



# FirstWords

A publication of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego

## The Length of the Reach

By Maggie Marshall, member since 2005

Going to Regional Assembly, held in San Jose this spring, was my first formal denominational event outside my own congregation (other than standing witness at the UU Church of Berkeley to the inspiring Ordination of now Rev. Sue Magidson). I was hungry to expand my knowledge and gain a wider understanding of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) structure and the direction the denomination is heading as a religious movement. My ministers, a few of the staff and so many lay leaders from First Church encouraged (secret code for "nudged") me to attend.

At Regional Assembly, the Growing Lay Leaders workshop track focused on ten keys to creating leadership teams. The first was about how important it is for each of us to deepen our own "personal faith development". I will long remember the priceless comment made from the podium, "Our souls don't respond to scolding." Daniel Martin, youth member of the Board (Pacific Western Regional Assembly) from Tucson, Arizona, spoke of how critical it is to orientate people who are attempting to join committees and teams. He explained how uncomfortable it is for the majority of newcomers to first mix with others at church. Newcomers require increased personal one-on-one time to understand the purpose of the church, connect to its mission, clarify their roles and understand the language used so freely during committee work.

I was fortunate to have a kindhearted roommate in Joan Cudhea. She was the first person I saw as I entered the hotel. Together, we moved down the hallway as she introduced me to everyone we saw. People would run up delighted to see Joan and the first thing she would do is say, "I'd like you to meet my friend Maggie. This is her first Assembly."

Then there were two groups of people that really stood out to me. Every student I met from Starr King seemed to make a concerted effort to be attentive and welcoming. As our keynote speaker Rev. Christine Robinson said "Make the soul feel welcome." and that they did. My favorite student was Julie Brock. She was so joyful and interesting and it wasn't a one-way su-

perfluous conversation. When she found out that I was going to my first General Assembly in June, Julie said, "Here is my phone number. Let's have coffee or a meal together in Louisville." Now that's reaching out way beyond the norm and that's what makes the difference. It's the sincerity and the length of the reach!

The other cluster of people that left a smile on my face, were so many of the gracious ministers I met. It was unexpected how generous they were with their time and how they reached out to be sociable, too. Each seemed to sense an eager UU was trying to navigate the larger complex network. I was grateful for their sensitivity. And, yes, I had a favorite there too, Rev. Jacqueline Duhart, from the First Unitarian Church of Oakland (slap your hands together...she has the spark)! But I can't forget to mention Rev. Wendy Bartel (I will always remember her from First Church) our fabulous spiritual conductor who kindled all the sparks in the room. It was like being a part of a blazing musical torch, searing our souls with deep emotion.

To end the weekend with another act of kindness, Emily Webb, our intern minister, asked if she and I could sit together during the final community worship. That quiet jester will long be remembered. What caught me by surprise was that I left the weekend feeling the warmth of a deeper connection and a profound commitment to my faith. My gratitude is to so many; I do not feel like a newcomer any more!



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## Arvid's Arcana

By Rev Dr Arvid Straube, Lead Minister

There has been a lot of bad news in the past few weeks—terrorist attacks, tornadoes, wars that kill and displace more and more civilians and exacerbating political gamesmanship. Many people have expressed feelings of hopelessness to me of late. I'm just letting you know, I don't feel hopeless, for several reasons. The first is that there is a lot of good news, too, and not all of that is reported in the media. Everywhere in the world people are working for human and animal rights, for peace, for reconciliation, for economic justice and for ecological sustainability. More and more states are legalizing same sex marriage. Even the Boy Scouts have taken an incomplete step toward equality. I feel hopeful when I can lend my voice, my witness and my energy to these causes. As UU songwriter Carolyn McDade said, "Hope is something we make with our hands.

The second reason is that there is an incredible new generation entering adulthood. Forget what you hear in the media about young adults these days being zoned out, hedonistic tech addicts. The young adults I know have a sophisticated understanding of human and biological diversity and they are full of new and creative ideas. If you doubt it, talk to some of the young adults in our congregation.

