



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

Draft Mission Statement

by Kim Prieto

The 545 Vision Task Force has been working to synthesize the input we've received from the congregation to date. Informed by feedback from congregational meetings and surveys conducted by the board over the past year and from our congregational vision brainstorming session last fall, we've created a working draft of a new church mission statement. A mission statement is a formal summary of the aims and values of the church, in a concise format. Please sit with this and think about it for a while. There will be opportunities in the future to provide more input.

The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church is to:

- Invite connections and diversity
- Spark and nurture free journeys of spiritual growth
- Reach out to create a more just and loving community, in harmony with nature

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Sunday Services

Music: 9:45AM Service: 10AM



February's Theme is Trust

We are a community of doubters and skeptics who gather side by side to explore what is true. We also seek to become a Beloved Community that needs to be based on a fundamental trust. This is one of the paradoxes of our path. Sometimes we actually find we can trust an idea, a finding, a person. Sometimes we are trustworthy people, and sometimes we let down even those dearest to us. This is the human journey we undertake. It asks us to trust and to wonder and doubt.

Feb. 3 – Poetry as a Spiritual Practice

*Poets of the Congregation and Worship Associates
 Andy Edgar-Beltran and Krista Mendelsohn.*

Feb. 10 – Spiritual and Religious

Rev. Dana Worsnop and Worship Associate Maura Raffensperger.

Feb. 17 – Connected to the Earth, Connecting with Each Other

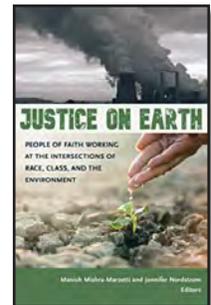
Rev. Dana Worsnop and Worship Associate Jim Merrill.

Introducing the UUA Common Read: *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Environment*

Feb. 24 – Letting Go

*The Venerable Kusala and
 Worship Associates Joe Hutchins and Celia Ortenberg*
 The Venerable Kusala, an American born Buddhist monk, will reflect on the causes of attachment and clinging, and the challenge of letting go. Kusala has spoken many times at UUCV sharing his wisdom, humor and music.

The Common Read Is Here!



Our February 17 service introduces the Unitarian Universalist Association's Common Read for this year: *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*. This collection of essays by multiple UU authors makes clear the essence of the intersectionality of justice movements that have for too long been compartmentalized and sometimes seen as competing.

Our service will kick off the opportunities for us at UUCV to do as hundreds of congregations across the nation are doing, to read the book in whole or in any of its several parts, to chat about it during coffee hour, and to join in focused discussion with a format provided by the UUA.

We will know the date(s) and time(s) for the scheduled discussion(s) by February 17. To find out more about the Common Read, go to <https://www.uua.org/books/read/justice-on-earth>. Our bookstore has a limited number of copies for sale.

"Like" the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura on Facebook. It's one more way to stay connected.

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, united by our liberal religious tradition, seek truths, and meaning, and commit to right action. We will nurture our congregation and carry our principles forth to better ourselves, our community, and our planet. To these purposes, we pledge our hearts and hands, our minds and means.

MINISTER'S COLUMN

I love the image of the Hindu god Indra's net, stretching out in all directions, weaving the universe in place. At each intersection where the strands cross each other sits a glittering jewel, and each jewel reflects the light of every other jewel. So what happens to one jewel, happens to all.

A net or web is a good metaphor for a congregation the size we have become. There is no longer a center around which everything revolves. We remain as connected as ever, though it can feel a bit disconcerting because no one knows everything or everything that is going on. Not even – perhaps especially not even – the minister.

The many cross currents and groups and new initiatives in the church these days are varied and exciting. We have even found that our financial situation, while still a concern, is nowhere near as serious as we thought last fall. A combination of staffing changes, new members and growing generosity is helping.

Our commitment to our homeless neighbors and to environmental justice remains strong.

The newest Action Team for Immigrant Rights has lit a fire in many hearts about the treatment of migrants at our borders.

And meanwhile our Five For Five Force – the five-year vision task force made up of five dedicated souls – has been hard at work. At this phase much of that work has been a bit in the background. We've been compiling input from three congregational gatherings – two led by the Board of Trustees in September and January, and one led by 545 Force in October. With all that input, we have come up with a very draft-y, working vision statement.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura gathers to:

- Invite connections and diversity
- Spark and nurture free journeys of spiritual growth
- Reach out to create a more just and loving community, in harmony with nature.

