

## **Saturday Morning PSWD UUMA Worship District Assembly by Rev. Linda Bunyard, January, 2007**

### **The Birth of the Choir**

The first year I was in the District, the annual meeting was held at the church where I was interim, UU Congregation of Phoenix. I learned about the tradition of the UUMA Saturday morning service because I was minister of the host church. I suggested that we had such great singers we should have a choir. That is why I have been serving as unofficial choir director for the PSWD UUMA since 1999. That is why at Fall and Winter retreats I have brought choir music that I have had at my churches and worked with whoever would sing with me to see what we might like to sing for District Assembly, And that is why I have been inserted into the planning of most of the Saturday worships along with the newest ministers in the District.

Most of that time I have been the pianist for the service and directed the choir as an ensemble. On some occasions I was able to get a neighboring Music Director to direct our choir. Colleagues who liked to sing but did not read music were left out when we tried more difficult pieces those years.

### **The Evolution of the Saturday Morning Service**

In 1999 the service was set to be half an hour long and thought of as a meditation or devotional service. By 2000 we asked for 45 minutes so that there was time for a sermon. There have been times when our service competed with breakfast on the schedule, but as we began to get known for quality the service got its own slot and space.

Some years it has become incredibly complicated as three or more new ministers negotiate the parts of the service.

### **Tradition of Newest Ministers Settled in the District Preaching**

As long as I have been here that has been the tradition. It has not been published like a collegial covenant (as in other districts) but the old timers usually bring it up in the business meeting at the Winter retreat.

### **Offering**

As long as I have been here the offering has gone to the G.W. White Fund.

For more information see the District Directory. Here is a brief synopsis:

The G. W. White Fund committee shall supervise the investment of the principal of the fund and administer the income only for and in the aid of students of the Unitarian Universalist ministry. The principal of the fund shall not be spent. Aid may be to individual students or to any theological school which trains students for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Grants shall be for the term of one year and may be renewed.

### **Processing**

Some occasions there has been elaborate choreography. Some spaces lend themselves to processing. Others don't.

### **Dress**

I have always lobbied for PSWD UUMA members in the choir and service to be in their robes. There has never been 100% compliance. Reasons vary.

### **Spouses in the Choir**

We have talented spouses and sometimes it is really great to have their voices. We have never

planned very far in advance for this, like making sure they come to the Thursday afternoon rehearsal.

### **Directors of Religious Education**

When we first began sharing our Winter Retreat with DREs there was talk of asking them to participate in the choir for DA. A few did once.

### **Orders of Service**

I got involved in the order of service for several years and have made a binder for the PSWD UUMA Presidents to keep. Rod Richards will upload this memo and what orders of service I have in computer text to our website.

### ***My Recommendations***

**Choir** Keep the tradition of the PSWD UUMA choir alive by scheduling time for rehearsals at Fall and Winter retreats. Elect a choir director each year.

Hire an accompanist if you need to. Utilize the music professionals in the host churches, or whomever is hired for DA. Keep raising your voices in praise!

**Service Planning** There should be more than newcomers on the planning committee. Let the newcomers divide the preaching and readings. Support them with folks who have done it before.

**District Assembly Planning** Make sure we have a PSWD UUMA liaison to the DA planning committee to insure we have a piano in the room for our own worship on Friday morning, as well as a Thursday afternoon rehearsal for Saturday. Make sure a piano is planned for the Saturday morning worship space and that the choir can meet early.

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PSWD Annual Meeting  
UU Congregation of Phoenix  
May 22, 1999 8:15 a.m.  
UUMA Worship

Chimes

Call to Worship  
"Bright Morning Stars Are Rising" UUMA Choir

Chalice Lighting  
Rev. Sherri Puchalsky

\*Congregation Sings  
"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #126

Welcome  
Rev. Ned Wight and Rev. Jim Grant

Meditation Rev. Puchalsky  
Choral Response: "Godseed in Me" (Davis) UUMA Choir



The PSWD UUMA has a tradition of introducing newly settled ministers by having them participate in this service.

Welcome to

Rev. Paul Beedle, UU Church of Riverside  
Rev. John Burciaga, UU Congregation of Phoenix  
Rev. Robert Flanders, UU Fellowship of Flagstaff  
Rev. Dan Spencer, Granite Peak UU Church, Prescott

Special thanks to Stephen Grimm, Music Director, Neighborhood Church, for directing and accompanying the PSWD UUMA Choir this year.

