

REPORT ON PROGRAMS

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica



Fiscal year
July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

1260 Eighteenth Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404

Phone	310/ 829-5436
Fax	310/ 998-9181
E-mail	office@uusm.org
Web Site	www.uusm.org

REPORT on MINISTRY

Reverend Rebecca Benefiel Bijur

Dear friends,

It has been a year of milestones for your congregation and your new minister. With great gratitude to all those who made the new building project possible, we dedicated our new campus and rededicated Angeline Forbes Hall. With great rejoicing, we celebrated my installation as the congregation's ninth settled minister.

Along the way, we said farewell to Melinda Ewen, a long-time member of our community and staff, and celebrated ten years of music under the direction of Steve Wight, who will be leaving us at the close of the program year. We welcomed Acting Administrator Kate Schlesinger, who has ably guided us through these months of transition. We celebrated the achievements of Catherine Farmer Loya, who was awarded her RE credential by the Religious Education Credentialing Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Love is the doctrine of this church...

By the end of June, I will have officiated for two wedding services, blessing the partnerships of Chris Brown and Silvia Krasuk, and Melanie Sharp and Kevin Miller. I welcomed Sophia-Marie Olson Flynn with a service of dedication. I also led memorial services for the following beloved members and former members of our community: Jack Behr, Grace Weaver, and Marge Zifferblatt. My colleague in ministry, the Rev. Ernie Pipes, led services honoring Ren Renshaw and Serena Shames.

...and service is its prayer

Since September, your Generous Congregation, Christmas Eve, and Installation offerings of over \$5,000 have served the youth, families, and communities of the following organizations: Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, Common Ground Westside HIV Center, De Benneville Pines, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Center, Gays and Lesbians Initiating Dialogue for Equality (GLIDE), Homeboy Industries, Heal the Bay, Interfaith Clergy United for Justice and Peace, Meals on Wheels, Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC), Our House Grief Support Center, Partners in Health, Project Angel Food, Step Up on Second, Turning Point, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and the Westside Food Bank. Though this is only one of many ways this community

strives to put its faith into action, it is one I admire every Sunday.

I am grateful to the legacy of vision and care I have inherited from those who have come before me in ministry to this community: our Interim Ministers, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Furrer and the Rev. Roberta Haskins, Minister Emerita Rev. Judith Meyer, and Minister Emeritus Rev. Ernie Pipes. I honor the leadership of our many volunteers. I celebrate the way each of you carry out the ministry of this congregation in your lives and work, every day.

Humbled and inspired by the good work that goes on here, day in and day out, year in and year out, I look forward to another year on the horizon, in which to do this good work with you.

Gratefully,
Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur



FINANCE COMMITTEE
Alan Brunell, Treasurer

The financial statements for the 2010-2011 fiscal year appear remarkably similar to those of the prior two years. There are however important differences that highlight two important fiscal issues. First, program expense, the portion of spending assigned to the mission of the Church (Ministry, music, religious exploration), etc. has increased slightly over prior years. At the same time, Administrative expenses have decreased slightly. Second, the church has raised more money and spent more money than the financial statements indicate.

The shift in spending is in part the result of at least three forces: 1) the continued efficiency and discovery of cost savings by the staff; 2) increased pressure by members to restore important programs that had been cut back when the board implemented the austerity budget; and 3) elimination of certain funds in the budget to cover certain non-recurring expenses. Included in the last item are expenses like an Unemployment Fund, ongoing employee training, and general facility maintenance. Despite their reduction in the budget, the need for funds for these areas does not diminish. As a result, during the past year, unemployment claims exceeded the balance in the Unemployment Fund and non-budgeted repairs were required to make the Minister's office habitable. All of these items have been restored in the coming year's budget (and are discussed in that section).

On the opportunity side, it is important to note that despite the additional over budget expenditures, this past fiscal year will end with a smaller deficit than the budget indicated. Several times during the past year, the board went over budget to fund items (completion of Forbes renovation, purchase of furnishings, etc.). These uses would normally have drawn down the Church's non-emergency unrestricted savings. Unrestricted savings did not go down as expected, however, due to several large contributions. While the Church was fortunate that the additional costs were covered by these contributions, the issue was the failure to provide for these foreseen costs adequately in the original budget. Large contributions received during less lean years have also been used at times to cover general spending requirements.

The finance committee this year has changed the reporting for large contributions, restricted donations and restricted spending. The committee submitted, and the board approved an amendment to the Church's financial policy that requires reporting of all donations as income. This new reporting allows the board to focus the use of large contributions on strategic opportunities.

The second step in the movement toward greater fiscal transparency involves expenses. First, restricted donations for specific funds have not been presented on the monthly financial statements, thus understating the Church's spending on Program Activities or Mission-Focused Areas. Including those expenses will require re-engineering of the church's accounting procedures, and is already in planning.

Second, program and administrative expenses are often paid by church members and staff who want to contribute and support the church. This benefits both the members and the Church, but disguises the real cost of running programs, operating the church, etc. Therefore, for the coming year, I ask that while you continue to support the church as you have, if you do "cover" expenses rather than asking for reimbursement, please advise us how much, and for what program or expense. The church office will have "information-only" expense forms available for you to submit, so we may begin to understand the true total costs to operate the church. These can be submitted anonymously, although it would be helpful to know who to contact, in case there are questions.

Building Fund Team
Ofelia Lachtman, Co-chair
Report to come

Dining for Dollars
Melanie Sharp, Chair

Melanie Sharp remained as Chair of Dining for Dollars. Sue Moore and Beverly Alison continued on the committee, with further help from Peggy Rhoads, Jacki Weber, Marjorie Annapav, Natalie Kahn, Laura Eklund, Kit Shaw, Kevin Miller, Garland and Farrokh Allen, as well as Anne MacQueen and her office volunteers. Nels Hanson again supported the process by maintaining and improving the Access database and helping with data input. New this year was the Dining for Dollars Catalog, playfully created by Rhonda Peacock, which generated lots of interest. Although we had a few less offerings than last year (78 vs 86), the auction during the last 2 Sundays in February raised over \$30,000 -- a record, beating last year by about \$2000. Breaking another record, we collected all the money by the end of April, in part because of Nancy Howell's pleasant reminder phone calls.

Planned Giving Committee
Beth Rendeiro, Chair
Report to come

Stewardship Committee
Patrick Meighan, Chair
Report to come

Scrip Program
Report to come

MINISTRY SUPPORT
Care-Net
Charles Haskell

The Caring Network (Care-Net) was established in the spring of 2009 to better meet the short-term physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of church members. Care-Net started with a small coordinating group (Beverly Alison, Christine Haskell and Charles Haskell) working with our minister and an ex-

panding network of volunteers to help our church community. In March 2010, the Rev. Stephen Furrer conducted a special service to expand and amplify Care-Net. This service energized the program and resulted in a new organizational structure.

Overall leadership of Care-Net is the responsibility of the Caring Ambassadors, working closely with the minister. Christine and Charles Haskell accepted a one-year appointment ending March 30, 2011 to help get the program started.

