



# FirstWords

A publication of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego

## The 1000 Family Rummage Sale is Almost Here

By Jan Gallo, Rummage Sale Co-Leader

On Saturday, June 15, 2013 First Church will hold its first rummage sale since construction of the Welcome Center. Given the changes in our campus, donated items will be displayed in new and creative ways.

And we know that the rummage sale is so much more than just a rummage sale. We raise over \$20,000 for our general fund, we provide the larger community with an opportunity to shop for quality merchandise at very reasonable prices and most of all we join together as a family to create the almost unimaginable. There is no denying that it takes many of us, actually hundreds to make this happen. There is the collecting, sorting, organizing and pricing the merchandise we have donated. The rooms and patios will be filled to the brim with clothes, household items, collectables, jewelry, sporting equipment, plants, tools and much more. Over the course of the day approximately 1500 people will pass through the front gate.

First Church's Rummage Sale is known in the larger community and we often are told how friendly and helpful our congregation is. As we model our values and principles we are inviting shoppers to return for Sunday Worship – what better way to become visible to the city of San Diego. We know that during times when people struggle financially our rummage sale is needed more than ever and we anticipate we will have many shoppers.

### THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO

**ONE:** We all begin by sorting through our closets and drawers collecting gently used items to donate. It is easiest to list what we can't accept – computers, computer parts, printers, old monitors, large appliances one person cannot move and clothing that is tattered or soiled. Just ask yourself if you would wear it to church. It is incredibly helpful if you put similar things together in the same container. For example, clothes in one box, books in another and housewares in yet another container. The boxes and bags will be re-used

on the day of the sale. This makes it much more efficient for the people who are distributing donations to the appropriate room or area. We will be accepting donations beginning Friday, June 7th through Wednesday, June 12th. Members and friends in the South Bay who prefer not to drive to the Hillcrest campus can drop off donations at the South Bay campus on Sunday, June 9th. That week a limited number of pickups from your home may be arranged if scheduled in advance. Contact Elsie Sleeter at 619-575-3191 or [gordonandelsie@cox.net](mailto:gordonandelsie@cox.net).



**TWO:** It will take many of us to make it all happen. During the eight days leading up to the sale, we need people to help sort, price and display donated items. On the day of the sale we will need people to help as sale assistants, baggers, security and more. Sign up on the patio at church every Sunday, or online, follow the link on First Church's homepage at <http://www.firstuusanandiego.org> or contact Jan Garbosky at [jgarbosky@cox.net](mailto:jgarbosky@cox.net) to volunteer. As in the past, those who attend a special training (because of our new campus) and volunteer are able to shop at the special pre-sale on June 14th.

**THREE:** Please let your friends, neighbors, colleagues and facebook friends know all about this great event. We have flyers on the patio table for you to take. Getting the word out is critical to our success; so spread the word. Co-Leaders, Susan Harding and Jan Gallo welcome your questions, ideas and especially your time, so contact us at [ssrh41@gmail.com](mailto:ssrh41@gmail.com) or [jngallo@yahoo.com](mailto:jngallo@yahoo.com).

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## Arvid's Arcana

By Rev Dr Arvid Straube, Lead Minister

As I write this the second of the Boston Marathon bombers is critically injured and the world is still wondering what led these young men to be so out of touch with their humanity as to commit this horrible act. When we look at what is happening in the world, we are tempted to lose hope. We owe it to the generations to come to not succumb to this temptation. At times like this, I often remember the words of the great Rabbi Hillel, referring to a situation of more than 2000 years ago. "In a world where no one is acting as a human being, you must act as a human being."

Acting out of our full humanity is the most effective revolutionary act we can perform. In a world where people are rude and uncivil, we can be kind. In a world where everyone is looking out for themselves, we can seek and find ways to serve others. In a world where people are lonely and isolated, we can gather in the comfort and challenge of a religious community. In a world where people are afraid of showing their weaknesses and flaws, we can share our struggles and triumphs with others, unashamed of our humanity. In a world where people live for money and things, we can prioritize our values and relationships. In a world where everyone is shouting, we can ponder and listen. In a world of rigid opinions, we can be as eager to learn as a child. In a world full of hate, all of these forms of love are revolutionary.

## May 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 May **Transformational Theme** is **Truth**.

### Sunday, May 5:

- Hillcrest Services—"**Awakening from the American Nightmare: Consumerism ...**" Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live).
  - 9:30 Music: May 5 The Chalice Choir under the direction of Daniel Ratelle sings "African Processional" by the contemporary American composer D.V. Montoya.
  - 11:30 Music: Our offertory is The Beatles 1964 single "Can't Buy Me Love." "The idea behind it was that all these material possessions are all very well, but they won't buy me what I really want." - Paul McCartney
- South Bay Service—"**Not Your Grandmother's God: Beyond Misconceptions about the Ground of Being**," Rev Dr Arvid Straube (pre-recorded).

