

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.

“Community” Issue



HAPPENINGS



Water Ceremony 2013

The UUFSD congregation returned from summer vacations with renewed energies. The “Water Ceremony” represents the coming together as a community to celebrate our experiences and how those experiences enriched our lives.

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SAC Retreat, Sat, Oct. 19

Members and friends attended the Social Justice Retreat on Saturday, October 19. Members indicated a desire to build on our work as an engine of social change: to identify local and global opportunities and collaborate with others (other churches, schools, nonprofits).

*Thanks to
Charles Dobson
M.B. Taylor
Tiffany Fox
Judith Barney
for making this happen*



Dia de los Muertos, Sunday, November 3



Dining, Dancing & Doing for Dollars November 10 & 17

2013 FALL FUNDRAISER

Our annual "Dining, Dancing and Doing for \$\$ took place on November 10 and 17. Dinners, services, and a variety of activities were auctioned off. A record \$8,780 was raised. Thanks to all who offered and all who bid.



Art Fair 2013 - November 17

New to the Art Fair this year were exquisite beaded earrings and bracelets by Jill Ballard, and unique 'architectural' ceramics by Pete diGirolamo. Returning artists were Steve Bartram (photography), Greg Brown (cyanotypes, oils), Karen Eckhart (nature-inspired silver jewelry), Betsy Gilpin (scarves, jewelry, watercolors), Alisa Guralnick and Mom (reusable gift bags and knitted potholders), Roger Harmon (photography, photo cards), Linda Luisi (Trompe l'Oeil murals), and Niel Lynch (Photography). A record \$2007.00 was raised.



Thankschanuking Potluck Dinner, November 28



Chanukah on Thanksgiving day won't happen again for over 7000. years. We had 80 guests, We had 2 turkeys with ALL the trimmings which were brought by those attending. We had families with kids, elderly and those in between joining the celebration. We lit the first candle of the Menorah. A wonderful day of sharing community.

Winter Solstice Service, December 22



Invocation of the four directions, opening the circle, responsive readings, and drumming and merry music making, marked this Winter Solstice celebration. Helen Coyne and Vicki Morgan, from the San Diego Women's Drum Circle, led the celebration of the Winter Solstice.



Christmas Eve Services, December 24

This year the Fellowship held two Christmas Eve Services to accommodate the increased attendance. There was wonderful music provided by the UUFSD band and the children's choir. Over 250 members, friends and relatives were in attendance. A Christmas cookie communion took place between the two services. The attendees were treated to a variety of holiday cookies and hot cocoa, tea and coffee.



SAC Day Laborer's Lunch Program - Oct/Nov/Dec

Over 50 lunches were prepared and distributed each month.

Saturday, October 5: participants: Nancy and Roger Harmon, Robin Sales, Alejandra Hoffman-Chen and Renae Grieg.

Saturday, November 2: participants: Nancy Harmon, Mary Cory, Sharon Pearah, Ethan Pearah, Paul Schwartz, Livia Walsh and Irv Himelblau

Saturday, December 7: participants: Renae Greig, Bev Majors, John Drummund, Mary Cory and Irv Himelblau.

In Celebration



John and Judy Sherman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and renewed their vows, on September 1, in the company of family and friends.



On September 11, 2013, Pamela M. Parker, a UUFSD member for 12 years, took her oath as a new judge of the Superior Court of San Diego County. Governor Jerry Brown announced her appointment on August 29, 2013, fulfilling Pamela's long-held professional dream.



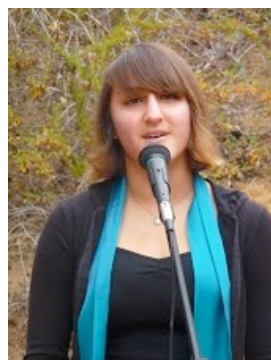
Cameron Pernia has been accepted into the PhD program at the Sanford-Burnham Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and started classes this fall. Sanford - Burnham is a non-profit research institute dedicated to performing research in the areas of cancer, neuro-degeneration, diabetes, and infectious diseases, as well as developing innovative capabilities in stem cell research and drug discovery. Cameron is interested in research focused on central nervous system disorders, utilizing stem cell tools to elucidate how changes in the molecular biology of the brain result in complex changes in behavior and cognition.



