



FirstWords

A publication of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego

Dining for Dollar\$ plus Fun, Friends, Family, & Funding

By Robie Evans, Dining for Dollar\$ Plus Coordinator

Learning from a pro how to make tortillas or dance or create a work of art . . .

- *Kayaking, birding, desert geology . . .*
- *Family fun at the pool, beach, or*
 - *backyard BBQs or picnics . . .*
- *Gourmet meals from around the world . . .*
- *Speed friending . . .*

These are just a sample of the Dining for Dollar\$ events hosted over the past few years!

Nine years ago, Arvid brought the idea from his former congregation in North Carolina. Because it sounded like so much fun, Bonny Russell offered to organize the very first Dining for Dollar\$ fundraiser at First UU. When Bonny talked with the North Carolina church's fundraising coordinator, their enthusiasm for the social and community-building aspects of the events overshadowed the fact that it was a major fundraiser—working with others to dream up, organize and co-host events; the new people they'd met; deepening existing relationships while attending events with friends; doing things they'd never done before; and finding ways to ensure everyone was able to participate on some level, regardless of family or financial issues.

And, that's true for First Church as we get ready for our ninth year of Sunday "bidding frenzy" on May 5, 12, and 19—between services and after second service. Over the years, more than 356 folks have hosted a Dining for Dollar\$ event and more than 700 have attended events. While the first annual Dining for Dollar\$ events raised about \$12,000, last year it raised \$40,000—making Dining for Dollar\$ a major contributor for our general fund.

This year, we hope for more than 100 offerings—including classes, outdoor activities, family events, tours in and around San Diego and the county, plus lunches, teas, and dinners. We are even adding a "raffle" component which will include movie tickets, restaurant gift cards and more. Raffle tickets at a very low price will be sold, to give everyone an opportunity to get involved. This year's fundraiser is definitely Dining for Dollar\$ PLUS with something for everyone!

To participate, you'll need two things:

- Your personal *Bid Number* (which you'll receive when you stop by the Dining for Dollar\$ table on May 5, 12, or 19) and
- Your *Bidding Booklet* (available starting May 1) which will be sent via email or can be picked up at the Dining for Dollar\$ table.

Bid early, bid late, and bid often to make sure you and your family don't miss out on the fun!



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Kathleen's Kolumn— Home and Loving It!

By Rev Kathleen Owens, Associate Minister

How wonderful it is to not only live in a place of beauty (and be glad to return home after traveling), but to also do ministry in such a vibrant, healthy, and compassionate congregation. While I was on sabbatical in January and February, I had the opportunity to visit some other large churches in the denomination. It was exciting to meet new people and hear different ideas about how other UUs “do” church; and I was thrilled to be home and to reaffirm the many things First Church does so well.

For instance, did you know that there is a program of the Caring Ministry Team in which trained lay ministers are calling every member and friend, just to check in? These calls are about connecting, sharing information and are just one of the ways we create community.

Did you hear that the “From the Doctrine of Discovery to Immigration” Symposium held in March was such a success? The Social Justice Ministry Team, Journey Towards Wholeness Team, and the UU Larger Connections Ministry Team sponsored this important event in which almost 70 people participated. It was a morning that shared information and theory AND offered practical ways to make a difference in San Diego County. This was just one of the ways that the Ministry Teams work together and help us act on our values to help heal the world.

Have you heard of Faith Formation 2020? Six staff members participated in a workshop that focused on faith formation and the future. The staff looked at what the present reality is and what the future may continue to bring into our lives (think: social media and the expanding virtual world) and asked how might we better and more thoroughly utilize the tool of social media to enhance faith formation. First Church is a regional church and people's lives are so busy – what might we begin to offer on-line that can supplement the great programs offered on our campuses. Finding new ways to nurture spiritual growth – using many resources and platforms will help First Church stay relevant and meaningful in the years to come.

Did you hear about the exciting possibilities that the new Strategic Plan will offer to First Church as we engage in various tactics and strategies to meet the goals? There is such important and good work that awaits us as the goals ask us to focus on areas outside this community and also within the congregation. Every goal takes the mission statement into account and ensures that the mission is lived and acted upon in all aspects of this community.

