

DIALOGUE

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

A publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Diego

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.

“SOCIAL ACTION EDITION”



HAPPENINGS



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Sunday, February 2, New Member Recognition

Hedy Aardema, Terry Goan, Kay Byrnes, Chris Byrnes, Rigdon Currie, Patricia Johnson, Abby Laurent, Tinsika Riggs, Ellen and Karl Whealton

Strategic Plan Update by John Sherman & John Atcheson

Improving the Present; Preparing for the Future

Over the past few years, there have been many conversations about enhancements to our campus, and a capital campaign to pay for them. Many of our members have asked questions that, in their essence, boil down to “What's happening with that?” This brief overview will fill you in. If you want to skip the detail, the short answer is, we've made slow but steady progress, and will have architectural designs to show you later this year. **Now for the detail:**

Three years ago, a Dreamcatchers team was formed and surveyed, in small group meetings, a large cross-section of our congregation in order to, “...achieve a clear mission and vision to use as a lens or framework to make strategic decisions about the future direction of our congregational life together,” as Reverend David wrote in the June, 2011 UUFSD newsletter.

The information gathered by the Dreamcatchers pointed out the need for improvements to our campus to make it safer and more welcoming, as well as to support future growth. To attract and keep a larger membership that would expand the good works we do in our community and the world, we need more capacity. To make sure people of all ages and abilities can safely access our meeting spaces and participate in our activities, we need improvements to the existing facilities. We needed a plan to put the dreams into clearly delineated goals and objectives, and so the Strategic Planning Task Force, with representatives from the different sectors of our congregation, was created in May 2012. A lot of hard work, by many, resulted in a Strategic Plan presented to the congregation in January 2013, and approved at the congregational meeting in June.

Now we had a plan, which we needed to put it into action, and so was born the Strategic Plan Implementation Task Force (SPITF). This task force is populated with some who helped create the Strategic Plan, plus other members with experience in design and construction. We have recently completed our first phase, and are excited to report that we have created a list of enhancements to several areas of our campus, including the amphitheater, core area, kitchen, office, and classrooms, and requested proposals from several top architects for an initial design overview of our request.

Next Steps

We expect to select an architect sometime in April, who will then prepare detailed designs and costs for the different projects we listed in our Request For Proposal. The Board and the SPITF will work together to select three projects, at different cost levels, for presentation to the congregation, which will vote to select that project that we believe best helps us realize our mission and vision that we provided to the Dreamcatcher team back in 2011.

From there, a consultant will meet with many of us to determine whether the project we've selected is financially feasible, or needs to be done in phases. After that, a Capital Campaign will begin to raise the money so we can realize our Dream. We expect that to commence early this fall.

So you see that we have moved forward, each step taken to assure that our collective mission and vision for our future will be realized. All of us who have worked on these different elements, that have brought us to this point, are excited about our progress, and looking forward to the next steps.



I Stand on the
Side of Love
WILL YOU?

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE MONTH

St. James Homeless Shelter January 2014

UUFSD and St. James catholic church hosted the Interfaith shelter in January this year. Over 60 volunteers provided meals, chaperones and even a beauty night! Yes, this is the first year that we had two professional beauticians come in to provide haircuts and manicures for the guests. Rebecca, a stylist, brought her 6 year old daughter to help and make new friends with some of the other kids. This was the second year that on the last day we cooked a Sunday brunch while everyone was packing and getting ready for the transition to the next location. Thanks to everyone that made this another shelter experience. The Interfaith shelter does help homeless families get back on the road to recovery.

