

# Annual Congregational Meeting:

June 13, 2010 1:30pm

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order; Quorum Call
2. Approval of Minutes from Congregational Meetings,  
June 13, '09, August 2, 2009
3. Awards
4. Election of Officers, Trustees, Stewards & Nominators for 2010 – 2011
5. Adoption of 2010-2011 Budget
6. General Assembly Discussion
7. Intern
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

Lunch will be available at 12:30 (\$4). Child care will be provided.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

June 13, 2009

### MINUTES

A. Call To Order:

Nancy Loughrey called the meeting to order,

B. Declaration of Quorum (20%)

20% quorum reached.

C. Approval of minutes from Congregational meetings for June 14, 2008, September, 2008, November 2, 2008, and March 29, 2009.

Motion was made to approve all the minutes listed. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Awards.

Mark Miller was presented with the annual Unsung UU Award.

E. Election of officers, Trustees, Stewards, and Nominators

Rachel Smith asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Motion was made to approve the slate as presented by the nominating committee (attached). Motion was seconded. Slate was approved unanimously.

F. Adoption of 2009 - 2010 Budget.

Nancy Loughrey presented Board's deliberation process and pertinent information (attached to the packet) . Looking at \$35,692 deficit at moment. Board felt congregation needed to be part of the solution of the deficit. Board does see three possible routes which the congregation would want to consider:

- 1) Increase Income
- 2) Decrease Expenses
- 3) Borrow to cover the deficit

Regarding 1):

Ideas discussed at Board meeting of 6/7/09 included expanding rentals, expanding scrip sales, creating advertising income from REACH and website, more intentional fundraisers, offering homes as B&Bs, yearlong service related donations (such as airport rides, etc.), donations on a pay-as-you-go basis (coffee, childcare, etc.), and very importantly, increase pledges.

Regarding 2)

Many costs are fixed (bonds, office costs), but others are on table (staff costs, program funding)

Regarding 3)

Borrowing options could include borrowing from the Endowment Fund.

The Board recommends that the Congregation approve a draft budget and in thirty days meet after intense fundraising has taken place to see what the results are and what cuts may need to be taken (if any at all)

Main topics raised:

- 4) B&B good idea as a fundraiser.
- 5) Is current deficit built in? (No, not known yet)
- 6) Explanation that a face-to-face canvass would take place to increase pledges
- 7) Suggestion to borrow from Endowment Fund as this is a true emergency.
- 8) Counterarguments against borrowing included taking from future years programs,  
a  
Bad practice in principle.
- 9) We need shopping lists of items we need people could donate.
- 10) Contribute to church in-lieu of presents to members such as anniversaries or  
birthdays or tribute/memorials.
- 11) Rummage sale?

12) Explanation: Endowment Fund has approx. \$429k right now.

13) Need to fix how we operate and have a more strategic vision.

14) Support of re-newed canvass

15) Volunteer to head up garage sale.

Maurice Giss make a motion to adopt draft budget now and in 60 days meet to finalize budget after fundraising has taken place. Randy Kokal seconded.

## **Discussion:**

Explanation that this meeting needs to produce an approved expense budget to start the new year. It is the income budget that will need to be revised. Explanation why 45 days into new year—reason is with all the activities going on, that is reasonable. Comment made to not exclude borrowing option as these are extraordinary bad times and fund was created for just such a time. Karen Stoyanoff brought up point about wonderful staff who had voluntarily offered to not take a raise this year and wonderful congregation working to support the church. Concern was raised that follow-up needs to take place, because stopgap measures have been taken before and not worked on as hoped. Comment was made that budget process needs to be led by vision first, then fund the funding to accomplish it.

Friendly amendment made by Tom Loughrey to motion, that of a 45 days period, with a meeting on August 2, 2009, to finalize the budget. Mover and seconder agreed. Motion now voted on and approved, with one No vote.

## **G. Other Business**

### GA Delegates and the UUA President's Election.

Nancy presented that there are three ways to go about how OCUUC's delegates could vote:

1) Delegates vote conscience.

2) OCUUC are instructed to vote a certain way, and

3) a ballot taken and a congregational absentee ballot sent in.

Motion was made to allow delegates to vote their conscience. Motion seconded. Motion voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom Loughrey also raised point there will be an important decision made on Article 2 of UUA Bylaws, the Principles and Purposes section on possible changes, so please look at the UUA web site for information.

Tapestry update given by Nancy.

Tapestry working on big financial decision right now and not in position to work on merger right now but they are committed to continuing the merger. So idea is to give them the time they need as they gave OCUUC the time we needed. Right now we still have to get our house in order. Also, OCUUC is continuing with the Cowan property negotiations (as well as finding a renter for Victoria).

H. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25PM,

## Special Congregational Meeting August 2, 2009

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

Keith Jenkins called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

#### PRESENTATION OF ISSUE

Keith Jenkins explained that the supplemental pledge drive has brought in over \$18,000 in additional and new pledges (about 10% beyond the original amount). However, there is still not enough income to balance the formerly proposed budget, and furthermore, last year's anticipated income fell short by about \$10,000.

As an initial step in reducing the budget, about \$20,000 in selected cuts were made. The budget could be balanced by an additional 5% across-the-board cut. But the Board is recommending instead that the budget be balanced by selling up to \$15,000 in member bonds. (The Board's proposal is hereinafter referred to as "the first-column budget.")

In answer to questions it was stated that the 5% cut would not in actuality mean a 10% salary cut, that we currently have \$105,000 in member bonds and anticipate no difficulty selling bonds, and that we have in the past financed major construction through member bonds.

#### QUORUM

The 20% quorum was exceeded, with 53 members present.

#### MOTION

Maurice Giss moved that we adopt the first-column budget. The motion was seconded.

#### DISCUSSION

Issues discussed included the following: The \$15,000 in member bonds will take care of last year's shortfall. Spring Auction proceeds divide into two fiscal years depending on when payment is made. We seem to have raised more funds in 2008. The elimination of landscape maintenance could be a problem since it was a problem when we tried doing it ourselves before. There will be quarterly work parties focusing on landscape maintenance. The

supplemental pledge drive is not closed and additional pledges are encouraged. It is impressive how we've come together to increase pledges. The formerly Winter auction will be held in the Fall. The reduction in funding for Sunday services will mean less professional speakers. We could cut back on UUA dues, but many members and the Board and the minister consider being a Fair Share (dues paying) congregation to be an important moral issue and part of our faith tradition, and it is important to support more than just our own community; and also only Fair Share congregations can borrow or get grants from the UUA. A concern that borrowing might damage the church was addressed by saying the amount we will have borrowed is not an unreasonable amount of debt for a church our size and that this will be the second time we have sold bonds to fund a deficit; there are going to be ongoing efforts to change how we fund the church and to achieve fair compensation and make our budget match our priorities, but we have to run the church in the meantime. Merger expenses have been added to the budget.

## MOTION TO AMEND

Nancy Loughrey moved to amend the motion being considered so that we would vote on selling bonds to fund the debt separately from voting on specific items. There was no second.

## MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION

Ken Arnold moved to call the question.

## VOTE BY SHOW OF HANDS

The vote by show of hands was 37 to 11 in favor.

## CALL FOR DIVISION

Mike Harmanos made a motion for division.

## VOTE BY BALLOT

The motion to adopt the first-column budget was approved, with 50 yes and 2 no votes.