We do not intend this to be a final statement, just a guide for our visioning work, a framework around which we can build our vision for the next five years.

These days are a fascinating time to be doing visioning work. We are as a congregation still living into the bold visions of the last decade. All the work we do – gathering together in worship, small groups, religious education classes and more, reaching out to heal the world beyond our walls – all of it is adding to the sum total of love and justice in the world.

We are being the church in profound ways, and the world needs us now more than ever.

Let us remember, too, the words of Howard Thurman. *"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what brings you alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive."*

Let us think big, dream together, and come alive. For as we do, our aliveness will reflect in everyone else's in Indra's net and together we will bring forth more life and love.

With Love, Rev. Dana

You Are Invited to the Party! Celebration Sunday – March 17

Speakers – Rev. Greg Ward and
Rev. Dana Worsnop

Come celebrate the abundance and generosity, the good work and the possibilities of this congregation with a special luncheon after church on Sunday March 17.

Together in the service we will make our pledges to the congregation for the coming year. Then we will throw ourselves a grand Thank You! Party.

There is so much to celebrate and give thanks for. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura has been living more fully and more deeply into our vision Beloved Community and our mission making a difference, of nurturing health, wholeness and hope in the world.

We are at a key point in the life of the church, welcoming new spirit and new voices, tenderly caring for one another, reaching out in love to our homeless, our immigrant, our LGBTQ neighbors and friends, and the precious Earth which we call home.

Our Religious Education classes are overflowing. The abundance of our love, the liveliness of our spirits, the strength of our commitment has never been so clear. In the midst of a rollercoaster of culture and politics, we carry the light of reason, compassion, and hope.

Our guest preacher will be Rev. Greg Ward, interim minister in our Santa Monica congregation. Rev. Greg is a gifted storyteller, an inspiring speaker who brings a blending of depth and humor. He was born in Southern California and was practically raised at de Benneville Pines. (He also helped inspire Rev. Dana's call to ministry back in his seminary days in Berkeley.)

This is a Sunday not to be missed! There is so much to celebrate. So come to the party on March 17, make your pledge to support the continuing mission of this vibrant community, and let the celebrations begin.

Newsletter Submittals

We value your contributions and very much appreciate email submittals.

Send email submissions for
On Common Ground to
newsletter@uuventura.org



Next Newsletter Deadline
February 17 at Noon

Next issue is March 2019

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In looking for signs of an early Spring, like a Groundhog shadow or a Valentine's Day card, I hope everyone has noticed the outside of our building was recently painted. There is a freshness to the church exterior that reflects the care and attention given to it by our Buildings and Grounds Team (B & G). The most physical work we have is maintaining our facilities. Helping on a Church Work Day is a great way to show support and appreciate what B & G does for the UUCV. We don't have the funds to fix everything right now. That means we have some deferred maintenance. Large projects like repaving the parking lot may need a capital campaign to fund the work. If we are willing to wait until the Major Maintenance Fund is replenished it may be a couple of years before the parking lot is repaved, slurry coated and restriped for spaces.

Maintenance issues are an example of making difficult choices with limited financial resources. We know repairs need to be made and yet due to the large costs involved we must learn to wait. Our church budget-making process can be looked at in the same way. We know that we want something for a committee, or that we are struggling in some area due to a lack of staffing, but because the resources are limited, we may have to wait or make a difficult choice. This dynamic of balancing priorities often reminds me of the phrase; "It's a good idea whose time has not yet come." It's that question of: What do we want, versus what do we need?

As we begin drafting the budget for 2019-2020, we are like the month of February with its promise and potential. We hope to plant seeds that will grow into something beautiful. The early thinking is that we are in an improved situation due to no longer having a Membership Manager. We also have the benefit of an increase in pledging revenue because of new folks joining the UUCV. Yet, just because it looks like we may be on the right path in resolving our deficit and right sizing the church, it does not mean that we can breathe a sigh of relief.