Cooks: Julia Darling, Gloria De Rouen, Candace Goldstein, Anne Clarkin, Gene & Barbara Walker, Mike & Karen Kowalski, Charles Dodson, Renae Greig, Carol Blakistone, Susan Pernia, Steve Bartram, Mary Dhooge, Bev Conner, Liv Walsh & Irv Himelblau, Caroline Demar, John Watts, Annette Cabrera, Ashley Phillips, Kevin West, Eli Snider, Yvette Allatore, Erlynn & Darren Heinrichsen, Abby Laurent, Rev. David, Jed & Britta Mularski, Kristen Magnuson, Kathy Faller, Alejandra Hoffman-Cnan, Pam Parker, Sam Blakistone, Caroline Appleton Knapp, Ethan Boutelle, Elise Boutelle, Kevin Parr, Alison Schlick and her husband and two younger children and 2nd & 4th Tuesday Mens Group.

Overnight Chaperones: Robin Sales & Alan Watchorn, Dave Masser Frye, Charles Dodson, Greg Brown, Anne Clarkin, John Watts, Ted Wheeler



Shelter Manicures



Breakfast at the Shelter



Sheltering a homeless couple



Saturday, February 1: Service Day at the Fellowship "Caring For Our Sacred Space" Forty Five Members Participated



Morning Crew-Outdoor Maintenance: Ken Schultz, Ruth Gregory, Karen Gunnarson, Anne Clarkin, Marty Eberhardt, Lisa Shaffer, Greg Brown, Kathryn Sturch, John Watts, Bryan Furbee, Jim Hagan, Charles Dodson, Rich Franzwa, Joe Penny, Eleanor Batho, Nick Baltins, Irv Himelblau, Mike & Karen Kowalski, Stu Smith, Tana and Sal Monaco, Rolf Gunnarson, Bob Fahey, Ed Mlakar, Michael Scott, Maria Penny, Carol Smith, Mary Lou Schultz.

Afternoon Crew-Indoor Cleanup: Livia Walsh, Mary Cory, Chris and Kay Byrnes, Kim Kleber, Kendra Kleber, Anne Gernhardt, Bev Conner, Alejandra Hoffman-Chen, Bev Majors, Betsy Gilpin, Anne Clarkin, John Atcheson, Nancy Harmon, John Watts and Irv Himelblau.

***WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR DEVOTED UUFSD MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS WHO DID A TERRIFIC JOB
"CARING FOR OUR SACRED SPACE."***



San Elijo Conservancy, Saturday, February 15

by Leslie Uke



On February 15th, a beautiful Saturday morning, Leslie Uke and Arto Jaakkola from UUFSD organized a group of 8 volunteers to join a group from the San Elijo Conservancy and other cheery volunteers to plant native species along Escondido Creek in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Together they planted 136 native riparian plants and 48 [arroyo willow](#) poles (*Salix lasiolepis*)! During a mid-morning nature hike, volunteers learned about flora and fauna within the reserve and the various conservation efforts being undertaken by the Conservancy. The two species of the day were the [Southern Mule Deer](#) (*Odocoileus hemionus fuliginatus*) and [narrow leaf milkweed](#) (*Asclepias fascicularis*).

All 8 volunteers felt it was a Saturday morning well spent and were very grateful for the opportunity to get some time in the dirt and to make a meaningful contribution to the beautiful reserve.

The San Elijo Conservancy organizes monthly volunteer restoration events like this as well as organizes weekly Wednesday volunteer events where “Lagoon Platoon Stewards” dig in to plant native vegetation, remove invasive weeds, and enjoy the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve on a more regular basis.

If you are interested in learning more or getting involved in a volunteer event contact Nick Regoli at nick@sanelijo.org. We highly encourage it!



In Celebration: Standing on the Side of Love Awards

John Atcheson



On August 25, 2011, **John Atcheson** was arrested in front of the White House along with forty six others in an act of civil disobedience protesting the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. John demonstrated and risked arrest for a cause that he has been championing for many years, the ecological survival of our planet earth.

