

SeaLight

Volume 9, Issue 12

December, 2009

News and Information for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laguna Beach

429 Cypress Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 (949) 497-4568

www.uulagunabeach.org

Sunday Morning Services Begin at 10:30 am

From Your President

November saw the end of the 2010 pledge drive and a very successful pledge dinner on November 14th catered by La Costco. If you somehow forgot to send Cal Hulihan your pledge card, please follow up this month. Actual pledges will be reflected in the 2010 budget presented at the annual Fellowship meeting scheduled for January 17, 2010.

The Love Makes a Family Exhibit, portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people and their families, a touring photo-text display created by the award-winning Family Diversity Projects of Amherst, Massachusetts is scheduled to be featured at the UU Fellowship from December 1 to 31, 2009. On Saturday December 5, there will be an opening night reception co-hosted by us and the Neighborhood Congregational Church. The wider Orange County community is invited to come learn more about the exhibit and enjoy music and refreshments from 5-7 p.m.

I look forward to a joyous and festive holiday season and the fellowship of all our members and friends. I wish the same to you.

Namaste,
Terry

Yesterday Create Tomorrows

On December 10, 1952, Caroline Veatch signed the legal instrument that granted half of the royalties of the North European Oil Corporation to the North Shore Unitarian Society (now known as Shelter Rock). Upon her death, Shelter Rock received the full royalties. Successor arrangements have made this bequest a major source of funding for the Unitarian Universalist Association.



Changes to the SeaLight

You certainly noticed that your SeaLight came in an envelope this month (due to new post office requirements); you will likely see other changes as well. The Editorial Team has made some changes in an effort to simplify the editing and formatting process. If you are interested in being involved with the creation or production of the SeaLight in any way, please contact Barbara Williams-Pemberton.

Happening in December

First Friday Laguna Woods UU Discussion

Date: December 4, Noon

Topic: Celebrations - Everyone is invited to attend and participate. Bring your lunch; a light dessert and liquid refreshments are furnished as added incentive!

Where: Riva & Mark's home - 2007-B Via Mariposa West. Directions: El Toro Rd to gate 5. Enter and drive 1/2 a block then turn left. Ride 1/2 a block and turn left on cul-de-sac #204. Park anywhere it says visitor, or on the street.

Walk toward El Toro. Our manor is tucked in the corner near gate 5. If you get lost or need gate access call 949-830-5294.

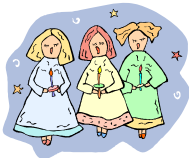


Family Diversity Event: "Love Makes a Family" Exhibit Opening Reception – Saturday, December 5, 5-7pm

For the month of December, UUFLB will host Love Makes a Family. This is a museum-quality traveling exhibit, including photographs and interviews with families that have lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) members. Through first-person accounts and positive images, this exhibit seeks to challenge and change damaging myths and stereotypes about LGBT people and their families. At the most basic level, **Love Makes A Family** combats homophobia by breaking silence and making the invisible visible. The reception will be co-hosted by Laguna's Neighborhood Congregational Church and is open to the entire Laguna Beach Community. Light hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served.

Christmas Tree Decorating

Immediately following the service on Sunday December 6, from 12:00-1:00pm, grab your coffee and stick around with the kids to help us decorate the UUFLB Christmas Tree. There are plenty of decorations for the tree and the sanctuary for everyone to participate.



Shiel & Kimberly's Holiday Sing-a-Long Auction Item Kick off the holiday season as you sing your way into the holiday spirit.

Sunday, December 13, 7:30pm, at the Fellowship. 949-499-3689.

14 openings - \$10

Newcomers Circle – Sunday, December 20, immediately following the service from 12:00-12:30 – come meet with our minister, Rev. Kent Doss, and learn more about the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laguna Beach. We will discuss ways to get involved and what it means to make UUFLB your church home. If this date is not convenient, **there will be another Newcomers Circle on January 3.**

Full Color SeaLight Electronically!

If you are ready to receive the SeaLight and the photographs inside in full color via email, just contact our Office Administrator, Jane, at office@lagunabeach.org and she will put you on the Green List. We can send you a sample via internet and then you decide. Please let Jane know what you would like to do. Thank you!



Sunday Services



The UUFLB Choir meets every Sunday at 9:30am and all are welcome.

