

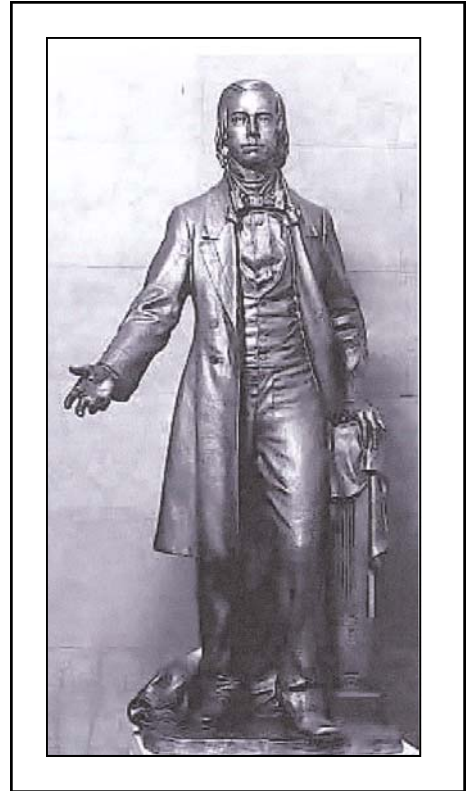
Here's What Thomas Starr King Accomplished in His 40 Years on This Earth

Thomas Starr King, "the orator who saved the nation," was born December 17, 1824, in New York City. The sole support of his family at age 15, he was forced to leave school. Inspired by men like Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Ward Beecher, King embarked on a program of self-study for the ministry. At the age of 20 he took over his father's former pulpit at the First Unitarian Church of Charlestown, Massachusetts.

In 1848 he was appointed pastor of the Hollis Street Unitarian Church, Boston, where he became one of the most famous preachers in New England. He vacationed in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and in 1859 wrote a book about the area entitled *The White Hills: Their Legends, Landscapes and Poetry*. In 1860 he accepted a call from the First Unitarian Church of San Francisco. In California during the Civil War, he spoke zealously in favor of the Union and is credited with saving California from becoming a separate republic. In addition, he organized the Pacific Branch of the Sanitary Commission, which cared for wounded soldiers.

A fiery orator, he raised over \$1.5 million for the Sanitary Commission headquarters in New York, one-fifth of the total contributions from all the states in the Union. The relentless lecture circuit exhausted him, and he died in San Francisco on March 4, 1864, of diphtheria. Mountain peaks in New Hampshire and in Yosemite Park are named in his honor. [As is our UU Starr King School of the Ministry in Berkeley, California.]

This article and picture were copied from Google.



Bronze by Haig Patigian.

Location: Hall of Columns
Washington, DC

Given by California to the National Statuary Hall Collection in 1931.

The State Senate of California has voted 51-0 to replace the statue of Thomas Starr King with one of Ronald Reagan. What were they thinking!

It is time to fill the world with strong and powerful deeds. It is common knowledge that no great captain in the world has ever destroyed all of his enemies and lived with a sense of satisfaction. If one enemy is killed, two more will appear. It is important we cultivate love and compassion to all the sentient beings, which is the way to bring peace to all.

*Tenzin Gyatso,
the 14th and current Dalai Lama*

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**From Tom Stapleford,
PSWD Board President**

Show Me The Money!

What's this? The M-word being mentioned in an official publication of PSWD? Shocking! Everyone knows that in polite UU society we mustn't acknowledge that money is needed to run our churches, Districts and even our UUA!

Well, the Board spent some time at our August meeting talking with Peggy Evans-Couch, our Annual Program Fund representative, and I am pleased to report that in PSWD last year 88% of our congregations were Fair Share contributors to the UUA! This means there are 44 of 50 congregations that are supporting our association's vision for the future.

The Arizona fair-share congregations are: Valley UU Church, UU Fellowship of Flagstaff, UU Congregation of Green Valley, Granite Peak UU Congregation, Prescott UU Fellowship, Sedona UU Fellowship, UU Church of SE Arizona, Surprise UU Church, UU Church of Tucson, UU Congregation of NW Tucson, UU Fellowship of Yuma.