Month-by-month management of Care-Net is the responsibility of the Monthly Magicians. For the 2010-2011 church year they were as follows: Alicia Van Ooyen (July), Diana Spears (August), Jane Machnik Zapata (September), Cynthia Cottam (October), Garland Allen (November), Dan Nannini (December), Norb Gallery (January 2011), Bronwen Jones (February 2011), and Bryan Cahill (March 2011).

Writing cards and get well notes to sick church members is the responsibility of the Card Specialists, working with a large group of "plumes." Our Card Specialists for 2010-2011 were Helen Brown and Pamela Beere Briggs.

Food for members in need is the responsibility of our Casserole Executives working with a large group of "shrooms." Our Casserole Executives for 2010-2011 have been Jacki Weber and Bruno Lacombe.

Car rides to doctor visits and the like are coordinated by our Car Czarina working with our "zooms." Our Car Czarina was Beth TenPas from March to November, 2010. This position is currently unfilled.

At the time of this writing The Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur and the Board of Directors are deciding how Care-Net will function in the future.

Pulpit Committee Vilma Ortiz, Chair

Mission. The mission of the Pulpit Committee is to assist the minister in maintaining the quality, consistency and sanctity of the Sunday service. We serve at the invitation of the minister who is responsible for the structure and content of weekly worship services. We work in collaboration with the minister to evaluate the services and discuss issues related to worship. This year, the committee worked to support Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur, who is in her first year as settled minister.

Guest Speakers. The Pulpit Committee finds speakers for Sundays when the minister is not in the pulpit—one Sunday a month from September through June and for the months of July and August. Our goal is to have clergy—Unitarian Universalist ministers and ordained clergy from other faiths—lead Sunday worship. Over the years, we have developed relationships with a group of clergy who have a special affinity for our congregation and these individuals are invited to preach approximately once a year. Occasionally we bring community leaders to the pulpit because of their organization's important work and its relationship to our church. Other times, we invite church members to share with their experience and vision

with the congregation. Overall, we are fortunate that we have been able to bring speakers to the church that help us provide a consistently high quality worship service when the minister is not in the pulpit.

Pulpit Hosts. It is the practice of our church to have lay congregation members serve as pulpit host when we have a guest speaker. The Pulpit Committee recruits, trains, assigns, and assists our skilled and committed group of lay pulpit hosts, who plan and conduct individual services with the speakers. This is a task requiring courage, perseverance, creativity, organization, thought, and time management. We provide pulpit hosts with a script so that they have the support they need to conduct the service.

Committee members include Vilma Ortiz (chair), Edna Bonacich, Kathy Cook, Tom Hamilton, Judith Martin-Straw, and Rima Snyder. The committee meets monthly between September and June.

Settled Minister Search Committee Cynthia Cottam, Chair

Members: Cynthia Cottam, chair; Karen Canady, Rebecca Crawford, Ian Dodd, Pat Gomez, Karl Lisovsky, Katie Malich
Our Church Bylaws dictate that following the call of a new minister, the members of the Settled Minister Church Committee, who remain willing and able, shall serve as the Committee on Ministry for the first six months of the minister's tenure. We met monthly with Rev. Bijur beginning in August, 2010 and ending in March, 2011. We provided her a sounding board and feedback on a wide range of issues, most notably stewardship, worship, and administration. We assisted with the planning and execution of the Installation Service, and we baked a lot of cookies. The official dissolution of our small group was bittersweet. The new Committee on Ministry is formed and has been functioning since March. Their current major task is a formal evaluation of the minister for the UUA. The new members are Karen Canady, Barbara Gibbs, Karl Lisovsky and Dan Patterson.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION Director of Religious Education Catherine Farmer Loya

What a year we have had, with so many new beginnings and opportunities to grow. In the 2010-11 program year, we've welcomed our new settled minister, moved into the newly renovated Forbes classrooms, sent our high school youth to San Francisco for a street retreat on homelessness, instituted an RE Offering in our classes, planted a vegetable garden and started composting at the church, brought back the UU Pals program, engaged in more Intergenerational Sunday services than ever before, launched a process to create a truly Lifespan RE program, and much more.

Classroom: We offer RE classes for preschool through high school, and 118 children and youth enrolled in the program this year. The Junior and Senior High Our Whole Lives sexu-

ality education classes had 30 participants – our biggest year ever. Classes were led by 36 volunteer teachers/advisors, 2 staff members (nursery and preschool), and many additional volunteer assistants and helpers. Overall, our programs are strong and successful, though challenges include sporadic attendance by many which leads to a lack of cohesion in classes and difficulty for teachers planning lessons for class sizes which vary widely from week to week. This summer we will revise the curricula for several of our classes, including a new theme-based workshop program for 2nd-3rd grades, and a rewrite of Neighboring Faiths for 6th-7th grades to make it more engaging for participants and more user-friendly for teachers. We are also creating a new science-based curriculum for 4th-5th graders, developed by Ian Dodd and Margot Page.

Worship: We offered six Intergenerational services, planned in collaboration with Rev. Bijur: Ingathering, Day of the Dead, Thanksgiving, the Winter Holiday Pageant, Easter and RE Sunday. In addition, UUCCSM youth led the YRUU service in March as well as the Coming of Age service in May. I also took a stronger role than in past years in leading the Time for All Ages in the sanctuary.

Faith in Action: On RE Faith in Action Sundays, participants of all ages sorted food at the Westside Food Bank, created more than 80 hygiene kits and collected donations of clothing for homeless youth served by Common Ground, made Peace banners and wrote letters to legislators urging them to prioritize peace for Peace Sunday, and picked up trash at Santa Monica Beach with Heal the Bay. We also instituted a weekly RE Offering to collect pennies to fund worldwide peace efforts.

Lifespan RE: We are on the verge of a new era in RE, with the formation of a truly lifespan program. Since January I have been working closely with the RE and Adult Programs Committees to move toward consolidation into a single Lifespan RE Committee with oversight of a unified program serving all children, youth and adults at UUCCSM. The new program will launch in September, and will include a congregation-wide focus on monthly themes drawn primarily from our church covenant, as well as seven core content areas which will be explored in all areas of our lifespan program: Unitarian Universalism, World Religions, Jewish & Christian Heritage, Personal & Spiritual Growth, Spiritual Practice, Peace & Justice, and the Interdependent Web. As part of this process, my position will be expanding to include a lifespan focus, and I am working with Rev. Bijur and the members of the Lifespan RE Committee to successfully make this transition over the next year.

Professional Development: This year I completed a four-year credentialing process. In April I traveled to Boston to meet with the UU Association’s RE Credentialing Committee and was awarded the status of Credentialed Religious Educator.

It is truly a gift to serve as the Director of Religious Education in a congregation that is so open to change, so eager to grow

and try new things. I cannot wait to see what the next year will bring, and look forward to many more years of love and service to our UUCCSM community and our UU faith.

Religious Exploration Committee Bryan Oakes, Chair

Members: Returning committee members include Judy Federick, Susan Hendricks Richman, Anne Saldo, Larry Wiener and our Board Liaison Beth Rendeiro. Our new committee member was Teri Bond.

Accomplishments

This is the second year of our 3 year themed rotation for the elementary classes.

