

The Journey

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Anaheim



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Editors: Ruth & Ted Shapin

December, 2009

Sunday Services 11:00 a.m.

Nov. 22: Lee Marie Sanchez, "Gratitude"
Gratitude allows the heart to stay open to love and hope. As Helen Keller noted, "No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars, or sailed an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit."

Nov. 29: "Food for Thought." Several of our members will talk about traditional foods from their culture and bring samples for us to enjoy.

Dec. 6: "Buddhism," Lee Marie Sanchez.
"Buddhism" is well-known in the West...or is it? We hear and read about Thich Nhat Han and the Dalai Lama and others but it is a complex and ancient faith as well as one which has adapted itself many times to many cultures, now including our own in the US. What does Unitarian Universalism have in common with Buddhism? Come join us this morning and find out! Let's all be here as well to welcome several of our new Members to be recognized this morning.

Dec. 13: "Ethical Eating." What are the moral, spiritual and health issues related to a vegetarian, vegan or omnivore diet? Edward Dunvan, Karen Malley, Ruth Shapin and Gary Sjogren will address these issues.

Dec. 20: Lee Marie Sanchez, "An Authentic Unitarian Universalist Christmas" will be celebrated by one and all this morning. You may not yet realize how much this holiday belongs to us, but you will soon. You will easily recognize the songs of the season written by our very own people, and may be surprised at how important our contributions are to Christmas. Bring your family and friends! It is almost hard to believe that this will be my 4th Christmas with you. I'll bet the sanctuary will be beautiful with holly and ivy and lights. And then we shall swing into 2010 together, WOW!

Dec. 27: "Looking Back, Looking Forward." As the year ends, UUCA officers and committee chairpersons will reflect on what we have accomplished and where we would like to go in 2010.

UUCA Ongoing Programs

The Adult Forum, facilitated by Ruth Shapin, meets every Sunday from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. On Nov. 22 we will discuss "gender differences." Please join us for a lively exchange of views!

Give Folk Dance a Whirl

International folk dancing every Wed. night at UUCA from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., led by dance teacher Carol Maybrier. No experience or partners are needed. Donation \$4.00. First visit is free.

Philosophy Group

The Philosophy Group, facilitated by Iasu Gorfu, meets every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the R.E. Building.

Meditation Group

The Meditation Group meets the first and third Sunday of each month following the service at 12:30 p.m. in the R.E. Building.

The UUCA Choir meets on Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., directed by Rebecca Berland. If you enjoy singing, please join us! (No meeting Thanksgiving!)

Chanukah Celebration at UUCA- Dec. 12

UUs for Justice in the Middle East will sponsor a Chanukah celebration on Sat., Dec. 12, commencing at 12:30 with snacks and refreshments. A short service will follow, led by Ruth Shapin and Rycharde Powell. This event is free. All are invited.

"A Christmas Festival" - Sunday, Dec. 20

The Orange County Symphony presents a concert of holiday favorites including Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah," and Alfred Reed's Russian Christmas Music on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 7:00 p.m., at the Servite Auditorium, 1952 W. La Palma, Anaheim 92801. Tickets may be obtained from Ruth Shapin. Call (714) 633-0922 or see Ruth in Church. \$15.00 adults, \$10.00 seniors. (All the income goes to support the Church.)

AMONG OURSELVES

Congratulations to R.E. director **Desiree Hernandez** on the birth of her baby girl, **Xochitl Jade Camarera**.

Our dear **Rosalie Abrams** has been moved to an Alzheimer's facility in San Francisco in order to be near her son, her daughter and grandchildren who may see and care for her on a regular basis. We miss her smiling face and dancing feet, and our thoughts and prayers are with Rosalie and her family.

Some of you may remember members **Coleen and Dennis Ashley**, many years ago who moved to Ventura. Coleen's daughter was with us Sunday and said that Collen had passed away several years ago.

We extend a warm welcome to new members **Steven Fenn, Jose Lopez** and **Moto Shono**.

PEACE CORPS POTLUCK - Sunday, Dec. 13

The O.C. Peace Corps Association invites you to join them for a Holiday Party on Sun., Dec. 13, at 5:00 p. m. in the UUCA Sanctuary. Judy Greenspon, a Returned Volunteer from the Philippines, will speak and show a video. She will also talk about her recent experiences in Africa with the African Children's Fund. Please bring a potluck dish. If you have a favorite international dish, please share it with us.

UUs ATTEND OPEN MOSQUE DAY

Linda Lehnkering, Adrian and Rycharde Powell attended an Open Mosque Day on Sunday, Oct. 18. The Islamic Institute of Orange County sent a thank you note and stated that guests are always welcome. To schedule a visit, call (714) 533-6271 or visit their web site: www.masjdomar.com. They stated, "It is through events like these that we hope to develop respect for one another and lasting friendships."



Lee Marie's Musings . . .

~ Lee Marie Sanchez, Consulting Minister

CHRISTMAS WILL BE A RAINBOW OF COLORS THIS YEAR

We have given ourselves the gift of officially becoming a "Welcoming Congregation" this year and the season will sparkle with all the colors of the rainbow. You will see this on our church website, on banners, buttons and more! And, there is a link to our new "**Interweave**" site you will want to check out soon. You may want to become a member too.

