

DIALOGUE

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.



**HIGHLIGHTING OUR
UUFSD POETS
Pages 8-12**

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State of the Fellowship

Congregational Meeting 1/28/24 Presidents Report



Mary Anne Trause
President
Board of Directors

I want to begin my report by looking back to March 12, 2022, almost two years ago, a date that stands out for me. I got an email saying Rev. Jo, our minister at the time, would be leaving as of March 27. The news surprised us. We had recently lost our DRE. Our Music Director had left earlier in the year. Now our minister was leaving. We had almost no staff, except Tracey, our congregational administrator. And she was retiring in January.

I was on the Worship Committee and suddenly realized we would need to find speakers for every Sunday starting in two weeks. In addition, the board had to appoint a ministerial search committee. We did *not* find an interim minister that spring. Instead, volunteers on every committee stepped up to keep our Fellowship alive. And we decided we did not want to hire just anyone. The candidate had to be a good fit. Fortunately, we were in close touch with Rev. Sarah Milspaugh, our UUA representative, who gave us guidance.

In fact, she notified us that summer that a minister had just moved to our area. She was looking for a position as a contract minister. Her name was Rev. Ellie Kilpatrick. We met her, we interviewed her, we liked her and we hired her. She said that she wasn't looking for just any job either. -She found our lay-led fellowship to be energizing. We also hired an excellent Music Director, Steve Milloy, about that time and soon after a new congregational Administrator, Denise Clark.

Look where we are now, nearly two years after that email. Recently we've added a new DREF Rose Littler-Riedel and a congregational administrator Ivey Merrill, who, recently, replaced Denise Clark. We have navigated many of the transitions we were facing two years ago. This year the Board defined its overarching priorities as:

1. Visioning and Governance. 2. Understanding the Article II Revisions. And 3. Supporting the Capital Campaign Building Projects. Steady progress has been made in all three areas.

Let me start with the Capital Campaign.- At the last Board meeting two weeks ago, we affirmed our endorsement to relaunching the Capital Campaign-

In terms of the Article II revisions, Mark Tuller and his team, called the Article II Forum, have already done a tremendous amount to help us come up to speed on these issues.

In terms of Governance, we have done a deep dive into this work. In the fall, we made a change in our organizational structure. We clearly separated the roles of the Board from the roles of the Minister and clarified the responsibilities of each. We want to discern our Mission. What overarching difference are we here to make and for whom? Whose lives will we change and in what way? We see the next major undertaking of our congregation as answering these questions together. This is the Visioning work we're ready to do. Especially now with our Minister Rev. Ellie. We are breaking new ground.

We are beginning this Visioning work this week on February 1. Be part of the story. You can sign up for a session after this meeting. As Rev. Ellie asked in her sermon on MLK, "what makes you come alive?" We are ready to ask "What makes our fellowship come alive?" How can we identify our core values and embody them in who we are and what we do?

Finally, another exciting undertaking for this spring is appointing a committee to begin the process of calling Rev. Ellie as our settled minister by March of 2025. Look how far we've come! We don't want to lose her. Or lose ground. In many ways, this is our moment to come together. To create together. As our honored volunteers said this morning: Just jump in!

A Few Words from Rose



**Rose Littler-Riedel, Director
Religious Exploration &
Fellowship**

Hello fabulous fellowship, and welcome to Spring! I have so enjoyed my time here over the past couple of months getting to know you all and learning the ins and outs and rhythms of the fellowship. The welcome I received has been so joyful, and I thank you all. I am especially looking forward to spending time with many of you and building deeper bonds with the adults and children at Camp de Benneville Pines in April.

These first few months with you I have been working to gauge what is possible and sustainable in long-term RE programming for the fellowship. In doing so I have generated some programming that we will be utilizing until Summer, at which time we will hold a lightened summer program. Running these classes for the next few months will help generate ideas (and excitement) around what is possible in RE for the 24/25 year.