## FURTHER DISCUSSION

Issues discussed included the following:

Plans for this year include increasing income, providing more program funding, and developing a plan by Spring to correct the structural imbalance in the budget. Examples of program funding include Adult Education; it currently has a \$0 budget and is unable to pay a guest speaker or host a workshop or pay for publicity. We also want to improve the programs we have.

Regarding merger status, Rev. Tom Owen-Towle will be coming to Tapestry as a consulting

minister, in large part to help move the merger forward. We will meet with him also. Tapestry meantime is looking for a more economical place to hold services.

We are still getting estimates for the work necessary to make the Cowan building useable. We may make another offer once we know what the work will cost.

We are still searching for a purchaser or tenant. There are two churches interested, but they have not made a serious offer.

A concern about upkeep of the buildings if quarterly work is dedicated to grounds maintenance was met by stating the plan is to keep things in better shape by doing monthly upkeep.

Efforts to rent the church long-term are inadvisable because we are hoping to sell it. Discussion is ongoing re increasing revenue from short-term rentals; for now we have ads in the Reach and on the web.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

## Proposed Slate of Officers

The following is the proposed Slate of Officers for 2010-2011 year as of June 8,  
to be voted upon at annual meeting.

### Officers (one year term until 2011):

President—Mary Lundholm +  
VP Programs—Judi Treble +  
VP Finance—Mark Miller +  
Recorder—Maureen McConaghy +  
Treasurer—Bob Loeschen +  
Bursar—Charles Gordon +

### Trustees (three-year terms until):

2011—Scott Armstrong (finish Mary L.'s term)  
2011—Earl Hardenbrook  
2012—Rachel Smith  
2012—Mike Scott  
2012—Alan Block  
2013—Lawrence Ingalls +  
2013—Karen Magoon Pearson +

### Nominators (three year terms until):

2011—Sara Gilliland (finish Molly Rossow's term)  
2011—Judith Stamper (finish Pat McCully's term)  
2012—Ken Small  
2012—Margaret Armstrong  
2013—Christine Hernandez +  
2013—Keith Jenkins +

### Stewards (three year terms until):

2011—Sandra Kirkpatrick  
2012—Randy Kokal  
2013—Mike Harmanos +

Respectfully Submitted by Nominating Committee:

*Suzi Cassidy, Mike Harmanos, Sara Gilliland, Judith Stamper,  
Ken Small, and Margaret Armstrong*

# Annual Reports

## Adult Programs

This year the Adult Programs Committee has been blessed with several classes led by members of the congregation. We had UU Principles and Sources led by Tom Loughrey and A Spiritual Exploration Series including meditation, chanting, drumming, and ritual practices. As always we had two sessions of Building Your Own Theology led by Karen Stoyanoff. Just recently a new “outgrowth” of the BYOT classes has been offered. It is called “The Reel Story” and uses film as a conduit to deep discussion about theology, ethics, self-understanding, and spiritual growth.

Another example of adult programming for the year is the on-going Breakfast Club, led by Karen Anderson. Our focus is discussion of religious, spiritual, ethical, moral, or other similar readings and videos that the group selects.

The UU Principles and Sources course was an eight session series in which the foundation of our UU faith was explored. This discussion series touches upon the great traditions from which we take our spiritual and ethical wisdom. We learned about how the UU faith developed and how our denomination selected the principles that serve as our beacon. We explored the meaning of these principles in our lives.

This next year, as the congregation looks to deepen its connections to the Unitarian Universalist movement and to the mission and vision of Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church community; we will enlarge the number and scope of the

offerings through Adult Programs. Planned courses include Tapestry of Faith, Sex and the Bible, Our Whole Lives for Adults/Young Adults. Additional course based on facilitator availability could include: Theism discussion, Bloomsbury Group, Taoism Discussion Group, and Journaling as a Spiritual Practice. Watch for announcements in the REACH and weekly EMAIL BLAST.

The Committee, chaired by Karen Anderson  
Karen Stoyanoff serves as staff representative to the committee

## AIDS Team Ministries

The Aids Team Ministry is 17 years old. During that time we have provided nutritious frozen meals for clients suffering with HIV/AIDS. The steering committee meets every third or fourth Thursday evening. Its members are Tom Loughrey, treasurer; Mary and Ted Lundholm, cooking coordinators; Birdie and Charlie Reed, delivery coordinators and convenors; Paul Gethard and Bob Leidner.

Meal preparation sessions are held the morning of the second Saturday of every month. New volunteers are always welcome. Most clients receive meals every week or two weeks. New delivery drivers are always needed. We deliver holiday baskets at Christmas. We give birthday and Christmas presents to patients in the KIDS (Kids with Immune Deficiency Syndrome) clinic at CHOC. These are

provided through the generosity of Bob Leidner and the MCC Resurrection Beach Church.

We also provide supermarket and other scrip for the CHOC clinic's social worker to distribute as needed. We would appreciate members of the congregation buying scrip for this purpose.

Although we can accommodate 15 clients, the number varies. We get our clients from Shanti Orange County which finances the meals with county-monitored Ryan White funds. During 2009-2010 the county changed its rules for meal qualification. This has caused a decrease in the number of our clients. We currently have 9 clients.

Respectfully submitted,

Birdie & Charlie Reed

## Artist Arise

Mission Statement: A small group of art lovers enticing church members with fun art to color their souls.

This year we held several events and shows including

- 1) Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain II or how to see like an artist.
- 2) Breakfast with Georgia O'Keeffe. This auction event included breakfast, a video about Georgia O'Keeffe's life, and finally an oil pastel project to draw a flower.
- 3) The Young Adults Art Show which included art from many of our young adult members.
- 4) The current show's drawings are from the Breakfast with Georgia O'Keeffe.
- 5) The Third Annual Art & Crafts Holiday Sale, fund raiser and source of unique holiday gifts for our church community. The Sale was a fund-raiser for the church, and for Artists Arise, with 50% of

sales going to participating artists, 50% to OCUUC. We raised over \$500 for OCUUC

Our goals are to make art an integral part of OCUUC, involve the congregation in workshops, in the making of art and crafts, present a variety of shows to display the creativity of our members, and a holiday sale as a fundraiser. We have no official financing from the church.

Future plans:

- 1) We hope to have a painting/drawing event which will result in images of OCUUC. These works can be turned into loving and living remembrances of the wonderful years spent in our little church on top of the hill.
- 2) A drawing workshop
- 3) A creativity workshop
- 4) Forth Annual Arts and Craft Sale

Respectfully yours,  
*Mary Paliescheskey Lundholm and  
Vera Viana-Asper*

## Association District Representatives

The position of ADR (Association District Representative) is defined as communication, education, catalyst, and support.

The ADR facilitates communication between the congregation, and the UUA/PSWD, by means of newsletter, e-mail, etc. The ADR educates the congregation about the resources and activities of the UUA and PSWD and encourages congregational participation in them. The ADR networks with other ADRs to accomplish these goals.

In 2009-2010 we have publicized and reported on General Assembly and District Assembly. We have published a calendar in our REACH column to keep the congregation informed. We report other denominational items of interest to the congregation.

We participate in Association Sunday's fundraiser for the UUA. We help expedite the congregational annual report to the UUA and also our vote on the Congregational Study Action Issue for this year's GA. We promote discussion by the congregation of changes to the election process for UUA President and Moderator.

In the coming year we will continue to improve our communication and education between the congregation and the PSWD/UUA, keeping the congregation informed about the larger Unitarian Universalist movement.

Respectfully submitted,

Birdie & Charlie Reed

## Bookstore/Equal Exchange

There are two separate aspects to this endeavor.

