

DIALOGUE

Published by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Diego in order to promote love, growth, and right relations both locally and globally.



White Tara Mandala

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With the recent approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric vaccine, effective January 2022, we will start requiring that all children 5-11 that attend UUFSD services and RE programs show proof of being vaccinated. We will be continuing to require that everyone 12 and older who attend services is fully vaccinated and that everyone 2 years and older wears a well-fitting mask.

Rev Jo's Installation Ceremony Sunday, October 17, 2021



Rev Jo's Installation Ceremony



Article by Katherine Buffington

It was with great joy that we welcomed Reverend Jo Green with an official installation ceremony on October 17. This service formally celebrated the covenantal relationship between our minister and the congregation and the community. The theme of the occasion was the hymn “When Our Heart is in a Holy Place,” and its verses’ meaning of building community and being open to new and old ideas alike, to construct a loving, appreciative relationship between our new minister and members old and new alike.

The planning of the service and its included speakers also honored the relationships we seek to build and rebuild as we (hopefully) come to the end of the Pandemic, as well as highlighting Rev. Jo’s background and vocational calling. We were blessed with good weather, despite concerns over a potential shower. There was gorgeous musical performance, including accompaniment from Katie Klaerich on piano, the UUFSD Choir, and a special rendition of “What a Wonderful World” by Louis Armstrong sung by music director Marshall Voit’s barbershop quartet.

Speakers included Rev. Sarah Millspaugh-Gibbs as a representative of the UUA; Alison A.L.G. McLeod on our shared ancestral heritage and bright future; Rigdon Currie, Ohana Hauptfeld, and Liora Kian-Gutierrez on behalf of the congregation; and the charge to the minister and congregation by Rev. Tania Marquez and Rev. Beth Joshson, respectively. The planning committee is deeply indebted to the work of the Site Coordinators, AV technicians, and volunteers, who made the service and following reception possible. (Officially) Welcome Rev. Jo!

Rev Jo's Corner



Happy Holidays to all! December is an event-filled month for so many religious institutions and it's really nice to feel the festivity in the air as so many celebrate the hope and peace of this season. Our congregational year so far has been more hopeful than the last. At least we are meeting in person in our Worship Services! That has been exciting to be able to experience each other in person and I've been so grateful

It's been an exciting time this Autumn at the Fellowship. We all were in person or on Zoom to complete my Installation and it was well worth the wait. I am so grateful for the covenant I have with you all and excited about the work we will be able to do together going forward. I received some lovely gifts and especially am grateful for the beautiful violet stole the congregation gave to me. This Installation signifies to me the completion of a commitment we all gave each other a year and a half ago. As we move through this pandemic and regain the possibility of in person work collectively, we can create a vision and focus together on how this Fellowship can move through society and help to change it for the better.

This Fall also included a first, as the first Ordination was created here at the Fellowship with the ordination of Eli Snider which you will see later in this issue. So much work has been accomplished despite this pandemic and you will see in this issue how dedicated and focused our members are in continuing the social justice actions they so firmly believe in.

That is my hope for the coming year also. That we continue, in spite of the limitations of this pandemic, to do this good work we are so known for. The Board is planning activities that will educate and enlighten the congregation and create more transparency in the workings and goals of this Fellowship. I look forward to the Spring when for all intents and purposes, we can gain back some of the momentum we have lost to the pandemic and the social restrictions we've been subject to. It is for safety's sake that we took all the precautions we've taken, and I know that so many are tired of the limitations we've had to experience. We have a light before us though, one that will guide us to the next era that UUFSD will enter.

May we all be hopeful for this new year and what it can hold for us! May we look to the light and know that we are capable of so much more. It will be an exciting year ahead, I can feel it!

Blessings upon blessings for this coming year!

Rev Jo

Generosity Sunday

Lived Experiences' Mobile Laundry Trailer our November 2021 Generosity Sunday Our November Generosity Sunday offering totaled \$987.00

Oscarin Ortega, is the founder of Lived Experiences Inc.. Oscarin is also the founder of the Mobile Laundry Trailer. During the pandemic Oscarin volunteered with Humanity Showers and Feeding San Diego in three of the poorest LatinX neighborhoods in Oceanside. While working with Humanity Showers, Oscarin developed the idea of the “MOBILE LAUNDRY TRAILER,” as a place for homeless people to wash and dry their clothes. He succeeded in converting and retrofitting a small mobile home which is now serving the homeless population in the North Coastal area.

