

Unitarian Universalist
Where freedom, reason, and tolerance create our sacred space
Fellowship of Visalia

March 2011

Worship Service Schedule

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

March 6, 2011 - Sharing of Spiritual Journeys - Katherine and Daljit Singh will share their personal stories of discovering in Unitarian Universalism a lifelong "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." (Board meeting after dinner.)

March 13, 2011 - "Getting Serious about Unitarian Universalism" Sermon written by Rev. Scott Alexander and led by Anna Garcia. What does it mean to be a UU? What will it take for members of our own congregation and the general public to stop marginalizing Unitarian Universalism and treat it as a serious religion? Come to hear some of Rev Alexander's thoughts regarding this issue. (The choir will sing and the Worship Team will meet after dinner.)

*** Daylight Savings Time begins on March 13, 2011 **
("Spring forward" your clocks one hour!)*

March 20, 2011 - Spring Equinox - "Across Cultures - Around the World" - The Vernal Equinox is a time when the world begins to bloom and rebirth occurs. Presentation service led by Marilyn Giese. This year we will look at the activities we have been involved with and the rebirth that they have fostered. Keio Ogawa will be present, and we will show clips from a DVD that Wadaba has made showing the rebirth in Oroko as a result of our gifts last winter. (The choir will sing and the Social Justice Team will meet after dinner.)

March 27, 2011 - "The Search for a Nonviolent Future: A Promise of Peace for Ourselves, Our Families, and our World." Presentation by Earl Crusier will be based on a book with the same title by Michael Nagler. This will be a participatory service and an opportunity for members and friends to think about achieving peace at all levels of life. (Michael Nagler is Professor emeritus of Classics and Comparative Literature at UC, Berkeley, where he co-founded the Peace and Conflict Studies Program and the Metta Center for Nonviolence.)

Please Note - Service topics are subject to change.

www.uuvisalia.org

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

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 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 - for people arriving for services.

UU Visalia Fellowship News & Events

Report on Transforming Congregations Team Visit See below for a special report by UUFV President Marilyn Giese.

Spirit in Practice Classes in March

We'll have our final two "Spirit in Practices" classes in March, wrapping up our ten-session series.



March 16, 2011 - Workshop 9 on Spiritual Practices: Justice Practices

This workshop will:

- Encourage participants to recognize social justice work as an integral part of a robust spirituality
- Identify ways that participants can bring spiritual intention to their work for good in the world

Participants will:

- Discuss their ideas of, and experiences with, spirituality and social justice
- Learn about ways of taking social action as Unitarian Universalists

Date: March 16, 2011

Time: 7 PM

NEW LOCATION: Harold & Janet's house, Visalia.

You need not have attended previous workshops to attend Workshop 9.

March 30, 2011 - Workshop on Spiritual Practices: Looking Back and moving Forward

This workshop will:

- Prompt participants to look back at what they've experienced in previous workshops to see what new (or different) insights they might have developed in retrospect
- Encourage participants to look ahead to how these experiences will be integrated into their lives

Participants will:

- Summarize their learning experiences from the Spirit in Practice workshop series
- Identify spiritual practices they can engage in on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis
- Write a letter to their future selves to encourage their future attention

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 interested in organizing a group outing?

Friday Lunch Group?

Anyone interested in revitalizing our weekly Friday lunches?

DATE: Wednesday, March 30, 2011
TIME: 7 PM
LOCATION: Harold & Janet's house, Visalia.

Please RSVP to: Harold Wood - harold@uuvisalia.org or 697-3525.
There will be no "Soup & Salad" supper for these sessions.

March 6, 13 and 20 - 2011 Women's Workshop -

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

Women are invited to a series of four fire-side chats for women of all ages at the Meeting House on the first three Sundays in March immediately after supper -at 7pm and lasting until about 8:30pm. (The series began on February 27.) 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. 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. 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. 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.

SAVE THE DATE! Next Transforming Congregation Team Visit is April 16-17, 2011. Inspiring workshops and great company!

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Report on Transforming Congregation Team Visit

by UUFV President Marilyn Giese

We Are Purpose Driven

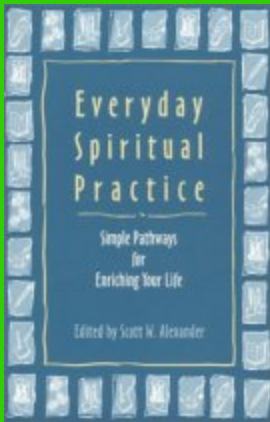
This was the message that Rev. Jeanelyse Doran Adams and Rev. Dan Kane brought to the Congregational Workshop on Sunday, February 27, 2010.

What this means is that everything we do needs to be done to fulfill the purpose that we have ascribed to as a congregation. Our purpose, as stated in the bylaws includes both our vision and mission statements, and is as follows:

Article II. Purpose

Vision:

We support the principles of individual freedom of belief, respect for the



Everyday Spiritual Practice
by Scott Alexander

Forty inspiring contributors share their personal spiritual practices for making each day more meaningful and satisfying -- from meditation and prayer, to recycling and mindful eating, to quilting and art. This collection suggests a wide variety of ways in which you can spiritually examine, shape, and care for your life, to achieve wholeness, satisfaction, depth, and meaning.



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Newsletter

differences of others, promotion of universal peace and understanding, and recognition of the basic worth and dignity of all people.

