



FirstWords

A publication of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego

Truly Changing the World

By Susan Harding and Rev. Kathleen Owens

On Saturday April 2nd, a day-long symposium called "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream" which has been given all over the world, is now coming to us. Though Awakening the Dreamer was not conceived of by the UU faith, it has a direct fit with UU principles, especially that of "affirming and promoting respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

The symposium is a global vision built on sustainability, spiritual fulfillment and social justice and mirrors the UU mission of working for compassion-ate justice in this society and on this planet.

A number of First Church members and friends have not only attended one of these symposiums, but also are training to lead it. They have been deeply moved and are very excited to share this important and needed work with the rest of our congregation.

Suellen Sorenson says, "I was familiar with most of the material, but it reached me at a different level. I can hardly speak of the experience without becoming emotional. I am inspired, hopeful and moved to action. And, I can hardly wait to share this experience with you on April 2nd". Len Pelletieri adds, "The symposium spoke to me, loud and clear. It said I'm part of something much bigger; there is work to be done, and I can do it."

It was so moving to Marge Wurgel and Keith Meschner that they are traveling this month to visit with and learn from the indigenous people in the Amazon Rainforest and the Andes of Ecuador where much of the impetus for the Awakening the Dreamer concept began. Finally, Rev. Kathleen Owens states "This symposium is about becoming more aware...of waking up and taking action for a better tomorrow, for a better planet. I'm excited to participate in this day-long event and in the ac-

tions we'll take beyond the day."

First Church is doing wonderful social justice work already, but it can only be beneficial to know that we are working on all these

efforts with people all around the world and that collectively we can make a bigger difference. There is power when like-minded people come together; amazing changes can and as we have seen, our world can change for the better. Join us on April 2nd.

Go here for more details:

<http://www.firstuusandiego.org/Websites/firstuusandiego/Images/QA.pdf>

Go here to register"

http://awakeningthedreamer.org/component?option=com_events/type,event/task/details/id,2048

**The Awakening the Dreamer
Changing The Dream Symposium**

Hopeful new perspectives and possibilities.
Creating a bold new future.

Join us to explore a new **global vision** built on Sustainability, Spiritual Fulfillment and Social Justice. Featuring video insights from inspiring philosophers, scientists, community leaders, plus time for personal reflection and group activities.

The Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium is a profound inquiry into a bold vision: to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling and socially just human presence on Earth.

You will gain fresh insight about our world, meet like-minded people, find hope and inspiration and leave clear how you can help create a new future.

If you are ready to explore what this vision means for you, we invite you to attend.

When is it?
Saturday April 2, 2011 Sign-in: 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Symposium 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where is it?
First Unitarian Universalist Church
4190 Front Street in Hillcrest
Across from UCSD Medical Center

How do I register?
By Web: www.awakeningthedreamer.org/symposium2048
Please register by March 21st or Contact Chris Christenson
By Phone: at 619-298-9978 ext. 8014 or By email chris@firstuusandiego.org

How much is it?
\$10 donation requested at the door.

Bring a sack lunch or grab a quick bite nearby

For more information:
www.firstuusandiego.org/Websites/firstuusandiego/Images/QA.pdf

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From Here We Grow ...

BY Rev. Kathleen Owens

First Church, a Great Cause!

It may not feel like First Church is growing...with a construction fence that will cut the Hillcrest campus in half and the South Bay campus that is limited in seating due to Fire Codes, but it is indeed growing – in many ways. First Church has many visitors to both campuses, and the Sunday attendance at worship services is strong.

Most importantly, First Church is growing in non-physical ways. This is a community that is growing from the heart and deepening its experience and understanding of what it is to be a person of this Unitarian Universalist faith. We are growing in who we understand our neighbor to be, standing on the side of love as the congregation studies the issue of immigration and how it is a moral issue for people of faith. We are growing in our acts of care and compassion as the work of the Caring Ministry team is expanded by the volunteers and lay ministers who serve our congregation on two campuses.

First Church is growing intellectually as we study the ways of compassionate communication, participate in classes on Forgiveness, Progressive Christianity, and discuss the book, [A Chosen Faith – An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism](#). We are growing in spirit as we start a new meditation group on our South Bay campus, participate in the monthly meeting of Telling Our Stories: A Spiritual Exploration of Diversity and begin a new Spiritual Deepening group. First Church is growing in its sense of community as various affinity groups meet for discussion of books, movies, work on craft projects, share a museum experience together and meet in neighborhood groups.

