# DIALOGUE

### **QUARTERLY MAGAZINE**

A publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito

Inspired by our UU principles, we are a vibrant, intentionally diverse congregation that models and promotes both locally and globally: love, spiritual growth, service, right relations and sustainable living.

# HAPPENINGS AT UUFSD



#### UUFSD Organic Garden

On Sunday, October 14th, there was a short ritual for the planting of the Autumn seeds in our Fellowship community garden. Members helped plant and cover the seeds with the life-giving organic UUFSD soil.



#### Involvement Fair

On Sunday, October 21 we had our annual Involvement Fair in which all committees and groups informed the members of the different opportunities to volunteer at the Fellowship



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Thirty Days of Love "Saving People's Lives. Making a Difference."

A UUFSD SAC IMMIGRATION REFORM PROJECT



# Dia de Los Muertos





#### Laughs for Hope Fundraiser

Over 150 people were in attendance at the "Laughs for Hope Improv" fundraiser. There were performances by four San Diego Improv groups and all proceeds were donated to Hope Collage in support of the Suthasinee Noi-in Orphanage (or 'Home Hug Orphanage'). Combined with the donations received at the October Generosity Sunday, the total amount raised for the orphanage was \$6074, a great show of generosity by our community.



# Fall Art Fair Dining for Dollars

Well, we've done it again!!!! The Art Fair/Dining for Dollars fundraiser was a huge success. Over \$6000.00 was collected through the sales of art, jewelry, dining events, and the sale of odds and ends.



#### Drum Circle, Sunday, November 18, 2013

The Drum Circle had 32 attendees. It was a very successful. Christine Stevens brought a spiritual component that resonated with the attendees. In addition to learning different drum strokes, we learned simple chants, and those who were interested incorporated movement into their rhythm. Ten UUFSD members and 22 people from the community attended ,so our publicizing in the community worked well.



Thanksgiving Dinner, Thursday, November 22, 2012
Thank you to the wonderful Joy Committee for a fantastic feast.





Music Sunday, December 2, 2012



The Wisdom of Broadway







434 Backpacks of food and 96 Boxes of food prepared on December 11, at the SD Food Bank



Christmas Eve Service





### A Moment of Reflection The Newtown, CT Massacre

Letter to the UUFSD congregation from Rev. David A. Miller, Friday, December 14, 2012

#### Dear UUFSD.

As I sit now trying to write this weekend's sermon on happiness, watching the television coverage and awaiting the inevitable debate on gun violence that never seems to move toward a solution, I can't help but think of the pain that will ripple out into the world from each and every story associated with this horror. I also cannot let go of how each one of these events brings a collective pain to the soul of the human condition. I never ever want to become calloused to this kind of pain. I never want it to be just another name of a place added to the list of unspeakable tragedies. And I admit that I am always struck by my own inability to express my horror with this type of horrible event and not feel guilty acknowledging that some type of similar horror happened perhaps yesterday in Syria or some other place replete with senseless violence.

I believe that if this is to change it will only come through the constant vigilance of acts of radical engagement that address fear, brokenness and hyper-individualism. Engagement grounded in our collective well-being and firmly supported by love. I can't help but believe that we rise or fall together. I run thin on the metaphors of how the people affected by today's shooting are in my thoughts and broken heart, but they are. We all care, we are all shocked, we are all saddened and horrified. Let us all keep doing something about it. I love you all.

Rev. David

# UUFSD Call to Action

In response to an email from Rev David, a group of our members met December 20th to talk about the Newtown tragedy. A key point made again and again during the discussion was that now is the time for action. "We have reached the tipping point" one member said. Another said that we need "good, fast, local action". When a massacre happened in Australia, the entire country was emotionally involved and a ban was put into place within weeks. A member said she was moved by the positive actions by the community of Newtown. Their motto is "Lead by love", which is so similar to our UUA's "Standing on the Side of Love". While expressing the need to move quickly, the group felt we need to be thoughtful about the stand we take. Basically, it is a systemic change that is needed, a systemic change like the one brought about by MADD. But we don't want it to take a generation to bring about the change.

Some of the other ideas expressed were:

- Even politicians are human. Some will change and vote against large capacity guns.
- The work of reforming gun laws is a way to honor those who died at Newtown.
- The gun show at the Fairgrounds could be a beginning point. There are four gun shows a year there.
- If we can ban plastic bags, we can surely get gun laws changed.
- This is a social action the whole congregation can get behind.
- We want to work with other like-minded groups in our area. We need to learn what others are doing.
- Is there a gun buy-back program in North County? Could we support those programs with a Generosity Sunday?

