

SeaLight

Volume 10, Issue 3

March 2010

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

It has been just over a month that I have been “on the job” as your President. Needless to say, it has been a learning experience.

First and foremost, I am enjoying the process and the job. I have even started to wear my name tag (a big step for me.....as I am not generally a “name tag” person.) I like what we are doing together as a Fellowship and I like what we are doing in our community through our Social Action committee. I have attended more meetings in the past month than I have frequented in the last several years...and I am enjoying myself. We have a lot of very talented, capable and passionate people within our Fellowship. Basically there are a lot of very dedicated people doing a whole bunch of work. And for that I am very grateful.

My goals and the Board's goals will crystallize more in the next coming months but I am sticking with our immediate plan of increasing membership, maintaining our financial strength and getting more involved in our community and in our country. There is a lot that can be done and there are no better people to do it than us UUs.

Thank you again for this privilege.

Jeff

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 email you a sample and then you decide.

Please let Jane know what you would like to do.

Thank you!



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District Assembly News

This year, District Assembly (DA) is April 23 and 24, at the beautiful Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. The title and theme is Diversity: Between Aspiration and Reality. It will essentially be one day. The Opening Celebration will be on Friday, as usual, but all business will be done on Saturday. The Keynote Speaker on Saturday will be the noted author Reverend Mark Morrison Reed. There will be many workshops as well as special programs for children and youth and a Bridging Ceremony for high school seniors. More information will be available with registration forms and a brochure at www.pswduua.org. DA is like a mini General Assembly and it's a good way to get your feet wet in the business of Unitarian Universalism.



Yesterdays Create Tomorrows...

March 2, 1401, saw the English Parliament pass the De Haeretico Comburdendo ("On the Burning of Heretics") which condemned all heretics to death at the stake. It was not abolished until 1677. Even after the Law was struck down, Unitarian views or worship were still criminal offenses, though not often penalized.

On March 4, 1864, our California hero, Thomas Starr King, died of diphtheria at the age of 39. He was a Universalist and Unitarian minister and missionary. When he died, President Lincoln ordered guns to be fired from U.S. forts in recognition of his service to the country. Think how much he might have done had there been a diphtheria vaccine when he was a child.

UUA Legislative Objectives

Social Action Co-Chair, Jean Raun

The Legislative Objectives prioritized by the UUA for this next year can be found on the web page of www.uua.org/socialjustice. These include immigration reform, increasing the minimum wage, and eliminating the federal sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine. Environmental Justice Issues include mandating a reduction of US carbon gas emissions, while relieving the burden of increased energy costs for low-income households, and the creation of green jobs. Gender and Sexual Justice issues include extending fair employment practices to all, without exclusions based on gender orientation; full and equal access to civil marriage for same-sex couples; ending don't ask, don't tell; funding of comprehensive, evidence-based sexuality education; and increasing access to abortion and contraception. Do you care about any of those issues? Go to the website, check the action interest, and there will be suggestions about how to register your support.

Can you make a difference? Yes! Legislators have a person who answers the phone in their offices. They keep a record of support or opposition on issues. Keep those phone calls going if you really care about influencing their vote. You can be assured that those who disagree with you are strongly registering their preferences. A hand written letter is most effective, but there is a problem with letters going to the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.. Because of the anthrax scare, those letters are greatly delayed. If you have the ability to do so, handwrite the letter and fax it to Washington. The original copy can be mailed to the Senators' or Representatives' regional offices. Petitions are easy, and while those signatures don't carry as much weight as a phone call or a letter, they still indicate public support for or opposition to an issue. **This is a democracy. Make your voice heard!**

Sunday Services



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

March 7 Making the List

You can't have it all; sometimes you have to choose. This Sunday we will talk about making the hard choices about what comes first. What is the most important piece of our lives? Once we know that, the rest can be left to fall into place.

Reverend Kent Doss

March 14 Wading in the Water, Guest Minister Summer Dadah

What is so significant about water? Why should we even care about it? Join Summer Albayati-Dadah as she explores our faith, our beliefs, our experiences, and the stories of those that differ from ours. Come and learn why water is about justice and why we need to care about it -- now.

Sunday Service Leader: Dele Ogunseitan

March 21 A Holy Rhythm, Guest Minister Reverend Laurel Liefert

This worship service will explore the role that doubt and despair play in deepening and challenging our faith. Laruel Liefert comes to us from the First Unitarian Church of Oakland where she coordinates the congregation's pastoral care program.

