

DIALOGUE

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

A publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito

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

HAPPENINGS AT UUFSD



Passover Seder April 7, 2012

Over 50 members, friends and guests joined in celebrating a Passover seder at the Fellowship. Great service, dinner and celebration.



Karma Lekshe Tsomo, Ph.D. April 6, 2012

World religion expert, author and organizer of worldwide Buddhist women's conferences spoke at the Fellowship on Friday, April 6, 2012. The topic of her talk was: "Buddhism in Tibet," in honor of the visit to San Diego of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Flower Communion April 8, 2012

Our annual Flower Communion was held under a brilliant, sunny Spring sky. There was standing room only in the amphitheater. Great music was provided by the UUFSD choir which was complemented by the UUFSD Children's Choir.



I Stand on the
Side of Love
WILL YOU?

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Vagina Monologues Cast



Director: Danielle DeCarlo
Introduction – Alejandra Chan, Renae Greig and Kristen Magnuson
“Hair”- Ashley E. Phillips
“Wear and Say”- Alejandra Chan, Renae Greig and Kristen Magnuson
“The Flood”- Lola Larson
“Vagina Workshop”- Diane Masser-Frye
Vagina Happy Fact- Katarina Young
“Because He Liked to Look At It”- Caroline Chamales
Not-So-Happy-Fact- Katarina Young
“What If I Told You I Did Not Have a Vagina”- Laura Colban
“My Angry Vagina”- Kristen Amicone
“My Vagina Was My Village”- Vivian C handler
“The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could”- Louise L. Garrett
“Reclaiming Cunt”- Beverley Conner
A six-year-old girl was asked....-Chelsea Kanzler
“The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy”- Alison Crotty
“I was There In the Room”- Betsy Gilpin
“For My Sisters in PORTAUPRINCEBUKAVUNEWORLEANS”- Christina Monroe
Introducing Monologues- Darlene Kanzler
Musical Guest - Kerry Getz
Lights and Sound- Nathan Chong

The UUFSD raised \$2000 for the Encinitas CRC, Carol's House, El Nido Transitional Apartments, Domestic Violence Recovery Program, & The Women of Haiti.

V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM), and sex slavery. In 2011, over 5,800 V-Day benefit events were produced by volunteer activists in the U.S. and around the world, educating millions of people about the reality of violence against women and girls.

The V-Day movement is growing at a rapid pace in 140 countries from Europe to Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and all of North America.

Drum Circle April 14, 2012

Twenty-nine people gathered in Founders Hall for a joyous hour and half of drumming. Experience was unnecessary as instructor Frank Lazzaro led everyone, novices and experienced drummers, for a wonderful musical experience. Here's hoping that this will be the first of many drum circle sessions at the Fellowship.



CINCO DE MAYO FUNDRAISER



CINCO DE MAYO FUNDRAISER COMMITTEE

Standing, left to right: Judy Sherman, John Sherman, Livia Walsh, Cheryl Sims, Maria Penny, Judy Sterling, Irv Himmelblau. Seated, left to right: Caroline DeMar, Denise Clark, Louise Garrett. Not present: Monique Kunewalder and Betsy Gilpin.



The Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser Committee had reason to celebrate as the Fellowship had its most successful fundraiser to date. Well over a hundred people came and partook of the celebration. The trifecta, effort - fun - financial success, is to be heralded. Over \$21,000.00 was raised. Above all, everyone had a great time. The food was delicious, the decorations outstanding, the music terrific, the mood, fantastic and our members generous.

Coming of Age Ceremony, May 13, 2012

Ten of our youth completed the Coming of Age 2012 Program. They are: Daria Miller, David Linn, Erik Jockin, Ethan Boutelle, Sam Blakistone, Siena Elvins, Skye Mirandon, Torrey Mau, Tristan Pollner and Zachary Kanzler. The congregation was made proud once again by their maturity, poise and efficiency as they conducted the COA Ceremony at the Fellowship, from the prelude, gathering music, call to worship, intergenerational sharing, and their fantastic "Faith Statements." They are a testimony to our outstanding RE Program, led by our RE Director Alison Crotty and the COA coordinator, Darlene Kanzler.



