

DIALOGUE

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

A publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito

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.

HAPPENINGS AT UUFSD

The Vagina Monologues, Saturday, April 20, 2013

This was another very successful event and fundraiser for **Carol's House**, a domestic violence women's shelter that is part of the North County Community Resource Center. About 150 people were in attendance, and the Fellowship raised \$2,000 dollars. The event was bolstered by the appearance of musical guests Elisa Willes and the San Diego Women's Drum Circle. We were also honored by the presence of Jennifer Allen, Executive Director of Corazon Incorporated, as guest speaker. Corazon was a past recipient of funds from the play.

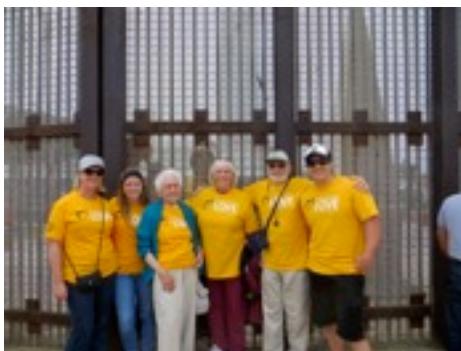


Table of Contents

1. Happenings
4. Generosity Sundays
5. SAC Community Center Build
7. A Call to Modernity
8. Destroying Myths
9. Getting to Know You - Nancy Harmon
11. Behind the Scenes, Board of Directors
12. Strategic Plan
14. UUFSD Committees and Groups



Children's Day at the Border, Sunday, April 28, 2013



Liz Young, Katerina Young, John Gordon (not shown), Judith Barney, Livia Walsh, Irv Himelblau and Kevin West, at Friendship Park, on the US side of the border and Kathy Fallar on the Mexican side, celebrating Mexico's Children's Day. The Mariachi Divinas took center stage and music filled the air. First Lady Bronwyn Ingram & San Diego Mayor Bob Filner joined the Border Angels and friends. **The highlight of the event was the opening of the "The Door of Hope," on the border wall, which had never been open before.** As the Door of Hope opened, a young man on the American side, Luis, was permitted to step into the opening and embrace and hug the daughter he left when she was a baby; she is four years old now. Luis is not allowed to leave the US because his immigration papers are in progress. **For a brief moment everyone, including the Border Patrol personnel, was Standing on the Side of Love and Compassion, proclaiming a world without barriers.**

Legal Immigration Clinic - Sunday, May 5, 2013 A UURISE-UUFSD Partnership

The Social Action Committee continued its ongoing Immigration Reform Project with a legal clinic for non-citizen immigrants. The Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education (UURISE) conducted the clinic. We reached out into the local immigrant community, leaving flyers at churches, community centers, restaurants, and libraries, and speaking to people in the community. There were confidential consultations, information on immigration law, and assistance in developing safety plans in case of detention or deportation. Some of the things covered in the safety plan were: what would happen to children still at school: who would gather documents, photos and other important items; who would take care of pets and car, bank accounts, outstanding rent, etc. Prior to the legal clinic, UURISE staff conducted a volunteer training session with UUFSD members: Nancy Harmon, Roger Harmon (not shown), Kevin West, Maria Penny, Elizabeth Michaels, Dianne Masser-Frye, Livia Walsh, Alejandra Hoffman-Chan, Carin Ricci Pereira, and Cindy O'Grady. The training was conducted by Dan Stracka, President and CEO of UURISE and Katia Hansen, Program Manager of UURISE.



UUFSD Participates in UURISE DACA Program Saturday, May 11, 2013

On Saturday, May 11, 2013, Nancy and Roger Harmon participated in a UURISE "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA)" registration program. The work involved getting the initial paperwork--mounds of it needed per person--organized for 35 young people applying under DACA. The attention to detail that UURISE employs is both extraordinary and necessary in order to help young people get papers filed correctly. Another member, Carin Ricci Pereira, attended a DACA training program during the week of May 12, 2012.



