



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

February, 2024

February's monthly theme: the Gifts of Justice & Equity



I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.

Angela Davis

I sit on a man's back, choking him and making him carry me, and yet assure myself and others that I am very sorry for him and wish to ease his lot by all possible means—except by getting off his back.

Leo Tolstoy

Poverty is the worst form of violence.

Mahatma Gandhi

If one really wishes to know how justice is administered in a country, one does not question the policemen, the lawyers, the judges, or the protected members of the middle class. One goes to the unprotected – those, precisely, who need the law's protection most! – and listens to their testimony.

James Baldwin

It is certain, in any case, that ignorance, allied with power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.

James Baldwin

Quotes from February Soul Matters Packet

Sunday Services

Introducing Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur as UUSCV's New Part-Time Consulting Minister



Dear UUs of SCV,

It's my pleasure to introduce myself as your part-time Consulting Minister through June 2024. During this time, I'll be preaching once a month and tending to the ministry needs of the congregation in collaboration with Rev. Ken and your Board of Directors.

Here is a little more about me: My husband, Jonathan, and I are raising our three children in Santa Monica, where we see the ocean most days. In addition to serving as Affiliated Community Minister of the

Emerson UU Church in Canoga Park, I work full-time as a fundraiser for St. Joseph Center, one of LA County's largest social service agencies for people experiencing homelessness.

I was ordained to the UU ministry by the First Parish Church of Stow and Acton, MA, in 2009, and have served in congregational ministry with First Parish of Cambridge, Neighborhood UU Church in Pasadena, and as the called minister of the UU Community Church of Santa Monica. I am a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Divinity School, and I am a "third culture kid," meaning that I grew up overseas in expatriate communities in Japan, India, and Israel, as well as in suburban Maryland. My parents (both UUs) now live in Maryland, although they are originally from Palo Alto (my dad) and Kansas City (my mom). Although our time together may be brief, I'm looking forward to getting to know you individually and as a congregation.

The best way to reach me is via email at minister@uuofscv.org or phone/text at 310.266.3274.

February 4th, 10:30 am

"The Pursuit of Happiness"

Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur

LIFE, LIBERTY, & THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Does the pursuit of happiness really belong in a list that also includes life and liberty? How important is joy to our spiritual lives, and our lives together, especially in times like these?

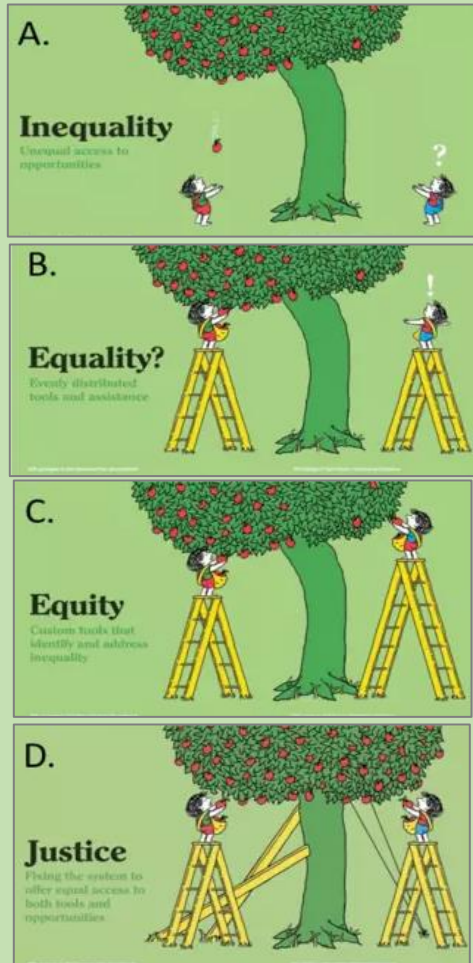
February 11th, 10:00 am

Please Note Earlier 10:00 am Start Time

We will Zoom into the UUFKC Service from Vibe.

The Gifts of Justice and Equity through Song and Verse

Elaine LeCain



Through music, song, and words we explore the themes of justice and equity. What do the words mean, how are we impacted by them, who are we and how do we keep on keeping on when the future seems uncertain at best.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96186070790?pwd=OGdQS3YyMVRUbWxDbYtncnJnYnRjQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 8607 0790, Passcode: 727374

February 18th, 10:30 am

“How Do We Define Justice as UUs?”