Linda Luisi
Muralist
Art Instructor
Paintings &
Portable Murals
January-March 2012



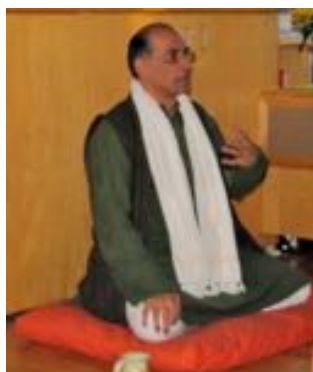
Learn more at: www.LindaLuisi.com

Linda Luisi Art Exhibit - March /April, 2012

Linda's training began at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (Tufts University: BFA Degree). She has over 25 years experience creating custom paintings and murals for corporations, hospitals, and resorts across the United States. Her art depicts lush jungle scenery, medical graphics, detailed botanicals, whimsical animals, and many other subjects.

As an instructor, Linda shares her expertise with a lighthearted and fun approach. She is known for the individual attention she gives each student: experienced artists and beginners.

Walking with the Buddha, May 16, 2012



Over forty people were in attendance as acclaimed Buddhist teacher, scholar, guide and activist Shantum Seth presented a memorable pictorial journey through time to India's ancient "Middle Country," touching down at each of the important places where the Buddha lived and taught 2600 years ago. Shantum brought this long lost world and its timeless teachings to vibrant life, merging the importance and beauty of ancient and contemporary India into his presentation. Shantum answered a wide diversity of questions, ranging from the general to the specifics about Buddhism, and the interplay between the culture of India and Buddhism and other religions of India.

Life Becomes Art-The Hmong Diaspora

The **Publicity and Social Action Committees** hosted a reception and social action forum on Monday, May 21, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Thirty eight people attended the event which included explanations of the beautiful tapestries and photographs and the history of the Hmong relocation in California. Bob Montgomery, Director of the San Diego branch of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) joined Roger and Nancy Harmon. Also in attendance were Bua and Xiongh Thao and their son, Phillip Thao, a Hmong family that Roger and Nancy befriended in a refugee camp in the Philippines, and True VanHou from the Lao Hmong Family Association of San Diego. The accounts of their experiences coming to California added a much appreciated human element to the discussion. The June Generosity Sunday, a joint sponsorship of the YRUU and the Social Action Committee will be donated to "My Library," a nonprofit organization that enables Hmong and other Laotian youth to enhance their school studies.



GENEROSITY SUNDAYS

March Generosity Sunday:
Interfaith Community Services:
\$572



UUFSD's March Generosity Sunday benefited North County veterans served by **Interfaith Community Services'** Fairweather Lodge. The Fairweather Lodge is a research driven recovery-oriented housing model that offers shared housing and shared employment for persons with mental illness. Its goal is to provide emotional support, a place to live, and employment for its members.

April Generosity Sunday: World
 Bicycle Relief : \$522



- Working with suppliers to improve bicycle design while ensuring all changes are culturally appropriate
- Enhancing distribution with local sourcing, manufacturing or assembly whenever possible
- Partnering with existing non-governmental organizations and government and community based organizations
- Training mechanics in maintenance and repair while strengthening the existing supply of spare parts
- Measuring and evaluating the impact of bicycles and communicating the results to improve programs and increase awareness

May Generosity Sunday:
Coming of Age Donation
to the Terris Family: \$830



The Coming Of Age youth became aware of a family with special financial needs. Diegueno Middle School student, George Terris, was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma, a form of bone cancer, after a soccer injury revealed tumors in his leg. He has since been found to have tumors in his lungs also. During George's long treatment, his family lost their business and suffered other difficult trials. George's father has had to leave new jobs in order to assist with George's treatments and recovery from chemotherapy. George is an amazing kid. He recently received good news that the chemo is working to shrink most of his tumors. He will soon have surgery to remove the remaining tumors. The COA youth decided to donate the proceeds of the May Generosity Sunday collection to George's family to help them in their time of need."

ALISON'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

by MB Taylor



It's been five years since Alison Aguilar Lopez Gutierrez McLeod Crotty signed on as the Director of Religious Education, and she's just getting started.

"I would like to see a little more structure, especially around the YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)," she says, when asked about her hopes for the RE program. "If I get to be full-time it would be amazing because then I would be able to teach adult education classes and I would be able to meet with the YRUU in the evenings."

She laments that, while UUFSD has a large YRUU group of 28 students, it doesn't have a designated adviser. "If we could get someone – be it myself to do these things every week or get another person in to be that constant," she says. "Just having one person the (YRUU students) know they can count on, I think, would be a significant change." But Alison has more than the YRUU in mind. She has ideas for parents as well. "Maybe we could do a parent class – a support group for parents– and read books and have a discussion group about parenting issues."

