



## DISTRICT ASSEMBLY 2008 in Del Mar, CA

What is required to weave the tapestry of a beloved community? Perhaps a pep talk from the **Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell** of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR, can give us a clue. She believes that we can create congregations that can embody the kind of loving, inclusive community that a broken world is looking for. Maybe a workshop on UUs and Peace or Progressive Education as a Key to Global and Social Change can light a spark. Or maybe a Soulful Sundown Service shared by UUs from all around our District will provide a connection for community across generations.

You will find this inspiration at the 2008 District Assembly, "Weaving the Tapestry of the Beloved Community," April 25-27, in Del Mar. There will be worship, workshops, awards, banquets and bridging, as well as our keynote speaker, Rev. Sewell.

Registration materials for District Assembly will be online by mid-February. The full adult registration fee will be \$145 for all registrations received prior to April 1. After that date it increases to \$170. All other fees can be found in the online brochure. This year one dollar of each registration fee goes towards "carbon off-setting." That means PSWD will contribute this money to an organization that works to repair the earth through tree plantings, solar and wind energy projects, etc.

A block of rooms has been set aside for DA attendees at the San Diego Marriott Del Mar, 11966 El Camino Real, conveniently located off I-5. All reservations must be made individually by calling 858-523-1700 no later than March 28 and asking for the Unitarian Universalist Association rate of \$119 plus tax. Reservations requested after this date will be accepted based on availability only.

Again this year, the selection of workshops is outstanding and very well balanced between 4 distinct tracks--Personal/Spiritual Development, Social Action, Church Organization and PSWD/Unitarian Universalist Association. You may choose to attend workshops from only one track or from 3 different tracks during the 3 workshop sessions.



Adding to the excitement of the weekend, the Saturday night banquet entertainment will feature nationally known author **Dr. Richard Lederer**. Not only is he the author of numerous books, but he has written columns for a number of major national publications and has also appeared on many radio and television shows, including his own weekly radio show, A Way With Words on KPBS, San Diego Public Radio. You won't want to miss this fun-filled evening.

So make plans now to come to Del Mar, CA, April 25-27, to join hands in worship, leadership, spiritual growth, working for social justice, community and fellowship. Come be a part of this very special gathering of Unitarian Universalists.

Carolyn Saunders

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**From Tom Stapleford,  
PSWD Board President**

### **Spring Planting**

I know - it still seems like Winter, but spring will be here before you know it. Many of us have already begun planning our gardens and anticipating the spring thaw. (OK, this is the Pacific Southwest District and the last hard freeze was a long time ago, but indulge me.)

This is also the time to begin planning your congregation's "UU garden". The opportunity to plant the seeds and acquire some "soil enrichment" to produce a vibrant and productive "garden" in your own congregation is coming up in April, when our District Assembly will be held in Del Mar (San Diego).

First, the seeds you need to plant are your thoughts and ideas about how your congregation can be best served by District resources. The fertile soil to plant them in is the Saturday morning workshop with your District Trustees who want to know how to focus our services where they will do your congregation the most good. The "soil enrichment" that's available to you can be found in the plethora of workshops on lots of topics with ideas you can put to use in your own congregation as soon as you get home and the informal conversations you will have with other UUs during DA.

Based on past experience, I suspect a few of our 50 congregations will not be represented at DA; those congregations will have missed the chance to be seen, heard, and represented in the workshops where the solutions to some of their most pressing problems will be explored. I encourage you to make sure your congregation is represented and that your delegates make it a point to schedule a report back to your congregation to share their experiences.

I look forward to seeing you in Del Mar!

In Faith,  
Tom Stapleford

### **From Your Annual Program Fund Representative**

Thanks to all of you, we are well on our way to meeting and even exceeding our giving to the Association this year. Melissa Ferris of the APF wrote me these congratulations:

"Tremendous work in the Pacific Southwest District! We have a pledge from every congregation except two, and five congregations have already given their contributions in full!!"

If you have not pledged to our Annual Program Fund yet, please do what you can to see to this important matter. As always drop me an email or give me a call. I am here to help with this or any of your stewardship questions.

