



First Words

A publication of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego

The Finishing Touches Boogie Ball

By Suzette Southfox

Now that the Welcome Center has been dedicated, come to the Finishing Touches Boogie Ball on Saturday, October 20th, 2012. This event will raise the money to pay for the kitchen and the furniture for the new building. The fun starts at 7PM.

The campus of First UU Church in Hillcrest will light up with festive dancing, refreshments and the outstanding music of the queen of boogie-woogie, Sue Palmer and her Motel Swing Orchestra. There will be a "Chance Auction" for a chance to win one of several beautiful and valuable gift baskets created by the Ministry Teams and church groups. Delicious finger foods and plenty of alcohol free beverages are included with the event ticket, along with a no host beer and wine bar, to cool the dancing masses.

Tickets for this 21 years or older event are available now in the church office and on the Sunday patio. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. The dress is casual, the music will be live and the fun will be memorable.

Opportunity Drawing that will be held during the Boogie Ball (winners need not be present.) The tickets for this drawing will be available for a suggested donation of \$25 each, starting September 16, at the All Church Picnic and in the church office and on the Sunday patio thereafter.



First prize is a week at a Cabo San Lucas Condo Resort plus air fare for two (value \$4,100.) Second prize is a weekend getaway for two at the LGBT welcoming, environmentally responsible Kimpton Resort in San Francisco with airfare included (value \$800.) Third prize is two

nights for two in San Diego at the Kimpton Solamar Boutique Hotel, (value \$600.) The fourth prize is a sunset sail on 32' Sailboat on San Diego Bay for private party up to 5 with beverages and hors'doeuvres included, (value \$400.) Fifth and sixth prizes are dining vouchers for \$200 each to the Cohn Restaurant Group and the Brigantine Restaurants. The funds raised from this drawing will also contribute to the finishing touches of the Welcome Center.

Those who want a chance to win one of seven fabulous prizes will be able to purchase a ticket for an

For more information on these upcoming special events, please contact Suzette Southfox, Director of Membership & Development at suzette@firstuusandiego.org or 619. 398.4436.



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New Choices for Sundays

BY Rev Dr Arvid Straube, Lead Minister

With the opening of our new Welcome Center, it is now possible to offer many more programming choices for Sundays because of our expanded facilities. Your staff have been excitedly planning these programs, which will allow many of the great programs offered during the week to be offered on Sundays as well. We recognize that many of our church's individuals and families schedules is such that week day time for church activities are impossible.

First of all, starting September 9, there will be three distinct styles of worship offered at First Church. The 9:30 Hillcrest service will be a traditional worship style such as we are used to now. The music will be mostly classical and the organ will be featured prominently. The style of the 11:30 Hillcrest service will have a more contemporary flavor. Dana Decker's band will anchor this service and the music will be a combination of jazz, rock, pop, and world music. There are changes in our South Bay campus in Chula Vista as well. For one thing, the time will change to 9:30 and the music will be mostly contemporary with more variety than previously. In addition, the service will be planned so that the children can be engaged throughout the service and families can worship together through the whole hour.

We plan to have Wisdom Circles and Adult Education classes that will meet on Sundays as well. Our Wisdom Circles are small groups that meet monthly to form friendships by engaging in the big issues of life. Each month, participants are invited to attempt a spiritual exercise and discuss their experience with the group. Signups for these groups are going on now. In addition, those wishing to become new members of First Church will be able to take the orientations classes, called Building Sacred Ground, on Sundays.

There are some existing groups and classes that will continue in our new venue. You might not know about them. They include Sunday morning meditation, the Humanist Discussion Group, the Christian Study Group, Telling Your Story, the Youth Choir, the Shape Note Singers and Art Exhibits. A parenting class will be offered.

