

ANNUAL REPORT

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica



2008 - 2009

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

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LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors

	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
President	Ron Crane	Sue Bickford
Vice President	Bronwen Jones	Bronwen Jones
Vice President	Melanie Sharp	Kathy Cook
Secretary	Sandra Trutt	Sandra Trutt
Treasurer	Gene Balas	Gene Balas
Past President	Charles Haskell	Ron Crane
Member at Large	Sue Bickford	Phyllis Kory
Member at Large	Kathy Cook	Robin Lowney-Lankton
Member at Large	Phyllis Kory	Patrick Meighan
Member at Large	Beth Rendeiro	Vilma Ortiz
Member at Large	Ren Renshaw	Victor Paddock
Member at Large	Marsha Smith	Beth Rendeiro

Staff

Interim Minister	Rev. Roberta Haskin
Minister Emerita	Rev. Judith Meyer
Minister Emeritus	Rev. Ernie Pipes
Director of Religious Exploration	Catherine Farmer Loya
Director of Administration	Melinda Ewen
Finance Assistant	Holly Nguyen
OOS (Office-RE) Assistant	Rima Snyder
Director of Music	Steve Wight
Organist – Pianist	Louis Durra
Weekday Sexton	Kevin Roller
Sunday Sexton	Thomas Ahern

Nominating Committee

<u>2008 - 2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
Rob Briner, Chair	Pam Teplitz, Chair
Liza Cranis	Rob Briner
Cathie Gentile	Bryan Cahill
Dayla McDonald	Cathie Gentile
Karen Patch	Dayla McDonald
Pam Teplitz	Karen Patch

MEMBERSHIP

To become a member of the Church a person shall:

- Sign a statement of intent to participate as a member in the community life of the Church.
- Reside within the Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- Be at least 16 years of age or have successfully completed the Church's Coming of Age Program.
- Make a financial contribution of record, or a pledge to do so, to the Church.

Anyone who has been a member of the Church for 40 days is eligible to vote at church business meetings.

Written resignation, failure to make a financial contribution, or moving away from the PSWD area, causes membership to be discontinued.

A "Friend" is a person who is not a member, but has made a pledge of financial support, or has made a contribution of at least \$100, during the preceding 12 months.

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

This church is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, a voluntary association of autonomous, self governing local churches and fellowships, and of the Pacific Southwest District of that association. Information and contact with UUA offices and resources can be obtained at www.uua.org.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

Report from the Minister: The Rev. Roberta Haskin As delivered at the Annual Meeting: May 17, 2009

I want to thank people for their hospitality and their willingness to walk together with me during this interim period. Interim ministry is goal-oriented and time-limited. There are five goals in every interim ministry. An interim minister helps the congregation:

- claim and honor its past and engage and acknowledge its griefs and conflicts
- recognize its unique identity, and its strengths, needs, challenges
- clarify its understanding of the appropriate leadership roles of minister, church staff, and lay leaders, and navigate the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition.
- make appropriate use of District, UUA, and other outside resources
- proudly possess a renewed vision and strong stewardship, prepare for new growth and new professional leadership, and ready it to embrace the future with anticipation and zest.

These goals have been partially met in the first year of your two year interim period. The congregation has acknowledged its grief over the departure of Judith Meyer. The congregation has a rich history which is living and actively embraced. The congregation has and will continue in its year of search to make use of District and UUA resources. At about the time when the search committee was named, I noticed an increase in energy among the members. Members seem to be deepening their understanding that "We are the Church." You have a bright future ahead of you with many possibilities. The building project is just one example of how you embody your mission in the world.

Besides the five goals, I also carry out the normal responsibilities of parish ministry. I have led services three out of four Sundays. I have officiated at five memorial services, five weddings, and two child dedications. There were two new member Sundays and two adult education series that I led.

Members' wedding:

William Renshaw and Kathleen Roth

Child Dedications:

Hope Laven Kendall

Anna Barker

I am fortunate to minister with an excellent staff. They are skilled professionals who serve the members well. Minister Emeritus, the Rev. Ernie Pipes, is a cherished colleague.

I have enjoyed serving with an outstanding Board of Directors. They are committed and caring and represent you well. In particular, I want to thank Ron Crane for his wise leadership as President of the Congregation.

I want to name and thank the Transition Team who advised me this year: Ofelia Lachtman, Robin Lowney-Lankton, Warren Mathews, Peter Van Den Beemt, and Linda van Ligten. Their insights were invaluable.

The Caring Network (Care-Net) has begun to be formed with the able leadership of Charles and Christine Haskell and Beverly Alison. I want to thank them for their commitment to helping this congregation become more caring.

I would like to read the names of those who have died this year. We are a living tradition which honors the contributions of its members and friends. Our hearts and minds keep alive the memory of:

Members:

Betty Goodman

Marion Holmen

Lillian Norma Kugler

Former Members:

Shirlee Frank

Audrey Risdén

Mother of Member:

Mary Dell Ginsberg

We are grateful they walked among us. May the love of those who have gone before us strengthen the spirit of this community. May their contributions be an inspiration to those who are currently members and friends. May they be models of service to those who follow us.



President's Address Ron Crane

Two years ago our church developed a "vision budget," had a well loved settled minister, was approaching 500 members, had a grand building plan, and was "building people." One year ago we lost significant income, were in shock that our minister was retiring, had low energy, were focused on ministerial, administrative and financial issues, had a much smaller building vision, and were acting out of hurt and fear. Today we are looking forward to greeting our second interim minister, the building committee has been revamped and nearing completion on the Cottage courtyard and the STARS program has shown us how to be friendlier.

The future promises completion of our remodeling, Membership and Leadership thriving, energy returning to administration, Adult Programs, and Religious Exploration, the ministerial search successful, music community happy, Faith in Action meeting new challenges, our demographic getting younger, Care-net firmly in place to focus our community for self care of many pastoral issues, our internet presence up to date, the New Building Committee a fond memory, and the 2nd Sunday Supper a continuing fellowship success.

"We are the Church" is a concept that we have recently engaged. This concept requires participation by all as we navigate the constant change that rules our world. Our voices today "speak to the future." Transparency is vital and requires visibility of operations and attention of the membership to those operations. People seek community, and that is what we offer.

I want to thank you for the opportunity of personal growth and the immense satisfaction I have gained from working with the intelligent, caring people working together here. I am pleased to

list our accomplishments: celebration of gay marriage, building plans that were executed, people finding one another, and the community that was established as we worked cooperatively. As we shared our "joys and sorrows" while practicing the noble effort of being human among other humans, empathy, authenticity and caring and sharing emerged. Thank you for the honor of being your president during a part of the process of being: what we are and what we will become.

Incoming President's Address Sue Bickford

Preceded by the story "Higgins: A Drop with a Dream" by Christopher Buice

I am no Higgins. When I was approached to jump into the bucket that is the board presidency, I had to be pushed a bit. I wasn't sure what it was I was landing in. Others assured me they would follow, not as individuals, but as a collective with the knowledge that we are the church. This past year has been a difficult one. When Judith announced she was leaving, many of us felt a deep and genuine grief. We had joined the church in her tenure and she embodied the church for us. When she left we felt a little adrift, perhaps framing the question, "What will happen to the church?" As this church year progressed into the fall I heard a fellow choir member remark, "It is quite a shock to realize that we are the church."

I was struck by how true her remark was. This church has a beautiful space and we have been fortunate to have such remarkable and deeply respected settled ministers over the past 50+ years, but in truth, neither the space nor the ministers comprise the church.

We, the members of the congregation, are what make up the church. We have the power and responsibility to call and dismiss ministers, set policy, and decide what we want our church community to be.

This next year will again be one in which there are a lot of stressful decisions to undertake. We are going to be deciding exactly what we want to do with Forbes Hall and the classrooms, a task that is being ably steered by the bucket of volunteers that is the building committee. We will have hard choices to make financially as we continue to reel from the economic downturn. Many buckets of volunteers have weighed in on that one with the final approval being made by the mighty stream that is our congregation of buckets coming all together. We will be looking for a new settled minister, a job newly begun by yet another bucket of congregation approved volunteers. All this is going on without a "head" to our church. It has become clear this year, with the help of our interim minister, that we do not exist because of a single person, but instead, we are the community that is UUCCSM. As we have come out of our grief and regained our energy to move forward, what needs to be done and what we are capable of has taken on a more concrete form.

I agreed to take this position for the next year because I believe this community is important to us as a church entity and to others beyond our church boundaries. We continue to try and find ways to nurture ourselves and to reach out to the world around us. It is in this collective trying that we become something bigger than a collection of individuals on Sundays. It is in this trying that we become a community with the power of a mighty stream to be a force of good for ourselves, each other, and the world. It is with the very strong belief I hold that there is much talent and good will here that I am willing to step into this role as president. In fact, it is only with the faith I have in this community as a whole that I have the courage to take this on. I am definitely out of my comfort zone!

In this spirit, I ask you to join me in this bucket. For this next *future setting* year, I am going to try and listen hard and reach out a little more than I have before. I would like to ask you to do the same. Whether you decide to serve coffee and be a kind face and ear to all who come to services or to join a committee that you have interest in, but haven't yet dipped your toe into, or to volunteer to watch children or make sandwiches or call someone who can no longer attend services or participate in the myriad of other ways that you can be here, there is a place in our community for all of our talents. In the reverse, that means there is a place for you to be listened to and to be nurtured when you need it. To be a part of this community should mean that you know that others see your contributions and appreciate you and are as willing to extend themselves to you as you are to them. A microcosm of this has been the "STARS" program that Dennis Haskins through Leadership and Membership initiated this year. Giving many of us a structured way and a push to step out of our comfort zone and into someone else's to acknowledge them has led to a very dramatic change in the way we are perceived by visitors here. I would like the same to happen to us within the congregation. I would like for all of us to step out of our comfort zones a little to make sure something or someone else here has the attention and energy they need to run well and have a secure place in our church life. This is not one person's job, but all of our jobs in honoring this place we choose to come together as a spiritual community. I already admire many of you for the way you do this without seeming to have to think about it. Many times I have kept an example of someone from this church upper most in my mind when I take on a new task. I am definitely doing that as I embark on this year as president. Thank you for the faith you have placed in me. I am honored. I will work hard to uphold that faith.

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 17, 2009
ANNUAL MEETING**
(To be approved at 2010 Annual Meeting)

Note: A **Meeting booklet** was made available to all in attendance. It included:

1. Agenda
2. Rules of the meeting
3. Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting
4. Minutes: 3-8-09 Special Congregational Meeting
5. Treasurer's Report 4-30-09
6. Current accounts Balance Sheet 4-30-09
7. Proposed Budget for 2009-2010
8. Reports of Major Committees
9. Scope, Financial Projection, and architect's drawings for Forbes Hall renovation
10. Pro and con statements to name Cottage for Church Member Rod Serling
11. Ballot for Board of Directors and Nominating Committee
12. Charge to the new Board of directors

1. Call to order and determination of quorum

86 members were present attaining the quorum of 66 members needed to convene. 16 proxy ballots were issued. President Ron Crane called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

2. Appointments

Inspector of Elections: Melinda Ewen
Ballot/Hand Counters: Judy Federick, Melanie Sharp, Katie Malich
Timekeeper: John Fels
Parliamentarian: Bronwen Jones

3. Adoption of the rules of the meeting

MOTION: To adopt the rules of the meeting. Passed unanimously. (booklet p.2)

4. Approval of the minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of May 18, 2008 and March 8, 2009. Moved by Ofelia Lachtman, seconded by Peter Van Den Beemt. Passed unanimously. (booklet pp 3-4)

5. Presentation of candidates for Board of Directors and Nominating Committee

Ballots were marked and collected. The slate of candidates was elected. (Sample ballot p.19)

Officers Elected: Susan Bickford, Bronwen Jones, Kathy Cook, Gene Balas, Sandra Trutt.