I also want to thank all those congregations who are continuing their "fair share" pledging this year. In a world of change and struggle, our fair share contributions to our Association will ensure our collective voice is heard in the public square. Your fair share will also ensure that our congregations receive all the vital services we need to remain healthy and growing. Remember, these are not "dues" we pay but contributions we make to being part of this liberal religious movement we all love.

Yours in Faith,  
John Morehouse  
**Minister@pacificunitarian.org**  
310-378-9449

### **THE PSWD NETWUURK**

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of the Unitarian Universalist Association**

2052 Norma St., Oxnard, CA 93036-2711  
Phone 805-485-1780 Fax 805-485-1746  
E-mail: [pswd@aol.com](mailto:pswd@aol.com)

**PSWD President: Tom Stapleford**

[tom@stapleford.us](mailto:tom@stapleford.us)

Editor: Dorothy Jacobson  
E-mail: [Dorothy3NL@aol.com](mailto:Dorothy3NL@aol.com)

Proofreader: Jean Gordon

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View NetwUUrK on the Web: [www.pswd.uua.org](http://www.pswd.uua.org)  
to view current or archival issues.

## REjoice

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS for PSWD  
from Tera Little

### Do We Know Our Mission Field?

The 2007 UUA Summit on Youth Ministry calls on us to place congregationally-based, multigenerational youth ministry at the center of our mission as Unitarian Universalist congregations. That sounds great on paper, but what does it mean in reality? And, do we even know our 'mission field?'

In this context our mission field is youth ministry. Who are our youth, what makes them tick, and what in the world can we do to make congregational life seem relevant to them?

According to **Walt Mueller** in his "Culture Watch" column in *The Youth Worker Journal* (Jan/Feb. 2008), a universal truth is youth are looking for four things: power, freedom, fun, and belonging. Thinking about a core component to date of our UU youth ministry— youth empowerment—I think we strive to give our youth power with responsibility. I think this also carries with it an element of freedom. We often allow youth to make small mistakes in order to learn from them. We give them freedom to create and implement programs that are aligned with UU values. Our programs are certainly fun (at least, most of the time!), and I know many youth groups have community building as a focus and are intentional about including newcomers and making them feel welcome.

*Continued on page 4 . . .*



## Ken's Corral

By Ken Brown, District Executive

This past fall the **Rev. Peter Morales** challenged us to not be afraid of talking about growth in numbers, after all he said, "numbers are people." And like many of us, Peter told us he felt now was a crucial time for Unitarian Universalism. A time when our saving message was very much needed in a world that seems to be tearing it self apart and ignoring the needs of the majority. It is a time when we Unitarian Universalists need to be open to growing congregations so that we will survive into the future and also have a greater impact on our world. So we need to care about the people who come to our doors, we need to count them, and follow-up to help them understand our open and caring message. Only by intentionally growing our faith can we survive into the future.

For me, two reasons I spend so much time on the road, helping however I can, to create strong Unitarian Universalist congregations are in the picture accompanying this article (below, left). It is a photo of my grandson, Luke and granddaughter, Quinn. I want a future that has a religious community where they can continue to grow as people—one that will support a diverse and open search for a faith path, not one that believes there is only one way to be religious (including UU). Currently they attend our congregation in Santa Clarita where their mother Sara is an active member. Like most of our congregations, this one has wonderful worship services and dedicated members. Yet, our congregations cannot accomplish all they want to do alone.

The Pacific Southwest District board and staff are committed to continually developing programs that support our congregations. Opportunities like our recent worship workshop bring together people from across the District. Eighteen congregations were represented with a total of 125 people in attendance. Our upcoming Leadership School, Involve Training, and District Assembly are other chances to come together and support each other as well as celebrate together. As we begin to plan for the next fiscal year, I want to invite you all to consider supporting our work by becoming a Friend of PSWD and making a financial contribution for our ongoing work. You can find out more information about our Friends of the PSWD by going to our web site <http://www.pswduua.org/media/Friends%20brochure.pdf>. Thank-you all for being part of our growing and active District.

- Ken

REjoice continued...

So, if my analysis above is correct and for the most part many of our congregations are addressing those four elements, does that mean we know our mission field?