Here's a look at what is going on in Religious Exploration and Fellowship:

Children's RE Classes occur, as usual, during the 10 am worship service. Children attend the beginning of worship with their parents (or seated in the children's area with DREF, Rose) and are dismissed to classes after the Intergenerational Sharing time. As of March 17th, 2024, we are offering the following classes:

- Chalice Children: Toddler/Pre-K/Kindergarten – Led by fabulous coleaders Liora Kian-Gutierrez and Sheryl Goto, along with a team of volunteer assistants, using the well loved Chalice Children's curriculum.
- UU Explorers: 1st – 3rd Grades – Led by a team of fabulous RE volunteers using Grab-n-Go style, one time use, lessons centering issues such as justice, self-esteem, kindness, friendship, love and more!
- Justice Journey: 4th-6th Grades – Led by a team of fabulous RE volunteers using Grab-n-Go style, one time use, lessons centering issues such as justice, self-esteem, kindness, friendship, love and more!
- Youth Group: Ages 12- 18 – Led by DREF, Rose Littler-Riedel, and a team of volunteer youth advisors. During March and April youth will experiment with UU value inspired video game design. Beginning in May the youth will embark on a service project.

Adult RE and fellowship is available in the following ways:

- Adult RE program, *Owning Your Religious Past* – The current cohort is meeting on the second Wednesday of each month via zoom. If you are interested in this course, contact Rose. Once we have at least five people signed up we can begin a second cohort.
- Vespers Worship – Vespers Worship occurs on third Thursdays at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be no Vespers service in March, but Vespers will resume in April.
- TV Talks – Beginning in April, TV Talks will be occurring on first Fridays at 7 pm, via Zoom! This is a fun time to be together while watching TV and discussing the themes.

Also continuing are the fabulous Family Game Nights presented by Susan Hahm on fourth Mondays at 5:30 pm, live at the fellowship. Contact Susan for more information about the game nights!

And please, don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas – my door, virtual and physical – is always open. I treasure the wealth of institutional knowledge held by so many of you at the fellowship just as I treasure new ideas from those new to the community.

Our Values in Action

National Gun Violence Survivors Week, Sunday, January 20-26



Our Social Justice in Action partner organization, the San Diego For Gun Violence Prevention (SD4GVP) staffed an information table in the core area after our service on Sunday, January 28. We encourage our members and friends to join SD4GVP or sign up for their newsletter and learn about future Gun Violence Prevention actions that are planned in the San Diego area.
Info at: <https://sd4gvp.org/mission/>

Gun Violence Prevention - A Poem

Matthew Olzmann, "Letter Beginning with Two Lines by Czesław Miłosz." Reprinted by permission of Matthew Olzmann

*You whom I could not save,
 Listen to me.*

Can we agree Kevlar
 backpacks shouldn't be needed

for children walking to school?
 Those same children

also shouldn't require a suit
 of armor when standing

on their front lawns, or snipers
 to watch their backs

as they eat at McDonalds.
 They shouldn't have to stop

to consider the speed
 of a bullet or how it might

reshape their bodies. But
 one winter, back in Detroit,

I had one student
 who opened a door and died.

It was the front
 door of his house, but

it could have been any door,
 and the bullet could have written

any name. The shooter
 was thirteen years old

and was aiming
 at someone else. But

a bullet doesn't care
 about "aim," it doesn't

distinguish between
 the innocent and the innocent,

and how was the bullet
 supposed to know this

child would open the door
 at the exact wrong moment

because his friend
 was outside and screaming

for help. Did I say
 I had "one" student who

opened a door and died?
 That's wrong.

There were many.
 The classroom of grief

had far more seats
 than the classroom for math

though every student
 in the classroom for math

could count the names
 of the dead.

A kid opens a door. The bullet
 couldn't possibly know,

nor could the gun, because
 "guns don't kill people," they don't

have minds to decide
 such things, they don't choose

or have a conscience,
 and when a man doesn't

have a conscience, we call him
 a psychopath. This is how

we know what type of assault rifle
 a man can be,

and how we discover
 the hell that thrums inside

each of them. Today,
 there's another

shooting with dead
 kids everywhere. It was a school,

a movie theater, a parking lot.
 The world

is full of doors.
 And you, whom I cannot save,

you may open a door
 and enter
 a meadow or a eulogy.
 And if the latter, you will be

mourned, then buried
 in rhetoric.

There will be
 monuments of legislation,

little flowers made
 from red tape.

What should we do? we'll ask
 again. The earth will close

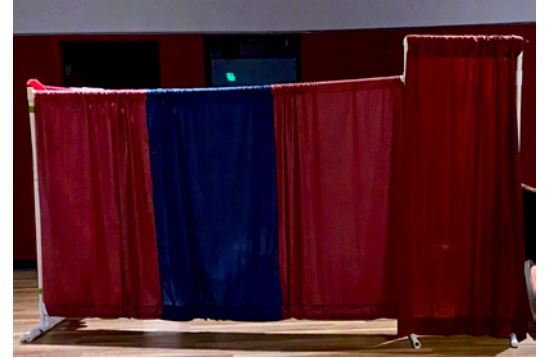
like a door above you.
What should we do?