The third reason I have hope is that I owe it to the activists and justice seekers who have gone before, and the generations who will come after, not to give up. Despair is a waste of energy.

Zen Master Bernie Glassman Roshi wrote, "Over and over again I run into people who tell me they want to make peace but that they have to learn more, know more, become better people, or become enlightened before they can start working on behalf of others. For me, that's the state of being stingy. Each of us is more than qualified to do peacemaking. Each of us, as we are, is full of beautiful gifts. Every person who's reading these words has wonderful resources right now. So why shouldn't we share them?"

If you want to do something but don't feel empowered, learn to ask---of yourself and of other people. Don't be stingy with who you are!

## June Sermon Messages

### Celebration Times:

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

**South Bay Campus:** Sunday, 9:30a (Intergenerational, Bi-lingual [Spanish, English])

The June **Transformational Theme** is **Joy and Ecstasy**.

### Sunday, June 2:

- Hillcrest Services—**"The Real Stuff: Beyond Materialism,"** Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live).
  - 9:30 Music: Guest pianist: Chris Ferguson.
  - 11:30 Music: Offertory is Stevie Wonder's "Higher Ground", from his '73 album *Innervisions*; recorded in 3 hrs, Wonder played all instruments - even the drums!
- South Bay Service—**"Oh, The Places You'll Go,"** Emily's Farewell Sermon, Emily Webb, Intern (live).

### Sunday, June 9: New Member Blessing

- Hillcrest Services—**"Oh, The Places You'll Go,"** Emily's Farewell Sermon, Emily Webb, Intern (live). ECSC-lead meditation.
  - 9:30 Music: The Chalice Choir sings the Russian folk song "Chorny Voran;" the Las Campanas handbells rings "Change Ring on Divinum Mysterium", "Fiesta con campanillas".
  - 11:30 Music: We "Say a Little Prayer" for Emily with the Bacharach/David composition; made famous by Dionne Warwick in 1967.
- South Bay Service—**"The Real Stuff: Beyond Materialism,"** Rev Dr Arvid Straube (pre-recorded).

### Sunday, June 16: Child Dedication

- Hillcrest Services—**"It Takes a Village to Grow A Soul"**, Rev Kathleen Owens (live).
  - 9:30 Music: Chalice Choir sings Syswerda's contemporary spiritual "Run, Child, Run!"; UUBellation rings "Staccato Giocoso."
  - 11:30 Music: Our monthly jazz service features Jones' "A Child Is Born"; reminiscent Streisand's '75 *Lazy Afternoon* album.
- South Bay Service—**"Spiritual Fulfillment in 3 Easy Steps"**, Lauren Way, Future Seminarian (live).

### Sunday, June 23:

- Hillcrest Service—**"Wake Up!"**, Rev Tom Owen-Towle, Minister Emeritus (live).
  - 9:30 Music: The Chalice Choir sings the Scott's "Let this be a House of Peace" arranged for choir by S. Behnen.
  - 11:30 Music: Offertory is Mellencamp's "Your Life Is Now". Mellencamp, a rock singer-songwriter, musician, painter, actor is known for catchy, populist heartland rock with traditional instrumentation.
- South Bay Service—**"It Takes a Village to Grow A Soul"**, Rev Kathleen Owens (pre-recorded).

### Sunday, June 30:

- Hillcrest Service—**"Bless Those Who Serve: A Peacenik Salutes the Military"**, Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live).
  - 9:30 Music: Guest pianist, Barbara Scheidker, plays music by Samuel Barber and Charles Ives.
  - 11:30 Music: Special music is Simon's "Wartime Prayers" from his '06 album *Surprise*. This premonition song was written before the '03 Iraq invasion.
- South Bay Service—**"Wake Up!"**, Rev Tom Owen-Towle, Minister Emeritus (pre-recorded).



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### Try the iGive Button

Helping First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego is now automatic!



There's a new, painless way to give to First Church; every time you shop on-line, a percentage of what you spend could be given to the church.

