



The SLO UU News

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Luis Obispo County

Temporarily Yours



Temporarily Yours

January Theme: Wholeness

I've been thinking a lot about the amazing things happening at the Fellowship. Last year the Board adopted "Moving Forward Together" as one of the congregation's major goals.

The Long-Term Home Task Force, the Board, and many others worked extremely hard to investigate options, explore possibilities, and come to a decision about what would be best for the congregation. In May, we made a huge step forward (together!) by achieving an overwhelmingly positive vote to continue forward with the project on Edna Road.

I don't know about you, but even then I could feel a palpable change in the "feel" of the Fellowship. There was new energy, excitement, and a feeling that the good of the whole community was everyone's first priority.

And then—WOW!—the building at Lawton Street arrived on the market. I can't explain the feeling on November 4th, when almost thirty of us went to see it for the first time. Within minutes *everyone* knew. This building was meant for us. We'd found our new home.

I don't know about you, but it feels right that we'd already done so much work and healing. It feels right that the Aesthetics Team had beautified and cared for our current space last summer, determined not to just be "on hold" any longer. It feels right that we made a commitment to wholeness—to Move Forward Together—before we had any idea that such an amazing solution was possible.

Isn't that how it often is? We have to commit ourselves to wholeness before we know how—or if—it is even possible. When we face all the pieces of whatever is broken—our heart, a relationship, a plan for the future—it's hard to imagine how all the pieces could come back together. It's hard to imagine what will hold them as they

heal. And it's even harder to imagine that the places of brokenness will someday be strong again, perhaps stronger than before they broke.

Unitarian Universalists are sometimes shy about the word "faith," but it takes faith to keep going when things are broken. To say, "I'm going to keep moving toward wholeness, even though I don't know how healing will happen." And it takes faith, in a congregation struggling through conflict to insist that the right goal—the only goal that matters—is to move forward together.

I have faith in wholeness. I don't know how healing happens, but I know that it can and does. I have faith in the people in our congregations, who make commitments to wholeness, knowing it will be hard work, but is the only way forward that truly honors our principles. And I have faith that when a commitment to wholeness is made, amazing things can happen to make it possible.

As we continue the hard work of renovating and moving and adapting to our new home, may we remember the whole reason we are doing these things: to move forward together into a future of wholeness, ministry, and growth.

Love will guide us,

Rev. Sean

P.S. I will be away Dec 25th—Jan. 14th while my partner, Toni, has surgery in Salt Lake City. Please keep us in your thoughts.

WHERE, WHEN, AND WHO ON SUNDAYS

2074 Parker Street, San Luis Obispo, 93401
11 am Worship, Children's classes and Nursery

Rev. Sean Parker Dennison, Interim Minister
David Robinson, Religious Educator & Administrator
Rebecca Sloan, Music Director

For more information, call the church office,
(805) 544-1669 Monday-Friday, 9 am to 1 pm, or
email UUSLO@slonet.org.



**What's Coming Up
At UUFSL0**

Pathways



**Beyond Categorical Think-
ing:**

Service & Workshop

**Come One, Come All on Sunday, January
15, 2012**

January 1- "Looking Forward, Looking Back"-Worship Arts Committee-Sendoff to 2012

In terms of a minister, what images come to mind? Is it a person of a particular gender, race, or age? In finding the person who would be the best match for our minister, we could potentially overlook or even let biases keep us from knowing that a particular person would be the best match for us.

January 8- "Moving Forward Together"-Board of Trustees-Moving forward together with compassion is helping to bring us to a sense of wholeness.

January 15-"Families and Faith"-Mr. Barb Greve-The Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) program works with congregations to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent discrimination in the ministerial search process. The congregation will learn more about its institutional culture, examine ways it can be more inclusive, and surface subtle and often unintentional, unconscious biases members hold that may affect the search for a new minister.

