

SeaLight

Volume 10, Issue 9

September 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

Every month I struggle for something important to say...My first impulse this month was to say: "I have nothing to say", but then we had the Our Creative Members service and of course everything changed.

By now you would think that I would have some understanding of the TALENT that is within our Fellowship, but once again I am overwhelmed by the beauty and grace of our group. Special thanks to Patty Schuelke and father Ken, for the original story by Linda Frost, for Dante Noto on the piano, for an original composition by Carole Cole (who is heading up the production of our own UUFLB CD), for Lu Wrede's poem and for Bill Foster getting a standing ovation for "What a Wonderful World" (Louis Armstrong would have been proud!) And then we were surrounded by Steve Marr and the painting by Brian Daniel's granddaughter. We were told where to find Diane Stroebel's watermelon banner, and topping it all off was the kind, gentle hand of Jean Raun who tied it all together. We are blessed to have each other.

You might not know this but I like to sit in the last row of the Fellowship (with Oakley Frost, we call ourselves the "Back Row Boys.") From that perspective I can see everyone in the Fellowship and see all of the reactions. There were lots of wet eyes on Sunday (mine included.)

It always reminds me that our Fellowship is still a well kept secret, though we do need to spread the word!

It is an honor for me to be the President of this Fellowship. Thank you.

Jeff Morris

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Upcoming Events

First Friday UU Discussion Group in the Village of Laguna Woods

When: September 3 at Noon

Topic: This month's discussion topic: "Changing Format"

Where: Jeanne & Irwin's House, 678-B Via Alhambra, Laguna Woods

This will be your chance to suggest different modes i.e. a book or movie club, more personal, deeper or funnier discussions. Finally, are you happy to continue the way we have been?

Please bring your lunch. Our host will provide liquid refreshments.

Directions: From El Toro – enter gate 1 to Avenida Sevilla, turn right on Via Mendoza, turn left onto Via Alhambra and then turn left again to stay on Via Alhambra. #678-B is on the right. For more information, please call 462-0307.



The Annual UUFLB Picnic Sunday, September 12 at 12noon Alta Laguna Park at Top of the World

Please join us for a delightful afternoon at the park. Bring your lunch and perhaps something to share with others. Don't forget the Frisbee, sunscreen, and anything else you might like. This is also the day of our Kids vs. Adults kickball game.

This is a great event with fun for all ages.

September Coffee Talk Book Discussion, Tuesday September 21

Revolutionary Spirits: The Enlightened Faith of America's Founding Fathers by Gary Kowalski. Bringing to life the complex creeds and personalities of America's Founding Fathers, this book confronts many of the myths about the religious views of some of the most notable figures in history. Offering clear and candid portraits of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Paine, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison as both religious reformers and political rebels, this analysis tells the illuminating story of these unorthodox men of faith and thought and reclaims their spiritual inheritance for all Americans. Providing a careful examination of how the Founders' nature-based spirituality was tied to their fascination with science, this record includes discussions on Washington's aversion to using the word "God" in public pronouncements, Jefferson's mathematical calculations to show that the biblical great flood would have been impossible, and Paine's thoughts on the possibilities of alien life.



A New UUFLB Men's Group will launch on September 19. They will meet the third Sunday evening each month at 7pm. The first meeting will be downstairs in the RE room. The goal of the group is twofold. We will simply spend time getting to know each other, and we will also explore what it means to be men in 2010. The possibility of a men's group has floated around UUFLB for the past two years. But I was recently inspired by a new book and online magazine called "The Good Men Project" (www.goodmenproject.com). The creators found a real need to explore what it means to be a good man in 2010 for two reasons. Having our consciousness raised by feminism and a radically different role for men in the modern family, the one-size-fits-all model of good men just doesn't fit today. Also, today's media offers a virtual litany of stories of bad men and boys. So the Good Men Project and our Men's Group, will tell some of the good stories and learn from them. For more information about the group or to suggest activities for the group, please call or email Kent.

