

# DIALOGUE

## QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

A publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito

## COMMITMENT



On October 15, 2011, nine members and friends of UUFSD marched in support of the "OCCUPY" San Diego movement. Members and friends marching in downtown Encinitas included Karen Freeman, John Gillies, Livia Walsh, Irv Himelblau, Dave and Deborah Ploesner,



Angela Knappenberg, Ed Mlakar, and Bev Conner. The Encinitas march was an adjunct to the march in downtown San Diego, where Rev. David Miller and Ruth Gregory marched. Lisa Shaffer, Steve Bartram, Christie Turner and Laura Colban also participated in other downtown OCCUPY demonstrations.



### Voices of our Members

Karen Freeman's sign read: "JOBS NOT CUTS." She chose "Jobs Not Cuts" because in three simple words it states the most crucial problem & solution. Irv Himelblau chose "JOBS NOW" because of the plight of so many families suffering the effects of unemployment and inactivity on the part of the government to encourage job growth. Livia's sign read "NO MORE GREED, YES TO SOCIAL JUSTICE." John Gillies wants us to "TAKE OUR COUNTRY BACK" from the special interests. Angela Knappenberg was asking our government to "INVEST IN PUBLIC EDUCATION." Ed Mlakar marched to protest the collusion between the Wall Street Lobby and the federal government. **(Continued on page 15).**



**Imagine a religion where inspiration comes from not one but  
many spiritual sources  
Unitarian Universalism**

# DREAMCATCHERS

Dare to Dream



## FROM DREAM TO REALITY

by Lisa Shaffer

Who are we? What are we called to do or be? Who are our neighbors? What is the environment in which we exist? These are the essential questions that the UUFSD strategic planning team, the Dreamcatchers, have been working to help all of us answer, so that we can develop specific goals, milestones, plans, and budgets to move the Fellowship in the direction of our shared vision.

Through demographic research, a series of small group meetings, and informal discussions, we have some preliminary answers. We came to UUFSD in search of like-minded people, a sense of community, an opportunity to make a difference, spiritual growth, and a place to learn and share values with children and partners. And we came to enjoy the beautiful setting and outdoor amphitheater. We found these things we were seeking, and we seek them still. We want to nurture this place we love and share it with more people. We feel good about the contributions we have made in the community by participating in social action projects such as the Community Resource Center and the Homes of Hope, and we want to do more – to have a bigger impact, to leverage our efforts with those of other organizations, and to serve the growing needs of our local community, our nation, and the planet. We want to feed our spirits and continue our spiritual journeys, and we want to live our faith in our everyday lives. And we want to maintain and enhance our beloved space and facilities.

On January 14, we will convene a Fellowship-wide Forum. With the help of a professional facilitator, we hope to turn these dreams into a statement of our shared vision, and outline a strategic plan that we can develop in the year to come. This shared vision and strategic plan will  
(Continued on Page 3)

**Imagine a religion that embraces many different beliefs**

**Unitarian Universalism**

## **Dreamcatchers** (Continued from page 2)

guide important decisions, such as personnel plans, budgets, and capital improvements. We will need to know where to focus our time and resources.

If the congregation can engage in the process and agree on a vision, we should be able to use that to develop specific plans that would answer questions like these:

- What is the best balance between outreach to our immediate neighborhood (Solana Beach, North Coastal), San Diego County, the region (including Tijuana), and state or national-level challenges?
- Should we pick one out of the many important social issues to focus on, or diversify our efforts among the particular interests of individual members? How can we structure social action activities to engage more of the membership in the work?
- Should UUFSD try to become more visible in the community? If so, why and how?
- How can we implement sustainability in our own operations?
- How can we support spiritual growth through action?
- If more funding were available, what is the relative priority of more administrative support, a volunteer or inreach coordinator, a program support person, increased time for professional music and religious education?
- What are priorities for capital improvements? Considering amphitheater enhancements, bathrooms, classrooms, and office space – where should we begin?
- relative priority of more administrative support, a volunteer or inreach coordinator, a program support person, increased time for professional music and religious education capacity?
- What are priorities for capital improvements? Considering amphitheater enhancements, bathrooms, classrooms, and office space, where should we begin?