Ted & Katie Wheeler celebrated their 53th wedding anniversary with friends and family. Everyone was treated to music and songs provided by "Island Fever," featuring steel pans (*steel drums from Trinidad*), hot dance rhythms, keyboard, bass & guitar licks, cool sax & flute, & sweet vocal harmonies. Wonderful vibes for a wonderful celebration.

***Laila Al-Shamma**, was named the *Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) 2013 Student Advocate of the Year*,**

"**Laila is an inspiring** example of how students can positively change their school community for generations to come," said Dr. Eliza Byard, GLSEN's Executive Director. "Laila has demonstrated outstanding leadership at her school and community, which is precisely what we seek to honor in the GLSEN Student Advocate of the Year."



"I'm so honored to represent GLSEN as its Student Advocate of the Year," said honoree Laila Al-Shamma. "This award inspires me and my peers to keep moving forward and help others create safe schools for all LGBTQ youth. Thank you to GLSEN for the encouragement and support you give to students like me across the country."

***Laila Al-Shamma, a YRUU member, will "Bridge" in 2014.**

(The Story of the Wall continued from page 5)

When everything was ready, John Shannon mixed the first layer of white concrete, which I poured gently into the cavity, covering every bit of sand until none was left exposed. John then mixed another batch of ordinary, gray common concrete, which was cheaper and stronger to pour over the white material to the level top of the form. Reinforcing steel rod was laid in strategically in the wet concrete to give it tensile strength. The mosaic was laid in last. Several days later with the help of several members, we tilted up the piece and braced it. I then hosed off the excess sand not bonded to the concrete and the finished first section was done.

When the members saw the first finished piece on Sunday we had many more volunteers, which speeded up the construction. My recollection is that we finished the job in two weeks (forgive my memory if there was another week or two involved).

When all the pieces were cast, tilted upright, and ready to be positioned, Bill Smith, Dorothea Smith's husband brought up a skip loader and placed all the panels in place in front of the hard pan dirt hill where it stands today. I welded long lengths of 2 inch pipe from piece to piece to exposed cleats which were cast into each form to stabilize and align the wall. Bill then dumped two feet of pea gravel behind the entire new wall to aid in filtering the water which would run out of the weep holes at the bottom.

I guess we did something right, because the wall has been in place for 47 years. I don't think we ever got a permit. *Sh! Don't tell anyone.*

Community

This month the theme for the Quarterly Magazine is Community. Like everything in life, we can find ourselves reflecting on just what that means. Does it mean the neighborhood in which we live? Does it mean the religious congregation that we attend? Does it mean the geographic area where all these things reside? Does it mean all of this and more? So often I hear the craving for community rise to the surface when speaking with people about their reason for coming to UUFSD. What I have come to understand when hearing this is that people are craving connection, to be seen for who they really are, to see others honestly through the haze of our all of our societal pressures. This connection is often about how to love and be loved and have a place to hear, feel and act on our deepest desires for how we would like the world to be.



Rev. David Miller

All that is a lot to project onto a simple concept or word but like most things in this world, when it comes to human feelings and cravings for a more loving world, there can be multiple layers of complexity. So welcome to this issue on Community and as you read through it, I invite you to reflect on what your concept for community is, not the easy concept, the one that you can state without thinking, but perhaps the more complex concept, the one that churns a little more deeply in your heart. Perhaps someday you will share that somewhere in this community, for I always believe we grow more at the edges of our comfort and that we grow more in our own wholeness when doing that in relation with each other.



C O M M U N I T Y



Roger Doebke

We all yearn for more connection, deeper relationships and a broader associated life as evidenced by the fact that many congregants give, as their primary reason for belonging to the Fellowship, the desire to be with like minded people. I experienced another example of the yearning for fellowship at the initial meeting of my Spiritual Growth Circle this year. Many of the participants expressed a desire to get to know other members of the Fellowship as their main reason for attending -- a yearning for connection and relationship rooted in our need for love, which shows how inherently social we humans are.

