

DIALOGUE

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



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Board of Director's Corner



Liora Kian-Gutierrez
President

STATE OF THE CONGREGATION

It is an understatement to say that it has been a year of many changes in our Fellowship. We continued to navigate COVID and have been fortunate to come together in person in our beautiful amphitheater - we are privileged to have this campus. As a community, we managed the loss of the DRE, the minister, music director, loss of members and changes in our board membership. We came together each time and “rolled with the punches” to come out of each challenge wiser and stronger.

As a Board we continued to provide transparency in every aspect of our goals for the year.

- We ensured the financial well-being of our congregation by creating a sustainable, realistic, budget for 2022-23.
- We renewed our community by implementing Dialogue Meetings with the What Now Conversations, facilitated by Dr. Frank Willey.
- We re-established an RE Committee with a hardworking and thoughtful chairperson and developed a strong connection with the needs of our children and their parents. With your support, we will continue to navigate COVID and continue to ensure that all who enter our campus are fully vaccinated.
- We also continued to offer the option to attend services virtually. We enacted a monthly (sometimes more frequent) open letter from the Board to ensure transparency with all aspects of the Board's work on your behalf. We did this to keep you informed with facts and avoid rumors.

Together, we know we can survive any “storm” or “crisis” and come out at the other end more united. I always see the glass as half-full but I do believe our “cup will soon runneth over”. I can't imagine a more fitting way to bring closure to an amazing year. We are moving forward, and will be stronger having gone through so much this year **together**.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to announce, at the end of this tumultuous year, that we have found an amazing contract minister who will be starting on September 6th! Reverend Eleanor (Ellie) Kilpatrick was selected by our Contract Minister Search Committee, and the Board was delighted to approve her selection. Rev Ellie will be working $\frac{2}{3}$ time, which means about 26 hours per week on average. Rev. Ellie Kilpatrick will be moving here from the Bay area. Rev Ellie's priorities will be to focus on worship and providing pastoral care.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for the emotional and spiritual support you have provided to those of us who worked on your behalf as your Board of Directors. Your spoken and unspoken faith in us did not go unnoticed. We always knew that the work we were doing was for our entire community and along with you, we worked toward positive outcomes no matter the difficulty or challenge. We are a community of like minded spirits and want to make sure we properly thank all of you for “keeping the faith” and doing all the things you all do to keep us alive as a community. We always knew that what we did throughout the year was important work to allow our community to always stand on the side of love.

If you missed the congregational meeting I started by thanking the Board of Directors for their dedication and hard work. They are: Brenda Post, Vice President, Angie Knappenberger, Cathy Leach Phillips, Louise Garrett, Livia Walsh, Secretary, Chris Butler. Sincere thanks were also shared to Sarah Miller, Treasurer.

Arigatou-gozaïmasu (Japanese for thank you with respect)

In Fellowship and Warmth,

Liora

Happenings

What Now? Summary and Discussion, Sunday, April 3,



Dr. Frank Willey shared a summary of his findings on information and perspectives gleaned from the many “What Now? Conversation” sessions that were held over the past two months. The Board invited Frank to share directly with the congregation so that all can hear his summary findings and initial recommendations for next steps for our fellowship.

Approximately 128 members and friends (in person and on zoom) attended one of Frank’s “Conversations” sessions, which represents about 66% of our fellowship. The feedback about attending one of these sessions was extremely positive and making an investment to learn from what was shared will be an important investment in our future. Session attendees

received a handout of Frank’s summary findings and initial recommendations. The Summary document and the complete Compendium of Comments gathered during the session (a 60-page document!) was emailed to all members after the session. Frank believed that helpful information could be gleaned from the 628 comments offered by members during these meetings and that sharing them all can be useful in helping the congregation set its future directions. It’s a lot to digest and all extremely valuable at this critical juncture in our fellowship’s renewal. We hope you can join as we learn together.

Easter Sunday - Passover Service, Sunday, April 17

The celebrations for Easter, Passover and a tribute to our indigenous love of the land were presented as stories. As members friends and children entered to amphitheater, they were given crayons and papers with drawings of easter eggs for everyone to color.



First Story: Passover Story adapted from “The Model Seder” by Rabbis Harry Nelson and Harry Malin. Followed by, the Song: “Part the Waters” performed by Cathy Leach Phillips and Greg Phillips This was followed by a Reflection on First Story by Mary Anne Trause.

Second Story: “Meet Jesus” adapted from a story by Lynn Tuttle Gunney. This was followed by the song “For the Beauty of the Earth” performed by the UUFSD Choir. This was followed by Mary Anne Trause who read Reflections on the Second Story.

