



FirstWords

A publication of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego

Dining For Dollars plus Fun, Friends, Family, & Funding

BY Bonny Russell, Dining for Dollars Plus Co-Chair, with Robie Evans

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 Dollars events hosted over the past few years!

Eight years ago, Arvid brought the idea from his former congregation in North Carolina. Because it sounded like so much fun, I offered to organize the fundraiser at First UU. When I talked with the North Carolina church's fundraising coordinator, her 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 she'd met; deepening existing relationships while attending events with friends; doing things she'd never done before; and finding ways to en-

sure 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 eighth year of Sunday "bidding frenzy" on May 13, 20, and 27—between services and after second service. Over the years, more than 255 folks have hosted a Dining for Dollars event and more than 606 have attended events. While the first Dining for Dollars events raised about \$12,000, last year it raised \$40,000—making Dining for Dollars the first major fundraiser to ensure a balanced budget!

This year, there are more than 100 offerings—including classes, outdoor activities, family events, tours in and around San Diego and the county, plus lunches, teas, and dinners. This year's fundraiser is definitely Dining for Dollars 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 Dollars table on May 13, 20, or 27) and
- ✧ Your Bidding Booklet (available starting May 6) which will be sent via email or can be picked up at the Dining for Dollars 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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The Music Program in Fall 2012

BY Ken Herman, Director of Music / Organist

In recent times, changes in our music program have been incremental, such as adding another bell choir, a women's chorus, or featuring Dana Decker's contemporary ensemble on special occasions at worship in Hillcrest.

But for the fall of 2012, we have a new vision for Sunday worship services in Hillcrest. Instead of two identical services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., we will offer contrasting styles of worship. The first service will continue the traditional worship and musical styles we have come to know, and the second service will be more contemporary both in worship format and musical style.

For the last three years at our South Bay satellite campus, Dana Decker, our accomplished Contemporary Music Associate, has developed a contemporary musical repertory that will be the basis for this new worship program. With his ensemble, he has not only introduced new worship music for the congregation, but he has also given fresh interpretations to hymns and songs we have sung for a long time.

Dana has composed and arranged worship music in various contemporary styles that is both appropriate and supportive of Unitarian Universalist values and principles. This June he will complete his three-year course of studies in the Unitarian Universalist Association's Music Leadership Training Program and will be recognized at the Service of the Living Tradition at General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona. He is ready and eager for this new challenge.

He will continue to work with our existing choirs and musical ensembles to integrate them into the contemporary worship program, something he has already begun to demonstrate this spring in first-Sunday worship services where the band has played with the Chalice Choir, the UUBellation Handbell Ensemble and singers from the JUUL Tones.

We have selected the second service to be the contemporary service so that Dana will be able to continue to lead music in the South Bay. With additional hours in his schedule, he will be able to rehearse with his musicians outside of the Sunday morning schedule, strengthening these ensembles for their responsibilities at both campuses.

Our music program has long been known for its high goals and strong performance standards. This new chapter will continue this tradition to encompass a wider range of musical possibilities, which we consider essential as we broaden our congregation's appeal to an increasingly diverse population of spiritual seekers.

May Sermon Messages

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 Transcendence

Sunday, May 6:

Hillcrest Services — "The Times They Are A'Changin': The Music and Poetry of Bob Dylan", Rev Dr Arvid Straube and Dana Decker and Band with a special vocal guest. (live)

South Bay Service — "Resurrection: Is It Too Late?", Rev Kathleen Owens (live)

Sunday, May 13—Mother's Day

Hillcrest Services — "Annual Spring Music Service", Child Dedication (live)

South Bay Service — "The Times They Are A'Changin': The Music and Poetry of Bob Dylan", Rev Dr Arvid Straube and Dana Decker and Band with a special vocal guest. (live)

Sunday, May 20:

Hillcrest Services — "Beam Me Up Scotty", Rev Kathleen Owens (live)

South Bay Service — "The Enigma of Power", Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live)

Sunday, May 27:

Hillcrest Services — "Transcending Stereotypes", Bridging and Youth Services (live)

South Bay Service — "Beam Me Up Scotty", Rev Kathleen Owens (pre-recorded)

Ken Herman

A Family Meditation Scrap Book

BY Liz Jones, Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry

There are times when all of us want or need some words of inspiration, hope, comfort, and grounding. Some of us have well-loved books that we keep for just such an occasion. When we want something to use with our families, sometime our personal favorites just don't meet our needs. So, why not make it a family project to create your own meditation scrap book.

It can become an on-going family project. Everyone can contribute. Poems, quotes, prayers, and even sound bites can be copied into your scrap book, or when possible cut and pasted in. You can begin it as a special project and spend a day finding and decorating your scrap book. You can bring together all the clippings you've been gathering or print out items you have stored or bookmarked on your computer. Speaking of bookmarks, take a look at your bookshelves. I would not be surprised if you find some items you want to include by looking at the scraps of paper in your books, or the turned down page corners.

