

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Visalia

THE GIFT OF YOU - SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AT UU VISALIA

Newsletter Editor -

create/update monthly newsletter on Constant Contact and post on Ning website. Computer experience, writing and/or graphics ability, patience and a sense of humor are helpful. Should be regular attendee and familiar with UU values. Training available.

Contact April at 738-1965 or Harold at 697-3525.

Join Our Choir - The Choir practices at 4 PM on designated Sundays each month. If you are interested in joining, contact Ken Elias at keliass@prodigy.net or phone: (559) 561-0610.

Vergers - A volunteer to coordinate the setting up and take down of equipment before and after each service. Contact April or Harold.

Greeters- Two each week to greet people arriving for services. Contact April

Hospitality Hosts- for visitors during Sunday supper. Contact April

April 2011

Worship Service Schedule

Sunday services begin at 5PM, with buffet supper at 6PM.

April 3, 2011 - "A Saving Faith" by Unitarian Universalist minister Laura Horton-Ludwig of the Stockton congregation, presented by Lesley Dyer. What you say you have faith in, may not be what you rely on, nor even the thing you care about most. Everyone has a faith or belief in something, even if we say we believe in nothing... as our speaker, Lesley does. Rev Horton-Ludwig argues that we all believe in something, and our actions are testimony of our real beliefs.

(Board will meet after dinner.)

April 10, 2011 - "Tables" by Dr. Tony Larsen, presented by Anna Garcia. This sermon makes reference to all the important things that happen around tables, including bargaining tables, peace tables and the family dinner table. He states that while an open table is where people can perform positive activities such as "breaking bread" or sharing communion, cement friendships, and strengthen companionship and unity; a closed table is where others who are different or excluded. Through practicing our faith we can help to make a closed table become an open one. (Choir will sing and Worship Team will meet after dinner.)

April 17, 2011 - "Identity, Purpose, and Belonging" presented by Transforming Congregations Team, Jeanelyse Doran Adams and Dan Kane. Join Reverends Jeanelyse and Dan in a stirring worship service that culminates a weekend-long retreat exploring the Fellowship's identity, purpose and culture of belonging. Who are we? What does our coming together as a faith community mean? How does our coming and being together reflect on our identity and purpose? (Choir will sing and Social Justice Team will meet after dinner.)

Communications Team- new members to help plan & implement publicity, newsletter, website, etc. Contact Jolene 627-8538

The Caring Committee is now Johanna Lane, David Reid, Deborah Lynn and Jane Crusier. If you know someone in need of care, call or contact the Fellowship.

Field Trip to UU Fresno?
Anyone interested in organizing a group outing?

Friday Lunch Group? Anyone interested in revitalizing our weekly Friday lunches?

Ongoing Fellowship Events

Meetings (Dates are subject to change.)

After Sunday Service and Dinner

First Sunday of each month - Board;

Second Sunday -
Worship Team;

Third Sunday -
Social Justice Team.

Third Sunday morning
10AM-12PM

Communications Team

UU Visalia Podcast

We have a regular audio podcast of UU Visalia presentations. You can download these podcasts [here: http://podcast.uuvisalia.org](http://podcast.uuvisalia.org)
Or just go to the iTunes Store, and search for "Unitarian Visalia."

April 24, 2011 - Easter Breakfast with Quakers - 9AM at Lovett house, north of Meetinghouse. **There will be no evening service on Easter, since we will have met in the morning.**

Please Note - Service topics are subject to change.

Special Announcement from the Worship Committee:

There were several suggestions for changing the way we worship that were made during the Transforming Congregations workshop we had a few weeks ago . Over time the worship committee will implement many of these changes. The purpose of the changes is to improve our quality of our services.

The first change is underway. We would like to have the congregation enter our sanctuary silently so that we can start to have a brief period of meditation and spiritual preparation from the time we enter the room, until we start our service. To facilitate that process we will have the hymn books, programs and name tags all in the lobby area and we hope to have at least 2 greeters available to help orient our visitors. If you would like to have time to visit before the service please come a little earlier so that you can chat in the kitchen or lobby. Once you enter the sanctuary, we ask that you do so in silence. This will help us to better appreciate the musical interlude which usually precedes our service.