The Fellowship is its membership. We encourage everyone to engage in this process. Come to the January 14 meeting. Volunteer to work on the next phase of planning. Invest your time and your money in sustaining and expanding the Fellowship so that we can see our seven UU principles made manifest in the world. Imagine Wall Street and Congress filled with UUs. What a different world we would be!



**Imagine a religion that stands on the side of love**  
**Unitarian Universalism**



## **UUFSD CHOIR PERFORMS AT THE THE INTERFAITH 9/11 MEMORIAL Balboa Park**

The UUFSD Choir was one of five choirs to perform at the San Diego Interfaith 9/11 Memorial and Concert held at Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park on September 11, 2011. Their performance of "We Will Be a Shelter for Each Other", directed by Gianna Drogheo and accompanied by Lynne Talley on the piano and Tina Rickard on the flute, was inspirational.

Over 500 people attended the memorial. In addition to the UUFSD Choir there were performances by the East County Mormon Choir, the Poway Interfaith Team, the Sikh Foundation of San Diego, Shri Mandhir Temple Choir, and the San Diego Jewish Men's Choir.

### **Children's Choir**



Our Youth choir began rehearsals in October and has now sung in three Sunday services, November 6th, December 4th (Joy Service) and December 11th, (Music Sunday). The children's choir last sang at the Christmas Eve service and will take a short break and start up again in the early spring. We are all very excited about this group. They are adorable and sing with joy and confidence.

Current members of the Youth Choir are: Caleb and Cameron Blevins, Carly Cooper, Alex and Sarah Severinghaus, Leo and Zoe Sandberg-Smith, Avery and Noelle Lee, Renata Hahm Carolyn Knapp, Kendra Kleber, Lauren Mercier, Carmen Quinones, Kevin Parr, Jack Manly, Zoe Wallace.

If you have a child between the ages of 5-17 who would like to sing, please get in touch with Gianna Drogheo at [giana@uufsd.org](mailto:giana@uufsd.org) or call her at 858-750-3682.

**Nurture your spirit, help heal the world**

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# WHY MEDITATE?

by Livia F. Walsh

Meditation has its origins in Buddhism. There are many forms of meditation and many traditions that include different practices of meditations (to be addressed in the Spring publication of *Dialogue*). For some, meditation is part of a spiritual practice. For others, it is a pragmatic way to consciously be engaged in life with more intention and clarity. And for others, meditation has proven to have a mitigating effect on various medical and psychological conditions.

Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche, a Tibetan Buddhist teacher, describes meditation as a “way to make the mind more stable and clear.” Rabbi Rami Shapiro, in his response to a Christian woman

expressing concern that meditation might lead her away from Christianity, offered several Biblical references including a quote from Matthew 11:15 describing meditation as a means for cultivating “ears that hear and eyes that see.” From these perspectives one does not have to be a Buddhist to practice this very effective way of calming the mind so that we can be available to all that we experience in the present.

When asked what benefits they’ve experienced as a result of their personal meditation practice, some members of our UU Fellowship responded:

*“My meditation practice has allowed me to savor more of life, helping me see things more as they are.”*

*“I meditate because it is the only thing I have found that brings me true happiness and peace of mind. Yes, it is good for stress management and for mental and physical health, but these are mere side effects or “perks” to being truly happy. Happiness is that feeling of contentment, being filled with love, joy and compassion, despite whatever obstacles come along, despite the fact that everything in this life is fleeting and unlasting. Vigilance is necessary always - isn’t it so difficult to be undistracted by the many things in life that can take us off our path in a heartbeat! But it is possible to tame the chattering mind and find a delightful serene stillness. This is why I meditate.”*

*I “began Transcendental Meditation in 1994 and have been doing it ever since. People who knew me before we began meditating have consistently said that I became far more mellow after beginning the practice. I think that is true.”*