Sunday Services



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

September 5 Transformations

Joanna started life as Mike. He was a chief petty officer, a project engineer and an athlete at Stanford. Then Mike became Sister Mary Elisabeth. After a brief period, she left the Catholic order and today is Joanna Clark, an environmentalist and human rights activist. She will discuss the emotional changes accompanying each transformation. *Guest Speaker, Joanna Clark*

September 12 Sweetwater for the Journey

Ingathering and Water Communion - After summer adventures and play, we return to the regular church year with a powerful ritual of water communion. Everyone is invited to bring a small amount of water with them to church, symbolizing the adventures of the past few months. In our worship we will celebrate the depth of our connection as we flow into a common future. *Be sure to join us for the Annual Picnic following the service, see page ___ for details.*

Reverend Kent Doss

\$ Match the Basket \$

Two generous UUFLB members have committed to match the offering collected at the September 12 service.

Don't forget to bring your checkbook, because every dollar you contribute, beyond your regular pledge, will be matched.

September 19 Expect the Impossible

Our lives are full of unlikely moments, glimpses of miracles. This Sunday we will develop an eye for seeing the wonder in everyday life, especially in the natural world.

Reverend Kent Doss

September 26 The Only Way Out Is Through

Conflict, challenge, confusion, heartache: the only way out of many of life's challenges is to deal with them in the moment. We will learn a bit from mindfulness practices of Buddhism to see how we might approach each day, each moment as it comes. No escapes, no tidal-waves of fear, just one moment at a time. *Reverend Kent Doss*

October 3 Self Reliance or Social Reform

This Sunday we discuss different approaches to improving the world around us. Through the writings of Unitarian Universalists Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker, we will explore the delicate balance between personal responsibility and societal reform. Can we legislate morality, or is it up to the individual?

Reverend Kent Doss

Message from Our Minister

Last June, Reverend Peter Morales won the presidency of the Unitarian Universalist Association running on a campaign that Unitarian Universalism could be the great religion for our time. Since then, we have been exploring together just what that means. How can we be a vital and relevant religious community in 2010?

Because we are exploring the theme of Vision in the month of September, I thought I would share with you a few of my thoughts on the subject. First of all, I see us being and becoming the “Beloved Community.” That means caring for one another out of mutual compassion. We put on a wonderful array of events and lectures, but caring for one another comes from a deeper place. It means coming to church to love the people you find, not coming to church to find the people you love. I deeply believe that we can become that sort of community where everyone feels that they are at home.

I also envision a congregation where Sunday morning is the hub of our life together. Worship services should embrace our religious roots and challenge us to push ourselves. It should also appeal to contemporary sensibilities with great music and inspiring images. But more than the worship service itself, I see Sunday mornings as a time when we come together, every week, knowing that our community is there for us. Sunday morning is a time for sharing our lives with one another. It’s a time for stretching our hearts, not just our minds.

I say that Sunday mornings would be the hub of our life together because it would connect everything else that we do. I envision us as a real force for making the world a better place. Whether it is by comforting the afflicted or by mending the interdependent web, we must play an active role in caring for our world. For me, the future of Unitarian Universalism rests in our ability to talk about the way our faith informs our action.

If Unitarian Universalism is to be a religion of our time, it will have to be a lived faith.

When someone says “I am a Unitarian Universalist,” or “I am a Christian,” or “I am a Muslim,” that can mean different things. For some, it means that they adhere to a set of theological ideas. In our case, it would mean that a person holds to some liberal theology or is very comfortable in a place of questioning. For them, “I am a UU” is essentially a statement about belief. But the same person can say the same thing in a very different way. “I am a Unitarian Universalist” may also mean I live out my faith every day. I engage other people in compassionate relationships. I do my best to care for the Earth and to bring about more justice in the world. And, my church, my Unitarian Universalist church, is my religious home. That to me is what it means for Unitarian Universalism to be a lived faith; that is part of what it will take to become a great religion of our time.

