

First
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Church of San Diego

FirstWords

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STEVIE CARMODY, OUR NEW INTERN MINISTER

BY NANCY FISK



Our new Intern Minister, Stevie Carmody, is from Arlington, Massachusetts. Raised Catholic, in the 8th grade he decided to leave the church. He joined a UU

congregation, First Parish of Arlington, because his friends went there. He wanted to take the time to figure out what he really believed. He also appreciated the fact that, in Unitarian Universalism, children were valued, respected, and their voices mattered.

What he most identified most with was the motto, "Deeds, not creeds." He found that, for Unitarian Universalists, it's more important to take action that is in sync with their values, rather than just talk about what they believe in. The minister at the congregation invited him to lead one of the summer services in his junior year of high school. During the time Stevie was preparing for the service, the minister planted the seed that Stevie should think about becoming a minister himself.

He didn't immediately embark on that journey, but feels it influenced much of what he ended up doing. He went to college and received a BA in Religious Studies. He got a job after college with a team of teachers who worked with autistic students. Working with the students taught him patience, about building loving relationships, and empathy, which he found deeply spiritual.

Stevie discovered he wanted to facilitate this spiritual journey for other people, which led to his decision to be a minister. He then attended Harvard Divinity School, which is a multireligious seminary. He enjoyed going to Harvard because he could also take classes from affiliated schools in subjects that would help him in his ministry, such as public leadership and non-profit finance.

He worked at the First Parish congregation as the youth program coordinator. The program had 50 registered

youth, 30-40 of whom attended church on a regular basis. Stevie's a strong believer in youth empowerment and young adult ministry. His hope for the future, in part, comes from those communities.

One of the reasons he was drawn to First UU is because of our strong young adult ministry. While Stevie's our Intern Minister, he'll also be working on worship leading, learning about the administrative tasks of a minister, and small group ministry. Another thing he likes about First UU is "this community is intentionally trying to be multicultural in a compelling way." He's excited to learn about transformation as it relates to racial justice. The large size of this congregation allows him to have the mentors and a richness of leadership he's searching for.

Stevie is the youngest of three children. He has an older brother in upstate New York, who has 2 daughters. Stevie treasures his role as an uncle. His older sister lives in Ohio. His parents still live in Arlington. After his internship, he'll probably look for work on the East Coast, to be near his family. But he's going to enjoy having the winter away from the traditional cold and snow of the East Coast.

Stevie's hobbies are running, cooking meals with others, reading for pleasure, and exploring the city. While he's in San Diego, he wants to work on his Spanish. He invites congregants to feel free to talk to him in Spanish to help him with this.

The part of the First UU mission statement he relates to right now is the statement, we are "helping to heal the world." He believes faith can follow many paths, but the values UUs share with other faiths allow us to do the important transformative and social justice work together.

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RADICAL WELCOMING

BY REV. KATHLEEN OWENS, LEAD MINISTER

September is a month about returning to school, to work, to church. Our monthly theme of Radical Welcome reflects that mindset. Many of you have been away, while others have been here throughout the summer—when we've had a lot of visitors.

The theme Radical Welcome is appropriate for the many people coming to services in search of something. They may not be able to name what it is, but they're wanting something and wondering if it might be found here. One thing I know we're all searching for is connection, a sense of belonging, and I know connection starts when one feels welcomed. While the definition of what welcome is may change from person to person, a real sense of welcome for our visitors always includes the experience of feeling seen and heard, and a sense that people are willing to reach out first to those they don't know or recognize, while staying open to the possibility of interaction.

On Sunday mornings, when I greet people in the Meeting House before the start of the service, I always try to introduce visitors or people I don't know to the people I do know—to connect them with another person who is not on the staff or ministry team. Because the real welcome and connection needs to be with YOU, the congregation.

In preparing for my sabbatical (which starts later this month when I'll be away September 23 to November 18) I'm thinking about how I might be welcomed by people in the countries I'll be visiting. Will they be kind? Will they be helpful with my questions about where bathrooms are or how to get to that sacred place I want to visit? The theme of my sabbatical is Sacred Geography. My wife and I will be traveling to England, Israel/Palestine, Italy and Transylvania/Romania. All have sites sacred to many and I'm thrilled to go and learn more about these revered places and re-connect with the sacred that lives within my own being.

