



First
Unitarian Universalist
Church of San Diego

FirstWords

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DINING FOR DOLLAR\$ RETURNS!!

BY ROBIE EVANS

The 14th annual Dining for Dollar\$ (D4\$) returns! What's this you ask? You host an event and others bid on your event in a silent auction. Your event can be a dinner, museum tour, park party, craft workshop, an outing or tour, game night, young adult gathering, donated service, creativity workshop, poetry reading, and vacation get-away—or anything else you'd like to host. The best part of Dining for Dollar\$ is the community-building you'll experience—there's nothing quite like it!

The bidding starts Sunday, April 29, and continues Sunday, May 6 and May 13, with events scheduled for any time from the beginning of June 2018, until the end of May 2019. Last year we had over 100 events offered and collected over \$44,000 in winning bids for the church's



Chef Ray makes homemade fettuccine pasta for his Small Plates Happy Hour event while Bobbi, Brenda, Martha, Sue and Dave look on.

budget—our most important annual fundraising activity! A number of people have enjoyed hosting their events so much they sign up every year to host again. D4\$ activities are a fun way to

meet new people and strengthen community. Memories are made and stories are told for years to come.

This is a time to begin planning what you'd like to offer to host. You can also get together with

others to co-host an event. Look for information about Dining for Dollar\$ on the patio starting in March and in upcoming issues of The Window.

Through Sunday, March 25th, you'll be able to submit your offers to host an event. Your event will then be printed in a colorful bidding booklet with its description and minimum bid. The silent auction will take place in

Bard Hall between and after services for three consecutive Sundays starting April 29th.

[Click here](#) to go to the church website to get a host application and more ideas of possible events. You can also email Co-Chairs Louise Klinke at laklinke@gmail.com or Robie Evans at robie@firstuusandiego.org.



Jerry Ollinger explains how to make Kimchi in his home while praising its health benefits.

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CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

BY REV. KATHLEEN OWENS, LEAD MINISTER

Obedience is important in many circumstances and situations—traffic laws are better obeyed than not. They help keep us safe and avoid accidents that could have dire consequences if not obeyed. Most religions promote obedience—to a creed, to certain commandments, to certain teachings or dogmas of the institution. Unitarian Universalists choose to promote and affirm, instead of promote obedience. We affirm and promote our principles; we are a covenantal faith tradition—promising to trust and support one another.

We don't insist on obeying the principles because we know truth is ever-evolving; that each person's experience is an important part of the web of life of which we are a part. And, we know that there are times when disobedience is needed. When there are bad laws on the books that favor one person over another, based on ethnicity, race, religion, class, gender, ability, and other ways in which we are unique. Those laws need to be challenged, perhaps even to the extent of disobedience.

Disobedience is our monthly theme this month. And I've been inspired by it. Knowing this theme so far ahead, I've been planning specific sermons that fit the theme. My main message, found in three different sermons, follows this title, "Nevertheless, She Persisted" (it's something for which I can thank Senator Mitch McConnell). Civil disobedience has been an important tool in our work for justice. And I want to acknowledge, there are times when not everyone can engage in acts of civil disobedience.

I know many people of color who choose not to engage in civil disobedience because of the way people of color are treated by some law enforcement officers. It's proven that people of color are treated more aggressively and experience much harsher treatment, sentencing, etc. than people who are white. So, acts of civil disobedience in themselves become acts of privilege.

When it comes to working for justice, I want to use all the privilege I have at my disposal. Throughout this month, I hope our messages, wisdom circle material, and conversations will help you think more deeply about how obedience and disobedience play out in your life.

Faithfully,

March Sermon Messages

Celebration Times:

Hillcrest Campus: Sunday, 9:30 am and
11:30 am (ASL Interpretation)
South Bay Campus: Sunday, 9:30 am
(Intergenerational, Bilingual)

March's Transformational Theme is "Disobedience"

March 4, 2018

Hillcrest Services—

"A Weighty Matter"

Rev. Ian W. Riddell, *Minister of Music
and Worship Arts*

South Bay Service—

"Nevertheless She Persisted"

Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*

March 11, 2018

Hillcrest Services—

"Nevertheless, She Persisted, Part 1"

Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*

South Bay Service—

"Living Things First"

Sadie Lansdale, *Intern Minister*

March 18, 2018

Hillcrest Services—

"Nevertheless, She Persisted, Part 2"

Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*

South Bay Service—

"Reflecting on the Mosaic"

People of Color

March 25, 2018

Hillcrest Services—

"A Bigger Container"

Rev. Tania Márquez, *Assistant
Minister*

South Bay Service—

"The Radical MLK"

Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*

NATIONAL MY LAI MEMORIAL EXHIBIT PROGRAM COMES TO FIRST UU SAN DIEGO

BY GARY BUTTERFIELD



50 years ago, American boys, most under 20 years of age, committed unspeakable acts against a

civilian hamlet in Vietnam. Over 500 women, children (yes! there were babies!) and old men were slaughtered by American soldiers. Civilian “collateral damage” is a tragic cost of any war; the My Lai massacre only exemplified it at a highly public level.