He risked arrest in an age of cynicism, because he needed to feel hope. Hope that individuals can make a difference in the struggle for a sustainable and just world. John is hopeful that man can reverse the ecological nightmare of climate change and global warming, through personal and organizational commitment. As he said, “hope begets action, but action also begets hope.” He demonstrated and was arrested because he believed that he had no other moral or ethical choice. John believes that we have a moral imperative to bequeath a healthy planet for generations and geological ages to come.

Rabbi Laurie Coskey



As a Jewish child, **Rabbi Laurie Coskey** remembers her mother and father giving of themselves in the community -- trying to create a more just world. That is why since 2001, Rabbi Laurie has served as the Executive Director of the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice lifting up the issues of working families through activism and advocacy. Deeply committed to public education, she is Chairperson of the San Diego Community College District Trustee Advisory Board. As a civic leader she is the Secretary Treasurer of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation Board of Directors. An expert in multi faith relationships, she is Rabbi in Residence at St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral. Rabbi Laurie is the Chairperson of CLUE CA (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice – California) the statewide federation of interfaith worker justice organizations, and a Board Member of Interfaith Worker Justice, the national alliance. She has been recognized for her contributions through numerous awards. She was recently recognized by the Center for American Progress as one of the *13 Progressive Faith Leaders to Watch in 2013* and was named Friend of Pride in 2010.

Nancy Harmon & Livia Walsh



Nancy Harmon and Livia Walsh have been on the forefront of this Fellowship’s Immigration Reform Programs. They were co-coordinators of the UUFSD Immigration Reform Project which was the centerpiece of our 2013 Standing on the Side of Love Month. They organized a Legal Immigration Clinic in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education (UURISE), participated in a UURISE path to citizenship training, and in a UURISE “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Currently both Nancy and Livia are coordinating our very successful SAC “Day Laborers’ Lunch Program.” Included in each bag lunch is information regarding our Fellowship and where day laborers can obtain legal advice specific to their rights. One of the goals of this project is to inform the day laborers of our intention to conduct legal clinics, re. “Path to Citizenship” sessions when an Immigration Bill passes the congress, in partnership with UURISE and BORDER ANGELS,

Laila Al-Shamma

Laila Al-Shamma is an activist with the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) at La Costa Canyon High School. As president of the GSA she headed up the first “Safe Space Campaign,” in which she and other leaders encouraged staff to vocalize their support of LGBTQ students. She led the “Care Campaign,” a crises prevention campaign. In May of last year, Laila wrote an Op-Ed to her school’s newspaper in which she talked about the struggles she faced as a lesbian teen.

Laila was recognized, last October, by the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network, as the “Student Advocate of the Year.” In her acceptance speech Laila talked about the importance of allies in her life. Currently Laila is enjoying living openly and she continues to work with the Gay Straight Alliance to make her campus a safe place for all students. She recently began working with two local middle schools to train their teachers on inclusive education. Laila is passionate about her work and fully intends to continue fighting for equality in college and beyond.

Kevin West

Kevin West joined the Fellowship in September 2009 and he very quickly became involved with the JRUU coming-of-age program and Casas de Luz home builds. He has done over 10 home builds for families in need in Tijuana. His commitment to economic sustainability led him to researching local organizations that were supporting education and funding initiatives. His drive led to the implementation of a pilot program on nutrition and recycling in Tijuana. He is truly committed to providing opportunities for economic sustainability in Tijuana. Kevin was also a catalyst for our young adult group, involving them in home builds and lively opportunities to connect with each other. He has been Social Action chair and a member of the Strategic Plan Development team. I think Kevin would say that of all of his involvement with UUFSD, it is the Interfaith Homeless Shelter that he has found most rewarding. He has been the main leader for the shelter for the past three years and his involvement has been more than organizing volunteers. He has been involved with the clients and supported them in becoming self-sufficient. Last year he helped one of the moms move into her new apartment, furnished it with donations and attended her housewarming party. Kevin is committed to UUFSD values and seeing them integrated into many social justice activities.