The known evolutionary history of humankind is founded in the formation of groups. Initially people gathered together for purposes of hunting, gathering and safety, which in many ways is how groups are fashioned today even on the Internet. The hunting may be in the form of shopping or online dating, the gathering may be “likes” on Facebook and the safety may be in finding affirmation for one’s opinions. But the concept is the same as it always has been: we develop as individuals through social experience and activity.

It is only through social interaction that we all find space to present and realize our own uniqueness for creative expression - unless we find ourselves perfect company and can manage to carry on both sides of a conversation. Through group affiliation we act and are acted upon as we adapt to different social environments but, most importantly, in the process we both affect and are affected by others. We are enormously influenced by the people around us. When we engage with others we become participants in a community standing in reciprocal relationship to one another. We do not need to possess equal power, class, or status to experience each other and provide opportunities for dialogue. Martin Buber, the Austrian-born Israeli Jewish philosopher, coined the German language term “das Zwischenmenschliche” meaning “what is between person and person” to describe genuine community.

Emotional communication evokes complementary and reciprocal emotions in others. As a kid we all remember someone suggesting that “you go first” when our friends were thinking about taking a risk, to which we would respond, “no, you go first.” But engaging in community encompasses manageable risk and the essence of community is a willingness to take the risk to engage the “other.” Frequently, we don’t put ourselves “out there” because we have a fear that is not founded in reality. Yes, I know sometimes at the coffee hour it seems that individual small groups have formed where everyone knows everyone else and that creates a natural boundary difficult to consider crossing, but as it was once said, “getting out of bed in the morning involves risk.” Thus, the first rule of community is to take the risk of engaging one another. It all begins with just two people forming a relationship.

The life of any community consists of an ongoing process of fitting together the activities of its members in relation to one another and is never impersonal. We are not observers of the play of life; we are the actors on the stage. We see each other, speak to each other and react to the other's plight, hurt and shame. Through this process something important happens, we learn about ourselves and one another. In the face of the actions of others we approve or oppose plans; we emulate some behaviors and practice or recognize why others are inappropriate for us; we see how situations are handled and think about how we would handle them. What happens in the course of our interactions within community are symbolic of the principles we attest to, and subscribe to, as a guide for our personal moral and ethical standard.

I quoted Martin Buber earlier, author of *I and Thou*, a classic book on relationships: His view of the great community was not one of a union of like-minded people, but of a genuine gathering together of people of similar or complementary natures and also of differing minds: "the community of otherness" living in unity, a community "consisting of people who ... have both mutual access to one another and are ready for one another." It would not be natural to imagine managing a relationship with two hundred Fellowship members but while those groups of congenial people at the coffee hour may seem a challenge to approach, the idea of engaging just one "other" to form community *is* within the capability of each of us. Our adage going forward could be "Real life begins with two." Take a Risk!

What we have to say

**NEW
MEMBERS**

**Britta & Jed
Mularski**



What spurred your need to find a progressive faith community?

We were looking for a community of like-minded individuals.

At what point in your life did this happen?

After settling into our careers and establishing permanent residence in North County

What does the UUFSD Community mean to you? What has it brought to your life?

It means a new physical and spiritual home in which to develop long lasting networks, community, relationships.

What do you think you may add to the life of this community?

We hope to enrich the community by being involved in activities and providing lots of positive vibes.

In what ways does UUFSD fulfill any needs you have for community?

It's a spiritual and physical home where we can always count on smiling faces, a sympathetic ear, thoughtful conversations. All of this is available each Sunday, "Wonderful Wednesday", and Young Adult "First Sunday," and more. We experience this sense of community with each interaction with fellow members.

**Katherine & David
Buffington**



What spurred your need to find a progressive faith community?

The birth of our son. After Rowan was born, I read a book called Parenting Beyond Belief, and it suggested joining a UU church as a way of finding a like-minded community. Both David and I agreed to give it a try after looking at UUFSD's website. We were looking for a community where we were comfortable discussing our spiritual beliefs with others, as well as a place where we felt Rowan would be given the space to make his own decisions about his religious beliefs.