At the end of the meeting, Wenda Alvarez, Lynne Talley and Pamela Parker volunteered to get things started. They will meet with our Social Action Committee, talk with Dave Roberts, our County Supervisor and with Karen Berger (who has been working on the gun show issue.)

#### From the UUFSD Wednesday Morning Discussion Group (January 2, 2013)

IDEAS ABOUT GUN CONTROL: Which do you agree with?

- 1. The Second Amendment is our protection against tyranny. Our forefathers knew exactly what they were doing when they insisted on this amendment.
- 2. The Second Amendment should be nullified. No one but the police should be allowed to carry guns.
- 3. Hand guns or hunting rifles were what the early settlers had and what was meant by the Second Amendment.
- 4. Every gun owner should be required to serve in a state or national guard unit as the 2nd Amendment says.
- 5. Hand guns are okay. Only semi-automatic or automatic weapons should be prohibited.
- 6. Guns should be prohibited in or around schools, parks, playgrounds, malls, or public buildings of any kind. Such places should be guarded only by police.
- 7. Like prohibition gun control laws would be unenforceable; would only lead to a black market.
- 8. Guns should be licensed like automobiles and owners should be required to insure against any damage caused by their guns.

### Voices of our Community

#### Irv Himelblau

I find it hard to live in two worlds, one of joy for the holiday season and one of sorrow for the victims of Newtown, Ct. We celebrate life and at the same time mourn for victims. This is a moment in the life of our beloved congregation that calls us to action. We have a moral obligation to act, to lead. Our voices for a kinder, more just society must be heard; we must not let this tragedy disappear from our consciousness and become memories.

#### Monique Kunewalder

"WE ARE COMMITTED TO TAKE ACTION IN SOLANA BEACH AND DEAL THROUGH LOVE "

#### Leslie Gomez

I married into a gun ownership. Primary gun was an heirloom passed down from fathers to son. It is a military issue 45. It will not be passed down to the next generation. My brother is getting a gun safe this Christmas from me. Our guns are locked in a safe. I have multiple friends that own guns. One of these friends instructs youth in gun safety at a local shooting range. My point is that it is possible to be a responsible gun owner. The real need is to insure that those with guns can maintain control of their weapons. I don't ever see a time that weapons will be abolished or that people won't continue to have hate, despair, or insecurity.

#### John Atcheson

We came together on Thursday to try to replace despair with hope, hopelessness with action. We left resolved to make a difference.

#### Livia Walsh

I am typically an optimistic and hopeful person who trusts the goodness in humanity. The tragedy in Newtown challenged me at so many levels and I found myself truly in a state of despair which is different than normal grief. The despair and loss of hope lasted about a week and was partially restored when I read something Rabbi Michael Lerner had written and spoke about at a lecture I attended several years ago. "Energy always flows either toward hope, community, love, generosity, mutual recognition and spiritual aliveness; or, it flows towards despair, cynicism, fear that there is not enough, paranoia about the intentions of others and a desire to control." I believe change begins within the heart and mind of the individual and, as a result, the collective. I know I/we can make a difference on this issue by being mindful each day in choosing hope, community, love, etc., as our guideline to support that change.

# Welcome New Members



Leslie Uke



Alana Schuler and Bob Quick



Maria Angelella

Type to enter text



Elke Wetekam



Mallori Bernstein Meza Ezra, Alec & Conner



Wendie Old & Granddaughter Ariana



Barbara Jones



Pam & Rich Franzwa & Daughter Lily



Susan Miller & Daughter Daria



Liz Barr & Jeff Harris

Thirty Days of Love "Saving People's Lives. Making a Difference."

January 20 to February 10

A UUFSD SAC IMMIGRATION REFORM PROJECT

# Graying Gracefully

Presented by Rev. Dr. Tom Owen-Towle Saturday, January 12, 2013 - 8:30 - 3:00

A workshop for senior women and men who wish to balance solitude and quest, joy and service, surrender and legacy as we navigate the final laps of our life-journey. There will be a presentation, discussion, and dyadic sharing on the rich themes of finishing life well.



The Rev. Dr. Tom Owen-Towle has completed 45 years of settled Unitarian Universalist ministry and is currently conducting workshops on personal and spiritual growth. He is a prolific author and his most recent book is entitled HOMESTRETCH: THE ART OF FINISHING LIFE WELL.

