



**UU of SCV**

# The Flame

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PO Box 800028, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. 661-254-7866

*Santa Clarita's Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

*Sept, 2023*

**Soul Matters Theme for September:**

## **The Gift of Welcome**



We gather this month on the brink of a new  
congregational year,  
Some of us come fresh from summer adventures,  
From wind and waves and sunshine.  
Some of us come broken down from summer losses,  
From tears and pain and heartache.  
Some of us come renewed from summer rest,  
From peace and solitude and contemplation.

Some of us come wearied from summer monotony,  
From work and heat and sameness.  
Whoever you are, wherever you come from,  
whatever gifts and needs you bring,  
You are welcome here.

*Adapted from "You are Welcome Here" by Rev. Allison Palm*

## Sunday Services

Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 am

### **“Could We Welcome a Trans God?”**

Rev. Gretchen Haley Commentary,  
Read by Chris Hankla



Rev. Gretchen Haley

Unitarian Universalists typically don't do God-Talk. Yet images of God(s) impact our lifelong perceptions, whether believers or non-believers. Chris Hankla will read commentary entitled "God is Trans" written by Rev. Gretchen Haley on her blog.

*Rev. Haley is senior minister at Foothills UU in Fort Collins, CO. She challenges everyone to contemplate a God that just might be trans. Could we welcome such a God?*

September 10th

**Earlier 10:00 am Start Time**

\*\*\*

Live from UU Fellowship of Kern County  
UUSCV Zoom-In Service at Vibe, 10 am.

### **“What Would You Sacrifice? A Humanist Minister Explores the Binding of Isaac”**

Chaplain Joshua Berg



Chaplain Rev. Joshua Berg

The "binding of Isaac " also known as the "test of Abraham" or, in Hebrew, the Akedah, is a Torah portion read on Rosh Hashanah. The disturbing passage from Genesis, Chapter 22 is one of the most heavily analyzed and debated. As a humanist minister, it has been my self-imposed challenge to explore my Jewish heritage through aspects of the Jewish religion that I find difficult, if not impossible, to reconcile with my philosophy of life. Since Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is this month, it is the ideal opportunity to explore The Binding of Isaac.

**DIFFERENT ZOOM LINK FOR ON-LINE ATTENDEES**

<https://zoom.us/j/92130258567?pwd=M0RQckhFWW0wZDhWYnJtOUg1Q1ZYUT09>

Meeting ID: 921 3025 8567, Passcode: 543555

*Joshua Berg is a Chaplain Resident at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and a Unitarian Universalist minister.*

Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

## **“The Times They Are A Changing”**

Rev. Dr. Ken Brown & Tommie O’Sullivan



Rev. Dr. Ken Brown & Tommie O’Sullivan

With the film Oppenheimer doing so well, it reminds us of the fact that we have lived through over 75 years of the nuclear age. It changed our way of living and thinking.

We will share a bit of our thoughts in living through this time.

*Join us, live at our Sunday services at 10:30 am ...*

**Vibe Performing Arts Studio,**  
**Valencia Plaza Shopping Center,**  
**24460 ¼ Lyons Ave**  
*(Near Vincenzo’s Pizza)*

Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

## **“A Journey to Faith”**

Harlow Robinson



Harlow Robinson

As practitioners of Unitarian Universalism, we especially honor the uniqueness of every journey to faith, and the kind of faith that sustains each of us. And often what we see along the way **during the journey** is just as important as the spiritual goal. My sermon tells the story of one such journey.

*Harlow Robinson has been a member of Throop UU Church in Pasadena since 2020. Previously he and his husband Robert Holley were members of Arlington Street Church in Boston for 15 years. An author, lecturer and journalist, Harlow is Professor of History, Emeritus, at Northeastern University in Boston.*

*... and streaming on Zoom*

<https://tinyurl.com/ZoomUUSCV>

*Or via phone at:*

*(669) 900-9128*

*Meeting ID: 3098843973 (use for password also)*

*“#” for personal ID*

# This Month's Activities

## Poets & Writers Group



The Poets and Writers group has decided to offer a sample of some of our writers' work. This month we offer a poem from Glenda Nowakowski. Glenda has been writing since college, with some decade-long gaps. She started writing in earnest upon joining UU of SCV's Poets in Person. She writes about nature, social justice, and anything that catches her interest.

The next Poets and Writers meeting will be on Monday, **September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** via Zoom. If you have an interest in writing or poetry, please join us.