Social Action Edition

We are pleased to devote this edition of our Quarterly Magazine to the Social Action Committee and the outstanding projects that we undertake.

Looking for ways to be involved in Social Action/Social Justice projects? We have opportunities that are right-sized for the various schedules and interests of our volunteers. Some of the ongoing projects include the Day Laborers' Lunch Program, the Community Resource Center Food Pantry, San Diego Food Bank, and Repurposing of furniture and household goods. We also have yearly projects such as the Colonia Home Build, Community Resource Center Food Baskets, and Backpack project. There are many ways for you to be involved! Even if you do not have an abundance of time to give, you can learn first-hand about the variety of Social Action-oriented projects of UUFSD by helping staff the Social Action table between services. By doing so, you not only help provide necessary coverage but also have an opportunity to hear all the wonderful ways members are living our faith.

We need your help and hope you will consider signing up to help staff the Social Action table and/or to participate in any of the planned projects. No experience necessary – just a desire to contribute. Please visit us at the SAC table or contact Tana Monaco or Irv Himelblau at SocialAction@uufsd.org for more information.

We encourage members to submit proposals for new Social Justice projects.

This form is available on line at <http://uufsd.org/sac-project-proposals/>

Social Action Committee Project Proposal

Date: _____

Name _____

E-mail address _____

Phone _____

Brief Description of the Proposed Project (include dates):

What assistance do you want/need from the SAC: _____ \$ _____ publicity

_____ staffing _____ volunteers

Number of supporters/volunteers needed to execute project _____

Are you willing to person the SAC table those Sundays that you would like your project publicized?

_____ yes _____ no

Person Coordinating the event: _____

E-mail address _____

Phone _____

Committee Recommendation: approve _____ disapprove _____

GENEROSITY SUNDAYS

Did you know you can help your favorite nonprofit by simply forwarding the Generosity Sunday application link? UUFSD members, Committees or staff may encourage organizations to apply.

One of the ways our congregation participates in outreach and social justice work is to designate one Sunday in each month as a Generosity Sunday. On these Sundays, we donate the offering to an organization or project that serves the community or the cause of social justice. Beneficiary consideration begins with the organization's submission of an application form. Downloadable forms are available at: <http://uufsd.org/social-action/generosity-sundays/>.

Generosity Sunday Recipients 2013/2014:

A Reason To Survive (ARTS), San Diego
 Kids For Peace
 Amigos de Las Americas of San Diego
 Casas de Luz;
 Community Resource Center Holiday Food Drive
 Day Laborers Lunch Program
 Hope Collage Project
 Interfaith Community Services Fairweather Lodge
 Interfaith Shelter Network;
 Border Angels
 Interfaith Worker Justice, San Diego
 My Library, in Luang Prabang, Laos
 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NMAI) for "In Our Own Voice."
 Quaker Bolivia Link.

**Wenda Alvarez,
Coordinator**



BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK PROJECT



The Social Action Committee conducts a yearly "Back to School Backpack Project." Backpacks and donations of school supplies are collected from July through August. Our goal is to collect at least 25 backpacks and fill them with supplies.

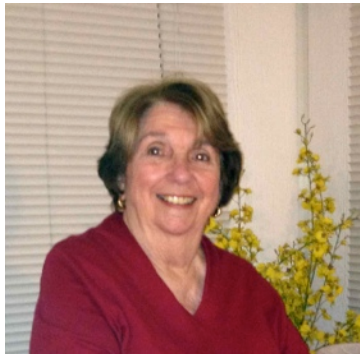
The backpacks and school supplies are given to organizations serving disadvantaged children. Cash donations are used to purchase supplies as needed to fill the backpacks.

Livia Walsh, Coordinator



SAC VETERAN APPRECIATION PROGRAM

The SAC prepares and distributes greeting cards to veterans at the Veterans Administration Hospital during the holidays. In addition members of the congregation participate in providing supportive services to veterans through the VA Hospital. This activity is undertaken with the RE YRUU children, members of the congregation and volunteers from Volunteer Match.