The California fair-share congregations are: UU Church of Orange County, UU Fellowship of Kern County, Emerson UU Church, Orange Coast UU Church, Chalice UU Congregation, UU Church in Fullerton, Live Oak UU Congregation, UU Church of the Verdugo Hills, Summit UU Fellowship, UU Fellowship

of Laguna Beach, Antelope Valley UU Fellowship, UU Church of Long Beach, First UU Church of Los Angeles, Tapestry UU Church, Monte Vista UU Congregation, Sepulveda UU Society, UU Church of the Desert, Pacific UU Church, South Bay UU Fellowship, UU Church of Riverside, First UU Church of San Diego, UU Fellowship of San Luis Obispo County, UU Society of Santa Barbara, UUs of the Santa Clarita Valley, UU Community Church of Santa Monica, UU Church of Santa Paula, UU Fellowship of Leisure World, UU Fellowship of San Dieguito, UU Church of Studio City, Conejo Valley UU Fellowship, UU Church of Ventura, UU Church of the High Desert.

The Nevada fair-share congregation is: UU Congregation of Los Vegas.

Thanks to each of the listed congregations and well done! Your support has been instrumental in maintaining the UUA's services to congregations!

What? You didn't see your congregation listed but you don't know why your leadership doesn't support the UUA? Perhaps it's time to ask.



Embracing Our Theological Diversity

The PSWD Leadership Resources Council is pleased announce that it will sponsor three workshops around the District this fall on "Embracing Our Theological Diversity." **The Rev. Dr. Tom Owen-Towle** will be the keynote presenter at each workshop. There will also be time for Q & A and small group discussion around the issues raised. The workshops will be on Sept. 30 at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, Oct. 7 the UU Fellowship of San Dieguito in Solana Beach, and Oct. 14 at Valley UU Church in Chandler, AZ.

Each workshop will be from 9 AM to 1 PM. To encourage people to attend, there will be no charge for individuals but we will be asking each congregation sending people to contribute \$25 for the costs. A registration flyer has been sent to each congregation and information is on our website. For information contact **Ken Brown** at uurev@aol.com or **Mary Nelson** at pswd@aol.com.

THE PSWD NETWUURK

**Published by the Pacific Southwest District
of the Unitarian Universalist Association**
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**Deadline for the Winter issue:
November 5, 2006**

View NetwUUrK on the Web: www.pswd.uua.org
to view current or archival issues.

Report from Our Interim UUA Trustee by Tom Loughrey

This is an interesting report for me to write. We are in the midst of an election to elect the a trustee for PSWD to the UUA Board. Likely, by the time you read this there will be a new trustee or we will still be in a run-off election. In any event I am making plans to attend the next Board meeting in October.

Several important items will be on the agenda (not that all of them are not important). We are scheduled to have a significant discussion with **Bill Sinkford**, President and **Kay Montgomery**, Executive Vice President, on the relationship between the CEO and the Board. This strikes at the heart of our governance process, accountability and the ability to effectively work together in common purpose. I very much look forward to the conversation.

We will also be meeting to discuss the issues of congregational polity and governance. I think this is a continuing discussion over the years. Some view polity as fundamental to our independence as free congregations. At the same time there is a case for arguing that pure polity prevents us from cooperating at the most effective levels. This is certain to be an interesting discussion.

We will be having a report and discussion on the economics of attending General Assembly. Increasingly, the cost makes attendance prohibitive for some congregations and their members. There is a group tasked with addressing this issue and looking to see how it can be made more affordable for more people.

There is also scheduled a presentation on congregational disaster preparedness and disaster response. Given the recent one year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's strike on the Gulf Coast, this will be a timely issue and I am looking forward to hearing the work that is being done and planned.

One issue emerging from the last GA deals with cultural appropriation. This concerns itself with the dominant culture appropriating music, poetry, literature, dress, customs and more from other cultures. The issue is the appropriateness of this and how it will be used or even if it should be used. More to come on this.

Finally, some of you may know **Rev, Jose Ballester**, minister from Houston, TX and at-large trustee on the Board. He recently had a brain hemorrhage and is recovering now. It appears he is doing well and making good progress. At this point it is unknown what the long term effects may be if any but for now the prognosis is good.