In our efforts to find the best match, our congregation will host a Beyond Categorical Thinking worship service and workshop on Sunday, January 15, 2012 featuring facilitator Barb Greve, M.Div. He will lead the Sunday Service and facilitate a 3-hour long conversation afterward allowing the congregation fuller participation in the search process. All members and friends are encouraged to attend. *Lunch and child care will be provided.*

January 22-"A Word to the Wise"-Dr. Lee Barker, president of Meadville Lombard Theological School

January 29- "Finding Wholeness"-Rev. Sean-In a broken world, how do we find a sense of wholeness?



Growth & Learning Circle, Never an End to Learning



REView – January 2012

Our BIGGEST RE event of the year starts at the end of January – Secret Pal 2012 is coming. *Moving Forward TOGETHER!* is this year's theme. In early January we'll be looking for adult Pals to share the fun, so watch for your opportunity. On January 29th we'll gather in the Sanctuary after the service and share lunch while we make our Secret Pal bags. Then each week Pals will share something about themselves. But watch out adults. The kids are getting smarter each year at finding ways to figure out who their Pal is, so you're going to need to be even cleverer to keep your identity hidden until all is revealed on Sunday, February 26th. Watch for fliers with more information. If you're new to the Fellowship, this is a great way to get to know the kids.

And a volunteer or two to help with the organizing wouldn't hurt either. This year I'm looking for a Kid Coordinator and an Adult Coordinator to spread the work load. Let me know if you are interested and I'll give you more details. It will take about two hours of work each week from mid-January through the end of February.

Our new web site has recently been rolled out. RE has soooo much going on I'm looking for someone to keep our section updated. Work from home on your own computer; no more than two hours a month after the initial training session. Let me know if you're interested.

Yes folks, it's everyone favorite season of the year again. I don't mean THE holidays, or spring, I mean BUDGET season! Planning for next year's budget is underway and this year the RE Committee wants YOUR thoughts about what RE's budget priorities

should be. Watch for an online survey link (through Survey Monkey) in the *News and Notes*. It will take less than 5 minutes to complete, and we're asking for as much input as possible – from the ENTIRE congregation, not just RE families – about where YOUR money should be spent. With our new facility will come opportunities to expand our RE programs in ways we have dreamed about for a long time. We want your opinion about how to utilize the available resources to turn those program dreams into reality.

Are YOU getting the RE Update every week? Every Thursday or Friday I send out an email update with information about events and classes for the coming weeks as well as teacher schedules and other important stuff. To get on the list just send an email to uufslocdre@yahoo.com and let me know you want the weekly RE Update.

Mark Your Calendar:

Jan 10, 4:30pm - RE Committee Mtg.

Jan 29 - Secret Pal Kickoff Lunch and Bag Making

January / February 2012 at Camp de Benneville Pines:

Dec 27-Jan1: PSWD Sr. High Winter Camp

Feb 18-20: PSWD Elementary/Family Winter Camp

www.uucamp.org Email: uu-camp@aol.com

41750 Jenks Lake Road West
Angelus Oaks, CA, 92305

IN JOY

David Robinson

544-1669; uufslocdre@yahoo.com



Column From The Board



We're Still Moving Forward Together!

Acquisition of the Lawton / Meadow property, the associated renovation and capital campaign planning are all moving forward rapidly. The Lawton Project has loan contingencies until the loan is funded, as well as the terms for dealing with minor damage, termites and cleanup once the current occupants move. The next event is the close of escrow in late December - although it may be possible to close sooner, the Lawton Project Steering Committee and Board of Trustees do not want to displace the current occupants during the Christmas season.

This month's Board of Trustees meeting was busy and productive. The board accepted the report and recommendations of the Parsonage Planning Task Group. Briefly, the report recommends the Meadow Street residence be used as a parsonage as the best choice; if the minister chooses not to live at Meadow street residence, the report recommends renting the property on the open market. As well, the report recommends the Edna property be readied for sale and put on the market when the current Edna parsonage lease ends, with sensitivity to Rev. Sean and Tony's needs and timetable.

Those at the Second Sunday meeting may have heard a suggestion to rent the parsonage to elder members of our own community. Be aware that this suggestion was made after the preparation of the report. Much is still to be worked out as our plans unfold, and there is plenty of time for ideas and input from the congregation.

