



The PSWD NetwUUrK

Newsletter of the Pacific Southwest District of the UUA

Issue 124

Fall 2008



Our PSWD Board of Trustees 2008-2009 and Staff

Left to right: UUA Trustee **Tom Loughrey**, Jaynn Truran, President **Michael Salwasser**, Vice President **Nancy Edmundson**, Rev. **Helen Carroll**, Secretary **Janet Wieder**, District Program Consultant **Tera Little**, District Executive **Rev. Ken Brown**, Treasurer **Andi Stout**, **Ellen Hall-Patton**, and **Rev. Carolyn Owen-Towle**

To get better acquainted with these folks, go to the District Website, www.pswduua.org

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY 2009

—the annual gathering of
Unitarian Universalists in the
Pacific Southwest District—
will be in

Mesa, Arizona
May 1-3, 2009

The theme will be
“Open doors, open hearts:
exploring our sources.”

See the article on page 5.

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Thoughts from the President by Michael Sallwasser

In the interval between the District Assembly election and the new board members taking office, history was being made. The California Supreme Court stood on the side of love. The Court found the right to marry can not be denied simply because the person you freely choose to wed is the same sex. The first official act of the new PSWD Board was to declare our opposition to amending the California constitution to take away what the court had so recently recognized. We also stated our intention to oppose Arizona's ballot proposition banning same sex marriage.

Even before the Board acted, our congregations were already standing on the side of love. Many of us had the honor and privilege of bearing public witness as same sex couples from our congregations were legally married. Unitarian Universalist ministers up and down the state of California could be seen on the evening news or pictured in newspapers solemnizing same sex marriages.

Since the court's decision, more history has been made. The Democratic Party has nominated a person of color for President of the United States and the Republican Party nominated a woman for Vice President, thus assuring that for the first time in history, the United States will have an elected national leader who is not a white male.

The advances are not without a price. In Kentucky, a Unitarian Universalist fellowship was beset with violence and death because they were recognized in their community for affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person and for believing in justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

The advances are not guaranteed. If enough of us do not answer the call to defeat Proposition 8, what the California Supreme Court has granted could be taken away through the people's fear, intolerance and ignorance of true justice.

The advances are not enough. As Barack Obama already warned, the belief that our country can achieve racial justice and healing on the cheap by electing him President is to engage in self-delusion. For us, Unitarian Universalists, to think that our only task is to enlighten others is to engage in the same sort of self-delusion. We

must recognize that there is still a need for racial justice and healing in the internal life of our congregations.

At District Assembly I saw too little attention to actively countering oppression or confronting racism. There were films addressing these topics but, pushed to the margins of the weekend, few people attended. And there was a dearth of people of color gathered there in mystery of the hour, gathered there in one strong body. I do not think we can proudly be the city on the hill when nearly everyone holding aloft the beacon is white.

I am deeply proud to be a Unitarian Universalist. I am honored to be President of the Pacific Southwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. I am convinced that we are already standing on the side of love. The arc of the universe is long. It may be bending toward justice, but we must do more than merely stand, we must march forward on that long journey toward wholeness. I am not quite sure how to get there, but together I am certain we can find the path. I hope you will join me.

Living my faith,
Michael Sallwasser

THE PSWD NETWUURK

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View NetwUURk on the Web: www.pswduua.org
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REjoice

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS for PSWD
from Tera Little

On Sabbatical . . .

September—Labor Day, back to school, back to regular church activities, fall equinox, this year the beginning of Jewish High Holy Days—a lot happens in September. And for PSWD, a lot happens in the months just preceding September with our youth camps and young adult adventures. So my dilemma in writing the September newsletter article is do I look backward or forward?

This time, let me try a little bit of both. First off, PSWD rocks when it comes to youth camping ministries. Second, we are on our way to rocking with young adult justice work and retreat opportunities. Can I hear a big YES out there?

