

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 or Harold for more information.

Join Our Choir - The Choir practices at 4 PM on designated Sundays each month. If you are interested in joining, contact Ken Elias.

Verger - 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.

Hospitality Hosts- for visitors during Sunday supper. Contact April

Communications Team- new

May 2011 Worship Service Schedule

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

May 1, 2011 - "Cherish Your Doubts."

A sermon by Rev. Christine Robinson of the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church of Albuquerque, presented by Anna Garcia. We are skeptics, empiricist and alternate believers, we UU's. We are, in short, doubting Thomases all. In this sermon Rev. Robinson gives us good reasons to be doubters. We are encouraged to cherish our doubts, because they not only lead to larger truth, but they make us wise, keep us humble, and allow us to live together in love. (Choir will sing and Board will meet after dinner.)

May 8, 2011 - "Water - Commodity or Human Right." A sermon by Rev. Craig Scott, presented by April Hill with information on UU Legislative Ministry and UU Ministry for Earth actions. (Worship Team will meet after dinner.)

May 15, 2011 - "UU and Christianity." A sermon by Rev. Angela Herrera of UU Albuquerque, presented by Janet Wood. Christianity is one of the many sources that has influenced and shaped our UU faith. In this sermon by Rev Herrera, we will explore the development of Christianity from ancient times to the modern era, look at the influence of fundamentalism in today's Christian churches, and consider the best of what Christianity has to offer Unitarian Universalists. (Choir will sing and Social Justice Team will meet after dinner; Communications Team to meet at 10AM at the Wood's house.)

May 22, 2011 - "Transforming the Congregation" presented by Rev. Dan Kane and Rev. Jeanelyse Doran
P.S. Transforming Congregation Team will offer workshop(s)

members to help plan & implement publicity, newsletter, website, etc. Contact Jolene

The Caring Committee is now Johanna Lane, Deborah Lynn and Jane Cruser. 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?

on May 21-22. Please reserve Saturday afternoon 2-6 PM, May 21, and possibly other times as well. Details to come.

May 29, 2011 - "Why You Need to Hear a Sermon About Death."

A sermon by the Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube, Lead Minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, presented by Jane Cruser. Human life is precious because it is uncertain and it will end. Many of us are scared not only of death, but of our feelings and experiences of death. This sermon by Rev. Straube invites us to contemplate a subject which most of us prefer to avoid; it examines what it means to be mortal.

Please Note - Service topics are subject to change.

P.S. Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on June 26, 2011 this year, not at the end of May. Please plan to attend early afternoon!

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>

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

UU Visalia Fellowship News & Events

The Transforming Congregations Team will be with us on the following weekends in 2011.

May 21-22

June 11-12

August 20-21 OR 27-28

October 15-16

December 10-11

There will be workshops for the entire congregation on the Saturday of each weekend, and additional meetings for committees on Sunday afternoons. The Board requests that you circle these dates on the calendar and set them aside so that other events are not scheduled to conflict. As a Fellowship, we have made a commitment to this process. If it is to succeed, everyone needs to be involved. By letting you know ahead of time when JeanElyse and Dan are visiting us, we hope you will plan your calendar to include these times.

If anyone is available to host them for a weekend or two, please let me know. Thank you for your help in this vital process.

In faith,

Marilyn Giese, President

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Visalia

How has being involved with the Visalia UU Fellowship affected our lives? Some answers shared at the 4/16/11 workshop with the

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.

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Anything you buy from Amazon.com after clicking on the [Powered by Amazon.com](#) logo, will provide a percentage to help support our Fellowship.

Transforming Congregations Team - "I have found a voice." ... "I have been invited to share from my cultural and ethnic heritage." ... "I am now confident as a speaker."... "I feel connected to larger UU circles - Pacific Central District, UU Legislative Ministry and other congregations." ... "I have been enriched by my interactions with others searching for truth and meaning." ... "I have deepened my convictions about community." ... "I have been challenged to give up my identity as a misfit and a spiritual adolescent." ... "I have experienced a sense of being at home." ... "I have been challenged and have grown from my work in leadership." ... "I now have pacifist leanings." ... "I have filled my heart, my life and grown."

May 15, 2011 - Communications Team meets at 10AM at the Woods' house. Contact Jolene for more information.

Annual Congregational Meeting Coming on June 26, 2011

In preparation, a president-appointed Nominating Team will recruit officers and committee chairpeople and a Budget Team will plan for 2011-2012 based on pledges received.

Newcomer Orientation and Lunch will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time in May or June 2011. If interested in learning more, please talk with a Board member. 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.

