



Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura • 5654 Ralston Street • Ventura, CA • 805/644-3898

## Sunday Services

Beginning at 9:45 we will feature a sing-along and occasionally a feature video related to our religious movement or theme. After our services, we will play meditative music for people who would like to simply sit in silence for ten to fifteen minutes.

January 2

Music: 9:45AM  
Service: 10AM

### Called to a New (Y)Ear

Rev. Jan Christian

In exploring our monthly theme of resistance, we take up the story of Jonah who resisted a certain command and had quite an adventure as a result. How is it when we are called to give what we do not want to give? Why do we seem to have so much trouble doing the things we know we should? Rev. Jan will take up these themes unless her resistance gets the better of her.

*Our Inreach/Outreach Offering will go to our Lift Up Your Voice Project and our Coordinator, Beth Sutherland, will be around after the service to answer your questions about how you might get involved.*

January 9

Music: 9:45AM  
Service: 10AM

### I Gotta Be Me: Authenticity in the Face of Resistance

Rev. Jan Christian

Frederick Buechner said, "One life is all we get, whether it is enough or not enough. And the obvious conclusion would seem to be that at the very least we are fools if we do not live it as fully and bravely and beautifully as we can." Today we consider the intersection of bravery and authenticity.

January 16

Music: 9:45AM  
Service: 10AM

### Heroes of Resistance

Rev. Kathleen A. Green

Some of our country's most loved heroes are those who made a difference by standing on the side of love while resisting violent means to do so. Some of our UU heroes have done, and continue to do, the same. Let's take time to honor those heroes, their resistance, and the inspiration for each of us to be a hero of resistance.

Rev. Kathleen A. Green is currently a consulting minister for the Unitarian Universalist Church in Anaheim.

January 23

Music: 9:45AM  
Service: 10AM

### The Hermetic Circle

Kevin Bortolin

Kevin Bortolin is a world traveler and teaches courses in philosophy and world religions at Ventura College. This Sunday he brings us another story with a valuable life lesson. The protagonist's calling in life arrives unexpectedly and just as suddenly appears to be stripped away, leaving distress and thoughts of suicide. Does our protagonist resist quitting on life, quitting on himself?

January 30

Music: 9:45AM  
Service: 10AM

### Be Like Water

Rev. Jan Christian

The Tao te Ching tells us that nothing is stronger than water. Today we explore why that might be and what that has to do with us. The Choir will sing.

#### 11:30AM- MEET REV. DAVID PYLE

Come get to know our new Asst. Minister! (See page 7 for more).


 Newsletter Announcement  
 New Easy Way to submit newsletter articles:  
[newsletter@uuventura.org](mailto:newsletter@uuventura.org)

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# MINISTER'S COLUMN

## *Rev It Up*

### January Theme: Resistance

I know I should have written a column for this newsletter but I just couldn't quite bring myself to do it. It was due on December 12 for goodness sakes! I was still in the midst of Silence and Waiting and doing all the other things that ministers (good or otherwise) do at that time of year. I was focused on the here and now or the nearly here and now rather than all the way into January. And hey, aren't I usually the responsible one? Doesn't that count for something? Plus it would mean thinking about RESISTANCE.

That would cause me to think about all the personality traits of mine that create resistance (when it's obviously compliance I am seeking!). I would have to think about all those things that I know I should do but never get around to. What's that about? I would have to think about the people who seem to bring out the worst in me. I would start thinking about resistance in general and why we humans seem to resist the obvious and our never-ending capacity for self-deception. I would begin to wonder about my own self-deception.

No, easier just to miss the deadline.

*Yours in resistance,*

*Rev. Jan*

Kristen Rohm and I will be in Chicago the first week of January for work related to her internship. I hope to have much of the next two weeks off for vacation during which I will be doing two book readings and a sermon in Arizona. As usual, I can be reached in an emergency. Just contact Becky or Marcy if you have one.

Got stories about our themes so far? On May 22, we will be celebrating the blessing of being a learning community. We may want to share brief stories (1-2 minutes) about how we have used a theme in our lives this year. If you have a story, please let me know about it.