The bookstore supports the pamphlet rack, popular with newcomers and helping to fulfill its mission of promoting free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Each Sunday its table display attempts to relate to the sermon topic. Freight and tax are forgiven for seminary students and for texts of classes offered by the church. The supply source is the UUUA Bookstore, which is glad to special order books for us.

The Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate sales support the kitchen's coffee and tea service. Equal Exchange rebates a percentage of our inventory purchases to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

The profit from both sales goes to support inventory.

Respectfully submitted,

Birdie Reed

## Buildings and Grounds

MISSION: To provide a quality and safe environment for our congregational members and to maintain the structural integrity of the church grounds.

COMMITTEE CHAIR: Paul Gethard

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Gayle Carter, Robert Loeschen, Ken Small, Judy Treble, and Keith Jenkins (More members are needed and would be greatly appreciated!)

PROJECTS: With the continuing uncertainty of the Tapestry merger continued the process of simply

maintaining the property rather than doing any main upgrades. To that end we had several work parties and between these events did repairs as needed.

FUTURE PROJECTS: We have many possible projects for the future. Among them are: reworking the sprinkler system, recruiting groups to maintain the flower gardens, deciding what to do about the wildflower garden, tending to the aging water heater, and in general maintaining the property as an attractive and functional facility.

## Caring Ministry

As the Caring Ministry enters its eighth year, I want to start with my gratitude for the generous volunteers in this ministry. Every Sunday morning our Patio Table staff is present with cards to sign for those in need of a supportive word, health-related information, and sign-up lists on an as needed basis. Many thanks go to Elizabeth Alexander, Roberta Fox, Barbara Ray, Pat Robitaille, and to Vera Viana-Asper who manages the schedule, trains all our new volunteers, and shines light on all who venture our way on Sunday mornings. A special welcome to our newest volunteers Judi Treble and Yvonne Alcalá!

The table is perhaps our most visible presence, but Gayle Carter is also on hand to respond to requests to organize meals, rides, errands, etc. for someone with short-term needs, as well as to lend out items of durable medical equipment that have been donated to us.

OCUUC can be very proud of the way it carries out the “caring for one another” portion of our motto. The congregation is quick to respond when members or friends are in need of assistance due to health problems and other issues. A thank you to all who have provided assistance with meals, errands, transportation and much enjoyed visits.

Over the past year we have sponsored two successful blood drives and held one first aid class. Our Flu vaccine clinic was successful as usual; many thanks to Tru Gorrie, Ann Tyree, and the two additional volunteer nurses she brought along to assist. Many thanks also to Eva Goodwin-Noriega who did some Spanish translations and outreach posting for the clinic. In addition I volunteered at the Hoag Hospital

drive through flu vaccine clinic. I continue to hold blood pressure screenings monthly when I am in town, often with the able assistance of Kathryn Matthews.

In conjunction with Faith in Action, we sponsored a forum on Health Insurance Reform and I joined a group of volunteers who traveled to LA to lobby Senator Feinstein on that issue.

Our Pastoral Care Associates attended an in-service on common mental health issues ably presented by OCUUC's own Ariana Kenney. Rev. Karen Stoyanoff heads this team of trained volunteers, available to be present for folks in difficult times, to listen with the heart not just the ears. Thank you to those special people: Paul Gethard, Ted Lundholm, Joan Parry, Adair Small, Judith Stamper, Bill Stoker, Shannon Stoker, Shirley Thorne, and Vera Viana-Asper.

January saw the beginning of our new weight loss support group, Aweigh We Go. The members of this group are truly inspirational and enthusiastic. They have been meeting twice monthly and have a frequent email presence in between. New members are welcome to join any time.

A highlight for me this year was the presentation of the Sunday service: "What is Health?" with outstanding participation by Sharon Loeschen and Rayna Hamre.

Over the last few months I have been a consultant to the UU Church of Augusta, GA as they contemplate starting their own Congregation Nurse program.

Even with my long absences in Chicago, the Caring Ministry volunteers carry on an excellent program at OCUUC. I am grateful to them and the electronic age for making it possible to feel I am still close by and to continue to respond to many congregational needs by phone and email.

We can always do more, but I believe we are on track with ...

**Our Mission:**

To provide a network of support for individual and community well-being, nurturing the health of body, mind, and spirit through the three branches of the Helping Hands, the Pastoral Care Associates, and the Health Ministry/Congregation Nurse.

Adair Small, Congregation Nurse

## Religious Explorations for Children and Youth

Change continues with the Religious Education for Children and Youth committee. With a committee of 4 (Jacques Kilchoer, Jennifer Abt, Gabrielle Block and Summer Dadah) and only a part time or interim DRE, the RECY committee accomplished the following:

- “The Halloween Tree” intergenerational service
- Grew seedlings for Second Harvest
- Our Whole Lives for Senior High
- Bi-monthly Youth Activities, included Movie Night
- Sent 2 youth to Leadership Training at deBenneville Pines (summer 2010)

- Parents Support Group (led by Ariana Kenney)
- Collected \$75 from the YUuth’s recycling program
- 50% teacher participation from non-parents

Just imagine what we will accomplish in 2010 – 2011 with a new DRE (Rayna Hamre) and 6 committee members!

Respectfully submitted by:

Merrie Lee Wooten, Chair

## Communications Committee

We are all looking for ways to conserve our resources and lower our expenses....so here's how OCUUC will help. Beginning with the July REACH, members and friends now receiving copies of the REACH by mail will be mailed a version of the REACH that includes a calendar of events for the month and "All In The Family" articles from the prior month. All church events, dates, calendars and articles of interest will be placed on the OCUUC website [www.ocuuc.org](http://www.ocuuc.org) or sent as part of the weekly BLAST email. Both the OCUUC website and the BLAST will undergo some user-friendly redesign and include hyperlinks to events and pertinent information.

Because information will be placed on the website and in the Blast, it will be more current. Updates will occur weekly, rather than monthly, such as when times, dates, and locations for events change. At [www.ocuuc.org](http://www.ocuuc.org), you will find:

- *Sermons*
- *Church Calendar*
- *Notes from the minister*
- *...and more!*
- *Youth Events*
- *Women's Circle*
- *Book Club*

The Communications Committee is responsible for all the communication around OCUUC. This includes the Reach, the Blast, and the website. There are many volunteers involved daily in the production of all our printed products. This year the committee managed an updating of our website, included blogs on the website, revamped the Reach, and instituted a weekly email notice, the Blast. All the members are working hard and deserve our thanks for fostering open two way communications between members.

Committee Members:

Cynthia Meyer, Chair

Mike Harmanos, Suzi Cassidy, and Jonathon Pearson

## Community Service

Looking back over the past 12 months, we are proud of our church congregation who cares and, gives tangible support to the needs of others. Sharing our Sunday offertory is simply another example of the fabric of our UU faith. Since the inception of our commitment in 2005, more than \$50,000 has been distributed.

During the church year, some \$10,000 has helped sustain the following organizations and their causes:

Welcome Inn

Isaiah House

El Centro Cultural de Mexico

The Friends of READ/Orange County

Mercy House Living Center

Camp de Benneville Pines

Southwest Community Center

Community SeniorServe

UUSC/UUA Earthquake Relief Fund

Illumination Foundation

The Center Orange County

OCUUC Children and Youth Summer Programs

Sharing our Plate with the broader community is a dynamic way to make a difference in people's lives. Thank you on behalf of those who have benefited. And, the Community Service Committee thanks you for continuing to identify and nominate deserving recipients.