Members At Large Elected: Phyllis Kory, Robin Lowney - Lankton, Patrick Meighan, Vilma Ortiz, Victor Paddock, Beth Rendeiro.

Nominating Committee Elected: Bryan Cahill and Cathie Gentle

6. The **Minister's Report** Interim Minister, Reverend Roberta Haskin presented her report.
7. The **President's Report** was presented by Ron Crane. He was proud of the fact that our church was on Facebook, YouTube and Craigslist.
8. The **Operating Statement and Balance Sheet Comments** were presented by Melinda Ewen. (booklet pp5-7)

9. Presentation and Approval of Fiscal Year 2009 - 2010 Budget by Gene Balas.

RESOLUTION: The congregation hereby approves the budget presented for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Moved by Gene Balas, seconded by Peter Van Den Beemt. Motion passed. (booklet pp8-9)

10. New Building Committee

RESOLUTION: The congregation authorizes the Board to use building program funds to renovate Forbes Hall and other improvements to the church campus. Presented by the Board, seconded by Peter Van Den Beemt. Motion passed. (booklet pp14-17)

11. Naming of the Cottage

The motion was brought from the table of the Special Congregation Meeting.

MOTION: S.J. Guidotti moved to name the Cottage "The Rod Serling Cottage," Marguerite Spears seconded on March 8, 2009. Motion failed.

12. The **elected officers, board members and members of the nominating committee were installed** by Past President Ron Crane.

13. There was no new business or member comments.

14. Incoming President's Remarks

Sue Bickford read a story about Higgins, a drop of water, who jumped in a bucket and asked other drops of water to join him. They did so and with a gust of wind, watered the desert, which bloomed and thrived. She asked us to jump in the bucket with her to support our church and find a place for our talents. Volunteers will help our church bloom and thrive.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Trutt, Secretary



FINANCIAL REPORTS
Reported by Melinda Ewen
(with year-end figure updates)

Operating Statement

This was an extraordinary year economically for both our church and our nation.

In the fall we began realizing that our income was not coming in at budgeted amounts. After the end of December, which is historically the month when about 25% of our annual income is received due to holiday and end-of-year tax offset giving, it was recognized that we would have a very serious shortfall.

In February a meeting was called by the Finance Committee to propose a revised (reduced) budget for the remainder of this fiscal year. At this meeting were our Minister, Roberta; DRE, Catherine; Music Director, Steve; and myself as well as chairs of the Music, RE, Faith in Action, Personnel and Membership & Leadership Committees, and our President and Treasurer. This reduced budget was approved by the Board on February 10, and explained to the Congregation at the special meeting on March 8. These figures are included in the Operating Statement on the following page.

As a result of this new budget, which was to reduce spending by \$45,000, staff was to be laid off in all departments, and expense line items cut. At the same time efforts by Stewardship and staff, to bolster and collect pledges were made. The Membership and Leadership Committee instituted new programs to stem falling membership numbers.

At the end of June we are able to recognize the savings instituted by our February cuts. While our income is \$63,000 behind what we had originally projected for this year, it is \$16,000 ahead of what we thought it would be in February, thanks to responses from our members and friends about our financial problems. Our expenses are over \$34,000 less than originally planned. It is with sadness that I report to you the \$63,864 deficit for the year, a figure which includes the \$29,341 planned allocation from savings which was approved by the congregation in May 2008. However, significant effort and concern has been spent by both leadership and staff in holding the deficit to this level, an effort that must be recognized.

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet (page 9) gives a snapshot of our liquid assets as of April 30. The top portion (lines 1 through 5) shows our assets, which are the totals in our bank and Certificate of Deposit accounts.

Below that shows the distribution of these assets into three major categories: Reserves, Dedicated Funds and Endowments. The reserves (start line 6) are set aside for specific purposes: Minister's Equity Sharing, Emergency and Unrestricted Savings. The Unrestricted Savings is the place where non-budgeted uncommitted income goes and from where deficits are covered.

The Dedicated Funds (start line 10) are "piggy banks" held by the church for many of our core groups. The funds remain from year to year, rather than being appropriated each year by the budget. The money in each Fund is controlled by the person with the title listed in the "NOTES" column

Endowments (start line 30) are long term invested funds, with interest used for purposes specified by the contributor. Endowed monies may not be invaded for general use.

Finally Liabilities (33) are monies that the church owes. Most often these are tax matching and withholding monies from payroll that is paid out early in the following month.

At the end of the balance sheet traditionally is a line for net income or deficit (line 34). In our case the deficit recognized was \$63,864, also shown on the Operating Statement on page 8. This amount has already been subtracted from the Unrestricted Savings (line 8) to make that item more meaningful.

You will see that line 35 matches line 5, signifying that all our money is accounted for.

Proposed Budget 2009-2010
Gene Balas, Treasurer
(as delivered at the Annual Meeting)

It can go without saying the past year has seen great economic difficulties, and this has adversely impacted our pledge receipts as well as other sources of revenue. Not only have congregants contributed less due to stagnant wages and fears of, or actual, job losses, but we have also lost some members who were significant contributors to our church. In February, we proactively involved the heads of various committees to cut the 08/09 budget significantly, and since the Finance Committee does not expect the economy nor our revenues to improve significantly over the next twelve months, these budget cuts remain in place during the 09/10 fiscal year. This budget includes an anticipated deficit of about \$50,000.

An issue many congregants appear to have is being uncomfortable with a budget deficit, in that our expenses are not balanced with our incomes. We must remember the purpose of having savings: we have built savings during good times and now that times are difficult, it is time to rely on those savings. We must not cut the budget excessively as we need to keep the church an inviting place for newcomers to visit and possibly join and we need to keep programs and facility maintenance in place for existing members to continue to call this church their home. Draconian budget reductions that cut valuable RE and music programs or facility maintenance or any other of a number of programs that our members hold dear will not serve the church in the long run. In fact, cutting the budget beyond what we have done in this proposed budget may hurt the church even more by failing to attract newcomers and losing members, resulting in even lower revenues and a spiral of further budget and program cuts. This is especially an issue as the church is in a time of ministerial transition. Many corporations post losses from time to time, with the losses accruing to their so-called retained earnings, analogous to our Unrestricted Savings. Corporations build retained earnings when times are flush, and draw on them during difficult years. Our church is no different.

The accompanying graphics and tables indicate our sources and uses of funds. The situation is not dire, and we have not cut back on full time staff or salaries, although we have made cuts to part time staff requirements. As the church navigates to a new settled minister and the economy regains its footing (although both may take a couple years), the church will once again be on sturdier foundations. As such, I urge you to approve the budget as is proposed; the Finance Committee does believe the budget cuts are both large enough to be effective yet small enough to retain the programs and services we all enjoy to keep this church our home.

Operating Statement for Fiscal Year 2008-2009

/line		Actuals year end	Revised 2008-2009 Budget 2-10-09	Original 2008-2009 Budget
	INCOME			
1	Pledge Receipts	356,726	340,200	420,000
2	Non-pledge contributions	29,641	31,436	32,726
3	Fundraising	26,166	30,051	30,550
4	Rental Income	27,981	27,250	25,000
5	Interest Earnings	13,940	9,394	15,400
6	Total Income	454,454	438,331	523,676
	EXPENSE			
	Spiritual Life & Programs			
7	Minister	111,571	112,691	112,691
8	Min Support (incl \$8000 moving expense)	15,622	6,494	12,050
9	Adult RE	550	550	700
	Music Program			
10	Music Director Salary	22,293	22,293	22,293
11	Organist Salary	18,904	18,904	18,904
12	Choir Section Leaders	11,942	10,450 *	11,943
13	* Special gifts covered not laying off 3rd Choir Sec Ldr until 6-30-09			
14	Guest Musicians & Organist	4,075	3,600	6,000
15	Piano & Organ Maintenance	575	565	700
	Religious Exploration			
16	Director of Religious Education	57,989	58,282	59,407
17	Office & RE Assistant (RE half)	5,022	5,300	8,572
18	Preschool Teacher	3,233	2,880	4,000
19	Childcare	4,706	4,000	5,392
20	Materials, Training & Support	6,438	6,517	7,100
	Sustaining Programs			
21	Board of Directors	200	300	0
22	Denominational Affairs	18,308	18,308	24,411
23	Faith in Action	0	0	900
24	Membership & Leadership	2,436	2,452	2,800
25	Stewardship	319	320	800
26	Total Spiritual Life & Programs	284,183	273,906	298,663
	Infrastructure			
	Administration			
27	Director of Administration	74,784	74,831	75,281
28	Finance Assistant	38,688	38,680	40,238
29	Office & RE Asst (office half)	6,889	6,480	8,572
30	Supplies, Equipment & Support	19,108	21,371	25,250
31	Credit Card Charges (Bank Service Chg)	1,345	1,500	1,550
32	Payroll Expenses	22,976	21,855	24,283
	Physical Plant			
33	Maintenance Personnel	23,398	23,430	24,526
34	Facility Operation	41,284	42,368	45,854
35	Equipment & Buildings	5,664	3,500	8,800
36	Total Infrastructure	234,135	234,015	254,354
37	Total Expense	518,318	507,921	553,017
38	Total Income (from above)	454,454	438,331	523,676
39	NET	-63,864	-69,590	-29,341 *

*\$29,341 previously annotated "Savings Allocated to Income"

