

DIALOGUE

Published by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Diego in order to promote love, growth, and right relations both locally and globally.

Renewal

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Rev Jo's Corner



Renewal

Welcome to a new congregational year! Our theme this month is renewal and I find that such a hopeful thought. Renewal to me means improvement, means a fresh start sometimes, means healing. We are all ready to be healed from this pandemic and our Board is working diligently to bring us together once more. I along with all of you are looking forward to that time when we can be in person once again. And

it's getting closer! The members of this congregation on our Board have been working conscientiously daily to create a process and guidelines for us to follow to be safe and still be together. I want to say with this pandemic that the worst is over, but I'm not a doctor or a scientist so I can only hope.

Let us be so grateful for the members in this congregation who care so much and give so much. Our grounds look spotless every time I go to the office and that is because of all of you taking such good care of these grounds. So many volunteers go into keeping this congregation going, even through this pandemic, keeping the grounds, defining our governance, doing the day to day tasks and administrative work that needs to keep our faith community going from week to week. People care for each other when they are in need and we have many caring people here. People bringing meals to those in need, lending a listening ear, offering a hug when appropriate, giving rides, sending cards, all of those caring actions that show we are united as a congregation. The next time you see someone from the congregation give them a thank you, let them know how much we appreciate what they give to this community.

It's a new year! We have the next nine months of this fiscal year to turn a corner hopefully and be together once again! Our patience has paid off and soon it might feel more normal than it has for the last 20 months. Let's begin this new congregational year in renewal! I'm looking forward to being together soon and getting to know you. What a way to start a new ministry huh!!! And as the saying goes, si se puede, yes we can!!!

Blessings to you all,

Rev Jo

Reverend Jo Ann Elizabeth Green Installation Ceremony

When Our Heart Is In A Holy Place: Kindness and Covenant

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE INSTALLATION OF
THE REV. JO ANN ELIZABETH GREEN
AS OUR MINISTER**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SAN DIEGUITO
1036 SOLANA DRIVE, SOLANA BEACH, CA 92075**

Visiting Ministers will Include

Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh - UUA Representative, San Diego, CA

Rev. Everett Howe - Minister, Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship,
Santee, CA

Rev. Adam Lawrence Dyer - Lead Minister, First Parish in Cambridge Unitarian
Universalist, Cambridge, MA

Rev. Tania Marquez - Assistant Minister, First Unitarian Universalist Church of
San Diego, San Diego, CA

Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson - Minister, Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship,
Vista, CA

**LUNCHEON RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE
FELLOWSHIP CORE AREA**

RSVP BY OCTOBER 3 TO TRACEY WEISS AT:
INSTALLATION@UUFSD.ORG OR 858-755-9225

The 5th Principle Project

Monthly Calls To Action

July

Lego recently launched a new Lego set called “Lego-Everyone Is Awesome!” The Lego website states, “The build-able display model is inspired by the iconic rainbow flag which is used as a symbol of love and acceptance by the LGBTQIA+ community...” The set features a rainbow-colored background and figures of each color. See <https://www.lego.com/en-us/aboutus/news/2021/may/everyone-is-awesome/>.

Lego is now the target of an anti-LGBTQ campaign. The campaign states, “It’s apparent that even toy manufacturers are attempting to indoctrinate children by exposing them to the LGBTQ lifestyle. Why can’t Lego let kids be kids instead of glamorizing a sinful lifestyle?” See <https://onemillionmoms.com/current-campaigns/now-lego-is-loud-and-proud/> Affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person by contacting Lego and thanking them for promoting equality and inclusivity with their “Lego-Everyone Is Awesome!” set.

August

Democracy is not a spectator sport. On September 14, Californians will decide whether or not to recall Governor Newsom in a Special Election. What you should do now:

- (1) Make sure you are registered to vote by going to voterstatus.sos.ca.gov to check your voter registration status
- (2) If you are not registered to vote, register today at registertovote.ca.gov
- (3) If you are registered to vote, put a reminder on your calendar, in your phone or on your refrigerator TO VOTE (Note: Mail ballots start going out the week of August 16)
- (4) Be a democracy ambassador (and live our UU 5th Principle) by talking/texting/e-mailing friends, family and neighbors and reminding them to vote in the special election
- (5) Educate yourself about the special election, including learning about the candidates and who’s funding both sides of the recall election at the nonpartisan website: votersedge.org/ca

September

Live our UU 5th Principle by helping to turn out the vote for this month’s Recall Special Election. Here are a few ideas:

- (1) If you have voting-age children/other loved ones – ask them if they have returned their ballot. If they haven’t, help them make a plan to do so;
- (2) If you use social media, post about turning in your ballot and offer reliable sources for voting information, such as the San Diego County Registrar of Voters - <https://www.sdvote.com/> and/or the California Secretary of State - <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/2021-ca-gov-recall>;
- (3) Communicate via talk/text/telephone with friends, neighbors, groups you belong to about the importance of voting in the recall election and returning their ballot now. Offer to help them make a plan to vote. If they’ve already voted, thank and/or compliment them.