Sunday Service Leader: Glenna Matthews

March 28 Sharing the Wealth

With unprecedented national debt and staggering unemployment rates, still our nation sits on incredible wealth. This Sunday we focus on economic justice and ask some uncomfortable questions about the "haves", the "have-nots" and the whys of our economy. We will also talk about what it might look like for all people to have access to a living wage.

Reverend Kent Doss

April 4 Wild Flowers and Roses

Come celebrate the beloved Unitarian Universalist ritual of flower communion. This Easter Sunday we celebrate the joy of spring and the power and beauty of diverse community. Please bring a single flower with you to church. We will each receive another flower from someone else's garden to take home at the end of our worship service.

Reverend Kent Doss



Message From Your Minister

Many of you are aware that UUFLB was selected to participate in a program to enhance our technology capabilities. With five other UU congregations in our district, we are learning to enhance our church life through Ministering with Technology. The goal of the program is to effectively utilize technology to enhance the ministry provided by our congregation.

There is a great team working on this project. Nicolas and Peter Walzer and Jim Pemberton are familiar with the church's sound system for Sunday Services. Barbara Williams Pemberton is keenly aware of the office administrative needs of the Fellowship. Jim Rue is active in social networking websites and new media. Amy Lemp is our webmaster and Rick Loveland designed the latest version of the website. Cal Hullihen is a general technology guru and is keeping an eye on our membership functions of reaching out to new people, and better serving those who can't make it to church. We have a wonderful team assembled to help UUFLB move into the future as we learn to more effectively Minister with Technology.

We are still in the early stages of this effort. So far we have had a conference call with a consultant from the district, and five of us attended an all-day seminar at Chalice UU Fellowship in Escondido. Our next steps are clarifying what our priorities are around improved technology and creating a plan to make them happen.

So far the priorities that have been identified are:

1. Better microphones for our choir and vocal performances
2. Enhancing our website to include audio recordings of sermons, a place for members and friends to donate money online, and a password-protected members-only section for documents such as our directory, bylaws and policies, and other helpful information
3. An alternative location to project video images that does not occupy the stage, with a long-term goal of a permanently installed video system that would not take up seats and could be controlled from the sound booth
4. Enhanced software for our office recordkeeping.

This is a tentative, but seriously thought out, list of priorities. If you have other ideas for technology that you think would really enhance our ministry, please contact someone on the team.

This is an exciting step into the future, and an opportunity for UUFLB to be both relevant and rooted. I understand that some of what I just described may not sound essential. You may not even know what it is. New technology can be a scary thing if we don't feel like we are keeping up. I assure you that our first priority is to move in a direction that helps to include all of our community, not to exclude anyone. If you have concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. I would be happy to talk with you, and hear how our community might stay in better touch with you through the technology that you are comfortable with.

Sincerely,



Fellowship News

Sharing (Y)our Faith – Wednesdays, March 24 & 31

Come learn tools to help you share your faith with other people. This adult religious education class will help you explore why Unitarian Universalism is special to you, and ways that you can share that excitement with others. Please email Kent at minister@uulagunabeach.org or call 949-310-9385 to save a space in the class. Childcare is available upon request.

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 March 23 In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby Mark Morrison-Reed, the author of this great book, will be the keynote speaker at the Pacific Southwest District Assembly, April 23-24. In this frank, personal account of growing up black during the era of the civil rights movement, Morrison-Reed wrestles with racism, the death of Martin Luther King, black radicalism, his interracial family, and his experience as one of the first black Unitarian Universalist ministers. In April we will read Mind Sight: The New Science of Personal Transformation by Daniel Siegel.

First Friday UU Discussion Group, March 5 at 12 noon

Topic: The Most Unforgettable Meal I Ever Had (Where, When, With Whom and Kinds of Food). Liz Beckman, hostess, lives at 4022-O Calle Sonora Este, Laguna Woods. Her phone number is 949-768-5442. Call for gate entry and directions. Everyone is welcome. Please bring your lunch; Liz will provide liquid refreshments & a light dessert.

Auction Night 2010 is May 22! Save the date for the UUFLB social event and services auction. This evening is great fun and an opportunity to buy a seat at all sorts of events that take place throughout the year.

