



The PSWD Network

Newsletter of the Pacific Southwest District of the UUA

Issue 136

Fall 2011

Welcome Ministers and RE Directors

We would like to welcome a number of ministers new to the District or new to congregations within the District.

Two new called and settled ministers have joined us: the **Rev. Lora Brandis** at the Conejo Valley UU Fellowship in Thousand Oaks, CA and the **Rev. Mitra Rahnema** at the UU Church of Long Beach.

We also welcome two new Assistant Ministers: the **Rev. Julia Hamilton** at the UU Society of Santa Barbara, CA and the **Rev. David Pyle** at the UU Church of Ventura, CA.

We have two new consulting ministers: the **Rev. Jennifer Owen-O'Quill** at Tapestry UU Congregation in Mission Viejo, CA and the **Rev. Ron Phares** at West Valley UU Church in Glendale, AZ.

Four new interim ministers will be serving congregations in the District: the **Rev. Earl Holt** at Valley UU Congregation in Chandler, AZ; the **Rev. Mo White** at Beacon UU Congregation in Flagstaff, AZ; the **Rev. Mike Young** at the UU Church of Studio City, CA; and the **Rev. Ed Brock** at the Orange Coast UU Congregation in Costa Mesa, CA.

In addition we have long-time PSWD ministers serving in new consulting roles: the **Rev. Karen Stoyanoff** at the UU Church in Anaheim, CA, the **Rev. Paul Langston-Daley** at the UU Fellowship in Sedona, AZ, and **Lee Marie Sanchez** at Sepulveda UU Society in North Hills, CA.

This year, the PSWD is pleased to welcome several new religious educators. Some of them moved from out of district, and some moved within the

district. We hope you find a warm religious home with us, and we look forward to finding ways you can serve our larger movement.

James Forrest, DRE, Live Oak UU Congregation, Goleta, CA. **Julia Tyler**, DRE, UU Church of Ventura, CA, **Jaynn Truran**, Interim DRE, UU Congregation of Phoenix, AZ, **Amy Huntereece**, DRE, Beacon UU Congregation, Flagstaff, AZ, **Mary Carter-Vaile**, DRE, Summit UU Fellowship, Santee, CA, and **Lisa Lawrence**, Interim DRE, UU Congregation in Surprise, AZ



Save the Dates!

DA 2012 is coming April 27th and 28th to the First Unitarian Church in Los Angeles, CA. This truly urban church is a fitting and stimulating setting for our exploration of the many types of justice work going on in our Pacific Southwest District.

This District Assembly leads up to the Justice GA in Phoenix, AZ in June, and there will be informative, preparatory workshops and inspiring worship as our District comes together once again for fellowship, community and to explore justice Pacific Southwest District style!



Ken's Corral



As we begin this new church year I am optimistic that we will continue to be a growing presence within the communities of the Pacific Southwest District. As I travel across the District I am reminded that our Unitarian Universalist tradition is not about our buildings, nor a creed, nor even membership in a congregation. It is a vision of the world expressed in our values and action, hopefully shared with the entire world. We have a faith that the world needs and only we can create congregations that are open and diverse by working together across the District.

We have a chance to work collectively this year as we prepare for our Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in June 2012. As I write these words we do not know exactly how we will participate in GA but I can assure you that there will be a variety of opportunities for all people to worship and study issues around how we as a people of faith can work for a just society. There will also be possibilities for service and witness.

Between now and next June there will be a number of ways to prepare for GA. Many congregations are using the UUA "Immigration as a Moral Imperative" as an adult education class. By the end of September there will be intergenerational resources on the UUA web site. Right now there are a variety of resources for study and reflection on our own PSWD web site, located on our Migration and Border Issue page at <http://www.pswduua.org/pages/border-and-migration-issues-and-info.php>.

During this year we will also hear from the Rev. Susan Frederick Gray who is the head of the UU Arizona Immigration Ministry. We will also have a not-yet-fully-developed outreach ministry in southern California, and the District Board and Staff are dedicated to preparing for GA 2012.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll read about the Board's leadership in raising scholarship funds. I want to also suggest that you save the dates of March 15-18, 2012 for our second annual Human Rights on the Border Spring Break and April 27-28, 2012 for our District Assembly at First UU Church in Los Angeles with the theme of "Beyond Borders."