CURRENT ACCOUNTS BALANCE SHEET

line	ASSETS	Account Balance 6-30-09	
1	Bank of America	25,736	
2	Merrill Lynch CD's	1,132,000	
3	Merrill Lynch EMA	237,884	
4	Petty Cash	150	
5	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,395,770	
	RESERVES		NOTES
6	Minister Equity-sharing Resv	199,528	
7	Emergency Reserves	121,000	25% of operating budget
8	Unrestricted Savings	147,040	includes year-end deficit \$63,864
9	Total Reserves	467,568	
	DEDICATED FUNDS		<i>Fund Managers (by title)</i>
10	New Building Project Fund	839,759	<i>New Building Cmte co-Chairs</i>
	Administration Funds		<i>Director of Administration</i>
11	All-church Campout Fund	147	
12	Book Store Fund	448	
13	DeBenneville Pines Weekend	1,182	
14	Unemployment Compensation	1,224	
15	Total Administration Funds	3,001	
	Faith in Action Funds		<i>Faith in Action Comission Chair</i>
16	FIA Commission Fund	14	
17	Hunger Fund	1,880	
18	Interweave Fund	456	
19	Total Faith in Action Funds	2,350	
	Ministry Funds		<i>Board of Directors or Minister</i>
20	Meyer Retirement Commem	3,910	
21	Sabbatical Expense	10,400	
22	Settled Minister Search Cmte	13,516	
23	Total Ministry Funds	27,826	
24	Music Department Fund	899	<i>Music Committee Co-chairs</i>
	RE Funds		<i>Director of Religious Education</i>
25	RE Department Fund	422	
26	Robert Burke Fund	91	for social justice RE projects
27	Youth Activities Fund	18	
28	Total RE Funds	531	
29	Women's Alliance Fund	2,603	<i>Woman's Alliance President</i>
	ENDOWMENTS		<i>Pipes Lec Chair / Board of Dir</i>
30	Pipes Lecture Endowment	36,382	principal + unspent interest
31	Will Wright Pulpit Endowment	15,752	principle only
32	Total Endowments	52,134	
	LIABILITIES		
33	Payroll liabilities	-902	health insurance premiums withheld
34	Net Income/Deficit		\$63,864 deficit from Savings line 8
35	TOTAL Equity + Liabilities	1,395,770	

Approved Budget 2009-2010

line		Approved 2009-2010	Special Item	NOTES
	Income			
1	Facility Rental	25,000		2008 rate
2	Fundraising	26,375		D4\$, scrip, Art Wall
3	Invest Earnings	7,500		\$500,000 at 1.5%
4	Non-pledge Contributions	29,450		loose offerings, special gifts
5	Pledge Receipts	340,200		canvas projection
6	Savings Allocated to Income	0		see deficit line 40
7	Total Income	428,525		
	Expense			
	SPIRITUAL LIFE (PROGRAM)			
	MINISTRY			
			13,930	Settled Minister Search Committee
8	Minister	100,000		\$72K Interim Min salary + housing
9	Ministerial support	6,625		Guest Speakers & Generous Cong 15%
10	Order of Service Assistant	2,600		off site (previous 50% Office Asst)
11	Adult RE	0		self sustaining with fees
	MUSIC DEPARTMENT			
12	Music Director Salary	22,293		2008 rate
13	Organist Salary	18,904		2008 rate
14	Choir Section Leader	3,981		one Choir Section Leader
15	Guest Musicians	1,275		25% 2008 rate
16	Substitute Keyboard Player	1,200		\$100 per month
17	Piano Maintenance	460		four tunings per year
	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION			
18	Director Religious Education	57,505		expense account at 50%
19	Preschool Teacher	2,880		2008 rate
20	Child Care Employees	3,500		reduced rate
21	RE Supplies	5,325		75% of 2008 rate
	SUSTAINING PROGRAMS			
22	Board of Directors	300		2008 rate
23	UUA + PSWD dues	15,132		50% Fair Share rate
24	Faith in Action	0		self sustaining with donations
25	Membership & Leadership	2,000		coffee/newcomer events/etc.
26	Stewardship	800		Celebration Sunday
27	Total Program Expense	244,780	13,930	
	ADMINISTRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE			
28	Director of Administration	74,120		expense account at 50%
29	Finance Assistant	35,937		cut hours to 35 per week
30	Office sup/copier/phone/cmptr/etc	22,075		includes background checks
31	Credit Card Chg (Bank Service Chg)	1,500		2008 rate
32	Payroll Expenses	18,966		established rates
33	Equipment & Maintenance	4,800		cut rates
34	Facility: ins/utilities/gardener/etc.	44,594		eliminate bottled water
35	Maintenance Personnel	22,405		reduced hours
36	Total Infrastructure Expense	224,397		
37	Sub Total Expenses	469,177	13,930	
38	Total Expense	483,107		regular + special expenses
39	Total Income	428,525		see line 7 above
40	Surplus/Deficit	-54,582		total income (ln 39) - tot expense (ln 38)

Stewardship Committee Phillip Bonacich, Chair

This year's Stewardship campaign had to live with the economic realities of declining income and savings, and increasing unemployment among our members. We made the increased importance of belonging to a supportive community in times of crisis a major theme in the campaign. Attempts were made to contact all members and friends by telephone, preferably, or by e-mail. Those who were particularly active included Dennis Haskin, Carlos Morales, Melinda Ewen, and Patricia Wright. Others who participated included: Gary Hill, Robin Lowney-Lankton, Sandra Trutt, Katrina Thompson, Patrick Meighan, Ofelia Lachtman, Beth Rendeiro, Pamela Briggs, Len Adler, John Raiford, and Phyllis Kory.

Dining for Dollars Melanie Sharp, Chair

Melanie Sharp took over as Chair of Dining for Dollars after Helen Burn's death last year. Sue Miller, Natalie Kahn, Geri Lambson and Nels Hanson all agreed to continue on the committee, and three new people joined: Beverly Alison, Rebecca Crawford, and Carol Agate. The team took as a challenge to raise the same amount that had been raised last year (\$25,000), even knowing that the economy would likely cause some lower bids. So we expanded the calling list to include ALL members and friends listed in the church database. We raised about \$24,000 from the 78 events auctioned during the last 2 Sundays in February. Nels Hanson again supported the process by maintaining and improving the Access database used for tracking events and bidders, creating invoices and D4\$ tickets.

Scrip Program Dennis Haskin

Scrip is a program which allows UCCSM to raise money by receiving a rebate on money spent by members who shop at Albertsons, Ralph's and Vons grocery stores. The Scrip program was reorganized this year. The program is now set up and in place at UCCSM. In order for the Church to receive funds, participants must register their grocery cards with the UCCSM accounts. This can be done by contacting the Church office. It is our hope that this type of earning funds will expand into other areas next year.

MINISTRY SUPPORT Care-Net Charles Haskell

At the urging of the Board of Directors, the Caring Network (Care-Net) was established in the spring of 2009 to better meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our church members. Examples of such needs include church members with suicidal thoughts, chronic illness, family crises, and other emotionally charged issues. Care-net aspires to become a new core function of the church. Like the two year effort to become a Welcoming Congregation, led by Interweave, and the multi-year effort to integrate social action into the overall life of the church, resulting in the creation of the Faith in Action Commission, Care-Net will involve us all. Care-Net has started with a small coordinating group (the Rev. Roberta Haskin, Beverly Alison, Christine Haskell and Charles Haskell) and an expanding network of volunteers to help our church community. Founding volunteers include Helen Brown, Anne MacQueen, Lyn Armondo, Phil Bonacich, John Raiford, Joan Reighley, Lee Voegtlen, Judy Federick, and Marsha Smith. We welcome calls or a

signed or unsigned note placed in the Care-Net mailbox in the church office about the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our members. Such calls and notes are considered confidential communications unless the individuals involved waive their right to privacy and authorize wider sharing of their sorrows and needs.

Interim Transition Team Robin Lowney-Lankton

The Transition Team met monthly with Rev. Roberta Haskin and was responsible for helping orient her to the congregation. We provided regular updates on the feelings of the congregation including the congregation's stages of grief over Judith's departure and the shift toward readiness to search for a new settled minister.

Roberta shared several evaluation tools with the Transition Team. She introduced us to the UUA specified congregational tasks for the interim year and concepts about different types of ministry depending on the congregation's size. The meetings were mutually beneficial. The Transition Team had the opportunity to get to know Roberta and appreciated hearing her insights about our church. Roberta found the meetings helpful and commented that they were useful in articulating the congregation's feelings. Transition Team members : Ofelia Lachtman, Robin Lowney-Lankton, Warren Mathews, Peter Van Den Beemt, and Linda van Ligten.

Pulpit Committee Vilma Ortiz, Chair

Mission. The mission of the Pulpit Committee is to maintain 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 Interim Minister Roberta Haskin, who was with us between September 2008 and June 2009. We will continue to play this role for Interim Minister Stephen Furrer, who will join us in September.

Guest Speakers. The Pulpit Committee finds speakers and pulpit hosts 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 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 hosts when we have a guest preacher. 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. Committee members include Sue Bickford, Vilma Ortiz, Kathy Cook, Tom Hamilton, Judith Martin-Straw, and Rima Synder. The committee meets monthly between September and June.

Interim Minister Search Committee Bronwen Jones, Chair

The Interim Task Force was responsible for recommending a candidate for Interim Minister to the board for approval. The committee unanimously selected Rev. Stephen Furrer who was unanimously approved by the board. Stephen will be coming to Santa Monica, beginning his ministry with us on September 1st, moving here from Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he was settled minister for 8 years. Stephen will continue to help guide us through this time of transition as we search for a new settled minister.

Stephen has been a minister for 28 years and this will be his fourth engagement as an interim. He is a 6th generation UU and is known for his excellence in pastoral care, thoughtful sermons, and his ability to help a congregation find new ways to worship together. We feel that he will serve us very well.

Members of the Interim Task Force were Beverly Alison, Kathy Cook, Bronwen Jones Victor Paddock and Beth Rendeiro.

Settled Minister Search Committee Phil Bonacich & Cynthia Cottam, co-chairs

The Search Committee's task is to evaluate ministerial candidates and select one to present for congregational approval by April 2010. The Committee was elected by the congregation on March 8, 2009 and is composed of nine members: Phil Bonacich, Karen Canady, Cynthia Cottam, Rebecca Crawford, Ian Dodd, Pat Gomez, Karl Lisovsky, Katie Malich and Jackie Weber. The Committee held a day-long workshop with our Ministerial Search Representative from the District, Bets Wienecke on April 4. We assigned ourselves areas of responsibility and have since established a timeline for task completion. We are currently in an information gathering phase, seeking to understand the character of our congregation and its needs for the future. We are conducting interviews, creating a survey, scheduling cottage meetings, contacting church committees, planning a Sunday service, writing newsletter articles and posting bulletins. We are working on a document, the Congregational Record, which will be unveiled to candidates online in October. We will also create a packet describing our congregation in detail to share with ministerial candidates.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION Director of Religious Education Catherine Farmer Loya

In this year of transition our RE program has been beacon of quality and strength, and I am very grateful for the dedication of the more than 60 member volunteers this year.

The nature of the DRE position necessitates an overlapping of many tasks with various people in our congregation to create and run our RE program, and to provide leadership in our community. Some of the items listed below were accomplished exclusively by the DRE and others were done in cooperation with the RE Visioning Task Force or other church/district groups.

Classroom: The first, second and third Sundays of the month are Classroom Sundays for all ages. At each service we offer Preschool, Kindergarten-2nd (Spirit Play), 3rd-5th (Tapestry of Faith), 6th-7th (Neighboring Faiths) classes, and our YRUU program for 9th-12th. Our 8th grade Coming of Age program meets during the 9:00 service only. Overall, our classes have gone very well this year, thanks to the many dedicated volunteers serving as teachers in our program. Of particular note is the strength of our preschool classes, thanks to the leadership of our preschool RE staff Wendy Wegner. This was

the first full year that Wendy has been with us, and her consistent, skilled leadership has made a marked difference in the quality as well as the size of our preschool program. We also have successfully continued the Spirit Play lesson format for our Kindergarten-2nd classes, and will be moving into a three-year theme rotation for this age level, along with the 3rd-5th class, starting in the fall. Our 6th-7th Neighboring Faith classes at 9:00 & 11:00 were combined mid-year due to low enrollment at 11:00.