Service Auctioneer Twenty-Ten Announcement

A new year. A new decade. A new and exciting auctioneer for the 2010 services auction. Time to pass the baton, or whatever gets passed when the moment arrives to embrace fresh and extraordinary talent. **Laura McArdell** has graciously agreed to serve as UUFLB auctioneer and I know the Fellowship will bring to her gavel the same enthusiasm and fun it has been my privilege to enjoy for so many years. Laura brings new energy and juice to the proceedings and I look forward to being a member of her bidding audience. See you at the auction! Linda Frost



Open 2009 Auction Item

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**

Social Action News

Jean Raun and Riva Morton-Dimond, Co-Chairs

The UUFLB Board of Trustees is making our Fellowship's participation in social justice issues a priority. They are generous in their financial support, and have dedicated a recent contribution from a former member to be used for food purchased for our twice monthly commitment to provide a hot meal for 60 persons to be served at the Laguna Beach Shelter. Thank you if you have cooked, served, or otherwise contributed to this effort. Riva and Mark Dimond have a team which has taken the responsibility for providing for the third Thursday effort. First Thursday responsibilities have been headed by Wendi Bender, Glenna Matthews, Dante Noto, and our good friend of the Fellowship, Linda Brown.

Contributing to the effort to provide funds are the loyal members of the Social Action Committee who prepares food for our Sandwich Sunday Lunches. Helen Scholfield heads this effort, and can count on Alice Hefferlin, Riva Morton, Norma Young, Jean Paris and others to prepare delicious salads to serve.

Homeless Lunch Program Extinct

Riva Morton Dimond

Our lunch program for the homeless has ended. Mission Hospital in South Laguna is now providing lunches. A special thanks to all our volunteers: Loraine Barr, Wendi Bender and the Religious Education bag decorators, Oakley Frost, Marta Hullihen, Susie Millette, Cindi Padayao, and daughters, Annie and Sally, Helen Scholfield, Colleen Schuelke and children, Patty and Kenny, and June Snyder and grandsons. Also, our program was supported by generous donations from all our UU friends and members. Another thank you to everyone involved.



UUs Standing for Peace, Saturday, March 20: Washington DC and Laguna Beach

On the seventh anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq, hundreds of thousands of people will gather to make their voices heard for peace. Members of UUFLB Social Action Committee will head to Washington DC to march at the capital, while other participate in local rallies. Please contact Diane Morris (dnjmorris@cox.net) for more information.

Supporting Our Military

The USO has been helping our military men and women for a long time. Everyone knows that. But you may not know what some of the programs are, where your money goes. From time to time, I'll tell about the programs that are available for our military and their families.



The USO has a program called United Through Reading. Service members go to a USO Center and are videoed reading books aloud; the DVD and the book are then sent to their kids back home. The kids listen to them over and over, gaining reassurance that Mom or Dad is ok.

Do you know someone about to be deployed? Tell him or her about the USO and direct him or her to www.uso.org for more information.

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) and Seekers (grades 5th - 6th)
Youth (grades 7th and up)**

- 3/7 Principle I: Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person
- 3/14 Principle II: Justice, Equity and Compassion
- 3/21 Principle III: Acceptance of Others and Encouragement to Spiritual Growth
- 3/28 Wishing Well Sunday/Social & Earth Justice

We are beginning a New Curriculum *Carry the Flame*; a Self-Discovery and Religious Identity Program for UU Youth. Each section in *Carry the Flame* offers activities that relate to one of the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This curriculum is designed to expand each child's level of self-awareness, spirituality, and religious identity. It is fun and educational at the same time. We will divide the children into two groups, Innovators / Seekers and Youth. Try not to let your children miss Sunday at UUFLB!



In February we completed our curriculum on World Religions. We explored Judaism and Paganism. It has been fun learning the tenets, or customs, of the featured religions and their impact on our own UU faith, as well as our lives. We celebrated Valentine's Day by making paper hearts downstairs and greeting the congregation as they exited the service. Everyone seemed to enjoy the young children being involved with adults. There were a lot of happy faces!

Please remember, the last Sunday of the month is our children's Wishing Well Service downstairs. We collect donations for the those less fortunate and focus on Social & Earth Justice.

Our Family Fun Night was a lot of fun! We played group games, Wii Sports, and shared an Italian meal together with our friends and family. We hope you can come next time if you missed it!

See You On Sunday! Wendi

Your Connection With the Wider UU World

Barbara Williams-Pemberton, Denominational Representative



Chalice Lighter News
The Chalice Lighters Program of the Pacific Southwest District exists to help fund the growth of PSWD member Congregations. It is funded by calls to the Chalice Lighters at intervals during the church year. The request is for \$20, but the committee will accept more if you wish. You can now make your Lighters contribution online, either by credit card or by electronic funds transfer, as well as by check.