Your district is home to a solid youth camping ministry program that dozens of volunteers have worked so hard on for many years. We run six camps, three in the summer and three in the winter. For each camp, we have 22-26 volunteer staff of youth, young adults, and adults. These camps are steeped in UU identity, faith development, worship, self-esteem building, and fun.



One of the Youth Camps at Camp de Benneville Pines

And this past August, PSWD sponsored two incredible young adult (ages 18-35) events. August 1-10 UU Legislative Ministries, CA teamed up with us to do a Water Justice Road Trip from Mt. Shasta all the way down to the central valley. Fourteen of us toured around the state, learning about water issues from many different aspects. At the end of our trip one young woman shared the following, "I've never felt passionate

Continued on page 4 . . .

Ken's Corral

By Ken Brown, District Executive

It has been a busy summer for many of the leaders in our congregations. Summer is often a time of transition for both lay leaders and ministers; this past summer has been no different. We are looking forward to what we still refer to as "the start" of the congregational year. This summer/fall seems extra busy because many people in our congregations in California and Arizona are working to defeat the ballot propositions that would take civil rights away from gay and lesbian people. I hope that each California congregation has a contact with our UU Legislative Ministry in support of this work. In Arizona, congregations have yet to pull together, but as I read the newsletters I know many people are making local connections and working to defeat the anti-gay marriage amendment on Arizona's ballot.

As I read newsletters I am also struck by the number of our congregations that are holding celebrations around significant anniversaries in their histories. I did a little investigation and found that between 2006 and 2010, nineteen of our fifty congregations have had or will have anniversaries ranging from 5 years to 125 years.

This caused me to reflect on the tremendous efforts of lay leaders and ministers over the years who have contributed to these congregations achieving these milestones. I have lived in the Pacific Southwest District for most of the past 24 years and began my tenth year as District Executive this summer. Thus I have worked with many of the laity and ministers who have served these congregations. I can honestly say we are a diverse group of people. We come with differing perspectives on how congregations should function, how ministers and laity relate, how we worship, and even what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Yet I deeply appreciate all the people who have stayed engaged with the questions and the differences. As someone with a strong background in history, I know that we Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists have constantly reinvented ourselves as a religious community. Our future depends on our ability to work together as we continue on this path. It is with great joy that I look forward to continuing with you on the journey.



REjoice, continued . . .

about anything before, and now I feel passion. I want to share this information with everyone. I want to dominate it!" You can read about our trip at www.uuroadtrip.blogspot.com.

At the end of August, we sponsored a young adult retreat at our beautiful Camp de Benneville Pines. Fifty-eight young adults from all three of our states came together to build community, deepen faith, and create justice. The weekend was magical, and we look forward to making it an annual event.

And those camps and young adult events definitely have an impact on what is to come this year in PSWD. Keep your eyes open for the innovative "Three P's Youth Ministry Project," the Coming of Age retreat at de Benneville December 5-7, contemplative youth ministry groups formed by cluster, a new comprehensive backpacking program in conjunction with our summer camps, young adults at District Assembly, and a new day-long lay leadership program for adults. Plus Our Whole Lives trainings, Renaissance modules, youth ministry trainings, Leadership School, and District Assembly.

All these wonderful and amazing things going on, and this fall I'll be on sabbatical, September 22 to December 12. During sabbatical I will be doing Clinical Pastoral Education as part of my Meadville Lombard seminary education. My CPE program is at Methodist Hospital in Arcadia, CA. I am looking forward to the change of pace and immersion into something so different from my regular routine, but it will be hard to step away for that period of time. See you in December!

- Tera Little



A Warm Welcome to Ministers

Several congregations are going through transitions this year, either welcoming new ministers or searching for new ministers. First of all, we welcome two ministers called to congregations this past spring—the **Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray** was called as the minister of the **UU Congregation of Phoenix** in Paradise Valley, Arizona and the **Rev. Aaron McEmrys** was called as the minister of the UU Society of Santa Barbara, California. We also welcome the **Rev. Paul Langston-Daley** as the contracted minister at West Valley UU Church in Glendale, Arizona. The **Rev. Mitra Rahnema** joins us as the interim minister at the Tapestry Congregation in Mission Viejo, California.