At what point in your life did this happen?

Well, the answer to number 1 pretty much covers this. But I think that both of us were at a crossroads of wanting something more, but not a dogma-heavy, bible-intense religious setting.

What does the UUFSD Community mean to you? What has it brought to your life?

UUFSD has brought us into contact with such amazing and generous people! The library's resources are fantastic, too.

What do you think you may add to the life of this community?

As Rowan grows older and more independent, I think both of us are hoping to participate more. I adore my son, but child rearing is often a somewhat lonely task; I hope to join other parents in Religious Education and eventually join in a few of UU's fabled committees.

In what ways does UUFSD fulfill any needs you have for community?

Just to look forward to a Sunday with friendly faces and thought-provoking talk is a great improvement for us. I don't know about David, but on the first day I attended, Rev. D. said that he didn't know what he believed in, but he did believe in stories, and at that moment, I knew I was in the right place.

What spurred your need to find a progressive faith community?

Looking to connect with others who are making spiritual journeys and explorations a focus of their lives.

Mary Cory



At what point in your life did this happen?

After a few years of restlessness, upheaval and travel, I moved to Encinitas in November 2012. The spiritual nature of this beautiful north county has become an inspiring backdrop for my journey, and I am enjoying creating roots here.

What does the UUFSD Community mean to you? What has it brought to your life?

Roots. Friends. Music. Ideas. Peace, love and happiness (corny but true).

What do you think you may add to the life of this community?

Positive energy. New perspectives. Collaboration. Action. Creativity. Warmth.

In what ways does UUFSD fulfill any needs you have for community?

I am feeling deep resonance and joy within small groups I have joined, especially the spiritual meditation groups and the social justice projects. I really enjoy the friendly vibe at the coffee fest between Sunday services.

**YOUNG
ADULTS**

Maria Angelella



What spurred your need to find a progressive faith community, and at what point in your life did this happen?

I moved to San Diego in 2008 to pursue my PhD in chemistry, far away from my homestead in northeastern Pennsylvania. For the first two years of graduate school all my friends were other graduate students. Those relationships were very important to me, especially in the first year, because those other students understood the stressors I was experiencing better than anyone else could. At the end of my second year I became involved in the improv comedy community here in San Diego, and the friendships I made through improv were welcome. However, both these relationships lacked substance. I didn't feel a strong sense of community, a feeling of family, from either of those circles.

I specifically looked for a UU community because I consider myself an agnostic, and I was looking for a place that would support me along my own path of spiritual growth.

What does the UUFSD Community mean to you? What has it brought to your life?

The UUFSD community is a welcoming home-away-from-home where my presence is always warmly received. This community means many things to me: it keeps my ethical compass calibrated, it provides opportunities for service, and is a breeding ground for deep connection and support

What do you think you may add to the life of this community?

Tough question! I add my presence, and hopefully my ability to problem-solve and laugh — or make others laugh. Also, I'm always happy to talk in front of a crowd, which some folks prefer to shy away from, so I think a few people have appreciated me for that. Also, I work to support a healthy congregation by working with the Committee on Ministry.

In what ways does UUFSD fulfill any needs you have for community?

I have close relationships with many women in the congregation whom I look to as my sisters, aunts, mothers and grandmothers. With other relationships I have locally, bringing up tough conversations isn't always welcomed, but UUFSD is a place where I am free to be more candid, for which I'm greatly appreciative.

What spurred your need to find a progressive faith community?

I felt a need to find a community with progressive values. I was raised Lutheran, but hadn't found what I was looking for there. I couldn't identify with the Lutherans. I knew that I could respect people in a faith community more if I aligned with their values.

Leslie Uke



At what point in your life did this happen?

In college, at age 21. I went to a lecture at the Berkeley UU. It was about opting out of the draft during Vietnam. Although I was an atheist, I understood the purpose of religion. I was immediately drawn to the Berkeley Church and UU.

(Continued on page 10)

(Leslie Uke Continued)

What does the UUFSD Community mean to you? What has it brought to your life?