YRUU Service, Sunday, May 19, 2013

“Moving Towards Change” Profound presentations by Elise Friedman, Katarina Young, Nick Mirandon, Jake Lyon, Nadian Singer-Brevold, Thea Hanson, Andre Chan, C laire Phinney, Zoe Shlick, Chelsea Kanzler, Lily Franzwa, Lindsey Mercier, Roberto Quinones

“SENIOR MOMENTS” Saying goodbye to Ursula Chan, Adam Larocca, Grace Paxton, Maddie Scott. The congregation wishes them success in their new endeavors.



Bridging Ceremony, June 2, 2013

Once again it was time to recognize the graduating high school seniors that are "bridging" from youth to young adulthood. This year we have five seniors taking that big step. **Ursula Chan, Adam Larocca, Grace Paxton, Tina Rickard and Maddie Scott.** The congregation affirmed that we gathered together to recognize the transition from youth to young adulthood. Our community was blessed to share the sorrow of leaving the past, as well as the excitement of embracing the future.

Sundays, May 19 & June 2, 2013 - Two Sunday Service Task Force

The “Two Sunday Service Task Force” held forums for the purpose of discussing the Strategic Plan proposal for two services. The task force members outlined what the new format of the services might look like, and congregants voiced their concerns and ideas. An additional workshop for RE parents was held on Monday, May 20, to discuss how the two-service schedule would affect the RE program.



Sunday June 9: R.E. Teachers and Assistants Appreciation Breakfast

The Religious Education Committee celebrated their volunteers with an appreciation breakfast feast. Thank you to all the volunteers who devote their time, energy and enthusiasm in making the RE program work: Carol Blakistone, Liora Gutierrez, Sheryl Goto, Yvette Jockin, Christina Bortnick, Barbara Bortnick, Carol Yetter , Nina Sandberg, Pamela Parker, Michael Scott, Rik Hauptfeld, Sara Appleton-Knapp, Susan and Chuck Hahm, Ches Blevins, Ann Linn, Diane Masser-Frye, Karla Milmoie, Kim Kleber, Lisa Ackermann, MB Taylor, Renae Greig, Andrea Bernard, Darlene Kanzler, Diane Masser-Frye, Erika Pollner, Karla Milmoie, Susan Miller, Vicki Wolfrum, Bryan Furbee ,Chris Faller, Dale Gottdank, Julia Darling, Rachel Maurais, Stephen Friedman, Jim Giolitto, and Louisa Triandis, Christina Monroe, Bryan Brown.



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Music Sunday, June 9, 2013

The UUFSD adult and children's choirs our newly formed "Heartstrings" band, and piano pieces by Zoe & Leo Sandberg-Smith, Lynne Talley and Monique Kunewalder were featured on this last Music Sunday for this fiscal year. We were treated to music of Frank Tichell, Claude-Michel Schonberg, Z. Randall Stroops, Randall Thompson, Louis Moreau Gottschalk, Pearson/Holden, a traditional African-American spiritual, Nick Lowe, and a traditional Creek Indian song.

!!Thank you Andrea Newall for your creativity, energy and leadership!!



Peter Mayer in Concert - June 15, 2013

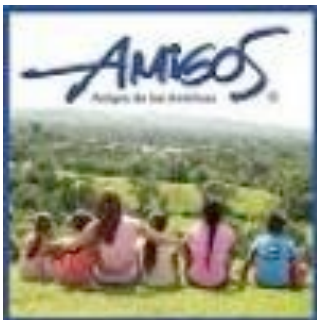
Renowned UU folk musician Peter Mayer played to a sold-out audience at UUFSD. Peter writes songs for a small planet, songs about interconnectedness and the human journey, about the beauty and the mystery of the world. Whimsical, humorous, and profound, his music breaks the boundaries of "folk" and transcends to a realm beyond the everyday love song, to a place of wonder at the very fact of life itself. The event was also a successful fundraiser for the UUFSD Music/Concert Committee, raising over \$1200. **Thanks to Vicki Newman for coordinating this extraordinary concert.**

(Happenings continued on page 8)

GENEROSITY SUNDAYS

One way that our congregation participates in outreach and social justice work is to designate one Sunday of each month as a Generosity Sunday. We donate the proceeds of the offering to an agency or project that serves the community or the cause of social justice.

