



Artwork by John Keasler

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

"...and service be our prayer"

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego

www.firstuusandiego.org

February 2007

Journey Toward Wholeness

Tomas Firle

JTW announced events of mutual interest:

"Being An Ally" Sunday, **February 25**, 1 to 3 PM. Co-sponsored by JTW and Rainbow Action; Kay Chandler, Moderator, with John Keasler, Ellen Brenner and others. Watch "The Window" for more.

"People Like Us - Social Class in America" DVD and discussion on Saturday, **March 3** from noon to 4 PM in Bard Hall. Co-sponsored by JTW with Joan Cudhea; from Social Justice with Jackie Statman; two young adults from YAMS (Young Adult Mystery Squad) Sonia Balsky and Michael Grohman; and Eliza Horlor, a UU youth. Details in RE Adult Religious Growth & Learning program, p14. Note: You are to register, call the Church or fill out form on p. 21. Pizza for early arrivals of enrollees.

"From Hate to Hope" Our Jr. and Sr. Youth are planning a trip to the Museum of Tolerance in LA on Sunday, **March 4**. Ask them about it, support them and Karla Milmo, Coming of Age Facilitator, at 858/922-2464. Social Justice builds on tolerance.

JTW appreciates the contribution of \$500 by Social Justice to provide financial assistance to two young adults, Sonia Balsky and Tyler Uselman to attend the UUA 2007 National Conference, in Arlington, VA, February 16-18, "Now is the Time - Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future". They are looking forward to sharing their experience with the congregation. Watch "The Window" for the date and time.

The Partner Church Committee

Len Pellettieri

Why Are We So Excited?

We're so excited because we think our Saturday **Feb. 17** event will enrich this congregation culturally, spiritually, and even numerically. Because in the **workshop from 2:00 - 6:00 PM** we will have guest speakers, DVDs, a power point presentation, songs and an experiential, audience-participation simulation of a technique that is empowering rural communities in the Third World, including Transylvania, The Philippines and elsewhere, to solve their own problems.

And because we have sent press releases to four colleges and five Filipino newspapers to invite people to come and learn about us, the twenty-four UU Churches in the Philippines and our Sister Church Program – people that may eventually become part of the new Fellowship we have been dreaming of in the South Bay. People who can enrich us with their cultural differences. And we want you to come too.

And we're so excited because we're going to talk about proposed visits to two Sister Churches. The workshop is free and the **6:00 - 8:00 PM dinner** of Eastern European and Filipino food and music, is only \$5. More details and **to sign up for the dinner, see our table on the patio or call Kathe at 619-298-9978.**

EarthSpirit Team

Marge Wurgel

We all eat. But, we don't all have equal access to adequate, affordable, and life enhancing food. Many of us are unaware of the impact our food choices have on the environment. We live in the midst of agricultural abundance, yet we are surrounded by neighborhoods that don't have immediate access to affordable, quality produce. We live in a county with the 2nd highest number of small farms in the United States, yet farmers and farm workers are struggling to keep their land.

Cultivating Food Justice: Growing a Local Movement The EarthSpirit Team's Green Sanctuary Program includes an earth-friendly food campaign and we want to encourage people to attend a free conference being offered at City College on Saturday, **March 3**; 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. This is organized by the grassroots group San Diego Food Not Lawns. Register by February 20 at www.sdfoodnotlawns.com or at 619-641-7510 (x234/244). There'll be skill-based workshops (composting, gardening, cooking, etc.), discussions (learning food security, globalization, land and water access, health issues, etc.) and trainings (how to organize a food-focused project, start a school garden, etc.) as well as music, kids' activities, speakers, garden tours, and food! The event includes a keynote address by Dolores Huerta, co-founder (with Cesar Chavez) of the United Farm Workers. Join us for a day of dialogue, information gathering and skill building as we move toward a just and food-secure future.

The EarthSpirit Team will meet next on Wednesday, **February 7**.

Peace and Democracy

Susan Hammons Mautner

"Images of Occupation: Landscapes of Enclosure in the Holy Land" Wednesday, **February 14** at 7p.m. in Bard Hall

The next Matters of Controversy event will feature guest speaker Gary Fields, presenting a lecture and slide presentation based on research for his new book, "Ex-Communicated: Geographies of Enclosure in Israel/Palestine." Donations accepted. Dr. Fields is an author and an Associate Professor of Communication at UCSD.

Also on January 27, the Meeting House was filled to the brim with an enthusiastic audience to hear Daniel Ellsberg, the famous whistleblower who released The Pentagon Papers to the press in 1971, exposing the lies and deceptions that had led to the Vietnam War. Ellsberg believes that we face even more dangerous times now – that we must stop both the wars on Iraq and Iran before it is too late. He hopes that a new generation of whistleblowers will step forward to expose current lies and deception – that there will be a new "Pentagon Papers of the Middle East." For more information on any PDAG events, call 858-459-4650 or e-mail to PeaceDemTF@aol.com. PDAG planning meetings are on the **first Tuesday of each month**.

Network of Spiritual Progressives

Suellen Sorenson

Have you been meaning to find out more about the Network of Spiritual Progressives? Check out our new website at www.nspsandiego.org and come to the next NSP Chapter Meeting to connect with other Spiritual Progressives and to learn more. The NSP Quarterly Chapter Meeting will be at First UU Church in room 112 on **March 4th**, 2 – 4 p.m. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend. Here is a sampling of the NSP spiritually grounded perspective.

"No to Escalation" and "Out of Iraq Now" is Just the Beginning The role that the United States has taken in the world in the past six years is not only morally abhorrent but also damaging to our standing and long-term security.

It *is* possible to withdraw ethically:

- withdraw our troops
- issue a public apology to the Iraqi people
- provide funding for
 - an international stabilization force
 - recruitment and training of an Iraqi police force
 - removal of land mines
 - reconstruction
 - stipends to encourage the return of doctors, nurses, teachers, and other professionals who have fled Iraq
 - reparations to Iraqis who have lost family members or been injured

From Domination to Generosity: A New Path to Homeland Security.

But even beyond ethical withdrawal, we need a **whole new way of thinking** about how to make the United States secure. Some believe that real security comes from domination and control and manipulation of others. They may debate whether the best path to domination is through military means or through diplomacy backed by military, but they agree on the goal: security through domination. We advocate for a very different path: **security through generosity**. Help us build this new paradigm! We hope you'll join us!

UU Legislative Ministry

Vicente Vargas

UULM is a statewide justice ministry that serves to empower the moral voice of Unitarian Universalist values in the public arena. You are invited to engage with UULM in three ways: to help shape the agenda, receive notifications regarding important legislation and how you can take steps to influence your elected officials, and support the work of UULM by becoming a member.

Take that next step by visiting UULM on the web at www.uulmca.org. You may also contact UULM by mail or phone at UU Legislative Ministry, 717 K St # 514, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 441-0018.



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