**My Cup Runneth Over. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.**

A special thank you to everyone who made the Book Reading and Reception what it was. To Celia Ortenberg, Adult Programs Coordinator, who oversaw many of the details. To Dorothy Wootan for helping with aesthetics. To Carolyn Briggs, Diana Nolin and Michael Akseven for sales. To Sylvia Wikholm for organizing refreshments and to all who brought food. To Joyce Faber for coming early to make coffee. To Scott Ellison for hanging the "Welcome Home" banner with very short notice. To James and Julian Lockwood-Risi for beautiful floral arrangements. To all of you who attended. I am so grateful to share this journey with you. And I'm so glad we were able to make such beautiful and safe space for others in the community in need of healing. May it always be so.

*Health Ministry*

### UNDERSTANDING GRIEF

#### A Class for the Newly Bereaved

By The Rev. Judy Cohen

(Our Former Interim Minister)

Tuesday, January 11 is the next date for the monthly class specifically designed for adults who have recently (in the last 3-6 months) experienced the death of a loved one. It will be held from 6 - 7:30PM at the Livingston Memorial VNA & Hospice office, 1996 Eastman Avenue, Suite 106, Ventura.

This one-time class is designed to assist you in understanding the grief process, provide you with ways to cope, help answer questions, and familiarize you with available support. If you are unable to attend the January meeting, other class meetings will be on the second Tuesday of each month throughout the year.

Livingston Memorial VNA & Hospice also offers ongoing weekly support groups.

These classes are free. To register or get more information, call: 805/642-0239, ext. 624.

### Radical Hospitality

**W**hat does it mean to visit our church?  
What impression can you help give?

Consider the act of Radical Hospitality. Whether they are wearing a name tag or not, go and greet someone you haven't met. Offer a handshake and say; "Welcome. My name is... What brings you to church today?"

The results will surprise you.

### Year Round Pledging

If you are a member or pledging friend, you will be receiving a very important letter about year round pledging in early January. Please read it carefully!

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*Newsletter Announcement*

**New Easy Way to submit newsletter articles:**

[newsletter@uuventura.org](mailto:newsletter@uuventura.org)

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## Newsletter Submittals

We value your contributions and very much appreciate email submittals.

When sending email contributions to *On Common Ground*, address them to:

**newsletter @  
uuventura.org**

**Next Newsletter Deadline  
January 16 at Noon**

Next issue covers February 2010



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<http://www.uuventura.org>

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## About Cold Weather... and "Thank You"

When I was a child and the weather turned cold, as it has here lately, the grownups talked with each other about the "cold snap." That's what it was called in a place where the first cold presaged even colder weather. In Southern California we need not prepare for ice and snow and bitter winds, but the nights are cold enough that an extra blanket feels ever so good.

Recently, when I turned toward my warm bed for a comfortable night, I thought about the woman who shared her poetry with us a few Sundays ago. Remember? She said that life in River Haven is hard, especially in the winter. As I drifted into sleep, wondering how she would fare on an unusually cold night, the disturbing essence of a poem (though not the words) floated into my consciousness. My sleep was uneasy, and at dawn I searched for and found the poem.

### Those Winter Sundays

*Robert Hayden*

Sundays too my father got up early  
and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold,  
then with cracked hands that ached  
from labor in the weekday weather made  
banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.

I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.  
When the rooms were warm, he'd call,  
and slowly I would rise and dress,  
fearing the chronic angers of that house,

Speaking indifferently to him,  
who had driven out the cold  
and polished my good shoes as well.  
What did I know, what did I know  
of love's austere and lonely offices?

If you have lived through a severe winter, you know about splintering, breaking cold. Think now about that father in a house of "chronic angers." Even on Sunday he rose from his bed to build a fire and polish shoes, but "No one every thanked him...what did I know of love's austere and lonely offices? Those piercing words stayed with me through my day.

How many of us fail to notice what is freely given to us over and over again? Of course, the big things, the sacrifices, the obvious ...*those* earn our sincere thanks, but there are other kinds of gifts. They aren't wrapped with bright paper and ribbons. They aren't offered only on special days, but they are generous and worthy gifts.