May Generosity Sunday: Amigos de las Americas: \$698.00



Amigos de las Américas (AMIGOS) hosts programs for young adults to volunteer abroad. AMIGOS' volunteer opportunities focus on youth leadership training and community development in Latin America. This generosity Sunday was sponsored by the UUFSD YRUU.

June Generosity Sunday: Quaker Bolivia Link: \$ 550.00



Quaker Bolivia Link (QBL) is an international, non-sectarian development organization guided by Quaker principles and dedicated to reducing poverty among the indigenous peoples of Bolivia. Since 1995, they have been working alongside the indigenous Andean people to fund, construct, and monitor community-based projects to secure food sources, promote better health, and generate income. As a result, there are now over 500 families growing healthy vegetables in their QBL greenhouses, and 55 villages have QBL water supplies. "Quaker Bolivia Link," a Quaker response to Poverty.

SAC-Casas de Luz Community Center Build

Colonia Cumbres, May 18-19, 2013



Ruby, an High School Senior-Electrician



Steve Halpern- lunch call

Participants: UUFSD members, Skyline Elementary School, Canyon Crest Academy, Torrey Pines High School and individuals from the San Dieguito community.

An integral part of our UUFSD Social Action Committee's vision statement is a commitment to expand our efforts into the San Dieguito community at large. There is no better example of this than our SAC "Casas de Luz" (CDL) project. Casas de Luz is an ongoing UUFSD Social Action program that brings volunteers together with families in need to build houses in Mexico. It is a collaborative effort which engages our fellowship with numerous and diverse community organizations, groups, and schools (see "Builders" below).

CDL started out about 10 years ago when Kathy Faller, Founder and Executive Director, went on a home build with another nonprofit and was inspired to do more. She then introduced the idea to UUFSD and built the first home in 2005. Now, we have not only built homes for 20+ families in Mexico but have also constructed two community centers (with the May build); and Kathy also transports weekly in-kind donations for families in communities in Tijuana.

CDL has changed the lives of many families and now is looking to make "community impact." About four years ago, CDL built a house for a man named Juan Cruz Salgado Barba and his family. Since then, he has been thankful and inspired to impact his entire community. He has created his own church of about 50 members, a breakfast club for the kids of the community, and now has donated some of his land for CDL to build its second community center. Participating in this Build were students from Canyon Crest and Torrey Pines high schools, families from the San Dieguito community and members of the UUFSD.

Builders: There were 50 builders on this Community Center build.

- Thirteen from the girl scout troop that built Juan's home
- Sixteen from the Skyline school & Canyon Crest High School
- Fourteen friends of Casas de Luz outreach activities
- Seven UUFSD members



Children Builders at Lunch



Welcome to the new Community Center

QUOTES FROM BUILDERS

"Thank you so very much for enabling us to be part of this experience. I cannot stop thinking about the weekend, and I know Steve and Emma feel the same.... Returning to Colonia Cumbres and Juan's family was an experience that is difficult to put into words. It was so moving to see how the little house changed his family's life and now so many others in the Colonia. The weekend represented the very best, doing "good," making friends within and across countries and working hard. We are already planning to be part of the October build with Steve's accordion of course!!!... My words are inadequate but I do want you to know how very grateful we all are. Our hearts are filled with so many different emotions. ..."

"Being involved in a home build is a life-changing experience! My young son was part of last year's build, and his "first-hand" view of the world is forever changed. He sees how others live, and he better understands the difference between need and want. He experienced the joy of learning, working and playing with his Mexican neighbors, and he loved it! He learned that he can help make a difference in people's lives. He's a more empowered nine-year-old who wants to be involved in future builds because he was so enriched by the experience."