September (Part 2)

The American Dream and Promise Act of 2021 (HR 6) would provide permanent legal protections and a pathway to citizenship for DACA and TPS recipients. Affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person by calling your US Senators and asking them to support this legislation. (The House passed HR 6 and it has now moved to the Senate for consideration). Sample call script: “Hi. My name is [NAME] and I am a constituent from [CITY, ZIP CODE]. I am calling to ask Senator [NAME] to support HR 6, The American Dream and Promise Act.. Thank you.” Senator Alex Padilla (202)224-3553/(619)239-3884; Senator Dianne Feinstein (202)224-3841/(619)231-9712.

Sacred Circles

Why Join a Sacred Circle Group?

Small group meetings are a way to deepen our understanding of others, the world, and ourselves. We use the term “Sacred Circle” to impart the importance we give to our group and the commitment to fostering a safe and trusting environment for meaningful discussions. We meet once per month to talk about thought-provoking topics and what they mean in our personal life. This experience helps us to learn and grow individually and as part of our UUFSD community. Meetings are with a facilitator(s) once per month to discuss thought-provoking topics. Meetings are with a facilitator(s) once per month to discuss thought-provoking topics. There are currently three (3) small group meeting locations from which to choose. The one (1) that you select will be your small group community from October 2021 through May 2022. Please contact the Facilitators directly to sign up no later than October 9 and use the subject line SACRED CIRCLE ATTENDEE. Thank you!



Eastern Encinitas in Village Park - Ernest Dun and Cheryl Close

3rd Thursday from 3 - 4:30 PM - **Outside in-person**

cherical@gmail.com edunhyang@msn.com

South Oceanside near Carlsbad - Glen Bowden and Alice Brzovic

3rd Saturday from 10-11:30 AM (October will be 4th Saturday). **Outside in-person**

alicebrzovic@gmail.com ggbowden@cox.net

Rancho Bernardo - Linda Giannelli Pratt 3rd Wednesday from 6:45- 8:15 PM **On Zoom** through December, then

TBDgnle2011@gmail.com

North Carlsbad - Angie Knappenberger and Julia Darling, 3rd Friday from 2 - 3:30 PM - In-Person

angie3886@gmail.com or jvdarling@roadrunner.com

Mens' Groups

The UUFSD Men's Groups are a vibrant part of our small group ministry. Here are the current opportunities for spiritual and emotional growth.

The Tuesday Group meets at 7:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. We begin with a brief check in and then anyone is free to share issues of personal importance in their life, knowing that whatever is said will be held in strictest confidence. We are a support group, first and foremost, but we also discuss other issues on our minds. We take turns, in alphabetic order, in choosing topics for discussion, in alternate meetings, but personal issues always take precedence. Contact John Sherman (johnlsherman42@gmail.com) if you have any questions regarding joining this group.

The Thursday Group currently meets for lunch biweekly (every second Thursday) either at the Fellowship or in the nearby home of a member. Our meetings start with brief greetings to each other until everyone arrives, followed by a check-in from each member. We discuss topics that are both personal and spiritual. We look forward to these opportunities to meet and catch up. Contact Chris Byrnes (chris.byrnes@mindspring.com) if you have any questions regarding joining this group.

The Friday Group meets for lunch once a month at Round Table Pizza in Encinitas, where an all-you-can-eat buffet of pizza and salad punctuates our conversation. (Currently this meeting is on hold during the pandemic). Contact John Drewe (sddrewe@gmail.com) if you have any questions regarding joining this group.

Climate Action Task Force



We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.

Chief Seattle

Living Our Seventh Principle

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The Environmental Justice Task Force has been reorganized and is now the **UUFSD Climate Action Task Force (CATF)**. This is more than a name change, since the emphasis of the CATF is on action items that incorporate all aspects of environmental justice. The goal of the CATF is to provide opportunities to members and friends of the UUFSD to participate in individual and collective actions that, in any way, small or large, aid in healing our endangered planet.