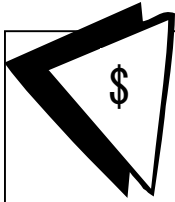
The **Rev. Roberta Haskin** will serve as an interim in PSWD for her third year. This year she moves to the UU Community Church of Santa Monica, California. Three other of our congregations will be in search this coming year. Green Valley, Arizona has a number of Tucson area UU ministers and laity working with them as they search for a settled minister. The UU Fellowship of Laguna Beach, California continues its search for a settled minister with **Kent Doss** as their contract minister and the UU Fellowship of San Dieguito in Solana Beach, California continues its search with the **Rev. Tom Owen-Towle** in his second year as their interim minister.



Monte Vista UU Congregation . . .

. . . is one of only a handful in the country with a sister church in the Philippines. This photo, from our Partner Church Celebration Dinner on Tuesday, July 22, includes (left to right) **Rev. Ann Schranz**, **Jackie Albay-Yenney**, and **Rev. Nihal Attanayake**. Rev. Nihal is the current President of the UU Church of the Phillipines, which represents 28 congregations, including Monte Vista UU's partner congregation, the Calapayan Unitarian Universalist. More than 50 members and friends participated in the delicious International potluck dinner and very informative talk provided by Rev. Nihal. (Photographer: Jani Monk)

- Rev. Ann Schranz



COMPENSATION CONSULTANT'S CORNER

Meet Ellen Germann-Melosh

Greetings!

It is with pride and pleasure that I return to District work as your new Compensation Consultant. This work is important for our congregations and for our religious leaders—Ministers, Religious Educators, Administrators and all who work for our congregations.

My sincere thanks to **Jo Anne Smith** for her good work in the district over the past several years and for sharing with me her ideas and experience in PSWD. I wish her only the best as she moves on to other tasks in her congregation.

The current work of all Compensation Consultants across the country is to review the status and qualifications of the Fair Compensation practices for congregations. We are reviewing all aspects of how we determine Fair Compensation congregations. When we have made our final determinations and have received approval by the UUA, I will share the new information with everyone. I don't expect any major changes—more likely a fine tuning of what we currently do.

It is the goal of the PSWD Compensation Consultant to work with congregations in the District on issues concerning compensation and benefits of all people who are employed by congregations. This District has an impressive record of fair pay and fair benefits. My hope is that every congregation in the district will eventually become a Fair Compensation congregation.

I am available for a consultation visit by invitation and for consultation via phone or email. This is a free service made possible by your contributions to the Unitarian Universalist Association.

I am eager to help you with whatever compensation concern is foremost in your congregation. Contact me using the information listed below. Since I travel a fair amount, e-mail is the most efficient method of communication.

Ellen Germann-Melosh
4400 E Calle del Conde
Tucson, AZ 85718
(520) 529-0990
ecgermann@earthlink.net

Pacific Southwest District Assembly 2009

Save the date, May 1-3, 2009, and plan to attend the PSWD and Camp de Benneville Pines annual District Assembly at the Phoenix East Hilton in Mesa, Arizona. The DA Planning Committee chose the theme "Open Doors, Open Hearts: Exploring Our Sources" for the next DA.

In place of a single keynote speaker on Friday night, there will be a presentation of the UU Cantata "Sources," composed by the **Rev. Jason Shelton** with words by the **Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons**, minister of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. As described in the UU World, "Sources: A Unitarian Universalist Cantata is the seven-movement work that Shelton and Gibbons co-created without ever meeting, working solely over email and phone lines for nine months in 2005 and 2006."

The Cantata was performed by an eighty-voice choir and twenty-piece orchestra made up of members of the UU Musicians Network—music directors, singers, and players from all over the country—at the 2008 General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



The Cantata was also performed this past May by Arizona musicians (pictured above) led by **Connie Clemons**, music director at the UU Congregation of Phoenix, and **Kellie Walker**, minister of music at the Valley UU Church in Chandler, AZ. Connie and Kellie will lead the presentation at our DA in May.