There are some other programs that will be launched in the coming church year. There will be groups that will be discussing the book Essential Spirituality, and engaging with the seven essential practices described in the book. Both campuses will be offering groups. Other ideas being worked on are Pagan Conversations, scouting programs (that are equality based), and an opportunity for Deep Conversations. And, as soon as our new kitchen is up and running, a simple and inexpensive lunch will be available for community building and to make it easier to spend

September Sermon Messages

Celebration Times:

Hillcrest Campus:

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

South Bay Campus: Sunday, 9:30a

The September Transformational Theme is Unity

Sunday, September 2:

Hillcrest Services—"Graying Gracefully", Rev Tom Owen-Towle (live)

South Bay Service—"Morality" Keys to Spiritual Fulfillment Series, Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live)

Sunday, September 9: Ingathering Sunday— Start of New Church Year

Hillcrest Services—"Is There Enough for Me?", Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live)

South Bay Service—"All Together Now", Emily Webb, Intern (live)

Sunday, September 16:

Hillcrest Services—"Margaret Fuller: The Most Important Woman You've Never Heard Of", Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live)

South Bay Service—"Is There Enough for Me?", Rev Dr Arvid Straube (pre-recorded)

Sunday, September 23:

Hillcrest Services—"We Are All Kin: The Good News of Universalism", Rev Dr Arvid Straube and special guest, Zach Wahl (live)

South Bay Service—"Margaret Fuller: The Most Important Woman You've Never Heard Of", Rev Dr Arvid Straube (pre-recorded)

Sunday, September 30:

Hillcrest Services—"All Together Now", Emily Webb, Intern (live)

South Bay Service: South Bay Anniversary—"We Are All Kin: The Good News of Universalism", Rev Dr Arvid Straube (live)

Changes & Choices

BY Liz Jones, Director of Religious Education and Family Ministry

We're making big changes here at First Church this year so that you and your children have choices.

Worship Changes and Choices

We've made some changes in our worship services so your family can choose the format that best meets your needs.

Hillcrest 9:30 Worship: This option provides you with our traditional style worship service. We will continue to use our regular order of service. Our music program will offer a continuation of the style and high quality we are accustomed to. Children age 4 and up will join us for the first part of each service before leaving for their classes.

South Bay 9:30 Worship: this option provides your family with the choice of a fully intergenerational worship experience. If you are seeking an opportunity to worship weekly together as a family, this is your choice. The service will include more interactive elements to include and engage individuals of all ages. This service will continue to offer its contemporary style of music.

Hillcrest 11:30 Worship: This option is designed to provide you with a more contemporary style of worship. Our music program will be expanding to include the band on a regular basis as well as many of our other musical groups. The order of service will be changing some as well. Children age 4 and up will continue to join us for the first part of the service before leaving for their classes.

Changes and Choices in Children's Programming at Hillcrest

We know that our younger children need care and consistency. We've changed some of our programming for our younger children at both services to better meet their needs.

At **9:30** we will offer Nursery care for children less than two years of age. We have a 2&3 year-old class that will use the Celebrating Me and My World Curriculum. We've changed our age groupings so that our 4 year-olds through our first graders will be meeting together using the Treasure Hunting curriculum.

At **11:30** we will offer childcare for children less than four years of age. We will also offer the Treasure Hunting Curriculum for children age 4 through the first grade.

Our older children (second through sixth grade) at both the 9:30 and the 11:30 services will be able to select the class that interests them the most. We plan to offer three choices at each service: Keepers of the Earth, a Native American nature based program; Gather the Spirit, an art based water justice curriculum; and Wisdom Tales, a program based in the tales of the world's cultures and religions.

Details about all of these programs are in the Children's Programming Brochure. We hope that within these choices your family will find the worship and programming that will nurture your souls and help you build community.

Blessings,

Liz Jones

changes & choices

Spoon River Anthology

BY Paula Johnson

Looking Glass Theatre presents "Spoon River Anthology" Friday and Saturday, October 5, 6, 12, 13, at 7:30 pm in the First Church Meeting House.