Please let me hear from you with your concerns, questions, comments and suggestions. I can be reached at tloughrey@uua.org or you can call me at home at (714) 997-1973.

Ken's Corral

By Ken Brown, District Executive

One of the books I picked up a while back that deals with the future of religion is Rex Miller's ***The Millennium Matrix*** (Jossey-Bass, 2004). He discusses what he calls communication cultures. Miller identifies four primary styles of communication that have been dominant at various times throughout human history: oral, print, broadcast and digital. We continue to use all these forms of communication. When we were born and how open to change we are impacts which might be our primary form of communication.

As I helped to train the new District Staff this summer it struck me that we were moving more fully into the digital age. More of the people joining the staff are proposing newer and stronger ways to communicate via the internet and computers. There are some new ideas for leadership training coming out that I hope we will be able to use in the not too distant future. Meanwhile I wanted to let you know that we hope to have our new website up this fall. It will allow us to share information more easily and eventually take registration for certain events online. We owe much to **Richard Scoby** for managing our website these many years and to both **Gila Jones** and **Carol Agate**, who helped this District connect early to the internet.

Of course we have been moving more and more to using the internet as a primary way of communication. (Granted there have been some problems as the UUA switched to an upgraded version of the program that manages the internet lists.) Yet we communicate with ministers, religious educators, congregational presidents, ADRs, newsletter editors, and other interested people regularly through the various e-lists. In fact we are probably sharing more information regularly than congregational leaders have ever received. The ongoing concern of course is with all this information sharing, do those in the congregations have the time to read and share the information with appropriate people? Our ADRs (Association / District Representatives) ideally are people in each congregation committed to reading the material and sharing it with others, yet not all congregations have active ADRs.

We will continue to explore and develop new ways to communicate the good news of Unitarian Universalism as well as the rather practical information the congregational leaders desire.

Board of Trustees Responds to Congregational Feedback

The Board of Trustees, responding to comments and suggestions gathered in face-to-face interviews and correspondence over the past year with ministers and congregation leaders of most of the 50 member congregations in the District, has approved a major restatement of the desired future state of the PSWD. This restatement will provide the framework to build and resource the services that the District provides to its member congregations, and will permit measurement and tracking of the results of those services. The Board's next step will be to assess the current state of the District and then determine the priority of the ends and the various associated indicators so funding and staff resources can be most effectively applied.

The Board wishes to thank all the leaders who participated for their insights and direction in shaping the future of the PSWD.

PSWD Ends Policy Revised 8/20/2006

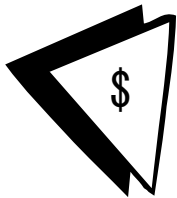
The mission of the PSWD is to proclaim the positive faith of liberal religion by promoting the principles and purposes of the UUA, serving as a resource for local congregations and helping to extend influence in the larger community.

The PSWD supports member congregations and institutions that transform lives and society and manifest UU values.

The desired state of the PSWD in the future is:

1. Ever-growing congregations are meeting the spiritual and social needs in the congregation and larger community. Among the indicators of success are:
 - 1.1. The total number of Unitarian Universalists in the PSWD is increasing
 - 1.2. All congregations are actively creating a sense of beloved community among members.
 - 1.3. All congregations have an active strategic plan.
 - 1.4. All congregations are engaged in Lifespan Faith Development.
 - 1.5. All congregations are addressing identified community spiritual needs.
 - 1.6. All congregations are addressing identified community social needs.
 - 1.7. All congregations are addressing identified issues of racism and oppression.
 - 1.8. All congregations are connected with other UU congregations, the PSWD and the UUA.
2. Congregations are generous and financially stable. Among the indicators of success are:
 - 2.1. All congregations are paying their staff in accordance with Fair Compensation guidelines.
 - 2.2. All congregations are supporting the UUA and PSWD at Fair Share levels.
 - 2.3. All congregations regularly donate significant resources to service organizations.
 - 2.4. All congregations are operating with a budget based on their strategic plan.
 - 2.5. All congregations conduct organized campaigns to raise operating, capital and endowment funds.
3. Congregations are served by responsive, inspired, effective and visionary leadership, grounded in UU tradition. Among the indicators of success are:
 - 3.1. All Ministers and professional staff are trained to perform their duties
 - 3.2. All lay leaders are trained to perform their congregational duties.

