



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

### **Volunteers Sought:**

**Verger** - A volunteer to coordinate the setting up and take down of equipment before and after each service. Contact April at 738-1965 or Harold at 697-3525.

**Greeters**- for people arriving for services, Contact April #738-1965

**Hospitality Hosts**- for visitors during Sunday potluck, Contact April

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

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

**The Caring committee** is now Johanna Lane, David Reid, Deborah Lynn and Jane Cruser. If you know someone in need of care, call or contact at fellowship.

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

### **Worship Service Calendar January 2011**

**January 2 - "My Journey to Nichiren Buddhism"** will be presented by Jane Cruser. She will also demonstrate the chanting practiced by this branch of Buddhism and invite all to join in. Earl Cruser will be the Worship Associate.

**January 9 - "Sharing of Spiritual Journeys"** \* Ken Elias and Anna Garcia will share their spiritual process of how they became a member of the UU congregation. **Choir will sing.**

**January 16 - "Promises, Promises"** - a sermon preached by the Rev Angela Herrera at First Unitarian - Albuquerque and presented by April Hill. Covenants are the sacred promises we make about how we treat one another and our world. They help us to bring our values to bear in our relationships and on the world around us, even as they flatly contradict what we sometimes fear is true: that there is no hope.

**January 23 - "A personal Remembrance of Dr. King"** lead by Earl Cruser. **Choir will sing.**

**January 30 - "Sharing of Spiritual Journeys"** \* Mark and Rosie Bonar will share their spiritual process of how they became members of the Visalia UU congregation.

Please Note - Service topics are subject to change.

*\* The "Sharing of Spiritual Journeys" is a widespread practice in Unitarian Universalist congregations, and an opportunity for individuals to tell their personal stories. We appreciate the willingness to share. From Wikipedia - "Unitarian Universalism is a religious community characterized by support for a 'free and responsible search for truth and meaning.' UUs do not share a creed; rather, they are unified by their shared search for spiritual growth and by the belief that an individual's theology is a result of that search and not obedience to an authoritative requirement. UUs draw on many different theological sources and have a wide range of beliefs and practices."*

## UU Visalia Fellowship News

*"Ministry happens wherever individuals embrace the belief that their good works, their volunteerism, their acts, can help serve the mission and vision of their congregation...ministry is something shared by all who are part of a spiritual community; a way to put faith into action for the benefit of the church and the wider community."*

The Gift of You, Kathy van Leuwen, UU San Mateo

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## Transforming Congregations Team is Here!



Jeanelyse Doran Adams - Marilyn Giese, President.

In December, the UU Fellowship of Visalia embarked on an adventure!

This adventure is led by the Pacific Central District Transforming Congregation Team of Rev. Jeanelyse Adams (pictured) and the Rev. Dan Kane, with the assistance of other clergy members at various times over the next two years. In this program, we will concentrate on growing into our mission, and serving our community. The TC Team plans to return in February 2011. More information to come.

### Help Wanted!

Another periodic reminder that there are no maids at Friends Meetinghouse. A housekeeper comes in once a week to wash floors, but we must clean up after our own potluck meals. Help is also appreciated for "wrapping up the set" after worship service.

### Please take a turn at the following tasks :

1. Clearing and wiping down tables,
2. Rinsing dishes for the dishwasher,
3. Bagging up trash and taking it home for the garbage can,
4. Carrying audio equipment and banners to the closet.

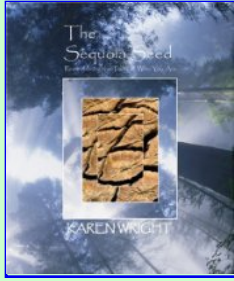
We balance the necessary chores with the pleasures of cultivating visitors and chatting with friends. Hospitality and housework are everyone's responsibility! Let's see some new faces at work!

With gratitude from the Fellowship Board.

- **Fellowship History.** The year 2011 is the 50th anniversary of the Unitarian Universalist Association! That makes us want to remember our own history as a Fellowship within this movement, since 1970. Do you have old documents, newsletters, photos, news clippings? Are you interested in doing a little research and writing?

Please contact a Board member if you are interested. For more info, see: [A flyer announcing a new project on congregational histories led by the Unitarian Universalist Historical Society.](#)

[http://www.uua.org/documents/uuhs/create\\_cong\\_histories.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/uuhs/create_cong_histories.pdf)



**The Sequoia Seed:  
Remembering the  
Truth of Who You  
Are  
By Karen Wright**

**From Amazon:** Deep in an ancient forest of giant sequoias, a small cone waits patiently to release new life. Over the mountain ridge, a wildfire is rapidly approaching. It will destroy all in its path. But, paradoxically, the fire's intense heat will release the tiny seed, smaller than a flake of oatmeal, from the dormant cone and new life will amazingly take root. So it is for us.



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**Please Label Ingredients of Potluck Dishes.** Some members and visitors have serious food allergies and we want them to enjoy dinner without worry. Please list the ingredients of your potluck dish on a post-it or index card. Particular concerns are meat, dairy products, peppers and wheat gluten. Also, if you are willing to divulge your whole recipe, we will collect the cards to include in the Fellowship Cookbook Version #2.