The Board approved changes to the ministerial search Draft Letter of Agreement,

providing an option for the minister to occupy the Meadow street parsonage, and adjusting the upper limit of the salary and housing allowance.

Renovation planning is ongoing, targeting move in to the renovated Lawton facility in mid-March, and our first service at the Lawton property in late March. To meet this timetable, design and planning work must be underway now, so that renovation can be performed in January and February. To this end, the Board authorized the Lawton Project Steering Committee to move forward in accordance with the financial plan and associated goals.

The Board authorized a new Capital Campaign for the Lawton New Home project, and charged a committee to move forward with the campaign planning.

There are so many details - an article like this can't convey them all. If you want to know more, a great place to look is on the Lawton project web page at <http://uufsloclawton.wordpress.com/> Notice the link right in the middle of the main page for questions or comments. Please feel free to provide your input and ideas to the steering committee, or to ask a question.

In addition to Lawton / Meadow property planning, the Board also approved dissolution of the Edna development task force, with grateful thanks for their work and dedication.

Associated with anticipated closure of the Edna project, the Board authorized a plan to refund 2006 Capital Campaign donations for those donors who do not wish to roll over their donations to the Lawton / Meadow project. The closure of the Edna project will be formalized with the closure of escrow on the

Column From The Board



Lawton/Meadow property. The plan was informed by many sources, including our capital campaign adviser, legal advisers, our financial team and the Board. In order to treat everyone fairly, the plan prorates refunds based on the percentage of money received and expected to be received into 2006 Capital Campaign, less the funds expended on the project up to the point of project closure. However, most donors we've heard from so far plan to roll over their donations into the Lawton / Meadow project.

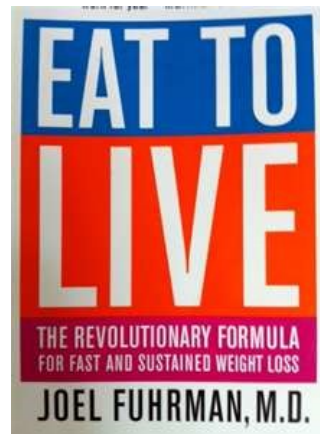
This article is entitled "Still Moving Forward Together". Moving will soon be on everyone's mind, but the word *together* remains our guiding light. Things are moving quickly, as is needed in this case. But it has also been important for the Lawton Project Steering Committee, the Board and all of our groups to move with care, to be sure the decisions are good ones, and to move forward as inclusively as possible. This is a hard balance to achieve, but we are blessed with talented and hard working people who are doing their utmost to keep that balance.

In the midst of all this activity, the holiday season is upon us. December is a time for family, for peace, for reflection and for gratitude. May you all be well, peaceful and happy!

For the UU Board of Trustees,
Steve Weymann



Pathways



WHAT TO EAT FOR HEALTH; THE LATEST IN NUTRITIONAL SCIENCE

Are you confused about what foods to eat for longevity, disease resistance, and long term weight loss? While the media promulgates the mystery of health through sensational and scientifically unreliable studies, the whole of nutritional science presents a clear picture. By the end of this lecture, you'll know what foods to eat the most of and what foods to avoid.

Mylea Israel is a certified Nutrition Education Trainer through Joel Fuhrman, MD, author of the best seller, "Eat to Live". Her passion is showing folks the science behind high-nutrient eating - what it is and why it's mandatory for excellent health. After that, the real work begins with training in the psychology of maintaining good nutrition and permanent weight loss. Mylea's website is <www.CrashYourDiet.com> A \$5.00 donation accepted. Presented by UFETA. For more information contact

Lois Barber, 773-1232 <loisand3dogs@att.net>



The Staff

Admin News – January 2012

The Office will be closed on Monday, Jan 2 and Jan 16.

Please remember that scheduling our BUSY facility takes a little bit of effort on everyone's part if we are going to avoid conflicts. Please respect EVERYONE'S right to use the space by using a Facility / Calendaring Request form. This form not only gets you a room reserved, but also gets you on the official fellowship calendar so your event will appear in *News and Notes* and the Newsletter. And just to make it really FUN, everything will of course be in flux as we transition to our new home. So remember to be kind to each other, be patient with me, and be flexible with your plans.