December 6 Love Makes a Family

Families come in all different shapes and sizes. They look different and sound different, but one thing makes them all the same—love. “Love Makes a Family” is the name of the photography that is on display at UUFLB throughout this month. This worship service will reflect on some of these photographs and what our UU principles have to tell us about family.

Reverend Kent Doss

December 13 Peace and Justice, Truth and Reconciliation

This Sunday we will discuss the delicate balance between peace and justice in our world. Through the lens of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa, we'll talk about what it means to create justice, do the difficult work of forgiving, and to take meaningful steps toward a peaceful world. After the service, the Social Action Committee will host a conversation about the UUA's Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking, so that we can contribute our thoughts as a congregation to this important national effort.

Reverend Kent Doss

December 20 The Spirit of Christmas - Intergenerational Worship Service

This Sunday we will all worship together as we celebrate the spirit of Christmas and other winter holidays from around the world. Come join in the fun with lots of music and movement for a worship service that will move your body and your soul.

Reverend Kent Doss

Thursday, December 24, 5:30pm An Evening of Hope

On Christmas Eve we come together to celebrate the eternal spirit of hope. In this darkest time of year, one special night is pregnant with possibility and hope for the future. During this candlelight service, we will share in the common hope for peace, and the spirit that burns in every human heart.

Reverend Kent Doss



December 27 Jazz and Spirituality Concert

With Special Guests Dr. Greg Kehl Moore and Tanya Moore

The relationship between jazz music and the spiritual realm is explored with an emphasis on the role of spirituality and religion in the history of jazz. Greg, a saxophonist, and his wife, vocalist Tanya Moore, will perform "Corcovado" by Antonio Carlos Jobim, "Heaven" by Duke Ellington, and "Naima" John Coltrane. Come and take part in this unique and special event.

Sunday Service Leader, Daga Krackowizer

January 3 A Fresh Start

This Sunday we celebrate new beginnings, a clean slate. Sometimes nothing is more refreshing than the ability to just start over again. You may have more opportunities for a 'do over' than you think.

Reverend Kent Doss

Message From Your Minister

Ah, the holidays. Time for cheer and family gatherings. Time for good food and rooms full of friends. Time for having more than you ever wanted... Wait a minute. Whose holiday season actually looks like that? The truth is holidays can be very, very hard for some of us. A whole range of different challenges make this season more difficult than necessary. Being estranged from families or the death of a loved one only seems to hurt more acutely. The increased financial burden of this time of year, especially in this economy can feel overwhelming. And the combination of increased stress and the overabundance of junk food and alcohol at Christmas parties makes maintaining our health next to impossible.

We will be celebrating this year a lot in church, but I want to be clear that this is not a time of perfection. For some people it's a time for heartache. It's worth noting, that Christmas, theologically speaking, was never about perfection anyway. It was and still is about a time of hope. Hope, at least in my experience, is a far cry from perfection. The birth of Jesus was not the perfect end to the theological package. It was a new hope for a saving message, not an end, but a beginning to the story.

More and more for me, this time of year is not about Christmas at all, but about the winter solstice. I've made it a ritual to watch the sun set on that shortest day of the year, knowing that the next day, there will be more sunlight. On that darkest day of the year, it feels amazing to know that soon the days will grow longer until we are warm again.

So that's my wish for all of you this holiday season. I don't care if your turkey comes out perfect, or if you get gifts that are perfect. I wish for you a simple and sincere moment of hope for a brighter tomorrow.

With Love,
Kent



Circle of Light


We joyfully congratulate Heather, John, Corinne and Ian Mutz as they welcome Jasper and Charlie into their family.

Becky Chamberlain, Jean Raun's daughter, needs our loving, healing thoughts and support as she deals with cancer. Her family needs them too.

Patricia Blanchard still struggles with health issues so she still needs warm thoughts. She could also use a phone call or two.

Fellowship News

Coffee Talk Tuesdays 4:30-6:30p.m.at the Koffee Klatch, 1440 South

 Coast Highway in Laguna Beach. Hang out with Rev. Kent Doss and whoever else shows to get a bite to eat and chat. All are welcome. This is a great chance for new folks to meet UUFLB members in a casual setting.