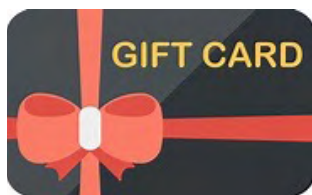
CRC Christmas Holiday Baskets



A special **THANK YOU** to Norma Showalter who organized and administered UUFSD’s participation, and to Livia Walsh’s Mindfulness Meditation Group, who participated in this effort with a major monetary donation.

The Fellowship and Livia’s Meditation group contributed a total of \$625. Together, these funds and individual in kind donations resulted in our providing the CRC with 7,168 packets of hot chocolate, making UUFSD’s contribution to this year’s Holiday Baskets program a great success. Thank you to all who contributed.

Holiday Giving For Three Guatemalan Families



This year the Social Justice Action group (SJA) raised funds to provide three Guatemalan refugee families with a happy holiday. We have been providing emotional and material support for 3 ½ years as they go through the very arduous asylum process. The families continue to struggle financially from the effects of the pandemic, and low earning potential due to their immigration status, and inflation. These are very hardworking parents who will not be able to use whatever income they get to buy presents this year. Additionally, because of food instability, and the school-aged children being off for three weeks and not receiving breakfast and lunch on campus during that time, they are in need of food support.

Thanks to the generosity of members and friends of UUFSD, we raised approximately \$1400 for gift cards at WalMart for toys and food.

Social Justice - 5th Principle

Monthly Calls To Action

October **Gun Violence Prevention**

Don't wait until the next mass shooting to contact your elected representative about gun violence prevention. CALL NOW. HR 1186 (The Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021) and HR 8 (The Background Checks Act of 2021), would make gun purchase background checks nearly universal. Both pieces of legislation have passed the US House of Representatives and now await consideration in the US Senate. Call your US Senators with this call script or one of your own: "Hi. My name is [NAME] and I am a constituent from [CITY, ZIP CODE]. I'm calling to urge Senator [NAME] to support HR 1186 (The Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021) and HR 8 (The Background Checks Act of 2021). This is common sense regulation that will save lives. Thank you."

Senator Alex Padilla (202)224-3553/(619)239-3884; Senator Dianne Feinstein (202)224-3841/(619)231-9712.

November **Support Avocado Mattress**

Avocado Mattress recently launched a commercial entitled "Natural as Love", featuring a variety of people in bed, including two same sex couples. View the commercial on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVuPV8uAI7o> The company is now the target of an anti-LGBTQ campaign. The campaign states, "Avocado Mattress should be ashamed of its commercial for attempting to normalize sin by featuring same sex couples in bed together...There is nothing pure or natural about homosexuality." (See <https://onemillionmoms.com/current-campaigns/avocado-green-mattress-ad-is-irresponsible/>) Affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person by contacting Avocado Mattress and thanking them for promoting equality and inclusivity with their "Natural as Love" commercial: (1) Contact the company by using it's "CHAT" feature or e-mail at: <https://www.avocadogreenmattress.com/pages/contact-us>; (2) Call the company at (201)528-6991; (3) Post a comment on the company's FB page and/or send a FB message to the company at <https://www.facebook.com/AvocadoGreenBrands>.

December **Support "The Break Free From Plastic Pollution ACT OF 2021"**

The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021 (H.R. 2238) is aimed at reducing the production and consumption of plastics. Take action to protect the interdependent web of existence by calling your US Representatives and asking them to support this legislation. Sample call script: "Hi. My name is [NAME] and I'm a constituent from [CITY]. I'm calling to ask Representative [NAME] to support H.R. 2238, the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act of 2021. We need stronger legislation to reduce unnecessary production and waste of plastic consumables. Thank you." If leaving a voicemail, please leave your full street address to ensure your call is tallied. District 49 - Levin- (202)225-3906/(760)599-5000; District 52 - Peters - (202)225-0508/(858)455-5550.



Ordination of Rev. Eli Snider



Saturday, November 13

Eli Snider, was a very active UUFSD member. He moved home to Spokane, Washington in 2018 and has since completed a Master of Divinity degree and earned Preliminary Fellowship status with the UUA. He was ordained as a UU minister, here at UUFSD, his home congregation. Rev Eli was the first person ordained by UUFSD, and it marks an important milestone in the history of our Fellowship.

This was an exceptional day in the history of UUFSD. We ordained our first minister, our beloved Eli Snider. Rev. Eli and the ordination team are grateful to everyone who volunteered, donated money, showed up, and in any other way helped make the weekend so special. Visiting clergy, as well as Eli's family and friends were so impressed by our warm hospitality and our welcoming spirit.

