

DIALOGUE

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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.

JANUARY 2017 **Beloved Conversations Issue**

**How to Live in a Multi-racial
Multicultural and Often a
Theologically Diverse Community**

***“Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced.”
James Baldwin***



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Beloved Conversations - An Introduction by Rev. Meghan Cefalu

I am so excited that UUFSD has decided to engage with the Beloved Conversations program! I've experienced this program myself and found it to be the very most engaging, fun and effective curriculum for guiding people into important, and sometimes vulnerable,

conversations around race and ethnicity. These times we are now facing will call upon us to become outspoken allies for those who are the most vulnerable in our midst. It will be more important than ever that we be fluent in the multicultural, multi-religious world we are living in. I hope each and every one of you will consider taking part in the program. We need one another now more than ever. Together we can, and will, make a difference. And having these rich and tender conversations is how we begin to build our strong foundation together.

UUFSD - A WELCOMING CONGREGATION



Beloved Conversations

Teaching Hearts and Minds to Open for Multicultural Change

“If you told me 10 weeks ago that I’d be sitting in circle with Black Christians, singing a gospel song about interconnectedness, I would have told you that you were crazy!” – White, male humanist

“Thank you for telling something I didn’t want to hear. You’re helping me return to the real intentions of my heart.” – White, female, Jewish elder

“Simply because Black people know oppression does not mean we have nothing to learn about how we’ve been shaped by racism.” – Black, female lay leader

Beloved Conversations is a teaching and learning curriculum that holds both the tensions and joys of an intentional multicultural community. The curriculum assumes that every conversation with another human being is a cross-cultural conversation, even if your conversation partner is from the same racial group as you. Nested inside communities of faith, Beloved Conversations creates the first step – a learning laboratory – for how to live healthily in a multi-racial, multicultural, and often theologically diverse community, and how to use those learnings to work for a racially just world, both within and beyond the congregation.

Beloved Conversations opens with a 1.5 day learning laboratory, for facilitators, in the form of a “retreat.” The retreat explicitly models the pedagogy and spirit of the curriculum and encourages participants to go deep quickly and form a learning community together. Following the retreat, cohorts of 10–15 participants meet for eight two-hour sessions, each designed to help participants examine their assumptions about race and begin living into new ways of being as individuals, as a religious community, and in partnership with others beyond the walls of the congregation. The retreat is led by an authorized staff member from The Fahs Collaborative, and the eight sessions that follow the retreat are facilitated by two facilitators from within the congregation. The curriculum is experiential through and through, using music, visual arts, digital media, theater, film, and the best practices of small-group ministry to make its point.

Participants are expected to attend the retreat and all eight cohort workshop sessions
(all sessions are on Sundays, from 3-5 pm)

Retreat: Friday September 22, 2017 **6-9 pm Dinner & Opening Event**

Retreat: Saturday, September 23, 2017 **8am - 4 pm Breakfast & Lunch Included**

Cohort Workshop Sessions

1. The Invisible Footprint of Racial/Ethnic History - October 1
2. Exploring the Dynamic of Racism and Privilege - October 8
3. Racism Today: Micro-Aggressions - October 15
4. Interrupting Racism - October 22
5. Community Audit: The Experience of Race & Ethnicity in your Community - October 29
6. The Legacy of Racism - November 5
7. Toward a New Identity: How Can We Be-in-the-World? - November 12
8. Collecting our Wisdom: A Celebration of Learning and Commitment - November 19

WE WILL BE RECRUITING FACILITATORS AND PARTICIPANTS IN LATE SPRING

Prelude to the Beloved Conversations
Workshop for Racial Justice, Saturday, October 29

Members of the UUFSD participated in a dynamic day long workshop presented by Chris Crass. Chris Crass is a longtime organizer, writer, and educator focusing on anti-racist organizing and racial justice. Chris' latest book is *Towards the "Other America": Anti-Racist Resources for White People Taking Action for Black Lives Matter*, a call to action to end white silence and a manual on how to do it.



This was an interactive workshop on developing the spiritual leadership needed for anti-racist organizing in predominantly white communities. Participants talked about the challenges and opportunities our UU congregations are experiencing in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

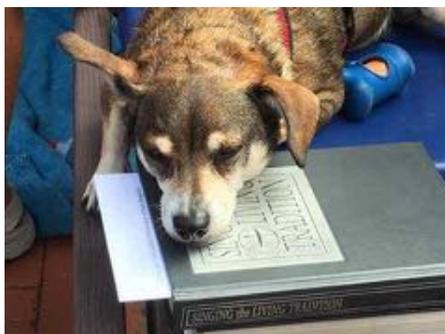
NOTE: The Social Justice Action has a video of the highlights from the workshop and is preparing to have a showing in February 2017 for those who were not able to participate in the October 29 workshop.