- Where: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito, 1360 Solana Dr., Solana Beach, CA 92075 858-755-9225
- Registration Required. Fee \$25.00. Registration form available at: uufsd.org/2012/12/03/jan-12-graying-gracefully/ and in the Core Area at UUFSD
- · Coordinator: Livia Walsh mindfulnessmeditation@uufsd.org
- · Morning refreshments and water/coffee/tea provided. Bring your own sack lunch.



# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito Strategic Planning Continues

Building a plan to model and promote love, spiritual growth, service, right relations and sustainable living.

In 2010 we embarked on an effort to develop a new strategic plan for the Fellowship. It's UUFSD's first Strategic Plan in more than a dozen years. The process has been long, careful, and inclusive.

#### Where We've Been

In 2010, we launched our "Dreamcatcher" process. A dedicated team of UUs embarked on an inclusive process engaging members in small group meetings to define their hopes and dreams for the Fellowship. The resulting thoughts, ideas, surveys and demographic research serve as an assessment and as an input component – an important feature of strategic plan development.

After a great deal of hard work by the Dreamcatcher team and congregation members, the vision statement below evolved and was subsequently approved by the Board.

#### Vision

Inspired by our UU principles, we are a vibrant, intentionally diverse congregation that models and promotes both locally and globally: love, spiritual growth, service, right relations and sustainable living.

#### Where We Are

Vision statements serve as a roadmap, but they are not an end in themselves. There is an old proverb that says, "A vision without a plan is just a dream. A plan without a vision is just drudgery. But a vision with a plan can change the world."

A Strategic Planning Task Force was organized in May, 2012, around the interest areas defined by the Dreamcatcher process and existing Fellowship committees. Task Force members have been working to translate the Dreamcatcher vision and congregational input into a plan with goals and objectives to support community engagement, growth and infrastructure improvements.

Strategic Planning Task Force Members

Wenda Alvarez Chris Lee

John Atcheson Rev. David Miller

Phil Comer John Sherman, Board Liaison

Brynn Craffey Ken Schultz
Alison Crotty Clint Stoddard
Susan Hahm Kathryn Sturch
Walter Kanzler Kevin West

Anyone who has ever been through a strategic planning process knows how difficult it can be to translate an amorphous dream into a set of actions. Wenda Alvarez agreed to take on the task of coordinating the effort (herding the cats).

The goals and objectives being drafted are rooted in UUFSD members' hopes and challenges with input facilitated by the Dreamcatcher process; a review of the UUFSD operational environment outlined in the January 2012 Assessment prepared by UUA consultant Mary Gleason; and historical perspective from prior congregational surveys.

#### Where We're Going

Over the next few weeks, the SPTF will polish its rough drafts for core planning areas. Our goal is to have a Strategic Plan ready to present to the congregation for a formal vote in spring. To reach that goal, we need to complete the following activities.

- Present Draft 1 to the Board for preliminary feedback.
- Present Draft 2 to Congregation for feedback.
- Present Draft 3 to the Board for review and approval.
- Submit Strategic Plan to the Congregation for approval (up or down vote).

This is an ambitious schedule, and the Task Force is more interested in getting it right than getting it fast. It is achievable with your help.

#### What You Can Do

We are striving to be the change we want to see in the world. You can help. We urge you to contact a Task Force member, watch for more posts and provide feedback.

No plan is perfect. Not everything everyone wants can get addressed in a Strategic Plan. This is a time to come together as a Fellowship – to work as a community of purpose, capable of nurturing those within and making a difference in the world.



# UUA-Principles of Humane Immigration Reform

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is a signatory to the Interfaith Immigration Coalition's (IIC'S) "Interfaith Platform on Humane Immigration Reform." We affirm that all immigration policy reform should:

- Uphold family unity as a priority of all immigration policies.
- Create a process for undocumented immigrants to earn their legal status and eventual citizenship
- Protect Workers and provide efficient channels of entry for new migrant workers
- Facilitate immigration integration
- Restore due process protections and reform detention policies
- Align the enforcement of immigration laws with humanitarian values

# NATIONAL STANDING ON THE SIDE OF MONTH







Thirty Days of Love

"Saving People's Lives-Making a Difference."

January 19-February 10, 2013 A UUFSD SAC IMMIGRATION REFORM PROJECT

Solidarity with Immigration Issues: The UUFSD response to the inequity of current laws regarding undocumented workers and others living in our communities. an intergenerational program.