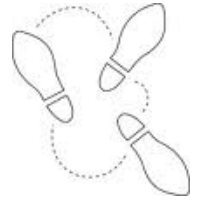
That’s my vision of Unitarian Universalism in a nutshell. I hope some of it rings true for you. As we talk about Vision throughout the month of September, I would love to hear what you see in our shared future.

Peace,
Kent

More Upcoming Events!

Swing Dance, Sunday September 26 4-8pm

Neighborhood Congregational Church, 340 St. Ann's Drive, Laguna Beach. Come cut a rug with Bill Foster's amazing band, South Coast Swing. We will also have a dance instructor teaching the basics to a few common dances. This dance is a joint fundraiser between UUFLB and Neighborhood Congregational Church. Who knows, maybe you'll find a new dance partner!! Tickets are \$15 at the door. Refreshments will be served.



South Coast Swing, is 6-piece swing band ensemble with a vocalist, has been performing since 1982. The ensemble specializes in classic jazz and dance music of the Big Band Era from Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman to the wide range of sophisticated contemporary big band sounds, Latin, and more modern swing jazz music, such as that of The Brian Setzer Orchestra.

Documentary Film Screening "Race to Nowhere"

Thursday, September 30, 7pm at UUFLB

Purchase tickets online at www.racetonowhere.com/upcoming-screenings



Director Vicki Abeles delivers her new documentary about the pressures faced by American schoolchildren and their teachers in a system and culture obsessed with the illusion of achievement, competition and the pressure to perform. Featuring the heartbreaking stories of young people across the country who have been pushed to the brink, educators who are burned out and worried that students aren't developing the skills they need, and parents who are trying to do what's best for their kids, *Race to Nowhere* points to the silent epidemic in our schools: cheating has become commonplace, students have become disengaged, stress-related illness, depression and burnout are rampant, and young people arrive at college and the workplace unprepared and uninspired.



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 or 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.

October Coffee Book Discussion, Tuesday October 19 - *Nature and Walking* by Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. This volume cleverly combines Emerson's *Nature* with Thoreau's *Walking* in a single, affordable paperback. Though written nearly 30 years apart (1836 and 1862, respectively), the two works express similar feelings and make perfect companions. This is writing that defines our distinctly American relationship to nature.

Covenant Groups Now Forming

Covenant Groups are a monthly meeting with a small group of people to discuss spirituality and core values and to get to know one another on a deeper level. Three new groups are being formed. If you are interested in joining a group, or just want more information please contact Jean Raun, Oakley Frost, or Glenna Matthews.



Open Auction Items 2010

#15 Linda's Improv 9/11/10 \$15, 90 available, so come on over!

#22 Bill Foster's Beach Party 9/19/10 \$25, 1 available

#12 Tennis Anyone with Judy and Laura TBA \$30, 1 available

#45 Brunch at Laguna Woods with John Crouch Sunday in October, TBA \$30, 2

#23 BananaRama Dinner with Kent and Peter 10/02/10 \$40, 1 available

#46 Port and Report with Linda and Oakley 10/08/10 \$40, 1 available

#3 Tenor Concert with Steve Fischman 11/06/10 \$15, 106 available

20 Tree Trimming at the Hullahens' 12/04/10 \$15, 12 available

#41 Christmas Caroling with Kymberly and Shiela TBD \$10 Come and

Open Auction Items 2011

#52 Night of Celtic Music with Steve Bloch 1/22/11 \$16, 6 available

#31 Family Game and Music Night With Kathy 3/25/11 \$10, 22 available

#50 A Lamb Cake, Innocent (white icing) or Not (chocolate icing) \$25, 3 available

Undated Items

#26 Nick the Handyman TBA \$35, 1 available

#21 Steve's Voice Lessons TBA \$70, Steve says if you buy them, he'll teach you!

#33 Rosenthal China Dessert Service \$200 or best offer

Fund-A-Need: A New Sign, \$500, in whole or in part



Sing!