*From Tom Stapleford, President
PSWD Board of Trustees*



COMPENSATION CONSULTANTS' CORNER

In the last issue of the *Netwuurk*, this column featured information about the UUA Health Plan that will go into effect January 1, 2007 if there are 500 subscribers by October 15, 2006. Here is the latest word on that plan from **Jim Sargent** in the UUA Health Plan Office:

"Now that we've passed the Labor Day threshold, it's time for everyone who has been waiting for Fall before reviewing the new UUA Health Plan to get moving. Nationwide we have over 140 congregations participating, and the Health Plan Office expects to reach their initial enrollment target of 500 employees in the next few weeks. In PSWD, we have six committed congregations and quite a few who haven't yet responded. Remember that if your congregation is one of the many who allow each eligible employee to choose their own health plan, employees can go on line anytime and enroll. Our web address is www.uua.org/leaders/insurance.

"The official deadline for enrollment is October 15. After that date, there is no guarantee that you will have another opportunity to join the Health Plan without evidence of insurability. Please give this your very careful consideration. You can find all of the most recent plan information at www.uua.org/leaders/insurance, and **Jim Sargent** is available in the Health Plan Office at (617) 948-6405 to answer your questions."

Your Compensation Consultants want to thank everyone who has signed up to participate in this program and urge any employees of UU congregations who work 1000 hours or more per year to consider enrolling in the plan. Supporting the UU Health Insurance Plan is a matter of justice and equity. In order for the plan to be viable, it will be necessary for congregations and individual UUs to enroll at least 500 ministers and staff members by October of this year.

Support the plan so that we can reach our required minimum and offer health care coverage to the more than 400 UU employees who have none.

Your Compensation Consultants:

Ms. JoAnne Smith (480) 838-5724
UUJsmith@aol.com

Mr. Tom Loughrey (714) 997-1973
tloughrey@economedix.com

ANNUAL PROGRAM FUND

Thank you, thank you, Congregations. All 50 of us contributed something to the Annual Program Fund for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2006. At the District Board meeting in August, I was able to report to them that the grant that we will receive because of our contributions to APF is 5.1% greater than last year. Our grant includes a \$2000 bonus because our contributions totaled 90% of what is expected of us. However, our total number of congregations participating was just one shy of our reaching 90% of Fair Share congregations and therefore caused us to miss out on another \$2,000 bonus. Again, many thanks for your ongoing support of our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

The new Director of the Annual Program Fund, **Laurel Amabile**, notified the committee in mid August that all member congregations have once again been asked to inform the Association of Congregations of their intended contribution for fiscal 2007 (July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007). Knowing what financial contributions can be counted upon is essential for budgetary planning and monitoring in our Association, just as it is in our individual congregations. Presidents/Ministers, do look for that request and let me or the APF office know if you have yet to see it.

Please let me know if you have questions about the Annual Program Fund, Fair Share, or about available services of the Association of Congregations.

Peggy Evans-Couch
PSWD's Representative to APF

PSWD Leadership School

The next PSWD Leadership School will be March 9 - 11, 2007 at the Mary & Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes. This school will focus on Articulating Our Faith. It will be an opportunity to come together with UUs from around the District to learn skills on how to talk about Unitarian Universalism. Flyers will be sent congregations this spring and will be available from the District office by e-mailing **Mary Nelson** at pswd@aol.com.

Clergy Corner

Welcome to New Ministers

Each fall we recognize the changes in ministerial leadership in our congregations. This month we want to welcome newly settled ministers: **the Rev. Byrd Tetzlaff** at the UU Fellowship of Kern County in Bakersfield, CA and **the Rev. Diane Dowgiert** at the UU Church of Tucson, AZ.

Later this fall we will welcome **the Rev. Marjorie Bowers-Wheatley** as the Associate Minister at the First UU Church in San Diego, CA. We also welcome **the Rev. Clyde Grubbs** as interim at Throop Church in Pasadena, CA. **The Rev. Paul Sawyer** will be serving as interim at Monte Vista UU Congregation in Montclair, and **the Rev. Roberta Haskins** is interim at Las Vegas. **The Rev. Paul Daniels** is serving as Consulting Minister at the UU Church of the Desert in Rancho Mirage.