Sitting in the shade on the playground on a recent Sunday morning, Alison reflected on her beginnings with the Fellowship. After a pattern of

short-term RE directors, Alison says some members were concerned she might not stay for long. "Really, my role when I got here was reassuring people," she says, telling them, "Your children are wonderful. Yes, I'm going to be here for a long time." "Now," she says "people can rely on me and know that I'm a presence who is not leaving... I don't have to constantly reassure people. So that's a really nice change."

Five years on the job have reassured Alison, too. "When I first started, I was like, 'I know nothing about this type of curriculum...'" she says, laughing. For those unfamiliar with Alison's background, teaching – of any kind – is not the stretch she claims. She holds a Master's degree in Education from Washington State University. Earlier in her career, she taught at an alternative high school and coached at-risk students. "I focused on that population a lot," she explains. Most of her female students were pregnant teenagers. "I was giving them tools for reading and writing, and how to get assistance from the state and things like that, but they weren't tools that would help them later in life." "It was rewarding," she continues "It was wonderful, but then it did lack a sort of spiritual side."

Working with Volunteer San Diego was equally rewarding and draining. She helped victims of the wildfires in October of 2003. "There was so much tragedy surrounding that fire and I was working with the particularly tough families who had actually lost loved ones in the fire," she says. "It was spiritually fulfilling at times, but it wasn't nourishing enough for me."

The need for a new direction took Alison to the DRE job listing, on Craigslist. At first, she wasn't sure she would be a good fit. "I really had to do a little soul searching. I talked to my parents and they were like, Yeah! Go for it."

What makes this job so different from her previous experience in education, says Alison, is her focus on creating a safe space for children to explore what spirituality means to them, and what it means to be in a liberal faith. "Their having the analytical skills to take a look at the information being presented to them, to accept it or reject it based on their 'heart-speak', I think, are essential skills for every human being," she says. "That's certainly not taught in a traditional school." As she learned about the RE curriculum, Alison says it was interesting to see what kinds of lessons worked for our Fellowship. She admits, some of the curriculum simply didn't mesh with our students. "This year I feel particularly good about all the curricula we're doing. I love them. And this is the first year that I've really been able to say that," she says. "We've hit it out of the ball park with every lesson we've done."

Alison sees the children's spiritual growth as more than just classroom lessons. Another critical component is community service. For example, Alison hopes to integrate a home-build in Mexico into next year's curriculum. Students could take part in the build itself, or be involved in the planning and fundraising. "I know some families don't feel comfortable going down to Mexico, but they can still be involved," she explains.

Alison is already laying the foundation for community involvement this year, with Children's Chapel. "Once a month I'm trying to touch on a different social action subject that might spark a child's interest," she says. "We did a seed planting ritual... and talked about sustainable growth. This next one is going to be on water." While most of the children care about community involvement, that interest blossoms when the students reach the fourth-through-sixth-grade range. "They start to formulate their own ideas and their own interests about community," says Alison. Currently, many of those students are boys. Their interests are driving the discussion. "I had a really good talk this year with them and... what they cared about was war-torn countries."

That level of communication with the children and YRUU is one of Alison's talents. Many of the children turn to her for support, and continue to rely on her long after bridging. And they aren't just UUFSD kids. As a member of the Pacific Southwest District high school board, she interacts with students throughout the area. Alison remains close to the young adults, meeting up with them during college breaks, talking to them on Skype, and answering texts when they hit a rough patch. She talks about one young man who entered the military after bridging. "He would text me, 'Do you think I'm a good person?' Right in the middle of all this war training and learning how to kill and be covert," she says, he's asking me fundamental questions as a Unitarian Universalist."

While she's had an impact on the Fellowship, Alison says, being here has had a definite impact on her. "It makes me weigh my personal decisions a lot more," she says. Alison described an incident that occurred while driving several high school students back from a beach clean-up event. They witnessed a street fight between homeless people; something many people would have ignored. But here is a group of young high school students in my car watching me watching them... So I rolled down my window and said, 'You're scaring my children. Please stop.'" The incident ended with calls to the police and a trip to the police station to point out the aggressor. "It was my responsibility as a citizen but also as a Unitarian Universalist Director of Religious Education to show those students in that car that being a passive observer of violence is not okay," says Alison.

Alison says the responsibility to community is ingrained in her. "My parents were pretty strict. They believed if you're not volunteering and giving back... you're not part of a community. And I think that's a very UU trait." Perhaps it's not surprising that, when asked how the Fellowship can help the RE program, Alison answers, emphatically, "Volunteer!"