The UUFSD community is so down-to-earth for me, so accepting and open and ready to make new connections. I like that it's informal. I admire the people and feel lucky to have found these special types of people. I respect many of them individually and their values, especially the environmental community. The Young Adults Group is very supportive and it's a chance to give input and talk about life transitions, because this is a difficult period for a lot of young people. The group helps us get through it together. Everyone has amazing life stories.

What do you think you may add to the life of this community?

I had not been the leader of a group before, so I'm happy to do that with the Young Adult Group. It's a neat experience to really help a group, and to add structure to it. Plus it's nice to have young people around who want to be engaged in the group.

In what ways does UUFSD fulfill any needs you have for community?

It's nice to see familiar faces and to have a venue to connect in, because we're all better together. Also, because of the UUFSD community I've gotten involved in community activities outside the church. The church is awesome. I love it.

What spurred your needed to find a progressive faith community? At what point in your life did this happen?

I was raised in a non—observant Jewish household and my wife was raised as a Presbyterian in a fairly liberal congregation. When we decided to be married, neither one of us felt the need or desire to convert to the other's religious faith. Our search led us to a Unitarian Universalist Church in Farmington, Michigan where we were married. This was back in 1983. When we moved to San Diego from New York in 1989 with an 18-month-old son, we felt that some sort of religious/spiritual community would be beneficial for all of us as a family. It was also important to us that our son grow up with multigenerational friends and mentors, since much of our family was far away. We started attending services in 1990 and became members shortly thereafter.

What does the UUFSD community mean to you? What has it brought to your life? What do you think you add or may add to the life of this community?

Part of our initial sense of community was encountering other liberal San Diegans, when it seemed that many of our new neighbors and co-workers here were far more conservative than our friends and acquaintances in New York. We found new friends, new and different concepts of worship and "religion" in general. The

(Continued on Page 12)

Long Term Members

**Dale Gottdank
&
Nancy Hebert**



(Dale Gottdank & Nancy Hebert Continued)

way we experienced the UUFSD community has evolved as we have moved through life's stages. In the early years, we bonded with other families during kite-flying parties, Halloween party extravaganzas and Horse Heaven Campouts. Over the years, we added auction and Dining for Dollars dinners, adult education offerings, and UUFSD Thanksgivings when our son was at Oberlin and living in Boston. Over the last year, the UUFSD community provided unbelievable support when I was sick.

My wife and I both became involved in the R.E. program as soon as we joined. I primarily concentrated on working with the YRUU group and my wife worked more with the younger children and also served as chair of the RE committee for several years. We have both been involved with other committees throughout the years, but always seemed to come back to RE. It's been very rewarding for us, and I hope it has had a positive impact on the Fellowship community as well.

In what ways does UUFSD fulfill any need to have for community? If it does, how does that look or feel? Is it a moment? A feeling? An event? A connection?

We can't describe strongly enough how much the UUFSD community means to us. As our son grew from a toddler to an adult, we were reassured to know he had the support and acceptance of both the youth and adults of UUFSD. Since last October, when I became extremely ill as the result of a spinal staph infection, the amazing level of support we have received from the Fellowship has been awe inspiring. When we were stuck in New York for six weeks during the early and most acute stages of my illness, we could feel the power of positive thoughts streaming from UUFSD. After returning to San Diego in March, we've had UUFSD friends move our furniture, bring us meals, send good wishes and prayers our way, visited with us and so much more. I wonder if we would have been able to weather the past year without this amazing community. It was comforting to have our long-term friends at UUFSD help us, and extremely moving when members whom we barely knew brought meals and visited with us. In the past, we pitched in by providing a meal or two for families in crisis, but we weren't sure we were making much of a difference. When we became the recipients of so much love and generosity, we realized that the collective small efforts of a community come together to be very powerful.