*“...Mindfulness tools I use in my eclectic practice continue to increase my self-compassion, compassion for others, and ability to cope with the vicissitudes of life. After decades of a tumultuous, angst-filled life, I am miraculously achieving more mental stability, inner peace, acceptance and joy.”*

*“When I meditate, my body grows calmer. I’m still not very successful at reducing all the thoughts that run around inside my head, so I’ve decided to just be grateful for the benefit I get from sitting quietly and doing nothing. I really enjoy the stillness of my time on the cushion. Sometimes I have sudden insights while I’m meditating about a problem in my life or an art or weaving project I’m working on. Even though I’d prefer, when I’m meditating, to be in a place where my mind is taking a break from these things, I accept these insights as benefits too because they always seem to move me toward greater understanding of the Buddhist teachings.”*

There are multiple studies in the neurosciences and in medicine in general that tout the benefits of meditation as an intervention for depression, cancer, autoimmune disorders and heart disease. A recent study at Yale University funded by the National Institutes of Health found that experienced meditators had decreased activity in areas of the brain implicated in lapses of attention and disorders such as anxiety, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, and even decreases in the buildup of beta amyloid plaques found in Alzheimers disease.

Meditation, whether viewed from a scientific, psychosocial, physical or spiritual lens has proven to be a valuable practice and one that is becoming more and more mainstream rather than confined to monasteries. There are programs being introduced in schools across the country to help children cope with challenges in their lives in a more effective way and to simply **be** in their lives in a more meaningful way. So, the question, “WHY MEDITATE?” seems to be becoming a question of “WHY NOT MEDITATE?”

The Fellowship offers four meditation groups. All are open to the public.

**Tuesday Mindfulness Group:** Tuesdays, 9:15 -1:30 a.m. [mindfulness@uufsd.org](mailto:mindfulness@uufsd.org)

**Thursday Buddhist Meditation Group:** Thursdays, 6:00-7:15p.m. [ThursdayBuddhistMeditationGroup@uufsd.org](mailto:ThursdayBuddhistMeditationGroup@uufsd.org)

**Friday Buddhist Meditation Group:** Fridays, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. [FridayBuddhistMeditationGroup@uufsd.org](mailto:FridayBuddhistMeditationGroup@uufsd.org)

**Buddhist Sangha:** First and third Thursdays of each month: 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. [BuddhistSangha@uufsd.org](mailto:BuddhistSangha@uufsd.org)

**Different people, different beliefs, one faith**

**Unitarian Universalism**

# SOCIAL ACTION

by Kathy Faller, Brynn Craffey & Kevin West

## Social Action Committee Backpack Project



*Members of the Fellowship gathered on Saturday, August 27 to assemble back to school backpacks for children of battered women in the Encinitas Community Resource Center, and for children in the Colonias Garrettas. A total of 42 backpacks were assembled thanks to the generosity of the fellowship.*

A special thanks to the following members who assembled these backpacks: Candace Sage, Kevin West, Lisa Shaffer, Barbara Walker, Judith Barney, Robin Sales, Eli Snider, Louise Garrett, Norma Showalter, Bev Connor, Brynn Craffey & Kathy Faller.

## Building the World



## We Dream About

On Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, participants in the “Building the World We Dream About,” workshops completed the third in a series of eight workshops in Founders’ Hall. This session, skillfully facilitated by Tana Monaco and Robin Sales, addressed the issues of the promise and problems of unearned privilege, as well as navigating landscapes of power and privilege.

The “Building the World We Dream About” curriculum, developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA),

guides participants in conversations on these and other challenging topics. The eventual goal is to determine how our congregation might become more multicultural with regard to race, ethnicity, and other forms of difference.

Workshop IV, scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup>, will focus on “Discerning Race and Power, and Power in Our Congregation.” (Participation is closed at this time, but the series may be repeated.)