"The build exceeded my expectations in every way. I formed relationships with people helping on the build as well as the kids down there. I want to go back and build more!"

"We had a wonderful time! The best part was the closing ceremony when we got to see how appreciative and thankful the family was; it was extremely rewarding and beautiful to see!"

"This was an exceptionally well-organized build. Everything went very smoothly. The joint US and Mexico build team were all very nice. It was great to work side by side with the family and community members. I highly enjoyed the experience."

"Love the organization and what it does. It is wonderful to change people's lives so tangibly. Thank you for the experience."



*Begin, Be Bold,
and
Venture to Be
Wise*

*Sermon by Rev. David Miller
4/14/2013*



**A
CALL
TO
MODERNITY**

By Roger Doebke

Three years ago Meadville Lombard Theological School admitted me as a candidate for the Master of Arts Degree in Religion. Having completed all of the required class work I am now working on my thesis, the final step to graduation. Although Theology is the concentration for my Degree, my study has included extensive reading, writing and discussion on the role of the church in American society ~ past, present and future, and particularly the role of Unitarian Universalism as a religious movement. I am convinced that an understanding of our history, the reality of our present circumstances and the formulation of a vision for the future rests on the success or failure of individual congregations in their communities. Rev. David Miller, in his sermon on April 14, 2013 entitled "Begin, Be Bold, And Venture to Be Wise," called to action our Fellowship in Solana Beach to rise to the challenge, as a congregation, to become a Church for the 21st Century. My support for his call follows.

A natural affinity exists between our key convictions as Unitarian Universalists and a polity of disestablishment. Historically, much of our thinking has roots in churches defined as "authoritative communicators of divine grace." As Unitarians-Universalists some of us have individualized our relationship with God, others have replaced a belief in the supernatural with a "spiritual" connection of our own. We view authority in congregational polity with some disdain, but forget that the foundation for rejecting authority was an objection to church hierarchy mediating spirituality. That battle was fought and won by our predecessors who liberated us from dogma and creed. Contemporary Unitarians Universalists are free from church establishment, and we construct our own cosmologies (world views) as neither our ministers, nor our national organization tell us what to believe or how to practice our beliefs.

Unitarian-Universalist fellowships were mostly a product of the western expansion of the New England church and were often lay led due to a shortage of ministers. Because the American West was so sparsely settled the fellowships were primarily concerned with an assembly for comfort and encouragement, and they practiced a sort of consensus form of governance. However, fellowships such as our relatively large urban church no longer represent their frontier heritage. And our ministers no longer come from laity, but are professionally trained clergy who represent contemporary Unitarian Universalists' thinking about the role of the church outside of the four walls and roof of the physical church.

This history and the demand for the development of a church for the 21st Century now creates a tension among congregants because we have confused the rejection of creed and dogma authoritarianism with real congregational leadership. The modern minister will not tell you what to believe, but he can help you to develop your theological thoughts and worldview. The modern minister will not dictate to a congregation a vision for engaging the larger community but can and should articulate his/her own vision and ask the congregants to join in developing and participating in the task of community engagement. This process differs substantially from the western frontier form of congregational polity in that it represents the difference between a remote fellowship assembling for the purpose of comfort and encouragement and a 21st Century urban fellowship acting to reflect Unitarian principles on a grand scale ~ One that embraces big ideas that can only be accomplished when a voluntary group of people act in concert.

Our Unitarian Universalist clergy are trained to lead and the future of the church depends on them. Unitarian ministry is now a full-time job and only a few congregations are lay led. Ministers must lead our congregations in adapting to the cultural paradigm and challenges of modern times. Our clergy are charged with using new technologies to communicate the Church's message, and they are also charged with leading their congregations in engaging the larger community; making our principles come alive in the public forum. The Unitarian-Universalist clergy have committed themselves to embracing the needs of the community and crafting their vision to address them.