Continuing in their second years as interims are **the Rev. Tom Owen-Towle** at Summit UU Fellowship in Santee, and **the Rev. Jean Wahlstrom** at the UU Congregation of Phoenix in Paradise Valley, AZ.. .

The Rev. Ken Brown,
PSWD Executive



Around the District

Surprise, AZ

As a result of a grant from Boston, **Rev. Walter Weider** of the UU Church of Surprise is the moderator for a call-in radio broadcast at 9:00 a.m. Saturday mornings on Air America, KPHX, 1480 AM called A DIFFERENT VIEW. That program is considered by most to serve a vital function for the UU cause in the Phoenix area. Online, you can get the program at www.kphx.com at 9 a.m. Arizona time. Call-ins are encouraged.

- Lyn Fischrup

Costa Mesa, CA

The Orange Coast UU Church will host a Human Rights Forum on May 6, 2007.

*There's more news of churches
around the District on page 7.*



The UUA Board of Trustees announces one opening on the **Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Committee**, to be appointed at the October 2006 Board meeting. "While all applicants will be considered, we would be most interested in applicants who are dedicated UUs with deep experience in anti-racism/anti-oppression/multicultural work and who are able to work collaboratively, being open to different ways of learning. Other welcome characteristics would be someone, perhaps a young adult, with skills in research design and analysis and public presentation."

On-line applications are available at:
www.uua.org/administration/committees/coc/application.

A GIFT WHERE NEEDED

As wild fires continue to burn in the back country of Southern California, this picture shows **Gary Baldwin** of the Summit congregation presenting a PSWD Fire Relief Fund check to **Cheryl Keenan** of Habitat for Humanity.



Around the District

Hemet-San Jacinto, CA

The Hemet-San Jacinto Fellowship is now enjoying its new church building. The Fellowship formed in 1965 and has moved from place to place until this year. Thanks to **Karl Puechl**, **Carol Panlaqui** and **Dick Schmitt**, the dreams of the Fellowship have been realized.

Glenn Scriven, President

The Sepulveda UU Society of North Hills, CA (the Onion)

The Sepulveda UU Society is having "Soulful Sunday" services every other month during the regular service time-slot. In August a "Soulful Sundown" evening service allowed UUs in our neighboring congregations to join in the experience. These services have been hugely successful, drawing in new people, especially young adults and youth.

The Soulful Sunday committee consists of several talented people, (17-35 years of age) which want to create services that would appeal to other young adults. **Emily Haraldson** brings her video skills and **Dana Decker**, a Los Angeles musician, has formed the "Soulful Sunday Band." He is writing songs that can be shared with the congregation and the greater UU community for contemporary services.

The Soulful Sunday committee has sign-up sheets for people to join them in their social action projects.

You can check them out at

<http://www.soulfulsunday.com> and
<http://www.myspace.com/soulfulsunday>

- Louise Klatt

Valley UU Church, Chandler, AZ

Author **Marc Adams**, who wrote *The Preacher's Son*, spoke to Valley UUs on September 15. His book tells his experience of growing up gay as the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister in rural Pennsylvania. He experienced physical, emotional and spiritual abuse. His book shares his years as an ex-gay, and culminates with his coming to terms with being gay and coming out to his fundamentalist Christian family. He co-founded HeartStrong, Inc., the non-profit organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students of religious schools, colleges and universities.

Being landlocked makes no difference to Valley UUs, who are having a "Caribbean Cruise," for the annual Cabaret variety show at 7 p.m. Sat., Sept. 30 UUs will be decked out in their finest for dinner with the captain, or dress casually for "ports of call," or lounge on the "ship" in vacation cruise attire. Singers and dancers will entertain. Cruise-like refreshments will be available for purchase during the Cabaret. Tickets are on sale at the VUU for \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door; seniors/students for \$8; families for \$25. For details, visit www.vuu.org.

Santee, CA

These are exciting times for the Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. They have recently moved into their very own building after renting for many years. Pictured are Summit Board members in front of their newly acquired Fellowship building.