Sabbatical is a time for study, travel, rest and inspiration. I hope by exploring the theme of Radical Welcome, you'll also become more inspired to welcome your whole self into being and make space for those seeking a welcome from you.

Faithfully,

September 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)

September's Transformational Theme is "Radical Welcome"

September 2, 2018

Hillcrest Services—

"Bless the Hands"

Dr. Melissa James, *Director of Family and
Lifespan Ministry* and

Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*

South Bay Service—

"What Moves the World"

Rev. Tania Márquez, *Assistant Minister*

September 9, 2018

Hillcrest Services—

"On Returning"

Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*

South Bay Service—

"Angels in Disguise"

Rev. Lõne Broussard, *Affiliate Minister*

September 16, 2018

Hillcrest Services—

"Welcome Children"

Stevie Carmody, *Intern Minister*

South Bay Service—

"Tempting Shortcuts"

Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*

September 23, 2018

Hillcrest Services—

"Finding Sacred through Welcoming"

Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*

South Bay Service—

"The Power of a Word"

Rev. Tania Márquez, *Assistant Minister*

September 30, 2018

Hillcrest Services—

TBA

Rev. Tania Márquez, *Assistant Minister*

South Bay Service—

"And Every Time You Mean One More"

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

MEET OUR VOLUNTEER: ANGELA GARCIA-SIMS

BY ELAINE TWAMLEY



Do you know anyone who grew up poor in a Mexican immigrant family with sixteen children—and then received her PhD from Stanford University? Now you do. First UU member Angela Garcia-Sims did just that and much, much more.

Angela credits her parents' emphasis on education for much of her success in life. She went to barrio schools as she grew up in Tucson and thereafter earned several scholarships, first from the University of Arizona. All her hard work culminated in a PhD in Educational Psychology from Stanford in 1980. Angela's academic career spanned several decades and was devoted to research, evaluation, and testing at all grade levels. She called Arizona, Texas, and Northern California home until she settled in San Diego in 1990. A widow, Angela now lives in Coronado where she enjoys ocean views from her front windows every day.

Angela's retirement from academic life allows her to pursue a smorgasbord of volunteer activities. For the last four years she has been the music director of La Rondalla, a singing group. "We sing traditional Mexican songs and invite our audience to sing too," says Angela. "We love dressing up in Mexican clothes, putting flowers

in our hair, and making sure everyone has a wonderful time singing along with us!"

Angela volunteers for both Alliance San Diego and the San Diego Organizing Project. Most recently, she's been involved with visiting various local police departments to discuss current immigration law. At our South Bay campus, Angela is a worship associate, usher, technical support person, and member of the Relocation Committee. She is now looking forward to serving on the Board of Trustees, her new volunteer job.

Angela came to Unitarian Universalism in 2010 while participating in a Phoenix protest of the "show me your papers" law. She noticed that many protestors were UUs and admired their organization and dedication. Subsequently, she made South Bay her UU home. "I bring to my UU beliefs the Daoist Three Treasures of compassion, humility and frugality," says Angela. "Frugality, in particular, is part of the Seventh Principle. We UUs walk the talk in our social justice work and we can always do more to be a welcoming community ourselves."

Angela particularly loves our quest for truth. She believes truth is malleable and both the questions and answers constantly change. She thinks our congregation provides the questing spirit as well as the ritual, prayer, and music our souls crave. From the Tucson barrio to the halls of academe to the San Diego social justice organizations, Angela has embraced life with vigor and passion. Aren't we lucky she chose us?



Fun-Raiser at Blind Lady Ale House

3416 Adams Avenue (in Normal Heights)
Have fun! Build Community! Benefit the Church!

Thursday, September 6
5 pm to midnight

Bring your friends and relatives! Enjoy gourmet pizza, craft beer and more in a family-friendly atmosphere, and let them know you're there to support First UU of San Diego. 15% of your bill will benefit the church.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ANTONIA DUARTE

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.