Rev. Eli's ordination stole, represents his transition from Spokane to San Diego and back, his commitment to building bridges, and his indomitable sunny disposition. We are deeply grateful to Eli for answering the call to ministry, and to our congregation for supporting him and his ordination.



Gun Violence Prevention

December 12, 2021 - 9th Year Remembrance UUFSD Sunday Service & Sandy Hook Vigil

Sandy Hook is the 4th largest mass shooting in the USA. There were 26 victims. The children were in the first grade and second grade. The shooter had a semi-automatic rifle with 300 rounds of ammunition. The UUFSD Sunday Service included a heartbreaking “Remembrance Ceremony” that included the reading of the names of the children and adults killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School. As the names of the victims of Gun Violence were read out, stones were placed in the Joys and Sorrow Bowl. It was an emotional event and there were many teary eyes in the audience. Later that afternoon twenty UUFSD members carpoled to the Sandy Hook Vigil at De Anza Cove. Approximately 50 people attended the vigil that included singing by our own Marshall Voit and poetry from Ron Salisbury, San Diego Poet Laureate, a heartbreaking mother’s account of her son’s death by gun violence and readings from members of SD4GVP.



Member Recognition

Interview by Lois Dorn



Richard Macdonald

Richard (“Rich”) Macdonald, UUFSD’s webmaster, chair of stewardship, and past board member, had humble beginnings to his extraordinary career. With the support of his “practical” humanist mother, he was an amateur scientist from an early age. While his mom placed colorful rocks around the house to stir his interest, he collected birds’ nests, rocks and insects from the countryside around his home. He set up a “museum” of sorts in his basement where he displayed skeletons and built dinosaur models.

Born in Arnprior, Ontario, Canada in 1948, a small town of 3,000 inhabitants, Rich felt alone in his interest in the natural world. So he formed his “Microscopic Club” later changed to “Microscopy Club” when one of his older sisters pointed out the ironic humor in his choice of words. It was composed of 3 members: Rich, the mayor’s son who served as “president”, and a third child who supplied the microscope. It was a tiny club but mighty in its mission to inspect the local pond water, among other things.

Fast forward to young adulthood, when Rich went to McGill University in Montreal to study genetics. His summer job collecting insects for the Canadian National Collection won him honors, and he decided to pursue a PhD in Molecular Biology at UC Berkeley, and eventually a post-doctorate in Virology at the University of Edmonton. It was at that time Rich accepted a position of Assistant Professor in Virology at the University of Calgary. Along the way, he met and married a San Diego woman and they had two boys.

What followed was immigration to the US and work for several biotech firms. A divorce and remarriage in 2003 brought his daughter, after which time he spent 13 years as a stay-at-home dad. Having worked a 24/7 job while raising his two sons, Rich was determined to create a different life for his daughter, and it was his daughter who would inadvertently bring him to the UUFSD fellowship. She was enrolled at Sandy Hill Pre-School where he joined two parent groups composed entirely of women (except for Rich). But he did have one male friend, also a caregiver for his children, with whom he shared his deeper yearnings.

Rich was searching for something more, “to find meaning in life; who I am and where I fit in.” His male friend convinced him to consider the UU Church in Solana Beach. His friend was “anti-religion”, yet had heard about the UUs and how they were “different” from other churches. Sadly, his friend passed away before he could accompany Rich to services, so Rich went by himself to honor his friend. He has never looked back.

“There are two kinds of people who are drawn to be Unitarians”, Rich thinks, “those who want to save the world (through social action), and those who want to save their souls.” His 30 years going to synagogue with his first wife drew him to the latter group. A common thread in his search was his pull towards the “intellectual”, and the far reaches of the mind, and he found this at UUFSD when he joined in 2009. During his first 10 years, like many others, Rich did not join any groups but kept a low profile attending parties, selling books from the Library, and attending some Sacred Circle-like “Wisdom Groups”.

Continued on page 10

Member Recognition

Then he was asked to serve on the Board, and Rich uncovered his mission of, and the essential need for, stewardship. He sees stewardship as fundraising to bring people into the congregation via pledges with the domino-effect of more consistent attendance at services and more involvement with the fellowship. To Rich, stewardship is essential to a fully functioning congregation.