Third Story: Sheryl Goto read “Brother Eagle, Sister Sky” by Susan Jeffers. This was followed by Mary Anne Trause who read a letter that was sent, in 1855, by Native American Chief Seattle of the

Duwamish Tribe to Franklin Pierce, President of the United States in response to an offer to purchase the Duwamish lands.

Children then went about collecting all the drawings and brought them up to the podium. The children were then led to the playground to look for decorated Easter eggs.

Happenings



The Pink Flamingo Exchange Extravaganza, Saturday, April 23

PINK FLAMINGO WANTS TO THANK ALL THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THE SWAP A GREAT SUCCESS.

On April 23rd, the Pink Flamingo swooped in and said “Let's have a party and get rid of some of the clutter in our closets.” And we did! The party was a huge success, we had more food, more things to swap (a new exercise bike, computers, a weed eater, a Mickey Mouse telephone, a push lawn mower, jewelry, dishes, and fabulous clothes, scuba suits, toys and more FUN, than ever before.

What was not taken home on Saturday evening was displayed for the Sunday congregation to check out and more things went home.

WOW! WOW! WOW! Monday and Tuesday were clean up days. BIG THANK YOU WENT TO Louise Garrett, the organizer, chef Trent Ulm in the Kitchen, Charlotte Ulm, Ruth Gregory, Betsy Gilpin, Christine Maciulla, Norma Showalter and Niel Lynch, who helped with the affair.

Campus Improvements



It is with great joy and relief that the Core Building project is nearing completion. The final stucco color layer was completed, and the roof gutters installed. Buildings and Grounds work parties completed the trim work around the kitchen door/pass through, new closet doors and painting the large utility door, landscaping around the building with new path lighting. Thanks to the many volunteers and the patience of everyone during this project. **Special thanks to Chris Faller, Ed Mlarkar, Christine Maciulla and Clint Stoddard for all their hard work**

We are also pleased to announce that the Administration building expansion and remodel project is underway. An architect has been hired and design meetings with staff are taking place. Application for final Coastal Commission and City of Solana Beach building permits will be filed very soon. It is our goal to begin work on the Administration building later this year.

Happenings

Memorial Day Weekend Horse Heaven Campout



We are a Camping Congregation! On Memorial Day weekend, about forty of us made our way to Horse Heaven campground in the Laguna Mountains just off the Sunrise Highway. Our coordinator, Patricia Cofre-Stone had snagged the ideal campsite, Hollyhock which features tall trees, lots of space, and a lovely meadow view. We calculate that this might be the fiftieth year or so that UUFSD has been to these mountains on Memorial Day.



A new generation of kids climbed on fallen trees and visited the jumbo rocks in the middle of a nearby meadow. The lupin and Indian paintbrush were in bloom. Despite the climate change, the lake was full of water and reflected the deep blue sky.

Since its inception, UUFSD has been going camping. Carol Mason reminds us that in the early days, families might go for an entire week down in the Baja. As always we tell our stories of other campouts, like the one about 35 years ago when a sunny, perfect Saturday was followed by a 4am late, spring blizzard blowing tents up the hill and sending branches crashing down around us. Still we were packed up and home where it was 72 degrees in less than two hours.



Our Values in Action

Casas de Luz Spring Newsletter

Reprinted with permission from Casas De Luz

NOTE: The "Kathy" mention in the article is our own Kathy Faller



Windows

When Kathy first started visiting families over 17 years ago, she was most impacted by the consistent darkness in each family's home. With most houses being made out of old garage doors or scraps of wood, it was very rare for a family to have a single window in their home. Instead, one light bulb often lights up the room with a dirt floor and slightly musty smell.

"I still remember the single room in Cumbres where the woman was so proud to show us her window which was a hole cut into a garage door with a piece of material over it. It was very memorable." Kathy was therefore committed to bringing light to families in Tijuana, allowing Casas de Luz, or Homes of Light, to be born. Since

then each home we have built has at least 3 windows, allowing physical light to enter the homes only as a representation of the hope of a brighter future built into every corner of the house.

Trials & Tribulations

On March 25 just after arriving home from our emotional build for the Sandoval family, we noticed something was off at the sheds: shards of glass were covering the ground. It didn't take long to realize the stockpile of donated windows we had been collecting over the past 2 years was completely destroyed. In probably 10 minutes, someone broke the windows we had stored for over 10 families.



For us the window is the most important part of the home as it signifies hope and light, so to us it was more than just a loss of materials. Just 2 weeks earlier after filling the box truck to the brim with donations, it was stolen entirely. In addition to the challenges we were facing after starting to build after a 2 year break, the Casas de Luz team felt a bit tired and discouraged.