From September-November classes learned about our UU Principles. During the months of December, January and February our focus was on World Religions and Spiritual Practice. And finally, during the months of March-May, students learned about our UU History.

The elementary classes also participated in 4 Faith in Action activities this year. In October, children and parents walked from the church to the Westside Food Bank where we learned about their organization and volunteered our time by sorting donated food. This trip provided an opportunity for children to see what happens to the canned goods that are donated in the Sunday Morning Service. In November, children prepared hygiene kits for Common Ground. In January we took part in Peace Sunday festivities and in May the children participated in a beach clean up for Heal the Bay. Other activities at church included planting a vegetable garden with the Green Committee, and the return of UU Pals.

Our Neighboring Faiths class for 6-7th graders completed their 2 year rotation with the study of Western Religions. Coming of Age will conclude their year this month with the annual Coming of Age Service where the 8th grade students present their credo in a worship service that is crafted by them. The High School class recently returned from a trip to San Francisco with the Neighborhood Church of Pasadena to participate in Street Retreat with the Faithful Fools Street Ministry. This organization focuses on a “ministry of presence” with the homeless population of the Tenderloin. The High School group came back moved by the experience and shared their experiences in a worship service.

Activities for the parents were also offered this year. Parents attended a book club that discussed Tending the Flame, a book about raising children with UU values. Before the Holidays, we hosted the second year of the Advent Tradition Workshop where parents created an Advent Calendar that included a daily family reading and activities for giving to each other and the community.

This year the RE Committee focused on creating an RE Covenant. This covenant outlines our shared values, goals and support of our Director of Religious Education. This process

also led to the conclusion that our committee would like to grow to encompass Religious exploration of all ages. Lifespan RE is the result of this effort and was recently created by combining the Children's RE committee and the Adult Programs Committee. This new committee will spend the rest of the year establishing our combined goals for the 2011-2012 year.

Adult Programs
Emmy Cresciman, Chair

Report to come

MUSIC PROGRAM
Steve Wight, Director of Music

The upcoming year will undoubtedly be both exciting and challenging in terms of the church's Music Department. Though nobody likes change, new leadership and a new vision for the music program can be invigorating. The key will be to allow the new Music Director to establish their way of doing things. There is a very strong, experienced core of people in the music department, including Louis Durra, Rima Snyder, and Bronwen Jones, among others, who will provide stability and lend assistance.

The congregation can also be a help or hindrance as new leadership is brought in. Being supportive and open to new things will allow the new Music Director to find their way and give you the best program they're capable of.

It should also be remembered that the music budget was slashed by a significant amount 3 years ago, and no director can provide the kind of music experience we used to have while working under that budget. For example, guest musicians were cut by 75% for the early service. At some point, under-serving a service becomes penny wise and pound foolish because it limits growth. Only the members of the church can decide where that dividing line is, but I urge you to at least discuss it and not just assume that the music program can limp along permanently on a tiny budget without long term detrimental effects on the health of the church.

As you know, in an effort to suit the music to the theme of each service, and to provide music in styles enjoyed by the members of the church, I composed or arranged a great deal – in fact, probably the majority – of the music performed by the choir over the years. It's unlikely that the new music director will take that approach, and it is in any case a highly time consuming proposition for which the music director is not paid. For that reason, the budget for sheet music purchases will have to be increased. That particular item is one I removed completely, allowing me to reallocate the money elsewhere. This means that when that item is restored, as it almost certainly will have to be, something else will suffer.

These are all things that need to be considered, and I hope the congregation will consider them in the light of long term health and growth.

I have made many cherished friends in my 10 years at the church, and I thank each of you for the wonderful support you have always given me. I have great memories of music we've made in response to 911, to controversial elections, to war, to the attempts to impose marriage inequality, and much more. Music can and should and often does go way beyond sounds and notes, to the core of "what it means to be human." Sharing those experiences in music has forged an indelible bond between myself, the musicians I've performed with, and the church family for whom we've performed. I wish you all well.

Music Committee
Bronwen Jones & Rima Snyder, Co-Chairs

This has been a busy and eventful year for the music program. We produced three Arrogant Doormats trio evenings with Louis Durra on piano, bassist Larry Steen and drummer Jerry Kalaf. Church members entertained us with a diversity of talent on two weekend Spotlight shows. We continued the L.A. Tapestries series with three concerts directed by our tenor section leader Nova Safo, featuring selections from the many indigenous folk traditions of Los Angeles. We sponsored concerts by Yale University's "Out of the Blue" a cappella chorus and folk guitarist John Flynn.

Reverend Bijur was officially installed as our settled minister in February, with musical fanfare from our choir, members of the Long Beach UU choir, and a special Celebration choir made up of church members. And the Holiday choir provided intergenerational music and merriment for our annual Holiday Pageant.

As I write this the choir is preparing for the annual Dining for Dollars concert, featuring music of The Beatles. It will be our director Steve Wight's final show and he has invited old friends to join him on the stage to perform some of his, and our, favorite songs. The search for a new music director is underway. The season will conclude with another a cappella concert, this time from the women of Yale's "Whim 'N Rhythm" jazz vocal ensemble, and an exciting evening produced by Moira Smiley. Moira's group VOCO will be joined by the Round Mountain duo, performing an array of Appalachian and Balkan influenced music. Moira will also be hosting a vocal workshop and we hope this will be the first of many collaborative efforts with her.

Reverend Bijur has energized the congregation with her love of music and is working to find new ways to incorporate music into services and church life. We have been fortunate to have many talented musicians play for us on Sunday mornings, some generously performing free of charge. This has been essential in allowing us to augment our budget for soloists. At present the church can only employ one choral section leader, but we hope this situation will improve as we grow stronger financially.

FAITH IN ACTION
Faith in Action Commission
Rick Rhoads, Chair

Members: Christine Haskell, Charles Haskell, Pat McGuire, Sandra Trutt, Leslie Reuter, Diana Spears, Marguerite Spears, Lyn Armondo, Judy Federick, Phyllis Gabriel, Rick Rhoads, Peggy Roads, Denise Helton, Rhonda Peacock, Marsha Smith, Janet Goodwin, Liza Cranis, Ellen Stuart, Jessica Clay, Beth Brownlie-Oakes, Roberta Frye, and Len Harris.

“Put Your Faith in Action”

Beginning June 2010, we revitalized the FIA table at social hours, with staffing, posters, literature, sign-up sheets. This has helped involve more people in FIA and to foster symbiotic relationships among the committees under the FIA umbrella (Multi-Racial Development, Peace & Social Justice, Hunger Task Force, Green Living, Interweave).

We also, with much appreciated help from the Newsletter Committee, created an FIA section of the newsletter. When Sue Stoyanoff came to us with the great idea of adding fruit and veggies from our gardens to our weekly contributions to the Westside Food Bank, we publicized it through the newsletter. With continued announcements by Rev. Rebecca, the program has taken hold and become a new tradition of our church.

