

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

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Congregations to unite for holidays fair

By Tom Barry

Independent Newspapers

Plans have begun for a first-ever West Valley Holidays Fair that will embrace the true spirit of the upcoming Judeo-Christian holidays.

A joint effort of the congregations from Temple Beth Shalom in Sun City and Unity Church of Sun City, the fair will celebrate the traditions of both the Jewish and Christian holidays, including Thanksgiving in November and Chanukah and Christmas in December.

"This will be a truly ecumenical experience for both congregations and will bene-

fit residents from throughout the West Valley," said Rabbi Arthur Abrams. "Since both of our houses of worship are located next to one another, we thought we should combine our efforts this year as true neighbors."

The two-day fair will be held Nov. 20-21 in the parking lot of Temple Beth Shalom, 12202 N. 101st Ave., Sun City. It will feature secular as well as religious holiday gifts representing both faiths, numerous vendors, health booths, merchandise giveaways, raffles and drawings, ethnic food, baked goods and more.

Marty Schreiberman, fair chairperson, said that among

the arts and crafts items that will be available for sale is a collection of stained glass pieces by the late artisan Jack Bromfield, who donated dozens of pieces to Temple Beth Shalom prior to his recent death.

All proceeds from vendor space rentals will be shared equally by the two congregations, which will in turn utilize the proceeds for their respective programs and charitable endeavors, according to Marty Schreiberman, fair chairperson.

"Not only do we hope this fair is a financial success, but coming as it will prior to Thanksgiving, Christmas and Chanukah, it should provide a great spirit of friendship and cooperation that can be an uplifting experience for all who participate," said The Rev. Sandy Kale of Unity Church.

Vendor space rentals are still available.

For space rentals or more information, contact Mr. Schreiberman at 214-8848.



Photo by Tom Barry/Independent Newspapers

The Rev. Sandy Kale, Rabbi Arthur Abrams and Marty Schreiberman, chair of the West Valley Holidays Fair, are pictured with stained glass pieces by the late Jack Bromfield, which will be available for sale during the Nov. 20-21 event.

Singer lives in Unity

Years ago, a minister's wife was expected to be dedicated to church business and helping the less fortunate. Although some ministers' wives have continued in the tradition, others live a different life. Some may pursue careers of their own. Others may take liberal positions on issues their husbands' congregations do not support. The following article is the last in a series that explores the lives of ministers' wives today.

By **KIMBERLY HICKS**
Daily News-Sun staff

A decade before she met and married the Rev. Marshall Norman, Carrie Norman was a touring folk musician who performed for "anyone who would listen."

"I started out (singing) around a campfire, then began performing on street corners in San Francisco," she said.

Today, Carrie is a full-time mother of two who dedicates her free time to her husband's ministry at **Unity Church of Sun City**.

Every Sunday she is the church's main soloist, singing hymns that complement her husband's lesson.

It is a stage far from those she sang on in the 1970s, when she toured the country as "Shanti" and performed with a folk singer known as "Oman."

"'Shanti' is the Sanskrit word for peace," she said of the name, which she still uses professionally.

As "Shanti," Carrie has released 12 cassettes featuring music that is "spiritually oriented," she said.

Her most recent recording, "To Humanity with Love," was released on a private label in June.

"Carrie's voice is a blessing," said her husband Marshall, who began his ministry at Unity five years ago. "I feel so supported by that."

Carrie grew up abroad and studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London when she was in high school. She studied opera at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh for a year and participated in music theater at a smaller college in Cincinnati.

She met Marshall at a Youth of Unity retreat in 1985. Carrie was singing by the campfire and Marshall, then a foreman at a wood shop in Boulder Creek, Calif., was a youth sponsor.

Marshall proposed to Carrie one month after they met. They were married four months later and Marshall entered the Unity School of Religious Studies in Lee's Summit, Mo.

He completed seminary training in 1988 and was ordained in 1989.

"This is our first ministry," Carrie said.