The San Diego Chapter of Veterans For Peace (VFP) is named after Hugh C. Thompson, the courageous US Army helicopter pilot who landed his chopper and, along with fellow crewmen, intervened against fellow American troops to end the carnage at My Lai. Thompson reported the “incident” up the chain of command but was met with indifference and ridicule by authorities.

50 years removed from My Lai, today we see American troops in over 120 countries, with US bases in over 80. We’re embroiled in multiple wars and conflicts, and the “Doomsday Clock” has just been advanced 30 seconds closer to midnight, due to escalating tensions over possible nuclear war. Drone warfare is commonplace with mounting civilian casualties, as American warriors in Nevada routinely target and kill in places around the globe.

As citizens, we must draw connections between our foreign war policies of the past and those of today. Absent the military draft, most people do not see the true, total costs of war. Politicians continue to over-fund the Pentagon without any dissent and then reduce spending on

programs that benefit our population. If we fail to speak out, we’re complicit in the wars our government conducts in our names.

The My Lai Memorial Exhibit, by allowing you to take part in the artistic process, honors the over two million Vietnamese civilians who died in what we call the “Vietnam War” but what will forever be known in Vietnam as the “American War.” This Memorial Exhibit offers three interactive opportunities to dialogue, build a sculptural collage, and to share your artwork and comments. You’ll be able to participate in a strong, anti-war response to the Pentagon’s \$63 million campaign to sanitize and glorify this unnecessary, unjust, and immoral military action.

The 50th anniversary of the My Lai Massacre will be March 16, 2018, and the San Diego and Chicago Chapters of the Veterans For Peace, the San Diego Peace Resource Center, and the American Friends Service Committee invite you to observe, participate and reflect on these events during its week in San Diego.

Interactive art display: Thursday, March 15, 12 noon to 6 pm, Bard Hall, and

Friday, March 16, 2 pm – 9 pm, Bard Hall

Friday, March 16, 7:30 pm, Speakers & Q & A

Speakers include:

- Dennis Stout, photographer and Vietnam Army veteran will offer testimony on personally witnessed Vietnam events;
- Barry Ladendorf, Naval Officer and past National President of VFP will provide his perspective on the Massacre;
- Marjorie Cohn, attorney, author, and expert on the legality of war and on drone warfare will tie it to present wars.

For more information, contact Gary Butterfield, garyvfp@gmail.com or the MyLai Memorial webpage: mylaimemorial.org.

Gary Butterfield has been a member of First Church for 3 years. He is the current president of San Diego Veterans For Peace and a member of the Board of Directors for the San Diego Peace Resource Center. This presentation is endorsed by the Social Justice Ministry Team of First Church.



NEW IN MUSIC AND WORSHIP

BY REV. IAN RIDDELL

Our transformational theme for the month of March is Disobedience: Stirring things up, beginning new endeavors, doing things a little differently, not relying on the status quo.

A New Music Leader:

One new endeavor to celebrate is to welcome the new Director of Handbell Programs, Tony Bianca. You probably already know Tony as our efficient, resourceful



Program Assistant. You may not know, though, that he's a talented musician with great experience leading all sorts of musical ensembles. He's worked in churches since his teen years and has wonderful gifts to share with our handbell ensembles, Las Campanas and UUBellation. Tony has been working with Ken Herman and the ringers since January and begins his new role as our Director of Handbell Ensembles on March 1st.

A Musical Collaboration:

Our congregation collaborates with the other UU congregations in San Diego county on justice issues, religious education, and Our Whole Lives. This month, we're collaborating musically as well. Join us on Sunday, March 25, at 4 pm in the Meeting House as our Chalice Choir and other First Church singers join the choirs from the UU Fellowship of San Dieguito and

the Summit UU Fellowship, to sing Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, with soloists and a small orchestral ensemble, featuring our First UU String Quartet. The concert is free and goodwill donations will be accepted. Come and hear this beautiful musical reflection on hope and faith sung by our wonderful singers.

