



The PSWD Network

Newsletter of the Pacific Southwest District of the UUA

Issue 129

Winter 2009

Diversity: Between Aspiration and Reality

District Assembly this year will be held at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, with support for programs from the Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Goleta, on April 23 and 24, 2010. This year's theme of "Diversity: Between Aspiration and Reality" will be highlighted by our distinguished keynote speaker, The Rev. Mark Morrison



Reed. A longtime Unitarian Universalist minister, he is author of *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination* and *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*. In addition to the keynote address, Rev. Reed will also present a workshop on Saturday morning and there will be a book signing gathering

on Saturday. The title of Mark's talk will be "Torn Between Fuzzy Aspirations and Hard Realities - The Perversity of Embracing Diversity."

We will begin with our opening celebration on Friday evening, including music, banner parade and keynote address. On Saturday we will have worship, a Bridging Ceremony, food, and workshops, as well as the PSWD's annual business meeting. This is a great opportunity to gather together as Unitarian Universalists from across the Pacific Southwest District. We are still looking for workshop proposals based on our theme, so if you have one: go to the following link to download the [Call for Workshops](#) Flyer and Proposal.

Because we are holding this DA at a congregation rather than a hotel, the registration cost will be lower than the past few years. Look for registration information on our web site in early February, but save the dates now!

Upcoming District Events

We are planning a number of District workshops and seminars over the winter.

- Jan 22 & 23 we are planning a cluster Leadership School at the Chalice Congregation in Escondido. This training will be open to leaders from any congregation. The cost will be minimal, look for registration information on our web site in early December.
- Feb. 6 we will hold a seminar on "The Language of Reverence" at the UU Fellowship of San Dieguito. This seminar will offer a panel discussion, some experiential exercises for participants and plenty of time for discussion for the topic.
- Feb 13-14 we are planning a seminar on multi-site congregations. This event will be open to Unitarian Universalists from around the continent. It will be held in San Diego County and will be a mix of seminar and visits to multi-site congregations. Registration information for this workshop should be on our web site by early December.
- Feb. 27 we will hold a one day Leadership Workshop at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula. This will be a "bring your own lunch" event with a registration fee of \$35 per congregation no matter how many people attend from the congregation. There will be workshops on several different leadership areas including social justice outreach and the work of the committees. Again registration information will be on our web site by the end of 2009.



REjoice

RE News for the PSWD



Jonathan Safran Foer, author of *Eating Animals*, has been all over radio and TV promoting the book. If you have ever eaten a meal with me, you know where I stand on the issue of eating animals, but that's not what this article is about.

Foer says polls show 96% of people in the United States agree that animals should not be mistreated, regardless of their intended use – as pets or as meals. Fundamentally, we all have the same, shared value: animals should not be tortured or abused. There are a myriad of ways people then act, or don't act, on that belief, but we stand in solidarity on the issue of compassion for animals.

As I thought about the power behind that shared value, another controversial topic came to my mind: anti-racism work in our congregations. There is no poll I know of to cite, but based on conversations I've had with numerous people over the past ten years, I know that Unitarian Universalists agree on three things regarding racism and oppression: racism is evil, all people are created equal, and privilege and benefits should not be given to any group of people based on skin color, gender, sexual orientation, economic class, age, or ability.

What we may not agree on is the best path to combat those evils in our society.

Creating beloved community is important to me, and that's why I am so excited about this year's District Assembly. The theme is Diversity: Between Aspiration and Reality. Mark Morrison-Reed, author of *In-Between: Memoirs of an Integration Baby and Black Pioneers in a White Denomination* is our keynote speaker.

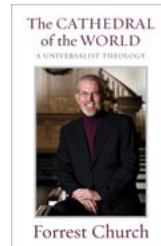
We hope that many of the workshops offered by congregational leaders – YOU – will wrestle with issues of anti-racism, diversity, and inclusion in our churches. When I hear from you all, you tell me of the many ways you are countering oppression in your communities. And because our communities themselves are diverse, there is a wide range of responses and strategies.

I want to hear your stories – your struggles, your questions, and your celebrations as you continue on your journey toward wholeness and healing. Please consider offering a workshop at District Assembly, April 23-24. I think we all have much to learn, and teach, one another.