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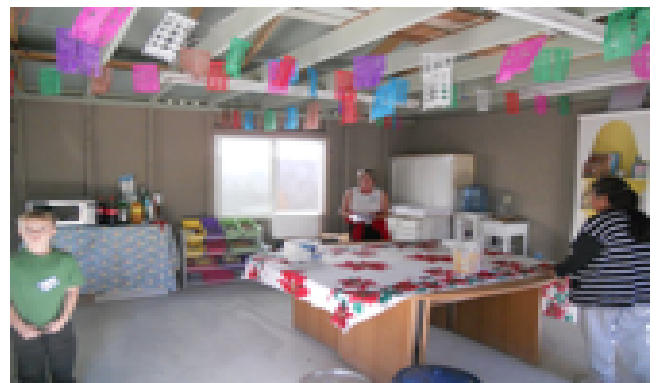
# SOCIAL ACTION



## Social Action With our Neighbors to the South

Thanks to a vibrant partnership with two innovative nonprofit organizations, members of our congregation's Social Action Committee (SAC) now have ongoing and energetic relationships with seven different communities south of the Mexican border.

Our first nonprofit partner, Corazon ("heart" in Spanish), is a largely volunteer organization based in Orange County, who for more than 30 years has offered shelter and education to thousands of northern Baja Californian residents. The ideal of "community" underlies all of Corazon's work. People in need are not given handouts: instead they participate in programs that allow them to help themselves. In the process, they help their neighbors and their community to grow and prosper. (Continued on page 8)



Canon Carretas Community Center

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# SOCIAL ACTION

## **Social Action With our Neighbors to the South** (continued from page 7)

Much of SAC's hard work in Mexico has been focused on the Canon Carretas community in Tijuana. Our involvement there began three years ago when Corazon, aware of our congregation's commitment to supporting families in Tijuana, invited us to help with fundraising and deliveries of material donations for a proposed community center. We jumped at the chance, not really knowing what we were getting into. Our first Christmas in the neighborhood was celebrated with a party in a vacant lot which we dreamed one day to transform into a community center.

Families started joining our project from the start, contributing community service hours and taking introductory gardening classes. One short year later, with everyone pitching in together, the community center had risen from the vacant lot. Rev. David presided at a joint Christmas/dedication celebration in 2010. A great time taking swings at the piñata was had by all.

Fifteen of the original families we assisted still participate in our program, and our efforts haven't really slowed down. We participated in three home builds this year, upgraded the community center with electricity and bathrooms, contributed to scholarships and school supplies (through the backpack project), supported the Promatora Nutrition Program for school children, and are proceeding with plans for producing "Standing on the Side of Love" T-shirts and apparel at Canon Carretas.

This year's Christmas party, celebrated on December 4<sup>th</sup>, was once again a time for looking at just how far we've come. With joy in our hearts we noted: not only was new electricity flowing but positive human energy was humming throughout the packed community center. We can't wait to see what next year will bring!

**(Social Action continued on page 14)**



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# DE BENNEVILLE PINES



Have you experienced the magic of Camp de Benneville Pines? If so, you know that the beautiful natural setting is the perfect place to recover from “Nature Deprivation Syndrome” and connect with your fellow campers in meaningful ways. After time spent at Camp, one returns to the real world with a clearer head. That’s the magic.

For those of you who have never experienced Camp, here is some background. Camp de Benneville Pines is located in the San Bernadino Mountains east of Angeles Oaks on state highway 38. It was established 51 years ago when a few UU visionaries bought it from the Boy Scouts after a fire destroyed part of the Camp. The Pacific Southwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association has adopted the Camp as its conference center.



Early improvements to Camp de Benneville Pines included construction of a new lodge/dining hall (Homet Lodge) on the slab of the one that burned down and the installation of basic utilities to the cabins. After Janet James took over as Camp Director about 15 years ago, she recruited a number of outside groups to rent the facilities and devoted the increased revenue to Camp improvements. Also, Janet inspired fundraising by the District, which contributed to the effort. A new, more luxurious cabin (Craig’s Cabin) was constructed.