Sharing Our Worship:

One of our strategic goals is to make this congregation and our programs more accessible to a broader and broader range of people. We want to share our worship with more people-- those who are unable to be here on a Sunday morning, people from around the state and the country who are interested in what we do, people who have been members of our community and moved elsewhere. So, we're beginning the process of streaming our Hillcrest services live on the internet. Copyright permissions have been procured; technology is being tested; , service leaders are making plans. Look for more information in the Window and First Words as we work to share our fabulous and powerful Sunday morning worship far and wide.



MEET JAN GALLO - VOLUNTEER

BY ELAINE TWAMLEY

Native Californian Jan Gallo started life in Los Angeles, the child of two parents in the entertainment industry. Her parents came to Los Angeles to attempt show business careers. Her mother, in fact, was a dancer with the Ziegfeld Follies on Broadway.

Jan's Jewish father and Presbyterian mother did not encourage religious observance, not a problem until Jan entered fifth grade. In those days, public school children were excused from class to attend the religious education program of their choice. With nowhere to go, Jan felt confused and alone. "This was my first understanding of what it feels like to be the other, to not belong," Jan says. So, she began attending the Presbyterian Church and did so through high school.

In her college years, Jan went to UCSB, moved to San Diego, and then attended SDSU where she was a family studies and child development major. Thereafter she spent 29 years with the San Diego County Office of Education as a teacher and then an administrator of programs for children ages birth to three. She also raised her own two children, Christopher, now a physician's assistant, and Karen, a public school teacher.

In later years, Jan learned to be a successful single adult in two ways: First she traveled alone, often on bike trips, and achieved a sense of completion within herself. Secondly, she found our Unitarian Universalist religion. For the first four years she attended our church, Jan rarely spoke to anyone, scooting in and out for services.

Gradually, she opened to new experiences. Now Jan says, "Our church has been a series of

gifts that I have been privileged to receive. I can travel toward justice for all people; I can make a contribution."

And how Jan has contributed: co-chair of the Hospitality and Membership Committee; chair of the Church Council; co-chair of Journey Toward Wholeness; trustee, vice-president, and president of the Board of Trustees; lay leader for the Social Justice Ministry Team; leader in various capacities for many rummage sales and Dining for Dollars fundraisers. Jan is currently the co-chair for the Reproductive Justice Group.

Married since 2011 to Rev. Kathleen, Jan and Kathleen share a lovely home in Hillcrest, a showplace for remodeling and interior design.

What does Unitarian Universalism mean to Jan? "All I can count on is one life, and our faith focuses on how we live that one life. Here I can make a difference, knowing that faith focuses on how we live that one life. Here I can make a difference, knowing that others stand with me. My relationship to the world has changed; now I don't just take away, I give back, too.

"Certainly, giving back thousands upon thousands of volunteer hours to First Church has enriched our lives, and we are grateful beyond measure."



WHY THIS CHURCH IS PROVIDING SANCTUARY TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

BY SARA RUIZ GROSSMAN, HUFFINGTON POST

Editor's note: The church board would like the congregation to reflect on how another church is dealing with the question of providing sanctuary, a subject First Church is currently taking under consideration. With that in mind, these are excerpts from an article published in the Huffington Post. Read the full article at https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/southside-presbyterian-church-sanctuary-movement_us_59b722dfe4b027c149e1be39

At a time when undocumented people nationwide are living in fear under President Donald Trump, one church continues to lead the way in supporting them.

Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson, Arizona, helped launch the “sanctuary church” movement in the 1980s, when places of worship across the country helped harbor Central American migrants facing the threat of deportation after fleeing violence in their countries. Southside was one of the first to publicly offer sanctuary and helped an estimated 14,000 immigrants throughout that decade, ABC reported.

The Tucson church has also been part of the movement’s resurgence since 2014, prompted by former President Barack Obama’s record deportation numbers. Around 400 churches nationwide declare support for undocumented immigrants, with some, including Southside, providing physical haven to people at immediate risk of deportation.

This year, in response to President Donald Trump’s anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies—including a crackdown on so-called sanctuary cities and rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program—the number of churches offering sanctuary has more than doubled to over 800 nationwide.

Days before Trump’s inauguration, Southside gathered with local congregations to promise sanctuary to undocumented people facing deportation in the coming years.

“We’re living under an administration that is feeding off of narrative of fear of the immigrant,” Rev. Alison Harrington, Southside’s pastor told HuffPost. “It’s work we don’t feel like we have a choice in. Our commandments are really clear: Welcome the stranger, work for the oppressed. God’s not like: ‘Well, if you feel like it.’”