Alison admits that in the past, she was lax about volunteer requirements for parents. "But this year, since I've been staffing all the classrooms," she says, "it's really impressed upon me the need to be a little more stringent, to lay out in the beginning of the year... the requirements and what it really means to be part of this community." She continues, "All I'm asking is once a month, please!"

By making that commitment to be here at least once a month, families can also help strengthen the UUFSD community. "I know everybody's scheduled, and I know that Sunday tends to be the only down day for families," Alison says. "I try and be understanding of that, but at the same time it's like, I miss you. I *miss* seeing you." Continuity is important, for the children, for the Fellowship, and for Alison. "This is not just a job, you know; this is my family."

Working with at-risk students, she says, was rewarding; but the work was like triage. "You slap a band-aid on, you'd give them the tools... and you'd hope maybe one made it," Alison says. With the RE and YRUU students, she's able to teach important skills, such as communication, on a more meaningful level. They go in-depth over a period of months, so the students become confident in their ability to communicate with each other, with adults, and with groups. "Being able to go so deep with these children is just such an honor," says Alison. "It's such a responsibility. It's *amazing*. I'm just so lucky to be here."

MEET YOUR PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES

The Pastoral Associates Committee of UUFSD serves members and their families by providing support during times of need, such as loss of a loved one, illness (physical or mental), recovery from surgery, divorce, etc. They provide a readiness to listen, counsel, communicate, and support. The Pastoral Associates work with individuals and their families, is strictly confidential, and meet monthly to review progress and identify areas in which their help may be needed. Through their care and commitment our Fellowship community remains strong and continues to build meaningful bonds among its members.

The Pastoral Associate Team are trained by the minister and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. These are people who work closely with the minister to lend support through being a listening presence for members in moments of challenge, crisis, or celebration. They are specifically instructed not to offer advice. Their conversations will be shared only with immediate team members and the Minister for purposes of better supporting those in need. The only time any information would be shared with the congregation would be with the express permission of the member for purposes such as food support in the time of need, an emergency or short term crisis.

Members of the Pastoral Team can:

1. Be a listening presence if you need to talk with someone.
2. Visit church members in hospitals or care facilities.
3. Call on new parents. Check in with those who might be struggling with loss or change, be it the death of a loved one, the loss of a job or a pet, or the newness of having a child leave for kindergarten or college.
4. Provide support for caregivers who may be tending elderly parents or injured, chronically ill, or disabled loved ones.
5. With the Minister, connect members of the UUFSD community with helpful services.

Pastoral Care Associates: Sandy Washington, Linda Pratt, Don Jones, Cheryl Sims and Karen Quinones.

Contact Sandy Washington at: pastoralcare@uufsd.org



Sandy Washington



Linda Pratt



Don Jones



Cheryl Sims



Karen Quinonez

Young Adults Ages 18-35

by Arto Jaakkola



A Young Adult group was formed towards the end of 2011 and has been running events for visitors and members aged 18-35 since then. Young Adult greeters have appeared on the patio after the service to introduce the group and say hello to newcomers. In the past, the Young Adult group at UUSFD has had some difficulty forming continuing events as there were generally not enough people consistently showing up in the age group. Now there is renewed excitement and potential in the air as more young members have joined the congregation to give its young adult population a boost.

Many young adults move to the area from other parts of the country and come looking for like-minded people to do projects or just to socialize with. Eli Snider moved from Chicago about one year ago and started attending UUFSD. "I wanted to find a community of thoughtful, compassionate, like-minded people to do service projects with", he says, and he's found that group here. Like many young adults, Eli has participated in the home builds in Mexico as well as other service projects around UU. "I think it's important to give back and I enjoy it even more when it's with peers." he adds.

Maria Angelella, originally from Pennsylvania, agrees with the sentiment. She moved to San Diego for graduate school and has been attending services and events frequently since last November. Maria also loves the social and community service aspects of the Young Adult group. The sense of community at the fellowship, Sunday services, and community service opportunities keep her coming back.

The Young Adults enjoy a monthly social gathering in the form of a game night, held at the Palmer Library on the fourth Friday of every month. These events have been ongoing since January and have been mostly successful.

Everyone in the group has relished the social dinners and monthly game nights. "Over the past few months, I've really enjoyed our game nights, not only because they are a lot of fun, but also because it allows us to get to know each other better in a relaxed and social setting", says Becca Fredericks, who has done more than anyone to organize the social events and mobilize the group in the past several months. Darren and Eri Lynn Heinrichsen have been attending UUFSD since 2009 and also recommend the game nights to newcomers interested in the group. "The monthly game night is a fun night of laughter and camaraderie, a nice way to wrap up the week and see friends from UU", they say.