For some Unitarian Universalists the changes that are needed to transform the fellowship to a church for the 21st Century are unsettling, but the changes that have already taken place in America and its religious culture since this Fellowship was founded fifty years ago are dramatic. The increasing emphasis on individual spiritual development as opposed to congregational worship and the increasing translation of that individual development into very individualized visions of the religious life require a shift in the very definition of church ~ from worship services to the relationship of congregations and the communities in which they live. Looking at the relationship between the congregation and the minister is an important exercise if we believe that our Principles represent a basis for creating a better world beyond our physical facility in Solana Beach. Without leadership and a vision we will continue to resemble the frontier fellowships, denying the reality of the world we now live in, denying our ability to actually effect societal change and denying our opportunity to be involved in something bigger than ourselves.

Soltice Sunday & OWL Graduation, June 16, 2013 continued from page 4



The Graduating OWL Class of 2013

Andreas Colban, Ava Gates,
Barbara Hermann, Caleb Blevins,
Carolyn Knapp, Claire Stietz,
Daria Miller, David Linn, Erik
Jockin Aasted, Etan Boutelle,



Jae Reidel, Julian Bernard, Kate Milmoie, Kayleigh Komher,
Lily Franzwa, Madeline Masser-Frye, Sam Blakistone.



Peter Mayer, Rev D, Andrea Newell,
Alison Crotty, Alice King & Cara Cast,
leading the service in song, worship
and drumming.

Siena Elvins, Skye Mirandon, Stephanie Herman,
Veronica Ness, Zachary Kanzler

*OUR GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION FOR ALISON, HER
ENTHUSIASM AND DEVOTION ARE HEARTFELT. WE ARE
SPEECHLESS, A RARITY FOR UUs.*

Destroying Myths About Immigration

Part 2 in a 7 part series.

2. Myth: Undocumented workers do not pay taxes.

Reality: They do, and in several different ways. According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the majority of undocumented immigrants pay income tax using, among other mechanisms, Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN's). Most employers withhold federal, state and local taxes from such workers. In fact, between one-half and three-quarters of undocumented immigrants pay federal and state income taxes, Social Security, and Medicare taxes. Undocumented immigrants pay the same real estate taxes—whether they own homes or taxes are passed on to them through rents—and the same sales and other consumption taxes as everyone else. The majority of state and local costs for schooling and other services is funded by these taxes. The U.S. Social Security Administration has estimated that three quarters of undocumented immigrants pay payroll taxes, and that they contribute US\$6-7 billion in Social Security funds that they will often be unable to claim (Porter 2005). This amount, moreover, keeps accumulating, generating US\$6 to US\$7 billion in Social Security annual tax revenue, and an additional US\$1.5 billion in Medicare taxes. This money, according to the 2008 annual report of the Social Security Board of Trustees, will help reduce the SSA's projected longterm deficit by 15%, which is equivalent to a 0.3% rise in the pay roll tax.

NANCY HARMON

Getting to Know You

by *M.B. Taylor*

Sit down and talk with Nancy Harmon about her passions, and you'll get a feel for her global perspective and her true appreciation of diverse cultures. Throughout her adult life, Nancy has traveled, volunteered, taught, and interacted with people and communities as close as the New Mexico Navajo reservation, and as far away as Southeast Asia. "I find in my travels that I just learn so much and feel so humbled... when I see how people survive and are happy with so much less than we have," explains Nancy. "I see how much children appreciate a book and appreciate education when they walk five or six miles to get there; and how sad they are when they don't have a uniform that allows them to go to school."



Nancy says it's a stark change to return to the U.S. and see what people take for granted. She believes the more Americans know about other countries and cultures, the more they can appreciate what they have. "We all need to be looking outward because – well, just because the globe is coming to us in a sense and we're going out there more," she says.

