



**THE GIFT OF YOU,
SERVICE
OPPORTUNITIES at UU
VISALIA**

February 2011

Worship Service Schedule

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

**Retiring Newsletter
Editor**

Many Thanks to Bryce Lane for producing a beautifully designed newsletter with colorful and creative graphics for more than a year! (Much simpler product planned by new editor, April Hill, who will again assume the job until a new volunteer is found.)

Volunteers

Sought:

Newsletter Editor -
assemble announcements about worship services, Visalia UU Fellowship events, PCD & UUA issues and community events related to UU Principles. Computer experience, writing and/or graphics ability, patience and a sense of humor are

Feb 6, 2011 - Imbolc

We shall explore the Celtic HolyDay of Imbolc and the life lessons of the Goddess Brigid, aka Brigid or Bride, later known as Saint Briget. Presented by Marilyn Giese. **(Board meeting follows dinner.)**

Feb 13, 2011 - "Standing on the Side of Love - Immigration"

We are fortunate to have Graciela Martinez as our guest speaker. Ms. Martinez is a long time activist on farmworker issues. She was honored in December as Woman of the Year by the Tualre County Round Table. She will talk about what's happening currently in regards to anti-immigrant issues such as "Secure Communities, the effects of car impoundments and job depletion, and impact on our communities. ("Standing on the Side of Love" is a Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)-related initiative, which Marilyn will speak about.) **(The Choir will sing and Worship Team will meet after dinner.)**

Feb 20, 2011 - Evolution Sunday - "Evolution for Everyone"

You don't have to be a biologist to be an Evolutionist! Learn how the science of natural selection can be applied to all kinds of topics, including human behavior, environmental protection, and the evolution of religion. Presented by Harold Wood. **(The Choir will sing and Social Justice Team will meet after dinner.)**

Feb 27, 2011 - "The Spiritual Lessons of Harry Potter"

The Harry Potter series is an icon of popular culture, but The

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 keliias@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- for people arriving for services. Contact April

Hospitality Hosts- for visitors during Sunday potluck. Contact April

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

broadness of its appeal is not random. Harry Potter, his friends, teachers and his nemesis all are part of a larger story that we are hungry to hear. This sermon will explore the spiritual dimension of this popular modern tale. Presented by Janet Wood.

CALL TO MEETING
Feb 27, 2011 from 1:30-4:30PM (before service)
- Congregational Meeting -
with the PCD Transforming Congregations Team

Please Note - Service topics are subject to change.

UU Visalia Fellowship News & Events

Successful Fundraising !!

In the last quarter of 2010, UU Visalia received checks for more than \$96 from Amazon.com purchases and \$182 from SaveMart and FoodMaxx purchases (by those providing their Shares Card). Our donation to FOOD LINK is \$45.60. Pretty good return for just buying the groceries we would buy anyway, and on-line shopping certainly is convenient! Thanks for your support to help the Fellowship grow. (P.S. Remember the monthly raffle reward for using your Shares Card - a gift certificate to the Visalia Farmers Market. Dorothy Osak won the prize this January.)

Meditation Group Change

Tuesdays will be the new evening for the meditation group to meet. Time and place remain the same - 6:30-8:00PM at Friends Meetinghouse. Contact Rick Meyers or current participants for more information.

Two Spirit in Practice Classes in February

Two more workshops in our "Spirit in Practice" series will be held in February at the Friends Meetinghouse. You need not have attended previous

workshops to attend. Please RSVP to:

Harold Wood -harold@uuvisalia.org or 697-3525. To join us at early at 6PM for soup and salad supper, contact Marilyn Giese at mjgiese2@gmail.com or 687-1891.

- Feb 9, 2011 - WORKSHOP 7 - Soul Practices (Creativity)

Our creative souls need nurturing and understanding. How do we remain creatively open? Where does our inspiration come from? "Soul practices" are those spiritual practices that engage our creative selves. This workshop will:

- Encourage participants to recognize and express their own innate



interested in organizing a group outing?

Friday Lunch Group?

Anyone interested in revitalizing our weekly Friday lunches?