"Spoon River Anthology" is a theatrical adaptation of Edgar Lee Master's scandalous, best seller of the same name and a literary classic of the highest artistry that has something important to say about life. The poet made a candid and revealing portrait of his home town community circa 1915 by writing an epitaph for each of the people buried "on the hill," the town cemetery. "Spoon River Anthology" is a classic, through its enduring presence, which has withstood the test of time and is not bound by time, place, or customs. It speaks to us today as forcefully as it spoke to people one hundred or more years ago, and as forcefully as it will speak to people of future generations.



Charles Aidman, struck by the theatrical potential of the material, took some sixty of Masters' hundreds of poems, arranged them so they would illuminate one another, and surrounded them with music to complement them. It delighted audiences from Los Angeles to Broadway, and has been a staple of high school and community theatre ever since, engaging talents of all levels.

Although best remembered for contributions to Rod Serling's "Twilight Zone," Aidman was also co-founder of Theatre West in Los Angeles where he and his company gave "Spoon River" its premier in 1962. The following year, the show traveled to Broadway and helped establish Los Angeles as a birthing place for important new plays. The original music used in the show was written by Naomi Caryl Hirshhorn with lyrics by Charles Aidman.

Robie Evans, the First Church Administrator, will direct the Looking Glass Theatre production. Her design team includes

Ray Evans on lights and sets and Karen Muldrew on costumes.



Presented in October before Day of the Dead and Halloween, "Spoon River Anthology" asks an appropriate question for the season: "Do the dead have anything to teach the living?" Though the specter of death is always present over the characters of "Spoon River Anthology," the play is about life, not death. As one of the characters says late in the show: "It takes life to love life," and that is the best message to take away. This play forces its audience to examine the lives of its characters and their own lives more closely as well.

Spoon River Anthology is a great ensemble piece that provides many opportunities to get involved in the First Church community: acting, building sets and costumes, orchestra, back stage and front of house jobs, box office, administration, pre-show dinners, elder and mobility challenged transportation.

To volunteer, email LookingGlassSD@cox.net. For more information visit www.LookingGlassSD.org or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LookingGlassSD>.





First Church All Church Picnic

Sunday, September 16
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Mission Hills / Pioneer Park
1521 Washington Place
San Diego, CA 92103

This picnic will serve as the kick-off to our Year-Round Giving Campaign. Come and meet the members of our Generosity Ministry Team who are making this happen. You will receive a button marking your "month" of giving starting in 2013.

Everyone is invited to bring your own picnic lunch, blankets, lawn chairs and lawn games.



*"How can you describe a Force?
How can you write a life of Margaret?"*
- Sam Ward

Two years ago, UUs all over the country celebrated the Margaret Fuller Bi-

centennial. Part of that commemoration involved an historical exhibit marking events in Margaret Fuller's life as well as her accomplishments and friendships. This exhibit will be in the Welcome Center in September. Other events are planned to honor Fuller and to familiarize San Diego UUs with her contributions to Unitarianism, women's advocacy, and social and political justice.

Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) grew up in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts and attended the First Parish Church of Cambridgeport. Fuller's father set up an educational program for her which involved learning to read at 3, translating from Latin by 5, and reading extensively in world classics and literature. She later attended two schools and, when she was 15, followed a self-made curriculum.

Many of her friends and associates were Unitarians. Reverend William Ellery Channing played an influential role in her early years. She also connected with Transcendentalists, most of whom were Unitarians. She met Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1835 and they became close friends, often challenging each other with their insights and experiences. At Emerson's urging, in 1840, she became the editor of the movement's new journal, *The Dial*.

Fuller's father died unexpectedly in 1835. As the oldest child, Fuller had to find ways to earn money. First she taught at Bronson Alcott's Temple School in Boston but wasn't paid so she took a position at Greene Street School in Providence. Teaching left her little time for intellectual pursuits so, after a year, she returned to the Boston area and started her *Conversations for women* (men were included later). She considered the *Conversations* as a forum for discussing cultural issues and also as an opportunity for women to speak their thoughts on life and its meanings.