And that click you hear?
 That's just our voices,

the deadbolt of discourse
 sliding into place.

Our Values in Action

**Interfaith Overnight Shelter, Sunday, January 28 - Sunday, February 4, 2024
St. James Catholic Church, Solana Beach**



Thanks to all of you who volunteered at the Interfaith Overnight Shelter last week. You brought food, spent the night, hung out on Saturday, and donated money. The guests were very appreciative. They felt welcomed, seen and cared for. Together we embodied our values by showing up and providing a week of safety and comfort. Blessed be.

A very special thank you to Mary Anne and Paul Trause who coordinated the Shelter Program and to our wonderful cooks, servers and overnight hosts

Overnight Hosts: Kathy Faller, Bill Paxton, Tom Keener, Colleen Shrouds, Chuck Hahm, Kathryn Sturch and Mary Anne Trause, Julia Darling, Don MacLeod, Barbara Walker & Sheryl Goto.

Cooks and Servers: Betsy Gilpin, Steve Bartram, Barbara Walker, Sara Ohara, the Heinrich Family, Charlie Mayfield, Livia Walsh & Irv Himelblau, Alice Brzovic, Terry Goan & Hedy Aardema, Mary Anne Trause, Norma Showalter, Robin Sales, Julie Fry, Dana Frieauf, Kim and Lim Nguyen, Cheryl Close, Charlotte Ulm, Angie Knappenberger, Alice Keener, Anne & Bill Gernhardt, Andi & Don MacLeod, Christine & Greg Trigeiro, Amanda Manger, Steven Miller, Vanessa Rud, Betsy & Stephan Miller, Bill Paxton, Nancy & John Drewe & Julia Darling.

2023 Climate Action Battery Recycle Project



The Climate Action Task Force battery recycle project was able to recycle 70 lbs. of batteries for the year 2023. We will continue the project for 2024. Bring your batteries to recycle to the Core Area. Look for this bucket to put your batteries in.

Gun Violence Prevention Action Items

Can you spare a few minutes to make a life saving call?

This year's MOMS DEMAND ACTION legislative priorities include:

- AB 2913: California Homicide Victims' Families' Rights Act (Author: Assemblymember Gipson)
- AB 2917: Gun Violence Restraining Orders: Risk Factors and Implementation Updates (Author: Assemblymember Zbur)
- AB 2621: Gun Violence Restraining Orders: Law Enforcement Policies and Training (Author: Assemblymember Gabriel)

The UUFSD Social Justice in Action Committee urges everyone to write to our Assembly Member Tasha Boerner, in support of these GVP measures. Ms. Boerner's local office is located at 505 Lomas Santa Fe Drive, Suite 110, Solana Beach, CA 92075. Or call 858-481-7704!

Our Values in Action



“In Appreciation”
A letter From Terry Goan our
UUFSD Fill-A-Belly
Coordinator
to Our Cooks and Servers on
Jan 25, Feb 22 & Mar 28



Our January Generosity Sunday raised \$751 for Fill A Belly

To: Mary Anne & Paul Trause, Linda Luisi & Ted Foster, Kathleen Dewhurst, Nancy Romig, Louise Lin Garrett, Sara O’Hara, Angie Knappenberger, Norma Showalter, Gregory Brown, Christine & Greg Trigeiro, Kenneth Kales, Donna Gerhauser, Rayna Rainey, Irving Himelblau & Livia Walsh, Mike Worthen, Mary & Vic Dhooge, Marty Vogel, Colleen Shourds, Betsy Gilpin, The Fry family, Lisa Shaffer & Steve Bartram. Mike Rosen, Leslie Gomez, Bill Paxton, Terry Goan, Andi Macleod,

In Appreciation

I hope this message finds you well, I find myself filled with immense gratitude and admiration for each of you. Your dedication and compassion were the driving forces behind these remarkable events, and I cannot thank you enough for your unwavering support.

These months’ dinners were not just a gathering; they were a beacon of hope for those in need. The sight of several individuals sleeping in their cars was a stark reminder of the challenges our community faces. Yet, in the midst of these hardships, your efforts shone brightly, offering warmth and sustenance to the many. You didn’t just serve meals; you brought comfort and a sense of belonging to those who needed it most.