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement designates churches, along with schools and hospitals and events like funerals and political protests, as “sensitive” places that agents should avoid when carrying out arrests. Living within the walls of a place of worship can help immigrants avoid the threat of deportation, though it’s not a guarantee.

Since Trump’s election, at least a dozen people have sought sanctuary in churches nationwide. In one high-profile case, undocumented community organizer Jeanette Vizguerra took shelter in a Denver church for 86 days. But sanctuary work isn’t limited to providing a physical haven, Harrington said. While “sanctuary churches” are meant to provide housing to people at risk of deportation, most won’t actually be called upon to do that. Southside itself has not housed anyone yet this year. But the church still offers “sanctuary” to undocumented folks in the broader sense of the term, Harrington said, by providing community members with support through free legal clinics, coordinating child care and running the Southside Worker Center, where undocumented people get training on workplace rights.

“We know it’s not enough to say, ‘Come to our house of worship and you’ll be safe.’ We have to also work in our communities to make sure people are safe in their workplaces, in their homes,” Harrington said. “We’re telling congregations nationally it’s not just ‘Check a box and say you’re a sanctuary and feel really good about yourself.’ How do you go meet with people in your community who are already doing the work and stand alongside them?”

For Harrington, that has meant attending demonstrations against anti-immigrant policies alongside undocumented people, among other things. And because the immigrant community is diverse, it also means making her church a welcoming space for all groups who may be marginalized.

“My vision is every church as a sanctuary space, defined broadly,” Harrington said. “So trans folks are welcomed, and that means having bathrooms appropriate to welcome them. And every church has a ‘Black Lives Matter’ sign up front.”

“People feel like we have to do something,” she added. “[Otherwise] we won’t be able to look our grandchildren in the face.”

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF TONY BIANCA

BY RHEA KUHLMAN

This is one in an occasional series about the work of First UU's wonderful staff members, who labor behind the scenes to make the wheels of the church turn smoothly.

The job title "Program Assistant" can cover a lot of territory, but then so does Tony Bianca, who's held that position in the church for about a year and a half. Tony provides logistical support for First Church's Religious Education program, a job that keeps him hustling for the 16 hours a week he devotes to it. Every week, the teachers for each of the six RE classes (four at 9:30, one at 11:30, plus day care) submit their requests for the books and supplies they'll need for the upcoming Sunday. Tony assembles the necessary supplies in "buckets" for each class, so teachers can hit the ground running on Sunday morning.

To that end, he's created a computerized inventory of all the books in the children's library, and shelved them alphabetically for easy access. He periodically reorganizes the craft closet to ensure that craft supplies are usable and easily found. He also maintains the RE website, updating class schedules and relevant links, and ensuring two adults are signed up to teach each class.

After class, children in the three youngest classes get a take-home worksheet, with ideas for activities and readings to supplement what they learned. If ideas aren't specified in the lesson plan, Tony, who holds a Master's in Education, scours the web to identify appropriate material for the kids. In the RE Office, he maintains resource materials for parents and for young adults, and prepares the monthly RE Newsletter, sending out parental e-blasts as needed.

Tony is the first point of contact for people seeking to teach Adult RE Classes, helping applicants complete a form which describes the

content of the proposed class, which must align with UU values.

Tony's talent for organization hasn't gone unnoticed at the church, and he's been recruited to help organize other church areas which find themselves in temporary disarray. He appreciates that job titles don't limit staff from jumping in to do work that needs to be done. At the same time, staff members respect each other's roles and are careful not to step on toes.

On Sundays, Tony puts on another hat. He arrives on campus at 7:30 a.m. to disarm the alarm system, unlock doors, set up the sanctuary, and move tables onto the patio. Once people arrive, he tabulates church attendance at services, in RE classes, on the patio, and in meetings around campus, always alert to potential problems. It's important, he notes, that parents know their children are safe here.

In January, Tony took on another role in our church, as director of our two handbell choirs, Las Companas and UUbellation. He's well qualified for this position, with a B.A. in Vocal Performance and history as a paid singer and director of church choirs, and the Baltimore Gay Men's Chorus. As bell choir director, Tony selects the music, maintains the instruments, and leads the two bell choirs in performances and weekly rehearsals. This adds another eight hours weekly to his time at First Church, which is fine with him. Raised Catholic, Tony reports that in the last couple of years, he's discovered he's probably always been a UU!



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