- Thank you, Anna Garcia, Worship Committee Chair

UU Visalia Fellowship News & Events

Saturday - Sunday April 16-17, 2011 - Transforming Congregation Team Visit - Inspiring workshops and great company! Details to be announced.

Saturday, April 23, 2011, 11:30AM-2PM - Newcomer Orientation and Lunch at 4824 W Crowley Ct, Visalia. Learn more about Unitarians, Universalists, and the benefits of membership with the Visalia UU Fellowship. Enjoy sharing of spiritual journeys, camaraderie and a bit of history. Unitarian Universalist congregations are places where people gather to nurture their spirits and put their faith into action by helping to make our communities and the world a better place. RSVP to April.

Bumper Stickers Now Available to Spread the Word about UU Visalia Mess-free sticky back decals to display on car bumper, window, computer, etc. Colors should last four years. The decals are removable and the adhesive can be cleaned off with alcohol. Free will donation would be appreciated. Contact Jolene or a board member.

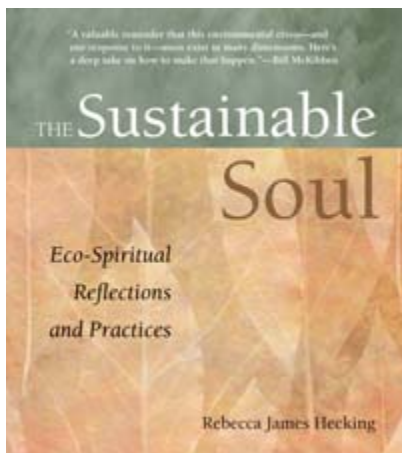
Sayonara to Meditation Group - The Shambala meditation group that

Please Use Your S.H.A.R.E.S. Card at Save-Mart

Our Fellowship is participating in the Save-Mart S.H.A.R.E.S program. If you take one of our S.H.A.R.E.S. cards and give it to the clerk at the check-out counter, our Fellowship will receive 3% of your grocery purchases from Save-Mart, at no extra cost to you. Please get your own S.H.A.R.E.S. card from Jolene. And... bring your receipts for the Raffle!! (2010 earnings - \$800)

Recycling Computer Ink Cartridges

- for fundraiser and ecology!. Place your used cartridges in the green and white collection box on the shelf in Meetinghouse foyer. When filled, the box is sent to Empties4Cash and a check is mailed back to the UU Fellowship of Visalia, earning us \$20+ for each boxful. Cartridges with a print head are qualified for payment. That includes most of Hewlett Packard, Lexmark, Compaq, Canon, Dell, Brother, and Apple. Cartridges without a print head do not qualify for payment.



gathered mid-week at Friends Meetinghouse for several years has been canceled, due to changes in Rick Meyer's life. Many have grown by participating in the group and we are grateful for his guidance. We look forward to possible future special events! As we closed each practice session, we offered that accomplishment to the welfare of all with this saying, "*By this merit may all attain omniscience. May it defeat the enemy, wrongdoing, through the stormy waves of birth, old age, sickness and death. From the ocean of samsara, may I free all beings.*"



David Reid

Beloved Member Dies

Long-time member David Reid died unexpectedly on Monday March 7, 2011.

Husband of Marilyn Giese, father, new grandfather, architect, bagpiper, tenor, Mercedes car restorer, David was a former Visalia UU Fellowship treasurer and more. He was active in the life of our Fellowship, participating in many discussion groups, playing the bagpipes for special occasions, and an active member of the Caring Committee.

We will all miss him; and extend our condolences to Marilyn.

Unitarian Universalist Events

Tuesday April 12, 2011 deadline for "Early Bird" registration for May 13 - 15, 2011 PCD DISTRICT ASSEMBLY in Fremont!

