Opportunities to Serve

Chalice Lighters--First Call, 2006-2007
By Susan Call and Byron Skinner,
Co-chairs of UUCT Chalice Lighters

Those members and friends of our congregation who are already "Chalice Lighters" will know that the opportunity to support UU congregations within our Pacific Southwest District has been announced. If you don't know what Chalice Lighters are, read on.

This is a grass-roots means of raising funds to support growth among the 50 plus UU congregations in our district. Every penny donated goes to the congregation selected for the grant (and two or three are selected each year). With the suggested donation at $20, our more than 8000 UU's in the district are a potentially formidable fund source. The last call, or request for donations, in the fall of 2006, resulted in $14,000 being donated to Tapestry: A UU Congregation in Mission Viejo (formerly South County, CA).

Our church currently has only about twenty active Chalice Lighters, and we need more. It is important that our congregation be represented by 15% of our membership if we ever want to apply for a grant. And a grant would be a wonderful way to fund some of the projects that we dream about accomplishing at our church!

Opportunities to join Chalice Lighters will be available after church in Goddard. Just look for our table and sign up!

Immigrant Rights Group Events
By Leila Pine

The UUCT Immigrant Rights Working Group will hold its next meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, April 23 in the Servetus Room. The agenda will include a speaker from No More Deaths on the rising human rights crisis on the border and the "New Sanctuary Movement." All interested UUs are invited to attend. We will also work on mobilizing a UUCT contingent in the Immigrant Rights National Day of Action march on May 1, along with other faith groups.
From the Minister’s Study
By Rev. Diane Dowgiert

Our Unitarian Universalist congregations are organized according to congregational polity, that is, individual congregations govern themselves. Our congregations are not dependent on a system of hierarchy for decision-making – no Popes – no Bishops. Both the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and the Pacific Southwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association exist to serve congregations, not to govern them. They provide guidance, consultation, and services to keep congregations healthy, vital, and connected to each other.

This arrangement comes with a tremendous amount of freedom and an equal amount of responsibility.

Individual congregations are free to articulate their own missions and visions, free to chart their own futures, free to plan their own programming, free to choose the location in which to do their ministry, free to choose who serves with them as minister.

And, the responsibility to make all this happen rests with each individual congregation.

The greatest expression of congregational polity comes at the annual congregational meeting. This is when the whole congregation gathers to make decisions together. This year there are some crucial, pivotal decisions to be made, especially regarding finances.

Every voice and every vote is needed as we make decisions that affect the future of our congregation.

Please plan to be at the annual meeting on May 6.

Yours in faith,

Diane

Artist of the Month Gallery
By Abby Root

ENJOY the works of Mary Theresa Dietz. Her oil stick and reverse glass paintings will be on exhibit through May 7.

GET READY for our annual Members & Friends Exhibit. Bring your own creative art to the church on Tuesday, May 8 between 9:00-10:00 a.m., ready to hang, with a signed release form. We will celebrate your creativity with a reception on Sunday, May 13 after the service. Save your photographs for the Gallery’s summer show.

Annual Reports of the Church
Available April 22

The 2006-2007 Annual Report will be available on the table in the foyer on Sunday, April 22. Feel free to pick up a copy to read prior to the annual meeting which has been scheduled for Sunday, May 6.

We are printed limited copies of the Annual Report in respect the effort to “save paper” so be sure to bring your copy with you to the meeting on May 6 because there will be no extra copies available.
Music Notes
By Agnes Paulsen, Minister of Music

The popular image among white Americans right after the Civil War was that African Americans were too slow-witted and undisciplined to learn the complex piano. In his book On the Shoulders of Giants, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar writes: “To white America, African-Americans could only handle the most primitive of instruments, such as the drum or banjo. True, few blacks at the time played piano, but that was because during slavery they had little access to pianos. However, after emancipation, many African-American families bought small organs or harmoniums (pianos were too expensive) as a means to proudly display their independence by owning what had been denied them, and to promote cultural assimilation for their children.”

“Our raising children who could play the piano not only dispelled the derogatory myths, but also boosted the children’s chances for rising up out of their class, even within the black community.”