My answer is yes and no. I think youth advisors and many DREs understand the above and almost intuitively create programs that address those four needs. But the we in my question isn't directed at just those of us who work with youth. If we follow the directive that came out of the UUA Summit on Youth Ministry, the we turns into a more universally known WE—it is all people in a congregation. Ministers, Administrators, Music Directors, Presidents, Board Members, Choir Members, Pastoral Care Associates, Social Justice Committee Members, Stewardship Members, and the people who come on Sunday to sit in the pews and be nurtured. The ministry with youth is ALL of our business.

**Eboo Patel**, in his book *Acts of Faith*, challenges us—he writes that religious extremists can see a fire in young people that others often miss out on, and they court that fire to their advantage. Even global marketers see youth's fire, their need for power, freedom, fun, and belonging (and dollar signs the youth bring with them—they spent \$179 billion in 2006) and use it to their advertising advantage.

It is high time our congregations better understand the mission field of youth ministry. Be on the lookout in the coming months for resources, trainings and workshops from PSWD that will help US do just that.

- Tera Little



## **Book Review:** ***Under the Structure***

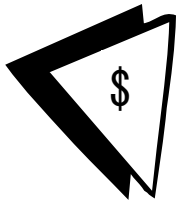
About a year ago, **Desiree Kannel** (a member of the UU Church of Long Beach) sent out a call for submissions, in this newsletter and other places as well. She asked for short stories and poetry, from members and friends of UU congregations in the Pacific Southwest District, to create a new literary journal. This fall, the journal, ***Under the Structure***, was published. It's a delightful collection of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, packaged very attractively with art by Long Beach's Curtis Wright on the cover and a photograph of the Long Beach "structure" on the back cover. The brief notes about each author are just enough to tell us a bit about that person, and in some cases, to identify the congregation. I could try to mention my favorites, but it would be hard, as there are so many gems among the 23 pieces in this distinctively Unitarian Universalist literary collection. The collection is available from **www.lulu.com** – type in the title in the Search bar. And the good news: Desiree is making plans for another edition! Watch for the call for submissions.

Phyllis Daniel

*Valley of Falls,  
as seen from near  
Camp de Benneville Pines*

*This photo and the two on  
page 8 are by **David Dopps**.*





## COMPENSATION CONSULTANT'S CORNER

PSWD rocks! As the Compensation Consultant for the Pacific Southwest District, I recently attended the annual training meeting for "Compers" (as we like to call ourselves) in Boston. I had the sense from the conversations that PSWD has one of the highest, if not the highest, percentage of Fair Compensation Congregations. As of last spring, we have twelve Practicing Fair Compensation Congregations and seventeen congregations who are committed to following Fair Compensation guidelines in the next three to five years. This is awesome and I want to acknowledge the work that is being done in the congregations to achieve this goal.

The UU Compensation Benefits & Pension Committee is gathering data to determine the Salary Recommendations for 2009. Part of the process will be a survey of salaries and benefits currently offered by UU congregations. The more congregations participate in this survey, the more accurate the data will be.

The survey will be conducted electronically using the "Survey Monkey" program. In mid March, an email message with a link to the survey will be sent to each congregation at the email address for each congregation on file at the UUA. If desired, the congregations may send additional e-mail addresses to [jstewart@uua.org](mailto:jstewart@uua.org) so the survey message can go directly to the person who can respond.

You can help by making sure that the person who has the necessary information for your congregation is aware of this process and receives the survey message either by requesting it directly at the address given above or by having it forwarded to him/her when the church receives the message.

Questions or concerns about the survey or Compensation in general can always be sent to your Compensation Consultant.

Ms. JoAnne Smith  
2875 W. Highland Street Unit 1911  
Chandler, AZ 85224-7886  
(480) 838-5724  
[UUJsmith@aol.com](mailto:UUJsmith@aol.com)

## SPIRIT LEVEL FOUNDATION

Spirit Level Foundation, founded in 1998, provides grants to UU congregations in five Southern California counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. Over the 10 years, total grants exceed \$800,000. Ordinarily, at this time of year Spirit Level receives applications from congregations, but for 2008 Spirit Level is making a special grant to a single congregation. We expect to offer grants to all congregations in the 5 counties again in 2009, and, if so, all will receive a letter about that in December 2008.