As we have more information about GA, DA, the Spring Break, and other events and resources we will add the information to our PSWD web site. If you have any questions drop me a note at uurev@aol.com.

In the Faith,

Ken



UUSC Annual Encuentro

Saturday, Oct. 22



"The Immigration Crisis: Humane Responses" is the theme of the 28th Latin American Encuentro sponsored by the UU Service Committee, Southern California Unit.

The event will take place at First Unitarian Church, Los Angeles, located at 2936 W. 8th Street. Speakers include

- Caitlin Williams, Program Director at Esperanza, a non-profit law firm in L.A. serving immigrants
- Rev. Rick Hoyt, the minister at First Unitarian Church L.A.
- Rochelle McAdam, UUSC Board member
- Dan Stracka of UURISE (UU Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education).

Registration is at 9:30 a.m. The conference runs from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and lunch is included. Admission is \$20.00 if pre-registered and \$25.00 at the door, no one turned away for lack of funds. Students with I.D. are free.

For further information or to pick up a flier see our web page at <http://uusca.org/unit.htm>.

REjoice!

It is a special time of rejoicing for me: joy over the four full PSWD summer camps, joy that a new church



year is starting, joy that Unitarian Universalists are coming together in June 2012 in Phoenix to send a clear message of love and hope for justice, and joy that on September 25 I will be ordained into the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

Camp, coaching church leadership, engaging in social justice - these three

pieces have been foundational in my ministerial formation. I feel like the entire district has encouraged and supported me into professional ordained ministry. Each of you has contributed in some way. Through a phone conversation, or email exchange. By your presence at a camp or a district workshop. By your questions, your comments, your laughter, and perhaps most of all through the times you disagreed with me and we had to find common ground.

On September 25 I am being ordained, but I see that day as much more than that. I see it being about all of us - a celebration of the shared ministry we have created together over the past 13 years. An affirmation of the good work of Unitarian Universalism you are doing in your own congregations and in your own communities. I want it to be a time for each of us to welcome anew our passion for our faith, and to recommit to living in concert with our values.

On that day, even if you cannot be at the ordination, I hope you will take a moment to lift up your hands



and give blessings for our beautiful religion, and for all the people who accompany you on your spiritual journey. "We are walking in the light of God," and in the light of each other.

Thank you for being an important part of my journey.

With peace and hope and rejoicing,

Tera Little

Board of Trustees Justice Action Plan

With the cost of attending a general assembly often a stumbling block for many, the PSWD Board of Trustees has implemented a program to raise funds to support the attendance at the Justice GA by youth, young adults and others who might otherwise not be able to attend. With the coming year's focus on justice, it is imperative that our District's commitment to diversity and economic justice be in evidence by a large attendance of a diverse group of PSWD participants at GA 2012.

As District Coordinator for GA 2012, I plan to visit congregations across the District throughout the year, as will other members of the Board, to ask for contributions to this fund and to update you on GA developments. In addition, there will be two calls for contributions that will go to everyone in the District in November and March. But you can demonstrate your support right now by sending your checks for the PSWD Justice Action Fund to the District Office at 2052 Norma Street, Oxnard, CA 93036-2711 or by donating online at <http://www.pswduua.org/pages/ga-2012--phoenix.php>.

Recipients of congregational GA scholarships and grants may be able to receive matching funds from the District if we get a generous response to the PSWD Justice Action Fund.

PSWD needs to send as many as possible to Phoenix to bear witness, to speak with love to hate, to speak justice to intolerance, to live our faith, to stand on the side of love. In the end, why we attend Justice Assembly is the same reason we do any justice work, to show that the love, which is the doctrine of our church, does not, and can not, stop at our front door. Let's all pull together to make it happen!

--Carolyn Saunders, VP Board of Trustees



Thoughts from the President

In my last column, I announced that your Pacific Southwest District Board entered into covenant with the Executive Team of our district and the Director of Congregational Life for the UUA. Covenants are familiar to us. They are the foundation of our faith community. They are a sacred agreement of how we will be in relationship with one another.