The Climate Action Task Force facilitates consciousness-raising about climate change and green initiatives at UUFSD and actions in the community. We have 5 areas of particular interest:

- water conservation
- energy use
- socially responsible investing
- transportation
- food choices and wastes

If you wish to stay informed or get involved, please join our discussion group on Nextdoor and send an email request to be included on our email list.

Visit our GSuite website for more information.

Contact: Sarah Miller at climateaction@uufsd.org

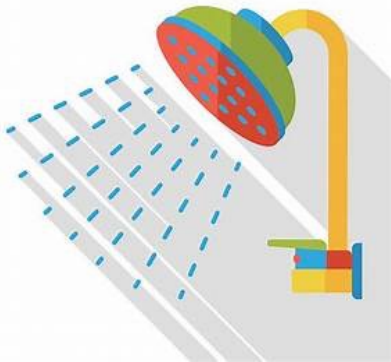
A special thanks to Linda Luisi who designed the CATF logo “A Healthy Earth Is In Our Hands.”

Climate Action at UUFSD

Water Conservation — Washing Dishes

Richard Macdonald

Given the current water shortage, we are trying to reduce our water use. One big water use is doing dishes. The method I described here is not unique -- my family used it at our cottage 60 years ago when we had no running water. It is the 3 pan method -- wash pan, rinse pan, second rinse pan, then drain dry. The pans I use are a set from Amazon (https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B0746G3KWK?psc=1&ref=ppx_pop_dt_b_product_details) that stack and are small enough to fit in the sink. First, the pans are stacked beside the sink, and the top one accumulates dirty dishes during the day (photo). The other 3 dishes are set up as a 1) wash, 2) first rinse, and 3) second rinse (photo). The process should be obvious - dirty dish goes from 1 to 2 to 3. If a dish is too large, it is washed and rinsed with help from a smaller cup (poured over). Dishes are washed only once a day, and the tap is never run during the process. The pans are filled to 2" or 2.5" depth. The whole process uses 4 gallons of water, which is half of what we would use if we used the bigger sinks themselves (to the same depth of water). In previous practice, we would actually use much more water -- the wash sink would end up almost full, and the tap would run almost constantly for rinsing. And we would wash dishes multiple times a day. Let me know if it works for you! (Oh, and one trick is to reduce the amount of soap in the wash to limit soap carry-over into the rinses - another environmental improvement).



Shower Water Conservation - Toilet Water Conservation

Leslie Gomes

We've installed in line valves to control water flow between main valve and shower head. Shower warm up water is collected in a bathroom size trash can. Once water is warm, I get wet, shut off the flow, wash hair, turn on to rinse hair, turn off, lather up body, Turn on to rinse, and then shut off main valve. I use the collected water for 2 toilet flushes during the day.



Watering Vegetable Plants with Shower Water

Livia Walsh & Irv Himelblau

We collect the cold water as our shower water heats. It's about 3-4 gallons per shower. We use this to water indoor plants as well as outdoor vegetable plants and flowers.

Remembrances Celebrations of Life

At UUFSD, in this beloved religious community, we share not only our joys and our triumphs but also our sorrows and broken places. In this circle of care we are making space for the complexities of life that bless and break our hearts.

Benjamin (Ben) Platnik



Compiled by his friend Charles Dodson

Ben Platnik, a long-time member of the UUFSD community, passed away on Aug. 16. Friends and family gathered in the days after to celebrate his remarkable life as a loving family man, well-respected educator and loyal friend known for his keen intellect, sharp wit, and engaging conversations.

Born Sept. 2, 1926: (Labor Day) in Detroit to Russian-Jewish immigrants, both Judaism and Unitarian-Universalist philosophy formed the core of his identity and spiritual philosophy.

Ben shared his philosophy of life during a UUFSD generational service, when he ruminated: “I think the Buddhists have it right, talking about the impermanence of life, that change is inevitable. I use that mantra whenever thinking about my anatomy or physiology changes.”

For those who knew and loved Ben, it was clear that his perceived impermanence did not extend to his intellectual capacity, which was immense and seemed to grow stronger every year. He was a man who never tired of intellectual discussions, and who was well-versed and exceedingly knowledgeable and articulate in philosophy, language, human behavior,

politics, and religion, especially Judaism.