Most of our work is done by our committees (See below). In October, FIA presented (with help in publicizing from the Music Committee) *Man from Magdalena*, a musical about the lives of undocumented workers crossing the Mexico-Arizona border. In January we sponsored the Art Wall, featuring the work of all 5 FIA committees. Also in January we filled the sanctuary to overflowing at Peace Sunday (details in PSJ report). Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur delivered the invocation and benediction. Earlier on Peace Sunday, our FIA Town Hall Meeting reviewed the work of our committees and resolved to urge the congregation to join the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

Hunger Task Force

Rhonda Peacock, Denise Helton & Marsha Smith

Marsha Smith, who has been the glue that has held us together, is taking a 6-month leave of absence. Our most urgent task is to find someone who can join us in giving leadership to our church's role in feeding the hungry in our community in general and coordinating our 3x/year food service at Turning Point in particular. If that might be you, please give me (Rhonda Peacock) a call. Here is what our task force does:

Step Up on 2nd For the past year UUCCSM has provided the afternoon meal once a month, to an average of 65 people. We managed to reduce spending to an average of \$225/month. We are reimbursed by funds donated to the church for this purpose. By the middle of the fiscal year, we had no money left. A pulpit announcement, an announcement at the Thanksgiving Feast, and other pleas generated enough funds to get us through May 2011. These announcements also added to our

core of volunteers.

Turning Point UUCCSM continues to provide dinner for 50 on Mother's Day, MLK Day (by fUUnion), and Labor Day. On each occasion, we also prepare sandwiches for the next day's lunch.

Daybreak UUCCSM continues to donate frozen casseroles, fresh veggies and fruit, and personal care products for their drop-in center at the pier and their residential site.

Common Ground UUCCSM continues to collect clothing and personal-care products for the at-risk youth in this HIV-AIDS program.

Green Living Committee

Beth Brownlie-Oakes, Jessica Clay, Co-Chairs

The Green Living Committee strives to continue the efforts of the Green Sanctuary Committee. We have not yet gained accreditation of Green Sanctuary. We will need to maintain programs to remain active while pursuing this goal. Our purpose is to lead this congregation on living out our 7th Principle—respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We will advise the church community staff on sustainable procurement for supplies and on building/repairs on the facilities. We will research and then propose sustainability goals for the church community and help staff, members and the community as a whole attain those goals.

We will provide intergenerational education on all topics related to sustainability and how to step lightly on this Earth and lead green and healthy lives through small group workshops and documentary movie viewings. Our programming will be throughout the church calendar year. We will plan at least one event each month on a specific topic. (eg. Ethical Eating, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, Sustainable Transportation, Reducing our Energy Consumption, etc.)

We meet monthly to plan upcoming events. This year some of our events have been:

January-Documentary Movie Screening, "Trashed," we had a great turn out for this. Small Group Workshop on Recycling and Compost lead by Bryan Gordon, Sustainability Manager at Sempra Energy. Letter writing campaign to Barbara Boxer and Julia Brownley about the topic of landfills and efforts to reduce them by diverting waste from them.

February-Documentary Movie Screening, "Ripe for Change" about sustainable food and bringing healthier food to our children's schools.

March-Green Living Committee sponsors Second Sunday Supper, Ethical Eating and Cooking Demonstration from a Market Chef.

April-Small Group Presentation by Alison Kendall about Sustainability in Europe.

May-RE participates with Green Living Committee on our first beach clean-up. UUCCSM is adopting a beach with Heal

the Bay and will provide cleanup three times a year. This was our first event. Sustainable Streets Workshop and on-road training.

June-Documentary Movie Screening, "Fuel".

October-Heal the Bay Beach Cleanup #2

We welcome new members!

Interweave Judy Federick, Chair

Interweave is the UU affiliate group for bisexuals, gays, lesbians and transgenders (BGLTs), and their friends and allies. Our issues for study and action this year continued to be marriage equality and outreach to at-risk GBLT youth.

Our activities in the past year included the following:

Over 30 marchers from our congregation participated in the June 13th, 2010 LA Pride Parade, many of them for the first time. Young and not so young, gay and straight, we all reveled in the exhilarating reception from the parade-goers. It was particularly gratifying to hear our congregation described over the loudspeaker as the place where gay weddings have been taking place since 1959.

As part of our outreach to at-risk GBLT youth, we continued this year to focus our fund raising-efforts on homeless youth services: Our Annual All-Church Interweave Picnic, co-hosted with the Women's Alliance, was held July 11th with proceeds going to the Common Ground Westside HIV Community Center. In addition, Common Ground Westside was the beneficiary three times during the year of the Generous Congregation collection.

On October 10th, we once again hosted the Coming Out Day Service. In a sermon titled, "Still Coming Out?", church member and psychologist Ron Crane shared a seven-decade cultural and personal history of being gay. Patrick Meighan was pulpit host.

Multi-racial Development Committee (MRDC) Peggy Rhoads, Chair

Our committee works to attract people of color to our congregation and to fight against racism in our community and in the world.

In October, MRDC sponsored a Dining4\$ trip to the Great Wall of Los Angeles, and we're doing it again next October. That led to a Great Wall tour this April for high school students in our RE program.

MRDC sponsored the 2010 Thanksgiving program, in which we read a Thanksgiving prayer of the Wampanoag, a tribe of Native Americans who lived near what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. The children helped to read the story of Maushop, the Good Giant, who helped his people learn self-reliance.

In October we conducted Sunday services celebrating the Day of the Dead, and in January the committee helped with the

services celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. The MLK service was a joint effort, with a Sabbath service at Beth Shir Shalom and the culminating service at UCCSM, which saw some of our brothers and sisters from Calvary Baptist Church and Beth Shir Shalom join us in a musical celebration of multi-racial and multi-ethnic solidarity. Will Coley videographed celebrants at the Santa Monica Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration, which can be accessed at <http://www.youtube.com/user/UUSantaMonica>.

On April 24, 2011 the MRDC conducted its third Seder, for the first time in Forbes Hall. Sixty UUSM members and friends read the traditional Jewish history and honored past struggles against slavery in the United States. We pledged ourselves to continue the fight against growing slavery in the world.

Together with the Peace & Social Justice Committee, we launched a 6-session study group on Immigration as a Moral Issue.

On May 1, we marched on International Workers' Day with members of the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Los Angeles, supporting immediate immigration reform and protesting racist immigration laws being considered in several states. We will hold a Sunday service on June 19, Juneteenth, the date in 1865 when Texans first heard the Emancipation Proclamation and the announcement of the ending of the Civil War.

Peace & Social Justice Committee Roberta Frye, Chair

At our annual congregational meeting in May 2010, after much debate, the congregation passed our resolution to immediately withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. At General Assembly in June, delegates from our church and delegates from other UU congregations introduced a similar resolution. A majority voted in favor, but it did not receive the two-thirds vote required passage. At this year's District Assembly, together with a UU from Fullerton, we are presenting a workshop on how to organize congregations to endorse immediate withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan. The resolution will again be taken to GA in June.

We merged our every-other-Friday evening peace vigil with that of the peace group in Mar Vista. About 8-10 people—usually 2-3 from our church—show up each time with signs and there is a good response from people driving and walking by.

We showed the DVD "Why Are We in Afghanistan?" in August to a packed room in the Cottage and showed it again in the fall to about 20-25 more people.

Roberta Frye became chair of the committee in October.

