

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Visalia

## September 2006 Newsletter



### SUNDAY SERVICES

- 9/3/06 **“Working”** An invitation to talk about what you do all day and how you feel about what you do. Presentation and discussion by April Hill, in honor of Labor Day (with apologies to Studs Terkel).
- 9/10/06 **“Ingathering”** Welcoming all members and friends back from travels and ready to start the new church year. Bring a sample of water from your travels (or symbolic water), or bring an object from your travels to place on the altar. We will be receiving several new members and have a naming ceremony for a new baby in the congregation. This is grandparent’s day, so bring your grandparents or grandchildren for the celebration of community.
- 9/17/06 **“Internal Day of Peace”** On this day we will welcome as guest speaker, Pete Mora, a state police officer for the State Department of Developmental Services. Officer Mora has had an interesting career, having served as an interrogator for the U.S. military in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay military prison at Camp Delta and the Abu Ghraib prison for Iraqi insurgents. You are guaranteed to find his perspectives on war and peace intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally intriguing and challenging. Consider bringing several friends to this memorable service.
- 9/24/06 **“Solitude”** Asking the question – have you had any “solitude” this week? David Hodges will explore what it means to have solitude as well as the idea of “aloneness”. Can you live “alone” and enjoy life? Come with a friend who is willing to explore in true Unitarian fashion – the medium of discussion.

Services held at 5:00 pm followed by a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm

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### CHURCH RELATED NEWS AND EVENTS

#### 2006-07 Strategic Plan for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

More than twelve members and friends of the Visalia UU fellowship met for a Friday and Saturday retreat on August 11-12, 2006 at the Quaker Meeting House and next door Sanger House. Marilyn Giese followed up on last year’s World Café. All members are encouraged to choose at least one project or committee to work on. Priorities for the coming year are:

- Establish a music committee and engage a music coordinator to play a musical instrument, arrange for soloist and organize a small choir.
- To establish a Worship/Program Committee
- To develop a Forum Program to be held the hour before worship one Sunday each month.
- To research the possibilities of a part-time minister.
- To appoint a lay minister to perform rites such as weddings, memorial services and child naming/dedication services.
- To establish a Religious Education Committee to plan programs for the spiritual growth of children and adults, determine funding, hire staff or recruit volunteers, and publicize.
- To establish a Membership Committee to develop welcoming and tracking protocols for visitors.
- To expand the duties of the Caring committee.
- To complete a catalog of library resources.
- To establish links with like-minded groups and expand publication of events of interest.
- To publish a quarterly calendar of events in the monthly newsletter.
- To initiate a skills and talents survey and database of members.

Green Sanctuary – The Visalia Fellowship is now formally a **Green Sanctuary**, with several projects underway. For details, please check the social justice page of the website [www.uuvisalia.org](http://www.uuvisalia.org) or speak with a committee member.

Social Justice/Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting – will be held September 10<sup>th</sup> 2006 will be held at 6:00 pm during potluck. The Social Justice/Green Sanctuary Committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. All are invited. For more information see [www.uuvisalia.org/justice/](http://www.uuvisalia.org/justice/) or contact Harold Wood, [green@uuvisalia.org](mailto:green@uuvisalia.org).

Marketing Grant – The Visalia Fellowship was awarded a \$350 grant by the PCD Chalice Lighters to advertise in the “Valley Voice” and another medium to be decided.

Small Groups Starting – We are poised to start up two small groups. Please send a note with your preference to [info@uuvisalia.org](mailto:info@uuvisalia.org) or the UU Fellowship at PO Box 3469, Visalia 93278 or talk with a board member. Would you like to join a group centering on “Articulating your Unitarian Universalist Faith”? Or “The Environment”? Would you rather meet once a month? Twice a month? Weekly? On a weekday evening? Monday? Tuesday? Thursday? Friday? Saturday? Sunday afternoon? At the Quaker Meeting House? Or rotating between people’s houses? (No obligation to host, minimal cost.)

#### **New at the Visalia UU Fellowship:**

- Paypal – You can now pay your pledge online using your credit card. You may access the service on the UUVF website home page, at the top right, just under “New to Visalia” or just log into PayPal, and send money to: [treasurer@uuvisalia.org](mailto:treasurer@uuvisalia.org). (We pay a small fee for this service – a per transaction for of 30 cents plus about 2% of the donation.)
- Voice Mail phone number via Skype.com for UU Visalia – (559) 477-4214

## **UU RELATED NEWS AND EVENTS**

UU Radio Project in streaming audio or by podcast at [www.uuradio.org](http://www.uuradio.org). Combination of music and talk includes a 10 – 15 minute interview with an active UU on topics such as “To Live in This World”, the founding of the UU Service Committee, Life span Religious Education and Spiritual Development.

UU Church of the Larger Fellowship – On line course at [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org). “Becoming the Change You Want to See in the World”. Learn about successful movements for change and history of UU involvement in social justice. 8 week course begins 9/16/06 - \$40. Course catalog and registration information for courses are available on the CLF website.

Liberal Voices in a Conservative Landscape – Planning meeting **9/13/06, 6:30 PM, Fresno UU church**. The third annual conference by Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry will take place at the Fresno UU Church on Saturday 1/27/07. The Visalia and Fresno congregations will work together on speakers, workshops and hospitality. Ideas and volunteers are encouraged – please talk with the Fellowship President or e-mail [info@uuvisalia.org](mailto:info@uuvisalia.org).