And in that UUFSD speech he displayed his comfort in speaking of his eventual passing. “I have 2 daughters. One wants me to be buried in a Jewish cemetery. The other one said whatever you want. I prefer cremation because all people are cremated equal. So, it doesn’t matter if you’re Jewish or not.”

He loved the UUFSD grounds, saying, “These are holy grounds for me. This is my holy land. He reminded us that both Unitarian-Universalists and Jews use similar terms, “To improve the world and repair the world.” Ben lived those words, and he lived and flourished in both worlds – Jewish and Unitarian-Universalist.

Ben’s formative early years in Detroit were spent speaking Yiddish at home. His Mother, Eda (Snyder) Platnik spoke and read English, and was interested in intellectual pursuits and educated people. His father, Mendel (Max) Platnik, a tailor shop owner, never learned to read or write in English, getting by with Russian and Yiddish. Ben recalls: “He liked to drink with his Russian buddies, tell funny stories and have a good time. And he was very accepting and open minded.” But most of all Ben remembers being deeply loved by his parents.

Ben entered public school at age 6, speaking little English and was assigned to the 2nd grade because of his size, not his age. He said his best school year was 7th grade, because the teacher taught everything you needed to know about English grammar, and instilled excitement about literature and poetry in students.

He attended Detroit Central High School, then Wayne State University as an Education Speech Therapy major because he wanted to do something to improve the lives of other people. He taught English & History for 16 years in then earned a Master’s Degree in Social Work in order to work as a school district social worker, and because he wanted to make a difference. Ben had always been interested in psychotherapy and worked evenings as a therapist

Remembrances

in a private practice. He also became an expert in behavior modification, consulting and presenting workshops for teachers on how to set up their classrooms, and for parents as well. He recalled that one of his proudest professional moments was teaching a graduate level class in Behavior Modification for classroom teachers at Oakland University in Michigan. He took pride knowing that what he taught was good for humanity.

It was at Wayne State University that Ben and Iris first met. Ben's version of the story had him seeing her on campus, at the bookstore or walking around. They attended summer camp together and more formally met at the Jewish Community Center. He recalled that one of his main criteria that was any potential partner be politically compatible, "No matter how beautiful she was." (Which Ben clearly thought she was.) "She had to be a liberal Democrat." He recalled that their first date was at a political rally. "We have the same world view and political interests." In 1963 Ben and Iris went to Washington D.C. to hear Martin Luther King Jr. give his "I Have a Dream" speech.

Their involvement in the UU Church was a natural outgrowth: "We were both active in UU because we found people who were interested in intellectual pursuits, social justice and social activism.

Iris' version of their first-date story has an extra twist. "I told my friend let's go to this political fundraiser. I want to meet somebody and get married. I said let's go find somebody because I knew there would be around 200 people there. I saw this tall good-looking guy and said: That's the guy I met at summer camp. I walked up and asked if he had change for a quarter, for a phone call. He said no, but he suggested that they walk to the drug store for change, which served as a first date and lead them to becoming a couple who would be married for nearly 70 years.

During the memorial service, Ben's family and friends had a chance to share remembrances.

His daughter, Laurie Fisher most remembers his compassion for other people. But also, Ben's practical side, such as taking her on weekends to their rental properties to learn how to paint a house and change faucet fixtures. And she fondly remembers him teaching her a card trick (that only the two of them understood) and how to play Blackjack. Laurie recalls camping together as a family and singing camp songs and folk songs with Ben and Iris. Ben loved all genres of music, from Frank Sinatra to Klezmer (Yiddish) music. Ben and Laurie attended live theatre together for many years, and Laurie grew to love the theatre and has passed this affinity down to her daughter, Chloe.

Daughter Sharon likened him to a best friend. "We talked all the time. Anytime I had a problem I knew I could call him. He was a great listener."

Granddaughter Haley recalled: "I love how you talked to me and always asked me questions. You encouraged me to do what I believed in. You have the warmest nicest smile that always makes me feel accepted."

Granddaughter Chloe remembered: "You taught me about the cultural side of being Jewish, plus the food and the Yiddish and the singing. I love how you engaged me in conversations and asked my opinion. You make me feel that what I was saying was important."

Son-in-Law Jeff Fisher recalled meeting Ben for the first time. "I was dating Laurie, and Ben didn't say: Hi, how are you? He asked how I felt about prayer in schools and abortion. I realized I was being interviewed." Jeff considered Ben a second father even if some of their socio-political views differed. "You are a mentor for me. I love the way you make me think, even if I don't agree with all of it."