Social Justice: This year, the elementary RE program engaged in special Social Justice projects on the fourth Sunday of most months. Highlights of the year were our donation drive for Common Ground in November and our trip to Zuma Canyon in Malibu to help plant native species as part of the Park Service's revegetation effort.

Coming of Age: This year's COA program was a great success, with eleven 8th grade participants who worked hard all year on exploring their personal faith within the context of our UU faith, and developing their credo statements to share with us in a Sunday service of their own creation on May 17th. The program's success is due to the dedication of our COA leaders Ian Dodd, Karl Lisovsky, Melissa Weaver and Rob Briner.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU): This year was the fourth year that we have offered Senior High programming at 9:00 and 11:00. A highlight of the year was the YRUU service in March, led by 12 of our fabulous youth. While the program has been successful in many ways, largely thanks to the extraordinary dedication of our youth advisors Chris Brown, Liza Cranis, Sarah Gaillot, Gretchen Goetz and Karen Patch, we have found that holding two YRUU groups has made it difficult for the youth to form a common identity, and with feedback from youth, parents and advisors we have decided to return to a single YRUU group for the 09-10 year, which will meet at 9 or 11 on alternating Sundays.

Our Whole Lives (OWL): OWL is a very important element of our educational ministry to children and youth, and I am very proud that we are a congregation that offers all five levels of the Our Whole Lives lifespan sexuality education program! This is thanks to the long-term dedication and organization of our OWL coordinator, Beth Rendeiro. This year, we offered Jr. High (8th-9th) OWL with 20 participants, and Sr. High (10th-12th) OWL with 9 participants. Both of these classes call for a special commitment of time from teachers, students and their families. Next year, we will offer the K-1st and 5th-6th OWL classes.

Administration and Planning: Included registering and tracking enrollment and attendance of children and youth, managing the RE budget, coordinating supplies for Sundays, researching and making equipment purchases for the program, etc. Also included developing the RE Visioning process and presenting plans for RE program and volunteer structure, planning and leading Teacher Training, RE recruitment, summer RE program, and next year's RE program beginning in the fall, as well as researching and preparing curricula and event resources for our programs.

District/Denominational Activities and Professional Growth: I make a commitment to continuing professional growth and development and to represent our church and our faith at various conferences and denominational affairs.

The Religious Exploration Program is strong, growing and exciting, thanks to many dedicated volunteers who seek to model and pass on our UU principles and values to our children and youth. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve UCCSM as your DRE and look forward to many wonderful years to come.

RE Visioning Task Force Submitted by Catherine Loya

The 2008-2009 church year was a transitional year in the RE program. Rather than continuing the old RE Council structure, members of the former Council convened a Task Force to conduct a church-wide RE visioning process, which culminated this spring in the development of a new plan for the elementary RE classes, affirmation of the programs currently being offered at other levels, and a new volunteer structure to support the program vision articulated by members of the congregation during the visioning process.

The new elements of the RE program and volunteer structure are: "UU Pillars" Theme Rotation for K-2nd & 3rd-5th. This consists of a 3-year theme cycle for the program, with three trimesters each year. 1: UU Principles; Faith in Action; Jewish & Christian Heritage 2: UU Principles; World Religions & Spiritual Practice; UU History 3: UU Principles; Faith in Action; World Religions & Spiritual Practice

New Volunteer Structure – This includes a new structure for an RE Committee, which will be made up of six members serving for two-year terms, three members rotating on/off each year. Also, instead of subcommittees with unending terms of service, the Committee will now form Working Groups to accomplish specific tasks which will dissolve once the task is completed (such as Spirit Play Story Planning, UU Pals, Easter Program Planning, etc.) And another new volunteer opportunity is to serve as a Room Parent for an RE classroom. Each class will have a Room Parent, drawn from the parents of children in that class, who will help coordinate occasional social events for the class, publicize upcoming class projects or events, and do outreach to welcome new families whose children visit that class.

Members of the RE Visioning Task Force were Chris Brown, Karen Patch, Beth Rendeiro, Linda Van Ligten, and Jacki Weber. The new RE Committee will convene in June 2009.

Adult Programs Emmy Cresciman & Leon Henderson MacLennan, Co-chairs

Adult Programs Committee has made great strides this past year, having created, led, and collaborated on numerous workshops and educational programs including Resacralizing the Constricted Consciousness of Our Materialistic Age (Ernie Pipes), Socially Responsible Investing (Joe Engleman), Building Your Own Theology (Emmy Cresciman & Catherine Farmer Loya), Parenting Workshops (Kerry Thorne), Meditation Classes (Bill Blake), and Soul Work (Nicole & Leon Henderson-MacLennan) just to mention a few.

Recently, at "What's Happening Sunday," the Committee had a chance to showcase its bulletin board which is fast becoming a well-known mechanism for publicizing educational, inspirational, and spiritual programming for adults. Sign-ups now seamlessly flow from people taking a "universal registration" sheet from the board and turning it in to the office. We are encouraged to have received several comments confirming members' raised awareness of programming options. Adult Programs Committee looks forward to continually upgrading its processes and offerings designed to sustain, enhance, and nurture our church family and the greater community to which it belongs.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Steve Wight, Director of Music

As most of you know, the 2009 – 2010 budget contains sweeping cuts to the music program. These cuts have been necessitated by the economic collapse that has hit the state, the country, the world, and, of course, the church. There is no question that the cuts are necessary. Their impact will be substantial, and will greatly affect the quality and amount of music we can deliver.

The Guest Musician budget has been cut by 75%. That means, essentially, that we are limited to having guest musicians once per month rather than every Sunday. This will also have an impact on special programs and services such as Christmas Eve and the choir's Dining for Dollars event. The Soprano and Alto Section Leader positions have also been eliminated, and this will greatly affect the choir's sound and ability to learn music quickly.

I'm reporting these things in order to brace everyone for the inevitable decline in the level of music that can reasonably be expected given the budget constraints. Thankfully, we still have Louis Durra to provide the wide range of high quality music across a range of styles that is so integral to our church experience.

Louis and I will do everything possible to keep the level of music making as high as possible, but we are entering a time when we'll all need a certain amount of patience coupled with lowered expectations as we deal with the current budget crises. Hopefully the situation is a temporary one. In the meantime, I ask everyone to understand that we will do our best with a difficult situation

Music Committee

Bronwen Jones & Rima Snyder, Co-Chairs

This season has been a busy and productive one for the music committee. The theme for this year's annual choir Dining for Dollars concert was "Folk Music" and featured a rich selection of songs from American and international folk traditions. Steve Wight did a great job of arranging tunes and putting together the program, and the choir members worked hard to make the evening a success. Many church members had positive comments about the music. In addition the choir performed twice at the early service, giving the members who usually attend then a chance to hear them sing.

The Music Committee coordinated the music for the Day of the Dead service, the Winter Pageant, Coming of Age Sunday and RE Sunday. The music was performed by our congregants, spanning the generations, and sharing a broad range of musical styles.

Louis Durra played three concerts with his trio, and there were some new faces in the audience thanks to word of mouth and an energetic publicity campaign. Steve Wight gave two free evening presentations about the use of color in music, and the role of the conductor in the orchestra.

Victor Wylie is starting a new tradition with his "musical mixer" gatherings. These are informal get-togethers where musicians can play for each other, socialize and have a good time. The first event was a popular music and jazz evening and the next will focus on classical music. In addition there were two Saturday Spotlights, a slightly more organized event where church members and friends perform music and present original writing.

Due to the budget shortfall the choir will not be able to retain the paid section leaders that have given us the benefit of their talent and generosity. We will miss them! There is funding available for one position which Steve will be auditioning for this summer or fall.

FAITH IN ACTION
Faith in Action Commission
Submitted by Cathie Gentile, Chair

Members include: Christine Haskell, Charles Haskell, Pat McGuire, Sandra Trutt, Leslie Reuter, Diana Spears, Marguerite Spears, Lyn Armondo, Eleanor Eagan, Judy Federick, Phyllis Gabriel, Rick Rhoads, Peggy Rhoads, Denise Helton, Janet Goodwin, Liza Cranis, Marge Zifferblatt, Ellen Stuart, and Leonard Harris.

The 8th Annual Congregational Issues Election was held on September 21, 2008. The Multi-Racial Development Committee (MRDC) was added to the Faith In Action Commission “umbrella” with Edna Bonacich as chair and approximately 20 members. New Issue nominations approved: New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) along with CLUE; “Can Kids Make a Better World?” headed by Leonard Harris. No follow up activities for the NSM actually took place. The CLUE organizer, Moises Escalante, was assigned to another campaign in the Inland Empire.

FIAC members, Rev. Roberta Haskin and Dennis Haskin attended the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition’s Success Breakfast at the Fairmont Hotel. Marge Zifferblatt and Charles Haskell continue as the FIAC liaisons. Charles also takes all of the photographs of the individuals being honored by the various agencies.

Also in September, guest speaker, Carol Watson, spoke to a small group at church on her trip to Iran as a member of Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR).

In October, a documentary on human trafficking in Nepal and India, “The Day My God Died” was shown presented by Friends of Maiti Nepal. Maiti Nepal is a rehab center in Kathmandu for rescued women and girls who were the victims of sex trafficking.

Also in October, FIAC Chair and MRDC member Nora Hamilton attended the UUSC & Interfaith Council United for Justice & Peace (ICUJP) 25th Annual Encuentro @ Throop Church on immigration and U.S. Policy in Latin America.

In December, Rev. Roberta Haskin hosted a vigil with CLUE for nurses at St. John’s Hospital seeking union representation by California Nurses Association. FIAC Chair participated in the action.

The FIA Town Hall meeting took place on Jan. 11, 2009. The Green Sanctuary Committee presented their “visioning report” for the church. Discussion of the draft statement of conscience on Peacemaking from the UUA Commission on Social Witness: a “NO” vote by the majority. Discussion and vote on a draft letter to President-Election Obama by Rick Rhoads for the Peace & Civil Liberties Committee.

Also in January, members of the MRDC contacted the minister of Calvary Baptist Church here in Santa Monica and attended a MLK Day service at Calvary Baptist. There has been a lot of outreach by this Committee and this by no means does justice to all of their accomplishments. A separate report is given on the next page.

Members of FUUSion, the young adult group, organized the MLK dinner at Turning Point Transitional Housing.

UU 101: FIAC Chair participated in a new course sponsored by Membership & Leadership Committee: “for people who are interested in membership or simply want to get to know our values, principles, and community a bit better.”

On March 21, Peace & Civil Liberties members organized by Rick and Peggy Rhoads participated in the March and Rally Against the

Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in Los Angeles.

In April, members of the MRDC hosted a Passover Seder at Edna & Phil Bonacich’s house. Rev. Roberta Haskin and Dennis Haskin attended. MRDC is planning to make this an annual event.