Respectfully Submitted,

Naomi Blackwood

Kathleen McFarlin

Maurice Giss, Chair

## Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans

In 2009-2010, CUUPS has continued to grow and flourish.

CUUPS was able to hold all 8 Sabbats in the Celtic Wheel of the Year, as public rituals.

In June we had our Summer Solstice ritual in the sanctuary which was a great success, with an audience of about 50. Rayna Hamre wrote the ritual herself and Beth Nakao coordinated the music.

Our Lammas was a fun evening of celebration at Huntington Beach fire pits. In September CUUPS held their Fall Equinox at Irvine Park in Orange. This is the first event run by the Siegfried family.

Our Samhain celebration was a great event, with special guests, Coven of the Silver Grove. Over 40 people were in attendance for a wonderful ritual and feast. We welcomed winter with The Winter Solstice Singing Ritual lead by Beth Syverson and coordinated by Christine Hernandez, with three performances in the main sanctuary. In 2010, we celebrated Candlemas in the main sanctuary and had a rousing time at the park across the street for both Spring Equinox and Beltane. We are calling the park "The North Sanctuary".

For the coming year, CUUPS is planning a Summer Solstice and feast with a Midsummer Nights Dream theme. We will once again host Coven of the Silver Grove for Samhain, and still intend to coordinate the Winter Solstice with Beth. Full moon drumming is under discussion, as well as some Pagan themed workshops.

In addition, CUUPS was one of the first programs to open a blog (after Green Sanctuary which is chaired by the webmaster) and begin blogging on the church website. Our page is continually updated with all of our activities and photos. CUUPS also has a Facebook group page, and has one of the largest memberships of the CUUPS groups from other congregations on Facebook.

The Board for 2009-2010 will be:

Chair-Christine Hernandez  
Media Liason: Darin Siegfried  
Program/rituals co-coordinator: Brenda Titus and Debbie Siegfried  
Tim Titus will be our official "Blogger at Large"

We look forward to continued growth!

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Hernandez

## De Benneville Pines Planning Committee

OCUUC/Tapestry retreat at Camp de Benneville Pines

Committee Chair: Karen Anderson

The purpose of this committee is to plan the program, publicize, and register participants from both OCUUC and Tapestry for a retreat weekend at Camp de Benneville Pines.

More than 80 OCUUC and Tapestry members spent a wonderful weekend at Camp De Benneville Pines in the San Bernardino Mountains the weekend of **October 16, 2009**. They hiked, built forts, did crafts, explored personal religion, danced, shared secrets, hot tubbed, sang, massaged, played instruments, walked the Labyrinth, beaded, did archery, treasure hunted, shared talents, and worshiped together.

Check Beth Nakao and Gary Glass's great photos of the camp weekend on their Facebook pages.

Unfortunately, there is one major crisis facing our wonderful camp. A pipe break leaked most of the water from the water tower, so the entire camp was on extreme water conservation rules – no showers, minimize water usage in every way possible. Birdie Reed said, “The camp was beautiful and the weather perfect, but the cloud of long ago deferred maintenance hangs over the camp’s future. Seventy year old pipes are at the point where patching the patches no longer works and the system must be replaced. Slightly more than one third of the money has been raised.” It is far more efficient to replace the whole system all at once. Janet James, the camp’s director estimates that, we have to raise at least \$225,000 more.”

Birdie added, “With initiative, creativity and hard work, the 52 congregations of PSWD can do it, one foot of pipe at a time.” This is about \$32 each for the 7,000 UU members in the district.

**For next year:** Already the plans are in place for the camp weekend. Ask in the office for the brochure and sign up now. You can start saving for the camp. Early bird discount applies. **Registration is now open for Camp de Benneville Pines Church Weekend Oct 15-17, 2010**

It is hoped that this weekend will be an opportunity to increase our circle of friends, create community, and have fun in the beautiful setting of Camp de Benneville Pines.

Reported by *Karen Anderson*  
Via REACH and *Mary Lundholm*, VP Programs

## Faith in Action

Faith in Action endorsed Prop. 15 (Fair Elections), educated the congregation on it, and initiated action for the congregation to endorse it.

Faith in Action spurred and supported considerable church activity regarding the U.S. healthcare reform:

- Urgency of action following sudden moves in Congress
- Collaboration with and assistance to UULM
- Push for single-payer system and limit damage in its absence

Faith In Action had the church recognize Orange County's Equality Coalition, dedicated to equal marriage.

Faith In Action and the ACLU co-hosted in the church a screening of a documentary about Homeland Security's abusive

detention practices against asylum-seekers.

Faith In Action served as a conduit, facilitator and referral to get many low-key social & outreach activities going through the OCUUC organization.

Faith In Action informally informed members and visitors of its existence.

Faith In Action's contacts with neighboring churches started to bear fruit through mutual knowledge of ongoing and planned activities.

The aborted merger with Tapestry appeared to take some of OCUUC's energy away from social action.

Love,

Dan Noël

Faith In Action coordinator

## 9/11 Truth

1. 9/11 TrUUth organized at the church the first presentation in Orange County of Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth's famed slide show, irrefutably exposing in layman's terms the twin towers' spectacular structural failures as terror attacks in their own right and the U.S. government's official technical investigation into this matter as a fraud and a cover-up. The event attracted more non-UUs than church members.
2. 9/11 TrUUth informally educated OCUUC members and visitors on the importance of education and action on 9/11 Truth within the liberal religious context.

Love,

Dan Noël

9/11

TrUUth

coordinator

## Green Sanctuary

The Green Sanctuary Committee is made up of Mike Harmanos, Bill Thomas, Charlie and Birdie Reed, Ted Lundholm, Summer Albayati, and Barbara Morihoro. The mission of the Green Sanctuary Committee is to have OCUUC become a certified Green Sanctuary, per the requirements outlined by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Green Sanctuary also does everything we can to inform the members and friends of the congregation about best environmental practices.

In October, Summer and I made a banner approximately 40 feet long and 20 feet wide that simply said 350.org. We placed this banner on the side of our hill for maximum exposure to traffic on Victoria Avenue. Why the number 350? It comes from the research of NASA scientist James E. Hansen, who posited in a 2007 paper that 350 parts-per-million (ppm) of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is a safe upper limit to avoid a climate tipping point. The current recorded level is 389 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub>, an almost 40-percent increase from the pre-industrial revolution level of 278 ppm. In 1988 the Earth's atmosphere surpassed the 350 ppm mark, while global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita rose.

On October 24, 2009, the world celebrated the International Day of Climate Action. Our banner was made to raise awareness in the local community about the hazardous outcomes of global climate

change and unusual weather patterns caused by man-made pollution.

In February, Green Sanctuary was the first church committee to switch their page on the website to blog format, a continuous, steady stream of information and analysis about environmental concerns. This frees Green Sanctuary to communicate with all members of OCUUC and the world without the constraints of the REACH.

In March, I outlined thoughts and ideas on what it would take to become certified. Here's what it takes to become certified:

At least 2 programs in Worship and Celebration. Our Water Communion Service, the robust services and work of CUUPS, and prior Earth Day celebrations in our congregation qualify us for three.

At least 2 programs in Religious Education, one for children and one for adults. I am certain that RE has taught at least one class in sustainability. They have led the efforts in our recycling programs. Adult Programs? We might have to work on this.