### Sunday, May 12 - Mother's Day

- Hillcrest Services—"**Holy Mothers**," Emily Webb, Intern (live).
  - 9:30 Music: Voices in Unity youth choir soloists sing Paul Simon's "Bridge Over Troubled Waters."
  - 11:30 Music: Featuring Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" which won the 1971 Grammy for song of the year.
- South Bay Service—"**Leaning into the Question**," Rev Kathleen Owens (live).

### Sunday, May 19

- Hillcrest Services—**Annual Service of Music**
  - 9:30 Music: All five First Church choirs sing individually and combined under the direction of Daniel Ratelle in "The Ground" from the "Sunrise Mass" by contemporary Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. The Women's Chorus under Lynn Mendoza-Khan sings Ricky Ian Gordon's "A Horse with Wings."
  - 11:30 Music: Featuring the Youth Choir and the band collaborating on Willy Mason's "Oxygen." Mason is an American Singer-Songwriter who arrived on the music scene in 2005 with his album "Where the Humans Eat."
- South Bay Service—"**Holy Mothers**," Emily Webb, Intern (pre-recorded).

### Sunday, May 26:

- Hillcrest Service—**Youth Service Sunday**
  - 9:30 Music: The JUUL Tones vocal ensemble under the direction of Andrea Newall will sing.
  - 11:30 Music: Our jazz service this month. The Transformational Theme "Truth" features the amazing Billy Joel composition "Honesty."
- South Bay Service—"**Awakening from the American Nightmare: Consumerism ...**" Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live).



## A Summer of Awe and Wonder

By Liz Jones, Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry

Summer is a wonderful time to allow ourselves to be filled with awe and wonder. We are surrounded by such beauty of nature and the natural world here in San Diego! And, vacations allow us to let our minds soar with flights of fun and fantasy.

Our Children's program this Summer will be filled with wonder, fantasy and excitement.



Our Younger Children, age 4 through First Grade, will explore our natural world with the curriculum World of Wonder. This curriculum will use stories and activities to engage the concepts of Interdependence, Circle of Life, the Soul of Nature, and Making a Difference.

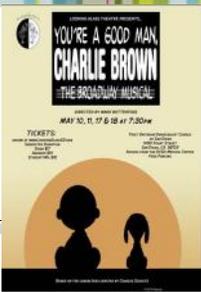
**WORLD OF WONDER**

Our Older Children, Grades 2-6, will have an opportunity to explore some Unitarian Universalist Values while attending our version of Hogwarts! So we will be filled with a magical sense of awe and wonder while having lessons in topics such as Potions, Wand-Making, Charms, Alchemy, and Divination. Our Head Master for the Summer will be Ben Fowler. He's looking forward to sharing all of this with our children and those adults who want to help out with this exciting adventure.



If you'd be interested in helping out with either of these classes, please call Liz Jones at 619-398-4434, or watch for the recruitment table on the Patio during the month of May. We need leaders and assistants for each class at both services. It will be a lot of fun this year. So, if your interest is nature and the environment then join us for a World of Wonder, and if you're a Harry Potter fan, Join us for Hogwarts UU style!

*Liz Jones*



# Everyone Gets a Part in "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown"

By Paul Johnson

"YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN" rehearsals are well underway; and yes, the show is going to be great! The 20 cast members, ranging from ages 5 to 20, are having a great time and, with their parents, are creating a close-knit group of UUs, building community, and promoting our values outside as well as inside the church. Check your calendar and make sure you are on hand to support this great group of UU kids on May 10, 11, 17, and 18 at 7:30 pm.

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" is a super youth community builder show because, although the play only has 6 leading parts, the director has added a chorus that can sing in the 5 ensemble numbers and also dancing parts like "Birds" and "Blankets" for the younger kids. In this way, we are able to offer everyone who auditions a part in the show. "Giving Everyone A Part" has been the theme of the 2012/2013 LGT Season. That's the way we build community at First UU Church San Diego.



Name	Character
Aeris Tisdale	Marcie/Blanket
Catherine James	Bird/Blanket
Charlotte Ferrier	Bird/Blanket
Chrystalinda White	Freda
Claire Chiswell	Sally Brown
Colette Blue Lee	Bird/Blanket/Rabbit
Elias Malouf	Pig Pen
Erich Spurgin	Charlie Brown
Hayley Leuven	Little Red Headed Girl
Jacob Neff	Roy
James Malouf	Linus
Jonas Jacobs	Woodstock
Julia Starkey	Snoopy
Kelly Noelle Henry	Lucy
Max Ferrier	Shermy
Orion Tong	Bird
Rose Smith	Peppermint Patty
Sabrina Boudreaux	Violet
Vincent Tong	Schoeder
Zoey Hamel-Hyland	Bird/Blanket/Rabbit

**Starting in the back row:** Rose Smith, Vincent Tong, Kelly-Noelle Henry, Sabrina Boudreaux, Erich Spurgin, Clair Chiswell, James Malouf and Crystalinda White.  
**The middle row:** Julia Starkey, Jonas Jacobs, Aeris Tisdale and Elias Malouf  
**In front are our "birds":** Catherine James, Zoey Hammel-Hyland, Colette Lee and Orion Tong  
**Not pictured:** Charlotte Ferrier, Max Ferrier, and Hayley Leuven.