There is a lot that goes into the making of our budget. Financial statements make for unexciting reading. At best they are a combination of reality and imagination. Ours is an expression of dreams. We see it as a "moral" document that supports our values and mission. If we want to do more at the UUCV, do more in our community, and do more in the world, we will need to continue to learn what it means to grow our generosity. To grow in the giving of time, talent, and treasure. We know, when we have numbers, a larger membership, we can spread out the financial support of the UUCV. On March 17 we will have a Stewardship event called *Celebration Sunday*. On that day we ask everyone to reaffirm their pledge and if possible, to increase your financial giving to the church.

We ring the bell three times. Once for those who came before; once for those who are here now; and once for those who are yet to come. I hope you will commit to that legacy by reaching, stretching in your pledge, giving what you can, even if it is not what you are longing to give.

Living in Paradise,

Bryan Buck, UUCV Board President

Social Action and More

"Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness." Seneca



Local Volunteer Opportunities *by Rob March*

In the fall of 2018, the Action Team for Immigrants' Rights (ATIR) stood up to support our immigrant communities. We have sought opportunities to support and defend immigrants, especially locally: I recently had the chance to volunteer at the October and November citizenship fairs at Oxnard College.

At the fairs, local attorneys volunteer their time and expertise to help clients navigate the processes of renewing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, Green Card renewal, citizenship application, etc.

Once each client has spoken to an attorney, the volunteers help with filling out the various forms.

My own experience involved helping people deal with all of the aforementioned activities. Volunteers need to patiently help people work through the red tape of government forms. The interviews become a kind of detective work as you try to coax names, places and dates from the clients. It is key to strive for accuracy and honesty in documenting personal histories, in order to help avoid any problems with getting approval.

You end up developing connections with the clients, especially when you realize the efforts they have gone through to come to this country.

So, if you are somewhat detail-oriented, this is a regular volunteer event that happens once per month. Spanish fluency, while helpful, is not necessary (good thing for me!). Simply show up at the campus bookstore at Oxnard College on the last Sunday of every month (the fair runs from 8AM to 3PM, though you can volunteer for less than the full day), and the other volunteers will gladly put you to work. I feel strongly that immigrants make our country a better place, and if you feel likewise, this is a great opportunity to take action.

February Inreach/Outreach

February 3: UUCV Inreach/Outreach helps those in our own congregation or someone in the wider community who is in need of assistance.

Inreach/Outreach Recipients

Your generosity toward those who ask for our help continues to be amazing!

December 16: Fowl Weather Shelter - \$1,330.69

December 23: Smart Recovery - \$675.11

December 24: Safe Sleep Guests - \$1,272.02

December 30: The Soap Box - \$785.61

January 6 - Starr King and Medville Lombard School Scholarship Fund - \$899.81

Thanks so much for all your generous donations!

February 10: Salvation Army Safe Sleep Case Management Program is one of several social services programs focused on homelessness run by the Salvation Army. Funds would allow expansion of case management services for participants of the Safe Sleep Program in the hope the case manager can help the client move forward in their process to gain self-sufficiency and move into more permanent housing.

February 17: Buddy Nation helps homeless people keep their beloved pets by providing food and supplies (toys, beds, harnesses, collars, leashes, dishes), veterinary care (both routine and expensive surgeries), vaccinations, spaying/neutering, micro chipping, licenses – whatever it takes to keep pet and person together. We work with private and public agencies to help find housing because people will not give up their pets. We work to stabilize the people in our program by being avail-

able just to talk over the phone or at One Stop.

February 24: Ventura Homeless Prevention seeks to prevent homelessness for families with children, seniors, women and men currently residing in the city of Ventura. It assists those at risk of becoming homeless due to the impact of a one-time major expense such as doctor bills, car repair bills, or first and last-month rent.

The need for one-time assistance to those who are experiencing an extraordinary hardship has grown significantly with the downturn in the economy. Every month there is an increase in the number of people who need a helping hand. On any given day 23,000 of Ventura residents are on the verge of homelessness. Fifty percent of Ventura's homelessness can be prevented simply by keeping people in their current residence when an emergency expense arises.