Most days, Antonia Duarte arrives at First UU before the rest of us are awake. As First UU's Hillcrest campus Custodian, her work day begins at 6 a.m., Wednesdays through Saturdays. She must leave home at 5:30 to get to work on time.



Her first duty each morning is to deactivate the church's alarm system and take down the alarm signs in all buildings before anyone else sets foot on campus. She takes this responsibility seriously, concerned for the well-being of the church at all times.

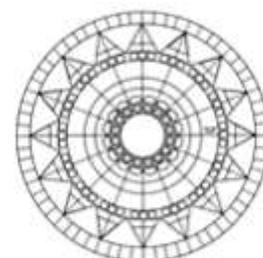
Antonia's job is to keep the church campus looking clean and neat, both inside and outside, and she takes pride in the work she does. Dusting, mopping, vacuuming, and sweeping are hard work, and nobody notices if you do it right. They only notice if you do it wrong, it seems, so it's best to get it right every time. Antonia sets high standards for herself and for others. On Thursdays and Fridays, other employees from the cleaning service she works for come in to clean the Meeting House. Antonia checks their work when she comes in on Saturday, and if she's not satisfied, she re-cleans it herself, or reports the problem to the cleaning service.

Another important part of her job is facilities set-up. Each day, she consults the meeting schedule prepared for her by Church Scheduler Rose Riedel, and sets up the rooms as users have requested. This often involves carrying heavy

tables and chairs, and Antonia usually must do this by herself. When she developed back problems recently, she mentioned her ailment to Director of Operations Robie Evans. "I wondered whether I should say anything," Antonia recalls, "because I don't like to complain." But Robie was very kind, she reports, and now, if she has a lot of heavy tables to carry, Robie always makes sure she has the help she needs.

Although she'd rather not have to work Sundays, Antonia knows that this is an important time for the church, and wants to make sure everything is in good order before and after church services. She enjoys helping people, and often takes it upon herself to assist congregants who need help, such as persons in wheel chairs trying to navigate campus walkways. After the second service, she puts away tables and umbrellas, and makes sure everything is spic and span before she leaves.

Antonia has been the Hillcrest campus Custodian for seven years now. Although she's employed by a cleaning service, her affection for First UU is clear, and she has no plans to leave the job any time soon. "I love it here," she says. "I feel comfortable here. The people are nice, and this place makes me feel happy." No doubt many of our congregants and staff share those sentiments, in no small part because of the fine work Antonia does to create a pleasant, relaxing atmosphere at our beautiful campus. Antonia's affection for First UU is amply returned by those of us who know her.



AFFILIATE & COMMUNITY MINISTERS – AN ABUNDANCE OF MINISTRY!

First UU Church has been in San Diego for 145 years, yet this year is the first time the church has had both Affiliate and Community Ministers serving and supporting our congregation. There are some similarities and differences between Affiliate and Community ministers. All are in fellowship with the UUA and the UU Ministers' Association and serve our congregation voluntarily. This month we'll learn about our affiliate ministers, Rev. Jim Grant and Rev. Löne Broussard. Next month we'll find out about our community ministers Rev. Bonnie Tarwater, Rev. Julie Forest, and Rev. Katy Kroll Swanson.

Our first affiliate minister, Rev. Jim Grant, writes, "The word 'affiliate' is from the Latin meaning 'to adopt.' The broader meaning has to do with association. I am associated with First UU as an Affiliate Minister as an unpaid volunteer, working in covenant with Rev. Kathleen. My adoption happened several years ago, under the ministry of the Revs. Tom and Carolyn Owen-Towle.

I met with the First UU Church Board to become an Affiliate Minister. Rev. Kathleen asked me to assume responsibility for Homestretch Sages, a monthly program for seniors in their 70's, 80's, and 90's. I work with a program committee in planning the gatherings. She also asked me to be in touch with persons who are not able to come regularly to Sunday services or events at First UU. I serve as a 'friendly visitor' with folks, helping them stay in touch with the congregation. I occasionally do pastoral calling with people when they are ill or in special need. I am honored to serve our beloved First UU as a volunteer Affiliate Minister. What a wonderful retirement!"

Löne (pronounced Luna) Broussard, a retired parish minister, also serves as a volunteer Affiliate Minister. She works with Rev.