With all of this (and so much more) I can only say YES! It is good to be home with you.

Blessings,

April Sermon Messages

Celebration Times:

Hillcrest Campus: Sunday, 9:30a (Traditional) and 11:30a (Contemporary)

South Bay Campus: Sunday, 9:30a (Intergenerational, Bilingual [Spanish, English])

The April **Transformational Theme** is **Wholeness, Healing & Salvation**.

Sunday, April 7:

- Hillcrest Services—**“The Week After”** Rev Kathleen Owens (live).
- 9:30 Music: Directed by Andrea Newall, the JUUL Tones a cappella ensemble sings Sid Davis' “God Be in my Head.”
- 11:30 Music: Chris Hasset leads an exciting service featuring many of his compositions including “In the Hearts of Others” from his new CD “This I Promise You.”
- South Bay Service—**“The Wisdom of Imperfection,”** Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live).

Sunday, April 14:

- Hillcrest Services—**“Not Your Grandmother's God: Beyond Misconceptions about the Ground of Being,”** Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live).
- 9:30 Music: Directed by Daniel Ratelle, the Chalice Choir sings “Ja Vem a Primavera” by the contemporary Brazilian composer Henrique de Curitiba.
- 11:30 Music: Our monthly jazz service features the jazz standard “Falling Grace”, written by jazz bassist Steve Swallow and featured on Chick Corea's 1972 album “Crystal Silence.”
- South Bay Service—**“Seeing the Sacred in All Things,”** Rev Dr Arvid Straube (pre-recorded).

Sunday, April 21:

- Hillcrest Service—**“Christian Mysticism,”** Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live).
- 9:30 Music: Directed by Daniel Ratelle, the Chalice Choir sings “Cantate Gloria” by contemporary British composer Alan Bullard.
- 11:30 Music: Our offertory is Jesse Winchester's “I'm Looking For a Miracle”. Winchester is most well known as a songwriter, with his works recorded Patti Page, Elvis Costello, Jimmy Buffett, Joan Baez, Anne Murray, Reba McEntire, The Everly Brothers and Emmylou Harris.
- South Bay Service—**“Truth All Around Us,”** Emily Webb, Intern (live).
- Coffee Conversation after service.

Sunday, April 28:

- Hillcrest Service—**“Leaning into the Question,”** Rev Kathleen Owens (live).
- 9:30 & 11:30 Music: Special guests SDSU Prof. Joseph Waters with his Swarmius Contemporary Ensemble and the Hausmann String Quartet, play Waters' “Surf Cantata” and the premiere of his deconstruction of J. S. Bach's “Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor.”
- South Bay Service—**“Christian Mysticism,”** Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live).
- Coffee Conversation after service.



It's Time to Think about Camp for Summer!

By Liz Jones, Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry

But it's only April! Ah yes, but summer comes quickly and most parents are thinking about what their children will do over the school break. Well, I have some ideas for you to consider.

The first is our annual All Church Camp at de Benneville Pines that we share with the Chalice Congregation of Escondido. Details about this year's camp will be coming soon. Just save the dates of May 31 through June 2. There are scheduled events for all ages as well as the opportunity to sit back and just enjoy being in nature. As always there will be camperships available, so watch for more information in the Newsletter, on Facebook, and in the Order of Service.

And not long after come the special opportunities available from our District. All of these opportunities are available at de Benneville Pines as well.

- **Elementary Summer Camp:** Generosity of Spirit held Sunday, June 30 – Saturday, July 6.

This summer the campers will explore the many ways in which we can share who we are and be where we are needed as we consider the many ways the world needs us!

- **Counselor in Training Program** will be held Sunday, June 30 – Saturday, July 6.

This program is in conjunction with the Elementary camp. CITs will receive training in the mornings and in the afternoons will assist cabin counselors and program staff to obtain practical experience.