Registration is now open! Early Bird Special of \$75 through April 12, 2011 (a \$20 savings over previous years). Over 25 workshops to choose from! Rev. William Schulz and Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed will be featured speakers. Come join 400 UU's from across the Pacific Central District as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the consolidation of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America into our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations! For more information, please contact District Administrator Chuck Rosene at: (510) 530-1437 or at pcd@pcd-uua.org

June 22 - 26: General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Charlotte, NC. For information, please see www.uua.org/ga

July 16-23, 2011 PCD Leadership School, Ben Lomond, CA
Pacific Central District announces the 34th Annual Leadership School at

New from UUA - [now available on our UU Visalia online bookstore!](#)

The Sustainable Soul: Eco-Spiritual Reflections and Practices

by Rebecca James Hecking

Celebrate Earth Day with this collection of meditations, journal prompts, and musings on eco-spirituality from UU blogger Rebecca James Hecking. Each chapter contains an essay and spiritual practices which are ideal for group or individual reflection.

The practices include a wide range of suggestions such as guided meditations, journaling prompts, creative art projects and ideas for concrete action. You can choose the practices that best suit your personality, lifestyle, and unique journey.

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the Earth Matters Retreat Center in Ben Lomond, 10 miles north of Santa Cruz. Congregational leaders experience the Beloved Community first-hand and learn the skills needed to foster that environment in their congregations. The curriculum includes meeting management, dealing with conflict, designing worship, and problem-solving. Tuition is \$1,100, including room and board, with a portion contributed by the congregation for those committed to leading the Visalia UU Fellowship to future growth. More information at PCD's website, speak with with a Board member or with Dorothy, April or Don who have attended Leadership School.

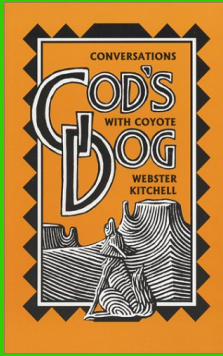
Community Events

Saturday, April 2, 2011 - 8:30AM-@11AM - Crop Walk - Support FoodLink and hunger relief efforts of UU Service Committee or sponsor Church World Service by pledging and/or walking 1-5 miles around downtown Visalia's poorer neighborhoods, past Visalia Rescue Mission, Emergency Aid, Good News Center. Meet at St. Paul's Anglican Church at corner of Center and Hall, Visalia. Walk and/or pledge support to a walker. Contact: April Hill.

Sunday, April 3, 2011, 3PM - The Best of Colburn Concert at Main Street Theater, 307 W Main, Visalia. - When people say the Colburn School of Music is one of the best on earth, they aren't exaggerating. The instructors come from the highest altitudes of the music world and the students who finally make it through the rigorous audition process are among the most talented international prodigies anywhere. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$6 students and may be purchased at the following locations: In Visalia - Valhalla Restaurant, 314 W. Center and Downtown Visalians, 103 N. Court; in Exeter at Monet's, 120 S. E Street. Tickets are also available for online purchase at the Enchanted Playhouse website. Brought to you by the Three Rivers Performing Arts Institute and Enchanted Playhouse Theater.

Friday, April 8, 2011, 7 pm. Sierra Club MKG/Kaweah Group Film Series at Cafe 210, 210 West Center Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291. "The Age of Stupid" - Oscar-nominated Pete Postlethwaite (IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER) stars as an old man in 2055, where runaway climate change has ravaged the planet. He watches 'archive' footage from 2008 and asks why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance? Pete plays the founder of The Global Archive, a storage facility located in the (now melted) Arctic, preserving all of humanity's achievements in the hope that the planet might one day be habitable again. Or that intelligent life may arrive and make use of all that we've achieved. He pulls together clips of "archive" news and documentary from 1950-2008 to build a message showing what went wrong and why. For more information, contact John Kamansky at 686-6418.