I'm thinking now about the time and service of the volunteers who quietly take care of UUCV, who do so much to enhance our beloved community. How remiss we are if we do not thank them for all that they do. In this season of giving, our "thank you" for their generous gifts to this congregation should spill forth abundantly from our hearts. Let it be so.

*Marcy Burns,  
President, Board of Trustees*



# RE Program January 2011



	JANUARY 2	JANUARY 9	JANUARY 16	JANUARY 23	JANUARY 30
<b>BABIES AND PRE-K</b>	AIDES: SIERRA OSLER, MONICA VALENZUELA, KELSEY YOUNG & SIERRA SIMMONS-MARBLE VOLUNTEER: MARY LOU FERRIS PRE-K RESISTANCE INTRODUCTION TEACHERS: JOYCE FABER & JULIE MOORE	AIDES: KELSEY YOUNG, SIERRA OSLER & SIERRA SIMMONS-MARBLE VOLUNTEER: TERRIE KNAPP PRE-K PLAYTIME IN THE PLAYROOM WITH RE AIDES	AIDES: MONICA VALENZUELA, KELSEY YOUNG, SIERRA OSLER & SIERRA SIMMONS-MARBLE VOLUNTEER: TBD PRE-K RESISTANCE TEACHERS: JOYCE FABER & JULIE MOORE	AIDES: KELSEY YOUNG, SIERRA OSLER & SIERRA SIMMONS-MARBLE VOLUNTEER: TBD PRE-K SERVICE SUNDAY: HOMELESSNESS MAKING COMMUNITY FRUIT SALAD & SANDWICHES FOR RIVERHAVEN TEACHERS: LISA URWICK & JAYNE BEVING	AIDES: KELSEY YOUNG, SIERRA OSLER & SIERRA SIMMONS-MARBLE VOLUNTEER: TBD PRE-K RESISTANCE TEACHERS: JOYCE FABER & JULIE MOORE
<b>GRADES K-2</b>	RESISTANCE INTRODUCTION TEACHER: LYNN DE LA CRUZ	CHILDREN'S CHAPEL: HOMELESSNESS TEACHERS: LISA URWICK & MAUREEN DALEY	RESISTANCE INTRODUCTION TEACHER: LYNN DE LA CRUZ	SERVICE SUNDAY: HOMELESSNESS MAKING COMMUNITY FRUIT SALAD & SANDWICHES FOR RIVERHAVEN TEACHERS: LISA URWICK & JAYNE BEVING	RESISTANCE TEACHER: LYNN DE LA CRUZ
<b>GRADES 3-6</b>	RESISTANCE INTRODUCTION TEACHERS: DOROTHY FASTHORSE & VEL LINDEN-AKSEVEN	CHILDREN'S CHAPEL: RESISTANCE TEACHERS: HEIDI CAMERON & MAUREEN DALEY	RESISTANCE TEACHERS: DOROTHY FASTHORSE & VEL LINDEN-AKSEVEN	SERVICE SUNDAY: HOMELESSNESS MAKING COMMUNITY FRUIT SALAD & SANDWICHES FOR RIVERHAVEN TEACHERS: LISA URWICK & JAYNE BEVING	RESISTANCE TEACHERS: DOROTHY FASTHORSE & VEL LINDEN-AKSEVEN
<b>Grades 6 and up</b>	RESISTANCE INTRODUCTION ADVISOR: KRISTEN ROHM *BIRTHDAY RECOGNITIONS*	ATTEND SERVICE (CHANGES TBA) *REAL GROUP MEETING*	RESISTANCE ADVISOR: EVAN AUSTIN	ATTEND SERVICE (CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED) *REAL GROUP MEETING*	RESISTANCE ADVISOR: EVAN AUSTIN

## NEWS from Religious Education • LISA URWICK, INTERIM CRE

As Rev. Jan announced in December, Heidi Cameron is no longer serving as our Coordination of Religious Education. So many of us will truly miss Heidi's loving energy toward our children and youth, and how much she served our program.

This is a time of loss and ambiguity. This is a time when our Covenant of Right Relations helps us assume good faith and engage in direct communication. Please share any questions or concerns you have about this transition. We have an Interim CRE in place: Lisa Urwick, a UUCV Member; she and her husband Mark are parents of Elizabeth and Eddie. Lisa can be contacted at lisaurwick@hotmail.com and on Sunday mornings. Please introduce yourself. Please offer to help.