Jim Grant on the Homestretch Sages program, and like Jim, is on call for officiating rites of passage services (weddings, funerals) for people outside the congregation who need a minister. She has also preached at both of our campuses.

Löne Jensen Broussard grew up in Copenhagen, Denmark, married an Iraqi, and lived in Baghdad, Iraq, for seven years. She discovered Unitarian Universalism in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she also married her second husband Bruce Broussard. She has served churches in Chicago, Illinois; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Wilmington, North Carolina; Chandler, Arizona; and Birmingham, Alabama; before retiring to San Diego where her son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter live. (They're all members of First UU: Talal Albagdadi, Robin Roberts, and Ella.)

Löne holds a degree in Psychology and a Masters of Fine Arts from Louisiana State University as well as a Masters of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School. "What I hope to bring to First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego is my multicultural experience, my deep love for our free faith and tradition, and my creative spirit. I still believe after all my years in ministry that Unitarian Universalism holds a real hope for this world. My role as affiliate minister is to support and help our ministry grow in whatever ways I can contribute. I consider it an honor and a joy."

During Kathleen's sabbatical, you may see our affiliated ministers in one of our pulpits, teaching an Adult Religious Education class, or in services. Our affiliate ministers play important roles in our beloved UU community and, for everything they do, we're very grateful.

MEMORIAL GARDEN'S RIVER OF LIFE BRICK STAMPING EVENTS

HILLCREST: OCT. 21 AND NOV. 18; SOUTH BAY: JAN. 6, 2019 AFTER ALL SERVICES

“The River of Life flows to the eternal sea,” says Memorial Garden Artist, Jerry Thiebolt. Having church members participate in imprinting their own design onto the bricks (which will be part of a permanent footpath through the Memorial Garden) leaves a lasting impression of that person. “We’re making a literal footprint which comes from the heart or essence of the person making it.”

First Church is planning three brick stamping events; two in Hillcrest (October 21 and November 18) and one at our South Bay Campus (January 6, 2019). These multigenerational events will happen after each service on the upper patio at Hillcrest, and outside South Bay campus after the worship service. At this time, these dates are firm, yet tentative, in case of inclement weather. Watch future editions of *The Window* newsletter for more information.

“Creating these bricks will be a wonderful all-church endeavor,” says Robie Evans, Director of Operations.



“We’re anxious to see parents helping their children create enduring works of art—alongside our church sages, youth, and young adults. It would also be a great team building activity for members of wisdom

circles, social justice teams, First UU affiliated groups, committees and other small groups.”

The brick imprinting process will happen at outside tables. Each table will have a ceramic professional volunteer (brought in by Jerry) to direct the process. And, each participant will be able to make up to three bricks if they so choose. Jerry will bring in lots



of small tools and items used to stamp the bricks with various cool and unique shapes (see photos). After the bricks are imprinted, the creator of the brick will take it up to the photography table, where a photo will be taken of the brick and the artist. That way the artist will remember what they made and can locate it once it’s installed in the River of Life footpath. Once the bricks are loaded and taken to Jerry’s studio, he’ll imprint each brick further with a round colored dot so members will be able to locate their own brick more easily. Jerry will be making many, many bricks to fill out the footpath, and his bricks will not have this special colored symbol.

After our three brick stamping events, Jerry will be heating up the kiln to fire each brick, which will make them permanent pieces of art and ready to install in the spring. Installation of the River of Life is quite an effort and will be a lot of work for Jerry and his crew. (He’s always looking for a few willing volunteers—please let Robie know if you’re interested.)

Please contact Robie if you’d like to help her put these events together. Also, if you’d like to reserve a table for your group, please email her at robie@firstuusandiego.org. We can’t wait to work side by side creating something so fun and long-lasting.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

BY REV. IAN W. RIDDELL, MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS

September is a time of beginning in our religious community—a time to return to our regular activities and a time to imagine some new ways of being together. One way is that we are exploring a change in the opening sequence of our Hillcrest liturgy. We've done this in response to many things, including a desire from parents in the congregation to include the children and youth in the collection of our weekly offering - to have them involved in this important part of our community's work.