A recent crisis with the 50-year-old water system inspired a new wave of fundraising. Without new pipes, the survival of the Camp would have been jeopardized, but everyone who had enjoyed the Camp over the years prevented that from happening. Over \$600,000 was raised to replace all the utilities, since the Camp road had to be dug up anyway. The work is now complete. Amazingly, the workers were able repair things sufficiently for all the usual weekend camp activities throughout the fall. The utilities should be good for at least another 50 years.

Many UUFSD members have attended camps over the years. Besides wonderful weekend gatherings such as “Music in the Mountains” and the “UU Women’s Retreat”, many of us have experienced week-long summer camps. UUFSD youth are great fans of the Senior High, Junior High and elementary-age camps. There are winter camps for these age groups, too. The youngest age children can bring a parent to camp. My children and I attended Family Camp for 10 years. Now I attend a summer camp for adults at the end of August. I participate in the Art Camp module. See [www.UUCAMP.org](http://www.UUCAMP.org) for a complete schedule of upcoming camps. (Continued on page 16)

**The Magic of Camp  
de Benneville  
by Betsy Gilpin**

**A loving, open-minded spiritual community  
Unitarian Universalism**

## MINISTER'S CORNER

### ***A PEDAGOGY OF TRANSFORMATION*** by Rev. David Miller

After years of fundraising in nonprofits and working in politics, I (and many others) have come to the conclusion that getting people to change or to increase their commitment to something cannot be based solely on intellectual discussion, or convincing arguments. Intellectual discussion does not by itself create long-term systemic change. We cannot tell people things, hope they see it our way and expect that they will suddenly see the light. I think long term change comes when change happens within.

There are those in the Occupy Movement and many others struggling to bring about systemic change who think that if they point out the errors in the opposing arguments, people will see those errors and understand that they are wrong. I see this everyday in email and on Facebook. Whether liberal or conservative, if that is all that it took we would be able to change people by convincing them of their mistaken positions. I think systemic change is more difficult than that. A possible path to true change of heart, spirit and/or soul takes exposure to different ways of thinking, deep reflection, and shifts in our understanding in our framework of the world. Perhaps what we can create is a Pedagogy of Transformation or a conduit to an opening of possibilities.

The formula written below is a variation I have used in workshops on fundraising and volunteer development when trying to understand a person's decision to donate to or get more deeply involved with a cause they care about, a possible Pedagogy of Transformation:

- Awareness of otherness leads to opportunities – *How do we create awareness that invites people in vs. entrenching them further in their own positions.*
- Opportunities lead to engagement – *Mutual storytelling can be a beautiful form of engagement.*
- Engagement leads to relationships – *Harder to demonize those you have come to know through disclosure and sharing.*
- Relationships lead to involvement – *How can we work together on the things that we agree upon?*
- Involvement leads to understanding – *Finding the humanity in all.*
- Understanding leads to increased commitment – *We are interconnected, aren't we?*

***(Continued on page 16)***



**Rev. David addressing NUHW members on September 21, 2011**

The goal of the National Union of Healthcare Workers' strike on September 21st was to send a message to Kaiser Permanente that therapists and other health care professionals deserve a say in patient care and to negotiate a fair contract related to maintaining pension and health benefits. UUFSD member Robin Sales is a NUHN member.

**The Uncommon Denomination**

**Unitarian Universalism**

# GENEROSITY SUNDAYS

## SHARING OUR PLATE 2011



**13 February 2011 - Standing on the Side of Love- \$513.00.** SSL is a public advocacy campaign sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. The \$513.80 raised will be used to support the call for respect, inclusion, and compassion in public debates over immigration, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT)



**27 March 2011 - UUA-UUSC Japan Relief Fund - \$1219.00.** Unitarian Universalists throughout the United States contribute to the UUA-UUSC Japan Relief Fund that will support the work that our Japanese partners pursue. Congregations around the country have chosen to take special collections for this Fund and the UUA is grateful for the generous response that we have received.



**17 July 2011 - A reason to Survive (ARTS)- \$457.00.** A Reason To Survive (ARTS) is a San Diego based nonprofit organization that believes that the visual, performing, and literary arts can literally transform lives – especially those of kids. We use all art forms as a vehicle to create positive, long-lasting change in children and youth facing major life challenges – giving them not only a reason to survive – but to also thrive. ARTS uses a team of passionate and dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, donors, vendors, and kids.