**SUPPERTIME!**, the Opening Night Dinner Fundraiser on May 10 at 6 pm is a great way to support our program and enhance your theater experience. The kids will love to see you there on opening night because a **great audience makes a great performance!** Tickets are now available on the church patio or click our link at [www.LookingGlassSD.org](http://www.LookingGlassSD.org). SUPPERTIME! Tickets must be pre-purchased and will not be available at the door.

- Suppertime! Menu**
- Green salad
  - Ramey's baked chicken or Neatloaf (Vegan)
  - Tater tots with cheese sauce
  - Cut corn, green beans, rolls
  - Juice boxes, Milk cartons, Coffee
  - Choc chip dog bone cookie sandwiches
  - Sugar cookie, with white choc dip
  - Ice Cream Sandwiches

## Bless All Who Serve

Sources of Hope, Courage and  
Faith for Military Personnel  
and Their Families

# BLESS ALL THOSE WHO SERVE

BY EMILY WEBB, INTERN MINISTER

Did you know that three Unitarian Universalists in three decades have been placed in charge of the world's largest military establishment? Elliot Richardson, William Perry and William Cohen all served in the office as Secretary of Defense in the United States government. I learned this from Rev. John Buehrens. When Rev. Buehrens had the opportunity to ask Elliot Richardson, why so many UUs had served in this office, given our relatively small numbers and liberal values, he responded that our commitment to the use of reason might have something to do with it.

Learning about the history of UU military service members, and about their presence in our midst might be surprising for many UUs. In many ways, UUs have a reputation of being a bunch of peaceniks. And it is true that we stand on the side of love – and are involved in countless efforts to make this world a better place. It is also true that we have never been a “peace church” like the Society of Friends (Quakers), the Mennonites, or the Church of the Brethren, in which rejection of military service or national defense has been normative for church members. Some UUs have been conscientious objectors, and some have served – and this dynamic continues to this day.

Many Unitarian Universalists, while deeply committed to peace and justice, have served in the military, and done so to protect and serve our country.

John Buehrens says it well, “We are not a peace church. We are not a war church. We are a religious community of both pacifists and pragmatists, taking different spiritual paths toward a common goal: a world of greater justice and peace.”

Last Friday, I hosted a dinner in Bard Hall open to all military service members, family members, veterans and supportive members of the congregation. Each of us introduced ourselves by naming the connections we have to the military. Most people in the room had not one connection, but three or four. Our parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, extended families, friends, neighbors and in the end, all of us, are affected by military service and culture. Several people on Friday named their own discomfort or shyness in speaking about their military connection in the congregation, out of a fear that they would be pigeonholed or dismissed. Others spoke of the importance of having a welcoming space to come and just be themselves, and be truly off-duty. Many talked about the importance of supporting military families, who often get less attention and support than the people actually serving, but are providing a vital foundation for the service member.

Stay tuned for more ways to connect and support military veterans and families in the coming year. Another UUniforms dinner is being coordinated for the summertime.





## WHAT IS THE UUA ANYWAY?

By Joan Cudhea, Denominational Affairs

**Maggie Marshall**, a member of First Church asks: "What is the UUA anyway? How does it work? Everyone tells me to go to GA [General Assembly], but I really don't know why. I've been a member for several years, but I still feel like a new-timer. We need an Orientation class about the UUA."

**Joan:** Big question, Maggie, and a great suggestion. Denominational Relations Committee will have an experimental New-Timers event! It will be a learning experience for us both. [The event was held on March 10 between services. It was called: "Who's in Charge Here?" Those who attended represented not just "new-timers" – joined in last decade, but visitor-friends, very new members, and even two "old-timers."]

**Joan:** I'm delighted that you said "the UUA". That is the correct way to refer the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. There are about 1000 UU congregations in the United States. These congregations all have a chance to send voting delegates to an annual General Assembly where key governance decisions are made. The most important are Elections of President, Moderator, and Financial Adviser and adoptions of Statements of Conscience.

**Maggie:** I've heard of the President, but what does a Moderator do?

**Joan:** The Moderator has a huge job: not just running the business sessions at GA, but presiding over the Board of Trustees. The President manages the staff, but it is the Moderator with the Board who set policy and ends (outcomes desired) and monitors the staff. It also appoints several committees.