With peace and hope,
Tera Little

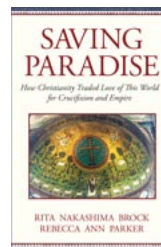
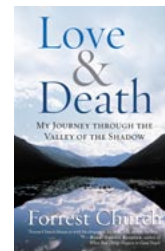
Holiday Offer from Beacon Press:

Books make great gifts for your friends and family! Order before November 25th and receive 20% off your order.*



Cathedral of the World
A Universalist Theology
Forrest Church

Love and Death
My Journey through the
Valley of the Shadow
Forrest Church
also available in Audio



Saving Paradise
How Christianity Traded
Love of This World for
Crucifixion and Empire
Rita Nakashima Brock,
Rebecca Ann Parker

*20% off your purchase if made before November 25. Use code NovUU at checkout. Free standard shipping on all orders. Offer good for all items purchased at www.beacon.org

Study Topic for COA?

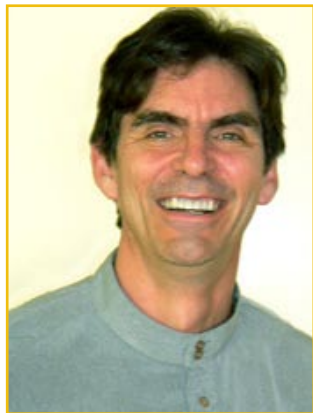
What Should the Commission on Appraisal Study Next? To answer this question, take their online survey at: www.uua.org/coa

The UUA Commission on Appraisal (COA) is charged to "review any function or activity of the Association which in its judgment will benefit from an independent review and report its conclusions to a regular General Assembly."

To see what the COA has studied in previous years, check out their website for details and reports: www.uua.org/coa.

Thoughts from the President

I am on a jet plane high above the Wild Wild West, the name coined by the UUA staff who serve the



region containing the four westernmost districts of our association of congregations. The districts that form the region are Mountain Desert, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Central and Pacific Southwest, the district I am honored to serve. As I return from Boston, after spending three days with my colleagues in the District Presidents Associ-

ation, I am more mindful than ever that when I was elected President, I was accepting a call, not only to serve, but to lead the governance of our district. I entered into a trust with the member congregations that I would bring my gifts into the service of our common hopes and aspirations.

In the chapel on the second floor of 25 Beacon Street, the national headquarters of the UUA, the District Presidents met with Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA. Of the two hours we spent with Peter, less than 15 minutes was prepared remarks, the balance of the time was in dialogue. We learned a great deal about his vision, but Peter also listened carefully to the DPs hopes and aspirations and invited us to be partners with him. It was a call to serve.

Growth, ministry and social witness were three of the several topics discussed with Peter. While overall growth is nearly flat, there are congregations that have grown at many times the rate of the typical congregation and we need to learn from them. To have a ministry that can meet the needs twenty years in the future, we need to assess the changes necessary today to get there. And social witness, an aspect of our faith taken to a new level by Rev. Bill Sinkford, has a momentum that must be sustained and strengthened.

UUA Moderator, Gini Courter, also spent considerable time with the DPA. It was in these conversations that lay the greatest challenge to the presidents gathered around the heavy wooden tables. It

was in these conversations that we heard the call to lead.

The UUA Board of Trustees has been preparing for the move to Policy Governance and only recently adopted its first set of Ends Policies that arise from the UUA's sources of authority and accountability. As we reviewed the new Ends, we recognized that while there are differences in wording and sequence, there is clear alignment with the Ends of the districts. There are no schisms or disagreements. Unlike some religious denominations, Unitarian Universalists have a shared vision of the Beloved Community Made Whole.

As the conversation unfolded, we realized that the earlier work of many district boards (who adopted Policy Governance long before the UUA Board) directly and indirectly informed the Ends of the UUA. Our individual district Ends have not been subsumed, but rather embraced by the UUA Board. As a result, the District Presidents Association is ready to align its vision across the continent, thereby realizing our shared intention to empower our UUA President by clarifying co-employee reporting relationships and evaluation processes, allow the Association to do more with the resources we have and use them more wisely and effectively, and consider new roles for regional and district leadership to support new forms of governance.