What are Rich's other aspirations for UUFSD? He sees the need for a new start, a revitalization of the direction the fellowship has been going. He would like to see more small group ministries, like the Men's Group, where like-minded people can become involved with projects that matter and lead to change. He envisions Reverend Jo's upcoming course in studying sacred texts as a chance for people of all backgrounds--Buddhist, Christian, atheist etc.--to come together and share viewpoints and meaning. Another potential group might be "Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography," or "How to go Vegan" (a personal goal of his).

Meanwhile, Rich is grounded enough to know what matters, like working daily to reduce climate change. His family has installed solar panels, initiated water rationing at home, and tends to an organic garden. He is honest when he admits to "mixed feelings" about how much of an impact his climate activities will have. But he might agree with Jane Goodall in *The Book of Hope*, and his practical Humanist mom, that there is still hope for the world, and for the future of our children and grandchildren. We just need to get involved and do *something*, rather than nothing. "Yes I can; yes I will, as Jane Goodall puts it.

SURJ NCSD A Racial Justice Partner



SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE NORTH COUNTY SAN DIEGO

The creation of Showing Up for Racial Justice-North County (SURJ-NCSD) was the inspiration of UUFSD members Andi MacLeod and Robin Sales. They were on a spiritual path which included a deep commitment to Racial Justice. Robin and Andi and were encouraged by Rev. Megan Cefalu to transform their passion into action. And, in August 2019, Andi and Robin launched SURJ-NCSD.

SURJ-NCSD is a living testimony to our 1st UU Principle, and continues with our more specific 8th Principle which states that we promote building a "...diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions..." Out of this path at our church, led by Andi and Robin and the mentoring of SURJ San Diego, this work was brought to the San Diego North County Community.

SURJ-NCSD is part of a national network of groups and individuals working to undermine white supremacy and to work toward racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability.



Social Justice Partner

The chapter’s mission is threefold:

- 1) Education: helping people develop a better understanding of white supremacy and how to interrupt systems of oppression in our daily lives.
- 2) Policy change: helping develop policies and legislation in support of racial justice.
- 3) Amplification of oppressed voices: showing up for actions, sharing their words and thoughts, and trusting their lived experiences.



SURJ-NCSD provides anti-racist education and creates a path for white anti-racists to be in solidarity with our Black and Brown siblings. Periodically they have speakers whose lived experiences have proven to be valuable learning tools.

The SURJ-NCSD chapter attends Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, Human Relations Commission, school board and the Board Of Supervisors meetings to name a few.

SURJ-NCSD is working actively on law enforcement issues specifically focused on: police brutality and overreach, the strengthening of the Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board, addressing the mental health needs of those who have been incarcerated and mistreated while in jail, the failure of law enforcement, particularly the Sheriff’s Dept., to protect those in custody, and to make sure that the Mobile Crises Response Team is effective and carrying out its mission.

THE MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOME IS TO BE PART OF MULTIRACIAL COALITION



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During the 26th National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality, the Racial Justice Coalition of San Diego and allies rallied at and marched from 7222 Skyline Dr. (Southeast SD Police HQ) to nearby MLK Park. (Nancee E. Lewis / For The San Diego Union-Tribune)

St. James Catholic Church, A Casas De Luz Partner Organization



Kathy Faller

An Interfaith Partnership

UUFSD has a long standing partnership with St James Catholic Church in Solana Beach. We have co-hosted the interfaith rotational shelter for over 30 years. We manage the three donations sheds with Jeanne Hansen President of Birthline, a pregnancy and support organization. St James is sponsoring five Casas de Luz sleeping cottages to be built in 2022. Finally, Casas de Luz distributes lunches from their Peanut Butter and Jelly program to families and individuals, who are staying in temporary housing in Carlsbad.

All of these are examples of how effective interfaith partnerships can be.

Thank You Letter

Hello Incredible Peanut Butter & Jelly Team-

We just wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you, that have graciously supported this amazing program over the past years. It truly takes a grateful village to work together and do God's work. A special "thank you" to Bill, who continues to deliver sandwiches and supplies to Tijuana every week, bringing hope to homeless and prisoners working with Saint Teresa's sisters, Missionaries of Charity, to care for the poorest of the poor. Also "Thank you" to Kathy and our partnership with Unitarian Universal Fellowship of San Dieguito, as we expanded our mission to include 60 bagged lunches weekly for families and individuals, who are staying in temporary housing in Carlsbad.