Lawrence Hess, Treasurer



Do you have Lex's excellent book yet?

## PSWD Literary Notes

***"Love, Sex, and the Human Condition: Getting a Life."*** Isn't that a provocative title? Better still, it accurately sums up the content of the book. It shows how our drives for power and sex can work for us, as well as those around us, when they are tempered with, reason, love, and liberated decision making. One of our longtime PSWDers, **Lex Crane**, had the book published last June by Trafford Press. If you have not gotten a copy yet, you're missing out on a source of insight into oneself and the human condition. The cost is \$16. So if you send a check for \$18 (shipping cost \$2), you will receive a copy in the mail. Send it to: Lex Crane  
1038 B Calle Sastre  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

## Report from your UUA Trustee, Tom Loughrey

The January UUA Board meeting was quite some meeting for me personally. I left for Boston thinking I was coming down with a cold and ended up leaving on Sunday with what turned out to be the flu. Trust me, Boston is no place to be with a cold or the flu.

Nonetheless, it was a productive meeting. Here are some of the big issues we are dealing with:

First, if you have been following any of the UUA list serves you may know that there is a great deal of concern over the site for this year's GA in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The convention center is inside the restricted port area of the city and as a result attendees of GA will have to show ID to pass through. Without oversimplifying it, there are many who feel this will exclude some persons who either do not have sufficient ID or are in solidarity with those who do not have such ID. Many have asked the Board and the Planning Committee to find an alternative site or possibly even cancel GA. Our by-laws do not permit us to cancel and the cost to the Association of not being in Fort Lauderdale at this point would be in excess of \$800,000. The Planning Committee decided against moving GA and the Board voted to support that decision. I voted to support staying as well. This is not an easy decision. The idea that anyone would have to show government issued ID to attend church flies in the face of our values and our heritage. The UUMA will hold its professional days outside the convention center along with several other groups. For more on this issue check the UUA website at <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/60906.shtml>.

I would be very happy to talk to anyone who is concerned about the situation or would simply like more information.

Another major issue is dealing with Independent Affiliates. Nearly two years ago the Board approved a much more rigorous process for obtaining independent affiliate status. The result was that many organizations that had been independent affiliates no longer qualified. The process now emphasizes collaboration of interest groups and value to congregations. The issue that has remained for some of us is how entities that are made up of UUs and continue to serve the interests of many UUs are in relationship with the Association even if it is outside the independent affiliate process. I convene the Living Our Faith Working Group and we are taking up this issue. It is not our goal to change the

current IA process but rather find a place where we can be in relationship with the larger UU universe. I will keep you informed of our progress.

I have received mail and phone calls on the UUA support of our two theological schools, Meadville Lombard and Starr King, through grants from the Panel on Theological Education. In the coming budget it looks like each school will continue to receive at least \$200,000 from the fund. This is less than it has been but it is far more than some thought it was going to be. The issue is not going away though. It is clear the panel is moving to much more accountability for the grant as opposed to simply passing out funds as has been the previous practice. I support both the schools but also support accountability and I believe the schools are capable of making good arguments for their funds and then delivering on it. We shall see where this process leads.

I will be listing the minutes from the meeting very shortly online at <http://tomloughreyuustrustee.blogspot.com>. You can see all the actions taken in much more detail.

A few other highlights:

Phoenix was approved for GA 2012. The Planning Committee was overwhelmed by the hospitality, pricing and aggressiveness of Phoenix to get GA. I noticed a few people break out in a sweat at the thought of GA in Phoenix in June but I reassured them "it's a dry heat" and everything is air conditioned. It will be great to have GA back in PSWD!

**Naomi Suzuki**, from Long Beach and a student at UCSB, was approved for a Board appointment to the Commission on Social Witness. She replaces **Catherine Blue** from Pasadena on the Commission. Nice to have another young adult from the PSWD on the CSW.