Mission:

Our mission is to promote, extend, and to apply the Principles and the Living Tradition, of the Unitarian Universalist Association, in support of spiritual growth and a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace.

People are drawn to our community and feel at home in the fellowship because of our mission and vision, as illustrated by our members. In listening circles member after member stated what they had received from the fellowship and what sustained them in their spiritual journey, and it was a reiteration of our purpose.

We then looked at all of the organizations that our Fellowship interacts with, or has influence upon, within the community at large. The list was long. We have a great deal of influence in the community at large. Then we looked at the roles and responsibilities within the fellowship itself, and for thirty-one members it was a little overwhelming. We need to step back, survey the landscape, and make our decisions as to what steps to take next based upon the energies of those 31 members. We need to take care of our own members - keep to the purpose, and we will grow. We should not be pressured to become that which we are not - but with gratitude, be the most we can be to the membership we have. Doing that will provide the catalyst that will produce growth.

The Transforming Congregation Team will be back on April 16th and 17th, and we will have another congregational workshop. We hope you will plan to attend.

Unitarian Universalist Events

Fri-Sunday, May 13 - 15, 2011: 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

Archive

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 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

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, speak with Dorothy, April or Don who have attended Leadership School or with a Board member.

Human Right to Water Events - The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) brought the United Nations Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water to California to gather information from February 27-March 1, 2011. Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry (UULM) connected UUSC with UULM's local partners, including Community Water Center (CWC) in Visalia. (Visalia UU Fellowship learned of this event too late to publicize, but encourages interested folks to check UULM's website at www.uulmca.org and become involved in the UULM Climate and Water Justice group.) Interesting video on bottled water at <http://storyofstuff.org/bottledwater/>

UULM participated in a Press Conference Announcing Human Right to Water Bill Package in Sacramento on 2/28/11. The six-bill package includes AB 685 (Eng), which would make it a policy of the state that every Californian has a human right to clean, accessible water for basic human needs. The five additional bills make changes in state law to begin implementing the human right to water policy and promote access to safe water for the health and well-being of all Californians. The bills include AB 685 (Eng) Human Right to Water; AB 938 (V.M. Perez) Language Access on Public Health Notifications; AB 983 (Perea) Access to Clean Up and Abatement Funding; AB 1187 (Fong) Drinking Water Plan; AB 1221 (Alejo) Drinking Water SRF; SB 244 (Wolk) General Plans

(Community Water Center welcomed the UN Expert to Tulare County on Tuesday, March 1st with a tour and listening session in Seville from 12-4 at the Stone Corral School. The event was reported in local news. Their website for more information is <http://communitywatercenter.org/>)

Community Events

Thursday, March 3, 2011 - 6PM - Prayer Vigil at Church & Main St., Visalia An interfaith prayer vigil for the poor, the sick, the young, the elderly, and the dying. sponsored by union SEIU 5

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 - 6:30PM- Visalia Library "Socrates Cafe"
More information at www.tularecountylibrary.org

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

Friday, March 11, 2011 - 7 pm. Sierra Club Film Series.

The public is invited to Cafe 210 for a free showing of "A Sea Change", a movie which shows how Ocean acidification threatens over one million species with extinction -- and with them, our entire way of life. " Location: Cafe 210, 210 West Center Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291. For more information, contact John Kamansky at 686-6418.

Saturday, March 12, 2011 - UC Master Gardener Program landscape seminar.

"Gardening Central Valley Style" 8AM - 4PM at Visalia Convention Center. Learn Sustainable Landscape Practices (related to UUA Ethical Eating issue) \$15/person (paid in advance by 3/7/11 or \$25/person at the door. Pre-register on-line at the MG Website <http://cetulare.ucdavis.edu> and click on Master Gardener.

Saturday, March 16, 2011 - Sierra Club Outing:

Our local Sierra Club will take a leisurely 5 mile walk on the St. John's Parkway in Visalia. Enjoy our local trail and see its newest addition. Non-members welcome. Call Joanne or David for more information at 733-2078.

Wednesday, March 30, 2011 - 6:00-9:00PM - College of Sequoias, Room 350, Ponderosa Building - free public forum

"Got Lungs? Planning for Better Air Quality for Tulare County "

Fish gotta swim, birds gotta fly, we've all gotta breathe, even plants. But in Tulare County, breathing can be a problem. Our poor air quality affects our health, our economy, and our environment. What can we do to improve it? **Learn the latest information from a panel of experts and get YOUR questions answered.** Speakers include Dr. David Lighthall, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District; Dr. Alex Sherriffs, UCSF-Fresno; Shirley Batchman, California Citrus Mutual; Mike Lane, Self-Help Enterprises; Paul Martin, Western United Dairymen; Greg Collins, Collins & Schoettler, former Visalia City Mayor and Councilmember. Sponsored by Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth (TCCRG); College of the Sequoias Arts and Lectures Program; Tulare County Medical Society; Fresno-Madera Medical Society; Sequoia Riverlands Trust; Tulare County Audubon Society; and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. **Poster contest** organized by Arts Visalia. Refreshments will be provided at the break by Sequoia Riverlands Trust and SJVAPCD.

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 Rescue Mission, Emergency Aid, Good News Center, CSET and Samaritan Center. Walk starts with registration at 8:30AM at St Paul's Anglican Church, Hall and Center Streets. Contact April Hill.

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 repacking bulk food items (like carrots!), recycling, and helping warehouse staff pull food orders for partner food agencies. 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.

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