In October, PSJ and the Multiracial Development Committee hosted a lovely musical play called "Man from Magdalena" about the plight of immigrants from Mexico, written and performed by UUs from Green Valley, Arizona. Admission was \$20; receipts helped reimburse the expenses of the performers

MEMBERSHIP and LEADERSHIP
Membership and Leadership Committee
Pat Gomez, Chair

and our church received \$300 as the host of the event. At a monthly meeting in the fall, we researched and discussed the record of the Obama administration with respect to civil liberties, concluding that there has been no improvement.

January was a busy month for PSJ. Along with the other FIA groups, we assembled a panel for the January art wall. We co-sponsored the hugely successful interfaith Peace Sunday with Unity Diversity World Council and Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace—an afternoon event with speakers, a panel, music and exhibitors from many progressive organizations. A few hundred people attended and we shared in the receipts of admission after expenses. We will host another Peace Sunday in September. About 25 people attended our screening of the documentary “Peace, Propaganda and the Promised Land” about media bias in the Israel-Palestine conflict; a member of the Israel Divestment Campaign led a discussion. We collected signatures there and subsequently for the campaign to request that the two huge California pension plans divest from companies profiting from business in Israel until the occupation is ended.

We have collected enough signatures (more than 10% of UUSM members) on a petition to propose at upcoming annual meeting that our congregation join the National Religious Campaign against Torture.

In March, 11 of us attended the anti-war march in Hollywood where about 4000 people demonstrated; we took our UU banner and signs. Also in March, we participated in a march for workers’ rights in downtown LA. May Day (May 1) saw us carrying our banner in the downtown LA march for immigrants’ rights.

Cathie G. has begun leading a 6-session study group, “Immigration as a Moral Issue.” Nora H. is assisting as a speaker as Latin America is her field of study. Several others are participating.

In June, we will host a presentation at church by UU member Wayne Christensen of the League of Displaced Women in Colombia. He will speak about the group’s work defending the status of women displaced by the ongoing conflict between the Colombian government (military and paramilitary) and the FARC guerillas. The LDWC has helped the women build a self-help community that provides some refuge from the war.

We continue to meet every month. Active members include Cathie Gentile, Nora Hamilton, Peggy Rhoads, Rick Rhoads, Diana Spears, Marguerite Spears, Hildreth Simmons, Joan Verdon, Carol Allen, Peter Herman, Deborah Herman, Lloyd Drum, Resa Foreman, Wayne Christensen and Roberta Frye.

UU United Nations Program
Report to come

Members: Jessica Clay, Sanna Egan, Barbara Gibbs, Pat Gomez (Chair), Robin Lowney Lankton, Marsha Smith, Carol Ring, Rhonda Peacock, and Linda van Ligten.

M & L event supporters: Laurel Bleak, Wendi Gladstone

It is hard to believe that it is just about one year since our congregation voted to call The Reverend Rebecca Benefiel Bijur to be our settled minister. It has been an exciting and busy year for all of us at UUCCSM.

Since July of 2010 we have welcomed 18 new members. Our greeters are busy welcoming visitors each Sunday before and after services. Newcomer orientations held the first Sunday of each month and UU101 sessions held in October, January and April have been well attended. While we have welcomed new members of all ages this year we are especially encouraged that many of our visitors are young singles, young couples and families. The majority of our visitors and UU101 participants have found us via the internet.

The members of M & L have worked hard this year to make UUCCSM a friendly and welcoming community and to help new members become connected in our community.

M & L committee members participated in the following activities throughout the year:

- Organized, planned and participated in Monthly Newcomer Orientations
- Planned and facilitated UU101 classes
- Planned, coordinated and participated in three New Member Recognition Services and Receptions
- Attended Board meetings
- Planned and organized the special reception for Rev Bijur's installation
- Met and greeted visitors and provide information to visitors during coffee hour

The member of M & L are active participants supporting UUCCSM in many ways. Each member of M & L also serves as chair or member of at least one other committee. In addition some are greeters, ushers, coffee servers, office helpers, money counters, newsletter editors, graphic artists for other committees and special church projects. The combined number of volunteers hours per month are at least 150 for M & L activities alone.

Thank you to Past M & L member Nancy Howell for your service and help these past years.

Thanks to the office staff for your support and help. And to our Sextons Tom and Kevin for helping to set up our M & L events.

I will be stepping down as chair of M & L this summer and we are in search of new co-chairs for M & L.

It has been a great pleasure for me to chair the M & L commit-

tee for the past three years and to work with a generous and dedicated committee.

Coffee Hour Committee
Nancy Howell, Coordinator

The coffee committee volunteers have enjoyed serving coffee, tea and cookies to the congregation after each church service. We are proud to continue being more aware of our environment. We serve coffee and tea in paper cups rather than styrofoam. We serve sugar from a glass container rather than individually wrapped packages. We serve only fair traded coffee. We use cloth tablecloths rather than paper. Our napkins are made of recycled paper. We encourage everyone to bring their own cup so that we can reduce the use of paper cups. We are happy to be in our new kitchen and we are hoping that the electric circuit problem will soon be solved.

As coordinator, I would like express my appreciation for a great group of dedicated people on this committee. They are as follows:

Robert Kory, Sheila Bjornlie, Leah Moore, Kit Shaw, Alicia Van Ooyen, Karen Canady, Dennis Gorman, Linda van Ligten, Joanna Woods-Marsden, Homa Feizi, Karen Patterson, Jennifer Westbay, Patrick Meighan, Amy Lacombe, Pam Teplitz, Peggy Rhoads, Sanna Egan, Resa Foreman, and Sylvia Young.

Our committee appreciates the numerous people who have donated cookies this past year.

Our goal for the next year is to remain flexible and continue the great coffee service

We would invite anyone interested to join our volunteer group. It is an enjoyable way to meet and greet the people in our church.

Thanksgiving Feast
Kathy Cook, Chair
Report to come

ADMINISTRATION
Acting Director of Administration
Kate Schlesinger

With the departure of Melinda Ewen, UCCSM's long-time Director of Administration, I've served as the Acting Administrator since Jan 24, 2011. My goal has been to make the church's administrative transition as smooth and effective as possible. I have enjoyed the support of the Reverend, Board of Directors and Finance Committee, as well as our hardworking staff. Highlights of this year included:

- Early in my term, UCCSM celebrated the installation of Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur as their settled minister.
- The Stewardship and Dining for Dollars Committees exceeded their financial goals, a marvelous accomplishment that I hope will be repeated annually to diminish the deficit spending of the past three years.
- Forbes Hall renovations were completed and the build-

ing is in use.

- The office continued to get our business done within the parameters of the staffing cuts instituted in 2009.
- The minister's office was upgraded, and the crumbling walls of Anderson courtyard were repaired. A small garden was created in the Arizona yard by the offices by a crew of volunteers.
- A volunteer work area was established in the UUSM offices.

Critical to all these success were the efforts of many, many volunteers, who were central in implementing these and other tasks. We thank them all.

A special thank you to our office volunteers!