Finally, let me extend a sincere appreciation to **Phyllis Daniel**, who stepped in as an interim chair for the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. This was needed until the Board could appoint a new permanent chair following **Reverend Jorie Agate's** move to the UUA staff. Phyllis may have some kind of record since she was simultaneously the chair of the MFC and the Accessibilities Committee. Thanks, Phyllis, for all you do for all of us!

Please let me know of any issues you have concerns about or any assistance you may need in dealing with the UUA.

In faith and service,  
Tom Loughrey

## Churches Around the District

### A Cluster OWL Program

In September several small congregations in the San Fernando Valley & surrounding areas came together to do a joint OWL program at the Jr. High Level (7-9th grade). Emerson UU in Canoga Park, Studio City UU Church, Verdugo Hills UU, Santa Clarita UU, Sepulveda UU Society and even the very small Antelope Valley UU Fellowship saw this as a way we could serve our youth. Since each congregation only had a few youth and limited resources, none was able to offer the program individually. When we worked together, we were able to financially support the program through our combined budgets. All the ministers enthusiastically endorsed the program.

As a parent of a youth in the program, I am grateful to our facilitators who are members of the Studio City UU church and Emerson UU church. The OWL sessions are being held at the Sepulveda UU Society (the Onion). The coordinator of the program is **Lynne Webber**, who presented the idea and then worked with the lay leaders, ministers and other DREs to make this a reality for our youth. Lynne is the DRE for the Santa Clarita congregation. She also has a daughter participating in the program.

Louise Klatt  
Co-chair of the RE Committee  
Sepulveda UU Society, North Hills, CA



**The Rev. Ann Schranz** (above, second from left) was installed as Minister of the Monte Vista UU Congregation in Montclair, CA on February 3. With her at the podium is **Sloane Atkinson**, President.



UUs of Lake Havasu City, AZ have a most unusual and very “green” chalice (above). According to **Kay Lillard**, president, “The landlord (public library) and the fire codes prohibit us from lighting real candles. We have a battery-powered candle for a centerpiece, and during Joys and Concerns we plant bean seeds. Our joys/visions/prayers will oft-times sprout...a great visual of the rewards of speaking our minds, making plans, speaking-up.”

### Saving Energy When You Shop

According to the Sierra Club's, **Michael Stevenson**, how we choose to spend our money on the things we buy can go a long way towards reducing our energy consumption and preserving our environment. Here are some things we can all do:

1. Always buy the most durable products that last the longest.
2. Choosing reusable products instead of disposable items uses less energy, creates less waste and often saves money.
3. Choose recycled products and packaging.
4. Buying locally grown or manufactured products saves on transportation costs.
5. If you shop online or by telephone you save all your personal transportation costs.
6. Avoid products that are hazardous to the environment and instead buy bio-based substitutes.
7. Take a reusable paper or cloth bag with you to the grocery store.

Sandra Trutt  
UU Community Church  
of Santa Monica



It's difficult to think about summer when the wind is howling and the snow blowing here at camp, but February is the time we put together our calendar and make our plans for the rest of the year.

In between shoveling snow, helping guests to put chains on their cars and making batches of hot chocolate, we're gathering information for our spring/summer *Connection*, getting fliers up on the web site, and booking our groups for the next year.

It is already looking like we'll be busy. Our Women's Retreat in May is nearly sold out—even before we've had a chance to send out fliers or registration forms. **Karen Quinn**, our new Board Secretary, is working hard putting together the program, inviting lots of wonderful volunteers to offer workshops and activities. The theme will be Connecting to the Goddess Within, and **Rev. Teri Masters** will be the keynote speaker. The weekend promises to be fantastic.

We're hoping the UU Men's Retreat, organized by the Men's Group at San Diego's First Church, will be as popular. In the past few years, they've expanded their registration to include men from throughout the District, offering a program unlike any other at camp. A flier and registration information will be in the *Connection* and on our web site.

Planning for this summer's PSWD YoUUth Camps is well underway. Each congregation in the district will be contacted about holding a Super Camp Sunday service on May 4, allowing families to sign their children up for summer camp at a discount, as well as celebrating the wonderful youth camps programs offered by the District.

