



The PSWD Network

Newsletter of the Pacific Southwest District of the UUA

Issue 132

Fall 2010

Ken's Corral



It's hard to believe that by the time you read this it will be Fall! It has been a quite a summer, it has been hot in much of the District, setting record temperatures, but it has also been a busy summer for many folks. We have at least thirteen congregations going through some sort of ministerial transition this summer and will have some dozen congregations in ongoing transition for the next year plus. Many people, including myself, were active on the immigration issue - specifically focused on Arizona SB 1070. We are even beginning conversations about what GA in 2012 will look like given the vote at GA calling for a "Justice GA" and our partners in Arizona working with us to define what that might look like.



And of course all of you are involved in the start of another congregational year under economic circumstances that are not the best. Yet, now is the time people need our religious communities the most. I hope that we will not only continue to be there for our members but also for the larger community. Now is not the time to pull back and look only internally. We know from years of study that members in congregations that say they are a family are congregations that stagnate and shrink. In times like these, with the economy, the growing racial tensions, and the anti-immigrant actions we need to be visible in our communities. It is only by reaching out that we will continue to serve the larger mission of being a voice for open and progressive religion. I also firmly believe it is the best way for our congregations to grow during these times.

With tightening budgets at all levels, your District

staff will be more limited in our ability to travel and plan events but please understand that we are still here, to work with you in your congregational transitions, to offer support as you struggle in these tough times, and to stand with you as we lift a prophetic Unitarian Universalist voice for all to hear.

Yours in the Faith,

Ken

Transitions

We wish to welcome a number of religious professionals to the District.

The UU Community Church of Santa Monica has called the Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur to be their settled minister.

We welcome the following interim ministers:

- The Rev. Sean Dennison,
UU Fellowship of San Luis Obispo County, CA
- The Rev. Helen Carroll,
Conejo Valley UU Fellowship, Thousand Oaks, CA
- The Rev. Thomas Anastasi,
Chalice UU Congregation, Escondido, CA
- The Rev. Stephen Furrer,
UU Church of Long Beach, CA
- The Rev. Bill Haney,
UU Congregation of Green Valley, Amado, AZ
- The Rev. Joy Atkinson,
UU Congregation of NW Tucson, AZ
- The Rev. Gary Gallun,
Valley UU Congregation, Chandler, AZ

Serving as full-time consulting ministers are:

- The Rev. Jane Bramadat,
UU Congregation of Las Vegas, NV
- The Rev. Ricky Hoyt,
First UU Church of Los Angeles, CA
- The Rev. Frank Placone-Wiley,
Summit UU Fellowship, Santee, CA

cont'd pg 2



REjoice

RE News for the
PSWD

During Labor Day Weekend I had the great joy of attending the third annual PSWD Young Adult Camp at de Benneville Pines. Almost 80 young adults

from our district, and a few guests from out of district, joined us for a weekend of community building, social justice and spiritual deepening.

Rev. Kent Doss was the chaplain, and at one of the worship services he told a story about a hungry caterpillar. He likened the state of young adulthood to that of a butterfly emerging from its cocoon.

Although I agree it is a particularly apt metaphor for young adults, I think it applies to all of us at various times of our lives. We are always unfolding and becoming, shedding parts of ourselves and trying on new identities. We may do it at a faster rate when we are in our late teens or early thirties, but this process of fine-tuning ourselves is a lifelong process.

Part of our ministry in the PSWD is providing opportunities for all ages to explore, challenge and affirm who they are at the core. We provide a multitude of ways to do this – some people do it through camp. This winter we'll have three PSWD-specific opportunities for campers of all ages to grow and learn. More details are found in this newsletter.

Some of you look to deepening experiences outside of a camp venue. One occasion is our Human Rights Spring Break, March 17-20 in the Tucson area. We are partnering with Borderlinks to provide Unitarian Universalists ages 16 on up to educate themselves about immigration and border issues, and how we can respond as people of a liberal faith.

Still others of you will get a chance to expand your sense of self through one-day leadership days, Our Whole Lives Facilitator Trainings, the celebratory 50th Anniversary District Assembly at Neighborhood Church, or special events coordinated by your church cluster.