Buildings and Grounds

In gratitude

Our UU Fellowship thanks Jim Pemberton for unofficially chairing the Building and Grounds Committee for fourteen or more years. He has supervised painting, any repairs to the building, and other work for the building. His wife Barbara, Mark Dimond and others also helped Jim in keeping the Fellowship in good condition. Brian Daniels, a new member, has accepted the responsibility of chairing the Building and Grounds Committee. Brian has had experience in all phases of construction and repairs. We are all happy to have his leadership and devotion. Barbara, Jim and Mark will continue their duties. They deserve our heartfelt thanks and everlasting gratitude.

Worship Committee News

Our church program year (September-May) is fashioned around nine theological and philosophical themes. Each theme plays a part in the development of a well-grounded religious and ethical life. The church's offerings each month are by no means limited to the themes, however these topics provide an axis around which many elements of church life gain more meaning and depth. They provide us with a set of common stories and ideas that become elements of an ongoing community conversation. Be warned: Seriously engaging these themes could transform your life!

September - Vision

October - Creation

November - Democracy

December - God

January - Evil

February - Religious Authority

March - Freedom

April - Redemption

May - Mercy

The Voyage-Religious Education Newspaper

Wendi Bender, RE Coordinator



UU based care giving and values exploration in the Family Room or adjacent Library for Infants through Pre-Kindergarten

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 importantly, 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)

- 9/5 Visioning Questionnaire
- 9/12 Water Communion
- 9/19 Parable of the Mustard Seed
- 9/26 Wishing Well Sunday/Social & Earth Justice

This summer we focused on Social Justice and spending our time learning about organizations created to aid and support the community. We learned about: Elijah's House, Laura's House, Helping Those with HIV, Animal Welfare, Environmental Protection and Habitat for Humanity.

It has been a great summer. Our Ingathering and Water Communion is on September 12. Remember to bring water from a special place you visited over the summer. It is very rewarding to share with the congregation about where we have traveled and the experiences we have all had. This is a way we stay connected and come back together as a community. It will be great to see some of the children who have been away over the summer!



Our new curriculum is theme based. Our theme for September is Vision. The children will learn and apply religious concepts. We will be staying connected with the themes of the congregation. Some will be Unitarian Universalist and we will also explore other religions.

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

See you on Sunday! *Wendi*

The children sold **Chalices for Charity** in front of the Fellowship that they made over the summer and raised \$205.00 for Habitat for Humanity. It was a lot of fun!

Your Connection With the Wider UU World

Barbara Williams-Pemberton, Denominational Representative



What Does That Acronym Mean? CLF (Church of the Larger Fellowship)

A UU congregation on the web and in print reaching people who do not belong to a local UU congregation or who wish to connect to UUs around the world. CLF has offices located in Boston at UUA headquarters. CLF publishes the "Quest" newsletter and offers a prison ministry and online education.

Schedule at de Benneville Pines

September

8/31 – 9/3 PSWD Small Group Ministry Retreat

For info: hzmre@hzmre.com or 805-485-1780

3 – 6 PSWD Young Adult Retreat, ages 18 – 35

Register at www.connectuu.com; for info contact Tera Little at teral@att.net or 626-840-5412

10 – 12 Yoga & Wellness Retreat

For info: call 909-794-2928 or registrar@uucamp.org

13 – 16 Camp available for lease

17 – 18 12-Step Fall Mountain Retreat

For info: 714-323-0124 or suneyes3@gmail.com

20 – 24 Camp available for lease

24 – 26 Channel Cluster UU Congregational Retreat

For info: 805-415-4919 or david@barker.nu



UUA News

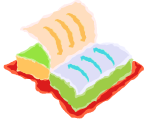
Reverend Doss mentioned our new Unitarian Universalist Association President, Reverend Peter Morales. He was elected at General Assembly (GA) 2009, after a long and expensive (more than \$300,000 between the two candidates) campaign. It has long been felt that this can't continue.