Our theme for the month of January is Resistance. Have you ever felt like things

### Important Note and reminder:

Parents, after the service if your child(ren) are not picked up right away look for them in the Pre-k playroom or outside at the play yard. The aides are available for childcare until noon unless there is a special activity.

are out of your control? What do you do? Do you resist it? Do you go with the flow? Try to make it work for you? Notice your inner struggle and find your path toward positive action?

Children and Youth will be in their classrooms for 3 Sundays this month (Jan 2, 16, and 30). Classes will explore the theme of Resistance in many interesting, creative ways. Parents, please ask your children, youth, and teachers about carrying these lessons into the home.

Two Service Sundays are offered in January, both with Beth Sunderland, our *Lift Up Your Voice* Coordinator. On January 9, children will not start out in the Sanctuary, rather they will start in RE4 (Loving Hearts) classroom at 10AM. We will learn more about Homelessness, and we will start a project for the Homeless People in Ventura. On January 23, we will make

### January Birthdays

Jake A, Ruby L, Jesse M, Sylvia and Lena C, Trenton F, Dorian Jn, Zoe P, Frances K and Julian C



a fruit salad for River Haven. Families are asked to bring donations of fruit. We are also working on a field trip to River Haven this same day... stay tuned!

Mark your calendars: February 13, RE's annual Valentine's Day Party! Our Whole Lives (OWL), a Sexuality Education Program, will be launched in February at the Elementary and Senior High levels.

Note to teachers: Teachers' Meeting January 16, 8:30AM. Light breakfast served.

Religious Education is looking for Volunteers for: Teen Classroom, Service Projects, Special Events, Infant Room, and the RE Committee. Please contact Lisa Urwick at lisaurwick@hotmail.com or Beverly Januszewski (RE Chair) at drzooski@sbcglobal.net.

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for family." ~ Edith Sitwell

# Social Action

*“the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Mahatma Gandhi*

## Social Action Coordinating Committee

### Social Action Update

#### 2010 UUSC Guest at Your Table

Deadline for turning in your *Guest at Your Table* boxes is January 20.

Consider for a moment the many actions for social justice we took together in November and December:

- Donated \$400 to Ventura’s 3rd annual **One City, One Meal Thanksgiving Day event**; cooked everything from turkey to dessert; hosted and decorated several tables; shared meal and conversation with those less fortunate;
- Raised more than \$700 from the musical “**Man from Magdalena**” for kiva.org, an organization that focuses on helping the needy in Mexico and Central America start businesses at home;
- Raised more than \$300 for **Musical Ambassadors for Peace** to teach music to children in refugee camps in the Middle East and elsewhere
- Raised \$800 to support the ongoing work of **Concern America** to raise these regions out of poverty;
- Donated from Inreach/Outreach nearly \$1,500 to *Guest at your Table* to support UUSC social justice work around the world.
- Donated \$50 to the Chaplain’s office serving inmates in the local jail to enable them to send holiday cards to their children
- Became organizational member of **Safe Families & Communities of Ventura County**
- Surrounded the tree in Berg Hall with more than 85 gifts for the Salvation Army’s **Project Angel Tree**;
- Made arrangements to use our Christmas Eve offering to get our **Safe Sleep guests** out of their cars and into a warm motel room for Christmas Eve and Christmas.

**And, of course, there will be many more opportunities to continue our good work in the new year.**

☀️ Join us January 22 to help Habitat for Humanity and a farmworker and his family build themselves a home in Piru. Event was rained out in October, but we will hope for sun this time. Sign up at the SACC table. Meet in the UUCV parking lot at 7:15AM on January 22 or show up at 8AM at the build site. Plan to carpool to the site at 550 Temescal Street (Temescal & Markets) in Piru, CA. You don’t need tools or special skills, but bring a lunch.

☀️ Look for the collection box near the rear entrance to Berg Hall this January as Michael Akseven is collecting tableware for farmworkers.