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AT THE CRC FOOD BANK

Ten UUFSD members volunteer at the Community Resource Center in Encinitas for 2 1/2 hours every Thursday morning, distributing canned and fresh foods to north county residents who need food assistance. UUFSD members who regularly volunteer at CRC include Christine Maciulla, Betsy Gilpin, Debbie Ploeser, Mary Lou Schultz, Ruth Gregory, Jill Ballard, Kay Byrnes, Susan Miller, Angie Knappenberger and Ed Mlakar.

Happenings October-December 2016

Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, October 2, 2016



Demonstration to End Gun Shows at the Del Mar Fairgrounds October. 2, 2016

Three members of the UUFSD, Carol Mason, Roger Harmon and Irv Himelblau were among the thirty-one protesters at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. The demonstrators were demanding the closing of gun sale loopholes and the eventual removal of gun shows from the Del Mar Fairgrounds.



Pride on the Beach, Oceanside, CA, Saturday, October 8, 2016

Members from the UUFSD, Chalice and Palomar Fellowships participated in the 9th annual Pride on the Beach. Staffing the UU booth throughout the day were Candace Sage, Holiday Geiger, Nancy and Roger Harmon and Nancy's mother, Florence, Rev. Elizabeth Bukey and Irv Himelblau.





San Diego Food Bank, October, November, December

Service is our Prayer activated once again!

October 2016: Six members from UUFSD joined others to box 2,160 pounds of food which will help out 720 Seniors have a better life.

November 2016: Service is our Prayer in ACTION once again! In November we bagged 5,850 POUNDS of oranges to give to those in need.

December 2016: In December we all bagged over 7,000 pounds of potatoes which were given to those in need the very next day.

Pumpkin Potluck, Saturday October 22

The “Willage at UUFSD” held a Pumpkin Potluck and Chili Cookoff in honor of the bounty of autumn. The “Willage” is an effort to coordinate activities and events for young families at UUFSD. There were two teams—“Team Pumpkin” and “Team Chili”— competing for the best of the class in each category. Children were treated to spooky stories by candlelight.





Creativity Workshop, Sunday, October 23

After her sermon on the many benefits of art "A Lifetime of Art: Unforeseen Lessons Learned," Linda Luisi provided a well attended creativity workshop for novices and artists. Linda arranged an array of tropical and exotic leaves, flowers, and palm fronds and urged people to create abstract and realistic drawings with pastel and colored pencils. Many chose the bird-of-paradise and others chose tall thin iris blades or intricate papaya leaves. We learned about the variety of ways one can approach the same topic.

Nature Walk, Thursday, October 27

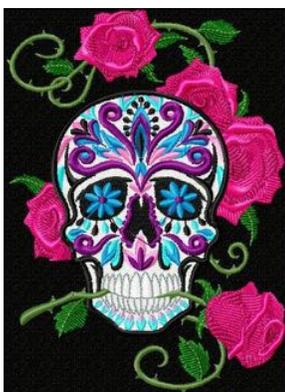
Energizing minds, bodies and spirits! Nature Walk in Torrey Pines. This beautiful and relaxing 3/4 mile meditation walk was led by Patricia Cofre Stone. Next walk January 1, 2017 at 7 am.

patricia.naturesource@gmail.com



Death Cafe, Saturday, October 29

For the third consecutive year, UUFSD hosted a "Death Cafe" -- an opportunity to talk openly about death and dying in a neutral, confidential and (believe it or not) lively environment. Death Cafe is a non-profit international movement that grows in popularity every year, and many people are now adding the Death Cafe experience to their bucket lists (fittingly so!). The event is offered with no intention of leading participants toward any conclusion, product or course of action. The sole objective of the Death Café experience is to increase awareness of death, while helping people make the most of their lives.



Día de Los Muertos, Sunday, October 30

This yearly celebration is an opportunity to invite the spirit of our ancestors back to visit and party with us when the veil between the world of the living and the world of the dead is believed to be the thinnest. Items were brought to the service that would entice ancestors or deceased loved ones back to celebrate with us for the day.