Many of you know the history of this program and the story of Mother Antonia, who chose to live in a prison cell in Tijuana, to care for prisoners and help bring peace and love. Her friendship with Father Howard and St. James Church helped begin this ministry and Leonore, was one of the most dedicated volunteers, who recruited most of us to lead this program.

You have each contributed to its success and we could never measure the beautiful ripple effect, that started from a simple act of kindness, a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Merry Christmas to you and your families.

Always grateful

Stephanie Kowack



This beautiful little girl was waiting for Kathy Faller to drop off our bagged lunches. Her family has been living in temporary housing in Carlsbad but hopefully will transition to permanent housing soon.

The Sacred Arts of Tibet



Christie Turner

UUFSD was honored for the third time to host the monks of Gaden Shartse Monastery. These monks represent 1700 monks in India whom they support with mandala creations all over the United States.

During the first year of the pandemic this crew was sequestered in Irvine, CA at a monastery and unable to practice their craft. They were therefore delighted to have the opportunity to share their special gifts with us. On Wednesday, December 1, they conducted a beautiful opening ceremony attended by all the children of Sandy Hill preschool. A Union Tribune reporter covering the event commented that the children seemed mesmerized and sat quietly during the entire ceremony of chanting and Tibetan music. Then the sand painting commenced on the bare table where the mandala had been drawn in pencil.

On Thursday, December 2, the Empowement of White Tara was offered. Khenpo Karthar in his book *Wish Fulfilling Wheel: The Practice of White Tara* explains:

“The essential nature of Tara is primordial wisdom from beginning-less time. We cannot say that at a particular time Tara appeared or become enlightened, rather through the power of skillful means she manifests as the play of the enlightened wisdom of all the Buddhas. Because all Buddhas are born from the space of primordial wisdom, she is thought of as the source of all Buddhas.”

Such profound ideas may be new to us but we can feel that in their gentle yet disciplined ways these monks embodied the teachings. On Friday, December 3 the monks met with our Friday Buddhist Meditation Group in the Palmer Library. Their teacher, Khenpo Lharampa gave a talk on Birth, Intermediate State and Rebirth, a new birth.

Whether our western minds can consider the possibility of something that continues on to another lifetime is less important than the message that taking up a life of unlimited loving kindness and compassion can result in a peaceful mind and the ability to meet the sorrows of the world with an open heart.

Saturday, December 4 was Family Fun Day and many children had the opportunity to create little sand mandalas and to hear the Tibetan musical instruments being played.

On Sunday Khenpo Lharampa gave the sermon while Tenzing Wangchuck translated for us. Once again the message concerned the source of genuine happiness that lasts comes from practicing compassion and wisdom in our daily lives. Then 75 people watched the dissolution of the mandala and received tiny bags of sacred sand. The monks then took the remaining sand and placed it in the ocean.

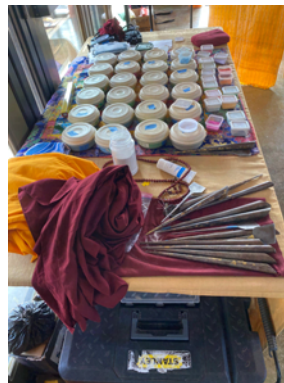
At the final lunch the monks expressed their gratitude to UUFSD for the time we shared. Tenzing Wangchuk said that he was touched by our Sunday service. He mentioned that we showed respect for all religions, that we used storytelling to teach a moral message, and that with our Joys and Sorrows we demonstrated caring for each member of the community. It thus seemed to be a true meeting of two faiths.

The Sacred Arts of Tibet

From Creation to Completion



Opening Ceremony



Tools



Sacred Tapestries



Blessing the Food



Family Mandala Project

The Sacred Arts of Tibet

Impermanence



Healing Ceremony



Chatting



Sunday Service



Music Sunday and a Farewell to Marshall



Sunday, December 19

The congregation was thrilled to be able to attend the first Music Sunday in over a year and half. The theme of this Music Sunday was “Love Is Always Near.” The UUFSD choir sang “I’m Gonna Lift My Voice and Sing,” “Stars I shall Find You” and “Light One Candle.” There were solos by Marshall Voit and we had renditions from guests Tomas Acosta and Sophia Vidali. And our UUFSD band graced us with music and song via a recording.



We were saddened that this was Marshall’s last day with us. He is leaving UUFSD to become the Music Director at First Unitarian Church in Hillcrest. **Thank you Marshall for guiding our choir, especially through this difficult time of Covid.**

Peace Salaam Shalom

Peace salaam shalom,



We will work for peace