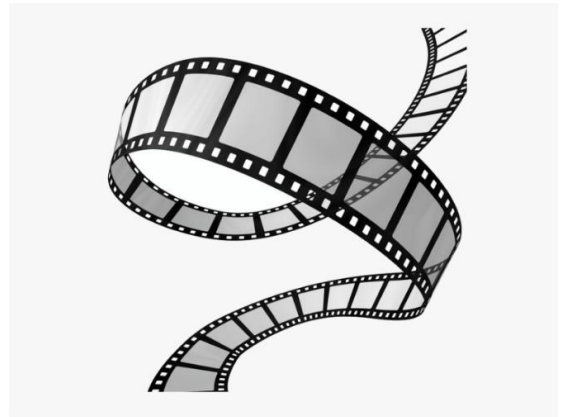
## Unraveling

Things have always been  
A bit frayed at the edges. We know,  
But we keep pressing on.  
Calling those who live on the fringe  
Troublemakers, commies, terrorists, fanatics.  
Accusing them of creating  
The very situation they warn us about.  
It may have been true, to some extent.  
But mostly it was rampant privilege,  
Running roughshod over everything in its path.  
The poor, the downtrodden, the people of color  
Women, children, even Nature herself.  
Consuming and disposing  
Without a thought for the future.  
And we swallowed the constantly generated lies

That made this course seem inevitable  
The lies that shouted down the calm, firm, insistent  
voices  
Speaking of a better way.  
Until our own worlds started to unravel  
And we stood there befuddled  
With a handful of loose threads  
Wondering "What next?"  
We seek answers and find others  
We interweave our threads and endeavor to create  
A community that will sustain us all.

## Dinner, Conversation, and a Movie

SEJ Team,  
Submitted by Glenda Nowakowski



After a lengthy hiatus, Dinner, Conversation, and a Movie will resume on **Sept 8th at 6:00 pm** at Suzie Rizzo's home.

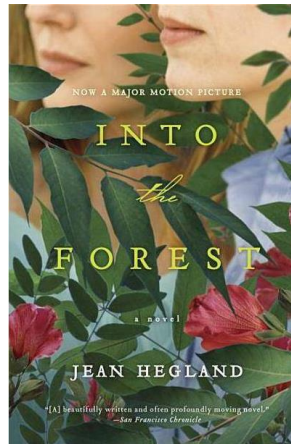
It will be held on the second Friday of the month. Please bring a dish to pass, preferably plant-based. After a dinner filled with lively conversation, we will watch a movie on a social justice topic. The team has been gifted with a number of DVDs that used to belong to Roselva Ungar, so we have a good selection of movies. Join us for a wonderful and informative evening.



## Book Club

Suzie Rizzo

This is a welcoming and joyful group of readers who love to share their thoughts on the selections chosen. Everyone's presence is encouraged. This group meets the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet at **6:00 pm** at the home of Lois Linnert. Please bring a dish to share and a beverage of your choice, as well as your thoughts and your critique.



UUSCV's Covid Policy is followed.

The September 13th book is "Into the Forest," by Jean Hagland. This novel is set in the near future. It is a powerfully imagined novel that focuses on the relationship between two teenage sisters living alone in their Northern California forest home.

Please join us for a lively discussion.

The book for October 11 is "Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

Contact Suzie Rizzo ([baroness1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baroness1@sbcglobal.net)) or Marianne Bakic ([mariannebakic@icloud.com](mailto:mariannebakic@icloud.com)) if you have any questions.

## Bend the Arc

Lou Paparozzi



Our next Bend the Arc meeting will be on Wednesday, **September 20<sup>th</sup>** at Suzie Rizzo's home. **Socializing 6:00 to 6:30 pm; Discussion 6:30 to 7:30 pm.** Join us for an informed, respectful, and lively examination of some of the topics of the day for discussion of local, national and world events.

Please bring: Finger Food and Topics for Discussion

Contact Lou Paparozzi for the location and any additional information.

## Afternoon of Music and Fellowship at UU Fellowship of Kern County

Elaine McCain, UUFKC

UUSCV members and friends are invited to share an afternoon of music and fellowship with the members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kern County on Sunday, **September 24<sup>th</sup>**.

We'll meet in the Chapel and courtyard of First Congregational Church (5 Real Road, Bakersfield, California) for finger foods, beverages and conversation from 2:45 - 3:45 pm. We will then attend the Duke's Memorial Concert at 4:00 pm in the main chapel of the First Congregational Church. The concert will feature the Bonhomme Duo of Richard Noel, accordion, and Janice Hubbard, vocals.