However, after sharing our story on Fox 5 and with our community on Facebook, the outpouring of love and support instantly filled our hearts and encouraged us to continue moving forward and building hope. The following Saturday individuals from the community and a junk removal service donated their time to help us clean up the storage shed area and make room for new donations. We were reminded that with the support of our community nothing will stop us.



We would like to thank you for your love and dedication to our organization, showing a more profound dedication to families and individuals on both sides of the border.

Our Values in Action

Casas de Luz (continued)



To those who have shown your support through words or actions, you have brightened our days and motivated us to work harder. On another note, we are happily accepting donations of windows to continue bringing light to families in Tijuana.

Building Hope

In the past month we have built 2 homes, slowly easing back into the swing of building. Starting up again we need your help filling our tool box! We would love any used or new tools that will help us improve our supply and make sure there are enough for everyone on the builds

In February the Casas de Luz club at University City High School kicked off the building season, working hard to build the Venegas family a beautiful home. This family of 5 needed a safe

place to stay because they were living with Ángel's mother who suffers from schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. The team loved building so much they are scheduled to build another home in late April!

Saturday, June 25,

Zoom Lecture and Discussion on Confronting Anti-Indigenous Racism and Colonialism in California



The Racial Justice Task Force featured a presentation from Dr. Joely Proudfit, Ph.D., the Director of the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center, and Cal State University San Marcos Chair of American Indian Studies. She, along with several Native American activists, taught the actual history of California Indian Peoples (often hidden and omitted from the national narratives), and making visible what anti-Indigenous racism & colonialism look and sound like.

Participants were offered solutions: ways to combat anti-Indigenous racism by recognizing ways to shift away from settler colonial mindset and behavior. The session proved essential for breaking with colonial conditioning to listen to Indigenous voices speaking from American Indian perspectives. Approximately 20 members from UUFSD and members from Palomar UU attended the session.

Our Values in Action



June 2022 Gun Violence Prevention Month

Our speakers for the Gun Violence Prevention Sunday service were Wenda Alvarez, who spoke briefly on the interconnectivity of guns and mental illness and suicides. John Post, our UUFSD Gun Violence Prevention program coordinator followed with his sermon “A Call to Action.”

A special thanks to San Diego 4 Gun Violence for participating in our month long GVP activities.

CHAIN OF GRIEF John Post spoke to us of the survivors of gun violence. He emphasized the significance of the impact of gun violence beyond the immediate survivor. In the case of school shootings, they were the victims, their extended families, friends, neighbors and families throughout the community who had children in the school, to the larger community that were affected. John spoke of the permanent psychological scars that are left after an unexpected violent act. He asked us to look beyond the facts and figures of the results of gun violence and listen to **all** these survivors’ stories.



STATISTICS John emphasized that the number one killer of children in America, is guns. And how the epidemic of gun violence is enhanced by ease of purchasing of guns. In 2002, 3.9 million guns were produced and in 2020, 11.3 million guns were produced. He went over the statistics of mass shootings in 2022 and those of June 2022.

CALL TO ACT John’s call for us to act included demanding tougher laws that would ban assault weapons, prohibit the sale of large capacity bullet magazines, stronger background checks, expand red flag laws and keep weapons out of the hands of people with mental illness, safer storage laws and making gun owners liable if their unsecured gun is used in an assault.

REACH OUT - BE THE VOICE OF MANY was John’s final message. He emphasized that we have the power through our messaging to our elected officials to keep the issue of Gun Violence Prevention in the forefront. A simple plan: immediately call two friends and ask them to call their elected officials and also to call two of their friends to do the same, creating a Gun Violence Pyramid, with thousands of people calling in and being heard.

In John’s words, **Please keep up the fight. Don’t let Uvalde, and all the other gun violence tragedies, fade into the distance. Just because it is not on the news cycle as much, don’t let the people fade from memory.**

Our Values in Action

John recognized the recent Federal legislation on gun violence prevention, a new law that contains modest provisions but is the most significant gun measure passed by Congress in nearly three decades.

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Provides

- **SUPPORT FOR STATE CRISIS INTERVENTION ORDERS**
- **PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**
- **CLARIFIED DEFINITION OF 'FEDERALLY LICENSED FIREARMS DEALER**
- **UNDER 21 ENHANCED REVIEW PROCESS**
- **PENALTIES FOR STRAW PURCHASING**
- **VIOLENCE INTERRUPTION FUNDING**
- **INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:**
 1. Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic
 2. School-based mental health
 3. Gold standard in mental health coverage for children:
 4. Tele-mental health services for children:
 5. Tele-consults for pediatricians and mental health specialists:
 6. Training for pediatric providers
 7. Community and first responder mental health training
 8. Support for states to expand mental health services:
 9. Building awareness of and access to services for mental health:
 10. School-based trauma support:
 11. Support after traumatic events:
 12. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline/9-8-8:
 13. Increased school funding for school based mental health services and staff, training and pipeline development for school based Mental health staff, out of school programs, improving conditions for student learning and school safety.