Bev Conner, Coordinator

Bev Conner is the coordinator of this program. She has been affiliated the national organization "The Holiday Project" since 1978. Bev says that "We go to convalescent homes, jails, juvenile hall and veterans hospital on holidays. Usually we go on Christmas day as people in those facilities don't go home and may not have any family visiting. They especially like the home made cards that the children make." Bev has served on "The Holiday project" national board, the regional board and chaired the Los Angeles and San Diego chapters. As of now she is only doing San Diego North County area. Some chapters of the "Holiday in other cities also go on various other holidays. In Colorado 13 facilities were visited on Christmas day.

SAN DIEGO FOOD BANK



On the 1st Thursday of each month we volunteer at the San Diego Food Bank in the Miramar area; just 20 minutes from UUFSD! It's always from 6:00 – 8:00 PM – anyone over 7 years old can help! Mostly we just put food in boxes on an assembly line – really easy, no lifting, no bending, great camaraderie. This is a wonderful way of helping locally those in need and strengthening our UUFSD community as well. The San Diego Food Bank distributes over 20 million pounds of food annually to individuals, families and a network of nonprofit organizations that work to alleviate hunger throughout San Diego county. They need our help!



Sara Ohara, Coordinator

In the 1980's Sara Ohara and her children ages 5 and 7 began feeding a holiday dinner to the Homeless on all the major holidays – serving food, doing dishes, singing at the piano – and chatting with the guests. That was the beginning of her Social Action, which was initially mainly a learning experience for her children. When she moved to San Diego in 2000, much to her surprise, she discovered the UU church where Social Action is one of its Missions, "Creating justice & compassion in our community through spiritually-grounded **action.**" Sara so loved that they went out of their way to serve others, not just their congregation and began coordinating our UUFSD monthly food bank program.



CASAS DE LUZ HOME BUILDS

Casas de Luz is an ongoing UUFSD Social Action program, that brings volunteers together with families in need to build houses in Mexico. The families selected for a home build have the rights to the land, a minimum of three children, and a weekly income of less than \$100. The cost of the materials for these homes is paid for through a Generosity Sunday and other fundraisers.



Coordinator, Kathy Faller



COLONIA CARRETTAS COMMUNITY CENTER



UUFSD partnered with Casas de Luz to build a community center for the Colonia Carretas. This was 2 years in the making and will be a strong support for the community development activities in the Colonia. The community center is used for cooking, sewing, education and donation storage. Each year the Fellowship sponsors a Christmas Program at the center for the children of the Colonia. In 2013, the whole UUFSD Junior High class (22 members) participated in the Xmas program.



Robin Sales, Coordinator

COLONIA CARRETTAS SUMMER PROGRAM



Each year we partner with “Corazon” in sponsoring a summer program of education projects and fun activities for children in the Colonias of Tijuana. The program is three weeks long, ending with a trip to a water park, which the UUFSD sponsors, in Tijuana.



Ann Linn, Coordinator

HOMELESS SHELTER AT ST JAMES CHURCH

The Interfaith Rotational Shelter Project has been a UUFSD tradition for over 23 years. Each Fall, for one full week, our Fellowship hosts up to 12 people who are homeless and in a case management program through the Community Resource Center in Encinitas. We provide overnight chaperones and cooking teams who care for the guests. This project is a great example of an interfaith partnership and we have always found it to be gratifying for all volunteers



Coordinator, Kevin West

IMMIGRATION REFORM PROJECT

The Immigration Reform Project is an ongoing UUFSD SAC program 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 facilitated training for Fellowship volunteers to assist at the legal clinic, and we held our first legal clinic for undocumented immigrants. We also participated in the training addressing support for youth eligible for the “Dream Act .” **Phase 3** involves projects that will continue throughout the remainder of our congregational FY 2014-2015. Starting in the early Fall of 2013, we launched a “Day Laborer’s Lunch Program.” When Immigration Reform Legislation passes, we will conduct legal clinics for undocumented workers at the Fellowship. If you are interested in participating in this project please contact Liv Walsh at: livwalsh1@gmail.com or Nancy Harmon at: nwharmon06@yahoo.com