If your congregation is like mine, and I suspect it is at least similar, you have a covenant with your minister and you have a covenant with one another. A covenant is not a contractual set of rules with schedules and deadlines or penalties for non-performance. Our covenants reflect our highest aspiration for mutual respect and support. They call us to our best selves as we follow our spiritual paths in religious community.

Our congregations also need to be in covenant with one another. If we are to survive and thrive as a religious movement, we must be concerned with how we work together to create the beloved community right here among us. Our principles and purposes describe our shared values and our common heritage that informs our religious tradition. And even if they do not do so explicitly, I believe they call us to be accountable to one another, not as individuals, but as congregations. We must encourage and support our mutual work.

In the coming months, many congregations will be preparing for General Assembly in our district. Your PSWD Board's October meeting in Tucson will explore the border issues that compelled us to re-imagine our 2012 Phoenix General Assembly as Justice GA. Informed by our learning, we will explore how our district can support congregations who are preparing for GA. Our vision is that we not only prepare to host, but to engage in the justice work that will be the focus of our gathering in Phoenix next June.

To be in covenant, to be in right relations, I think we must find ways to collaborate and cooperate as congregations. I believe your board has a responsibility to facilitate that engagement between congregations as we prepare for Justice GA. If you have thoughts or ideas for your board to consider on this topic, I invite you to share them with me.

living my faith,

Michael Sallwasser

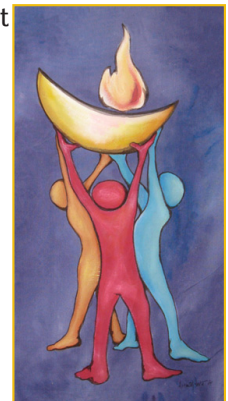
The Multicultural Growth & Witness

staff group is working on a Skinner House book to help share the learnings of congregations that have committed themselves to becoming multicultural beloved communities. The book will present stories that depict the life-giving nature of this work and this journey— as well as a frank portrayal of the challenges that some communities have faced, and how they overcame them.

Here's where we need your help: please share your stories with us! We welcome narratives about leadership, worship, justice work, religious education, congregational culture, relationship building with the community, membership work, and hospitality. We particularly want to make sure that the perspectives and experiences of people of color are lifted up in our book.

An ideal story would incorporate external responses; for instance, if you experienced increased attendance at worship or if partners in justice work expressed appreciation for your relationship-building efforts, we'd love to know that part of the story. There's no need to write in polished prose. Just tell your story to us as if you're recounting it to a friend.

Please submit your story to mcs-tories@uua.org by October 15th, and thank you! for your stories and your dedication to this faith matter.



UUs Taking Action for Climate Justice

August 25, post arrest - Daily demonstrations against the Tar Sands Pipeline in Washington, DC

I was arrested this morning and I'm out already. This felt like a very worthwhile thing to do, and I was glad I could be there. There were 47 of us participating today, an interesting mix of young college age folks and geezers like me. Only a few in between. Their dedication was inspiring, as was the professionalism of the trainers and facilitators who supported us.

I am humbled when I think what others encountered in times past -- no one launched dogs, used fire hoses or shot rubber bullets at us; the police

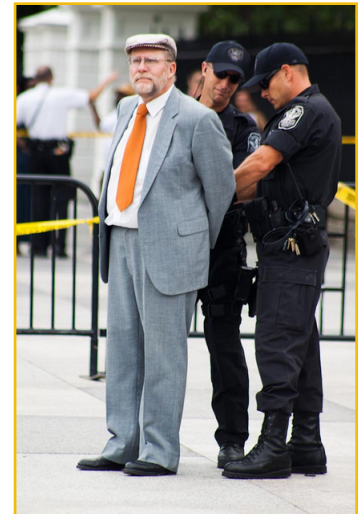


were unfailingly polite and good humored (for the most part) and we were passed through the system quickly.