Along with social gatherings, Young Adults organize a monthly community service project, which in the future is planned to include beach cleanups, soup kitchen service and other community projects. Participation in home builds in Tijuana, Mexico is also something that has many of the young adults excited and gives members a way to give back. Members of the group also visited two elderly former members of the congregation at Easter, bringing Easter baskets filled with baked goods and good cheer to people who can no longer attend services.

The group also organizes documentary film showings, arranged by Leslie Uke. “So far we've shown the film *Forks Over Knives* to the community and will continue to have movie nights, mostly documentaries that are enriching and educational. I feel so lucky to have a venue to show these movies and a community to share them with”, she says.

Becca Fredericks appreciates the group's social function for those in the young adult age bracket, many of whom are transplants to the area. “This age can be a difficult one for a lot of people, and the group provides a safe and open place to share and learn. It provides a comfort for those of us in transition in life.”

The Young Adult group is always welcoming newcomers to its events and gatherings. “We are a diverse group of students and young professionals who each bring a unique set of skills, opinions and life experiences to the group. There isn't a particular 'type' of person who would fit into a group like ours because everyone genuinely values being welcoming and accepting. It's a great group to be a part of, and it's rare, I think, to find so many good people from such a variety of backgrounds in one place,” says Eli Snider. Becca agrees, “The people in the group have plenty of optimism and the willingness to work towards a better world for all of us. We come from all different walks of life, but we have a lot in common as well.”

The group is just getting started and members are excited about its potential. “It's really empowering to know there is a network of people ready to get involved and also to be in this formation stage. There are so many possibilities!” says Leslie.

One of those future directions may be a young adult covenant group, which Becca sees as a real possibility. Regardless of the exact future direction, it seems the Young Adult community at UUFSD is growing and thriving. Becca shares the group's excitement : “If you're looking for some fun with a commitment to a brighter future, this is the place to be!”



Lola Larson Up Close

by MB Taylor



To call Lola Larson “a character” is a bit of an understatement. Maybe you saw her Shirley Temple imitation at the De Benneville retreat. Or you heard her speak during Joys and Sorrows one Sunday morning. Or perhaps you noticed her walking cane, gussied up with flowers or holiday decorations.

The point is you noticed her.

“People ask me, why are you so outgoing?” Lola says. She blames her birthday. It's Independence Day; a birthday she shares with her older sister. “Well, when your parents lie to you and tell you that everybody is celebrating your birthday on the Fourth of July, it gives you a pretty good start in life.”

She was born on July 4th, 1925, as Lola Roach, niece of Hollywood producer Hal Roach. The Hal Roach Studios was a family affair; Lola's father worked for the studio as a location manager. When Roach moved his parents from New York to Los Angeles, he offered to buy them any house they wanted. But Lola says her grandmother wanted to be where the action was. “He built her a lovely three story brick house on the studio lot with things that she was used to from back east,” Lola says. “He built her a screen porch with a swinging bed on chains. And that was my treat when I used to go visit grandma. I'd get to sleep in the swinging bed.”

Lola spent a lot of her early childhood at the studio. “When I went out my grandmother's back door, I had the full run of the studio,” says Lola. She worked there, too, as a cast member for “Our Gang”, the serial later known as The Little Rascals. “I first appeared in a movie when I was nine months old,” says Lola. Her next appearance was at age four. By then, she was living with her grandparents in Encinitas. “I had terrible asthma in Los Angeles and my doctor said, 'Lola needs a change of scenery,’” she explains. So taking part in her uncle's movies meant traveling back and forth between the North County and the studio.

One of Lola's favorite stories is about the time Shirley Temple visited the Hal Roach Studios. “Little girls' hair style in those days was golden curls, which I had, and Shirley also had. The casting director told Shirley Temple's mother, 'No, we don't need Shirley. We've already got one her type' – meaning me,” Lola says. “As long as he lived, when my uncle introduced me to anyone he said, 'I want you to meet my niece Lola. She's the one who made me miss signing Shirley Temple!’” She laughs. “He was a funny, funny man. But then he'd take me in his arms and say, 'She wasn't our type. She wouldn't have fit in. She's right where she should be,’” says Lola.