Consider how you might want to organize your scrapbook. Do you just want to add items as you find them, and keep them in random order? Do you want to create categories so that when you are looking for a specific thing you can find it? Will you leave blank pages in a bound book for later



additions, or might you choose to use a binder of some sort that will allow you to add pages? I've even known people who created such a collection of readings in a file box on three by five cards! If you have small children in your family, consider reading poetry aloud and asking how it makes them feel. After you have read a poem, ask them if they want to add it to the collection. You can have children draw pictures of how a poem or reading makes them feel and use their drawings to illustrate your scrapbook. You all may want to add pictures that make you feel a specific way – words are not the only way to meditate. You can include poetry and other forms of creative writing done by members of your family as well!

Remember that what might make you feel a particular way might not be the same for another member of your family. Be open to seeing through others' eyes. There may be other pieces that become family favorites. You might even want to put gold stars next to them in the book!

Once you've created the book, remember to use it! If you offer a grace before a meal, or light a chalice when you gather together, you can turn to this book as a source of readings. Rotate the choosing and reading of pieces. Leave it where family members can pick it up when they need a quiet moment. You'll find all sorts of times when this collection will be just what you need.

May you have joy in creating it, and find peace and solace with it when you need it!

Blessings,

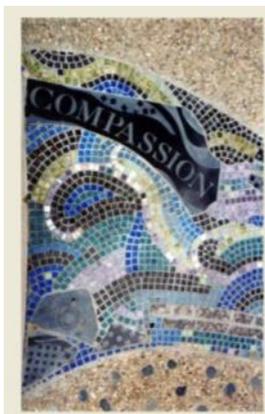
Liz Jones

The Wayside Pulpit Sculpture

BY NANCY FISK

In the 1990's, Margaret and Bob Weed, long-time members of First Church, left a bequest that allowed First Church to build new signage at the corner of Front and Arbor Streets. Known as the Wayside Pulpit Sculpture, this concrete, stone and glass mosaic public plaza was completed in 1997, in time for First Church's 125th anniversary. This project was a collaboration between Zagrodnik + Thomas Architects and the art firm, Stone Paper Scissors. The project is adjacent to an intersection between two hospitals, a bus stop and a very busy pedestrian pathway. It includes seating areas, landscaping and signage.

From Scott Thomas of Zagrodnick and Thomas Architects: "We were members of the church for a while and during that time we met the Owen-Towles. It's likely that Carolyn [Owen-Towle] asked Jean [Zagrodnick] if she would help design a new sign at the corner. The intention of the design was to play off the courtyard fountain by James Hubbell. We used simple, natural materials, concrete and tile, to evoke the flowing of water or life with the flaming chalice, and spiritual words in the paving to help visitors pause and reflect. I believe it was Carolyn's intent to provide a calming place for family members that were visiting a loved one in the hospital, as well as provide way finding for the church.



"The project was completed in two phases. Phase One was the sign. The concrete work was done by our friend, Steven Florman, and his father-in-law, and the mosaic tile work was done by volunteers, including Jean, with the assistance and collaboration of a local tile artist. Phase Two included a raised planter, symbolic tree, wayside pulpit, concrete flatwork with mosaic inlay and landscaping."

Lynn Susholtz of Stone Paper Scissors designed and installed the mosaic inlay in the flatwork of Phase Two. Community members contributed words and phrases, such as Shalom and Compassion that were etched into inlayed granite. From Lynn: "I had been to different programs at First Church and wanted to support First Church in its mission. When I was asked by Zagrodnick and Thomas to participate in this project, I donated my time to do it. I salvaged the granite and had friends help me install it. I think it's wonderful when non-profits commission art."

Stone Paper Scissors has been creating art projects for public agencies, business associations and communities, since 1994. Previous projects have included the planning of public spaces, developing public arts initiatives for communities, collaborating with design teams, integrating art into capital projects, and fabricating sculptural works.

What is Policy Governance?

BY Newt Ferris

Since 2006, First Church has operated under a decision-making system called policy governance. Under this system, the lead minister is given a set of goals, or [outcome statements](#), by the church's Board of Trustees. The lead minister (Arvid, in our case) is expected to act/conduct himself legally and morally within the confines of these outcome statements. Each month at the Board of Trustees meeting, the lead minister and his staff report their progress toward meeting these outcome statements. Under policy governance, the Board tells the lead minister what goals to address but doesn't tell him how to do it.

To assist the lead minister in attaining the outcome statements, a number of ministry teams have been developed. Each ministry team has one staff person and one lay person assigned to lead it. The ministry teams are: Worship & Program, Lifespan Religious Growth and Learning, Larger UU Connections, Caring, Generosity, Community Life, Social Justice and South Bay.

So, why did First Church decide to operate this way? There are a number of benefits to policy governance. The Board has time to write policy and review it. They can readily monitor the lead minister's compliance with the outcome statements and stay in touch with the congregation.



The lead minister and staff are able to make day-to-day decisions while being held accountable for them. Committees and volunteers get faster approval in order to convert ideas into action. Communication is facilitated along clear lines of authority between ministry teams, staff, the Board of Trustees, and the congregations.