DAY LABORERS LUNCH PROGRAM



Coordinator, Nancy Harmon

As a teacher of English as a second language, I have always been inspired by the courage and resilience of immigrants and refugees. The stress of their undocumented lives continues, though, and for them and other families who have come here to provide their children with more opportunity. I have become involved in working for immigration reform. Feeding the day laborers reminds me every month of immigrants’ willingness to work hard and the hope they keep alive.



Coordinator, Livia Walsh

While I've known the plight of our immigrant populations no matter where they came from, it was my experience with meeting and working with Enrique Morones, founder and director of Border Angels in San Diego that deeply moved me to engage in more specific action, such as the The Day Laborer Lunch Project. We are helping undocumented people know their rights as well as to give them information to begin the process towards legal status and ultimately, for some, citizenship.

The Day laborers’ Lunch Project has proven to be very successful. We went from preparing 50 to 75 bag lunches . Volunteers are needed to prepare, bag and distribute lunches.



January 2014 Crew:
 Maria Angelella
 Livia Walsh
 Alejandra Hoffman-Chan
 Nancy Harmon
 Irv Himelblau



February 2014 Crew:
 Caroline Demar
 Ranae Greig
 Nancy Harmon
 Livia Walsh
 Irv Himelblau



March 2014 Crew
 Nancy Harmon
 Roger Harmon
 Mary Cory
 Abe Alvarez
 Wenda Alvarez

REPURPOSING



In our effort to keep things out of the landfill, many items are donated to UUFSD and taken to the Colonias in Mexico. All household items are welcomed including toys and furniture. Many contractors and homeowners provide used construction materials that can be reused in building the homes in Mexico. We especially like cabinets, windows and doors. All of our home builds have included windows from the US resulting in our program name Casas de Luz, Homes of Light. For the larger projects, we have partnered with the non-profit Deconstruction Reuse Network (DRN). It's a great site seeing an 18 wheeler arrive filled with lumber, cabinets and windows. Their web site is www.reusenetwork.org. *For more information on the the repurposing program please go to page 14.*

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER FOOD PANTRY



UUFSD participation in this program began in July 2009 and involves donations and staffing for the Encinitas Community Resource Center's Food Pantry in Encinitas. The SAC organizes volunteers to work the Encinitas Food Bank every Thursday of the week, from 10:00. to 12:30 p.m. **Members can sign up to participate as volunteers after services at the SAC table.** In addition to the weekly food offerings, we conduct a special food drive in September to provide the Food Bank with essential foods that are often missing from the shelves.



Susan Miller, Coordinator

!!! NEW SAC INITIATIVE!!!



Steve Bartram Coordinator

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Sandy Hook Elementary School is now a name that evokes images both sweet and sorrowful. The tragedy that occurred there on Friday, Dec. 14, 2012 will always be something I remember. I now find that there are like-minded folks in our fellowship who want to do more than just remember this tragedy.



We have a fledgling group of members who are meeting at 10:15 each Sunday on the patio. As we begin to explore the avenues open to us we invite you to join us as we begin to find ways to bring action to our thoughts and feelings. This is a complex and "crowded" topic. There are many issues we have begun to examine.

As a beginning we are reading the .pdf: Preventing Gun Violence Through Effective Messaging. Here is the link to the .pdf:

<http://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/748675/gun-violencemessaging-guide-pdf-1.pdf>

Steve Bartram can be contacted at: bartram@spsc.edu

Kathy Faller puts the “action” in Social Action at UUFSD.