If you live in the greater Phoenix area, contact **Jaynn Truran**, JATRURAN@aol.com, the local chair, for more information about how you can help. E-mail workshops proposals to **Carolyn Saunders**, c_saunders1@msn.com by December 31, 2008. More details will be available on the PSWD web site later this fall. (www.pswduua.org)

- Carolyn Saunders

Report from your UUA Trustee, Tom Loughrey

It seems as though General Assembly was just a few weeks ago, but the summer has come and all but gone as I write this. Just two weeks ago your PSWD Board of Trustees met for a weekend retreat with our Executive staff. It was very productive. One of the things I was surprised to find out about from other UUA Trustees is that many of them do not meet at all with their district boards. It had not occurred to me that would be the case. I value the time with the Board, the time with our dedicated staff and the work that is done on behalf of congregations in the Pacific Southwest. It really does make a difference, and making a difference is a question I have been increasingly thinking about in my work as your Trustee. “How do we make a difference?”

It’s a great question to ask on almost every issue, large or small, which comes before us. If we cannot see that it makes any difference, the challenge becomes one to either re-define the work, the process, the thinking, the implications or maybe even open up the thinking to new possibilities. Sometimes a light comes on and there is an “ah-ha” moment. But sometimes not—sometimes we (I mean me) spend way too much time even when we know we are not going to make a difference. Rarely, though, are things black and white. We usually do our work and make our decisions without all the information we would like or all the time we would want to think about and discuss even important issues. That’s just how it is, though. The trick is to decide when it is either time to make a decision and move on to the next item or decide to invest more time. More often than not, we depend on dividing the work up among us, so we spend time in small groups that can focus on just a few issues. We end up making our decisions based on the trust we have in our fellow trustees and the information we get from staff. There is a lot of trust that has to be given and that’s where things like retreats come into play. Getting to know the people we work with so that we can bring ourselves to trust the judgment of each other is key.

This is why I need to be an active participant with our District Board and the UUA Board. A retreat is precious time that ends up giving each of us the level of confidence and trust we need to get all the work done to make a difference in our District and Association.

We have several major issues in front of us right now at the UUA. In October we will start to do the “Ends” work of Policy Governance. It asks the question: what ends do we want to achieve for the congregations we serve? In some sense this is the same question as “what difference do we want to make”? I don’t expect we will finish that work in October but we will certainly make significant progress and commitment to them.

The next major issue is the change in leadership coming at GA in Salt Lake City next June as we will elect a new president of the UUA. There are two candidates for this position, **The Rev. Laurel Hallman**, minister of the congregation in Dallas, TX and **Rev. Peter Morales**, minister of the congregation in Golden, CO. They met together at GA in a candidates forum which is online at <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2008/112314.shtml> Laurel and Peter have respective websites at <http://www.hallmanforuua.com/> and <http://www.moralesforuua.com/>

For the time being, I am not endorsing either candidate. There is still more I want to know about each of them and how they think they will make a difference. I encourage you to look at the candidates, look at their websites, see who is endorsing them and talk to those people about why they are endorsing their candidate. That’s what I plan on doing. Fortunately, the UUA Board decided to invite both candidates to the Board meetings leading up to the next GA. One of them will be our new President and it seems like a good idea that they come in with some personal knowledge of the work the Board is doing right now, particularly in the area of governance. I look forward to getting to know them both better.

Gini Courter, our Moderator, and **Dan Brodie**, our Financial Advisor, are running unopposed right now for their positions. It will be my pleasure to continue to work with them.

The last thing I want to leave you with is something that for me personally makes a huge difference in how I live my life: our purposes and principles. Our by-laws require that we periodically review them and it is that time. The Commission on Appraisal is doing this work now and will be reporting back to GA. Every person and every congregation is invited to participate in this process. An online survey has been set up at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=gfHQF27tzFiiJiB8eFj7Eg_3d_3d You can go to this site and let the CoA know what you think. I encourage you to do so. The Purposes and Principles are at the heart of what we are about, and come as close to a creed as a creedless church can come.

