



First
Unitarian Universalist
Church of San Diego

FirstWords

Our Monthly Magazine

January 2023; Vol 17 No. 1

Dr. Janice Marie Johnson, Speaker for 150th Anniversary Celebration Kickoff

by Nancy Fisk, *Editor*



Dr. Janice Marie Johnson, as a representative of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), will be joining us the weekend of January 28-29, 2023, to help kick off our 150th anniversary celebration at First UU. She'll attend the reception on Saturday, January 28, and will preach in our pulpit on Sunday, January 29.

Dr. Janice Marie Johnson joined the Ministries and Faith Development staff group at the UUA, in January 2019 as Co-Director. She and Rev. Sarah Lammert share this position. They support, sustain, and advance multicultural, anti-oppressive, justice-centered, and innovative Unitarian Universalist lay and professional leadership and ministry for all ages. She supports the professional lives of religious professionals, especially those of color, those from the trans community, and those from other marginalized groups.

Since joining the UUA in 2009, Janice has served as Director of Racial and Ethnic Concerns, Multicultural Growth Director, and Multicultural Ministries and Leadership Director in the former Multicultural Growth and Witness staff group.

Janice is excited about the UUA's commitment to dismantling white supremacy culture and building the Beloved Community. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized the notion of the "Beloved Community," a term coined by philosopher Josiah Royce. King envisioned the Beloved Community as a society based on justice, equity, and love of others.

Committed to making multiculturalism "real," Janice is a Jamaican, a New Yorker, an internationalist, and a "third-culture kid" who grew up all over the world. She has worked with UU congregations worldwide.

As an educator, she previously served for many years as Director of Lifespan Religious Education at the Community Church of New York.

Janice—mother, grandmother, aunt, sibling, and so much more—treasured a unique relationship with her twin sister, Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson, who served as the Congregational Life Consultant for the UUA's Central East Region and the Southern Region. Hope Johnson died in November 2020.

Please join us as we begin the year long celebration of 150 years at First UU San Diego.

In this issue:

- New Words and New Melodies by Rev. Justine Pg 2
- 150 years for First UU San Diego! by Tony Bianca Pg 3
- Tasha Smith Godinez Concert Pg 4
- Aisha Hauser, President of LREDA by Tony Bianca Pg 5
- First UU Bed & Breakfast Program by Jan Garbosky Pg 6
- Linda Berez by Nancy Fisk Pg 7

New Words and New Melodies

by Rev. Justine Sullivan, *Lead Minister*



*I will sing a new song.
I must learn the new song
for the new needs.
I must fashion new words
born of all the new growth
of my life-- of my mind--
of my spirit.
I must prepare for new
melodies that have
never been mine before [.]*

~ Howard Thurman

Many of us find ourselves eager to turn the page on 2022, our spirits wearied by this year that has been challenging for many. But to move forward, we need to ready ourselves and learn the “new song for the new needs.” We must do this as a nation, surely, but also, I think, as a congregation. We’ve spent important time together in the first part of this church year, getting to know one another, singing and laughing together in worship, building trust. We’ve begun to dive into the deeper work of learning the lessons of your past so that you can move forward together into your bright future. And it’s a bright future that I see for you.

In the coming year, we’ll celebrate 150 years since the founding of this community of faith. There’s much to celebrate, and we will, indeed honor the past. But I see this 150th year as an opportunity also to look ahead, imagining together how your particular way of being in the world is just what many of our fellow humans are longing for. What are the “new words” and “new melodies” that we might learn together to prepare for the new year, to prepare for the work that lies ahead of us in these tumultuous times in our nation, and to continue to be a blessing to one another and to our aching and beautiful world.

Wishing you all a new year of peace, health, and happiness.