The intention of the District Presidents is to lead, but certainly not to do so alone. I am depending on, as are my DP colleagues, the cooperation and collaboration of my district's board members and staff, my colleagues in this sacred work. This will be a shared opportunity to rethink governance, service delivery, assessment, resource alignment, organizational structures, and more.

This will be an exciting and singular opportunity to re-imagine ourselves.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve and lead.

living my faith,

Michael Sallwasser



Ken's Corral



It is a year of transitions for our work in the Unitarian Universalist Association. There is the transition to a new UUA president who seems to have a mandate to do things differently. Thus far the major transition at the UUA has been to move to two vice presidents, one in charge of program staff and one in charge of organizational staff. And after a number of years of increasing income we are also in a transition to a time of belt tightening throughout the UUA. I am not sure what impact this transition will have but it will certainly mean we need to be more creative about how we serve our movement. At the District level we have not only been impacted by congregations cutting back on their fair share which limits our ability to respond to congregational requests but we have more congregations in some sort of ministerial and staff transitions than any time in the past 10+ years.

Transitions are often a time of tension because we do not know in exactly which direction we are going. We wonder what our role might be if things change a certain way. And when society as a whole is in transition as we seem to be with the economy and the health care debate, anxiety is heightened around transitions in our religious communities. Yet transitions can also be a time of creativity and good energy; as we come together as congregations, clusters, Districts and the UUA to support each other as we continue to create strong congregations that can respond to an ever growing diversity of people in a changing world.

As we head into the holiday season I encourage you to remember, we are all part of this wonderful religious tradition because it has deep meaning for our lives. Share that meaning and your stories with each other. Hold each other physically and figuratively as we move through our various transitions. The holiday time is a reminder that transitions of one sort or another are always with us. By coming together we can celebrate the meaning of the season in our diverse ways as well as remember as we move forward it is we who will create the future that will serve not only ourselves but our children and grandchildren. Our Unitarian Universalist faith is something we can hold on to as we move into that future, but only if we work together with a common vision.

Happy Holidays,

– Ken Brown

From your Annual Program Fund Representative



Thanks to those who responded to our call for pledges to the Annual Program Fund for next year. If you have not sent in your pledge please contact me below. The UUA Board and

Staff are working hard to make ends meet and they need a realistic estimate of what they can expect from our member congregations. Remember your “fair share” contribution, much like your individual contribution to the church, keeps us alive and a vital as a force in the world. The UUA has kept the suggested contribution the same for two years in a row in order to help congregations in these challenging times. In the meantime here are some important thoughts for us from Rev. Naomi King, Minister, The River of Grass UU Congregation, Plantation, Florida (Adapted for general use by Laurel Amabile, Director, Annual Program Fund.)

Ten Ways your Annual Program Fund “Fair Share” Contribution Grows our Faith:

10. You teach your congregation that we truly are called together as one association of congregations and that our greatest strength is not individual but communal. Together, we overcome fear, alienation, and loneliness, creating a better today and a more hopeful future.
9. You encourage generosity by modeling generosity.
8. You connect your congregation to great stories of our Unitarian Universalist living faith all around the world.
7. Your congregation’s “fair share” gift models individual right relationship in expending our individual resources.
6. You strengthen the connection between your congregation and our family of associated congregations—our Unitarian Universalist Association
5. When people see what our Unitarian Universalist faith is doing through their giving around the world, it encourages and develops their stewardship and their sense of making a difference.

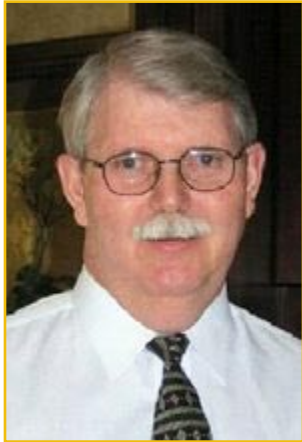
4. You are having the greatest effect on our home mission in planning new congregations, strengthening existing congregations and reaching people with the good news of Unitarian Universalism.
3. When you give at the “fair share” level to our Association, you model your congregation living our values of interdependence, mutuality, cooperation, and hope.
2. You strengthen the identity of your congregation as a mission- and service-focused people.
1. Your gifts enable your congregation to expand our living faith values of love, reason, freedom and justice – healing and transforming our world here and now.