Those desiring this training need to apply. Their deposit will be refunded if the applicant is not selected – there is space for a limited number of CITs.

- **Junior High Camp:** We are the Peacemakers! Will be held Sunday, July 7 – Saturday, July 13

This year's camp will center around becoming peacemakers in our personal lives as well as in the greater world.

- **Senior High Camp:** IIIUminate-Us will be held Sunday, July 14 – Saturday, July 20

This is a week of self discovery and fun as we work to help our individual lights shine in the midst of this diverse district wide youth community.

Youth camps cost \$390 per camper for the week. This includes meals, housing, workshops, arts and crafts and all activities. The Counselor in Training camp costs \$245, but is not eligible for early-bird pricing.

- **Family Summer Camp:** Exploring the Interdependent Web will be held Sunday, July 21 through Saturday, July 27.

This year at Family Camp we will explore the interdependent web of life, and how each of us fits into the glorious whole.

Costs for Family Camp are --
Adults: \$345, Teens: \$305, Children: \$295, Age two and below: \$100

Take Advantage of Our Super Camp Sunday for District Children's and Youth Camps!

If you register on April 14 you get a \$35 discount on camp. (CIT training not eligible)

You must register on this day through our congregation. Bring your completed registration form and your \$75 non-refundable deposit to our Super Camp Sunday table.

Our Youth Program's Coordinator, Käthe Larick, will coordinate this program for First Church. Registration forms will be available in the RE Office. If you need further information about Super Camp Sunday, please contact Käthe at kathe@firstuusandiego.org.

For more camp information go to the de Benneville Web Site at <http://www.uucamp.org>.

Liz Jones

Suppertime! An Opening Night Fundraising Dinner

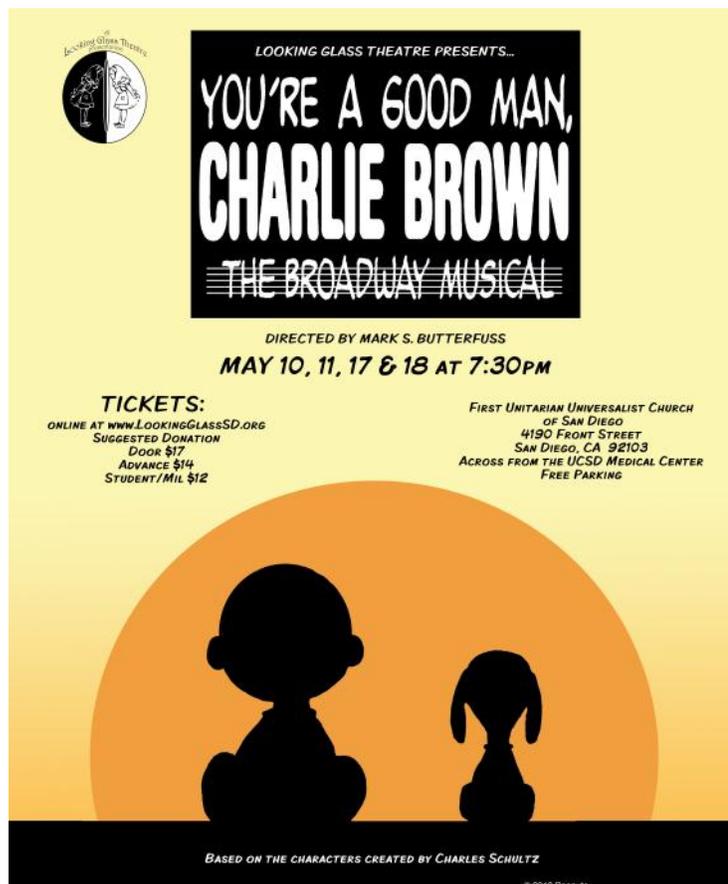
Your presence is requested at our opening night fundraiser *Suppertime!* on May 10 at 6 pm in Bard Hall. For \$10.00 you will dine on school cafeteria food the lunch ladies never dreamed of, created by Chef Ray Evans:

Suppertime! Menu

Green salad
Ramey's baked chicken
Neatloaf (Vegan)
Tater tots with cheese sauce
Cut corn
Cut green beans
Rolls

Choc chip dog bone cookie sandwiches
Sugar cookie", with white choc dip

Juice boxes, Milk cartons, Coffee



LOOKING GLASS THEATRE PRESENTS...