Religious Education February 2019



	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
NURSERY	WE PROVIDE A CARING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR TODDLERS AND INFANTS TO NURTURE THEIR EMOTIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL GROWTH WITH PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND ROUTINES.			
PRE-K RAINBOW CONNECTION	BEING DIFFERENT IS OKAY	VALENTINE'S DAY	JUST BE YOURSELF	WE ARE ALL ALIKE AND DIFFERENT
GRADES K-2 PICTURE BOOK UU	THE EVERYTHING SEED	ST. VALENTINE	MARIA'S COMET	HENRY CLIMBS A MOUNTAIN
GRADES 3-5 SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE	MEDICINE - CLARA BARTON	SCIENCE - A TAKE APART PARTY	SCIENCE - COMETS & CONSTELLATIONS	SCIENCE - INVENTIONS
GRADES 6-8 JEDI ACADEMY	FEEL THE FORCE	THE FORCE WILL GUIDE US	MY ALLY IS THE FORCE	INSIGHT INTO MEDITATION
GRADES 9+	DISCUSSION GROUP ON THE SOUL MATTERS MONTHLY THEME: TRUST! WE HOPE THEY FIND FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT AMONG THEIR PEERS.			

NEWS from Religious Education • Emily Carroll, DRE

Dear UUCV Community,

This month we explore what it means to be a people of trust, and one way we do that is by creating covenant. Every congregation has covenanted to "affirm and promote" our 7 Principles and at the end of that statement, it continues "As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support." That is a beautiful north star or guide post as we interact with each other, and yet we fall short!

Despite the horror of God deciding to destroy most life with a flood in the story of Noah, there is a beautiful mention of promises I'd like to lift up from the Bible: "And as a sign of my covenant with you I will put a rainbow in the clouds. And every time you see a rainbow it will remind you of our covenant to create and preserve life." Genesis 9:12-13

So in this rainy season when I've already seen several rainbows, I invite you to consider the north stars of your own life and remember what guides you. We are here to support each other, love each other, and bring out the best in each other in community, as we are a people who crave love, connection, and belonging.

May we remember and trust that change is possible, and love each other tenderly as we work to change the world. In the words of Katie Covey, "When trust is broken, we are wounded, and wounds leave scars... Sometimes, our own Unitarian Universalist denomination betrayed the trust of Unitarian Universalist people of color... Right now, by telling stories and understanding racism, we are trying to take steps to create the trust we wish we had."

Armsful of love
Emily Carroll, Director of Religious Education
emily@uuventura.org



February Birthdays

5 - Blake & Nico, 8 - Abigail,
12 - Audrey H, 16 - Leo & Luna
22 - Dannika, 24 - Brigid

February Events

Sunday - February 3 • 11:45AM
OWL

Saturday - February 9 • 4PM
Childcare Drop Off

Sunday - February 10
Family Hike after service

Sunday - February 10 • 11:45AM
OWL

Saturday & Sunday - February 16-18 -
Family Winter Camp, Camp DeBonneville

Friday - February - 22 • 7:30PM
Young Adult Discussion & Dinner

Sunday - February 24 • 11:45AM
OWL

UU Things To Do • Adult Programs

Adult Programs is bursting with opportunities for connection, reflection and growth. Check the newsletter and Adult Programs Board for info about additional classes. For information on ongoing programs, pick up an Adult Programs brochure at the AP Bulletin Board in Berg Hall. **Programs are open to all unless otherwise indicated.**



Meditation and Buddhist Practice

with Friendship Sangha of the Heart
Monday • 7PM • Church Sanctuary

- **Evening of Mindfulness** includes sitting and walking meditation, a dharma reading and dharma sharing. All are welcome. <http://FriendshipSangha.org/meditation>
- **Intro to Meditation** Monday, February 11 at 6:30PM in Sanctuary. Information: FriendshipSangha@gmail.com
Contact: Neal Ortenberg 805/368-9835 or FriendshipSangha@gmail.com.
Website FriendshipSangha.org

Sponsored by the Friendship Sangha of the Heart, a UUCV Adult Program

UU Thursday Book Group

Thursday • 10-11:15AM • GREEN ROOM

We read non-fiction and meet weekly. Books with wide-ranging topics are recommended by members and are chosen by consensus. Discussions are wide-ranging and lively. Both congregation members and non-members are warmly welcomed. Contact: Marcy Burns, mburns4430@roadrunner.com.