Generosity Sunday: January 20, 2013
Offering to the Border Angels - Angeles de la Frontera.

#### Projects for youth:

#### Grades 1-7:

 Painting chalices to place in the Holtville Cemetery for the 10,000 unidentified people who died crossing the border.

#### Grades 7-12:

- Field trips to border and Holtville Cemetery.
- · Water drop offs at border crossings.

#### Intergenerational:

 Parents/Children visit to the Holtville Cemetery to place painted chalices as gravestones.

#### **Adult Programs:**

- · Monthly water drop offs at the border.
- Assistance to day laborers.
- Workshops on Immigration issues.
- Movie Nights showing films related to the issue.
- · Petitions for Immigration Reform.
- · Participation in county wide events.
- Weekly "Courage Love" Awards
- Field trip to Friendship Park San Diego/Tijuana border



### SOCIAL ACTION IMMIGRATION FORUM, SUNDAY, JAN 20, 11:30 A.M.

# GUEST SPEAKER: ENRIQUE MORONES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BORDER ANGELS Border Angels - Border Realities - Immigration Today

Whether you believe in immigration reform or not, Mexicans are dying by the thousands trying to cross the U.S. border in the southwest, seeking a better way of life. Enrique Morones is the founder and executive director of the San Diego nonprofit Border Angels. The all-volunteer group places water in the desert in places where immigrants are likely to try to cross. Border Angels provides free legal advice for immigrants facing deportation and runs community awareness and education programs. Morones has met with President Barack Obama, appeared on CNN and debated Maricopa (Az.) County Sheriff Joe Arpaio; he also has led several cross-country marches, including one this past summer, to dramatize the need for comprehensive federal immigration reform.

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# 19th Posadas Sin Fronteras, December 8, 2012 San Diego/Tijuana Border - Standing on the Side of Love

All the worlds great religions recognize hospitality for the stranger as a sign of mature faith. La Posada is a reenactment of the Bible story of Mary and Joseph who, while sojourners in Bethlehem, were forced to seek shelter on the night of Jesus' birth. In our time, when the idea of welcoming the stranger --and immigrants themselves--are so much under attack, our binational celebration takes on added significance. During this Posada Without Borders, we join with our friends from Tijuana as brothers and sisters in one human family.



Nancy & Roger Harmon striking up a friendship



Communicating

Border wall extending into the Pacific Ocean





Bi-National Vegetable Garden



Enrique Morones, Executive Director, Border Angels







Kathy Faller and 8 students from University of San Diego, on the Mexican side of the border. The students were involved in a community project



Praying for change



Kathy Faller through the wall



Irv Himelblau talking to







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# GETTING TO KNOW YOU



### ROGER DOEBKE UP CLOSE

Interview by M.B. Taylor

At a time when many of his cohorts are comfortably retired, Roger Doebke is building a new, spiritual career.

Most the year, you'll find Roger hard at work pursuing a theology degree. This means hours of research, reading, and study, punctuated by trips to the Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago. That's where he's finishing his third year of intensive studies for a Master of Arts in Religion with a concentration in theology.

Summers are even busier. Instead of a relaxing tropical vacation, he and his wife Judy head to the Chautauqua Institution in New York. There Roger launches into committee meetings, training sessions, lectures, and planning, all with the goal of fostering an inclusive religious community at Chautauqua.

Roger's experiences at the Chautauqua Institution over the last eight years greatly influenced his current educational path. Chautauqua was founded nearly 140 years ago as a place to train Sunday School teachers. It has evolved into a family summer camp with a broad emphasis on education, recreation and the arts, as well as religion.

It was a speech Roger heard while at Chautauqua that sparked his interest in theology. "Rabbi Irwin Kula gave a lecture one afternoon on his view of multiple truths, about how each person could possess his or her own truth – whatever that may be – and still be in community," Roger explains. In other words, "Instead of society constructing a theology for you, you could construct your own theology."

At the time, Roger was not an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Chautauqua. But after hearing Kula speak, Roger says, "The connection was made. It was just kind of an 'Ah-ha!' moment." He began working with the fellowship, eventually becoming a trustee and committee chairman. His efforts included fund-raising, investments, and ministry feedback.

The next important moment came when Roger heard Dr. Lee Barker speak at a UU Sunday service at Chautauqua. Barker is the president of Meadville-Lombard, which is a private Unitarian Universalist seminary. "He talked about how they wanted to develop a program to train people who wanted to work on the 'other side' of the church threshold," says Roger: "It sounded like a perfect fit."