Blessings,

Justine

Rev. Justine Sullivan, *Lead Minister*
First UU San Diego

January Sermon Schedule

January's Transformational Theme: "Finding Our Center"

Hillcrest Worship Time:

Sundays, 10 am, Meeting House,
Hillcrest Patio & ***Livestream*** Worship

January 1, 2023

"Setting Our Intentions for the New Year"

Rev. Justine Sullivan, *Lead Minister*

January 8, 2023

"Moving Forward Together"

Rev. Justine Sullivan & Rev. Dr. Omega Burckhardt

January 15, 2023

Social Justice Executive Team &
Journey Toward Wholeness

January 22, 2023

"State of our UUnion"

Rev. Justine Sullivan & Rev. Dr. Omega Burckhardt

January 29, 2023

"150th Celebration kickoff"

Dr. Janice Marie Johnson

South Bay Worship Time:

1st & 3rd Sundays, 10 am, Suite 104

January 1, 2023

Marshall Voit, *Music Director*

January 15, 2023

Rev. Dr. Omega Burckhardt, *Assistant Minister*

150 years for First UU San Diego! Register for our January 28 Kickoff Festival!

by Tony Bianca, Director of Lifespan Faith Formation



2023 is First UU's 150th Anniversary and we've lots of events scheduled throughout the year to celebrate it together! The first event will take place on Saturday, January 28, 2023, from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm at our Hillcrest Campus.

As people begin to arrive, we've some fun activities planned on the Patio while we wait for the main event to begin. At 12:30 pm, there will be face painting, light snacks, and music. You can also use this time to view the Art Display in Bard Hall, which will be a special exhibit honoring our 150th Anniversary. Or you can visit Teri Wilder at the Sound Healing Station and let healing sounds of several gongs and singing bowls wash over you.

From 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, we'll gather in the Meeting House for our 150th Anniversary Ceremony with our ministers, staff musicians, and several visiting dignitaries leading us, as we

kick off our Anniversary Year.

Immediately following the indoor ceremony, we'll once again return to the Patio for a Festival Celebration. Catering will be provided by L&L Hawaiian BBQ, with meat and vegan options available. You can also have a sweet treat from Kuhu Kuu Shaved Ice as you enjoy the many entertainment options we've scheduled. There will be music, up-close magic, sound healing, face painting, and several circus performers from Cirque Quirk! Our goal is to create a festival atmosphere that is welcoming and engaging for people of all ages.

Because space will be limited, we're asking everyone to register ahead of time, for free, on [Eventbrite](#). You'll also want to give yourself plenty of time to arrive and park as we're expecting anywhere from 300 to 350 people to attend.

We hope you'll be able to join us for this multi-generational celebration! And be sure to stay tuned for upcoming announcements about all the other wonderful events we have planned throughout the year!

A promotional banner for the 150th Kickoff Festival. The background is a photograph of the church building and trees. The text is overlaid on the image. On the right side, there is a circular logo with the text 'REMEMBER REFLECT REALIZE' at the top and 'RECORDAR REFLEXIONAR REALIZAR' at the bottom. In the center of the logo, it says 'First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego' and '150 YEARS' with 'Est. 1873' below it. The main text on the left reads: '150th Kickoff Festival', 'Saturday, January 28, 2023 from 1-5 pm', and 'First UU Church of San Diego - Hillcrest'. At the bottom, there are two lines of text: 'Join us for a family-friendly Sesquicentennial Ceremony and outdoor festival' and 'Dignitaries, art show, music, food, face-painting, healing sound station, magic and circus arts!'. On the right side of the bottom, it says 'Free! Registration required'.

ENNANGA Records OUT OF THE DESERT

MUSIC BEYOND BORDERS

Presents the music from Tasha Smith Godinez' 2022 album, *Out of the Desert*.

Saturday, January 21st 7:30pm

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego

298 W. Arbor Street, San Diego, CA 92103

FREE! Registration required. Reserve your seats at FirstUUSanDiego.org



- BBC Music Magazine

"Elegantly crafted and stylistically diverse"

- The Wire

"Her compositions are exciting and imaginative"

- Music Frames

"... the unforgettable sound of Out Of The Desert"