Fair Trade Coffee Available for Sale -

We ordered some favorites before the price increased. Cost is \$6.40 for each 12 oz bag for ground Breakfast Blend; beans of Organic Columbian Full City and beans of Organic Love Buzz. Place your orders at aphill52@sbcglobal.net and make checks out to April Hill.

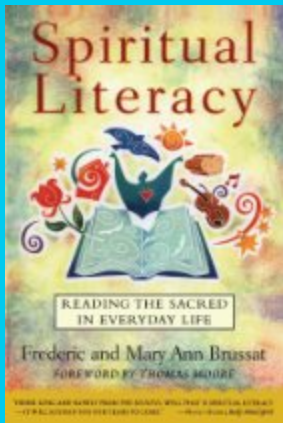
Bumper Stickers Now Available for UU Visalia

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.

Unitarian Universalist Events

May 13 - 15, 2011 PCD DISTRICT ASSEMBLY in Fremont!

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



**Spiritual Literacy:
Reading the Sacred
in Everyday Life**
By Frederic Brussat,
Mary Ann Brussat

A book that belongs in every seeker's home, *Spiritual Literacy* answers the universal question, "How can I live a spiritual life every day?" Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat reveal a way to read the texts of our lives and of the world around us for sacred meaning.

Using more than 650 brief examples from contemporary books and movies, they tutor us in the art of lingering with our experiences and seeing the world with fresh eyes. They present spiritual perspectives on things, places, nature, animals, leisure, creativity, service, body, relationships, and community. The Alphabet of Spiritual Literacy describes the key spiritual practices -- from attention to zeal -- that spell the meaning in daily life.



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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 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.

Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) Do you work on Sunday mornings? Are you home sick? Can't find a ride to church? Just want to read Unitarian Universalism words 24/7? The Church of the Larger Fellowship can help! "Quest", CLF's worship publication is available online and provides inspirational messages written by renowned UU ministers for you to read, print and listen to. Feel like making a donation? Your financial contributions support the many ministries of the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), serving UU individuals and small groups all over the world. The CLF is supported by its membership and gifts from readers like you. For more information, check the CLF website at www.clfuu.org/giving, e-mail clf@clfuu.org or call 617-948-6165. The Church of the Larger Fellowship's mission is to provide a ministry to isolated religious liberals, promote the understanding and growth of Unitarian Universalism and institute programs to that end.

Fair Trade Coffee Fundraising Program for Schools Equal Exchange's School Fundraising Program offers award-winning coffees, teas, cocoas, and chocolates, as well as beautiful jewelry, gifts, and gift wrap from small-scale farmers and artisans around the globe -at a 40% profit to the school or group!

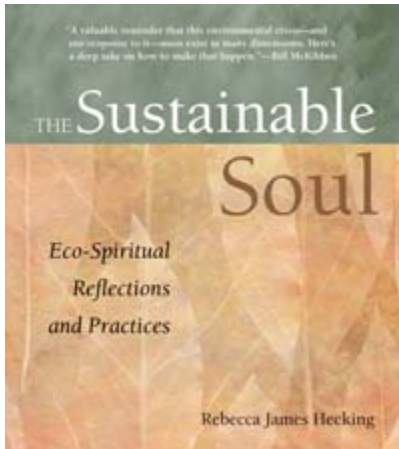
Special Offer! Choose an Equal Exchange Fall Catalog Fundraiser for your School by June 1st and receive a **FREE** case of organic chocolate with your Fall order! Groups must be in touch by June 1st to qualify.

For more information, check the website or e-mail www.equalexchange.coop/fundraiser

fundraising@equalexchange.coop

UU Visalia
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uuvisalia.org

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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,

Community Events

Thanks for supporting Crop Walk - Five UUFV members participated in the April 3 walk and raised \$160 in donations as of 4/24/11. If you wish to make a donation to support FoodLink and hunger relief efforts of Church World Service or Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, please contact April or contribute on-line at www.cws.org.

Sunday, May 15, 2011, 3-5PM - PFLAG - monthly meeting of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays - Special speaker - Come meet and hear Kim Pearson, Executive Director, Educator, Public Speaker, and Media Consultant of Trans Youth Family Allies. Trans Youth Family Allies is the first and only national organization that supports, educates and advocates exclusively for gender variant and transgender children and their families. 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, May 21, 2011, 11 a.m.- Three Rivers Environmental Weekend Organizing Meeting. Mona Selph will host a meeting to plan for the annual Environmental Weekend that takes place on the first weekend in October.

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

lifestyle, and unique journey.

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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