June Generosity Sunday Paving Great Futures



Essie Mae Horne, of Paving Great Futures (PGF) represented Paving Great Futures, our June Generosity Sunday recipient organization. Ms. Horne spoke forcefully of her personal tragedies with gun violence and the impact that gun violence is having in communities of color.

One of PGF's outreach programs, TWEEN SWAG engages high school students, community members and justice involved individuals on the impact of gun violence and community-led efforts to reduce violence. Their trauma-informed services recognize and respond to the impact of trauma, emphasizing physical, psychological and emotional safety, while promoting empowerment and healing.

THE GENEROSITY SUNDAY OFFERING FOR PGF WAS APPROXIMATELY \$1300.00.

Remembrances



(Eleanor} Poppy De Marco Dennis
November 28, 1937 - April 18, 2022



Poppy took it upon herself to document her life. Her “notebook/ scrapbook” illustrates her involvement in making a difference. Her contributions to local and regional governance were extensive as was her community involvement.

Academic Background: Bachelor of Arts from San Francisco State University (Psychology, Natural Science, Mathematics) - Post Graduate work at UC Berkeley (Psychology and Research Techniques) - Master of Art from San Diego State University (Counseling, Assessment, Specialized Teaching Credentials)

In 1977, Poppy, while a member of UUFSD, was the regional representative for San Diego County to the UU Service Committee, Poppy received the UU Service Committee Social Action Leadership Award for “... articulating and implementing the priorities and public policy positions of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, for working for citizen empowerment and environmental protection, and for becoming a model in her community of effective volunteer action.”

Poppy worked as a caseworker for the San Diego County Welfare Department, taught “Field and Pond Ecology,” was a legislative aide, specializing in environmental issues to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, was the owner/developer of the Be a Sweeney Memorial Tech Research Center, a classroom teacher (grades 2-5), a reading specialist, and resource specialist. Poppy was also an elected member of the California Democratic Party Executive Board. And, from 2000 to 2015, Poppy was a field representative for the US Census Bureau.

Poppy was also a board member of the League of Conservation-San Diego, a lifetime member of the San Diego Democratic Party Central Committee an active member of the Voter Services Committee and an officer in the Disabilities Caucus.



UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
July 3	Larry Jones	Our Social Contract
July 10	Rich Macdonald	A Parable for Our Faith
July 17	Kathy Faller	Stories of Housing Our Neighbors Without Homes
July 24	Peter Bolland	To Be Announced
July 31	Annette Friend	Jewish values and Heroes
August 7	Brother Balananda	The Science of Finding God
August 14	Rev Chelsea Simon	The Power of Healing, Connection and Wholeness
August 21	Chris Byrnes	Blessing of the Animals
August 28	Eberly Barnes	To Be Announced
September 4	Enrique Morones	Resilience
September 25	Rev. Tom Owen-Towle	To Be Announced



Community Life - Stay Connected

SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS

Buddhist Meditation Fridays at 10:00am

Learn More Contact Janet at janetmelugin@gmail.com

First and Third Thursdays of each Month at 6:30pm Buddhist Sangha

Learn More Contact Bob Isaacson at buddhistsangha@uufsd.org

COMMUNITY LIFE

UUFSD Book Club Monthly, Second Mondays at 6:30pm

Learn More Contact Cathy Leach-Phillips at bookclub@uufsd.org

Women of the World Second and Fourth Wednesdays of each Month

Learn More Contact Kay Byrnes at kaybyrnes@mindspring.com

Men's Informal Get Together for Pizza and Discussion

Fourth Friday of each month at 11:30am-1:00pm

Learn More Contact Drewe at sddrewe@gmail.com

Greet and Eat Sunday Second Sunday of each month

Learn More Contact Louise Garrett at lovenlou@gmail.com

Bit of Fun on Zoom 1st and 3rd Monday of each month

Learn More Contact Linda at Linda@LindaLuisi.com

Science in the Kitchen 3rd Saturday of each month

Learn More Contact Louise Garrett at lovenlou@gmail.com

INVOLVEMENT

Climate Action Group First Wednesday of each month 4 to 5 pm

Learn More Contact Sarah Miller at ClimateAction@uufsd.org

San Diego Food Bank Volunteer Night - Off Campus - 1st Thursday of each month

Learn More Contact Sarah Ohara at sara@SaraOhara.com

Building and Grounds - First Saturday of each month

(Except when it falls on a holiday weekend).

Learn More Contact Ed Mlakar at BuildingAndGrounds@uufsd.org