In order to request a Chalice Lighter Grant, a congregation must have at least 20% of the congregation members as Chalice Lighters. If you want to join and help UUs grow, see Barbara Williams-Pemberton or grab one of the brochures in the pamphlet rack. The first call was for First UU Church of San Diego. The Chalice Lighter Committee presented a check for \$16,000 to help with the costs of having a second site for services. Many of their congregants live in the southern part of San Diego County, on the other side of a lot of traffic.

The current call is for the Unitarian Universalist of Santa Clarita Valley so they can find a full-time, multi-use space of their own. At present, they rent space in the Santa Clarita Valley Senior Center. It's available only for four hours on Sunday. Their meetings have to be crammed into those four hours or meet off-site – in living rooms or around kitchen tables. The minister holds “office hours” at the local Starbucks!

What Does That Acronym Mean?

CG I/II/III (Common Ground I/II/III): Common Ground I and II were large representative gatherings of youth and adults held in the early 1980s. They symbolize the transition from Liberal Religious Youth (the previous organization for UU youth) to Young Religious Unitarian Universalist (or YRUU, the current organization for UU youth). Common Ground III refers to the gathering proposed to the YRUU governing body in 2004, which did not pass using the consensus process.

Schedule at de Benneville Pines – March

5-7 Long Beach UU Congregational Retreat

For info, contact 562-225-5458 or ramonhandy824@msn.com

12-14 Camp available for lease

19-21 Girl Scout Song Swap Weekend

See the De Benneville website at www.uucamp.org for more info.

Conejo Valley UU RE Retreat (Private) – Craig's Cabin & Cabin 6

24-26 Odyssey Charter School (Private)

26-28 Rainbow Family Camp; register on the website at www.uucamp.org or send a check payable to “Camp de Benneville Pines” to Lisa White, Family Services Program, 1625 N. Schrader Blvd, L A CA 90028. Call 323-993-7413 or familyservices@lagaycenter.org for more info.





Circle of Light

Our hearts are saddened by the loss of our elder, Abigail (Abby) Alderman, on February 18. Her memorial will follow the service on March 7. Our thoughts are with her extended family and her tenant and helper, Eric.

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

Jim Burkette has been doing physical therapy and his pain has eased but it's not gone yet. Cards and letters are much appreciated, but Jim is still not up to visitors.

Carole Cole, our Music Director, asks us for prayers and strengthening thoughts for her nine-year-old friend who is struggling with metastasizes from liver cancer. She is also recovering from a liver transplant. That's a lot for such a young girl.

Glenna Matthew's beloved Aunt Norma has discovered that she has stage 4 lung cancer. She and Glenna need loving support as she leaves the world. Our hearts go out to them both.



The Orange Coast Concert Season Presents...

Dearing Concert Duo on Saturday, April 3, 2010, at 7:30pm. The Duo performs music for voice, classical guitar and flute. They specialize in modern works by European and South American composers. We don't have the opportunity to hear classical music from South America very often. More often it's jazz or dance music.

The concert will be held at the Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church, 1259 Victoria Street, Costa Mesa. Individual ticket prices are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Parking is free. If you have attended any cultural event lately, you know how valuable that is!



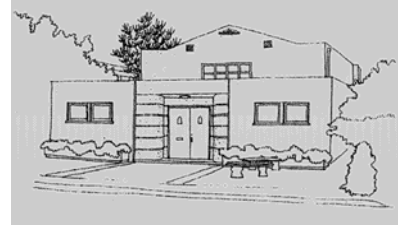
Spiritual Practice Blog

Reverend Kent Doss has created a blog at www.chalicenotes.blogspot.com. It will be used to post sermons and other thoughts. Visit the UUFLB website at www.uulagunabeach.org and click on the Our Minister link under the About heading to find Kent's blog and other helpful information about the Fellowship. A blog is a place online to post information and thoughts in a casual but up to the minute format. Anyone who reads it can leave a comment.

Roommate wanted in Laguna Woods A long time UU and delightful woman is looking for a roommate to share her condo in Leisure World. There is one bedroom 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.

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:	Jeff Morris	949-497-2249
VP Finance:	Tom McGrew	949-497-5901
Treasurer:	Barbara W-Pemberton	jpemberton@earthlink.net
Members At Large:	Pam Flodman	949-654-2526
	Judy Shepard	949-464-1275
	Candy Strock	949-497-2003
	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