The concert is free with a suggested donation of \$20.00 at the door. For further information contact Elaine McCain at 661-319-8565 or [elecainetm99@gmail.com](mailto:elecainetm99@gmail.com).

UUFKC wrote "We are looking forward to meeting you and enjoying a pleasant afternoon together."

## Open Topics Discussion Group

Barbara McCoy & Lois Linnert



In our "Open Topics Discussion Group" we talk about many things. You are welcome to join us on **Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at Lois Linnert's home at **6 pm**. Why don't you try us? You'll have fun and meet new people. We'd like to hear your ideas - Hear what you have to say.

Topic for September: what is the hardest challenge you had to overcome?

Bring food to share!

Questions contact Barbara McCoy at [bmccoy1@socal.rr.com](mailto:bmccoy1@socal.rr.com) or call Lois Linnert at 661-299-5393.

## Drum Circle

Beth Jenkins



We are very excited to be resuming our monthly Drum Circle, on the first Friday evening every month, 7 pm. No experience necessary, and our Drum Circle leader Burl Bolerjack brings a great deal of drums and other percussion instruments from which to choose. This is a meditative Drum Circle, and includes a brief "check-in" followed by our first of usually three sets of drumming started by Burl providing a basic beat. It is a wonderful experience and newcomers are very welcome!

This will be at the home of Beth Jenkins. If you will be attending, it is very important to RSVP by Thursday night the night before to Beth at [newbethj@yahoo.com](mailto:newbethj@yahoo.com). You may contact her at that same email address with any questions. Burl drives a significant distance and we want to make sure we have enough drummers! Note: a donation to support Burl's transportation cost is much appreciated but not required.

## Game Nights

Beth Jenkins



We are very excited to have picked an evening for our monthly in person Game Nights! They will occur on the 3rd Friday of each month, at the home of Beth Jenkins. We'd love to have you join us for a relaxing potluck followed by playing mostly word games. Our in-person Game Night for September will be on **Friday 9/15, 7 pm**. If you will be attending, please RSVP to Beth at [newbethj@yahoo.com](mailto:newbethj@yahoo.com). It is helpful if you can indicate what appetizer dessert or other food item you will be bringing.

Our monthly ZOOM Game Nights will be occurring now on only one Saturday a month. This may vary each month, so please contact Beth at [newbethj@yahoo.com](mailto:newbethj@yahoo.com) to find out the specific date for September.

## Friday Meditations on Zoom

Barbara Wampole

Please feel free to just drop in. No experience is necessary. It's simple. If you'd like to join us to share simple sitting meditation and mindfulness practices, we continue to have a unique opportunity to use Zoom since we began sheltering at home.

**Our friends at UU Fellowship of Kern County are welcome to join us for Meditation!**

**Every Friday from 11 am to Noon.** If you'd like to join us, please contact Barbara Wampole. [Connect with the UU of SCV Zoom](#)

## Social & Environmental Justice

### News from our Social & Environmental Justice (SEJ) Team

Louise Klatt & Glenda Nowakowski

Back by popular demand! Social & Environmental Justice "movie night" will be on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at the home of Suzie Rizzo. We will watch a documentary and discuss it. The evening starts at 6 pm with a potluck (preferably vegetarian /vegan) and time to socialize. This will be an ongoing regular event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month. For more information please contact our host, Suzie at [baroness1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baroness1@sbcglobal.net) or Louise [louisepell@yahoo.com](mailto:louisepell@yahoo.com).

The SCV food pantry needs our help. We collect food every Sunday during our service and deliver directly to them. They also accept pet food & personal care items for those in need in our local community. Our Team member, Ingrid volunteers once a week and they always need more helping hands. For more information <https://www.scvfoodpantry.org/>

#### Upcoming events in our local community include:

- The River Rally clean-up being held on September 16th Visit [SantaClaritaVolunteers.com](http://SantaClaritaVolunteers.com) today to sign up and be part of this important event.
- \*Purple Palooza 5K walk to end domestic violence - October 14th [Purple Palooza - Child Family Center](#)

Members of our SEJ team are actively involved in the community. They engage with significant groups in our community. They regularly attend meetings of the SCV chapter of the NAACP, the Citizen's Climate Lobby, PFLAG and more.

We have a monthly post card writing table after our service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month where we provide you with information about the issues and



addresses of our elected officials. We provide postage and will mail them out for you.

For more information on how you too can make a difference, ask us. We would love to have you join us at our next meeting which will be held on **Sunday Sept 10<sup>th</sup>, after the service.** We meet in person at Vibe [24460 ¼ Lyons Ave., Santa Clarita].