Rev. Jo Green



How do we define justice in these times of acceptable lying and alternative facts? How does justice fit into our UU faith and Seven Principles? Are we utilizing our Second Principle as our beliefs state? Join us this Sunday to explore our Second Principle of Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations and how we can create that part of our living faith.

February 25th, 10:30 am

"For Such a Time as This"

Rev. Dr. Pat Langlois



Our world today feels as if it is at odds with itself. Chaos, violence, greed, corruption, and injustice seem to be the headlines everywhere we turn. However, for "such a time as this," people of faith are called to drink deeply from the well of Love, Hope and Strength. In so doing, we can then be co-creators with the Divine to bring about a Just and Equitable world.

Rev. Dr. Pat Langlois, Senior Pastor of MCC United Church of Christ in the Valley, is a tireless activist who draws strength from her faith. As pastor and as the co-president of Los Angeles Queer Interfaith Clergy Council, she oftentimes finds herself on the "front lines," most recently at school board meetings supporting our Queer Youth. She currently lives in Castaic with her five four-legged furry friends; her partner, Marianne; and with the joy of her heart, her teenage daughter, Ray.

Join us, live at our Sunday services ...

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

... and streaming on Zoom (except for services streamed from UU Fellowship of Kern County)

<https://tinyurl.com/ZoomUUSCV>

Or via phone at:

(669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 3098843973 (use for password also)

"#" for personal ID

For Our Once-a-Month Service Streamed from UUFKC:

Services that are streamed from our partner congregation, UU Fellowship of Kern County, begin at 10:00 am. We gather at Vibe Performing Arts Studio to light our own chalice, share our joys & sorrows, and watch the sermon together. We hope to be adding more of our own in-person sections of the service – let us know what you would like to have included in-person.

For those watching from home, a special streaming URL is provided (which changes for each service) – see service write-up above for the special URL.

This Month's Activities

Drum Circle

Beth Jenkins



Our meditative Drum Circle is continuing to meet on the first Friday evening every month, at **7 pm**—so this month that will be on **February 2nd**.

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 Drum Circle includes a brief "check-in" followed by our first of three or four sets of drumming started by Burl providing a basic beat. It is a wonderful experience and newcomers are very welcome! This Drum Circle is at the home of Beth Jenkins. If you will be attending, it is very helpful to RSVP by Thursday night the night before to Beth at newbethj@yahoo.com, or text to 661-478-2036.

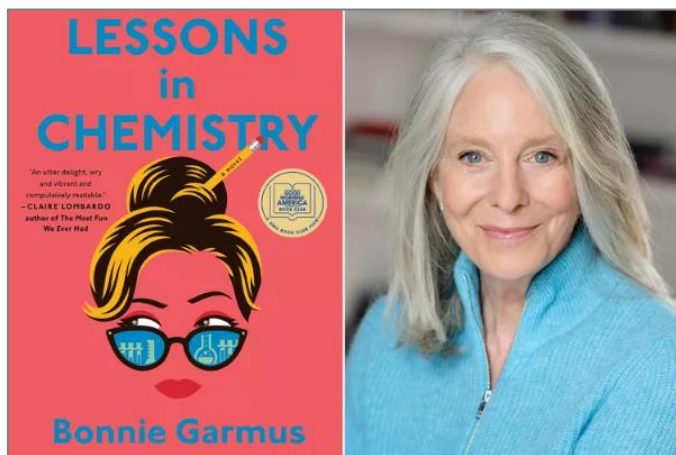
Note: a donation to support Burl's transportation cost is much appreciated but not required. All donations are shared with UU of SCV.

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.



February 14th - Our selection for February is "Lessons in Chemistry." ... "Elizabeth Zott, a brilliant scientist had the misfortune of being a woman in the 1950s America. After a frustrating and failed academic career, Zott finds success in an unlikely place: as a hostess of a television cooking show..." This entertaining novel is written by Bonnie Garmus.

Please join us for a lively discussion.

The book for March 13 will be "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver.

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

Movie Night

SEJ Team,
Submitted by Suzie Rizzo



SEJ is having movie night. Documentaries, biographies, novels, and more will be shown at the home of Suzie Rizzo on the second Friday of each month.