But General Assembly is not just about governance. It's also about gathering. We gather for worship, lectures, workshops, and even in the Exhibit Hall to browse and shop. "UUism" as a faith movement is far more than the UUA (service to congregations). At GA you bump into the UU Service Committee, the UU-United Nation Office (UU-UNO), UU Women, UU Legislative Ministry, UU Partner Church Council, Peace Ministry, Earth Ministry, Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM), Buddhists, Pagans, UU Jews, theological schools, and the International Council of UUs.

### Watch:

If you want to experience GA, but can't attend in person, consider watching livestream video at First Church (see box below). We'll watch the Ware Lecture on Friday. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President, in consultation with the General Assembly Planning Committee, invites a distinguished guest each year to address the General Assembly as the [Ware Lecturer](#). Saturday is the 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. Finally, the closing ceremonies are Sunday night. Consider joining as a community at First Church for all or part of this GA. You can also livestream at home by logging in to <http://www.uua.org/ga/virtual/30754.shtml>.

**Livestreaming video of General Assembly at Louisville, Kentucky in the Meeting House at First Church!**  
**Hosted by Nancy Fisk.**

**(All times are Pacific Daylight Savings Time)**

**Friday, June 21, 4:30 – 5:30 PM:**  
**Ware Lecturer Eboo Patel**

Beacon Press author Eboo Patel has been named the 2013 Ware Lecturer for the UUA General Assembly in Louisville. [Dr. Patel](#) is founder and Executive Director of the Interfaith Youth Core, an international nonprofit building the interfaith youth movement. He is the author of [Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice and the Promise of America](#), and [Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation](#), which was the 2011-2012 UUA Common Read and 2010 winner of the prestigious Louisville Grawemeyer award in religion. An Ashoka Fellow, Patel was chosen by Harvard's Kennedy School Review as one of five future policy leaders to watch. He lives in Chicago, Illinois.

**Saturday, June 22, 5:30 – 7:00 PM:**  
**Service of the Living Tradition**

The 2013 sermon will be delivered by Rev. Vanessa Southern. The Reverend Vanessa Rush Southern was called to serve as parish minister to the Unitarian Church in Summit, New Jersey in May of 2001. Since her arrival, Vanessa has seen the church through the building of a new extension and a reinvigorated focus on programming and outreach. She is author of the book, [This Piece of Eden](#), published by Skinner House Books in 2001. Vanessa and her husband, Rohit Menezes, and their daughter and dog live in Maplewood, New Jersey.

**Sunday, June 23, 4:30-6:00 PM: Closing Ceremonies**



# WHAT'S NEXT FOR EMILY?

BY EMILY WEBB, INTERN MINISTER

Dear beloved congregation,

As the cherry blossoms are peeking out all around, I am reminded that spring is here and my time here is ending. My last Sunday in South Bay will be June 2nd. My last Sunday at First UU San Diego will be June 9th. On those days, I will be preaching in Hillcrest my goodbye sermon, "Oh the Places You'll Go!" Many of you have been asking, "Where are you going? What will you do?" It's a good question...

In June, I will return Kentucky, with my fiancé, Marcus to celebrate my parents' 30th wedding anniversary. I'll also be preaching at my hometown church in Bowling Green. It's the first time I have preached there since I started seminary. Marcus and I will attend the 2013 General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky. Our plan in July and August is to take some time off together, visiting family and building up the garden at our house in Berkeley, California. We will also be busy studying and preparing for our upcoming evaluation by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee to be accepted into preliminary fellowship as UU ministers.

This fall, I will return to Starr King School for the Ministry to complete my course work for a Masters in Divinity. I'll also be active in the UU congregation in Oakland, California and potentially teach some religious education classes. In September or December (depending on scheduling that is out of my control) I will sit before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC). This is the "big committee" that will review a large portfolio of my work and ask me a series of questions about everything from my personal spiritual practice to UU history and governance. This process is sort of the ministerial equivalent of the bar exam for lawyers. If all goes well, then both Marcus and I will go into what is called "search" for a congregation as a parish minister. We will consider joint, co-ministry opportunities as well as opportunities in separate (but geographically close by) places.

Some people have been so kind as to say "Why can't we keep you?" Believe me, I love you all as much as you love me! However, there are guidelines from the MFC that recommend that interns do not take positions immediately following their internship in the same congregation. Generally, a three year time period is standard after one leaves a position before applying to work again in the same congregation.

I've loved my time here and will be sad to leave. Even as I go, please know that I am not leaving the community entirely. This place and each of you will always, always be very special to me (really!). We will see each other at events and gatherings. After about a year, I will come back and visit. I'll be excited to hear about milestones and challenges and all the blessings on the road ahead. And my hope is that you will fall in love with many other interns in the coming years, just as it should be.



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 Rev. Jim Grant, *Affiliate Minister*  
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