At least 4 programs in Sustainable living, including at least one energy conservation activity. Our bookstore sells organic, fair-trade, Equal Exchange coffee. We have done the due diligence in the past with switching to compact fluorescent lightbulbs. OCUUC uses the bare minimum in energy consumption, a fact I

have verified with Southern California (FYI, OCUUC uses about 25000 kilowatt hours per year for everything.) We have a fairly low-impact, low-water usage grounds around the complex. We might have four here, perhaps even a fifth. There's a little room for improvement here, largely due to the fiscal pressures we have all faced. It would be fantastic to buy dye-free, sustainable, recycled paper for the Order of Service, but it's pretty pricey compared to what we get at Office Depot.

And finally, at least 2 programs in Environmental Justice, one of which is a major, ongoing collaboration with another congregation or another organization. This is where OCUUC fell short in 2005. The UUA defines environmental justice as "Protecting natural systems and nonhuman communities is one form of this justice. Environmental justice is also concerned with the ecological health of human communities-especially disadvantaged, oppressed, and indigenous communities-and with building relationships to create a larger impact."

Tall order. But I do know that Pat McCully's excellent work with Circulo de Amigas is helping save some of the rainforest in Jinotega, Nicaragua. I can't think of a program that better defines the text above.

The second proposed program in environmental justice is tied toward

Edison.

another goal of Green Sanctuary - to quit carbon energy as the church's energy source. It is never going to be cheaper, more cost effective, and get a faster rate of return on our investment than right now with solar. There are excellent federal and state credits to purchasing a solar panel system. Plus, there's a new law in California called AB 920. That law says that starting on January 1, 2011, if you produce more power than you consume in your solar array, the utilities must do one of two things. One, they must pay you back at market wholesale prices. Or they can roll over your account with credit (like they do with cell phone minutes).

We would not be the first UU church to go solar. But we might be the first church in Orange County running entirely on renewable energy.

We had submitted three bids to the Finance Council for their review and approval to do this. As of the writing of this proposal, they have yet to come back with a decision.

It is still our goal to become a certified Green Sanctuary. If you enjoyed what you read, please read more at <http://www.ocuuc.org/greensanctuary.php>.

For the Beauty of the Earth,

Mike Harmanos, Chair

Green Sanctuary Committee

## Membership

The Membership Committee's goals for this year included:

- Greet newcomers and help them feel welcomed at OCUUC
- Track visitors
- Redevelop the visitor's section of the OCUUC website including Visitor's page and Member's Experience page
- Facilitate involvement of new people into church activities
- Streamline Sunday morning processes including ushering and greeting

We think we did a good job with all these goals. We had good feedback from visitors saying they felt welcomed on Sunday morning and we were fairly successful at staying in contact with those visitors who wanted to connect with the OCUUC community. Tracking visitors remains a difficult process, and which we will be working to improve next year.

The beautiful new website includes revived Visitors information and a form for visitors to contact us before they visit. We held training sessions for ushers and greeters, and have a dedicated crew of regulars who offer friendly service on Sunday mornings. We need more ushers and greeters to fill out our schedule, so if you would like more information, please let us know. We will give you a prize for inquiring.

We held Pathways classes four times during the year to introduce UUism and OCUUC to potential new members, and welcomed 22 people into membership. In

addition, 8 visitors became Friends. We think all these people have become well-integrated into the life of OCUUC and look forward to getting to know them better in the future.

Thank you to all of you who have made OCUUC a welcoming place for visitors, Friends, and new Members. We welcome your comments- [membership@ocuuc.org](mailto:membership@ocuuc.org).

Judith Stamper  
Katherine Martin  
Kathleen McFarlin  
Adam Goldman  
Paul Gethard  
Elizabeth Alexander  
Tom Loughrey  
Molly Rossow

## Minister

Almost every year, when I sit down to write this report I'm amazed that another year has flown by. Wasn't it just yesterday that we were doing this? Part of the reason that time flies so easily is that there is so much good work to do. This year certainly has been no exception, although in some ways it has been a difficult one. The realization, sometime in the early fall, that merger was not going to occur in the near future left many of us feeling low. For me, it was easy to see that the task before us was to rebuild our own sense of community, to remember what we love best about the OCUUC community, and to look forward with new vision. I think we've at least begun that process this past year.

My own journey was broken by the need for a second knee replacement, which took me out of circulation for less than a month – I'm very proud of that record! I'm also delighted to report that in spite of the disability I struggled with before the surgery [December 11], and the rehabilitative process which isn't easy for a knee replacement, I've surmounted all that and it's absolutely wonderful to feel able-bodied once again. So much so that I was able to attend the rally and march in Phoenix, Arizona against their discriminatory immigration law in late May – something that wouldn't have been possible a year ago. Now I hope to convince some of you to help me change

the minds of the many Costa Mesa residents that support that Arizona law. We need to help them change their thinking.

This year, in addition to preaching, counseling, committee work, and general administrative work, I have continued to work on extending our influence in the larger community. In the fall, we agreed as a congregation to support the work of UUSC and UULM as our social justice focus. I have preached on social justice topics at least once a month [something I intend to continue in the coming year]. I went with a small group of activists to speak to staff in Senator Diane Feinstein's field office in San Diego about health care reform which was very satisfying. One of the great joys of my work this year has been to join with other progressive ministers in Orange County to form an interfaith council for progressives. This is something we've needed for quite awhile and I thank A J Blackwood who has spearheaded this movement. I am also continuing as a Board member of the Newport Mesa Irvine Interfaith Council. I continue work with the steering committee of the Orange County Hate Crime Victims Assistance Program. I am once again a member of the executive committee for the district UUMA Chapter and a member of the board of the UU Legislative Ministry in CA – work that is dear to my heart. At the continental level I am a

member of the UUA President's Council and serve on the steering committee of that Committee which is responsible for the credentialing of Unitarian Universalist ministers. I will be attending General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN later this month.

As has been true other years, one of the great blessings of my life is the wonderful staff, the dedicated board, and the creative and hard-working committees of this

group. In January I became a member of the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship church. They are responsible for much of the real work of this community and I am fortunate to share the larger ministry of this church with all of you. I believe we continue to build a supportive community and honor our faith tradition.

Please join me for another shining year!

Karen Stoyanoff

## Multimedia

This committee has responsibility for the audio visual equipment and works with the Minister, Worship Associates Committee, Music Committee, and Music Director to enhance the Sunday worship experience.

The committee currently consists of Mark Miller, Ted Lundholm, and Clover Behrend-Gethard. Mark and Ted share the responsibility of building and running the presentations. Clover types the songs and readings for each service.

During the last year, this committee has accomplished much. Highlights include:

- More artistic presentations, using moving scenes as well as creating presentations that are clear and make singing and make reciting spoken parts easier for the member and/or guest.
- The creation process has been streamlined with the help of all concerned by adhering to deadlines, providing a final product that adds to the worship experience for every person that attends services and events.
- The projector was repaired and now is clearer and brighter.

### **Future projects include:**

- Expanding the Multimedia Committee to include new volunteers that would share the responsibility of running the presentations on Sunday mornings once per month. The goal would be to have four to five volunteers each month making the commitment minimal for everyone concerned while still providing top notch graphics.
- Increase use of stage lighting, which includes training of committee members and programming of the lights themselves.
- Complete an inventory of all audio visual equipment, which will allow us as a community to more fully utilizing the tools we currently have and to plan for future expansion and growth.

Submitted by **Mark Miller**

on behalf of the Multimedia Committee:

Clover Behrend-Gethard,

Mark Miller, and Ted Lundholm

## Music

This year the Music Committee created co-chairs to initiate the new chair for next year's committee.