[iGive.com](http://www.igive.com) was established in 1997 for one purpose: to turn everyday online shopping into donations for worthy causes, at no cost to shoppers or the causes they support. It's easy to use and secure. There are over 1,300 stores that participate in iGive. They're called the iGive mall. Some examples are, Air France, JCPenney, LL Bean, and REI. The percentage each store contributes back to your favorite cause varies from .4% to 40%. Also, once you install iGive on your computer, a small amount is donated just for searching.

iGive has many convenient features. When searching for a specific item within iGive, it allows you to compare dealer pricing and donation information for that item. You can set up an account to email deals and coupons directly to you. Some companies offer dozens of coupons, along with discounted prices, free shipping, a percentage off purchases and freebies. There is a tab for hotels and airlines that participate in the program. The iGive website also provides a detailed on-going and end-of-year personal, itemized tax report of your purchases through iGive.



If an online store uses iGive, a clickable "seed" button appears; clicking on this will take you, seamlessly, to that store and First Church will be credited.



## iGive at First Church

By Nancy Fisk and Chris Christenson

To get started with iGive, go to the First Church homepage and click on the [iGive button](#). After filling out the form and signing up with iGive, there are several ways to work with the website. The first will be a button for your toolbar, which when you click on it, will take you to a seamless shopping experience.

Second, during a search for a product, the iGive logo will be revealed next to the listing, for any store that participates in the iGive Mall. Finally, when shopping on a site, a triangle with the iGive logo will appear in the bottom right, which can be clicked on to activate the automatic donation from your purchase.



The iGive button on our website homepage.



Once on a store page, a triangular "tab" appears in the lower right corner, confirming they are in the iGive Mall, and offering further deals, coupons, and information.

We hope you will consider joining iGive, for another convenient way to give to a worthy cause, First Church. Link <http://www.igive.com/> <http://www.firstunitarianuniversalistchurchofsandiego.org>

# Alfred R. Mitchell and Charles Reiffel, early California Impressionists

By Nancy Fisk, Editor

Alfred Mitchell born in York, Pennsylvania in 1888, came to San Diego in 1913, and began his art training at the San Diego Academy of Art. He returned to Pennsylvania at the urging of his teacher and studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. He studied with Joseph Pearson and New Hope Impressionists Daniel Garber and Edward Redfield.

He returned to San Diego in the early 1920s and became a major influence in the art community. His paintings specialized in landscapes and the American West. He was president of the San Diego Art Guild in 1922-23. He exhibited his works regularly at the La Jolla Art Association. After a long and successful career in San Diego, he died in 1972.



**Alfred Mitchell and The Canyon** Mitchell was an active member of First Church, attending services, serving as an usher and on the Board. The large Mitchell painting on display in the Owen-Towle Gallery in the Welcome Center is called the Canyon, and is oil on canvas laid down on plywood, done in 1927. There are several smaller Mitchell paintings, in different buildings at First Church.



**Charles Reiffel**

Charles Reiffel was born in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1862, and belonged to the early California school of Impressionism. He began his career in Cincinnati as a lithographer and continued to work in New York City and England in 1891. He visited San Diego in 1925, and he and his wife were so enchanted with the area they decided to stay. He was frequently seen on the backroads of San Diego County painting the hills, farms and countryside. His paintings are done in plein air –outdoor and onsite. He also painted large murals of the San Diego area for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that were displayed at San Diego high schools. Reiffel lived and painted in California until his death in San Diego in 1942.

The Charles Reiffel painting owned by First Church hangs next to Mitchell's the Canyon, and the name is unknown. It is similar to other pictures Reiffel has done of the Silvermine river in the Connecticut area where he lived for many years. From the book, Charles Reiffel: An American Post-Impressionist,... "Reminiscing about the artist and his wife, who lived next door to her [in San Diego] when she was a young girl, Carolyn Hawes recalls that "the Reiffels...were freethinking intellectuals who were nominally Unitarian." Alfred Mitchell was a great supporter of Reiffel, raising money to purchase the Reiffel painting, Morning, Nogales, Arizona for the Fine Arts Gallery of San Diego.

