of holidays past, and of those who shared them with us.

At such a time I'm moved to remind everyone that the second wall of the memorial complex is on its way to completion in Jerry Thiebolt's Chula Vista studio. Before many weeks go by he will be ready to install the second wall. Meanwhile, we have 29 plaques on the first wall that have not yet been reserved.

If you are inclined to remember someone who is no longer among us, or if you are thinking ahead about a place to honor those with whom you're enjoying the present holidays, or a place where your own name will live on as a comfort for your friends and loved ones when the time comes, don't hesitate to act upon those thoughts.

The process is simple. Go on line to uufsd.org and click on "Fellowship," then click on "Memorial Wall." There you will find a link to the reservation form and instructions for donating \$300 per plaque and selecting locations on either of the first two walls in the memorial complex.

Barbara Blomgren Memorial Wall Chairman
MemorialWall@uufsd.org



V-Day UUFSD 2011

Presents a Benefit Production of the play

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Join us as we raise funds and awareness to end violence against women and girls

February 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Founders Hall

Tickets will be available in January after Sunday services at the Social Action Table

\$15 and \$10 for students

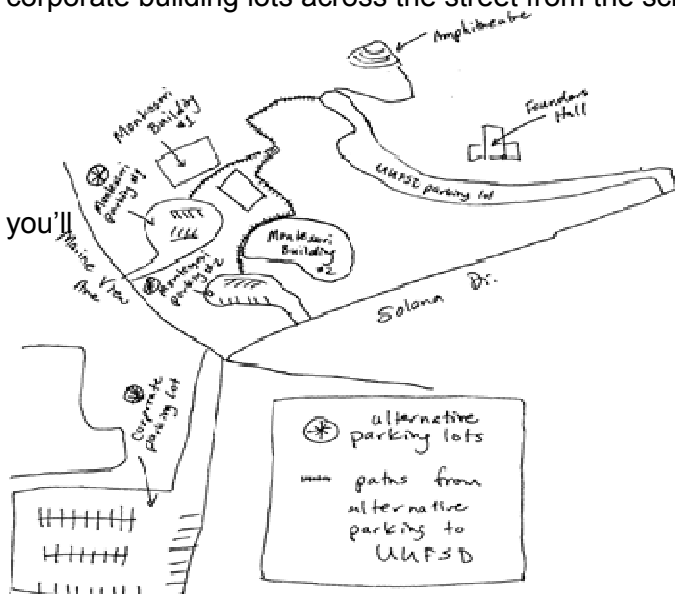
Proceeds will benefit Carol's House, domestic violence prevention classes in Colonia Garrettas and women and children of Haiti

V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls that raises funds and awareness through benefit productions of Playwright/Founder Eve Ensler's award winning play The Vagina Monologues and other artistic works. In 2010, over 5400 V-Day benefit events took place that were produced by volunteer activists in the U.S. and around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls. To date, the V-Day movement has raised over \$75 million and educated millions about the issue of violence against women and the efforts to end it

PARKING SOLUTION

HELP! UUFSD needs your help to solve our serious parking problem. When the weather is nice and Rev. David is sermonizing, and the choir is singing, we invariably have more attendees than our parking lot can accommodate. The result is, once the lot is full, cars going to the end have to back out of the lot. A member recently serving as a parking lot attendant had to turn away 18 cars. The "close" parking should be available for those unable to navigate long or steep walks.

We are urging all able-bodied attendees to park at one of the two parking lots at the Montessori School or the corporate building lots across the street from the school.



To get to the Fellowship there is a path to the back of Fellowship parking lot, and the ramp up to the amphitheater and Founders Hall. We are providing a map showing the path through the Montessori grounds for your convenience. Plan to arrive 5 minutes early and have plenty of time to make the walk. Walk it just once, and you'll have it down pat.

You will receive a reward for your help. To get you in the habit of using the other parking facilities, through the end of January, we are providing a chit for free coffee after the service if you parked outside our main lot. Such a deal!

In coming weeks, you will see our YRUU helping in our effort with signs at key locations. We also will need volunteers each Sunday to help them direct traffic.

If you would be willing to help out with this effort once in awhile, please contact me. Thank you for your help in this matter.

In Fellowship, John Sherman

UUFSD DREAMCATCHERS

The Dream Catchers are the UUFSD strategic planning team, commissioned by the Fellowship Board. The team will meet during the 2010-2011 church year. Each month we will have a short update for the Fellowship in the newsletter. This month we offer answers to some Frequently Asked Questions.

1. Why are we starting a strategic planning effort?

UUFSD is at a significant stage in its congregational development. We now have a settled minister and there are expanding spiritual needs within the membership and in the larger community. The size of the congregation is approaching a program-size church; we are outgrowing the pastoral-size model. At this point in our Fellowship, there are important conversations that we need to have in order to develop a framework for growth. This will enable us to make better choices as we move forward in building our beloved community.

2. How will this process take into account past strategic planning in the Fellowship?

We intend to review past plans and listen to the memory of those who engaged in past planning efforts. If anyone has documentation from such past efforts, please contact the Committee or Patricia so we can learn from you. We also note that we are at a different place and time from when these past efforts took place and the Dreamcatchers' effort is focused on where we are going.

3. Who's on the committee and how were they selected?

The committee members were appointed by the Fellowship Board, and include **Kim Kinzie, Kathryn Sturch, Lisa Shaffer**, and three other members whose participation has not yet been finalized. They were selected according to guidelines from the book *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations*, by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann. This book will be an important resource throughout the planning process.

4. How will the congregation know what's going on?

The process will include congregational input through a needs assessment; development of a mission statement; articulation of our vision; and creation of objectives, goals, and recommendations to enable us to fulfill that vision. The team's work will be shared at each stage with the Fellowship, and eventually through the Board it will go to the congregation for approval. The Dreamcatchers will provide regular updates through the Newsletter, announcements, small group meetings, and public forums as we move forward.

5. How can we support the effort?

You can recognize that there is no perfect plan nor a perfect planning process. Join us in love on this journey by engaging in the conversation as we explore the fundamental questions: Who are we? What have we been called to do? What is our neighborhood and what is the context within which we exist? Understand that from these conversations, we expect to uncover disagreement and competing preferences, and then work to develop consensus that will guide our future. The planning process will help define how that future compares to today's reality.