Along with everyone else, we did the best we could with the budget cuts, but still had a great year. The end of year concert, *What I Learned from Broadway*, was a big success, thanks to the vision of Beth and her challenge to the choir members to memorize the pieces. We also had the help of Jason Cook's writing and speaking talents for the Broadway concert, which contributed as much to the success of the concert as anything else.

The choir also had the benefit of some outside coaching from a professional that really improved their performance skills. The coaching took place at the choir's annual retreat, which was as usual an excellent experience of practice and friendship for all the choir members able to attend. Another effect of the reduced budget was that choir members were asked to purchase their own music for many of the pieces sung at the end of year concert, since paying the license fees for the excerpts from Broadway musicals would have been unaffordable.

Other highlights for the 09-10 year were singing at the PSWD choir festival that was held in Long Beach this year, singing

at the interfaith holiday festival, doing outreach into our community caroling for members of the church, singing for members that were hospitalized or immobilized, and singing at memorial and other services, along with our usual Sunday services.

(Amy Tompkins)

Ted graciously agreed to share the chair duties so that I could learn them. We established with Karen Anderson a monthly Taize music meditation session that the two of us led, and we hope to expand participation in this practice in the fall when we start up again. Karen also supported the Taize sessions by promoting them and by little things like acquiring LED tealights for our use during Taize to set the tone and facilitate a meditative mood.

(Ted Lundholm)

I am looking forward to next year and would encourage anyone interested in joining the choir, please talk with Beth or anyone else in the choir. If you are worried that you are not good enough, I want to tell you that when I first joined the choir 3 1/2 years ago, I had never sung in a choir and didn't think I knew how to sing, now I ask myself, "How Can I Keep from Singing".

## President

This past year has presented unique challenges; but as always, members have risen to the occasion. As always, we desired to increase membership this year, but NOT at the cost of burning out new members. An unofficial moratorium on new member involvement was instituted to give new members a chance to experience the various groups and committees of the church before deciding which to become involved in. This moratorium unfortunately meant that some committees that regularly put on programs at OCUUC were significantly understaffed. The entire congregation owes a debt of gratitude to those that served on these committees, but especially to the chair of the RE Committee, Merrie Lee Wooten; the Membership Chairs, Judith Stamper and Katherine Martin; the Chair of Buildings and Grounds, Paul Gethard; and the Adult Education Chair, Katherine Anderson. We also lost the services of our Director of Religious Services (DRE), but I am thrilled to advise you that after a nationwide search, the position has been filled by our own Rayna Hamre. She will officially start this summer.

This month also marked the end of an era; the OCUUC newsletter, The REACH, will no longer be published. Information previously contained in The REACH will now be placed in The BLAST and/or on the OCUUC website. By eliminating the newsletter, we do our part to go “green”.

We save the cost of paper (12-16 pages per issue), ink and postage, but just as importantly, we eliminate the volunteer and staff time necessary to format, edit, copy and assemble the newsletter. Visitors and those now receiving The REACH by mail will continue to receive a monthly calendar of events at OCUUC. In addition, plans are underway to expand the type of events placed on the OCUUC calendar, and to make calendaring of events more accessible to members.

Many of you have asked me why I am only serving for one year. I assure you, the answer has nothing to do with burn-out..I look forward to serving OCUUC next year in several other capacities. When I accepted the nomination for President last year, I honestly thought I would serve no more than 6 months or so. At the time, the merger with Tapestry which so many of you worked so tirelessly on, was on hold. I, along with most other members, believed that the merger process would restart after a few months when Tapestry found a new minister. When the merger process re-engaged, I anticipated that a new President would be elected by the combined Tapestry/OCUUC congregations. Sadly, by fall of last year, Tapestry was not prepared to go forward with the merger, and neither were we; we had not then, and have not to this date, found a buyer for our existing campus. So instead of serving only part of a year as I

had anticipated, I realized that I would need to serve the entire year! Because I anticipated serving for only a short period of time, I felt I could be most effective by focusing on matters which I have been professionally successful; 1) improving the appearance of our campus, doing everything possible to make as clean, neat, attractive and inviting to visitors as possible, 2) updating our Standing Rules (last updated in 2001), 3) reducing the resources needed for church administration and operations, and 4) renewing leases and obtaining fair market rents from our tenants. I devoted the last year principally to these tasks. As luck would have it, I was able to spend as much time on church matters as one would in a full-time job. Spending this much time allowed me to observe church operations and membership from the perspective that typically is seen by the minister or a full-time member of staff. Over the next year, I will be sharing some of my observations

need to serve the entire year!

and suggestions with you on the OCUUC website.

I'd like to you all to know what an honor and privilege it has been to serve as your President. The job is daunting, to be sure, but the kind remarks, reflective insights, and suggestions about how we at OCUUC might bond more profoundly in fellowship made the task much more a pleasure than a responsibility. I greatly appreciate the assistance I have received from staff, and want to personally thank each trustee and officer of the Board for their attendance and contributions this year. But most of all, I want to thank Rev. Karen and the V.P Programs, Mary Lundholm, for their well-considered advice, wise counsel, and unwavering support.

In Faith and Reason,

Keith Jenkins

## Queer Ministries

This past year, has been a year of definitions, marketing, planning, coalition building, and community service.

What's in a name? For too long the term Queer has had a negative connotation. Today, the LGBT community is reclaiming this word as a positive statement of inclusivity and solidarity within the LGBTQI community. Therefore OCUUC has this year, given birth to a new outreach ministry - Queer Ministries. This ministry is comprised primarily of the Welcoming Congregation Committee and the Interweave identity group. We have worked with the Program Council and the Webmaster to establish two separate web presences on the OCUUC website for Welcoming Congregation, a social justice program, and Interweave, an identity group of Queer and Queer Allies.

We have acquired a Queer Ministries Google Voice Number 949-436-QMIN (7646). This number allows us as a group to promote events and give individuals a direct resource to contact someone from Queer Ministries for information and support. We continue the ongoing work for Marriage Equality, and work to remain a strong resource for members, friends, and our surrounding Orange County community.

The following are additional highlights in Queer Ministries this past year:

**Interweave:**

**Community Outreach:** This past year we partnered with other Queer (LGBT) organizations and events to both promote Unitarian Universalism outside our community and support the LGBT members within our community. Events such as World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil, where the Orange County community got together to remember those lost to AIDS this past year. This year we will attend OC Pride where we come together with our Orange County community to celebrate who we are as a community. We will continue to plan/support events both internally within OCUUC and in our local community in the upcoming year.

Facebook: AJ Blackwood has put us on the map with Facebook, we have been able to send a consistent message out quickly, promote events, and create an online community where connections made during church functions, can continue throughout the days and weeks to come. As of May 2010, we have 50 people who have joined the Queer Ministries page.

World AIDS Day: we participated with AIDS Services Foundation, in a community wide vigil to remember those lost to AIDS this past year. Additionally, we presented a Sunday service at OCUUC for world AIDS day raising awareness and gaining knowledge in treatment and sharing in the hope of a cure in the near future.

AIDS Walk 2010 OC: All 5 Orange County UU churches were represented at OC AIDS Walk for the 2nd year. We raised over \$3500 and had over 30 walkers the day of the event. We sold T-shirts as a fundraiser and received generous donations from our OCUUC and other UU Communities in support of this important cause.

Gay Days Disneyland: Many of our members attended this fun event and most wore their 'Equality' T-shirts representing OCUUC and "Standing On The Side of Love".

OC Pride: This year we will participate in OC Pride, celebrating who we are as a community within the Orange County community. Next year we plan on OCUUC Queer Ministries being a sponsor for this important community event.