Adult Camp on Mendocino Woodlands – PCD will hold its annual camp September 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> (Labor day weekend). This year’s gathering (for ages 18 and up) offers picturesque cabins, music, drumming, dancing, art activities, great meals, spiritual opportunities and plenty of relaxation. Meals are included from Friday dinner through Monday noon. Fees are \$120 per person for a 4 person cabin or \$130 per person for a 2 person cabin, if paid before 8/7/06. If paid afterwards fees are \$145 and \$155. Look for a registration form on the bulletin board or on the PCD Camps website at <http://www.unitariancamps.org>.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

September 9 – 10, 2006 San Francisco, Nob Hill Masonic Center – “Cancer as a Turning Point – From Surviving to Thriving” program for patients and supporters. Free will donation. Music, stories of healing, nutrition, art and theatre, labyrinth walk at Grace Cathedral, lunch networking groups. Check website <http://www.healingjourneys.org> for details and registration information, or speak with April Hill for a testimonial.

## **SAVE THE DATE, continued**

October 14, 2006, Saturday – PCD Leadership Development Day. “Moral Beacon Day” at the UU Society of Sacramento. Proposals to present workshops are due by 9/2/06 to the Pacific Central District.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**Friends of the Library, 9/17/06** Ice House Theater presents “Over the Tavern”. \$10 tickets include refreshments served at intermission. Proceeds go to Friends of the Library. Our own Lesly Dyer has a part in this play.

**An Evening of Celtic Music, 9/15/06** Sunnyside High School Theater, Fresno \$10.

**Fresno Highland Gathering and Games 9/16/06** Coombs Riverbend Ranch, Ave 12 Madera. \$2 vehicle, \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, \$5 children 6-12.

**Tamejavi Festival, 9/16/06** Celebrating Cultures and Connecting Voices in Madera, presented by the Pan Valley Institute of the American Friends Service Committee. For information please visit [www.tamejavi.org](http://www.tamejavi.org).

**Independent Film Series** at downtown Visalia Theatre. Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2:15 and 7:00 pm.

**Free movie at Visalia Fox Theatre 9/15/06** "Ten", the latest film by Iranian master filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, focuses on ten conversations between a female driver in Tehran and the passengers in her car. Her exchanges with her young son, a jilted bride, a prostitute, a women on her way to prayer and others, shed light on the lives and emotions of these women whose voices are seldom heard. Free event. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., Organ prelude 7:00 p.m., Film begins at 7:30 p.m.

**Sierra Club Outing to Mosquito Lakes.** Sep 29 – Oct 1, 2006. Sequoia Task Force annual fall outing to Giant Sequoia National Monument. Reservations required by 9/24/06.

**Art Exhibition – In Search of meaning.** Featuring paintings by Mona Selph, Aranga Firstman and Martha Widman. Saturdays and Sundays 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. July 1 – September 30, 2006. The Exeter Courthouse Gallery. 125 S B Street, Exeter CA

**Find Your Local, State, and Federal Legislators** at the Tulare County Elections website. With the “Your District” button at the top right hand side of the page, you can find out who they are by street address. You can also find out if an address is in the city limits or other districts. You can see the elected officials using a button on the left hand side. [www.tularecoelections.org](http://www.tularecoelections.org).

**Pema Chodron “Faith and Reason”.** A video of this recent PBS television interview of Acharya Pema Chodron by Bill Moyers is now available online, along with a transcript at [www.pbs.org/moyers/portraits\\_chodron.html](http://www.pbs.org/moyers/portraits_chodron.html).

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

**Meditation Group** – Wednesdays 6:30PM at Visalia Friends Meeting House. For information, contact Rick Meyers at [meditation@uuvisalia.org](mailto:meditation@uuvisalia.org).

**Audubon Society meetings** on the third Friday of each month, 7pm at Tulare Co. Office of Education “Pit” – *will resume in September*. Weekend Field Trips meet at Sears parking lot at 7:15am. For information, call Kim at 783-2486 or Gary at 734-0833.

**Friends of Tulare Co. Library meetings** – Second Monday, upstairs meeting room at Visalia Library; Book Sale on first Saturday of each month from 10am – 2pm in Visalia Library courtyard.

**Health Care for All Californians** – First Tuesday of month, various locations –

**Sierra Club-Mineral King Group** – Socials held 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month. 9/13/06 Fugazzi’s California Bistro. Dinner at 6:00 pm, 127 W Main St, Visalia. Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or [gmachine@psnw.com](mailto:gmachine@psnw.com).

**South Valley Peace Center** – Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at the Visalia Friends Meeting House, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Summer Peace Demonstrations held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month on the northwest corner of Mooney and Caldwell 8:00 am. For more information visit [www.svpc.org](http://www.svpc.org).

**World Meditation Day** with Fresno Brahman Kumaris World Spiritual Organization, third Sunday of each month from 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon in Fresno, 7319 N Fourth St. September topic “Making Time for Inner Life”.

## VISALIA UU FELLOWSHIP

*Mission Statement – We are an open religious fellowship that espouses no creed. We support social justice, diversity, ethical living and each person's search for truth.*

**Please visit our website [www.uuvisalia.org](http://www.uuvisalia.org)** for more about Unitarian Universalism. If you would like to become a member of the Visalia UU Fellowship, please speak with a Board member.

UU Visalia Officers (2006 - 2007):

President – April Hill

Vice President

Secretary – Janet Wood

Treasurer – David Reid

Worship Chair – Marilyn Giese

Social Justice Chair – Harold Wood

Newsletter items or address changes to:

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