Going back to school some 50 years after graduating college isn't easy. "To begin with it was a little disconcerting, trying to get into the swing of it," Roger admits. "But it's been an amazing, interesting trip. Every day has been rewarding in my studies there."

Roger does most of his coursework from his home in Carlsbad. Every three months he returns to Chicago for three weeks of daily classes, where students and the professors explore how the class materials fit into a broader concept.

At home, Roger has the benefit of mentoring from Rev. David Miller. "A couple of years ago he volunteered to be a mentor for me," says Roger. "We have lunch together, and we talk about the challenges – not only the challenges of seminary but the whole UU challenge."

During his summer break from school, Roger dedicates his time to the UU Denominational House at Chautauqua. The new UU Denominational House opened four summers ago, 40 years after the previous house was closed for financial reasons. Roger and other members are trying to build connections with congregations outside Chautauqua, as well as to create an award program for special Meadville ministerial students.

In addition, Roger has been working with the Chautauqua Institute's Department of Religion on fostering open and constructive dialogue between people of all religions. Most recently, he partnered with a few other Chautauquans of different faiths to develop "Chautauqua Dialogues." They host weekly group discussions about Chautauqua's religious-themed lectures, giving particular emphasis to the use of respectful dialogue to bridge the gaps between religious ideas. Roger says their program attracted more than 600 participants last year; they hope to accommodate even more this summer.

From the Chautauqua Dialogues, Roger and his fellow organizers hope to create a training program for dialogue facilitators. The idea is for program graduates to "go home to their communities and start similar kinds of programs," Roger explains. "That's the real way to expand it."

Despite all of Roger's commitments, he still finds time for UUFSD. You're most likely to catch him at the Sunday morning discussion group. He says the group helped solidify his connection to the Fellowship. "Being involved and interested in dialogue, I started coming to the discussion groups. That was kind of the portal (into the Fellowship) for me," says Roger. His only regret, he adds, is that he can't participate more until he finishes his thesis.

As for his career after graduation, Roger is keeping his options open. "Several of my mentors have said: 'Don't get too fixed on what that place is;' Roger says, "Because you never know; you might walk by some open doors that you wish you would have gone through."

#### Good News

A nice story was posted on Reddit about a friendship between a young shop woman and a homeless veteran who hangs out near where she works. She received a gift from him the other day and shared the story.

"Over the past few months we have become friends... On certain days we eat lunch or have snacks together. Tony tells me about his war stories, loved ones, and who should win the Super Bowl. I tell Tony about my problems, my loved ones and how I don't really care who should win the Super Bowl.

"This past month has been a one of the hardest ones to get through in my life, and at times there really seemed as if there wouldn't be solace. Tony was there for me, listened each day as things got worse and pushed me to move forward and continue working toward my ambitions and dreams."

"I was walking outside still feeling sorry for myself listening to self-loathing music when I felt a tap on the shoulder. It was Tony. He looked at me more seriously than he usually did and said he had something for me. From his army jacket pocket he pulled out a watch head. Tony took my hand and gently placed the broken antique in my palm."

"He said to me, I don't have much but I wanted you to know that you have done what many others would not by simply being my friend." As Tony walked away, I started to cry. I realized at that moment: when you reach out and do something kind for someone less fortunate, you get back not only what you gave but infinitely more."

# GENEROSITY SUNDAYS

October Generosity Sunday
Hope Collage: \$2400.00



The October Generosity Sunday offering was donated to Hope Collage in support of the Suthasinee Noi-in Orphanage (or 'Home Hug Orphanage'). The orphanage is nestled in the small Northeastern town of Yasothon, Thailand. In addition to the Generosity Sunday offering the Social Action Committee and the Young Adult Group sponsored a fundraiser concert which raised \$3674.00 for the Hope Collage for a total of \$6074.00. One hundred percent of the proceeds went to the Orphanage.

## November Generosity Sunday NAMI: \$991.00



The National Alliance of Mental Illness was the recipient of the October Generosity Sunday. NAMI North Coastal serves the cities and communities of the north coastal region of San Diego County from Del Mar to Oceanside and east to Vista and Rancho Santa Fe. The Fellowship raised \$991.00 for NAMI.

# December Generosity Sunday: Casas de Luz: \$2585.00



Casas de Luz - Homes of Light, is an ongoing UUFSD Social Action program that brings volunteers together with families in need to build houses in Mexico. The families selected for a home build have the rights to the land, a minimum of three children, and a weekly income of less than \$100.