I hope you will take the time to educate yourselves on the tar sands issue. This really is a fuse to a carbon time bomb and if we light it, it will lead to irrevocable and devastating changes to our planet -- including ocean acidification. Here's the web site: <http://www.tarsandsaction.org/>.

John Atcheson
Member, UU Fellowship of San Dieguito

On August 29, during the Interfaith Day at the Tar Sands Action, I was arrested along with 142 others in an act of civil disobedience. This is the beginning of a new level of activity promoting climate justice among the country's religious organizations.



14 UU's were arrested that day, including myself, Barbara Ford, former Chair of the [Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth](#), affiliate organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), Terry Wiggins, outgoing Treasurer of the UU Ministry for Earth, [Rev. Craig C. Roshaven](#), UUA Director of Witness Ministries, Rev. Terence Ellen, Executive Director of [UU's for Social Justice](#), and other local and national UU congregants.

I am available to speak about the experience and its connection to climate justice to PSDW congregations as I have at many congregations recently. See my [UUMFE blog](#) for more information.

Thanks,

Vincent Pawlowski
Member, UU Congregation of NW Tucson
Board Member, UU Ministry for Earth

Workshop Proposals for DA 2012

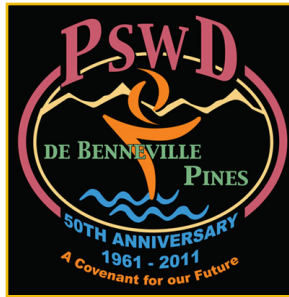
Invitation to submit workshop proposals for District Assembly 2012 to be held April 27-28 at First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles

Theme: Beyond Borders

As this is our Justice DA in preparation for the Justice GA in Phoenix in June of 2012, we are looking for workshop proposals that have a justice theme. Immigration Justice; Social Justice; Environmental Justice; LGBT Justice. Our workshop space will be tight this year so get those proposals in! Deadline is December 31st. Send proposals to or questions regarding proposals to: michellemelancon@gmail.com

Happy 50th Anniversary Camp de Benneville Pines!

Fifty years of UU camping and community building! We had a sold out summer, and UU youth and families helped celebrate this milestone each new week of summer camp with cake and ice cream. Close to 300 people were



in camp on Thursday, July 28th, for our “official” anniversary party. Everyone enjoyed delicious food, music and workshops. People young and old swapped camp stories and sang favorite folk songs. The celebration was an all-day affair, and people shared their thoughts and feelings in a memory book (to be buried in a time capsule for the 100th anniversary celebration!). Board President, Tom Thorward, and Vice President, Ross Quinn shared meaningful words with the crowd. Former board members and camp users from the 60’s thru present day gave testimony to what the camp has meant to them over the years.



To enjoy a heartwarming 50th Anniversary flick, featuring scenes from 1962 and the building of Homet Lodge, please click on this [LINK](#).

Here are a few of the thoughts shared in the 50th Anniversary Memory Book by our campers:

*This has been the most transformative space. 4 years, 9 camps & countless friends later, I feel so connected to this place that has changed my life. I can’t imagine where I would be without de Benneville. My heart is here and always will be.

--Lauren Eaton

*26 years and going strong. I was fortunate enough to have some of the most formative



experiences of my life occur right here at camp. Here is to many more!

--Eric Rosloff

*Memories of great joy and elation come to mind when I remember this beautiful oasis called de Benneville Pines--I had the busy life of a mother with three children when I first came here in 1961! We slept in tents, and the squirrels greeted us at the tent door, never coming in; and the children were so delighted to be in nature and so close to the animals of the forest. A quiet, beautiful place to be. The people were so peaceful towards one another and there was a spirit of cooperation. We enjoyed art, music, dance, discussions—very deep and meaningful. Unitarianism has woven a path into my family’s life, and my children are so very peaceful and I am so proud of them! We must promote this wonderful way of living, we must send our children to the mountain to find stillness and peace. There are so many beautiful trees, birds, animals, skies and abundant fresh air for our lungs. This is the 50th year of all this goodness.

--Issa Graves, Orange Coast Church



*In 1982 I met my husband here. We lived together for 22 years, spending many happy times at our beloved camp. Finally, legally married in 2003—can’t rush things you know!