Also in April, FIAC chair and Peace and Civil Liberties member, Diana Spears, signed and sent a letter to Senator Carl Levin, Attorney General Eric Holder and copy to President Obama to “proceed with all matter of inquiry to investigate the interrogations polices used after 9-11.”

On May 1, members of Peace & Civil Liberties participated in the March for Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles.

On May 3, FIAC chair and Peace & Civil Liberties members attended a conference @ USC, “Afghanistan: Obama’s Iraq?” hosted by ICUJP & USC’s Office of Religious Life. Rick Rhoads co-led a workshop on “Growing the Anti-War Movement in our Faith Communities & Workplaces.” Special recognition should be noted to Diana Spears, Rick and Peggy Rhoads for their work with Peace & Civil Liberties.

FIAC’s ongoing activities: providing meals the fourth Saturday of every month at Step Up On Second. Volunteers include: Edwin Hession, Rhonda Peacock, Janet Goodwin, Angela Lisovsky, Bob Deitz, Victor Wylie, Kim Baldrige and Jennifer Westbay. Rhonda Peacock is currently coordinating dinners along with Janet. FIAC wishes to salute Edwin Hession’s dedicated service to Step Up!

On the first Sunday of the month, Denise Helton faithfully collects donations for Daybreak Shelter. Donations are down dramatically for Daybreak. Efforts are underway to bring more attention to Daybreak’s needs. Gerrie Lambson also collects items for Daybreak in Forbes Hall every Sunday.

FIAC member Leonard Harris has had some activities with his “Youth Initiated Partnerships International” group, but no information about this group is available at this time. Also, FIAC member Ron Francis has not attended any recent meetings nor held any activities related to his proposed Human Rights Century Project. It is assumed that he has resigned from the Commission.

FIAC chair Cathie Gentile has served three years and is stepping down. Charles Haskell has graciously offered to serve as interim chair until a new chair is identified.

Green Sanctuary Committee
Submitted by Sandra Trutt & Leslie Reuter, co-chairs

The Green Sanctuary Committee met monthly from July 2008 to March 2009. We worked on and nearly completed the 12 activities on our Action Plan to become a Green Sanctuary Church with UUA. We have stopped meeting for a while taking a break and hoping to find new leadership in the future. We have one more project to do to finish our plan. When all requirements have been satisfied, we will send in our paperwork to Robin Nelson who heads the Green Sanctuary part of the UU Association.

A copy of our Action Plan projects noting which are completed and the one we are still working on is posted on the bulletin board in Forbes Hall.

Interweave Judy Federick, Chair

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

Our activities in the past year included the following:

On Sunday, June 8, 2008, group of 35 from UUSM marched again in the annual Gay Pride Parade. We wore our distinctive rainbow variety of T-shirts, proclaiming "Love, Equality, Pride" on the front and "Unitarian Universalists/Civil Marriage Is a Civil Right" on the back.

As part of our outreach to at-risk GLBT youth, we continued this year to focus our fund raising-efforts on the homeless youth services program of Common Ground, the Westside HIV Community Center. Because of Gerylambson's dedication in staffing a table every Sunday after service, we were able again to ask our church community for donations of clothes, books and art supplies, and travel-size toiletries for the youth. The church further demonstrated its enthusiasm by designating Common Ground Westside as the beneficiary of the Generous Congregation collection twice during the year.

Our Annual All-Church Interweave Picnic, co-hosted with the Women's Alliance, was held August 10th with proceeds again going to Common Ground Westside.

On October 12th, we once again hosted the Coming Out Day Service. In a sermon titled, "Playing the Hand You're Dealt", our guest speaker, Arnold Pomerantz, traced his journey as a gay man from invisibility and shame to self-respect and social consciousness. Rob Briner was pulpit host.

UCCSM No on Prop. 8 Activities --Numerous UCCSM congregants supported marriage equality by participating in No on Proposition 8 activities between July and November 2008. Prop. 8 was a Nov. 4 California ballot initiative amending the state constitution to bar marriages for same sex couples.

A number of members, including Patrick Meighan, Carlos Morales, Kit Shaw, Geri Lambson, Kathy Cook, Jeff Greenman, Lloyd Drum, Katie Malich, and Bronwen Jones, hit the streets of West Hollywood, Santa Monica, and Culver City on a regular basis asking people to volunteer at campaign phone banks.

UCCSM hosted the first weekly campaign phone bank on the Westside beginning in late August. The initial phone bank drew about 12 volunteers. By the last phone bank before the election, the number of volunteers grew to 60 and 4,585 dials were made. Also, \$1,500 was donated by the volunteers themselves to the campaign that evening. UU volunteers phone banked at each session and fed the volunteers great dinners!

On Sept. 7, about 12 UUs attended the training *Speaking From the Heart for Equality*, a 3-hour faith-centered message development training on marriage equality presented by Vivien Hao, director of Communications and Community Resources at the UU Legislative Ministry, California (UULM-CA).

Our interim minister, the Rev. Roberta Haskin phone banked against Prop. 8 on Oct. 16 as part of a special clergy effort organized by California Faith for Equality.

Bronwen Jones organized a forum for students at Santa Monica High School on Oct. 29 and did significant outreach to other faith communities on the Westside regarding No on Prop. 8 activities.

UCCSM organized No on Prop. 8 visibility actions Sept. 20 and Oct. 19 at the corner of Ocean and Colorado. About 32 people attended Oct. 19, mainly our YRUUs, but also a few students from the Santa Monica and Malibu high schools and a few community people. On Nov. 2, our teenagers, on their own initiative, rallied again in Santa Monica.

Our UU's pulled through, once again, for the Multi-Faith Celebration that occurred Nov. 1. The very ornate St. John's Episcopalian Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles was graced with about 60 clergy of many faiths who arrived in a processional that began the service - Catholic, Mormon, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Christian and UU. Bronwen Jones had the Beatles' "Imagine" running through her head the whole time. The following UUs also participated: Kathy Cook, Michael Eselun, Jeff Greenman, Peggy Kharraz, Katie Malich, Melissa Parkerton, and Kit Shaw and her daughter, Taylor.

Michael Young and Jim Weinberg helped staff our No on Prop. 8 table after services.

UCCSM congregants also made generous financial donations to the campaign, provided housing for two campaign workers from other areas of the country, posted yard/window signs, donated cell phones, and spoke to family/friends/neighbors about the importance of defeating Prop. 8.

Although Prop. 8 passed in November 2008 and was upheld by the California Supreme Court May 26, 2009, we thank the UCCSM community for their strong support of marriage equality.

Multiracial Development Committee Edna Bonacich, Chair

This year we made an overture to Calvary Baptist Church, a largely African American church near us. We held a dinner party with some members of their congregation, including the minister. Along with one of our RE classes, we attended a Martin Luther King Day march and celebration at Calvary Baptist, in which Temple Beth Shalom also participated. We hope to make this an annual, inter-congregational event.

We took responsibility for the Thanksgiving celebration again this year, and led the Kwanzaa service—a practice we plan to repeat. We are also planning a service on The Dream Act, which addresses the severe problems faced by undocumented immigrant students.

We held a successful seder on Passover, which combined the Jewish tradition with struggles against slavery now and in the past. We plan to organize more seders next year, as part of the Dining for Dollars program.

Leon and Nicole Henderson-McLellan led another reading group on the book "Soul Work," which deals with Unitarians and the issue of race.

Our committee grew in numbers this year, though some members have also dropped out. We seem to have a solid core of committee members who are dedicated to this issue.

We continue to be interested in justice for immigrants and seeking ways to have the congregation develop support for the issue.

Finally, we plan on developing a "diversity Sunday" proposal in which congregants are asked to bring friends of color to the service.

Peace & Civil Liberties Committee Submitted by Diana Spears

On September 27, 2008 we showed the film, "Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change," for which church member Bronwen Jones had received a regional Emmy nomination. Director Jaysari Hart answered questions. We also attempted to get the congregation on record in support of peacemaking, however, we failed to do so as our membership was fragmented during the heated Presidential campaign. The Committee did send two letters to the new Administration: in January 2009 to Obama regarding not committing more troops to Afghanistan, with support of our Interim Minister, Rev. Roberta Haskin and Committee Chairs Sandra Trutt (Green) and Diana Spears (P&CL); and in May to Attorney General Holder asking for investigation of torture policies of the Bush Administration, with support of Cathie Gentile, FIA, Chair, Diana Spears, P&CL and Rev. Roberta Haskin.

We began to reconstitute as a group in February of this year as Rick Rhoads took on the leadership. Rick led a petition signing campaign calling for immediate withdrawal from both Iraq and Afghanistan which was submitted in late January with 73 signatures to Obama. He spearheaded the representation of our church at three events: the March Peace Rally (on the 6th anniversary of the Iraq War); the May Day Immigrant March; and a May 3rd Conference on Afghanistan sponsored by Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace with 7 of our P&CL Committee members in attendance and with Rick Rhoads co-leading one of the workshops. The Conference was reported in the June newsletter with our members in attendance sharing their perspectives of the various workshops.

Monthly meetings have resumed and a film, "Capitalism Hits the Fan" will be shown on June 17 by committee member Roberta Frye. Membership has grown and now includes: Carol Allen, Joan Verdon, Wendi Gladstone, Sharon Hart, Nora Hamilton, Deborah Herman, Sharon David, Barbara Gibbs, Cathie, Gentile, Lloyd Drum, Diana Spears, Roberta Frye, and Rick and Peggy Rhoads. Respectfully submitted by Diana Spears, June 2009.

UU United Nations Program Eleanor Eagan, Envoy

One of the most interesting things the UU-UNO Envoy is frequently asked to do is suggest or provide speakers for annual UN Sunday and December 10 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) celebrations. In 2008 Bruce Knotts, new Executive Director of our UU-UN Office in New York, was in the area and available in December. He spoke at length of the many, incredibly diverse humanitarian projects worldwide in which our national office is engaged. Knotts and Charlie Clements, President of the UUSC, work collaboratively on many projects. Together the two organizations are the active voice of the UUA in foreign affairs. Knotts, a native Californian, was educated and taught school here before entering the field of foreign affairs and diplomacy where he enjoyed a long and distinguished career.

One of the most personally rewarding activities the last 4 years has been providing modest funding to send students and an adult advisor to attend the UU-UNO Annual Spring Intergenerational Seminar in New York. In '08 Rachel Dodd, Lucie Lacombe, Elizabeth Saldo, and Alyssa Wood accompanied by adult advisor, Liza Cranis, attended the "Picking up the Pieces: Building a Culture of Peace" Seminar. This year no students were able to be away from school during the time of the seminar and our adult advisor was unavailable. The unused Eagan Fund money for '09 will

remain intact, available for the 2010 seminar entitled "Climate Change". New scientific information available, almost daily, about global warming plus increasing worldwide conference and treaty activity on climate change is generating much interest in attending the 2010 Seminar.

Attendance at the seminar has greatly increased in the 4 years our R.E. youth have been involved. (I attended the first intergenerational seminar 10 years ago: less than 40 youth and adults were there.) Currently several hundred attend. The seminar has outgrown its overnight sleeping bag venue at the hospitable All Souls Church. In 2010 the Fourth Universalist Church on Central Park West will provide additional sleeping bag space along with All Souls nearby.