☀️ Sign up at the SACC table to be a signatory to Ventura County Reproductive Rights Network’s January 22 *Roe v. Wade* Anniversary full page ad in the Ventura County Star. Since the last election, 57% of House members are anti-choice. They have already announced an aggressive agenda that includes an abortion ban and the complete defunding of Planned Parenthood. \$35 adds you as a signatory and gets you a ticket to the *Roe vs. Wade* Anniversary event which features Dorothy Fadiman, producer/director of award-winning documentaries that trace the history of abortion rights and the present day struggle. The event is Sunday, January 23, 2 - 4PM at Temple Beth Torah, 7602 Foothill Road, Ventura.

☀️ Help with the 2011 Homeless Persons Count on Tuesday, January 25, 2011. Sign up at [www.VolunteerVenturaCounty.org](http://www.VolunteerVenturaCounty.org). Training will be provided.

☀️ Jodi Pfarr returns to Ventura County to present:

#### **BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY**

*Strategies for Communities sponsored by the United Way*

**Saturday January 29 • 8:30AM – 3:30PM**

Designed for volunteer life coaches, case managers, lay ministers, and other members of the community serving those living in poverty. Participants will increase their awareness of the differences in economic cultures and how these differences impact opportunities for success and will come away with the skills needed to develop action plans to improve services.

Ventura County Medical Center Auditorium, 3291 Loma Vista Rd, Ventura. \$10 fee will include a box lunch

Contact Susan Englund, 485-6288, ext. 226, [senglund@vcunitedway.org](mailto:senglund@vcunitedway.org)



Newsletter Announcement

New Easy Way to submit newsletter articles:

[newsletter@uuventura.org](mailto:newsletter@uuventura.org)

# UU Things To Do • Adult Programs

Sign Up At The Adult Programs Table In The Community Hall  
Info Celia Ortenberg at 805/984-8089, [ortenbc@gmail.com](mailto:ortenbc@gmail.com)

## Fun Book Club Jan 23

We usually meet on the third Sunday of each month at 11:30 in the sanctuary alcove on the couches. However the January meeting has been changed to Jan 23. We will go back to meeting on the third Sundays starting in February.

We use book club guides to help focus on the book. All are welcome. Our next books: **January:** *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah, **February:** *Stones for Schools* by Greg Mortenson, **March:** *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova.

If you have fun reading and discussing books, join us.

Info: Dorothy Fast Horse 218-9478, [dfasthorse@aol.com](mailto:dfasthorse@aol.com)

## LGBT Sunday Brunch

The LGBT support group meets for brunch every 3rd Sunday at noon. Locations change, contact Julie Moore, 653-6296 or [werfamilyvideos@aol.com](mailto:werfamilyvideos@aol.com)

### **The Church has Unicycling**

- ✓ Anything in a plastic bag is considered trash.
- ✓ Paper that has been wet is no longer recyclable, even if clean.
- ✓ Styrofoam is trash because there are no local recyclers, and it is not economical (or green) to ship it a long distance.
- ✓ No green (yard) waste is permitted in a unicycle container.

## UUniques

The 50+ UUniques meet January 27, 2011, for a pot luck in Berg Hall at 6:30PM.



## UU Things To Do RE programs

### Our Whole Lives (OWL) is flying in Spring 2011!

We have 3 pairs of OWL leaders trained and preparing to lead amazing Sexuality Education classes to our Elementary and Senior High School Youth. Stay Tuned!

Parent Meetings to share the Our Whole Lives philosophy and curriculum, will probably be held in February. OWL classes will start with OWL-Elementary classes on Sunday afternoons.

OWL-Elementary grade levels are still being determined, and OWL-Senior High is grades 10-12.

Please contact Beverly Januszewski at [drzooski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drzooski@sbcglobal.net) or 805/216-3633 with any questions.

## FRIDAY MOVIE NIGHT

Movies start at 7PM • (Enter at back door)

**JANUARY 7 • MEMORIES OF A MARRIAGE (DANSEN MED REGITZE), 1989, NOT RATED. DANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.**

In this gentle Danish film, a middle-aged man reflects on his long and happy marriage during preparations for a garden party. Shown in flashbacks, the film examines both the couple's newlywed years and the twilight of their lives together, as well as many good and bad times in between. Nominated for a Best Foreign Film Oscar.