Please join us at 6:00 pm for conversation and food. The film will start at 7:00 pm. Please bring finger foods to share, vegan and vegetarian preferred. You may contact Suzie at baroness1@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.

The film for **February 9th** is, "Live to 100: Secrets of the Blue Zones," parts 3 and 4. Reviewers state this series looks at the keys to living a long, healthy life. Is it diet or climate? Is it the genetic makeup of the people? Please join us for this provocative series

The movie for March 8 is "Made in L. A."

Bend the Arc

Lou Paparozzi



This month's Bend the Arc meeting will be held on **February 21st**. It will be 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 any additional information, louispaparozzi@gmail.com.

Open Topics Discussion Group

Barbara McCoy & Lois Linnert



Open topics was started 5 or 6 years ago when some UU's wanted a group where they could talk about human issues that affected their lives. We continue today and still immensely enjoy our gatherings.

We meet on the 4th Monday of each month at the home of Lois Linnert in Friendly Valley , at **6:00 pm**. We would love to have you join us! - call Lois to let her tell you more about group.

Topic for **February 26th**: We will be discussing a Sermon!

Bring food to share!

Questions contact Barbara McCoy at bmccoy1@socal.rr.com or call Lois Linnert at 661-299-5393.

Game Nights

Beth Jenkins



ZOOM Game Night -- Our monthly Zoom Game Nights will be occurring now on the first Saturday of the month. This month's Saturday ZOOM Game Night is on **Saturday, February 3rd, 7:00 pm**

IN-PERSON Game Night -- In-person Game Nights will occur on one of the Fridays 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 this month will be on **Friday, February 23rd, 6:30 pm**. If you will be attending, please RSVP to Beth at newbethj@yahoo.com. It is helpful if you can indicate what appetizer, dessert, or other food item you will be bringing.

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](#)

“Harvest the Power” New Local On-Line Leadership Development Class Being Offered

Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur

We are excited to announce the **Harvest the Power** Leadership Development class, led by **Rev. Matthew McHale & Rev. Rebecca Bijur**. This class asserts that leadership in a congregational setting can and should be a deeply spiritual experience. This program offers opportunities to enrich and deepen leadership skills as well as spiritual growth, in a way that honors the gifts that each of us brings. Harvest the Power is designed for adults of all ages and stages, young adults through elders, who currently hold or are considering accepting a congregational leadership position.

The first meeting (initially scheduled for 1/14) was postponed to 1/28. This program will take place on Sunday afternoons from **1:30 - 3:30 pm: Sunday February 11th & 25th, March 10th** and an additional Sunday to be announced.

The class is online and there is no charge. If you're interested, want to know more, or want to sign up, email Rev. Rebecca at minister@uuofscv.org or text to 310.266.3274.

Spring Fling

Rev. Ken Brown

Our Spring Fling has been re-scheduled to March 23rd at the home of Suzi Rizzo. This will be a Potluck sharing at 5:00 pm. Also that evening will be the kickoff of our upcoming series of Dining for Dollars Dinners. This will be congregational members offering a dinner at their home as a fundraiser. So far, we have at least 3 folks who will offer dinners at their home. For more information contact Ken Brown at uurev@aol.com or 818-370-2390.

Social & Environmental Justice

Social & Environmental Justice (SEJ) Team News

Glenda Nowakowski & Louise Klatt

NAACP - Lou Paparozzi and Ingrid Van Dorn attended the NAACP's premiere of The Color Purple on December 25, 2023. The NAACP general meeting is on the third Thursday of every month. The PAC meeting (focusing on voter registration) is on the second Tuesday of the month. Contact Suzie or Ingrid for more information.



Ingrid Van Dorn and Lynne Plambeck attended the Unity Walk, on January 15, 2024, honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There were speeches and many dignitaries.

Postcard Table – UUSCV congregants wrote 6 postcards to elected officials at the January session. The table is set up in the annex on the second Sunday of the month, from the end of the service to the beginning of the SEJ team meeting at noon. The next date is February 11. Materials, addresses, and sample scripts are provided. Stop by and make your opinions known!