We're in the process of getting the next Connection in the mail. We'll be updating our web page in the next few weeks to include the Connection, as well as all the fliers and registration information for our fall events.

Below is the de Benneville calendar for the next six months. The private events are marked. All other events are open to anyone interested in attending. If no contact information is noted, then the camp office (909-794-2928 or caroline@uucamp.org) can be contacted for additional information or registration.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at camp this fall.

Caroline Quintanilla
Camp de Benneville Pines
(909) 794-2928
caroline@uucamp.org

October 2006

- 2 – 5 Camp for Homeschooling Families
- 6 – 8 LA-Valley Cluster UU Retreat
For info, contact Louise Klatt at (661) 273-1068 or louisepell@yahoo.com
- 12 – 15 A Way of Life After Diagnosis (Private)
- 16 – 20 Camp Bravo-La Jolla Country Day School (Private)
- 20 – 22 Wild Jammin' Women Music Camp
- 27 – 29 Work Weekend, Everyone Welcome (ages 11+) PSWD Training for DRE's
For info, contact teralittle@worldnet.att.net or (818)769-5917
- 30 – 11/2 Camp for Homeschooling Families

November 2006

- 3 – 5 Music in the Mountains Folk Music Weekend
- 10 – 12 Chalice/Fullerton UU Congregational Retreat
For info, contact office@chaliceuu.org, (760)737-0393 or www.ufullerton.org, (714)871-7150
- 17 – 19 Rainbow Family Camp
- 23 – 26 Thanksgiving Holiday Celebration

December 2006

- 1 – 3 Deepening Our Ties: Coming of Age (PSWD Middle School Winter Camp)
- 8 – 10 Hi-Desert (Emergent) Congregation (Private – Craig's Cabin)
- 8 – 24 Camp Available For Lease

- 27 – 1/1 Taking Care of Our Environment (PSWD-YRUU Sr High Winter Camp)

January 2007

- 5 – 7 UCR GLBT Center (Private – Craig's & Cabin 6)
- 11 – 15 Society for Creative Anachronism (Private)
- 19 – 21 USC Scholars (Private)
- 26 – 28 Neighborhood UU Church Winter Retreat. For info, contact information@uuneighborhood.org or (626)449-3470

February 2007

- 2 – 4 Girl Scout Snow Camp
Santa Monica UU Family Support Group (Private – Craig's Cabin)
- 9 – 11 S. Coast YMCA Sunshine Nation (Private)
- 17 – 19 JoyfUII Noise! (PSWD Elementary Winter Camp)
- 23 – 25 YMCAs of Burbank, Riverside & Cherokee Nation (Private)

March 2007

- 2 – 4 Long Beach UU Congregational Retreat. For info, contact office@uuclb.org or (562)597-8445
- 9 – 11 S. Coast YMCA Laguna Nation (Private)
- 16 – 18 Orange Co All UU Church Retreat
For info, contact_uu@ocuuc.org, (949)646-4652 or info@uucsc.org, (949)581-0245
- 23 – 25 Girl Scout Mother-Daughter Retreat
- 30 – 4/1 San Dieguito UU Congregational Retreat. For info, contact office@uufsd.org or (858)755-9225



For information, calendar, costs, and registration forms for any camp, visit the Camp de Benneville Pines website at www.uucamp.org or call **(909) 794-2928**

REjoice
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS for PSWD
from Tera Little

Welcome to newly-hired
religious educators!

Katelynn Hassler,
Tapestry: A UU Congregation

Lisa Wellens,
Palomar UU Fellowship

**Find Your UU Identity
at de Benneville Pines this October!**

This October we are proud to offer the UU Identity Renaissance module at Camp de Benneville Pines. What better place to learn about UU Identity than our very own beautiful UU camp and retreat center?

This weekend training is for anyone who wants to explore UU Identity and discover ways to encourage the formation of UU Identity in children, youth and adults.

October 27-29, 2006
Camp de Benneville Pines
\$225.00 if registered by September 29

Leaders are **Niya Standish** and **Kevin Drewery**.
For more information check out
www.pswd.uua.org.