And First Church is growing in action through the Social Justice Ministry team work. From January to December 2010, 242 people have participated in Social Justice activities and programs; the congregation has given 893 hours of community service through monthly, family-friendly service projects. And the congregation has also given \$81,365.64 to community organizations whose work reflects UU values. This is an amazing accomplishment in this first year of combined, coordinated and focused social justice work at First Church. These donations

March Sermons

Celebration Times:

Hillcrest Campus:

Sunday, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

South Bay Campus: Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

March's Transformational Theme is

Spiritual Maturity

Sunday, March 6—Hillcrest Campus

"Spiritual Maturity: What's That?"

- Rev. Kathleen Owens (live)

Sunday, March 6—South Bay Campus

"An Antihistamine for Evil"

- Rev. Kathleen Owens (pre-recorded)

Sunday, March 13—Hillcrest Campus

"What's Spiritual About Maturing?"

- Rev. Kathleen Owens (live)

Sunday, March 13—South Bay Campus

"Spiritual Maturity: What's That?"

- Rev. Kathleen Owens (pre-recorded)

Sunday, March 20—Hillcrest Campus

"The Garden of Mystic Lovers Has No Boundaries"

- Rev. Jim Grant (live)

Sunday, March 20—South Bay Campus

"What's Spiritual About Maturing?"

- Rev. Kathleen Owens (pre-recorded)

Sunday, March 27—Hillcrest Campus

"From Here We Grow . . ." Celebration Sunday

- Rev. Kathleen Owens (live)

Sunday, March 27—South Bay Campus

"From Here We Grow . . ." Celebration Sunday

- Sue Magidson, Intern Minister (live)

have made a difference in the lives of people living in San Diego.

First Church has accomplished all of this and more because of the faithful support to this community. And now is the time we ask for your support to continue this work. The theme for this year's annual pledge drive, From Here We Grow...First Church, a Great Cause! reminds you that this spiritual, religious home – this church, is a great cause.

We are asking every member and pledging friend to increase their pledge if they are able. We are asking that everyone give 5% of their income to this church; some give more and we are very grateful. Some are still working toward that goal and we thank you for your plan to get there. If everyone contributed 5%, the increased growth in programs, justice work and care could transform this city, and certainly transform who we are. Thank you for joining Arvid, me and others on this incredible journey of growth.



Learning to Create Interfaith Partnerships

BY Käthe Larick, Youth Programme Coordinator

A team of three youth and two adults from First Church attended the second ever Training of Interfaith Leaders in Atlanta, Georgia over the President's Day weekend in February. The team, consisting of Janet Dray, Will Krueger, Emily Lamphere, Käthe Larick and Alex Mack was one of 10 teams from UU congregations from around the United States chosen for this special "training of trainers." Grounded in the work by Eboo Patel and the Interfaith Youth Core, participants learned the basic principles of religious pluralism, developing effective communication and leadership skills which will enable them to coordinate interfaith service events in their communities.

The training included many individual and team exercises designed to enhance facilitation skills. Each of the 10 teams was assigned a topic and presentation to organize, plan and perform and received feedback from other participants and the training facilitators Jessica York and Roberta Altamari. Our team brought back many new skills to First Church and our San Diego UU cluster.

"I took from the training a ton of new experiences, friends, and ideas on interfaith equality." –Emily Lamphere

"Even though the youth and adults came from all over the country, we all found some type of common ground, which showed us that despite apparent differences, people can always relate to each other." –Will Krueger

"I think new friends, new experiences, and a good teacher are important for a good training, and all of these were present at the interfaith training." – Alex Mack

"It was exciting to learn and plan ways to approach leaders of other faith communities in fellowship through activities that are youth championed, youth planned and youth achieved. Even better, now we can teach other youth/adult teams how to do this too." –Janet Dray



For me, the best part of the training was not just receiving a lot of valuable information and facilitation tools, but watching my teammates really push themselves to step outside of their comfort zones and try new things. It was like watching a beautiful flower unfold; a flower whose beauty will enhance our 1st UU community. Our team returned home full of ideas, energized and committed to creating an interfaith event here in San Diego sometime this year. The team will continue to meet and discuss what kind of event, when to hold the event, event logistics and the community resources available to make this interfaith dream a reality. Keep an eye on future issues of First Words and our church newsletter, The Window for news and information about this as the event plans become more solid.