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THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

DIRECTED BY MARK S. BUTTERFUSS
MAY 10, 11, 17 & 18 AT 7:30PM

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Suppertime! and "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" advance tickets will be available on the patio from April 15 to May 5. All proceeds will benefit Looking Glass Theatre Royalty Campaign.

This year Looking Glass Theatre needs to raise \$3,000 to pay the show royalties, a fee paid to the writer or composer for the right to perform his or her work.

LGT will gratefully accept donations of any amount, but for donations of \$100 or more, Looking Glass Theatre will present you with four tickets to be used at any LGT performance and will list your name in the program as "LGT Royalty."

To donate, write a check to First UU Church of San Diego and write LGT Royalty on the memo line. Send your check to the First UU Church of San Diego, 4190 Front Street, San Diego, CA 92103 in care of the LGT Treasurer.

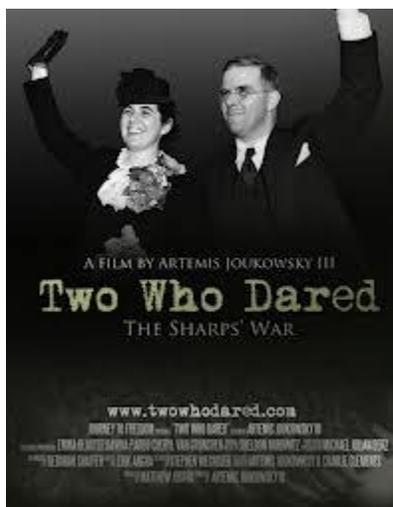
TWO WHO DARED: THE SHARPS' WAR

A FILM PRESENTED BY PEACE AND DEMOCRACY TASK FORCE

In April we observe Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. In honor of this observance, the Peace and Democracy Action Group is pleased to offer a screening of the documentary film *Two Who Dared: The Sharps' War*.

This moving film, which aired to wide acclaim under the title *The Ministers' War* at UUA, tells the story of a Unitarian Minister and his wife who risked everything during the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia to help Jews and non-Jews escape from Gestapo clutches.

In February 1939, Waitstill Sharp, a young Unitarian minister from Boston, and his wife Martha left for Czechoslovakia on a refugee mission. For months, the Unitarian Church had been receiving alarming reports from Prague regarding the plight of refugees. The Sharps arrived in Prague, home to the largest Unitarian church in the world, with \$28,000 in monetary aid. The Unitarian church was already a step ahead of the Nazis, having set up a secretive network of volunteers and agencies to secure the safe passage of both Jews and non-Jews out of Prague. The task became even more difficult when on March 15, 1939 the Nazis entered Prague. For the next five months, the Sharps continued their work undaunted by the presence of the Gestapo and the possibility that they would be arrested or killed. In August 1939, the couple left Prague and headed back to the United States, barely escaping arrest.



Only 10 months later, the Sharps returned to Europe on their second mission, setting up a refugee office in Lisbon, Portugal. Eventually, they made their way to Nazi-controlled France, to find ways to help refugees escape. In an elaborate plan, the Sharps helped renowned German-Jewish author Lion Feuchtwanger and his wife escape to New York via Spain. During their sixth months stay in France, the Sharps worked closely with another American rescuer, Varian Fry.

Finally, in December 1940, after rescuing a myriad of people from the horrors of Nazi persecution, Waitstill and Martha Sharp returned to the United States. Following the war, Martha Sharp remained very active in efforts to assist Jews around the world.

Two Who Dared: The Sharps' War tells this remarkable story of courage, documenting the lives of Reverend Sharp and his wife. The documentary is told from the point of view of Martha and Waitstill, drawing on their recorded interviews, letters and unpublished memoirs, as well as interviews with those the couple rescued.