As always, I invite your comments on what we are doing, or not doing. Please feel free to contact me at tloughrey@uua.org or call me at 714 997-1973. I am open to invitations to visit your congregations.

In faith and trust that we are making a positive difference,

Tom Loughrey
UUA Trustee

<http://tomloughreyuua.com/>

Churches Around the District

Conejo Valley UU Fellowship, CA

Building Dedication - Sept 7, 2008

What a joyful celebration—from the opening DrUUmz and the choir accompanying the procession of clergy in clerical garb to a rousing final song "This Little Light..." arranged & performed by "Soulstice" - our rock band.

Greetings came from the UUA, PSWD, the UU Ministers Association, and the interfaith community, and a short message about the occasion was delivered by **Rev. Karen Stoyanoff** from Orange Coast UU Church.

Due to a fire in his Boston apartment, **Rev. Bill Sinkford** had to cancel his visit at the 11th hour, and **Rev. Terry Sweetser** took his place. In his sermon, he reminded us that UUs have always stood up for the better side of human nature—for comprehensive sex education for children, for the rights of GLTBs, for women clergy, etc. and that just last week UUs stood up outside the Republican convention in St. Paul for sex education instead of "abstinence" that is not working.

Rev. Sweetser is UUA V.P. for Stewardship and Development and Senior Advisor to **President Bill Sinkford**.

We're in "our own home" at last after a nomadic 46 years in a variety of rented spaces. CVUUF's **Rev. Betty Stapleford** praised the Site Committee for their endurance and for surmounting the endless obstacles in the building process. She also praised the many others from the congregation who contributed their time, talent and financial support. CVUUF now occupies two adjacent buildings with a landscaped patio between. The Sanctuary was bought by a membership investment group. Open to the public, it is already in use for a lecture series. It can be rented for weddings, concerts, etc. The Fellowship Hall (RE classrooms, offices, kitchen, meeting rooms, etc.) was bought by CVUUF with Capital Funds, a grant, and a mortgage. These buildings are in a business park—plenty of Sunday parking—in Newbury Park, a section of Thousand Oaks in the Conejo Valley in Ventura County. CA.

We hope to welcome many from PSWD. Come visit!

Submitted by Margaret Kirnig,
CVUUF Publicity Committee

On the next page are several photos taken at the Conejo Valley UU Fellowship Dedication



Santa Barbara, CA

New People and Facilities at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara! Much of our facility renovation will be completed in October following a \$2 million capital campaign done using UUA consultants. This summer we welcomed Parish Minister **Rev. Aaron McEmrys**, who will lead a special weekend at Camp de Benneville Pines this fall. Our new choral director **Ken Ryals** attended the special UUA conference for choral directors this summer. Our Board and the Social Justice Committee lead our opposition to CA Prop 8 and AZ Prop 2, with a congregational vote to be held Oct 12th on a public statement that will be identified as of the whole congregation.

For questions contact **Bruce Hanna** at **bphanna@cox.net**

San Luis Obispo, CA

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Luis Obispo County is embarking on a congregational Bed and Breakfast program in order to provide home hospitality for travelers and to raise funds for our operating budget. Located on the beautiful Central Coast of California, San Luis Obispo County has everything the vacationer could want—year 'round gorgeous weather, beautiful beaches from Pismo to Cambria, stunning wine country with abundant tasting opportunities of some of the best wines in the world, beautiful State parks and nature preserves, the famed Hearst Castle, many farmers' markets, a thriving and quaint downtown, great restaurants; and a beautiful Cal Poly State University campus. Whether you are scouting a university, planning a wedding, or enjoying a family vacation, make San Luis Obispo County your destination!

Accommodations are in members' homes, from the modest to the luxurious. Rates range from \$70-\$150 per night, single/double occupancy; continental, do-it-yourself, or gourmet breakfast provided. Car needed. Welcoming to all. All proceeds go to the Fellowship.