**25 September 2011 - Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)- \$1,185.00.** MSF is an international medical humanitarian organization created by doctors and journalists in France in 1971. MSF provides independent, impartial assistance in more than 60 countries to people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe, primarily due to [armed conflict](#), [epidemics](#), [malnutrition](#), [exclusion from health care](#), or [natural disasters](#). MSF provides independent, impartial assistance to those most in need.



**2 October 2011 - UUA Association Sunday \$1,215.00.** Donations to Association Sunday 2011 will support scholarships, continuing education, and a comprehensive assessment of our ministries and their needs for the future. Grants from Association Sunday 2011 funds will help religious professionals get ongoing training to support thriving congregations. The UUA is grateful to the UUMA, UUMN, and LREDA for their support of Association Sunday.



**27 November 2011 - Interfaith Shelter Network (EL NIDO) - \$970.00.** The Interfaith Shelter Network is a collaborative effort by local congregations, human services agencies and government entities to provide shelter, services, and resources to homeless San Diegans throughout the region. El Nido is their transitional living program for homeless victims of domestic violence and their families. Located in central San Diego, in a confidential site for safety reasons, the project offers stability in housing while allowing the residents to offer emotional support to each other and less isolation during this stressful time in their lives.



**25 December 2011 - Casas De Luz - \$1390.00.** Casas de Luz is an ongoing UUFSD Social Action program, that brings volunteers together with families in need to build houses in Mexico. Volunteer builders from ages 8 to 80 arrive in Mexico early on Saturday to help construct these pre-planned homes, with the help of a few skilled workers from both sides of the border. The December Generosity Sunday is being dedicated to our home build in October 2012.

**Imagine a religion where all are welcome**

**Unitarian Universalism**

# OPERATION FACELIFT



The following members of UUFSD participated in the October Operation Facelift: Walt and Chelsea Kanzler, Nick Mirandon, Darlene Kanzler, Tristan Pollner, Skye Mirandon, Rachel Maurais, Wendy and Doug Mau, Ann Linn, Zack Kanzler, Marilyn Bredvold, David Linn, Reinhold Pollner, Lisa Ackermann, Brian Blakistone, Nadian Singer-Bredvold, Elise Friedman, Torrey Mau, Sienna Elvins, Sam Blakistone, and Kevin West.

On October 22, 2011, thirty members of UUFSD's Coming of Age and YRUU groups, along with parents and members of UUFSD's Young Adult Group joined forces with another 706 volunteers, making the fall City Heights Facelift event the largest in its 16 year history.

Twice a year, in June and October, through the help of community volunteers, neighborhood associations and local businesses, Facelift transforms 10-15 homes in a one block radius of a selected City Heights neighborhood. Senior citizens, disabled persons and low income families are given priority in receiving Facelift attention.

On the cool, autumn morning, the UUFSD team checked in, received their teal Facelift tee-shirts, and blue identifying bracelets and then assembled in a staging area with Volkswagon sized mounds of mulch, basins of scrapers, paint brushes, paint trays, drop cloths, paint stirrers, tape, picks, post diggers, pruners, clippers, screwdrivers, shovels, and pairs of work gloves – lots of them, enough for 736 people. What immediately caught our attention at 8 am, however, was the coffee, juice and breakfast pastries, all donated for the volunteers! Good cheer and energy were everywhere, palpable.

The UUFSD team was assigned a canyonside, cantilevered home and a steep hillside across the street from the home. Thick, tall weeds were removed from the hillside and hauled by wheelbarrow

down a steep street for disposal. Painting of the house included stairs and three decks with about 200 feet of deck railing that needed paint. New exterior lighting, a new mailbox and new house numbers were installed. A low concrete wall on either side of the driveway was repaired and painted. The yard was cleaned and weeded. Parents, teens and young adults worked side by side. The teens were very entertaining with their ingenious methods of hauling bags of yard waste and their cooling water fights.