Rev. John Morehouse,
minister@pacificunitarian.org
 310-378-9449



The Lifespan Faith Development program at UUCLV (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas) engaged the whole congregation to apply their artistic talents to this intergenerational project. This mosaic of tiles is on display to show how diverse, creative efforts can unite to proudly express a cohesive statement.

Report from your UUA Trustee: Tom Loughrey



The October meeting of the Board in odd numbered years is always our largest and lengthiest meeting in the two year time frame. This is because new trustees from about one-third of the districts come in at that time. New committee assignments, new officers and more. This year it was even more significant

because of our new leadership under Rev. Peter Morales as President of the Association. While all of this might well be enough change we made it even more complex by formally adopting our new form of governance called “[Policy Governance](#)”, a term coined by John Carver who developed the principles behind it. Because of the large amount of work to be done we started meeting on Tuesday at 8AM and finished after 5 PM on Sunday of our October meeting week. It was a very lengthy [agenda](#) and each day went twelve or more hours. It is oddly, tiring and rewarding work.

I am going to use my [blog](#) to fill you in on some of the details we covered in working under this new policy governance model. One of the things we are doing as individuals is sharing our individual stories and observations with each other to share with our districts. So, you will hear some from me but you will also hear from some of my colleagues as well.

There was of course the business of the Association. As you might imagine, finances are an important part of our responsibility. The Association has been very conservative in its estimates of future income and expenses and has presented a balanced budget previously to us. As circumstances change the budget is projected and amended as needed to reflect the realities of new events. Fortunately, religious organizations retain a high position in the pecking order of individuals in their giving and so far, we have found this to be true for us as well. We

anticipate fair share giving to be on target for projections. The other significant part of our income comes from our endowment fund. It is based on an average of five percent of the fund balance over the previous 13 quarters. This means that when the market goes down we don't have a huge drop in income but it takes a long time to get back to where you were even when the market turns around. So, we will have to deal with reduced income for several more years.

In other actions the board voted to meet in San Antonio, TX at its January 2010 meeting. We don't meet outside of Boston very often, other than GA, so this is a big change for us as we try to bring our business to some other parts of the country.

We also requested from the staff a report on where we are currently on the issues of District and National youth leadership along with the administration's vision for this in the near future and some models of what is being done in other denominations.

Numerous appointments to committees were made and individuals are being notified now about those appointments. That list along with all the minutes of the meeting will be posted in the next several weeks on the [UUA website](#).

Finally, if you are interested I presented a sermon to our congregation in Fullerton, CA at the beginning of October on some reflections on being a Unitarian Universalist. You can listen to a recording at their [website](#).

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions. I also welcome invitations to visit your congregation and speak with you about where we are and where we may be headed.

In faith and trust,

Tom

Tom Loughrey
tloughrey@uua.org
(714) 878-2210

Life at de Benneville

It is amazing how quickly autumn turns to winter here in Southern California. What happened to fall? It's gone in a blaze of glory! The color this year was wonderful but only for a week or two.

At this time, de Benneville is concentrating on preparing for Thanksgiving, then the Jr High and Sr High PSWD Youth Camps.

The latest issue of the Connection is at the printer and will be in the mail soon. The online version is currently available on the camp website. Articles include a tribute to Kevin Drewery by Ellen Hall-Patton from the Las Vegas congregation, and stories about being an adult advisor at camp by Kim St



Clair and Jayne Truran of the Phoenix congregation. Copies of the semi-annual newspaper are mailed to each PSWD congregation and free subscriptions can be requested by completing the form at <http://uucamp.org>.

November is busy with camps each weekend. The 20th - 22nd, de Benneville hosts the Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance, an Inland Empire support organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth. The week before, the Fullerton and Las Vegas UU congregations will share their annual weekend at camp.

The Thanksgiving Holiday Celebration is de Benneville's annual long weekend. Everyone is invited! Beginning with a feast provided by the camp (not just turkey—vegetarian and vegan options also available), the weekend includes workshops and activities shared by the campers. The hot tub is open, there are movies in the Coffee House, hikes, crafts, music and plenty of reading by the fire in the lodge. Registration is available on the camp website or by contacting the Registrar at registrar@uucamp.org.