Fun Book Club • February 17

Sunday • 11:45AM • Conference Room

This fiction book group meets for 60-90 minutes after services. All are welcome. We read in January: February: *A Place for Us* by Fatima Mirza. March: *The Pearl* by Steinbeck (we thought we'd read at least one classic each year). Contact: Kappy Paulson 805/647-1600 kmp160@sbcglobal.net.

Men's Breakfast Bunch

Saturday • February 2 • 9AM

Carrows, 2401 Harbor Blvd. Ventura

Join us for food and conversation. We are better together. All men welcome. Contact: Ray Escobedo, 805/658-8543 ray.escobedo@sbcglobal.net.

Drop In Men's Discussion Group

Tuesday • 9:30AM • Conference Room.

We discuss political and social issues and current events. All men welcome. Contact: Bill Peltola 805/320-6175 or 805/486-1348.

Open Men's Support Group

1st & 3rd Thursdays • 7-9PM • Garage

Enjoy fellowship, camaraderie and personal sharing. Contact: Dale Condra, 805/212-0242, dale15roie@gmail.com

Handicrafters Meet

2nd & 4th Thursday • 2:30PM • Off-site

Bring your project be it knitting, crochet, weaving, beading, sewing (or you name it) for an afternoon of lively conversation. If you are stuck on a project we are here to help. Of course we always have yummy snacks. Contact Shelah Wilgus, 805/658-7245, preblest@mac.com.

Many Paths Group

1st & 3rd Tuesday • 2PM • Green Room

An open spiritual group for all beliefs, with group participation. Questions? Contact Helen McPherson athelen-mac42@gmail.com or 805/889-9075. We are no longer holding meditation on Sunday mornings.

Women's Voices:

Discussion and Support Group

1st & 3rd Tuesday • 11-1PM • Green Room

A drop-in women's group explores women's roles and issues. Open to all women. Contacts: Suzanne Olsen, 805/701-1024, suzth2@charter.net.

T'ai Chi Chih® class

Monday • 5:30 - 6:30PM • Sanctuary

A gentle, moving meditation practice promoting balance, physical fitness, and inner calm. **Beginners welcome.** The 1st & 5th Monday are silent, group practice (no instruction).

Donation: \$10 per class (check to UUCV) First class is FREE! Info at Adult Programs table. Contact: Lisa Otero 805/766-1342

The Watercolor Group

Wednesday • Noon-2:30PM • BERG HALL



Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary. We offer informal instruction, encouragement, and interesting conversation.

Contact Veronica Bear veronicabear2000@yahoo.com.

UUiques Potluck

Thursday, Feb 28 • 6:30PM • Berg Hall

Join us for a potluck and an evening of good food and conversation. Bring a dish to share and your own service. We are planning to have a speaker. Also a tour is being planned for February 21. Details on both will be provided at a later date. For information Merle or Pat 805/642-6316 or 3723emlo@gmail.com

Strong Bones 1 (Beginning)

Monday • 1:30PM • Sanctuary

Wednesday • 1:30PM • Sanctuary

Strong Bones 2 (Intermediate)

Monday • 2:30PM • Sanctuary

Wednesday • 2:30PM • Sanctuary

Open to all and work at your own pace. \$4/class, bring light weights, and stretch bands if you have them. Contact: Suzi Axtell, instructor, suzi@axtell.com



UU Things To Do • Adult Programs



UU Hikers Feb 2 (1st Saturday) 8AM

February's hike will be to West Falls and Matilija Falls in the Matilija Wilderness. The hike is a total of 12 beautiful miles and involves hiking several miles off trail in the rough and tumble creek bed. It will take all day. It is difficult and is recommended for strong hikers. Be sure to be on Mike's email list to receive more information one week before the hike. Contact Mike Sixbey at 805/205 4032 or Joyce Sattler at 805/320 4437. You must have prior permission from Joyce or me to go on this special hike.

2019 PSW District Assembly

Save April 26-28, 2019, for the next Pacific Southwest District Assembly at the UU Church of Long Beach, California!

Next year's DA Theme is, "*From the Ground Up: The Power of Our PSWD Communities.*" The congregation is the foundation of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Everything we do as an expression of our faith is grounded in the local communities. Some of our greatest joys sprout from the spiritual communities and the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District - both big and small.