**JANUARY 14 • BAREFOOT (BARFUSS), 2005, NOT RATED. GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.**

This hilarious German comedy combines the awesome acting, writing, and directing talents of Til Schweiger, Germany's Brad Pitt look-alike. Working as an orderly in a psychiatric clinic, Nick is followed home by one of the patients--a young woman suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, who violently hyper-ventilates if touched. An offbeat, strangely tender love story develops as the two hit the road, fleeing from authorities, while for the first time in his life, Nick has to take responsibility for someone besides himself.

**JANUARY 21 • BRIDE OF THE WIND, 2001, R FOR SEXUALITY AND NUDITY. IN ENGLISH.**

Alma Mahler, wife of composer Gustav Mahler, has long been famous for her multiple marriages and affairs with four of the leading artists of turn-of-the-century Vienna, including painter Oskar Kokoschka, architect Walter Gropius, and writer Franz Werfel. In this beautiful film, the acting as well as the musical score, costumes, and interiors, are all wonderful.

**JANUARY 28 • MADEMOISELLE CHAMBON, 2009, NOT RATED. FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.**

This bewitching love story has been described as an 'exquisite chamber piece' (LA Times) that delicately captures the initial stirrings of romance between Jean, a burly housing contractor and Véronique Chambon, a schoolteacher and accomplished violinist, set to a lovely score of classical music. It won a Cesar (the French Oscar) for best Adapted Screenplay. The two leading actors were divorced (from marriage to each other) at the time they worked together in this film.

## We did it! Our new Asst. Minister, the Rev. David Pyle begins August 15

In June the congregation voted to hire an Asst. Minister on a two-year contract and empowered the Board to create a search committee and to begin a funding campaign to make it happen. Tom Berg offered a \$30,000 matching grant and we set a goal of raising \$35,000.

A search committee was formed and the campaign begun and both have been successful. As we go to press, we are near the \$34,000 mark of money received or pledged and we anticipate making our goal, thanks to the large number of people who have participated and those who have participated in a large way.

Just as the congregation performed in record speed, so did your search committee. It is with tremendous excitement that we introduce our new Assistant Minister, the Rev. David Pyle. The Sunday before his application, Rev. Jan quoted part of his reflection on brokenness which appears in *Bless All Who Serve: Sources of Hope, Courage and Faith for Military Personnel and Their Families*. When his application arrived, she wondered where she had heard his name!

From our conversations with him and in reviewing his materials and in speaking to his references, we learned he has a “commitment and devotion to our movement which he knows can change lives.” He “knows how to be with people who are not our usual cohort.” He “knows how to extend hospitality and greet people where they are.” He has “a level eye and good head.” He listens and makes use of feedback to learn and to grow. He is energetic and has vision.

He told us, “I am looking for a congregation willing to explore the idea that our congregations teach us how to be in the wider world, how to live our liberal religious faith every day of our lives. I am looking for a congregation with that vision that the best form of evangelism is how we live our lives, every day, and how we invite others into those lives, every day.”

He was drawn by our openness to the possibilities and our boldness in pursuing our vision. He wrote, “Though my call to ministry is varied and complex, it is centered, like our faith tradition, in the life of our congregations.”

Rev. David received his Masters of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School and completed a chaplaincy residency at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.

He has honed his ministerial skills as an interim and an intern/student minister, as a hospital and a hospice chaplain, as a district/consulting minister and as a military chaplain. He currently serves as Interim Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, Michigan and as Battalion Chaplain, 414th Civic Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve.



After graduating from high school in 1991, he joined the Army. He was deployed to Panama, Columbia and El Salvador. His role as an intelligence analyst in Bosnia exposed him to “the sites of some of the worst atrocities of that war.” A sweet grandmother shared cookies with him and told him of “the necessity of genocide.”

Rev. David describes himself as a Liberal Christian Deist/Zen Buddhist and a lover of science fiction.

He is married to Sandy Loiseau-Pyle who is delighted to be moving to California where she will be closer to her mother in San Diego. Their cat, Athena, will also be making the move.

This is a two-year contract and both we and Rev. David are open to the possibilities of this becoming a called position in the future.