Information drawn from the Lawrence Beebe Fine Art website, [lawrencebeebe.com](http://lawrencebeebe.com).



## POWERFUL STORIES: USING THE ARTS TO CREATE A DYNAMIC WORSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY

By Emily Webb, Intern Minister

What inspires you? For many people, it is some form of art – storytelling, music, dance or media. The arts are a powerful medium for shaping our thinking and actions. Art and music making is a wonderful form of spiritual growth.

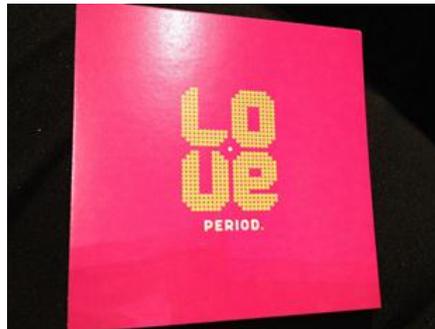
What motivates you? Many people are motivated by a deep concern for the wellbeing of others, and a desire to contribute to life. This is one of the number reasons people join religious communities – they want to be apart of a community where they can serve others.

Recently, Kristen Kuriga and I visited Middle Collegiate Church in New York, New York for the Leading Edge conference. Every year the Leading Edge brings together people to study and learn at this congregation, about how to build justice-centered multicultural congregations. Middle Collegiate describes itself in four words – welcoming, artistic, inclusive, bold. It is a Christian community that has in the past 30 years transformed from being an aging group of about 20 white members to a richly multicultural congregation and community arts center. This transformation happened through emphasizing the arts as a primary way people worship and build community, and social justice as the unifying thread which connects all aspects of the congregation.

As Unitarian Universalists, we tell a powerful story that all are worthy, and all are loved. We speak out against injustices and oppression. There is no more powerful way to share this story with the world than through using the arts and engaging in social justice.

Here at First UU San Diego, we have very strong arts programming and many social justice projects and opportunities. However, these programs often do not “cross paths.” At Middle Collegiate, Kristen and I found ourselves immersed in a congregation where the arts and social justice constantly feed each other.

I found myself asking, in what ways can social justice and the arts connect at First UU San Diego? How can we use the arts to revitalize our commitments to justice-making? How can justice stories and struggles be shared using the arts?



The next five-year strategic plan includes providing bold and engaging worship and programs while developing collaborative partnerships with marginalized communities. One key way to accomplish this is integrating the arts and social justice into every aspect of congregational life at First UU San Diego.

There are a few examples of how this has happened before at First UU– one notable example from last summer was the production of the play Prop 8.

What else could happen? A bilingual choir that was organized to sing at immigration vigils? An art installation reflecting the effects of gun violence in San Diego?



Inviting local musicians to give a benefit concert to support more music programming in public schools? Liturgical drama about LGBTQ discrimination incorporated into a worship service?

In a sermon recently, I quoted Adrienne Rich, who said “we must use what we have to create what we desire.” This congregation is rich in the arts and has a strong commitment to social justice. When combined, these forces create an attractive and dynamic religious community that is relevant and engaged with the world today. May it be so!



# ILAN LAEL FOUNDATION 30TH ANNIVERSARY

By Nancy Fisk, Editor

On Saturday, September 28, 2013, the Ilan Lael Foundation will hold a 30th Anniversary Celebration in Bard Hall,

honoring the work of James Hubbell. Started by James Hubbell and his wife in 1983, the name for the foundation, Ilan Lael, is Hebrew for "Tree belonging to God". According to James Hubbell, "The Ilan-Lael Foundation is an arts education foundation celebrating nature and the aesthetic of the built environment for its ability to help us see ourselves and our world in new ways." Join James and Anne and friends as they celebrate 30 years of using art to create a more humane and harmonious world.

First Church is the site of several Hubbell sculptures and a fountain whose mosaic design was James' first public art project that used volunteers to assist in its artistic embellishment, and the beginning of the Ilan-Lael Foundation's hands-on public art projects.