Booker T. Washington in his autobiography, Up from Slavery, tells about a dinner he enjoyed with a family in their Alabama cabin. He noticed that there was just one fork for the five of them at the table. However, in the opposite corner of that same cabin was an organ for which they were paying $60 in monthly installments. Booker Washington’s observation was that fingers could substitute for forks, but the organ was the hope for the future!

A flower to Jean Kratsch who did a superb job of reupholstering the cover of the piano bench in the sanctuary. She noticed that a black cover would be more aesthetically pleasing and volunteered her time and material to do the job. Thank you, Jean.

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday, April 22
“Celebrate the Web of Life”
An Extended Family Worship
In the springtime we share the gratitude for the gifts of nature and relationships we have with one another. Symbolically we celebrate this thru our UU Flower Communion ritual, which we mark this year in April, the time when the Sonoran Desert is in bloom. Bring a flower and join us for a special Earth Day celebration in which we will express our reverence for the interconnected web of all existence.

Leaders: Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings
Rebecca Froom

Music: Family Singers
Brian Moon
Agnes Paulsen

Sunday, April 29
“Our Religious Heritage: Transylvania”
First in Western history,Unitarians in Transylvania proclaimed religious freedom, and founded the world’s oldest Unitarian church 430 years ago. Native Transylvanian, Dr. Judit Gellerd, honorary president and founder of the UU Partner Church Council, proposes a pilgrimage to the “Holy Land” of our shared faith. Through the personal story of martyrdom of Judit’s father, a prominent Transylvanian Unitarian minister-scholar, we witness their struggles during oppressive totalitarian regimes and their tenacious hope for a future and renewal. Issues of freedom—there and now—will be addressed.

Judit will also share some of her musical heritage through her violin playing.

Leaders: Cubby Lash
Music: Agnes Paulsen

Biography
Physician, musician and Unitarian minister, Judit Gellerd, grew up in Transylvania, daughter of a Hungarian Unitarian minister/theologian and martyr of communist persecutions. Judit graduated from music conservatory as a violinist, then from medical school, specializing in neuropsychiatry in Budapest. In 1988 she married California professor Dr. George M. Williams and moved to the United States. She served as a ministerial intern at First UU Church of San Francisco last year.
Ministry Rotations a Success!
Submitted by Janet Moore

“They are the most beautiful and dedicated young ladies I’ve ever met” — April Lynne Fowler

“They are great! Wonderfully efficient and energetic” — Judy Dare

“They are fine examples of the youth of our church” — Chuck Gould

“A great help” — Lynn Healey

These glowing quotes are from many of the adults that our voyagers, Aimee Wheeler and Sara McDaniel-Hutchings have worked with closely this church year. Aimee and Sara have been involved in a variety of ministry rotations that included hands on activities as ushers/greeters, kitchen workers and nursery aides.

In addition to the ministry rotations our voyagers spent time getting to know mentors Julie Larsen and Janet Moore via lunches together and a variety of outings. The highlight of our outings so far has been a grand time spent racing around on go-carts!

Aimee and Sara have had the opportunity to begin building relationships with many church members ranging from the youngest to the oldest of our community. The activities gave youths a chance to see working with adults can be fun and new friendships could be found with people of any age. Our adults enjoyed seeing the commitment, energy and enthusiasm of our youth.

The ministry rotations have built sustaining relationships, contributed to appreciating the uniqueness of a variety of individuals, and fostered a sense of belonging and responsibility. By all accounts the time Aimee and Sara have spent in their church year has been a success!

One Sunday this Summer
By Rebecca Froom, Director of Religious Education

The summer months are almost upon us, and I have already heard from many congregants asking, if we will be doing the same summer program as last year, ‘cause they have a talent they want to share with the children or a discussion topic they want to lead with the youth. The answer is yes. This summer the RE Council is again inviting congregants to spend one Sunday this summer sharing their skills, talents, wisdom, and silliness with our children and youth. Our summer program will run for 11 weeks from June 3 thru August 12. During this time we are inviting you, the adults of our congregation, to reflect on those activities that sustain you, and to share them. The philosophy here is that everyday fun and learning can be religious when interpreted as a spiritual practice or connected to our UU values and principles. Our summer program also offers a unique opportunity for congregants to forge connections with our children and youth through a one-time commitment.