Please join us on Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m. in the Commons Room to view this amazing film, and explore parallels with our lives today. For more information, contact Rhea Kuhlman at 619-582-1962.



THE FIRST UU HUMANIST FILM STUDY GROUP

By DUNCAN WILLIAMS, CHAIR

Frederick Krager started the Humanist discussion group about 1980. I started helping out in the mid-1990s. Frederick used "note-prepared podium speakers" only, as he disliked most technology. In 2007 his breathing problems became worse, and he dropped the project entirely.

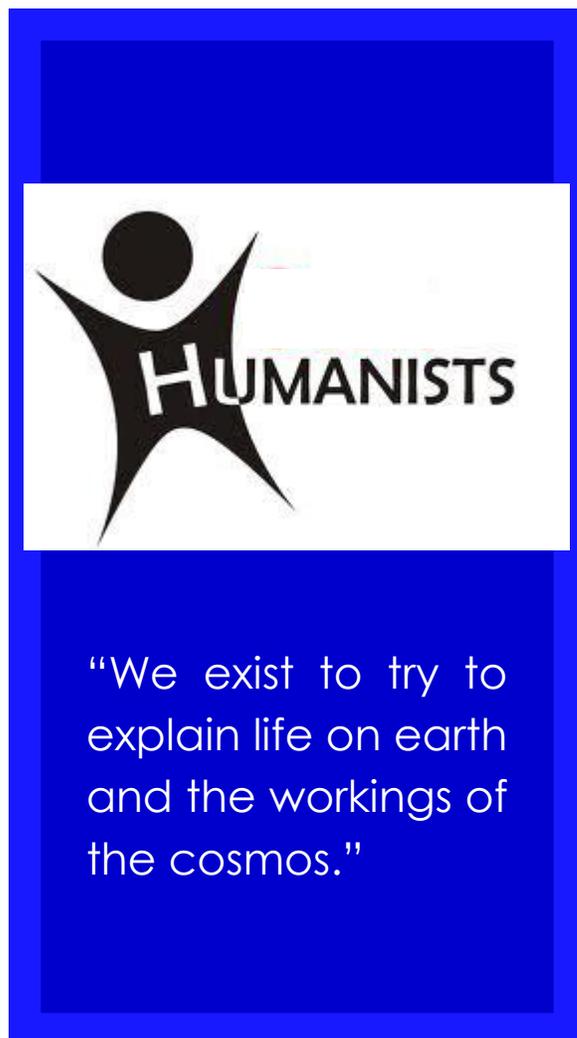
I realized that there was a great amount of well-prepared humanist filmed material on cable TV, that could be copied easily and shown without penalty for non-profit groups to use for "good purposes". The group's mission statement reads: "We exist to present educational and informative material from social, biological and physical science sources to try to explain life on earth and the workings of the cosmos, usually from a secular perspective."

There is an effort to find the best history, biographies and relevant arts material that is available. I find that our audience needs to see solutions to world problems and that it is best to include, whenever possible, uplifting endings. Changing the topics continually is also a good way to get new participants.

What I like best about this group is that, unlike many humanist groups, we don't continually harp on getting God out of schools and the government. That may be a good cause-but I find that boring and repetitious. I'm an agnostic, by the way, so I'm not about to try to preach atheism. Besides which, most UUs believe that there is some good in most religions. From time to time, the group presents material on religious excess, such as the Crusades, the treatment of girls and women by the Taliban, and the censure of same-sex marriage by fundamentalists. The other day, the group viewed a great documentary film called "Dyslexia Revisioned". 15 people showed, 4 identified as dyslexic and two called themselves ADD sufferers. The group occasionally runs publicity in local newspapers and on-line events listings. My hope with that is to help "grow the church."

In the group discussion, we now use a talking stick, (a time-honored Native American tradition) so that whoever has asked to speak feels that he or she has a carved out space and that space will be honored for up to 3 minutes, with a chance to speak again later on. This encourages even shy attendees to talk.