--Clover Behrend



The year-long celebration continues into the fall. Please join us for Music in the Mountains, a wonderful weekend of folk music; and Thanksgiving Family Camp, a great place to forget about holiday cooking and cleaning up--let the camp staff do it for you! For more information, log onto www.uucamp.org and click on Come To Camp.



Joining the Yellow Revolution

As we prepare to host the 2012 GA in Phoenix in June many of our congregations are learning about and training for immigration justice. The president of the UUA, the Rev. Peter Morales, has taken a leadership role in this important work and is calling on all of our congregations to stand on the side of love. Our yellow shirts are inspiring others (visit www.standingonthesideoflove.org).



Will your congregation be joining what I am calling “The Yellow Revolution”? Will your people be a part of our religion to stand up



for the rights of all people? Will we be the vanguard that through our witness and action stands out for the best of our liberal tradition? Will we support this movement with enough resolve to hold and attract the youth who are so engaged with us in this struggle?

Your fair share contributions to the UUA and the PSWD is as vital to this revolution as is showing up in Phoenix with your yellow shirt. This is our time. And this is your faith.

Please check to be sure you have completed your pledge form for your contribution to UUA and PSWD. If need be please contact me about that or any stewardship concern (revmorehouse@gmail.com). Learn about the power of your congregation’s generosity by searching “Nurturing Generosity” at <http://www.uua.org/finance/fundraising/generosity/index.shtml>

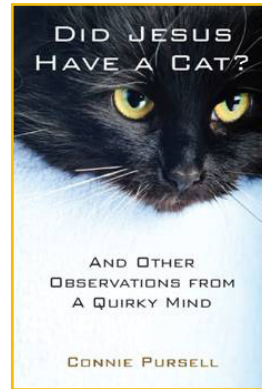
In the midst of our nation’s struggles let’s start a revolution!

Yours in Faith,

Rev. John Morehouse
APF Representative

New Book of Essays

Connie Pursell, President of Tapestry, A Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Mission Viejo, has published her first book of essays titled *Did Jesus Have a Cat? And Other Observations from a Quirky Mind*. She was inspired and encouraged



by the Rev. Tom Owen-Towle, Tapestry’s Consulting Minister from 2009-2011.

The book grew out of news-letter articles she wrote for the congregation’s monthly newsletter. After writing about the usual goings on at Tapestry and congregational goals, she started branching out into other areas, other fare, writing about self-development, generosity, coping with change (both personal and in the life of the congregation), and suddenly she was writing about spiritual topics as well, inspired by some of Rev. Tom’s sermons and her work with members. Her role as president pointed her brain in new directions and got her thinking in different channels.

Rev. Tom Owen-Towle says, in the Foreword to the book:

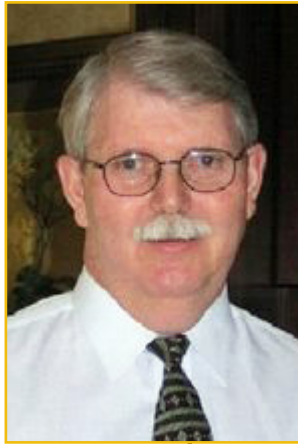
What a scrumptious range of topics you’ll enjoy in this potpourri: everything from animals to spirituality, loneliness to films, politics to love, family to death. [Connie Pursell] worked hard to produce these gems; the reader will have to work hard to grow in return, but the journey’s worth it. Pursell majors in nuances and the complicated. Everything life offers, like it or not, is fodder for her nimble, mischievous prose.

Rev. Tom kiddingly called Connie a “Grandma Moses of the Pen” as she has just turned 65 and is just now producing a first book. Connie isn’t necessarily crazy about the nickname as it calls too much attention to her age, but she has to admit that it is proof that it is never too late to pursue a goal or realize a dream and she encourages other seniors to take notice. Goals can be realized at any age with resolve and purpose.