December is quiet, a time for the staff to regroup. The only events scheduled are the first weekend and the last week of the month. If the weather permits, the middle of December is a good time to complete maintenance projects that can't be done with campers staying in the cabins. If the weather doesn't cooperate, it's a time to shovel snow!

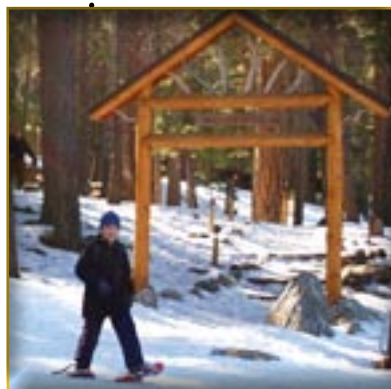
At the beginning of December, the PSWD Jr High Campers arrive. With a theme of "Coming of Age Spiritual Practice", Deans Mary Jane Holden and Michael Alvarado team for a second year leading the retreat. In hopes of attracting advisors to the weekend, de Benneville is offering a special price. Advisors who bring 4 or 5 youth from their congregation receive a 50% discount off of the fee. Advisors who bring 6 or more youth, receive 50% off for 2 advisors or a full scholarship for one. The Jr High Camp is a busy weekend, allowing the youth to reconnect with their friends from summer camp and offering a deeply spiritual coming of age experience.

The week between Christmas and New Years, de Benneville hosts the YRUU youth. "Struuck by Society" is the PSWD Sr High Camp theme with Deans Alexi Foster, Karl Regner, and Käthe Larick. Organized by a team of youth staff and adult advisors, campers will explore how to incorporate the

UU Principles into daily life with the expectation that this will make our society and our world a more loving place. The camp usually sells out, so be sure to sign up early. Registrations received before November 15 will receive a \$35 discount.

After the winter holidays, de Benneville resumes hosting camps each weekend. At the beginning of January, the camp will see students from the UC Riverside BGLT Center and the UCC Neighborhood Church from Palos Verdes.

The Society of Creative Anachronism holds their annual winter weekend over the MLK long weekend. The lodge is converted into a castle keep with feasting, music, games, the Coffee House becomes a scriptorium, while in the woods a boar hunt and weapons practice commences, with everyone in costumes from the Middle Ages!



At the end of January, the USC Scholars visit and then the Santa Monica UU Families and the Peninsula Girl Scout Neighborhood.

February begins with our own UU Neighborhood Church from Pasadena sponsoring an open weekend for all UUs. If you'd like to join the fun, contact

Cheri Gaulke at cgaulke@adelphia.net or call (323) 662-3940 for additional information and to register.

“Life at de Benneville,” cont’d from page 7

Over the President’s Day long weekend and Valentine’s Day the PSWD will hold the Elementary Winter Camp. “My Heart is in the Mountains” will begin Saturday morning with campers enjoying sledding, snow play, hot chocolate and plenty of music, crafts, and worship. Children in grades 3 - 6 may attend and stay with counselors in cabins. Younger children are invited to bring their parents for the weekend. The Dean will be Celeste Plumlee with David Diiorio making the music happen. The Elementary Winter Camp is often our younger campers’ first visit to de Benneville. It is a great introduction to the PSWD Youth Camps programs.

In the past few months, several changes have occurred on the de Benneville staff. At the end of September, Ray Morales joined the crew as Caretaker. In October, Caroline Quintanilla became an independent contractor helping with marketing and communications. At this time, questions and registrations for events sponsored by de Benneville should be sent to the registrar@uucamp.org email address or directed to the registration office phone at (909) 794-1252.

Janet James, the Camp Manager can still be reached at uucamp@aol.com and in the camp office at (909) 794-2928.

The camp’s location, high in the San Bernardino Mountains offers a rare opportunity for winter fun. Please join us for a wintry weekend at camp!



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.

Obama meeting with Native Nations

While we live in the west amidst the largest populations of people indigenous to this region we are often blind to the ongoing struggles that native people face. A report on the recent summit held by President Obama is available on the Friends Committee web site http://www.fcni.org/intern_blog/2009/11/tribal-nations-conference-part-2.html.

