

## Committee Activities

T-Shirts project: 30 shirts have been ordered so far. I'd like to brainstorm on how we can increase that number to over 100.

Debenneville: Registrations are at about 85 (about 35 each from CVUUF and Goleta, plus a few more from other area churches.) The contract is signed, with the minimum attendance requirement reduced from 100 to 90. There is still room for more registrations

Marketing and Media Committee: Activity this summer has been somewhat reduced but we have been sending Press Releases when there is news (e.g the Flea Market and the Community Forums). We are planning to test a localized Internet marketing solution that looks to be within budget and effective. Still wish we could be publicizing more things that get our name on the public radar.

Faith in Action: FIA has not met in July or August. The group is working on planning event to highlight the plight of the homeless in our area.

ADR: A "Post GA" event is planned for Sunday 8/23 after the second service. A Leadership Day program will held at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula on October 17. Cost is \$35 per congregation which covers as many people as you can send

Community Forums: Turnout for events has been spotty; some events we bring in 70+ guests, others just a handful. This is frustrating to the committee leaders. In July, the Karon Wright event on a Friday night brought in 13 guests. On August 21 (Friday) - Christopher Smith will be the featured speaker, regarding Doctors Without Borders. Several more great events are planned over the Fall and Winter. On November 14 (Saturday) there will be an all-day workshop with Kids vs. Global Warming as we partner with them to offer teenagers training in global warming activism. The Community Forums committee is discussing the idea of making two CFs into fundraisers. The committee needs more staff, participation has been shrinking and they could use the help. Childcare requests are an unresolved challenge for the program.

Interweave: Please see the attached report, below.

## Growth Goals / Progress

Board Goals: Grow from 185 members to 370 members by June 2011, with interim goals of an average of 7.4 new visitors per week, a positive welcoming Sunday experience and structured path to new membership for at least 15% of all new visitors.

GOAL: Awareness and marketing, w/in 20 minute radius

## Current Committee Chairs

- **Faith in Action – Howard Bierman**
- **Interweave – Jill Schlaus**
- **Community Forum – Pamela Lopez/Matthew Wesiman**
- **Special Collections – currently under FIA**
- **Helping Hands – Tina Hoover**
- **Fair Trade coffee and chocolate sales – under FIA**
- **ADR - UUA, PSWD, Cluster UUSC support – Susan Dixon**
- **DeBenneville Pines retreat – David Barker**
- **Marketing and Publicity – Laura Peterson**
- *Green Sanctuary – Paul Chavez*
- *Cultural Events – Open*

# Interweave Update

August 11, 2009

As we head into our second year of activities, we are excited and enthusiastic about the growth the group has seen and the potential that we see ahead.

## Recap of our first year:

- Our first event, last year's square dance, had 26 in attendance (counting the caller and his mother, and her partner). We had one LGBT couple visiting, and the rest of those in attendance were CVUUF members. Our second event was similar – a documentary screening – with mostly members and 2 different LGBT visitors.
- By the Holiday potluck, the group was about the same size, but half were straight and half were LGBT!
- The Wine and Cheese Event was successful, fun, and classy. We had about 35 people attending, with several returning visitors.
- Bingo Night was a blast, with about 45 people attending.
- The BBQ/Family Picnic was the biggest success of the year. At least 65 people showed up, people ranging in age from 4-years-old to 70-something. Roughly half the people at the event were either new or returning visitors who had no connection to Fellowship a year ago.

**Our biggest challenge** is getting the visitors involved beyond the Interweave social events. Perhaps one out of four visitors has been willing to visit a Sunday service. Only 3 or 4 have become active in planning events or attending services. Ken and Scott are on the path to membership, and I believe Ken has attended at least one of the requisite meetings. Not surprisingly, many gay/lesbian visitors are very church shy, and I expect it to take more time for them to extend themselves into other areas of the Fellowship.

**Our second year** has the best from last year along with a few major projects that should really reach into the community and generate some press and awareness.

September:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Square Dance
October:	Movie: Billy Elliot
November:	The Laramie Project [NEW – HUGE PRESS POTENTIAL]
December:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Potluck
February:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine & Cheese Night
March:	Chile Cook-off
April:	Documentary Film
May:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Bingo Night
June:	Gay Prom [NEW – BIG PRESS POTENTIAL]
July:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Family BBQ & Picnic

We are tentatively planning a weekend in mid-June that would include a Saturday festival, Betty's sermon "The Courage to Risk" geared toward gay rights, with a transgender panel either Friday night or Sunday afternoon.

The newsletter has not yet gotten off the ground, but we have a prototype and are still hoping to get it going. A cookbook fundraiser is also in the works.

Finally, kudos to the key contributors this past year who helped get this group off the ground:

Aggie Henry, Lynne Herron, Bill Robinson, Howard & Beth Bierman, Penny Smith, Clay Peal & Nancy Renbarger, Vicki Thon, Ken Wesbrooks & Scott Harthorne, Will Boller, Gordon Clint, Bea Ornstein, Betty Stapleford, and all the folks who showed up at events to support our efforts!

Thankfully, Dana Ryon has recently joined Interweave and stepped up to take on many of the administrative and leadership tasks. She and Aggie will be leading the group over the next few months while I focus on co-producing The Laramie Project along with Betty.

Please contact me with any additional questions or feedback.

Yours in fellowship,  
Jill Schlaus