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Evolution for Everyone: How Darwin's Theory Can Change the Way We Think About Our Lives
By David Sloan Wilson

creativity

- Highlight the value of creative expression in a regimen of spiritual practices

- Feb 23, 2011 - WORKSHOP 8: Life Practices (Everyday Spirituality)

This workshop encourages us to see every moment of our regular, daily lives as an opportunity to deepen our spiritual awareness and connections - whether we are giving medicine to an ailing parent or flossing our teeth, dealing with a co-worker or discovering that we've burned our dinner.

This workshop will:

- Help participants see ways to integrate their outer lives with their inner work
- Present a variety of means for experiencing the spiritual aspects of everyday tasks and life situations

Feb 26-27, 2011 - Transforming Congregations Team Visit

The Visalia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship received a Pacific Central District Chalice Lighter grant for a newly created Transforming Congregations Team to help us grow. They will be driving down on Saturday morning, Feb 26 and have scheduled several meetings with different groups within the congregation. Locations will be announced.

Saturday, 2/26, - 11:30AM-1:00pm - One on one interviews with selected members /friends, who will be notified by email in advance.

2/26 - 2PM-4PM - Worship Team meeting

2/26 - 4PM-6PM - Congregational Leadership Team

~~**Sunday, 2/27 - 10AM-12PM - Communications Team**~~

Meets 2-20 instead

2/27 - 1:30PM-4:30PM - Congregational Meeting

at the Meetinghouse to discuss the Identity of the Fellowship - how we see ourselves and how the TCT sees us in relationship to our purpose, identity, and mission.

Feb 27, Mar 6, 13 and 20 - 2011 Women's Workshop -

"Taking Care of Ourselves / Finding Balance in this Crazy World"

Do you feel sometimes like you have lost a wheel on your roller skates, or that you are being targeted by every sales pitch or survey imaginable. Or is your rudder off just a wee bit, and you aren't sure just what your course heading is. Perhaps you are having difficulties getting control of your email or the electric gadgets in your home and you feel they are controlling you? In other words, do you ever feel overloaded or a little off balance? If so, you are invited to a series of four fire-side chats for women of all ages at the Meeting House beginning Sunday evening, February 27th and continuing for the first three Sundays in March. The series is entitled "Taking Care of Ourselves". These chats will take place immediately after supper -at 7pm and lasting until about 8:30pm. Attendance is limited to fifteen this round, so get your reservation in to insure that you have a spot by the fire. The conversations will be facilitated by Sarah Ramirez, Marilyn Giese and Graciela Martinez. The topics, while all interrelated are structured around self, family and community. In the first session we will focus on how and what we do or don't do affects ourselves, our families

Evolution, as Wilson explains, is not just about dinosaurs and human origins, but about why all species behave as they do—from beetles that devour their own young, to bees that function as a collective brain, to dogs that are smarter in some respects than our closest ape relatives. And basic evolutionary principles are also the foundation for humanity's capacity for symbolic thought, culture, and morality.



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UU Visalia
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Ongoing Fellowship Events

Meetings (Dates are subject to change.)

After Sunday Service and Dinner

Second Sunday of each month -
Worship Team
Third Sunday -

and significant others. The second session will focus on finding the balance between personal needs and the needs of the community. The third session will focus on finding the balance between personal needs and the needs of our career. Then on March 20th (when the Spring Equinox will occur at 4:21pm PDT when everything should be in balance) we will look at integrating and balancing family, activism, and career while being true to ourselves. Conversations are meant to be a sharing of thoughts in a safe place where what is shared is shared only between those in attendance, and not for publication, gossip, or distribution to anyone outside of the circle. If you would like to attend, email Marilyn Giese at mjgiese2@gmail.com, or call 559-687-1891 and leave a message with your name, phone number, and or email address. Don't forget that registration is on a first come, first served basis. If you have a need for childcare, please let us know when you register. Hope to see you there.

Unitarian Universalist Events

Fri-Sunday, May 13 - 15, 2011: DISTRICT ASSEMBLY!

Come join 400 UU's from across the Pacific Central District as we celebrate the consolidation of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America into our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations! _Rev. William Schulz and Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed will be featured speakers! 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 more 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 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, or speak with a Board member.