Contact **Gina Whitaker** at 805 481-0788 or **gwhitaker@ginanken.com** or . . .
Eve Jeys at 805 929-0273 or **ejeys29@gmail.com** for more information.

- Gina Whitaker

Conejo Valley UU Fellowship Building Dedication September 7,



CVUUF's Minister, Rev. Betty Stapleford



PSWD Executive Rev. Ken Brown



Rev. Terry Sweetser came from Boston



DrUUmz!





Our very busy summer is over and we're taking a few breaths—then jumping into our very busy fall. It's already getting chilly at night. Some of the flowers in Janet's garden have been touched with frost. The days are sunny and warm, so our groups will keep swimming in the pool and canoeing at the lake until the end of September. Then we'll look for the oak trees to turn and the acorns to start falling.

We've had several strong thunderstorms. We're glad for the rain, but would prefer not so much all at once. Our maintenance staff has had to do a lot of flood clean up after two of the strongest storms. The roads were washed out, the basketball court covered in mud and many of the paths deeply rutted. Luckily, the new door and sill on the Coffee House stopped the mud flow from damaging the carpets. It's amazing how quickly the water carves into our hillside and rearranges the earth.

We're hoping there are volunteers available to come to camp during the week this fall to help. We have several major building and repair projects planned, as well as the flood clean up work. James, our Maintenance Supervisor could use many willing hands to complete his list of tasks before snow falls. If you would like to help, please contact Janet in the office to make the arrangements.

Of course, we'll be holding our semi-annual Work Weekend at the end of October. We'll get a lot done to finish up projects and prepare for the winter storms. For the past several years we've been getting a good turn out for the Work Weekends. It's become a fun party at camp. We work hard but enjoy each others' company in the process.

There are boxes and boxes of de Benneville, PSWD and UU history in our office. We're in the middle of cataloging it, preparing to scan and save it digitally. Several volunteers have made a big dent in this project. **Laurel Mann, Phyllis Kaplan** and **Robin Beers** have been working this summer, but there's a lot more to do. We'd like to continue to make progress, so we're looking for some patient volunteers with a historical and archival passion who are available weekdays during the next several months.

In September, we have three school groups coming up, as well as our weekend camps. For the first time, the Channel Cluster will be joining the Conejo

Valley Fellowship for a congregational retreat including all seven congregations. Tapestry is teaming up with Orange Coast and Las Vegas will be joining Fullerton for two new congregational weekends. We'll be hosting Riverside's Board retreat and a PSWD Renaissance Module, as well as the annual Los Angeles-Valley Cluster's congregational retreat.

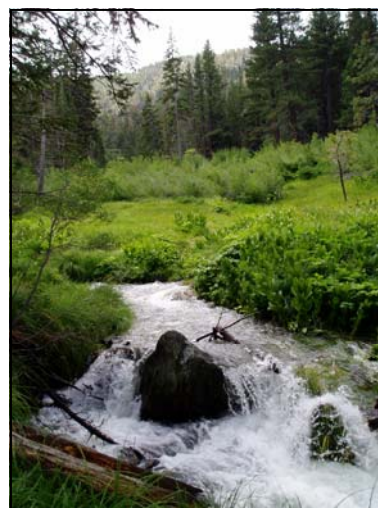
Our PSWD YoUUth camps will be holding their late fall/early winter camps. During the Jr High/Coming of Age Retreat at the beginning of December, there will be an Adult Advisor Training as well. This new program, held for the first time this summer, was well received by the participants. We expect to continue to offer it twice a year for the next several years. There is more about the program in the Fall/Winter Connection, due out by the end of September.

The camp will be hosting two new youth groups this fall. The Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance will be coming to camp in November and Vista Murietta High School's Link Crew Mentoring Program will be here in October. With our annual Music in the Mountains Folk Music Weekend and the Thanksgiving Holiday Celebration, we have a full calendar. There is only one weekend with space available for a group looking for a conference site or retreat facility—October 24 - 26, 2008.