MARGARET FULLER

BY KATHRYN WAGNILD FULLER

An article on women, "[The Great Lawsuit: Man vs. Men, Woman vs. Women](http://bit.ly/R9hNIF)," (<http://bit.ly/R9hNIF>) was published in *The Dial* and later expanded by Fuller into a book, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* (1845). It has been considered one of the most important works on women's advocacy in early 19th century America.

In 1844, Horace Greeley invited her to be book editor for the *New York Tribune*. She accepted and moved to New York. Her writing assignments included cultural and social criticism. The latter gave her a different urban experience than that of Cambridge/Boston especially as she investigated poverty, prisons, and institutions for the mentally disadvantaged.

In 1846, Greeley sent her to Europe to report on cultural life there. She traveled to England, Scotland, and France and met with various literary figures. Then it was on to Rome where she stayed almost four years.

In Italy she fell in love with Angelo Giovanni d'Ossoli and had a child with him. Her interests in the movement to establish a republic drew her into politics. Ossoli was on the republic side and Fuller sent regular posts of clashes and fighting to the *Tribune*. She also managed a hospital in Rome that cared for the wounded and ill during the revolution.

When the republicans lost, Ossoli's life was at risk so they moved to Florence. Soon after, she decided to move to America. Margaret Fuller died at age 40 (along with her husband and child) in a shipwreck just off Fire Island, New York.

Events honoring Margaret Fuller at First Unitarian-Universalist Church will be:

- the opening reception for the exhibit (Friday, September 7 from 7:00 to 9:00),
- a sermon by Reverend Arvid Straube on September 16 (and presented at South Bay on September 23),
- a reception sponsored by the Art Guild on Tuesday, September 18 from 6:30 to 9:30,
- and a Conversation sponsored by UU Women on Saturday, September 22.



Sabbatical as Pilgrimage

BY REV. KATHLEEN OWENS, ASSOCIATE MINISTER

It is with a grateful heart that I write this column, as I serve a congregation who understands the need for its professional ministers (and Director of Religious Education) to take a sabbatical. I am in my sixth year of service with First Church and so I am taking a five month sabbatical and like Arvid's sabbatical, I have chosen to plan my sabbatical in two parts. During the first three months (September – November) my wife and I will travel to the Mediterranean. We will visit the countries of Turkey, Greece and Italy. Some of the travel will be through organized tours, while other parts of it will be on our own.

I will return to the congregation in the month of December – to renew our connection and share all that has happened during the fall. I will be away from the congregation again during the months of January and February. During these months I will visit with other ministers of large UU congregations (Dallas TX, Tulsa OK and New York City, NY) who have graciously agreed to meet with me for extended conversations around the subjects of vision, leadership and program organization. I want to learn from other successful churches and bring home some ideas that might enhance our own ministry here in San Diego. I will return refreshed and ready for deeper connections and learning together March 1st.

I am thinking of this sabbatical not as an extended vacation (though I will enjoy traveling with Jan) but as a time of reflection, study and pilgrimage. This is an opportunity to see the world and our lives from a different perspective, to take in new sights and be inspired by other cultures and faith traditions. It will be a time of reflection and learning as I study and learn and reflect again and again on what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist in the 21st century, in a world much smaller and more connected than ever before. And it is a pilgrimage of some sorts as we follow parts of the missionary travels of the apostle Paul and open ourselves to a Christianity that has been changing every day in every culture. You can hear more about this aspect of the sabbatical on the sermon archives from my Aug. 26th sermon.

I will post a blog (and maybe even a picture or two) (<http://www.firstuusandiego.org/kathleens-blog>) from time to time on our website. I hope you will visit the blog often and in this way, share the journey with us. I am most thankful to Arvid, our intern Emily, affiliate minister Jim Grant and lay leaders for their support of this sabbatical and for taking such great care of this congregation. I look

forward to seeing you all in December and then again in March.