The Family Camp Organizing Committee is also putting together their program for this summer. They have invited **Reverend Greg Ward**, the UU minister from the Monterey Peninsula congregation and a former de Benneville youth camper, to be the Theme Speaker during their camp week. He'll be offering a daily workshop called "Joy as a Spiritual Practice." In addition, there will be all the other great activities at Family Camp; canoeing, crafts, hiking, dancing, the banquet, no talent Talent Show, workshops, Capture the Flag, swimming, hot tubbing, worshipping and playing together. It's a week for families to enjoy being together with other UU families from across the country. Registration forms are already on the camp's

website and registrations have started to come in.

**Laura Janes** will again be offering Art Camp during PSWIRL, our adult summer camp in August. Limited to only 16 students, the Art Camp was a great success last summer. Several spots for this summer's camp have already been reserved. It is likely that all the spots will be filled again this year.

A new event this summer will be the Young Adult Retreat over Labor Day Weekend. We're looking forward to seeing former youth campers who have been away at college and starting their adult lives. We're excited about hosting this new weekend at camp.

For additional information about the events mentioned and all the others happening this year, please go to our camp website at **www.uucamp.org** and click on the Calendar link. Registration forms and information can be downloaded from the site. Additional questions can be directed to the camp Office at (909) 794-2928.

We hope to see you at camp this year.

Caroline Quintanilla  
Administrative Assistant  
**caroline@uucamp.org**



*"Wayne's Way"  
road sign*



*Chalice  
in snow*

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

## Worship Workshop



**The Rev. Matthew Crary** (above) presented a workshop on Multi-media in Worship at the PSWD Worship Workshop held on February 2 at the Orange Coast UU Church in Costa Mesa.

Below, more than 125 people from 19 congregations across PSWD attended the Worship Workshop.



## Bonding Out Project

Diana S. is a transgender immigrant who was detained by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) last year. Diana is seeking asylum in the United States due to persecution in her country of origin on the basis of gender identity.

Along with many others, Diana was held in the San Pedro detention center, one of four centers cited

by the U.S. Government Accountability Office for overcrowding, inadequate medical care, and other systemic problems. At the San Pedro center, a detainee who had AIDS died when she was refused medical treatment, despite the efforts of other detainees, including Diana, to alert authorities to her deteriorating conditions.

Diana, a close friend of the detainee and traumatized by her death, spoke out against conditions at the center. She was transferred to a detention center in Texas. With the help of her attorney, she was brought back to San Pedro, where she has reportedly been a mentor and an inspiration to other detainees, helping them gather evidence for their legal cases and caring for others with HIV and AIDS. In November of last year, however, she was sent back to Texas when the Center was closed down and the detainees moved to different centers, many in other states, without advance notice to their families, attorneys, or the detainees themselves. Although the move is allegedly temporary, it has meant a serious setback for the legal cases of the detained immigrants, in addition to the personal hardship for them and their families.

The Long Beach branch of the Los Angeles Legal Aid Foundation has been providing social services to the detainees at San Pedro. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (Southern California Unit) is working with the Foundation and is currently attempting to raise funds for bail for Diana and other detainees. The Multi-racial Development Committee and the Faith-in-Action Committee of the Santa Monica Church are supporting this effort. Diana's lawyer is hopeful that she can be released under the minimum bond, estimated at \$1,500. This would allow her to return to California where she can work with her lawyer on her asylum case. If she wins her case, she hopes to become a nurse for children with HIV and to help other HIV immigrants who have been detained by immigration authorities.

For anyone wishing to contribute, checks should be made out to the First Unitarian Church, marked for Bond Fund, and sent to the Church at 2936 West 8th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90005, attention Sonia. Funds beyond the amount needed for Diana will go toward bonding out other detainees whose cases are pending. If there are any questions, please contact:

Nora Hamilton at 310 449-1187 ([nhamil@usc.edu](mailto:nhamil@usc.edu))

or Rochelle McAdam at 213 389-8495 ([rochelle@uula.org](mailto:rochelle@uula.org)).