Long awaited news of growth and restructuring of our national office at 777 UN Plaza will positively affect our local youth and the congregation as a whole in many ways. Bruce Knotts has been able to expand foreign outreach in many ways and get access to new funds. A Veatch grant provides funds for a full-time Envoy Coordinator, Holly Sarkissian, who has already added 40 new envoys. The idea of a single envoy for a congregation is being replaced by a Envoy Committee of 3-5 people drawn from the congregation as a whole as well as the R.E. Department. I will be in touch with Holly, currently out of the country, on how to provide new leadership, engaging all who want to be involved in this necessary, worthy and exciting work. I have thoroughly enjoyed this work: I need time to work on new equally interesting and productive projects.

The current 8-page UU-UNO Newsletter is now online in full color. Check it out; see current officers and staff. See p. 5 for a bit of UUCSSM!

MEMBERSHIP & LEADERSHIP Membership and Leadership Committee Pat Gomez, Chair

Committee Members:

Laurel Bleak (Membership Coordinator), Phil Bonacich (Stewardship), Sanna Egan, Judy Federick (Greeters), Barbara Gibbs, Pat Gomez (Chair), Gary Hill, Nancy Howell (Coffee Hosts) Robin Lowney-Lankton (fUUsion), Katie Malich (Greeters), Marsh Smith (Membership Coordinator), Katrina Thompson (Covenant Groups), Sandra Trutt (Green Committee), Ned Wright (Ushers).

The role of the Membership & Leadership committee is to continually develop programs to grow and sustain membership. To provide a nourishing, welcoming spiritual home for all who seek to share in the work and celebration of a liberal religious community,

Activities and Accomplishments:

A new M&L committee was formed at the beginning of the 2008 /2009 Church year as we said goodbye to our long time Minister Rev. Judith Meyer and prepared to welcome our Interim Minister. Leaders of the many groups that provide support and programs for the UUSM community along with ad hoc members were invited to join M&L. During the year representatives of Ask Me, Covenant Groups, Coffee Hosts, fUUsion, the Green Committee, Greeters, Ushers, Stewardship and Membership Coordinators participated in M & L meetings, planned and supported programs and activities.

Interim Minister Roberta Haskin participated and shared insights and experiences from other UU communities and Religious Education Director, Catherine Farmer Loya kept M&L informed of RE program news. Along with our new interim Minister, M&L gained

an experienced Membership Committee participant in Dennis Haskin. Dennis brought new ideas and perspectives and generously helped with all M&L programs and activities during the year.

Dennis introduced us to the STARS program and with help from Membership Coordinators Marsha Smith and Laurel Bleak trained more than 50 UUSM members and friends in the art of greeting and welcoming visitors, friends and fellow church members. First time visitor and transitional name tags was another suggestion brought to us by Dennis and successfully integrated into the Greeter program. The STARS program together with first time visitor and transitional name tags provided the tools and reminded each of us to notice visitors and extend a warm welcome to visitors, friends and members.

Building on the strong foundation created by Membership Coordinators, Marsha Smith and Laurel Bleak M&L formalized the programs designed to integrate new members into the life of the community (described in detail in the Membership Coordinator report). These include:

- Monthly Newcomer Orientation meetings, in which M&L members participated.
- The Newcomer Socials planned, supported and attended by M & L members along with members of the congregation who generously donated food and spent time getting to know potential members and friends.
- UU101 classes providing an overview of Unitarian Universalism along with specifics about UUSM provided by UUSM Leaders, Board Members and M&L members.
- New Member Recognition Services and Reception, with M&L members participating in the service and planning and coordinating the reception with help from many volunteers.

M&L coordinated, sponsored and supported three Courtyard Connections events. M & L members along with many volunteers participated in planning, set-up, serving and clean-up of these events. Members and friends enjoyed wonderful lunches generously created and prepared by Julie Nyquist and volunteers. FUUSion members generously sponsored the Spring Brunch and all three events were well attended.

M&L coordinated event planning, space and resources with both the Adult Program Committee and Faith in Action Committee.

The goals for the coming church year are:

- Continue to support the programs described above,
- Complete the creation of a Member & Leadership manual
- Focus on the Leadership aspect of M&L

A sincere thank you:

To Marsha Smith and Laurel Bleak for your dedication and continued hard work on behalf of UUSM.

To Judy Federick and Katie Malich and all the volunteers who do a great job Greeting visitors, friends and members each Sunday.

To Robin Lowney-Lankton for the great work you do with fUUSion. One of the Newcomer Socials was attended by more than 30 visitors, most of them members or friends of fUUSion. I am pleased and impressed with the number of young adults interested in UUSM and eager to participate.

To Nancy Howell for the great job coordinating the Coffee Hosts and to the volunteers who make sure we have our coffee following both services each Sunday

To Ned Wright for leading the Usher program and to all the Ushers for taking on this important task.

To Barbara Gibbs who was a Friend of UUSM when she joined the M & L committee and is now a Member and Gary Hill a returning member who also joined M & L just after rejoining UUSM.

To Julie Nyquist for wonderful Courtyard Connection Events.

To Dennis Haskin for all that you have shared with us this year and for helping us to be the warm, welcoming community we knew we could be.

To Melinda Ewen and Holly Nguyen for your help and support.

To Tom Ahearn for your help setting up our events.

And to the many volunteers who joined M & L members at the Newcomer socials, bringing food and drink and good company to greet our guests; and the volunteers who helped with Courtyard connections events and other M & L sponsored events.

Membership Coordinator Marsha Smith.

As part of the Membership and Leadership Committee, the membership coordinator is responsible for developing and implementing the programs that support and sustain church membership. In the first year, 2007-2008, the focus was on building foundational membership programs including improving the visitor greeter program, streamlining the photo directory and the “becoming a member” processes, and developing a Church Windows database capability for outreach. In the second year the focus was on implementing membership programs to support potential members in making their decision to become a member and then to sustain them once they have made that decision. A membership series was developed. The series took the best of existing programs, including the Newcomer Orientation and Newcomer Social and integrated them within two new programs, UU101 and the New Member Recognition Service and Reception. In essence this series allows us greater opportunity to engage our community in friendship and if appropriate and wanted, membership. It also provides increased opportunity for people to make connections to others within our community.

The Newcomer Orientation is offered on the first Sunday of each month. It provides an informal question and answer format. Participants are given invitations to both the Newcomer Social and UU101. The Newcomer Social is an informal “wine and cheese” party with focus on getting to know one another. The UU101 classes provide visitors with an overview of the Unitarian Universalist Church, its principles and values, as portrayed through the activities and programs of our Santa Monica Church. The class also focuses on individual spiritual journeys. The Newcomer Social and UU101 are offered in the Fall and Spring, The final program, offered three times a year, is a celebration of membership in a service and reception that introduces new members to our community.

The membership coordinator is also responsible for maintaining and reporting membership numbers. At the start of the 2008-2009 year there were 415 members, which decreased to 388 by the beginning of the 2009 year. As of June 2009 there are currently 400 members.

Finally, with the foundational work now done in the last two years, a priority this year and into next is to begin the critically important work of sustaining members by helping to connect them to and engage them in all the activities and events that our church and community has to offer.

Coffee Hour Committee Nancy Howell, Coordinator

The coffee committee volunteers have enjoyed serving coffee, tea and cookies to the congregation after each church service. With the help of the Green Committee, 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.

As coordinator, I would like to express my appreciation for a great group of dedicated people on this committee. They are as follows: Nels Hanson, Robert Kory, Dan Nannini, Sheila Bjornlie, Leah Moore, Patrick Meighan, Lindsay Pinkham, Peggy Durst, Amy Lacombe, Gerrie Lambson, Pam Teplitz, Nancy Howell, Katie Malich, Peggy Rhoads, Lisa Cahill, Sanna Egan, Cherene Unrau, Resa Foreman, Kate Glaspey, and Sylvia Young. Our committee also 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 even with the probable absence of a kitchen due to the construction of Forbes Hall.

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

The Thanksgiving Feast was held on Saturday night, November 22, 2009. The sanctuary furniture was rearranged and tables were added to create a family dinner atmosphere. Many volunteers helped to make this year's feast a success with several people providing oversight and coordination in specific areas. Special thanks goes to Melanie Sharp for overseeing the kitchen and organizing the kitchen helpers, Pat Gomez and Carol Ring for buying supplies, designing the table decorations and overseeing setting the tables, Ned Wright for Coordinating the ushers, Patricia Wright and Sue and Jerry Moore for hosting the social hour before the meal, Karen Patch and Chris Brown for recruiting and coordinating the YRUU valets, Nancy and Glen Howell for purchasing the table wine and coordinated opening wine and distributing to the tables, Vilma Ortiz and Edna Bonacich for planning and organizing the program and Hildreth Simmons for coordinating the recycling crew. This event would not have been possible without everyone of you who attended, brought food and volunteered your time in one of many ways including set up, cooking turkeys, being a food valet, serving and cleaning up. Thank you to all.

ADMINISTRATION

Report of the Director of Administration Melinda Ewen

This was the first "interim year" following the retirement of Rev. Judith Meyer. Under the guidance of Rev. Roberta Haskin we started on our path to the future, claiming the congregational privileges and responsibilities inherent in our self governing polity. This was conducted in the wider environmental conditions of the historic election of Barack Obama as President of the United States, and significant downturns in both global and California economies causing job loss for many of our members as well as economic reversals for most.

Highlights of this year included:

- Landscaping the Cottage grounds, including construction of a new courtyard multi-use space between the buildings
- Completion of a long awaited revision to our Employee Manual, containing policies and procedures for paid staff
- Welcoming Tom Ahern as Sunday and Special Events Sexton
- Staffing cuts for all departments as a result of the February budget revision to deal with our decreased income
- 388 members were reported to UUA as our official membership, from which there are 284 pledging units. Average Sunday service attendance is 235 (two services combined) and RE enrollment 116
- \$50,000 grant was awarded to our building fund by the UU Spirit Level Foundation of San Diego

Critical to all these successes were the efforts of many, many volunteers, who were central in implementing these and other tasks. Their names would more than fill the pages of this Annual Report, and rather than miss someone, I'll express a sincere thank you to all!

Report of the Finance Assistant Holly Nguyen

I have witnessed many changes at our church. The Cottage changed from a pile of dirt into a beautiful, architecturally preserved craftsman style building. The serene, eco-friendly courtyards have contained our church members participating in the actions against Prop #8 to guarantee marriage equality for all; welcoming Rev. Roberta Haskin as our interim minister this year and Rev. Stephen Furrer next year; revamping the membership program with online advertising; updating the website to better reach the technologically driven generation, and observing the economic changes in the economy that have created hardships for many and resulted in a decrease of pledges that forced the church to reduce expenses in all areas. Change can bring out the best in all of us and test our courage, strength, community and togetherness. These changes affect our comfort zone and make us all reflect on our individual contribution whether it be monetary or time. It is all important to bring all members of this church together as a spiritual community that will affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Report of the OOS (Order of Service) Assistant Rima Snyder

I worked part time as office assistant for the UUCCSM office through December of 2008, coming in as needed, usually 2 to 4 days during the week and on alternate Sundays. In January I resigned because I needed more time to act as caregiver to my parents and since then I have filled in occasionally at the office. Due to the budget reduction the in-office position has been eliminated.