Studio life had its privileges. Among other famous people, Lola was lucky enough to meet Will Rogers. “Will taught me and my sister how to play polo. We said, ‘But women aren’t allowed to play polo,’ and he said, “Oh, you women are taking over the world,’ Lola says, laughing again.

By her teenage years, Lola had decided she didn’t want to be an actress. Instead, she trained with the cinematographers on the lot, so she could work behind the camera. But she never put her skills to use. When she was just 16, Lola met a handsome young man during a trip to Catalina with her grandmother. “He was playing a pinball machine... and I thought that’s the best looking man I ever saw in my life.” The outgoing Lola introduced herself to Eric Larson, and they hit it off. A date at the casino and a moonlight ride and swim sealed the deal. What followed were letters and visits. Then Eric stayed in Santa Monica for a month to attend an air traffic control school. “We saw each other every day and I helped him with his lessons, and I think that’s when we really fell in love.”

When Eric proposed, Lola’s father objected, in part because she was under-age, but also because he wanted Lola to attend college. “Eric said, ‘If you let me marry her, I’ll send her to college – which he did,” Lola says. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Social Welfare and a minor in Psychology. “I had three children by the time I graduated,” Lola says. While she intended to work after graduation, Lola says her husband was doing well and wanted her to stay home with the children. “So I never applied what I learned, but I think I passed it on to my children.”

Eric and Lola had four children; Christine, Eric Junior, John, and Doran. The children grew up in Encinitas, in the neighborhood where the local YMCA was later built. Lola says her husband was instrumental in getting a YMCA for the North County. “He went down to the Y headquarters in San Diego and said, ‘We want to have Indian Guides in Encinitas,’” she explains. Since the Y didn’t have any groups for the North County, Eric Larson started it himself. “My husband put up notices on every bulletin board, in every church, every grocery store, and the post office, saying, ‘Come and sign up for Indian Guides,’” says Lola. “That first year he signed up 450 fathers with their sons. It got so big they had to send a professional up here to oversee the program.” Among the boys who took part in Indian Guides with Lola’s children was Paul Ecke, Junior. His family later donated the land where the Magdalena Ecke YMCA now stands.

Lola says she and her husband offered their backyard pool for the Y to use in the early years. They actually built the pool specifically for community swimming lessons. “So many people were building pools and children were drowning,” Lola explains. Lola was part of a group of mothers who started a backyard swim program. The goal was to teach all the local children how to swim. Anyone could participate, but the mothers all had to take part, either by organizing lessons, driving children to the pools, or teaching the classes. Lola was one of the few who were licensed to teach swimming. “People donated their pools all over the area,” Lola says. “We taught thousands of children to swim.”

In later years, Lola busied herself working with the Home Arts division of the county fair. She started as an exhibitor, winning awards for her table settings. But it was her lifetime of experience knitting and crocheting that caught the attention of the Home Arts organizers. The department head admitted to Lola, “The girls I hired to do our displays can’t tell the right side from the wrong side in knitting and crocheting.” That wasn’t a problem for Lola, who has been knitting and crocheting since she was seven. It was a good thing Lola took the job, because, as she says, “The fair entrants don’t like having their stuff displayed on the wrong side.”



Community involvement has been important to Lola throughout her life. She led the Sunday School at the Methodist church her family attended. She volunteered at the Veteran's Hospital in La Jolla. She took part in Friends of the Encinitas Library, volunteered at Scripps Hospital, and with the Hospice in Solana Beach.

Lola met her present husband, Bobby Gooding, two years ago through her work with the San Dieguito Heritage Museum. She was volunteering as an official greeter, a job that required her to wear bib overalls. When Bobby and his sister-in-law walked in, she noticed he was wearing overalls, too. "I went up to him and I said, oh, I'm glad to see somebody else in bib overalls! It makes me feel more comfortable," she recalls. Surprisingly, that sparked a rather racy conversation (ask Lola; I'm not telling ~M.B.) that left Bobby's sister-in-law blushing. "She said, 'Bobby, shame on you! I've known Lola all her life and she's a lady! You apologize to her,' and I said, 'Don't make him apologize. Give him my phone number!'" Lola says. They married on April 3, 2010.



When asked about her favorite experience, Lola thinks back to her years of traveling with Eric. She's been in 60 countries and every state in the union. But Lola says the best experiences for her involved diving. "I've always been a diver; I dove the Great Barrier Reef in Australia," says Lola. Her favorite was diving off the coast of the Galapagos Islands. "The animals and sea creatures have never been threatened, so they're very friendly," she says.