Work was finished by early afternoon. Cleanup is part of the deal and all those tools and supplies brought down the hill had to be brought back up the hill and put away. The workers last look repaid all of their hard work.

This year, on 46<sup>th</sup> Street between Home Avenue and Olive Street, 13 homes received yard cleanups, full paint jobs, minor repairs and landscaping. Swan Canyon also received a massive cleanup and beautifying effort. UUFSD was proud to be a part of this, the largest ever City Heights Facelift event – a soul smiling day.



Torrey Mau, Chelsea Kanzler & Ann Linn

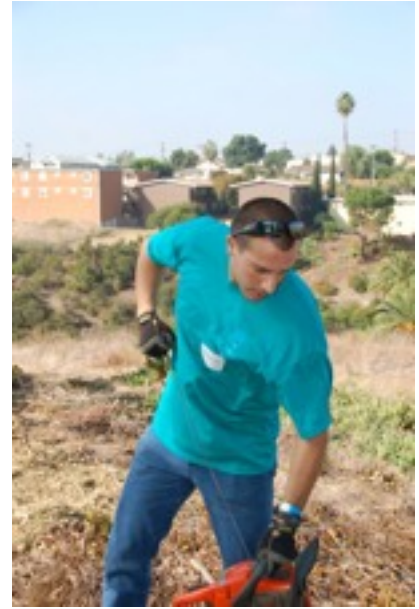
**Imagine a religion raising children to build bridges, not walls**

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# OPERATION FACELIFT



Zach & Chelsea Kanzler, David Linn, & Skye Mirandon



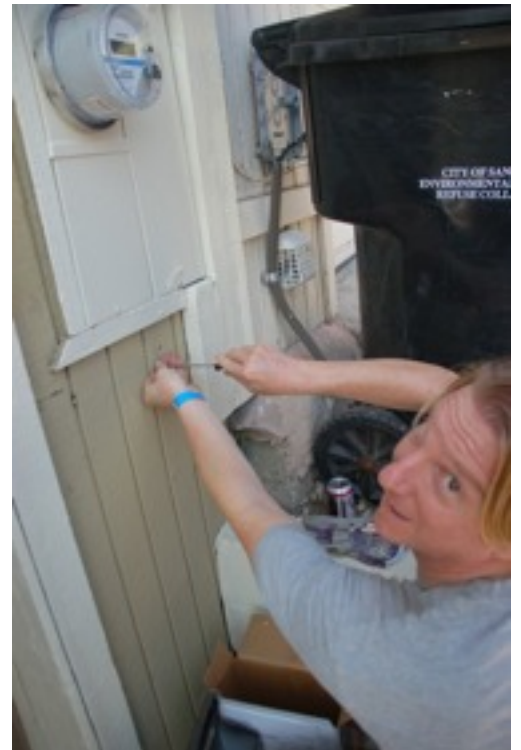
Kevin west



Marilyn Bredvold



Elise Friedman, Nadian Singer-Bredvold  
& Nick Mirandon



Walter Kanzler

**Imagine a religion raising children to build bridges, not walls**

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# SOCIAL ACTION

**SAC** (continued from page 8)



## **ALL IN A DAY'S DELIVERY**

Kathy Faller delivering:

Refrigerator

Stove

Windows

Doors

Chairs

Sofa

Ottoman

Kitchen items

And.....a skate board!

## **Deconstruction Reuse Network**

Our second nonprofit partner, Deconstruction Reuse Network (DRN), is also based in Orange County. An "environmental and social benefit corporation," DRN's mission is to promote and empower demolition practices that preserve and reuse quality building materials. SAC co-facilitator, Kathy Faller, who first became involved with DRN through her humanitarian activities in Mexico, serves as its San Diego regional program manager.

Acquiring two trucks for weekly deliveries of donated building supplies and household items, as well as access to larger trucks for more substantial donations (up to and including the complete deconstruction of an entire home for salvage) has magnified the effectiveness of SAC's efforts in Mexico. These services not only benefit those in need, they contribute to our congregation's goal of creating a more sustainable world by promoting reuse rather than landfill.