Seussical Set Team Builds Community at First Church

BY Paula Johnson

The "SEUSSICAL, the Musical" set team has already begun building the imaginary world of Dr. Seuss for Looking Glass Theater's (LGT) latest inter-generational production, even though the show will not open until April 8th. Four scenic carpenters and two scene painters will spend the next two months creating the Jungle of Nool, Whoville, Horton's nest, Mayzie's lounge chair, Jo Jo's Bathtub, the Cat in the Hat's piano, and Circus McGurkus.

The SEUSSICAL Set Team includes scenic carpenters, Mike Dorfi, Scott Jones, Kerry Williams and another person who wishes to be anonymous, all long time pillars of First UU Church. Joining the team as scenic painters are Carolyn Watson Dubisch and Mike Dubisch, professional artists who, with their two daughters have been attending First Church for about 6 months. Paula Johnson heads up the team as Set Designer for SEUSSICAL.



Mike Dorfi is active in the Men's Group at First Church and is making his LGT debut with "SEUSSICAL."

Kerry Williams played Mr. Sowerberry in the LGTs "Oliver". He sings bass in the Chalice Choir.

Scott Jones started with LGT on "American Mosaic". He and his son, Shawn worked on sets for a number of shows over the last 20 years.

Carolyn Watson Dubisch is a commercial artist who has illustrated numerous children's books and designed props and sets for the Lenguas Vivas Players in Argentina and the N.Y. Conservatory for the Arts. Carolyn volunteered on the First Church Halloween Haunted House last Fall and painted faces.

Mike Dubisch is a commercial artist who designed creatures for Star Wars and Dungeons Dragons Role-Playing Games. He has a solo exhibit of his work on display at the Hyaena Gallery in Burbank. Mike volunteered on the First Church Halloween Haunted House last Fall.

Paula Johnson played Marion in LGT's "Music Man" and Widow Corney in LGT's "Oliver." She also sings in the Chalice Choir, JUUL Tones, and rings in Las Campanas.

Looking Glass Theater has a long history of community building at First UU Church. "SEUSSICAL" will give adults and children the chance to work, play and sing together in a joyous celebration of the Dr. Seuss, aka Theodore Seuss Geisel, legacy.

"SEUSSICAL" opens Friday, April 8th and continues on Saturday, April 9th and Sunday, April 16.



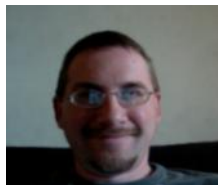
Mike Dorfi



Scott Jones



Carolyn Dubisch



Mike Dubisch



Kerry Williams



Paula Johnson

Bard Hall Goodbyes



There have been two Good Bye Bard Hall events:
D4\$ Goodbye on February 27, 2011. For a full slide show of this event go to <https://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=286695&l=2e3d6139c4&id=118228457209>
ECSC Goodbye on February 12, 2011. For a full slide show of this event go to <https://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=281870&l=5113c8c726&id=118228457209>

Building a New Way

BY Julie Schauble



I remember that when I first heard that First Church was looking for volunteers for a committee to form a campus in the South Bay, I thought, "Well, I do live in the South Bay so I guess I should help. But I'm never going to want to attend services there because I like this campus." But by the time we started services, this group of people felt like family to me.



I remember one day -- perhaps a year or so ago -- during a discussion at a South Bay Steering Committee meeting, saying "I can't imagine what my life would be like if we hadn't done this."

What an amazing opportunity this has been. How often does a person have the chance to help create something like this from the ground up? It has been very intense at times, but very fulfilling.

Without UU South Bay, I wouldn't be nearly as involved in social justice work. And I think it's something I've always wanted to do and just never had the right opportunity before this. In particular, our two journeys to Phoenix to protest against Arizona's immigration laws have been transformative experiences for me.

I remember at our Interfaith Shelter dinner last year, somebody brought up theology and I said my philosophy was "Don't wait for God to come down here and fix anything for you. You'd better take responsibility for doing it yourself. And Maureen said "That's what I like about you. You're a doer." That was about the best compliment I'd ever had. But I don't think I was so much of a doer before I had the opportunity to do it as part of our South Bay project.

Without UU South Bay, I wouldn't know many of the people who have become my closest friends.

When a recent tragedy in my family happened, I don't know who would have been my support group if not for you all.

Before this South Bay campus came into being, I was a UU intellectually. I liked classes, sermons and books on spiritual topics. But at South Bay, I have been learning to act from the heart, not just from the head. I don't

know whether I'd have realized I needed to do that without South Bay, let alone had a chance to start working on it.

A few months ago, I was at a reception at KPBS where I work. In the middle of the awards presentation, I found myself thinking "There's a lot of love in this room." That's when I realized my heart-not-head goal was working: I never would have perceived it that way before.