Children and junior youth entering Kindergarten thru 8th grade will participate in the program You Can do it Too! where congregants will share their talents, hobbies, and skills, framed by an opening and closing worship service led by our Summer Program Coordinator. Last summer our children learned that they could play the guitar, cello and drums, bake, bead and write poetry.

Youth entering grades 9 thru 12 will participate in the program Summer with YRUU where congregants will also be invited to share their talents, hobbies and skills. They may also choose to share their wisdom by leading a discussion. Sessions will be framed by an opening and closing circle. Last summer our youth learned about nutrition, I Ching, stained glass, poetry, music and more.

So how do I sign up, you are asking? Stop by the RE table in Goddard Hall to fill out a sign up sheet, or contact me at Rebecca-froom@qwestoffice.net to learn more.
Upcoming in Religious Education

Wednesday April 25-Sunday April 29
Our Director of Religious Education, Rebecca Froom, will be out of town attending the PSWD Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) Professional Days and District Assembly.

Friday April 27-Sun April 29
Members of our YRJU youth group head off to Riverside, CA to participate in District Assembly. Ask them about it when they return! Youth remaining at church are invited to attend service this day. Youth remaining in Tucson that Sunday are invited to attend worship service in Holland Sanctuary.

Sunday April 29
OWL classes meet in Emerson room on Sunday: K/1 begins at 12:15 and 4-6 at 1:30.

New Social Justice Coordinator
By Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings, Adult Faith Development Director

Following the Social Justice workshop, it became clear that the congregation is doing social justice work in a different way. With four different social justice working groups in action (Green/Sustainable Living, Peace & Abolish War, Economic Justice, and Immigrant Rights), it is very important that the congregation stays informed about what’s going on and aware of how to become involved. The Empowerment Team discussed these issues and developed a job description for the new volunteer position.

The goal of the Social Justice Coordinator is to facilitate information flow between the social justice working groups and the congregation with the intent of continually informing and inviting the congregation to participate in social justice work.

To do this the Social Justice Coordinator will:
• Keep in touch with the working group contact persons to stay abreast of meetings and events that are scheduled by each group and to stay aware of their planning.
• Keep a distribution list/list serve of participants in the social justice working groups.
• Advertise the planning, meetings, and events/activities for each group to the congregation in the newsletter, order of service, website, flyers, and by email as appropriate.
• Serve on the Lifespan Program Council Steering Committee (LPCS) as the representative for the Social Action area.

Mark Henson, who is leaving as Social Action Chair to serve on the Committee on Ministry, agrees that this kind of position is what is needed now. Kelly Taylor has agreed to take on this position and has set up an email address especially for social justice related information. You can contact Kelly at ktayloruu@gmail.com. Keep watching the Tucsonitarian newsletter for “Social Justice Invitations to the Congregation.” There you can find information on how to get involved in UUCT social justice work.

Friday May 4
Parents enjoy First Friday Parent’s Night Out from 6:00-10:00 pm while children have a great time with their friends in Emerson. Contact Kathleen Hogue, Childcare Supervisor, at 312-0441 for details or to reserve a space for your child.

Sunday May 6
For our monthly experiential learning Project Day children and junior youth in grades two thru eight will participate in a Spiritual Practices Sampler. The day may include a walk outside as well as movement, so please help your child choose comfortable clothes and closed toe shoes that morning.

OWL classes meet in Emerson room on Sunday: K/1 begins at 12:15 and 4-6 at 1:30. This is the last Sunday for OWL.
From Mary’s Desk
By Mary Wiese, Community Life Coordinator

First Friday
First Friday Parents Night Out is scheduled for the first Friday evening of the month. The next one is scheduled for Friday, May 4. It is held in the Awareness room from 6pm until 10pm and provided for a nominal fee. If you would like to reserve a space for your child, you must RSVP to Kathleen Hogue, 312-0441, by Thursday, May 3.

Rummage and Book Sale
The Rummage Sale is scheduled for Friday, April 27, 9am -2pm, and Saturday April 28, 8am – 1pm. Prices will be drastically reduced after 10am on Saturday. Everything MUST GO! This will be our last Rummage/Book sale due to waning interest and available storage space. Please contact Mary Wiese if you can help in any way-514-5483 or macbrude@cox.net.

Newcomers Orientation
I would like to invite any and all Newcomers to join us for our final Newcomers Orientation for the year. I will be held on Sunday April 22nd, at 3pm. The evening includes free dinner and childcare. If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP to Mary Wiese, macbrude@cox.net or call the church office during business hours, 748-1551.