- JazzQuad



TASHA SMITH GODINEZ
HARP



DOMENICO HUESO
VIOLA



CHRISTOPHER GARCIA
PERCUSSION



CAMILLE MCPHERSON
DANCE



Funded by the
First UU Outreach
and Growth Fund

Aisha Hauser, President of LREDA, for January 26th Adult Speaker Series

by Tony Bianca, *Director of Lifespan Faith Formation*

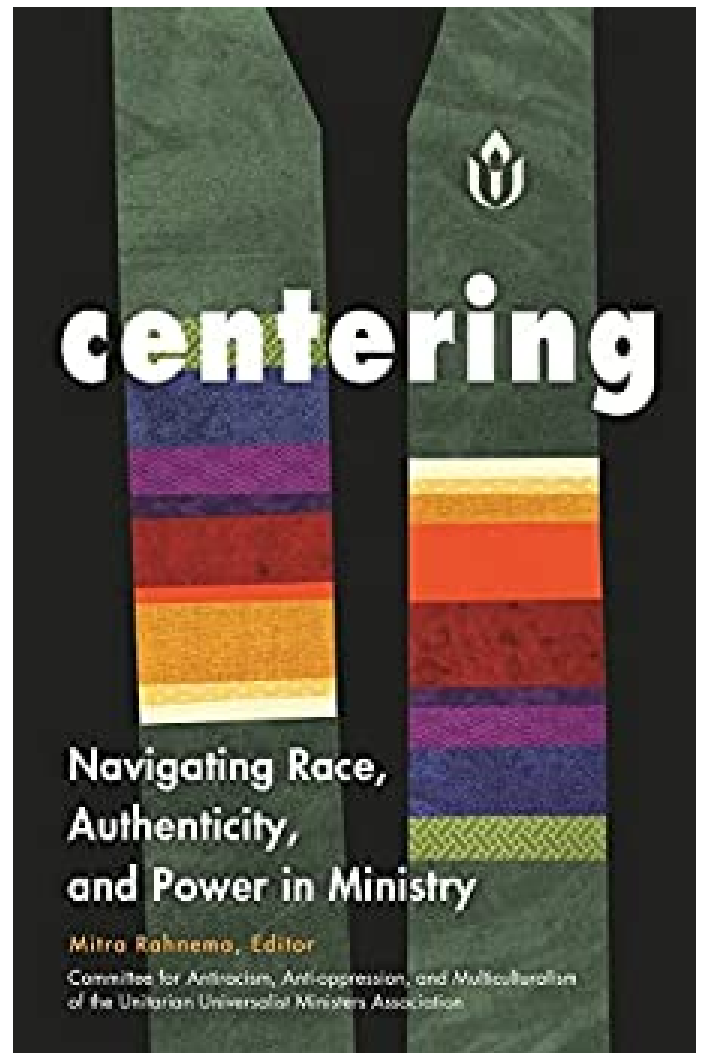


Washington, Aisha received the 2018 Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education.

She is a co-creator with Christina Rivera and Kenny Wiley of Teach-In materials to support UU congregations in understanding and fighting against white supremacy. Aisha is a contributor to the groundbreaking 2017 book, *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry* and co-wrote, with Gail Forsyth-Vail, the accompanying study guide.

Some of you may be familiar with Aisha Hauser, president of the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) who has worked as a consultant with First UU's parents and RE Staff. On January 26th, Aisha will join us to talk about the history and current state of Religious Education in the UU world. I've worked with Aisha before and had a chance to spend some time with her at the recent LREDA Fall Conference, and I'm excited to spend another evening with such a dynamic leader in the field of Religious Education. To register, click [*HERE*](#).

Aisha K. Hauser, MSW, has been a religious educator since 2003. She has served three congregations and was the director of Children and Family Programs at the Unitarian Universalist Association. Currently the Director of Lifelong Learning at East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue,



First UU Bed & Breakfast Program Needs YOU!!

by Jan Garbosky

Can a scavenger hunt help our congregation raise money? The answer is YES!! In Fall 2015, members of the Generosity Ministry Team (GMT) scoured the websites of the 25 largest UU congregations for fundraising ideas. Excited about all we learned, the GMT decided establishing a bed and breakfast (B&B) program was one of the most promising. After researching more than 20 congregations which have (or have had) B&B programs, we were ready to give it try and development of the First UU B&B Program began. Our first guest arrived in May 2016. Since then—and even during pandemic years—guests have arrived. To date, \$33,000 has been raised thanks to 22 First UU hosts who opened their homes to 90+ guests. Our rates haven't changed (\$75/night for a single; \$90/night for double occupancy)—a real steal for accommodations in beautiful San Diego County in 2023!