"Building Our Future:  
Generation to Generation"  
words and music by Grace Lewis-McLaren

Sing of those who are here together,  
speak of those who are gone.  
Tell of days that were deep in struggle,  
times when nights were too long.  
Sing for hope to lift wounded spirits,  
pray for love to be strong.  
Building our future: generation to generation.

Tell the stories of worthy sages,  
listen well to the young.  
Read the wisdom of sacred pages,  
hear the truth in each song.  
Learn of women and men of courage  
whose foundations were strong.  
Building our future: generation to generation.

Seek a path where all life is valued,  
find the truth that is yours.  
Journey on through the deepest places,  
treasure love that endures.  
Raise a song for the gift of living,  
share commitment that cures.  
Building our future: generation to generation.

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Pacific Southwest District Assembly, Irvine, California  
UUMA Worship Saturday, April 26, 2003 8 am

Ringling of the Bell

Call to Worship      PSWD Clergy Choir "Holy and Beautiful " Marguerite Shaw

Antiphonal Invocation

Let us enter into the fellowship of this morning with heart and mind and spirit. May our hearts be opened with sensitivity to the joys and sorrows, the hopes and burdens, of those who sit beside us.

May our minds be enlarged to understand the many languages we speak as we struggle to give voice to the wisdom that lies within us.

May our spirits be attuned to the deepest chords of reality, as we seek to center ourselves in communion with the mystery of being.

As we bring our whole selves to this hour of worship, may our souls find peace and the blessings of love be present with us in our togetherness.

Opening Hymn      As Tranquil Streams

Chalice Lighting

Extending the Hand of Friendship

Reading    adapted from Gary Gunderson Deeply Woven Roots

Musical Meditation      Clergy Choir

If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking (Emily Dickinson; Leo Smit)

Responsive Invitation to Generosity    (adapted from Olympia Brown)

*Work for it and sacrifice for it.*

There is nothing in all the world so important as to be loyal to this faith which has placed before us the loftiest ideals.

*It has comforted us in sorrow, strengthened us for noble duty, and made the world more beautiful.*

Do not demand immediate results but rejoice that we are worthy to be entrusted with this great message *that we are strong enough to work for a great true principle without counting*

Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory

"Thanks Be for These"      PSWD Clergy Choir

Responsive Affirmation    The Wisdom to Survive (see insert)

Anthem    "We Utter Our Cry"      Clergy Choir

Dialogue Sermon "Celebrating Our Heritage"

Carolyn Petry and The Rev. Bets Weinecke

Closing Hymn "Wake Now My Senses"

Spoken Benediction    The Rev. Jay Atkinson

Choral/Congregational Response "Dona Nobis Pacem"

Thanks to all who have worked to plan and participate in this morning's service.

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Pacific Southwest District Assembly 2004  
April 24, 2004 Saturday Morning Worship

Worship Leaders: Rev. Sarah Moldenhauer-Salazar, UU Fellowship of Laguna Beach and Rev. Rod Richards, UU Church of Southeast Arizona

Music: Rev. Linda Bunyard, UU Congregation of Green Valley Arizona and PSWD UUMA Choir Director

Music for Gathering

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Rev. Linda Bunyard, Piano

Singing together Hymn # 188 Come, Come, Whoever You Are (Sarah)

(Sarah will ask all to rise as able and join, PSWD UUMA Choir, under the direction of Linda Bunyard, now in our 5th year, as sing There are four parts to the round, plus a well-known and easy-to-learn fifth part. Linda will coach the choir. The choir will process while singing the melody into positions in front where they will lead the parts they sing for everyone to sing along. Words in OS)

Sarah: This morning will be a celebration of music, familiar music whose sounds and words convey the depths of our hearts at Unitarian Universalists. Our fabulous PSWD UUMA Choir, now in their 5th year under the direction of Rev. Linda Bunyard, will lead us in the songs throughout our time together and we are so grateful for their voices. Please rise as you are able and join your voice with the Choir as we singing Hymn #188 Come, Come Whoever You Are. The words, if you need them, are printed in your order of service.

Calling to Worship

Rev. Sarah Moldenhauer-Salazar  
Rev. Rod Richards

Rod Welcome wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving!  
Welcome to this day and to these people!  
May our time together open our minds and our hearts,  
And may justice swell in our beings like a rising wave.

Sarah We give thanks for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and straight people together.  
We give thanks for our longing and working and praying to be a community of all the colors of the human race.