Most of next year is filled as well. Easter Weekend is open, along with a winter weekend at the end of February. We'll also have space for a one-time special event, June 12 - 14, 2009 because the calendar has given us an extra weekend next summer. To book an event at de Benneville, contact **Janet James** in the camp office at (909) 794-2928 or by e-mail at uucamp@aol.com.

The full calendar, with event dates and contact information is on the de Benneville website at www.uucamp.org. Registration for camp sponsored events can be made by contacting Caroline at caroline@uucamp.org or the office phone.

The fall is a wonderful time to visit the mountains. We hope to see you at camp this fall.



Caroline Quintanilla
Administrative Assistant
caroline@uucamp.org

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

TASKFORCE MEETS to ENVISION PSWD ADDICTIONS and RECOVERY MINISTRY

What is it like to be actively addicted, or to be a close friend or family member of an addict or alcoholic, but never hear the issue addressed in our congregations? On May 18, 2008, four Unitarian Universalists met at the UU Church of Long Beach to envision a time when we won't have to ask that question.

At that meeting, **Rev. Beth Johnson** and **Patricia Gamza**, both from the Palomar UU Fellowship (PUUF), Peter Caldwell from the UU Church of Long Beach (UUCLB) and Julie **Sullwold Hernandez** from Pacific Unitarian Church (PUC) began the groundwork for a Pacific Southwest District-wide addictions and recovery ministry. We assessed where our individual churches stood in relation to this issue, discussed our personal experiences and work in the addictions field within and without our congregations, shared literature and resources, and determined an initial plan of action. This article shares our findings with you and invites your inquiries, comment and involvement.

As of May 18, 2008, PUUF was contemplating starting an addictions ministry, UUCLB was planning to, and indeed did, start an addictions ministry in September 2008, and PUC had, and still has, an active ministry since October 2005. (See UU World, Fall 2008, More Congregations Create Addiction Ministries, p. 16.)

We agreed that our underlying covenant in doing this most important work at the district level was our agreement that there is no one way in which it must be done. This, we felt, was in keeping with Unitarian Universalist traditions and principles. We also

acknowledged that while human understanding and support is crucial for anyone struggling with a difficult issue, that need is magnified in the still-stigmatized area of addiction where addicts and alcoholics, and those surrounding them, are often isolated and immobilized by guilt or shame. Thus, understanding and support, i.e., the respect for and promotion of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, must be the bedrock of any successful addictions and recovery ministry.

Our first organized endeavor will be to hold a District Conference in 2009 on addictions and recovery. It should be noted that "addiction" is not limited to substances; rather, it is defined broadly to include behaviors, or "process addictions," such as gambling, sex, love, food, overwork and the like. Other ideas include setting up a cluster website for geographically close congregations to share ideas, support and resources. Down the road, we hope to be able to provide addictions services as well as on-site workshops and assessments for PSWD congregations who are exploring the creation of an addictions ministry for their church.

This is the beginning of an exciting new endeavor for PSWD. As you can see, we have high hopes and aspirations, and look forward to hearing from you, so please contact any one of us for further information or comment.

Rev. Beth Johnson (PUUF)
Patricia Gamza (PUUF)
Peter Caldwell (UUCLB)
Julie Sullwold Hernandez (PUC)

*Sierra view:
Crabtree Creek*



Report from California UU Community Ministries to Spanish-Speaking Peoples

At the inspiration of **Maggie** and **Ernie Pipes** (Minister Emeritus at Santa Monica UU Church) and at the invitation of **Virginia Nesmith**, Executive Director of National Farm Workers Ministry, I attended a recent NFWM Board meeting and also, at NFWM invitation, I attended several days of the United Farm Workers quadrennial convention in Fresno, California, where I met and spoke with the remarkable **Dolores Huerta**. **Bobby Kennedy, Jr.** made a major address, as did **Hillary Clinton**.