None of us journeys alone, and your congregation, your cluster of congregations, your District and your UUA stand at the ready to support and encourage you as you continue to hone your faith.

With peace and blessings,
Tera Little



Transitions

Serving as part-time consulting ministers are:

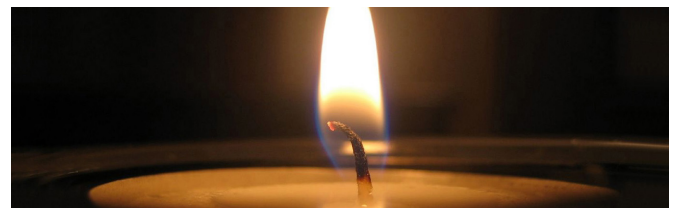
- The Rev. Stefanie Eitzbach-Dale, UUs of the Santa Clarita Valley, Newhall, CA
- The Rev. Jonipher Kwong, Sepulveda UU Society, North Hills, CA
- The Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, UU Church of the Verdugo Hills, LaCrescenta, CA
- The Rev. Carol Rudisill, Throop Church, Pasadena, CA

We also welcome the following ministerial interns:

- Angela Henderson, Pacific Unitarian Church, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
- Lara Hefler, UU Church of Riverside, CA
- Sue Magidson, First UU Church of San Diego, CA
- Patrick McLaughlin, Orange Coast UU Church, Costa Mesa, CA
- Patti Willis, UU Church of Surprise, AZ

In addition, we welcome these religious educators:

- Lauren Eaton, DRE, UU Church of the Verdugo Hills, LaCrescenta, CA
- Rayna Hamre, DRE, Orange Coast UU Church, Costa Mesa, CA
- Joshua Lunn, DRE, Summit UU Fellowship, Santee, CA
- Cheryl Kessler, Acting DRE, UU Church of Long Beach, CA
- Kathleen Hogue, Acting DRE, UU Church of Tucson, AZ
- Victoria Capon, Interim DRE, UU Congregation of Phoenix, Paradise Valley, AZ



From the President

September is back-to-school month and the classic first assignment is to answer, "How did I spend my summer vacation?" My summer was filled with travel and adventure, by plane, car and foot, but the adventure most suitable for my president's column would be trip to New Orleans. Below is an article I originally wrote for my church newsletter. I think it is worth sharing here.

Nineteen folks, with the blessing of our church, traveled to New Orleans to help with the rebuilding and demonstrate our solidarity with the people who were devastated by the disaster following Katrina. We learned the tragedy was less the fault of the hurricane and more the fault of government failure (at all levels) both before and after the storm. And the tragedy and injustice continue to this day and may well require concentrated efforts of restoration for the next 20 years to achieve justice.

We arrived on Saturday after being turned back once. Thunderstorms over New Orleans forced us to land in Houston where we sat on the runway and refueled for a second attempt. When we did get to the church, we moved our luggage into the dorm rooms where we would be spending the next seven days. Sixteen of us were assigned to a single room with bunks beds spaced close enough that you could easily touch your neighbor's bunk. It was past midnight before everyone was finally settled in.

On Sunday, we spent time orienting ourselves to our new surrounding and participating in a dialogue about race, class and the events before, during and after Hurricane Katrina. Many of us had an opportunity to take a self-guided driving tour of New Orleans that was informative and sobering. The effects of the disaster were evident in so many ways. Countless houses, though still standing, were clearly uninhabited or uninhabitable. Missing windows and door, collapsed roofs, overgrown yards, and potholes deep enough to seriously damage our rental cars pocked the streets.

A ubiquitous symbol of the aftermath was buildings spray-painted with TFW (toxic flood waters) or marked by an X, three of the quadrants containing markings indicating the date the house was searched, by whom, and the number of bodies found. But there were signs of recovery, too. The most notable were the ultra-green homes designed by architects and commissioned by Brad Pitt. The homes are designed to be affordable to purchase and maintain. Selection of building materials, appliances and floor plans all dramatically reduce energy consumption, a major cost of home ownership for modest housing.