We are a community of people who are more than categories, who minister to each other, meet one another's strength and encourage wholeness.

Rod We give thanks for young and old, single and partnered people, joined in community.  
We give thanks for rich and poor, temporarily able and disabled coming together as one body.  
We give thanks for the wisdom of Jew and Christian, atheist and panentheist, theist and agnostic, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, feminist and humanist.  
Each of us has a piece of the truth and we need one another to grow in wisdom.

Sarah We give thanks for this extraordinary blessing--the gathering together of separate, unique individuals as a whole, one body, this Unitarian Universalist Pacific Southwest District.

Ours is no caravan of despair.  
Welcome to this glorious day and to this time of worship.

Chalice Lighting Hymn # 389 Gathered Here In the Mystery of the Hour (Sarah) The Choir will lead us in this round, while Rod lights the chalice. Again the Choir will divide and each lead a side of the room. Words in OS.

Sarah Now please stand as you are able and join us in singing hymn # 389 while Rev. Rod Richards lights our chalice.

Reading (Rod and Sarah) (MLK hymnal reading #584 not indicated in Order of Service; Rod reads words in regular print; Sarah will respond with words in italics).

Rod begins the reading

Singing Together #399 Vine and Fig Tree (Sarah)

Sarah: And to express this same sentiment through music, we shall now sing the Hymn #399 Vine and Fig Tree. Please stand as you are able and join the choir who will lead us in this (partner?) song full of hope and longing.

Offering (Rod, White Fund)

(Offertory Music: Piano version, no vocals, of

"From You I Receive, To You I Give crafted by Linda)

Affirming Gratitude and Giving (Rod) Hymn #402 From You I Receive, To You I Give, sing twice.

Rod: We are, indeed, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. We affirm a deep respect for this mutuality in our principles; we wrestle with it in our congregations and communities; and today we celebrate it in song. I invite you to face each other across the aisle, to witness the "beautiful faces and complex natures gathered here, and to recognize the connections between us all, as we sing: "From You I Receive, To You I Give.

Centering in Meditation and Prayer (Sarah)

Sarah: Now we enter into a time of meditation and prayer. I invite you to shift more comfortably in your chairs, relax..

As we share this centering time together, I invite you to reflect upon the communities and people who are served by the presence of Unitarian Universalism. Our congregations are active and loving. Who benefits from our pastoral and justice ministries? What are their names? Whose lives have been positively touched by the waves we are making in our communities?

As we share this time of reflection together, I invite you to say the names of people, communities, and underserved or oppressed populations that have benefited from Unitarian Universalist passion and commitment as you feel moved, name the places and the lives where our liberal religious voice has made a difference as we share this time of quiet centering together

(silence and people saying names)

We are grateful to all the people and communities who have touched our lives and thrown open the

doors of our hearts. May our gratitude and love for them, and our longing for a world of peace, embolden us in our ministries of justice. May it be so. Amen and blessed be.  
(then choral blessing begins)

Choral Blessing      Deep Peace by Bill Douglas      PSWD UUMA Choir

Sharing Reflections

Rev. Rod Richards

"It is wonderful to be at this gathering of far-flung Unitarian Universalists; to join in singing and celebrating with people from across the District who we don't get to see in the normal course of our days; to feel the power of us together

(the rest of Rod's homily)

The hymn is "Circle Round For Freedom." We'll sing it twice through. Please rise as you are able.  
Singing Together #155 Circle Round For Freedom, sing twice (Rod)

Sharing Reflections

Rev. Sarah Moldenhauer-Salazar

I'm going to spend the next few minutes grappling with the question "How do we make waves? And I'm fairly certain I won't say anything you don't already know  
(the rest of Sarah's homily)

And be not afraid. For we have the power of faith and hope and love and joy, and we have each other. Hallelujah, amen, and blessed be. Please stand as you are able and sing with me the rousing Hymn #368 Now Let Us Sing

Singing Together #368 Now Let Us Sing (Sarah)

Closing Words      (Rod and Sarah)

Sarah: Please remain standing and clasp hands with your neighbor.

We do this as a symbol of our deep interconnectedness with one another and all of life.

Rod: May we act boldly from our truth;

May we move confidently toward our hope;

And may we continue making waves

Until we are all drenched in the waters of justice and peace.

May it be so. Amen and blessed be.

Music for Leavetaking      Now on Land and Sea Descending