Alejandra Hoffman-Chan**What spurred your need to find a progressive faith community?**

When I had my kids, I wanted to give them a religious education, not so much so they would believe in God or Jesus, but so they could have other guidelines in their lives besides the ones I would give them as a mom. I went back to the only church I knew, the Catholic church, and after a few visits to their Sunday services, I left with a more clear idea of why I had left in the first place. Years passed and I stumbled upon the UU church through a friend. My daughter started attending OWL and while I waited for her class to be done I started attending their service, and my son joined in with the RE class. By the second service I was convinced we had found our religious place; one that would give them guidelines without a strong dogma or creed, would help them grow into adults with a deeper sense of who they are and what is meaningful to them, teach them to be accepting of people who are different and view the world as a community where we have to try to get along regardless of our many differences in order to achieve peace and harmony.

At what point in your life did this happen?

This happened in my mid to late 30s.

What does the UUFSD Community mean to you? What has it brought to your life?

The UUFSD Community means a lot to me. I had first joined the UU Church in Phoenix, AZ and when we moved to SD it took me about a year to get settled and then I went to church. It is where I have met my best friends, gotten a sense of belonging, where I have had the opportunity to help others, feel useful and valued. It's where I can put my values into action through the many activities, where I turn for support in times of need and where I know I can be myself without being judged. The opportunity for spiritual growth is truly meaningful.

What do you think you may add to the life of this community?

I can add to the life of this community by being involved with many activities and leadership roles to create a community that can meet the many needs of all its members, a welcoming community where everyone will feel at home.

In what ways does UUFSD fulfill any needs you have for community?

UUFSD has given me a real community where I can be an active participant and not just a place to go on Sunday, listen to a sermon, then go home and wait until next Sunday to be "enlightened" again. I have so many opportunities to connect with people at Spiritual Circles, auction dinners, cooking club, organizing different activities, going to De Benneville, beach parties, participating in the migrant workers' lunch program, etc. It gives me joy!

Betsy Gilpin**What spurred your need to find a progressive faith community?**

I was privileged to experience two caring church communities while I was growing up and wanted my children to enjoy this experience as well. Yet, the community I sought had to be dogma-free. (Have you seen the little icon of a dog with a diagonal line drawn through it?) That narrowed the choices considerably, and happily I found UUFSD, which did indeed fit the bill.

At what point in your life did this happen?

I joined UUFSD shortly after my divorce in 1985. It would have been impossible before that, and I felt that as a single parent, I could use all the support I could get. The other families that joined about the same time I did were wonderful in this regard. We have lasting bonds.

What does the UUFSD Community mean to you? What has it brought to your life?

At this point in my life, UUFSD offers me the opportunity to serve. I feel that by contributing in the ways I do, I am helping to build a community that can be of support to others and to the wider community through the efforts of our members.

What do you think you may add to the life of this community?

I am helping to make UUFSD grow in numbers and vibrancy as new folks bring their energy and ideas to the group.

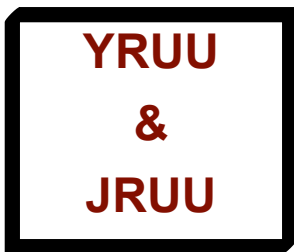
In what ways does UUFSD fulfill any needs you have for community?

While I have other circles of friends, my UUFSD friendships are deeper and more satisfying on many levels. Especially, the Spiritual Growth Circles and my women's group foster deep sharing regarding the most important issues in life we all face. Being able to talk about these with my UUFSD friends helps me on the path to being a more whole person.

Editors' Note:

This January "Dialogue" is devoted to the theme of "Community." In sermons and conversation we often refer to the UUFSD as our beloved community. In this issue we asked new members, long-time members, young adults and our YRUU and JRUU to express their feelings and thoughts on what the UUFSD community means to them. It is an exercise that we all might consider undertaking. After reading the comments by our members and youth, take a few minutes to reflect and respond to the questions we posed. We welcome your comments at Publicity@uufsd.org.

Irving Himelblau



Alison Crotty



As the Religious Education Director, Alison is steeped in the UUFSD community, with strong connections to the youngest members as well as the Fellowships leaders. For her, the fellowship is a family. "They're everything to me," she says. Then she laughs, "They give me headaches; I worry about them; I love them. But then I get hugs, I get cards, and I get those teachable moments when the kids are being very difficult." Alison works hard to help children and teens in the Fellowship get through rough times, and to find the root of what's bothering. She says both the effort and the reward are a huge gift to her. "This is a step above good work. This is soul work. This is whole mind, body, spirit work," Alison explains.