- Rochelle McAdam

## Unitarian Universalists Meet in Boston for Addictions Ministry Visioning Meeting

This past January, a diverse group of fourteen Unitarian Universalists gathered at UUA Headquarters for two days to envision how to develop a successful nationwide addictions ministry for UUs. We were guided by **Drew Brooks** of the Rush Center of the Johnson Institute as we explored the question, "What would it be like if Unitarian Universalists adequately and effectively addressed addiction prevention and addiction recovery?" We drew on our various experiences and backgrounds in tackling the initial assessment of our religious movement's strengths and challenges in addressing addiction. At the end of the two days, we had crafted a proposed mission statement as well as an outline for a statement of intent.

The proposed mission statement is:

**THE MISSION OF THE UUA ADDICTIONS MINISTRY IS TO WALK TOGETHER WITH CONGREGATIONS AND RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONALS TO EDUCATE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, CONGREGATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES ABOUT THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY ADDICTION. OUR PURPOSE IN DOING THIS MINISTRY IS TO TRANSFORM CULTURES OF MISUSE AND ABUSE INTO CULTURES OF HEALING, WHOLENESS, AND HEALTH.**

Fourteen very enthused and committed Unitarian Universalists came together for those two days, and when we left, we were even more enthusiastic. One of the major components of the statement of intent is

to continue our work in existing addictions programs. Another component was to develop intra-district connections between congregations who are currently involved in addictions work.

In this regard, we at Pacific Unitarian Church began our Addictions & Recovery Ministry ("ARM") in October 2005 and it has grown into an integral part of our church's programming, ministry and outreach. Our purpose is to lift the silence surrounding addictions in order to ease suffering and promote understanding. Because Unitarian Universalists profess the inherent worth and dignity of every person and acceptance of others, we believe our faith community is well-suited for this work. Our definition of addiction is broad, encompassing substance and behavioral (or "process") addictions.

We are very interested in making connections throughout the PSWD with other congregations who are doing, or think they may be interested in doing, this sort of work in order to share ideas and experiences as well as mull over questions or concerns. I can be contacted at [addictions@pacificunitarian.org](mailto:addictions@pacificunitarian.org) or 310-377-7266. You can also get more information on our Ministry on our church's website, [pacificunitarian.org](http://pacificunitarian.org).

Julie Sullwold Hernandez  
Coordinator, Addictions & Recovery Ministry  
Pacific Unitarian Church



*Above, red rocks in Arizona*

*Left, Petrified Forest, AZ*

# PSWIRL

The UU-oriented nonprofit Pacific SouthWest Institute of Religious Liberals (PSWIRL) welcomes you to their annual adult event at beautiful Camp de Benneville Pines in Angelus Oaks, California. Relax, swim, or take part in a wide variety of workshops and activities—it's up to you. The 2008 PSWIRL Week is from Sunday, August 17 through Friday, August 22. In addition, **UU Rev. Jim Grant** is our Theme Speaker.

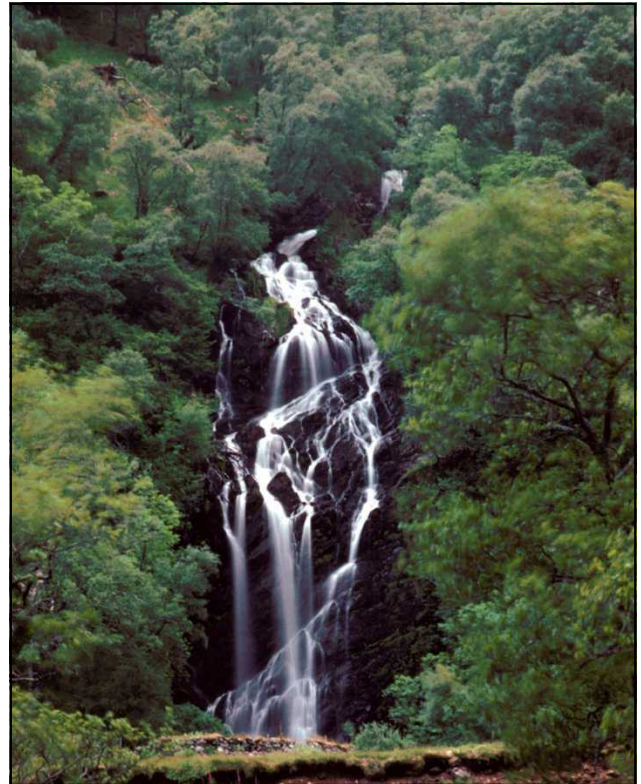
De Benneville is owned and operated by the Unitarian Universalist Pacific Southwest District. It is at 6800 feet altitude in the San Bernardino National Forest among towering pines, oaks and cedars with a creek nearby, and Jenks Lake within walking distance. It has an Olympic-size swimming pool and a large hot tub. A field trip to Big Bear Lake Solar Observatory is offered.