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# BEHIND THE SCENES UUFSD Nominating Committee

By Steve Bartram

Article V, Section 1 of the UUFSD by-laws states that officers and members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting that is held in January of each year. Further, Articles VI and VII direct the Nominating Committee to request nominations from voting members and to propose a slate of nominations to the fellowship. This is an open and active process, and we hope the nominations committee has kept its promise about keeping you informed of our search for nominations in order to fill these seats with the most qualified members. Committee members have been active and available to fellowship members for the past 12 weeks, for consultation, clarification of the nominating procedure, and to receive nominations for Directors.

Members of the Nominating Committee



Steve Bartram

In accordance with the by-laws, the nominating committee submits the following members for your vote at the January 13 Congregational Meeting.

#### For President of the Congregation: John Atcheson



**John Atcheson** (for President of the Board of Directors) became a member of the UUFSD shortly after moving to San Diego in 2010. He was attracted to Unitarian Universalism for his children more than two decades ago, but stayed for himself. At UUFSD he serves on the Board of Directors, is a member of the Worship Committee, and he writes for the Quarterly magazine.

In addition, he is on the Fellowship's strategic planning Task Force, and he is a member andformer chair of the Joy Committee. He serves as a worship associate,

delivered the first Living Our Faith. address, and he has done three guest sermons. He and his wife, Linda Pratt, live in Rancho Bernardo. John retired from 36 years in the environmental field. He is currently team teaching an Environmental Economics Course at UCSD, writing a novel centered on climate change, and writing for CommonDreams and Climate Progress.



Alejandra Hoffman-Chan

#### For Vice President of the Congregation: Sarah Wright



Sarah Wright (nominated for Vice President of the Board) has been a member of UUFSD and a UU since January of 2010 (although she has probably been an unidentified UU her entire life). After joining UUFSD, she worked on launching the young adult group, joined the choir, helped develop and implement the new UUFSD website, and formed and chairs the new UUFSD Communications Committee. Over the years Sarah has had a number of careers including stints as a geologist,

software developer, aerospace engineer, project manager, corporate executive, and executive director of a non profit. Her current passion is improving the lives of people affected by attention disorders. One of the nation's leading ADHD coaches and a founding member of the ADHD Coaches Organization, she is a leader in the growing ADHD Awareness movement. She lives in Encinitas with her husband Chris.



Caroline DeMar

#### Nominees for the Board of Directors:



Beverly Majors (nominated for Board membership) has been a member of Unitarian Universal congregations since about 1973. In 2004 she relocated to Carlsbad from Poway and joined UUFSD in 2008. In 1987 she arrived from Eugene Oregon after completing her degree inaccounting which she earned in her 40's. She has held positions as a Tax Accountant, Accounting Manager, and then followed as the controller for Quantum Magnetics. She joined her husband law firm in 1996 as Accounting Manager and retired from that firm in 2007. She is an active at UUFSD in the New Members Committee, the Finance Committee, and lends her voice to the Choir. This blend has given her a grand sense of our fellowship.

**Bev Majors** 



Maria Penny (nominated for Board Member) joined UUFSD in 2009. She was a UU member in the 60's and 70's in Maryland and is happy to be active in a UU community again. Maria was a high school physics and math teacher early in her work life. For the last 23 years before retiring in 2004, she was a scientific programmer working for a defense contractor, a legal consulting firm and a non-profit investigating highway safety issues. At UUFSD, she is a member of the Finance Committee. She often makes lunch for the Saturday B&G work parties and has assisted the Stewardship Committee by organizing the food at the May Auction and at the November Art Fair. She participates in the Sunday morning discussion group, the first Wednesday discussion group, the book club and the Women of the World. When not involved in UUFSD activities, she works on political campaigns and has done office work for the San Diego County Democratic Party.

**Maria Penny** 

The Nominating Committee completed its process as of November 1, 2012. Further nominations can be accepted in two ways: from the floor during the congregational meeting with consent of the nominee and in writing no later than two weeks prior to the election. That means no matter who the nominating committee submits for consideration, nominations can come from you after we have completed our work.

The Nominating Committee has striven to consider all aspects of every nominee and our process is based on complete openness and objectivity. I joined the Nominating Committee with a renewed sense of optimism for accomplishing what is best for our community through an open nominating process. We welcome your participation in this process to help us continue to recommend the best people for the job of leading our community.

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