I see First UU Hillcrest campus as the Unitarian side of the family and South Bay as the Universalist side -- the free-thinking side versus the love and social justice side. We're the warmer, friendlier, more emotional and sometimes impulsive side. But as in any family, our common experience is changing the Hillcrest branch of the family, too. Hillcrest is incorporating more and more Spanish into worship, using more modern music, and getting more involved in our common social justice projects. We're all Standing On the Side of Love together.



In short, being part of UUs of the South Bay has transformed my life, and I thank you all for allowing me to be part of it.



First Unitarian
Universalist Church
of San Diego



Carlos Richardson

Carlos Richardson, 90, is a long time member of First Church. He is a very cheerful man with a quick smile. I spoke to him at Rev. Jim Grant's suggestion.

Raised in the Waterton, Massachusetts UU Church as a child, Carlos came to First Church around 1956. He remembers John Ruskin Clark, who was the First Church minister from 1956-1978. He also remembers Marc Salkin, the assistant minister and then associate minister for Rev. Clark from 1975 to 1978. Carlos started attending the church when it was on 6th Street, and continued attending when the congregation moved into the Lafayette Hotel on El Cajon, while they built the new Meeting House in Hillcrest.

The congregation numbered 600 or 700 people at the time. His first wife, Wanda, worked as church secretary. He served on different committees while the campus was being built. Most notably, he worked on the new sound system with Dr. Edward M. Little, a nationally recognized expert on acoustics, who was with Scripps Institute. Carlos says, "My job was to see to it that we had something we could hear with. We fussed and fumed about where the speakers should go." Dr. Little ran some tests, and decided there needed to be some kind of cloth materials on the chairs to cut down on the reverberation. Later, a radio controlled hearing aid mechanism was established.

Carlos was a flight test engineer for Convair in San Diego in the 1960's and 1970's. He helped develop the plans for testing the Alpha Centaur. He also worked for Atlas Centaur before it folded. One of his favorite things to do on his way home from work was to check on the progress of the construction at First Church.

Carlos says that when the Meeting House was first constructed, that a person could see down into Mission Valley from the Meeting House window.

Carlos Richardson

BY Nancy Fisk

After the parking structure was built that view was blocked off.

Another favorite committee of Carlos's was the Denominational Affairs Committee. He went to Board meetings at the District, and attended District Assembly. He once attended a General Assembly for the UUA, traveling with his mother and his wife Wanda, by train up to Vancouver Island.

He left the church in 1970 and was absent for several years before returning to marry his current wife, Jean.

Before Jean became a Unitarian, she attended the Lutheran church at Balboa and 805. The Sunday after Kennedy was murdered, she went to church and the minister said nothing about losing the President. Disappointed by this, she discovered the Unitarian church shortly afterward and fell in love with it. In fact, Jean helped Carlos's first wife, Wanda, in the office. Jean was very active in the church, and brought him back into it. He served on Religious Education committees and supported Jean in her work at the church.

Jean was President of the church in 1978-79 and was the first duly elected President of the Board President after the congregation established the bylaws of the new Constitution. Previously, a President had been selected from members of the Board of Trustees. Jean had the distinction of participating in the ceremony that ordained Carolyn Owen-Towle as a Unitarian Universalist minister.

All 3 of his children went to the church school but no longer attend UU churches. His daughter, Barbara was married at First Church. She is an elementary school teacher in Hawaii.

When asked what kept him at the Unitarian church, he replied, "There's no other church." What appeals to him about the Unitarian church is that "you can think for yourself, believe what you want to believe."

Carlos and his wife Jean now reside at Monte Vista Village in Lemon Grove.

Staff
 Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube, Lead Minister
 Rev. Kathleen Owens, Associate Minister
 Rev. Jim Grant, Affiliate Minister
 Sue Magidson, Intern Minister
 Martha "Mar" Cárdenas, South Bay Ministry Leader
 Karen Walter, Director of Operations
 Liz Jones, Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry
 Käthe Larick, Youth Program Coordinator
 Chris Christenson, Communications / DB / AE Coordinator
 Kristen Kuriga, Social Justice Ministry Team Coordinator
 Kenneth F. Herman, Director of Music
 Suzette Southfox, Director of Membership and Development
 Alice King, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Coordinator
 Rev. Dr. Carolyn and Rev. Dr. Tom Owen-Towle, Ministers Emeriti
 Patty Eshleman, Director, Unitarian Cooperative Preschool

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The Window submissions (Church bulletin):
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