Our group of volunteers ranged from 16 to 76, and every decade in between. The Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Recovery assigned us three projects for our week in the Big Easy. Two of our projects were to assist in the restoration of two dwellings and the third was to renovate a facility owned by the New Orleans Women Artists Collective that will become a training center for women learning skilled trades.

Miss Jamilah's home reportedly needed painting and some tile work. By the end of Monday, the six-member team assigned to do the work discovered that the task would involve more than just replacing tile. Removing the tile revealed that major framing would also be required. It was more work than allowed for in the original time allotment. It was not uncommon for the team to come home late for dinner to have time to get done what needed to be done. On Friday, our last workday, they did not finish until 11:00pm.

The remainder of our team worked on the two side-by-side sites, Miss Ava's home and the future training center. We sanded, scraped, taped, hammered, sawed, drilled, swept and painted. We worked under the eaves, on the porch, on windows, cabinet, sills, door frames, trim. We worked indoors, occasionally, but mostly it was outside in the 90 degree heat with 80% humidity, often



in direct sunlight. We suffered minor cuts, scrapes and burns, but in the end our sense of accomplishment made that a small price to pay.

And the kindness and warmth of Miss Jamilah and Miss Ava was priceless. Both of them formed personal attachments to us, learning our names and some of our stories as they shared their stories with us. We were not a group of anonymous volunteers, but individuals, whom they treated as blessings, for which they were profoundly grateful. And we, in turn, are grateful for the opportunity to be of service and touch another human being's life.

living my faith,
Michael Sallwasser



From Your Annual Program Fund Representative



As we begin another church year, I want to offer a warm and heartfelt message of appreciation and gratitude for those of you who were able to contribute to our UUA Annual Program Fund and the District. Without your support we simply would not be able to carry on our message of hope. Most

of you were able to continue being fair share contributors this last year. If you were one of these stewards, thank you. For those who were not, we thank you for what you were able to give and hope, that as budget setting season approaches, you will do all you can to be a fair share congregation this year.

We are keenly aware that the recent economic recession has posed great challenges, and despite the challenges your own congregation may have faced, collectively our congregations across the country exceeded our Annual Program Fund Goal for last year! This conveys a commitment to fulfilling our mission of support to your covenantal partners, the 1,050 member congregations that bring our Unitarian Universalist principles and values out

into the world.

Together, we can do more and be more than we can alone. Together, we stand on the side of love and justice, working on behalf those seeking advocacy and support. Together, we give voice in opposition to the forces of oppression that are barriers to freedom and peaceful relations. Together, we educate our children, empower our youth, and provide nurturing and healing ministry for all ages and life stages. Together we can be the religion for our time.

If you have not yet made your pledge to the Annual Program Fund please contact me directly either by phone or email. Only about half of our district's congregations have let us know what they will be contributing this fiscal year. Just as each of our congregations depends on pledges to set our church budgets so too does the UUA and PSWD depend on congregations' pledges to set our course for the future.

In this difficult time, we need one another and the saving message of Unitarian Universalism now more than ever.

With Gratitude,
Rev. John Morehouse
Annual Program Fund Representative for PSWD
Minister@pacificunitarian.org
310-378-9449



The PSWD NetwOrk

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DEADLINES:

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

The NetwOrk on the Web: www.pswduua.org
to view current or archival issues.

From The Mountain Top!



We had quite an exciting summer up at Camp. Although attendance was down slightly in Elementary and Junior High Camps, the PSWD Senior High and Family Camps were SOLD OUT. My sincere thanks to all of the deans and volunteers who gave up a week or more of

their lives to spend time at camp with our District youth. You made a difference in the lives of so many young people. Camp Bravo, theater arts camp, was SOLD OUT for three of their four summer weeks, with 23 of their campers staying over for a second week of camp in August. This summer de Benneville hosted the Small Group Ministry Institute for a four-day training. Twenty-six people from throughout the District and other parts of the country were in Camp to learn how to bring SGM to their churches. It was an impactful and inspiring week as ideas were exchanged. The Small Group Ministry Institute plans to repeat the training at de Benneville Pines in summer 2011. Watch for early PR and sign up. Don't miss the training the second time 'round!