Chiquita Canyon – The situation with the Chiquita Canyon Landfill is serious. Currently there is a fire inside the landfill, and toxic, malodorous gases leak and affect the residents of Val Verde and Castaic. Residents have submitted air samples for private testing and found benzene and toluene. The county had reached a settlement with the landfill agreeing to stand by the landfill in any actions. SCOPE is considering a letter denouncing this settlement. The EPA has gotten involved in the situation.

Citizen's Climate Lobby – CCL is asking people to write to elected officials in support of permitting reform that would streamline the process of obtaining permits for solar panels. They also support the BIG WIRES Act, which would facilitate the transfer of energy between regions and stabilize the grid during

natural disasters. BIG WIRES is currently going through Congress.

Movie Night – see article in this newsletter.

Grandmothers (and Others) for Peace – Grandmothers (and Others) for Peace meets on the first Sunday of the month from 3 to 4 pm at Valencia and McBean (on the Facey corner.) There are usually signs provided or you can bring your own.



January 7, 2024



Date Unknown

The next meeting of the SEJ Team will be on **February 11 at 12 pm** at Vibe Performing Arts Center and also via UUSCV Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Church Workings

Board of Trustees

Highlights

Carmela Camp

- Spring Fling will be a potluck social event on Sat., March 23 from 5 - 8pm at the home of Suzie Rizzo.
- The Nominating Committee will soon be at work canvassing individuals for open positions on the Board of Trustees for the next fiscal year (President, Secretary and 2 At-Large members).
- The "Harvest the Power" leadership development class still has openings available. People who miss the first meeting on Jan. 28 can sign up and attend subsequent meetings.
- The next Board meeting will be on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 5:00 pm via Zoom

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

It is now possible to connect with Rev. Rebecca by email at minister@uuofscv.org

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 those occasions when we need extra help.

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.

Remember we are here to help should you need it. And if needed we can connect you with our minister.

Primary contact is Barbara McCoy – 818 438-8351.

Membership

Membership Team

Gratitudes



Everyone in our congregation helps out in some way. There are SO many things that people do, and we appreciate them all! When you become aware of someone contributing to the life of the congregation, whether it’s a one-time thing or something they do all the time, be sure to acknowledge them and express your personal gratitude.

Birthdays

Hector Dominguez	02/03
Bruce Glad	02/03
Adam Sawyer	02/04
Ed Fella	02/08
Chris Hankla	02/15
Sally Thompson	02/20
Lois Linnert	02/22
Russle Benson	02/25

Membership Anniversaries

Gordon Uppman	01/18/2015
Rick Kamlet	02/24/2002
Sara McDaniels	02/05/2006
Ed Fella	02/24/2013
Diane Lin	02/19/2017

CALENDAR

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

- 2 **Drum Circle**, 7:00 pm, rsvp to Beth Jenkins
- 3 **Zoom Game Night**, 7:00 pm

Sunday

- 4 **Sunday Service, 10:30 am**
The Pursuit of Happiness
Rev. Rebecca Benefiel Bijur

- 9 **Movie Night**, Suzie Rizzo's home, 6:00 pm for food and conversation, 7:00 pm for movie

Sunday

- 11 **Sunday Service, 10:00 am**
The Gifts of Justice & Equity through Song and Verse
Elaine LeCain
↑ ↑ ↑
Zoom (at Vibe) from UUFKC
Different Start Time: 10:00 am
Different Zoom Link for On-Line (*see listing*)
- Post Card Writing** -- Immediately after the Service
- Social & Environmental Justice Team**
12 noon, at Vibe and on Zoom
- Leadership Development Class**,
1:30 – 3:30 pm, on-line, contact Rev. Rebecca

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

Sunday

- 18 **Sunday Service, 10:30 am**
How Do We Define Justice as UUs?
Rev. Jo Green

Board Meeting, 5:00 pm, Zoom

- 21 **Bend the Arc**, Suzie Rizzo's home, 6:00 pm for socializing, 6:30 for discussion.

- 23 **In Person Game Night**, 6:30 pm

Sunday

- 25 **Sunday Service, 10:30 am**
For Such a Time as This
Rev. Dr. Pat Langlois
- Leadership Development Class**,
1:30 – 3:30 pm, on-line, contact Rev. Rebecca

- 26 **Open Topics Discussion Group**, 6:00 pm, Lois Linnert's home

Meditation – Every Friday 11 am to noon, *Zoom*