Your generosity and kindness have made a significant impact. Each plate served, each smile shared, and each moment of connection helped make someone’s day a little brighter. These acts of kindness resonate far beyond the dinner itself, fostering a community spirit that uplifts and supports its members.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you. Your involvement and contributions are the lifeblood of this initiative. As we move forward, I am inspired by your commitment and look forward to continuing our work together, making a positive difference in the lives of our fellow community members.

With deepest appreciation, Terry Goan, UUFSD Fill A Belly Coordinator

UUFSD Fill a Belly schedule for 2024: We serve dinners on Thursdays: April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 21 and December 19. **Here is some food for thought: If you as an individual or if you are part of a UUFSD group and would like to participate as a group, contact Terry Goan: terrygoan@gmail.com**

We meet at the San Dieguito Methodist Church between 6 and 6:15 pm and start serving at 6:30. The dinner is normally over by 7:30 pm.

Happenings

Child Dedication - Ember Fay Carter



On Sunday, January 28, 2024 the UUFSD congregation welcomed Ember Fay Carter, daughter of Anthony and Daisy Carter and Leithe Miller-Kramer to our Fellowship. We committed to nourish her growth in body and spirit, to provide examples of faithful living for her, and to support her spiritual development in the principles of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

Anza Borrego Wildflower Desert Outing, Saturday, March 16



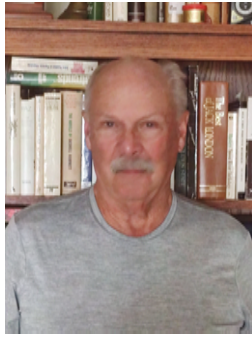
Eleven UUFSD members and friends were chauffeured in luxury to Anza Borrego for the wildflowers and beauty of the desert. Huge thanks to our driver, Scott Elliott, and navigator, Stephanie Reed, for their generosity in providing such a lovely day in their Sprinter. Our first stop was Dudley's Bakery, under new management with a Belgian pastry chef, for bread, pies, and pastries. Then we journeyed on to Julian for lunch and a quick look around town. Then we were on to the desert for endless vistas, beautiful flowers, and the eccentric sculptures. Several of us noted that the desert has never been so green and lush. The adventure was so successful that we are now wondering what other day trips we might take.



Our UUFSD Poets



Mary Anne Trause



Ross McKendrick



Cheryl Close



John Sherman

A Hatter in Pipe Club

Mary Anne Trause

I sit in my husband's gray leather chair
book in my lap waiting for me
when a quiet mewling brushes my ears.
I keep my eyes down
I want to read.
With my husband at Pipe Club
I borrow his chair
which cradles my back up to my neck
so I can relax, exhale, sink in.

Eyes lowered or not, the cat
wants to come in. His singing gets louder
salmon spurring him on.
He's had it before.
He's ready for more.
I resist rising,
crossing the herringbone rug
to the cold bare floor.
But I do.
I slide open the door
bid my master come in
all ten pounds of
his snowy sleekness.
He leads me downstairs, tail high,
torso swaying
to the shelf by the wine rack
where we keep his treats.
He sits.
Waits patiently,
having done this before.

I kneel, take a red plastic pouch
from the box,
offer it to him.

He licks my fingers for every last drop,
rubs my hand when time to stop.
Standing, I hear my husband
open the gate, then
the patio door, call *Home!*
as he enters our space.
A visitor named Dominic
came to Pipe Club today.
Dominic, in his forties,
dressed in top hat and tails
smoked a pipe with the guys
donning tee shirts and beards.

Pipe club: a medley of men
with a passion for pipes:
calabash, meerschaum, olive wood, clay,
who love to hang out,
share tobacco, their day.
No one like Dominic has been there before.
A curiosity.
A new face.
A story to hear.
Turns out he makes hats for elegant wear.
Plumes, felts, velvets for fancy fair.

Who would dream in San Diego
this artisan would appear?
Who would dream a cat
could make my reading disappear?
A hatter in Pipe Club? A cat with a plan?
Surely our own Dr. Seuss tipped his hand.