Transgender Day of Remembrance: This fall, we will be presenting a Sunday service recognizing Transgender Day of Remembrance, where we will honor those whose lives were lost to hate and discrimination in the transgender community and raise awareness within our congregation about the transgender community.

## **Welcoming Congregation:**

For many years OCUUC has been recognized by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation, openly affirming and welcoming the participation of our gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and intersex congregants.

The board of OCUUC recognized OCEC (Orange County Equality Coalition), which grew out of the work of many groups in our county to defeat Proposition 8. "Equality" T-Shirts were sold and given to the representatives of OCEC, highlighting the commitment of OCUUC to our members and our community.

It has been over a decade since we have done any education on Welcoming congregation to our religious community; plans for the coming year are to sponsor a forum on issues of the community of transgender residents of our county and to further educate OCUUC on what it means to be a Welcoming congregation.

Members of Queer ministries committee include: AJ Blackwood, Birdie Reed, Mark Miller and Tim Medley

## Recognition

### **Purpose**

The Recognition Committee was started in 2002 to recognize volunteers and we have since recognized several hundred! We do this with two wonderful programs: Shining Star and Unsung UU.

### Shining Star Program

The Shining Star program is a monthly program where we recognize OCUUC Members, Friends and Guests who have volunteered within our church or the community at large to seek truth, build just communities, and care for one another. We recognize our Shining Stars with a certificate and much appreciation during our Sunday services. Any Member, Guest, or Friend can nominate or receive a Shining Star.

### Unsung UU

Unsung UU is a long-cherished tradition where we annually honor a member of our church by engraving their name on our Unsung UU plaque and with thanks and recognition at our Annual Meeting. In the spirit of unsung hero, this is a person we want to recognize for “behind the scenes” facilitating church operations, helping others when called upon, and finding ways to build stronger community. As I write this, we are in the midst of collecting nominations and there are so many heroes and heroines among us. I can’t wait to find out who it will be, and to recognize and congratulate our 2010 Unsung UU at the Annual Meeting! Until then, hats off to our past Unsung UUs:

2009 Mark Miller

2008 Dan and Wendy Lettieri

2007 Colleen Anderson

2006 Joan Parry

2005 Cynthia Berger

2004 Karen Urbano

2003 Bruce Hemphill

2002 Anna Egasse

2001 Judith Stamper

2000 Pat Mallette

1999 Craig Sperry

1998 Margaret Armstrong

1997 Dorothy White

1996 Richard Carter

1994 Stephen Hamre

1993 Eugene Barmore

1992 Gayle Carter

1991 Margaret Randall

1990 Donald Skinner

1989 Kathi Toppen

1988 Michael Blyden

1987 Alice Forney

1986 Harry Burkholder

1985 Alvin & Eula Daniels

1984 Robert Gillan

### **Recruiting New Committee Members!**

Please see me to join the Recognition Committee. It’s such a heartwarming and fun job—truly a labor of love. All it takes are quarterly meetings with e-mail communications more frequently. A representative will also present the Shining Stars one time monthly at both services, and work with the President and VP Programs to present the Unsung UU award at the June Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Lundholm*, VP Programs

## Recognized Organizations

There are five organizations that many members of the congregation participate in. One, OCEC, became recognized by the OCUUC board because they share issues with us.

American Civil Liberties Union, Orange County chapter, meets first Thursdays at the Irvine Ranch Water district office. Birdie Reed is treasurer of the chapter and many members of the congregation are also ACLU members. ACLU defends the Bill of Rights by means of lawsuits, lobbying, and education.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State meets every other Saturday at the Irvine Ranch Water District. The Reeds are members and several members of the congregation have attended meetings. AU concentrates of separation of religion and government.

Amnesty International, Irvine chapter meets monthly at Irvine United Congregational Church. Jacques Kilchoer is the chapter leader.

Orange County Equality Coalition grew out of the No on 8 campaign. Many members of OCUUC are members of OCEC. Birdie and Charlie Reed are members of its storytellers' group. It is one of a group of organizations working to promote lgbt equality in Orange County.

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets every first Wednesday in Orange at the First United Methodist Church. Birdie and Charlie Reed are members of the PFLAG Speakers' Bureau. Several members of OCUUC are members of PFLAG. PFLAG helped OCUUC in our process of becoming a Welcoming Congregation. PFLAG promotes acceptance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals through support, education, and advocacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Birdie & Charlie Reed

## Share Our Selves

While delivering Mother's Day donations, Jan Steury and I found out that SOS has experienced a 40% increase in requests for food and other assistance in the past year. They distribute approximately 250 bags of food every day to needy families. While they get a lot of bread and crackers, protein food is in short supply. In honor of all the fathers who are struggling to feed their families, we would like to ask for an additional donation of non-perishable food for Father's Day. **We will be on the patio on June 20th and 27th.** Please pick up a couple of cans of tuna, beans, soup, or jars of peanut butter the next time you shop and help out our neighbors at SOS. Thank you for your generosity.

While the [Share our Selves](#) (SOS) local nonprofit organization provides emergency assistance year round, Orange Coast presently focuses on three major activities. They are:

1. Mother's Day collection in May: Mother and baby items such as diapers, bottles, receiving blankets, clothes, and

used and new equipment (car seats, cribs, high chairs, etc.) This year the Sewing/Kraft group made flannel receiving blankets to donate. We usually collect items on the patio on two Sundays.

2. Back to School in August: Backpacks and school supplies such as paper, pencils, markers, dictionaries. We usually collect items on the patio on two Sundays during the year.

3. Adopt a Family for the Holidays in December: Gifts and food for a holiday dinner for families whose names are supplied by SOS. We have people sign up to donate in a variety of ways: adopting a whole family, combining with others to adopt a family, or donating gifts, food, or cash to allow us to combine items for a family. This is our largest undertaking, and a good proportion of OCUUC members participate.

Committee Members:

Judith Stamper  
Jan Steury

## Stewards

The OCUUC Endowment value as of March 2010 was \$522,309, which was an increase of 33% since March of 2009.

A contribution of \$18,000 is included as part on the annual percentage gain.

The Endowment is half invested in a low-cost conservative balanced index fund at Vanguard, and half in the UUA's General Endowment (socially responsible investments). Both funds participated in the market rally we have seen over the past year. Taking the long-term view proved beneficial.

The Endowment continues to disperse a quarterly check from each fund equal of 1/4 of 5% of the rolling average of the last five quarters.

Bob Kreuter

## VP Programs

### Purpose

“Programs” is the collective body of all OCUUC Committees and Groups, and it is the responsibility of VP Programs—along with your Board Members, Committee Chairs and Committee Members—to ensure their vitality and accessibility.

We have about 50 committees and groups. Many groups are running well and others need members. Our programs cannot function without the support and tireless efforts of our members.

Find a group and lend your talents to our many vibrant programs. You are welcome to start a new group or social action effort. Just let me know.

Our committees and groups are organized and led as outlined below.