## **28<sup>th</sup> Annual River Rally Clean Up and Environmental Expo**

Ingrid Van Dorn



Come join other Santa Clarita volunteers to clean a portion of the Santa Clara dry riverbed. The event will take place on Saturday, September 16 from 8 – 11 am.

This year's event will take place behind the Newhall Community Center, 22421 Market St. in Newhall. It is not only fun and a rewarding experience, it is extremely important in maintaining the riverbed.

To participate you must pre-register at [santaclaritavolunteers.com](http://santaclaritavolunteers.com). Wear closed toed shoes, appropriate clothing for picking up debris, sunscreen, a hat, and bring a refillable water bottle to stay hydrated. You will be given gloves and bags. There is an Environmental Expo in the community center where you can get valuable tips on conservation, pollution prevention, and recycling with nearly two dozen booths.



UUSCV Members at 2022 River Rally

Parking is limited so carpool, walk, ride public transportation, or ride a bike to the event if possible. There will be a free bike valet available. I suggest you arrive early to get a parking spot if you are driving. I plan on being there by 8:00 am. If you would like to meet up with me, (Ingrid), my number is 661 645-1895. Please text me beforehand so I will know to look for you.

Don't forget to wear your UU of SCV t-shirt!

## **Board Selection for Third- Sunday Collection**

Once a quarter, the Board of Trustees selects a church-enhancing initiative that the collection will be applied to. This month, the Board has selected church technology.

Top of our list will be to install our own wi-fi router to reduce the streaming drop-outs that have interrupted the viewing of our services, both for our Zoom viewers as well as for when we Zoom our services to UUFKC Kern County. Another enhancement on the list (if we collect enough this month – or else for a future collection) is to upgrade the web camera that's used for capturing the video of our services. Thank you for your support of the technology that helps us broadcast our services online.



# Camp

Louise Klatt

## The Cluster Weekend Retreat at Camp deBenneville Pines

Friday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup> through Sunday Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

Join many of our neighboring congregations in (or near) the Channel Cluster for this weekend retreat in the mountains. Look for coming communications and registration forms. Sign up early and join in a beautiful weekend among the towering cedars, oaks and pines of this beautiful camp. The atmosphere is one of congeniality, camaraderie, and friendship. This weekend is a chance for the whole family to relax, hike, sing, play games, swim, and enjoy the fresh air among other UUs in our cluster. For more info & to register [Congregational Fall Retreat Camp De Benneville Pines September 29 – October 1, 2023 - Chalice \(chaliceuu.org\)](https://chaliceuu.org/congregational-fall-retreat-camp-de-benneville-pines-september-29-october-1-2023)

Other Camps you may want to attend:

**“Camp Transcend”** is a fun-filled weekend of community building for families of transgender and gender expansive kids, tween, and teens Friday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.

[2023 Camp Transcend - \(uucamp.org\)](https://uucamp.org/2023-camp-transcend)

**2023 Art Camp 4 Grown-Ups** Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

[2023 Art Camp 4 Grown-ups - \(uucamp.org\)](https://uucamp.org/2023-art-camp-4-grown-ups)

**PineCon** – Gaming retreat. Friday Oct 20<sup>th</sup> to Sunday Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>.

[PineCon – Gaming in the Mountains!](https://uucamp.org/pinecon)

## Join “Team Camp” and Be a Part of Making a Difference

Attendance at Camp de Benneville Pines events seems to reflect attendance at Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations, fellowships, churches, and societies. The quality time we can spend together at Camp and at our April annual Pacific Southwest Service Area Assemblies can be an integral part of rebuilding UU congregations, fellowships, churches, and societies (UU Congregations).

The core attractions for me and I think others at UU Congregations, UU events, and Camp are a safe space to observe tolerance, to engage with each other in community, and to foster social action. The improvisational stories led by the youth were fun and provided a safe space for all genders.

Consider attending Camp events. Spend quality time together and be in a place where many people are first introduced to Unitarian Universalism.

Become a new monthly giver! Increase your monthly giving. Give more than you have before. Recurring unrestricted gifts are still needed to preserve Camp de Benneville Pines in the wake of the Covid pandemic.