Computer tutorials will continue in January. This month we'll cover Microsoft Word. You'll need to know some basics for this class. The introductory tutorials are available on-line. Contact me to learn how to access the self-paced on-line courses. Class size is very limited to allow hands on practice (although if you bring your own laptop, we can add you to the class regardless of numbers). We also have access to a large number of on-line classes you can do at your own pace in your own time covering a wide variety of programs: Excel, Power Point, Windows 7, Visio, Outlook, and Publisher – just to name a few. Contact the office for info on how to access the courses. Still looking for suggestions for the next course – Publisher or Power Point anyone?



The Staff

Don't forget that Newsletter submissions should be sent directly to the editor, Laurie Napoli, at vnapoli@sbcglobal.net. Newsletter submissions that are sent to the office, especially if sent right near the deadline (the 15th of every month), might not get forwarded to Laurie in time. If you have an article that you want in *News and Notes* AND in the Newsletter, send it to the Office *and* to Laurie.

Please don't forget to lock up our ENTIRE building if you're the last one out of the church. The exit door at the end of the Bathroom Hallway is the one that gets forgotten. Even if you did not unlock it, please check it before you leave. Keys and instructions (it only locks from the outside) are posted on the bulletin board on the back wall of the office.

THANKS

David Robinson, Administrator

Office Hours: Monday – Wednesday, 9am to 1pm

The Office is staffed by volunteers Thursday and Friday from 9am – 1pm

544-1669; uuslo@slonet.org





Pathways



ART COMMITTEE and INTERESTED ARTISTS

The issue of **planning for outdoor art, special exhibits, classes, etc.** has come up with our new home. I invite anyone with sculpture or outdoor art ideas to contact me, so that we can begin a list of possible additions or future projects. Also, if you have indoor artwork to donate, that also would be considered. Call me and we can discuss your creative ideas and offers! There will be an Art Committee Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 22 after the service. The meetings are open to anyone with ideas or who wishes to get involved. See you there!

The Women's Discussion Group

We will meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of most months. All women are welcome.

Date: Thursday, January 12, 2012, at 1:30pm

Location: UU

Theme: Planning next 6 months WDG meetings

Host: TBA

Planning Facilitators: Deene Shahinian and Sandra Sondhi

Please RSVP Sandra Sondhi at Sandra-Sondhi@gmail.com 805-349-0884

Thursday, January 26, 2012 WDG meeting will be announced in Sunday's News & Notes and Gene's List.

If you have any questions, please contact Sandra Sondhi at contact numbers above.

ADULT ENRICHMENT CLASS

A Chosen Faith

Rev Marilyn Sewell says:

"Only a free faith, a chosen faith offers the kind of engagement that wakes us up to ourselves..."

The class is a thoughtful and entertaining discovery of UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM. It is aimed at the Newcomer as well as the Old timer and anyone who wants to gain insight into Unitarian Universalism. The class will focus on exploring Unitarian Universalism from its roots to the present time. There is a rich and deep background for all who would like to know more about our history and choices that we make. As Rev Forrest Church said, ***"...when we learn new things, we are encouraged to change our point of view."*** Based on the book *A Chosen Faith* by John Buehrens and Forrest Church.





Stewardship



ORGANIZING FOR THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The capital fund drive requires sustained effort from seven people. Each has an assigned portfolio as noted below. Except for the General and Associate Chairs, each should form a small committee to assist in discharging the responsibilities. The seven form a Steering Committee that will make the decisions concerning the campaign.

GENERAL CHAIR. This person serves as the convener and overall director of the capital fund drive. S/he should be well respected in the congregation and recognized as having a strong financial commitment to the church.

ASSOCIATE CHAIR. This person serves as the alternate convener when the General Chair is unavailable. In addition, S/he is the head of the actual canvassing organization. As such, this person is responsible for recruiting the team captains and canvassers. This individual should be familiar with the leadership of the church, its history, and its members.

LEADERSHIP GIFTS CHAIR. This person is responsible for the canvassing of those members of the church with the greatest potential for financial support. S/he will work with the Hospitality Chair to plan the Leadership Reception. S/he should be chosen from among the top contributors in the church, but must have good organization and interpersonal skills.

PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION CHAIR. This person prepares the newsletter articles, drafts letters to the congregation, prepares the canvass bro-

chure, and helps train the canvassers. The person selected for this assignment must be a good writer with knowledge of the church and its membership.

HOSPITALITY CHAIR. This person arranges for the Kickoff Event (generally a congregational dinner) and helps plan the Leadership Reception. S/he also recruits the necessary hosts/hostesses and plans the evening's entertainment. This individual must be well-organized and knowledgeable of the church community. S/he should also be skilled in interpersonal relations.

Page 2 of 2 Pages Organizing for the Capital Fund Drive

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CHAIR. This person is responsible for the record-keeping and initial collection part of the canvass. S/he establishes a system to issue and track pledge cards and to acknowledge via hand-written thank-you notes all pledges received. S/he also sets up a system for billing and recording payments over the life of the pledges. The individual also keeps track of expenses of the campaign and certifies bills to the Treasurer for payment. The best person for this job is one who can handle details and perform in a timely manner.

CONTINUING CAMPAIGN CHAIR. This person is responsible for pledge calls on those who were not contacted during the initial drive, including new members. S/he will also monitor the collection process as it is integrated into the church's financial management system. This individual needs to be one who functions well with detail. A small committee must be formed to assist with the follow-up calls.

Interested? Contact Kay Perryman-Snow or George Snow (General Co-Chairs) of the Lawton Capital Campaign at 541-2370 or eperryma@calpoly.edu.



Social Justice



Community Outreach Offering...and Beyond

This past 11 months our community has given away \$7450, nearly \$700 a month on average!! Didn't know we had it in us, right?? Well, we are going to take a month off in January, but for good reason. This month the Social Responsibility Circle wants feedback. Were the groups selected valuable, local community groups that you would like to support for another round in the next 11 months?

Most importantly, when we started this practice, Rev. Sean had a hope that the donations wouldn't stop with the dollars we pulled out of our wallets, but that we would choose one of the non-profits to give some of our time/energy to over the year. Has that happened? Has anyone volunteered for the SLO Women's Shelter Program, Hospice Partners, Meals on Wheels, Congregation Beth David, the UU Legislative Ministry, the GALA Senior Advocacy Program, Friends of Prado, People's Self Help Housing, the Literacy Council, the AIDS Support Network, or GleanSLO? If so, we'd like to hear your stories. I will publish any stories of volunteering for these agencies in *News and Notes* if you submit them. If you've saved your *News and Notes*, you'll see that each month I am sure to mention volunteer opportunities in the articles I write about the groups. If you need a review, just ask...I will be glad to facilitate your connections with any one of these groups.

So, give Social Responsibility Circle feedback, and please consider which of these worthy non-profits you might give some time to in 2012. And in February, we'll begin again with our donations to the same groups.

Gina Whitaker

Immigration As A Moral Issue Class Concludes

Our Immigration As A Moral Issue class has concluded. We had an average of 10 people per session over 12 weeks! These folks were moved by considering all the complex issues surrounding the immigration dilemma as it is affecting the United States today! We are better prepared to attend the Justice GA in Phoenix this summer. But we would like to share some of what we have learned and thought about with you...so look for a movie night on **Friday, Feb 10** and a worship service on the subject on **February 12**. In May we will try to have a panel of folks from the community who work with immigrants. And next fall, after we return from our Justice GA, look for more opportunities to work in partnership with immigrants in our communities. Learning never ends. Please ask Priscilla Akin or Gina Whitaker if you have any questions.





Social Justice



Pathways

Help End the Death Penalty in California!

You may have already encountered people circulating petitions to get an initiative onto the November 2012 ballot to end the death penalty in California. At their December board meeting, CCCLJ voted to take a stand against the death penalty, and the Unitarian Universalist Association has had many resolutions over the years against the death penalty. Look for petitions to sign at church during January. Please sign one and if you think you can take one to circulate, please do.