Book Discussion at Coffee Talk

Tuesday December 15, Manhood for Amateurs. This is the first sustained work of personal writing from Michael Chabon. In these insightful, provocative, slyly interlinked essays, one of our most brilliant and humane writers presents his autobiography and his vision of life in the way so many of us experience our own lives: as a series of reflections, regrets, and reexaminations, each sparked by an encounter, in the present, that holds some legacy of the past. January's book is Drift by Victoria Patterson.



Nominating Committee Request

Our three Board Officers will need to be replaced next year. Please contact Shiela Brown, 949-499-3689, if you have ideas for who would make a good President, Vice President of Finance and Treasurer of UUFLB.

Roommate wanted in Leisure World A long time UU and delightful woman is looking for a roommate to share her condo in Leisure World. There is one bedroom available now for inexpensive rent, along with full house privileges. Some light help around the help would be appreciated. If interested, please call the UUFLB Office at 949-497-4568.

Auction Items

36. An Evening of Poetry – Irish Style – with Jean and Jack Paris. Irish Coffee will served along with other delectable goodies. Saturday, January 9, 2010, 7 PM
949-830-2270, **2 openings - \$20**

51. A Night of Celtic Music Presented by Steve Bloch. Includes fabulous desserts, snacks, wine and a Guinness or two. Saturday, January 23, 2010, 7 pm, 949-249-7797,
3 openings - \$15

4. Family Disco Game Night Kathy Temple hosts a game night for all ages at the Fellowship, includes dinner. Friday, April 30, 2010, 949-760-3067 **\$10**

40. Mammoth Mountain Getaway Part 2 courtesy of Bill Foster. A deluxe condo at scenic Mammoth Mountain, newly renovated and refurbished retreat for up to 3 nights, it sleeps 4 comfortably. Between June1 and November 2,
949-494-7358 **\$250**



Endowment Committee

Over the years, many UUFLB members have expressed their love for the Fellowship by including it for memorial donations or in estate planning. Such financial consideration makes UUFLB more secure. In turn, makes it easier for the Fellowship to do great things, such as to provide services in the community, to maintain the building, and to weather financial downturns, such as the one we are now experiencing. Members who have included the Fellowship in this way include: Polly Crouch, Muriel Foster, Joyce Dusenberry, Dick Clark, Fred Topik and current member Lu Wrede. We are most grateful for their consideration of the Fellowship in this way. If you are considering joining this list, please speak with Charlotte Decker for more information.

Social Action At UUFLB

Social Action Committee Meeting Sandwich Lunch, December 13

Immediately following the service there will a discussion of the UUA Statement of Conscience on Peace, to be voted on at General Assembly 2010. UUFLB will submit comments and suggestions on the wording or acceptance of it as it stands.



Adopt a Family for the Holidays

We are again sponsoring two needy local families for the “Adopt-a-Family for Christmas Program”. UUFLB will provide gifts of clothes and toys for individual family members. Please look for the small tree on the patio before and after the service. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Scholfield at 949-481-8976.

Heifer International - The Perfect Gift

Please give a contribution to the Heifer International Fund in the name of your child, relative or friend. This fund provides livestock and training to hungry people around the world, so that they can become self-reliant. Your gift will bring joy and hope to a family in need. Also, for your donation you’ll receive a colorful 9 page gift card explaining the good these gifts will do. Mark & Riva will cheerfully accept your money any Sunday from now until December 25, on the patio, under the tent.



For Our Troops

Whether you support this war or think it’s the dumbest thing we ever did as a nation, our military are doing all they are asked to do and they do it out of a desire to protect our country. Especially now, after the tragedy in Fort Hood, they need to know their country supports them.

If you want to support our troops in a tangible way, here's how: You can go to www.USO.org; or www.ourmilitary.mil/. You can do some good closer to home to help junior enlisted service members and their families by going to www.womansday.com/asymca to donate by credit card. Not on line? Call 800-597-1260 (6 am - 3 pm, PST). The USO and the ASYMCA have been there, helping the men and women in the military and their families since the Second World War. The YMCA has been there since World War One! It’s hard to be far away from home during the holidays. Let’s help where we can.

The Voyage-Religious Education Newpage

Wendi Bender, RE Coordinator



Nursery/Explorers (Infants through Kindergarten)

UU based care giving and values exploration in the Family Room or adjacent Library. Our little Explorers will enjoy the stories of Dr. Seuss and apply the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism to their everyday lives. These stories are fun and engaging. But even more important, they are based on life situations and experiences and give us a way to reflect, to talk about things that are part of our lives.