Contributing and working with the UUFSD community "just fills my soul", says Alison. "I can't express how much this community means to me."



17-year old Connor Milmo has been a part of the UUFSD community since his mother started bringing him, years ago. Now a junior at Torrey Pines High School, he could pretty much do as he pleased on Sunday mornings. But you'll find him volunteering as an RE assistant during the 11 o'clock service. "Alison has played a big part in my coming, and it's nice to be a part of this because it's cool what this class gives to the kids," Connor says.

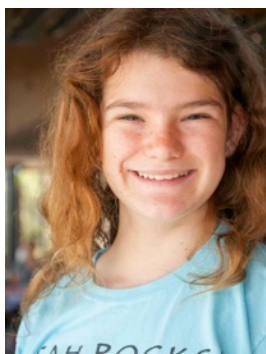
What he likes about the UUFSD community is how accepting everyone can be. "It's a community that accepts you for who you are, and it's very open," he says. "It was nice when I was little to come and talk about my week, and to have a little community that cares about what I did all week."

Now Connor tries to give some of that same feeling to younger kids by helping out with the junior high class. "It's cool to be a mentor and to maybe give the kids a role model," says Connor.



15-year old Skye Mirandon first came to UUFSD with her grandmother when she was 10 years old. Now, five years later, she's a vibrant part of the community. "I came because my grandma brought me. And I keep coming because all the people are so awesome and it's like a home away from home."

She says the UUFSD community has always been a source of support, whether it's getting through tough times, or finding a way to attend the Kids for Peace program in Washington, D.C. Skye tries to give back to the Fellowship community "just by helping and being helpful. I like to be helpful," she says. She does this in many ways, from assisting the 4-6 grade RE teacher, to lending support to her fellow students.



12-year old Kendra Kleber and her parents came to the fellowship a few years ago after hearing about it from Carolyn Knapp and her family. "It sounded pretty cool because it was about singing and being happy, and peace and love," says Kendra. She continues, "I personally like coming here because I like being here with Miss Alison and being part of Coming of Age. That's my favorite part."

Kendra says for her, the UUFSD community provides a little extra support. "It's really nice to be able to talk to someone if you've had a bad week," she explains. "You feel better when you have support."

She also sees the importance of giving back to her new community. Recently, she and her mother helped with the set-up and running of the auction. "It made me feel good. People were really nice and I liked being able to help with raising money for the auction,"

OCTOBER GENEROSITY SUNDAY: KIDS FOR PEACE - \$620.00

Kids for Peace has been known in youth peace work and on its work with the children. It has developed programs in partnership with Balik Kalipay, German Technical Cooperation, Save the Children US and United Nations Multi Donor Programme 3. The Foundation is supported by the Australian Embassy, through its: Strengthening Grassroots Interfaith Dialogue and Understanding Program, the Australian Agency for International Development, ACT for Peace Program and British Council Philippines.

NOVEMBER GENEROSITY SUNDAY: CRC HOLIDAY BASKET PROGRAM - \$453.50

Holiday Baskets is the largest distribution program of its kind in San Diego County and provides a dignified and free “shopping experience” for families who might otherwise receive nothing for the holidays. The program now provides approximately 1,700 local families in need with food, coats, blankets, and gifts for children and more during the holiday season.

DECEMBER GENEROSITY SUNDAY: CASAS DE LUZ HOME BUILD - \$2391.50

Casas de Luz (CDL) is an ongoing UUFSD Social Action program that brings volunteers together with families in need to build houses in Mexico. CDL has changed the lives of many families in Tijuana over the last five years, and is making a community impact. CDL also built a successful community center in Colonia Canon de Carretas, The Young Adults at the fellowship will build another home in the Colonia this year. The proceeds of this Generosity Sunday will go toward meeting the goal of \$4,000 to do this next home build.