Finance Assistant
Holly Nguyen
Report to come

OOS (Order of Service) Assistant
Rima Snyder

As Order of Service/Office assistant I provide support to the church staff by preparing the weekly order of service, coordinating the various volunteer groups for Sunday mornings, and working in the office two days a week. I have been working closely with our acting administrator Kate Schlesinger to keep the office running smoothly and to set up some new procedures. With the departure of administrator Melinda Ewen and the arrival of our new minister Rev. Rebecca Bijur there have been many changes in the daily routine this year. The office staff has worked hard together to find the best ways to do the work of the church.

Besides assembling and printing the order of service, I help keep the church member database current, send out the weekly email announcements, and do general clerical work as needed. The scope of the job has expanded or contracted in response to budgetary concerns. Currently the position is budgeted for 8 hours a week.

Sunday & Special Events Sexton
Thomas Ahern

I have been doing the weekend sexton duties for about 2 and one-half years. I work Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The job can be divided into three different parts – working the Sunday services, doing maintenance Fri - Sun, and working for groups that rent our church space.

Each job has its own rewards. It's gratifying to be responsible for our Sunday services. This entails setting up and breaking down – the sanctuary sound system, the chalice, the "gong," and baskets for our food donations. It also entails setting up Forbes Hall – the bookstore, tables for different groups – notably Faith in Action and the Greeters Table.

In the cottage I make sure the pre-school room has its tables

available, and make sure the nursery room and front door are unlocked. I also maintain all restrooms and make sure they are cleaned and stocked. The most challenging part of this job is between the services or after the second service, when many people require my help. It is important to remain calm and treat every request with a smile and respect.

The second part of my job is maintenance from Friday – Sunday. This requires cleaning the sanctuary, office, Forbes Hall, Forbes upstairs rooms and the Cottage. Cleaning floors, vacuuming rugs, cleaning windows, cleaning bathrooms and stocking bathrooms are the main tasks.

The third part of the job is to work our facility rentals. I consider this along with working the services as the favorite parts of my job. I think the rentals are very important – they are mostly memorials, music events, weddings, etc. I get to meet different people or groups I would not otherwise get to know. I try to go all out and provide the best service possible. I'm not just there to take out the trash. I can say that I get many compliments for my work. People are usually very appreciative for all I do. I am proud to represent our church in this manner.

In closing, my work with the church has provided me the opportunity to work with and get to know our new minister Rebecca – plus get to know Kate, Holly, and Kevin. They are all great people and work very hard for our church to get the job done.

I look forward to keep doing my work and helping our church in any way I can.

Facilities Development Committee Bryan Oakes and Beth Brownlie, Co-Chairs

Members include Alison Kendall, Keith Ludowitz and Karl Lisovsky. The Board Liaison is Bronwen Jones and staff representatives include Kate Schlesinger and Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur.

Objective:

The FDC was created at the beginning of the year to continue the efforts of the New Building Committee that was responsible for the renovation of Forbes Hall in 2009/2010. The purpose of the committee is to oversee the future development of the campus as well as coordinating current construction projects.

Responsibilities:

-Continue to add details and features to the New Forbes Hall to make the hall completely functional and safe for all community members and staff.

-Provide expert opinions on measures to be taken to complete small building projects.

-The committee includes design professionals that can provide expert opinions on architecture and construction, interior design, historic preservation and landscape architecture.

-Advise the church community and staff on sustainable meas-

ures when repairing the facility.

-Research and then propose sustainability goals for the church community and help staff, members and the community as a whole attain those goals.

-Prepare a yearly budget to the Finance Committee on proposed construction projects.

-Coordinate construction bidding for construction projects.

-Act as the owner's representative for construction projects.

-Meet monthly with church staff to discuss future projects and current facility needs.

Office Volunteers' Group Anne MacQueen, Chair

Report to come

Personnel Committee Denise Helton, Chair

Members of the Personnel Committee led the team which negotiated Reverend Bijur's employment contract, helping to usher in a new era for UCCSM.

Experts in graphic and website design were engaged as independent contractors to execute Project Dazzle.

When Melinda Ewen, the Director of Administration, announced her resignation in December 2010, the Board appointed an ad hoc team, which included the Personnel Committee, to conduct a search for an Acting Administrator to replace her on an interim basis. A new job description was drafted and after interviewing applicants, Kate Schlesinger was hired in January 2011. Concurrently, the Board charged the Personnel Committee with conducting a comprehensive study of the full range of administrative functions performed by the office staff. The intent of the study was to guide us in determining the nature and scope of the permanent church administrator's job, and also to make other recommendations designed to increase the overall efficiency of the church office. The office assessment and a new job description for the Church Administrator position were presented to the Board in April 2011.

The search to hire a permanent administrator will commence in May 2011, with the individual to begin on August 22, 2011, a date which coincides with Reverend Bijur's return from sabbatical. In order to avoid a lapse in attention to administrative matters, Kate Schlesinger will be extending her services through the summer.

Another significant change in staffing was the announcement that Steve Wight, the Director of Music, will be leaving at the end of this church year. In conjunction with the Minister and the Music Committee, the job description was revised and a search for Steve's replacement has commenced. The position will begin on August 22, 2011.

In February, the committee presented its proposals for staff salary adjustments to the Finance Committee. Joint recom-

mentations have been incorporated in the proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

The Personnel Committee continued to meet regularly during the past year to address all personnel-related issues. In recent months, five new members were added to the committee to better meet the church's personnel challenges. The committee is now composed of the following: Rob Briner, Cynthia Cotnam, Emmy Cresciman, Denise Helton, Barbara Kernochan, David Olson, and Victor Paddock. Denise Helton succeeded Victor Paddock as its chair.

COMMITTEES

Archivist Rob Briner

Approximately 22 boxes containing well over 10,000 documents continue to be stored off-site until the Forbes Hall remodel is completed. When the remodel is completed I hope to return those boxes on-site, and have installed somewhere in Forbes Hall a locking shadow box in which to display framed documents and photographs from the church's history, that will alternate every quarter. In any event, updating and highlighting UCCSM's history will help integrate Rev. Bijur in her first year of ministry at UCCSM.

Art Wall Beverly Alison, Carol Ring, Nels Hanson, and Mathilde Lombard.

The Art Wall, featuring a newly installed hanging system, was inaugurated in September 2010, with a chronological show of photos of the history of our church, curated by Rob Briner. The show was well received and beautifully presented. Michael Giliberti (November), Annemarie Rawlinson (December), Faith in Action - History and News, curated by Rick and Peggy Rhoads (January 2011), Laurie Escalera (February), Sam Arno (March), Dorothy Anderson (April), Hiroko Momii (May). Each of the artists displayed complex pieces of various styles and depth and we are very grateful to them. Sales were appreciated and financially rewarding to the church. We are looking forward to initiating the first RE Children's Art Exhibit in July. A special thanks to Holly for her assistance and good cheer.

Bookstore Nancy Babbitt

We think the bookstore adds a pleasant dimension to the church's coffee hour, giving people an opportunity to comfortably browse and chat with friends at the same time.

Several of our books are published by the UUA telling of our history and philosophy and we offer these at discount not charging sales tax or shipping but pay that ourselves.

We also accept donated books on just about any subject you can think of. This not only gives us a variety of books to enjoy reading but gives people a place to donate their books and serve the church at the same time.