The Normans, who live in Glendale because of Sun City's age restrictions, said they felt comfortable bringing their ministry to the community.

"The age differences challenge me sometimes," Carrie said. "It would be nice to have a Sunday school, to have more children in the church and to have more families there."

The Normans' sons Zachary, 6, and Michael, 3, are the only two children who attend the church regularly. Occasionally, visiting grandchildren attend.

Carrie said she also feels challenged by her role as a full-time mother.

When Marshall began at Unity, the couple already had one small child. After their second son was born, Carrie had to stay home with a toddler and an infant much of the time.

She said she feels "house bound" at times, and would like to dedicate even more time to the church.

"But I think the congregation as a whole understands that I cannot in-

volve myself too much because of my children," she said.

However, Carrie has made time to initiate a pastoral care program within the church. On Mondays she visits congregation members, taking each person or couple on her list a bouquet of flowers or a plant.

Carrie spends about 90 minutes on each visit, singing, talking and praying.

"This really isn't typical in the Unity church," Marshall said. "This is her personal choice. ... But there really was a feeling (in the church) that this needed to happen."

Marshall said Carrie is a natural at reaching out to others.

See **Unity Wife, B2**

Unity wife gets life of freedom

— From B1

"It really wasn't in my nature to do something like this," he said. "To me, this is what marriage is about. It's being able to give to the world what you could not give alone."

While Carrie is away on Mondays, Marshall stays home with their sons.

"For me," he said, "it is a special time with the boys. It's a blessing all the way around — I enjoy the time with the boys, they enjoy it and Carrie has a chance to get out of the house and do something good for the church."

Carrie said she doesn't feel pressure to act "a certain way" because she is married to a member of the clergy.

"In Unity, there are no stereotypes of a minister's wife. We come in all shapes, sizes and kinds," she said,

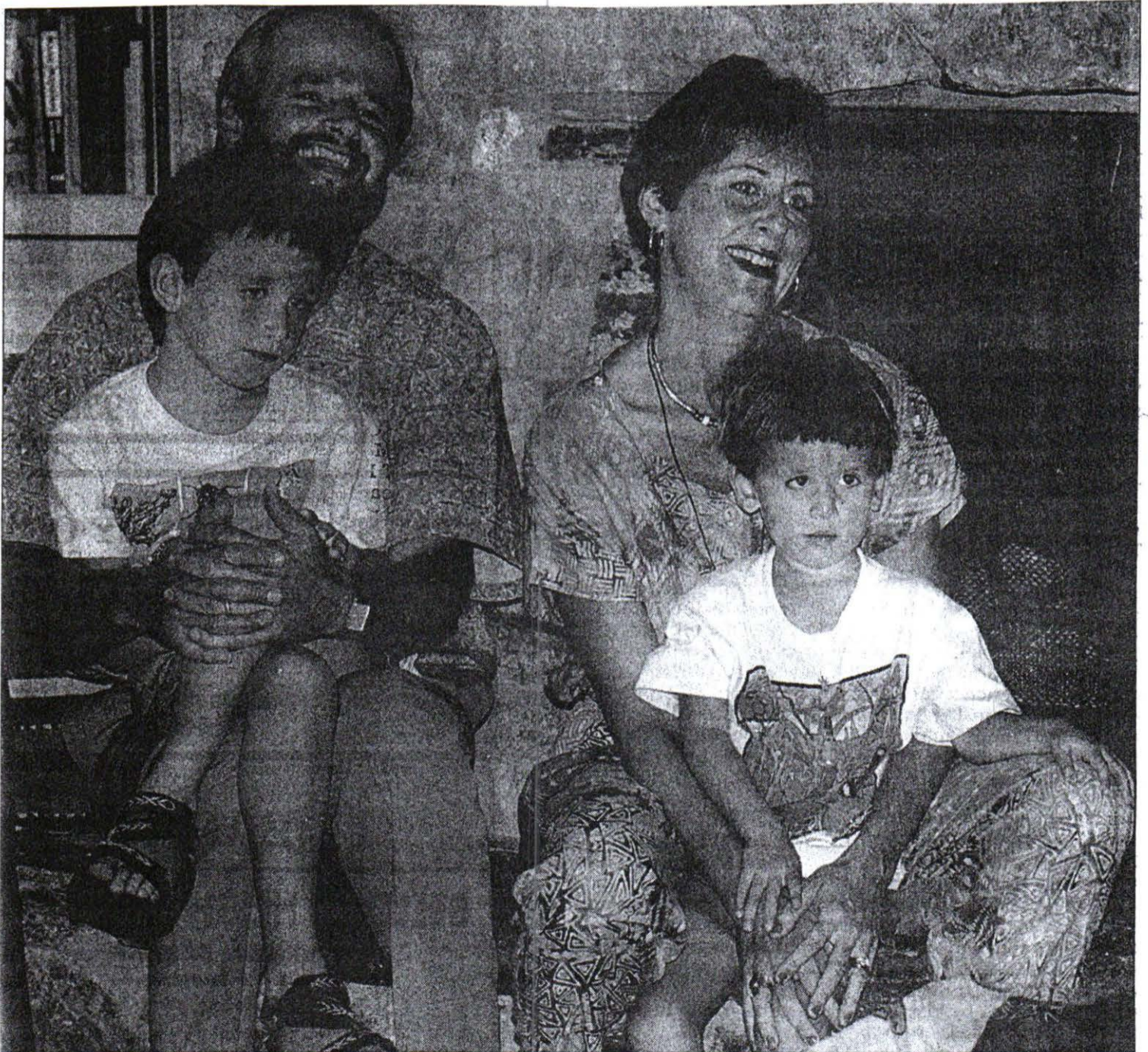
laughing. "So in Unity, I fit in quite nicely, because there is no stereotype."

