

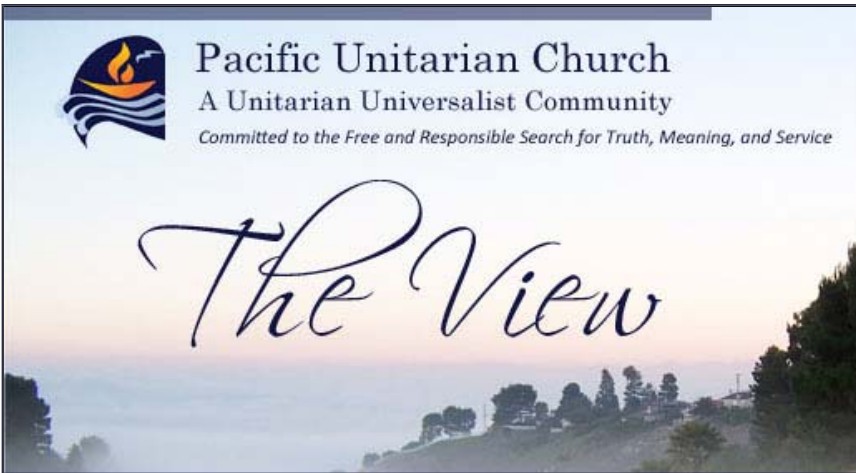


Pacific Unitarian Church

A Unitarian Universalist Community

Committed to the Free and Responsible Search for Truth, Meaning, and Service

The View



September 1, 2011

Hi PUCer,

...as is *THE VIEW* from PUC - full of all sorts of goodness, even in the face of the bad...REEEEAAD AAALL AAABOOOUUUT IT!!



Minister's Message

Amen, Aman, Hear, Hear!

We gather again this Sunday in full strength as a Congregation for our annual "Homecoming Service." This Service, complete with choir and special music, will be our opportunity to celebrate the healing power of this Church. Don't forget to bring along a sample of water (real or symbolic) from your summer journeys to pour into our communion bowl for our Water Communion. We gather the streams of our lives once again in our river of life.

This Sunday also marks the start of our new spiritual theme: Happiness. It might seem a bit misplaced with all the struggles of our lives and our world, but happiness is, I believe, more possible in the face of adversity. Amidst the struggles we face, happiness is all the sweeter. Like the Zen Master who, having fallen off a cliff, is hanging on to a small branch which will soon break, his death imminent, spies a red strawberry just within grasp and plucks it...how delicious!



It is intentional that the theme of Happiness follows August's theme of Justice. I intend for us to see how living even in the face of injustice and helping others, helps us to help ourselves to those moments of small triumph and sweet happiness.

Recently, you have been applauding my sermons during our Worship Service. Applause like that is so heartwarming but runs the risk of turning the sermon, meant to engage us spiritually, into a performance. I most heartily welcome applause everywhere else in the Service except following the sermon. I take this applause as an affirmation of the celebration of our being together and healing again. It occurred to me that there is another way to express our collective appreciation: an old fashioned "Amen." Now the amen does not mean "yeah men," nor is meant to be a peon to God.

This Sunday

9:30 AM: Spirituality Forum

10:30 AM: Service
What Makes Us Happy
Rev. John Morehouse

11:30 AM: Potluck Brunch

Art Wall: Mockups of the West Wall Project inform PUC's East (Art) Wall.

Sunday's Flowers are for all the kids and teachers in our community heading back to school!
—Alana Garrigues



9/10: Quilting/Sewing Class.
RSVP: 310-850-6429. Click here for details.



9/10: Golden Years Concert



9/11: Full Moon BBQ at the home of Dave & Jean English. (Spots still available. Call the Englishes.)



9/11: Palos Verdes Great Books Discussion Group, 7 PM, L. Click here.



10/18: Women's Fed Tour of Homeboy Industries.

"Amen" comes from the Hebrew "aman," meaning "believe, support, right, and earthly." It's a good word to say whenever we assent to what someone has shared, whether it be thought, joy, sorrow, or hope. Failing that, we could resort to the English tradition of saying "hear, hear," but that might be a bit too Anglican for our congregational taste.

However we express ourselves, I hope you will make an effort to come and worship with us even if life and circumstances would keep you away. With our new west wall under construction, our hall repainted, and our hearts gathered, we have so much still to hold up and hold on to. And to that I say, Amen!

See you in church,

*With Grace and Grit,
—Rev. John*

Looking for important OWL teachers!

Most of you are aware of our Religious Education OWL (Our Whole Lives) Sexuality Education Program. We are able to offer this to two age groups here at PUC every other year. This is an off-year for the classes, but we are looking for an adult to be trained for the Elementary Age group, K-1st and 4th-6th grades are taught together. To teach the class all leaders must go through a 15-hour training led by UUA facilitator trainers. The next training in our district will be the weekend of **September 16-18** in Chandler, Arizona. We pay for your training (which includes your food) and can help with airfare. The local UU church provides home hospitality.