At the end of the year we donate most of the bookstore's proceeds to the church's building fund.

ComUUnications Committee Beth Rendeiro, Chair

It has been a year since we received a matching grant from the Spirit Level Foundation for Project Dazzle to re-design our church website, update our AV equipment and re-brand our communication materials. Thanks to all of you in our community who have generously helped us to meet our match by contributing to the Project Dazzle fund. We still need to raise \$3,000 in the next six months to receive our full match.

The past year has found the committee hard at work with the research phase of the project. We have been meeting with and interviewing key leadership/committees to determine needs and wishes and with the new building committee to coordinate the AV infrastructure. Congregational input has been sought and received through pulpit messages and post-service gatherings. To protect our "brand", we researched and purchased three new Internet domain names. For the first time, communications will have a line-item in the budget which will support the first-year implementation of our new website (webmaster, staff training, server fees). We spent a lot of time reviewing other church websites and asked the congregation to do the same. Most recently, our team (in particular Pam and Rhonda) has been designing, and asking the congregation to design, possible new church logos.

Liz Fuller, project manager, will soon lay out a site plan and begin working with our software programmer. The goal for the unveiling of the website is September, 2011.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us with infrastructure, ably led by Bob Dietz, (Steven DePaul, Norb Gallery, Patrick Burrows, Karl Lisovsky and Louis Durra) and for filming and video editing of services (Nick Carls).

We have purchased and installed new speakers and a large-screen TV in Forbes Hall which can stream sound and video from the Sanctuary. Next is a multimedia player.

Get involved. This is your community's site. It will be how new members find us, how we will augment our communications within and between our committees, how we will (virtually) connect, support and develop within our congregation. We are seeking financial support, designs for new logos, input and ideas for the look, feel and content of the website. Let's dazzle 'em!

Lending Library Sandra Trutt, Librarian

The Lending Library Committee has been inactive this past year. The books are still circulating, a few new books have been added and a few taken out of circulation. The Library is now housed in the cottage on a bookcase in the Warren Mathews Conference Room. When the rebuilding of Forbes Hall is complete, the shelves in Forbes Hall will again be us-

able with the accordion door closures, as it was previously. The shelves will be cleaned and the books culled for worn or old books.

The Library is run by the honor system. Users are to keep a book for a month, then return it and cross their name and title off the borrowers list. Donated books are reviewed for inclusion from time to time.

Long Range Planning Committee Patricia Wright, Chair

"LRP's role is to look far out, see where we need to be, check in with members to confirm that LRP's wishes match up with congregational wishes, and figure out what resources we need to get us there."

The Long Range Planning (LRP) committee consisted this year of Ken Alexander, Phil Bonacich, Rob Briner (who has left to join the Personnel Committee), Rebecca Crawford, Katrina Thompson, and Patricia Wright (Chair). We continue to meet monthly (third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in Forbes Hall). The realization of our vision continued to be our focus.

"We want to build a church that is an agent of transformation, central in individual people's lives and in the community at large. We desire to reflect our larger community and its diversity and to be a place where people feel welcome, well connected, valued, and loved."

To that end we continued to invite representatives of committees to come to the first 1/2 hour of LRP to talk about their goals for the next 3-5 years specifically related to growth and diversity. Responses to our invitation have been enthusiastic. In total we have met with representatives from the Multi-Racial Development Committee, fUUsion, Faith in Action, Music, Membership and Leadership, deBenneville, Interweave, and Project Dazzle. Their input has been valuable to our effort.

Our next step, which we have just begun, is to synthesize the information available to us and work closely with the Board. We are initially proposing a four step model framework (based on the Tennessee Valley UU Church LRP):

Step1: Define strategic areas based on input and formulate vision statements for each.

Input: In addition to the information our own committee has gathered, we will use the results of the questionnaire distributed during the ministerial search and also a summary of the cottage meetings during that time.

Strategic Areas: We will begin with the following areas that are based on Martin Luther King, Jr. cast in UU terms by the Reverend Tom Rosiello, who gave the sermon at Rev. Bijur's invocation.

- Width of Community, Reaching Out within our Community
- Depth of Spirit of the Inner Self
- Height - Social Justice, Reaching Out Beyond our Boundaries

Step 2: Present the visions to the congregation for discussion and revision.

Step 3: Ask committees, Board, and staff to suggest goals and objectives to realize the visions.

Step 4: Long Range Planning presents to the congregation long term goals for the next 5-10 years supported by specific objectives and action items.

New Building Program Tom Hamilton, Chair

Report to come

Newsletter

Carol Ring, Pam Teplitz and Charles Haskell

The UUCCSM newsletter publishes articles and announcements by and about our congregation. Our goal is to keep our members and friends informed of church activities, board and committee actions, and involvement opportunities. The newsletter also provides a forum for members to communicate opinions of interest to the UUCCSM community. The newsletter is distributed monthly, by mail and/or e-mail. Please submit articles and letters by the fifteenth of the month to newsletter@uusm.org. If you would like to join the newsletter team, please e-mail the same address stating your area of interest.

Nominating Committee Bryan Cahill, Chair

The Nominating Committee has been quite active over the last year. In October, the committee nominated two members for seats on the Finance Committee. Both were subsequently ratified by the Board.

On 11/3/2010 Victor Paddock resigned from the Board due to health issues. After a vigorous search, we recruited Bruno Lacombe to fill the seat for the remainder of the year. Bruno attended his first board meeting in December. Also in November, the Nominating Committee assisted the Board in finding members for a Financial Review/Audit Committee. On December 14th, 2010 the UUSM Board of Directors approved a motion to create a Planned Giving Committee to operate under the auspices of Finance. Upon request, the Nominating Committee assisted in finding members who were both willing and suited to serve on the new committee.

In the first four months of 2011, the committee nominated five members for seats on the Personnel Committee. All have been ratified by the Board. In February, Dave Hallinan resigned from the Nominating Committee. Katie Malich was recruited to replace him. Additionally, we recruited four new nominees for Executive and At-Large Board seats and three new nominees, (other than Katie), for Nominating Committee seats.

The members of the Nominating Committee for 2010-2011 were: Dayla McDonald (term ends 2011), Pam Teplitz, chair (term ends 2011), Bryan Cahill, Chair (term ends 2012), and Cathie Gentile (resigning in 2011), Rima Snyder (term ends in

2013), Dave Hallinan (resigned in Feb. 2011), Katie Malich (filling Dave's seat until the annual meeting).

**Webmaster
Elizabeth Fuller**

Please see CommUUnications Committee on page 12.

ACTIVITY AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

2nd Sunday Supper

John Fels

The 2nd Sunday Supper was started in 2009 as a low maintenance social event where members and friends can meet for a potluck dinner and fellowship. The food has been excellent, the conversation stimulating, and the event popular. Thanks to Ron Crane and John Fels for nurturing this event.