Our UUFSD Poets

Labyrinth

Cheryl Close

Between the pines
nestles a labyrinth,
an invitation
to contemplate.
My boots find the
entrance,
but my eyes close
to find my ears.
Sounds seem familiar,
but are hard to pin,
rushing creek water
or a rushing wind?
A swirling swish
shreds by.
My skirt wraps
around my thigh.
I open my eyes –
what or who else
might blow free?
But find I am
solitary.
With strong legs,
I step forward,
carrying my bones
and my family's bones.
The path, uneven, narrow,
and lined by rocks,
requires agility.
Around I go
to the core,
where I bond
to the earth like glue.
Looking up, I see
the tops of pines
encircle a shock
of blue.

Volcan 2017

Cheryl Close

Hobbled oaks with boney branches
Hold on like frail old men,
Guarding an empty foundation,
A rock hearth, a chimney,
A clump of daffodils,
A lone wooden post –
Charred decades ago,
A bullet ridden sign:
PRIVATE PROPERTY – NO
HUNTING.
An alliance of native chaparral,
Mountain lilac, buckwheat, and sage
envelop
A powerless road
And circular drive.
Like squatters, the brush sinks roots
At a determined pace.
Memories are but ghostly dreams here.
I climb into my mind
And close my eyes.
There are constants:
Wind. Bird songs.
I stand still, listening for
My father's voice,
My mother's voice,
My brothers and sister,
Friends, who squeal in delight,
sledding,
Laughing, telling stores by the fire,
My sister slipping me the queen of
spades
In a game of Hearts around the table.
These visions stream through my mind
Like sand through fingers.
They are clear.
They are fuzzy.
They are beyond my reach.

Woods (lyrics)

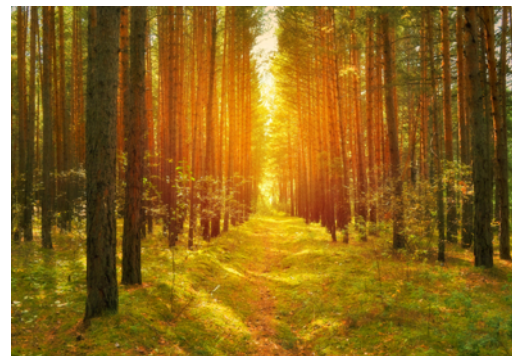
Cheryl Close

Verse 1:
Enclosed within a neighborhood,
I long to wander in the woods
Feel my inner peace surround
While listening to earth's sounds.
Whispering in the trees,
Chickadees dance in the breeze.
Singing crickets, frogs abound.
Far from city, far from town.

Chorus:
Is it time to ask
If the earth we know will last?
Will the future mirror the past?

Verse 2:
Quail tracks left in a row,
Crisscrossing winter's final snow.
Warmth of spring should be near.
What spring will bring is still unclear.
Heavy rains, extended drought,
Climate concerns are tossed about.
I know these woods like my hand,
But only nature owns the land.

Chorus:
Is it time to ask
If the earth we know will last?
Will the future mirror the past?



Our UUFSD Poets

THE WIDOW HAWK

Ross McKendrick

I found her mate
Dead
Under a telephone pole
Not a mark on him
Electrocuted no doubt.

She sat on her perch
High in the eucalyptus
And cried
She cried
And cried
And cried for him
For three days straight.

And I, now alone myself, said
to her,
“Yeah, girl. We’re in this
together.”
As I looked up from my
ground-perch
I thought, “She must know
that.”



USED TOOLS

Ross McKendrick

You can read a man’s life in his tools.
What do yours say?
Here’s a man who values a good tool,
but values it past its use.
Your tools wore out long before you.
But you kept them
Rusty
Dull
Broken
Some you could have sharpened
Why didn’t you?
But why a sharp tool
for a user already blunted?
Lost the edge

The chisel skidding on the wood,
no longer keen and biting.
You used yourself
like you used the tools
little by little growing
not to care for the sharpness.
You let it wear away
by degrees so small
that you never knew, did you?
The price to set the saw teeth,
To hone the blade.
Not much is it?
But you might need that money
for something else now,
mightn’t you?
Better hoard it,
Hoard it like that shed
full of tools
too dull to use.



Dear Baby Boy, Mary Anne Trause

I’ll fit you when you’re big enough
to roam on chubby legs
chasing balls collecting shells
waves chilling naked feet.
Your nana knit me stitch by stitch
fancying the child you’d be
charmed by turtles snails and
crabs hiding in seaweed
giggling at the sticky sand
stuck between your toes
staring up at pelicans
soaring overhead.