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Looking back, Lola says one of her few regrets is that she didn't come to UUFSD sooner. She and her husband Eric had talked about the UU Fellowship and wanted to check it out. But he died before they got around to it. Lola came by herself, instead, on the advice of her youngest son. "He sent me this list called 'How To Live Better As A Widow'. And number one was: look into joining the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship." She adds, "I just wish I had raised my children here."



OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

Buddhist Meditation Groups



We have two meditation groups that have been meeting on Thursday evening and Friday morning for over twelve years. Both groups are open to drop-ins and follow the same format. They start with an opening reading, followed by 10 minutes of meditation. A chapter from the book that is being studied is then read aloud by passing the book around with each participant reading a paragraph. This is followed by a discussion of the chapter, a closing reading, and 10 minutes of meditation.



Thursday Meditation (6:00 -7:15 p.m.) contact Christie Turner at: thursdaybuddhistmeditation@uufsd.org

Friday Meditation (10:00-Noon) contact Robin Mitchell at: fridaybuddhistmeditation@uufsd.org

Buddhist Sangha



This meditation Sangha meets on the first and third Thursdays of every month from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the UUFSD Library. The Sangha is based on the Vipassana tradition. Each session will provide guided meditation instructions and discussion, a talk on Buddha's teachings, a question and answer time, and practice assignments that call for applying the teachings to everyday life. We are open to newcomers.

Contact Bob Isaacson at: buddhistsangha@uufsd.org

Mindfulness Meditation Group



Mindfulness Meditation, for some, is part of a spiritual practice. For others, it is a pragmatic way to consciously be engaged in life with more intention and clarity. Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche, a Tibetan Buddhist teacher, describes meditation as a "way to make the mind more stable and clear." From this perspective one does not need 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. The sessions are on Tuesday mornings from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m. in Palmer Library and/or Founders Hall.

Contact Livia Walsh at: mindfulnessmeditation@uufsd.org

Spiritual Growth Circles



Spiritual Growth Circles (SGC) are groups of 6-12 people who gather each month to discuss the themes of each month's sermons. **New SGCs form each September for the church year ahead.** Through facilitated exploration of material prepared by Rev. Miller these groups stimulate deeper understanding of significant spiritual issues and provide an opportunity for personal growth and for meaningful connection with other participants.

The same group meets every month with their facilitator for a period of 6-9 months. Meetings are held either in the facilitator's home or at the Fellowship. Meetings last for 90 minutes. The format includes lighting a chalice, check-in, opening reading, and questions for discussion. The essence of the SGC is captured in the Covenant, recited together at each meeting: "We gather as a Spiritual Growth Circle to deepen our sense of meaning and community. In this community, we seek to care for one another and to work together toward creating a kinder, more compassionate, more loving and just local and global community."

There is an expectation of confidentiality within each SGC. Participants develop a trusting relationship that encourages deep personal exploration and sharing as the year progresses. If there are significant pastoral concerns raised, a facilitator may ask the person raising the concern if they, the facilitators, can share it with the minister.

Contact Linda Pratt at: spiritualgrowthcircles@uufsd.org

Pursuing Wisdom Group



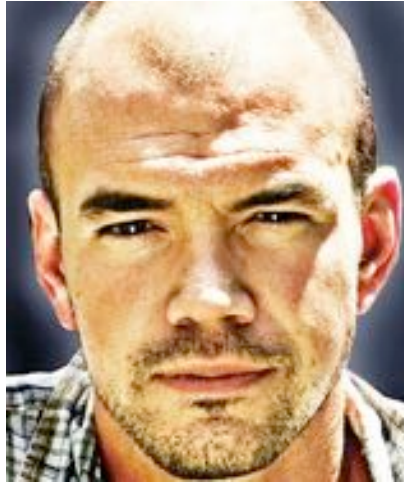
The Pursuing Wisdom Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month in UUFSD Library from 10 to 11:30 am. Its aim is to explore the implications of our current experiences to spiritual and/or emotional growth, and each meeting focuses on a specific, thought-provoking topic for discussion. Some of the group's past topics were: "Commitment And Meaning in Our Lives," "Dealing With Change," "Empathy, Sympathy And Compassion: Are These Necessary To The Mature Adult," and "Dark Places And Dark Nights Of The Soul." All are welcome.

Contact Robin Mitchell at: pursuingwisdomgroup@uufsd.org



UUers IN THE NEWS

TIM DeCHRISTOPHER BIDDER # 70



by John Atcheson

Tim DeChristopher, environmental activist and member of the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City is back in the news. On Thursday, May 9, arguments appealing his two-year sentence for interfering with an illegal oil and gas auction will be heard before the 10th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals in Denver.