On my way to Fresno, I stopped at UFW Headquarters, called Forty Acres, in Delano, and visited with **Delila**, a young Guatemalteca who gave me a tour. She showed me sobering photos of **Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez**, a 17 year old farm worker from Mexico who died while several months pregnant in May 2008 when she was working in wine grape fields for a labor contractor engaged by Trader Joe's. Maria was dressed as a bride for her burial.

http://www.californiaprogessreport.com/2008/06/in_memory_of_ma.html

On my return journey to Ventura County, I drove to Keene, in the Tehachapi Mountains, to visit the Cesar Chavez Center at La Paz. The modest gravesite is in a beautiful mountain glen, where the only distraction is from railroad trains passing perilously close to the memorial. It's a somehow fitting salute to the quiet man who shook the world with his stand for decent treatment of people whose rights have been for the most part severely ignored. His voice remains relevant even more so now, in this time of peril for immigrant labor in our midst.

Much of my time these days is spent supporting the family of **Liliana**, the young wife and mother living in sanctuary at United Church of Christ in Simi Valley. For most of the past year, I have been involved in the New Sanctuary Movement, tutoring Liliana in ESL, taking the two older children (6 and 8) to their various appointments and to the local public library.

Another way of lifting up these issues is addressing the Ventura County Board of Supervisors with retired **UU Rev. Audrey Vincent** on behalf of farm worker housing. Affordable housing/farmworker housing is of major concern here in Ventura County, with far fewer units available than is mandated in California law. Both Audrey and I and others in the interfaith community speak up loudly and often at every opportunity on these issues.

For those who are interested, these are excellent resources:

National Farm Worker Ministry www.nfwm.org
United Farm Worker www.ufw.org
and <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=94365290>, where you can find the NPR interview with Liliana.

And please come to our ENCUESTRO on Saturday, October 18 at Throop Church!

In the spirit of our Unitarian Universalist First Principle—affirming the dignity and worth of every human being,

Theadora Davitt-Cornyn,
Conejo Valley UU Fellowship
in Newbury Park, California



24th Annual UUSC Encuentro Saturday, October 18, 2008

"Immigration and U.S. Policy in Latin America"
is the theme of the
Encuentro, which will be held at
Throop Church,
300 S. Los Robles, Pasadena

Speakers include
Prof. Wayne Cornelius of UC San Diego,
Blase Bonpane of Office of the Americas,
Raul Hinojosa-Ojeda of UCLA,
and
Paula Cruz Takash
of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, L.A.

The cost is \$20.00 for pre-registration,
\$25.00 at the door
Students admitted free with I.D.

Registration form and directions are at
<http://snipurl.com/enc24>

Ted Shapin



PSWD DISTRICT CALENDAR

Send additions/changes to PSWD@aol.com

SEPTEMBER

29-OCT 1 PSWD UUMA Retreat, Mary & Joseph
Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

14-16 Elementary Winter Camp,
de Benneville Pines, CA

OCTOBER 2008

3-5 Our Whole Lives---Elementary level, Pacific
Unitarian Church, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

10-12 Our Whole Lives—Jr./Sr. High level, Monte
Vista UU Congregation, Montclair, CA

31-NOV 2 Teacher Training Renaissance Module,
Camp de Benneville Pines, CA

MARCH 2009

6-7 Worship for All Ages Renaissance Module,
Mary & Joseph Retreat Center, Rancho Palos
Verdes, CA

6-7 Leadership School, Mary & Joseph Retreat Center,
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

DECEMBER 2008

5-7 Coming of Age retreat/Jr High Winter
Camp, de Benneville Pines, CA

27-JAN 1 Sr. High Winter Camp,
de Benneville Pines, CA

MAY 2009

1-3 District Assembly, Mesa, AZ

JUNE 2009

24-28 General Assembly, Salt Lake City, UT

FEBRUARY 2009

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UUA Pacific Southwest District
The PSWD NetwUUrK
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Oxnard, CA 93036-2711

Return Service Requested