The itch to travel and have new experiences hit Nancy during her youth, in Birmingham, Michigan. "I remember walking down the street in my small suburban community on a very gray day and thinking, 'You know? I really don't want to spend the rest of my life here. I know there is so much out there,'" Nancy recalls. In her junior year of high school, Nancy flew to the Netherlands to live with a family for a summer. In college, she spent a year studying at the American University in Lebanon. She fell in love with the country and returned after graduation to volunteer teaching at an orphanage in the mountains. However, civil war was looming, and Nancy had to leave Lebanon after her second year.

Nancy's career, teaching English and English-Second Language, provided her with many opportunities to learn about diverse cultures. She taught in different countries and in several states. She has worked in schools on Native American reservations in Oregon and New Mexico. She taught Mexican immigrants at a charter school in Albuquerque. Nancy was living in New Mexico in 1995 when she met Roger Harmon. They share a similar passion for travel and for exploring new cultures. Together, they have traveled to Thailand, Laos, Bhutan, Vietnam, and Cambodia. They also lived in Thailand for two years while Roger served as Director of the U.S. Peace Corps for Thailand.

The couple moved from New Mexico to Del Mar about three years ago to support and care for Nancy's parents. When she wasn't helping them, Nancy began collaborating with a fellow educator at a non-profit organization called The Center for Global Awareness. "Our goal is to offer a more global perspective on history, economics, and culture, through text books and educational materials. "Our materials are designed to fill in the gaps in the materials of large textbook companies trying to please everyone. These textbooks often don't provide different points of view on issues such as climate change and human rights," Nancy explains.

Among the projects is a collection of folk-tales for ESL teachers. The idea grew out of Nancy's frustration in failing to find such a book for her Spanish-speaking students. "I've used folk tales from all over the world to teach, especially in Thailand," Nancy says. Students there identified with many of the tales, and some women even remembered hearing them as children. It was a powerful experience that "made me realize how much fun story telling can be and how much stories all over the world have in common," she says. Since Nancy couldn't find any appropriate materials, she's writing her own, using

folk-tales she learned while teaching and while traveling.

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While Nancy's interests and ethics fit naturally with UU principles, she came to Unitarian Universalism later in life. Nancy grew up Presbyterian, and although she was active in the choir and attended Sunday School, she didn't really feel a connection to the church. Nancy fell away from the church after living in Lebanon. She says she saw how Muslims can live good, ethical lives, just as Christians can, and “it was just hard for me to believe this message of having to accept Jesus as our savior in order to be saved.”

Nancy went decades without attending any church at all, until a friend encouraged her to attend a UU service in Albuquerque. “I remember sitting through that first service and both of us just with tears rolling down our faces,” Nancy recalls, “and I thought ‘Wow! This is a religion I think I could do.’” She wipes away a tear, admitting that the memory of that first service still leaves her choked up. But then, seeing the welcoming faces and feeling the tolerance and acceptance at UUFSD services also evokes great emotion. “I look around and think, all these people of different ages with different beliefs, come together every Sunday morning just to worship in their own way.”

Since Nancy and Roger joined UUFSD a year and a half ago, she has become active in the Immigration Reform Task Force. She also enjoys the book club, working in the garden, and meditating with Liv Walsh. A teacher at heart, Nancy has volunteered to teach RE classes in the fall, and is considering adding more activities, such as the choir, and getting even more involved with the Social Action Committee.



Immigration Reform Project Phase 3

The Immigration Task Force is announcing “Phase 3” of the ongoing Immigration Reform Project started in January 2013 with our “National Thirty Days Standing on the Side of Love.” In **Phase 1**, we held a very successful information/educational orientation on immigration issues and conducted projects for our RE children. **Phase 2** had us participating in several Actions at the San Diego/Tijuana border. Partnering with UURISE, we held our first legal clinic for undocumented immigrants, and

facilitated training for those in our Fellowship who volunteered to interpret at the legal clinic. We also participated in the training addressing support for youth eligible for the “Dream Act .”