Community Events

FoodLink of Tulare County welcomes volunteers on Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and some Saturdays. Jobs include

Social Justice Team
Third Sunday morning,
10AM-12PM
Communications Team

UU Visalia Podcast

We have a regular audio podcast of Sermons and Presentations from UU Visalia. So far, all 7 of Sam Webster's sermons from the past year are posted, as well as a presentation by Marilyn Giese with more to come. 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."

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!!

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.

repacking bulk food items (like carrots!), recycling, and helping warehouse staff pull food orders for partner food agencies. Several Visalia UU Fellowship members worked on Martin Luther King Day as a Day of Service" Congratulations to Katherine, Daljit, Marilyn, David, the Osak family and April.. Thanks to Rob Osak for organizing a day for volunteers!

To arrange your own volunteer hours, please call (559) 651-food or e-mail info@foodlinktc.org Volunteers 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult, youth groups require 1 adult per 8 youth. Volunteers 18 and under require a parent or guardian complete the youth permission registration.

For Valentine's Day - Monday, Feb 14, 2011 - Family Farm Fresh suggests sending one of their beautiful baskets of delicious fruits and vegetables. Take care of everyone on your list. Jazz it up with some of our farm fresh cheese, olives or olive oil. Small produce basket - \$19.95 delivered; Large produce basket - \$29.95 delivered. Contact Pam at <pam@familyfarmfresh.com> or call Jo Ann 559-798-0557 ext 7011

Friday, February 11, 2011 - 7:00 pm. Sierra Club/MKG/Kaweah Group Film Series at Cafe 210, 210 West Center Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291
The second film in the local Sierra Club chapter's series will be "Dirt! The Movie." This film explores the story of Earth's most valuable and under appreciated source of fertility, from its miraculous beginning to its crippling degradation." (6 pm. Informal 'No Host' Dinner also at Cafe 210. No reservations necessary.) For more information, contact John Kamansky at 686-6418.

Saturday, Feb 19, 2011 - 2:00 - 4:00pm
Valley Yoga SATURDAY AFTERNOON UNWINDING Satya/Somatic Supported Inversion and Restorative
The somatic unwinding sequences use slow rocking movements rather than long holding of postures to unlock some of our habitual ways of being that hinder us from full relaxation. \$25.00 Pre-register, class size is limited. Send check to: Valley Yoga, P.O. Box 552, Three Rivers, CA 93271.

Sunday, Feb 20, 2011 - 3:00-5:00pm - PFLAG meeting at Family HealthCare Network, 305 W Center (at Bridge St), Visalia. a volunteer group of parents, family and friends of people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT). Welcome to our meetings on the third Sunday of each month. Refreshments served, free, membership optional.

Wednesday, Feb 23, 2011 - 6pm - LJ Williams Theatre, Visalia.
Presentation by One of the Little Rock Nine, a group of African American students who were the first to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Melba Pattillo Beals, Congressional Gold Medal Winner and best selling author will share her story of courage and the fight for equality. Presented by the Rotary Clubs of Visalia. \$10 general admission, \$5 Visalia Unified School District staff, free to students with

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. If you cannot tell the difference, bring it in anyways.

student body card. Tickets available at Visalia Unified School District, San Joaquin Valley College Corp offices, Security First Alarm King and Bothof's Bakery.

Until Feb 26. 2011

"Yokohl Valley Revisited"

Art show; 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, and third Sunday of the month at Tulare Historical Museum, 444 W. Tulare Ave, Tulare CA (686-2074). An inspiring exhibit of art celebrating Yokohl Valley. Artist Mona Selph initiated the idea of bringing together artists to raise awareness of the scenic, cultural, and environmental treasure that is Yokohl Valley, and of what will be lost if the proposed 10,000-home "new town" development in that valley is approved. (Mona wrote a wonderful letter to the editor on this after the 2008 "Scoping Meeting" held to inform county residents of the plans for the development. You can read her letter on the TCCRG website at www.tccrg.org). Artists include Mona Fox Selph and Paul Buxman. Regular admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors (55+) and Southern California Automobile Club members, \$2 for students, and free for Tulare City Historical Society members and children under 5. Sponsored by Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth

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.

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