Ben had another chance to state his life philosophy in a video that the family commissioned for that very purpose, and because he wanted people to know a list of things that he believed in. He named all the core Unitarian-Universalists beliefs and added: "I like to think I'm going to leave the world a little better than when I came into it. Especially my grandchildren who have a lot to offer the rest of the world and who give me high tech advice." His send off to all his family and friends was simple: "Thank you all for being a part of my life."

Our Values in Action

Backpack Project 2021



Liz Young
Project Coordinator

From Liz Young

Thank you UUFSD! This year, we had a shorter collection period and attendance was lighter at the Fellowship because of COVID. Nevertheless, I was very impressed with the outpouring of support for the project. We collected approximately \$1200 in cash and checks and \$400 in in-kind donations.

Your generosity helped purchase 78 backpacks filled with supplies that we donated to our local students in need in Encinitas and Solana Beach. We were also able to donate boxes of school supplies to the community centers that are supported through Casas de Luz.

Thank you for a very successful 2021 Backpack Project!



Food Collection for the Boys and Girls Pre and After School Programs at La Colonia de Eden Gardens



The Helping Our Neighbors Project is designating our weekly food collection to the Colonia de Eden Garden Pre School, in Solana Beach. We are asking for specific packaged snack items, cheese and crackers, peeled carrots, fruits, granola bars, pretzels, Goldfish crackers, juices, etc. For those who attend the service on campus, please notice that we have placed the food collection basket at the usher's stand. Please leave your donations in that basket. For those who are participating virtually on Zoom, please bring your food donation to the UUFSD office on Tuesdays between 9 and Noon.

Liz Young (see above) also dropped off enough backpacks and school supplies for all the children in the pre-school

Water Ceremony



The Water Communion, also sometimes called Water Ceremony, was first used at a Unitarian Universalist (UU) worship service in the 1980s. Many UU congregations now hold a Water Communion once a year, often at the beginning of the new church year (September). Members bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. During the appointed time in the service, people one by one pour their water together into a large bowl. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources.



Member Involvement-Ron Demuth



Ron Demuth, a member of the UUFSD is working with Oscarin Ortega, the founder of Lived Experiences, a non-profit in Oceanside. Lived Experiences is a grassroots 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2018 to help at-risk and disconnected youth in Oceanside, California overcome emotional and physical trauma so that they may live rewarding adult lives and build healthy, supportive communities. Their weekly groups utilize evidence-based approaches and wraparound support to provide youth participants with increased social connectivity; increased awareness and understanding of trauma and its effects in their lives; increased capacity to heal from trauma; enhanced emotional literacy and coping skills; and, ultimately, improved quality of life.

As of now, Ron is giving time to helping Mr. Ortega re-imagine Lived Experiences, develop a written mission and organizational plan, and identify grant opportunities for community-based mental health and youth intervention programs. Ron is helping Ortega develop stable funding for Lived Experiences to create and implement some basic program evaluation and effectiveness metrics, using the artifacts created by individuals and youth groups in the course of their engagement with Lived Experiences and via data collection on educational engagement and attainment, and (hopefully) via decreases in gang involvement and police/juvenile justice engagements.

The first priorities for Lived Experiences are articulating the vision, getting more stable funding, and finding space to restart the youth center and trauma recovery programs. In the context of those tasks, grant-writing is an important element of fulfilling those strategies.

Mr. Ortega also developed **1st Mobile Laundry Trailer**.

1st Mobile Laundry Trailer

Pre-pandemic Oscarin Ortega was operating a drop-in Youth Center in donated space from a local church; but lost the space when the mandatory pandemic shutdown and distancing measures went into effect. During the pandemic Oscarin started volunteering with Humanity Showers and Feeding San Diego for food distribution in three of the poorest LatinX neighborhoods in Oceanside.

While working with Humanity Showers, Oscarin developed the idea of Humanity Laundry, as a place for unhoused people to wash their clothes. He did a successful GoFundMe campaign to help pay for a small mobile home and is retrofitting it as a mobile laundry. Ron is not directly involved in that work, but he was able to donate a bit to the GoFundMe project.

Oscarin's passion is working with LatinX youth who are experiencing emotional and physical trauma in their home and neighborhood contexts. That's his original reason for founding Lived Experiences. Pre-pandemic he was operated a drop-in Youth Center in donated space from a local church; but lost the space when the mandatory pandemic shutdown and distancing measures went into effect.