Continued blessings to this wonderful congregation.

Rev. Kathleen Owens

Ithaka

As you set out for Ithaka
hope the voyage is a long one,
full of adventure, full of discovery.

Laistrygonians and Cyclops,
angry Poseidon—don't be afraid of them:
you'll never find things like that on your way
as long as you keep your thoughts raised high,
as long as a rare excitement
stirs your spirit and your body.

Laistrygonians and Cyclops,
wild Poseidon—you won't encounter them
unless you bring them along inside your soul,
unless your soul sets them up in front of you.

Hope the voyage is a long one.
May there be many a summer morning when,
with what pleasure, what joy,
you come into harbors seen for the first time;
may you stop at Phoenician trading stations
to buy fine things,
mother of pearl and coral, amber and ebony,
sensual perfume of every kind—
as many sensual perfumes as you can;
and may you visit many Egyptian cities
to gather stores of knowledge from their scholars.

Keep Ithaka always in your mind.
Arriving there is what you are destined for.
But do not hurry the journey at all.
Better if it lasts for years,
so you are old by the time you reach the island,
wealthy with all you have gained on the way,
not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.

Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey.
Without her you would not have set out.
She has nothing left to give you now.

And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,
you will have understood by then what these Ithakas
mean.



Betty and Ed Law

An Interview with Ed Law

BY NANCY FISK

Ed Law has been a member of First Church since 1991. He joined with his wife Betty when they moved here from Minnesota. He is most active in fundraising – most recently, the renovation of Bard Hall, which is now the Welcome Center. According to John Holl, Ed “was instrumental in encouraging and supporting” the plans for the new building. Starting with a desire to renovate the bathrooms, it eventually became a complete remodel of the entire building.

The Lounge in the Welcome Center is named for Ed and Betty. Betty was an active contributor to most of the major women’s issues in the country, particularly Planned Parenthood and The Foundation for Women. The Shona Sculpture, “Those Who Went Before” and the painting “The Confidante” were two of her favorite pieces of art and were donated by her family to enhance this room. All of their children attended the dedication of the new building in August.

When they first lived in San Diego, Betty and Ed lived in the Coronado Cays during the winter. The first time they attended First Church, Tom’s sermon on men and spirituality impressed Ed. Ed invited Tom to meet with his sons, to play tennis and monitor a discussion. This began a friendship that continues to this day.

Ed and Betty were also an active part of the Dynamic Duos, a couples group at First Church that pursues many different activities together.

The Uptown Interfaith Storefront has been a special interest to Ed. Started by Tom Owen-Towle, it involved 11 churches to help the homeless. According to Tom Owen-Towle, “Ed was a relentless sup-

porter of Uptown, as soon as he came to San Diego. I was a founder back in 1985, and he was committed to serving those on the edges of San Diego. He gave of his time, talent, and treasure, through thick and thin. Still does.”

Upon learning of the substantial debt that many ministerial students accumulate, Ed and Betty started a ministerial scholarship through Meadville Lombard School of Theology. Several members of First Church have benefitted from that scholarship, as well as others.

Since 1993, Ed has been on the board of a micro-credit project for women that he administers with Marshall Saunders, called Grameen de la Frontera. Based on a model of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, their project is located in northwest Mexico in the counties of Etchojoa, Huatabampo, Navojoa and Obregón, in Sonora, Mexico. Specifically, they make tiny self-employment loans to the poorest of poor women, provide a safe place for the poor to save, including a group savings plan and an emergency savings plan, provide mutual support groups for poor women so that they are empowered to be effective entrepreneurs and contributing members of their families and communities. They have since partnered with Women’s Empowerment in San Diego, who will take over the administration of the project.

Ed’s wife, Betty, died in 2011. Ed continues to attend church on a regular basis. When asked what his spirituality is based on, Ed says “Giving. I like to give and help other people.” He also says, “First Church is the best thing that ever happened to us.”

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