The 545 Vision Task force invites you to Congregational Confab on the Vision

February 25 • 6:30 to 8:30PM • Berg Hall

Food, beverages and childcare (on request*) provided

The scope of the 545 Vision Task Force's work is to facilitate the congregation's definition of a new mission statement, vision statement and 5 year plan. This multi-stage process will take us several months to complete, and involve many opportunities for congregational input and feedback.

Recently, we've been meeting regularly to process the feedback gathered from the congregation to date. We have sorted through input the board provided based on sessions they held before the task force was formed, as well as information gathered on Big Vision Saturday in the fall.

Our work has led us to a draft mission statement (which has been communicated elsewhere in this newsletter), and to identify some clear themes for our vision statement and plan. We would like to gather more specific feedback from the congregation on the themes that have been identified, so that we can be clear about what the congregation expects related to each theme. You will have two types of opportunities to provide feedback during this stage of the process. The first is to provide feedback in person at the Congregational Confab or, if you are unable to attend the Confab on 2/25, we will also be making a survey available for you to provide written feedback. This survey will be sent out approximately one week prior to the Confab.

* Please let Emily know if you will need childcare so she can plan to staff appropriately.



February 1 • Like Father, Like Son, 2013, Not Rated. Japanese with English subtitles.

Two Japanese families learn that their 5-year-old sons were switched at birth in a hospital. The families spend a year getting to know each other while trying to figure out what familial relationships really mean. Socio-economic class differences present further hurdles. Wonderful child actors. Uplifting! Director Hirokazu Koreeda.

February 8 • Under the Same Moon (La Misma Luna), 2007, PG-13. Spanish with English subtitles.

In this tale illuminating the lives of undocumented immigrants, a Mexican woman has been working illegally in Los Angeles for 4 years to provide a better life for her son Carlitos, who remains back in Mexico. Longing for his mother, Carlitos stows away on a van bound for the border. In this coming of age story, he encounters the best and worst of humanity, and learns who he can trust. Co-stars Kate del Castillo and America Ferrara. Director Patricia Rigen.

February 15 • Topsy Turvy, 1999, R.

After their production of Princess Ida tanks, composers Arthur Sullivan and William Gilbert fight over what direction to take in their next opera. Their long-lasting partnership nearly ends until friends and associates work overtime to bring them back together. The spectacular musical score features fully staged and costumed excerpts from Princess Ida, The Sorcerer and The Mikado. Director Mike Leigh.

February 22 • Return to Me, 2000, PG.

In this engaging romance, a Chicago architect (David Duchovny) donates his wife's heart after she dies in an accident. A year later, he falls in love with a young woman (Minnie Driver) who's been afraid to date because of the large scar on her chest from the heart transplant she received a year ago. Co-stars Joely Richardson, Jim Belushi, Carroll O'Connor, Bonnie Hunt. Director Bonnie Hunt.

Contact: Julie Moore: werfamilyvideos@aol.com

"Like" the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura on Facebook.
It's one more way to stay connected.

Committee News

Buildings and Grounds

by Linda Pietrzak

What a wonderful week of rain we had. At church, the plants are looking green. I noticed the Olive Tree Garden by the front entrance is looking especially grateful for the rain. I am sure on closer inspection there are many more happy plants.

The rain also provided soil that made weed pulling much easier. Michael O'Grady weeded out back and Sherry Anderson weeded out front. Wil Devine and Merle Oberg checked on plants in the Outdoor Sanctuary. It seems that the rain waters the weeds as well as the plants but at least the weeds were easier to pull.

Merle planted more succulents on the east side of the entrance. I am looking forward to watching the progress in that area. Sherry and Joyce Sattler picked up trash around the building. Wil installed a new trash can by the porta-potty. He chained it down so it won't wander off again.

Inside Wil checked the emergency lights. There may be more than a few people who will be grateful to Bill Peltola for replacing some toilet seats that were so old the bolts that held them in place were rusted beyond repair.

There have been several announcements about the ever-growing pile of jackets and other items in the Lost and Found. Joyce had a chance to go through the Lost and Found. She dates the items that are there. After a couple of months, the clothes and other items are donated if they are not claimed. Many of the items are in good enough condition that they should have been missed. Please check in the garage for the Lost and Found if a jacket or other item doesn't make it home from church.