Marshall said the Unity church affords its members a fair amount a freedom to be themselves.

"We instruct people how to think, not what to think," he said, adding that stances on political or social issues are left up to each individual. "We respect their opinions."

Carrie, who said she was drawn to the Unity church 15 years ago, said Marshall has strengthened her beliefs "enormously."

"Because he has an understanding of the teachings of Unity, he has a way of sharing them and clarifying them in such a practical way. It has made such a difference in my understanding, and in my life," she said.



Frances Guarino/Daily News-Sun

The Rev. Marshall Norman, his son, Zachary, 6, wife Carrie and 3-year-old son Michael can't live in Sun

City because of age restrictions. But, they're comfortable with their ministry at Unity Church of Sun City.

Unity Church reaches beyond community

By CANDACE S. HUGHES
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Child care, daily telephone contacts with shut-ins and writing letters to God are among the activities enjoyed by members of the Unity Church of Sun City, 10101 W. Coggins Drive.

While the majority of the 200 people attending the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service are Sun City-area residents, Glendale and Peoria families find that the Sun City church is closer than the Unity Church at North 15th and West Northern avenues in Phoenix.

The church now offers child care and soon will provide children's Sunday School, an uncommon service at Sun City-area churches, said the Rev. G. Marshall Norman, the church's 39-year-old minister.

At the request of members, church representatives will make daily calls to shut-ins to check on their welfare and to have a friendly conversation. The service is provided to help members, the majority of whom are single elderly women, Norman said.

In July, members of the Unity Church of Sun City will receive letters they wrote to God in January affirming what they wish to do during 1991, Norman said.

The letters were put in self-addressed envelopes and deposited at the church in January. They will be mailed to members to remind them of what they wrote to God, Norman said.