The previous job included general office work, keeping RE attendance, mailing lists and other documents up to date, and preparing the Order of Service each week. I now do some of this work from home, coordinating with the minister or pulpit host for the week as well as Holly and Catherine. I send out an email letter to all the volunteers each week to confirm their assignments and format a draft of the Order of Service that gets printed at the office on Friday. I coordinate with Steve, Louis and any guest musicians about the musical program for the service. Occasionally I come into the office to help with printing or other tasks.

Report of the Sunday & Special Events Sexton Thomas Ahern

I have been the weekend sexton since the middle of November. I am the sexton for our Sunday services and our weekend rentals, which include memorials, weddings, music recitals, and other special events.

My job is to do set up and break down for these events. This includes set up in the sanctuary – sound and lighting; Forbes Hall – tables and chairs, set up in the cottage, and janitorial duties for our whole campus for these events.

I have found many of these events very interesting as they gave me insights into people and communities that up until the event I had no experience of.

Some of the more memorable weekend rentals have been the following: The Hindu Meditation, Saturday, May 9th

Betty Goodman Memorial, Sunday, May 10th

Ren Renshaw Wedding, Saturday, May 30th

Office of the Americas Birthday Party

David Ellis Student Recital

I have gotten a lot of positive feedback for my work at many of these special events. Specifically people have told me that I did a really good job. I am always very glad when I hear this because it gives me a great sense of job satisfaction. I always try to ask what I can do to better serve the event, and often offer suggestions to help the event. This positive feedback is also a statement about what our church is able to give to the greater community. A win-win situation for the renter, for me, and for the church as well.

I look forward to continuing my job and giving all that I can for our church and giving all that I can as a representative of our church to the outside community.

Building and Grounds Committee S. J. Guidotti, Chair

In the last year water has been the primary concern of the Building and Grounds Committee. The first rain of fall brought down a section of ceiling in the foyer of the Arizona Street entrance. While the ceiling is awaiting the full renovation of Forbes Hall, the roof section that gave rise to the problem has been given a temporary repair that is estimated to last three rainy seasons, or hopefully enough time to carry over until the remodel is finished.

Additional but minor rain leaks into the office on the South side of the main building and into the sanctuary itself on the corresponding North side of the structure were patched following the first rain, allowing us to experience a dry winter and spring.

As spring brought sunny weather and a different problem. Karl Lisovsky and Gregg Wood erected a shade structure in the courtyard outside of Forbes only to see high winds shred the original covering. A less than esthetically pleasing blue tarp is serving as a temporary replacement pending the order and delivery of a duplicate of the original.

If anyone notices the new exterior door stops around the building, say a thanks to Karl Lisovsky the next time you see him.

Office Volunteers Anne MacQueen, Chair

As Coordinator of Office Volunteers, I call on folks to join office work crews. On Friday afternoon we collate the Sunday Order of Service. Once a month, we prepare the newsletter for mailings and do other mailings when called upon. Volunteers this year included Tom Ahern, Beverly Alison, Lyn Armondo, Sylvia Berke, Carolyn Berry, Sheila Bjornlie, Ellen Boag, Helen Brown, Peggy Butler, Mary Cole, Judy Federick, Shirley Gholson, Sherry Handa, Gerrie Lambson, Gist Lavoie, Katie Malich, Helene Morrison, Diane Phillips, John Raiford, Serena Shames, Marguerite Spears, and Marj Zifferblatt. It's fun. Let me know if you like to be on call.

Sunday Office Volunteers Submitted by Melinda Ewen

An intrepid and loyal group of volunteers assist paid staff by maintaining a reception function in the front church office on Sunday mornings. Tasks vary widely from greeting, and lost & found to emergency and crisis management in the service to our members, minister and musicians who create the Sunday service. Sincere appreciation goes to Rob Briner, Laura Eklund, Sandra Trutt and Joan Verdon

Personnel Committee Victor Paddock, Chair

In June, Victor Paddock became acting chair of the committee. Barbara Kernochan took a leave of absence beginning February, but is expected to return soon. Ren Renshaw and Gerri Lambson became new members of the committee. Melinda Ewen and Rev. Roberta Haskin participated as non-voting members in accordance with the bylaws. The committee functions smoothly and efficiently, and enjoys a cooperative relationship with the Director of Administration.

We instituted regular monthly meetings. Some of our accomplishments:

1. Helped resolve issues that arose relating to the contract for the Interim Minister (Roberta).
2. Revised job descriptions for the Office-RE Assistant and Choir Section Leader positions.
3. Participated in job search and interviews to fill the Office-RE Assistant position.
4. Completed the first revision of the Personnel Policies (i.e. Employee Manual) since 2005.
5. Participated in discussions with the RE Task Force concerning the scope of the DRE's duties.
6. Participated in budget planning decisions which resulted in proposed personnel changes for next year including a.) elimination of the Office-RE Assistant position, b.) reduction of hours for Finance Assistant, and c.) reduction in number of Choir Section Leaders.
7. Received annual reviews for all non-ministerial staff, as completed by staff supervisors.

Victor served as adjunct member of the latest Interim Minister Search Task Force helping to formulate the contract for Rev. Stephen Furrer.

Due to the church's financial situation, we did not recommend salary increases for the staff for 2009-2010.

COMMITTEES

ADR (Association District Representative)

Carol Agate

During my last year as a member of the Santa Monica Church excellent people took over my various responsibilities. One slot I could not fill was Association District Representative. In fact, I held that position for 12 years, far longer than any one person should be in any church assignment.

Imagine my surprise to find in my new church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, that there is a denominational action committee. Creating a committee was my unfulfilled dream for Santa Monica. The committee in the Cambridge church watched a video of the web site presentations of both candidates for Unitarian Universalist Association president. The members then discussed who they preferred and why, deciding how to cast the absentee ballots.

With a new UUA president starting in July this is an exciting time to get involved in the association. The church can gain a lot by having a person - or preferably a group - serve as liaison to the UUA and the Pacific Southwest District. Ask yourself if you are ready to start a whole new level of engagement with this wonderful religion we have the good fortune to have found.

Archivist Rob Briner

Approximately 20 boxes containing 10,000+ documents continue to be stored off-site until the Forbes Hall remodel is completed. When the remodel is completed, I hope to have a fixed display area for framed documents and photographs from the church's history that will alternate every quarter.

Art Wall Submitted by Nels Hanson

The Art Wall was replete with a series of excellent artists this year. We are indebted to the talent and services of church friend, Mathilde Lombard, who is connected with the LA art scene. Committee members included Carol Ring, Nels Hanson and Beverly Alison.

Our artists in 2008 were: July -Setsuko Okuba; August and September -Eli Lippert; October -Renata Zerner; November - Catherine Tirr; December - Henry & Helen Fukuhara. In 2009: January - Faith In Action photos; February - Lucy Blake Elahi; March - Cathleen Krone; April - Amy Longcope; May - Albert Beach; June - Gilbert Johnquest; July - Iris Kline .

Bookstore

Nancy Babbitt & Judy Federick, Co-leaders

The bookstore is generally open after the first and second services and is well attended as many church members are avid readers. Our staff consists of Phil Bonacich, Rebecca Crawford, Max Johnson, and Sandra Trutt, and we welcome interested members that enjoy working with books to join us.

We have an outstanding collection of Unitarian Universalist books published by Beacon and Skinner Publishing Companies which focus on history, philosophy, and other areas of our faith. Income from these books goes directly to the new building fund. All the books are discounted because the church pays the sales tax and postage. Most of these books can only be procured online.

Recently we have accepted books donated by members of our congregation, selling them at very deep discounts for only a few dollars. People say that they enjoy this format as it offers many different titles and areas of interest at very reasonable prices.

Bylaws and Policies Committee

Kathy Cook, Chair

The function of the Bylaws and Policies Committee is to review and refine policies that may be adopted by the Board of Directors or referred to the congregation for a vote. The committee primarily takes direction from the Board, though they may advise the Board if committee members become aware of an area of church governance that may benefit from a new or revised policy. This year the committee has spent most of its time considering the revision of four financial policies that had become outdated. Three of these policies have been revised and recommended to the Board for adoption as Board policies. Current committee members are Bob Dietz, Tom Hamilton and Kathy Cook. Carol Agate and Kim Miller also served for part of this year. We could use a couple new members, so if creating and analyzing policies and working for consensus is something that floats your boat, please let one of us know.

ComUUnications Committee

Beth Rendeiro, chair

The CommUUnications group (Liz Fuller, Bob Dietz, Marsha Smith, Katrina Thompson, Pam Teplitz and Beth Rendeiro) met three times in '08/'09 to discuss and plan for a larger web presence for UUCCSM. As a result of these meetings the following occurred: Katrina created a Facebook page for UUCCSM and Bob began sending weekly updates to Craig's List where all of the church's public events are listed. Liz, our webmaster for over ten years, continues to ably oversee our church website which works very well and is an excellent source for information and updates about our church. Our primary goal for the future is a switch to a content management system environment including a complete graphic re-design of the website. Our task for the summer is to review other websites, making note of the characteristics we like and don't like. With this insight and information, we will reconvene in the fall hoping to find volunteers or paid consultants to help us reach our goals. We are seeking other interested volunteers, particularly those with web design and content management system development expertise.

Lending Library

Sandra Trutt, Librarian

The Lending Library is self-run. People take books and return them on the honor system. We don't keep track of what is taken or if it is returned. The sign in sheets have the books crossed off for the most part when books are returned. Last Summer Rev. Judith Meyer added quite a few books from her personal store of books to our lending library.

With the coming remodel of Forbes Hall, we will need to pack up our books and put them into storage until construction is completed sometime next year. I anticipate we will go through and cull books that have never been checked out or that look old and tattered. We will probably get a new set of shelves in the remodel, wider than in the 4 inch shelves we have now. This will help the library stay in order and look better. We currently have a magazine exchange, but it always looks messy and the material gets old and is not kept up to date. I feel we should do away with this in the future.

Long Range Planning Committee Submitted by Patricia Wright, Chair

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

The Long Range Planning (LRP) committee consisted this year of Phil Bonacich, Rebecca Crawford, Rev. Roberta Haskin (ex officio), John Raiford, and Patricia Wright (Chair). We met monthly (second Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Minister's office).

Long Range Planning Mission

Our church, as well as the society, is entering unpredictable economic shoals whose easy navigation may be impossible. Erratic income changes for our members translate into uncertainties about what we can afford. At the same time, as their personal situations become more perilous members may need more from the church in terms of programs and support. These uncertainties are compounded by our need to adjust to and mold our relationship to a new minister and to develop plans to most effectively use our remodeled campus.

The LRP Committee can complement the decision-making committees (the Board, the Nominating Committee, the Building Committee) and committees with specific responsibilities (Membership and Leadership, Dining for Dollars, and many others) by soliciting member input about successes and unmet needs in a systematic and regular way and by attempting to synthesize these needs into a comprehensive vision of the future of the church.