The group has a solid core of repeat attendees, which tells me that tweaking the format has been successful. Please check out the group – the content of the meetings is posted inside the South entrance and by the bookstore and is also listed in the Window. The meetings are on the 4th Sundays, from 1-3 pm. If you have any further questions about the group, email me, Duncan Williams at, at realist921@yahoo.com.



WOMEN'S RETREAT AT CAMP DE BENNEVILLE

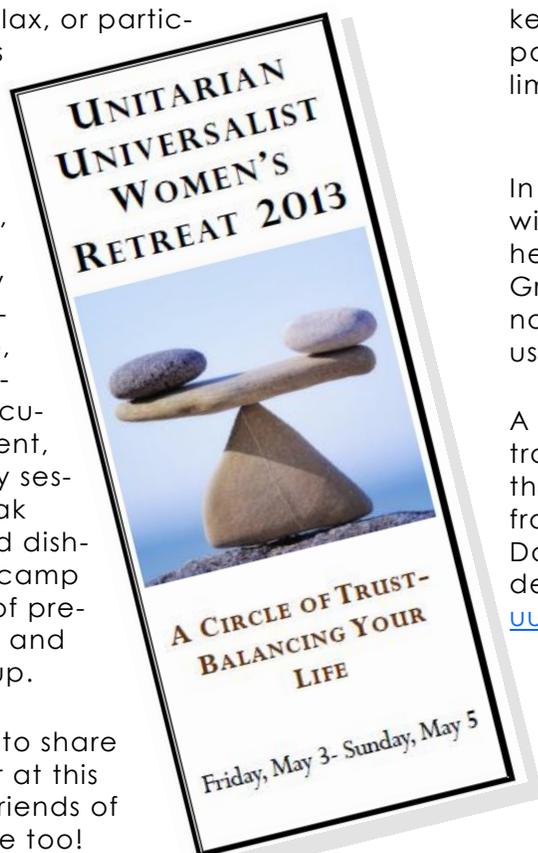
MAY 3 - 5

Treat yourself to a fun-filled weekend full of self care and community. This year's theme speaker is the Rev. Kathleen Owens. Join together with women from all over California in nurturing old friendships and sparking brand new connections.

Kick back and relax, or participate in activities such as belly dancing, drumming, singing, dancing, hiking, playing, listening, sharing and attending a variety of workshops. Relax in the hot tub, or schedule a private massage, acupuncture treatment, or aroma therapy session. Enjoy a break from cooking and dishes as the caring camp staff takes care of preparing the meals and doing the cleanup.

There is so much to share with one another at this annual retreat. Friends of UU's are welcome too! Please extend invitations to any young women in your circle of friends, especially young moms in need of rest and support.

The Rev. Kathleen Owens will share insights she has found throughout her life and ministry relative to this year's retreat theme. Bringing intellectual, spiritual and practical ways of being, as a way to better balance, is a major theme in her own life and now, in her ministry. The keynote address will be based upon many sources including poetry, women's spirituality, and the work of Quaker educator and theologian Parker Palmer.



Kathleen will offer two workshops:

Knowing Yourself Brings Better Balance

In this workshop, Rev. Kathleen Owens will lead an experiential session based on Parker Palmer's Circle of Trust work. This workshop will explore more deeply some of the keynote address topics and include group participation in practice. This workshop is limited to 15 participants.

Discovery of the Goddesses Within

In this workshop, the Rev. Kathleen Owens will share insights, stories and pictures from her recent sabbatical/pilgrimage to Turkey, Greece and Italy in the fall of 2012. There is no size limit to this workshop, so come join us for an exciting internal journey to Turkey.

A discount is available off of the \$175 registration to women from First Church. And there may be scholarship money available from the UU Women's Federation. Contact Dorothy Pearlman knitdap@yahoo.com for details. Register for the retreat at uucamp.org.



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 Rev. Kathleen Owens, Associate Minister
 Rev. Jim Grant, Affiliate Minister
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 Robie Evans, Director of Operations
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 Käthe Larick, Youth Program Coordinator
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