The Unity Church of Sun City also is known for a burning-bowl ceremony at the beginning of each year in which church

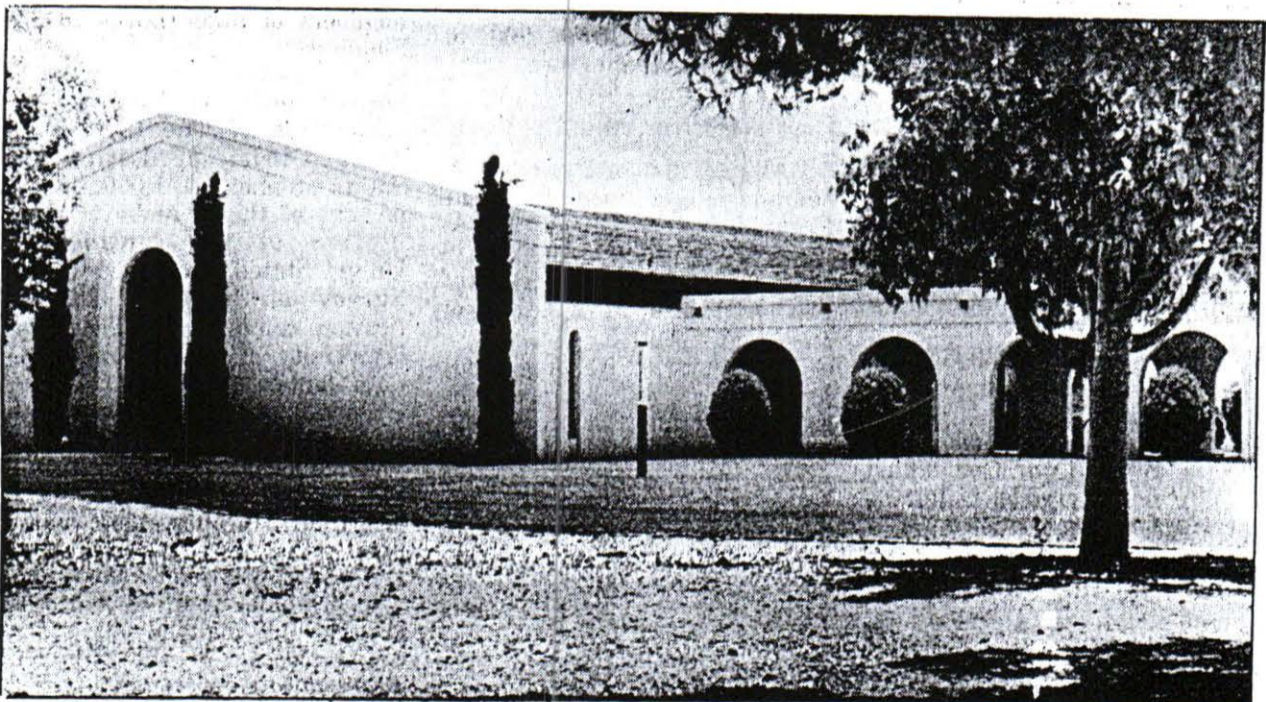
members write down their negative thoughts and release the thoughts by burning them in the bowl.

"By doing this we are cleansed of these thoughts," Norman said.

The church also planted a peace pole recently and plans to expand the fellowship hall and add a memorial garden in the next few years, he said.

The Unity faith centers on practical application in everyday life of the principles of truth taught by Jesus Christ. The term "wayshower" is used to depict the importance of Jesus' life.

Also inherent in Unity beliefs is the concept that it is unnecessary to impose limiting beliefs, but that it is important that each individual listen to and follow the guidance of God



Daily News-Sun photo by Frances Guarino

LOOKING UP — The congregation of Unity Church of Sun City, 10101 W. Coggins Drive, has plans to expand the church's fellowship hall and add a memorial garden.

(OVER)

within everyone.

"I always felt that I didn't need an intermediary. God was within me and you and everyone," said Dewey Welsh, who is

vice president of the church's board of directors.

Welsh, who is retired from his job in charge of inventory control at the Boeing Corp. in

Washington, practiced the every-day Unity principles recently by showing up at the church to help with repair

projects.

Welsh and his wife Louise attended Presbyterian, Methodist and Lutheran churches before moving to Arizona, and found the Unity faith when they attended the Unity church in Mesa with a relative.