ATIR Action Team in Action at UUCV

by Ruth Capelle

Who are the Mixtecos? What is MICOP? At our January meeting, Arcenio López, executive director of MICOP, explained to us what they are doing to help this community with its own indigenous language survive and adapt to their new home. As a mostly undocumented population from the Oaxaca region, Mixtecos face all the prejudices and hardships of immigrants due to the policies of the Trump administration, but, in their case exacerbated by profound communication difficulties. MICOP has a number of programs assisting its community and ATIR looks forward to building a close relationship with MICOP and participating in volunteer opportunities.

At our next meeting on February 11 we will meet a grass root community organizer, Gladis Sibrián, and learn about the current situation in El Salvador from which so many families and unaccompanied minors are fleeing right now.

Please join us on Monday, February 11, at 6PM in Berg Hall to learn why these people are so desperately seeking refuge in the U.S. Please enter at the rear door of the hall. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided. If you would like to be informed of ATIR activities and events, contact me at Ruth.Capelle@gmail.com

February 2019 Finance News

by David Smith, Finance Committee Chair

Last month's Finance column presented a way to consider your level of involvement with UUCV. If you missed it, read it here: <https://www.uuventura.org/on-common-ground-current-issue/> Soon you will be asked to renew or change your pledge for the year beginning July 1, 2019. After you have decided where you fit on this scale of involvement, then what? Start with nothing. For people of all levels of involvement here, there is no cost of admission. Some honestly do not have enough to pay for their basic needs. You can pledge zero and have all the benefits of membership or affiliation. But what if that is not your situation and you have a developing or robust relationship with us? You might want to analyze how your level of giving matches your level of involvement and your financial capacity to see if they match. If you are dissatisfied with the answer, set a future goal for July 1, 2019 that fits better. If that goal is not all you would like to do, then also set a goal to aspire to in steps for the next four years. For example, your analysis might be your your annual pledge amount is now 1.5% of last year's income, but you would like it to be 5%. Then set it for 2.5% for July 1, 2019 and increase it each year until you reach what seems just right for you. For comments, criticism or a conversation, call David Smith at 805/216-9331 or write davidpaseo001@gmail.com.

Green Room Gallery News

by Veronica Bear

We hope you have been enjoying our current exhibit in the Greenroom Gallery. Our next exhibit will go up on February 10. Here, along with other artistic offerings, we will have a special exhibit of photographs by Neal Ortenberg depicting events in which our newly formed Action Team For Immigrants' Rights has been engaged. We hope you will make a point to stop by and see it.

We would love to see your art on our gallery walls. Our next deadline for applications is Friday, February 1. If you can't make that deadline, we continue to change up the exhibit every few months, so keep us in mind. For more information or questions contact Veronica Bear at veronicabear2000@yahoo.com.