Please let me know if you are interested in being part of this fabulous program as soon as possible so we can get you registered and travel arrangements made. We will be offering this class here at PUC again in January of 2013, but the trainings only come around every so often.

I can answer any questions you may have about the time commitment, etc. We already have some wonderful trained leaders here at PUC so we are looking to add to that pool.

Hope to hear from YOU!

Thanks,

—Renée

This Sunday in the R.E. Program:

This Sunday we will conclude our sUUPERhero Summer with fun water play. It's been a great summer and our heroes are now ready to conquer the world! Thanks to everyone who helped out. The new RE Year begins September 11 (September 4 for Pixies).

—Your R.E. Committee

"Rise Up and Call Her Name"

**Class #3—Isis, Isis, Ra Ra Ra! - TONIGHT'S CLASS
POSTPONED!**

Because of several last-minute cancellations by our students and a serious problem of my own, I am going to postpone tonight's Rise Up and Call Her Name class until next week.

The Isis class is THE MOST IMPORTANT CLASS of the series, and because I am an expert in the topic, I do NOT want anyone to have to miss it. So I will see you all NEXT Thursday at 7 PM at PUC.

If you can only make ONE of our class meetings, make it this one!

Upcoming Sermons

Monthly Theme: Happiness

9/4: What Makes Us Happy

As we begin our monthly theme of happiness, Rev. John will explore happiness as a spiritual practice. This will be our Homecoming Sunday. We will have our Water Communion so please bring a small amount of water from your summer journeys to place in our water bowl and tell us where you have been, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

9/11: Lean In

What have we learned since the tragedy of 9/11? Rev. John proposes that happiness is often found in the face of adversity and a changed world. In this sermon he explores how we find that happiness again.

9/18: Butterfly Kisses for Buddha

There is a special power in living life simply. Rev. John considers how we might do just that.

9/25: Whose Are We?

To whom or to what do our better selves belong? Rev. John suggests that beyond the obvious answers are deeper longings of the spirit. Join us!

Recurring Events

Sundays

*Adult Forums, 9:30 AM, L
YRUU High School Group. 10:30 AM, L
All-Church Potluck Brunch, 1st Sun., P
Singles-Family Brunch, 4th Sun., 12:30 PM, offsite*

Mondays

*Women's Circle, 4th Monday, 10 AM, L
Environmental Covenant Group, 1st Mon., 7:15 PM, L*

Tuesdays

Addictions & Recovery Ministry

We'll begin our tour of Africa with EGYPT, and the all-important goddess ISIS and other Egyptian goddesses. We'll see a film, discuss experiences from last week's guided meditation, begin our medicine bundles, and best of all, learn about Isis from her Priestess! Meet us in Classroom 1 at PUC **NEXT Thursday, September 8 @ 7 PM**. We promise a transformative experience.



Suggested donation: \$5 or what you can afford. "Rise Up and Call Her Name" is taught by Denise Dumars, M.A., a college instructor and Goddess scholar.

WHERE: PUC, Classroom 1. Carpooling is available; please inquire 48 hours in advance.

WHO: Women, teen/tween girls

RSVP: Necessary! Please RSVP to Rev. Dumars at (310) 371-0274 or on Facebook or lsis_Paedusis@hotmail.com at least 48 hours in advance.

 **Interweaving Movies Presents:**
Victor/Victoria
7 pm, Friday, **September 9**, in the PUC Library

Victoria Grant is a struggling soprano who, with help from a fellow performer, finds success by posing as a male/female impersonator. But what will happen when a nightclub owner finds himself attracted to Victoria's cross-dressing male persona and begins to suspect "Victor" is really a woman? This gender-bending musical comedy received seven Oscar nominations and won for Best Score. Starring Julie Andrews, Robert Preston, and James Garner.



Mtg, 2nd Tues., 7 PM, L
Women's Fed, 3rd Tuesday, 11 AM, offsite

Wednesdays

Choir Practice: Wed., 7 PM, H

Thursdays

Seniors Pow Wow to Share How, 3rd Thurs., 11 AM, L
Environmental Priorities Meeting, 1st Thurs., 7 PM, L
Men's Ministry, 7 PM, V
Rise Up and Call Her Name, 7 PM, CR1, Ends 9/22
Green Sanctuary/Transition Coffee Clatch, 2nd & 4th Thurs., 8-9 PM, Catalina Coffee Co.

Fridays

Watercolor Workshop, 10 AM - noon, H
Interweaving Movie (GBLQ), 2nd Fri., 7 PM, L

Saturdays

Dinners with UUs, 2nd Sat. of even-numbered months, 7 PM, offsite
French Conversation Group, 2nd & 4th Sat., 10 AM, V. Call Frank Paulsen or Betty Chevron for info.