Innovators (grades K - 4th)

Seekers (grades 5th - 6th)

Youth (grades 7th and up)

- 12/6 Confucianism: *Meet Wen*
- 12/13 Taoism: *Meet Mei*
- 12/20 Intergenerational Worship - *Children's Holiday Choir*
- 12/27 Wishing Well Sunday/Social & Earth Justice



The UU Children are really enjoying our new curriculum *A World of New Friends: An Introduction to World Religions*. We are exploring the eight largest world religions; Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Traditional Chinese religions (Confucianism, Taoism), Earth-centered religions, Sikhism, and Judaism. This new program allows our Youth (7th grade and up) to help teach our Innovators and Seekers (K-6). This multi-aged style of learning allows the children to have movement while learning since they are traveling between learning centers during the lessons. It is fun and educational at the same time ... Don't let your children miss Sunday at UUFLB!

In November the RE Children met Sumalee from Thailand and Duc from Vietnam, who are Buddhists. In December we will get to meet Wen from China, where they practice Confucianism and Mei, also from China, and her family is Buddhist and Taoist. It is not unusual for Chinese families to combine their religions. We will learn and study about the many Chinese holidays as well as observe a tea ceremony! There is a lot to discover about world religions and we are just touching the surface. Come and join the fun!

At our Intergenerational Worship with Kent upstairs on Sunday 12/20 we would like to invite the children to sing some traditional holiday songs in front of the congregation! We will be practicing downstairs each Sunday to get ready for our opportunity to entertain the Fellowship. The children are encouraged to dress in Holiday Fun attire! Wear a Santa Hat, bring some Jingle Bells, put on your best shoes and join the fun singing with each other! Hope you can join us! It will be a lot of fun with our UU family ...

See you on Sunday!

Wendi

Your Connection With the Wider UU World

Barbara Williams-Pemberton, Denominational Representative



What Does That Acronym Mean?

LRY (Liberal Religious Youth): This name identified the continental affiliate organization which served UU youth up until 1982 when it was dissolved and Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) was created.

DE (District Executive): A staff person co-employed by a UUA district and the UUA to support that district's growth and vitality, mentor congregations, and oversee the administration of district business.

DRE (Director of Religious Education): An individual employed by a local congregation to run its religious education program.

December at Camp De Benneville Pines

4-6 PSWD Jr. High Fall Camp & Coming of Age Retreat

PSWD Adult Advisor Training

For info, contact 909-794-2928 or uucamp@aol.com

7-25 Camp available for lease

26-1/1 PSWD/YRUU Sr. High Winter Camp

For info, contact 909-794-2928 or uucamp@aol.com



Coffee, Conversation and Caring

"I want to send my thanks to all of the congregations that purchase our coffee. Thanks to you, we have a seed of hope in our lives."

Jose Luis Castillo Vasquez, Coffee Farmer, El Salvador

Fair Trade matters!

Around the world, coffee and fellowship come together where we share community. A warm pot of coffee is often the centerpiece of fellowship hour and other gatherings. As one of the most heavily traded commodities in the world, coffee is a direct link between our community and farming communities in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Yet the small farmers who grow our coffee often struggle just to make a simple living. Most live in rural communities in some of the poorest countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Isolated from markets, they are forced to accept low prices. Without affordable credit, they become trapped in a cycle of debt. By paying a fair price, working with democratic cooperatives, offering affordable credit and supporting sustainable agriculture, Equal Exchange helps farmers to build better lives for themselves and their families.

Congregations like ours buy their coffee from Equal Exchange and help pull the small farmers out of their poverty. We have been using Equal Exchange coffee for years. It makes that Sunday morning cup of joe taste even better to know that somewhere in Central America, a farmer and his family are living a little better because of us.

Continued page 9

Fair Trade Matters! (continued)

You may want to look for the Fair Trade label when you buy your own chocolate and coffee. It's an easy way to extend your own caring to the farmers. Equal Exchange works in partnership with faith-based relief, development and human rights organizations to help communities of faith learn about and promote Fair Trade. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has been one of those partners for many years.