Speaking of Members, we have had more new people visiting us than I can remember in my four years with you and we will be privileged to **recognize our newest Members on Dec 6.**

If you are new with us, we shall have another opportunity some time after the new year for another NewComer's Orientation. We are so glad to meet you and welcome you to our church!

Now, on the theme of a Unitarian Universalist Christmas, I am glad to share with you a poem from a friend and colleague which celebrates many colors of the rainbow and our diversity.

Christmas Lights

by Rev. Susan Manker-Seale, 2008

White like snow that blankets the ground
brown like animals gathered round
Gold like filigreed crowns of kings
silver of stars or wedding rings
Blue of morning or frozen toes
red like flames or a hidden rose
Green like branches of a Noble fir
eternal hopes of all who were
Mystery shining in the light
of star, candle or fire bright
Yearning for love, truths that abide
mystic universe drawn inside
Rainbow of galaxies on high
draped around the tree with a sigh

~ Faithfully & Fondly, Lee Marie

OUR SOLAR PANELS ARE WORKING!

The city of Anaheim finalized the inspections and the solar system is up and running. Thank Gary for the picture! As of Sunday, the system panel said we had already saved over 100 pounds of CO2.



FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Last Sunday's meeting included several important business items. A budget for 2010 was approved, with income and expenses projected to be \$78,380. The expected amount for collections is \$34,000, which may be attained if we continue increasing our pledge drive total (it is now over \$21,000.) The members voted unanimously to become a UUA "Welcoming Congregation." We will be able to proudly proclaim that we invite those of any sexual orientation to join us. A Nominating Committee of Judy Brazell, Moto Shono and Bill Strahan was elected. They have the important duty of nominating members for election to the Board at next Spring's meeting. Linda Lehnkering and Karen Malley were elected to the Social Justice Committee. Continuing SJC members are Jaime Vega (Chair), Art Castillo, Roger Dittmann, Bea Foster, Duane Roberts and Ruth Shapin.

~ Gary Sjogren

POTLUCKS FOR PROGRESSIVES

Potluck at 6:30 pm; program at 7:30. Please bring a dish to share.

Friday, Nov. 20th: Members of the Colectivo Tonantzin, a grassroots organization that defends the rights of undocumented workers from police harassment and abuse, will deliver a presentation about their efforts to fight racist and discriminatory city ordinances which seek to criminalize efforts by day laborers to seek work.

Friday, Dec. 4: Bertie Segal-Cook "The Inuits: a Warm Culture in a Cold Environment." Bertie has trained language teachers across the U.S. and in 20 other countries. In 1996 she was invited to teach Inuit teachers from different islands along the Northern coast of Canada on how to teach their own language to the next generation. She will share photos of several days of this training plus the feast that followed and tell about this experience. In the process she learned about the culture and values of the Inuit people.

OTHER EVENTS . . .

Chistmas Eve Morning at the Church!

December 24 from 9 AM - 1 PM, NAMI-Orange County will be hosting a Holiday Brunch at the Church for those who are alone during the holidays. The brunch will include food, crafts, music and a visit from Santa.

Nancee Allen

IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS! ~ Rabbi Lerner

No matter how difficult it may be in a world filled with pain and cruelty, a world facing ecological devastation, wars, global malnutrition and starvation, torture, slavery, and political craziness, there are moments when it is important to stop looking at all the problems and just to focus on all the good. "It is good to give thanks." And that's part of what Thanksgiving could be about. I mean, in addition to a meal, actually consciously shaping the day in such a way that the focus of attention throughout the day is on giving thanks.

It might start with a group of friends or family taking a walk to visit some part of nature that they really love. And expressing thanks for it.

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Return Service Requested

If you are moving or if you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know so we can make corrections.

UUCA Social Justice Committee

Excerpts from a letter written by Duane Roberts and submitted on behalf of the UUCA Social Justice Committee to the Board of Directors of the Orange County Transit Authority (OCTA) on Monday, November 9th, opposing cuts to bus service.

"Although we are aware Orange County is in the midst of a fiscal crisis, we believe much deeper cuts in funding will have an adverse impact upon the lives of workers, students, seniors, and the disabled who depend on OCTA buses to travel from one place to another.

"It is our opinion mass public transit greatly benefits Orange County's economy. Each day, OCTA buses transport tens of thousands of people to employers, shopping malls, schools, healthcare providers, and other venues which help generate millions of dollars in new economic activity and enhance the quality of life for everybody.

"In addition, mass public transit reduces the number of automobiles using our streets and highways, decreasing pollution, road maintenance costs, traffic accidents, and congestion. We urge the OCTA Board of Directors to explore all available options to maintain existing levels of funding for mass public transit...."

End the Travel Ban on Cuba

On Nov. 7th we heard a presentation at UUCA by Delvis Fernandez-Levy, a Cuban who immigrated to the U.S. in 1957 at age 17. He told us about his experiences growing up in Cuba before the revolution. His mother was Jewish and Jews were hidden "underground." There was 30 percent illiteracy and schools were segregated by race. Children were undernourished. There was no doctor, running water or toilets in his village. Americans with United Fruit Company lived in a gated, segregated compound. Life in Cuba today is vastly improved although certainly not perfect.

Bills are pending in the House and Senate to end the travel ban on Cuba. They are H.R. 874, backed by Loretta Sanchez, and S.B. 428, supported by Senators Boxer and Feinstein. If you agree, contact your representative and urge him or her to support the House Bill. Also, thank our Senators for their support.

The Editors