The President’s speech can be found at: http://www.fcni.org/issues/item.php?item_id=3760&issue_id=93



AZ Choir Festival

An AZ UU Choir Festival is set for Sat. March 13 from 10-4 at Valley UU Church in Chandler, AZ. Afterwards there will be a “Sharing Performance” from 4-5 for anyone who wants to attend. The Choir Festival is for choir directors and choir members (or UUs who like to sing, if they don’t have a regular choir) from Arizona cluster congregations, although anyone farther away would be welcome to attend.



SERMON AWARD

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East invites submissions for the best sermon relating Unitarian Universalist commitment to social justice and human rights to the quest for a just peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

\$300.00 will be awarded at the UUA General Assembly in Minneapolis, June, 2010.

Open to UU ministers, laypersons, or seminarians. Deadline is May 1, 2010.

More information about the sermon award can be found at www.UUJME.org

Sermon award questions and submissions: Rev. George K. Beach, UUJME Board member, gk-beach@aol.com.

UU Church of Long Beach Is Standing on the Side of Love

Enthusiasm is catching! Twenty-five people from our congregation – youth, young adults, and adults - came back from General Assembly in Salt Lake City ignited by the UUA's "Standing on the Side of Love" (SSL) campaign. The SSL idea has expanded from its origins in marriage equality to include support for all groups and individuals targeted because of their identity.

With a twelve-foot "Standing on the Side of Love" banner posted prominently in our sanctuary, more and more people in the congregation are finding that our social justice work is tied to this concept.



Under the umbrella of our Social Action Committee, social justice programs include the following:

• Anti-Racist Transformation Team (ARTT), which has currently begun a discussion in the congregation on becoming part of the UUA's Diversity of Ministry Initiative (DOMI);

- Eco-Justice Film Series, which continues on the first Fridays of the month to show such films as Scarred Lands, Wounded Lives, Flow, Salt of the Earth, La Americana, or Taxi to the Dark Side;
- Faith In Action, which is an integral part of our Religious Education program for our Youth and children, providing an activity one Sunday a month that engages them in the larger community, such as making lunches for a homeless shelter, preparing backpacks with back-to-school supplies for children whose families are in difficult financial circumstances, making dog cookies for the animal shelter, and helping with community projects;
- Greater Long Beach Interfaith Community Organization (ICO), our grass-roots, faith-based organization: several participants from

our congregation are currently working with half a dozen other churches and temples to develop projects for each City Council District based on recommendations from the city's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness: no more waiting for Council endorsement of the Plan;

- Health Reform: under strong guidance from the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry office, members of the congregation have staffed an information and letter-writing table after both Sunday services for the past two months, sending more than 200 letters to U.S. Senators and Representatives; congregation members have also participated in rallies and Congressional visits on this issue;
- Immigrant Rights Committee, exploring the injustices of U.S. immigration policies, designed to inform the community and to elicit responses from our local Representatives; Immigrant Rights was the public witness event at General Assembly in June;
- Marriage Equality, which continues as an online communications group until work on a 2012 ballot initiative gets under way; at that time, we expect scores of our members to become actively involved in the campaign;
- Peacemaking Study/Action group sponsored a one-day workshop, followed by a six-week course, on Nonviolent Communication (NVC); both were so enthusiastically received that the classes were repeated this fall; for the second year, Peacemaking will staff a table at Cal State University Long Beach's Practicing Peace Festival, on November 17;
- Rebuild New Orleans, which will join with the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal in July, 2010, to help in the work of rebuilding New Orleans; the one-week trip includes five full days of working at community sites, with more than 25 people of all ages expected to go from our congregation; if you are interested in going to New Orleans contact Maureen McHale or Lara Helfer at neworleans@uucb.org; our deadline is November 20th to commit for next summer.

Our Interim Minister, Alicia Forsey, is supporting our efforts through her sermons as well as her ongoing encouragement in meetings and discussions.