New Small (Covenant) Group Forming

We will start meeting (and building commUUnity) in September on the 2nd and 4th Fridays. Please contact the group facilitator, Patricia Hart, at 310-658-1074 to join or for questions.

Community Events

Click [here](#) to view Community Events.



"THE GOLDEN YEARS" CONCERT
7:00 PM Saturday, **September 10**

Teri & Caitlin Masters, Severin Behnen, and Manny Arellano present your favorite songs from the 40's & 50's. This music is classic,

touching, funny, and beautiful. Don't miss this chance to hear some of your favorite music performed by our wonderful in-house musicians. Dessert follows!

\$20, kids 12 and under 1/2 price. (This is an auction item. Please support PUC by having a great night out.)

Women's Reading and Responding Bookclub
September Selection

We'll meet on Monday, **September 19**, at 11 AM to discuss Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*.



—Robin Arehart



Wanted: Casey Geist
Looking for a Job in Music Production.



Wanted: Loving home for wonderful dog.



Wanted: Patricia Hart needs a used car asap.

Read more details or submit your posting request.

Hospitality First Sundays

Potluck Brunch Coordinators:
Lee Ann Hart, Becky Dyer, Dean Curliss, Debbie Reynolds, and

Birthdays for UU & U

This September 11 is the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks which started America's wars in the Middle East. Ironically, September 21 is the International Day of Peace. September, which means "seventh month," because it was that in ancient Rome, is also known as the harvest month in several countries. However, in the Southern Hemisphere, it also marks the start of Spring. For most kids it means back to school. And it brings these UU birthdays:

- 9/2--Hope Foye
- 9/3--Bryce Yockey
- 9/5--Michele Buchanan
- 9/8--Judy Shaffer
- 9/9--Lisa Edmondson, Jim Michaels
- 9/11--Mark Edwards
- 9/12--Bob Shull
- 9/13--Maurice Chevalier, Chuck Weiss
- 9/14--Vivien Hao, Ardith Morningstar
- 9/15--Jean McDaniel, Jared Nicol, George Yenoki
- 9/16--Alan DiCenzo
- 9/17--Matthew Buchanan, Megan Buchanan, Nicolas Buchanan
- 9/18--Elaine Nicol
- 9/19--Elizabeth Drake, Jean English
- 9/21--Mickey Seffinger
- 9/22--Shane Murray
- 9/25--Sandra McNeil
- 9/26--Kirsten Harder, Jerry Parker
- 9/27--Isaac Danziger
- 9/28--Brad Shreve

And remember the birthdays of all, including those who have no family but PUC.

Corrections? Additions? Contact trrische@yahoo.com.

—**Tom Rische**, Birthday Compiler

Welcome New Members



Andy and Janet Kissner first came to PUC last November in search of a spiritual community for themselves and their daughter, Marina. Andy was raised Catholic and Janet was raised Presbyterian. PUC was the first church they visited. Originally, they had planned on "shopping" for a church, but they found PUC to be so open and inclusive, they never visited anywhere else.

Andy and Janet have been married for 20 years. Andy is an 8th grade science teacher at Richardson Middle School in Torrance. One of his hobbies is playing Dungeons and Dragons. Janet is a Training and Development Manager at Herbalife International. She likes to spend time at the beach and with their daughter, Marina. Marina is in 7th grade and enjoys volleyball and Girl Scouts. They live in Torrance with Janet's mom, Lois, and their dog, Augie.

Around the District and Beyond



Peninsula Interfaith Fellowship Luncheon

Danny Wynne.

All: *Please bring a dish to share!*

Ushers: George Yenoki
OPEN (How about yoUU?
Please contact [Tracy Blender](#) if you'd like to give it a try.

Welcome Table: Marty Gorman

Greeters: YRUU YoUUth & Advisors

Dealing with Alcoholism - How Clergy Can Help

Presenter: **Herbert Kaighan**

You are cordially invited to attend the Peninsula Interfaith Fellowship Luncheon on Tuesday, **September 6**, 12 noon – 1:30 PM

Walteria United Methodist Church

Social Hall

3646 Newton Street, Torrance

There is plenty of parking behind the church. Enter the driveway to the East of the church, go down the driveway and park in back.

RSVP to walteriaumc@aol.com, or 310-8375-0622. Please advise if you require a vegetarian meal when you RSVP.

Many of us are aware of people in our congregations who struggle with alcohol, but we may feel as though there is not much we can do to help. Yet an important part of recovery is spiritual.

Herb Kaighan spent 7 years in seminary, has a graduate education in psychology, and a 40-year career in human resources consulting. Sober since 1984, Herb has carried the message of hope to others as a 12 step sponsor, retreat leader, and author. His new book is "12 Steps To Spiritual Awakening, Enlightenment For Everyone." Herb is the Outreach Coordinator at the Thelma McMillan Center associated with Torrance Memorial Hospital. Please join us.



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