Children's Trick or Treating for Charity, Sunday, October 30

Members brought loose change as the children of the Fellowship trick-or-treated to raise money for Heifer Project International. Heifer Project International is a non-profit that works to provide farm animals for families in need in third world countries around the world. Children wore their Halloween costumes to the Fellowship and collected for the Heifer Project between services.





Environmental Justice Film & Potluck, Sunday, October 30

As part of a series designed to educate and activate, the Environmental Justice Task Force sponsored a sustainable potluck dinner and a movie by Dr. Kevin Anderson of the Tyndall Center. The food was great, the discussion lively, and the movie informative, if a bit sobering. A follow-up meeting was held with Reverend Megan and members of the Task Force on Thursday, December 1, to discuss how to move forward on climate change with hope and empowerment, in the face of daunting challenges.

Interfaith Rotational Shelter, Oct 30 - Nov 6

Every year UUFSD supports the Interfaith Rotational Shelter in partnership with St James Catholic Church. For one week we provided food, chaperones and great conversation to 10-12 guests staying at St James parish hall. Our cooks brought prepared dinners to share with the Shelter guests. This includes main course, side dishes, dessert, and drinks. The cooking team then got to eat with the guests. This is a wonderful yearly intergenerational experience for the whole family.



Art Fair, Sunday, November 13

Our annual Art Fair was held between services and following the second service. This was a chance for our local talented artists to exhibit their work before the congregation and even sell some of it. This was a fundraiser as well, as 35% of the proceeds went to the Fellowship.



Post Election Healing Circle, Wednesday November 9

Realizing that people would need a safe and sacred place to be together - no matter how the election turned out - I planned a gathering at the amphitheater the night following the election. As it happened about a hundred people came to the drop-in Healing Circle to be with others who were also feeling a mix of grief and sadness, anger and frustration with the surprising election of Donald Trump as our next US president. We sat outside together taking turns at the microphone singing, sharing feelings and stories and reading poetry while the warm Santa Ana winds swirled around us. A number of people told me they had never been to our campus and didn't know about Unitarian Universalism but came because they read about the event on the MoveOn website. Several of those people also came to the service the following Sunday. Many folks expressed to me that it was indeed a very healing evening and how very much they appreciated being a part of our fellowship community. ~**Rev. Meghan**



Post Election Next Steps Gathering, Tuesday, November 22

Twenty-seven people came to this meeting to be with others who were upset about the results of the presidential election. We gathered in a large circle to share our names and what it was that inspired each of us to come. Based on what people shared I divided the large group into four subgroups for further brainstorming and discussion. One group, calling themselves "First Aid", focused on how to get through the Thanksgiving holiday with their right-wing family members. Another group focused on how we might best use social media to organize. The third group talked about the possibility of urging the electoral college to vote with the popular vote. And the fourth group focused on the local organizations we could partner with to maximize our impact. Many of the participants expressed a desire to continue meeting. I will be putting those who would like to meet again in touch with the Social Justice Action committee to make concrete plans for our congregation's engagement with resisting the oppression of vulnerable people and the degradation of our planet. ~ **Rev. Meghan**

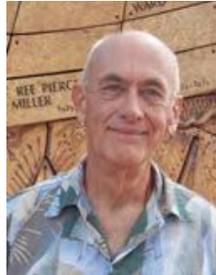
Encinitas Holiday Parade, Saturday, December 3

UUFSD & Casas de Luz marched with North County Eco Alliance, and we were blessed to be joined by **special guest** Chief Black Fox Delbert Pomani of the Dakota Tribe, who is the great great grandson of Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse.



CRC Holiday Baskets, Thursday, December 8

Our congregation supported the Holiday Baskets program, an annual event held by Encinitas Community Resource Center (CRC), providing clothing, food, toys and other household necessities to more than 1,000 households in need this year.



The Willage Playdate, Sunday, December 11th

The Willage at UUFSD -- a group of families helping families -- held a playdate from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11. Lisa Shaffer, John Planteen and Christie Turner served as "Grannabes" (aka wannabe grandparents) and looked after the children while their parents spent a couple of hours running holiday errands. The children enjoyed craft activities, board games and lunch.

Casas de Luz Gift Wrapping, Sunday, December 11

Members prepared holiday gifts for children at The Breakfast Club in Colonia Cumbres. In addition to the children's gifts, CDL collected purses and filled them with items the volunteer moms would enjoy. These volunteers help out five days a week preparing breakfasts for the children.