I want to be your buddy as
you make the world your home
frolicking on your body
not in a drawer alone.
Be sure to keep me buttoned
don’t leave me on the beach.
It’s fine if I get dirty.
I’ll soon be good as new.
So sad when you outgrow me
too big for me to hold
please pass me down to little sis.
She’ll find treasures of her own.
Love,
Your cozy sweater



Our UUFSD Poets

On Forgiveness John Sherman

For years the anger stayed within my heart,
A wound that I did not allow to heal.

Did she regret those cutting words she spoke,
Perhaps unthinking as to their effect?
The insult that so deeply wounded me,
To her was likely just an offhand thing.

Those recalled words became a sometime
thought,
Which every now and then would bubble up,
And then I'd feel the hurt as if anew.
And anger would again infuse my heart.

But then I thought about who said the words,
Realized she was conditioned, early on,
To prejudicial thoughts now firmly held,
And understood that I should not blame her.

So I decided to forgive her words
Unshackled from my anger, I was freed.

A Cat Upon My Lap John Sherman (For Sammy)

His kitten years were always filled with play
And little interest shown for a caress.
Our loving time would come at end of day,
When to my touch he'd gladly acquiesce

My cat's now old and so no longer tries
To jump upon my lap but simply stands
Before me, looking with imploring eyes
For me to lift him up with gentle hands.

He sits up on my lap expectantly,
And I begin to scratch his cheeks and chin,
Then rub his ears and he gives back to me,
A happy purr that comes from deep within.

I feel my stress and tension flow away,
We two engaged in a sweet synergy,
As I caress him at the end of day,
Each giving to the other equally.

A deep vibration of contentment now,
He turns then settles in to start a nap.
I feel his bliss in me, I know not how.....
The magic of a cat upon my lap.

California Vote by Mail Conspiracy

Harry Griswold

Place your ballot
in the official envelope,
lick it to seal it, then
sign on the outside
so your signature
can be matched against
the one the state has on file —
and your DNA collected
from your lick, to run
against every unsolved
murder case in the country,
such as Ruth Rinaldi, 43,
who had been staying
at the Holiday Inn
in small-town Idaho
when she went missing
one October 20th

and whose skull was found
five years later by a sheep
herder in the desert.
He himself was at first
held as a suspect, but
cleared by local authorities
who did a thorough
check of his voting history.

Harry Griswold conducts a Poetry Workshop at UUFSD (Founders Hall) on Tuesdays. Many of the poets presenting are in his workshop. If you are interested contact Harry at: griswold@san.rr.com



Our UUFSD Poets



Ivey Merrill our Congregational Administrator, will be leaving us at the end of March. Her circumstances have changed and she is moving to Tennessee to be closer to family.

staring, not starving

Ivey Merrill

january isn't dark if you know how to stay
in the yellow
light of the freezer at night,
mixing your fingers with narrow
slivers of ice and cake crumbs
i sip chocolate-flavored ensure
and do what girls do while
watching other girls
and pray after.
the girls in the ward are all dying &
they all look like me. i'm greedy. i'm
lonely.
me, always in need of saving, god is sick
of me,
slaughtering frail, skin-starved girls.
temporarily—
razors can help,
craving a less-than-lesser hurt
locked in my room full of clothes
with the tags still on, i use
old band-aids to hold the skin together
i weigh myself in the closet
to hide the red glowing numbers
bury myself in a slender figure
while i tape myself back together
again

Ivey leaves us with this poem that was inspired by her recent decision:

Ivey Merrill

in the quiet of dawn, before the city wakes,
i pack my dreams in bags, and my tired heart aches.
this city is a mosaic pieced together in my soul,
each memory a fragment, a story yet to be told

the streets i once skipped now echo so bare,
a creaking swing set, a childhood prayer.
summer's warm scent, a comfort so deep,
hangs in the air like a promise to keep.

the faces i know, etched with a smile,
whisper to me my destiny, and so many trials!
Your gracious goodbyes, both mournful and sweet
ring out like a symphony that resounds in the streets.

to leave everything i've known out here in the west
tears blur my vision as i put my dreams to the test
to make a name for myself on this world's grand
stage
and unlock the potential of this earthly page.

my memories dance in a wistful ballet,
but i must embrace the future, and a brand new day,
so with hope in my heart and courage unfurled,
i embark on this pilgrimage to shape my own world!