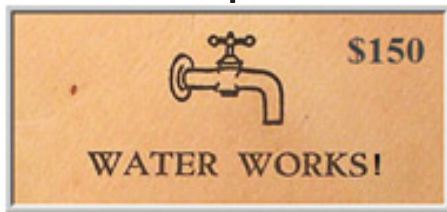
Art Camp for adults SOLD OUT and is working on ways to expand its offering in August 2011. PSWIRL Camp for Adults had plenty of room for more participants and is looking to celebrate their 50th year of camping at de Benneville Pines next summer. Neighbor-hood UU Church SOLD OUT its summer extravaganza in August and had a wait list of 5 families.

The Camp's Water Works! Campaign is gearing up in time for our 50th anniversary year. We are in search of a key person at each church in our District to help promote the campaign. We have people secured at Long Beach, PUC, Santa Monica, Ventura, Orange Coast, Fullerton, San Diego and San Diego. If your church is not listed above, and you would like to help with our effort to raise awareness of the need to replace our 70-year-old waterlines, please let me

know. Without water, the camp will not be able to operate. We need to raise \$450,000 to achieve our goal of replacing all the waterlines in camp from our wellhead to the Coffee House and into every building. That is over 3000 feet of pipe. You can purchase a foot of pipe for \$150, or you can pledge to purchase a certain number of feet over the next three years. I have personally pledged to purchase 10 feet of pipe over the next three years, and I hope to purchase more. Won't you join with me to keep the water flowing? To date we have raised approximately \$50,000. Only \$400,000 to go! We can do it with your help. For more information and a pledge form, go to www.uucamp.org and scroll down until you come to the Water Works! icon at the bottom of the page. Click on the Faucet icon and read all about our effort to raise the funds.

Fall brings some peace and calm to the Camp as we move from our busy week-long schedule to weekend retreats. The UU Young Adults are in camp as I write my article. Eighty young adults, ages 18 – 35, returning to Camp to reconnect with one another, and to examine their UU heritage. Yoga & Wellness Retreat is a wonderful time to decompress and relax. The retreat takes place on September 10 – 12, and features yoga, tai chi and qigong classes, as well as water aerobics, hiking, swimming, and individual massage appointments. The camp is SOLD OUT for this season, but we hope you put it on your "to do" list for next September.

The Valley Cluster, Channel Island Cluster, Tapestry/Orange Coast, and Fullerton/Las Vegas Churches all hold their church retreats in the fall. It is a great time for families to spend time together and enjoy the forest as it starts the renewal process by turning its leaves a golden yellow, and dropping acorns for the little squirrels to hide away for the winter. Our annual Work Weekend takes place on October 29 – 31. If you would like to be a part of winterizing the Camp, please join us. We will be raking pine needles, cleaning out rain gutters, splitting and stacking wood, and staining a few decks. This season we are in need of a few seamstresses with sewing machines. If you would like to be a part of the new banner making project for our 50th anniversary, please sign up for the work weekend, and let me know that you can bring a sewing machine by emailing me at uucamp@aol.com.



Music in The Mountains, November 5 – 7, is a wonderful weekend of song and dance. Join me for a memorable weekend of live folk/pop acoustic music. Lead a song or just play along. All levels of fiddlers, guitar and banjo players, percussionists and singers will be jamming in groups, attending workshops and performing in a Saturday evening hoot (concert). Sunday morning brings all musicians together to share “Songs of Meaning” in the Coffee House. Whether you have your own musical talents to share or are a music aficionado who enjoys simply listening to others, the beautiful music experience of Music in the Mountains will take your heart to a place where it will want to stay forever. There is something truly inspiring about the mountains and our beautiful Camp de Benneville Pines that will bring out the creative muse in each and every one who attends.



Or...how about joining me for a Thanksgiving Holiday Celebration on Thursday, November 25 – Sunday, November 28? Forget about grandmother’s place....but don’t forget grandma! Bring her and the rest of the family to a hassle-free thanksgiving that will be the best you have ever enjoyed. Imagine sitting around a blazing fire in the main lodge, surrounded by family and close friends you didn’t even know you had! The aromas of roasting turkey, fresh-baked pie, homemade bread and hot apple cider fill the air, and no, you don’t have to work yourself into a frenzy, because the Camp staff will take care of it all for you! If this sounds like a great way to celebrate the holiday, then please join me and the staff for a wonderful holiday weekend.