WINTER YOUTH CAMPS

Camp does not have to end in July. Lucky for us, there are additional Youth Camp opportunities this winter. Sending young people to camp is a great way to form a strong UU identity in them, and they make life-long UU friends.

Middle School Camp

Deepening Our Ties: Coming of Age
December 1-3, 2006

This spirit-filled weekend is set up to work in conjunction with Coming of Age programs in local

congregations. The weekend will focus on community building, exploring spirituality, and identifying personal beliefs. Activities will utilize the beauty of our natural surroundings and will be experiential.

Note: Young people who are not active with a local Coming of Age program are welcome at this camp.

**Sr. High Camp
CaptUUn Planet**

December 27-January 1

This week we will focus on environmental justice and the actions you can take at home to make the planet cleaner and greener. Sr. High Camp is coordinated and led by youth and adult staff.

**Elementary Winter Camp
JoyfUUI Noise**

February 17-19, 2007

How loudly can we sing UU hymns and camp songs? You'll have to come to Elementary Winter Camp and find out! We'll play in the snow, learn games, worship together, create art, and make new friends.

To find out more about these camps, go to
www.debenneville.org.

PSWD YOUTH CAMPS:
It's not just a week, it's a lifetime.



Youth Ministry

And the Conversations Keep Flowing . . .

We are in the second year of the two-year Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth. Many of you have participated in Congregational Conversations, and everyone will have an opportunity to view the results from the youth surveys and the Congregational Conversations at the **PSWD District Gathering on Youth Ministry** taking place during the District Assembly 2007 in Riverside, California.

At the District Gathering we will have a powerpoint presentation with results specific to PSWD included in the general information. The initial results I have seen from the youth surveys are fascinating. Across the US and Canada, youth who identify as bisexual, gay, lesbian, or transgender are more likely than heterosexual youth to think that their spiritual home is their Unitarian Universalist congregation. Our congregations should be proud of that, and I think we can continue to build on that strength.

The survey data also show that young people who identify as youth of color are less likely than youth who identify as white to find a spiritual home within our congregations. Does this have significance for your congregation or for our faith? We have room to grow in meeting the needs of youth of color, and I look forward to deeper conversations about this at our District Gathering.

Who needs to be at the **District Gathering on Youth Ministry**? YOU! That's right—Board presidents and Board members, social action chairs, ministers, religious educators, parents, advisors, choir members, building and grounds enthusiasts, worship team leaders—the list goes on and on. Youth ministry falls to each and every one of us, regardless of the role we play in our congregation. We adults are stewards of our faith, and it is up to each of us to pass along our bright torch of Unitarian Universalism to our youth. It is up to us to mentor our young people and welcome them whole-heartedly into this faith that means so much, a faith that has saved lives and will go on saving lives.

There will be more information coming out about ways you can participate in the **District Gathering on Youth Ministry**, and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at some point during the District Gathering.

In peace,
Tera Little

CONCENTRIC YOUTH

Hello, fellow PSWD UUs! My name is **Mike Zduniak**, and I was your PSWD District Representative at the Young Adult (YA) national business conference "Concentric" hosted in Denton, MD, in August. In writing this article, I hope to bring all of you up to speed as to what happened at Concentric and is continuing to happen in the YA community on the national level.

As part of my representative responsibilities, I will be one of several members of our PSWD Task Force (a steering committee) that will guide much of the PSWD YA programs' direction for the following year.

So, that being said, here I go! The main thrust of this Concentric was increasing YA involvement and fulfillment in all levels of UU life. We addressed the increasing need for YA involvement and informational interface on the national level through the creation of a YA observer position on the UUA Board of Trustees.

On a more communal and district level, leadership development programs covered many diverse areas. Topics ranged from "How to Attain Financial Support for Your YA group," all the way to "Understanding Consent," allowing for many needs and levels of understanding to be met.

Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression (AR/AO) and social justice workshops also were a focus of this year's Concentric. Key topics included ableism, racism, LGBTQ awareness/understanding, and the relatively newly recognized area of discrimination and its relation to mentally and/or emotionally differently-abled individuals.