Sandra Kroll and Maureen McHale, Members, Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach



Report on Congregations' Actions on Oct. 24, Day of Global Climate Action

Tapestry UU Congregation in Mission Viejo participated in the International weekend of Climate Action October 24-25. From the pulpit, Rev. Tom Owen-Towle read a Psalm 104 adaptation by Robyn Kermes from the UU Ministry for Earth website. Several of us attended one of the 5,200 worldwide "350" events at the Irvine Regional Park. Paul Carlton, a Tapestry member, led a hike as part of the event. An aerial photo was taken of a couple hundred of us making a "350." We were told this picture would appear on the giant scantron in Times Square that evening. We also showed an alarming climate change movie "The Age of Stupid" a couple of times to good crowds and good discussions. -Jan Meslin

At 11:30 A.M. Saturday, October 24, 2009, members of the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura** were joined by members of the community as they gathered to ring the church bell 350 times, in solidarity with faith communities around the globe, to raise awareness of the need for action to reverse climate change. Afterward, they heard an Earth prayer, then joined in conversation and reflection about the meaning of the morning's activity, and discussed visions of the tangible steps to follow this meaningful symbolic activity. --Jim Merrill



Saturday's local 350 event in Sierra Vista included the cooking of a pot of soup in a solar-powered oven, heated to 350 degrees Fahrenheit by the brilliant, high desert sun. (Note: Oven is seen at left in the group photo.)

Dozens of visitors to Veterans' Park signed pledges to use non-plastic water bottles, to buy paper products made from recycled materials, to stop using plastic shopping bags, and to install compact fluorescent light bulbs. They also picked up information about climate change and how even small life-style changes can make a difference.

Eliot Harris from Cochise Solar Source provided the Sun Oven and the soup. Sulphur Springs Valley Electric donated packs of products and information for making a house more energy efficient. The Sierra Vista Food Co-op was also on hand, encouraging the community



to eat locally and through buying clubs, as well as promoting the "One Book, One Community" program.

Rod Richards, minister of the **Unitarian Universalist Church of SouthEastern Arizona**, was at the Sierra Vista event most of the morning. His congregation, like Unitarian Universalists across the country, is supporting the goals of 350.org. As he explained it, "Climate change is not just a scientific issue. It's not just a political issue. It's a moral issue."

"Our actions here today are an attempt to bring the issue home, to all our homes," Richards said. "Our mistakes have arisen from believing we can survive independently from the web of life on Earth. Our solutions will arise when we embrace our place in the interdependent web of all life -- with the gratitude, respect, and humility it deserves."

Event organizer Mary Jo Ballator was pleased with the results of the day's awareness event.

"We raised some consciousness and we spurred some of our neighbors to take steps against global warming," she said. "We are far from finished, though. We here in Sierra Vista call upon our nation's leaders to take responsible and active part in the Copenhagen conference. We want a treaty that will truly make a difference in rolling back the CO2 level to 350."



PSWD DISTRICT CALENDAR

Send additions/changes to PSWD@aol.com

DECEMBER 2009

- 4-6 Coming of Age Retreat
de Benneville Pines
- 15 PSWD Board Meeting (phone)
- 27- Senior High Winter Camp
Jan 1 de Benneville Pines

JANUARY 2010

- 9 District Assembly Planning Meeting,
Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA
- 22-23 District/Cluster Leadership Weekend
Chalice UU Congregation, Escondido, CA
- 25-28 UUMA/LREDA Retreat, Mary & Joseph
Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
- 29-31 Jr./Sr. High OWL Training, hosted and
sponsored by Neighborhood Church,
Pasadena, CA

FEBRUARY 2010

- 6 Seminar on "The Language of Reverence"
UU Fellowship of San Dieguito, Solana
Beach, CA
- 6 PSWD Board Meeting (telephone)
- 12-15 Elementary Winter Camp
de Benneville Pines
- 12-14 Young Adult Social Justice Conference,
First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, CA

- 13-14 Seminar on Multi-site Congregations,
San Diego County, CA
- 27 Leadership Day
UU Church of Santa Paula, CA

MARCH 2010

- 13 AZ Choir Festival, Valley UU Church,
Chandler, AZ
- 21 PSWD Board Meeting (phone)
- 22-29 Young Adult Water Justice Road Trip
(cosponsored by UULM CA & PSWD)

APRIL 2010

- 23 PSWD Board Meeting, Unitarian Society of
Santa Barbara, CA
- 23-24 PSWD District Assembly
Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA

JUNE 2010

- 23-27 UUA General Assembly
Minneapolis, MN

Members of the **UU Church of Riverside, CA** gather in front of the Church on October 24, the International Day of Climate Action, to advocate in support of a rollback of the CO² in our earth's atmosphere to 350 parts per million.