Phase 3 involves projects that will, if successful, continue throughout the remainder of our congregational FY 2014. In August 2013, the Task Force will launch a “Day Laborer’s Lunch Program.” **This is an intergenerational program.** Twice a month we will supply bag lunches to day laborers in several San Dieguito locations. The target date for launching the “Day Laborer’s Lunch Program,” is September, 2013. We will gather to prepare approximately fifty bag lunches, and then distribute them before noon. We strongly urge our members and those families with children to help in the preparation of the lunches and their distribution. We will have “Standing on the Side of Love T Shirts” for all participants, as we interact with the day laborers. In addition, we will use this opportunity to reach out to the day laborers in hopes that they will participate in future legal clinics we plan to conduct in partnership with UURISE. If you are interested in participating in this project please contact Liv Walsh at: livwalsh1@gmail.com or Nancy Harmon at: nwharmon06@yahoo.com

Behind the Scenes

UUFSD Board of Directors

by John Atcheson

According to the UUFSD charter, the Board of Directors is responsible for governing the “business of the fellowship.”

OK. But what exactly does that mean?

Well, for starters, the Board monitors and approves the annual budget, and all expenditures the Fellowship makes. It also sets the policies on how we operate as a Fellowship, including things like hiring practices, site rental and use, and whether and where smoking is permitted. For example, the decision to move to two services on an interim basis will be voted on by the Board, and the Board will assure that any permanent move will be voted on by the full Fellowship.

Over the years the Board has passed more than 25 Policies, including a policy on policies. While this may sound a bit bureaucratic, these policies enable the Fellowship to run smoothly and enable the staff to make decisions without consulting the Board every time an issue arises.

The three objectives the Board is focusing on this year are:

- Implementing the Strategic Plan (see article elsewhere in the magazine);
- Working more closely with other UU Churches in our cluster; and
- Developing a leadership development and member engagement path.

The intent of the second objective is to help us learn from what other UU churches are doing and to identify opportunities for the San Diego UU cluster to make a bigger impact on social issues we share. It might also eventually allow us to exercise market power in purchasing green products at a lower price. Reverend D, who is an ex-officio member of the Board is the lead minister for the cluster this year, and will be exploring opportunities for these kinds of cooperative efforts in the coming year.

The intent of the last objective is to create an intentional program that helps engage members in the activities they care about and to provide people the training and experience needed to become effective leaders of the Fellowship. Some exciting plans are underway in this effort. Stay tuned.

Finally, Board meetings are open, and minutes are kept and are available to all at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UUFSD-Chairs/files/Board%20Minutes/>.



John Atcheson, President



Caroline DeMar, Vice Pres



Ruth Gregory, Secretary



Bev Majors, Treasurer



Maria Penny, Member



Don Jones, Member



Eli Snyder, Member



Steve Rosen, Member

A Plan for All Seasons: UUFSD's Strategic Plan

By John Atcheson

S T R A T E G I C

In 2010, we embarked on an effort to develop a new strategic plan for the Fellowship. It's UUFSD's first strategic plan in more than a dozen years. The course has been long, deliberate, and inclusive.



Where We've Been

Planning started with the "Dreamcatcher" process in 2010. A dedicated team engaged members in small group meetings to take the pulse of the membership on the future of the Fellowship. Armed with the information from Dreamcatcher, we developed a vision and formulated goals that reflected the wishes, hopes and aspirations of the Fellowship. The Vision Statement below was approved by the Board and the Congregation last year.

Vision

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.

Goals and Objectives

Under the Leadership of Wenda Alvarez, a draft strategic plan was put together, incorporating the goals and objective that emerged from Dreamcatcher. The Four main goals are:

P L A N

- *Strengthen and enhance Congregational practices that support reflection, connection and transformation among members/friends and in the larger community;*
- *Improve governance, member engagement and staff development;*
- *Create a campus that uses and showcases state-of-the-art sustainable practices and infrastructure; and*
- *Cultivate UUFSD's spiritual practice of engaging both the congregation and the wider community as a leader and institutional engine of social change.*

Each of these broad goals was further broken down into objectives and supporting strategies and actions. A copy of the Plan is available in the Office and on the UUFSD web site.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan was approved by the Board late last year, and the Fellowship was briefed on the plan, and comments were solicited. Wenda Alvarez, supported by the task force, conducted a comprehensive survey of the Fellowship to get input, in preparation for a final vote. The survey was completed this Spring and analysis continues.