As folks have begun to travel again, we've been receiving registrations and hope to be able to find hosts for every vaccinated and boosted guest. Over the pandemic years, however, our host homes have dwindled as folks have moved or downsized or can no longer host for other reasons. We're hoping **you'll** consider becoming a host. Hosts meet interesting UUs from around the country and world as they help raise additional funds for our operating budget. Hosts are asked if their home is available and get to say "yes" or "no" to each request.

Hosts provide a private room with access to a shared or private bath and a continental breakfast. Each host decides when and how

often they're willing to receive guests. The Host Application allows you to list any limitation you might have about the types and numbers of guests and the dates you're willing to host. When guest registration forms are received, the B&B Coordinator (Jan Garbosky) contacts a host to see if the dates work. If the host says 'yes,' guests and hosts receive a confirmation email with contact information to follow up on arrival times, continental breakfast options, and other details of the visit. After the check-out date, both guests and hosts receive a Feedback Survey email to share their experience.

We advertise in *UU're Home* (the Bed & Breakfast Directory for Unitarian Universalists & Other Religious Liberals) and in both the online and paper versions of the *UU World* magazine. We also depend on word of mouth advertising, so be sure to let your family and friends who may be planning a visit to San Diego know about our program.

Information about the B&B Program can be accessed in the teal blue area at the bottom of all First UU website pages.

- To learn more about becoming a host,
 - read the *B&B Program FAQs* (Frequently Asked Questions) for Hosts and/or contact *Jan Garbosky*.
 - Talk with a B&B host: *Sue Marberry, Julie McKane, and/or Ardath Schaibly*.
- Complete a Host Application *HERE*.
- For guest information, go *HERE*.

Linda Berez, First UU Member and Chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol

by Nancy Fisk, *Editor*

Chaplain Linda Berez is a long-time member of First UU, daughter of Benita Berkson and sister of Susan Berez. Linda was also President of First UU from 1995-96—the first lesbian to be President. Linda joined the Air Force and served from 1988-1990. After becoming an ordained UU Minister in 2007, she wanted to rejoin the military and become a chaplain for them, but by then had aged out of active duty service.

Linda served in parish ministry for a few years and was Minister of Technology for the Church of the Larger Fellowship, an online extension of the UUA. She met her partner Marcia, also a UU minister, in 2004 and they married in 2011. Marcia became an interim minister and they moved to Illinois, St. Louis, and New Jersey. Eventually, they came back to live in Milwaukee.

A colleague of Linda's was a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Chaplain and suggested Linda look into CAP, the all-volunteer wing of the Air Force, as a way of serving as a military chaplain. CAP has three missions. One is Search and Rescue, using air and ground teams areas to search areas for downed aircraft, and missing people and to survey disaster areas. They also have a Cadet program, for teenagers ages 12-18, where cadets can learn about leadership and the four core values of respect, integrity, excellence, and volunteer service. Another mission is Aerospace which includes Education in Aerospace as well as Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs.

Linda joined the Milwaukee Composite Squadron five of the Civil Air Patrol as their chaplain in

2013 and has been enjoying her time there ever since. In 2021, Linda won the Unit Chaplain of the Year for the Civil Air Patrol in her state, region, and at the national level.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Linda ministered to cadets through local and statewide monthly Character Development and Wingman lessons. She volunteered for six Wisconsin Wing

Encampments as Chaplain. An encampment is a week-long cadet leadership training program, where they also introduce the cadets to different aspects of military life. One fun part of the week is when cadets and adults get the opportunity to tour many different types of military aircraft like the KC-135 air tanker, A-10 bomber, and CAP Cessna's, which cadets take orientation rides in with skilled CAP pilots.

Linda provides support to other Squadron Chaplains and Character Development Instructors as the Wisconsin

Wing Chaplain. She also serves at the National level doing IT for the Chief of Chaplains. She estimates that she spends about 10-12 hours a week in her capacity as a Chaplain for CAP.


Because it's a volunteer position, Linda is employed at an Apple retail store, teaching in-store sessions. She loves technology and being a CAP chaplain. She maintains her membership at First UU, where she was ordained, and pledges yearly.



For more information on Civil Air Patrol chaplains, she recommends this link: [Civil Air Corp](#)



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