You will have a chance to get to meet Rev. David on Sunday, January 30. We believe that you will be as excited as we are about what lies ahead. You can learn more about him on his website at [www.celestial-lands.org](http://www.celestial-lands.org).

*In Faith,*

*Rev. Jan, Tom Berg, Donna O'Neil, Jim Merrill and Carolyn Briggs*

# Committee News

## Lift Up Your Voice To End Homelessness!

*Our collaborative effort to end homelessness in Ventura*

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter." -Martin Luther King*

### Silence isn't an Option

Write, call or email the Ventura City Council, Mayor Bill Fulton, Deputy Mayor Mike Tracy, Neal Andrews, Brian Brennan, James Monahan, Carl Morehouse and Christy Weir. Ask them what they are going to do in 2011 to make an emergency shelter a reality and ask them what you can do to help.

#### Contact Information:

[Council@cityofventura.net](mailto:Council@cityofventura.net), 805/654-7827,  
501 Poli St., Ventura, CA 93002-0099

**Lift up your voice in 2011.** Engage one another. Empower people on the margins to participate in ending homelessness. Build a diverse coalition. Increase overall leadership capacity in Ventura.

For action opportunities please contact Beth at [LUYV.beth@gmail.com](mailto:LUYV.beth@gmail.com) and visit [www.liftupyourvoice.org](http://www.liftupyourvoice.org)

# WANT COFFEE



The Kitchen Cabinet is grateful for our volunteers. But we need help to continue serving coffee Sunday morning.

#### Sign Up, It's easy.

The sign up sheet is next to the kitchen door - just drop by and we'll you get started. For more information contact Carol Simmons or Shelah Wilgus.

## Membership Committee

### Ever wondered why we use Nametags?

Letting folks know your name is the first step in making a new friend. Wearing your nametag is an act of Radical Hospitality. There are a lot of new faces in the Congregation. Wearing your name tag helps "break the ice" when meeting someone for the first time.

RED, BLUE & GOLD are the colors of the Nametags that we have for our guests and members to use.

RED is for a first time visitor, BLUE is for visitors that have been to our church more than once & Gold is for members who are missing their Church Nametag.

When you see someone wearing a RED or BLUE nametag then you can be sure that person is new to our church. Think about Radical Hospitality, the newcomer and what your first visit to church was like. Then please, go and greet someone new and ask "What brings you to church today?"

### Orientation/Pathway To Membership

Begins in January for folks interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism or who are interested in becoming members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura.

The dates and times are:

**Sunday, January 23;** "A Circle Discussion" will cover the UUCV Mission Statement, our Covenant of Right Relations, and the 7 Principles. (Follows Church service, includes lunch at 11:30AM, Noon - 2PM).

**Saturday, January 29;** "Rev. Jan, UU History and the Meaning of Membership" (9AM - Noon).

Sign up for the program is located at the Welcome Table in the entryway. Child care is available upon request. For questions about membership contact Bryan Buck at 805/501-8553.

"The Mission of the Membership Committee is to welcome visitors to our community, to help newcomers discern if the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura should be their spiritual home, and to facilitate integration of all members into the church community."



Newsletter Announcement  
New Easy Way to submit  
newsletter articles:  
[newsletter@uuventura.org](mailto:newsletter@uuventura.org)