Saturday, April 9, 2011 - 7AM-12PM - Visalia "Dump-On-Us" event at



God's Dog: Conversations With Coyote By Webster Kitchell

In Native American traditions, Coyote is the Trickster--the one you want to avoid but love to hear stories about. In the Aztec tradition, Coyote is "God's Dog." As a minor deity, Coyote is at home in the world we know and in the world of magic and the gods. In this series of coyote adventures, he gets involved with a parish minister in Santa Fe, New Mexico. They meet for donuts and go on drives through the desert and mountains in an old VW Thing. They discuss just what you'd expect from a minor deity and a philosophical clergyman--death, lying, progress, why Jesus was crucified, what money will buy, and the nature of the universe.



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Visalia Corporation Yard, 335 N Cain. Visalia residents may bring one load of E-waste, appliances, mattresses, tires, and green waste. Bring proof of residency. www.dumponus.org

Saturday, April 16, 2011, 8AM-12PM - Visalia Earth Day - Volunteer to help clean Mill Creek between Johnson St and Dollner, then visit environmental exhibits and displays. Remove invasive species, plant native/water efficient plants. Free reusable tote & lunch for registered volunteers. For more information call 559-713-4531 or visit www.GoGreenVisalia.com.

Saturday, April 16, 2011, 12:30PM-6:30PM - "Trailblazing Bonanza" at Sequoia Riverlands Trust's Homer Ranch. Training, trailblazing & volunteer work, barbeque dinner. 5:30PM Burleigh Lockwood Owl talk. RSVP by 4/8/11 by contacting Laura at laura@sequoiariverlands.org or 559-738-0211 x 103. Another SRT event on 4/23/11 is a 5K run/walk for Earth Day at Kaweah Oaks Preserve. Registration fee \$20 by 4/15 or \$25 on race day. Registration open from 6:30-7:30AM; race starts at 8AM

Sunday, April 17, 2011, 3-5PM - monthly meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - PFLAG - Tulare and Kings Counties is a volunteer group of parents, family and friends of people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT). meet on the third Sunday of each month. Location is Family HealthCare Network, 305 E Center St, at corner of Bridge Street. (Use the courtyard entrance on Bridge. Pedestrian gate is in the alley.)

Saturday, April 30, 2011, 4PM - Dances of Universal Peace in Fresno at The Oneness Center, 1752 E Bullard, Ste 106 (at Cedar). Dances of Universal Peace are simple, meditative and joyous circle dances, using sacred phrases, movements and music from the world's wisdom traditions. There are no performers or audience members - no experience is necessary! Information available at www.dancesofuniversalpeacena.org

South Valley Peace Center

Peace vigils are held on the first Sunday of each month at the corner of Walnut and Mooney. Between October and May, the vigil takes place from 1-2PM. In summer (June-September) the vigil moves to 8-9AM.

The SVPC has been granted a construction permit from the FCC for full power non-commercial educational FM radio station to serve most of Tulare and Kings counties with 25,000 watts. They are applying for a federal grant to cover 75% of the \$166,000 estimated cost of building the station and need to raise approximately \$40,000 in matching funds from supporters. All are invited to make a financial commitment to bringing local voices and news from a progressive perspective to our diverse communities. For information, check www.southvalleypeacecenter.org , e-mail tularerue@gmail.com, or call 686-6836. Contributions may be

mailed to SVPC, 19206 Ave 296, Visalia CA 93292. (The South Valley Peace Center is incorporated as a 501 (c) (4) non-profit corporation. Donations are not deductible for charitable purposes.)

Contact Info:

**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Visalia**

info@uuvisalia.org

(559) 477-4214

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If you're searching for a spiritual home that is guided by a quest for truth and meaning, not by a set creed or dogma, we invite you to discover Unitarian Universalism.

We are an open-minded religious community that encourages you to seek your own spiritual path, offering you resources to help you make your own decisions. Unitarian Universalist congregations are places where people gather to nurture their spirits and put their faith into action by helping to make our communities and the world a better place.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Visalia | 17208 Avenue 296, Visalia (Friends Meeting House) | Hwy 198 - Farmersville Exit - then east on North side frontage road | PO Box 3469 | Visalia | CA | 93278