To this effect, the LRP will have two regular annual duties: to prepare a long range plan for the community (based on the previous year's meeting and its conversations with members) and to organize a congregational meeting to discuss and evaluate these plans and to solicit new directions and goals.

We finally dug into the history of Long Range Planning that Rob Briner, our church historian, collected. We parceled out "eras" to the committee with the instruction to read them and come back with ideas about what we could add to what has been done in the past. In previous years, meetings and surveys have been conducted with the membership. Since we are a small committee, we felt we could not take on an in-person survey of the entire congregation. We decided we would do a survey of the leadership, where leadership can take on a broad definition and no one who would like to hear from us would be left out.

To begin this process, each committee member was given the assignment to come up with three questions. The response was diverse, interesting, and the process of coming up with a composite list was fun. Our survey was formulated as follows.

The UCCSM Long Range Planning (LRP) Committee is conducting an informal in person survey of the church's Leadership. Guided by some questions, we would like your feedback in areas that might help us formulate and guide the direction of the church over the next three to five years. Following our survey we plan to hold a Town Hall Meeting sometime in the spring to present the results of our interviews and gain further input from the congregation. We hope to complement the work of the Ministerial Search Committee, but our primary goal is to continue our long range planning.

1. What metaphor would you use to describe the church?
2. If you could change one thing about the church, what would it be?
3. If you could keep one thing about the church the same, what

would you keep the same?

4. What do you see as the major opportunities that the church will have in the next five years?
5. What preparations should we be making now to take advantage of the opportunities?
6. What do you see as the major problems that the church will face in the next five years?
7. What preparations should we be making now to deal with the problems?
8. What motivated you to become a leader?
9. What is the nature of the benefit/reward you seek as a leader?
10. How can we identify and nurture potential leaders among us?

We presented our mission statement and our survey plan to the Board on 11/11/08, who were supportive of our ideas and our efforts. We have started the survey in a small way, meeting one-on-one in various venues. The process has been fun and rewarding.

We have work to do in the next fiscal year to survey more leaders and to enact our mission. One topic we will try to address is growth. Roberta and Phil will leave the committee. We hope our new Interim Minister will meet with us. In particular we are seeking two new members, who are younger members of our congregation.

New Building Program Patricia Parkerton & Tom Hamilton, Co-Chairs

This has been a great year for our building program. We have landscaped the area around the cottage creating a large new space for congregational use. The design for the landscaping was donated by church member Keith Ludowitz. It has been very popular with the congregation. We have also received some nice comments from appreciative neighbors. The building committee was particularly pleased that much of the work was completed in time for the wedding of Ron Crane and Jon Fels and our farewell to our past minister Judith Meyer.

Since then the outdoor life of our community has been wonderfully expanded and every week we see more area enjoyed. Our next task is renovating Forbes Hall. Plans have been presented at town halls and the May congregational meeting. Church member Christine Hardin has generously donated her time and professional expertise to the design of the new Forbes interior. We expect construction to begin this fall.

Church life during the Forbes renovation will be challenging. We will have to move our coffee hour into the courtyard for a few months. But it will not be long before we have a new and greatly improved facility. We should be in good shape in time for the new settled minister.

Newsletter

Dayla McDonald, Editor-in-Chief

The UCCSM 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 UCCSM 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@uasm.org. If you would like to join the newsletter team, please e-mail the same address stating your area of interest.

Nominating Committee
Rob Briner, Chair

In addition to recruiting candidates for the Board, Officers, and members of the Finance and Personnel Committees authorized by UCCSM Bylaws, this year the Nominating Committee nominated a slate for the 9-member Settled Minister Search Committee that was confirmed by the congregation at a special business meeting held on March 8, 2009 (7 slate candidates and 2 candidates by petition).

As the outgoing Chair of the Committee, I want to acknowledge and thank the other members of the committee: Liza Cranis, Cathie Gentile, Karen Patch, Dayla McDonald, and Pam Teplitz.

Webmaster
Elizabeth Fuller

The webmaster is working with the new CommUUnications committee to make the website part of a larger UUSM presence in the online world (see the CommUUnications entry for details). We're also going to be doing a graphic and technical re-design of the site to make it more up-to-date looking, and to take advantage of a new Content Management System that will make it easier for various church personnel to update content for their own functions or committees. Finally, we're hoping to make this all part of a larger communications re-design process that will create a greater degree of visual and "brand" consistency among the website, newsletter and other church communications and publicity materials...so that wherever people encounter us, they recognize and understand who we are.

ACTIVITY AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

2nd Sunday Supper

The 2nd Sunday Supper was started in January 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.

4th Friday Lunch Bunch
Submitted by Lyn Armondo

A few (ten to twenty) old and new friends gather at noon on the fourth Friday of each month to eat lunch (bring your own), share a cup of tea and conversation. We meet in the Cottage. All are welcome.

Books 'R Us
Submitted by Phil Bonacich

Books R' Us is a monthly fiction discussion group that meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 at the home of Phil and Edna Bonacich in Mar Vista. The only rule is to have read the book before the meeting. Light refreshments are served. Average attendance is 8-12.

Caregivers Support Group
Submitted by 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 Forbes Hall. For information, please contact Joyce Holmen, Sara Van Dyck, or Helen Brown.

deBenneville Pines Weekend
Jacki Weber, Program Dean
Patrick Meighan, Registrar

We had another wonderful retreat weekend at deBenneville Pines. We shared the camp this year with Chalice UU Church from San Diego and they added a richness, musical and social, to the weekend. We had 70 from our own congregation and 15 from San Diego. All went smoothly. Many workshops were offered, including a Circle of Life introduction, current affairs talk, photo journaling and more, along with yoga, canoeing, archery, and old favorites like tie-dye, water rocket launch, dam building at the stream, bubbles and chalk on the sidewalk and the now famed "spooky story walk s'mores" and "music jam/sing along Saturday night" were highlights. The food was plentiful and good, the camp was in great shape, and the resident staff was friendly and helpful. Church member and professional masseuse Kendra Henderson, brought fellow masseuse Sandra to facilitate relaxation for campers at a reasonable rate; and friend, Martha offered acupuncture. Our closing service was very special with contributions from Tom Troccoli, Karl Lisovsky and Elizabeth Wheat. Jacki Weber, program dean, led the service.

Many thanks to volunteer workshop leaders Beth Brownlee, Cynthia Littleton Tom Troccoli, Elizabeth Wheat, Kyle Bergersen, Hayley Dawkins, Greg Coleman, Martha Vollenwieder, Resa Foreman and Rick Rhoads, as well as all the musicians who made the weekend so festive.

Goals for the next church year include: continuing the development of interesting and varied workshops for the weekend as volunteer leaders emerge; offering scholarships for those who need financial assistance; and sharing the good vibes of camp with those who've never been. Next year's camp weekend is June 18, 19 and 20, 2010. We wish everyone can join us.

Ernie Pipes Lecture Series
Rob Briner, Chair

The 18th Annual Ernest D. Pipes Distinguished Lecture was held on April 4, 2009, with Los Angeles Times Opinion Columnist Tim Ruten as the speaker. In addition to Ernie and Maggie Pipes, attending was the immediate past chair and current committee member, Len Adler, past chair Ray Goodman, and committee members Marguerite Spears, Diana Spears, Pat McGuire, Teresa Castelli and Carolyn Berry.

fUUsion

Submitted by Robin Lowney-Lankton

fUUsion continues to be a very active group for younger adults at the church. During the past year, the listserv grew from 62 to 90 members. Katrina Thompson created a fUUsion page on Facebook which has almost 30 fans.

fUUsion broadened its scope from hosting social events to also include service projects and spiritual events. In the last year, fUUsion held 29 events ranging from lunches after church, to camping trips, tango lessons, museum outings, watching plays, and parties. Attendance ranges from 5-20 per event. fUUsion completed five service projects, including staffing two work weekends at Camp de Benneville Pines, serving meals at Turning Point and Step Up on Second, and participating in Big Sunday. We planned and held two small group worship services.

We supported a variety of activities within the church. fUUsion members hosted a 9AM Courtyard Connection brunch and staffed the Welcome Table at 11AM on months with a 5th Sunday. fUUsion members attended the Newcomer Receptions and UU 101 as church members and guests.

Approximately 12 fUUsion members attended the Young Adult Camp at de Benneville Pines. We formed ongoing connections with UU churches throughout the District. Since September, we have attended events at The Onion, Unitarian Universalist Church of Studio City, and First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego.

We plan to continue our outreach efforts through coffee hour, flyers and staffing at the Welcome Table, Facebook and our list serve.

Men's Group

Submitted by Phil Bonacich

The UUSM Men's group meets the first Monday and third Thursdays of every month. 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

Submitted by Diana Spears

Poetry Group members are: Carolyn Berry, Julie Gilliam, Arvid Knudsen, Katie Malich, Diane Monteith, George Seruta and his wife Helena Chacel, Pat Shinaberger and her son Chris, Hildreth Simmons, Diana Spears, Robert Venegas with occasional attendance by Joe Engleman and Jeff Greenman. Thus we have about as big a group as we can manage to host as attendance is pretty steady.

We would like to continue our mixed format of alternating between one member taking on an in-depth presentation of a poet which is shared with the group; and evenings where a theme is fixed and each member chooses to bring one or more poets to share on that theme. However, only one in-depth presentation was given and that was in September when Arvid Knudsen presented US Poet Laureate (2008-09) Kay Ryan. Other evenings were spent on various themes which usually proved quite entertaining and informative.

The group had sent a handmade card with messages from each of us to Shirlee Frank, one of the original members of the group, when we learned that her cancer had returned. In November, when we learned of Shirlee's death we dedicated our evening to her. We also helped with her Memorial Service at the church in April 2009.

Science Non-fiction Reading Group

Submitted by Rebecca Crawford

The Science Non-fiction Book Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss a book from current popular science literature. In addition, the group occasionally 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. We meet at the home of my mother, Gaye Deal, at 7:00 pm for dessert, with the discussion starting at 7:30. 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.

The Alliance meets quarterly for a Sunday lunch and sharing circle to talk about books, emotions, family, feminism, friends, gardens, history, love, mentors, music, peace work, spirituality, and more. Program details are in the church newsletter. Non-members are always welcome.

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.

Zen Meditation Group

Bernie Silvers, Leader

I am proud of the fact that so many different members and people from the community have attended the Zen Discussion & Meditation class at one time or other. They have benefited in many ways, so they have told me, by the reductions of stress in their lives, by understanding in a more profound way who they are, by using the numerous meditation methods which they use in the class and at home, by looking at the wisdom of various spiritual leaders and developing to a greater extent compassion and love. We have spent time looking at the insights of Buddhists and Unitarians and the wisdom of each faith. We have spent time on issues such as anger, sex, love, happiness, identity, relationships and death drawing again from the wisdom of the world's religions.

I want to thank all of those who have come to the class and shown interest, participation and asked incredible questions that have helped all of those in the class, especially myself.

My goal for the next year is to take on new topics and show again how spiritual insights can help in dealing with suffering and difficult situations that at one time or other we all face.

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