FEBRUARY 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10AM - UU BRIDGE 7PM - MOVIE NIGHT
3 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 11AM - INREACH/OUTREACH VOTE 11:45AM - WOMEN'S GROUP 11:45AM - OWL	4 1PM - WOMEN'S GROUP 130PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - COVENANT GROUP 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - STEWARDSHIP TRAINING 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 6PM - SACC MEETING 7PM - MEDITATION	5 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - WOMEN'S VOICES 11AM - STAFF MEETING 2PM - MANY PATHS 6PM - COVENANT GROUP 6:30PM - MEN'S GROUP II 6:45PM - WOMEN'S GRP III	6 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP IV 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 7PM - MEN'S GROUP 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	7 10AM - BOOK CLUB 5PM - WORSHIP ASSOCIATES MEETIN 5:30PM - LUYV PIZZA PARTY 6:30PM - CALENDARING MEETING	8 10AM - UU BRIDGE 3PM - SCRAPBOOKING 7PM - MOVIE NIGHT	2 8AM - UU HIKERS 9AM - MEN'S BREAKFAST BUNCH
10 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30AM - GALLERY SET-UP 11:30AM - NEWCOMER CHAT 11:45 AM-OWL	11 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP V 1PM - COVENANT GROUP 130PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 6PM - IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS ACTION 6:30PM - INTRO TO MEDITATION 7PM - MEDITATION	12 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - STAFF MEETING 1PM - CONNECTING COMM. 4PM - WOMEN'S GROUP VII 4:30PM - CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP 6PM - AIDS QUILTING 6:30PM - FINANCE COMMITTEE 7PM - MEN'S GROUP IV	13 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - WOMEN'S GROUP VIII 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 6PM - LEADERSHIP COMM. MTG 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	14 10AM - BOOK CLUB 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP VI 2:30PM - HANDICRAFT MTG 6PM - LUYV 6:30PM - 7PEAT & CLIMATE HUB 6:30PM - B&G MTG	15 10AM - UU BRIDGE 7PM - MOVIE NIGHT	16 9AM - ALL CHURCH B&G WORK PARTY
17 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30AM - FUN BOOK CLUB 11:45 AM-WOMEN'S GROUP	18 OFFICE CLOSED 1PM - WOMEN'S GROUP 130PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - COVENANT GROUP 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 7PM - MEDITATION 	19 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - WOMEN'S VOICES 11AM - STAFF MEETING 1:30PM - PUBLICITY MEETING 1:45PM - VOLUNTEER COOR. MEETING 2PM - MANY PATHS 6PM - COVENANT GROUP 6:30PM - MEN'S GROUP V 6:30PM - MEN'S GROUP II 6:45PM - WOMEN'S GRP III	20 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP IV 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 4PM - VHP MEETING 07PM - MEN'S GROUP 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	21 10AM - BOOK CLUB 6PM - BOARD OF TRUSTEES 6PM - LEADERSHIP DEV. MEETING	22 10AM - UU BRIDGE 7PM - MOVIE NIGHT	23
24 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30AM - SAFETY TEAM MEETING 11:45AM - OWL 5PM - MOM'S GROUP	25 11AM - WOMENS GROUP V 1PM - COVENANT GROUP 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 6PM - SOCIAL ACTION MEETING 6:30PM - CONGREGATIONAL CONFAB 7PM - MEDITATION	26 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - STAFF MEETING 4PM - WOMEN'S GROUP VII 6PM - COV. GRP. FACILITATOR MTG 7PM - MEN'S GROUP	27 11AM - NEWSLETTER FOLDING 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - WOMEN'S GROUP VIII 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	28 10AM - BOOK CLUB 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP VI 2:30PM - HANDICRAFT GROUP (OFF-SITE) 6:30PM - UUUNIQUES 50+ POTLUCK		

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Leadership Committee News

Focus on Ray Vargas by Madelaine Okano

Ray was born in Albuquerque, NM. As a child, his family moved to North Hollywood where his parents bought their first home. He grew up in the Methodist Church. His grandfather was a Methodist minister, and Ray stayed active in the church through young adulthood. He graduated from San Francisco State in 1969 with degrees in political science, and history.

As the Vietnam War raged, Ray identified as a pacifist and qualified as a conscientious objector. He completed his civilian service as a VISTA volunteer in Brooklyn, NY and then as a community worker for an Hispanic United Presbyterian church in San Francisco.

He then worked for Cesar Chavez' United Farmworkers union. Because Ray knows French, he was sent to help lead the union's table grape boycott in Montreal, Canada. Returning to Southern California, he began a 28 year career as the Housing Administrator for the City of Glendale where he oversaw state and federal housing programs.

Ray's interest in the UU movement began after he attended "The Onion" (Sepulveda UU Society). Ray eventually joined the First Unitarian Church of L.A. After his

retirement, Ray moved to Ventura to fulfill a lifelong wish to live by the sea, and became a member of UUCV in 2013.

Ray presently serves on UUCV's Action Team for Immigrants' Rights as well as the congregation's Safety Committee. He also helps in the annual homeless count, and volunteers with UUCV members at the Family To Family Kitchen.

In 2019, Ray plans to join community members for the AIDS Quilt Gold Coast, a group gathering monthly at UUCV to make quilts in memory of loved ones who died of AIDS. For recreation, Ray is an avid cyclist, and encourages church members to bike or walk to church instead of driving. He and fellow member, Terry Spragg donated bicycle parking equipment and a sign announcing the spot to park bikes near the church's entrance.