### Finance Council

VP Finance: Nancy Loughrey  
Bookkeeper: Lettie Rodriguez  
Bursar: Charles Gordon  
Treasurer: Bob Leuschen  
Stewards: John Cazier (3 voting members)  
Canvass: Randy Kokal  
Ways & Means: open  
Fundraisers: open  
SCRIP: Scott Armstrong, Charles Gordon  
Auction: Mary Lundholm (Fall); Keith Jenkins (Spring)  
Bookstore & Coffee: Birdie Reed

### Ministries

Board Liaison: Earl Hardenbrook  
Committees on Ministry  
Minister:  
Intern Minister:

Music Ministry:

RE:

Worship Ministries

Worship Associates: Rayna Hamre

Ushers: Katherine Martin, Judith Stamper

Coffee: Barbara Berrocol

Flowers: Gayle Carter

Music/Choir/Guest Artist: Ted Lundholm,  
Amy Tompkins

### Personnel & Operations

Board Liaison: Alan Block, Scott Armstrong

Buildings & Grounds: Paul Gethard

Sexton: David Nuñez

Communications: Cynthia Meyer

Multimedia: Mark Miller

Nominating: Suzi Cassidy

Personnel: open (duties performed by  
President, Minister, VP Programs)

Historian: open

Librarian: open

ADR: Charlie & Birdie Reed

Marketing: open

### Caring for One Another

Board Liaison: Rachel Smith

Membership: Judith Stamper, Katherine Martin

Caring Ministry: Shared

Congregation Nurse: Adair Small

Helping Hands: Gayle Carter

Pastoral Care: Karen Stoyanoff

Covenant Groups: Maureen McConaghy

Recognition: Mary Lundholm

Camp de Benneville: Karen Anderson

Gatherings: open

Concerts: Kathleen McFarlin

### Seeking Truth

Liaison: Eva Lu Goodwin-Noriega  
**Committees for RE & Programs**  
Children (under 18) & Youth (high school): Merrie Lee Wooten  
Young Adult (18–35) & Adults: Karen Anderson  
Building Your Own Theology (BYOT): Karen Stoyanoff  
Programs for All Ages: open

Artists Arise: Vera Viana-Asper  
Book Group: Mickey Jackson  
CUUPS: Christine Hernandez  
Donut Fundraiser (Young Adults): Music  
LUUnch BUUnch (Young Adults): AJ Blackwood  
Men's Group: inactive  
Reel Story: Karen Stoyanoff  
Our Whole Lives (OWL): Keith Jenkins  
Walking Groups: Adair Small, Mickey Jackson  
Women's Group: Lili Laksberger  
Young Adults: Karen Magoon Pearson

## **Building Just Communities**

(Faith-In-Action)  
Board Liaisons: Summer Albayati-Dadah  
Faith-In-Action Council: Dan Noël  
911 TrUUth: Dan Noël •  
AIDS Team Ministry: Shared  
Charlie and Birdie Reed, delivery coordinators  
Ted and Mary Lundholm, cooking coordinators  
California Legislative Ministry: Summer Dadah  
Círculo de Amigas: Pat McCully  
Community Services: Maurice Giss  
Interfaith: Karen Stoyanoff  
Peace Studies and Action Group: Ken Arnold  
SOS: Judith Stamper  
UU Service Committee: Nick Simon, Jane Jepson

## **Programs Overall Health**

So, how are we doing? I would say the overall health of our programs, groups and committees is edging into vibrant. A few committees need some members, but overall we have an active community. For a full committee-by-committee report, please read all of the committee reports within this annual report.

## **Recruiting New Committee Members!**

We have a dire need for chairs on the following committees and for members on many others: Adult RE, Young Adult RE, Adult Programs, de Benneville, Recognition, Historian, and Librarian.

Want to help but don't know where to go? Afraid you'll be "sucked in" and overcommitted?

Please see me. I promise we will spend time with you to ensure you are matched with a volunteer task and commitment level that works for you.

## **Goals and Hopes for Next Year**

1. Fill all committee positions with energetic and inspired members.
2. Build a sense of community through social action projects
3. Document and post the "Committee Chairs Roles and Responsibilities" and create a Committee Chair Handbook" in order to set expectations, properly orient incoming chairs.
4. Post the "program guide" on the website.
5. Brainstorming ways we can improve outreach, and ensuring that we recruit and train new members before burn out sets in for existing members.
6. Celebrate our successes.
7. Create a volunteer appreciation day.

By *Mary Lundholm*, VP Programs

## Volunteer Coordinator

The position of Volunteer Coordinator is much more than finding someone to wash dishes after the congregation meeting. It is about integrating members and helping them find a sense of small community within our large group.

With more offerings, we have been able to engage a larger portion of our members in groups and activities. From offerings through Adult Education to social events like Circle Suppers, we have had more interaction this year than last.

### **Increasing Member Engagement**

In order to increase member engagement, people need to be aware of programs available to the congregation. Many groups advertise in the REACH, on the patio, or on the website. This year FaceBook was used to announce events and allow people the ease of RSVPing directly from FaceBook with the click of a button. In addition, many groups have moved to the blog format on the website to facilitate communication. The more we communicate with each other; the more we build our community.

I have completed a draft document titled "Active Groups and Committees". I will update this document for the 2010-2011 year and pass it to VP Programs for safe keeping. This document will be available on Sunday and future plans include posting on the website.

I have initiated information gathering from all committee chairs. Most have responded. From this listing, I have identified committees in need of new members or assistance with advertising and recruitment.

### **Summary**

Our congregation is very active in groups and programs at OCUUC. The next step in implementing our vision will be to increase the visibility of our activities in the community. Please send suggestions or programs you would like to participate in to [programs@ocuuc.org](mailto:programs@ocuuc.org)

I have enjoyed my time as Volunteer Coordinator. Thank you for the honor of serving this community in a staff position.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mary Lundholm*  
Volunteer Coordinator

## Worship Associates

The Worship Associates began the 2009-10 fiscal year with a series of varied and interesting speakers during Rev. Karen's summer break. The speakers included: members Keith Jenkins and Marcia Hackett leading Membership Sunday; Steph Campbell from Atheists United; Summer Albayati and Rayna Hamre on Ecology and Green Living; Michael Esalun; Hosai Mojaddidi from the Islamaic Speakers Bureau; Rev. Lee Marie Sanchez; Sukh Chugh on meditation and peacemaking in the world; our own OCUUC "graduate" Alex Winnett; and Rabbi Susan Conforti.

The Worship Associates were also busy this past year assessing the weekly Sunday service and making some changes. After a pilot program, the congregation is now invited to share spoken and written Joys and Sorrows at first service, and written sharing at second service. After hearing suggestions from the pilot from members and the WAs the program continued to evolve. We now recognize those who are sharing during the service, if they wish to be acknowledged. We also created a Joys and Sorrows nook that is an attractive candle area where all may light a candle of remembrance or joy on Sunday.

Several other aspects of the Sunday experience have been examined and improved over the last year. With the ushers, we now reserve seats on Sundays for late arrivals to minimize seating confusion. Our multi-media specialists have done a wonderful job of creating attractive, accurate slides and smoothing out slide

transitions. We thank Ted Lundholm, Mark Miller, and David Nunez for their care and attention to this important aspect of Worship. We have also requested that the congregation remain in the spirit of worship as the postlude is played, with a visual reminder on the screen. We hope that these changes enhance the worship experience for all.

We were very happy to include three new members to the WAs this year, Jason Cook, Lawrence Ingalls and Jane Jepson. Rayna Hamre, as Co-Chair with Rev. Karen, will be stepping down from her position at the end of June to assume the role of OCUUC's Director of Religious Education. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve OCUUC in this capacity and to work with all of our fun and talented WAs!

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rayna Hamre, Worship Associates Co-Chair*

### 2009-2010 Worship Associates

*Margaret Armstrong  
AJ Blackwood  
Jason Cook  
Marcia Hackett  
Rayna Hamre  
Lawrence Ingalls  
Keith Jenkins  
Jane Jepson  
Mark Miller  
Beth Nakao*

## Notes