Welcome New Members



Vicki Ahumada is a 3rd generation California native, equipped with a teaching credential from UCLA. Her career in public education spanned three decades and continents, finishing up in the San Dieguito district. Her two children, now adults, live abroad; one, in Michigan, and the other, (not so far abroad) in Vista. While days of classroom teaching, marathon running, and overseas travels are now diminished, she treasures time with her husband while they 'gold pan,' watch every NFL game possible, attend activities in their recovery fellowship in Oceanside, and stay involved as activists in local and national politics. Welcome Vicki!



Donna Gerhauser moved three years ago across the country to finally begin living her dream of being a Californian. She lives in Leucadia with her husband, Paul, and adorable mini dachshund, Greta. Donna is semi retired from her business, Discover My Career, where she and her business partner help young adults figure out what they want to be when they grow up. She also worked for many years in corporate communications. Robin Sales invited Donna to the Fellowship. They met through SURJ-NCSD. Donna intends to expand her social justice work through Fellowship ministries. Welcome Donna!



Charlotte Rosen is 27 years old, and a Cancer. She is the granddaughter of Steve Rosen and daughter of Michael Rosen, both members of UUFSD. She has decided to become a member, because she has grown to love and value the principles that UUFSD upholds, particularly the emphasis on the need for social justice. Charlotte also is deeply appreciative that the fellowship is non-denominational, and accepting of people from all different walks of life. She enjoys how caring and compassionate the fellowship is, and loves that there is a collective effort to remain open-minded, aiming to create a more inclusive and united world. It just seems like a perfect community for a queer, non-binary person (who needs a little spiritual guidance) to join. Thank you for this opportunity! She looks forward to getting to know you all. Welcome Charlotte!



Colleen Shourds is an artist who likes to create colorful animals using oil or chalk pastels. She lives in a tiny home with her 2 little pets. Colleen works at the Safari Park, as well as teaching art to young and middle school children at three different locations in North County. Colleen has two grown children who live in the Sacramento area. She found the Unitarian Church 11 years ago in Auburn, CA, and loved the services, music and intergenerational literature. She feels that she has found a home here, with the same lovely format in the services at this lovely campus overlooking the ocean. Welcome Colleen!

Welcome New Members



Maryse Levenson has been a UU since 1968, and moved here from Colorado last year. She has dual citizenship in France and the US. She has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, some of whom live in the area. Maryse is a fiber artist, with weaving as her medium. She considers herself to be a private/introverted person, and does not spontaneously share much about herself. However, if you just ask her about her life, she is more than glad to tell you all about it. Welcome Maryse!



Diana Brown is a former member of UUFSD, returning to active membership. She served on the RE Committee previously. Her late husband, Steve Brown, served on the Board of Directors, and is honored with memorial brick. Their three children, Alex, Erin, and Stephanie went through the Coming of Age program. Diana has four grandchildren, with one on the way. She is a retired elementary school teacher and literacy coach in the San Marcos Unified School district.

Now Diana serves as a volunteer tutor with the Encinitas for Equity program. She loves hiking, gardening, bicycling, horseback riding, dancing, reading, cooking, films, playing games, and being with family and friends. Welcome back, Diana!



Vanessa Reed is grateful for the community she has found here. She has been singing with the choir for a year now! Vanessa lives in Encinitas with her spouse, Roger, and child, Lucas. Vanessa spends her time tutoring and volunteering at Lucas' school and with Cub Scouts. Vanessa was drawn to UUFSD for its social justice and inclusive values. She enjoys watercolors, cross stitch and crafts in general. Welcome Vanessa!



Ongoing Events

Ongoing Events Throughout the Month

SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS

Third Monday of each Month at 2:30pm
Earth Centered Spiritual Group
 Contact Glen Bowden at ggbowden@cox.net

First Wednesday of the Month at 7:00pm via
Zoom
Climate Action Task Force (CATF)
 Contact Sarah Miller at
climateactioncoord@uufsd.org

Second Wednesday of each Month at 5:00pm via
Zoom
Adult RE - Owning Your Religious Past
 Contact Rose Littler-Riedel at rose@uufsd.org

Third Thursday of each Month at 5:00pm
Vespers and Conversation
 Contact Rose Littler-Riedel at rose@uufsd.org

Fridays at 10:00am
Buddhist Meditation (note: only the Friday
Group is currently meeting)
[Learn More](#) Contact Contact Christie Turner
 at christieturner@gmail.com