It is Time to Welcome Guests To Our Table

For more than thirty years the Guest at Your Table tradition has helped UUs build lasting connections to UU principles and support the movement for human rights. It is a simple and meaningful way to incorporate "faith in action" into your life. Guest at Your Table is a program run by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee which is separate from the UU Association, and is not funded by them. It is funded by you and other Unitarian Universalists who want to support our principles by healing the most vulnerable individuals here in our nation and around the world. The Service Committee acts as our "missionary barrel."

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, our children will pass out boxes and envelopes. During the next few weeks, you may keep a colorful Guest at Your Table box — with photographs of special guests from around the world — in a prominent place in your home, like the dining room table. During Guest at Your Table, you or your family may make daily contributions to your Guest at Your Table box, as if sharing with your special guests. On the second Sunday in January, our children will collect those boxes, or the envelopes provided for donations.

How might your money be used?

- A gift of \$40 could be used to buy materials for a woman in Northern Uganda to make her own groundnut sheller. A groundnut sheller helps to reduce women's workload and generate needed income for families, as residents return home after more than 20 years of war.
- A gift of \$65 pays for a small business loan for a displaced woman in Kenya. Kakamega Grassroots Initiative organizes women displaced by the 2008 electoral violence into groups of 20 and provides them with training and small business loans. There is a very high rate of repayment and the first group of recipients is now on their second loan.
- A contribution of \$200 buys a bicycle ambulance (a stretcher pulled by a bicycle) for a resettled village several miles from a health center in Northern Uganda.
- Your support in the amount of \$600 repairs a home in Gaza, under a home repair program run by youth groups.
- Your support in the amount of \$750 allows the Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center to provide a "Know Your Rights" training workshop for 25 immigrant women who work in poultry-processing plants.

During the Holiday season we think of others. Guest at Your Table gives us the opportunity to show we care.

Fellowship Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 8:30 am-1:30 pm
 Phone: 949-497-4568 Email: office@uulagunabeach.org

**Fellowship**

Minister:	Reverend Kent Doss	949-310-9385
Office Administrator:	Jane Barnett	949-497-4568
Lay Pastoral Care Coordinator:	Barbara W-Pemberton	jpemberton@earthlink.net
Religious Education (RE) Coordinator:	Wendi Bender	949-338-8003

Board of Trustees: Officers and Board Members at Large

President:	Terry Heiney	949-497-7302
VP Finance:	Cal Hullihen	949-364-1943
Treasurer:	Pat Flynn	818-237-7621
Members At Large:	Pam Flodman	949-654-2526
	Judy Shepard	949-464-1275
	Candy Strock	949-497-2003
	Kathy Temple	949-760-3067
	Amy Walzer	949-499-1245

Committee on Shared Ministry

Ken Schuelke 949-661-8878, Chair, Oakley Frost 949-494-0193, Daga Krackowizer 949-715-3879, Diane Morris 949-497-2249 and Amy Lemp, 949-216-9440.

Leadership

Adult Activities	Oakley Frost	949-494-0193
Aesthetics Co-Chairs	Barbara W-Pemberton	jpemberton@earthlink.net
	Kathy Temple	949-760-306
Auction	Laura McArdell	949-642-4126
Building & Grounds	To be selected	949-497-4568
Circle Suppers	Jean Paris	949-830-2270
Communication	Terry Heiney	949-497-7302
Denominational Rep.	Barbara W-Pemberton	jpemberton@earthlink.net
Endowment	Charlotte Decker	949-587-0772
Finance VP, Pledging/Fund Raising	Cal Hullihen	949-364-1943
Lay Pastoral Care	Barbara W-Pemberton	jpemberton@earthlink.net
Membership Coordinating	Janet Fischman	949-916-2389
Music	Carole Cole	949-497-4568
Personnel	Lorraine Reafsnyder	949-494-4219
Publicity	Gary McArdell	949-642-4126
Religious Education (RE)	Wendi Bender	949-338-8003
Shared Ministry	Ken Schuelke	949-661-8878
Social Action Co-Chairs	Jean Raun	949-494-2247
	Helen Scholfield	949-481-8976
Support Group	Dr. Aileen Goodson	949-452-0236
Webmaster	Amy Lemp	949-454-8864
Worship	Amy Walzer	949-497-4568

~Reminder: Deadline for article submission is 12noon on the 15th day of the months.
 Send articles to: office@uulagunabeach.org