DeChristopher isn't a household name, but he should be. In a time when all too often political battles are waged with empty talk, easy money, catchy placards, and symbolic marches, Tim DeChristopher risked his freedom to oppose what was certainly an illegal process, and most probably a crime against nature. Here are the details.

In the last days of the Bush presidency, a hastily arranged auction of 130,000 acres of pristine U.S. wilderness was conducted as a last-minute gift to the administration's oil and gas cronies. DeChristopher entered the bidding as "bidder number 70" and successfully obtained almost \$1.8 million worth of oil and gas leases. As owner of the leases, he could choose not to drill. Although he originally stated he had no intent to pay for the leases, he later offered to, as money from an Internet campaign poured in from supporters. DeChristopher readily admits he entered the auction with the intent of disrupting it, as a form of protest against the nation's energy policy.

Although the whole auction was found to be flawed and was tossed out of court, the federal prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney John Huber, sought a stiff sentence against DeChristopher "to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct by others," because "the rule of law is the bedrock of our civilized society, not acts of 'civil disobedience' committed in the name of the cause of the day." Judge Dee Benson, who presided at the original trial, did not allow DeChristopher's attorneys to use several lines of defense which could have mitigated the charges and the sentence.

DeChristopher received a two year sentence – an unusually stiff penalty for an act of civil disobedience. In fact, in the numerous instances where bidders could not pay for parcels in bidding, none have ever been imprisoned. His treatment in prison has also been harsh. This Spring he was transferred to solitary confinement for no apparent reason.

At his sentencing hearing , he was allowed to address the jury. His statement was eloquent and worth quoting at length:

“The power of the Justice Department is based on its ability to take things away from people. The more that people feel that they have nothing to lose, the more that power begins to shrivel. The people who are committed to fighting for a livable future will not be discouraged or intimidated by anything that happens here today.”

“And neither will I. I will continue to confront the system that threatens our future. Given the destruction of our democratic institutions that once gave citizens access to power, my future will likely involve civil disobedience. Nothing that happens here today will change that. I don’t mean that in any sort of disrespectful way at all, but you don’t have that authority. You have authority over my life, but not my principles. Those are mine alone.”

DeChristopher summed up his address as follows:

“At this point of unimaginable threats on the horizon, this is what hope looks like. In these times of a morally bankrupt government that has sold out its principles, this is what patriotism looks like. With countless lives on the line, this is what love looks like, and it will only grow. The choice you are making today is what side are you on.”

DeChristopher’s appeal is another opportunity to support the cause and interests of people over corporations. Those wishing to contribute to his defense fund can get details of how to do so at <http://www.bidder70.org/topics/view/16733/>.

DeChristopher plans to attend seminary and become a Unitarian Minister when he is released.



MEN'S DE BENNEVILLE RETREAT



Four members of the UUFSD Men's Groups attended this year's annual UU Men's Retreat at Camp de Benneville Pines that took place from April 13 to 15. Greg Brown, Roger Harmon, Steve Bartram and John Gilles braved a "snow chain" ascent to the camp. Fifty-five men gathered from San Diego, Ventura, LA and Arizona to bond under the theme of "Crests and Troughs, Riding the Waves of Our Lives." They met four times in the same "kin group" of seven to eight men to share their crests and waves and develop a connection not possible in the larger circle, which met several times during the weekend.

Roger Harmon said that "...the one thing that stood out for me was the attention paid to the most senior men in attendance. These elders were given a special place of honor in the ritual circle on Saturday night. And, at one point participants were invited to call out the name of men who had once been in the circle but were not there this year. The calling of the names of several hundred men was a moving experience. Janet James, the Camp Director, gave everyone a very special welcome, as she also looked around the circle and spoke, from memory, the name of each man in attendance. Talk about feeling seen!"

Steve Bartram was impressed with "...how wonderful and awesome the camp looked under a blanket of white snow. The big event was the weather; we had at least a foot of snow Friday night, and it added greatly to the event. . . Sharing and drumming, optional interest groups, and walks, led to good male bonding." Steve was also impressed with the new water system, which was completed last year with major donations from all congregations in the Southwest Region.

John Gilles said that he "came back" feeling significantly more at peace than when he arrived."

Greg Brown said "It's an experience well worth the time, energy and money. I've been going to these mountain weekends for many years, and they never fail to feed my soul. Join me and my buddies next year!"

