



PROGRAM

*Audio message from Rev. Judith Meyer
Brief comments from guests and congregants
Tea and celebratory cake*



We would like to acknowledge some people who made this day of celebration of our esteemed Minister Emeritus Ernest D. Pipes possible.

Office Staff: Nurit Gordon, Jackie Schwab, and Nancy Thompson. Sexton: Tom Ahern.

Photo Collection and Montage: Steve White, historical documents;

Cynthia Kelly, wedding photos; Joyce Holmen, other history;

Charles Haskell, photographer of three ministers (Ernie, Judith and Rebecca).

Audio Visual equipment: Bob Dietz. Program Design and Graphics: Pam Teplitz.

Volunteers: Beverly Alison, Liza Cranis, Joe Engleman, Melinda Ewen, Joyce Holmen,

Audrey Lyness, Debbie Menzies, Ellen Stuart, and Linda van Ligten.

Caterer: Chuck Craig.

Co-Hosts: Rev. Rebecca Bijur, Patrick McGuire, and Diana Spears.



CELEBRATING

Rev. Ernest D. Pipes, Jr.

90th Birthday



60 years of Ministry at UUSM



25th Anniversary of Pipes
Distinguished Lecture Series



Rev. Ernest D. Pipes, Jr.

Ernie was born to Ernest D. Pipes and Ora Lemon Pipes on October 6, 1926. He has a brother, Bill, six years his junior. A native of Texas from San Antonio, Ernie majored in Chemical Engineering at Rice University. His studies were interrupted by service in the US Navy in World War II. He resumed his studies at Trinity University majoring in Philosophy and Social Services. Ernie graduated in 1949 and married classmate Margaret (Maggie) Copeland.

The couple moved to Cambridge, MA where Ernie studied Philosophy in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard. A year later he transferred to Harvard Divinity School and graduated in 1952.

In 1952 Ernie was called as Minister of the First Unitarian Church in Albany, New York. In 1956 Angeline Forbes went to New York and brought Ernie and Maggie Pipes back to Santa Monica where they had accepted the call at the Unitarian Community Church. Ernie continued his ministry in Santa Monica until his retirement in 1991 when he was confirmed as Minister Emeritus and has maintained his relationship with the church.

Ernie and Maggie had three children, Bruce, Gordon, and Heather, who grew up at UUSM. Bruce lives in Los Angeles with his wife Estralita Mendez

and their daughter, Eliana, now at Columbia University in New York. Heather lives in Minnesota and Gordon lives with his father in Santa Monica. Maggie passed in 2012.

During their 35 year tenure in the pulpit, Ernie and Maggie Pipes, led an active and progressive congregation that was in the vanguard of the social, political and cultural ethos of the times. In the late 1950s, Ernie said, "long before we voted to become a welcoming congregation, we were perceived as one by the gay community...and I would be asked to officiate at a Holy Union of two people. My feeling, then as now, was that love is indiscriminate in its object...and it was not just my personal philosophy... but my conviction that Unitarianism historically had been open-minded, dedicated not only to theological freedom, but also to personal freedom, human rights, and the option to be different. In brief, I considered it integral to my ministry to do gay weddings."

In 1965, Ernie responded to the call by Martin Luther King, Jr., to come to Selma in support of voting rights with a sermon that, somewhat to his surprise, led to the congregation authorizing Ernie and congregant Leon Papernow to go to Montgomery, Alabama. Tensions were high and at one point their care was

threatened, but they were able to complete the last leg of the march into Montgomery.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s Ernie did counseling for conscientious objectors to the Vietnam War. In that period the church voted to become a Peace Site. Also in the 1960-1970s, Maggie and other church members were active in supporting Cesar Chavez and the farm workers in their efforts to become unionized, the church became a meeting place for Cesar and Dolores Huerta in those efforts. Maggie and the church persisted for many years in their support of farm workers in their struggles for fair treatment.

In the years before the adoption of Roe vs Wade on 1973, Ernie was among clergy members who counseled women on obtaining safe abortions. Ernie has been a long time Board Member of Sunset Hall, a Retirement Home for progressive elders started in the 1920s before Social Security by the Women's Alliance of First Unitarian Church in Los Angeles. Maggie long worked with children's programs at First Unitarian Church.

In the 1980s with the troubles in Central America, our church became a Sanctuary Church and in 1986 bonded a family from Guatemala, with whom Maggie stayed in touch for decades.

When INTERWEAVE, our LGBTQ group, began our church participation in the annual West Hollywood Gay Pride Parade, Ernie and Maggie became regular participants.

Throughout his ministry Ernie continued to study the history of ideas, comparative religion and the nature of human consciousness. Ernie was first in our church to lead the still popular course on *Building Your Own Theology*. In 1997, six years after his retirement, Ernie led a six-week discussion group of philosopher Ken Wilber's, *A Brief History of Everything*. In 2007 Ernie led a four-week course on Global Warming sponsored by the Northwest Earth Institute as part of our Green Sanctuary program. Ernie remains a force as Emeritus Minister to the congregation and with the children in Religious Education. Among note is his 2009 sermon, *Struggling for Social Progress: From King to Obama*. Ernie continues to perform weddings, the most recent for the youngest son of the David Olson family this past June.

In 1991 church members led by Betty and Ray Goodman endowed the Pipes Lecture Fund to honor Reverend Ernest D. Pipes, Jr. and Margaret Pipes for their 35 years leading the pulpit. This year, 2016, marks the 25th year we at UUSM have supported the Pipes Lecture Series in a tradition of free, wide-ranging, public lectures on topics of public service, government, social justice, religion, ethics, environmentalism and the media. In this year's lecture weekend, we also celebrate Ernie's 90th birthday and 60 years ministry at UUSM.