In 2008, per person costs range from \$335 to \$440 depending on the type of accommodation you select, and include all meals and workshops for the week. Please ask about partial scholarships.

The rich program (including a list of workshops and their facilitators) as well as photos from past years is available at <http://pswirl.org> with an associated registration form. Information about Camp de Benneville Pines is available at <http://www.uucamp.org>. Alternatively, for registration information, contact Registrar **Marcia Taylor** at [marsha@pngusa.net](mailto:marsha@pngusa.net) or 909-597-1037. For program information contact Manon Washburn at 310-544-1943, or write to [Come2PSWIRL@yahoo.com](mailto:Come2PSWIRL@yahoo.com).

Join us in our beautiful mountain camp as we welcome newcomers and greet old friends! Experience for yourself the varied offerings of PSWIRL week.

- Peter Landecker



*Have you taken great pictures in our beautiful Pacific Southwest District that you would be willing to share in the NetwUUrK, which is now 99% online only? If so, please send photos of landscapes or UUs doing things together to [Dorothy3NL@aol.com](mailto:Dorothy3NL@aol.com).*

- Dorothy Jacobson, Editor





## PSWD DISTRICT CALENDAR

Send additions/changes to  
**PSWD@aol.com**

### FEBRUARY 2008

- 16 Congregational Stewardship Workshop,  
UU Church of Tucson, AZ
- 16-18 PSWD Elementary Winter Camp,  
Camp de Benneville Pines

### MARCH 2008

- Feb 29 - Mar 2 "Leadership Skills for the 21st  
Century" — PSWD Leadership School, Mary &  
Joseph Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
- Feb 29 - Mar 2 Involve Training: "Welcoming  
Children with Special Needs," Mary & Joseph  
Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
- 14-16 Youth Spirituality Conference, UU Fellowship of  
San Dieguito, Solana Beach, CA
- 15 Adult Faith Development Facilitator Training,  
UU Church of Long Beach, CA
- 16 Adult Faith Development Facilitator Training,  
Summit UU Fellowship, Santee, CA

### APRIL 2008

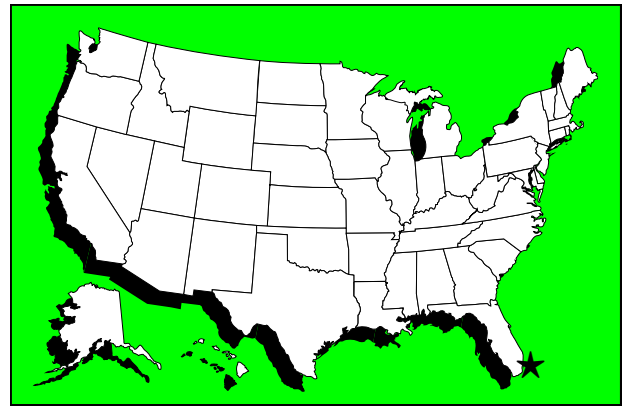
- 5 Adult Faith Development Facilitator Training,  
UU Church of Tucson, AZ
- 12 Human Rights Forum,  
Throop Church, Pasadena, CA
- 25-27 PSWD District Assembly, Del Mar, CA

### MAY 2008

- 4 Summer Super Camp Sunday Signup
- 10 Installation of the Rev. Gail Collins-Ranadive,  
UU Congregation of Las Vegas, NV

### JUNE 2008

- 25-29 UUA General Assembly, Ft. Lauderdale, FL



UUA Pacific Southwest District  
The PSWD NetWUrk  
2052 Norma Street  
Oxnard, CA 93036-2711

**Return Service Requested**