For event details, to download information, find out about pricing or to register before an event is SOLD OUT, go to our website www.uucamp.org, click on COME TO CAMP, and then click on the event name. Call 909-794-1252 or email registrar@uucamp.org, if you have any additional questions. Hope you have a great autumn season,

Janet James
Camp Manager

Winter Camps are Coming!

Coming of Age Retreat - Find Your Own Beat!

December 3-5, 2010

Register at www.uucamp.org

Not just for Coming of Age groups, any youth in Jr. High or Middle School is welcome to attend this weekend.

Music leads the way as campers rock, roll, and shimmy their way through worship, cooperative games, hikes, art, and more.

For Coming of Age groups, this weekend serves as a weekend intensive retreat for your youth and their facilitators.

Sr. High Camp

December 27 - January 1

Register at www.uucamp.org

Ring in the New Year with amazing Unitarian Universalist youth from the Pacific Southwest District! Worship, Community Building, Learning, Leadership, and Social Action form the foundation of our dynamic youth ministry program. High school youth leaders organize, plan and run the camp, with the wisdom and support from experienced adult advisor staff.

Family and Elementary Winter Camp - Inspired UU's!

February 19-21, 2011

Register at www.uucamp.org

Whether you are a family with elementary aged children, or you have an elementary-aged camper who is longing for a weekend away from home, this is the place for you!

Snow angels, hot cocoa, inspired worship, sledding, talent show, wintery hikes - we have a perfect weekend planned for you and your family!

Our talented program staff puts together the program; you and your family enjoy it!

For the campers who want to come on their own, we have trained cabin counselors who supervise them throughout the weekend.

Come to camp and become Inspired UU's!

Proposing a Program for the 2011 UUA General Assembly

New this year, there is a unified process to propose a program for the 2011 General Assembly. GA program proposals may now be submitted by way of an online proposal form:

<http://tinyurl.com/36ulyq7>

Proposals submitted via the 2011 General Assembly Program Proposal Form will be reviewed by the GA Program Development Group (PDG), a diverse team of UUA staff and GA Planning Committee representatives committed to providing excellent General Assembly programs that are aligned with the vision and mission of the UUA and its member congregations. The PDG will review program proposals with the goal of filling over 100 program slots. The GA Planning Committee will also review proposals seeking innovative programs and distinguished speakers that will appeal to many UUs attending GA.

All program proposals must be received by November 1.

Program Selection Process

The criteria the PDG will use to make programming selections include:

- Grounding in one or more of the following mission areas, and in UU theology, history and values:

Growing Deep While Growing Up: At age 50 years, our religious movement is “coming of age!” Like people, maturing congregations seek to know and satisfy their purpose. They manage their health. They deepen their spirits as they “convert life into truth” (Emerson). Out of deep spirits rise hope and hospitality, gratitude and generosity, covenant and accountability. How do “grown-up” congregations of any age deepen their spirit and structure their business to create beloved community?

Ministering Beyond Our Boundaries: The American Experiment is at risk of being overwhelmed by fear and factionalism. Counter to this divisiveness, Unitarian Universalism strives for covenanted communities that are multicultural, multiracial and multigenerational. Our faith is urgently calling us to give up the familiar and risk “doing church” in new and sometimes startling ways to spread our good news. How do we do this and who are our partners as we minister to all people, including those missing from our pews?

Building Justice from Love: Justice-making is more than asserting right over wrong. Protests and letter-writing campaigns are short cuts that are no longer sufficient. Authentic justice-making is the courageous work of changing the hearts of others without losing the love, compassion and humility in our own hearts. This is big work we can hardly do alone. What compels us into the public square, how do we partner with others we meet there, and how do we stay connected to love along the way?