# January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> MEN'S BRUNCH BUNCH (HARBOR CARROWS) - 9AM
<b>2</b> MUSIC - 9:45 AM SERVICE - 10AM	<b>3</b> WOMEN'S GROUP - 1PM T'AI CHI CHIH® - 5:30PM GREEN CONVERSATIONS (JAVA JOE'S) - 6PM MEDITATION W/FRIENDSHIP SANGHA OF THE HEART- 7PM	<b>4</b> MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP - 10AM MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP II- 6:30 PM MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP V (OFFSITE) - 7PM	<b>5</b> BRIDGE - 1PM MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP I - 7PM CHOIR REHEARSAL - 7:30PM	<b>6</b> BOOK CLUB - 10AM HANDICRAFT GROUP (OFFSITE) - 2:30PM MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP III & IV - 7PM T'AI CHI CHIH® - 7PM	<b>7</b> MOVIE NIGHT- 7PM	<b>8</b> T'AI CHI CHIH® - 9AM CHILD CARE CO-OP - 4PM
<b>9</b> MUSIC - 9:45AM SERVICE - 10AM HUMANISM SEMINAR - 11:30AM R.E.A.L. YOUTH GROUP - 11:30AM CUUPS - 7PM	<b>10</b> RIVER HAVEN DINNER PICKUP - 3PM T'AI CHI CHIH® - 5:30 PM INTRO TO MEDITATION - 6:30PM MEDITATION W/FRIENDSHIP SANGHA OF THE HEART- 7PM	<b>11</b> MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP - 10AM FINANCE COMMITTEE - 6:30PM WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUPS - 6:30PM	<b>12</b> BRIDGE - 1PM B & G COMMITTEE - 6:30PM CHOIR REHEARSAL - 7:30PM	<b>13</b> BOOK CLUB - 10AM SACC MEETING - 6PM MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - 6:30PM T'AI CHI CHIH® - 7PM	<b>14</b> GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE - 5PM SCRAPBOOKING - 6PM MOVIE NIGHT - 7PM	<b>15</b> T'AI CHI CHIH® - 9AM ALL CHURCH WORK PARTY - 9AM 
<b>16</b> RE TEACHERS MEETING- 8:30AM MUSIC - 9:45AM SERVICE - 10AM LGBT BRUNCH (OFFSITE) - 12PM <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOON</b>	<b>17</b> WOMEN'S GROUP - 1PM T'AI CHI CHIH® - 5:30 PM GREEN CONVERSATIONS (OFFSITE) - 6PM MEDITATION W/FRIENDSHIP SANGHA OF THE HEART- 7PM	<b>18</b> MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP - 10AM RE COMMITTEE - 6PM MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP II- 6:30PM MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP V (OFFSITE) - 7PM	<b>19</b> BRIDGE - 1PM MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP I - 7PM CHOIR REHEARSAL - 7:30PM	<b>20</b> BOOK CLUB - 10AM HANDICRAFT GROUP (OFFSITE) - 2:30PM MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP III & IV - 7PM T'AI CHI CHIH® - 7PM	<b>21</b> GAME NIGHT - 6:30PM MOVIE NIGHT - 7PM	<b>22</b> T'AI CHI CHIH® - 9AM
<b>23</b> MUSIC - 9:45AM SERVICE - 10AM HUMANISM SEMINAR - 11:30 AM R.E.A.L. YOUTH GROUP - 11:30AM FUN BOOK CLUB - 11:30AM PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP - 12PM	<b>24</b> RIVERHAVEN DINNER PICKUP - 3PM T'AI CHI CHIH® - 5:30 PM MEDITATION W/FRIENDSHIP SANGHA OF THE HEART- 7PM	<b>25</b> MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP - 10AM WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUPS - 6:30PM	<b>26</b> NEWSLETTER FOLDING - 10AM BRIDGE - 1PM CHOIR REHEARSAL - 7:30PM	<b>27</b> BOOK CLUB - 10AM BOARD OF TRUSTEES- 6PM UUNIQUE +50 POTLUCK - 6:30PM T'AI CHI CHIH® - 7PM	<b>28</b> MEET THE ARTIST - 11AM MOVIE NIGHT - 7PM	<b>29</b> T'AI CHI CHIH® - 9AM PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP - 9AM
<b>30</b> MUSIC - 9:45AM SERVICE - 10AM MEET THE REV. DAVID PYLE EVENT - 11:30 AM	<b>31</b> RAIN PICKUP - 3PM T'AI CHI CHIH® - 5:30 PM SILENT MEDITATION POTLUCK - 6PM MEDITATION W/FRIENDSHIP SANGHA OF THE HEART- 7PM	 <p><b>Newsletter Announcement</b></p> <p><b>New Easy Way to submit newsletter articles:</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:newsletter@uuventura.org">newsletter@uuventura.org</a></p>				

## **Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura**

5654 Ralston Street, Ventura, CA 93003

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## **Unitarian Universalist Principles**

**We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote**

- **The inherent worth and dignity of every person;**
- **Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;**
- **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;**
- **A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;**
- **The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;**
- **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;**
- **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.**