[Monthly Giving](https://uucamp.org/monthly-giving)





## Church Workings

### Board of Trustees

#### Highlights

Carmela Camp

- The Board is considering the suggestion to have a Harvest Dinner, but with entertainment instead of auction items (unlike our past Harvest Dinners).
- The Boards of the Santa Clarita and Kern County congregations had a joint meeting via Zoom on August 19<sup>th</sup> to explore how to foster collaboration between the congregations. The following joint meeting of the Boards will be on Saturday, **November 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm via Zoom.**
- The September Board meeting will be on **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.**

### Board Officers

President - *unfilled*

Vice President - Rev. Dr. Ken Brown

Co-Treasurer - Eric Klatt

Co-Treasurer – Chris Hankla

Secretary - Carmela Camp

Member-at-Large - Rick Kamlet

Member-at-Large - Gordon Uppman

Member-at-Large – Diane Lin

## Pastoral Care

### Your UU of SCV Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team serves those in our congregation needing support. Current team members are Lucy Bates, Diane Lin, Barbara McCoy, and Ingrid Van Dorn. If you are interested in joining us, we can always use the help. Or maybe you could be one of our “helping hands people” for occasions we need extra aid.

The following is our mission statement:

The Pastoral Care Team is an extension of the Minister’s own pastoral care presence. This care is offered with strict confidentiality. Pastoral care is available to those experiencing illness, injury, grief, loneliness, or an unexpected emergency. Team members may provide help with meals, transportation, phone calls, visits, and errands.

During this time without a minister - Remember we are here to help should you need it. And if needed we can connect you with a minister.

Primary contact is Barbara McCoy – 818 438-8351.

# Membership

Membership Team

## Birthdays

Carmela Camp	09/09
Diane Tamburello	09/13
Rev. Dr. Ken Brown	09/14

## Membership Anniversaries

Barbara Cogswell	09/21/2003
Lois Linnert	09/10/2006

## Gratitudes

Membership Team



To **Barbara Wi** ... for her presentation at the Fifth Sunday Forum in July.

To **Beth** and **Ingrid** ... for serving as pulpit hosts during August services.

To **Kevin** ... for doing a great job as tech host in August.

To **Emily, Mirna, Louise,** and **Chris** ... for altar set-up in August.

To **Ken** and **Tommie** ... for suggesting the faith message topic for August 6.

To **Suzie** ... for hosting Rev. Megan's farewell event.

To **Everyone** who helped prepare and clean up for Rev. Megan's farewell event!

To **Sammi, Lucy,** and **Dru** ... for setting up and welcoming everyone to worship services in the absence of Chris and Diane.

To **Louise** ... for taking on leadership of the Worship Team.

To **Beth** and **KD** ...for taking on facilitation of Small Group Ministries.

To **Rick, Glenda, Ingrid, Diane L., Karen, Warren, Kevin** and **Eric**... for set up on Sundays.

To **Gordon, Lucy,** and **Ed** ... for set up of after service snacks.

# CALENDAR

(Events and activities may change. Check the Friday weekly announcement emails for updates.)

**Meditation** – Every Friday at 11 am (to noon),  
Zoom (see article)

**Game Nights** -- Dates, times, and locations  
(Zoom vs in-person) to be announced. Contact Beth  
Jenkins

## Sunday

**3** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**Could We Welcome a Trans God**  
A Rev. Gretchen Haley Commentary  
Read by Chris Hankla

**4** **Poets & Writers**, 6:00 pm, on Zoom

**8** **Dinner, Conversation & a Movie**,  
6:00 pm, Suzie Rizzo's home

**13** **Book Club**, 6:00 pm, Lois Linnert's home

**10** **Small Group Ministry Retreat and  
Demo**, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Zoom

## Sunday

**10** **NOTE:**  
**Different Start Time: 10:00 am**  
\*\*\*  
**Different Zoom Link for On-Line**

Sunday Service, 10:00 am  
**What Would You Sacrifice? A  
Humanist Minister Explores the  
Binding of Isaac**  
Chaplain Joshua Berg

**Social & Environmental Justice Team**  
12 noon, at Vibe and on Zoom

**Board Meeting**, 5:00 pm, Zoom

## Sunday

**17** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**The Times They Are A Changing**  
Rev. Dr. Ken Brown & Tommie O'Sullivan

**20** **Bend the Arc**, Socializing 6:00 pm &  
Discussion 6:30 to 7:30 pm, Suzie Rizzo's home

## Sunday

**24** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**A Journey to Faith**  
Harlow Robinson

**Afternoon of Conversation & Music  
with UUFKC**, 2:45 pm for finger foods &  
conversation, 4 pm for Concert, First  
Congregational Church (5 Real Road, Bakersfield)

**Sept 29<sup>th</sup> to Oct 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Cluster Weekend Retreat**,  
Camp deBenneville Pines



## Snapshots

### Thank-You / Farewell Party for Rev. Megan











## Services