The foundation also has art installations that are collectively known as the Pacific Rim Park project. The project, begun in Vladivostok, Russia, was created to connect Vladivostok and San Diego on a human level. A park was also built in Vladivostok, and then in San Diego, on Shelter Island, using volunteer help from those cities. Parks now exist in 7 other countries, with a site in Taiwan to be finished soon. The hope is that someday these parks will be in all 41 countries that are on the Pacific Rim.

Colegio Esperanza is another project that the foundation sponsors. For the last 20 years, the foundation has worked in the Tijuana area, designing and building an elementary school and a kindergarten. It is in the process of finishing a high school.

Every Father's Day, the foundation sponsors a house tour that supports the compound in Santa Ysabel where James Hubbell lives and does his art.



James Hubbell at the installation of the new disk for the Cornerstone Monument, June 5, 2012.



For ticket information, contact the Ilan Lael Foundation at [ilanlael@mac.com](mailto:ilanlael@mac.com) or call 760-765-3427 for reservations. The fundraiser in Bard Hall on September 28th is open to the general public and tickets will go on sale on July 1st. This year's House tour will be held on June 16, 2013. Information on the house tour on June 16 is also available on the website.



The Memorial Fountain. Designed by James Hubbell. Dedicated, 1968.



## FIRST WORDS ON HIATUS

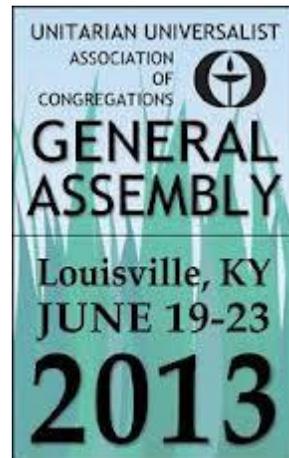
By NANCY FISK, EDITOR

It's that time again, when First Words takes a break during July and August. Not that things die down in the summer here at First Church. We continue to have regular services every Sunday, 9:30 and 11:30 AM in Hillcrest and 9:30 AM in the South Bay.

The annual congregational meeting is on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Hillcrest. Many of the staff, and several members will be attending the UUA General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, that goes from Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I'd like to remind you to join me in the Meeting House during the week of General Assembly to watch the livestreaming of the main events: the Ware Lecture, the Service of the Living Tradition, and the Closing ceremonies.

**Have a great summer, and First Words will be back in September!**



**Livestreaming in the Meeting House:  
All times are Pacific Daylight Savings Time**

**Friday, June 21, 4:30-5:30PM** - The **Ware Lecture with Eboo Patel**. Dr. Patel is founder and Executive Director of the Interfaith Youth Core, an international nonprofit building the interfaith youth movement.

**Saturday, June 22, 5:30-7PM** – **Service of the Living Tradition**, where the UUA welcomes new ministers into the denomination and honors those who are retiring or who have died during the past year, followed by a sermon from a minister who is prominent in the denomination.

**Sunday, June 23, 4:30 – 6PM** – **Closing Ceremonies**

Consider joining together as a community for all or some of these events. You can also livestream at home other parts of General Assembly, such as the plenaries, by checking on the UUA website at: <http://www.uua.org/ga/virtual/30754.shtml>

# 1000 Family Annual Rummage Sale

**Saturday, June 15, 2013**

**7 am – 3 pm**



**Please bring your GENTLY USED donations to church between June 7th and June 12th. We still need volunteers to sort, price and display donations the week before the sale. It really is fun and helps both our church and the community. Sign up at church on Sundays or online at the church website.**

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 Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Associate Minister*  
 Rev. Jim Grant, *Affiliate Minister*  
 Emily Webb, *Intern Minister*  
 Robie Evans, *Director of Operations*  
 Liz Jones, *Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry*  
 Käthe Larick, *Youth Program Coordinator*  
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Order of Service submissions: [oos@firstuusandiego.org](mailto:oos@firstuusandiego.org)

The Window submissions (Church bulletin):

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First Church Web Sites:

Main Website: <http://www.firstuusandiego.org>

South Bay Campus:

<http://www.firstuusandiego.org/uus-of-the-south-bay>

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