If a congregant is unhappy with a decision that has been made or is dissatisfied with "how things are going" at First Church, they have several avenues they can take to address their concerns. They can call the church office and ask to talk to the staff person assigned to a particular Ministry Team. If they don't know what ministry team has responsibility for their area of concern, the staff member will assist them. They can talk to a member of the Board, or they can come to the monthly Board meeting and express their concern(s) during the "open mike" time, which is always on the agenda. They can also ask to speak to one of the ministers.

If a congregant has a conflict with another congregant or staff member, there is an official "Conflict Resolution" process in place to facilitate the matter. For further information on these processes, please talk to a member of the Board or staff.



Since the 18th century, gospel music has been a sustaining force. Illiterate slaves used call and response hymn singing as codes to alert others when and in which direction a run for freedom would take place. Out of this fervent, soul stirring tradition came ragtime, blues, jazz and other modern music styles. It is the only genre to outlive its original purpose. During the time of slavery, it was the self-serving masters who misinterpreted the bible to condone the practice of slavery. The slaves did not turn their back on religion and cleverly utilized gospel music as codes to inform of specific times and direction when a run to freedom was going to happen, for example, "I will fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord have mercy over me."

The soul of a people and their struggles and hopes and faith resonate within me as I, too, was brought out of totalitarianism to the promised land of America from Europe. My desire to join a mostly black group stemmed from my involvement in the anti-racism workshops that were held at First Church and my wish to deal with the remnants of racism within myself without just more talking. When I joined the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Choir, I found a new family.

GOSPEL IN THE PINES

BY PHYLLIS KAPLAN

Ken Anderson has led gospel music internationally. He is music director at the University of California San Diego and for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Choir of San Diego and is on the music faculty of Grossmont College. An accomplished pianist, his tenor voice has graced many professional productions.



Camp de Benneville Pines is delighted to offer its first three day gospel workshop from May 29 to May 31, 2012. All adult singers and those who want to clap along are welcome. Come join us in a pristine pine setting. Comfortable cabins and great food for the body and spirit, for only \$150, all included. What a wonderful opportunity to send our message of universal love. Any vocal group or teacher should find this a rewarding experience with an excellent and charismatic professional. (This is an adult camp and registrants must be over 18.)

For registration, contact de Benneville Pines at http://www.debenneville.org/camps/2012/DBP/gospel_workshop/RegGospel2012.html

As a generous special to adult registrants who also plan on All Church Camp, Janet our camp director is offering the day between Gospel in the Pines and All Church Camp (Friday) free of charge.

Please sign up soon as low registration will cause this workshop to be cancelled.



When you come on to her property, the first thing you notice about Laura Hershey's yard is the lack of traditional lawn. 2 blocks off the cliffs in Ocean Beach, the front yard is at once an orchard and a vegetable garden. Next to the garden is a pottery studio, that rises two stories above the house where she lives. Along the driveway is a fig tree, while on the parking strip is a macadamia nut tree.

At one time or another, Laura Hershey has grown these crops in her garden: grapes, figs, peaches, , lemons, avocados, asparagus, borage, potatoes, artichokes, mint, basil, tomatoes, macadamias, nasturtiums, mustard greens, cilantro, and squash, to name a few. She likes being able to eat something from her yard every day.

When the city of San Diego received a grant to encourage urban agriculture this last year, Laura made it her mission to help the San Diego City Council write the rules that would enable the people of San Diego to "grow local, healthy, sustainable food." She was especially interested in being able to keep goats, chickens and bees within city limits. She researched and found 16 other cities that are "goat-friendly ", among them, Phoenix, Arizona, and Berkeley, California. She attended meetings for committees of the City Council, as well as the City Council itself. She demonstrated how to pasteurize goat's milk when that was raised as a concern at meetings. She is a founding member of the Goat Justice League, which has 44 members on its email list.

An Interview with Laura Hershey

BY NANCY FISK

This work resulted in the current regulations that allow residents within the city limits to own 2 miniature goats, 4 chickens, and bees, if they meet the space and housing requirements. The regulations went into effect March 23rd. Laura now has two goats that she keeps in her backyard, a 5 year old white female named Bowie and a 5-week old kid named Nibbles. Laura is still hand-feeding Nibbles with a bottle twice a day, from the milk she gets from Bowie. This still leaves her enough milk to make goat cheese and cheese cake. She hopes to branch out to sour cream and whip cream soon.

When asked what brought her to Unitarian Universalism, Laura says, "I needed a community. Several of my friends from high school belonged to the Unitarian church, so after college I joined their church." Laura lived in San Diego as a child, moved to Chicago when her parents divorced, and returned to San Diego in 1990. She joined the young adult group at First Church and has been active in the community ever since.

About her spiritual philosophy is, Laura says, "Be kind. And I agree with a bumper sticker I saw the other day that said "I believe in life before death." As stated before, Laura is passionate about urban agriculture and would love to hear from others who have or want to keep goats. Her email is drhershey@cox.net. If you are interested in the urban agriculture regulations in San Diego you can look them up at <http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/legisdocs/muni.shtml> . Then put "goat" or "chicken" or "bee" in the search box, in order to see the urban agriculture regulations for that particular animal.

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 Chris Christenson, Communications / DB / AE Coordinator
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