Transformational Themes

Each year, our Transformational Themes guide our Sunday morning worship, our Wisdom Circles, and our faith formation. This year's themes grow from our weekly affirmation — “We are .. a people of open minds, loving hearts, and welcoming hands.”

- * Welcoming Hands: Radical Welcome (September), Stories of Who We Are (October), Just Gratitude (November).
- * The dark of winter and festivals of light bring us Stories of Hope (December).
- * Loving Hearts: Contemplation (January), Just Love (February), Balance (March).
- * Open Minds New Life (April), Generous Spirit (May), Just Community (June).

Worship Summits

Worship is such a central part of who we are as a community—and a powerful way we express who we envision becoming. If you're a current Worship Associate, or are interested in getting involved in leading our services, or are interested in being involved in visioning and planning our worship over the next year, you're invited to join our first Worship Summit of the year on Saturday, September 8, at noon on our Hillcrest campus. We'll reflect on what worship is for us, explore the upcoming themes for the year, and how our worship can grow to reflect our community better. This will be the first of three gatherings throughout the year. For more information, contact me, ian@firstuusandiego.org.

Ensembles Beginning Again

We've had some fabulous music in our services over

the summer from Justin Murphy-Mancini, Tony Bianca, the Alegria Ensemble, our All-Voices Choir, Lorelei Garner and her band of talented musicians, and more. And on Sunday, September 9, at our Hillcrest services, you can look forward to the debut presentation of our summer all-ages Jazz Band! Throughout the summer Martin Arguelles has rehearsed this ensemble which consists of musicians ranging in age from 14 to 70+.

Our growing South Bay choir continues rehearsing this month! Let Lorelei Garner know if you'd like to join this wonderful group of singers of all ages at lorelei@firstuusandiego.org.

And, all of our ongoing Hillcrest ensembles begin or continue their rehearsals this month as well. Contact Ian for more information about the following choirs:

- * Chalice Choir continues rehearsing Wednesdays from 7 pm to 8:40 pm;
- * Voices in Unity (Youth) starts Sundays from 1 pm to 2:30 pm on September 9;
- * Emerging Voices (Children) starts Sundays from 10:40 am to 11:30 am on September 16;
- * Women's Chorus starts Thursdays from 7 pm to 8:40 pm on September 6 (contact interim director Justin Murphy-Mancini for more information);
- * JUUL Tones rehearsals continue Sundays from 12:30 pm to 2 pm; (contact director Andrea Newall-Lockett for more information);
- * and our two handbell ensembles (contact Tony Bianca at tony@firstuusandiego.org to join):
 - Las Campañas starts Mondays from 6 pm to 8 pm on September 10;
 - JUUBellation starts Wednesdays from 5 pm to 6 pm on September 5.

If you'd like to get involved and share your voice or ringing, contact one of the directors of the choir you are interested in or ian@firstuusandiego.org. It's going to be a fabulous year!

In peace and love, *Rev. Ian*

Staff

Rev. Kathleen Owens, Lead Minister
 Rev. Ian W. Riddell, Minister of Music and Worship Arts
 Rev. Tania Márquez, Assistant Minister
 Stevie Carmody, Intern Minister
 Rev. Jim Grant and Rev. Lône Broussard, Affiliate Ministers
 Rev. Bonnie Tarwater, Rev. Katy Swanson, and Rev. Julie Forest,
 Affiliate Community Ministers
 Robie Evans, Director of Operations
 Dr. Melissa James, Director of Family and LifeSpan Ministry
 Käthe Larick, Youth Programs and OWL's Nest Coordinator
 Angela Fujii, Social Justice Ministry Team Coordinator
 Jenner Daelyn, Connections Coordinator
 Pam Bates, Development Manager
 Lorelei Garner, South Bay Music Coordinator
 Andrea Newall-Lockett, JUUL Tones Ensemble Director
 Justin Murphy-Mancini, Organist and Pianist
 Connie Hayes, Bookkeeper / Controller
 Lori LeSage, Administrative Assistant
 Tony Bianca, Program Assistant and Handbell Program Director
 Rose Riedel, Scheduler
 Karla Alvarez-Malo, South Bay Campus Administrative Assistant
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