"People aren't bad. There's something in all of us that makes us good. Unity says that we are good and that sin is separation from that good. It puts the responsibility on me not to be separated from God," Welsh said.

"I like that because I don't have anyone else to blame. It's not the church or church leaders, it's me. The typical denominations are institutions and the institution's primary purpose is self-perpetuation.

"The church hierarchy runs it. In the 100-year-old Unity faith, the focus is very warm, loving and friendly and very Christian," he said.

"We live our religion instead of going once a week for religion," Welsh said.

Activities offered by the church include meetings on the second Monday of the month for Women of Unity, which will begin again Sept. 9; a prayer circle at 10 a.m. Tuesdays in the church; a Course in Miracles at 10 a.m. Thursdays in the church; and classes and videos at 10 a.m. Wednesdays in the church.

The church also mails or delivers tapes of Sunday services to shut-ins, and transportation is available for those unable to drive. For more information, call the church office at 974-6443 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A10 NEWS-SUN SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1987

Unity Church welcomes all

By BRIAN ALCORN
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Spiritual growth is a do-it-yourself project.

This statement is at the heart of the teachings of the Unity Church of Sun City.

Unity was founded in 1899, and its headquarters is in Unity Village, Mo., just outside Kansas City.

Unity teaches that each individual seek God in his or her own way, said Harold Kinner, a licensed Unity teacher with the church.

The Unity church is unusual in the religious community in that it has no rites and is open to people of all denominations. It is possible to be a member of Unity and a member of any other religion, Kinner said.

Kinner and his wife, Evlyn, have been licensed Unity instructors since January. The Kinners were Presbyterians until they discovered Unity 13 years ago.

"We found that Unity had the answers for us," Harold Kinner said. "It revitalized us. It offered new hope."

The Unity Church of Sun City was organized 11 years ago, and the church itself, at 10101 Coggins Drive, is nine years old. A sanctuary was added on to the main church a year and a half ago, and a prayer garden is being planned in the desert-landscaped courtyard between the sanctuary and the church.

The leader of the church is the Rev. Robert Marshall, D.D. Marshall, 62, has led the church since late May. His wife, Faye, assists with the teaching aspect of the ministry.

Education is the main purpose of Unity, Kinner said. Unity, he said, stresses the practical applications of the teachings of Jesus Christ.

But, Kinner added, "We don't feel that we have any private hold on this philosophy." For this reason, members of other congregations and other denominations are encouraged to learn more about their religion from the Unity point of view.

"We just offer a friendly church to come to," Kinner said.

Unity is a member of Interfaith Services of Sun City, and Evlyn Kinner said a friendly relationship with other Sun City churches is vital to Unity's goal of education.

Classes are held at the church four times each week. The classes are open to anyone who wishes to learn, Kinner said, and the lessons taught can be applied to any religious denomination.

The topics of the classes include meditation, miracles, mysteries in revelation and the power of positive thought and positive prayer.

The idea of positive thought and positive prayer is essential to Unity, Evlyn Kinner said.

"If you have all of these negative thoughts,

they just multiply because you expect negative things to happen," she said.

Meditation is also an important concept, Kinner said. "It is a time of stillness in which you receive strength within your own faith."

Harold Kinner started in Unity when he was 67. He received his teaching certificate in January, at the age of 76.

Kinner said his recent accomplishment shows, "It's never too late to educate yourself and set goals for yourself."

Kinner said that when he and Evlyn moved to Sun City three years ago they regained a sense of independence and the realization of the responsibility that accompanies freedom.

"You suddenly realize that you are responsible for your own life, and the decisions you make are yours to live with," Kinner said.

The Unity Church offers many of the same programs that are offered by most churches, including prayer and discussion groups. There is also a bookstore and a borrower's library in the church.

Kinner said teaching the principles of Unity "is just like any other teaching work, but I think it lends a certain exhilaration passing the information along because it means so much to us."

Services are held Sunday mornings at 10:30, and the weekday classes are held at 10 a.m.



Harold and Evlyn Kinner.

(News-Sun photo)