Connie Pursell
President, Tapestry

UUA Trustee Report

The UUA Board of Trustees is entering a new era this year. At GA 2011 in Charlotte this year delegates voted a number of changes including the restructuring of the board beginning in 2013. All trustees will be elected at large rather than by districts. Elections will occur at GA each year electing approximately one-third of the members. The board will have eleven elected trustees plus the moderator and the financial advisor. The president serves as a non-voting member. Currently the board has nineteen members elected from the districts plus four at-large members plus the moderator and the financial advisor. New trustees elected in 2013 will have terms of three years and may be re-elected once. The moderator and president will have terms of six years and may only serve one term. So... a smaller board elected more frequently by all congregations annually through their delegates at GA.



I have had a number of comments sent to me by concerned members of PSWD congregations about the lack of district representation on the board. I have heard similar comments from my colleagues on the board. Interestingly many districts have actually found it difficult to recruit a trustee to run even unopposed. That has not been the case in the PSWD in my memory, at least for the first term of a trustee. We usually have contested elections. During the last contested elections five years ago I received many comments as we went around the district about the size of the board. Virtually everyone I talked to thought the board was too big. Now that it is going to be smaller I am hearing from those concerned about representation. It is true we might not have a member of a PSWD congregation on the board in some years in the future. We certainly won't if no one puts their name out or lets the nominating committee know when they begin looking. Interested persons can get involved in a number of ways but one of the best is to put in an application to the Nominating Committee (<http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/nominating/8266.shtml>) or the Committee on Committees (<http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/board/committees/coc/8131.shtml>). Becoming involved in one of the many positions available is

a way to become more involved and serve an important need of the Association. Please feel free to contact me if you have an interest or need some assistance or advice.

Right now much of our attention is on GA 2012 in Phoenix. Following actions by the Arizona legislature in 2010 to toughen their immigration laws in ways that even the courts found in violation of the Constitution, the UUA Board recommended to delegates in Minneapolis to boycott Phoenix in 2012. This followed the vote by delegates at the 2010 District Assembly in Santa Barbara to boycott Phoenix. GA delegates ended up passing a business resolution to have GA 2012 in Phoenix provided business be kept to the minimum required by our bylaws and the focus be placed on immigration justice with special attention paid to the needs of historically marginalized groups. At DA in Pasadena this year I introduced a motion that the PSWD formally support GA 2012 as a Justice GA. It passed resoundingly. Just deciding to go though did not address the issue that immigration rights groups, with whom we have been sympathetic, wanted a boycott and were prepared to boycott us if we came despite our intentions. That changed when UUs showed up in significant numbers in July 2010 for protests on the day the law went in to effect. Through the efforts of local leadership in Arizona congregations (and a special tip of the hat to the Rev. Ken Brown, our District Executive), we came to be seen as allies in this struggle. If we keep faith with our promises we can expect to not be boycotted when we arrive next June.

This has not, is not and will not be an easy process for having a Justice GA in Phoenix. Currently, the board has called for the GA Planning Committee, the AZ Immigration Ministry, UUA staff and the Accountability Group formed in response to the resolution at GA 2010 to meet in September in Boston to plan our Justice GA. I am keeping good thoughts for their productive work.

Congregations are planning now how they can be involved in GA 2012. You can read a message in this issue of the NetWUrk from Carolyn Saunders, PSWD vice-president and local chair for GA 2012 on specific things we can do to support attendance from persons who might otherwise find it difficult to be at GA. I very much encourage you

to join me in making a donation to help support this effort. Find out what your own congregation is doing to have their presence in Phoenix next June and how you can be involved.

I have some new roles on the board this year. Previously I was a member of the Committee on Committees and the Governance Working Group. I have new positions on the Finance Committee and our newly formed Communications Working Group. I will continue to serve as Secretary of the Association and a member of the Executive Committee. As Secretary, I will be responsible for conducting the 2013 elections and much of that starts in 2012 with campaigns forming for the moderator position, at-large trustee elections and elections for a number of standing committees of the UUA. It promises to be a busy year!

As always, I am open to invitations to speak to your congregation and assist you in any way I am able. Please feel free to email me at tloughrey@uua.org on matters of concern.