Whether it’s coordinating volunteers at the Interfaith Shelter, or making weekly deliveries of food and personal items to Tijuana, she’s a great example of the power of action to benefit families and communities in need. Take the Repurposing Program. Kathy recently helped steer donated furnishings from the home of a UUFSD member to help homeless families furnish new apartments in San Diego County. “I match resources with needs,” she says, which understates the significance and scope of her work. She’s also always on the lookout for donated building materials, such as windows and doors, to help construct homes and community centers in Tijuana’s Colonia, and to benefit Casas de Luz, our UUFSD Social Action project.



It’s a big job, and one she isn’t shy about asking for help with. Her goal is to make the program more valuable to recipients, and more efficient. For instance, the program is in need of more storage, a bigger truck and building materials. So, think:

“Who do I know that has a garage or storage space to loan out?”

“Who do I know with a big truck, but under 19-feet, to help make the weekly runs to Mexico.”

“Who do I know with surplus building materials or serviceable home appliances?”

If you know, contact Kathy ASAP! She’s currently using her garage and one other, to store the donated items before they’re transported south. But space is very limited. She’s looking for a donated 40 X 60 storage unit, or another garage. She’s done over 200 trips in the past 2 ½ years, driving her own Ford 150 truck, which is very limited when it comes to hauling construction materials. A donated or loaned truck would need to be under 19 feet to expedite the border crossing. As for examples of repurposed building materials, she’ll take cabinets, lighting, sockets, wiring, windows and doors. Donated household appliances are needed as well, such as gas stoves, refrigerators and washing machines. Taken together, these items help build and furnish small homes by our standards, 320 square feet, but ones that can house 5-8 people in Mexico who would otherwise be living in very substandard conditions. Closer to home, Kathy is looking for help picking up the weekly donations of food and flowers from Seaside Market. She can be contacted at Kathy@casasdeluz.org

The Casas de Luz Community Centers in Tijuana have become resources for after-school tutoring, breakfast clubs for kids, summer camps, and adult classes in gardening, nutrition and economic development.

To see some of the beneficiaries of the work of UUFSD and Social Action, visit CasasdeLuz.org.



HEROES IN OUR MIDST

A look back at our early Social Action

by Christie Turner



Imagine our site, encircled by nurseries and agricultural fields. Members of the Fellowship were radicals while the area surrounding the fellowship was politically conservative. The local paper referred to Fellowship as “those communists on the hill.” In fact the Landays (founding members) referred to themselves as “Red Diaper Babies.” Many of the social actions of the members were undertaken as private individuals. Nevertheless they were supporting each other and got things done:

- John Shannon, who was an ordained minister and his wife Esther Shannon, went to Tougaloo, Mississippi at the epicenter of the earliest days of the civil rights movement and worked to educate local African Americans to be able to pass the voting tests, administered in that day.
- Carol Mason held fundraisers in her home and encouraged her elementary students to write to the governor in a successful effort to preserve the gorgeous Torrey Pines. Later the full Crest Canyon preserve was created with active UU support.
- Viola and Fred Peters were involved in many causes. Viola knew that if her community college students were to fall below a C average that they would become eligible to be drafted and go to Vietnam. She worked tirelessly so that her students made their grades.
- The well-known Community Resource Center in Encinitas was conceived in Steve and Diana Brown’s living room. Steve was an immigration attorney who was a champion of the underserved.
- Our first contracted minister, Anne Hines, was passionate about racial justice. Rev. Hines was an early member of the interfaith Ministerial Association for social justice.
- Don Ross became active in support of the San Diego Human Relations Commission. He learned of an enormous databank of crime statistics in the police department and volunteered to analyze data relating to domestic violence.
- By the 1980’s we learned that a large migrant worker encampment in McGonigle Canyon was scheduled to be destroyed. We offered English classes with the aim of assisting the canyon dwellers to find new housing. Approximately twenty members taught ESL, and we offered classes at the Montessori in Leucadia. This was so popular that the Montessori program was able to obtain funding to hire its own ESL teachers.
- Ed Burditt was a tireless volunteer and worked at Mama’s Kitchen with AIDS relief, as a group leader and volunteer at Storefront which is a homeless shelter for youth. He was a YRUU advisor and usually went to high school camp. He made great homemade bread for our auctions.
- For many years, Sandy Washington, a retired Physicians Assistant, has spent her Saturday mornings interpreting from Spanish to English for the free medical clinic at St. Leo’s in Solana Beach.
- We attended marches for peace at the start of the Gulf War, for reproductive rights at the GOP convention in San Diego, and again when the Iraq War began.
- So as we look back at some of the earlier days of our community, there is a common thread of seeking to make our world a better place that extends to our present day.