Rounding out the social justice aspect of the conference was an outstanding keynote address presented by **Dr. Charlie Clements**, President and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, www.uusc.org. Dr. Clements gave an in-depth presentation on his own social justice exploits, emphasizing the importance of social justice in everyday UU life, and encouraging us to consider its place in our own lives.

Concentric 2006 was an incredibly enriching experience for all involved, and I sincerely encourage all able UU YA's to attend future Concentrics. I look forward to serving PSWD for the next year, and as such joyfully encourage all those who would like more information on Opus/Concentric and YA life to visit: <http://www.uua.org/ya-cm/>. Also, anyone with any questions/suggestions/concerns addressed to me specifically can contact me at uunity@gmail.com.

Thanks again!
Mike Zduniak



22nd Latin America Encuentro

Immigration, Globalization, & Economic Justice

Saturday, October 14, 2006
UU Church of Long Beach
5450 Atherton Street
562-597-8445

Registration 9:30 a.m.
Conference 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

\$15 with pre-registration,
\$20 at the door.

Includes lunch for first 100 registrants.

No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Info: Ruth Shapin, 714-567-0188

Conference Program

Keynote speaker: **Prof. Raul Molina**, NYU
"Immigration and Globalization"

Blase Bonpane, Office of the Americas
"Advancing Democracy in Latin America"
Panel on Immigration, Labor Rights, & Human Rights

Norma Preciado, ACLU
"Women and Immigration"

Entertainment: **Hector Aristizabal**
Display Tables

*Please bring your old eyeglasses
for Nicaragua*

Sponsored by the
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee,
Southern California Unit,
in cooperation with the Office of the Americas.

**To register, mail your completed registration form with a check to UUSC
before Friday, Oct. 6, to
Ted Shapin, 5110 Elsinore Ave., Orange, CA 93869. Info: 714-567-0188**

Fill out registration, **make checks payable to UUSC**, and send to
Ted Shapin, 5110 Elsinore Ave., Orange, CA 93869.

Please use a separate sheet for each attendee with a different address.

Name(s) _____ How many attending? _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Need child care? _____

City _____ Zip _____ Lunches needed _____ Vegetarian _____

E-mail _____



PSWD DISTRICT CALENDAR

Send additions/changes to
PSWD@aol.com

SEPTEMBER 2006

- 25-27 PSWD UUMA Retreat, Mary & Joseph Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
- 30 Embracing our Theological Diversity, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

OCTOBER 2006

- 7 Embracing our Theological Diversity, UU Fellowship of San Dieguito, Solana Beach, CA
- 7 President's Round Table, UU Church of Studio City, CA
- 8 Ordination of Connie Yost, Neighborhood Church, Pasadena, CA
- 13-15 Our Whole Lives Combo Training, Levels 7-9 & 10-12, First UU Church of San Diego, CA
- 14 Embracing our Theological Diversity, Valley UU Church, Chandler, AZ
- 14 UUSC Latin America Encuentro, UU Church of Long Beach, CA
- 27-29 UU Identity Renaissance Module, de Benneville Pines Camp

NOVEMBER 2006

- 3-4 Youth Ministry Consultants Training, Community

- Church of Santa Monica, CA
- 5 Deadline for Winter Issue of the *NetwUUrk*
- 18 Leadership Resources Council, UU Church of Studio City, CA

DECEMBER 2006

- 1-3 Jr. High Winter Camp, Camp de Benneville Pines, CA
- 26-1 Sr. High Winter Camp, Camp de Benneville Pines, CA

JANUARY 2007

- 12-14 YACM Anti-racism/Anti-oppression training at the UU Congregation of Phoenix, AZ
- 29-1 PSWD UUMA Retreat, Mary & Joseph Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

FEBRUARY 2007

- 5 Deadline for Spring Issue of the *NetwUUrk*
- 17-19 Elementary Winter Camp, Camp de Benneville Pines, CA
- 25 Installation of Rev. Matthew Cray at UU Church of Riverside, CA

MARCH 2007

- 9-11 Pastoral Care for Religious Educators, Mary & Joseph Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
- 9-11 Leadership School: Articulating the Vision, Mary and Joseph Retreat Center,

UUA Pacific Southwest District
The PSWD NetwUUrk
12355 Moorpark Street
Studio City, CA 91604

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