In faith and trust,
Tom Loughrey



The PSWD Netw^UDrk

Published by the Pacific Southwest District
of the Unitarian Universalist Association
2052 Norma St., Oxnard, CA 93036-2711
Phone: 805-485-1780 E-mail: pswd@aol.com

PSWD President: Michael Sallwasser
Michael.sallwasser@ngc.com

Editor: Mary Nelson
E-mail: pswd@aol.com

DEADLINES:

Fall issue - September 5
Winter issue - November 5
Spring issue - February 5
Summer issue - May 5

The Netw^UDrk on the Web: www.pswduua.org
to view current or archival issues.

CVUUF Welcomes the Rev. Lora Brandis as New Minister

The Conejo Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (CVUUF) in Newbury Park, CA welcomed the Rev. Lora Brandis as its settled minister in August after an overwhelming vote of approval in April to call her to serve.



Rev. Brandis assumed leadership of the fellowship, which serves a wide area of eastern Ventura County, on Aug. 15. She succeeds the Rev. Helen Carroll, who served as interim minister during a yearlong search for a settled minister. The Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford retired in June of 2010 after presiding as CVUUF's minister for 12 years.

A formal installation ceremony for the Rev. Brandis is set for 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13.

"Rev. Lora embodies the characteristics we value most," CVUUF President Claudia Barton said.

"She understands what makes us an enthusiastic, active congregation. We are thrilled to have such a dynamic new minister."

Before joining CVUUF, Rev. Brandis had a dual role as consulting minister at two congregations: the Pocatello UU Fellowship in Pocatello, Idaho and the South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Salt Lake City, Utah.

She holds a master of divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, where she previously earned her B.A. and bachelor of fine arts degrees. She served her ministerial internship at Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church in Carrollton, TX and was ordained early this year at the First Unitarian Church of Dallas.

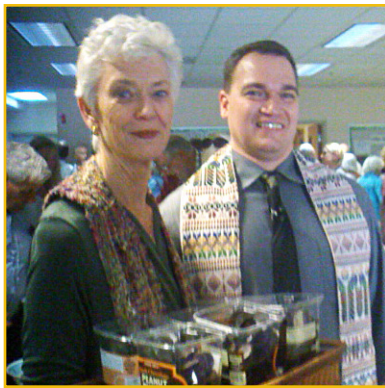


News of the UU Church of Ventura

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura has welcomed two new members of its staff: Director of Religious Education Julia Tyler and Assistant Minister the Reverend David Pyle.

Julia was raised Unitarian Universalist and her career goal is to be a Unitarian Universalist religious educator. She is a recent graduate of Macalester College where she earned a degree in religious studies. We are delighted that Julia took the leap of faith to move west from Durham, North Carolina to join us this July.

Rev. David received his Masters of Divinity from



Meadville Lombard Theological School and completed a chaplaincy residency at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. He has honed his ministerial skills as an interim and an intern/student minister, as a hospital and a

hospice chaplain, as a district/consulting minister and as a military chaplain, a role in which he will continue to serve as part of his larger ministry and a member of the U.S. Army Reserve. He most recently served as Interim Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, Michigan. He preached his debut sermon on August 28th and has wasted no time weaving himself into the fabric of the congregation.

Rev. David's hiring was made possible through careful budgeting, donations large and small from members and friends, an anticipated PSWD Chalice Lighters' grant for Religious Leadership, and an extremely generous matching grant from member Tom Berg.

With the addition of Julia and Rev. David, and the return for a second year of ministerial intern Kristen Rohm, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura is poised for a dynamic year of exciting preaching and expanded programming.

- Jim Merrill, ADR

News from SUUS

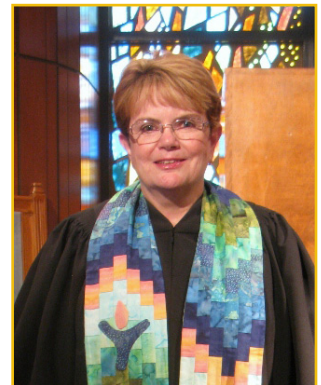
The Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society of North Hills, CA was officially recognized by the UUA as a "Welcoming Congregation" in August 2011.