Casas de Luz Tool Request

This is the tools list “Casas de Luz” needs to build beautiful and strong homes in this year 2014

Please bring your new or used tools to the Social Action Table on Sundays, April 20 & 27 Cash Donations Appreciated

8 Chalk Lines	2 Packet Levels	2 Long Ladders
4 Electrical Wire Cutters	2 Big Carpenter Levels	4 Skill Saws w/transmission
20 Hammers	10 Tape Measures 25ft	1 Dewalt Shop Saw
2 Caulking Guns	12 Utility Knives	2 Dewalt Saws
2 Metal Cutting Shears	4 Hand Saws	2 Dewalt Drills
4 Cross Screwdrivers	2 Multiple Power Extensions	6 Extension Cords 40ft
4 Flat Screwdrivers	4 Short Step Ladders	2 Generators
6 Triangle Measures	2 Medium Ladders	Paint All Colors-Mostly Full

Volunteer Opportunities - Social Action Committee

One time programs:

Casas de Luz Home Build: Once a year the Fellowship partners with Casas de Luz to build a home in Tijuana - Dates Vary. Contact Kathy Faller: Kathy@casasdeluz.org

Colonia Carretas Summer Program: In coordination with “Corazon,” assist in gathering materials for educational and fun activities for children in the Colonias - **July 2014**. Contact Ann Linn: amlinn@yahoo.com

Back to School Backpack Program: Assistance in gathering school materials and preparing backpacks for the CRC and Casas de Luz - **Spring 2014**. Contact Livia Walsh: livwalsh1@gmail.com

Colonia Carretas Christmas Program: Collect and distribute presents to children in the Colonia carretas - **December 2014**. Contact Robin Sales: rls728@hotmail.com

SAC Veterans Appreciation Program: Prepare and distribute greeting cards to veterans at the VA Hospital at Christmas - **December 2014**. Contact Bev Conner: beverlyconner@roadrunner.com

Homeless Shelter at St James: During one full week, we host up to 12 homeless people, providing overnight chaperones and cooking teams. **Winter, dates vary**. Contact Kevin West: kevinwest@gmail.com

Weekly programs:

Community Resource Center Food Distribution Program: Staff the CRC food pantry, distribute food to CRC clients on from **10 am to 12:30 pm, every Thursday**. Contact Susan Miller: susan3733@gmail.com

Repurposing: In our effort to keep things out of the landfill, many items are donated to UUFSD and taken to the Colonias in Mexico.

Social Action Information Table: Assistance is needed to staff the SAC information table in the Core area between services and after the second service. Contact Irv Himelblau or Tana Monaco: SocialAction@uufsd.org

Monthly programs:

Day Laborers Lunch Program: Provide lunches to Day Laborers in the San Dieguito area. **First Saturday of each month, 8:30-10am** Contact Nancy Harmon nwharmon06@yahoo.com, or Livia Walsh livwalsh1@gmail.com

San Diego Food Bank: Volunteer at the San Diego Food Bank in the Miramar area. **First Thursday of each month 6:00 – 8:00 PM**. Contact Sara Ohara: sara@saraohara.com