- Variety and balance in programming (in topic, format, and core audience)
- Usefulness to our congregations (of a particular size or all sizes)
- Incorporation of AR/AO/MC awareness and practice
- Multigenerational relevance
- Excellence in presentation, fostering engaged participation
- Depth, inspiration and prophetic vision





27th Latin American Encuentro

Standing on the Side of AMOR With Immigrant Families



*Sponsored by
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE - Southern California Unit*

Join us for a day full of fun with thought provoking speeches, delicious food and live music and dancers. Registration deadline for food October 20!

KEYNOTE: Combating Anti-immigrant Propaganda
Gustavo Arellano, Author, Columnist, KPFK host

UUs and Civil Disobedience with SB1070,
Jan Meslin

Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education (UURISE),
Dan Stracka

Detention Centers, Rochelle McAdam

DISPLAY TABLES
Circulo de Amigas, Colombia, UUSC

Breakout Groups
Colombia, ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America), UURISE, CREER

November 6, 2010

Tapestry UU Congregation
23436 Madero, Ste 140
Mission Viejo, CA 92691
TEL: 949.581.0245

FROM 9:15 AM to 3 PM

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 9:15 AM
Suggested donation:
\$20 Pre-registration. \$25 at the door.
Vegetarian lunch for the first 100 registrants.

Students with ID free • No one will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information call 714.567.0188

Please bring your old eyeglasses for Nicaragua.

Register by email to uuscainfo@yahoo.com or mail your completed registration form by Friday, October 20 to Encuentro, 2000 E 4th St #120, Santa Ana CA 92705

RESERVE NOW – SPACE IS LIMITED

Make checks payable to UUSC. Use a separate sheet for each attendee with a different address.

Name(s): _____

How many attending? _____ Amount Enclosed? _____ Number of lunches required? _____

Address: _____ City and Zip _____

email(s): _____

The San Fernando Valley Cluster Committee in Action!

Over sixty Unitarian Universalists from all over the San Fernando Valley Cluster joined together on Saturday, 09/11/10 for the San Fernando Valley Cluster-sponsored “Welcome Back Potluck Picnic Shindig” held on the grounds of the Sepulveda Unitarian Universalist Society. A beautiful Welcome Table display oriented guests to volunteer opportunities at the event, provided information in support of water justice and the upcoming SFV Cluster Vespers (planned for 7:30 pm on 10/27/10 - also at SUUS), received school supply donations to benefit North Valley Caring Services, and invited guests to start off the new church year by reflecting upon and posting their hopes and intentions. The day included food, games, storytelling and karaoke, as well as an inspiring Ingathering Worship Service in honor of and in support of religious diversity, freedom and tolerance. (For more information about the SFV Cluster and what you can do to support our programming, email Rev. Stefanie at RevSteffi@gmail.com)



L to R: Shannon Corder (UUCSC), Dave Margerum (Emerson), Carol Winkler (UUCSCV), Gary Klepser (SUUS), Louise Klatt (SUUS), Steve DeVorkin, Gwen Cochren (UUCVH), the Rev. Stefanie Etzbach-Dale (UUCSCV & SFV Cluster Minister-at-Large), the Rev. Jay Atkinson (UUCSC), the Rev. Anne Hines (Emerson), Kirby Peterson (UUCSCV), the Rev. Jonipher Kwong (SUUS)



PSWD DISTRICT CALENDAR

Send additions/changes to PSWD@aol.com

OCTOBER 2010

1-3 Our Whole Lives Jr./Sr. High Facilitator Training, Valley UU Church, Chandler, AZ

NOVEMBER 2010

11-13 Multicultural Renaissance Module
Granite Peak UU Congregation, Prescott, AZ
12-14 OWL Facilitators Training, K-1, 4-6
UU Church of Ventura, CA

DECEMBER 2010

3-5 Coming of Age Retreat
Camp de Benneville Pines, CA
27-1 Sr High Camp
Camp de Benneville Pines, CA

JANUARY 2011

FEBRUARY 2011

19-21 Family & Elementary Camp
Camp de Benneville Pines, CA

MARCH 2011

17-20 Arizona Human Rights Spring Break
Tucson, AZ area

MAY 2011

20-21 District Assembly
Neighborhood Church, Pasadena, CA