It takes just over 500,000 *valid* registered voter signatures to get an initiative onto the ballot. The deadline is Feb 24, so everything you can do to help will be appreciated. Visit [People of Faith Against the Death Penalty](#) or [Death Penalty Focus](#) to learn more. Look for a table with petitions to sign in the weeks to come and please try to help us out! End state-sanctioned killing!

Gina Whitaker for Social Responsibility Circle



Need to Look Some One Up?



The Picture Directory Has Been Updated

The picture directory has been updated. Printed copies will be available at the Fellowship for \$3.00 or if you are a member and would like a copy e-mailed to you, please e-mail Laurie Napoli at vnapoli@sbcglobal.net for a copy. It is also on our website at uuf-sloc.org with the members password.

Pathways Circle



Need a Little Help from Your Friends?

*Contact the Fellowship or
a Regional Care Coordinator*

If you or someone you know in the congregation is in the hospital or is recovering from illness, please contact the Fellowship. We'll organize support through our Regional Care Coordinators.

Thank you to our volunteers:

Jan Turney-Avila, Grover, Beach, Oceano, Arroyo Grand, Pismo Beach, and Shell Beach

Laurie Napoli and Joan Scott- Atascadero, Templeton & Paso Robles
Carol Norton-Cambria, Los Osos, Cayucos & Morro Bay-

John Alongi, Tom Norwood and Bonnie Wamsley-San Luis Obispo
Sandra Sondhi-Santa Maria and Nipomo

Pathways Coordinator
Jan Clarke

Fellowship Bulletin Board

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2011-2012

President - **Chris Cummings**
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Corporate Secretary - **Andrea Brown**
At large: **Norm Scott, Eric Olsen, Steve Weymann, Susan Stenovec, Andy Pease, Janet Murphy, Terry Throop**
Treasurer—**Terry Throop**
Recording Secretary—**Jim Wolff**

The SLO UU News is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Luis Obispo County, and is distributed by the Fellowship office to members, friends, and other UU churches. All inputs/inquiries should be sent to Laurie Napoli at vnapoli@sbcglobal.net. Deadline is the 15th of the month. Current and past issues of the SLO UU News are located on our website, www.uufsloc.org. To subscribe to the online format, contact the office at

UU FELLOWSHIP BOOK SALE

The BOOK SALE goes on all the time, now that we have bookcases in our gathering place. Browse, choose, and put your bucks in the basket any time. Each previously-enjoyed book is only one dollar. Best deal in town!

Thanks for helping this community with your purchases.



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP
OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**
2074 Parker Street, Ste. 100
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

January 2012

January Events

1-1-Sunday-12:30pm Social Justice Committee
1-2-Monday-Office Closed, 9:45am Music Comm.
1-3-Tuesday-7:00pm Lit Wits-Sanctuary
1-8-Sunday-12:30pm 2cond Sunday Conversation
1-9-Monday-6:00pm Computer Skills-Word
1-10-Tuesday-RE Comm. 6:00pm Board of Trustees-Sanctuary
1-11-Wednesday-2:00pm Membership Committee
1-15-Sunday-9:45am Café Socrates
12:45pm BCT Workshop
1-16-Monday-Office Closed
1-17-Tuesday-UFETA-Healthy Eating
1-18-Wednesday-9:00am Religious Educators Cluster Meeting 2:00pm Senior Men's Group
1-19-Thursday-7:00pm A Chosen Faith
1-22-Sunday-2:00pm Budginas-Concert
1-23-Monday-6:00pm Computer Skills-Word
1-24-Tuesday-6:00pm Ministry Council
1-26-Thursday-7:00pm A Chosen Faith
1-29-Sunday-12:30pm Secret Pal Kickoff
1-31-Tuesday-6:00pm Ladies of the Evening

January Recurring Events

Sundays: 9:45 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Worship and RE
Wednesday: 12 pm News and Notes Deadline
Thursday : 10:30 men's group JAN 5
1:00 Women's Discussion Group
January 12 & 26
7:00 Choir Rehearsal
Newsletter Deadline the 15th of the month

**If you'd like to unsubscribe,
please reply to this email with
the word "Unsubscribe" in the
subject line.**