Caregivers Support Group

Joyce Holmen

Being responsible for providing care for a chronically ill family member or friend can be alternately depressing, isolating, rewarding, frustrating and overwhelming. You never know when the next crisis is coming, so you need to be ready for it. It's good to discuss what's happening with others who are in the same boat. The Caregivers Support Group can help you deal with day-to-day problems and questions while maintaining your own life and health. Our small group has been meeting for over eight years, with people coming and going as their needs change. Some members provide round-the-clock care for a spouse or parent, some give part-time care, and others monitor things long-distance. We've had experience and expertise in taking care of loved ones with various situations including Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes, cancer, depression, heart problems and hospice. Our goal for the coming year is to keep being available for caregivers in our church community. We invite you to contact us even if you can't attend meetings, which are on the third Tuesday of the month, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in Cottage. For information, please contact Joyce Holmen, Sara Van Dyck, or Helen Brown.

DeBenneville Pines Weekend

Jacki Weber, Program Dean

In June 2010, more than 80 UUCCSM members and friends converged on Camp DeBenneville Pines for our annual church weekend. It was lovely and relaxing for all who attended. As the camp has a 100-camper minimum, we joined with Chalice UU Church in San Diego to fill camp.

2010 attendance from UUCCSM was up 25 percent from the previous year, thanks to subsidies provided by campers and an anonymous donor. This allowed us to offer half-price adult bunks and free kids' bunks to roughly 8 UUCCSM family units and this contributed greatly to the overall quality of the camp.

With our new minister attending our 2011 camp, and the subsidy program continuing, we expect to fill DeBenneville Pines with UUCCSM campers and look forward to a great weekend.

In other news, the camp's plumbing system needs to be replaced and UUCCSM is being asked to do its part with contributions of \$500 to \$5,000 toward a \$125,000 matching grant that would completely fund the project if monies can be raised by June 30, 2011. Contributions can be made online at uu-camp.org.

Ernie Pipes Lecture Series

Rob Briner, Chair

The 19th Annual Ernest D. Pipes Distinguished Lecture was held on March 20, 2010, with L.A. native, Star Trek actor, and gay marriage advocate George Takei as the speaker. In addition to Ernie and Maggie Pipes, attending was the immediate past chair and current committee member, Len Adler, the founding chair, Ray Goodman, and committee members Marguerite Spears, Diana Spears, and Pat McGuire. The Committee looks forward to hosting the 20th Annual Lecture in the first half of 2011.

fUUsion

Robin Lowney Lankton

fUUsion continues to be a very active group for younger adults in the congregation. During the past year, the listserv grew from 121 to 147 members. The fUUsion page on facebook expanded from 60 to 90 fans in the last year.

In an effort to make fUUsion more sustainable for the long-term, three committees and chairpersons were selected:

Spiritual Events: Dan Patterson

Social Events: Jennie Roberson

Service Justice: James Witker

In addition, Robin Lowney Lankton and Katrina Thompson are serving as liaisons to the church and handling communications. Ryan Humphrey oversees Fundraising, with the aim of subsidizing fUUsion activities for those who might not otherwise be able to join us. A line item has been added to the proposed budget for next year to cover costs for members who cannot afford to attend events and to support meeting costs. In the next year, fUUsion plans to open more events to the wider UUSM congregation.

fUUsion hosted more than 40 events including social events, service projects and spiritual events. fUUsion staffed one work weekend at Camp de Benneville Pines, prepared and served a meal at Turning Point, and assisted with the food distribution program at First Unitarian Church. We continue to staff the Welcome Table at 11AM on months with a 5th Sunday and helped host the reception for Rebecca's installation. fUUsion visited the Self-Realization Fellowship, Hare Krishna Temple, Temple Beth Shir Shalom, Mosaic, Muslims for Progressive Values, Baha'i Center, and First Unitarian Church. fUUsion hosted Soulful Sundown and Vespers Services. Social events included an Awful/Thoughtful movie series, murder mystery party, gratitude potluck, ice skating, lunches, and more.

fUUsion is active in the Pacific Southwest District (PSWD). Jennie Roberson served on the planning committee for the

Young Adult Weekend at Camp DeBenneville. Jennie Roberson and Karen Hsu Patterson planned a fundraiser for the Camp DeBenneville Water Works Project. We provided input to PSWD for the upcoming SALT (Spiritual Activist Leadership Training) Fellowship Program and participated in District Assembly.

We plan to continue our outreach efforts through coffee hour, flyers and staffing at the Welcome Table, facebook and our listserv.

Hiking Group Carol Ring

Since November, 2009, the UUCCSM Hiking Group has been meeting at the church at 9:00 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. We carpool to nearby trailheads for moderate, 3-5 miles, with usually no more than 1,000 ft of elevation gain. The hike pace is conversational, but it's a good idea for people to be exercising regularly. Those who want to, have lunch at a restaurant near the church afterward. Our attendance has varied between 3 and 12 hikers. We think we're wonderful and can't understand why more people don't show up. We hope that fUUsion members will swell our ranks next year. Hiking is a great way to get to chat with other UUs. Organizers are Phil Bonacich and Carol Ring.

Men's Group Phil Bonacich

The UUCCSM Men's group meets the first Monday and third Thursdays of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the cottage. There are usually 6-10 in attendance. At each meeting we discuss a pre-agreed upon topic. Our additional goal is to be useful to the congregation.

Poetry Group Diana Spears Report to come

Knitters & Friends Karen Patch

Knitters and Friends continues to meet informally between services each week. We share fellowship and help each other with projects. All are welcome to join us.

Our Second Annual Holiday Bazaar was a great success and we were able to contribute a good amount to UUSM.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is being used by Rev Bijur and the Caring Committee as needed. Our hope is to continue with these two projects and perhaps participate in other community programs. Many of us give to Stitches from the Heart and the Annual Big Sunday is on our to-do list.

Science Non-fiction Book Group Rebecca Crawford

The Science Non-fiction Book Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the cottage to discuss a book from current popular science literature. In addition, the group occa-

sionally discusses a book of history or biography. We also include books on the environment. Some of the recent books we have discussed include: *The Limits of Power* by Andrew Bacevich and *The Quantum World: Quantum Physics for Everyone* by Kenneth W. Ford. All are welcome, but we have some expectation that people will have read the book before coming.

Women's Alliance Joyce Holmen, President

In 1927, both our church and our Women's Alliance were founded. For 82 years, the Alliance, as an affiliated organization, has provided ordinary and extraordinary opportunities for interesting programs, fundraising, worship, good food, leadership training, community outreach, personal growth, and getting to know some amazing women. Acknowledging the many gifts received from our Unitarian and Universalist foremothers, we tend the flame that they tended for us.

We are also pleased to co-sponsor with Interweave an annual picnic on July 26th. Dues from members let us maintain membership in the UU Women's Federation, www.uuwf.org.

Women's Spirituality Group Judy Federick

An informal, monthly women-only group, open to all women inside and outside of the church who wish to explore rituals to celebrate the Goddess as symbol of life and death powers, and the waxing and waning energies in themselves and the universe.

The Women's Spirituality Group is both a continuation of the Cakes for the Queen of Heaven group, and an opening of the group to new women. June will be our second meeting. Meets 4th Saturday morning monthly, in the Cottage.

COVENANT

Love is the doctrine of this church.

The quest of truth is its sacrament,

And service is its prayer.

To dwell together in peace;

To seek knowledge in freedom;

To serve humankind in fellowship;

Thus do we covenant with each other.