Third Saturday of each Month at 11:00am
Sacred Texts Discussion Group
[Learn More](#) Contact Rich Macdonald at
ridumac@gmail.com

COMMUNITY LIFE

First Sunday of each Month at 11:30am
UUFSD All-Ages Art Club
 Contact Alice Brzovic at artclub@uufsd.org

Second Sunday of each Month at 11:15am
UUFSD Board Meeting
 Contact Mary Anne Trause at board@uufsd.org

First and Third Mondays of each Month at
6:30pm via Zoom
Bit O'Fun: Creative Word Games, Spontaneous
Conversations, Improvisation
 Contact Linda Luisi at BitOFun@uufsd.org

Second Monday of each Month at 6:30pm
UUFSD Book Club
[Learn More](#) Contact Cathy Leach-Phillips at
bookclub@uufsd.org

Fourth Monday of each Month at 5:30pm
All-Ages Tabletop Game Night
 Contact Susan Hahm
 at recommittee@uufsd.org

Second and Fourth Wednesdays of each
Month at Noon
Women of the World
[Learn More](#) Contact Kay Byrnes at
kaybyrnes@mindspring.com

Thursdays at 7:00pm
Choir Rehearsal
 Contact Steve Milloy at steve@uufsd.org

Second and Forth Thursday of each Month
at 5:00pm
TV Talks
 Contact Rose Littler-Riedel at rose@uufsd.org

Second and Fourth Fridays of each Month
at Noon
Men's Group
 Contact John Sherman
 at johnlsherman42@gmail.com

First Saturday of each Month at 9:00am
UUFSD Buildings and Grounds Work Party
 Contact Ed Mlakar to confirm at
buildingandgrounds@uufsd.org

Upcoming Events

Family Camp at Camp de Benneville Pines Friday, April 12 - Sunday, April 14,



Explore the magic of the mountains with family and friends. Enjoy hiking, crafts, singing, dancing, yoga, games, workshops and more including:

- Nourishment for the mind and body
- Comfortable cabins
- Gathering around the fire at Homet Lodge for conversation
- Activities for all ages, archery, playground, crafts, meditation

Questions contact Chris Faller at cfaller5@gmail.com, Betsy Gilpin at betsygilpin01@gmail.com, or Christie Turner at christieturner@gmail.com.

Spring to Life Fair & Feast: Food, Music, Auction - Sat, Apr 20, 2024, 4:00 - 8:30pm



Save the date! Come to UUFSD's Spring to Life Fair & Feast: Food, Music, Auction! on **Earth Day**, Saturday, April 20, 2024. We will gather inside and out as a multi-generational community celebrating the earth, ourselves, and spring. We'll plan activities for the kids, sing-a-longs for everyone, yummy

food, exciting live and silent auction items, earth-friendly decorations and even a song-writing contest. Think about lyrics, think about donations, think about how you want to be involved. Be the festivities you want to see! To volunteer, contact Andi MacLeod at andi.macleod@gmail.com, Rich Macdonald at ridumac@gmail.com, or Mary Anne Trause at trause@comcast.net.

UU's Got TALENT!! New Songwriting Challenge

Submittal deadline: March 31, Easter Sunday

This year for our Spring to Life Fair & Feast, our members will be offered a chance to be **FAMOUS!**—at least in our Fellowship. We know that there are talented creative folks among us just waiting for the right opportunity. And **this is it**. All you have to do is write a song and perform it, or team up with others to perform it. So **accept the challenge! you got talent!!** For how to submit your entry, call or text Greg Brown at 760-994-5317, or email gr8mackinnon@gmail.com

Planet-Healthy Potluck

Hosted by UUFSD's Climate Action Task Force (CATF) Sunday April 28. 11:00am-noon

Bring a healthy plant-based dish for a fabulous outdoor luncheon. If you want to eat a more plant based diet, this potluck makes it easy. If you discovered a delicious plant based dish, this is when to share it. What we eat every day makes a difference in the health of our planet, ourselves, and all life. This small action cultivates a new mindset. Doing it with friends is an adventure.

List your main ingredients. Gluten free? Nuts? Dairy? We'll supply cards to label your dish Vegetarian or Vegan. Or bring a recipe card. Salads & fruit plates, welcome.

Plant-based Vegan: no poultry, meat, fish, dairy, egg. Vegetarian: includes dairy and eggs.

Those who arrive 10 am, enjoy an Earth Day Service w/ guest speaker, singers, and guest musician.