Ceremony of Joining
If you are new to the congregation but have been visiting with us for some time, you may feel that it is time to join the church. Becoming part of the church community is a spiritual commitment and we welcome you to join us on the journey. If you are ready to make that commitment, we invite you to participate in the Ceremony of Joining taking place during our regular service on Sunday, April 22. If you are interested, please send Mary Wiese a short three sentence biography about yourself. You may send it by email to macbrude@cox.net or mail it to the church. If you have any questions concerning the joining process, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Community Spirit,

Mary

Books For May and June 2007

The Book Club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in Awareness at 7:00 PM. Because we are a low priority group in the church, we may need to find a place outside of the church where we can meet at 7:00 P.M. the 3rd Thursdays of each month. Could anyone aware of such place, please let a member of the Book Club know. For more information one may contact Cheryl Mennel at 760-4915 or CandJ_Mennel@msn.com.

May 17 -- The Hummingbird’s Daughter by Luis Alberto Urrea

From the Publisher: “Miracles and passion abound in this mesmerizing novel—hailed everywhere as a masterwork—the story of a remarkable young woman’s sudden sainthood in the revolutionary-era Mexico of the late 19th century.” Seven holds on first copy returned of 29 copies as of April 9, 2007. 28 copies in the PCPL. Approx. 500 pages. Available in PB.


From The Publisher: “Elizabeth, Mary, and Sophia Peabody were in many ways our American Brontës. The story of these remarkable sisters—and their central role in shaping the thinking of their day—has never before been fully told. Twenty years in the making, Megan Marshall’s monumental biography brings to new life the era of creative ferment known as the American Renaissance.” 6 copies in the PCPL. Approx. 600 pages. Available in PB.
Committee on Ministry Update
By Carolyn Saunders

A UUCT Task Force has worked all year studying and developing a plan for a Committee on Ministry based on a model provided by the Rev. Robert Latham. A COM becomes the primary agent which helps a congregation focus on attaining the highest possible fulfillment of its mission/covenant and strategic plan through congregational and professional ministry. A UUCT COM will be discussed at this year’s annual meeting on May 6.

Social Justice For the Congregation

Recycling: You can help us recycle around the church by two things:

1. Place your Order of Service on Sunday in the recycle boxes provided by the front door of the Sanctuary if you no longer need them.

2. Bring a ceramic cup with you each Sunday to use for coffee hour instead of the Styrofoam cups.

General Assembly 2007
By Carolyn Saunders

General Assembly 2007 will be held in Portland, Oregon on June 20-24 in the Oregon Convention Center. Registration is now open with rates increasing on May 1.

General Assembly information and tentative agenda for congregations, delegates, and attendees is available online at www.uua.org. There you will find a 36 page booklet containing information about traveling to Portland, GA Programming, Open Space at GA, Information for First Time Attendees, the GA Tentative Agenda, and other General Assembly related materials. There are also many links on the UUA website to other information about the Portland area.

Several UU churches in the area are offering pre-assembly tours to various points of interest.

Gini Courter, the UUA Moderator sends the following message concerning this year’s General Assembly: “This June, members of Unitarian Universalist congregations will gather in one strong body, to share our passions and turn those passions into priorities. Don’t miss this historic meeting. See you in Portland!”

Visit the UUA website to learn more about GA 07 and plan to join with UUs from all over the country for an inspirational, informative time.

New Website Launched by UUA

Check out the new web site for the UUA. Go to www.uua.org and see what has been done to make it up-to-date and more user-friendly. Be patient while the “kinks” are worked out but ENJOY the new site.
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MISSION STATEMENT

This sacred community is rooted in our search for meaning, guided by personal experience, diverse religious traditions, and scientific discovery. We are varied as the blooms in the Sonoran Desert, yet draw strength from one another. Envisioning a world where justice and compassion cross all borders, we pledge energy and resources to transform ourselves, our community, and the world around us.

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Rummage Sale
April 27-28

Donations for the Church Rummage Sale, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 27-28, are being accepted by the church. Bring your donated items to Goddard Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. April 23-26.

Please do not bring them before those dates as our storage containers are full to overflowing and we have no additional storage space.

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