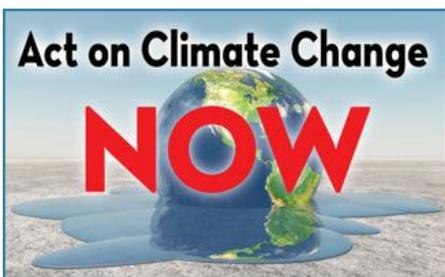
Annual UUFSD Holiday, Saturday, December 17

Lights sparkled on the tree, logs burned warm and bright in the fireplace, and Founders Hall smelled of spice and pine and the laughter of children and adults was everywhere. It was time to celebrate the Solstice, or Christmas or Hanukkah.



Annual Xmas/Hanukka Services, Saturday, December 24

Over 200 members and friends enjoyed the annual Christmas and Hanukka h services. We joined in celebration of all that is sacred and significant in our lives and embraced the holiday season with songs and recitations.



Years of Living Dangerously, Sunday, December 18

Thirty-two people attended the Environmental Justice Task Force showing and discussion of one of the episodes from National Geographic's acclaimed series on climate change, "Years of Living Dangerously." The movie focused on Citizen's Climate Lobby's efforts to put a price on carbon and to get a fee-and-dividend bill through Congress.

Rally in Defense of the Affordable Care Act, Tuesday, December 20

Fourteen members of UUFSD joined approximately 150 demonstrators at the offices of Congressman Darrel Issa in support of the Affordable Care Act. We hope to ensure that health benefits for families relying on the ACA for life saving health care coverage are not compromised.



Sandy Hook Memorial, Saturday, December 10

Approximately 70 people attended End Gun Violence. This event of the massacre of children at the Speakers at this memorial included Chapter of the Brady Campaign, SD Chapter of Mom's Demand the UUFSD, Max Disposti, County LGBTQ Resource Center and a gun violence survivor. Music Sandy O of Emma's Revolution.



the UUFSD 2016 National Vigil to commemorated the fourth anniversary Sandy Hook Elementary School. Carol Landale, President of the SD Wendy Wheatcroft, Director of the Action, Tanya Strauss, a member of Executive Director of the North and Alison Schlick, UUFSD member was provided by Pat Humphries and





SEIZING THE MOMENT TO COMPLETE THE WALLS OF "MEMORY'S ROOM"

An opportunity has come to complete our Fellowship Memorial: let's seize this moment! Adjacent to the core patio, our memorial walls are a beautiful remembrance of members who have died as well as a stunning complement to the Core itself and Founders' Hall. But only three of the five murals are complete. In 2007 UUFSD contracted for artist Gerald (Jerry) Thiebolt of Clay Associates in San Diego to design, create, and install the Fellowship Memorial, to consist of five walls holding sculptured ceramic murals containing enough individual memorial tiles to meet the commemorative needs of our congregation well into its second century. In 2009 contractor Chris Kolb completed the walls designed to hold the art. Since then, Jerry has sculpted, fired, and installed unique murals on three of the five walls, at the contracted price of \$14,000 per mural. By the time the third mural, "Lotus," was installed in June 2014, the funds we had raised over the previous decade had been exhausted.

To give us time to accumulate funding to proceed, Jerry took more than two years to undertake a major project for Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Ocean Beach. He has just completed that work, opening a window of opportunity for UUFSD. Jerry is uniquely qualified and much sought-after for such unique installations, and if we let this opportunity slide, due to the time and physical challenges involved, he may not be able to complete his contract with us before his retirement.

Several congregants, including every Board member and congregational officer, have generously taken personal initiative to donate enough money to complete the fourth mural. In January 2017 Jerry will begin sculpting "Sun and Chalice" and he plans to install it before the year ends. Meanwhile, we must raise the final \$14,000 to be ready for him to begin work early in 2018 on "Tree of Life," our fifth and final mural.

Minimum donations have been kept to \$300 per tile to assure the broadest possible accessibility; obviously, at that level a great many donations are needed. Thus we again urge those of you who have not done so to donate and reserve spaces for yourselves, spouses, and children, or to join with other members to honor stalwarts of the Fellowship who remain among us in spirit if no longer in body. We also need members to consider making larger donations. If you have already reserved your tiles, please consider adding a "beyond minimal" donation to help fill the need. And if you have been thinking about donating and reserving your tiles, please delay no longer and give as generously as you can during this opportunity to bring to fruition a vision that coalesced well over a decade ago - a beautiful space in the heart of our Fellowship, dedicated to Remembrance, Appreciation, and Love.

Reservation and policy forms are at uufsd.org/giving/memorial-walkway. Contact: Barbara Blomgren, 858-453-7414 or bwblomgren@san.rr.com.