## Community Events

Tulare Co. Library in Visalia, 200 W Oak Ave.

### First Tuesday Book Club

**Event Type:** Adult

**Date:** 1/4/2011

**Start Time:** 6:30 PM

**End Time:** 7:45 PM

**Description:** Book: *Born on a Blue Day* by Daniel Tammet

**Library:** Tulare County Library [Map](#)

**Location:** Visalia Branch Blue Room

**Other Information:** A book bag for other bookclubs will be available approximately one month after the book club event.

### Socrates Cafe

**Date:** 1/11/11

**Time:** 6:30PM - 7:45PM

**Description:** Discussion of "How can we maintain certainty as our knowledge increases?"

**Location:** Tulare County Library, Visalia Branch

**Cost:** Free

**Comment:** This regularly-meeting philosophy discussion group is looking for a leader.

**Contact:** [Judith Wood](#)

**Contact Number:** 713-2706

Check website for more information - [www.tularecountylibrary.org](http://www.tularecountylibrary.org)

### Free Artists' Reception

**Date:** 1/13/10

**Time:** 5:30PM-7PM

**Location:** Tulare Historical Museum, 444 W Tulare Ave, Tulare CA 93274

**Description:** Meet the artists of the next exhibit at the Tulare Historical Museum, "Yokohl Valley Revisited." Also, artist Paul Buxman will play his viola. Public invited to this free reception. The exhibit will be on display through Feb. 26.

**Information:** 686-2074.

**Cost:** Free

### Gardening Festival and Rose Pruning

**Date:** 1/22/10

**Time:** 10:00AM - 2:00PM

## Ongoing Fellowship Events

### 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>

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!

**Join Our Choir** The Choir practices at 4 PM for rehearsal on designated Sundays each month. If you are interested in joining the choir, contact Ken Elias at [k Elias@prodigy.net](mailto:k Elias@prodigy.net) or phone: (559)

Location: Tulare County Courthouse rose garden, 221 S Mooney Blvd., Visalia CA 93291

Description: Join the UC Master Gardeners for a day of learning how to garden. Bring pruners and learn how to prune many types of roses. Also, display booths, staffed by trained volunteers, with information on a variety of gardening issues.

Information: 684-3325 or 684-3326.

Cost: Free

## Unitarian Universalist Events

### New Book About Belief and Disbelief in God From a Unitarian Universalist Minister

Roger C. Schriener has recently published *Bridging the Great God Gap: Finding Common Ground Among Believers, Atheists and Agnostics*. Dr. Schriener is Minister Emeritus at Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fremont. His new book helps friends and family members deal with religious differences. It can also help us understand UUs whose theologies differ from our own. You may also want to read it if:

- \* You don't believe in God, but some of those you care about are committed believers;
- \* You believe in God, and you aren't sure how to communicate with atheists and agnostics;
- \* Someone in your family quarrels with you about theology; or
- \* You aren't sure if you believe, and you want to reflect about whether there is a God and what God is like.

*Bridging the Great God Gap* includes exercises and meditations for exploring these topics, plus communication guidelines for discussing religion. The book is available for \$19.46, including tax and shipping from Roger C. Schriener, 39541 Wilford Ct., Fremont CA 94538, [cschriener@uuma.org](mailto:cschriener@uuma.org).

### UU Jewelry Sale

at the Church of the Larger Fellowship's Online Shop!

**Pewter sale through March 2011 - 20% discount offered on pewter pendants, pewter lapel pins, enamel lapel pins**  
Go to [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org) Click on *CLF Shop* and simply write the words "CLF Rocks!" in the Add Comments field! Your 20% discount will be processed within a week and offered as a credit card refund. Questions? 617-948-6150 All jewelry sale proceeds support the many UU ministries of the **Church of the Larger Fellowship**.

## Just for Fun

### What are Unitarian Universalists?

1. We are very friendly people. If you aren't friendly too, out you go!
2. We are very genuine people. Even if we do have an occasional phony in our midst, he's a real phony.
3. We believe in being sincere - even if we have to fake it.
4. We are very certain about our doubts, but we aren't sure how ambivalent we should be.
5. We don't pretend to know all the answers and we're proud of our humility.
6. We believe in tolerance. In fact, we can't stand intolerant people.
7. We believe in being optimistic; anyone who won't look on the bright side depresses us.
8. We are non-competitive. In fact, we are more non-competitive than anybody.
9. We believe in equality; every one of us is as good as the next person and a whole lot better.
10. Every UU is a feminist, so he has to watch his language.
11. Dogmatism is absolutely forbidden.
12. Freedom of belief is rigidly enforced. Even an atheist can come here, thank God!
13. People who don't believe in anything are free to persuade others to the same point of view.
14. Of course we have our critics - but they are just a few paranoid people who are out to get us.

#### Contact Info:

### Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Visalia

[info@uuvisalia.org](mailto:info@uuvisalia.org)

(559) 477-4214

Please join us on our own

[UU Visalia NING Networking Site](#)

Also for introductory networking:

[Facebook](#)

[Yelp](#)

[Twitter](#)

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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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