So, where are we?

We're doing more research, reviewing congregational feedback and filling in the Strategic Plan's Year 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 timetable.

But the bigger question is "Who do we want to be?"

First . . .

We want to **do** and **be** more. We're looking at building on what we do well.

Opportunities related to the greater good UUFSD can do as an engine of social change are taking shape. We are reviewing the work of others and exploring how their successful practices might leverage the work, passions, collaboration, and worship experiences already taking place at UUFSD.

Second . . .

A Sustainability Committee, which is a major component of the Strategic Plan, has essentially been formed to consider facility and infrastructure needs, get a feel for regulatory requirements and restriction, and determine steps necessary to create a comprehensive repair and improvement plan.

Third . . .

Generous members are involved.

Fortunately, a good number of the original Strategic Planning Task Force are still on board. Wenda Alvarez, John Sherman, Clint Stoddard, Ken Schultz, Rev. D, Kevin West and John Atcheson are involved. Greg Brown and Joe Penny have also joined the effort.

Finally ...

It's not too late to get involved. Our individual hopes and dreams for the Fellowship can only become realities by working together when we must work; standing together when we must make a stand, and moving forward together when we have chosen our direction.



UUFSD COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

UUFSD COMMITTEES

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Library: Sharilyn Parr
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Luncheons: Alejandra Hoffman-Chan
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Membership: Betsy Gilpin & Candace Sage
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Memorial Wall: Barbara Blomgren
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Music Committee: Marylou Gibson
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Nominating: Caroline DeMar
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Pastoral Care: Sandy Washington
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Personnel: Alisa Guralnick
personnel@uufsd.org

Religious Education: Susan Miller & Alison Crotty
religiouseducation@uufsd.org

Social Action: Kevin West
socialaction@uufsd.org

Stewardship: John Sherman
stewardship@uufsd.org

Worship: Susan Hahm
worship@uufsd.org

UUFSD GROUPS

Adult & Youth Choirs: Andrea Newall
choir@uufsd.org

Book Club: Sharilyn Parr
bookclub@uufsd.org

Social Justice Film Night: John Gilles
FilmsNight@uufsd.org

Men's Group #1: Clint Stoddard
 Men's Group #2: John Sherman
 Outreach Coordinator: Richard Macdonald
mensgroup@uufsd.org

Senior Exercise: Judith Barney
seniorexercise@uufsd.org

Smart Recovery: Paul Pearah
smartrecovery@uufsd.org

Sunday Discussion: Michael Parr
sundaymorningdiscussion@uufsd.org

Wednesday Discussion: Steve Rosen
wednesdaydiscussiongroup@uufsd.org

Women's Group: Dianne Graham
womensgroup@uufsd.org

Young Adults: Lelie Uke
youngadults@uufsd.org

UUFSD SPIRITUAL LIFE

Spiritual growth Circles: Linda Pratt
spiritualgrowthcircles@uufsd.org

Mindfulness Meditation: Livia Walsh
mindfulnessmeditation@uufsd.org

Thursday Buddhist Meditation: Christie Turner
thursdaybuddhistmeditation@uufsd.org

Friday Buddhist Meditation: Robin Mitchell
Fridaybuddhistmeditation@uufsd.org

Buddhist Sangha: Bob Isaacson
 Buddhist sangha@uufsd.org

UUFSD ANNUAL EVENTS

De Benneville Pines Fellowship Weekend
 & Family Camp: Betsy Gilpin & Christie Turner
debenneville@uufsd.org

Memorial Day & Fourth of July Campouts at
 Mount Laguna: Betsy Gilpin
betsygilpin@yahoo.com