Until GA in 2010, candidates nominated themselves, after a campaign to get the right number of signatures from the right number of congregations from the right number of districts. We have been fortunate that this cumbersome process had brought us so many fine candidates. We can't count on that continuing.

At GA this year, we, the delegates, passed an amendment that sets up a Nominating Committee to choose two candidates. A person may still use the old process to nominate himself or herself. This should help end the excessive money and time spent.

We also changed the campaign process. From now on, all materials will be on line instead of being mailed. This should eliminate the DVDs and the posters and the letters and the travel.

We also approved the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking. I voted for it because our congregation approved it. Jean Raun has it available on line. Ask her to send you one. And the new By-laws are available from www.uua.org. Go check out the website. It's very interesting.



Yesterdays Create Tomorrows...

September 18 is a very important date in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya state in India. It is celebrated as Unitarian Day because Hajom Kissor Singh held the first Unitarian Church service in Jowai on this date in 1887. One woman and two men joined him as the first members of the new church. Their statement of faith, adopted in 1888, states, "We believe (1) in the unity of God; (2) in the Fatherhood and Motherhood of God; (3) in the Brotherhood of Man; (4) in Love, Union, Worship, and Faith (5) in Immortality." There are now more than 30 churches, claiming 10,000 members. Keep in mind that India is majority Hindu. However, India has many minority faiths as well, rather like the United States.

UU Travel Opportunity

The UU Church of Tucson would like to invite you to join our TUUR to Santa Fe and Taos November 1-7, 2010. This year the tour will include an additional night in Albuquerque with a visit to the Acoma Pueblo. Another unique spot we will visit is the adobe San Francisco de Asis Church, designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. Possibly the most photographed church in the US! It was the subject of four paintings by Georgia O'Keeffe, and photographs by Ansel Adams and Paul Strand. Georgia O'Keeffe described it as, "one of the most beautiful buildings left in the United States by the early Spaniards." Registration forms and complete itinerary at: <http://www.uuctucson.org/index.php/sponsored-tours/> or contact Julia Mehrer at perujourney@gainbroadband.com or Carolyn Saunders at 520-299-3854.



Circle of Light

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Camille Ericson on their loss. You may remember her as a violinist with a gorgeous tone who played for the Fellowship many times. Camille's death was sudden and unexpected. She will be missed.

Lynn Charron has returned from caring for her late mother in Michigan. She is now ill and house-bound herself. Lynn would welcome phone calls and visits but call before visiting.

Barbara and Jim Pemberton ask for healing thoughts for their friend, Jill, who is facing recovery from major surgery. She got the diagnosis of needing surgery just two weeks before her wedding!

Our new friend, Sandra Winieski, is struggling with illness and is mostly house-bound. She would welcome phone calls. Her landline is 218-7597 and her cell is 632-7339.

Our friends, the Burkettes, are still in Temecula. Jim is better. He takes less pain medication and is walking without a walker, albeit with difficulty some days. They send greetings.

Bud and Caroline Rormans' daughter, Vicki Perkett, would still welcome cards and letters: 1365 Whistlers Lane, Roseburg, OR 97470. Bud and Caroline have joined as members and Caroline has been singing in our choir.

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

Contacts

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Aesthetics Co-Chairs	Barbara W-Pemberton	jpemberton@earthlink.net
	Kathy Temple	949-760-306
Auction	Laura McArdell	949-642-4126
Building & Grounds	Brian Daniels	949-228-4611
Circle Suppers	Jean Paris	949-830-2270
Communication	Terry Heiney	949-497-7302
Denominational Rep.	Barbara W-Pemberton	jpemberton@earthlink.net
Endowment	To be determined	949-497-4568
Finance VP, Pledging/Fund Raising	Tom McGrew	949-497-5901
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	To be determined	949-497-4568
Religious Education (RE)	Wendi Bender	949-338-8003
Shared Ministry	Ken Schuelke	949-661-8878
Social Action Co-Chairs	Helen Scholfield	949-481-8976
	Rachel Daniels	949-494-2738
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