In September 2011, Lee Marie Sanchez was contracted as the new consulting minister. Lee Marie brings her experience in the areas of Social Justice, Pastoral Care and Religious Education.

- Louise Klatt, ADR for SUUS

UUCT Celebrates!

The UU Church of Tucson will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the ordination of our minister, the Reverend Diane Dowgiert, on Sunday, October 16, with a reception in her honor after the service at noon. As well as serving our congregation for the past five years, Rev. Diane is the current chair of the PSWD Ministers Association.



Please plan to attend if you are in our neighborhood, or send her greetings and congratulations on this milestone. You may send cards and wishes in care of Peggy Smith, 1649 W. Wetmore Road, Unit 18, Tucson, AZ 84705.

Good News from PUUF

Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship received some good news this past week. They were one of 20 congregations selected by the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office to receive a plaque designating them a Blue Ribbon Congregation. To qualify for such a designation, a congregation must present a United Nations Sunday program, make a significant monetary contribution to the work of the UU-UNO, have an envoy to represent the congregation and inform it of the programs of the UU-UNO and have five percent of their congregations join the UU-UNO. The Prescott UU Fellowship's UU-UNO Envoy is Betsy Barnes, who plans another UN Sunday Service on October 23.

Chalice Lighters Email Call Response—or Not



Recently we offered Chalice Lighters the choice of receiving the call letters via email, rather than the traditional hard copies. A change received with enthusiasm by many. This current call, sent out in June, was the first trial of this method.

Unfortunately, we experienced a significant drop in participation by those who received the call online. 214 email call letters were sent out, but we received only 111 responses. Of course, there is always a certain percentage of non-responses due to financial stress, moving away, loss of interest and just carelessness, but this rate of return is extremely low—usually it’s around 70%—and the funds raised for this call are down \$3,250 from the previous call.

We are unsure as to what might be happening—we know that only 10 emails bounced, and the rest were reported as delivered. Perhaps there was a problem on the other end--most filters that block email from bulk senders report the problem back to the sender, but, again, we received only 10 “bounce” messages. Did people not see the email? Did you see and open it and mean to do it later? But “putting aside” an email is different than putting aside a hard copy—it more easily gets lost in the mass of electronic noise we all get these days. So, is it a case of “falling through the cracks”?

As we consider these questions, we are now wondering if we should abandon this method and go back to the US mail? If you have any ideas, please contact Mary Nelson at pswd@aol.com

Not a Chalice Lighter? Check out Chalice Lighters at <http://www.pswduua.org/pages/chalice-lighters.php> and sign up to help support growth in the Pacific Southwest District—one congregation at a time.



PSWD DISTRICT CALENDAR

Send additions/changes to PSWD@aol.com

SEPTEMBER 2011

- 16-18 K-1/4-6 OWL Training
Valley UU Congregation, Chandler, AZ
- 23-25 Jr./Sr. High OWL Training
UU Church of Long Beach, CA
- 25 Ordination of Tera Little
First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, CA

OCTOBER 2011

- 14-16 PSWD Board retreat
- 22 UUSC Encuentro, First Unitarian Church of
Los Angeles, CA
- 28 LREDA Spirit Play, Camp de Benneville
Pines, CA

NOVEMBER 2011

- 6 Ordination of Kellie Walker
Valley UU Congregation, Chandler, AZ
- 13 Installation of the Rev. Lora Brandis
UU Fellowship of the Conejo Valley,
Thousand Oaks, CA

- 18-20 UULM Leadership Summit,
Camp de Benneville Pines, CA

DECEMBER 2011

- 2-4 Coming of Age Retreat
Camp de Benneville Pines, CA
- 27-Jan 1 Sr High Winter Camp
Camp de Benneville Pines, CA

FEBRUARY 2012

- 18-20 Elementary/Family Winter Camp
Camp de Benneville Pines, CA

MARCH 2012

- 15-18 “Human Rights on the Border”
Tucson, AZ and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico

APRIL 2012

- 27-28 District Assembly, First Unitarian Church of
Los Angeles, CA

JUNE 2012

- 20-24 General Assembly, Phoenix, AZ