## **SAC Annual Holiday Baskets Program**

The Social Action Committee's (SAC) annual **Holiday Baskets Program** for the Community Resource Center (CRC) in Encinitas was a huge success this year. We participated along with many other volunteer organizations in this action. We kicked off the campaign on Sunday, November 13th, with an eloquent and heartfelt statement from the pulpit by Robin Sales about the desperate need for emergency food assistance experienced by an increasing number of both working and unemployed Americans. After the service, volunteers handed out specially marked paper grocery bags for us to fill up with nonperishable foods and return in the next three weeks. Then, following each of the next three Sunday services, SAC volunteers collected food, sold tax-deductible "turkey tickets" (monetary donations), and solicited volunteers to help sort and assemble food baskets, distribute them, and tear down the assembly-area at the Del Mar Fairgrounds after the event. The CRC helped to serve more than 1,500 needy families with food, gifts, and clothes.



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11-21-2011



Brynn Craffey & Ruth Gregory



Norma & Owen Showalter



**Rev. David with Multi-faith leaders  
at the San Diego Civic Center**

Multi-faith leaders from San Diego County held a short service of gratitude, thanks and sharing. As a community of Occupy supporters and friends, participants brought pies of all sorts, (pizza, pumpkin, peach, apple) to share in thanks and gratitude for those holding the space at our local Occupation and to give thanks for all those raising the issues of fairness, compassion and equality being shared by this movement.



Rev Jim Grant & Diane & Madeleine Masser-Frye

Not pictured: Stu & Brenda  
Anderson & Irving Himelblau



Dave, Dianne, Madeleine Masser-Frye ,  
with Dave's mom.

**Standing on the side of love**  
**Unitarian Universalism**

## **deBenneville Pines** (continued from page 9)

The first weekend in April, UUFSD has its own special weekend at Camp de Benneville Pines. We arrive on Friday evening in time for dinner (Did I mention that the Camp food is delicious!) and some get-acquainted activities. All day Saturday we enjoy a variety of crafts, hiking and other outdoor activities, workshops and usually a special evening program (often a talent show). Then on Sunday, we pack up, have a worship service, and eat a delicious brunch before heading home. This weekend is a great opportunity to get to know each other better. For more information on the 2012 weekend (3/29 to 4/1), email [DeBennevillePines@uufsd.org](mailto:DeBennevillePines@uufsd.org)

**Betsy Gilpin**

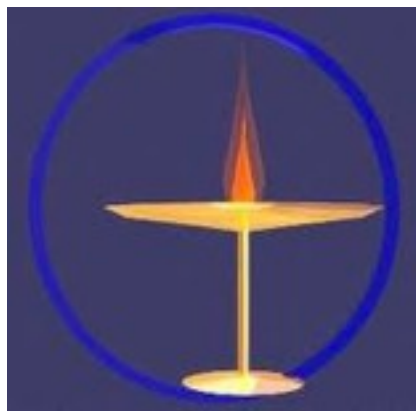
## **Minister's Corner** (continued from page 10)

- Increased commitment leads to increased participation – *Once we have reached this place, shouldn't we do a little more?*
- Increased participation leads to deeper commitment – *Wow, I really care about this now that we have invested so much time and energy.*
- Deeper commitment leads to longer term actions – *What else can we do?*
- Longer-term actions lead to true change – *Hey, we can do this together!*
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No theory is perfect and this one has its imperfections but I truly believe this type of engagement is where the hope is. For us to thrive together and build a new way those who think differently just might need to cooperatively engage in community, cross traditional boundaries and, over time, facilitate long term change.

Taking that difficult step to cross our lines in the sand may not always work and certainly isn't easy. But it seems the world would benefit from reconciliation and not ideological posturing. The country needs ideological healing not the politics of polarization. If we are going to survive the challenges of history, brave leaders need to take steps in new directions.

**Rev. David Miller**



**The Uncommon Denomination  
Unitarian Universalism**